

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

January • 2021

478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,
**"HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO EVERYONE"**

The dawning of a New year brings hope, optimism and great expectation. Given the challenges we faced in 2020, I know we are excited about the fresh possibilities 2021 will bring.

As we walk into 2021 what a marvelous opportunity to renew our commitment and dedication to the Lord, His Church and the work of ministry. The Church Unhindered will be our guiding theme for this year. It is based on the book of Acts (28-31). Unhindered: I love that word/thought. To be unhindered means to not be distracted or obstructed by any obstacles or difficulties. It motivates a person to be courageous in their faith and efforts. It compels us to see every problem as an opportunity rather than a hindrance.

All of us bring a uniqueness to this fellowship that is invaluable to its progress and success. There is a reason you are here. It is deeper than just having your name on the church roll or being "a member of the church". It is much much more meaningful than just coming to or tuning in worship on Sunday morning. It is God's way of taking the very best He has instilled in you and blessing you with opportunity to bring glory and honor to His name.

Don't simply allow your gift to lay dormant. In so doing you



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

deprive the Kingdom of the fruit that could come from your life. Furthermore, you deprive yourself of the blessing the Lord wants to send into your life. As Paul admonishes Timothy, "stir up the gift God has given you". Don't allow your fears, failures or limitations to hinder you from giving your best to the Lord. For above and beyond all else we are witnesses of Jesus, the Savior who died for our sins. It is through our service that we convey to this dying world the blessing of having Him as the "Captain" of their lives.

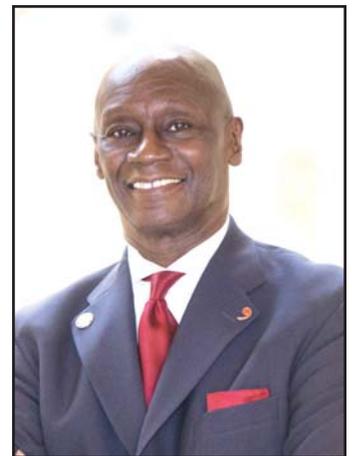
In closing, we are living in trying times. However, these trying times have created a golden opportunity for the church to make a major impact. I am encouraging you to pray for our nation. I am also encouraging you to bring your faith to bear on whatever corner, avenue or boulevard you may live and work. This is the challenge facing us as a nation. This is also a golden opportunity sitting at the doorsteps of the church. Shine your light on the corner where you live! Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I'll draw all men unto me".

*God Bless
Pastor*

Martin L. King, Jr. Sunday with Senator George Young

On the 3rd Sunday in January at 3:00pm, we customarily hosted the City-wide service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. That service will not be held this year due to Covid-19. However, we at St. John will focus our attention on Dr. King during our morning worship. Our special guest for Sunday Service will be the Honorable Rev. Dr. George Young. The bio of Representative Young is provided below. We look forward to a treat on January 17th @ 10:45 a.m. Remember to tune in via Facebook Live, YouTube and our website. For more information, please contact the church office at 405-478-3344.

Reverend Doctor George E. Young, Sr. was born in Memphis, Tenn. He retired from 30 years of Pastoral service in 2013. Dr. Young was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives in 2014, while serving was elected as the Democratic Caucus Vice Chair and served as the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus Chair. As of November 6, 2018, he was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate he continued serving as the Chair of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus until his



Rev. Dr. George Young

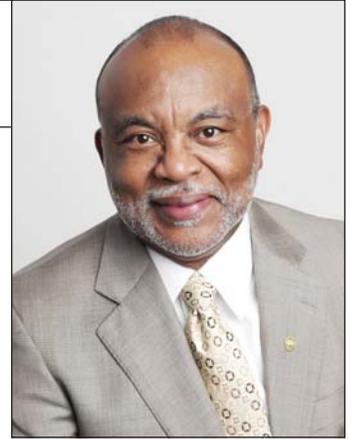
term ended April 30, 2019. Dr. Young is the author of "Christology: A Look At Practical Christianity."

