

The Light Post

Encouraging and Enlightening God's People

Call in to our morning prayer sessions every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 AM (712) 432-0800 ext 1048730#

Visit us on the World-wide Web at www.mlcmedia.wordpress.com

Need free groceries? Call (856)461-0600 and ask about our Seeds of Praise Program



Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

If there is a God in heaven and He is such a good, loving God, then why would He allow things like poverty, sickness, natural disasters and murder to happen to many innocent and good people in the world? Does He not see all things and know all things? Why doesn't He just step in and save the day?! These are questions that I'm sure we all have pondered at one time or another, whether Christian or not. From a Christian point of view, studying the Bible will help lead you to the answers. There are many reasons why "bad things happen to good people." You may not like some of the answers but you will find that God does all things for our good.



ten, none are righteous, no not one," and in verse 23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Oh- no! Are these verses telling us that God doesn't see us as being inherently good people? Yes, that's exactly what its saying. God does not see you as being good. Yes you may have given to the poor, and spent time volunteering at nursing homes, but according to that verse, God still doesn't see you as being good. How could this be you ask? God only sees one person as being completely good and blameless—Jesus, His one and only Son. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the

In Jeremiah 9: 23-24 it states "let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord". This scripture shows us that God desires for us to come to Him so that we can understand and know his ways. He even lets us know that not only is He a God of lovingkindness and righteousness, but he is a God of judgment. Since God hates sin and loves righteousness, sin must be purged. So first, if we want to know what qualifies as being "good" we must find out what God says in His Word.

Well, the Bible tells us in Romans 10:3, "It is writ-

world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life." 2 Corinthians 5:21 says "For He has made Him (Jesus) sin for us, who knew no sin; that we would be made the righteousness of God in Him". So we see that in the Bible God would only see us as being "good" if we have, by faith, believed in his Son Jesus for the atonement of our sins. So in actuality when God looks at us He sees his Son Jesus, and only then can we be considered "good."

So plainly those who are not considered "good" in the eyes of God (or those who have not accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives) are open to the wrath of God. Does this mean that those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord are exempt from bad things happening to them? Unfortunately, no. Consider the story of Job in the Bible. He was a

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News & Tidbits...

- MLC is now hosting new remote prayer sessions over the phone **every Thursday from 5:30-6:30!** The dial in number is **(712)432-0800**, code **1048730** #. This past Thursday we had our first remote prayer session. It was a huge success! 11 people called and we took turns praying for a wide array of needs.
- You don't have to worry about missing what was preached during church services; you can take the message home with you! The

Marvelous Light Church CD ministry is offering a NEW subscription plan to all of its members & guests. Whether you choose a one month, 3 month, 6 month or a 1 year plan, each subscription type comes with a bonus, a discount or both! Contact sister Cheyenne Nixon to inquire about price packages at (856) 461-0600

- Sister Quenise has found a new home! The house warming should be in March. Praise the Lord for the things He has done!!
- Marvelous Light is veery close

to moving in to a new church building, please pray for us during this exciting transition.

- Its confirmed, Cesar and Kaleiah are having a girl!
- Our marriage enrichment class has begun a six month series on "Fireproofing your marriage." We started by watching the Christian movie of the same name, and we will be learning about all the ways to continue to fight for your marriage.



A Word From the Editor

Cesar Sjogren

Now the hard part begins... The newness of January behind us, and the dead middle of the winter is upon us here in the Delaware Valley. This is where the faith and constitution of a believer is tested, where you may begin to lose a little steam after the highs of the new years service have begun to wear off. Now is the time to buckle down and really, **really** expect God to move in your life. You see, I am believing the Lord for some pretty big

things myself this year. My wife and I are expecting a daughter, we are working towards a home as a family, and our *church* is looking for a new home too. I have friends who don't know Jesus personally, family members who are sick, and souls are dying every day. So I cant afford **not** to expect God to move in my life, and if I was a betting man, I would venture to say neither can you. Don't be mediocre this year, dear reader. Is the fire still in your belly? You ought to know what I am talking about: That passion for ministry that

stays on your mind all day, the desire to see souls saved, and the great commission going forth. There is such a sense of expectation and wonder here in Marvelous Light. The move to a new and larger building means that it is time to throw out the old wineskins. New wine is getting ready to be poured out, and we better be ready. Think on that and apply it to your own situation, then expect God to show up in 2009. —Cesar Sjogren

