

# THE Anchor NEWS

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## WOMEN GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

For more than a decade, the National Women in Agriculture Association (NWIAA) has been making a difference in East Waco by addressing food insecurity and promoting access to fresh, healthy foods. Established in Waco, Texas, in 2015, the organization was founded out of a desire to bring more fresh fruits and vegetables to neighborhoods identified as food deserts.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Kay Bell, NWIAA has remained committed to its mission of increasing access to fresh produce while helping reduce food insecurity throughout the community. The organization serves residents of East Waco by providing fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries and working to strengthen the local food system.

One of the organization's most significant accomplishments has been its success in training more than fif-



KAY BELL

ty new and beginning farmers. Through education and hands on experiences, participants have learned how to grow produce and establish agricultural businesses, creating opportunities for economic growth and self sufficiency.

While the organization has

experienced many successes, funding remains one of its greatest challenges. Continued financial support is needed to expand production and ensure that fresh fruits and vegetables remain available to families who need them most.

Looking ahead, NWIAA envisions a future where every neighborhood affected by food insecurity has access to fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. The organization remains focused on strengthening food systems and supporting underserved communities through programs that create meaningful and measurable impact.

Community members and organizations can support the mission by volunteering in the community garden. Those interested in volunteering may contact Kay Bell at bellkay9@gmail.com to learn about available opportunities and volun-

SEE **BELL**, PG. 9

## WACO HANAN FOUNDATION BUILDS LEADERS

The Waco Hanan Foundation is making a meaningful impact on the lives of young women across McLennan County by providing opportunities for leadership development, academic success, and community engagement.

Founded in 2024 by Waco native Faith Ward, the organization was inspired by the life and legacy of her late sister, Hanan Ali Lacy. Ward's vision for the nonprofit took shape after attending the Go to College Tour with the Waco Housing Authority. Inspired by the experience, she created a program designed to help young women prepare for college and careers while developing a lifelong commitment to serving others.

The foundation launched programming in 2025 with 30 participants representing seven area high schools. Today, the organization continues to grow, with its 2026 cohort including 40 young women from eleven high schools throughout the Greater Waco area.

Serving girls in grades 10 through 12, the Waco Hanan Foundation focuses on nurturing academic achievement, character development, and leadership skills. Interest in the program continues to increase. This year alone, the foundation received 96 applications from local students.

Participants, known as Pearls, take part in three monthly activities centered on enrichment, service, and social en-



FAITH WARD

gagement. Enrichment events cover important topics such as professional dress, etiquette, FAFSA completion, and college applications. Service projects connect students with community organizations including Keep Waco Beautiful, Art Center Waco, and Friends for Life. Social events, known as Pearl Parties, help participants build friendships and strengthen sisterhood.

One of the organization's proudest accomplishments came with its first graduating cohort. All seven senior participants were accepted to college and will begin their higher education journeys this fall.

Looking ahead, the foundation hopes to expand into additional area high schools and offer more community-wide programs, including leadership retreats and college preparation workshops. The organi-

SEE **WARD**, PG. 2

## FANNY MINNITT WORLD MINISTRIES GROWS FAITH

BY APOSTLE FANNY MINNITT

Founded in 2023, Fanny Minnitt World Ministries, Inc. is a faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals grow spiritually, discover their purpose, and become effective disciples who positively impact their families, communities, and the world. Led by Founder and President Fanny Minnitt, the ministry serves as a platform for biblical teaching, leadership development, and community transformation.

Rooted in the mission scripture Matthew 28:19-20,



APOSTLE FANNY MINNITT

"Making Disciples," the organization is committed to teaching, training, and empowering people to live transformed lives through faith and biblical principles. The ministry serves men, women, families, students, emerging leaders, ministry workers, and others seeking spiritual growth, personal development, and practical life skills.

Fanny Minnitt World Ministries offers a variety of programs designed to strengthen both faith and leadership. Services include discipleship

SEE **MINNITT**, PG. 2

**J.L. & LINDA CRAWFORD**

J.L. and Linda Crawford are co-owners of *The Anchor News*. J.L. Crawford serves as Director of Operations and is a Bible teacher and columnist writing on faith, family, and men's issues. Linda Crawford serves as Publisher and Editor, is a motivational speaker, and is the owner of Enjoy the Journey Life Coaching Services.

FROM THE EDITOR...

## FAITH IN ACTION

This month, *The Anchor News* is honored to spotlight several outstanding nonprofit organizations that are making a meaningful difference throughout Central Texas. Each one serves our community in a unique way, meeting needs, inspiring hope, and transforming lives. Together,

training, biblical education, conferences, faith-based personal development programs, spiritual mentoring, chaplaincy instruction support, masterclasses, community gatherings, and educational resources. One of its signature initiatives is the Spirit, Soul, Body Intertwined with Family, Community, Political Sphere of Influence + Earth Conference, which addresses the importance of spiritual growth and personal responsibility in every area of life.

is its eight-week program, *Crowned to Rise: The Boss Blueprint*, designed to equip participants with the practical knowledge and confidence needed to start, operate, and expand successful businesses. In addition to entrepreneurship education, the organization offers financial literacy workshops, business coaching, leadership

development, mentorship, networking opportunities, and strategic community partnerships that encourage long-term economic success. Although still in its early stages, Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising is already creating excitement among women eager to pursue entrepreneurship with confidence. Through careful planning, educational resources, and meaningful mentorship, the organization is laying the foundation for women to launch businesses, strengthen their financial futures, and build generation-

## MINNITT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Among the organization's accomplishments is the development of its Discipleship Masterplan Program and Scripture Memorization Journal. These resources, along with international chaplaincy instruction, have helped participants strengthen their faith, gain confidence in their calling, and apply biblical principles in practical ways. Testimonials from students and program participants highlight increased spiritual growth, a deeper understand-

ing of ministry, and a renewed commitment to serving others.

Like many nonprofit organizations, Fanny Minnitt World Ministries faces the challenge of expanding its reach while securing the financial and volunteer support needed to sustain and grow its programs. The ministry continues to seek partnerships with individuals, businesses, churches, and community organizations that share its vision of empowering lives through faith.

Looking ahead, the organization plans to expand its discipleship programs, strengthen community partnerships, host impactful conferences, publish additional faith-based resources, and increase its outreach efforts locally, nationally, and internationally.

For more information, visit [fannyminnittworldministries.startsites.org](http://fannyminnittworldministries.startsites.org) or [minnittjusthavefaith.com](http://minnittjusthavefaith.com), or email [fannyminnittworldministries@gmail.com](mailto:fannyminnittworldministries@gmail.com).

## TRUNELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

al wealth within their families and communities.

Looking ahead, the organization has an ambitious vision. Over the next several years, leaders hope to become one of Texas' premier organizations for women's entrepreneurship and financial literacy by serving thousands of women through in-person and virtual programs, awarding scholarships and microgrants, developing business incubators, and expanding partnerships throughout the state.

Like many growing nonprofits, Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising continues to

seek grant funding, corporate sponsors, community partnerships, and volunteers who share its commitment to empowering women through education and entrepreneurship.

With a message rooted in hope and possibility, the organization reminds every woman that her dreams matter. Through education, encouragement, and a supportive community, Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising is helping women build businesses, achieve financial independence, lead with purpose, and create legacies that will inspire generations to come.

## WARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

zation also plans to host its first Prosecco for Pearls fundraiser in September to support programming and scholarships.

The Waco Hanan Found-

ation welcomes volunteers, mentors, meal donations, hygiene product donations, and financial contributions. Ward believes mentorship changes lives and helps strengthen

the future of the entire community.

For more information, visit [wacohananfoundation.com](http://wacohananfoundation.com) or follow Waco Hanan Foundation on social media.

# THE *Anchor* NEWS

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### PURPOSE

*The Anchor News*, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

### POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at no time publish information that is potentially libelous material or intentionally malicious, derogatory or irrelevant.

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ials reflect the opinions of the editor.

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format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

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# THE WACO CLUB CONTINUES A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND EMPOWERMENT

When seven visionary women came together in 1935 to establish the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.), they laid the foundation for what would become one of the nation's oldest and most respected organizations dedicated to leadership, service, and the advancement of Black women. Those founders—Emma Odessa Young, Ollie Chinn Porter, Effie Diton of New York City, Bertha Perry Rhodes, Josephine B. Keene, Adelaide Flemming of Philadelphia, and Pearl Flippen of Atlantic City—shared a vision that continues to inspire members more than 90 years later. Today, the organization has grown beyond the United States with an international presence.

That legacy reached Waco on March 27, 2022, when THE Waco Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. was chartered. The local club was founded by President Linda Crawford, First Vice President Kay Bell, and Treasurer Dr. Shamonica Trunell, who envisioned an organization dedicated to leadership, service, education, mentorship, and community



**MAKAYLA MOFFATTE RECEIVING THE COMMISSIONER PATRICIA MILLER EMERGING LEADERS \$1500 SCHOLARSHIP. ON THE FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT, ARE ROBERT MILLER, DEANDREA PETTY, MAKAYLA MOFFATTE AND LINDA CRAWFORD. ON THE BACK ROW ARE GRANDPARENTS: JACQUELINE AND RICHARD EVANS.**

engagement.

Although one of the association's newer clubs, THE Waco Club has already established a reputation for meaningful service and community impact. Guided by the national motto, "Moving Forward with a Purpose," members are committed to improving the lives of women, youth, families, and the Central Texas community through leadership development, scholarships, educational programs, and civic involvement.

One of the club's proudest accomplishments is the establishment of the Commissioner Patricia Miller Emerging Leaders Scholarship, named in memory of the beloved charter member and Second Vice President of Youth, who passed away unexpectedly in 2024. The scholarship honors Commissioner Miller's lifelong commitment to public service, leadership, and encouraging young people to pursue excellence.

Another milestone occurred

during the club's 2026 Women's History Month Celebration when National President Dr. Terri O'Neal Ford served as keynote speaker. During the program, she presented Waco Police Chief Dr. Sheryl D. Victorian with the Sojourner Truth Award, the organization's highest national honor, recognizing her exceptional leadership, distinguished public service, and lasting contributions to the Waco community. The annual Women's History celebration has quickly become one of the club's signature events, honoring women whose achievements continue to inspire others.

After nearly four years of planning, another exciting vision became a reality with the launch of the club's Ombudsmen Program. The charter ombudsmen—J.L. Crawford Jr., Larry Cuffee, Richard Evans, Leon Hicks, Jordan Rice, and Pastor Wayland Sias—represent a dedicated group of men committed to supporting the organization's mission through mentorship, service, and community leadership. Their involvement reflects the club's belief that lasting change is achieved when women and men work together in partnership.

THE Waco Club is also pre-

paring to launch its official Youth Club as soon as all requirements for chartering have been met. The organization is actively seeking youth ages 12 to 17 who desire to develop leadership skills, serve their community, and build lasting friendships. Younger children who are not yet old enough to officially join are also welcome to participate in mentoring opportunities and selected activities. "We gladly mentor any younger youth who is interested but not yet old enough to officially join," said Second Vice President Attorney DeAndrea Petty.

Today, THE Waco Club consists of 23 dedicated members who continue building upon the vision established by the organization's founders in 1935. As the club looks toward the future, its leaders remain committed to expanding scholarships, strengthening community partnerships, developing future leaders, and empowering others through service.

While honoring a rich national heritage, THE Waco Club continues to write its own remarkable story in Central Texas—one of leadership, purpose, and a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others.

## HEIRESS ENTREPRENEURS RISING INSPIRES WOMEN TO BUILD WEALTH

Every successful business begins with an idea, but for many women, turning that idea into a thriving enterprise can be challenging without access to education, mentorship, and financial resources. Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising, Inc. was established to help bridge that gap by equipping women with the knowledge, confidence, and support needed to transform their dreams into lasting success.

Founded by Dr. Shamonica Trunell, D.C., Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising is a nonprofit organization committed to empowering women through financial literacy, entrepreneurship education, leadership development, and economic



**DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL, D.C.**

empowerment. The organization was created after recognizing that many aspiring entrepreneurs possess innovative ideas and tremen-

dous potential but often lack the guidance and resources necessary to successfully launch and grow their businesses.

At the heart of the organization's mission is a desire to help women build not only successful businesses but also lasting legacies that benefit future generations. Heiress Entrepreneurs Rising serves aspiring entrepreneurs, established business owners, career professionals, young women, and individuals seeking greater financial independence and economic stability.

One of the organization's signature initiatives

SEE **TRUNELL**, PG. 2

The true marriage of Bahá'ís is this, that husband and wife should be united both physically and spiritually, that they may ever improve the spiritual life of each other, and may enjoy everlasting unity throughout all the worlds of God.

