

THE Anchor NEWS

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THREE GENERATIONS, ONE MISSION: TEACHING, HEALING, INSPIRING

—ARNETTE GORDON COLEMAN—

THE HEART OF AN 87-YEAR-OLD

Eighty-seven-year-old retired teacher Arnette Gordon Coleman is cheerful, alert, impressive, and devoted to her family. She lives in Houston with her sister to be near her healthcare specialists.

The oldest of five children born to Pemberton and Willie Mae Gordon in Hemphill, Texas, Arnette attended school in her native Hemphill, graduating as valedictorian of her class of 18 students. Her youth was disrupted by her father's death in a car wreck when she was just 15 years old. The insurance payoff from his car and Social Security from his job supported the family and allowed her to pursue her father's dream of

her becoming a school teacher. She enrolled at Texas Southern University and pursued her bachelor's degree in English.

At the end of Arnette's first year at TSU, her mother died. She anticipated dropping out of college to care for her four siblings, but her future husband convinced her to return to her studies. Arnette's caring for her siblings greatly helped them to have productive lives. Her oldest brother earned an associate's degree and her sister earned a master's. Arnette's siblings accepted, respected and appreciated her as matriarch of the family and showed appreciation and respect for her wisdom and guidance. That group of five siblings has dwindled to three.



ARNETTE GORDON COLEMAN

After graduating from TSU, Arnette taught high-school English in Jasper ISD for 34

years. During that time she earned her master's degree at Lamar University. Upon retiring from high-school teaching she taught several years as an adjunct at Stephen F. Austin and McLennan community colleges.

In addition to being an educator, Arnette was a devoted wife for 39 years to her husband, Coolridge Coleman, also a high-school teacher. They made their home in Jasper and became parents of a son (deceased) and a daughter. Their son was a dentist and the father of their grandson. He practiced family dentistry in Jasper for 40 years. Their daughter, a Ph.D. and the mother of their granddaughter, is a retired English teacher with 20 years

at McLennan Community College. She is currently an adjunct teacher at Baylor University.

Arnette was widowed at age 58 and lived alone for 26 years. She loved that her son lived just a few minutes away and spent much time with her. She is a devoted mother and grandmother and cherishes every opportunity to chat with or visit with her daughter and grandchildren.

She keeps in touch with her friends and family. Her legacy will be her examples of love, caring, generosity and diplomacy. She does not dwell on her losses, heartaches or health problems. She maintains a positive attitude. "No pity parties for me!" she declares.

—ARVIS COLEMAN SCOTT—

ARVIS COLEMAN SCOTT

Arvis Coleman Scott, along with her older brother, grew up in Jasper, Texas, a small town in the Piney Woods of East Texas. Her parents, Arnette and Coolridge Coleman, were high school teachers who inspired her to also pursue a career in education. After high school, Arvis attended the University of Houston and graduated with a B.A. in English. She taught English on the high school level for eight years. While she enjoyed teaching on the high school level, she aspired to be a college teacher and enrolled in graduate school. She earned a Master's degree in English from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and obtained her Ph.D., in English from the University of North Texas in Denton. Afterwards, Arvis returned to



DR. ARVIS COLEMAN SCOTT

the classroom as a community college instructor. She was a tenured English professor at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, for over 20 years. She says, "Teaching for MCC was one of the best decisions of my life." After re-

tiring from MCC, she decided to continue teaching on a part-time basis. Currently, Arvis teaches a literature course at Baylor University in Waco.

Arvis maintains being a mother has been her greatest joy. She raised her two daughters, Lydia and Samantha, in Waco, where they attended Toliver Chapel Baptist Church. Samantha currently works for the VA hospital system in Houston, Texas. Sadly, Lydia passed away in 2017. She credits her parents for creating a solid foundation in terms of the importance of family and education for her and her brother, who was a dentist in Jasper for over 40 years until his death in 2021. Arvis lives by two sayings. Her mother often says, "You do what you have to do." Her father taught her, "If you treat people right, you never have to worry."

—SAMANTHA SCOTT—

Samantha Scott, a native of Waco, is the daughter of Mr. Samuel Scott and Dr. Arvis Coleman-Scott. She graduated from Robinson High School in 2016 and now resides in Houston, Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston - Main Campus and her Master's in Business Administration degree from Texas Woman's University. Currently employed at the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs in Houston, Ms. Scott is an ambitious early careerist gaining experience in the healthcare industry. She is dedicated to healthcare and enhancing the well-being of her community. Ms. Scott is committed to enhancing high-quality care and expanding access to underserved populations



SAMANTHA SCOTT

through innovative means. She is a member of the National Association of Healthcare Executives (N.A.H.S.E), a non-profit organization

A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

BY JESSICA PIERCE

The Ladies of the Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated presented a "Celebration of Excellence" honoring "The Divine Nine Educators Who Shape Futures" at their 2024 Rhome Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, April 20, at the Legacy Event Center in Hewitt, Texas. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, a historically African American sorority, internationally collegiate, and nonprofit community service organization, was founded in 1922. Created to support African American women pursuing degrees in education, Sigma Gamma Rho is the only sorority of the four historically African American National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities founded at a predominantly White institution instead of at Howard University.

In keeping with their motto, "Greater Service, Greater Progress", this year, Chair-



MEMBERS OF THE ALPHA RHO SIGMA CHAPTER OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO, SORORITY, INC. CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE AT THEIR 2024 RHOMANIA SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON. HONOREES (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE CANTRESA SCINEAUX, OLGA RODGERS, ANDY WILLIAMS, ARCHIE HATTEN III, JOCELYN PIERCE, JOSEPH ALEXANDER, BOBBIE MILTON'S REPRESENTATIVE, CYNTHIA WISE, AND NATHANIEL LADSON, JR.



J.L. & 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 Senior Manager. 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.

woman Suzan Falkner and the ladies of the Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter in Waco, Texas, honored Divine Nine educators in the community who have empowered young people to achieve successes in all walks of life.

The 2024 honorees included Olga Y. Rodgers (Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.), a native of Corpus Christi, Texas. She is the niece of Nannette Hutchison, one of the founders of the Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Waco, TX.

