

# ROYAL VOICE



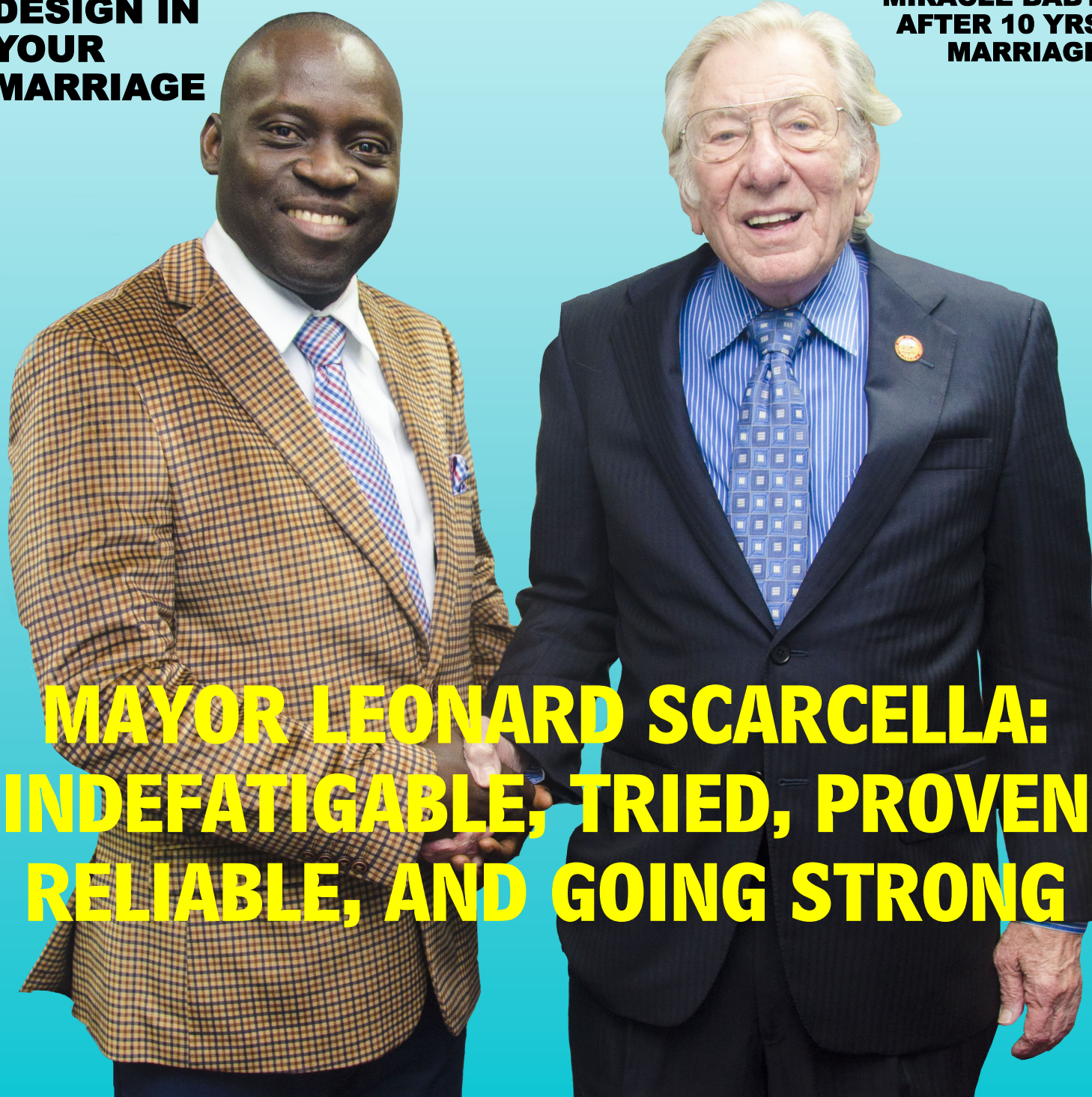
APRIL 2019

**TESTIMONIES!  
SPORTS TRIVIA!  
PICTURES!  
and more...**

**FOLLOW GOD'S  
DESIGN IN  
YOUR  
MARRIAGE**



**ROYALTY  
MIRACLE BABY  
AFTER 10 YRS  
MARRIAGE**



**MAYOR LEONARD SCARCELLA:  
INDEFATIGABLE, TRIED, PROVEN  
RELIABLE, AND GOING STRONG**

# ROYAL VOICE

A publication of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Royal Priesthood Parish  
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## Mission Statement

The Royal Voice Magazine was perceived and proclaimed by the leadership of the Royal Priesthood Parish of RCCG. God ordained it and has now made it a reality.

The Editorial Board intends it to be a quarterly publication and the mouthpiece of the word and perfect will of God, to magnify God by evangelizing the lost, discipline of believers, equipping the church and ministering to the society.

Each Edition will reach out to the community with its spirit uplifting, soul soothing and edifying contents, covering myriads of topics including the Christian family, education, health, immigration, community and church events.

It will feature, among others, articles, testimonies, pulpit jokes, regular Bible quizzes, workers highlights, new members, church departmental updates, church calendar of programs, men's, women's, youth corner, featured brief sermons and articles on remarkable Christian personalities.

The Board appeals for your contributions by submitting your inspirational testimonies, articles, and great stories of your life, to share with our readers. God will meet you at every point of your need, as you do so, in Jesus name. Amen!!



# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

**T**he theme of this Edition is “The Grace of God” and Pastor Idongesit and Pastor (Mrs) Eddiong James Ekanem will edify us with their inspirational Featured Short Sermon on “The Grace of God”.

The Bible says, **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”** (Titus 3:5). I will like to share with you “One Sinner’s Amazing Story of God’s Uncommon Grace” which is an excerpt from William J. Bausch’s storytelling in his Imagination and Faith book.

An old pastor visiting a country jail came upon a despondent young man. “leave me alone, pastor. I’m no good,” the young man moaned. “Everything I have touched has been bruised. I have influenced others to turn to a life of crime. I have deeply wounded the only ones who care for me – my mother, my wife, and our young daughter. There is no hope for me.”

