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From the Pastor's Desk

By Dr. Robert W. Norwood

Choices

Do we ever think about the number of conscious and unconscious choices we make every day? We choose which clothes to wear, which shoes to put on, what we are going to eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The list can go on and on. With all the choices we must make every day the most

important choice is found in the Bible. The question is raised in the book of Joshua, chapter 24 verse 15, "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

God in His infinite wisdom blessed humanity with the unique ability to make choices. To choose right from wrong. Who will you choose to serve today? We can choose to serve the Lord (Jesus Christ), or we can choose to serve the enemy and our own selfish desires. When we choose our selfish desires over Jesus Christ and the word of God; we are showing God that we are ungrateful to the fact that God sent his only begotten son to die for our sins and to give us eternal life. When we choose to follow the word of God and choose to follow Jesus Christ; blessings will follow.

We will be blessed in the city and blessed in the field and be a blessing to others. We will be blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We will be blessed with the gift of eternal life. Against you!

Today let's choose eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!





Money Matters

Quick Answers to Your Everyday Financial Questions

By Elder Michael Windham

How Do You Measure Your Life?

Do you measure your life by the things you accumulate? Are you consumed with acquiring material possessions? Jesus says that the good life has nothing to do with being wealthy. It's not measured by how many things you own. Some would argue that most of us can live with less, and perhaps live more happily. Jesus

taught in Luke 12:15 that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Interestingly, life finds its greatest meaning in relationships—first with God, then with our spouse, children, extended family, and friends. At some point, using our money for just ourselves has little meaning or significance. In fact, Proverbs 22:9 points out that using our money generously for others – whether those we know or others who are in need – can bless us. It can strengthen our relationships, give us a sense of purpose, and encourage others.



The next time you are tempted to buy something you don't need, consider this: Things bring only momentary pleasure, while relationships last for a lifetime.

Southwest Region Conference
Constituency Meeting
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2023

MOVING SOUTHWEST 4 WARD

Sabbath, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 @ 6:00PM
 Mini-Concert by the **SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SINGERS**
 Special Prayer Series led by **PASTOR JAMES BLACK**,
 Retired Prayer Ministries Coordinator for the
 North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists
 Business Session to Follow (Saturday Night)

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 @ 9:00AM
 Devotional Message by **PASTOR BRENDA BILINGS**,
 Retired Associate Ministerial Director for the
 North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists
 Business Session to Follow

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE
 OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Dr. Carlton P. BYRD
President

Pastor Jason C. NORTH, SR.
Executive Secretary
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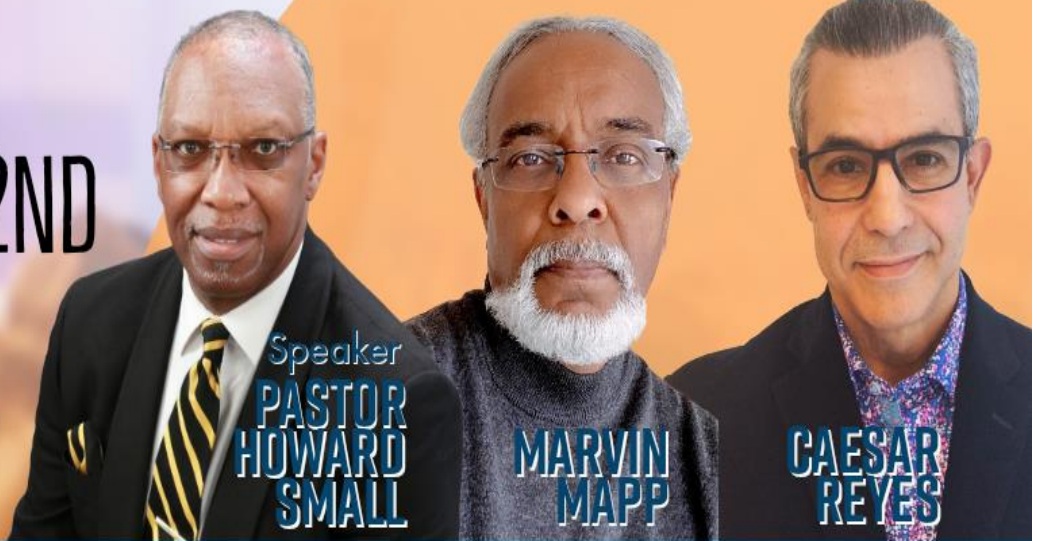


FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

*Come!
Invite Someone!*



Speaker
**PASTOR
HOWARD
SMALL**

**MARVIN
MAPP**

**CAESAR
REYES**

10AM CST | BIBLE STUDY
11AM CST | WORSHIP SERVICE; SPECIAL GUEST - MARVIN MAPP
AFTER LUNCH | HEALTH FORUM BY CAESAR REYES



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Growing Young Christians

Lord, Help My Unbelief

By Elder Myles Chapman

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:23, 24, NKJV

I was recently reminded of the man in Mark 9 whose son was tormented by a demon. He came to Jesus asking for his son's healing, but Jesus showed him that there was something more important that he should ask for, belief in God's power. The man came to Jesus for the sake of his son but stayed with Jesus for the development of his own faith.

Just like the man coming to Christ with a special request, we have a lot to ask God for... physical healing, mental healing, financial healing, family reconciliation – the list goes on. While we should always depend on God to help us with life's issues, we must also ask for stronger faith, so that all these things will be added to us. God always listens and is faithful to respond to our cries, but the single greatest prayer we can lift up is, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!"

Single & Blessed

By Anita Wilkins



Your Life Is Too Busy for a Relationship

Depending on how your life is currently structured, being single may be the perfect choice for you and your particular lifestyle. For instance, if you travel frequently for work and are extremely career-focused, you may be a person who is better off being alone because your passion for your work sustains and fulfills you.

Again, it's important to understand that building your life around your career should be a choice that makes you happy. If you feel as though your career is preventing you from finding a partner because of the long hours and demanding schedule, then you're likely not meant to be alone, but are

rather in a situation where you're alone currently because of the nature of your work.



While some people need to have a deep connection with another person to be happy, there are those who have a deep love and enthusiasm for their work that brings them joy in return.



MESSAGE Magazine presents the Bible-based gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a message of hope, wholeness, and justice for today and eternity.

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Senior Warning Signs for Government Scams

By Claudia Jones Lewis



Fraud is very prevalent in today's society especially when it comes to seniors. The fraudsters contact seniors and claim to be representatives from a well-known government agency which could be the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare, or even the Social Security Administration.

Fraudsters may use caller ID spoofing to make the call seem genuine. And once you're on the line, they may request your Social Security number to identify you so the call would seem legitimate.

During tax season, fraudsters may call and claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service and use scare tactics and may say there is an issue with your tax

return. They may ask for your personal information and say they want to assist you to secure your tax file, but they may actually file a phony tax refund.

Fraudsters may claim to be Medicare representatives and may call and ask you to verify your Medicare number. They may use it to steal your health benefits. They may also tell you that you need to pay a fee to receive a new card or get special treatment.

Fraudsters may call and claim that your social security number has been suspended due to an alleged crime. They may tell you that in order to reinstate it, they will need payment and may ask for your credit card number.

Always keep in mind that these agencies usually will not reach out to you via phone. Never give out your social security number, Medicare number, or credit card numbers unless you initiate the request. If you receive a call, do not continue the conversation. Make it a point to call the agency's official phone number to inquire.



Hotline Numbers

Suicide Prevention
Lifeline
800-273-8255

National Domestic
Violence
1-800-799.SAFE

National Sexual
Assault
1-800-656-HOPE

Texas Abuse/Neglect
Hotline
800-252-5400

Foster Care and
Adoption Information
800-233-3405

Foster Care Help
844-286-0769

Child Care
Information
800-862-5252

Texas Youth Helpline
800-989-6884



MOVING SOUTHWEST FORWARD

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

EVANGELISM, ADVENTIST EDUCATION, DIGITAL & MEDIA MINISTRY, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT THESE MINISTRY INITIATIVES.

