There’s an app for that!

100-year-old Mother Emma Rowland was concerned about so many people using their cellphones during church. Her family explained that they weren’t socializing, but following scripture.

Still teaching Sunday School (Women of Acts) and the Women’s Daily Walk Bible Study weekly, Mother is shown above, getting help with a Bible app from her granddaughter. What a blessing to have such a deep thirst for knowledge and to take advantage of technology to know Him better!

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 119:105
Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:32). These are three simple words that remind us that our future is not in our past! Someone needs to stop looking back today! What God has for you is ahead of you and not behind you. However, we must learn from our past if we don’t want to repeat it.

The greatest value of the past is as a teacher. We should reflect about things that have happened in our life so that we learn and grow from our experiences. This is a major way that we obtain wisdom. Do you spend sufficient time reflecting on things that went right and things that went wrong in the past?

Reflection turns experience into insight. As we
understand what we did poorly or how we failed God, it empowers us to build a better future. We live, and we learn. We learn, and we grow. God never focuses on lecturing us about how bad our mess ups were. He is only interested in our repentance, which is a change of mind to move forward.

Once you’ve learned your lessons from the past, move on. When the past calls, let it go to voicemail. The past has nothing new to say to you. You see, your life has a tendency to move in the direction in which you look. That’s why the Apostle Paul reminded us, “No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13 NLT).

No matter what has happened in your past, be determined to:

1. Learn from it
2. Forgive it
3. Heal from it
4. Move on

Think of it this way: Adversity is preparation for greatness! It is because of hardships that strength is produced in your life. No matter how great your failures are, they cannot defeat the greatness of God’s love for you. Don’t let the weakness in your past hinder the greatness in your future! Focus forward!

The best is yet to come!
Meet Our New Executive Pastor
Dale Bronner II

I graduated from Morehouse College in 2016, finishing at the top of my class in the field of Philosophy. I then went to Yale Divinity School and finished this year with a Master of Arts in Religion, with a concentration in the History of Christianity. I found my time at Yale to be very enriching. I had the opportunity to learn from and develop relationships with professors at the top of their field as well as develop meaningful and fruitful relationships with my fellow students. Now, being able to serve as Executive Pastor here at Word of Faith, is a great opportunity! Naturally, I have been attending Word of Faith my entire life and would not have it any other way. I truly believe, after seeing churches from around the nation and around the world, that we have something special here at Word of Faith. And now, I’m grateful to play a major role in being a part of furthering what we do here. So far, it has been an honor to work with people so dedicated to our mission, always looking to do what it takes to get the job done! I look forward to helping to push Word of Faith forward, which of course, is moving the body of Christ forward and in turn, participating in helping His Kingdom to come!

She said, “Yes!”

“We are incredibly grateful to God for bringing us together. And we look forward to growing deeper in our love as we embark on life’s journey as one.”

Pastor Dale
Elise Moore is the 2018 recipient of the Deacon Robert Lofton Servant Leadership Award, selected from other covenant students based on her service history at WOF and outstanding character. At Tri-Cities High School in East Point, she was a Tri-Cities School Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Program Ambassador and member of the Beta Club. During her years at WOF, she has been active with Voices of Light, Jesus in Motion, Ignite Youth Ministry and Elite 31, where she received the Miss Eloquence Award. Elise will attend Agnes Scott College, where she will major in Business Management.


WOF’s own Danielle Smith was recently sworn in as the Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner of Clayton County. The role of this department is both to administer the laws of the State of Georgia and to collect and disburse all taxes to all state and local entities, while providing outstanding customer service to its citizens. Ms. Smith is the ministry leader for Hands for Him and Down With Christ. Danielle reminds us, “though you don’t understand the totality of God’s plan, trust the journey, it’s worth it.”

Danielle’s children celebrating Mom!

Khalil Edmundson attended the 2018 National Leadership Conference of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in Baltimore, MD, which helps students prepare for careers in business by focusing on academic competitions. Khalil’s team from Chapel Hill High School in Douglasville, GA, competed with over 100 teams from across the nation, where they won 1st place. Khalil is the grandson of Jacqueline Smith and will be attending Howard University this fall, where he will pursue a Finance degree. His hobbies include: listening to music, deejaying and producing music.
From the Cradle to College! *WOF Times* salutes some of our distinguished young male graduates who have grown up in the church.

