

G.T.A.H.

Great Things Are Happening



Our Motto: We are a changing people changing the world for Christ.

FATHERS In Blended Families

Being a Father in a Blended Family...



Porter



Stephens



Smith



Hardee



McCants

Bro. Brian Porter

Wife: Africa

Father of 2: Omari and Arius

Married: 2001; child 7 years old

How did your family respond to the fact that the woman you intended to marry had a child?

“Nobody had any problems whatsoever because they knew the type of woman Africa was and they knew me. They accepted her.”

Joys:

“Being able to have two sons, being involved with them in sports and other activities, and helping them with male issues.”

Challenges:

“Knowing that even though I am the father figure and he sees me everyday, he has a biological father. Hoping I instill into him some of my wisdom that he will use throughout his life.”

Advice:

“Treat the child as if they are your own, as if your blood is flowing through their veins.”

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G.T.A.H. Mission Statement: *“To aide others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words.”*

Blended Families (Min. James Ford)



In modern society, some have redefined the definition for family. However from a Christian's perspective, it is still important for the family to be known traditionally, as Father, Mother, and Children. In looking back into the Garden of Eden, with the first family, we see this original family model as: Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel (Genesis 2:18-25; 4:1-2).

There is much literature written about preparing people for marriage who have never been married before. Very little literature has been written on preparing people with children to enter into a second marriage.

All blended families start out with great handicaps. I think that if these handicaps were understood, they can be overcome and used productively. All blended families have certain things in common. They put together parts of previously existing families. There are basically three forms:

1. *A woman with children who marries a man without children.*
2. *A woman without children who marries a man with children.*
3. *Both the woman and the man have children by previous marriages.*

In the first case, the blended family consists of the wife, husband, wife's children, and wife's ex-husband. In the second case, the husband, husband's children, wife, and husband's ex-wife. In the third case, the family consists of wife, wife's children, wife's ex-husband, husband, husband's children and husband's ex-wife.

Even though these groups may not live under the same roof, they are in each other's lives—for better or worse. Room has to be made for all of them. They are significant to the growth and success of the blended family. Many people in blended families try to live as though these other people don't exist.

All of these people have authority in one way or another. The problems arise when they do not openly find time to talk with one another, are in disagreement, or in some cases, are avowed enemies.

Picture a child who has a mother and stepfather in the home, a father and step mother living in another; all four of these adults take some "responsibility" for the child. Can you imagine a child trying to live in an atmosphere where each of them in some way are asking something different, especially if the adults are unaware of this and particularly if they are not on open speaking terms with one another?

What is a child supposed to do in a situation where he gets two conflicting directions? (At times, he may get as many different directions as there are parents.) For the child's sake, two things are necessary. First, the child needs to be encouraged by all concerned to tell what opposing instructions he is getting. Second, all adults concerned need to have periodic meetings with the child/children so they can discover what each of them is doing and how they agree or disagree. Chances are that if the respective adults are open about what they are doing, the child can at least choose and won't have to be a secret keeper for the adults—a problem that often arises between divorced parents who still regard one another as enemies and use the children as spies.

Past Events-April and May



Mothers Day Luncheon for Mothers 70+

On May 6, 2005 Sis. Mary Lenoir hosted a Mother's day luncheon for the mothers 70 and older. The luncheon started off with praise by song. Sis. Lenoir as well as Sis. Grace Davis led the ladies in song. Pastor Clarke blessed the day and food with prayer. Co-hosting this event was Sis. Lenoir's Mother, Mother Epperson. Others who contributed: Sis. Grace Davis, Sis. Irene Booker, Sis. Kathy Jarvis, Sis. Dannie Dukes, Sis. Maxine Woodard, and Deac. Charles Lenoir.



"The reason for this luncheon is to show love and appreciation for how the mothers of the church have blessed us with their service to God throughout the years."