He is a Certified Mediation Specialist in Family and Divorce issues. He earned his undergraduate degree from Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee. Continuing on his educational journey, he earned a Master of Arts in Ministry from Oklahoma Christian University, graduating Magna Cum Laude, a Master of Divinity Degree from Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Oklahoma,

*("Martin L. King, Jr. Sunday"
continued on page 3)*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted By Dr. Lawrence C. Kirk, Director of Christian Education



Staying Committed to the Course — (Philippians 3)

It was not with a weary heart that Paul wrote the Book of Philippians. Instead, it was with a strong determination that he penned the words given to him by the Holy Spirit. At the time this letter was written to the church at Philippi, Paul was under house arrest in Rome. Imprisoned for doing what God had called him to do. However, he did not allow his negative circumstances to determine his quality of life or keep him from reaching his goal of preaching God's truth to a lost world.

Every situation we face has potential. Some extreme difficulties may tempt us to give up. On the other hand, victorious moments are revealed as stair steps to success. God has another goal in mind for difficulties of life, and that is to teach

us how to be successful, even when we are facing situations that produce doubt, fear, and disbelief.

This was not Paul's first imprisonment. He knew what it felt like to be confined by bars and walls of stone. Yet, his heart and mind were victoriously free. Paul had learned an amazing principle through his intimate relationship with the Savior. Keep your focus only on Christ, not on your immediate circumstances and you will succeed. He learned to look beyond difficulty to victory and ultimately to success.

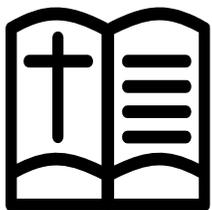
Before his conversion to Christianity, Paul viewed himself as being a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, and a persecutor of the Church. Like many today, he was searching for sig-

nificance. His position as a Pharisee, theological training, and political beliefs led him to believe he had gained this. Yet, there was a strange struggle within his soul – a lack of true peace and satisfaction. God taught Paul success is not earned by what he could do in his flesh, but is gained through a personal encounter and relationship with Christ. Paul viewed life from an eternal perspective. His attitude changed along with his belief system. For the first time, he experienced true success in every area of his life.

How could a man who had been beaten, left for dead, abandoned, and imprisoned write, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God

and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"? The answer is simple – Paul had a fixed focus on his Savior. The focus of his heart was set on God. He never forgot his Damascus Road experience, nor did he lose sight of God's unconditional love. His attitude was one of commitment. Paul, was totally committed to the course laid out before him by God.

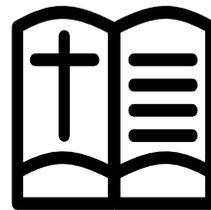
During this upcoming 2021 let us not lose heart, but remain faithful and totally committed to the course God has assigned us, be encouraged!



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

Intercession



"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit." Ephesians 6:18

Will God make the pouring out of blessing on others dependent on our prayers? Yes. He makes us his fellow workers. He has taken us into partnership in His work. If we fail to do our part, others will suffer and His work will suffer.

God has appointed intercession as one of the means by which others will be saved and Christians built up in the faith. People all over the world will receive life and blessings

through our prayers. Should we not expect God's children to endeavor with all our strength to pray for God's blessing on the world?

Begin to use intercession as a means of grace for yourself and for others. Pray for your neighbors. Pray for sinners that they may come to Christ. Pray for your minister and for missionaries. Pray for your country and for government leaders. If you live a life completely for God, you will realize that the

time spent in prayer is an offering pleasing to God.

Yes, "pray at all times...and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere." In so doing, you will learn the lesson that intercession is the chief means of bringing others to Christ and bringing glory to God.

Let us continue to PRAY daily wherever you are at 12:00 NOON for our Pastor, Dr. M. L. Jemison, his family, health, strength and guidance.