YOU CAN GIVE ONE OF FIVE WAYS:

- 1 GIVE ONLINE southwestregionsda.org
- 2 GIVE BY MAIL
Southwest Region Conference
2215 Lanark Avenue
Dallas, TX 75203
- 3 GIVE BY PHONE
214.943.4491
- 4 GIVE BY CASHAPP
\$SWRGC
- 5 GIVE BY ZELLE
give@swrgc.org



Holistic Health Ministries

By Flona Francis Smith & Larry Smith

Faith Over Fear

In these times of disease and sickness, we as the people of God must believe and show faith in His healing power. So, if asked, what is the first thing you do when you are feeling ill, what might your answer be? There are many responses to that question, but only one would represent our trust in the fact that

Christ's sacrifice gives us the power to be healed and be in good health. Our thoughts and focus usually determine our outcome, that sounds crazy right? But you would be surprised to know how true that might be.

In Ellen White's Spiritual Guidance, she says 'the power of the will is a mighty soother of the nerves and can resist much disease simply by not yielding to ailments and settling down into a state of inactivity.' (SG, vol. 4a., 145)

That means when we feel ill, we don't have to just accept it, we can believe and will ourselves to healing.

God has given us everything within us to repair our bodies, and to fulfill that, we must exercise faith and the will power to believe God is able to heal.



Community Resources

Houston Food Bank
www.houstonfoodbank.org
713-223-3700

Harris County Housing Authority
www.hchatexas.org
713-578-2100

Metro Lift (Transportation)
www.ridemetro.org/pages/metrolift
713-225-0119

Lone Star Legal Aid
www.lonestarlegal.blog
713-652-0077

2-1-1 Texas
www.211texas.org

BakerRipley
www.bakerripley.org



Marriage Made in Heaven

All marriages have conflicts because we are all human and God made us different. There is usually a common mistake in trying to make your spouse see everything the way you do. What makes sense to you doesn't always make sense to the other person. The Lord has made each of us unique in our our way.

Couples Exercise:

Make it a point to celebrate the differences and not get frustrated with your spouse. If order to resolve differences, treat your spouse's ideas and the way they feel with respect. Try to come to a consensus. You don't have to always agree in order to resolve a conflict. You can agree to disagree. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well". Psalm 129:14



Children Ministries – Vacation Bible School

By Suhailah Beale



We have definitely been experiencing a move of God in Children’s Ministry at Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each week we offer Sabbath School and Children’s Church services. In order to help us share God’s word with our little ones, we have adopted the use of a bible based Seventh-day Adventist curriculum.

Mostly recently, Children’s Ministry hosted Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2023 during the last week of July. It was absolutely awesome to see all of Berean come together and work as a church to make VBS a huge success. Our church was completely transformed to reflect the Jasper Canyon theme. It was wonderful seeing our team of tireless volunteers work diligently to execute the Jasper Canyon vision.

On the opening day of the weeklong event, we were delighted that sixty children showed up to hear and experience God’s word. Each night the kiddos were first provided with a free meal before they attended the opening session. From there, the kids were separated into groups and went from one VBS station to the next before returning to the closing session at the end of the evening. This evangelistic effort gave our church the opportunity to teach children throughout the greater Houston area. We had children coming from as far north as Conroe and Kingwood. As far west as Katy, and as far south as Pasadena and Clear Lake. But we were also privileged to have some attendees who lived within a 5-mile radius of our church.

At the culmination of this year’s VBS session, we had the amazing opportunity to offer each child and volunteer a “Following Jesus Changes the Game” t-shirt and a FREE trip to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Throughout this weeklong event we were delighted to have experienced over 258 interactions with our children. We were also blessed to have as many as forty gracious volunteers help us serve our children. And in the end, twenty-three kids filled out and submitted a decision card to make Jesus their “forever friend.”

As we continue to do God’s work and share his love with each child that we encounter, we ask that you continue to keep Berean’s Children’s Ministry in your prayers. It is our prayer that we can provide each child the support, love, and the wisdom they need to follow Jesus. In the nearby future, we would like to reignite our Berean Adventurers and Pathfinders Clubs. We are also making plans to have a wonderful Youth Day and a delightful Christmas celebration.