Olga earned a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology from Baylor University, where she was the first four-year African American woman to start and graduate from Baylor. She continued her post-education at Baylor and obtained a Master of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology and has a certificate in Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Olga has worked as an English instructor, a math instructor, an American Sign Language instructor, a Speech Language Pathologist, and an educational audiologist throughout Texas, California,

Arizona, and Minnesota. She has provided speech therapy services for communication disorders, autism, and hearing impairment for over thirty years. Olga is also the owner-operator of Mathnasium of Killeen, a math-only learning center, where her son, Lavert Rodgers serves as the director. She continues to serve on many local, state, and national committees for Alcohol and Drug Addiction and Recovery as a spokesperson and coordinator of services. To extend her services, Olga founded and operated The Recovery Hope House, inc., in Waco and defines her purpose in life to be of maximum service to God and her fellow man.

Olga currently serves as the President of the Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in Waco.

Cantresa Scineaux (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.), is a proud HBCU graduate from Southern University in New Orleans, Louisiana where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She obtained a Master of Education Administration from Texas A&M University and is presently pursuing a doctorate in

Education from Lamar University. She is an experienced educator and is currently the Campus Facilitator for Special Programs at Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas. She is the mother of three adult children, one son-in-law, and a grandmother to two grandsons. In addition, Cantresa is a twenty-seven-year Silver Star and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Andy Williams (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.) is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. After high school and before pursuing a career in the field of Education, Andy served in the Army in several capacities and had six combat tours. After retiring from the Army, he earned an Associate degree in Business Management from Central Texas College and furthered his education by earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Master's degree in Management and Leadership from Texas A & M University of Central Texas. His continued desire to learn led him to pursue a Doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Liberty

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

GET PUBLISHED IN OUR AUGUST ISSUE

August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 22 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 31st.

So come on! Send us your clear, JPEG headshot and a typed article (Word document or typed as an email) via email to 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.

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editor-

ials reflect the opinions of the editor.

LETTERS & ARTICLES POLICY

The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg

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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SEE **EXCELLENCE**, PG. 7

EMPOWERING PEOPLE: THE DOUBLE IMPACT OF A MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO"

—LINDA MASON CRAWFORD—

Originally from Union, MS, Linda Mason Crawford holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Jackson State University and a post graduate specialty from Walden University. She and her husband, JL, expect to graduate in 2025 from Northcentral University where she will receive her PhD in psychology and he will receive his PhD in education. Linda taught English at several colleges since 1979. She recently retired from McLennan Community College after teaching there for over 34 years, where she also served as the coordinator of the Integrated Reading and Writing Program. Linda is part of a husband/wife publishing team. They own the community newspaper, The Anchor News, and will soon celebrate The Anchor's 22nd year in Central Texas.

As a Bible teacher, conference, workshop, motivational speaker, and certified life coach, Linda shares her experiences of God's grace that



LINDA MASON CRAWFORD

set her free from oppression, depression, and life-threatening circumstances. Whether she is ministering in the Word, in song, or in the prophetic, her stimulating humor and the anointing on her life touch the hearts of many to receive healing, encouragement, and a different outlook on life.

Linda's most recent pub-

lication is giving her a voice across America. Her book, *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, is available on Amazon and has received nothing short of perfect reviews. One Amazon reviewer said, "... just as you're caught up in one of her personal stories that begins each chapter, you realize you've been drawn into a deeper insight. Those insights give the book its purpose." Involving addiction, abuse, life and death situations, *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine* shares practical advice to help you walk in your destiny with joy, clarity, and determination.

Part of the worship team, Linda is a member of High Point Church, where John Rambeau is the pastor. Linda is a co-founder and president of THE Waco National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. In addition, Linda is a member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Educators where she is

the public relations director. The Crawfords have 4 adult

children, 6 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

—STASHA MALONE—

Stasha Malone, a native of Waco, is the daughter of the late Learie Austin and Linda Crawford. Stasha graduated from Midway High School in 2004, where she participated in several extra curricular activities, including the dance team captain, and now resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma with her husband, Jake Malone, and son, Judah. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Oral Roberts University in Communications. At ORU, she was also the dance team captain. Stasha is employed at a multi-site/multi-state church where she helps the church's new locations start, grow, and thrive. Her continued love for people and serving them through the local church began as a child when she was



STASHA MALONE

an active part of her church community in Waco. She enjoys traveling for work and leisure and spending quality time with friends and family.

KILLEEN RETIRED COLONEL: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF A SUPERMOM: DR. MARY JOYCE BETHEL

A native of Aberdeen, Mississippi, Dr. Bethel has been an Evangelist in the ministry since 1985. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior in 1976 at the Amazing Church of God in Christ in Jackson, Mississippi. Since 1976, she has had several positions in the local church. A gifted and talented teacher, she has volunteered countless hours teaching Bible College courses.

She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. She earned a second bachelor's degree in marketing and public relations from Ashford University. She earned a second master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. She also holds a Doctorate in Theology from the American International Bible Institute and Seminary.



DR. MARY JOYCE BETHEL

Additionally, she is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

She is an author and was listed among the Outstanding Young Women of America in 1986.

She achieved the rank of Colonel and successfully served 30 years in the U.S. Army as an Adjutant General Corps Officer. She served

as a Department of the Army Civilian at Fort Hood, Texas as the Supervisory Adjutant for the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, 407th Army Field Support Brigade. In that position, she led and directed all Human Resources Management activities for the Brigade's civilian and

military personnel.

An entrepreneur, she is the proud owner of Mary Joyce's Fashions. She is also the founder and Pastor of Bethel Breath of Life Ministries, Killeen, Texas, which has an outreach ministry and oversees two other ministry campuses at

BBOLM-San Antonio, Texas and BBOLM-Temple, Texas, as well as BBOLM College of Divinity and Seminary and BBOLM College of Cosmetology.

Pastor Bethel is married to Deacon Michael Bethel and is the proud parent of seven grown children.

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WANDA B. GUNTER

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

FAMILY FUNERAL HOME: MOM AND DAUGHTERS HONOR LIVES LIVED

—MADELYN OPAL MCDOWELL BUTLER—

Former President of Delta Alpha Omega Chapter

Madelyn McDowell Butler is a native of Waco, Texas and was initiated into Delta Alpha Omega Chapter where she served as President, Vice-President, Ex-Officio, and Sisterly Relations Chair. Regionally, she served as Northeast Texas Cluster Financial Secretary, Co-Chairman of the 82nd South Central Regional Conference, 86th South Central Regional Conference Evaluation Chairman, Chairman and Co-Chairman of Northeast Texas Cluster Retreat. She is currently a member of Xi Theta Omega Chapter, Arlington, Texas and has served as Leadership Chairman, and The Arlington Foundation for Excellence in Education Executive Director. Mrs. Butler matriculated from DeVry University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Services and is a Fu-



MADELYN OPAL MCDOWELL BUTLER

neral Director and Vice-President of McDowell Funeral Homes, LLC. She also has over 17 years of experience as a pharmaceutical sales specialist. Mrs. Butler has a passion for fashion and is pursuing her dreams. Mrs. Butler is happily married to Steven Butler and is the proud mother of two sons, Sterling

Bryson and Sullivan Blake. Her mantra is "Live, Laugh,

Love!" Her advice: It costs nothing to be kind. Treat oth-

ers with kindness and the way you would want to be treated.