**You
Tell
Us ...
We
Tell
Them.**



Academy Brief

Submitted by Penny Emery, Principal

The Academy came back in grand style! As of this writing, we have enrolled three additional students with more calling and coming every day. Our parents and supporters continue to share their financial resources with us and we continue to provide a wonderful educational experience in a Christian setting.

If you are looking for a great school, with dedicated teachers and staff housed within a safe, Christian, COVID-19 free en-

vironment, please feel free to enroll your student in St. John Christian Heritage Academy.

We have room in grades Pre-Kindergarten classes, our Kindergarten, our First Grade and our Fourth/Fifth Grades. Our Second and Third Grade class is full.

Thank you again for your prayer support. We continue to solicit your prayers as well as your financial, tax deductible donations.

(“Martin L. King, Jr. Sunday” continued from page 1)

graduating Cum Laude, and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma Christian University in December of 2006 and completed his Doctor of Ministry from Phillips Theological Seminary in 2010.

As Pastor, he initiated a partnership that sponsors the largest Back to School Block Party and School Supply Give-Away in the Northeast Quadrant of OKC. He led the church in completing a multi-million-dollar senior Housing Project (Temple Gardens). Dr. Young and his late wife Dr. Thelma Chambers Young have two children and three wonderful grandsons.

Young continues to build a compelling legacy, as his year 2020 memberships include the following: Oklahoma City Law Enforcement Task Force, 2020; Governor’s Legislative CARES Advisory Group, 2020; Oklahoma Christian University Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Community Task Force, 2020;

District Chair, New Horizons District, 2020; Council of State Governments Healthy Task Force, 2019-2020; Oklahoma Democratic State Convention Delegate to Democratic National Convention – 4th National Convention as a delegate; Senate Committee Membership: Public Safety, and Judiciary; Business, Commerce, and Tourism; General Government; and Health and Human Services. Notable Lifetime Memberships: National Association of Colored People (NAACP); Oklahoma Academy; Urban League of Greater OKC; Kappa Alpha Psi Province; Kappa Alpha Psi National; Leadership Oklahoma. The work of service is ongoing, and Young is vigilant and persistent as he assists in furtherance of community. He secured additional funds for substance abuse/mental health directly benefiting Senate District 48 agencies, 2020.

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

Happy New Year St. John and Friends!

We have truly come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord! Thank you for praying for all of the ministries of our church. I know that we feel your prayers and we endeavor to provide support, love, and encouragement in any way that we can.

This past month, the St. John WMU continued to shower love on our sick and shut-in members as well as our bereaved members. We want you to know that when you hurt, we hurt, when you grieve, we grieve with you, and when joy arises in your heart, we rejoice with you. Please remember that NOTHING takes God by surprise. He knows AND He cares about what YOU care about.

The St. John WMU will present our Annual WMU Training via FaceBook on Saturday, January 23rd from the hours of 10:00am to 12:00pm. We will be presenting from the book – “Makeovers With Leftovers” by Dr. Sheila Bailey. You don’t want to miss this training. To obtain your book is only \$12.00.

Please contact Penny Emery by calling the church office. We will make sure that you get your book before the training. The deadline to get your book is Thursday, January 21st.

Again, thank you for your prayer support and thank you for your financial support.

If you would like to become a member of the St. John WMU, we would love to have you! Our yearly dues are only \$24.00. Please see our Treasurer, Sis. Patricia Brewer when submitting your dues.

Until next month, Penny R. Emery, President, St. John WMU



January Anniversaries

Harris, James & Ardrenna
January 6, 1995 — 26 years

Simpson, Michael & Monica
January 11, 1983 — 38 years

Johnson, Marland & Joan
January 7, 2001 — 20 years

Norwood, Raymond & Leatta
January 18, 1979 — 42 years

Level, Sherrie Fredrick
January 9, 2015 — 6 years

Wray, Earnest & Stephanie
January 27, 1993 — 28 years

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

Frankly Speaking

By Patricia T. Brewer, Luella Dunn Children's Department Minister

Let's Stay Plugged In



Scripture: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.....



