

# THE Anchor News

## Serving the Central Texas Community

*Celebrating 12 Years!*

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Free



### The Gathering brings Israel Houghton to McLane

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

When he was conceived, he was called "a mistake." On his official website, Israel Houghton says, "When my mother was 17, she got pregnant. The suggestion was, 'Have an abortion. Let's just chalk this up as a mistake and move on.'"

Houghton continues his story, explaining that an abortion was not God's plan for this pregnancy. Without having all of the pieces to the puzzle, I found myself comparing his story to that of Mary and the Baby Jesus. I believe Houghton's mother made the secret decision to keep her baby and that decision was affirmed when a stranger walked up to her declaring a word from the Lord. The lady told her that Jesus loved her, He remembered



**ISRAEL HOUGHTON**

her, and yes, that she was making the right decision.

That was nearly 45 years ago. Today, this Texas native is a full-time worship pastor, a recording artist, a songwriter, and a producer who is impacting the world. For over two

decades, his heart and time have been spent leading people into the presence of God. Currently leading worship for Joel Osteen's 50,000 member Lakewood Church congregation in Houston, Houghton is known internationally for his anointed voice, anointed music, and anointed praise and worship. On Palm Sunday, March 29th in Waco, Texas, he will share the stage with a projected city-wide, interdenominational 800-voice choir directed by First Baptist Church of Woodway's worship pastor, Gary Rhodes.

Houghton will also share the stage with keynote speaker, nationally known minister, author, and pastor of the 10,000 member Oak Cliff Bible Fellow-

See **HOUGHTON** pg. 3

### Killeen mom starts organization for single mothers, Pt. 2

BY W.B. GUNTER

*Continued from the February issue of The Anchor.*

Nichols believes in the value of being an example of her expectations. "Disrespect is not tolerated at home, in school, or in public. It takes both parents, a community of teachers and staff who understand that there is no one path set for all, but all must follow a path for success. And, that starts with me."

Nichols sees herself as her child's role model, one who walks in excellence "in spite of negativity, environmental



**CAMARYA NICHOLS**

influences, and obstacles." According to Nichols, we are bombarded with neighbor-

hoods where disrespect is tolerated, inappropriate behaviors are allowed, and seeing a pregnant teen is not rare.

She described this as her neighborhood and explained that she needed to leave such surroundings. "So, I stayed in school, earned a degree, became a home owner, and became the role model for my child to follow. I had to be mindful about what my daughter was being exposed to on a daily basis."

Her message to single moms is that they must be

See **NICHOLS** pg. 7

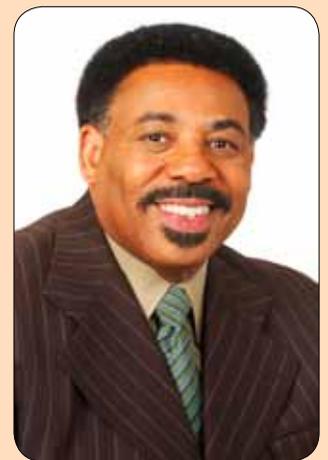
### Dr. Tony Evans to minister at The Gathering on Palm Sunday

Dr. Tony Evans, one of the country's most respected leaders in evangelical circles, will be the keynote speaker at The Gathering in Waco, Texas on March 29th at 5:00, in McLane Stadium. The Gathering organizers expect over 30,000 to attend this free worship service, which also includes praise and worship leader and national recording artist, Israel Houghton and New Breed.

As a pastor, teacher, author and speaker, Evans serves the body of Christ through his unique ability to communicate complex theological truths through simple, yet profound, illustrations. While addressing the practical issues of today, Evans is known as a relevant expositor. New and veteran pastors alike regard him as a pastor of pastors and a father in the faith.

The first African-American to graduate with a doctoral degree from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS), he served as an associate professor in DTS' Pastoral Ministries Department in the areas of evangelism, homiletics and black church studies. He continues to serve DTS on the Board of Incorporate Members. Evans holds the rare honor of serving as chaplain for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks over the last three decades, the longest standing NBA chaplaincy on record. He is also the former chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys.

Evans has served as the



**DR. TONY EVANS**

senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship for close to four decades. Evans also serves as the founder and president of The Urban Alternative. He seeks to restore hope and transform lives through the proclamation and the application of the Word of God. His daily radio broadcast, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, is broadcast on more than 1,000 radio outlets throughout the United States and in more than 130 countries.

Through his local church and national ministry, Evans promotes a kingdom agenda philosophy that teaches God's comprehensive rule over every sphere of life as demonstrated through the individual, family, church and society. This philosophy connects biblical spirituality with social responsibility.

At the heart of this vision is the use of church and school partnerships

See **EVANS** pg. 9



### J.L. AND LINDA CRAWFORD

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the director of operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher, and a LegalShield Independent Associate. Linda Crawford is co-owner and editor of *The Anchor News*. She is an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher and a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

### A Message about The Gathering...

The Gathering, planned for Palm Sunday, March 29th, is quickly approaching. Waco has never seen an event such as this one—one that crosses all tradition, all religions, and all races. It transcends age, gender, and social status. Come out and experience anointed praise and worship with Israel Houghton and New Breed. Get caught up in the moment of a city-wide, 800 voice choir. Then sit back and enjoy Dr. Tony Evan's wisdom and anointing. Pastors Ramiro Pena, CJ Oliver, and Kevin Harrison have done a tremendous job of building relationships and involving the citizens of the Waco community. The Gathering is going to be a history maker, but don't take my word for it. Come out and see for yourself.

# The Gathering planned for March 29th

BY LINDA CRAWFORD  
WITH J.L. CRAWFORD

When Drayton McLane Jr. approached Christ the King Baptist Church pastor, Ramiro Pena, no doubt McLane knew exactly what he was doing. He shared with Pena that he had a vision, one that would fill the McLane Stadium with hundreds of worshippers at Easter. What began as McLane's dream for the 45,000-seat stadium has now become a reality.

In just under 5 months, explained Pena, The Gathering, spearheaded by Pena, along with CJ Oliver, pastor of Greater New Light Baptist Church and Kevin Harrison, lead pastor at Victorious Life Church, will bring together the collaboration and coordination of over 200 pastors in Waco and surrounding areas.

Planned for Palm Sunday, March 29, 5:00 in the McLane Stadium, The Gathering will headline nationally known recording artist and worship leader, Israel Houghton and New Breed. Houghton will be joined by what many project to be an 800-voice city-wide, interdenominational choir directed by First Baptist Church of Woodway's worship pastor, Gary Rhodes. Bringing the word for this special occasion will be keynote speaker Dr. Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. Evans is a nationally known minister, author, and overseer of a 10,000 member congregation.

"The Gathering has come to the forefront because our heartbeat is to make sure we

are all connected for the Kingdom," explained Pena, noting that this type of event would normally take a year to organize. "But everything gets done through relationship."