—ANDREA JAQUAY MCDOWELL—

With nearly thirty years of experience in the death care industry, Andrea Jaquay McDowell, a native of Waco, Texas, is best known for her style, dedication to others, empathy, mentorship, courage under stress, attention to detail, and exemplary service to families across Texas. A "Vessel of Grace" is what defines this dynamic woman of excellence.

During high school, Andrea graduated from LaVega High School and earned a license as a cosmetologist. In addition to serving the community and raising a family, Andrea earned two degrees, an associate degree in general studies from McLennan Community College and a bachelor's degree in business from Tarleton State University.



ANDREA JAQUAY MCDOWELL

By rendering paramount service in a distinctive manner, Andrea takes pride in her calling.

The tasks she performs include the preparation of remains for burial, cosmetizing, and assuring the satisfaction of bereaved families.

Dating back to adolescence, she worked at the prominent family firm McDowell Funeral Home, L.L.C., in the heart of Waco, Texas, and Hillsboro, Texas, alongside her father, the late Lester McDowell. Formally serving as Vice-President and Funeral Director in Charge, now currently serving as President and Funeral Director in Charge.

Andrea is a member of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Lester and Lois J. (Cotton) McDowell and the mother of three sons, Cedarian, Brenton, and Ayden.

SCOTT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

founded in 1968. This organization is committed to promoting the development and advancement of Black healthcare leaders, while also improving the quality of healthcare offered to minority and underserved communities. She actively engages with the Mentorship and Communications committees within the Houston, TX, and Veteran's Affairs chapters. She is a member of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist church. She enjoys traveling, exercising, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Lois Jacqueline Cotton McDowell is a native of Waco, Texas. She attended the public schools of WISD and was the last graduating class of A. J. Moore High School. She then attended HBCU Paul Quinn College where she obtained a bachelors Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in English. She went on to further her education by attending HBCU Prairie View A&M University obtaining a masters Degree in Elementary Education, Principalship Certification and a Masters degree in reading. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha So-



LOIS JACQUELINE COTTON MCDOWELL

rority Inc. where she is a Life Member and Golden Member (50 years); The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc., where she is a Life Member (25 years); The Waco Central Texas Chapter of Links, Inc. where she serves as Services To Youth Chair; and The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., where she serves as Financial Secretary. She retired from teaching Elementary Education in 2012 after teaching for thirty years. She then began a second career as an Adjunct Instructor in Reading/Writing at McLennan Community College. She and her late husband Lester McDowell (Jan. 2021), founded McDowell Funeral Home, L.L.C. in 1982. Her two daughters, Madelyn McDowell Butler is a Funeral Director and Andrea J. McDowell is President and Funeral Director. There are three locations to serve the Waco, surrounding and out-of-state areas. She is the proud grandmother of five grandsons, Cedarian, Sterling, Sullivan, Brenton, and Ayden, future CEOs. She is also a member of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

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H A P P Y

Mother's Day



THE Anchor NEWS

MOTHER/DAUGHTER, MONA AND MELINDA, HAVE SAME QUALITIES AND PARENTING SKILLS

—MELINDA BINKLEY—

MELINDA'S LIFE FROM A BINKLEY STANDPOINT

My mom, Mona Dunkin, spent most of my childhood at home with me. She was a pioneer in that she home-schooled me in the early 1980's, before home schooling was cool. I loved the freedom of home schooling, but I wanted to experience a little bit of high school life, so my parents graciously allowed me to attend Parkview Christian Academy for my junior and senior years. I have great memories of both schooling experiences, and I am thank-

ful for each one. I moved to the Dallas area for college, and then did two years of a ministry internship program with our church. During this time, I began dating one of my good friends from church, John Binkley, and we married in November of 1996.

I worked a few jobs as a young adult, but my lifelong goal was to be a mom; this is largely due to the example shown by my mom. She is a talented woman with many God-given abilities, and she found creative ways to continue pursuing her interests



MELINDA BINKLEY

while also making me a priority in her life. I never once doubted her love or commitment to me. I knew that I was blessed to have such a wonderful mother, but it was not until I had children that I began to understand the depth of her love and influence in every area of my life. I often hear her voice in my mind, and I am grateful for the guidance she continues to provide.

John and I have five children, and we recently added a son-in-love to our crew. One of the greatest delights I have ever been given is the privilege of being mom to these incredible individuals. To have a front row seat

to watch their personalities develop, to learn alongside them as they navigate life, and to usher them into adulthood, is an indescribable gift. I recognize that many are not afforded this opportunity, and I do not take it lightly.

John is currently serving on a two-and-a-half-year mission as a Chaplain with the United States Army, and we are as involved as we can be. While this ministry looks a little different than what I anticipated when I did the internship program those many years ago, I have learned that ministry can take lots of forms, and it does not have to be defined by a church building.

—MONA DUNKIN—

Mona Dunkin is a naturally gifted teacher. She is from West Virginia, born at home; the doctor's wages were eggs. She attended a one-room schoolhouse where one teach-

er taught grades one through eight. When she was in third grade, the teacher asked her to take the first and second graders outside under the big tree and teach them phonics,



MONA DUNKIN

reading, and math. "Little did I know that was career building," said Mona.

She is a freelance speaker, working with local colleges and venues of the at-risk population. She's taught Life Skills to federal prisoners for twenty years and conducted parenting classes to reunite families whose children had been removed from the home.

In summary, Mona has experienced a lifetime of love and appreciation for and from others. She has served 60 years of being a community leader, serving on numerous boards and organizing city-wide events, motivating people toward personal goals. She is a self-employed contractor specializing in public speaking on life-skills. Mona excels in public relations and is verbally fluent. She is insightful, quick thinking and good at problem solving. Mona is a self-starter and self-motivated. Adaptable, she finds it easy to make mid-course changes or corrections.