--'Abdu'l-Bahá



To learn more about the Bahá'í Faith, call (254) 717-7903

or visit [wacobahais.org](http://wacobahais.org)



[bahai.org/beliefs](http://bahai.org/beliefs)

# THE WORD YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES BRINGS FAITH, HOPE, AND HEALING

At a time when many families are searching for hope and stability, The Word Youth and Family Ministries (TWYFM) is making a meaningful impact throughout Central Texas. Headquartered in Waco, this faith-based nonprofit is committed to strengthening youth, families, and communities through biblical discipleship, education, mentoring, prayer, and compassionate service.

Founded by Devan D. Stoglin and Tai'Resha Stoglin, the ministry was born from a desire to address the growing spiritual, emotional, and social challenges facing families today. Devan Stoglin serves as co-founder and executive director and brings extensive professional experience to the organization as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), a Licensed Chemical Dependency Coun-

selor (LCDC), and the holder of a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice (MACJ). His background in behavioral health and family services complements the ministry's Christ-centered mission of helping individuals and families thrive. Tai'Resha Stoglin also serves as co-founder and executive director. She is a Registered Medical Assistant (NRCMA) with more than 20 years of experience in mental health, family medicine, and women's health. She is also the founder of The Bold & Beautiful, a nonprofit serving women and teens, as well as a certified community leader and mentor. Her extensive experience in healthcare, community leadership, and mentorship plays a vital role in shaping the ministry's holistic approach to serving families and communities.

The ministry serves chil-



**DEVAN D. STOGLIN AND TAI'RESHA STOGLIN**

dren, youth, parents, churches, schools, and community organizations by offering Bible studies, youth discipleship, parenting education, leadership development, mentoring, family enrichment programs, community outreach initiatives, and prayer

events. Through partnerships with churches, schools, behavioral health providers, and local organizations, TWYFM connects families with resources that promote spiritual growth, emotional wellness, educational success, and stronger communities.

One of the organization's most successful initiatives is Clarion Call: Prayer in the Park, a community-wide event that unites churches, families, educators, civic leaders, and service organizations to pray over youth, schools, and neighborhoods before the start of each school year. The event also provides encouragement and connects families with valuable community resources while demonstrating the power of collaboration across faith and community sectors.

As a growing nonprofit, The Word Youth and Family Min-

istries continues to seek sustainable funding, volunteers, and community partnerships to expand its outreach. Looking ahead, the organization plans to strengthen mentorship and leadership programs, increase countywide collaborations, establish additional annual community initiatives, and ultimately open a permanent community center where individuals and families can receive spiritual guidance, mentoring, educational support, and access to essential resources.

Believing that strong families build strong communities, The Word Youth and Family Ministries invites individuals, churches, businesses, and community leaders to join its mission through prayer, volunteerism, financial support, and partnerships that will help create lasting hope and transformation throughout Central Texas.



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- Individuals



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# THE ANSWER WAS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CUP

**BY LINDA CRAWFORD,  
CERTIFIED LIFE COACH**

Recently, I purchased a hydrogen water bottle and began pouring the water into my Stanley cup. The hydrogen bottle held 15 ounces, but I wasn't sure how much my Stanley held. The first time, I poured in one and a half bottles because I was afraid two full bottles would overflow. Yet when I looked down, the cup wasn't full.

For several days, I wondered about it. Then one morning, I turned the cup over and saw something I had never noticed before. Stamped on the bottom were the words: 30 oz.

There it was. The answer had been with me the entire time.

Two bottles. Thirty ounces. Mystery solved.

As I thought about it, I realized how often we do the same thing in life. We spend hours worrying, wondering, guessing, and seeking answers from everyone around us. We ask friends. We search the internet. We



**LINDA CRAWFORD**

lose sleep. Meanwhile, the answer may already be available to us if we simply pause long enough to look.

Sometimes the answer is in a book we already own but have not opened. Sometimes it is in instructions we never read. Sometimes it is in advice we received years ago but forgot to apply. Sometimes it is in prayer, where God has already spoken, but we have not taken time to listen.

How many times have we assumed, feared, or worried because we lacked in-

formation that was readily available?

My little lesson from a Stanley cup reminded me that wisdom is not always about finding new answers. Sometimes it is about paying attention to the answers already present in our lives.

Before you spend another day worrying about a problem, ask yourself:

- Have I overlooked something obvious?
- Have I checked the facts?
- Have I read the instructions?
- Have I listened to the guidance already available to me?
- Have I asked God to show me what I may be missing?

The next time life presents a mystery, remember this simple lesson:

Sometimes the answer is literally written on the bottom of the cup.

Until next time, enjoy the journey.

*Linda Crawford, Certified Life Coach*

*Enjoy the Journey Life Coaching*

# ESTHER'S CLOSET HELPS WOMEN DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Since 2016, Esther's Closet, a workforce development program of the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of CEO John Bible, has been helping women across Central Texas step confidently into new careers and brighter futures. Founded by Ms. Laveda Brown, former president of the Chamber, the program was created from a simple but powerful belief: women should have access to professional clothing and workforce support as they pursue employment opportunities.

Ms. Brown recognized that many women entering the workforce, changing careers, or rebuilding their lives after difficult circumstances, including domestic violence, often lacked the professional attire needed to make a strong first impression. Esther's Closet was established to help fill that gap while boosting confidence and self-esteem.

Today, Esther's Closet's mission is to enhance lives by providing professional workwear, workforce development skills, and educational pathways that support career advancement. While the organization primarily serves women, its workforce



HEAVEN LEE

training programs are open to men as well.

Coordinated by Heaven Lee, Esther's Closet offers several services designed to prepare participants for success. Interview Suiting provides one professional outfit for a first interview, while Employment Suiting supplies seven to ten days of workwear for individuals beginning a new job. Through the Professional Swap program, working professionals can exchange gently used business attire for new-to-them pieces.

In addition to clothing assistance, Esther's Closet offers free résumé building and

editing services, along with mock interviews conducted by trained volunteers. These services help job seekers sharpen their skills and approach the hiring process with confidence.

One of the organization's most innovative initiatives is the Developing Professionals Banking Program. This free workforce development program prepares participants for entry-level careers in banking through hands-on training and direct connections with local employers. The program has already demonstrated impressive results, with four of the first five graduates securing employment in the banking industry.

Although the organization continues to face challenges in helping participants secure employment in a competitive job market, Esther's Closet remains focused on expanding employer partnerships and increasing community awareness. Over the next three to five years, the organization hopes to serve more than 100 women annually while expanding workforce training opportunities and helping more individuals achieve financial stability.

Located at 715 Elm Avenue in Waco, Esther's Closet welcomes volunteers, monetary contributions, and quality clothing donations. Community members can also support the organization by attending its annual Hats Off to Her fundraiser this August as Esther's Closet celebrates ten years of empowering women through professional development, confidence building, and career success.