-Sis. Mary Lenoir-



The Grove Teacher Appreciation

During the week of the CRCT Testing, Union Grove gave out Teacher Appreciation Bags to the teachers in the surrounding schools just to let them know that we appreciate them and all their hard work. May God continue to bless all their efforts and continued dedication. *Pictured are Pastor Clarke and Pastor Jenkins with the principal and one of the teachers from Bert Rumble Middle School*



Goodie Bags

Community Outreach



On Friday, May 6th UGMBC Outreach Ministry, Public Relations Ministry, Youth Ministry, and other volunteers partnered together to hand out bags to mothers in the community. The bag consisted of a light bulb, Our Daily Bread devotional, UGMBC pen, candy, and a personal invitation to attend our Mother's Day worship services at the Grove. One of our youth, Ashley Solomon connected with several youth in the community. The outreach was much needed and indeed a blessing for all involved.

Being a Father in a Blended Family according to men in “The Grove Zone”

(Interviewed by Sis. LaShondria Smith)

Deacon Jerome Stephens, Sr.; Wife: Shirley; Father of 4: Tangela; Aisha, Jerome Jr. (JJ) and Jason; Grandfather of 3: Jade, Jayden, and Jared; Married: 1977

How did your family respond to the fact that the woman you intended to marry had a child?

“My family received her very well. Shirley was easily accepted and it was a great experience for my biological and adoptive families. I took the child, Tangela, in as my own even while we dated.”

Joys: “Knowing that Tangela was in a safe haven because I knew God and I would do all I could to take care of her. I stayed involved in her life whether at home, school, church, and other activities. I made sure she was in school and completed her credits in order to graduate. I taught her how to drive. Tangela was a good child and I enjoyed raising her.”

Challenges: “Being the father figure she needed in her life and to show her I would love her regardless of the past relationship between Shirley and her father. I wanted her to know I would always be there for her.”

Memorable moment: “Around the age of 20, after Tangela started college, she came into my bedroom and said to me ‘Thanks for all you’ve done for me.’ Tangela also said that from now on she would call me *Daddy*; before then, I was *Jerome*. I was glad when she chose me and her biological father to give her away on her wedding day. I had a great ride parenting Tangela and I wouldn’t take nothing for it!”

Advice: “You have to understand what God wants from men as fathers. You have to nurture the family especially the children based upon Ephesians 5. Live out the true meaning of a father whether you have children biologically, through a stepfamily, or as an adoptive parent.”

Bro. Willie Smith; Wife: LaShondria; Father of 4: Darren, LaDareon, Dorian, and Donterrio; Married: 2003; child 9 years old

How did your family respond to the fact that the woman you intended to marry had a child?

“My family knew how I felt about being a father to my child and I couldn’t be choosy or condemning to a woman with a child because I had a son. It really didn’t bother them because most single women today have kids. It’s the norm. My friends told me to be careful because they know how close I was to my son and women in the dating scene have a tendency of saying one thing and doing another.”

Challenges: “A challenge is getting to know and understand the child and the child understanding and knowing you. Another challenge is getting the child’s respect. It was important for me to let go of self in order to make LaDareon feel wanted and accepted.”

Joys: “Seeing LaDareon’s reaction when I give him my approval for doing well, watching him accomplish tasks and overcome difficult hurdles in his life.”

Advice: “Get to know your wife, the child, how they interact, and her parenting style because you may have different ways of parenting which will cause serious conflict. Don’t be afraid to be the man of the house. Demand respect, be patient, and communicate with the child. Try your best to never compare your kids.”

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YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS



David Wolmack and Alenna Wolmack were each chosen as The Student of the Month for September and January. Each received a Citizenship Award Certificate and was treated to lunch in the Star Café at Northside Elementary School.



Michael Wester's Pre-K graduation from Christian Fellowship Academy

A Review of Pastor David Anthony Clarke's book entitled *Starting Over: Five Helps To A New Direction In Life*

This book will be published soon! Below are a few reader's review of the book.

"Pastor Clarke's book is really inspiring. It challenged me to look at all the things I've put on the back burner for many years and go for it! It also uses many illustrations of how Jesus encourages Peter and his brother to go for it! Pastor Clarke's not afraid to share his life's experiences to encourage the reader that the Starting Point is now, so go for it!"

-Sis. Janice Scott

"Pastor Clarke's book Starting Over is full of teaching in a new way, this is not a self help book with a lot of lists, and it is not a book telling you what you should do without any practical application. Instead, he reviews the life of Simon Peter using today's language and situations to show everyone that they too can pick themselves up from anything (addictions, failed relationships, depression, etc.) and move forward in a positive life-changing way."

