



VISIONS

STEWARDSHIP & FAMILY FOCUS

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- What will the New Year Bring for You?
- What is a Good & Faithful Steward?
- How do we pray for our children?
- Who is Melinda A. Liston?

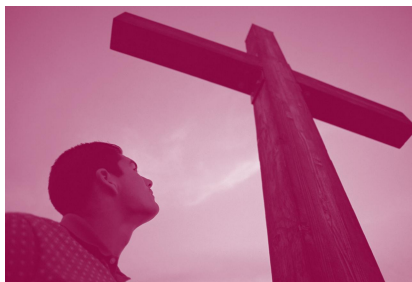
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Becoming a Good & Faithful Steward

Minister Judy Amos

Serving God as a steward is something that all believers/Christians – both pulpit and pew **are** called to do. We have **all** been called by God through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit for a purpose and are accountable (2 Corinthians 5:9-15), for our response to that call (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10). Every Christian's purpose is to be a good and faithful steward over all that God has given to us including our tithes, time and talent. We can be stewards but not necessarily good and faithful (Matthew 25:14-30). This can prevent us from living the life that we are called to live - one in relationship and dependence on the God that is three in one (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) filled with joy and abundance. Our theology of being a steward must be looked at on "four levels, our care for our relationship with God, our relationship to one another, our relationship to our self and our relationship to all creation. To be a steward in the kingdom of the Triune God of grace is to understand our fallen ness and its ef-



fect on all four levels, and to understand the grace of God and the work of Christ that brings redemption and wholeness to all four levels. Our work is the compassionate, obedient and ultimately thrilling task of stewarding each relationship for the building of the kingdom and the glory of God."

Many religious entities tend to focus on money when they speak of Stewardship and service which places a negative stigma and image on the word itself. We think that being a steward concerns only the money we give to the church.

In the Harper Collins Bible Dictionary, "Steward is a word used to translate a number of terms and expressions in the Bible common to all of which is the idea of 'overseeing, managing,' the possessions, business affairs, property, servants, the training of children, etc., of an owner or master." As Christians, we are not only called to be overseers and managers but we are also Children of God (Mark 3:35).

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids

Excerpted from Pray! Magazine Issue #4, 1999 Bob Hostetler

Minister Daphne Johnson

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids is a guide to parents to encourage them to pray daily for their children. As parents, we don't always have all of the answers, but we know a God that does. Our ability to commune with him in prayer provides parents with the opportunity to receive divine guidance in raising our children. As we share our hearts with the Lord, he provides reassurance and comfort that He is with us as we train up our children in the way they should go. Prayer is an important spiritual discipline in the life of a Christian. Praying for our children is one of the best things we can do for them:

1. Salvation ([Is. 45:8](#), [2 Tim. 2:10](#))
2. Growth in grace ([2 Pet. 3:18](#))
3. Love ([Gal. 5:25](#), [Eph. 5:2](#))
4. Honesty and integrity ([Ps. 25:21](#))
5. Self-control ([1 Thess. 5:6](#))
6. Love for God's Word ([Ps. 19:10](#))
7. Justice ([Ps. 11:7](#), [Mic. 6:8](#))
8. Mercy ([Lk. 6:36](#))
9. Respect (for self, others, authority) ([1 Pet. 2:17](#))
10. Biblical self-esteem ([Eph. 2:10](#))
11. Faithfulness ([Prov. 3:3](#))
12. Courage ([Dt. 31:6](#))



“For many, last year’s pains, problems, and even unfulfilled plans, have also crossed over into the New Year.”

From the Pastor...

Same God...New Thing!

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV) 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.

In this passage, the Prophet Isaiah is given a word from God for the children of Israel who are exiled from their homeland and are held captive in Babylon. To people who may be at a point of exasperation and unable to realize a deliverance from their present bondage, this word of hope comes in times of their despair. God says to them...I am the same God of your forefathers, but I am going to do a “new thing” related to you! As their Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel, His promises are good and He pledges to break the power of their oppressors.

