



Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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# Pleasant News

## Success According to God



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With the arrival of Father's Day, I can't help but think of the tremendous pressure fathers are under these days to succeed on multiple fronts: in the work force, at home, in their communities, at church, and in so many other places. But our definitions of success can be easily skewed.

In this great country of ours, a man is labeled "successful" when he brings home a sizeable paycheck. If he drives an old car or doesn't advance at work, he loses ground in the pecking order. Because we live in such a competitive society,

it is not uncommon for men to silently suffer feelings of failure.

Many Christians wonder if they can live a godly life and still be successful. The answer is yes. God designed us to succeed—His way. While the world measures value by how much a person owns or achieves, God has a very different perspective.

One of the ways we can understand the biblical viewpoint is by studying the lives of godly people in the Scriptures. We find a compelling and realistic portrait of the path to success in

the story of David's victory of Goliath. Keeping his eye on his Father in heaven rather than on the challenge that lay before him, the future king overcame what happened to be unbeatable odds.

There are others like Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah, Paul, and Stephen whose lives illumine this truth. The Bible is filled with these inspiring stories. From them, we learn that when we live for Christ, our heart's desire is to honor Him only. *And success is the result.*

Grace and Peace



## Senior Spotlight

By Laura Blenman

Robert Stone, Sr. was born April 19, 1933 in Altavista, Virginia. He is the oldest of 10 children. His mother had seven boys before his three sisters were born. Early in his life, Robert's father taught him the value of work. In fact, he was taken out of school in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to work on the family farm. In his early 20's he moved to Chester, PA, got married, and is the father of six children.

Robert worked at various jobs in Chester and eventually retired after 20 years at Phoenix Steel. He did construction and other work for a while and then he began a second full time career working as a custodian at the Chichester Middle School for 11 years before his final retirement.

Robert was a member of Range Temple Church of God in Chester for many years, but often visited Mt. Pleasant Baptist

Church with his sons, Jason and Robert Jr., who were members. On one of those visits, his namesake asked him if he was ready to join and he said, "yes" and so, five years ago, at the age of 80, Robert Sr. became a member of Mt Pleasant. He says he's trying to live for God for the rest of his days here on earth and helps wherever he can. He thanks God that he is able to still drive his own car around town and to church.

As a child, he used to play baseball because "back in the day," he says, "there was no football or basketball." Now, he likes going to the Phillies baseball games and watching all of the different sports on television.

His words of wisdom -- "Do the right thing. Don't get on drugs. Treat your elders as you would want to be treated and try to get with God because we need God with us and in us."



***"Do the right thing."***

***Treat your elders as you would want to be treated."***

***"...We need God."***

## Guess Who

For the first time, most people guessed incorrectly for last issue's *Guess Who*. That handsome tyke from back in the day is none other than Deacon John Bennett, Sr.

Now, take a good look at the cute little girl on the right. Do you recognize her? If you're the first person to email Gwen Owens at glonews@aol.com or call or text 484-832-2104 with the correct answer, you will win a special prize.

And if you have a Guess Who picture for the next publication, email it to Gwen or place a picture in the newsletter mailbox in the church office and include your name so that we can return the picture to you.



## What's Happening in the Men's Corner?

By Brenda Tildon

Men's Health Care was in the forefront as the men welcomed Dr. Steven Salva, renowned Urologist Health Specialist and speaker, to Mt. Pleasant on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A large number of men from our church and area churches came out to have breakfast and listen to Dr. Salva speak about some crucial men's health care issues. While he brought much to the table in terms of information, he devoted most of the time to answering questions.

In addition, Mt. Pleasant men joined scores of males June 16<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tie One On for Prostate & Colon Cancer Walk, Run, or Ride Fundraiser at the Philadelphia Soccer Stadium in Chester, PA. While some biked a 15-mile course, runners tackled 5 miles and walkers logged in 2 miles.

Their efforts raised prostate cancer awareness and funding to benefit prostate and colon cancer patients in Delaware County, PA, and research to fight this terrible disease.



**Looking Ahead to September 22<sup>nd</sup>**—Save the date for a Health

Forum for men, one that addresses pressing health care issues for the male population. Mt. Pleasant men plan to promote this event to males in and outside of our church. The forum will consist of speakers on Diabetes, Heart Health, Prostate Cancer, and overall Physical Health. Resources and vendor tables with literature on all topics will also be on hand. Deacon Mike Parker is spearheading this event and he is looking for 300 men to come to Mt. Pleasant and take part. Ladies, encourage your husbands, brothers, fathers, children and male friends to come out and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn how to live healthy and, possibly, save lives. And, men, tell a friend and bring a friend.