-Sis. Patrice Smith

"This book contains some life-changing truths God has given Pastor Clarke – truths and principles of the word of God that impact your life forever if you take them to heart, practice and apply them. Mark 9:23 All things are possible to him who believes. The thing I like the most about the book is that it gets straight to the point."

-Bro. Leo R. Finkley



All Things Hidden by Judy Candis

GLORY GIRLS BOOK REVIEW

The Klan meets Christianity in this thriller for the African-American market; what it lacks in subtlety, it makes up for in strong faith. Jael Reynolds is a Florida divorcée who has found Jesus and regrets her former marriage to Virgil, a caricature of an ex-husband, who berates Jael about her excessive work habits as a lead homicide detective. Trouble comes when drug dealers are knocked off one by one, and Jael is hot on the trail. When Jael's young son is kidnapped by the Klu Klux Klan, she turns to God for help, moving about his room, touching his belongings and claiming, "BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I CLAIM THE SAFE RETURN OF MY ONLY CHILD, RAMON." A showdown with evil ensues. As Jael reflects at the end of the novel, "She'd learned an enormous lesson that would carry her through the rest of her life. And whatever plan God had for her life, she had every confidence that He would see it through." The review of this book will be on June 24 at 6 p.m. at the home of Sis. Connie Dinkins home. For more information contact Sis. Michelle Clarke.

SAFE, WARM & DRY (Bro. Slater S. Thorpe, Jr.)

Safe, Warm and Dry is what Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April is all about. Our project this year encompassed all three elements. God blessed us this year to serve Mrs. Bessie Head who lives at 114 Suzanne Dr. The workday began at 7am on 23 April 05. All the city teams met at the recreation



center for prayer, breakfast and words of encouragement from our mayor and state representative.

The Grove Zone team this year was composed of Hilda Haywood, Victoria Leonard, Chanel Crosskey, Arnece McCants, Isaac and Kinan Taylor, Leroy Johnson, Rashee Ragin, Council Wilcox, Wendy Hughes, and Leonard McNair. The project involved

repairing interior walls and painting three bedrooms, a bathroom and hall. We also painted the exterior of the house, mowed the lawns, and trimmed shrubs.

You may be asking yourself, "How could all this be done in one day by approximately ten people?" It wasn't! The project really began in mid-February with our experts James Booker, Alvin Striggles, Henry Scott, Charles Lenoir and Rodney Solomon who did the preliminary work of replacing the facial boards outside, replacing several broken windows and a toilet. We even fixed a second toilet and the drain on the "kitchen sink". Special thanks goes to Charles Byrd who did an electrical assessment to ensure our clean up efforts outside were safe. Kudos also go to Hilda Haywood, not only is she a master painter but she also coordinated and prepared lunch with the assistance of Chanel and Arnece.

Although this year's project is complete, Rebuilding Together has agreed to help with getting our new Life Changers Center buildings on Clay St. up and running. The center's new location is guaranteed to have a positive impact on our community and help us meet part of our mission to "creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of our church and community".

Your help is NEEDED! If you would like to get involved, Contact Deacon Stephens or myself. It's been a pleasure serving as your House Captain and I praise God for those who selflessly gave their time, talent and finances to this year's project. Be Blessed!

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Minister Shane Hardee; Wife: Kathy; Father of 4: Mieya, Amber, Isaiah, and Kamari; Married: 1999

Challenges: “This is a subject that just is not neatly put into a box of good and bad, likes and dislikes. For with every joy, there comes an accompanying challenge. Take for instance me being a dad, it is a great joy to be a father to my son (I never refer to myself as a stepfather or him a stepson). The challenge is how to deal with you not being his only father. Who has the last word in your son’s life? Another challenge that fathers face in a blended family is how to fulfill their GOD given duties. Proverbs 22:6 says *‘Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.’* This must be looked upon as a joy that presents a challenge. Yet it has to be stated that this can be a very touchy situation. I believe without any doubt this command extends to all parents of children. No matter how many parents are involved, all parents would do well to heed the advice it gives. Some fathers have taken the position of hands off. I say hands off because they won’t, can’t or feel they are not allowed to fulfill this role in the children’s lives. I believe this to be a big mistake whatever the situation. If GOD has placed these children in your life He will hold you accountable for their growth. To discuss all the reasons why a father would take this approach could take forever. Some reasons could be the natural parents, the child’s attitude towards you, and even your own mind set. Either of these may lead to a stepfather taking this approach to his stepchildren. I believe every father must find out how GOD intended for him to influence his children, then trust GOD for the opportunity.”