Pastors and churches from as close as Temple and as far as Dallas have agreed to support The Gathering. Baylor University President Ken Starr and Joanna Gaines of the Fixer Upper will be in attendance, while Mary Hardin Baylor has committed to bringing several buses of students to the event.

Local television station News 25 will televise the two-hour event live without commercials and the CBS Network will televise the broadcast around the world.

According to Harrison, "Every chair will be prayed over. Every person who comes to the alter will receive a follow-up call by a local pastor or a member of his congregation. We are believing God for an outpouring of alter workers." He explained that people can help in a number of ways:

- Churches can come together to pray on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- On the day of the event, people can come prepared to pray over every seat in the 45,000 seat stadium.
- People can commit to giving financially to support this free event.
- People can commit to attending The Gathering and invite others.
- Churches can become a sponsoring church and can help with follow ups.
- Every person in attendance can bring a can good to

fill up Caritas and Shepherd's Heart pantries.

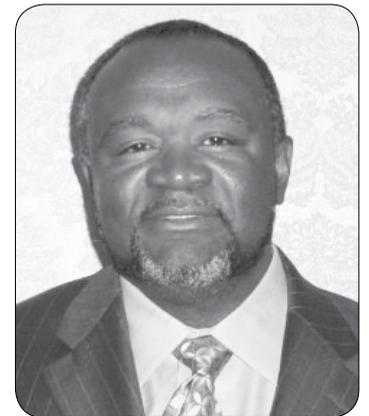
The next city-wide rehearsal will be this Sunday, March 15th at FBC Woodway's Worship Center, 101 Ritchie Rd, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. There is a chance that the rehearsal will be covered by local television stations; thus, Rhodes asks that worshippers make a special effort to attend. "If you are a worshipper, we need you. If you can sing, that's an added bonus, so come. We want to fill that stadium with at least 800 voices." Currently 480 have signed up to participate.

Other dates include alter training on March 16th at 7:00 p.m. and March 21st at 9:00 a.m. at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church and choir rehearsal at FBC on March 22nd at the same time, and place. Organizers are asking pastors and members to prepare to be prayer counselors by attending one of the alter trainings at Columbus. Parking will be available in a number of locations, including the Ferrell Center. At least five shuttles will be available, and senior pastors who register will have credentials and special seating available on the day of the event. Doors will open at 3:00 p.m.

"Unity is not sameness," said Pena. "God loves diversity, and we celebrate that." Oliver agreed. "These are exciting times," he said. "We are committed to doing a work in Waco that reaches across denominational and racial lines. We want to see the city changed and turned around for the Kingdom of God."



PASTOR RAMIRO PENA



PASTOR CJ OLIVER



PASTOR KEVIN HARRISON

# THE Anchor News



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

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Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at

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# Your credit and what it means to you

**BY REGINA MARTINEZ,  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
INCOMMONS BANK, N.A.**

When you're applying for a credit card, a car loan, a personal loan or a mortgage, lender's want to know your credit risk level. Three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion) in the United States maintain records of your use of credit and other information about you. Based on those records, you are given credit scores and lenders use this information to assess credit worthiness.



**REGINA MARTINEZ,  
VICE PRESIDENT**

A credit score is a summary of your credit risk based on a snapshot of your credit report. The most widely used credit scores are FICO scores, the credit scores created by Fair Isaacs Corporation.

Your credit report consists of personal information, a summary of accounts, inquiries of when you applied for a loan, and any negative items, such as past due accounts or any type of bankruptcies, foreclosures, tax liens, garnishments, legal suits or judgments.

Credit scores range from 350-850. Below are 5 tips that will help you maintain a good score.

1. Pay your bills on time. (35% of your score is based on this) If you have missed payments, get current and stay current. Never let a payment get more than 30 days past due. If you are having trouble making ends meet, contact your creditors or see a legitimate credit counselor.

2. How much do I owe? (30%) Keep balances low on credit cards and other "revolving credit." High outstanding debt on credit cards can lower your FICO score. Pay off debt rather than moving it around. Don't close unused cards or open new credit cards that you don't need.

3. Establish a credit history. (15%) A longer credit history will increase your FICO score.

FICO looks at the age of your oldest account, the age of your newest account and an average of all your accounts.

4. Are you taking on more debt in a short period of time? (10%) FICO looks at how many accounts you have and how long it has been since you opened a new account. Be careful about opening new accounts that you don't need.

5. What types of credit do you use? (10%). Is it a "healthy mix?" Only apply for and open new credit as needed. Manage credit cards responsibly. Closing an account or paying it off doesn't make it go away.

It is important to view your credit report to make sure it is accurate. [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) is a "free" website that will allow you to view all three of your credit reports once a year and report any errors to the credit agency. It must investigate and respond to you within 30 days. You can also dispute errors by contacting the credit reporting agencies directly: Equifax - (800)684-1111, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com); Experian - (888)397-3742, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com); and TransUnion - (800)888-4213, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com).

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## HOUGHTON | Continued from page one

ship in Dallas, Dr. Tony Evans. Houghton usually performs with New Breed, a ministry founded by Houghton and his wife, Meleasa. He has released a number of best-selling singles and albums, resulting in his being the recipient of a number of Grammy, Stellar, and Dove Awards.

Houghton's hit songs are too numerous to name. A partial list includes *Risen*, *Not Forgotten*, *Rez Power*, *Your Presence is Heaven to Me*, *Jesus at the Center*, *Lord You are Good*, *Friend of God*, *Cover the Earth*, *Turn it Around*, *Again I Say Rejoice*, *Come in from the Outside*, *We Speak to Nations*, *Better than Life*, *Sweeter*, and *Here I am to Worship*, to name a few. Now a household name,

Houghton travels the world bringing all generations, believers and non-believers, face to face with God's presence.

And such is the inevitable for this Palm Sunday at 5:00 in the McLane Stadium, located at 1001 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Waco. What began as Drayton McLane, Jr.'s dream for the 45,000-seat stadium has now become a reality. Local organizers, pastors Ramiro Pena, CJ Oliver, and Kevin Harris, in collaboration with over 200 pastors in Waco and surrounding cities, have come together as a united, diverse group, working with one purpose in mind – bringing souls to Christ. See the full story on *The Gathering* page 2.



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# Choosing humility

BY MONA DUNKIN

Humility is a do-it-yourself job. You may humiliate yourself through some ill-thought out behavior or even deem that another has humiliated you - usually by their having seen a chink in your armor - but choosing to be humble - in the face of great accomplishment or heart-breaking failure - is a personal choice, rooted in a true understanding of humanity.

Humble is derived from the Latin word humilis, meaning low or lowly and is the same root word in humus (ground) and homo (man). Humus... human... humility; all have the same root word. Humility is recognizing our humanness. We humans are on equal footing - good and bad, positive and negative, giving and selfish, shadow and light sides. It takes humility to accept both in self and others.

There are five ways of dealing with humiliating situations; the first three comes to us rather naturally and are more destructive than constructive. Doing those things that come naturally often gets us into big



MONA DUNKIN

trouble. The later two have to be learned, cultivated and nurtured; they entail choosing humility.