Light Bites

Deacon Atnre Alleyne



Entering the Promised Land Lifestyle

Transitions are commonplace in America these days. Americans and millions

abroad witnessed the peaceful transition from the Bush Administration to the new Obama Administration. Another major impending transition is the transition from

analog airwaves on Feb 17th, 2009 to digital TV. Although we witness and experience such major transitions regularly we often forget the amount of preparation and planning that surrounds transition from one place to another. We also forget the many people that do not make it through transitions because they are thoroughly unprepared. For example, it is estimated that nearly 7 million homes are still unprepared for DTV transition. In Pastor Leasa Corbin's recent sermon "Entering the Promised Land Lifestyle," she highlighted the need to prepare for God-ordained transitions and outlined three essential points to

ponder when doing so.

In Deuteronomy 11:8-32 Moses spoke to the Israelites about the Promised Land that they would soon enter.

The land is different from Egypt (vs 10).

Moses informed the people of the fundamental differences between Egypt and the Promised Land. The Promised Land was a land that flowed with "milk and honey." As we experience God-ordained transitions in life, it is important that we do not expect the things of old in the new places that God takes us. There has to be a mindset shift as you enter into new places professionally, in your personal life, and in

The Spotlight

Sr. Pastor Lincoln Corbin

Five More Miles Out

More than 350 years ago, the 'Pilgrim Fathers' landed on the east coast of North America, and in the first year they established a town. The next year they elected a government, and in the third year the government planned a road five miles west into the wilderness.

In the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government for wasting public funds building a road to nowhere. "Who needs to go there, anyway" they said?

Here were people with the vision and determination to cross 3000 miles of treacherous ocean, but in just a few years they could not see even **five miles out of town**. They lost their pioneering vision.

The same thing happened to Israel who lost their pioneering vision to the extent that they rationalized, marginalized, and homogenized their nation.

When I came across that bit of historical and spiritual information, it transformed my life and my ministry and caused me to take a deep look at my walk with God.

Was I still trusting Him like I did when I started my ministry? Was I still expecting and anticipating a move of God? Did I still believe that God could still work miracles?

Surprisingly..... No!

I have since rediscovered my love and passion for His Word and developed a deep seated can-do faith attitude in God.

Do you believe God still moves like you did when you first started? Is He still that Miracle Worker in your life? Have you gotten into a pattern of unbelief?

I encourage you after God has brought you this far by faith, to see **five more miles out**.

-Sr. Pastor Lincoln Corbin



"Was I still trusting Him like I did when I started my ministry? Was I still expecting and anticipating a move of God? Did I still believe that God could still work miracles?"

True Love Waits, Or Does It? By Quenise Beckford

It is no secret that we currently reside in a country where premarital sex is "no big deal." There are many arguments why one should give up their purity for pleasure, often times with an undesirable consequence. One of the most popular arguments for premarital sex among young adults is: "if you love me you will." Some might say that this reasoning is not as convincing as the reasoning to persuade abstinence like sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy out of wedlock, and/or sin

to name a few. Studies show that over half of the American population is currently engaging in premarital sex, and more than half suffer from some type of a sexually transmitted disease.

Should true love wait? My answer is yes. With the popularity of premarital sex, it can be said that love no longer needs to be an excuse for the act. I have come into contact with many who unintentionally mistake lust for love and give themselves to another because in their words, "I'm in love."

"Should true love wait? My answer is yes."

Light Bites cont.

ministry.

Check yourself before you wreck yourself (vs 16). In times of transition, it is important that we evaluate ourselves and evaluate some of the problems that occurred previously. If not, it is likely that you will bring the old shortcomings and problems into the new areas of your life. Lastly: **The Promised Land has mountains and valleys** (vs 11). Simply arriving in the Promised Land is not enough. You will need to make sure that you are able to maintain, endure, and expand further in areas of promise. This requires that you be

willing to embrace the challenges that arise and bear the low points that are inevitable in every new stage in life.