Joys: “One of the joys I have as a father is that my role in my son’s life is not that of second in line. My wife and son have accepted me in the role as his father. Yet I understand some fathers face a greater challenge than I have had.”

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BILLION SOUL HARVEST

On April 19, 2005, Min. James Gaines participated in a seminar for the Billions Soul Harvest Campaign, which was held at First Assembly of God Church in Griffin, GA. What is it? Seventeen churches and 23 people came together, giving out doughnuts, cutting neighborhood lawns, and good, ole fashioned knocking on doors, to win many souls over to Christ. Dr. James Davis (co-founder/president and CEO of Global Pastors Network) and a few other evangelists decided they could plant 5 million new churches and win 1 billion souls over to the Lord over the course of ten years. They said that nothing was impossible and believed God enough to begin the endeavor. They enlisted the aid of people who were making a difference on the planet and came together to instruct church leaders on how this monumental task could be accomplished. Some 80 different denominations heeded the call and are lending their support in this effort.

There were teachings on the following subjects: *Establishing Your Cause, Enforce Your Character, How to Enlist Our Comrades, Funding Your Church's Vision, Integrity Media, Evaluating Your Church, Finishing the Task, Connecting with Our Culture, Engage Your Creativity, Encourage Your Confidence, Evangelize Your Converts.*

More information can be obtained at www.BillionSoul.org.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Name: Ethan Paul Collins

Birthdate: May 18, 2005

Weight: 7lbs 6.8 ounces

Time: 10:37 p.m.

Parents: Heather Sweeney & John Collins

Graduate Blessings (Bro. Larry Spruill)

About 4 years ago, a young man graduated from Houston County High School with a diploma and dreams in his eyes. Nobody knew the real feelings that were impounded in his heart. The feelings of fear, uncertainty, and excitement all rolled into one. Everyone was proud of this young man, due to the fact that he graduated from high school, and now should be entering a new chapter in his life. No one knew that lil' Larry didn't know where he was going to attend college in the fall, or where he was staying, or better yet if he even got accepted into a institution of higher learning. As the summer began to wind down, lil' Larry still didn't know what he was going to do. Then about 3 weeks before college was about to start, he learned that he was going to be attending Valdosta State University in the fall. His parents were very excited, and started to make numerous plans for their son. The semester was winding down, and finals were approaching quickly, after meeting new friends, and hanging out till the early morning hours every night, Larry knew that he should have studied a little harder instead of going out every weekend. As he stared at the computer screen for the fourth time, to make sure that his eyes were not deceiving him, he saw F's, D's, C's, and maybe one B, and then the big bolded word "PROBATION".

That summer was a very long summer for Larry, due to the fact that there was a possibility that his parents were going to make him stay at home that following year or for the remainder of his college career. This is where the Graduate Blessings begin. After a tough introduction into college, lil' Larry finally got his priorities straightened out. He pulled his grade point average up, worked 2 jobs throughout college, earned many honors and commendations from the president of the university, served as the Communications Senator of the Student Government Association for 3 years, and in the Spring of 2004, joined the BEST fraternity in the world, ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC. Now please don't get me wrong, the meaning of this article is not to gloat,

but to give GOD the glory and thanks, and honor my parents for giving me a second chance. A second chance on believing, a second chance in getting to know who I am, and what I can accomplish, and a second chance on making them proud. Thank you Larry and Edna Spruill for everything that you have done for me these past 21 years! Although I don't have any money right now, and I have to pay off these college loans, my blessings are not coming from money, my blessings are coming from the Lord. Praise God for giving me the best parents on this side of the Mississippi. Once again, I thank you. Parents please remember the next time your child brings you heartache and pain that everyone deserves a second chance. I learned that lesson from GOD HIMSELF!