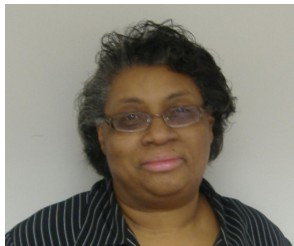
This is the beginning of a new year for us, but unfortunately for some the only thing “new” about this year is the date. For many, last year’s pains, problems, and even unfulfilled plans, have also crossed over into the New Year. The good news today is that regardless how defeating these realities may have been on last year and how hopeless you may have felt facing them, the Word today is that God is going to do a New Thing. He reminded Israel of what He had done for their forefathers (history) which should spark glimmers of hope and fuel their faith to believe that He can also deliver them in their day. The same God of the Children of Israel is with us and for us today.

We can face our future unafraid because God has promised that he is intent upon working out something new in our lives. Whatever the shackles that hinders you, whatever the problems that seemingly overwhelms you, or whatever the difficulty may be that gives the illusion of defeating you...the Same God is going to do a New Thing. And, the good news is that you can look for Him to do it in you and for you this year. The promise of renewal, restoration and refreshment is yours. Same God...New Thing!

In His Service,

Pastor John W. McVicker, Sr.

People Profile: Melinda A. Liston



Melinda A. Liston is an 8th grade language arts teacher at Audubon Technology & Communication Center in Milwaukee. As a member of CTK, Melinda volunteers for the Prison Fellowship, a program within the Andrew Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people who are incarcerated.

One of the biggest challenges for this ministry is that people are scared to talk with inmates, “They believe that it is dangerous to be around convicts. They also believe that they don’t know enough about the Bible in order to teach Bible lessons to the incarcerated.” Melinda feels this ministry is important to CTK because it means that we are being obedient to what Jesus taught in Matthew 25:36b. “...when I was in prison, ye came and visited me...”. Melinda states, “Our job as believers is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with unbelievers and those who have back slid from their faith in Christ. This ministry gives us an opportunity to do that.” She chose this ministry because she says she has a heart for people who have made bad choices in their lives. “I

believe if people knew about the spiritual warfare that exists and how the power of God can deliver them from their addictions and help them to avoid temptations; they will not continue to make unwise decisions that will keep them behind bars.” The goal of the Prison Fellowship is to recruit more members. This arm of the Andrew Ministry is looking for members who can write letters to inmates in order to encourage them during their incarceration. Melinda would like to encourage members who love to share their faith to be a part of the Prison Fellowship. “There is nothing like seeing the relief on someone’s face when they realize that God will forgive them for their criminal activities and that He has a plan for their lives and wants to bless them abundantly.” The Prison Fellowship will take a worship service to Ethan Allen School for Boys in Wales, Wisconsin on Saturday, March 31, 2007.

For further information, please contact Melinda or Rev. Mack at (414) 586-4290 Ext. 1002, or come to a Prison Fellowship meeting every 3rd Saturday, 11AM at CTK.

“Our job as believers is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with unbelievers and those who have back slid from their faith in Christ”

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

13. Purity ([Ps. 51:10](#))
14. Kindness ([1 Thess. 5:15](#))
15. Generosity ([1 Tim. 6:18-19](#))
16. Peace-loving ([Rom. 14:19](#))
17. Joy ([1 Thess. 1:6](#))
18. Perseverance ([Heb. 12:1](#))
19. Humility ([Titus 3:2](#))
20. Compassion ([Col. 3:12](#))
21. Responsibility ([Gal. 6:5](#))
22. Contentment. ([Phil. 4:12-13](#))
23. Faith ([Lk. 17:5-6](#), [Heb. 11:1-40](#))
24. A servant's heart ([Eph. 6:7](#))
25. Hope ([Ro. 15:13](#))
26. Willingness and ability to work ([Col. 3:23](#))
27. Passion for God ([Ps. 63:8](#), *KJV*)
28. Self-discipline ([Prov. 1:3](#))
29. Prayerfulness ([Eph. 6:18](#))
30. Gratitude ([Eph. 5:20](#), [Col. 2:7](#))
31. A heart for missions ([Ps. 96:3](#))

Pray!@ Magazine is available by subscription. To subscribe call 1-800-691-7729.

Website www.praymag.com

Becoming a Good & Faithful Steward (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We must put into perspective the fact that we are all Children of God and are called to the life we live based on our responsibility as Christians and the inheritance promised by God of a life filled with abundance if we practice good stewardship. There are several areas that we have to get right as stewards of the Trinitarian God, all of which involve love: the first is **motivation** (John 3:16; Mark 10:17-22; Ephesians 6:24; 1 John 3:4-21); the second is **mission** (Matthew 25:19,20 & Luke 4:18,19) and the third is **managing** (Matthew 25:14-30).