## Meet Shaun Essex

By Brenda Tildon

One person who helped spearhead the June 2 Men's Breakfast and health care talk is Jeshahnton (Shaun) Essex. As the Regional Vice President of Administration for Riddle and Paoli Hospitals, Shaun has the awesome responsibility of navigating the giant that we all know as Health Care. The Johns Hopkins University graduate earned his masters at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. According to Shaun, he started his career thinking he wanted to be a doctor and later realized he could impact change better by being on the administrative end of Health Care.

He and his wife, Demika, and their children, ages 14, 18, 20 and 22, moved to this area from Memphis, TN where

he was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Memphis. Once in this area, they immediately started to look for a church reasonably close to where they'd moved in Glen Mills, PA. Interestingly enough, he found Mt. Pleasant by going online and looking for area churches. After visiting several churches, he and his family chose Mt. Pleasant in 2012 for several reasons. For one, he was very fond of his Bible-teaching pastor in Memphis, and Pastor Robinson reminded him of that pastor. In addition, he wanted a church that offered a family atmosphere, and he found that atmosphere of family and connectivity at Mt. Pleasant. He says Mt. Pleasant gives him both the traditional and contemporary style of worship and finds Pastor Robinson to be very open minded about worship, while

not compromising the gospel. He and his family feel at home at Mt. Pleasant and we are happy they are here!



## Revel in Reading— Some Summer Selections

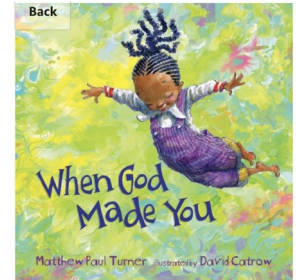
### By Lauren Fain

Summer presents a great opportunity to read more. Whether passing the time as you travel to your favorite destination or while lounging on the beach or poolside, here are just a few of the multitude of books you can choose from this season.

#### 3-7 years old

##### **When God Made You by Matthew Paul Turner**

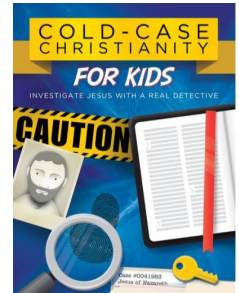
Through playful rhyme and vivid illustrations, this book inspires young readers to learn about their own special gifts and how they fit into God's divine plan. "Cause when God made You, somehow God knew That the world needed someone exactly like you!"



#### 8-12 years old

##### **Cold-Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective by J. Warner & Susie Wallace**

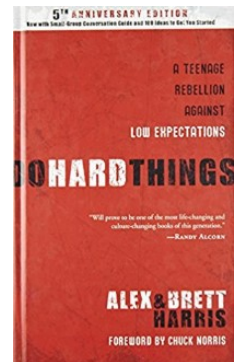
Kids are drawn into the life of Jesus by encouraging them to investigate and learn about Jesus, giving them the tools that they need to stand by their Christian faith. The book is supported by an interactive website that allows kids to download chapter activities. This is the companion to the book of the same name for adults, so parents and children can discuss and explore the evidence together.



#### Teens

##### **Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations by Alex & Brett Harris**

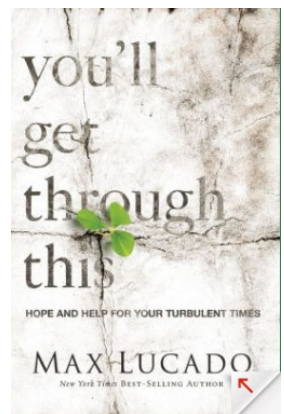
This book is written by twin brothers whose mission statement is 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." The authors weave together biblical insights to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life as opposed to a vacation from responsibility.



#### Adults

##### **You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times by Max Lucado**

"A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor". As long as we are living, we will confront the possibility of facing many storms. This book is a great tool to have in your arsenal and keep on deck. Through personal anecdotes and reflections on the life of Joseph, you will build strength in the knowledge that with God's help, you will have what the title of one of my favorite chapters is, "More bounce back than Bozo." (Grab your copy to truly appreciate what that means). You will be encouraged to trust God to get you through this. Whatever "this" is, be it financial woes, relationship valleys, or a health crisis. Whatever. God is good and well able to make good out of the mess.



**If you're traveling over the summer, or anytime for that matter, here are some tips:**

Pack A First Aid Kit - Injuries can happen no matter how careful you are, so traveling with a basic first aid kit is always a good idea.

Lock up Your Valuables - Traveling with anything super valuable is usually a bad idea. There's always something you absolutely cannot afford to have stolen.

Get Travel Insurance - You never think you need it, until you do. You can relax, knowing you are covered if something happens.

Email Your Itinerary to Friends/Family - Email the full itinerary to a few family members, then double-check with them to make sure that they received it. If possible, check in with them from time to time while traveling so that they know that you are safe.