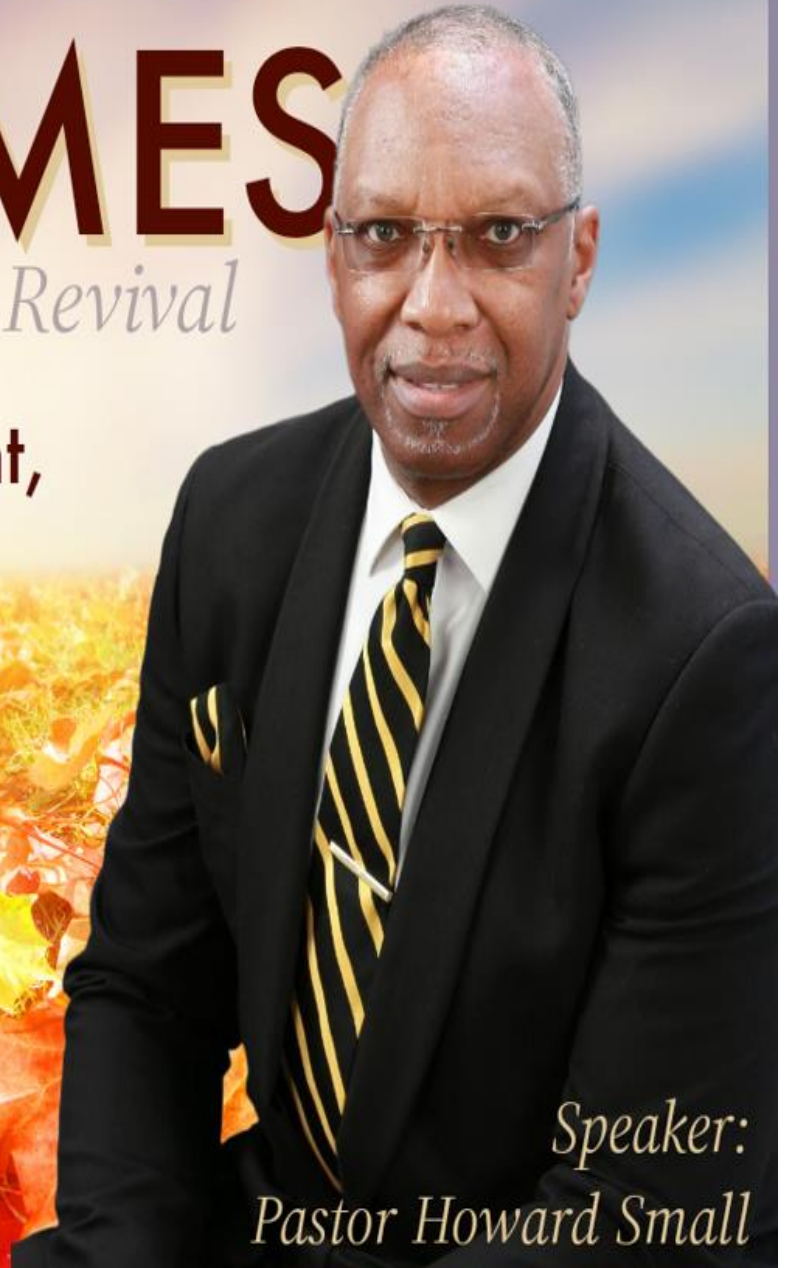




BEHOLD! HE COMES

Fall Revival

Begins Saturday Night,
September 30th
7:00pm (On time!)



*Speaker:
Pastor Howard Small*



**EXPERIENCE
EXCEL
EXCELLENCE**

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Integrated Art
Language Arts Coding
Math Robotics
Science S.T.R.E.A.M.

ENROLL NOW




"Rooted in Faith, Soaring in STREAM"



Family & Friends Day

November 4, 2023

More details to come

LOVING GOD. LOVING EACH OTHER



**BEREAN'S
CHILDRENS
PROGRAM**

EVERY SATURDAY

Sabbath School: starts at 10am

Children's Church: Immediately after
announcements during the 11am service!

All meetings are now face-to-face.



Family Ministries Team	
Chaplain Oliver Brown	Barbara Roy-Ruan
Marquelle Chapman	Flona Smith
Georgette George	Velma Thomas
Sara Guzman-Reyes	Anita Wilkins
Elder James Kelley	Fay Windham
Lavonne Richardson	Elder Michael Windham