We have to deal with the call for us to be stewards – good and faithful. When we look at the idea of being called we have to look at the “who”. Who calls us to be stewards? The God that was in the beginning in Genesis 1:1ff, who created the Earth, made

Adam (Genesis 2) and then made both Adam and Eve the first stewards of the kingdom. This same God is also known as the Father who sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth to pay the price for our salvation. Being a steward, recognizes that God is our creator (Genesis) who loves us and sacrificed His son for us (John 3:16). This places God at the center of who we are and all that we do as Christians. Psalms 107:1 tells us that we should give thanks to God because He is good and his faithful love endures forever. Because God is loving, good and faithful, we are to strive to be the same. The Bible tells us that the movement of the spirit upon our hearts enables us to respond appropriately but we can choose not to respond (Philippians 2:13). As beings created and saved by a loving God, our motivation for responding to our call to be stewards should be out of love and



VISIONS

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Our Mission:

Christ the King Baptist Church exists to advance the Kingdom of God through spirit filled worship, dynamic preaching, and biblically sound teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to provide services that minister to your physical, mental, and spiritual needs. One Shepherd, One Vision - a church that cares about You!

Schedule of Services

- Sweet Hour of Prayer:** Sun., 7:30AM
- Worship Services:** Sun., 8:30AM, 11:00AM, *6:00PM (*4th Sun. only)
- Communion:** 1st Sun. of each month
- Baptism:** 2nd & 4th Sun. of each month
- Hour of Prayer:** Wed., 5:30-6:30PM
- Family Life Ministry (Bible Study):** Wed. 10:30-12:00PM & 6:30-8:00PM

Welcome New Members!!!

Harriett Callier	Lazette Chambliss
Contessa Clark	Wade Coleman
Kamiah Criswell	Jonda Ferguson
Deontray Gaines	Carmen Golden-Hurd
Marvell Harmon	Alicia Harper
Antoinette Herron	Valley Holilns
Brenda Jefferson	Chardone Jefferson
Chauntel Jefferson	Patricia Kirkwood
David Ligon	Jazmyn Madison
Arras Martin	Crystal McClain
Lawrence McElroy	Latasha McGlaston
Ronald Reese	Sherlestine Reese
Danna Rhinehart	Edythe Robinson
Laquisha Roper	Whitney Sanders
Tasheiro Thompson	Isaiah Thornton
LaQuita Thurman	Brandon Watts
Patricia Whitehurst	Craig Wilson
Danielle Wilson	

Becoming a Good & Faithful Steward

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

There are many Scriptures that speak of Christians as “Children of God,” (1 John 3:1) the world and everything in it belonging to God (which says we do not really own anything, (Exodus 19:5b) and our responsibilities as His children. Understanding this is also the key to our ability to be-ing good and faithful. Because of our creator, we are to live a certain way managing all that He has given us to accomplish the missions called to.

Being a good and faithful steward is about eternity. Things done for the wrong reasons prevent us from living the very life of abundance that we seek and we find ourselves living a life filled with frustration, fear, anxiety, despair, depression and stress rather than one filled with an abundance of purpose, peace, joy, completeness, and bearing much fruit. Our reward for responding to God’s call to be stewards that are good and faithful is an awesome opportunity to serve and to be blessed – “. . .to have life more abundantly” (John 6:43); “and my God will supply all your needs” (Philippians 4:19); “For every one of God’s promises is yes in Him. . .” (2 Corinthians 1:20). Be encouraged and “walk worthy of the calling you have received.”

¹Rodin, Scott R., Stewards in the Kingdom (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000) 98

The Bible was researched extensively to write this article as well as “Called and Accountable” by Henry T. Blackaby and “Stewards in the Kingdom.”

Calendar of Events

February

- 9th Friday Family Fun Fish Fry
- 11th First Sermon Service
- 25th Fourth Sunday Evening Worship

March

- 17th Evangelistic & Mission Workshop
- 18th Annual Mission Day
- 25th Fourth Sunday Evening Worship