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MOM AND DAUGHTER SHARE UNIQUE MILESTONE

—DR. J'NAUDIA DANIELLE HUNTER-PHILLIPS—

Dr. J'Naudia Danielle Hunter-Phillips was born into a family where education was valued and cherished, J'Naudia's path was paved with the as-

pirations of her parents and grandparents who set the tone and expected nothing less.

Dr. Hunter-Phillips graduated from Abraham Lincoln High

School, University of Maryland Eastern Shore with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, and from Tex-



**DR. J'NAUDIA DANIELLE
HUNTER-PHILLIPS**

as Southern University with a Doctor of Education.

Embracing the profound responsibility of shaping young minds, Dr. J'Naudia guides her daughter with the same love and wisdom she experienced as a youth. Kaitlyn Hunter

Phillips., the soon to be sixteen year old, would be the human that changed her life forever. Kaitlyn is an amazing young lady who will one day change the world. Simultaneously, this journey as a sister was marked by the presence of a sibling who shows that the saying "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" is true. Dr. Jamison Hunter, Pastor of the Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church Silver Spring, MD followed the footsteps of their father in pastoral ministry and added to the Hunter family Dr. Patrice Hunter, and the best nieces and nephews ever.

Dr. J'Naudia D. Hunter-Phillips embarked on a journey to carve out her path in the field as the Director of Accessibility Support at the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Today she stands as a testament to the enduring influence of family and education.

—DR. PAMELIA H. HUNTER—

This lady, this first lady, Dr. Pamela H. Hunter, lives the famous saying, "Age is just a number." She earned a doctorate at the age of 68. And though many might think she sees that as her greatest accomplishment, she does not. Dr. Pam loves people. Blessing them is the accomplishment most important to her heart. First is God. No one comes before her love for the Lord. Next is family. Taking care of her family members is priority. She loves the church members she has been blessed to serve alongside her husband. No one is a stranger to her. She implemented the membership phone system so their church can stay in close contact with members for important issues. She implemented a program where her church serves beans and cornbread on a monthly basis for Salvation Army as well as other meaningful engagements wherever she is or has been needed. Her



DR. PAMELIA H. HUNTER

Christian attributes can easily be seen wherever she goes or whomever she comes in contact with. She loves people, and no one is too low in stature for her to touch with her life.

She has always had her students at heart and has pushed each to excellence. Even her friends fall into this category. JL and Linda Crawford say she

"forced" them to work on their doctorates saying "If I wasn't too old, neither are you." They are almost finished. For young people at both churches where her husband has pastored, she was a great encourager of them continuing their education especially on into higher education. For those students who didn't want to go that route, she challenged them to find a meaningful trade. Their godson whom the Hunters took under their wings while in Port Arthur during his sophomore years in high school today has his Ph.D. Neither of their children had an option. They both have doctorates. Education is in her DNA because of her rearing and she views each student she encounters as having that same DNA and pushes them toward excellence regardless of their age.

This is who she is. Married to Dr. Pastor Jimmy Hunter, this is the lady, the first lady, with the big heart.

SUPERMOM JUGGLES UNIVERSITY CHAIR, LIFE AND FAMILY

Blessed to have made history as the first Black female chair of a department at Baylor University, Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez has received many awards and accolades in her lifetime. Most notably she helped fund the Moody-Ramirez Belden Endowed Scholarship for Diversity in Journalism at Baylor University.

"Endowing a scholarship has always been a vision of mine" she said. "I am thankful for the support of others, which allowed the dream to come true."

Moody-Ramirez joined Baylor in 2001 and has maintained an active research portfolio in addition to her teaching and leadership roles. Her research emphasizes media framing of people of color, women and political candidates, the pros and cons of social media in political campaigns and how historical stereotypes are found in social media platforms.

The author or co-author of four books, Dr. Moody-Ramirez has also been widely published in a variety of academic and industry journals.



DR. MIA MOODY-RAMIREZ

She was honored with the Outstanding Woman in Journalism award by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and received the organization's Lionel Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education. She is also a 2019 Fellow in the AEJMC Institute for Diverse Leadership.

Mia's husband, Augustine, is a material's handler at Packless Industries and disc jockey. She is the proud mother of Heidi, Timothy, and William.

HONORING MOM, LISA WARE: A WALKING MIRACLE

Lisa Marie Brandon, born in 1964, graduated in 1982 from University High School. In the top 10% of a class of over 200, she attended McLennan Community College, graduating in 1984 with an associate's degree in nursing. After working at various jobs, she returned to school and received a bachelor's degree in nursing. "I started working at the VAMC in March of 1986 and stayed there until I almost lost my life to colon cancer."

The doctors told the family Lisa wouldn't make it through the night. But GOD said differently. She stayed 6 months in the hospital fighting for her life and spent another 6 weeks in rehab learning to walk and write



LISA WARE

again. Shortly after, she retired and dove into community service, which has always been a passion for Lisa. Other job experienc-

es ushered her into working with several local agencies. Lisa is one of the founders and charter members of Cattleya Foundation of Hope, a local cancer foundation. Along with numerous other organizations, she is a charter member of Chi Eta Phi, a professional nurses sorority. Married to George (Tip) Ware, she has three biological children, three step children, 10 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, and 5 godchildren. A member of Abundant Love Fellowship Church under the leadership of Edward L Ross, she serves as the leader of the nursing unit which is part of the usher board. Lisa's favorite slogan is "Prayer Changes Things."

EXCELLENCE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

University.

In his community, Andy has served in various capacities in the City of Nolanville as President of the Economic and Development Corporation, Commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and is presently serving his third consecutive term as Mayor of Nolanville. He is the first African American to serve multiple terms for the City of Nolanville. Furthermore, he serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Innovation Black Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Leadership Development and the Alumni Executive Board of Directors for Texas A & M University of Central Texas. He also volunteers in the community as a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Archie L. Hatten, III (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.) is a native of Corsicana, Texas. He is a 1973 graduate of Corsicana High School and continued his education at Paul Quinn College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master of Education from Prairie View A & M University. He served in Waco ISD for thirty-three years as a teacher and elementary school principal. After retirement, Archie accepted his call into the ministry and currently serves as the pastor of Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church in Waco.

Rev. Hatten serves on various boards and auxiliaries in Waco including the Paul Quinn Campus Development Board, the East Waco Library Board, and the Central Texas YMCA Board. He is also the Chair of the Northwest Texas Board of Trustees in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In addition, Archie is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and pledged through the Zeta Eta Chapter at Paul Quinn College. He is married to Lucia Young Hatten whom he met at Paul Quinn, and they have three children and six grandchildren.

