

March 17, 2017



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Greetings/Saludos, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin!



On Saturday morning NCFA's Elders, Deacons, and Worship Leaders will meet to continue the work we began in February at our Annual Planning Retreat. We will continue working on **NCFA's Growth Strategy**, as we face the challenges associated with maintaining a stable and growing evangelistic and community outreach ministry.

The leadership expressed optimism and commitment towards advancing the vision of our beloved Pastor James Lee. We will continue to pray and work hard as we discern what kind of ministries and programs we want to define NCFA.

Lent 2017 is a perfect time for NCFA members and friends to recommit your support and willingness to be involved. We can not accomplish anything without the prayers, love and support of everyone. So, I am asking you, ***"What's your passion about NCFA ?***

There's a place for you!

Get Involved!



Peace/Paz/Shalom: Pastor Jesse

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Lenten Season

It's a six week period of preparation. It begins with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of a cross on the foreheads of believers, and it concludes with Holy Week. Holy Week entails focusing on the week leading to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

***Lent** is a forty-day period before **Easter**. It begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends on the day before **Easter Day**. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. **Lent** is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. **Lent** originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for **Easter**, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of **Lent**, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe **Lent**. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed **Lent**, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.*

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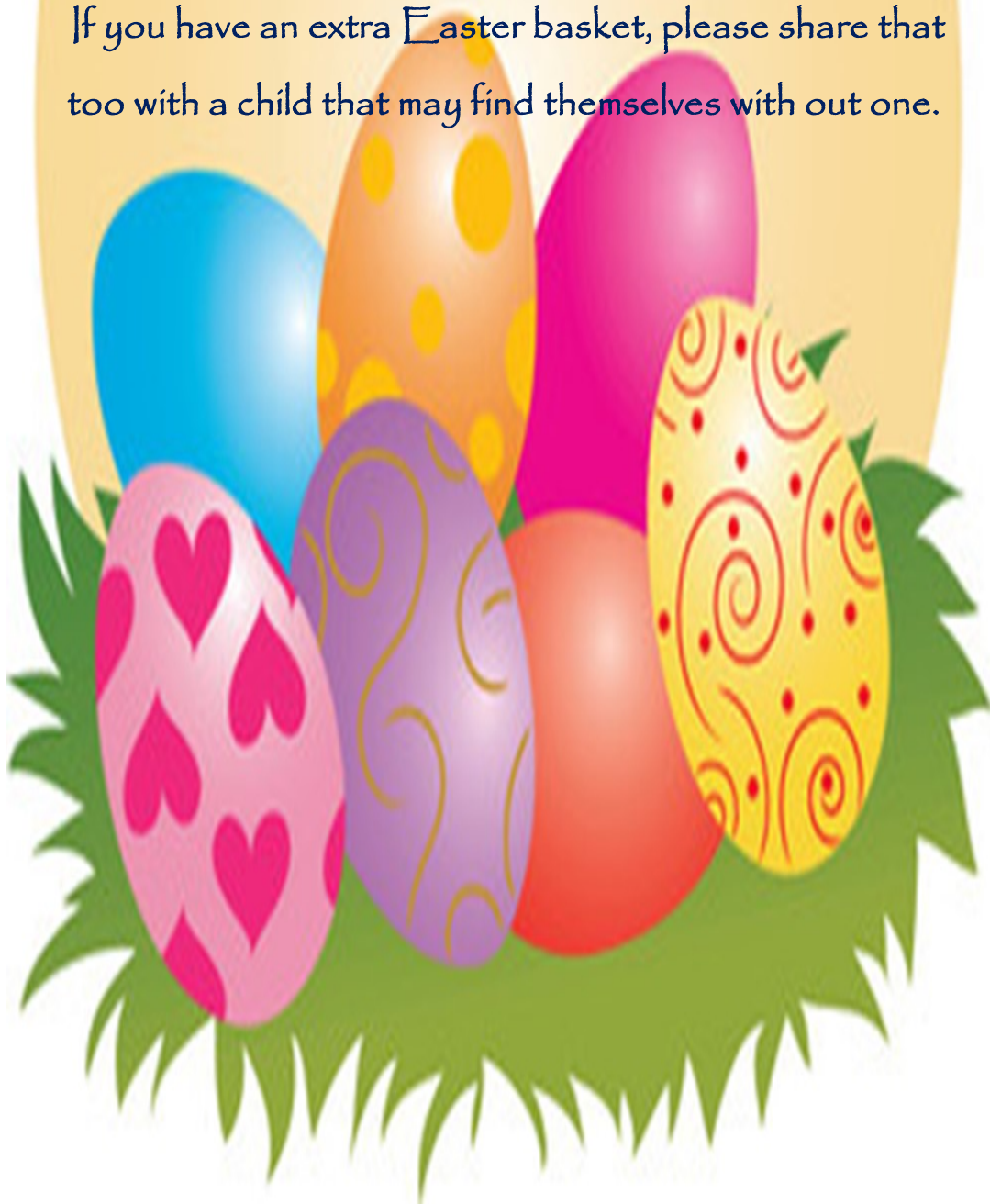
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Joint Easter Hunt *With* *Genesis Presbyterian*

