

WORD LIVING

Volume 1 / Issue 1 – January 2015

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to offer help to families with budgeting and planning. We assist families in obtaining knowledge and awareness of all human resources/ services available to them. We sponsor FREE seminars that coordinate various services to meet changing needs. For more information on events we sponsor visit us on FACEBOOK or our website: www.stewardsinaction.com.



WELCOME TO
WORD LIVING 2015

Welcome to JANUARY 2015 and what a gift from Jesus our Lord to be alive with another opportunity to serve Him.

We look back and wonder where the time went. Fifteen (15) years ago, people were preparing for widespread computer failures and major malfunctions that had been predicted. People were in a panic buying generators, water, and extra food in case the predictions proved true. Today, that crisis is all but forgotten.

The unknown future, just as it was in 2000, continues to present itself to us each moment. And just as it was in 2000, the Lord was in control, so it is today. Sometimes we plan, dream and set goals without consulting the Lord, the only one who knows the future. We toss- and- turn and worry needlessly when the Lord already has the plan worked out to his glory and honor. However, before you ask if we should just do nothing the answer is **no**.

Proverbs 6:6-8 “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathers her food in harvest.” (KJV)

Proverbs 27:23 “Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks and look well to thy herd. (KJV)

*Stewardship = following the plan of God as written in His word.
All plans and decisions begin with prayer.*

To be a good steward and plan ahead helps one to maintain balance and pay attention to every aspect of our daily living, financial stability, and our service to others.

In September, the Lord guided us to write about the journey of Joseph (Genesis 37 – 50) FROM THE PIT TO THE THRONE. For several months, we noted the journey and seven (7) points that stood out as God prepared Joseph for the position He had chosen for him. But, how can this journey help us today? We continue to look at the journey that parallels our walk today.

THE PIT HAS A PURPOSE:

Genesis 37:19-28 notes the word PIT – in this case, I believe, the Hebrew meaning is cistern for there was no water in it (verse 24) as to say it was for that purpose. Per history, a cistern was dug to collect rainwater needed for the life of the community. Without water, in the dry land, the people would die.

Now in the story, Joseph’s brothers strip him of his coat and cast (throw) him into the pit. The pit, per history, was usually pear shaped and 15-20 feet deep. The pits were either large enough for the community or small and privately owned.

Joseph may have sustained some physical injury. His mental stamina may have included disbelief, fear, or anger. Perhaps he was relieved when his brothers drew him up even ready to forgive and forget.

However, the joy was soon gone when he was sold to the Ishmelites, taken to Egypt, and sold as a slave. Joseph, seventeen years old, loved by his father, hated by his brothers, stripped of his coat, presumed dead to the other members of the family, miles from his home, a slave in a strange land, and God was with him. Note the last four (4) words and keep them in mind as the story continues.

God knew the people needed to prepare for the famine the same as they prepared for droughts. They needed to prepare in times of plenty for the times of famine. God wanted a leader that would follow His leadership, claim no victory for the outcome, and point all to the power of God.

UNDERSTAND THE PLAN

WATER TO SUSTAIN LIFE	FOOD TO SUSTAIN LIFE
The purpose of the pit (cistern) was to hold rainwater that fell from heaven.	The pit was use to hold Joseph when he was cast into it by his brothers.
The pit was only a container used to hold the blessing from God.	The pit was only a container used to hold the blessing from God.
In order to receive the help, the people must have something to draw with and something in the pit to draw from.	The brothers had something to draw with and when they drew Joseph from the pit, they received their future help.
People understood the purpose of water and its ability to sustain them if they would draw and receive.	Joseph’s brothers did not understand God’s plan for Joseph, but in drawing him up from the pit their family and many others were saved.
The water, on its own cannot sustain life; it must be consumed to be effective.	God’s plan cannot be effective in an individual until it is accepted and followed.
God calls ordinary people to use their gifts to provide for others.	God calls ordinary people to use their gifts to provide for others.
Those who dug the pits prepared for the rain but they did not know if or when the rain would come, but the pit (cistern) was ready	Joseph did not know if or when his dream would come true, but he remained faithful. At the appointed time he was ready
When the rain came, the pit, 15 to 20 feet deep, held the resource that the people needed to sustain life.	When the famine came, the storehouses of Egypt held the resources that the people needed to sustain life.
GOD PROVIDES	GOD PROVIDES

God prepares us to achieve great things for his glory and honor when we allow the Lord to use us as he desires.

Perhaps, you have felt the pain of the pit experience. Why me Lord? When will it end? What can or how can I get out of this situation? Jesus where are you and why I am being treated this way? I gave up all and I have nothing to show for it. I help others and never a thank you. When do I get some notice or praise? I am tired of this servant role. I want something else to do! I deserve better. I hate my job. What is so great about being a servant, a server, cab driver, homemaker, house cleaner, cook, house painter, one who washes cars, trash collector, etc.?

Perhaps the answer can be found in Matthew 20:25-28. Greatness is an option that comes to those who are content in the work Jesus has called them to do for a period in their life. In all jobs, the Lord teaches us something that we will need in our earthly journey.

NOTE:

Joseph, Potiphar's slave, learned to be an overseer because he was the overseer of Potiphar's entire house. Joseph was faithful to God, stood firm against the advances of Potiphar's wife and was promoted to being a prisoner in charge of all the other prisoners and their activities.

While a prisoner in jail Joseph provided what no other could do, he interpreted two (2) dreams because God was with him.

Joseph learned to trust God and obey him. He gave all the praise to God not self. Joseph was faithful in his positions so that no matter where he was, God gave him favor. From the house of Potiphar, to the prison of Egypt to the palace of Pharaoh, the spirit of God could be seen in Joseph.



The Empire State Building

Built in one year and 45 days and opened May 1, 1931.

The tallest building in the world from 1931 to 1973.

102 floors, 73 elevators, 1,000 businesses housed in the 85 stories of commercial office space, 21,000 employees in 2007, 2,500,000 feet of electrical wire, 70 miles of pipe, a three-story lobby, 10 million bricks, and 200,000 cubic feet of Indiana limestone.

The base of the building is 2 acres and the approximate weight – 365,000 tons

The foundation, 55 feet down to pure granite bedrock, God's sturdiest structural support, is unseen, but is the key to the buildings stability and its ability to be used for the purpose it was designed.

When we allow Jesus, our Lord and salvation to be our foundation, and yield all to his will, his greatness is seen in all that we say and do. He holds us in the storms, pains, sorrows, and joyous times. The Lord provides for us just as He did for Joseph.

STAND ON JESUS NO MATTER WHERE HE HAS YOU AND LET HIS LOVE SHINE TO ALL.

Should the Lord delay his coming, we will write more next time. Much love, His steward, Karen

SIA CORPORATION

101 East Delano
Muskegon Hts., MI 49444
Phone: (231) 728-5490;

Fax: (231) 725-2642

Email: kcheathem@aol.com
www.stewardsinaction.com

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Saturday, January 31, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Christ Temple Apostolic Church

421 E. Sherman Blvd.

Muskegon Hts., MI 49442



S.I.A. Corporation
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Muskeogn Hts. MI 49444

FURTHERING FAMILIES IN FINANCIAL FREEDOM