1. Passive: suppressive, avoiding problems, gives in; mentally says, "I'm uncomfortable." "I'll withdraw. "I'll get out."
2. Aggressive: attacks others, demanding, abrasive; mentally says, "I can take care of myself." "I win, you lose."

"I'm right!"

3. Passive-Aggressive: indirect, sneaky, underhanded, sabotage; mentally says, "I'll give in, but I'll get you." "Gotcha!"

4. Assertive: open, honest, mature, mutual respect; the mental attitude is, "I have worth and value and you have worth and value." "We may disagree and I'll still hold you in high regard."

5. Overlook: Recognizing personal limits and making healthy choices. The mental attitude is "Live and let live." "I choose to forgive."

Learning to overlook an offense requires humility.

There are two questions that can never correctly be answered "Yes". One is, "Are you asleep?" The other is, "Are you humble?" To answer in the affirmative belies reality.

One may think of self as being humble, yet has difficulty accepting a simple compliment. It takes humility to graciously receive a flattering remark even though you may think your performance not up to par or deem your hairdo as the worst cut ever. To respond in a self-deprecating stance, to deny another's assessment or to launch into defense of the defect is actually to lapse into a false humility.

Learning to graciously respond in humiliating situations requires rigorous self-honesty. You cannot become truly honest and examine your actions and attitudes while in self-denial. As long as you stay in denial, you deceive yourself into believing your actions and attitudes are right. Remove face-saving masques and allow honesty to give fresh perspective.

When you, with God's grace, choose to get honest and to change, you begin to like you. You be are working on the do-it-yourself project of being humble.

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# African-Americans at higher risk for stroke

(NewsUSA) - Each year, more than 780,000 Americans suffer a stroke. It is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of long-term disability in the United States. African-Americans suffer more severe strokes than white Americans, and tend to have a higher rate of risk factors such as high blood pressure and smoking. Many people do not know the symptoms or what to do when they witness someone having a stroke. The following information is provided to you by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). "For African-Americans, stroke is more common and more deadly -- even in young and middle-aged adults -- than for any other ethnic or racial group in the country. It is critical to recognize the symptoms of a stroke, call 9-1-1, and get to a hospital quickly," said Salina Waddy, M.D., program director, Office of Minority Health and Research, NINDS. "The good news is that treatments are available that can save people's lives and improve their chances for successful recovery." A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted or if bleeding occurs in or around the brain. Brain cells die when deprived of oxygen and nutrients provided by blood. Because a stroke injures the brain, if you are having a stroke, you may not realize what is happening. But to a bystander the signs of a stroke are distinct: \* Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg

(especially on one side of the body) \* Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech \* Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes \* Sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination \* Sudden severe headache with no known cause In treating a stroke, every minute counts. Treatments are available that greatly reduce the damage caused by a stroke. But you need to arrive at the hospital within 60 minutes after symptoms start in order to receive some treatments. Knowing the symptoms of a stroke, making note of the time of the first stroke symptom, and getting to the hospital quickly can help you act in time to save yourself -- or someone you know -- from serious long-term disability.

Making changes in your lifestyle can help prevent stroke. The NINDS, part of the National Institutes of Health, is dedicated to research and education on the causes, treatments and prevention of stroke. Risk factors include high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, family history of stroke, high cholesterol, and being overweight. Talk to your doctor and let him or her know about the concerns you may have about the risk factors of stroke. Find out your risks and take action. More information on stroke, including how to reduce risk factors, is available in the NINDS materials. Order free materials by calling 1-800-352-9424 or by visiting [www.stroke.nih.gov](http://www.stroke.nih.gov).

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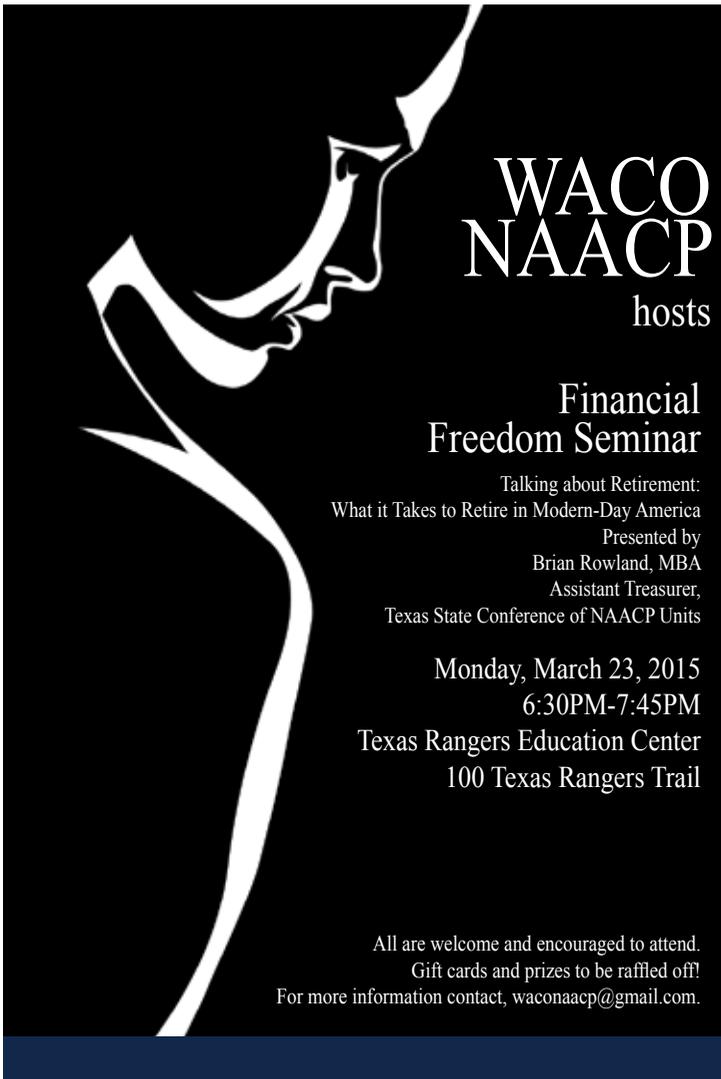
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## Waco is a wonderful place to live

BY RON OLIPHANT

I was talking to my mother and she asked me why am I living in Waco. Well, my wife is from Waco, and she is pretty. Okay, that is not the only reason I am here; I like it here. It reminds me of home. I am from a small town in Louisiana and now that I have kids, a smaller town is attractive to me. I know. Waco is not that small; it has over 125,000 people in the city, but that is what makes it cool.

I don't need to go to Dallas or Austin to go to a nice restaurant. We have Red Lobster, Apple Bee's and the Olive Garden. We recently got the Long Horn Steak House for you carnivores. We have Soup or Salad for those who want to be healthy and Chuck E. Cheese for the kids. Local eateries from great barbecue to Sascie's Southern Style Eatery are here to provide the best



RON OLIPHANT

food within one hundred miles. I can go downtown and watch a band play on the Brazos. I can go to Baylor and watch a free concert. Waco has museums, antique stores and malls for shoppers. It is not the worst place to live.