# THE FLESH PROFITED NOTHING

BY PASTOR MATTHEW REED

John 6:63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Looking to Washington will not profit. It does not matter what the president or Congress does; it will not profit mankind. We believers must look to Jesus, who in turn will direct us to God. When we look to man and his laws, they are flesh, and the flesh will not profit. When we turn to God, who is Spirit, then we will have power. This power to have life is found in the scriptures.

We, as mankind, are failing to understand that God rules. Jehovah (Yahweh) in the Old Testament made His power clearly seen and experienced by the world. He turned His people over to the desires of their enemies when they disobeyed. When they repented and obeyed, He delivered them. For His people who trusted Him, He destroyed kings and kingdoms. He made the flames of fire have no effect and closed the mouths of lions.

God has made His power known throughout history. He has also made His love known



PASTOR MATTHEW REED

to us by sacrificing His only begotten Son so that we might have a sacrifice well pleasing and acceptable unto Him. His intent to do us good and not evil is seen in the scriptures. Yet we, as human beings, choose to walk in the flesh, following our own thoughts, and in doing so we continue to fail.

This article is meant to exhort you, the reader, to repent of the flesh, become spiritual, and experience God's desire to do you good and not evil, to give you life and not death. To have this godly experience, read your Bible and follow its instruction. The experience you have will be beyond your greatest expectation.



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# Education Issue!

August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 24 years in the community, we spotlight students, educators, administrators, staff, educational events, institutions, etc.

The deadline to submit a 250-300 word article on a person of accomplishment or news worthy educational event, institution, organization, etc., is **JULY 25, 2026**. So come on! Send us your clear, JPEG headshot and a typed article (Word document attached or written within the body of an email) to [theanchornews@aol.com](mailto:theanchornews@aol.com).

We will do our best to include every profile that we receive, and who knows? Your submission might be one of our cover stories.

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**WANDA B. GUNTER**

Author, Artist & Contributing writer for *The Anchor News*

# HERSTORY WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SERIES INSPIRES WOMEN TO AWAKEN, RISE

The HerStory Women Empowerment Series, founded by Rev. Dr. Sandra L. M. Henry in Waco, empowers women and girls to overcome challenges, share their stories, and embrace their God-given purpose through faith-based support and mentorship.

Established with a vision to unite and empower women and girls in grades 7 through 12, the HerStory Women Empowerment Series provides a faith-centered environment where participants can grow through biblical principles, positive reinforcement, and social and emotional mentoring. The organization welcomes women and girls of all races, classes, and ethnic backgrounds, creating a supportive community where every voice is valued and heard.

The ministry's vision is anchored in Isaiah 60:1, "Arise,

shine, for your light has come," and Proverbs 31:25, "She is clothed with beauty and dignity." Its theme, "Awaken. Rise. Shine.," encourages women to recognize their worth and walk confidently in their God-given calling.

In 2022, Dr. Henry published her memoir, *Fear Not All Is Well*, sharing her personal journey of faith, hope, and survival. Through her story, she discovered a deeper calling to help other women break through negative barriers, strengthen their relationship with Christ, and pursue lives filled with purpose and promise.

The HerStory Women Empowerment Series offers mentoring and educational programs designed to build self-esteem, overcome fear, and empower women to fulfill their dreams and destiny.



**REV. DR. SANDRA  
L. M. HENRY**

Participants are encouraged to share their stories without judgment while receiving guidance, encouragement, and practical tools for personal growth.

For the past three years, the

organization has hosted its Women Empowerment Conference, serving approximately 60 participants annually. Organizers pride themselves on creating an atmosphere where meaningful relationships are formed and lasting bonds are developed. "We are sisters" is more than a phrase. It reflects the spirit of connection and support that defines the organization.

Looking ahead, HerStory hopes to expand its reach throughout Central Texas and grow its participation to more than 200 women. To accomplish that goal, the organization is seeking mentors, teachers, facilitators, volunteers, churches, nonprofit partners, businesses, and community leaders who share a passion for helping women and girls succeed.

Future initiatives will focus

on life skills training, financial literacy, spiritual development, and mentoring through positive reinforcement. While the organization continues to make a positive impact, its greatest challenges are marketing expenses and recruiting enough volunteers to meet the growing needs of the community.

As a multigenerational organization, the HerStory Women Empowerment Series remains committed to empowering women to become thriving citizens and leaders. With faith as its foundation and community support as its strength, the organization believes its mission can continue to transform lives for years to come.

For more information, visit [HerStoryWaco.com](http://HerStoryWaco.com) or contact Rev. Dr. Sandra L. M. Henry at 254-640-2118

# ANCHOR EMPOWERMENT NETWORK EXPANDS LEGACY OF SERVICE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

For more than two decades, The Anchor News has been a trusted source of positive news throughout Central Texas, highlighting the accomplishments of individuals, churches, businesses, non-

profits, educators, and community leaders. Now, that legacy is growing through the creation of the Anchor Empowerment Network, a nonprofit organization founded by Linda and J.L. Crawford.

Established in 2025, the Anchor Empowerment Network was created to broaden the impact of the Crawfords' long-time commitment to community service. While The Anchor News has focused on sharing uplifting stories since its founding in 2002, the new nonprofit provides a framework for expanding educational opportunities, leadership development, life coaching, and community partnerships designed to strengthen individuals and families.

The organization's mission is to educate, empower, and encourage people throughout Central Texas by connecting them with positive information, practical resources, and opportunities for personal and community growth. In addition to publishing The Anchor News, the network plans to offer educational workshops, leadership initiatives, community outreach programs, and free life coaching for youth, helping young people build confidence, develop life skills, and prepare for successful futures.

Leading the organization is a Board of Directors consisting of Linda Crawford, President and CEO; co-founder J.L. Crawford; Lois McDowell; Dr. Shamonica Trunell; and



**LINDA AND J.L. CRAWFORD**

Dr. Arvis Scott. Together, they provide the vision and governance that guide the organization's mission and future growth.

Supporting the board is a dedicated Advisory Board that includes Attorney Jamie Goble, Larry Cuffee, Leon Hicks, and Sam Torres. The organization also proudly honors the late Dr. Linda Dulin, whose wisdom, enthusiasm, and unwavering encouragement helped shape the vision of the Anchor Empowerment Network. One of its earliest and strongest supporters, Dr. Dulin passed away unexpectedly on March 2, 2026. Her belief in the organization's mission continues to inspire its leaders

as they move forward.

Although the Anchor Empowerment Network is officially launching in August 2026, its foundation has been years in the making through relationships built, lives encouraged, and stories shared across the community. The organization's leaders envision a future where positive media, education, and meaningful partnerships work together to create stronger individuals, stronger families, and stronger communities.