From the Luella Dunn Children's Department!!!

Most of you have cell phones in today's time. I know there are times when your cell phone goes dead or like mine....get down to 1% battery life which also means

dead. What does this mean? You cannot make any calls or receive texts.

My daughters call me on my cell phone via face time and my cell phones battery goes down real fast. Sometimes I just over-use it and it needs to be recharged.

Our souls are a little like cell phones. Sometimes life brings us trials, and stresses of all the things that are going on in today's world. For most of the children and youth....its virtual learning everyday instead of going to school in person and being around your friends. For me it is all this pandemic that is going on in the world. These things can really get us to feeling tired, dejected or so depressed that we feel like we just want to curl up in a ball and just sleep.

You and I are a little like cell phones.

When we are starting to feel worn down by life struggles, that when we really need to plug into God the most. By plugging in to God, we need to pray a lot more, read our Bibles more often.....and God will be able to recharge us. Also, since we are not in church services in person.....we need to log in each Sunday via Facebook or YouTube to hear the Pastor's sermons and great inspirational singing.

To the children ...Do not forget to log into Zoom on each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. for more spiritual strength.

Pray this Prayer.....Father, help us to stay "plugged in" to you. Help us to know that when we pray and study your word, we are getting a recharge. And if we are patient, we will see your strength shining anew in us. Amen.



EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister



EVANGELISM / NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING AGAINST ALL ODDS

October 11, 2020 through November 22, 2020, Evangelism, St. John Missionary Baptist Church and Southern Baptist Evangelism Explosion scheduled training. As Mother Nature would have it, some days were cancelled—cold and precipitation sometimes interrupted our mission, but in many ways, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

Our team consisted of Lester Vogler (Trainer and Facilitator), Chris Sleger and (sometimes Chris Lorens),

Evangelism Explosion, and the SJMBC Team, Reverend Cornelious Wade, Denise Blakely, Kevin Smith, and Rhonda Hall Williams. A cold October sent us to the Penn Square Mall. We met one of Emma Turner's nieces and had her think about a more active faith. Two team basketball players in their teens looked longingly as they saw the basketball picture on our Welcome Brochure. We assured them, when we are open, we do have basketball games. We passed

out tracks in both English and Spanish, we engaged Hispanic women who stopped to listen.

In November, we were in the neighborhood close to the Church—59th and Stonewall. We visited the home of Melix, Janda and Teisha Berry, Elvia Brashard, Joan Thompson (former service station owner and member of Greater Mt. Olive), Gabby of Illinois, A Mr. Cudjo of Quail Springs United Methodist Church, Steven Knight, and our own Mary Lee Lee. Part of the team was in-

vited into the home of 87 year old Linda Wilburn. Of course she wanted to know from Chris Sleger, "Now who are your people".

In the majority, we found a saved neighborhood. We sought to be clear, "SAVING FAITH IS TRUSTING JESUS CHRIST ALONE FOR OUR ETERNAL LIFE". HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE WHOLE ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY.

Prayer Ministry

Submitted by Rev. David Dawson, Prayer Minister

It's Prayer Time!!

My brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and good health to you. These days that we are living in are by far the most challenging, unique and most cautious of our lifetime. They have been filled with apprehension and a great deal of necessary fearfulness. Our generation is experiencing the worst socio-political strain on American society and culture not seen in the last fifty (50) years because the children's teeth are set on edge as a result of the parents having eaten sour grapes. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has injured, hospitalized and taken the lives of so many Americans and members of our church family. Because of such a time as this the need for prayer couldn't be more needful and necessary. Please join me beginning December 13 through January 31, 2021 in calling upon the name of the LORD for our annual "50 Days Of Prayer" campaign as we seek GOD's blessings and favor regarding these four (4) concerns:

- (1) Relief from Covid-19
- (2) Revival in America

(3) The spiritual and physical well-being of our congregation and families

(4) The continued survival and success of St. John

This year we won't have

sign-ups, prayer captains, flyers or posters. We will instead humble ourselves before Almighty GOD, steal away in our "prayer closets" go on our bended knees and seek the

LORD's favor to see us safely through to the other side. Let us pray for each other and watch GOD change things. The love and peace of GOD be with you all.