Jocelyn Williams Pierce (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.) is a native of College Station, Texas and has resided in Waco for forty-five years. She attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where she earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees. She also earned her certification in Educational Leadership from Tarleton State University. She began her teaching career at LaVega High School in LaVega ISD as an English, Speech,

and Theatre Arts teacher. She became an administrator while in LaVega ISD and continued as an administrator in Waco ISD until her retirement. Jocelyn continues to teach and empower young people as an adjunct professor at McLennan Community College in Waco.

In the community, Jocelyn serves as a member of New Hope Baptist Church, the Waco Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Waco Club. She is a former member of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., and the past Education Chairwoman for the Waco NAACP.

Jocelyn has been married to Joe Michael Pierce for forty-four years, and I, Jessica N. Pierce, am so proud to be her daughter.

Joseph N. Alexander (Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.) is a native of Killeen, Texas. He has over twenty-seven years as an educator and administrator on both the elementary and secondary levels and has earned certifications in Special Education and Educational Leadership. Joseph received a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Excelsior University in Albany, New York and earned a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Tarleton State University. In addition, he has earned licenses to be a superintendent and a minister.

Professionally, he is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP), the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA), the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE), the Charles Butt Foundation: Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT), the Harvard Graduate School of Education 2014, 2016, and 2019. Currently, Joseph is employed as an Education Specialist IV for Educational Programs with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. In this position, Joseph coordinates programs at the district level to maintain district compliance with federal, state, and local policies.

In the community, Joseph serves as a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Gamma Omicron Sigma Chapter and as a George W. Bush Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program Scholar.

Joseph has three adult chil-

dren, four grandchildren and another one on the way. He enjoys spending time with his family and engaging in his hobbies of watching sports, reading, and learning new information.

Bobbie J. Howard Milton (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.) is a native of Marlin, Texas. She is a veteran teacher with fifty-nine years of teaching experience and has accumulated a vast wealth of experiences throughout her journey. Educated at Prairie View A & M University to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Bobbie's adventures are unique. On the campus of Prairie View, she met her husband, married, and left her native country to live in West Africa for twenty-seven years.

She began her career as an English teacher at the Booker Washington Institute in Liberia. After two years, she found employment with the Liberian-American-Swedish Mining Company (LAMCO), an international community comprised of citizens of some fourteen nationalities. After a span of over twenty-five years, Bobbie returned to her hometown and was hired to teach English in Marlin ISD. She continued postgraduate studies at Prairie View and Baylor University.

Throughout her career, Bobbie has received many awards, honors, commendations, and celebrations by organizations on both sides of the Atlantic; however, one that she holds dear is a Lifetime Achievement Degree, representing twenty-five years of on-the-job training. This degree dictated her teaching style, philosophy, beliefs, and values. Another cherished memory is a thank you note received from a student on the verge of dropping out of school in which the student was grateful for Bobbie changing the trajectory of his life. Bobbie believes that students must be given opportunities to be valued and respected through trustworthiness and fairness in safe environments that are conducive to learning.

Cynthia Wise (Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.) is a native of Petersburg, Virginia. She is a graduate of St. Paul University in Lawrenceville, Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education; Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio with a Master of Public Administration; Southeastern Oklahoma University in Durant, Oklahoma with a Master of Education Administration; and Walden Uni-

versity in Minneapolis, Minnesota with a Doctorate of Education in Administrative Leadership. Dr. Wise is a veteran educator with thirty years of varied experience. Her primary educational focus is her ability to turn around Title 1 schools and to build Culture Conscious Campuses (CCC). In doing so, she creates a student-centered environment which involves parents and the community. Dr. Wise believes that educators must set high expectations for scholars to bring out what already exists within them.

Dr. Wise has received accolades from the Deputy Commissioner of Education for being among the Top 10 High Performing Campuses and having the #1 highest-performing majority African American elementary school in the state. Her "Culture Conscious Campuses" (CCC) Model was approved by Commissioner Morath and the Texas Education Agency in 2018. The CCC Model focuses on delivering exceptional outcomes for all children, and Dr. Wise has earned honor and distinction for the replication of her model.

Currently, Dr. Wise is the proud principal of J. H. Hines Elementary School and the Chief Academic Officer for Transformation Waco, Waco ISD. She has served in these capacities for two years and has been the principal of two schools, simultaneously on two different occasions, leading an elementary and middle school. Her goal is to lead J. H. Hines to a Blue-Ribbon School status, and more specifically, to change student lives for the better at J. H. Hines. Dr. Wise cares about ALL children enough to create an environment where they can thrive, dream, and dream BIG so they

may achieve all that they desire because at J. H. Hines, EXCELLENCE is expected.

Nathaniel Ladson, Jr., (Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.) resides in Killeen, Texas where he is a Special Education teacher at Clarke Elementary School. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas with a Bachelor's degree.

With ten years of experience, Nathaniel prides himself on building relationships with diverse students, families, and colleagues to create a collaborative approach to education. His efforts earned him the honor of being named Teacher of the Year in 2020 at Clarke Elementary School.

During his time away from school, Nathaniel enjoys spending time with family, bowling, and watching football. He serves as the Treasurer of the Alpha Omega Alumni Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. He is also an active fundraiser for the Central Texas St. Jude's Walk each year.

In their celebration of excellence, this chapter also recognized their Xi Chi 2024 Baylor graduates, Lindsee McDonald from California with a major in Political Science and Courtney Hodge from Virginia with a major in Data Processing. These graduates will move on to pursue educational endeavors in Dallas and Virginia, respectively and were commended for their dedication toward keeping the Xi Chi Chapter thriving on the Baylor University campus. In addition, three 2024 Alpha Rho Sigma scholarship recipients, Nalaysia O. Dickerson, Jayda Destinee Lowe, and Hallejah Rene-Joan Armstrong were acknowledged for their accomplishments at their respective high schools.

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SERVING PEOPLE: AN IVORY AFFAIR

—NICOLE IVORY—

Nicole Ivory is an insurance broker and founder of AI Mutual, a boutique insurance firm that specializes in life insurance, long term care, disability, and business owners' policies in the state of Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. In addition to being a licensed Life & Health and Property & Casualty Agent, Ms. Ivory is also a licensed property adjuster. She has assisted in restoring the lives of many clients affected by catastrophic events that have taken place in America over the last few years. Ms. Ivory also serves as a Senior Director for LegalShield.



