

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 22, 2026

Salt & Light



When I came to America in 1973, I was forced to learn a lot, I was 15 years old, a high school senior, turning 16 five months after arriving. I entered a racially divided school in Dallas, Texas, coming from a county mixed with numerous races. Because I came from what many considered a “third world” country, some laughed at my accent, others thought I was primitive, and some Afro-Americans avoided me, believing it would set them back socially. I remember sitting in the student center, realizing having a friend is not going to happen. It wasn’t until college that I found an Afro-American friend who took the time to answer the many questions I had - questions that were never addressed in American history textbooks.

I was amazed that a country could call the people who shaped its constitution “Founders” when the American Indians were already here. After studying slavery, I could not understand, how Bible-believing Christians could fail to pursue healing and reconciliation, especially when Scripture clearly commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, fulfilling “the whole law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40; the entire Old Testament)

The nation of Israel was the vessel which God planned to execute His salvation to all mankind (Gen. 12:3). That nation endured slavery, yet God liberated them and established them as a great nation. Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:28-29, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.” (NASU) God’s salvation plan states that His Son came to save the world (John 3:16). How can God so love the world but those who claim to love Him despise someone because of their skin color?

The challenge we face is to remain committed to who the Lord says the church is. We are the pillar and support of truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The Holy Spirit resides in each believer (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 3:16-18) and the church corporately (Matthew 16:17-19), which is the source of truth. We are the body of Christ, and from this body, just as it was in the case of Israel, the Lord reaches the world (Eph. 1:22-23).

When Christ returns and raptures the church, all nations will be gathered before Him (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 15:4). At that time, He will separate sheep from goats (Matt. 25:31-33) not by ethnicity, but by obedience and faithfulness. Remaining focused on this calling makes us salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) in a country with such a complicated and painful history (John 17:20-24).

As a church, we must love (John 13:34-35), forgive, respect, and honor one another. We must remember this country’s history so that we never repeat it.

The only hope is the church.

UPCOMING Events



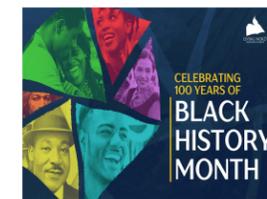
AWAKEN HOUSTON
During the upcoming Lenten season (February 18 – April 5, 2026), we are calling the church across Houston to walk with Jesus. It’s not about doing anything spectacular, powerful, or impressive. It’s about taking the simple, faithful step of walking with Him. Follow the steps to the left to sign-up and contact Jeffrey Allen for more details



POWER WALK PASTORS & LEADERS CONFERENCE
Tickets for the 2026 National Pastors & Leaders Conference are now available for \$90. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
Easter is quickly approaching. We need volunteers for this year’s Easter Eggstravaganza! Please register to volunteer online and drop off candy-filled eggs to the Children’s Wing.



Black History Month 2026
This February, LWFC celebrates 100 years of Black History Month —honoring faith, perseverance, and the enduring contributions of Black believers who have shaped our church, our communities, and our nation.



ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL FALL SPECIAL
The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School Special starting now with a \$60 Registration Fee, discounts are available for siblings and LWFC members. For more information, call (281)-445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Song

Communion

Praise & Worship

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God
“Braving Rights”
Jeremiah 9:23-24
Dr. Paul Cannings

Sermon notes available online at lwfellowshipchurch.org Under the “Resources” tab click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.
Infants—6th grade

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

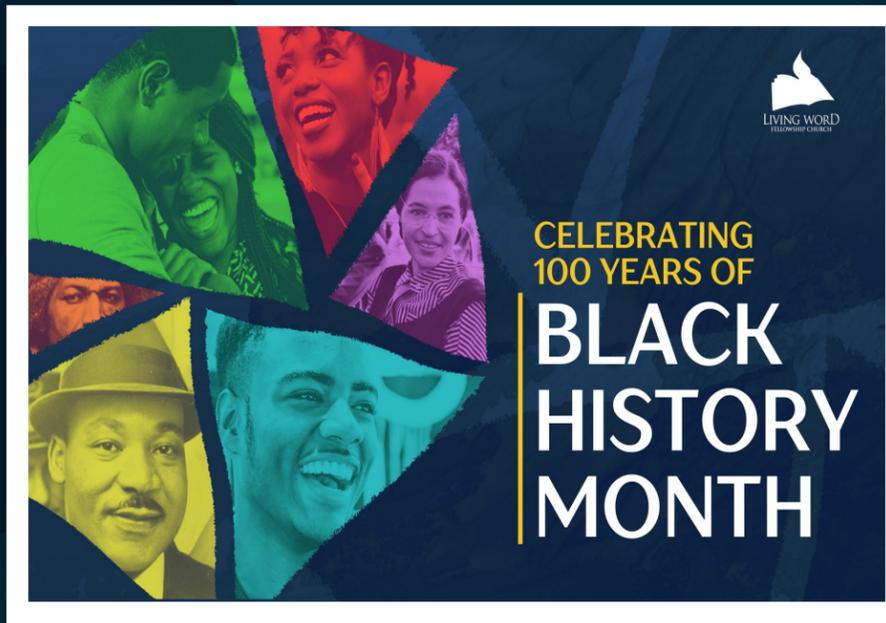
Bragging Rights

Jeremiah 9:23-24
Dr. Paul Cannings

A. Attention (v. 23)

B. Boast in Him (v. 24)

Scan To View Full Notes



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Rabia Jordan, Tomitra Wiley & family, and Syble Ned & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Shinell Clark, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.

Bragging Rights

JEREMIAH 9:23-24