The old man was silent for a moment before he spoke. “The hurt that you have inflicted on others may never be healed.” What you have done is most serious. What you need now is to find a new compass, a new way to walk.” He paused before he continued. “We must begin by teaching you some new stories.”

“Stories!” the young man thundered. “I speak to you out of despair and you talk to me of idle tales? I live without hope and you speak to me of happy endings? If my life is to be spent behind bars, I may need new facts, but I certainly do not need fiction.”

When the outburst had subsided, the pastor placed a caring hand on the young man’s arm. “Humor an old man. Listen to one tale.”

One day a very bad man died and went before the judgement throne. Before him stood Abraham, David, Peter and Luke. A chilly silence hung heavy in the room as an unseen voice began to read the details of the man’s life. There was nothing good that was recorded. When the voice concluded, Abraham spoke; “Men like you cannot enter the heavenly kingdom, you must leave.”

“Father Abraham,” the man cried, “I do not defend myself. I have no choice but to ask for mercy. Certainly, you

understand. Though you lied to save your own life, saying your wife was your sister, by the grace and mercy of God you became a blessing to all nations.”

David interrupted, “Abraham has spoken correctly. You have committed evil and heinous crimes.” You do not belong in the kingdom of light.” The man faced the great king and cried, “Son of Jesse, it is true. I am a wicked man.” Yet I dare ask you for forgiveness. You slept with Uriah’s wife and later, to cover your sin, arranged his death. I ask only forgiveness as you have known it.”

Peter was next to speak. “Unlike David, you have shown no love to God. By your acid tongue and your vile temper, you have wounded the Son of God.” “I should be silent,” the man muttered. “The only way I have used the blessed name of Jesus is in anger.” Still, Simon, son of Jonah, I plead for grace. Though you walked by his side and listened to words from his own lips, you slept when he needed you in the garden, and you denied him three times in his night of greatest need.”

Then Luke the evangelist spoke, you must leave. You have not been found worthy of the kingdom of God.”

The man’s head bowed sadly for a moment before a spark lit in his face. “My life has been recorded correctly,” the man began slowly. “I am guilty as charged. Yet I know there is a place for me in this blessed kingdom. Abraham, David and Peter will plead my cause because they know of the weakness of man and the mercy of God. You, blessed physician, will open the gates to me because you have written of God’s great love for the likes of me. Don’t you recognize me? I am the lost sheep that the Good Shepherd carried home. I am your younger, prodigal brother.”

And the gates opened, and Luke embraced the sinner.”

“You see,” the old pastor concluded, “I want you to learn stories, not as an exercise in fiction, but in order to walk in mercy.” Stories (testimonies) will help you find your way.

Read this April Edition, read about the effervescent, time-tested and successful Mayor of the City of Stafford and be blessed, in Jesus Name. Amen!!!

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

**W**ith gladness, I seize this opportunity to encourage everyone reading the Royal Voice Magazine to take a moment to reflect on their lives. I want you to know that you are not alone. There comes a time in your life when you feel abandoned! I want you to know that there is always a VOICE that speaks for you. That Voice is the ROYAL voice - the voice of the Almighty God. This is the same voice that called Moses while he was in the burning bush, thinking he was alone (Exodus 3:1-6).

As you read this Magazine, please know that there is a message there for your comfort. The voice is saying that your set time is NOW, and that our Almighty and Faithful God is alive to sort you out. My prayer is that, you will not miss your time in Jesus name. God will locate you and whatever difficult or ugly situation you find yourself, will receive divine turn-around in Jesus name.



I want to encourage you to always read the Royal Voice Magazine and share it to as many as possible. If you live in the Sugar Land/Houston Axis of Texas - USA, please stop over to visit us during any of our scheduled Services and let us agree in Prayers, as in the weekly schedule of Church activities published at the back of this Magazine. The Royal Priesthood Parish of RCCG is a MOUNTAIN of ANSWERS, where testimonies abound, where the jobless are getting jobs, where the undocumented are getting documented, where the sick are getting healed, where the barren are bearing children, and we can go on and on to list the numerous miracles of the Almighty God on the Mountain of Answers. We are opened any time for prayers as may be needed. Do not hesitate to come and receive your miracles. Our door is open for anyone to come in at any time for prayers.

The publication of this magazine will be consistent. As we prepare for the next edition, please encourage the Editorial Board by advertising your businesses, sharing your testimonies and by contributing articles. By so doing, you will be helping to promote the Kingdom of God and give hope to those who feel abandoned and are about to give up.

You are next in line for your breakthrough, in Jesus name!!!

Be the very best.

*Pastor James I. Ekanem*



**EARN FROM THE  
COMFORT OF YOUR  
HOME**



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# FAMILY CORNER

## FOLLOW GOD'S DESIGN IN YOUR MARRIAGE

BY SISTER PATRICIA ETUMUSE



Text: Genesis 2:18 - 25.  
And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.  
And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept, and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.

Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

A critical look at verse 25 reveals that they were both naked and were not ashamed. This showed that the first marriage was without secrecy or manipulations. There was unity, innocence and trust.

These days you find couples keeping secrets from each other, relationships secrets, financial secrets and even sicknesses. The spouses do not really know themselves, even though they are expected to be one and open to each other.

Couples no longer have time for themselves especially in this part of the world including Africans. Most times, as one is coming back from job the other is either out or leaving for work. In the little time left for them to spend together, they are either on their phones or attending to the children. SPICE UP THAT MARRIAGE with the following notes:

1. Value your partner and get personal with each other.
2. Stop giving excuses during pleasurable moments.
3. Get intimate with your spouse whenever the need arises.
4. Respect each other.
5. Always keep the home clean and spacious.