Spiritually and academically prepared.

“The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” Judges 6:12

**Up for the challenge!**

**Joshua Bennafield** was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and was elected president of his senior class at Riverwood International Charter School. NSHSS helps scholars identify and use the gifts they have been given and equips them for future success. He has also served as a volunteer in the Route 215 Sunday School Ministry and will pursue Business Administration at the University of Georgia. His parents are Deacon Benny and Marci Bennafield.

**Ready for the world!**

**Holland Jacob Stewart** is a 2018 graduate of Chapel Hill High School in Douglas County. While at Chapel Hill he was inducted into the Beta Club and recognized as a Superintendent and Board scholar. He played 4 years of varsity golf and attended the Youth about Business Basic camp where he placed as champion and YAB advanced camp champion. Holland has attended 13 years in the Camp 212 summer camp and will attend Kennesaw State University. He is the son of Sabrina Stewart.

**Slam Dunk!**

**Kyler Ingram** served as a counselor during the summer camp and is grateful for Brother Gerald Jordan’s guidance. A member of the varsity basketball team at Cambridge High, Kyler received the MVP award and a scholarship to play at Emmanu-el College in Franklin GA, this fall. He is the son of Kimberley Mims and grandson of Jane Mims.

**Just Do It!**

**George Amos** loves to draw and write stories and is interested in animation design. He was a student at Center Academy and enjoyed Radical Love and the youth choir at the Cathedral. He will enter Beacon College in Leesburg, FL. His parents are George and Dr. Yvonne Amos.

**Double Blessings!**

Identical twins **Joshua and Kaleb Mack** are the sons of Theodore and Kerri Mack. Joshua will attend Valparaiso University in Indiana, majoring in Civil Engineering and French. Kaleb will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Computer Science. Honor students at Douglas County High School, the twins were affiliated with the Alonzo Herndon Game Changer Program which encourages youth to plan for successful futures. Both Joshua and Kaleb served as junior ushers and believe it enhanced their social and leadership skills.
**Put the Basket In the Water!**

In the Christian faith, Easter is the crescendo of our year. It’s the time that marks the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s the day He burst forth from the tomb and conquered death. Jesus had been reunited with the Father. The disciples were on their own. When he said goodbye to His disciples, He was putting the basket in the water and trusting both the plan of the Father and the direction of the Spirit.

So what does it mean to put the basket in the water? Back in the time of Moses, Pharaoh felt threatened by the Israelites and ordered all the midwives to kill any baby boys born to the Israelite people by drowning them in the Nile River. But Moses’ mother wouldn’t have it. She hid him as long as she could, and when she could no longer hide him, she put him in a basket and put the basket in the water among the reeds of the Nile. The very river that could have drowned him was now his refuge. She had no idea what would happen to her baby, but she trusted the plan of the Father. As we know, baby Moses was drawn out of the water and would one day grow to become one of the greatest heroes of the Bible – the one who would rescue God’s people from slavery and lead them to the Promised Land.

Here’s what we can learn from this as parents: There comes a time – many times, actually – in the lives of our children where we have to put the basket in the water. We have to let go and trust the plan of the Father. The world is a scary place – a place where we fear our children could drown. But we must remember that we have to let go so that God can draw them from the waters for His great purpose. He has called us to be their parents, but they were His first.

Whatever water you may be getting ready to put your basket into – whether your days as a stay-at-home-mom are ending as your child starts preschool soon or if your baby has grown into a high school graduate and is getting ready to leave your home – remember that you have to put them in the water for God to draw them out and place them into His perfect plan. Though you might not be physically present with your child as much during the next phase of life, you can always petition the heart of the Father on their behalf. And when you do this, that same Spirit that Jesus left with His disciples – that same Helper – intercedes for you, and in that you can find peace.

Autor Unknown

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**You Turned My Mourning Into Dancing**

After battling depression with suicidal tendencies for 3½ years, God delivered me in the latter part of 2017. While God was processing me, He reminded me of talents and gifts (one of which is the gift of dance) He’d given to me and His command to share them. With a contrite heart, I repented for being disobedient and said, “Yes, I will do what You said do; not my will but Your will be done and use me for Your glory.” Then, He led me to attend Celebrate Recovery for further healing. Psalm 30 (a thanksgiving for the deliverance from death) is a must read for me every day. My heart was full and is still full of gratitude for His grace and loving mercy toward me; thus, the name of the new dance ministry was born “Attitude of Gratitude (AOG).”