NICOLE IVORY

Nicole has always worked in the financial services industry with Big 4 accounting firms. She entered the world of insurance at MedLife where she keyed up important projects for the National Accounts South Sales Team. Having serviced Fortune commercial client ac-

counts, she was able to use this gained knowledge to empower her small business clients.

Beyond the office, Ms. Ivory enjoys homeschooling her daughter Ivanna who is the current CEO of Art Pops Club (showing beauty through STEM). Nicole also teaches an online family legacy course for adults, as well

as leads an online book club centered on the principles of PowerNomics..
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—MARGARET IVORY—

Margaret Ivory resides in Waco, Texas where her husband of forty-five years, Dr. Leon Ivory, has served as pulpit minister for the past 29 years at Hood Street Church of Christ in Waco, Texas.

Margaret is a graduate of Southwestern Christian College and the Business and Finance Institute with a degree in Certified Social Security and Medicare Specialist (CSS).

For over forty years, she has taught and marketed health insurance products that have helped to enhance the lives of her many clients. Her practice (Ivory and Associates) currently specializes in Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Supple-



MARGARET IVORY

ment products.

Her eBook - "What is Medi-

care?" was placed on the Kindle Best Sellers List in the Medicare and Medicaid category in 2012. In 2014 - 2019, she turned this book into an online eCourse entitled "Medicare Made Easy Tutorial." You can access this information by calling 720-843-2446, using the Access Code: 1050813# along with the Reference Number: 1. Info line is available 24 hours/ 7 days a week.

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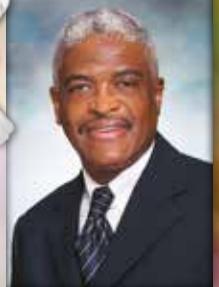
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HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED?

BY JERRY SNIDER

As the owner of All In Health and Wellness, I'm excited to offer a Health column for the readers of the Anchor News.

Sometimes trying to find answers to our health issues can make us feel like Elmer Fudd trying to find Bugs Bunny in his rabbit hole. Bugs always popped out of a different hole to tap Fudd on the shoulder and use his trademark saying "What's Up Doc?"

One of the pieces of the health puzzle that often gets overlooked is exposure to environmental toxins. This term often brings up thoughts of chemical plants or manufac-

turing plants that create pollution in our waterways. Sometimes we think of things we know are bad like asbestos in old buildings.

What we should be thinking about is the common household chemicals that almost every one of us has in our home and come in contact with on a daily or weekly basis. Our cleaning supplies may promote how well they kill bacteria within our home, but these same chemicals are often damaging our bodies as well.

Put aside the fact that some of these chemicals have potential cancer causing ingredients, all the toxic exposure of these chemicals is dis-



JERRY SNIDER

rupting our good bacteria in our gut. They are created to kill bacteria which includes

the good bacteria we need to break down the nutrients in the food we eat.

We all know not to ingest these chemicals, so you might be wondering how they are disrupting our bacteria in our gut. The vast majority of these chemicals are producing fumes that we are constantly breathing in since they are stored in our homes. We often don't follow all the directions on the label that are there to protect us - using rubber gloves, a face mask to prevent inhaling the fumes when using the product, and not waiting long enough for the surface we cleaned to be toxin free before using it.

An easy way to test the theory about smelling fumes is to move all the chemicals you have into one small area, preferably in your garage or an outside shed. Leave them alone for a couple of days and then go back to check on that area. You will likely be overwhelmed by the chemical

smell. This will show you just how much toxicity is moving through your home even when you aren't actively cleaning.

Finding all-natural, non-toxic cleaning supplies is not that difficult anymore. There are also plenty of do-it-yourself formulas online using common ingredients like vinegar and lemons. If nothing else, store the chemicals outside your home and start following the directions and safety precautions listed on the bottles.

Have a question for Jerry? Send it to jerry@allinhealthandwellness.com.

Jerry Snider is an exercise physiologist, health coach, and owner of All In Health and Wellness. He has authored two books available on Amazon: No More Sugar Coating and Confidence Through Health, and is the host of the podcast Confidence Through Health. Visit www.allinhealthandwellness.com to learn more about Jerry Snider.



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IDENTITY THIEVES TARGET PCS, LAPTOPS AND STORED DATA DEVICES

SUBMITTED BY JL CRAWFORD, LEGALSHIELD, SENIOR MANAGER

(NewsUSA) - Electronics this year are expected to be among the top-five gifts American consumers will give -- ranging from PCs and laptops to iPhones, PDAs and cell phones. This growing affinity for consumer electronics and subsequent reliance on stored data devices to place confidential data -- tax returns, client and personnel information, phone numbers, addresses and photos -- presents two mounting challenges for the American consumer: identity theft and electronic waste.

nexGren, Inc. (pronounced "nex-green"), a new technology innovation company, recently launched DiskEraser, a consumer product that completely erases data from computer hard drives, making them safe for donation, re-use or recycling. New to the consumer marketplace, DiskEraser's patented technology -- available for both Mac and PC systems -- has already been approved, used and proven effective by the U.S. Department of Defense to remove "secure" sensitive information from their end-of-life PCs and laptops.

There are currently more than 100 million computers and lap-



J.L. CRAWFORD

tops stored in offices, attics, basements and garages throughout the U.S. And if these devices don't have their data properly removed before disposal, identity thieves can use them to find personal information.

"Many people fall under the false assumption that by simply deleting all files or reformatting the hard drive, the computer is free of all important data," said Dr. Joe Fergus, founder and CEO of nexGren. "However, deleting files isn't nearly enough. The information remains accessible on the hard drive and can be misused if it falls into the wrong hands."

Identity thieves often prey upon lost, stolen or abandoned computers. In 2008, more than 10 million Americans experienced identity theft. It can take up to several years to correct the problem. And it reaches far beyond households. The cost to U.S. corporations over the last five years exceeded \$60 billion. DiskEraser was developed to help combat this problem.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cites consumer electronic waste as growing two to three times faster than any other waste stream. Stored data devices are constructed with lead, mercury, cadmium, barium and other compounds that represent hazards to human health and environmental safety if not disposed of appropriately.

nexGren aims to slow that stream of waste by offering a nationwide recycling service, which is a critical part of the company's overall green initiative. Soon consumers will be able to send their old computers to nexGren for data removal and recycling with peace of mind and the knowledge that they have disposed of their computers in an environmentally responsible way.