Pastor Leasa's sermon is a sober reminder that while many dream about moving from their current state into bigger and better, the realities of transition are often overlooked. God certainly has promises and plans for each of us but we must be sufficiently prepared to handle them with care. -

Deacon Atne Alleyne

"As we experience God-ordained transitions in life, it is important that we do not expect the things of old in the new places that God takes us. "

Christian News Around The World

Prayer Request

Gospel for Asia (GFA) said Yashpal Bhuta Masih was detained in Madhya Pradesh after being "falsely accused" of violating India's "Freedom of Religion" statue that forbids conversions from "force, fraud or allurements."

Masih was taken into custody while leading three small congregations of 56 Christian converts, according to GFA investigators. "Most of these new Christians are descendants of a tribe whose followers worship idols. Masih has a special burden for this tribe because his own father was a priest in their religion," GFA explained. Indian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Masih continues his work as a GFA missionary in a different town. GFA added in a statement, monitored by Worthy News, that its leaders asked Christians "to pray for justice to be done and that the Lord would grant Masih the strength to endure his upcoming trial." *Worthynews.com*

Pastor promoted to Bishop

VATICAN CITY (AP) — An Austrian pastor who has been quoted as calling Hur-

ricane Katrina God's punishment for sin in New Orleans is being promoted to the rank of bishop.

The Vatican announced Saturday that Pope Benedict XVI has tapped the Rev. Gerhard Wagner, 54, to be auxiliary bishop in Linz, Austria. It made no mention of the reported remarks about Hurricane Katrina. *Associatedpress.com*

Persecution in Pakistan

The six criminals, armed with guns, forced their way into two Muslim houses and three Christian homes, physically assaulted the residents, and took cash, TVs, cell phones and other valuables.

After robbing the homes, the six men returned to Rafiq Masih's house and began mocking Rafiq and his wife for being Christians. Not satisfied with the damage they had already inflicted, the thieves then bound Rafiq and his wife and gang-raped Rafiq's teenage daughter Naomi right in front of them. *Christiannewstoday.com*

A Church in Trouble

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. - Once one of the most popular televangelists in the U.S., the Rev. Robert H. Schuller is watching his life's work crumble.

His son and recent successor, the Rev. Robert A. Schuller, has abruptly resigned as senior pastor of the Crystal Cathedral. The shimmering, glass-walled megachurch in Southern California is home to the "Hour of Power" broadcast, an evangelism staple that has been on the air worldwide for more than three decades.

The church is in financial turmoil: It plans to sell more than \$65 million worth of its Orange County property to pay off debt. Revenue dropped by nearly \$5 million last year, according to a recent letter from the elder Schuller to elite donors. In the letter, he implored the Eagle's Club members — who supply 30 percent of the church's revenue — for donations and hinted that the show might go off the air without their support. It's a problem common to personality driven ministries. Members often tie their donations to the pastor, not the institution, said Nancy Ammerman, a sociologist of religion at Boston University.

The church announced on Nov. 29 that Schuller Jr. had resigned as senior pastor, just a month after he was removed from the church's syndicated broadcasts. In a news release, Schuller Sr. said: "Robert and I have been struggling as we each have different ideas as to the direction and the vision for this ministry." *Msnbc.com*

True Love Waits, cont.

'A person who expects sex to prove the genuineness of a relationship isn't saying "I love you" but rather "I love it".'

However, for the purpose of minimizing confusion I will not stray from love as the culprit for premarital sex. A person who expects sex to prove the genuineness of a relationship isn't saying "I love you" but rather "I love it". I have found in my work as a licensed social worker/therapist that the most beneficial principles of maximizing a relationship come not from sex but communication, understanding, dependability, and a common ground. In case you have not heard it before, virginity and 'born again' virgin-

ity are important to maintain because they are gifts that if not treasured will lose their purity and purpose.

For those of you who have maintained your virginity, God bless you, because you have followed His commandments and honored His Word. You have also dared to be separate in a world where people are dying to fit in. For those of you who have chosen to have sex, it is not too late to turn away from it. God created this awesome thing called sex for marriage. Even more awesome

than sex for the single believer is God's grace, mercy, and relationship. Jesus Christ presents the good news in His Word that if you ask for forgiveness of your sins you will be forgiven, and the key is not to return to that sin. Ask God to cleanse you from the things of the past that won't bring good to your future. 1 John (NIV) 1:9 states that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."- *Quenise Beckford*

Upcoming Events

February 2nd & 16th - CareOne ministry in Moorestown @ 6:30pm.