As the Anchor Empowerment Network begins this new chapter, it remains committed to its guiding belief: when people are informed, encouraged, and empowered, entire communities are transformed.

## RASHAD "Chip" Davis

— Barber on Duty at —

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The best gift sometimes comes in a small package. Such is the case with *God, Destiny and a Glass of Wine*. All chapters begin with one of Linda Crawford's own "true-story" personal narratives that she later connects to a point that is relevant to this journey called destiny. The book is an easy read. Several readers have told her that they couldn't put it down once they started. It is available on Amazon.com. *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine* is sure to open your heart to receive healing, encouragement, and a different outlook on life.

Chapter 1: This Too Shall Pass, but When?

I was almost out of breath by the time I made it to the car. Though it was just a few feet away, it seemed like 100 miles. I had parked my car in the backyard to hide it from the bank. Let's face it. It was an old piece of stick-shift junk, but it was all I had, and I was behind on the payments. But tonight, in my panic to get out of the house, maybe the backyard wasn't so smart. Dressed in a gown, house shoes, and a thin jacket, I gripped the keys that were pinned inside my bra. Oh yes, my bra. That was the safest place to keep my valuables, like my car keys

and what little money I had. I had learned a lot in my 29 years. With lightning speed, I dashed out the backdoor, tripping over the threshold, but still holding my balance and determination. Thank God my boy was spending the night with a friend. It was pitch-black dark outside, as I had no time to flip on the outside lights. I just needed to get out. Once inside my car, I let out a sigh, unaware that I had been holding my breath. Quickly locking the car doors, I knew I was on my way. The car was run down and bent up, but it was my path to freedom tonight and my only means of transportation. I'll never forget it. It was a gray and black Toyota, well...a fading gray and a fading black, a hatchback, about 8 years old at the time, and a stick. Ha! A stick. That could be a holdup since I was still in the learning stage, but I could handle it. I tried to crank the old trap, but it just clicked. I tried again, combining my efforts with a plea. "Please God, I need my car!" Just as the motor turned over, I heard that dreadful sound, a swatch-type sound, like an old screen door dragging. My God! He knew I was going to try to get away. He knew, so he had unlocked the hatch back, ahead



LINDA MASON CRAWFORD

of time! He was in the back so fast; all I could do was bite my lip and jerk forward. "Stop the car, Lynn, and give me the money!" he yelled, as he swiftly crawled into the back seat. He lurched through the bucket seats so fast that my head literally seemed to spin, like the girl in the Exorcist. Grabbing the steering wheel, he yelled again, "Gimme the money, Lynn!" The Exorcist...I was sure that his voice changed. But tonight...no, not tonight. I kept driving, the car swerving across into the other the lane and back again as he, too, gripped the wheel. We came within inches of hitting a minivan. I saw head lights

of an 18 wheeler that we also barely missed as we sped into the on-coming traffic. Hands pinned to the wheel, I was driving to my pastor's house, and no one was stopping me. That was the life I lived for most of my 16 years of marriage to a crack addict, one that was much different from my single days of the quiet, country, church girl. I had never touched drugs in my life. I smoked only one cigarette that nearly killed me. And here I was, 29 years old, married to a drug addict. I had so many similar stories to contend with, jumping fences to get my car back from the drug dealers, standing toe-to-toe and nose-to-nose with dealers who threatened to kill me if I didn't leave them alone about getting my car back, knocks on the door in the middle of the night from thugs demanding money my husband owed them, stealing my own car back and driving backwards, trying to miss the flying bullets. You name it; I just about dealt with it. Many times over the years, I walked into my house to find that every piece of furniture and every appliance was gone—sold in exchange for drugs. I remember waking up one Christmas Day to find that

my babies' gifts were gone, sold for drugs. Once, I frantically searched the streets of Tampa because my husband put our 6-year-old out of the car since it was "too dangerous to take him to the crack house," he said. This was before the days of cell phones. I don't even remember how I found my baby boy. I could go on and on, but the only thing that matters is that one day, I accepted the truth that I had to forgive if I expected to move on with my life. I have since come to grips with the truth, that my now ex-husband was a good person, who loved people. When he was straight, he would give away his last. When he was not, he would take another person's last. I literally saw him take his shirt off and give it away. Once he pulled off his watch and gave it away, and then took my watch and gave it away, too. He had a heart of gold, but in addiction, he was the devil. Still, I had to find a way to forgive. I owed it to myself, my children, and my God.

To order *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, paste the following into your browser: <https://www.amazon.com/Destiny-Glass-Linda-Mason-Crawford/dp/069211761X>.

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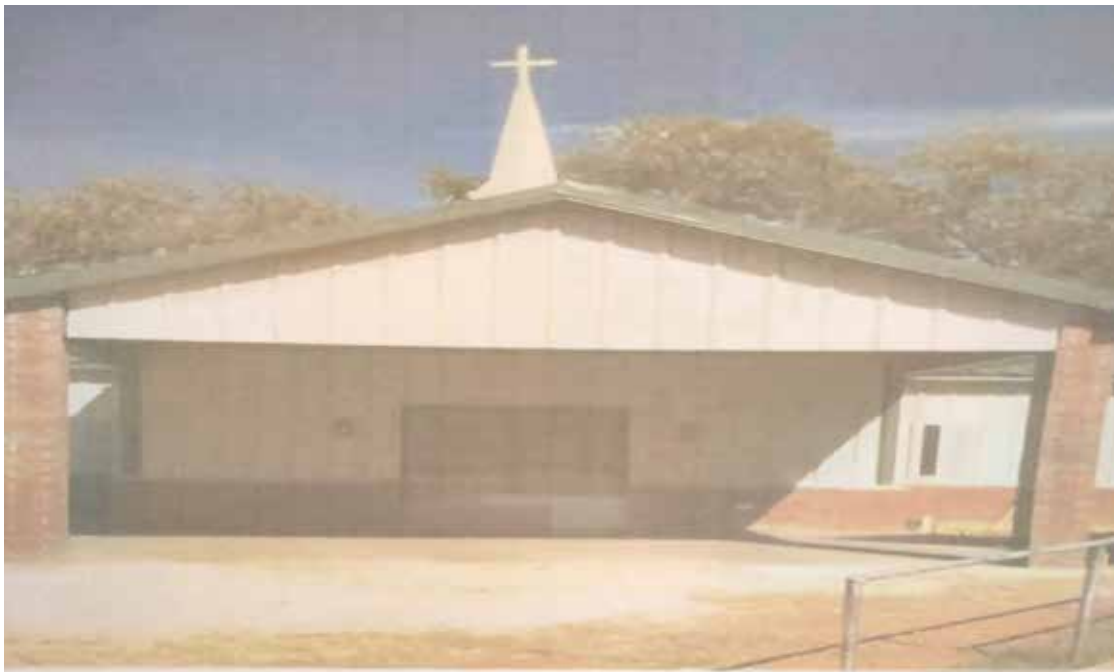
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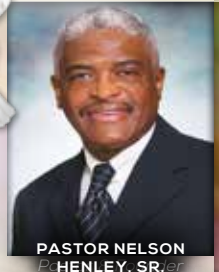
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BY LINDA MCDONALD