6. Do unexpected things by getting out of your old routine at one time or the other.
7. See sex as something good for both of you. Moreover, it is a great way of reducing stress. Seduce each other.
8. Never stop courting each other: send text messages, gift items, cook dinner together, complement each other.
9. Focus on the rights and not on the wrongs.
10. Shower your spouse with compliments.
11. Small touches throughout the day can add up.
12. Hugging and kissing as often as possible.
13. Hold hands especially during walks. Schedule special dates together according to your pockets.
14. Look pretty and handsome for your spouse.
15. Be romantic even at home.
16. At times declare a device free evening and spend quality time with your spouse.
17. Love your spouse in spite of shortcomings and bad decisions.
18. Put the kids to bed at a decent hour to give yourselves some quiet time.
19. Give your selves time alone for some quietness.
20. Above all allow Christ to be the head and director in your home.
21. Pray always without ceasing.
22. Trust God all the way.
23. Acknowledge Him in all you do.
24. Always give thanks to God Almighty with a grateful heart.

Please consider these Bible verses, as you spice up your marriage:

1 Corinthians 16:14. Let all your things be done with charity (love).

1 Peter 4:8. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 John 4:18. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Ephesians 4:2-3. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 5:21. Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Luke 6:31. And as you would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Proverbs 3:5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

John 15:12. This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Romance 12:10. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

John 3:3. Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

GOD BLESS YOUR MARRIAGE.

# APRIL EXHORTATION

## DON'T BE DISCOURAGED

BY PASTOR YEMI AJAYI

**1** Kings 18:44: "And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, behold there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, go up, say unto Ahab, prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stops thee not."

Beloved, your miracles may appear in 2019 after several ministrations. Do not be angry with God because you have been living right and prayed several times over an issue of your life that require urgent response from God, and He has not answered. "God makes things beautiful in his own time". Please do not develop bitter spirit or attitude! Know of the truth that the vision is for an appointed time, even though it tarries, it shall surely come to pass.

Elijah prayed for rain seven times. On different occasions, he sent his assistant to look at the cloud (1 Kings 18:42-43). Remember, in the book of 2 Kings 5:10,14, Elisha instructed Naaman to dip himself in River Jordan seven times not 3 or 6 times. Also, Elijah prayed for a dead boy 3 times before the soul of the boy came into him again (1 Kings 17:21, 22). Jesus Christ prayed for a blind man twice before the miracle finally came through (Mark 8:22-25).

Note that the disciples did not receive the Holy Spirit once. In John 20:24, Jesus breathed on them and said "Receive ye the Holy Spirit" ... 1<sup>st</sup> anointing. In Acts 2:4, the disciples received another baptism of the power of the Holy Spirit ... 2<sup>nd</sup> anointing. Yet again, in Acts 4:31, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The law of repeated ministrations and persistent prayers holds true. Kindly be encouraged not to give up at the edge of your miracle. Keep asking! Keep seeking!! Keep knocking and in the end, your miracle will appear in Jesus Name.

My prayers for you today are:

1. I command the power of God to destroy within you every spirit of discouragement at the edge of your miracle in Jesus Name.
2. The Lord shall reward your diligence and answer you hastily as you seek him without any iota of doubt this season in Jesus Name.
3. The Glory of God shall not depart from your life in Jesus majestic Name.

Have a blessed April!!!

## Tuesday Church Schedule

**Hour of Mercy : 9pm to 10pm**  
**Prayer line Tel no: 1-774-220-4000**  
**Access Code : 937-1290#**



# ROYAL FOOD CORNER

## NATIVE RICE

BY PASTOR JUMOKE KAYODE-BAYEWO

**N**ative Rice is the best alternative option when you are tired of eating Jollof, Fried rice and even our plain rice. It's quite easy to prepare. Palm oil is used to give it the traditional and distinct taste and flavor.



**Recipes for 5 people**

**Cooking time: 35 mins**

- 2 cups of rice
- 1 big red bell pepper, scotch bonnet chili, 3 tomatoes and 2 big onions blended

- Smoked fish (fish of your choice)
- 2 cooking spoons of palm oil
- 1 small onion chopped
- 3tbsp ground crayfish
- Half cup big crayfish
- Few pieces of dried fish
- Locust beans (Iru/Okpei)
- Ponmo (cow skin)
- Scent leaves/spinach
- Seasonings (of your choice)

### Method

1. Wash the rice and parboil to reduce the starch; set aside.
2. Wash the dried fish, crayfish and soak in salted water for 10 minutes. Don't soak the smoked fish
3. Place pan on a medium heat, add palm oil, heat for 5 minutes but don't bleach.
4. Add chopped onions and fry for 30 seconds, add the pepper mix, Crayfish, cow skin, seasoning, salt and cook till oil floats on top of the sauce.
5. Add the rice to the sauce and stir to combine
6. Add little quantity of water not to cover the rice
7. Cook the rice on a low heat.
8. When it is 95% done, add dried fish, crayfish, smoked fish and stir carefully to combine. Cook for another 5 minutes then, add scent leaves.
9. Allow to simmer, ready to serve!



# SPORTS TRIVIA

BY IDOWU OGUNBAYO

## Soccer

Which is the only country to have played in each and every World Cup?

Answer: Brazil

The creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was the first keeper for which English football club?

Answer: AFC Portsmouth

Which was the first African country to qualify for a World Cup?

Answer: Egypt 1934

Which country won the first World Cup held in 1930?

Answer: Uruguay

What is 'El Clásico'?

Answer: A game between Spanish club giants Real Madrid and Barcelona

In the 1995–96 season, who scored 114 goals in 29 games for Everton's under-10s and 11s?

Answer: Wayne Rooney

## Basketball

What is an NBA player deemed to be if he has received the Maurice Podoloff Trophy?

Answer: The most valuable player (MVP)

Which team is as well-known for their comic antics as for their on-court skills?

Answer: Harlem Globetrotters

Which country dominates Olympics basketball like no one else?

Answer: USA has won the gold 14 times out of 18 editions

Which type of ball was basketball played with until 1929?

Answer: Soccer ball

What was banned from 1967 to 1976?

Answer: Slam dunk

American Football:

Which NFL team is known as the 'ain'ts' when on a losing streak?

Answer: The New Orleans Saints

Who is the only coach to win both a Super Bowl and a Rose Bowl?

Answer: Dick Vermeil

Before the NFL mandated the use of helmets in 1943, who was the last player not to use one?

Answer: Chicago Bears lineman Dick Plasman

Which is the coldest game in NFL history?