Congratulations to the Class of 2005 Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church graduates!



The graduates are as follows: *Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr., Justin Brown, Richard Kyle Hicks, Antoine Thomas, Tiney Rolle, Shun'kia Re 'Sha Turner, Catrina Nicole Turner, Ebony Bates, Jermaine Dean, Victoria Leonard, Felipe Antwon Price, Latorra T. Shelley, Larry Spruill, Jr., Laurice Thomas, and Syemeiko Nicole Dinkins. Pre-K Graduates: Kamari Hardee & Michael Wester.*

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Minister Lee McCants; Wife: Patricia; Father of 6: Ebony, Kea, Ashley, Jared, Arnece, Aundra; Married: 1983

How did your family respond to the fact that the woman you intended to marry had a child?

“Salvation changed my values because I was convicted and it was painful. People didn’t understand my dating and intending to marry my wife. I prayed and the Lord clearly spoke and told me to marry Pat. People said it wouldn’t last 3 months but now it’s 22 years later and I have watched God move. People questioned but I relied on what God had said and I took God at His word and went with it. I wasn’t concerned with people because I wanted to be true to God.”

Challenges: “I came into my marriage knowing that I would acquire a child. God had already been dealing with me about my life including the woman to marry. On how to deal with the child God said, ‘Marry, accept, raise and treat the child as your own.’ I stayed committed and I wanted her to know that I knew I wasn’t her biological father and she had to always respect and honor her father. God was faithful and showed me how to love her. There will always be antagonism when you are trying to raise children right. You have to set boundaries and rules for the kids to follow. In the scriptures where something happens to the natural parent there always has to be a man in the house. Men have a wiring or innate ability within them in rearing children to hold them accountable and execute corrective measures for consequences associated with inappropriate behavior.

Teaching discipline and allowing her to recognize there was a need in her life for God. Kea has always been gifted, smart, and very athletic but she had to become more disciplined. It’s an amazing thing now because Kea has now become more disciplined and is currently working on her Master’s, passing her classes to become a chiropractor.”

Joys: “It’s great to see some of my characteristics in Kea now and I know that only God could do that. I learned more about myself and God while being a father to Kea and I would not have learned those things if she hadn’t been in my life. I learned a lot, especially how the enemy will work through small things to destroy the parental relationship. You have to be able to discern Satan when he comes. Pat and I prayed together and that is what welded us together as the husband and wife and prayer is what equipped us for whatever God allowed to come our way.

To be an effective father, you have to have a desire to please God in all areas of your life. If this component is missing, the enemy will find out and use it to get in. You have to have a heart for God and to do things His way. If you grab a hold to pleasing God, you will have a glorious opportunity to manifest His glory through parenting and in your marriage which will impact all the generations to come.”

Advice: “In marriage, honesty, trust, and communication have to be established upfront between the husband and wife. Don’t let the kids see division among the parents or they will play on it. Pat and I were one with same values and views about parenting which put us on one accord. As Mom and Dad, do what is pleasing to God. I wanted a wife that loved God as much as I did and had a connection with God. With both of us having our own relationship with God and with God leading our marriage, it flows down to the children.

It was all about my decision to follow God. I didn’t approach the marriage and family from a stepchild view, she was always my daughter. I accepted the child as my own and treated her no different than my biological children. Stepfathers can’t get caught up in ‘that’s not my child’ because the child will recognize that. Be careful when parenting a child not to differentiate because the kids will pick up on it. Being a stepfather isn’t any different than being a father because children are one of the greatest ways to get to know God. God requires that we discipline, love, and pull our children down the right road. I believe in not sparing the rod but you have to communicate the reason for using the rod. I never had any problems with the expectations that God placed on me as her father. I feel at times I went overboard to express to her that she was my daughter and I would not treat her different from the other kids. It’s a life experience where you learn along the way. Some things in life you cannot learn from others but you learn through experience. I have no regrets; I would do it all over again.”