Please join us after worship!! We will have a joint Easter egg hunt on our beautiful campus with Genesis .

If you are able, please donate stuffed eggs, minus chocolate, to be hunted.

If you have an extra Easter basket, please share that too with a child that may find themselves with out one.



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SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 19th

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez



NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am




We would love to have you and your family come
share in the **CELEBRATION OF
THE GOOD NEWS!**

We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall
of Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wilshire Campus
starting at 10:15 a.m.

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a
racially diverse community informed by the Bible,
empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share God's love
with all. In response to God's love, we are called to equip disciples
to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to
implore all to
worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors,
grow in grace, and live by faith.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

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1st Nancy Tallman
5th Matthew Aldas
Kali Christman
Rev. Lydia Hernandez
9th Christine Wagner
11th Gianna Mojica
12th Nhyira Okyere Mireku
17th Jason Lee
Christopher Davis
19th Hosea J. Lee
20th Sam Buford
22nd Crystal Unegbu
Jacob Pan Lew
23rd Nina Buford
29th John Harrison
Jessica Lee
Almari Alvarez
31st Jumarcus Daniels

Session Members

*Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez
Interim Moderator

*Elder Nikkie Shubitz
Clerk of Session

*Elder Oliver Smith
Administration & Personnel

*Elder Zaira Amado
Buildings & Grounds

*Elder Randy Mojica
Children and Youth

*Elder George Washington IV
Discipleship & Men's/Women's
Ministry

*Elder Mary Jo Mojica
Finance & Stewardship

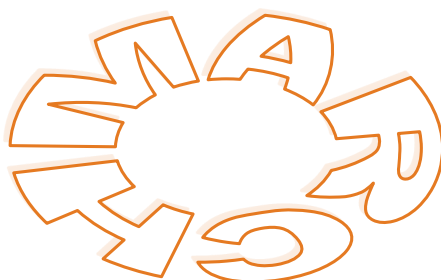
*Elder Robert Booth
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry

*Elder Kimberly Hall
Missions/Evangelism

*Elder Viola Lee
Worship & Membership

Deacons

Ulysses Cox
Rey Mojica
Ashley Phillips
Scott Phillips
Cathy Trifiro
Roxann Vallejo



19th 3rd Sunday in Lent

9-10am Adult Sunday School

9:45am Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal

10:15am Worship at Wilshire
Rev. Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
Sunday school—Nursery &
Ages 3-5 (Rm. 1); Grades 1-5
(Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior
High (Pastor's Office)

21st 6:30pm Men's Bible Study
7 pm Study

22nd 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study-Vi Lee

26th 4th Sunday in Lent

9-10am Adult Sunday School

9:45am Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal

10:15am Worship at Wilshire
Rev. Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
Sunday school—Nursery &
Ages 3-5 (Rm. 1); Grades 1-5
(Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior
High (Pastor's Office)

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***Life Sustaining Water
John 4:1-42
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez***

**March 12, 2017
New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
2nd Sunday in Lent**

INTRODUCTION:



So far in the 2017 Lenten Devotional ***Meeting Jesus***, we have read this imaginary *first-person* testimony of Mary, the Shepherds, the Magi, Anna, the Temple Teachers, John the Baptist, Andrew, Nathanael, Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law, the Servant at the Wedding Banquet, and Nicodemus about how they would explained meeting Jesus. We also have learned about the ***Peacock*** as a symbol of immortality or life after death; and of the ***Fish*** as security pass code for gatherings of the believers (first disciples were fishermen). And today is the turn of the Samaritan Woman whose conversation with Jesus can only be found in the Gospel of John.