Answer: 1967 NFL Championship game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers: -13 degrees

Which was the first televised game of the NFL?

Answer: Oct 22, 1939: The Brooklyn Dodgers Vs. Philadelphia Eagles (broadcast by NBC to 500 TV sets)

## Other Sports

Who was the first U.S. volleyball player to win three Olympic gold medals?

Answer: Karch Kiraly

How many world records did swimmer Mark Spitz set when he won seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympics?

Answer: Seven—one in each of the races in which he competed.

What sport used the term 'home run' long before baseball?

Answer: Cricket

What was the first sport in which women were invited to compete at the Olympics?

Answer: Tennis, at the 1900 games in Paris. Charlotte Cooper of Great Britain was the first gold medalist.

In cross-country bike racing, what do the initials BMX represent?

Answer: Bicycle moto x (cross)

What three movements are required for an athlete to successfully complete a triple jump?

Answer: Hop, step, and jump

Which boxer was an underdog with odds of 42:1 when he stunned Mike Tyson?

Answer: Buster Douglas: 1990

In which sport are the terms 'stale fish' and 'mulekick' used?

Answer: Snowboarding

# FEATURED SHORT SERMON

## WHEN YOUR RESOURCES DRY UP, GRACE TAKES OVER

BY PASTOR JAMES AND PASTOR (MRS.) EDIDIONG EKANEM

**H**ow do you react after a protracted period of fasting, prayers and believing that God will show up in your trying and difficult situation? Yet the difficult situation persists stubbornly. Have you been in a situation where "brooks" dry up? That is, the source of your livelihood dries up and you are asking God - where are you, why me and so on. Have you been in a situation where the same job that you prayed for, and God gave you, suddenly disappeared? What about when the child, husband, wife, or contracts you were asking from God and God gave them to you, suddenly become pains in your life?

Look at the story in the book of 1 Kings 17:1-9. God initiated that Elijah should go to be fed by a Raven and drink from the brook. At the process of time, the brook that God told him to drink from dried up. Why did God allow the brook to dry up before asking Elijah to move to somewhere else?

These questions, most of us have asked God several times. We ask God several questions due to circumstances that we find ourselves. Beloved, I want you to understand that God's presence in your life does not guarantee a problem-free race on earth, rather it guarantees your victory through His grace. The good news is that when your resources dry up, God's grace will always be sufficient for you as recorded in 2 Cor. 12:9 - "But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me"

God allowed leprosy to afflict even a General, as recorded in 2 Kings 5:1. There are times that fishes will not enter the net, as recorded in Luke 5:5. Many times it will appear as if the Red Sea will never give way as recorded in Exo. 14:15. Is your situation similar? I want you to know that God's grace still abounds. Praise God!!!

The reasons your resources sometimes may dry up is that God does not want your eyes to focus on the resources, rather He wants you to focus on the owner of the resources who is our Lord Jesus

Christ - "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb.12:2). God will always give you resources. But always remember that you have only one source and that when the resources dry up, by His Grace, he will quickly show you another way as recorded in Isa. 43:19 - "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert"

I admonish every reader to solely depend on the grace of God. Do you think that it is by your smartness that you secured that job; do you also boast that your self righteousness earned you that child despite your infertility? No! The truth is: it was by the grace of God. Most of us do not merit what we have today. It is by "unmerited favor" which is the grace of God. Why not surrender your life to the Almighty God, who through His only begotten son - Jesus Christ - has given us this undeserved blessing? Jesus Christ is the ONLY way and His grace alone has kept you this far.

Will you like this grace to work for you and your family when your resources dry up? I call on you to accept Jesus Christ now! He is willing, able and available to save you from that calamity now!! He is standing at your door knocking as recorded in Rev. 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"!!!

I see God changing your story for good in Jesus name. Jesus Christ has finished on the cross more than 2000 years ago. What are you waiting for? Please join the family of the living God today and begin to enjoy these unmerited favors through the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is waiting for you. Locate a Bible believing Church around you and begin to grow and experience the grace of God. E-mail us your prayer request to: [prayers@royaltychurch.org](mailto:prayers@royaltychurch.org) and our team of prayer intercessors will pray with you. Thank you and God bless.







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# COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY PASTOR JUMOKE KAYODE-BAYEWO

**F**or more than two years, RCCG Royal Priesthood has been supporting its local community by partnering with Houston Food Bank. We have a deeper passion about the welfare of the community.

God has been so faithful to us in RCCG Royal Priesthood that we are able to improve people's quality of life. We make many people happy.

Here are some of the ways we were able to achieve it:



- **We now distribute food to the needy on a daily basis: our food pantry is open every day.**
- **We give free medical vital sign tests: Blood Pressure, Blood sugar, pulse and Temperature.**
- **We offer our skills to others**
- **We donate gently used clothes and shoes, kitchen utensils and Toys to the needy. Sometimes, we give words of encouragement to some people in the community: a struggling single parent, a depressed teenager, and so many others.**

We, at the RCCG Royal Priesthood Parish, are curious to learn more ways to improve in our services to the community. Therefore, we appeal to those who are committed and can assist in our humanitarian endeavors, to partner with us to improve our services. And God will bless you mightily as you do so.

# SPECIAL TESTIMONY

## A MIRACLE BABY BOY AFTER 10 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

BY MRS. PATRICIA EFA

**W**e are serving the Almighty God that rewards good services. We got married 10 years ago like many others. We expected to have children within the first year of our wedding. This never happened. We waited for many years, yet nothing happened. In our 6th year of marriage, we located by divine arrangement,

miscarriage. That devastated me and almost made me to give up; in addition to the scary doctor's report that followed. To God be the glory, my loving husband whose faith had also helped me, stood by me with the Pastor and wife, I was able to get over it and we continued to serve God.



In 2018, the God of Royal Priesthood, who answers prayers visited us, and I became pregnant again. The pregnancy was



a Church - Royal Priesthood Parish of RCCG - in Sugarland, Texas, where we began to serve God. Sometimes, it was very challenging because we were seeing people giving birth in our presence. We even hosted and joined to shop for the pregnant sisters, helped in nursing other people's children. Yet we had none of our own!