**You
Tell
Us ...
We
Tell
Them.**

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

50 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Seeking God with all your heart
our hearts!*

Our 50 Days of Prayer begins Sunday, December 13th and end Sunday, January 31st. Contact the church office at 478-3344 for more information.

Prayer focus for the 50 Days of Pray is as follows:

(1) Relief from COVID 19; (2) Revival in America; (3) The well being of our congregation and their families; (4) The survival and success of St. John.



For more information, please contact Rev. David Dawson, Prayer & Visitation Minister, via the church office at 405-478-3344.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Greetings to all and HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!! I pray each of you had a blessed holiday season. It's a blessing to serve such a wonderful people.

The PF Ministry is 90 members strong!! Our major focus is staying connected and caring about and for the needs of the membership. We want to know how you're doing...we're here to share in your joys and to be there for you in times of sorrow. "The phrase "Love in Action" best describes our mission. PF highlights are as follows:



Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis Ghita Williams, your PF Coordinator. Sis Ghita has served the PF ministry for approximately 40 years!! Her birthday is January 30th so be sure to give her a shout-out sometime this month.

Monthly Meeting:

PF, our monthly update meeting will resume this month. This meeting will be conducted via conference call and is tentatively set for January 28th at 7:00pm. Be prepared to give your PF reports.

Employment Prep Training:

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many being without jobs. In an effort to address the needs of our community, the PF will be conducting quarterly seminars providing job-related information and is for the public at large. The first seminar will be virtual and held on January 29th via Facebook and YouTube. The training topic is "Employment Trends: How to Secure a Better Job". Bro Daryl Green, professor at OBU will instruct the class. Spread the word about this much needed seminar/information. See the flyer on back page of the Beacon.

CONNECT:

It is our intent to pilot the CONNECT Zoom session this month. As a reminder, CONNECT was created to address the in-person communication "disconnect" our church family is experiencing due to Co-



rona-19. CONNECT will be a time to socialize with Pastor, Deacons, PF leadership and members; and to address specific topics of concern. The logo for CONNECT is shown below and was created by our Marcus Carruthers, Media Minister....Thanks Marcus!!



The first CONNECT session is tentatively scheduled for January 28th @ 7pm. Be listening for more information about CONNECT and how you can join in the conversation.

LOVE IN ACION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY MEMBERS!!

January members, it's your month and we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

Prison Ministry Members and & Angel Tree Recipients



NORTH TO WILSHIRE

Bus Transportation Services

“Need a ride to church services?”

CALL FOR THE BUS

DIAL: 478-5644, Ext. 160

The Bus Transportation Ministry will pick-up individuals for the Enrichment Hour (Sunday School), Worship Service, Prayer Meeting, including P31 and SOS and most other church programs. Please call this number at least two (2) hours before your services or program start time. Leave a message on answering services giving us your name, address and phone number. On Sunday mornings, Transportation Ministry will take individuals home immediately after service. Anyone desiring to stay after church for dinners or other programs will need to make provisions for their transportation back home.

Thank You, Kenneth Washington
A blessed service, rendered by the church

WEST TO WESTERN | EAST TO BRYANT

SOUTH TO FIRST STREET

You may view the Beacon on the church website

www.stjohnokc.org

You can follow us on Facebook: 

Search for St. John Missionary Baptist Church of OKC

The Beacon

Published monthly to communicate more effectively the mission of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonica Parker

DON'T FORGET

The membership can keep abreast of what is going on at St. John by submitting your news to the BEACON newspaper mailbox no later than the Third Sunday of every month.