February 6th - Movie Might @ Marvelous Light Church 7:30pm

February 8th -Breakfast with Co-Pastor @ 9:45am

February 14th - Happy Valentines Day

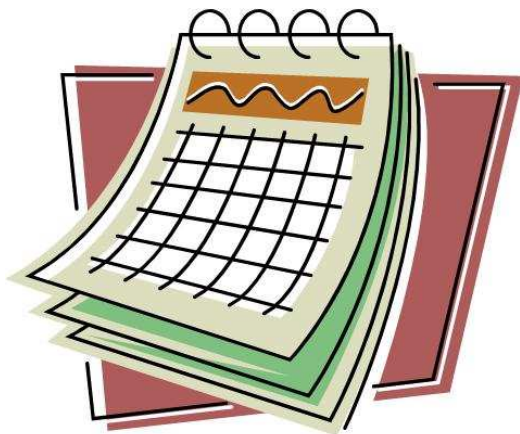
February 20th - Friday Night Service with Minister Tonya Corbin @ 8pm

February 22nd - Marriage enrichment for married and engaged people @ 4pm

February 27th - Friday Night Service with Minister Kaleiah Sjogren @ 8pm.

EVERY THURSDAY 5:30-6:30 PRAYER BY PHONE.
CONFERENCE LINE (712) 432-0800 ext 1048730#

EVERY FRIDAY 5:30- 6:30 MORNING PRAYER



Cooking With the Sisters



Kendra Hall & Shaniqua Leggett

Cooking with the sisters is our monthly recipe column from the sisters at Marvelous Light made famous by their delicious dishes!

Country Ribs



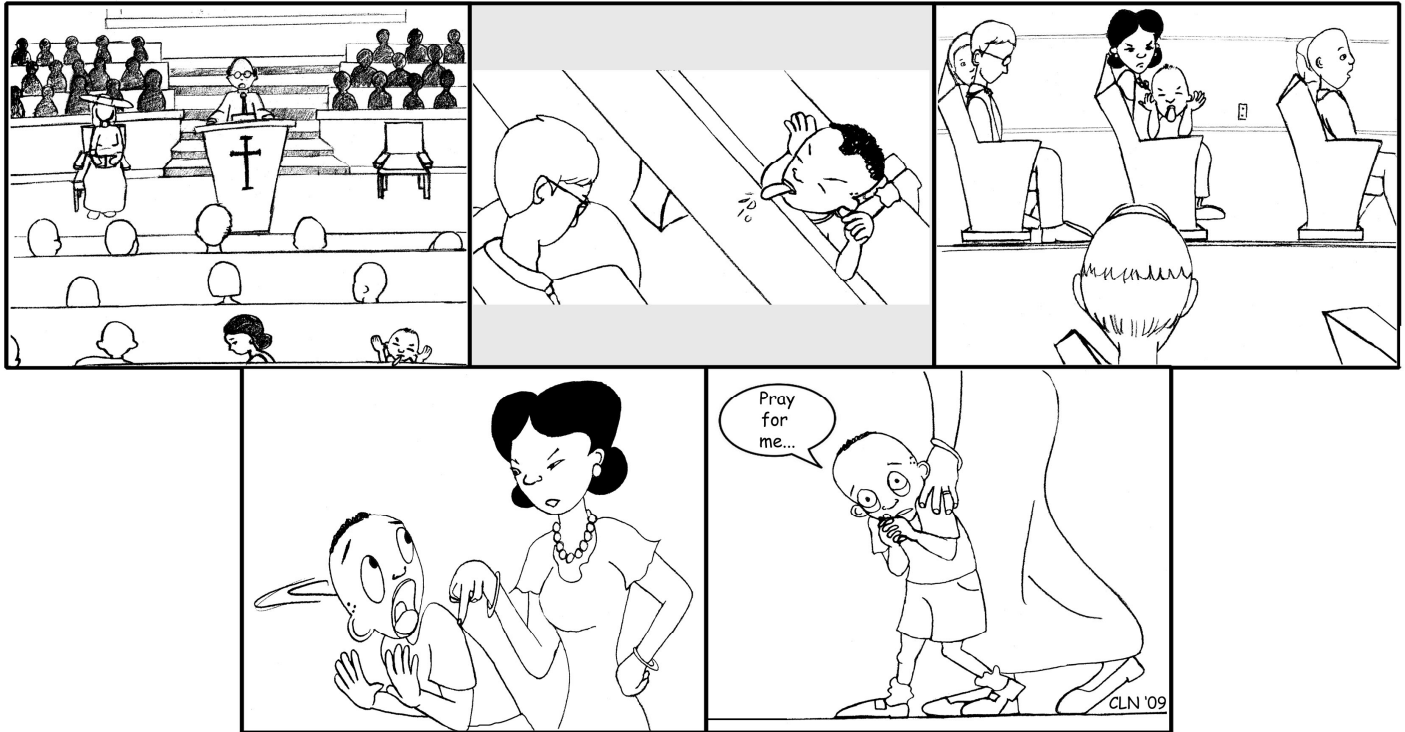
If you love ribs you will enjoy this recipe! Mouth watering, falling off the bone goodness is the best way to describe these succulent country style ribs. They are sure to have you running back for more! Enjoy!