Despite those challenges we were always encouraged by the Pastor, who assured us that in God's time, we will have our own baby. In 2016, I got pregnant for the first time, but had a

so threatening. The attacks were so severe in addition to series of the usual doctor's negative reports. But the Almighty God kept the baby till the time of life. We give God the glory for He has made us to have our own child this year 2019. God has put to an end the long days of mockery in our life that lasted for 10 years and gave us a baby boy. To God be the glory!

Please join us and give God the glory for He is faithful. We pray that you are the next in line, IJN.

**ROYAL VOICE - 12**



# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





## PROFITS OF EXERCISE

BY DEACON NSIKAN ESHIET

**S**ome days back after our Sunday service, I met with two young men who were engaged in an interesting discussion. On getting closer, I decided to be part of their discussion because it was quite meaningful.

One was telling the other how he had started developing muscles and looking fit since he started his new job. In response, the other man said that it was the nature of the job that had made him start developing what he was observing, and we all laughed it off.

But as someone who so much admires men that worked-out to look fit, curiosity pushed me into trying to examine the biblical view concerning this uphill task of trying to look good through bodily exercise.

When we talk of bodily exercise, our minds will quickly take us to some activities like running, jogging, sit-ups, pushups, swimming, weight lifting, walking and some other sporting events.

It is a very good thing to keep our physical bodies in good shape and condition by engaging in bodily exercise. There is a measure of profit in this as compared to godliness which is the spiritual exercise: "for bodily exercise profited little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

Bodily exercise helps our heart condition. It builds up our muscles and helps us to lose weight. It only profits or builds up the physical bodies but not the soul. If your soul is not saved through the work of redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, the bodily exercise would do nothing to your soul.

It is worth noting therefore that bodily exercise only builds our bodies here on earth but not our bodies in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:50) and our physical bodies is like unto grass and flowers, which both soon fade and pass away (1 Peter 2:24-25).

Charles McCall in his sermon said, "just as we have bodily [physical] exercise to help build up our physical bodies, we have some spiritual exercise that builds up our spiritual bodies and it is called GODLINESS".

Now the big question is how do we exercise godliness? How do we spiritually exercise? To do this the first step is found in the book of John 3:3 and the second step is in Acts 1:8. Just as one needs to breath properly to exercise and build up his physical body, a Christian need to pray without ceasing, to build up his spiritual body to the glory of GOD Almighty. God bless you.

## **Wednesday Church Schedule**

**Breakthrough Service  
(Digging deep and Prayers )  
7pm to 9pm.**



# TESTIMONIES

## God's Healing

A believer had been experiencing headache and watery stool that did not respond to treatment for over six months. He always sent his prayer requests to the prayer line. To God be the glory he has been healed, no more regular headache, and no more watery stool.

## Success in Medical School Exam

A brother prayed to God for success in his international medical exam. He had promised that if God gave him the breakthrough, he would testify to God's greatness in return. Thanks to God for granting him success in his exam.

## Disappearance of Growth

A brother had been feeling pains and had a small growth on his breast. On a Holy ghost night, he had placed the anointing oil in front of his television during the 2017 December congress broadcast. He used the anointing oil to rub his breast, and to the glory of God, the pain disappeared.

## Admission

A believer had been trusting God for Admission since year 2009 after his secondary school. But during the 2017 Cross Over night in the camp, he uttered just a simple prayer and got Admission into University of Ibadan Distant Learning Center. Though he had waited for that long, he was thankful

that God intervened, in the month of his birthday.

## All Round Blessings

A member testified that after he got saved, God gave him a good job after completing his youth corps in 2014, gave him a good wife in 2015, he also got promoted early this year. In addition, his wife is expecting a set of twins. Glory be to God of Redeemed Christian Church of God!

## Healing of the Shortness of Breath

During the February fasting, a deaconess discovered that her little girl was struggling for her life, from shortness of breath. She was afraid. But God reminded her of the handkerchiefs of the last Holy Ghost Congress. She placed the handkerchiefs on her chest, and within 30 minutes, her breath was restored to normal, and she slept off peacefully.

## Cure of an Undiagnosable Sickness

A brother fell sick and went seeking treatment at the hospital numerous times. The doctors could not diagnose the illness. He just kept using all the prescribed drugs without knowing the exact problem: his feet and stomach were swelling and increasing in sizes. The General Overseer laid hands on him, and he got healed. His feet and stomach returned to normal. To God be the glory.

## Friday Church Schedule

**Deliverance Service:  
11am to 6pm (By Appointment)**

**Every 3rd Friday of the month  
Night of Encounter : 10pm to 1am**



# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





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# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# CHURCH ACTIVITIES





# FEATURED ARTICLE

## INDEFATIGABLE, TRIED, PROVEN RELIABLE, AND GOING STRONG

BY AMBASSADOR UDO MOSES WILLIAMS

**H**ere is the exhilarating story of our featured personality who has become the longest continuously serving Mayor in the State of Texas, through the dint of his hard work and commitment to community service. He has made Stafford one of the most exciting, cost effective and developed city in the US. He is the City's colorful, witty, well-known and widely acclaimed Mayor, Leonard Scarcella.

He is indefatigable, he has been tried and proven reliable in doggedly solving problems in the face of all odds during his successive 49 years of extra-ordinary successful administrations, instituting viable programs

name.

### Family and Educational Background

Born in 1940 from parents of Italian origin, he has never been married, and has had no children. He indicated that to some extent, the responsibility of heading the City may have gotten in the way of his potential family relationships? The mother was a long-time school teacher for 48 years who brought him up as a single parent after his father died in 1950 from extremely high blood pressure, when he was just 10. Sadly, the mother also passed in 2003 from a brain tumor which



of rebuilding neighborhoods and infrastructure. He is not done yet, he is still going strong and poised to run for re-election this May. He has the unwavering support of all and sundry. The Royal Voice (RV) Magazine had a long and interesting discussion with the Mayor. It is a story of deft and enduring administrative acumen. Read it and be blessed, in Jesus

was diagnosed since 1992. She had an unsuccessful surgery, which reduced her to a vegetable state, and virtually kept her from doing anything.