The Blended Family (Sis. LaShondria Smith)



What does the family look like... husband, wife, sons, and daughters connected by a bloodline and living together? According to Stepfamily Foundation, the statistics are showing that the Blended Family is on the rise and it's predicted that by 2010 there will be more stepfamilies in the United States than any other type of family. Approximately half (50%) of all Americans are currently involved in some form of step relationship. The reason for the increase in this type of family is because one out of two marriages (50%) are ending in divorce and 66% of marriages and living together situations end in break up, when children are actively involved. It is predicted that 50% of children in the United States will go through a divorce before they are 18 and about 10 percent of them will live in Blended Family home after a remarriage. These statistics can be attributed to the problems we are seeing in our children today. We are hurting them and causing conflict in many areas of their lives.

Blended Families and Stepfamilies are used interchangeably depending on the person discussing the topic. A Blended Family is defined as a household in which there are two adults in a committed couple relationship and where at least one of them has a child or children from a previous relationship. As Christians, we know that according to God's standards, the couple should be man and woman but there are children in Blended Families being raised by the same sex parents who are in a lesbian or gay relationship. Statistics show that approximately 1300 new stepfamilies are formed every day in the United States.

Blended Families are different not better, not worse, just different than any other family because they are more complex. While it looks normal from the outside, it is very different from the traditional family. According to the Chicagoland Marriage Resource Center, you are entering into a "new" family situation. It creates a new household that has biological and non-biological connections among the inhabitants of the home. It often will include contact with another biological parent connected to the children. It certainly will have children who are not sure they have a voice in this new family formation be resistant to coming together.

Usually we have little preparation for this new family life. The 'honeymoon' for the couple who marries does not come until about the seventh year when the Blended Family has been balanced and the roles understood. The next few years will be a time of great challenges as everyone learns to define themselves in this new environment. So where does the family go from here?

There are Stages in the Blended Family:

1) *Fantasy-At the beginning, the adults expect their new family to settle down quickly and begin to function smoothly.*

2) *Immersion-In this stage, family members feel "immersed" in rough waters rather than floating on calm seas. There is increased negativity as the sense that things are not going well leads to discomfort and tension, which are often continually below the surface. The Stepparent can begin to feel that something is wrong with him/her and the Biological parent can often feel that he/she might have made a mistake.*

3) *Awareness-There is a growing awareness that some changes are needed. The Stepparents are feeling like outsiders and begin to push for more of a sense of belonging. The Biological parent begins to feel caught in the middle, pulled in two directions by his/her new spouse and children. In times of tension, the family splits along biological lines. Children can often observe these splits and exploit the differences between the couple.*

4) *Mobilization-This is the time most people seek help whether prayer from others or counseling. There are often many strong emotions and arguments, and the family often splits along biological lines during the chaos, which reinforces the Stepparent as the outsider and the Biological parent as caught in the middle. The Stepparent becomes clear on the need for change and the parent fears that change will bring loss—namely the loss of connection with their child. In this stage, if the Stepparent has no children of his/her own, he or she will feel a great deal of isolation, lack of any support and begin pulling away.*

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5) Action-It takes an average of 3 to 4 years to reach this stage, which is when the couple begins working together in an attempt to find solutions, form a solid connection, and work as a team to meet the challenges in the family. The Biological parent and the Stepparent realize that the children need the stability of a strong couple and a needed boundary around the couple is now developed, while at the same time the couple respects and responds to the needs of the children.

6) Contact-At this stage, the couple is working well together and there is a closer bonding between the Stepparent and Stepchild(ren). The Stepparent has a definite role with the Stepchildren and boundaries are clear; Stepparents have now become "intimate outsiders."

7) Resolution -The identity of the Blended/Stepfamily is secure. There is now a security in the family's household and cooperation exists more between the children and parents. When difficulties arise, the family may regress to earlier stages, but can move ahead quickly to this new norm because they have transitioned through all of the stages where roles are known and everyone is able to function.

Every family transitions differently and nothing is set in stone. Seek God and trust Him for guidance in blending your family.

Dr. Beverly Bliss, who is a clinical psychologist and counsels Blended Families, provides some things you can do to ease the difficulties of adjustment.

-Be aware that it can take years to successfully develop your new family.

-Both adults in the home have parental roles. Both parents must learn to think ahead and manage, as a couple, the multitudes of situations that will occur in your home.