The night life has bars, bars and more bars. Clubs for the young and older citizens are available if you

desire to put on your nice shoes and go dancing. If you like plays, the Waco Civic Theater will entertain you. If you like rodeo's The Heart of Texas Fairground is waiting for you to strap on your boots. In the summer time we have Hawaiian Falls; I could keep going but I think you get the picture.

Now you may say, "I don't care about none of that stuff; I am a God fearing church goer, that only leaves home to hear good preaching." Well, do we have something here for you. Waco has over seventy-five Baptist churches, nine catholic churches and over fifty various other denominations, that I am sure will quench your thirst.

All I am trying to say is I like fishing more than my momma's gumbo, and we have lakes and rivers filled with fish. No, no...I meant to say, "Waco is a wonderful place to live."



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## NICHOLS

Continued from page one

what they want their children to be. "That includes everything from the way I walk, the way I talk, the books I read, and the books, magazines, mailings, and papers I allow in my home. I have to be mindful of the people in and out of my home, the way I dress, the shows on TV that I watch, music I listen to, and everything else in between."

When she must consider finances, Nichols says people should live within their means. Being a student, parent, and volunteer, Nichols finds that scheduling and completing tasks leave very little free time, or time for sleeping and getting a proper night's rest. She recalled, "I had people that saw what I was doing. There were times when my child went to the job with me. People offered to help, and I took them up on their offers. My daughter had to sometimes go to school with me. She was quiet, sat in the back and colored in her books. The more I did to improve my situation, the more people supported me, so now, I pay it forward. That's what I want to do with this group."

There are single parents who may never accept help from others including families, but Nichols advises anyone, to "find a support. It doesn't matter if you find it in a church, through the community, or school. Get your children involved in something they find interesting. As a single parent, if there is an emergency, your children will need someone to lean on or call for support. We are here for each other. Find support."

As far as education is concerned, says Nichols, teachers

and staff must expect success. "When it comes to my child's education, the teacher and I employ emails and phone calls. I may pop in for a surprise visit and have lunch with my daughter." Nichols is adamant that children should be involved with activities in schools and the community, and they should volunteer their services.

And as citizens, "we all must exercise our voting rights. We need to attend town hall meetings and get to know local politicians." Two-time Nichols is looking forward to inviting politicians to speak with single parents at a forum as the next election year approaches. "Knowing how politicians vote reveals what is important to

them."

With Spring Break in the air, Two-time Nichols encourages parents to explore their children's future. "Find out what goals your children plan on achieving when they grow up. Take them to the library, read and check out books related to those dreams. Find places nearby where they can see people who are doing what they want to one day do. Visit museums and memorials. Take a field trip to your local stores and parks. Find opportunities for building success. Allow children an opportunity to experience what they want to become."

Parenting evolves with every new generation. Nichols

understands that technology and social networking is a part of growing up, but the needs of children and parenting doesn't have to change. She welcomes the wisdom of older and more experienced women. "We have to know how to adapt to a changing world. Parents want children to be safe, do and say what is

appropriate, and to behave respectfully. That never changes with time. My Granny used to say, 'Use the good sense God gave you.'"

For those interested in contacting Camarya Nichols about Single Mothers United, networking, or speaking engagements, please call or text her at (254) 466-8286.

## Business Directory

### Stay in step with your diabetes

(NewsUSA) - Nearly 21 million people in the United States are afflicted with diabetes, which accounts for 7 percent of the population. The prevalence of the disease is even higher among African Americans. In fact, approximately 13 percent of African Americans aged 20 years or older have the disease. And while diabetes is a chronic disease that can be managed, people need to be more aware of the complications associated with it.

Diabetic complications can cause nerve and vascular damage, which can eventually lead to foot ulcers. If not treated in time, these ulcers can result in amputation. In fact, more than 60 percent of non-traumatic, lower-limb amputations in the United States occur among people with diabetes.

What can you do? The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) recommends regular vis-

its to an APMA podiatric physician as part of a comprehensive foot care plan to help reduce your risk of amputation.

Additionally, the APMA suggests following these simple tips at home. \* Check your feet every day. Especially if you have a loss of sensation, visually inspecting your feet daily will help you notice any cuts, sores, blisters or changes in the skin or toenails. You can use a hand mirror to help you check the bottoms of your feet. If you notice a change in your feet, see your podiatrist immediately. \* Clean your feet daily. Washing your feet will help avoid the build-up of bacteria. Be sure to wash in warm water, rather than hot. Completely dry your feet after washing, and pay special attention to drying between the toes.

\* Keep skin healthy. By lightly applying lotion or moisturizer to your feet, you can help prevent dry, flaky or cracked skin. Use lotion on the tops and bottoms of your feet but never between the toes because excess moisture between the toes creates conditions favorable to forming an infection. \* Always wear shoes and socks. Soft, lightly padded socks will help you avoid blisters and sores. Socks with no seams are best. Also, examine the insides of your shoes to be sure there is nothing harmful that will injure your feet. \* Choose shoes that fit well and protect your feet. One of the best ways to avoid injuries to your feet is to wear sturdy and supportive shoes at all times.

For more information on diabetes and your feet or to find an APMA podiatrist in your area, visit [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org).



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# And these signs shall follow them that believe, Part 3

*Continued from the February issue of The Anchor.*

**BY RUBY MCCRAY**

Allow me to suggest that you get your smart phone or Bible and read these Scriptures whenever you have the time. Please do that for each of these teachings. These passages are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise stated.

"And then he [Jesus] told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

"These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.'

"...And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord working through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs" (Mark 16:15-20).

Last month I mentioned Kenneth Hagin as being one of my mentors for supernatural healings, but I have others: Sid Roth, Thurman Scrivner, Katie Souza, Smith Wigglesworth, Kathryn Kuhlman, Guillermo Maldonado, Peter Gammons and Reinhard Bonnke.

Personally, I don't believe that it's God's divine will that He has to heal us, but instead, that we never get sick. Just as we were saved at the cross, we were also healed, made whole, preserved and delivered (John 3:14-17).

I believe that there are three major avenues that sickness attacks us: one, we don't take care of our bodies as we should by not eating properly, ingesting substances that are not intended for consumption, improper hygiene, stress, etc. Doctors who do not recommend prescription drugs say that foods should be our medicine and medicine should be our food. I've heard about some prescription drugs indicating death

to be a possible side-affect. Since the soil is so depleted, we have to help supplement our daily nutrients with vitamins and minerals.

I've noticed that a sick dog or cat never goes to the drug-store with a prescription, but if they can get outside, they will eat grass. God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life" (Genesis 1:29, 30).

The second reason sickness attacks is we don't really know the promises of God and/or we don't believe that they are for us today. The devil goes around like a roaring lion looking for people to destroy (1 Peter 5:6-9). He's not a roaring lion! Jesus pulled his teeth, de-clawed him and gave us (the church) the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16:13-19). Just because he offers a sickness, you don't have to accept it. Remember, Jesus gave us believers the authority to cast out demons (Mark 16:17). Stay in Christ, sanctify yourself, resist the devil and he has to go (James 4:7-10)!