AOG is a praise dance ministry for those who are 50+ years of age. Previous dance experience is not necessary, however, an attitude of gratitude for who God is and what He has done in your life is necessary. Also, strength training is a must because we dance with Isis wings and they add extra weight to our bodies.

Our first rehearsal was January 27, 2018. We ministered before the congregation on May 27, 2018, to I can Only Imagine by Tamela Mann. Our music, choreography and wardrobe are given through dreams, visions and unction from the Holy Spirit; we dare not take credit for what God is doing. Our mission is to worship and praise God in dance; to be used for His Glory so that healing, deliverance and freedom come to His people.

There are 14 dancers and the first three to join were asked to do so: Alphonso Starkey (portrayed Jesus); his wife, Sheree Starkey and Bettye Hunter. The others were led to the ministry after responding to the announcements in December 2017. The family of anointed dancers who have been put together is loving, kind and humble; it’s a divine hookup for such a time as this! The anointed team is led by servant leader, Connie Geter and assistant, Bethtye Hunter.

Psalm 30:11 - Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness (KJV).
Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott have been teaching and counseling married and premarital couples since the late 1980’s. Our Covenant Keepers Marriage Mentoring program utilizes their marriage mentoring triad approach as a part of our four part marriage mentoring system. In March of this year (2018) I asked Dr. Les three questions to get his wisdom, experience, and the benefit of years of research. The following were his responses:

1. How important is premarital counseling to a person’s marriage?

Here’s what we know for sure: Couples who have competent pre-marriage education of at least 6 hours that involves a reliable and valid personality assessment are certain to lower their chances of divorce by 31 percent. Not only that, they also see an increase in marital happiness and contentment by at least a third. Incredible! Who wouldn’t want both of those incredible payoffs for such a minimal investment.

2. What are the top two or three things that married couples should focus on to strengthen their marriage?

You might expect me to say conflict management or improved communication. But truth be told, I think it’s critical for married couples to work on becoming the healthiest people they can be. When you are growing and becoming your best self, the communication and conflict skills become far more easier. So, start with self-awareness. Invest in a reputable assessment like DeepLove.com and it will allow you look in the mirror and become more conscious of the things you can do - personally - to be a better spouse. Second, work on empathy it’s the name of the game. The more effective couples are at walking in each other’s shoes, the happier they are in their relationship. And you can’t be competent at empathy until you have a good self-awareness. The longer I work with the couples the more important these two qualities - awareness and empathy - become.

3. How are you and Leslie doing in your campaign initiative to train a million marriage mentors?

We have trained more than 300,000 couples through our online MarriageMentoring.com. We feel good about it but we have a long way to go. Every day more couples onboard and it’s exciting. Not only that, but these mentors are leveraging their skills by becoming trained and certified in using our SYMBIS Assessment (SYMBIS.com) with the couples they serve and that is really moving the needle. It’s making an incredible impact because it’s so practical and relevant. When you have a customized roadmap for your relationship, life doesn’t get much sweeter.

Marriage mentoring is extremely effective in impacting the lives of a married couple which desires to grow strong together in the Lord. Word of Faith Covenant Keepers is committed to helping marriages heal and become whole again.

If you would like to receive more information about Covenant Keepers or the SYMBIS Assessment you can call Word of Faith at 770.874.8400 and ask for Rev. Charles Houston, email us at wofcovenantkeepers@gmail.com, or “Like” our Facebook page and leave comments or questions at https://www.facebook.com/wofcovenantkeepers.

Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral

“...a threefold cord is not easily broken...” Ecclesiastes 4:12
Today, there are over 3,000 film festivals worldwide.

The BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009 that is dedicated to bringing national and worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color. In fact, the mission of the BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta is two-fold: to promote Atlanta as the new film mecca for people of color and to showcase films and provide networking opportunities that will develop the next generation of filmmakers.