Don't Share Too Much with Strangers - Sometimes people ask if it's your first time visiting their country or city. Telling them that you're new, might make you an easy target for scams. Also, be careful who knows

## Travel Safety Tips

### By Eartha Barley

you're away if you leave your home unattended.

Be Aware of Your Clothing, and Know the Laws -

Many countries have specific dress code guidelines that are often strictly enforced. For example, walking topless through the streets of Barcelona, Spain is illegal for men and women.

Tell Your Bank Where

You're Going - Most online banking services have a process for letting the bank or credit card provider know about your upcoming travels. Make sure you use it, shortly before leaving – and keep them in the loop if your travel plans change.

Have Emergency Cash Hid-

den – You could use a secret pocket sewn into your pants, behind a patch on your backpack, rolled into an empty container, or inside hidden compartments in items such as hairbrushes and belt pouches.

Be Aware of Food and Water

- Eat at popular or well-known places with long lines to avoid stomach

issues by eating at below standard places with poor track records.

Keep Emergency Information Handy – Include the address of where you are staying, local police or ambulance services, and directions to the nearest embassy for your country, if you are traveling internationally.

**If you are traveling to a large resort:**

Stay with your luggage in the lobby, don't set your credit card on the check-in counter, check the lock in your room to be sure it's functioning properly, make sure that the door has a deadbolt and keep it locked whenever you are in the room, keep your passport with you, and leave a copy at home with a family member.



*Courtesy of*

**SMILE AGAIN CRUISE AND TRAVEL 484-320-0551**

## Did You Know?

**By Laura Blenman**

*The Negro Travelers' Green Book* (*The Green Book*) was published from 1936 until the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 which prohibited racial segregation in public facilities. *The Green Book* listed hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, beauty shops, barber shops and various other services across the US that welcomed blacks. That's

because discrimination was rampant against blacks during the era of Jim Crow laws. As a result, many middle class African-Americans bought automobiles in an effort to avoid segregation on public transportation. Finding accommodations was one of the greatest challenges they faced. Not only did many hotels, motels, and boarding houses

refuse to serve black customers, but thousands of towns across the US declared themselves "sundown towns," forcing non-whites to leave by dark. By the end of the 1960's, there were at least 10,000 sundown towns across the US that were effectively off-limits to African Americans.

## The Have and The Have Nots

### By Sylvia Ficklin

In the April 2015 issue of Pleasant News, I wrote an article entitled "In America It Is Expensive to be Poor" exposing the ramifications of living in our society where the real income of the top 1% almost tripled while poverty increased.

A January 2018 Washington Post article entitled "Why it costs so much to be poor in America" confirmed further why the poor pays more.

The recent tax reform implemented by Congress and signed by the president favors the rich/wealthy and corporate America and, yet, a recent study by United Way found that **51 million households don't earn enough to afford a monthly budget that includes housing, food, child care, healthcare, transportation and even cell phones. This figure includes 16.1 million households living in poverty.**

Nevertheless, programs that assist the most vulnerable are being cut or eliminated.

- The Department of Education pro-

poses budget cuts that would harm needy students.

- The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development proposes to triple the rent charged to the poorest families living in subsidized housing.
- The Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB) that protects consumers, especially the poor, from the misdeeds of corporate America is being dismantled, dropping lawsuits against the payday lenders that notoriously rob the poor.

In addition, Congress is injecting a work requirement for those who receive food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance that will affect millions. Work is honorable and the Word condemns laziness (Proverbs 24:30-34). However, because our system is contaminated by institutionalized racism, greed and unfairness, it hampers the opportunities for many to achieve equality.

There are 300 Bible verses directly related to the treatment of the poor. God cares about the poor be-

cause they are the most vulnerable (Psalm 10:17; Proverbs 22:22); and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Book of James, the treatment of the poor is addressed.

Yet, in El Cajon, CA there was a law (later rescinded) that made it a crime to feed the poor. And, in Malibu, CA, a church was criticized for feeding the homeless because it attracted more homeless people.

Be not dismayed.

*With every bone in my body I will praise Him: Lord, who can compare with you? Who else rescues the helpless from the strong? Who else protects the helpless and poor from those who rob them?*

*Psalm 35:10 NLT*

**PRAISE THE LORD!**

## Mt. Pleasant Women on the Move

### By Brenda Tildon

Mt. Pleasant's *Mother-Daughter Hat & Glove Luncheon and* (for the 1<sup>st</sup> time) *Fashion Show* was a huge success. Mothers and daughters came decked out in their finery for the sold-out May 12<sup>th</sup> event. The Deaconess Ministry, headed by Deaconess Sybil West and Deaconess Joan Josephs, coordinated a wonderful fashion show with Deaconess Mittie Copeland as moderator. Everyone pitched in and provided fabulous decorations. Minister Aronissa Harris gave such an awesome word we can't wait to have her back again sometime in the future.

