

# WORD LIVING

Volume 1 / Issue 6 – June 2016

## 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.stewardinaction.com](http://www.stewardinaction.com)



## WELCOME TO WORD LIVING 2016

**“Challenge the Darkness” - Financial Wellness**

**It is hard to believe it is June and the close of another Word Living year. For those who are new, Word Living prints September thru June.**

**Please continue to pray for the ministry as we seek the Lord’s direction.**

**We close this section with an introduction to the last three remedies to poverty as recorded in the Old Testament Law. They are Tithes, Property Rights, and Voluntary Servitude.**

### **4. The Tithes:**

**Tithes of produce were to be collected every third year and stored locally, according the Deuteronomy 14:28-29. The food was distributed to the Levites, because they had no inheritance but was set aside to serve God (Numbers 3), to the aliens, the fatherless, and the widows.**

### **5. Property Rights:**

**The land law was designed to protect the Israelites against poverty. Each family was given a permanent title to their plot of land. The land could be rented out for an amount equal to the projected value of the crops it would produce, but the land could not be sold. And every fiftieth year, the rented land was returned to the owner. Therefore, if the owner was unfortunate, he could never lose the land that**

**held security for future generations. Leviticus 25:23-24**

## **6. Voluntary Servitude:**

**The law contained a provision where a poor person could sell his services for seven years to a wealthier fellow countryman. This provided money to the poor person to pay back his debts, and gave him seven years of apprentice training for future success.**

**At the end of the seventh year, the servant was free and given ‘liberally from the flock, the grain, and the wine press. This process provided the poor training and the resources needed to make a fresh start. Leviticus 25:39-54 and Deuteronomy 15:12-18**

### **Closing:**

**The laws, our God established for his people, showed his concern for the poor and his design strengthened the family and the community. Over time the letter of the law, gradually changed to accommodate greed, unaffordable desires, lies, thief, and a total disregard for God’s plan.**

**The need to survive, for those in poverty, changed to instantaneous wants and cravings without a repayment plan. Lenders took advantage of the change and increased cost making it more difficult for many to meet their basic needs.**

**Our current remedy notes the intervention of the government as the source of help. However, the deigned program fostered recipients who engaged in behavior counter-productive to eventual financial independence such as having children out of wedlock, using funds to buy drugs, or showing little desire to work.**

**As a result, many generations have become dependent on the system that is now unable to continue as it was in the pass. Many will lose benefits and have nowhere to turn for continual help. This change will place many families in a more destitute condition than before because in their comfort, they are now unprepared to seek employment, have no savings, many have debt, and the system tends to brand its female recipients as lazy and uncontrolled sexuality.**



**God’s remedies, such as gleaning, were a social mechanism that helped meet the needs of the poor and the strangers without robbing them of their self-respect. Gleaning was associated with honest toil (hard work).**

**The Old Testament concept can still serve as a model for justice especially in the area of loans and property rights.**

**Next - Remedies to Poverty – The New Testament Guide for Today**

**In the New Testament, the responsibility to help the poor is placed primarily upon the individual and the local congregation. Though different from the Old Testament, the church is not a nation but a body of believers existing in a secular society.**

**From the New Testament, we will look at God working through individuals and the local church to address poverty.**

- **There should be no favoritism in the church. James 2:1-9 Romans 12:13-16**
- **Meet the immediate needs of the destitute. James 2:14-16 I John 3:16-18**
- **The early church sought to have equality. II Corinthians 8:13-15**
- **The early church had a special obligation to its family. Galatians 6:10**
- **The Bible calls us to take responsibility for the condition of the poor and to do all that we can, both individually and through the church, to alleviate poverty.**
- **We must remember the full definition of poverty, and that it is the state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support. It also includes little social influence and vulnerable to oppression and exploitation.**

**How can we make a difference?**

- **Support outreach missions that feed the poor and provide housing;**
- **Pool resources and start a food pantry, reading ministry, free/low cost child care assistance, assist with job transportation or buy a bus pass;**
- **Offer workshops on employee readiness skills, healthy eating on a budget, financial wellness, and/or be a resource by sharing helpful information;**
- **Reflect the Lord's deep concern for those in need in a practical way;**
- **Do all in love, for even a smile, and/or a glass of water can make a difference; and**
- **We are called to take responsibility for the condition of the poor and to do all that we can – individually, through the church, and in society – to alleviate poverty. Note Matthew 25:31-46**

**Should our Lord delay his coming, we shall see you in September. The peace of God is with you as you work, rest, and travel. His steward, Karen**

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Karen Cheathem on  
YOUTUBE.COM

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and/or current issues.

Thank you for your support.



*“Furthering Families in  
Financial Freedom”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

**Unity Prayer Luncheon  
Saturday, June 25, 2016**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Queen Esther Missionary Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
2220 Superior Street  
Muskegon, Hts., MI  
Speakers: Minister Darnell Marble  
Sister Karen Cheathem**

**Donation \$ 5.00**

**Estate Planning**

**Saturday, October 15, 2016,  
10:00 a.m.—12 noon**

**Louis A. McMurray Conference  
& Transportation Center  
2624 Sherman and 6th Street  
Muskegon Hts., MI 49444**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Attorney David Covell  
Law Office of David Covell, PLLC**

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual United Conference for Women  
October 28 – 30, 2016  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
For additional information -  
<http://www.ucfw.com>**