The third reason sickness attacks is we open a door when we sin, thus, giving the devil a legal right to inflict our bodies. That's why we must



**EVANGELIST  
RUBY MCCRAY**

live holy just as Jesus is holy (1 Peter 1:13-16). Jesus never sinned (1 Peter 2:21-23), and every time he went into the presence of a demon-possessed person, the demon(s) in the person would ask Him not to torment them (Mark 1:21-28; 5:1-20). We, the obedient believers, have that same power (John 14:12; Romans 8:11). There were seven sons of a leading priest (a pastor's kids) who tried to cast a demon out of a man in the name of Jesus. The man said that he knew Jesus and Paul, but not them. He overpowered all seven and they fled naked and wounded (Acts 19:13-16). If there's the least bit of sin in your life, please don't try to cast out a demon! Sin is like a magnet to a demon. He'll search for anything

in you that is common or belongs to him. Sin gives him legal rights.

Jesus talking to His disciples said, "I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me] (John 14:30 The Amplified Bible).

"And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and heal-

ing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

Please join me next month as I use the Word of God to prove that sin gives the devil legal rights to attack not only you, but also your spouse, your children and your assets. You may not believe me, but... just what if I'm right?

*Evangelist Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments e-mail [rubbyacorm@yahoo.com](mailto:rubbyacorm@yahoo.com) or write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.*

## EVANS

Continued from page one

to effect spiritual and social change in communities. Evans' church and school outreach philosophy has been attributed as a catalyst for former President George W. Bush's Faith Based Initiative, which was his first formal act of office. Evans seeks to train churches, schools and volunteers in this philosophy, as well as in the functional practicalities, through the National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative which is a ministry underneath the umbrella of The Urban Alternative.

Evans has received many honors, including the Father of the Year award voted by the Dallas Father of the Year Committee and the Marian Pfister

Anshutz Award for "dedication to protecting, encouraging, and strengthening the American family" from the Family Research Center.

Dr. Tony Evans is married to Lois, his wife and ministry partner of 44 years. They are the proud parents of four children, all who serve in ministry: Chrystal Hurst, Priscilla Shirer, Anthony, and Jonathan as well as the proud grandparents of eleven: Kariss, Jessica, Jackson, Jesse, III, Jerry, Jr., Kanaan, Jude, Joel, Kelsey, Jonathan II, and Kamden. See page 2 for the full story on The Gathering.

*All information was taken from <http://tonyevans.org/about/tony-evans/>.*

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## Consumer confidence scams

**J. L. CRAWFORD,**  
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Scams are designed to obtain your personal identifying information (PII), account information, account login information, and/or money. The scammers defraud victims by preying upon trust, compassion, charity, hope, financial desperation, or fear. Some victims fall for scams because the scammer has stirred their emotions or enticed a fantasy so that the victim wants to believe that the scammer's story of need or opportunity is true.

There are many scams an individual may fall victim to, and some are very elaborate. The best way to protect against these types of scams are to be cautious, stay informed, and know what to look for when you come across a potential scam. The most common types of these scams are described below.

Types of Popular Scams  
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Phishing scams are emails, websites, pop-up messages, text messages, or phone calls that misrepresent an authentic company or business in an attempt to obtain the potential victim's information, including PII, account information, or login information for an online account. Phishing emails often indicate that you must act now to prevent further fraud on an account, or request that a link be clicked to be directed to the company's website. By doing so, you run the risk of having malicious software down-



**J.L. CRAWFORD**

loaded to your computer, which can lead to your files being compromised. This software may monitor usernames and passwords being entered into secure sites.

Lottery Scams Lottery scams are notices from a fraudulent organization posing as a gaming commission, in an attempt to trick potential victims into believing they have won a lottery. In order to claim the winnings however, these scammers often request personal information or money to fulfill tax obligations on the monies won. In reality, you cannot win a lottery you haven't entered and will never be asked to pay money to receive the winnings.

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# Waco NAACP celebrates nearly four decades of service

The Waco NAACP celebrated seventy-nine years of service in the McLennan County community at its annual banquet on Saturday, February 28. Held on the old Paul Quinn campus in the City of Waco Multi-Purpose Building, the banquet was attended by nearly 200 people. Waco NAACP vice-president Nellie Elarms gave a warm welcome to attendees. Among those attending were the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units president Gary Bledsoe, State Youth and College NAACP president Erin Gaddis, and Baylor University NAACP President Deandra Dyer. Also in attendance was Dan Richards, who stood in for his father civil rights attorney David Richards who was unable to speak as planned due to illness.

Special guests include former Anderson County Commissioner Rodney Howard of Palestine and Waco City Councilman Wilbert Austin. Both men were recognized for their courageous roles as plaintiffs in two important civil rights cases tried by Richards. Howard is the last surviving plaintiff in the Robinson v. Commissioners Court which resulted in single-member voting districts in Anderson County. Austin was one of the plaintiffs in the Derrick v. Mathais which resulted in single-member voting districts in Waco.

Mistress of Ceremony, Waco NAACP president, Peaches Henry opened the program by giving a special recognition award to Rev. and Mrs. Larry Brown, immediate past president and secretary, respectively. The Browns served the chapter faithfully during the past years when membership was low. Shavonne Na'Tey, winner of the first Waco's Got Talent Mission Waco contest and a contender on Sunday's Best, performed beau-



**PASTOR GAYLON FOREMAN AND WIFE, YVETTE**

tifully during the evening. Gail Mays and Marilyn Bell oversaw the early bird raffle which included the tickets of those who purchased banquet tickets early. The proud winner left with a 23" flat screen television.

A highlight of the evening came when Nina LeBlanc Moore, Waco NAACP Education Chairwoman, announced the Dr. Mae Jackson and Rev. Robert L. Gilbert Scholarships. The scholarships will be open to students are graduating seniors and to current college students. LeBlanc Moore also announced the Waco NAACP essay contest for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. The scholarships will be presented and the essay contest winners announced at the Waco NAACP Scholarship Banquet on May 8.

Gaylon Foreman, pastor of Carver Park Baptist Church, received the Waco NAACP's Community Service Award. Foreman received the award for the help he provided the NAACP as it worked to fulfill its initiative to educate the community about the Affordable Care Act and his commitment to serving the Waco community. Mrs. Bettie Beard was awarded the Waco NAACP Outstanding Member of the Year Award for her work as Health Com-

mittee Chairperson during 2014.

State NAACP President Bledsoe schooled the audience on various lawsuits the NAACP is involved in around the state including a gerrymandering case in Anderson County which seeks to reverse the work that David Richards succeeded in doing forty years ago. Dan Richards delivered the speech his father wrote, endearing himself to many who remembered his father, his mother Ann Richards, and his grandmother who helped found the Waco chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Henry closed the banquet by reminding the crowd that of the upcoming scholarship banquet which will feature Phyllis Jones, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units Education chairwoman, as speaker. The theme of that banquet will be "The Importance of Education in Keeping the Dream Alive."