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**LINDA MCDONALD**  
REALTOR, CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS

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**BELL**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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# DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

BY MONA DUNKIN

Each human being is created in God's image. That fact alone gives each of us infinite worth and value. You are a unique, special, one-of-a-kind individual, a work of art with a Designer label. Determining your authentic self, rather than becoming a generic, follow the crowd version of yourself, starts with asking some difficult questions.

Nothing shapes relationships and success like the picture you have of yourself. The trouble is that we often assume our identity based on hearsay and, therefore, give too much weight to what others say or to what we think others think. Although you are a product of your environment, you can choose not to be victimized by it. Allow the following thoughts to aid you in your search for self discovery.

1. We all search for identity, significance, and purpose. What identity have you assumed without giving thought to it? Even positive labels can be difficult. What labels have been placed on you? What are you trying to live up to or live down to?

2. How have you been victimized by your environment? Learn to love yourself. Get to know the wonderful person you are. Listen to your own heartbeat, and be willing to follow your dreams. What innate



MONA DUNKIN

gifts and talents have you been ignoring?

3. Process of elimination. Figure out who you are by figuring out who you are not. When you know who you do not want to be or what you do not want to do, you are ready to chart your own course. Focus on who you want to become, and it will be easier to relinquish the thought habits that are keeping you bound. List at least three things that you are not.

4. Send fear packing. When fear knocks on your door, allow faith to answer. Put your hand up as if to block its entrance while firmly saying, "Stop!" aloud. Embrace the seed of hope that action plants.

5. Live with integrity and within your unique calling, per-

sonality, and style. Be the best you possible, not a makeover of someone else, but the person you were created and gifted to become.

6. Foster a healthy selfishness. It is okay to take care of yourself. What you want matters. As you take care of yourself, it becomes easier to be selfless.

7. Discover the foundation of happiness. Happiness is built more on internal qualities than external beauty. Happy people are less self centered and more loving, helpful, forgiving, trusting, social, involved, decisive, and energetic. What internal foundation of happiness have you been ignoring?

8. Don't cope; overcome. People overcome negative influences every day, and you can too. Enjoy the exciting adventure of discovery, a journey that never ends. Give three specific ways in which you will overcome.

Practice does not make perfect; practice makes permanent. Practice acknowledging your own worth and value.

"One is always in the dark about one's own personality. One needs others to get to know oneself." —Carl Jung

Invite Mona Dunkin to speak to your group. You will be entertained by her humor, challenged by her gift of uncommon insight, and motivated by her thought provoking poems.

# TO MY BROTHERS: TAKE THE VACATION. YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU.

BY J.L. CRAWFORD

Brothers, many of us have been taught that our worth is measured by how hard we work. We provide, we protect, we solve problems, and we keep moving. While those are honorable responsibilities, God never intended for work to become our entire lives.

From the beginning, God established the principle of rest. He worked for six days and rested on the seventh, not because He was tired, but to give us an example to follow. Even Jesus stepped away from the crowds to rest, pray, and spend time with those closest to Him.

Vacations are not a sign of laziness. They are an investment in your health, your marriage, your children, and your relationship with God.

Your family doesn't always remember how many hours you worked or how much overtime you earned. They remember the fishing trip, the family reunion, the walk on the beach, the laughter around the dinner table, and the conversations that happened when no one was rushing. Those



J.L. CRAWFORD

moments become memories that last a lifetime.

If your children are still at home, don't wait until they're grown to make time for them. If you're blessed with grandchildren, spend time creating memories with them. If you're married, plan time away with your wife. Your relationship deserves more than paying bills and discussing schedules.

The Bible reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and

SEE **JL**, PG. 15

## 5.0 out of 5 stars | Inspiring & Encouraging | Kindle Customer

(Reviewed in the United States on August 20, 2019)

"I absolutely love this book! I could not put it down and read it in two days. There is so much good stuff in this book that I am reading it again. It is inspiring, encouraging and will bless you."

## 5.0 out of 5 stars Five Stars | Amazon Customer

(Reviewed in the United States on May 21, 2018)

"This is an amazing book. It is entertaining, compelling and convicting. A definite must-read for everyone!"

## 5.0 out of 5 stars | Easy read and applicable to my life

(Reviewed in the United States on March 27, 2019)

"After God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine, I felt like I could take the author's response to certain circumstances and apply to my own life. Each chapter is a life learning lesson of praising God through hard times, and walking into God's plan for my life. It may appear as an easy read, because I read it in one day my first time reading it. Then I had the opportunity to re-read and breakdown each chapter week by week."

Rey

## 5.0 out of 5 stars | Excellent Book

(Reviewed in the United States on June 13, 2020)

"This is an amazing book. I found it helpful in navigating my fear of not reaching my full potential. It helped me understand how I can have a positive God-ordained destiny. Excellent work!"



**God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine**  
Available on Amazon

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez

# HEAT, HYDRATION & HEALTHY SUMMER LIVING

BY DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

Summer is a time for vacations, family reunions, cookouts, swimming, and outdoor adventures. While July offers plenty of opportunities to make lasting memories, the Texas heat—and the heat across much of the country—can also place extra stress on the body.

High temperatures increase your risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and fatigue. Whether you're working outside, exercising, or simply enjoying time with family, taking a few simple precautions can help you stay healthy all summer long.

Remember, enjoying summer starts with protecting your health.

1. Hydrate Before You Feel Thirsty

By the time you feel thirsty, your body may already be dehydrated. Drink water consistently throughout the day, especially if you're spending time outdoors. Increase your fluid intake before, during, and after physical activity. Carrying a reusable water bottle wherever you go can help you stay hydrated. If plain water feels boring, try adding lemon, cucumber, berries, or mint for a refreshing twist.

2. Dress for the Heat

Choose lightweight, breathable, light-colored clothing whenever possible. Wear a wide-brim hat, sunglasses with UV protection, lightweight fabrics, and sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.



DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

Protecting your skin today helps reduce your risk of skin cancer tomorrow.

3. Eat Foods That Hydrate You

Water isn't your only source of hydration. Foods such as cucumbers, watermelon, strawberries, oranges, and leafy greens help replace fluids while providing the vitamins and antioxidants your body needs.

4. Know the Signs of Heat Illness

Heat exhaustion can happen quickly. Watch for heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, headache, muscle cramps, and fatigue. If symptoms worsen or someone becomes confused or stops sweating, seek emergency medical attention immediately.

5. Keep Moving—But Move

Smart

Exercise early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler. If you exercise outdoors, take frequent breaks, drink water often, listen to your body, and avoid overexertion during extreme heat. Consistency is far more important than intensity.

6. Summer Safety Starts with Prevention

Summer often means travel, sports camps, pool parties, and backyard cookouts. Protect yourself by wearing a seat belt, supervising children around water, using insect repellent, practicing food safety during outdoor meals, and applying sunscreen every two hours. Small precautions prevent big problems.

**YOUR TAKEAWAY**

Summer should be a season of fun—not fatigue.

The healthiest people aren't necessarily the ones doing the most. They're the ones making the smartest daily choices. Hydrate often. Protect your skin. Eat colorful foods. Move your body. Enjoy your family. And don't forget to slow down enough to enjoy the sunshine safely, because your health deserves a vacation, too.

Monthly Self-Care Challenge: "Hydration Challenge"

For the next 31 days, challenge yourself to drink at least half your body weight in ounces of water daily (unless your healthcare provider has advised otherwise), eat one fresh fruit or vegetable with every meal, and spend 30 minutes outdoors each day walking, gar-

dening, swimming, or simply enjoying nature safely.

Keep a calendar and check off each successful day. You'll be amazed at how much better you feel.

July Wellness Reminder

Summer is an excellent time to schedule your annual physical, sports physicals for students, skin examinations for suspicious moles or changes, and vision exams before the new school year.

Preventive care doesn't take the summer off—and neither should your commitment to good health.

Dr. Shamonica's Healthy Living Thought of the Month

"Your body is the only place you'll live for your entire life. Take care of it today, so it can take care of you tomorrow."

## SAFE REST MINISTRY CONNECTS BELL COUNTY FAMILIES TO HOPE AND HELP

Since its founding in 2017, Safe Rest Ministry, Inc. has worked to restore hope and provide practical support for individuals, youth, and families throughout Bell County, Texas. The faith-based nonprofit was created after its leaders recognized a growing need among families facing hardship, including food insecurity, lack of resources, mental health concerns, and the need for long-term stability.

Safe Rest Ministry's mission is to strengthen individuals, youth, and families through food assistance, community resources, mental health and wellness sup-

port, educational opportunities, and faith-based encouragement. Through its programs and partnerships, the organization seeks to meet people where they are and connect them to the help they need.

One of the ministry's key programs is Our Daily Loaves Food Pantry, which provides food assistance to families in need. Safe Rest Ministry also operates the Connect & Serve Community Network, which brings together nonprofits, churches, businesses, volunteers, and community partners in one location to better serve families. Through this

network, families have access to food, hygiene products, school supplies, family resource referrals, and direct connections to other services.

The organization's outreach also includes youth programs, homeless outreach, holiday assistance, back-to-school initiatives, mental health partnerships, and referrals for families seeking additional support. These efforts reflect Safe Rest Ministry's belief that community care should address the whole person, including physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs.

Safe Rest Ministry has made an impact by helping families receive needed supplies and services while also creating a stronger network of support across Bell County. Its work shows what can happen when compassion is organized and people come together to serve.

Like many growing nonprofits, Safe Rest Ministry faces challenges, including increasing community needs, sustainable funding, volunteer recruitment, and the need for a permanent community resource center. Its long-term vision is to develop the Connect & Serve Community Resource Center, a year-round space where families can receive consistent services, resources, and encouragement.


Safe Rest Ministry welcomes support through financial donations, sponsorships, volunteers, food and hygiene donations, school supplies, church partnerships, and business partnerships.

The organization is led by Founder and CEO Eustacia Shepard and Executive Director Philisitive Baxter-Johnson. For more information, visit [safe-rest-ministry.webnode.page](http://safe-rest-ministry.webnode.page), email [director@saferestministryinc.org](mailto:director@saferestministryinc.org), or call (512) 734-8828.

## Temple of Christ

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7:00 p.m.

*Pastor Matthew Reed and wife, Helen*

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# LOVE PEOPLE FOR THE GOD WITHIN THEM

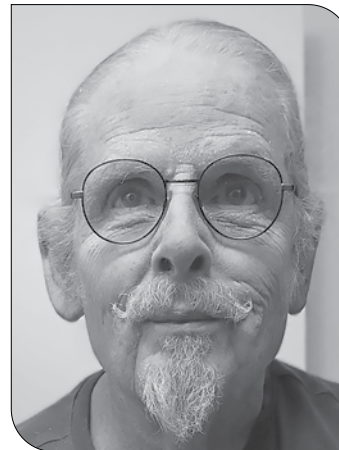
BY MICHAEL JONES

Ever had a day where it just felt like everything got on your nerves? Sometimes, it stems from deeper conflict, and other times from a build-up of small stresses. Here are three ways to overcome irritability.

1. Love People for the God Within Them.

One root cause of annoyance is interpersonal conflict. We are all imperfect, and naturally, we pick up on each other's flaws. Say, for example, that your friend is always running late. If your friend is late for a commitment you both made together, it's natural to feel annoyed that your friend is inconsistent. Most people have more than one noticeable flaw, so if we seek utter perfection from those in our lives, we wouldn't have anyone left in our circle of friends.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, the exemplar of the Bahá'í Faith, shared a great method to help love prevail despite our failures: "Love the creatures for the sake of God and not for themselves. There are imperfections in every human being, and you will always become unhappy if you look toward the peo-



MICHAEL JONES

ple themselves. But if you look toward God, you will love them and be kind to them, for the world of God is the world of perfection and complete mercy."

2. Find Ways to Forgive Yourself and Others.

Another piece of advice from the Bahá'í teachings: "Let not your heart be offended with anyone. If someone commits an error and wrong toward you, you must instantly forgive him. Refrain from complaining or reprimanding him, and if you wish to give admonition or advice, let it be offered in

such a way that it will not burden the bearer. Turn all your thoughts toward bringing joy to hearts."