-You must be united in agreement in front of the children. In preplanning, frequent talking and praying together, you will arrive at strategies and rules under which your home will function.

-As a couple, you both must make time for your relationship. You must assign a specific time each day or week when you can pay attention to each other. You will need to continually rekindle the love that caused you to take on this incredible role in this new family.

-Think about how you will create new celebrations and develop new rituals that are unique to this family. How will holidays work when children are moving between different households? What is the seating arrangement at the dinner table? Can times when gifts are exchanged (birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, etc.) be structured in a way that does not force anyone to give if they are not comfortable doing so? How will people greet one another when they enter or leave the home? What completely new activities (Bible study, playing games etc.) can you develop that will allow everyone to participate?

-Identify a support network of others who have/have had Blended Families. They will help find solutions and give support by sharing and praying.

-Most important, know that your love and marriage sets a wonderful example not just for your children but also for other families around you.

Always remember every family is different and because something works for one family it doesn't mean that it will work for yours. Even in the Bible, we have the poor example of the Blended Family with Abraham, Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael where Sarah forced her stepson and his mother out. But God gave us the excellent example of Himself, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We should strive to follow the example of Joseph in which he loved Jesus as his own and taught him to live for and love God.

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S	Deac. Charles Lenoir	953-2350
T-V	Deac. Edward Jarvis	923-5139
W-Z	Deac. Nathanel Davis	923-7713
	Donald Woodard (in training)	987-9865

“The Grove Zone Vision Statement”

To be a global network of learning, loving, and life transforming ministries where hungry worshippers are discovering and walking in their God-given purpose with exceeding great joy.

Our Mission Statement:
To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential, and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community.

If you would like an online copy of this newsletter please visit :
www.thegrovewr.org/website/newsletter.html
If you would like a online copy of the church calendar visit:
www.thegrovewr.org/calendar/calendar.html
NOTE: (If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, all articles must be emailed and are due by the 3rd Friday of each month to newsletter@thegrovewr.org)

Happy Birthday

Abrams, Annie	Hughes, Hurley	Reynolds, Annie
Anderson, Eddie	Hughes, Ruby	Richardson, Ruby
Billings, Oralene	Humphries, Dorothea	Roberts, Kendall
Britt, Joseph	Hunter, Ardecia	Robinson, Rontavia
Bynum, Dorothy R.	Jackson, Chad	Scott, Lateshia
Clark, Monroe	Logan, Kathryn	Sims, J.D.
Colbert, Woodrow	McCollum, Gary S.	Smith, Cheryl
Davis, Michael	Mofford, Sarah	Thomas, Deja
Dawkins, Alando	Moore, Quinton	Thorpe, Marion
Dodson, Dorothy	Oliver, Phyllis	Toles, Anya
Fant, James	Porter, Brian	Toliver, Tarshea
Fuller, Shermeka	Powell, Jackie	Tuck, Charlie
Harrison, Dearonda	Ray, Wylene	Walker, Eugene
Henton, Betty	Reeves, Damon	Walker, Tryphane
Hicks, Richard K.	Respress, Vacienta	White, Michael
		Wynds, Brittany



What's Going on At “The Grove Zone” in June 2005

6-8 thru 10 Full Gospel Fellowship-ATL
 6-18 A-C; G-I Church Family Fellowship
 6-19 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
 6-20 thru 22 Youth Movement ATL
 6-24 Glory Girls' Book Review, 6 p.m.
 6-25 Marriage Communication Enhance 8:30a

WANTED

**People willing to tell other people
 in our community and the surrounding area
 about our God.**

Evangelism Ministry NEEDS you. We would like to begin evangelizing our neighborhood once again and we cannot do it without your participation! On Sunday afternoons (3:00 PM at UGMBC) we will depart into the local area for approximately 1 hour to share the Gospel with those whom you've probably seen 10 times and never had the opportunity to get to know. If you are interested please call Min Gaines @ 972-0429 or you may contact Min Dukes @ 953-8789 and united we will put our Purpose Driven Lives to practical application. Are you are a member of a prayer cell group or would like to become a member of one? Don't miss this opportunity!