TEXT

The Samaritan Woman: John 4:1-42

Verse 7: A Samaritan Woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, *"Give me a drink of water."*

Water = ὕδωρ = **hydōr**

Verse 21: Jesus said to her: *"Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem."*

ὥρα = **hōra** = hour; was translated in this version as *time*.

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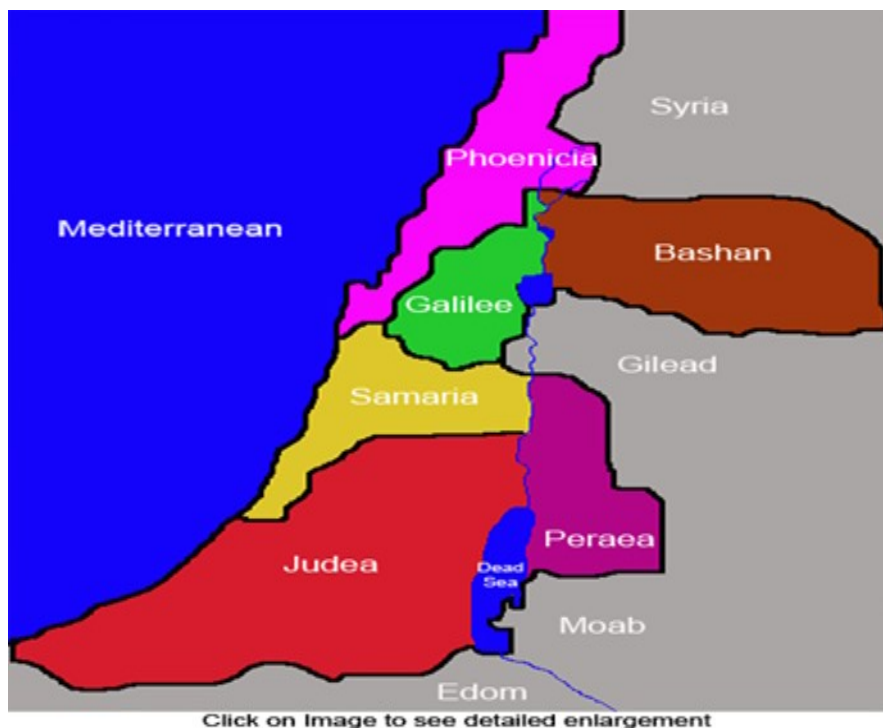
Life Sustaining Water
John 4:1-42
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez

March 12, 2017
New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
2nd Sunday in Lent

In the literary style of the Middle East tradition naming women was either irrelevant or not necessary, as well as the custom of not addressing women in public or without a male relative present, maybe that's why Jesus asked this woman to call her husband. And the Evangelist's style also makes us ask, why Jesus who knew the woman's past and present lifestyle did not call her by name?

LESSON:

This is how the Lenten Devotional author describes the Samaritan Woman impression of meeting Jesus: *Afternoons are scorching, but getting water without my neighbor's judgmental states and snide gossips is worth the heat. Imagine my surprise, then, when I saw someone sitting at the well today (Jacob's well) who asked me, a "half-breed" Samaritan woman, for a drink. He started talking about living water, and said that if I asked him he would give it to me, and I'd never be thirsty again. But then he really amazed me. Somehow, he knew about my past husbands and my current living arrangement – yet there he sat, still talking with me. He made me realize even with all that's happened. I'm still a person. And when he told me he's the Messiah, the leader our nations are waiting for, I knew I had to tell everybody.*



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As it is described by the Evangelists we tend to think that Samaria and Judea are two very different nations, but despite their religious schism after the United Hebrew Kingdom was parted in Northern and Southern Kingdoms they continued sharing so many other features like language, ethnicity and religion. Unfortunately hatred and mutual rejection continued. Politics and religion have been dividing factors to part nations and cultures in north & south, east & west, and old & new.

