



## Preserving Christian Homes

September 2017



<http://www.livingwordupc.org/>

### Not how you start but how you finish

As I walked into the room and came upon the Dining Table which earlier was so beautifully decorated by my Wife I couldn't help but stand in the doorway and pause. Prior to today it has been ten years since the whole family sat around this table and shared a meal. Back then we didn't have much but we certainly had each other and the times we shared together were always a blessing. Mary and the twins Kathy and Karen would set the table. I remember Kathy and Karen debating whether the salad fork goes on the left or the right. Kathy said at School in Home Economics she learned the salad fork goes on the left. Karen who was always more pragmatic said to her sister "who cares, we don't have any salad". Then they would argue about whether it makes sense to fold paper napkins. Mary and I would look at each other and just shake our heads. Once we sat down to eat we would take turns each night Blessing the meal. Whenever it was our son Jason's turn all he would say is "Jesus wept". I would look at him and I would finish saying Grace because I wanted our kids to understand we do this not as a duty but to actually thank God for what he has provided. During dinner there was always a lot of good conversation except when it came to Jason. He rarely said anything and usually left the table shortly after finishing his meal. As time moved on Jason was getting more and more secretive and distant. He was removed from his High School Football team because he was failing academically. Then the fights at school began. When we tried talking to Jason about what was going on he would simply say we were making a big deal about nothing. Then one day while doing laundry Mary found a knife in the pocket of his jeans. When she confronted him he claimed it wasn't his and someone must have put it there to get him in trouble. A few weeks later I smelled an odor I hadn't experienced since I was a teenager. It was the smell of cigarettes and it was coming from Jason's room. I entered his room and asked why do I smell cigarette smoke? He had sprayed what seemed like a can of deodorizer but don't believe the commercials because it doesn't work. Mary and I prayed often for the well-being of our children and things were getting very serious with Jason. It all came to a head when we got a call that Jason had been arrested for robbery. He was convicted and went away for six years. Although he was released two years ago this was the first time he has been home. Prior to dinner we sat in the garage and talked. I asked him why he stayed away so long after his release. He said he knew he had messed up and was too ashamed to come home. When he played ball he could hear me shouting in the stands "that's my Son". After being removed from the football team in High School he thought I was no longer proud of him. He then started hanging out with the wrong crowd because although he knew they were getting him into trouble, they seemed to care about him. He felt he had done so many bad things that there was no way the family will ever forgive him so he stayed away. One day while riding the Bus to work he saw a billboard which said... *To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.* <Daniel 9:9> Today he came home to ask his Family to forgive him. At the dinner table Jason Blessed the meal and we had that family discussion which was long overdue. Kathy and Karen gave their big brother a hug and told him how much they missed him. At the end of the evening as Mary and I said goodnight, I gave Jason a hug and told him I loved him. Then being totally facetious I winked at Mary and said "maybe your Mother loves you too". That brought a smile to Jason's face which we haven't seen in years. God is good.

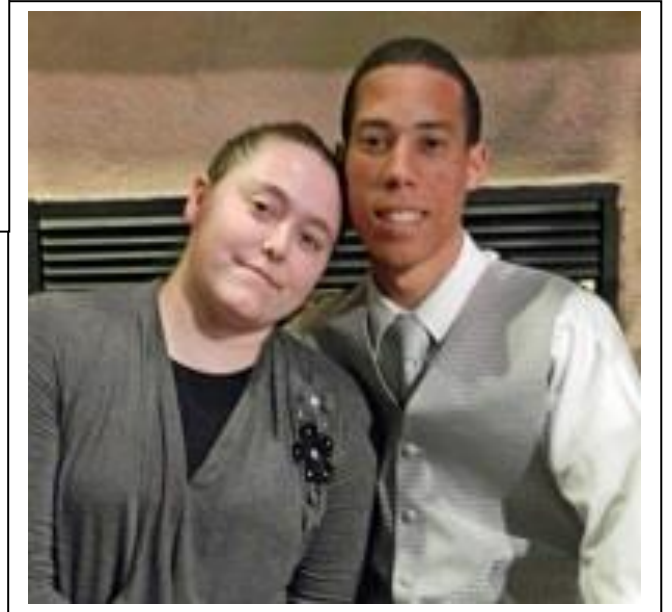


*A Wise Man knows..... Not talking to your Kids is like a box of chocolates, when things get hot you have a mess on your hands*

# September Anniversaries



**Leo and Lorraine Montoya**  
(not pictured)



***Living Word Church wishes all of our Couples a very Happy Anniversary***

**For many ministers and laypersons** the dream of attending a distant Bible college is only that – a dream. ExCell offers an unprecedented opportunity for training and study of the Word right in the local church. A twelve-course curriculum has been prepared which will equal one full year of studies at Texas Bible College. **The program is not limited to Ministers,** however, and laypeople who desire this level of learning are welcome to enroll. Even new converts have found that it provides a sound doctrinal foundation. Students earn Texas Bible College credit hours just as if they were enrolled at the campus in Lufkin. Classes convene one night per week for a period of eleven weeks in the Spring and Fall. They normally begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 10:00 p.m. Two courses are taught each night with approximately one hour and twenty minutes devoted to each with a break in between.



**Brother Robert Chapman** receives his ExCell Bible Course Certificate for the successful completion of the ExCell Bible Program at Living Word Church



## September Schedule

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> - *Labor Day - No School*

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> - *Ladies Conference – No School*

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - *NM State Fair Field Trip* --- 9am - 3pm

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> - *Friday school for everyone* --- 8:30am - 3pm.

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> - *Christian Educators Conf.* --- 8am - 5pm @ Embassy Suites

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## Food for Nourishment

**4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will[b] ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **John 15 4-7**

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## **It's not just Church, it's Family**


It's the people we grew up with as our Brothers and Sisters. It's the place we go to when we're broken and hurting because we know our family is gonna be there to help us. It's more than just a Sunday Morning Service with a "feel good" message. It's our life stories told to us without even saying a word. It's not a bondage, it's protection. It's the love we hold on to when everyone has left us and the scolding we need when we lose our way. It's not meant to sugarcoat but it's also not there to condemn and belittle. If there's one thing I've learn in the past 19 years is that life with God is difficult but life without him is impossible. **Sis Brooke Mendoza**

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*A Wise Man knows..... A man can move a mountain, one small stone at a time*

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		Pastor's Prayer 10am	Bible Study 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10 am	"Power Prayer" and "Forward Friday" Youth/Hyphen Bible Study 7pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 10:30 Missionary Shawn Turner Prayer 6pm Service 6:30pm	Labor Day	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Bible Study 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Youth/Hyphen Activity 7pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 10:30  Prayer 6pm Service 6:30pm	Sugar and Spice Ladies Fellowship 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Bible Study 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	First day of Autumn  "Power Prayer" and "Forward Friday" Youth/Hyphen Bible Study 7pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 10:30  Prayer 6pm Service 6:30pm	MAX Men's Fellowship 6:30pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Bible Study 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Youth/Hyphen Activity 7pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 10:30  Prayer 6pm Service 6:30pm	Single's Prayer and Fellowship 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Bible Study 7pm	Pastor's Prayer 10am	Date Night 6:30pm  Connect Youth/Hyphen Bible Study 7pm	