## Dining etiquette planned for April 2015 at MCC

BY GABRIELA COLEMAN

Feel confident at your next social event whether it be a cocktail reception or multicourse meal, after learning dining and reception etiquette.

McLennan Community Programs is delighted to this interactive class taught by Sarah Aynesworth over a three-course meal. You will learn napkin etiquette, toasting savvy, cocktail party skills, place settings, styles of eating, tipping and

much more! Aynesworth holds a degree in education and certificates from The Protocol School of Washington, The Emily Post Institute, and The Etiquette & Leadership Institute. Class is in McLennan's Northwood house on April 30th from 6 to 8pm.

Cost is \$49 and individual dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated. Please call 299-8888 for more information, and please register by April 15th.

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## Magnolia Goes To Washington D.C. Piano Fundraiser Concert

My name is Magnolia Oliphant and I am an 8th grader at ATLAS Academy in Waco, Texas. On Saturday, April 18th, at 2:00 P.M., I will be hosting a piano concert in an effort to raise funds to cover a school field trip this May to Washington D.C.

Please join me for an afternoon of contemporary, classical, and gospel music such as *Disney's Cruella De Vil*, *Fur Elise by Beethoven*, *Miniature by Gurlitt*, and *The Blood Will Never Loose Its Power by Andrae Crouch*.

Because I really want children to find their own 'love for music', children's admission price is only \$5.00! Adult admission is \$10.00.

Tickets can be purchased in advanced at:

Waco Weddings and Events (713 Elm Street - Waco - 76704)

Online at Eventbrite.com (Magnolia Goes To Washington)

Tickets will also be available at the door on day of concert.

Thank you for your support! *Magnolia Oliphant*

Concert to be held at: **New Hope Baptist Church**

**915 N. 6th Street (corner of 6th and Bosque) Waco - 76707**

Saturday, April 18th, 2:00 P.M. - First Lady Sheila Blanton, Mistress of Ceremonies



# Fairness in voting

BY CONGRESSWOMAN  
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

America has endured a long and painful history of voter disenfranchisement. There were times when minority citizens were forced to pay poll taxes before they could exercise the right to vote. Many died in the fight against discriminatory laws and practices to secure the right to participate in America's democracy. I have also experienced the unjust practices of voter disenfranchisement during my youth under the Jim Crow laws in Texas.

In June of 2013, a five to four majority ruling by the United States Supreme weakened the Voting Rights Acts of 1965.

The ruling allowed states like Texas, with a long history of discriminatory voting practices, to reinstate practices, such as stricter voter identification laws that are designed specifically to dilute the number of minority and student voters. During the 2014 Texas State Republican Convention held in North Texas, a platform was released requesting that the Voting Rights Law be repealed in its entirety. The law, against which they have waged a war, is a historic piece of legislation signed into law by a Texan, former President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

The Voting Rights Law is recognized by fair-minded citizens as one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation in our nation's history, and we must



CONGRESSWOMAN  
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

not allow it to be further weakened or discarded.

The Texas Legislature has yet to draw redistricting maps that give minorities a fair chance of electing minority representatives to Congress in areas where minority representation is clearly warranted. That is why I am currently participating in litigation demanding that minority voters be treated fairly in Texas.

I am in full support of the proposed legislation written by Democratic Congressman John Conyers and Republican Representative James Sensenbrenner that would require certain states to seek approval from the Justice Department before making changing in its voting practices.

Under the proposed legislation, states that have had at least five irregularities in Voting

Rights practices would be subject to federal clearance and oversight. Counties and cities where at least three violations occurred within a 15-year period would also have to seek federal clearance before making changes to their voting laws. This is to insure that those areas of the country with a history of voter disenfranchisement do not revert to discriminatory tactics aimed at marginalizing minority voters.

In addition to restricting existing voters, many states also restrict the voting rights of men and women who were convicted of a felony, but have repaid their debt to society. Eleven states still continue the practice of restricting voting rights of those who have served prison time.

Attorney General Eric Holder said earlier this year that the practice disenfranchises African-American citizens, and other racial minorities.

When the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, its majority held that the oversight of voting practices in states was no longer necessary. This is far from the truth.

Perhaps, there will come a day when we no longer need the government to provide protections for racial minorities. That day has not yet come. And until it comes, our government must ensure fairness and equality in voting for all of our citizens, and our citizens must be vigilant to fight to protect this constitutional right.

## Homes for Heroes expands into Waco



WACO REALTOR KRISTEN ROWIN (LEFT) AND WACO LENDER DEBBIE RHODES (RIGHT) PRESENT A SAVINGS CHECK TO A LOCAL HERO (CENTER) FOR HIS HOME PURCHASE.

Homes for Heroes, a program that offers large savings and discounts to local heroes when buying or selling a home, celebrates over 13 years of bringing savings to those who are past and present Military personnel, Police Officers, Firefighters, Nurses and Medical Field, Teachers and ISD Employees by recently expanding into the Waco market. The newest affiliates, that make up the Central Texas Homes For Heroes team, Kristen Rowin of Bentwood Realty, and Debbie Rhodes of Loansouce, are proud to announce their new partnership with a program strictly focused on giving back.

With the housing market becoming so competitive, Home for Heroes aims to help close the gap between the cost of housing for these heroes who serve the community and nation by making them more competitive. Homes for Heroes saves buy-

ers and sellers 25% on their real estate transactions by way of realtor and lender credits and discounts. There are no extra forms to fill out. The program can be used on any home, with any loan, and also with any other programs!

Inspired by home-town heroes who serve and protect our communities and country, a partnership of Realtors, mortgage lenders, and other affiliated service providers created Homes for Heroes, Inc. in 2001, and it has quickly spread throughout the country. The sole purpose of the partnership with real estate professionals is to offer savings when buying or selling a home as a way of saying "Thank You."

The Central Texas Homes For Heroes team is proud to share the most recent savings for a first time home buyer in Waco, who is in the medical field. He saved over \$3,200 by using the program. (See Photo) Nationwide, to date, Homes for Heroes has given back over \$8.8 million dollars and counting, placing these savings back into local heroes pockets!

If you would like more information about Homes for Heroes, or to schedule an appointment, locally please call Kristen at (936) 465-2341 or Debbie at (254) 749-5340, email homesforheroeswaco@gmail.com, or sign up at www.homesforheroes.com. You can connect with Central Texas Homes For Heroes Team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/homesforheroeswaco.



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## We wrestle not against flesh and blood

BY MATTHEW REED

There was a discussion on a TV news talk show and they were pondering how to defeat extremists. Most of the participants were of the same mind. They thought that by killing the extremist the problem would be solved. This one lady pointed out that with this method extremism would be left intact alive and thriving. She is right; the only way to get rid of extremist is to get rid of extremism. You see extremists don't breed extremism, but extremism does breed extremist.