Despite the low opinion that Jews had about Samaritans, the Gospels mentioned Samaritans as good examples of belief (this woman), of compassion (the good one of the parable) and gratitude (the 10th leper).

John is the Gospel of the *metaphors* par excellence and though in this text Jesus does not say *I am the living water*, he describes himself as *the giver of the life sustaining water*. In John 6:35, Jesus says *I am the bread of life* and in 6:51 he says, *I am the living bread*.

Like in the Eucharist, the bread and wine represent the sacramental *flesh and blood* of Jesus as spiritual and redemptive nurture. In this conversation Jesus seated by the millennial old Jacob's well as the symbol of life sustain source for the region is presenting himself as the water every believer needs to keep hydrated. In other Christian traditions common water is kept in altars or other spots in sanctuaries as holy water that parishioners or visitors can drink as a devotional sign.

How can we reconcile Jesus promise of *never being thirsty again* if we all are both physiologically and spiritually thirsty at any given hour of the day? The point is that Jesus is both that constant hydraulic source and the quench is related to a daily relationship with his spirit of obedience and servitude.

In 2007 Coca Cola launched a commercial campaign in Mexico where Soccer is a national passion. The slogan said: *eat soccer, drink soccer, dream soccer*. And obviously such passion was to be sustained by having coke while watching a soccer game.

As a believer in Jesus, I have to have a passion to follow Jesus example and commandments. My spiritual hydration is in relation of a daily relationship with Jesus, and that's what makes me not feel the anxiety and the anguish of being thirsty. That's what makes me share with others *"come and see/meet the Christ!"*

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CONCLUSION

Again came to mind another scene from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* when Walter Donovan fills the beautiful grail and before he drinks says eternal life just to die instants later. While Indiana Jones takes the simplest grail to get water to pour it on his father's bullet wound. Taking and sharing this life sustaining water with another!

Three questions about these daily Lenten Devotionals to reflect on:

How did you meet Jesus?

How much do you know Jesus?

What and how much do you want to give up for Jesus?

Today's devotional summary: ***Jesus, quench our thirsty souls, restore our broken spirits, and empower us to share your good news with all we meet.***

Amen.

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends, we need your help. We are our best when we serve together. Please consider ways you can help our ministry leaders and ministries.

**Coming together is a
beginning;
keeping together is
progress;
working together is
success.**

Henry Ford



FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ALL

The New Covenant Fellowship Deacons are now providing a free to all food pantry each Sunday. This is to help anyone who needs a little help in the obtaining of groceries. The table at the back of the church will have canned goods and other non-perishable food each Sunday. If you or anyone you know needs some help with groceries, please feel free to partake of the items available.



If you are able to donate food items to

WINGER

March 17, 2017



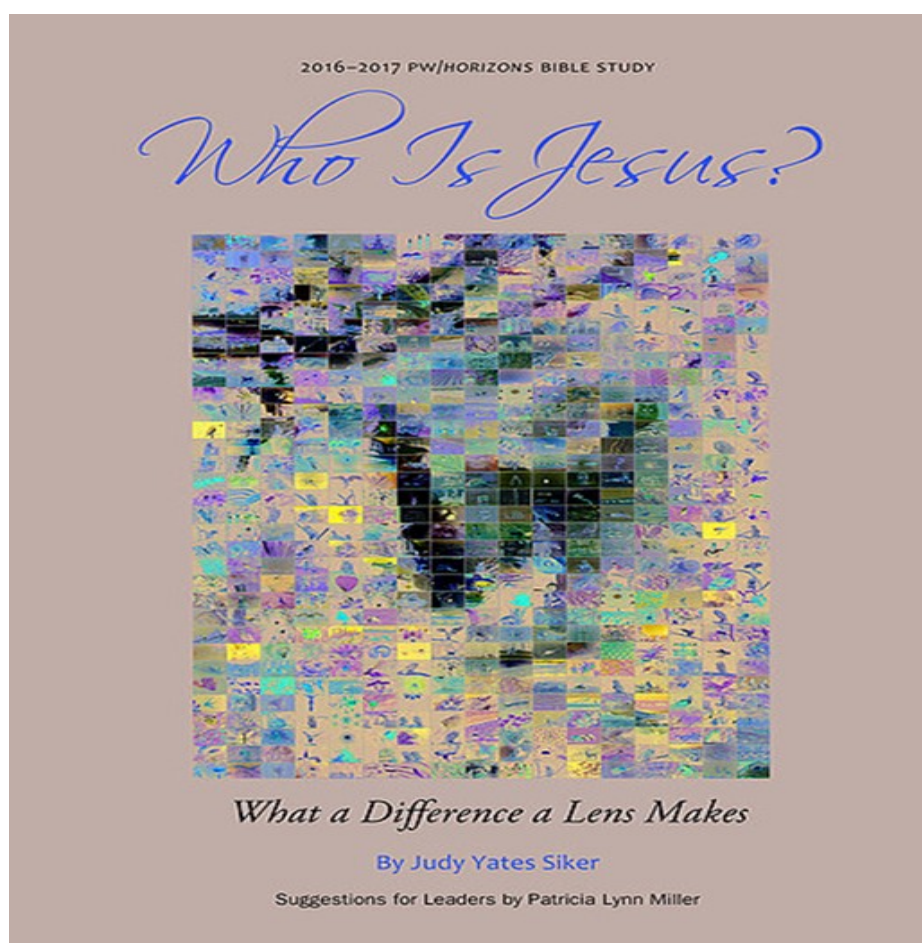
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Jane Circle Bible Study