Social Media Volunteer Needed

The church is in need of responsible/committed volunteers to work with Sis. Debra Johnson in updating and maintaining our social media accounts. If you are skilled and interested in serving in this area, please contact Sis. Johnson at 816-7493.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Dear Pastor Jemison & The St. John Church Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers and condolences in the passing of my mother, Peggy Halliburton. Your love and kindness have been an ever present help during our time of need, of sorrow and bereavement.

With Love, Kristy Pipkin-Liston and Family

PS: Thank you again for your love and support.

St. John MBC,

Thank you so much for your love and support during the loss of my mother. The love shown to my family was truly appreciated.

Love & God Bless

Sis Angelia & Deacon Patrick Wilson & Family

St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family,

We are grateful for friends like you at this time of sorrow. Thank you for your expressions of sympathy; your prayers, thoughts, phone calls and the Resolution. We deeply appreciate the many acts of kindness.

Sincerely, Elene Demery Family

TO ALL OUR ANGEL TREE SPONSORS 2020/ THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK GOD FOR YOUR SHARING AND YOUR CARING: Dr. M. L. & Jacquie Jemison; Patrick & Angelia Wilson; De Andria Rideau-Frazier; Rhonda Hall Williams; Ted & Katrina Saxton; Charles & Jerri Shepherd; Richard & Theresa Perkins; Bobby & Anna Sharp; Leroy Kirk; Cleo & Delinda Ruck; Daryl & Estraletta Green; Kathy Simpson; Myron & Cynthia Knight; James & Ardenna Harris; Francis Grayson; Rudolph & Shirley Tomlin; Valerie Clemmons; Varite Brown; Carole Walker; Darryl & Cynthia Davis; Eva King; Barbara Crawford; Gary Martin; Judy Rackett & (Sister) Beatrice Harris; Debra Johnson; Clinton & Vernetta Johnson; Bennie & De Andra Stevenson; Barbara Ross; Ray & Janice McCormick; Rosa Gibson & Felicia Adams; Penny Emery; Annie Friday. OUR DISTRIBUTION TEAM: Denise Blakely, Nykkia Harris, Marah Jones, Kevin Smith, Michayla Tate, Patrick Wilson, Rhonda Hall Williams & Rev. Damascus Williams. IN HOUSE CHEF: Rudie Valentine. YOU DID A VERY EXCELLENT JOB IN BRINGING HOPE, HAPPINESS AND THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION TO OUR CHILDREN AT RISK. Again, thank you Angels for making a very important difference, God bless you always, Rev. Cornelius Wade.

**You Tell Us ...
We Tell Them.**

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
5700 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
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ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

GAME CHANGING PREDICTIONS FOR 2021

ARE YOU FILLED WITH UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AND YOUR PERSONAL WELFARE? ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF LAYOFFS OR FINANCIAL CRISIS?

JUMPSTART YOUR YEAR WITH THE FOLLOWING FREE SEMINARS FOR SUCCESS IN 2021:

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS: HOW TO SECURE A BETTER JOB (SEMINAR)

WEBINAR - FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 6:00 PM CST (FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE LIVE)

SEMINAR (IN-PERSON) - SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 10:00 AM CST,
ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

NEW BUSINESS START-UPS: 400+ WAYS TO JUMPSTART YOUR BUSINESS (SEMINAR)

WEBINAR - FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 7:30 PM CST (FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE LIVE),

SEMINAR (IN-PERSON) - SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 3:00 PM CST,
ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!



INSTRUCTOR - DR. DARYL D. GREEN, D.S.L, IS AN AWARD-WINNING WRITER AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIST. HE IS THE DICKINSON CHAIR OF BUSINESS PROFESSOR AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. HE HAS BEEN NOTED AND QUOTED BY USA TODAY, EBONY MAGAZINE, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MS. DEBRA JOHNSON AT djohnson@stjohnokc.org, 405-478-3344.

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