His father was a good athlete as well as an accomplished musician. He used to play with the Chicago symphony, the Houston symphony, and



# FEATURED ARTICLE

even had an orchestra, which he led. This dance band played every Saturday night at the Emerald Ballroom of the Rice Hotel, where everybody gathered to listen. The Emerald Ballroom had over a thousand seats capacity, and attendees were well dressed, with men in tuxedos and the women in flowing gowns. He lauded that his father was the best musician he had ever known and was very talented. He and the musicians in his class, used to teach at the Houston Conservatory of Music and were very good. Sadly, in 1950, he passed away. He noted that at that time there was no medication for high blood pressure. He lamented that if it were today, his father would have lived for a long time.

He informed that his mother was born in Steele Store, Texas, near College Station, 12 miles from the Texas A & M University Campus. He confirmed that though he grew up in Stafford, in the Summer, he spent time with his grand-parents in Steele Store and he was the only child. After the Summer, in the Fall through the Spring, he came back to Missouri City. His father wanted him to have a musical career and go to Broadway. But when he passed, his mother was not too excited about that life style.

He reminisced that both parents had been through the Great Depression with the attendant trauma of struggling to eke out a living, during the difficult period, including raising chickens for livelihood. He furthered that his mother encouraged him to get into politics. He did so when he was 22 years old, when he won his first election by just two votes. His mother was basically his campaign manager. He emphasized that she encouraged him; she was very stern with him; and she instilled in him the virtues of truthfulness, honesty, and forthrightness. The mother used to tell him "it is wonderful if people love you, but it is far more important that they respect you". He concluded that it was through the mother's approach which instilled in him the need to assume a leadership role in the community; her attitude and his upbringing, that led him into politics after attending Law School, being admitted to the State Bar of Texas.

He was elected into the Water District Board from 1961-69, and at the end, he became the President. Stafford was not created until 1956 and he became the third Mayor. The then Mayor who resigned, whom he had replaced, ran against him and failed. He concluded that since his mother was not enamored with his going to Broadway as desired by his father, it was through her approach and her attitude that he got involved in politics. He confirmed with an air of self-fulfillment, that he had won 25 elections since then.

He grew up at 3031 North Main, in a little wood frame house. He informed that he intends to demolish the house because it was badly damaged by Hurricane Harvey. For his education, he had attended Missouri City High School, and graduated from there in 1958; went to Texas A & M University, when it was known as Texas A & M College and had a degree in Accounting. Then he went to serve in the Texas Air National Guard, Lowry Airforce Base in Denver Colorado. This was after the Cuban missile crisis, during which conscription into the military was frozen for fear of war with Russia over Cuba. When conscription eventually commenced, he went into the military Reserve for six years and consequently, active duty in Colorado.

Ellington Airforce base, where he served, was somewhat studded. In that unit was George W. Bush and a young man named Lloyd Bentsen III, whose father was elected a senator in Texas from the Democratic party, and he got to know several of the family. He recounted the recent

instance when he attended the grand opening of the 2019 Houston Rodeo, and several of his friends from the National Guard were there. They have maintained very close contact and friendship since the 60s. After the Reserve, he attended the University of Houston Law School, passed the law exam, and practiced law in Stafford from 1967. In 1969, the Mayor of Stafford resigned, and he ran, and had won every two years since then.

## Party Affiliation

He dubbed himself a "blue-dog democrat", and informed that in the 40s, 50s and 60s, everyone was a democrat, and there were very few Republicans. In 1970 he was a friend of Lloyd Bentsen, who ran against George H. W. Bush, for US Senator. He was Bentsen's campaign manager in Fort Bend County, since he first ran against Ralph Yobert. Then Bentsen ran against George W. Bush, which was a very difficult contested campaign. Lloyd Bentsen Jr. won that senate position by beating George H. W. Bush.

Though he had been in the Democratic Party, he had serious reservations about some of their policies – including the proposals about green deal and US becoming a socialistic country, as espoused by most of the Democratic Presidential candidates. He revealed his recent discussions with the Chair of Fort Bend Democratic Party regarding the proposal advocating the elimination of fossil fuel by her, Senators Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, and Corey Booker. While that may be viable in California and New York, where they were from, if fossil fuel is eliminated, Texas will go bankrupt. Oil and Gas severance taxes constitutes the source of funding of education in Texas. Therefore, the proposal must be given some thought. Secondly, he emphasized that the third term abortion is unacceptable to him, because that offends God. He furthered that socialism meant that we will have healthcare for everyone with its attendant high cost, and government will just print money to provide for everybody.

Though he had been a democrat all his life, he expressed serious reservations. His mother had advised him not to change but to remain to explain his perspective. He feels that America was built on the old fashion principle of working hard and earning a living. He recounted how his grandparents came from Italy in the late 1880s, as farmers. They came in through New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time, Louisiana was basically a swamp, and because it was not arable, they did not stay. They sojourned to a beautiful farm land just outside College Station. Hundreds of years ago, the Brazos River had overflowed, receded and provided that fertile land for farming. He confirmed that the whole family worked very hard; nobody gave them anything, everything his family had, they earned it the very hard way. His mother used to make \$300 a month as a school teacher, and that's how they lived.

He expressed that as a result, he is very cautious, especially with public money, which is the people's money and not his; and he strives to use it in the most beneficial way for the good of the people.

## Republican Positions?

There are so many principles that the Republicans have that he likes better than that of the Democrats. But these positions are non-partisan. In Texas you don't have to be a member of a party to run for a political office. Therefore, you must stand on your record. His concern was that the two parties have their ideologies, and if you adopt a different position, you will be regarded as not being a loyal party member. He



# FEATURED ARTICLE

feels that was nonsense since it is what's best for the people at a particular time that matters rather than what the party tells you to do or believe.

He emphasized that he was not a puppet, to believe on what the democrats or the republicans tell him, but he believes in what is right. For example, on immigration, he believes that we needed a comprehensive immigration plan. He recalled that his grandfather had the Braceros: they came from Mexico, picked the crops and returned to Mexico. He assessed that it was a very successful program.