If you're one of the many giving someone a PC or laptop, you should consider giving a second gift -- DiskEraser.

For more information, visit www.nexgren.com. For protection against identity theft, call me about LegalShield. It's affordable and available right now.

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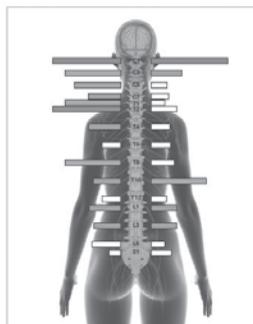
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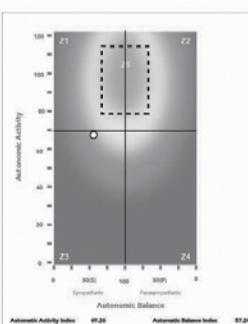


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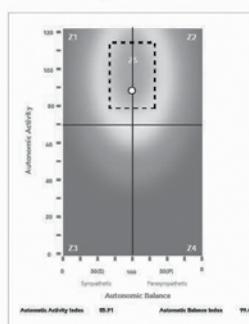


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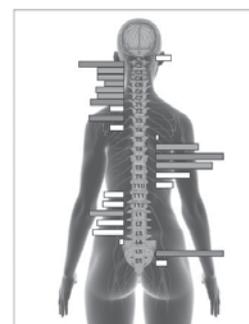


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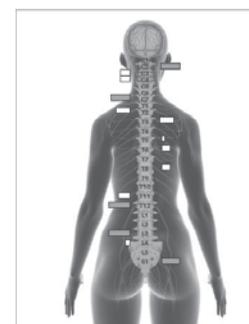


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THE PURE HEART IS A MIRROR

BY MICHAEL JONES

At 78 years old, I am one of the newer members of the Waco Bahá'í Faith community. Born and raised Southern Baptist, I was nevertheless strongly drawn to the major tenets of the Faith: Unity of God; Unity of Humanity; Unity in Human Diversity; Equality of Men and Women; the Elimination of all Forms of Prejudice; Independent, Individual Investigation of Truth; Elimination of Extremes of Wealth and Poverty, among many other wonderful concepts.

The Bahá'í writings are vast, beautiful, exhaustively documented, verified and archived. The prayers, meditations, letters, histories, and commentaries are so rich in meaning, so inspiring in form...and there is no way I will ever be able to fully explore them.

But one of the most beautiful metaphors I came across early in my study of the Faith is contained in this bit of writing from a beautiful, poetic book entitled “The Seven Valleys.”

O My Brother! A pure heart is as a mirror; cleanse it with the burnish of love



MICHAEL JONES

and severance from all save God, that the true sun may shine within it and the eternal morning dawn. Then wilt thou clearly see the meaning of ‘Neither doth My earth nor My heaven contain Me, but the heart of My faithful servant contains Me.’ And thou wilt take up thy life in thine hand, and with infinite longing cast it before the new Beloved One.”

The writer, one of the founders of our Faith, compares God to the sun: exceedingly powerful, life-giving, and incomprehensible. And he compares the human heart to a mirror and its pow-

er of reflectivity.

Though it has a finite shape, weight, and position, a mirror contains no image of its own and merely reflects the appearance of whatever is placed before it. Likewise, when we empty ourselves of egotism, attachment to selfish desires, and turn our attention to God, our hearts become ready recipients for the rays of the sun, those spiritual attributes of God mentioned in the first passage above. Just as God is merciful, our human hearts will reflect a share of that mercy. Just as God is wise, our human hearts will to some degree manifest that wisdom. Polishing the mirror of our souls empowers us to reflect the other qualities of God, like generosity, splendor, or justice.

In other words, Bahá'ís believe we are charged to live in such a way that the many attributes of God — mercy, splendor, grandeur, beauty, perfection, power, honor, light— are reflected for our fellow human beings by the mirrors of our souls. And the more flawlessly we can “polish” that mirror, the more clearly God’s love can be seen in us.

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ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED...MYTH, OR TRUTH? PART 5

BY EVANGELIST RUBY MCCRAY

Continued from the April issue of The Anchor News. To find previous articles about other subjects, please go to www.theanchornews.org. Click "Archives.," and you'll find several years.

Once saved, always saved, by some is referred to as the eternal security of the believer. Some refer to the expression as the new birth or being born again. You will find the perfect explanation in the book of John, Chapter 3, Verses 1 through 31. You'll find a clearer explanation in Part 2.

"And the LORD said to Moses: 'Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will FORSAKE Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger shall be aroused against them in

that day, and I will FORSAKE them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is NOT among us?' And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods'" Deuteronomy 31:16-18

Precious people, that doesn't sound anything like God has to keep us when we don't want to be kept. Once saved, forever saved, live like the devil all we want—some way or another, we will end up in heaven living happily forever.

I hear excuses like, "Our righteousness is nothing more than filthy rags," (Isaiah 64:6). It's only an excuse to try to justify that we can't do any better. Read that Scripture! It says that we have become like one who is unclean..., which means we were clean before



EVG. RUBY MCCRAY

we began imitating the unclean one. Remember, we are crucified with Christ, yet we are living because Christ is living inside us. Galatians 2:20 Crucified means DEAD; dead people can't SIN. If you are a born-again Christian, you are DEAD and God the Father, God the Son along with Holy Spirit are living their lives within you—and They CAN'T sin. John 14:21, 23, 24; 16:16

Another expression that I hear when referencing Christians is, "We are just 'saved sinners.'" For what purpose did Jesus take such gruesome beating and mistreatment, (Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12), pulling out His beard, (Isaiah 50:6), crushing a crown of thorns on His head, (Matthew 27:29), if we still want to be identified as

partly sinners? When the Apostle Paul addressed the Christians in his epistles (letters) to the different churches, he wrote, "To the SAINTS in...", (Ephesians 1:1). "To all the SAINTS in Philippi...", (Philippians 1:1). "To the SAINTS in Colosse...", (Colossians 1:2), etc. I've NEVER seen the expression, SAVED-SINNERS in the Old nor the New Testaments.

Have you ever seen a part caterpillar and a part butterfly? What would you call it? a cater butter; a butter cater; a fly pillar; a pillar fly? What? No! When the caterpillar experiences its metamorphosis, (death), it becomes a brand-new creation: it doesn't even have any resemblance of its old self. The same happens with us. When we truly die to our sins, (Ephesians 2:1-3), we become brand new creations, (2 Corinthians 5:17), in Christ Jesus; we no longer act like that old self.