It's wrong thinking that creates extremist. It's everybody having a thought on how things ought to be that causes division and inequality. It's evil thoughts (envies,



PASTOR AND MRS. REED

jealousy hatred, covetousness, scorn that generate strife and the like such. These thoughts come from the spirit of man. The father of these thoughts is the devil. On the other hand, it is the thoughts of God that create a peace seeking people that are willing to reason and sort things out. It is also the thoughts of God that create a people that know he or she must show themselves friendly to win a friend. It is the thoughts of God that teaches us to stay clear of those things that provoke.

Well now you say what's the answer Mr. smart Alec preacher. (The word of God.) The word of God is equal in opportunity and it doesn't change. You don't believe me? Study the new testament. Now you say everyone is not going to accept that. It is still the answer. That is why the church should get back to God's business and leave the world alone. When the church becomes a witness for God and allows God to witness for the church we will see many more people willing to accept this way. The church should know that the fight is not with flesh and blood (Ephesian 6:12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places). Armed with this knowledge we cannot use carnal weapons to defeat extremism. Jesus told us man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The world has rejected this and the church does not practice it (practice what you preach) ( preach what you

practice). When dealing with people we should be spiritually aware of Proverbs 18:19 that says A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. Being the light of the world we have not demonstrated this precept because we have not practiced it.

We the church as a whole have not learned that we are spiritual, so as the world walk in the flesh of their mind so do we. When we first began to attempt peacemaking it would have helped if we had been armed with the principles of God. It is the job of the church to model this spiritual method. When the church walks in these principles and concepts we allow the power of God to be released in the world. God upholds all things by the power of his word (Hebrews 1:3) and is upholding all things by the word of his power. God is no less powerful today, extremist and all other men are yet subject unto him. If you don't have God like that—you don't believe God like that, then you could have a problem. This power to rule is manifested thru the teachings of the book of Exodus when God makes Pharaoh know His power. However, because of unbelief in the church today, extremists and other sinners appear to have some sort of power to do as they will. This is a lie straight out of the pits of Hell. When the church returns to serving God and trusting in his promises, we'll see extremists defeated. I don't care how many soldiers we sacrifice and how much money we throw at these wrongs; they won't be righted until God steps in; to God be the glory.

The church should know and remember this promise in Luke 1:71: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear. Read Luke 1 and pay particular attention to the promise of fulfilling a promise found in verses 68-75. This is the truth I base this article on. God is not a man that He should lie. If he said it he will bring it to pass. Amen! Have you got him like that?



# SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL ARTISTS

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# A life in Christ: Jesus, our new beginning!

BY PAM TURNER

When I first began to sit down and write what I considered to be short devotionals, it was the beginning of fulfilling a dream I had for many years—a desire to put into writing what I hoped would be messages of encouragement to family, friends, and anyone who would take a moment to read what I have prayed was coming from God. So basically, this was my Alpha (or beginning) to fulfill a choice I have made—to get His message of love, hope, and grace out to a world or community of people who need to hear or read about it. For anyone who has never made a choice to believe in Jesus and the price He paid for us at Calvary, I'm here to say Jesus is our Alpha (beginning) and Omega (an end to the separation between us and God).

In Luke 23:39-43, two thieves are hanging on a cross and are condemned to die

just as Jesus has. Both during their life time had made choices which were wrong and had placed them in a

deadly situation, death on a cross. One thief chooses to ridicule and curse Jesus, while the other chooses to believe and ask Jesus to remember him when He comes into His kingdom. One chose an ending, while the second thief chose a new beginning. Even though Jesus was in extreme pain and suffering He chose to answer the second thief with a statement of hope and compassion: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." He was also hurting; he was a thief, a breaker of the law, and he deserved to die. However, once he died, he awoke in paradise because at that moment while dying on the cross, he chose to believe in Jesus.

I've had people tell me they don't believe in death bed repentance. I have to remind them of this story of the thief



PAM TURNER

on the cross and how he was dying and chose to believe in Jesus and His ministry. He made a choice and believed that Jesus was his Alpha and Omega. I have been told by people who have never had a relationship with Jesus that one day they will make that commitment and except Him as their Lord and Savior, just not now.

Do you think when they

came to take the two thieves to die that day, the thieves would have chosen that day or if given the chance, chosen to have more time? The thief, who had an encounter with Jesus that day, had he been given more time, would have missed his choice to enter into paradise with Jesus. Do you want to make a choice today and choose Jesus, the one who can wash your sins away and give you a new beginning and end your separation from God, or will you wait and perhaps miss your encounter with Him?

Life is full of many facts; the sun will rise in the east each morning and set in the west each evening. If you choose to become a child of

God, truly repent of your sins and believe that Jesus died on the cross for all mankind, the fact is you'll have a better life, or new beginning; however you will not have a perfect life. We live in a fallen or imperfect world, one day we will die, but as a child of God we will awake in paradise another new beginning. Only this life will not have an ending. We'll live with Him in paradise for eternity and experience perfection. The Bible describes Jesus as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Will you take a moment today and ask Him to come into your life and be your new beginning?

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH THE RIGHT CHOICE.

## How will individual shared responsibility affect your return?

(NewsUSA) - Unless you've been way out of touch, you probably know that a key part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires that taxpayers have qualifying health care coverage. Those without will need to qualify for an exemption, or pay a penalty. This "Individual Shared Responsibility" provision applies to both individuals and families. So, while preparing your tax return this year, here are some things you ought to know.

If in 2014, you, your spouse and everyone else on your tax return (dependents) had "minimum essential coverage," which includes most employer-sponsored plans, as well as programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace, you're in fine shape. Just check the appropriate box that says you are insured for the full year. If there were months that someone on your re-

turn had no coverage, that person needs to qualify for an exemption or pay a penalty.

To qualify for an exemption, one of the following situations must exist: \*The individual does not have access to affordable coverage because the minimum annual premium available is more than eight percent of the household income. \*The gap in coverage existed for less than three months. \*The individual qualifies for other exemptions that include a hardship or being a member of a group that is exempt from health coverage (for example, incarcerated inmates or members of a federally recognized Indian tribe).

Without coverage or an exemption, you'll have to pay a penalty for each month you were not insured. This penalty is calculated and reported on your tax return. In general, the payment amount is the greater of 1 percent of your household income over

the filing threshold for your filing status, or \$95 per person (\$47.50 per person under 18 years old). This caps at a family maximum of \$285 for 2014.

You'll owe half the annual payment for each month you or another person on your return doesn't have either qualifying health care or an exemption. Sound complicated? Taxes are. That's why so many taxpayers are thrilled to turn their taxes over to a paid preparer.

If that's your plan this year, be careful to make sure your preparer is licensed and required to complete continuing education to keep up with the changing tax code. Enrolled agents ("EAs") are licensed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, must pass an exam administered by IRS and complete IRS-approved continuing education. You can trust your taxes to an EA -- locate one in your area on the searchable "Find an EA" database at [www.naea.org](http://www.naea.org).