He believes that everybody must live by the law, and he feels very disturbing with those who give excuses for living outside the law. He confirmed that while there was no Scarcella Party, he believes in what Scarcella likes, and what he believes was right. He underlined that he can explain and defend his positions on any issue, in a non-partisan manner, without leaning on any of the parties. He illustrated with the position of Beto O'Rourke during the last election, that he didn't care where you came from, or which party you belonged to, but he only cared about your vote. Similarly, during his discussions with the Chair of the Fort Bend Democratic Party, he had told her the same.

He re-iterated that in May, he will run as a non-partisan candidate, as Leonard Scarcella. His record after 49 years was exceedingly clear on what he stood for.

## Basis of his Inspiration to Continue to Serve

He does not want to retire and "sit in front a TV, eat potato chips and watch football games". He believes that he has more to contribute. He said that he would retire when it is God's time. He had been a life-long member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Missouri City, where he had attended from 2 weeks old, when he was baptized. He had been a catholic since August 1940.

Since his service in the National Guard, he had dealt with so many different religious sects: he got in with the Buddhists and went to Taiwan; he was involved with the Hindus, with this gorgeous temple. When they wanted a temple in Chino Hills, California, just like the one here, and could not get it, they requested his help. He called the Mayor, the Planning commissioner, and their membership. After about 2 months, they finally raised the Zoning to taller buildings over 40 ft.

The Mayor from Chino Hills is similarly running for re-election. When he called him recently, he had emphasized the need for him to seek the support of the large population of Indians in Chino Hills to get him re-elected. The ordinance of the Zoning passed, and the project moved forward. While he couldn't say that the statement had turned everything around, he indicated that it apparently had some effect. A Hindu priest in California said that had he not intervened the Mandir, as it is called, would never have been allowed to be built.

So, he had dealt with the Hindus, and the Buddhists. He informed that when he was in the service, he was with the Mormons. They had a cubicle for four airmen: three of them were Mormons and himself. Every night they had tried to convert him to a Mormon. He had resisted on the ground of being a catholic. While he respected, admired and listened to other religions, he required that others should respect his own as well.

## What is Left to Achieve?

He wants to illustrate to the country and others, that the achievements of the City of Stafford, like the zero-property tax, and the school district,

are good policies and worthy of emulation. He wants to be able, as best as he could and in whatever time remained, to be able to demonstrate to people that if one works hard, if one had an honest, straight-forward government, one would succeed. Even though people tried to accuse him of wrong doing for 49 years, just in the past month, the State Comptroller gave them an award for one of the most open financial reporting systems in the state.

He will not attempt to force others to follow the same path of development or change everything around. But believed that Stafford had such an important story to tell that was worth considering, recognizing the underpinnings and principles of American democracy for a stronger and better local government.

## Reasons for Continued Support

He expressed that one could not accomplish much in political office, without the people's support. That was where you derive your authority, and your ability to achieve. He had always believed in two things: you must have God's; and the people's support. If you lose either, you would not accomplish anything. His most important goal was to attempt to demonstrate the values of the American democratic system as clearly as he could possibly demonstrate.

## Weaknesses?

He informed that sometimes he got mad very easily. Some relatives used to call him many unflatter names because of his weaknesses. He was around when all the terrible things were said about African-Americans, and he knew how many accused his grandparents and himself with unflattering names. But that was part of being an American: one took those negative perceptions and weaknesses and turned them into a strength, rather than allowing them to bug and bother you. He endeavored to show that he deserved respect and credit for his achievements, despite his Italian heritage.

## Legacies to Bequeath:

He just wanted people to know that he ran a very honest, fair, democratic system that believed fervently in the principles on which this country was founded, and he wanted them to recognize that he had done a great deal to preserve and elevate those principles.

## Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD)

It was created when children were being abused, including little poor minority children, who could not get to school. Fort Bend ISD, had eliminated school busing. Since the parents had to work, they had no way to get to school. SMSD was created to ensure that those children were bused to school to learn. Otherwise, they were going to be on the streets. He did the most for the Mexican children. He had not forgotten in 1976, when he walked into the Fort Bend ISD Board meeting, and they said: "here comes Scarcella and his Mexican friends", and fortunately there were reporters around, who wrote it as the headline, and he had looked pretty good. He emphasized that no other city in the US had been successful in creating a break-away Municipal School District that got the approval of the Federal Government. Not one, there were 300 that have tried.



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## Elimination of the City Property Tax (1995)

He expressed that Stafford didn't need the property tax as they could do without it, if they lived within their means and resources. He believed that property tax was simply an unnecessary burden on residents and property owners. He figured that they could get rid of it. They did and have maintained that policy for almost twenty-five years. He confirmed

became a part of the HCC. But there was a law in Texas which provided that a city could not build for its college. In order to do that, it was necessary to have the law changed.

At that time, Bob Bullock was the Lt. Governor of Texas, a very accomplished and good democrat. They went to him and in 1995, he helped push the change through, which allowed Stafford to build the



that the City of Stafford was the largest city in the US to do so, and he was extremely proud of it.

## Stafford Centre

When the Centre was built, people wondered who would use it. But the Centre has had Willie Nelson, Kelvin Carson, Steve Martin, and a hundred other celebrities. They have had the Russian Ballet perform and all kinds of special events. It has provided for Stafford a way of life as bequeathed from his father. His father loved the arts, he loved symphonic music, and he loved the ballet. When it was built, everybody had laughed. But now everybody was trying to imitate it.

## Science and Technology Centre

The old building which was used for the first elementary school with SMSD was vacant. The President of the Houston Community College (HCC) in 1985, requested the building. HCC didn't own any property and had rented every one of them. He had insisted that Stafford

Centre, with city monies. It was executed on a lease purchase agreement. After HCC completed the payment for the purchase, they were given the ownership.

The building is graciously named after the Mayor. There are 8,000 students a day, who attend classes on the campus, which is one of the largest. It has continued to grow with modern and up-to-date facilities. This helps to train the workforce to fill the job opportunities for businesses in Stafford with very high pay.

