

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3



The Rivers

Thought of the Month: The Importance of The Father



Inside the issue:

Thought of the Month	1
Prayer List	2
Word of Encouragement	2
Birthdays	3
Word of Encouragement Cont.	3
Youth Corner	3
Pictures	4

There is an unfortunate prevailing thought or attitude that has become common place in today’s society. The attitude I am referring to is the one that suggests that fathers aren’t that necessary anymore. Did you know that, according to the US Census Bureau, 1 in 4 children in America live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. This is staggering, but

what’s worse are the effects this has on the child. Children who grow up in this situation are more likely to suffer from poverty, have behavioral issues, and are even more likely to face neglect and abuse. It seems this country has forgotten the importance of a father.

When thinking of this issue, I am reminded of the ultimate Father. He is far greater than any earthly father could ever be, including those we would call good fathers, like my own. This Father has given an open invitation to all the fatherless children who walk about spiritually lost and aimless. All of us who are impoverished, neglected, and sinful, are given the opportunity by The Father to become one of His very own and, through the Spirit of

adoption, are allowed to cry Abba Father (**Romans 8:15**). He requires only that we turn from sin, believe on His Son Jesus and His finished work on Calvary and we will no longer be fatherless, but will be able to rejoice with the rest of His children who now have a clear understanding of the importance of The Father.

Rev. Kerry Carroll Jr.

Works Cited:

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.

National Fatherhood Initiative® 2019. Father Facts: Eighth Edition. Germantown, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative®.



Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pains we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.



The Rivers of Water Church is a missionary church with a world vision.



“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5



Special Prayer

- Pastor Robert E. Drake II and Family
- Missionaries at ROW
- Haiti Mission
- Pastor David Mugalu
- Uganda Mission

- Nigeria Mission
- Camille Carroll
- Sis Kimela Johnson
- Bro. Terrance Sumrall
- Sis. Zelda Morris
- Sis. Alice Sullivan

- Sis. Annie Wells

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Eph. 6:18

Pray on, Saints!



Word of Encouragement: God’s Help

I had this thought while reading the book of Numbers: “Do we abuse our help?” We know that our God is omniscient; there is nothing that He does not know. He already knew what His people would encounter during their trek to the ‘promised land.’ One particular encounter, regarding Balaam, is found in **Numbers 22**. It records that King Balak of Moab was shaken when he saw that the people of Israel, journeying from Egypt, were headed his way. The Moabites feared a takeover because the people of Israel were a

multitude. Balaam was a type of profit or diviner. King Balak sent ambassadors to Balaam, promising him riches and renown if he would come and curse this people. **Numbers 22:9-12** tells us that God came to Balaam and told him that he shall not go and shall not curse the people, for they are blessed. So, Balaam declined Balak’s offer, but Balak was persistent and sent other ambassadors petitioning Balaam to come. God came to Balaam once more and this time told him to go, but only speak what God tells him to

say. Balaam rose up in the morning and started his journey to Moab, but something was amiss, because God’s anger was kindled against him (**Numbers 22:22**). Balaam travelled on his donkey with two of his servants. As they went, the angel of the Lord was in the way with his sword drawn. Only the donkey saw the danger and turned out of the way. This happened two more times, and each time, Balaam becoming very wroth, beat the animal. (Continued on p.3)



Happy Birthday

- Avri Johnson 1
- Jonathan Carroll 6
- Janavia Bobs 20
- Alexia Hickerson 29



Happy Anniversary

Pastor Robert II & Tivina Drake

June 28

Happy Anniversary

Word of Encouragement: Cont.

There's so much more to the story, but this is where my thought came in. As I was reading, I began tearing up for the animal. The donkey had always been obedient / faithful, but Balaam showed no thought for the cause of the animal's behavior. Balaam's life was saved because the animal, despite being beaten, would not ap-

proach the Lord's angel. **God sends us help too, because of what we fail to see.** Sometimes we abuse that help. Disregarding the history of faithfulness and care, we resort to slander because our help doesn't agree with the thing we want.

I remember witnessing such behavior as this

some years ago, and possibly, I've also been guilty. If this is true of you, join me in prayer, "Lord, please forgive me for abusing your help. I was blinded by wanting my way more than your will. Thank you for opening my eyes. In Jesus' name, Amen!" **Read Numbers 22-25.**

Sis. Rosie Drake

Youth Corner

I want to encourage the Youth to be patient and to trust God. He is an on-time God and I have learned that His timing will always be better than ours. He will continue to bless and keep us, even in times when it feels like nothing is working out the way we hoped it would. Stay the course, allow Him to work in your life and watch how beautiful the

blessing will be because you got out of His way.

It is important that we abide in the Lord Jesus; to do so, we must trust and obey Him. There is no comfort in being distant from Him, not hearing His voice and feeling disconnected from Him. He knows the desires of our hearts. Cry out to Him, pray to Him, and let Jesus know you love

and miss Him. He'll restore you to fellowship with Him. I am thankful He restored me to fellowship and reminded me that I belong to Him first and foremost. Be encouraged Youth, to stay close to the Lord Jesus!

Sis. Shelby Johnson

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary."

Isaiah 40:31



"Cast all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

I Peter 5:7





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Missionary Call

Have you considered being a missionary? Do you sense that God has a specific purpose, will and plan for you now that you are born again? Need help getting started? Contact us at 607 East Rogers St. Houston, TX 77022, 713-692-2525. We'd like to help you.

We're on the Web!

<http://nbsm-riversofwaterchurch.com/>

HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day