**1 cup Sweet red wine
1/2 cup Chili sauce
1/3 cup Vinegar
1/4 cup Honey
2 tablespoons Soy sauce
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons Salt
2 teaspoons Dry mustard
1 teaspoon Horseradish
1 teaspoon Red pepper sauce
1/2 teaspoon Ground pepper
1/2 teaspoon Paprika
3 tablespoons Vegetable oil
3 pounds Pork country-style ribs**

Mix all ingredients except oil and ribs in saucepan. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Heat the oven to 350'. Heat the oil in Dutch oven over low heat. Brown half of the ribs in hot oil; remove ribs. Repeat with remaining ribs; drain off fat. Return ribs to Dutch oven; pour sauce over ribs. Cover and bake 1 hour. Uncover and bake until done, about 30 minutes. Remove ribs to serving bowl.

Now That's Funny !

CUTTIN' UP IN CHURCH by, Cheyenne Nixon



SUDOKU! (Difficulty: Easy)

How to Play Sudoku

Its simple, and there is *no math involved!*
 Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order, Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order,
 Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

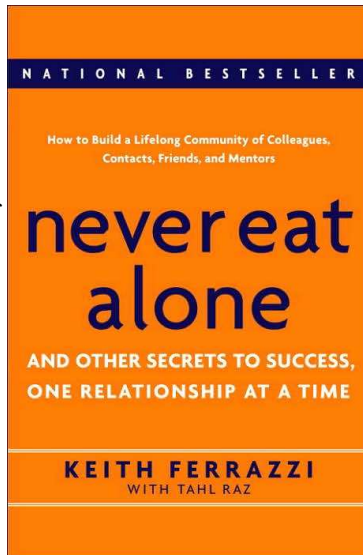
9			6	4				3
2	7			9		5	8	
	1		5	8				
	9					7		
		7	9	6	5	8		
		2					4	
				5	3		6	
	5	1		7			2	8
4				1	6			5

February Book Review: Never Eat Alone

Keith Ferrazzi's "Never Eat Alone" is a must read. Never Eat Alone highlights the importance of networking to personal success and outlines a number of practical tips that will enhance the quality of our networking efforts. Ferrazzi's book differentiates itself from other books on networking because it challenges the common self-serving motivation that drives efforts to grow one's network. Ferrazzi suggests that real networking is about finding ways to make other people more successful... it is about working hard to give

more than you get. Ferrazzi advises that to be most successful in networking you need to develop quality relationships and present yourself as a resource to others. Instead of thinking "How can you help me?" think "How can I help you?" The practical tips that Ferrazzi shares in Never Eat Alone also make it such a great resource. He recommends organizing dinners at your home to meet new people, taking initiative on your job, attending conferences and offering to help the organizer and he also provides tips for more effective follow up.