## Tips to help seniors conquer stress

(NewsUSA) - As boomers retire from their jobs at unprecedented rates in the U.S., you'd think they'd be spending their free time with friends, lingering over the morning newspaper and coffee or taking January vacations in a warm place. But many seniors are finding themselves in a predicament that few anticipate in retirement: parenting for a second time. Census reports indicate that 2.7 million grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. Their added duties may be fulfilling, but they may be stressful, too.

In fact, many things can trigger stress among retired adults -- paying bills on a fixed income, failing health, caring for ill parents or spouses, or even grandparenting. Excessive stress can lead to serious health problems. "When stressed, the body releases substances such as cortisol and adrenaline that affect every organ and can cause muscle tension, insulin secretion and increased heart rate," said Arthur Hayward, M.D., a geriatrician and the clinical lead physician for elder care with Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute.

"You can't avoid stress,

but managing it can help preserve your health and well-being," Dr. Hayward added. He recommends identifying and understanding the cause of your stress and finding ways to relieve it, such as these eight tips:

1. Pace yourself. Don't take on too much. Be aware of your limitations.
2. Set realistic goals and expectations, and don't be afraid to ask for help.
3. Plan time for yourself. Recharge your batteries.
4. Exercise and eat a balanced diet. Get plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
5. Try relaxation techniques such as meditation or yoga.
6. Get enough sleep. If you have problems sleeping, talk to your doctor. Drinking caffeinated beverages and alcohol can affect your ability to get a good night's sleep.
7. Talk with a loved one or write in a journal.
8. Stay positive. Positive thoughts can make a difference, such as "I am hopeful" or "Things will be better."

For more information, go to [kp.org/healthyaging](http://kp.org/healthyaging). For questions or advice about a specific condition, talk to your physician.

## OOWEE Publications announces *The Shelter: Biblical Boundaries*

BY KIM WILSON

Local Christian and creative writer announces the launch of her first of many literary presentations, supported locally and long distance, May 23, 2015.

This presentation is prepared to stimulate, encourage and enlighten, as well as educate our audience to the point of standing on visible and invisible faith in all aspects of our existence. This

is not a bible study class or church service, this is God moving and moving mightily as He does.

### ABOUT THE WRITER

Kim Wilson has been creating urban pieces of poetry and emotional short stories all of her life as her outlet of expression; it was either that or rage. As her social circles praised her humorously effective storytelling, she was underground crowned OOWEE. And in the midst of

self-induced explosiveness, she turned the acronym into how she deems her creativeness; O UTSTANDING O RIGINAL W RITING E VERY E PISODE.

As life sometimes does, it led her to do other things in the midst of it all, which will eventually be revealed as you stay tuned.

Her poetry is rooted in pleasures and pains all her own; A LIFE IN NO SPECIFIC ORDER & A LIFE GETTING IN

SPECIFIC ORDER. Her short story compilation, PEACE, BE STILL is 'feel-ed' with emotions that derive from living it up and all over the place; seemingly surviving all sorts of serious situations and chaotic circumstances.

In her first novel, THE SPICES IN LIFE, a life is born, unravels, declines, instills, loves and lavishes; get in it to see of whom she is speaking.

Why should attendees give The Shelter: Biblical

Boundaries a chance?

Several reasons. Tickets are five dollars. Education is amazing. Dress is casual. Saturday is a perfect family day; especially for kids, who get in for one dollar. And most importantly God will be in attendance with His Son Jesus.

Stay tuned in at [www.kimkologne@synthasite.com](http://www.kimkologne@synthasite.com), email [onmyownkikl@yahoo.com](mailto:onmyownkikl@yahoo.com) or call 254-420-6575 for any other information.

## Credit-by-exam: Higher education's best-kept secret

(NewsUSA) - For most college students, the path to earning credit typically involves several weeks of listening to lectures, taking notes, completing assignments and passing a midterm and final exam. But if you could earn that credit in less time and at a fraction of the cost of taking a formal course, would you be interested? There would be no assignments to complete and no lectures or classes to attend, just an exam to pass.

Students looking for a more efficient model to earn a college degree should consider credit-by-exam programs, which have become popular among those who want to accelerate their pace and contain costs. "Credit-by-exam programs have been used for decades and continue to grow today because they offer real value to students and enable them to complete degree requirements more efficiently than taking traditional courses," noted Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning at Thomas Edison State College ([www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu)), which recently aligned several of its credit-by-exam programs with open courses to create new pathways for students to earn credit.

Nearly 3,000 colleges and universities in the U.S. accept credit-by-exam as transfer credit. The programs enable students to earn credit by passing a single exam and tend to be a good fit for independent learners, students who possess college-level knowledge and students who are good test takers. Credit-by-exam programs are not for everyone, especially students who prefer a structured environment and interacting with a professor and fellow students.

Deciding to earn college credit by preparing for an exam that covers a semester's worth of content means you have to be self-motivated and disciplined. This approach appeals to many busy adult students who have competing demands on their time and who prefer to work independently. Two of the most popular credit-by-exam programs in the U.S. are the College-Level Exam Program (CLEP exams) and DSST exams.

"Students considering credit-by-exam programs should talk with their academic advisor to make sure credits from the exam they are planning to take can be transferred to satisfy a requirement in their degree program," said Singer.

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Not all licensed real estate agents in Texas are the same. Only those who pledge to uphold the strict code of professional ethics established in 1913 can call themselves Texas REALTORS.

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You have a lot at stake in a real estate transaction. I owe it to you to be more than just an ordinary real estate agent. That's why I am a Texas REALTOR.



# Anchor News owner among men honored

The Women's Ministry of New Hope Baptist Church of Waco will host its Annual Women's Day on March 22, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. Traditionally, the New Hope Women's Ministry honored women in the community on this annual day; however, this year, men in the community will be honored for their Christian endeavors in the home, church, and community. Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hunter and the Tolver Chapel Baptist Church are the invited guests. The public is invited to attend this momentous occasion.



**ANCHOR NEWS OWNER, J.L. CRAWFORD IS AMONG THE HONOREES.**

# Waco area Sam Houston State alumni to attend Baylor game

Members of the Sam Houston State University Waco Area Alumni and Friends organization will be attending the upcoming Bearkat baseball game with the Baylor Bears at Baylor Ballpark Wednesday, March 18.

Alumni will gather at Ninfá's Mexican Restaurant, 220 South Third Street in Waco, at 5 p.m. for a Dutch-treat meal and drinks.

First pitch at the game is 6:30 p.m. Sam Houston fans will sit on the first-base side of the ballpark.

The game was rescheduled from March 4.

# Palm Sunday offering to benefit Central Texas Anemia Assoc.

Every church in Central Texas is asked to receive a special Missionary offering on Sunday, March 29, 2015 to assist Central Texas Sickle Cell Anemia reach its annual operating budget. No gift is too small or too large.

Your donation will allow a child or adult to live a better life in Central Texas. Send your donation to: Sickle Cell, P.O. Box 881, Waco, TX 76703.

Thank you for your support! For more information call 254-752-3441.

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