Saturday, March 25, 10 AM – Noon



- How to prepare:
 - Read the Gospel of Mark
 - Ask for a Study Guide
 - Caly Fernandez
 - Danita Nelson
 - Cathy Angell
 - Roxann Vallejo
 - Come, enjoy Café Justo, fellowship, and grow in faith!!!!
 - We meet on 4th Saturday

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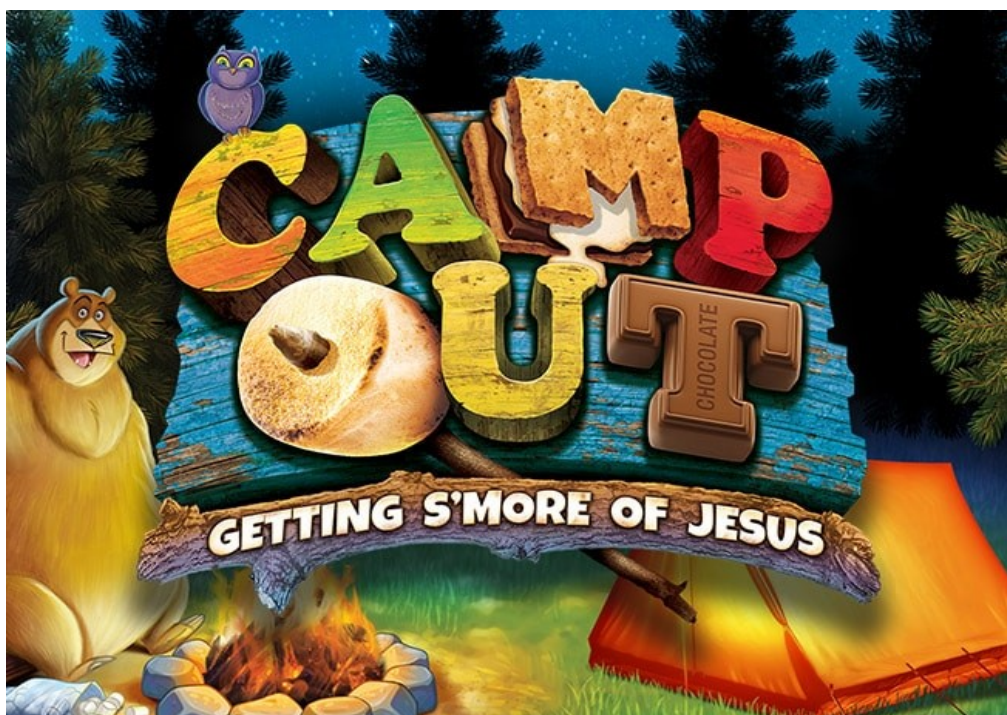
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SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 16-18

VBS



Café Justo

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA's Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1 and 5 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is \$10.00 and a 5 pound bag is \$ 40.00. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.



Contact Caly to make your purchase today!

(512)228-4712