I found that one can draw many related insights from the story of Ruth in the Bible. Both Ruth and her mother-in-law were having serious issues with their network. It seemed as if Naomi's



network would be forever cut off when her husband and her two sons died. Likewise, Ruth was forced to consider returning to her old network after her husband died. When Naomi was ready to break ties with Ruth and her other daughter in law Orpah, the Bible says that one left her and the other "clung to her (Ruth 1:14). By choosing not to retreat to her old network and by staying connected to Naomi, Ruth positioned herself to meet a relative of Naomi's (Boaz) who later became her husband.

You may be in a place now where your network is not growing much. Never Eat Alone and the

book of Ruth remind us, however, of the need to stay well connected. Although it feels comfortable retreating to the people that we already know, expanding our network opens a whole world of possibilities to us. Through Naomi, Ruth was able to meet a man of influence and wealth and become his wife. More importantly, Ruth conceived a child with Boaz (Obed) who became the grandfather of King David. Jesus Christ also came from this same lineage! So when you get the chance, read Never Eat Alone and read the story of Ruth and Naomi. Start treasuring your existing relationships and developing new ones. It is one of the keys to true success.

-Deacon Attre Alleyne

"Ferrazzi suggests that real networking is about finding ways to make other people more successful... it is about working hard to give more than you get."

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People cont.

just man and a man after God's heart. However, to show the devil that Job's heart was true to God he allowed the devil to persecute him severely. This was a test for Job to see if he would turn from God like his wife did. Matthew 5: 9, 10 says "Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and

shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake." At the end of the book of Job we see that after his trial, God blessed Job greater than he ever was before.

So as you see, it doesn't matter how good you are, God in His sovereignty has the right to allow bad things to happen to you. He is God and He is entitled to do what he wants. If you reject his Son you must face

the wrath of God because He cannot stand sin. If you accept His Son, he will test you with trials and tribulations to make you a stronger Christian. Romans 5:3 says "We glory in tribulations also knowing that tribulations worketh patience." But know that as a Christian all things work together for your good because you love the Lord, Romans 8:28.- Minister Tonya Corbin

Look Up and Live

Pastor Leasa Corbin



"You can find motivation and support in positive family members, friends or church groups who will support your efforts in prayers."

Stop beating yourselves up. Get back on track.

Have you ever made a conscious decision to develop new habits? It can be developing better eating habits, being more organized, or desiring a closer walk with God. You started off with a bang, and then later in the course you became frustrated with the results, then started beating yourself up. If you have been there, you're not alone.

I became frustrated after I stood on the bathroom scale. You know "the truth hurts sometimes times," I thought. My emotions were like a roller coaster around and about. Left feeling defeated and in despair, I actually started to feel sick physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. At that point, I realized I was being too hard on myself because I didn't like what I saw. Here are a few things that can help us get back on track.

The truth is to set us free. John 8:32 says "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Know that truth doesn't bring darkness and add stress to the situation. Truth sheds light on our endeavors and allows us to chart the right course. Christ freed us from sin and all the curses of this life. Satan wants us to attack ourselves and others when light

exposes our flaws.

Decide what changes you need to make.

Evaluate what is hindering or helping you achieve your goal. Sometimes it may be not having a list when we go to the supermarket or hanging somewhere at the wrong time.

Find support & keep a positive attitude.

You can find motivation and support in positive family members, friends or church groups who will support your efforts *in prayers*. You can learn strategies and alternatives from sharing with each other. Most importantly, stay connected with your Heavenly Father who is willing and able to do exceeding and abundantly more than you could ever ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). Think on praise-worthy deeds and you will find that you didn't do as bad as you thought.

Love life and get back on track. Remember that the race is won by those who endure to the end. Rise in the name of Jesus. You can do it. The beating stops here!

-Pastor Leasa Corbin

The Light Post would like to give special thanks to Minister Tonya Corbin and Quenise Beckford for their contributions to this months newsletter!

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Sr. Pastor Lincoln Corbin

Pastor Leasa Corbin

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SERVICE TIMES

Prayer— 9 AM Sun & 7 PM Tues

Sunday School— 9:45 AM

Morning Service— 11:00 AM

Tues Bible Study— 7:30-9:30PM