I'm remembering when Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and God had called him up the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments, the remnant committed a grave sin—an abomination in making a golden calf. They said that it was the god who had led them out of Egypt. I can't see the logic since they made it themselves. God was so angry that He threatened to kill them. Moses interceded for the people by asking God to

blot his name out of His book. God told him He wouldn't do it. He said that He would blot the name of the one who sins against Him out of His book. Exodus 32:1-35

Since God never changes, (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), let's see what Jesus says in the New Testament to the church in Sardis.

"Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will NOT blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:3-5

Please join me in June, the Lord willing, as I continue this series. All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise stated. You may not believe me...just what if I'm right!

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



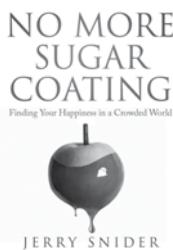
What is the dust which obscures the mirror? It is attachment to the world, avarice, envy, love of luxury and comfort, haughtiness and self-desire; this is the dust which prevents reflection of the rays of the Sun of Reality in the mirror.

'Abdu'l-Bahā

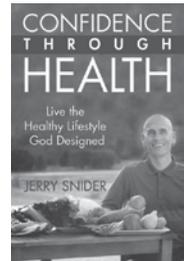
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RELEASING POWER OVER THE DEVIL

BY PASTOR
MATTHEW REED

We the church cannot continue to be victimized by the devil. The devil is using the church as his dumping ground, all his sins and evils he brings to the church. He takes away the joy of the Lord that belongs to us and replaces it with doubt, fears, unhappiness, sickness, worries and hatred. The things we receive of him smothers the blessings of God. This ought not to be.

James has a word of counsel that will help us to regain what belongs to us, joy, peace, health, prosperity, confidence and abundant living. James 4:7 James instructs us Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he



PASTOR MATTHEW
AND LADY HELEN REED

will flee from you. Time for the church to obey and trust God, obedience is submission.

When we become doers of

God's word, the power over the devil that Jesus gave us is released. He cannot stand against God's word. In James 4:8-10 James gives us more counsel that greatly empowers the church to get the victory. He teaches, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

The church does not have to continue to be a dumping ground for the devil. Receive James' instructions, rise in your obedience and reign as God meant for you to. Amen!

KNOW YOUR PLAN

BY MARGARET IVORY

Before I turned 65, I had already signed myself up for a Medicare Advantage Plan that suits my own particular needs. The first benefit that I took advantage of is Dental.

As a child, I had great teeth due to Dr. Vivian Dowell. She made grown men cry and demand a lollypop. She was a bit rough but she was an excellent dentist. As an adult, after Dr. Dowell passed away, my teeth suffered from neglect and pregnancy side ef-



MARGARET IVORY

fects. I am so excited to have free dental care through my new Medicare health plan.

Most Medicare Advantage Plans offer preventive dental care. Preventive care includes: exams, cleanings, x-rays and fluoride treatment. These items are usually provided at no cost.

Some Medicare Advantage Plans also offers comprehensive dental. Comprehensive includes: fillings, crowns, root canals, extractions, dentures, and implants.

Look at your Summary of Benefits or Explanation of Benefits to see your plan's annual maximum for the above benefits. Each plan's annual maximum dental benefit is different. A few plans are now giving additional benefits for dental via a pre-paid VISA card.

There are some dental exclusions that will not be covered:

- Unneeded dental services
- Cosmetic Dental
- Experimental Procedures
- Investigative Procedures

Last September, my smile was tremendously enhanced so if you see me walking around Waco grinning from ear to ear, now you will know why!

Turning 65 this year? Please call today to setup your private individual appointment to find out which Medicare plan will be best for you. Margaret Ivory - Your Medicare Plans Broker 254-523-8978.

YOUR REALTOR GIVES YOU RESOURCES YOU CAN TRUST

SUBMITTED BY
LINDA MCDONALD

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PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

BY MONA DUNKIN

As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother.-Julian of Norwich (1343-1416)

Parenting memories run deep and long, whether infants or adult children with families, with joys and regrets. Although the rhythmic cadence of “love-marriage-baby-carriage” may seem removed from today’s standard, parenting principle remains a founding truth and the position remains untarnished.

The Holy Scriptures contain two books devoted to the influence of King Samuel. This article shares the yearning for conception and the preparatory skills of his parents, Hannah, and Elkanah. Please read I Samuel, Chapters one and two for further understanding of this outline.

1. Their first priority was to God

- Devoted to God though there was unhappiness and strife in the home.
- Prayer was a regular part of their lives; whether things were good or bad.

2. Their second priority was to each other

- Hannah was concerned over not having a son to carry on Elkanah’s name.
- Elkanah asked, “Why are you so sad? Am I not better than ten sons?”

3. Their third priority was the child. Be careful not to reverse the order. Children will grow and leave home, mates are “until death do us part”.

- Our gifts to God were first his gifts to us.
- Both parents were concerned over his spiritual welfare.

• Hannah and Elkanah were in agreement of plans for the child’s future.

• They cared for him until it was time to give him “to the Lord”.

• They continued to minister to his needs after he was on his own.

• They looked beyond the gift and praised the giver.

4. Their household was a blended family.

• Elkanah treated each spouse with love and respect.

• When one person acts superior to the other, there is discord in the family.

• Personality conflicts are



MONA DUNKIN

inevitable but do not have to be destructive.

• They kept the family together regardless of difficulties.

5. Eli’s household was not in good order.

• Eli was professionally successful and parentally a failure.

• Eli was corrected by God for his indifference and apathy.

• Eli recognized God’s working in the situation.

• Eli submitted to God’s ways for correction.

6. Young Samuel grew, matured, and flourished though living in an ungodly atmosphere.

• Parental influence has a long-lasting effect on a child’s character.

• Parental influence is there, even when the parent is absent.

• Praying parents continue to protect their children with an unseen force.

A child - regardless of circumstances surrounding conception - is innocent and came from the origi-

nal source of Divine Love. Whether the home produces benevolent leaders or malevolent dictators, all of us share in the propagation of light and darkness. The human condition is a complicated mix of good and evil. Correcting the slippery slope or climbing to a higher plane is all “Thanks be to God.”

Mona Dunkin, Motivational Speaker and Personal Success Coach, www.monadunkin.blogspot.com or www.monadunkin.com. @SolutionsPrinciples253.

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