Another path to forgiveness is by checking the tone we use with ourselves. When we listen to our inner voice, does it seem negative, harsh or unforgiving? To practice forgiveness with others, it's wise to also learn to practice it with ourselves.

3. Fight Irritability With Compassion.

We've probably all had this experience — a family member or friend angers us about something, and suddenly, we find ourselves listing all the things that annoy us about them.

In order to stop my mind from focusing on the negative, I've found it useful to flip to the polar opposite — practicing empathy and reminding myself that the world has many ways of messing us up. Once I've realized again that my own perception has limits, I see that one action a person makes does not represent them in their completeness, I can hold back judgment.

To learn more, please visit our local Bahá'í website at [wacobahais.org](http://wacobahais.org) or the global information site at [bahai.org/beliefs](http://bahai.org/beliefs).

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# HOME SAFETY: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

BY MARGARET IVORY

For most of us, home is much more than four walls and a roof. It is where memories are made, families gather, and life's milestones are celebrated. As we grow older, the desire to remain in our own homes often becomes even stronger. While aging in place can bring comfort and independence, it also comes with responsibilities that shouldn't be overlooked.

Many seniors begin to find everyday household chores more difficult than they once were. Sweeping floors, climbing ladders to change light bulbs, repairing broken steps, or even carrying groceries can become physically challenging. Arthritis, poor vision, balance problems, and other health concerns may turn simple tasks into potential safety risks.

One of the greatest concerns for older adults is the risk of falling. A loose rug, an extension cord stretched across the floor, poor lighting in a hallway, or a missing handrail can quickly lead to a serious injury.

Fortunately, many of these accidents can be prevented by making small changes around the home. Removing clutter, securing rugs, improving lighting, and installing grab bars in bathrooms are simple improvements that can make a tremendous difference.

Home maintenance is just as important. Roof leaks, uneven sidewalks, broken porch steps, and overgrown shrubs may seem like minor inconveniences, but they can become major hazards if left unattended. Taking care of these repairs early helps keep a home safe while preventing more



MARGARET IVORY

costly problems later.

Keeping a clean home also promotes better health. Dust, mold, and clutter can contribute to allergies, breathing problems, and unnecessary stress. If regular housekeeping has become difficult, don't hesitate to ask for help. Accepting assistance isn't a sign of weakness—it is a wise step toward remaining independent.

Technology has also made it easier than ever for seniors to stay safe. Medical alert systems, video doorbells, motion-sensor lights, and smart smoke detectors can provide additional peace of mind for both seniors and their loved

ones. These tools allow help to be summoned quickly if an emergency occurs.

One of the best habits is to perform a simple home safety check every few months. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, replace worn batteries, check handrails, inspect walkways, and make sure emergency phone numbers are easy to find. These small tasks take only a little time but can have a lasting impact.

Growing older doesn't mean giving up the comfort of home. With a little planning, regular maintenance, and sup-

port from those who care, seniors can continue living safely in the place they know and love. A safe home is more than a comfortable place to live—it provides peace of mind, preserves independence, and allows us to enjoy each new day with confidence.

After all, there truly is no place like home.

My husband wrote a book before he became sick called "There's No Place Like Home". If you'd like to buy a copy, please text me at 254-313-7413. Love ya forever, Margaret Ivory, your friendly Medicare Broker.

## Church DIRECTORY

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 1612 Austin Avenue, Suite A | Waco, Texas 76701  
 Pastor/Founder – RT Allen | Co Pastor – Sandra Allen

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30  
 MORNING WORSHIP – 10:30  
 WEDNESDAY INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 6 to 6:30  
 BIBLE STUDY – 6:30 to 7:45

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 Friday Night Prayer – 6 to 7 p.m.  
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 11:30 a.m.

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**JL**  
 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

a time to every purpose under heaven." There is a time to work, but there is also a time to rest, refresh, and reconnect.

This year, take the vacation. Turn off the phone when you can. Watch the sunset. Laugh a little more. Listen a little longer. Thank God for the family He has entrusted to you.

One day, your greatest legacy will not be the hours you spent at work but the love, faith, and memories you shared with those who mattered most.

God gave us work as a blessing, but He also gave us family. Make time for both.

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# TRADITION AND CONVENIENCE: THE SECOND DOWNFALL OF MAN



**APOSTLE FANNY MINNETT**

The first downfall of man happened through disobedience in the Garden. The second downfall continues when people choose tradition, comfort, profit, and convenience over God's biblical principles.

Many believers argue strongly about whether women should preach or pastor, yet remain silent about traditions, customs, and celebrations that may have little biblical foundation. So, the question is: are we defending Scripture, or are we defending what is familiar?

Jesus warned against honoring human tradition above the commandments of God. Some traditions are harmless, but others can slowly replace obedience, holiness, and truth. Mark 7:8-9 reminds us of the danger of laying aside God's commandments to hold on to human traditions. Convenience can compromise conviction. Many believers keep certain practices because they are comfortable, profitable, or emotionally connected to childhood memories. But convenience is not the same as righteousness. God does not call His people to what is easy; He calls them to what is holy.

Let's discuss the church. The church often debates visible issues such as women preaching, leadership roles, or pastoral titles, while ignoring other areas where culture, iniquity, identity, and performance have shaped our worship, giving, holidays, business practices, and personal choices. Even baptisms are sometimes turning into outreach services instead of sacred moments in time. Our savior seems to be becoming an afterthought to our traditions and conveniences.

God's commission says to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things He has commanded. Matthew 28:19-20 reminds us that He is with us always, even unto the end of the world. Yet we are mov-

ing farther from His commission and from observing all His commands, while still being quick to hold prayer calls and revivals in His name.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is holy, powerful, and central to the gospel. Christ followers should examine whether cultural symbols,

commercial practices, and inherited rituals have overshadowed the true meaning of Christ's victory over death.

The real issue is not simply holidays, gender debates, or church customs. The deeper issue is whether God's people are willing to surrender tradition and convenience when

they compete with God's commands. A mature believer must ask, "Am I following Christ, or am I following what is familiar?"

"Be careful that you don't let anyone rob you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men..." Read Colossians 2:8-9.

## Submit Your Info For The...

# Education Issue!

August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 24 years in the community, we spotlight students, educators, administrators, staff, educational events, institutions, etc.

The deadline to submit a 250-300 word article on a person of accomplishment or news worthy educational event, institution, organization, etc., is **JULY 25, 2026**. So come on! Send us your clear, JPEG headshot and a typed article (Word document attached or written within the body of an email) to [theanchornews@aol.com](mailto:theanchornews@aol.com).

We will do our best to include every profile that we receive, and who knows? Your submission might be one of our cover stories.