

February 17, 2024

“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



Inside this issue:

Thought of the Month	1
Prayer List	2
Word of Encouragement	2
Youth Corner	3
Birthday's List	3
Note of Thanks	3
Picture	5

The Rivers

Thought of the Month: The Father's Heart— The Fatted Calf

I thank the Lord that the Word of God is both alive and timeless. No matter how many times we read a passage, each time there's something new and wonderful to discover about our Loving Father.

Recently, I was studying the In Touch Daily Devotion, the thought and reference scripture was from Luke 15:11-32 about the Prodigal Son. Though I've read this and heard it preached many times, the Holy Spirit seemed to highlight the "fatted calf" this time. It dawned on me like the sun, that the calf had been fattened, set aside and prepared for this occasion, and I could see the Father's Heart. He longed for his son's return, and in faith and perhaps hope, expected him to return. So, he set his heart to prepare for his return. The father didn't wait in indignance, nor indifference, but in compas-

sionate love. According to Wikipedia, "the fatted calf" is a metaphor or symbol of festive celebration and rejoicing for someone's long-awaited return. In biblical times, people would often keep at least one piece of livestock that was fed a special diet to fatten it up, thus making it more flavorful when prepared as a meal. Slaughtering this livestock was to be done on rare and special occasions. Thus, when the prodigal son returns, the father "kills the fatted calf" to show that the celebration is out of the ordinary."

Knowing we have such a Loving Father; we must love HIM with all our hearts. No sacrifice would be too great, no level of surrender too difficult, and no service or cost too much to give. The Father has given us HIS Son Jesus, the Lamb of God (fatted calf). He has made every Believer His personal

possession and the object of His love and care. May we as obedient and grateful children pour our love on Him. If we haven't been obedient, let's return to Him. When the Prodigal was a great way off, his father saw him (he was looking for him) and had compassion. He ran, embraced, kissed his son and called for the fatted calf, it was time to celebrate, his lost son was found. When we return, we'll find the Father's forgiveness and grace. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..." , 1 John 3:1.

Gratefully submitted,

Sis. Marilyn Lockett





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.



“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savior.”

Ephesians 5:2

Special Prayer

- Pastor Robert E. Drake II and Family
- Missionaries at ROW
- Haiti Mission
- Pastor David Mugalu
- Uganda Mission
- Nigeria Mission
- Camille Carroll
- Sis. Kathy Johnson and Family (bereavement)
- Sis. Kimela Johnson
- Zelda Morris
- Sis. Alice Sullivan
- Sis Brenda Sumrall
- 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



Word of Encouragement: “Continue In His Love”

In John 15:9, Jesus told His disciples, "As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love."

February is the month that has been commercialized as the month we are encouraged to put an extra emphasis on love, with a day dedicated to the expression of love, Valentine’s Day.

We, the children of God and the redeemed of the Lord Jesus Christ, have been commanded just as the disciples were, to continue in His love. What greater way can we show our love for Christ and God

the Father, than by living a life dedicated to Him through willful obedience to His Word and His Will?

This type of dedication is not confined to one single day but should be exercised each new day that the Lord grants us, by His grace and mercy. We continue in His love by loving one another as He has commanded us to do.

By this, we abide in His great love and experience the residing and fulfilling joy of Christ in us. I encour-

age us all to continue in His love so that we can be living examples to the world and so that they will know there is no greater love than that of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

Sis. Nabrishia Binkley

Youth Corner

Being a teen can be tough and being a Christian and a teenager can seem even harder at times, but don’t worry! The Lord is with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you! (Heb. 13:5 d, e). We have to go to Him in prayer and talk to Him! I pray we continue to endeavor, through Christ, to grow in obedience to what we have been taught and are learning.

Sis. Kierstyn Harrison

Happy Birthday

- Deion Harrison 6
- Jameshia Hines 22
- Annie Wells 27



Happy Anniversary

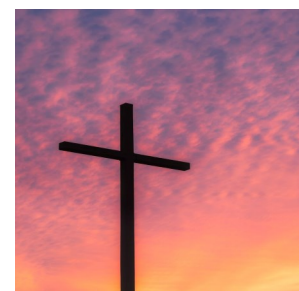
*Richard and Linda Fields
February 28th*



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

John 13:34



“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

1 John 3:18



Note of Thanks

I am thankful for the body of Christ, and the love that we share for Jesus. I love that we support one another in growing in Christ and in His Word. Having friends that have the same goals (love God, be free, and win souls) makes me that much more excited to keep running for Jesus.

I am thankful for all the wisdom that is shared with me through our seniors, preachers, mentors, snowflakes, etc. I enjoy the side bar conversations when fellowshiping in the Lord, because they remind me of the fireside chats that I used to have with my grandparents.

My grandparents loved to talk and tell stories. They may not have had much according to society, but they were rich in knowledge and Jesus. I am most grateful for having Christian grandparents who guided me to the ways of Christ as a “pup”. Though they never pushed, their lives led me to inquire “*Who Is Jesus?*”.

My earliest memories of reading and literature started with the Holy Bible, King James Version. You see, my grandmother lost her sight around the time that I was born and could no longer read the Bible for herself. Something so simple,

that we often take for granted, she no longer had the ability to do. So, she began to teach me as best she could. As soon as I learned to read, we would enjoy so many afternoons of me reading God’s Word to her. Though I may not have had a complete understanding, it definitely planted a seed.

I truly find great joy in conversing with the seniors, and constantly learning from them. I look forward to one day passing on their wisdom to the ones coming behind me. I deeply cherish the memories of old and embrace the new ones to be made.

Sis. Janavia Bobs





NBSM

RIVERS OF WATER CHURCH

607 East Rogers Street
Houston Texas 77022
USA
Phone/Fax: 713-692-2525
E-mail: nbsm2001@sbcglobal.net

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/>

**FOR GOD
SO LOVED THE
WORLD THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE.**

JOHN 3:16