

# Overcomers' Ministry Donates Turkeys to Central Texans

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist

Over the years, GVMC has been a part of the Central Texas Area community. Just like any good neighbor, GVMC decided to donate turkeys to a local nonprofit that works with refugee for the Thanksgiving celebration. Moreover, the nonprofit works with recent immigrant to the United States. Just like the pilgrim who came to the US for a better opportunity, these recent immigrants are doing the same. According to one called Jean, "It was an opportunity for the

church to reach out to the community and to help our neighbors in Central Texas." The Overcomers' Ministry (GVMC) recently moved to Austin in order to expand its Outreach Ministry to a growing African Diaspora and to other communities in the area. Over the years, Austin and Central Texas have seen a dramatic population increase from the African Diaspora Community. As the African Diaspora increases so, will there be an increase in the cultural and social aspects of this community. Moreover, moving to Austin was a strategic move that



Pictured left to right: Pastor Ibalo, Jennifer, and Ozi. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

has paid off due to the fact that they have seen a great response from the local African Diaspora Community. Over a period of time, the church started to grow at a faster rate and thus decided to move into a larger rental building. Now, GVMC is located at 7801 N. Lamar BLVD Suite 125 in Austin. GVMC currently holds on Fridays from 7:10 pm -9:00pm and a Worship Service on Sundays from 10:00am-12:00pm. Moreover, the GVMC (Overcomers' Ministry) is led by Stephanie N'Cho while Apostle Guy Tanoh is the general overseer of all the churches.

## Judge Yvonne Williams Files for Re-election

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist

In 2008, Judge Williams was elected as Judge of the Travis County Precinct 1 J.P. Upon election, she began to revolutionize the truancy aspect of the court. She and the rest of the staff established a truancy program that sought to help the students and the families involved in the truancy court. Furthermore, Judge Yvonne Williams has been diligent to make the local court system work, so that the "tax-payers" can save money while providing good services to them.



Judge Williams filling for Reelection. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Judge Yvonne Williams can be described as the "Neighbor who lives down the street." Judge Yvonne Williams tries to understand the issues of those who appear before the courts. She is emphatic to the person who is being evicted and also to the small business owners who need the "rent money" in order to pay their bills. Moreover, she "agonizes over the mean-

ing of true justice", so that she would never be in a position to "pervert it." Just recently, Judge Williams has filed for reelection. So far, she has not drawn a challenger in the Democratic Party Pri-

maries. However, she understands the need to run a campaign for this position. Consequently, the campaign plans are to hold meetings and to talk with the voters who live within Precinct 1.

## Garry Brown Announces Run for Governor

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist

Just recently, Garry Brown announced his intention to run for Governor of Texas. Garry Brown is an individual who is very engaged in Texas politics. Moreover, Garry Brown has managed to tie his educational background with politics. According to Garry Brown, "my twelve years of experience as a preschool teacher provided him with direct, personal insight into the institutional failures and unique challenges that face our great state."



Garry Brown

Moreover, Garry Brown has decided to run for Governor due to the fact that current State government is failing the population. According to Garry Brown, "my background in education, along with his experience taking care of family members who are underserved by the state and local gov-

ernment, inspired him to turn his sights to Texas politics.

Unlike other politicians Garry Brown has been able to combine his background in education with his political background. Over the years, Garry Brown has worked on

issues on both at the county and Congressional level. For instance, he served as a Congressional Aide for Congressman Lloyd Doggett. Consequently, he wants to utilize his experience to make a difference in the lives of Texans.



Barbara Williams

## Barbara's Book Bag

"Ways of Grace" by James Blake

The author of this inspiring book retired as a professional Tennis player in 2013. He was ranked number 4 in the world in Tennis when he retired. After retirement, Blake became the President of the U.S. Tennis Association.

In 2015, Blake was standing in front of a New York City Hotel preparing to go to the U.S. Open Tennis Match when he was tackled, body slammed and handcuffed by a policeman in a case of "mistaken Identity." This

Book is about how Blake used this incident as an opportunity to raise awareness of racial profiling. He also tell stories of Activism, Adversity and How Sports can Bring us Together.

In addition to discussing his ordeal as a person and as an athlete, Blake gives a look at how other athletes have used their voices to advocate for what's right in spite of the consequences. He tells how Trailblazers, in sports, have continually played vital roles in furthering causes of social justice as well overcoming their own personal adversities. There are stories of positive activism and adversity faced by Ve-

nus and Serena Williams, Billie Jean King, John Carlos and others. There are lots of positive stories about how athletes have helped to bridge gaps not only in sports; but also gender gaps, religious gaps and financial gaps.

This is an insightful book. It is well written and easy to read. It is inspiring and suggest how sports can bring us together. I recommend this book for any age group whether you are a Tennis player or fan, sports enthusiast, History buff, male or female, young or not. It is one of the books you will probably read more than once. Rating:4.5

## Suspect Arrested after Texas Trooper Killed on the Job

by: The Associated Press

FAIRFIELD, Texas (AP) — A Texas state trooper was shot and killed during a Thanksgiving traffic stop in East Texas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety released a statement on its Twitter account Thursday night identifying the trooper as Damon Allen, 41. DPS said Allen joined the department in 2002 and was married with three children.

The agency also said it will file capital murder charges against Dabrett Black, 32, of Lindale, Texas. Allen was shot and



Dabrett Black (Courtesy Photo)

killed before 4 p.m. Thursday during a traffic stop on Interstate 45 near Fairfield, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of Dallas, according to DPS. The department said Allen was shot with a rifle and died at the scene. The suspect then fled.

Hours after the shooting, the Waller County Sheriff's Office said the suspect's vehicle was spotted in Hempstead, about 110 miles (177 kilometers) south of Fairfield. The sheriff's office said on its Facebook page that shots were fired, but did not indicate who opened fire.

Black was apprehended a short time later. The Department of Public

Safety said he's being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

KYTX-TV reported in July that Black was charged with evading arrest, reckless driving and aggravated assault against a public servant following a police chase in Smith County.

Several Texas officials reacted to Allen's death. In a tweet, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz offered "prayers for the family and loved ones" of the trooper.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called Allen's shooting death a "heinous crime" in a statement Thursday. Abbott also expressed his "most sincere condolences" to the trooper's family.