Atlanta (October 4th - 7th) - Kingdomwood Christian Film Festival (KCFF) provides a forum for independent filmmakers to screen films that promote and inspire Christian teaching and values. KCFF screens full features, shorts, and documentaries and provides workshops and symposiums that offer insight and analysis of industry trends in faith-based film-making and production.

Atlanta (January 2019) - The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) is a 23-day cinematic exploration of Jewish life, culture and history. Seeking to use the power of film to both entertain and educate, AJFF challenges conventional perspectives on complex and challenging issues facing both the Jewish and global communities. In 2015, a record-breaking 38,600+ moviegoers attended the AJFF, cementing its status as the highest attended Jewish film fest on the planet.

Atlanta (February 2019) - Formerly presented as part of the National Black Arts Festival, the Pan African Film Festival is now an independent summer festival, a sister to PAFF - Los Angeles. Established in 1992 by Danny Glover, Ja’net DuBois (Good Times) and Ayuko Babu, the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the promotion of cultural understanding among peoples of African descent. PAFF is dedicated to racial tolerance through the exhibition of film, art and creative expression.

Atlanta and Duluth (October 26th - 28th) - The Georgia Latino Film Festival was launched in 2012 to ensure Latino stories are being told in Hollywood. It was also formed to have a place in Georgia where Latino film executives and artists at the forefront of the Latino film industry and image can come together to discuss the future of Latino filmmakers, writers and directors and create what will be known as one of the “best film festivals in the country.” Each year during Hispanic Heritage Month, the Georgia Latino Film Festival brings together inspiring days filled with premieres, classes, panels, exclusive parties and awards.
Tips for picking the best Watermelon!

Many people have no idea how to select a watermelon. They just knock on this over-sized fruit as if they know what they are doing. Although it can be difficult to know how ripe the interior is just by inspecting the outside, there are several clever tricks you can learn to help you pick the perfect watermelon.

**Look for uniform shape.** Look for a firm, symmetrical watermelon free from bruises, cuts or dents. If the watermelon has any lumps or bumps, this may mean that it received irregular amounts of sunshine or water during growing, causing dryness or inconsistency.

**Lift it up. The watermelon should be heavy for its size, as this indicates that it is full of water and therefore nice and ripe.** Try comparing the weight of your watermelon with another of equal size - the heavier one will be riper. This advice goes for most fruits and vegetables.

**Look for the field spot.** The underside of the watermelon should have a creamy yellow spot, known as the field spot. This is where the melon sat on the ground and ripened in the sun, so the darker it is the better! This one is no wives’ tale. If the field spot is white, or even non-existent, this probably means that the watermelon was picked too soon, and will not be ripe.

**Inspect the color.** A perfect, ripe watermelon should be dark green in color and dull in appearance, rather than shiny. A shiny watermelon will usually be under ripe.

**Try the tapping technique.** The tapping technique can be a little hard to master, but many watermelon fans swear by it. Give the watermelon a firm grip with your knuckles and listen to the sound it makes. For a ripe melon, you want a full sound, more tenor than base. You do not want a dull or deep sound, as this means the watermelon is unripe.

**Know what to look for when selecting pre-cut melon.** If you’re purchasing pre-cut watermelon, there are also certain things to look out for. Choose pieces with bright red flesh and dark brown or black seeds. Avoid pieces with white streaks and an abundance of white seeds. You should also steer clear if the flesh looks dried out or mealy, or is separating from the seeds.

**Store the watermelon correctly.** A whole, uncut watermelon can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week, before it needs to be used. Remember to handle the watermelon carefully to avoid bruising. Never store a watermelon below 40°F (4°C), as this causes chilling injury to the fruit. If you wish to ripen your watermelon after purchase, keep it at room temperature for a couple of days. This will ripen the watermelon slightly, but not a huge amount – this is due to the fact that when a watermelon is picked too soon it will never fully ripen.

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**Watermelon Salsa**

- 2 cups watermelon, seeded and finely chopped
- ½ cup finely chopped peeled cucumber
- ¼ cup finely chopped red onion
- ¼ cup finely chopped sweet red pepper
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- ¼ cup minced fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh mint
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon lime juice
- Baked tortilla chip scoops

Combine all ingredients and serve with tortilla chip scoops.