## Stafford City Economy

Stafford city economy is essentially based on sales tax. But the HCC component is critical, as it helps train the workforce for high paying jobs. Stafford has twice as many people (about over 30,000) working in the city, as people (about over 18,000) living there. The City has been successful in attracting businesses of every specialty. When the President was running, he said he would bring businesses back from Europe. That has already been achieved in Stafford by bringing to



# FEATURED ARTICLE

Stafford, from these foreign countries, companies that help generate money for the city economy.

## Zoning

The Mayor proposed Zoning for the City of Stafford in 1983 and fought for it for fourteen years before it was granted in April 1997, when the City Council adopted the law. The reasons for the initial resistance included that Houston did not have Zoning, why should Stafford. The Mayor argued that Houston had downtown and a lot of things that Stafford did not have. Since the neighboring cities – Sugar Land, Meadows Place, Missouri City – all have Zoning, Stafford was going to become a dumping ground for all the things that other cities did not want, and there would be no way to stop them. It was a very long and tough fight, but it was finally achieved.

## US 90-A Corridor

What existed starting from 1982, regarding the 90-A Corridor was not aesthetically nice. That part didn't even exist. The Texas Highway Department came up with a plan in the 1990s to make it a freeway. They were to demolish everything along the path, including the City Hall. The Mayor resisted, that it was unacceptable to divide Stafford into two cities – North and South. They requested assistance to expand and enhance both portions of the 90-A North and South. But the rail road track which had been there since 1853, constituted the biggest problem. The Mayor expressed the need for an underpass, so that emergency vehicles could respond timely. The engineer recommended that in order to accomplish that, the railroad had to be moved: this was a track that had existed for over a hundred and fifty years. The Mayor attended 60 meetings during a period of six years, with Texas Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad, to determine how to move the railroad tracks and put in the two underpasses.

As commendation, a lady who used the 1092 from Missouri City, caught the Mayor in a grocery store, told him that she resides in Missouri City, and acknowledged that the underpass was his greatest achievement. Before then, there used to be a train on the track and the traffic would be backed up all the way to W. Airport Road. It usually took additional three cycles of lights to go through. She expressed her gratitude that now she used the underpass, and hears the train going overhead, which is the best sound she has ever heard. The Mayor emphasized that they worked hard, achieved it, paving the way for people and businesses to re-locate there and flourish the economy.

## Religious Beliefs

He informed that he has been a catholic since 1940. Since then, he has had a hundred chances to change. He indicated that he had serious concerns about what is happening in the catholic church, like sexual harassment, which he attributed to the policy of not allowing priests to marry; and the infallibility of the Pope.

He restated his experience and reported that in 1958 Pope Pius XII was very strict, doctrine oriented and enforced such doctrines that eating meat on Fridays, was a mortal sin, by which one went straight to hell, after one died. Four years later, the new Pope eliminated the doctrine. He queried, that as wrong. There were other such similar issues, he surmised.

One of the priests used to pick on him, accusing him of being a

cafeteria catholic. That he picked and chose from the catholic beliefs as they soothed him. But he made the Father realize that he respected and believed the statue of Christ, which some people consider as idolatry. He thanks, appreciates, and loves God for His help. He confirmed that while he admired other religion, there was a comfort level with him being a catholic. For the Hindus, he had problem with re-incarnation, as he would not like to return as a rat; with the Buddhists, it was somewhat alright; with the Mormons, and he has some good friends who are Mormons, certain practices were just unacceptable; with the Baptist and the Methodist, he also had no problems. But he just felt more comfortable sitting in his little seat/pew at the Holy Family Catholic Church, than anywhere else.

He recounted when he had to visit Paris on a Xmas eve. He was dating a Parisian and they went to the mid-night mass there. He confessed that it was one of the most gorgeous ceremonies he had ever experienced in his life. They had a symphonic orchestra and choir. He confirmed that nothing he had seen in the US, compared to it. He continued that the ceremony brought him the spirit and the connection with God that he always wanted. He concluded that he grew up as a catholic, he was comfortable as a catholic and consequently, he has remained a catholic.

## Reason for Success

He believed the basic principles of Christianity and resurrection, though he had reservations with some contents of the Bible. He confessed that he desired to be connected to Christ and prayed daily for God's help to succeed. He acknowledged that his parents and other relatives were in heaven and expressed the hope that someday, he would get to see them again. He said that he knew that God had many mansions in heaven, and he looked forward to living in one of them.

He never forgot as a young man, when he was just 6, 7 or 8. Those who returned from WWII told stories about their experiences in difficult circumstances, like the trenches, when bullets and mortar ships flying all around. In such circumstances everyone believed in God and asked God for protection; there were no Atheist in fox holes.

## Challenges from the Proliferation of Protestant Churches

He confirmed that there were 50 different religious establishments. But Stafford had no Jewish Synagogue. He confirmed that he related well with all the religious groups. He respected all religions and he acknowledged that people have to belief in a higher, stronger and bigger being other than themselves: that was his belief in God. He tried to cultivate and to allow churches to locate in Stafford. But the problem was that they were taking over all the properties, leaving none for businesses and residences. As a result, they had to be firm. But he believes in God and remains faithful that without God, there would be no success.

## Acceptance to Mentor the Royal Priesthood Parish

The invitation to the ceremony to release the April edition of the RV Magazine, as the Special Guest of Honor, was extended to the Mayor and he gracefully accepted. He also accepted to mentor the Royal Priesthood Parish, as its Patron, to assist in the development and growth of the young ministry. We call on all other believers to join to become a part of this growth. And God will bless you as you do so.





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# **Redeemed Christian Church of God Royal Priesthood Parish**

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF CHURCH EVENTS**

### **Sunday**

**Sunday School: 9am to 10am  
Sunday Service : 10am to 11:30am**

### **Tuesday**

**Hour of Mercy : 9pm to 10pm  
Prayer line Tel no: 1-774-220-4000  
Access Code : 937-1290#**

### **Wednesday**

**Breakthrough Service  
(Digging deep and Prayers )  
7pm to 9pm.**

### **Friday**

**Deliverance Service:  
11am to 6pm (By Appointment)**

**Every 3rd Friday of the month  
Night of Encounter : 10pm to 1am**

### **Saturday**

**Mercy Cry : 7am to 8am**

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