### Looking Ahead: Save the Dates

**September 14<sup>th</sup> is Ladies Night Out.** Join your sisters in Christ for pot luck, fun and games as we say goodbye to Summer and welcome Fall.

**Oct 19-21 is the Women's Fall Retreat at the Eden Resort.** Registration is open and we are looking for another spiritually successful event. This year we have Danita Harris, TV Anchor and ordained minister, and Dr. Cleo Townsend, 1<sup>st</sup> Lady from Resurrection Center, Licensed Marriage

Therapist and Physical Fitness Counselor.

**Retreat Theme: Women Walking through the Scriptures.**



Danita Harris



Dr. Cleo Townsend

**November 18<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Harvest Festival** featuring lots of fresh vegetables, the preached word and an opportunity to give to others.

## Fashion Show



### Message to the Graduates: Stay W.O.K.E. By Rev. G. Joyce Bryant

In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of II Kings starting at verse 3, you will find a story of four leprous men who lived in an area designated for lepers on the outskirts of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in the city of Samaria. At that time, Samaria was suffering from a severe famine. In the market place, for example, food was scarce--the only foods available were donkey heads and bird poop that sold for outrageously high prices. Since the food was scarce, the lepers knew that they would surely be the last ones to have something to eat.

At that same time, a large army of enemy forces from Syria had gathered in an army camp just outside the city, planning to attack Samaria while its forces were weak. The four lepers faced certain death, either from starvation or from their disease, since leprosy was a terminal illness. But verse 4 says that together they made a decision to take control of their situation. They decided to surrender to the Syrians before the battle and take their chances, thinking they might live.

They were still, after all, God's children. Dying, they felt, was no big deal, because they were going to die anyway. However, to their surprise, when they got deep inside the enemy army camp, they found it empty and full of supplies such as horses, donkeys, silver, gold, and food.

The lepers took what they wanted and hid some of the stuff. They could have kept the secret to themselves and been the only ones to profit from the situation, but the next day they decided to get word to the King of Samaria and let him know. After checking the validity of the situation and finding it truthful, the King, in turn, told the Samaritan people. They all went to the Syrian camp and plundered all the goods. There was plenty of food after that in the market place for all to eat. Instead of being part of the problem, the four lepers were part of the solution – through their actions, the Samaritans enjoyed God's blessings.

The best way to avoid being part of the problem is to

#### “Stay W. O. K. E.”

**W**ALK with positive, like-minded, goal-oriented people. *Psalms 1:1*

**O**BSTRUCT or reject negative forces like fear, which blocks your road to success. *Philippians 4:8*

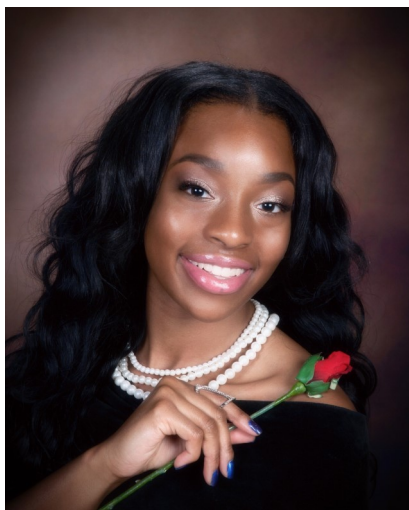
**K**NOW your current events, know what to do, and be led by the Spirit. *Romans 8:14*

**E**XEMPLIFY honesty and truth - Tell it, write it, speak it, and be it! *Ephesians 4:25*

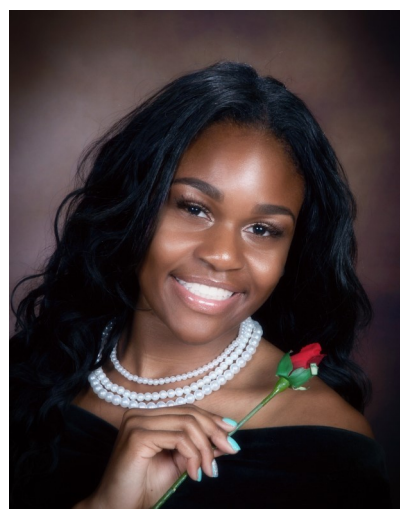
Staying woke means to be socially aware, having the knowledge of the ins and outs. It's the opposite of being ignorant and it is not easy. It is a choice you have to make – choose to continue to walk around as if in a daze or choose to wake up. Remember, someone somewhere is depending on you to do what God has called you to do.

## Mt. Pleasant's Class of 2018 Scholars

### High School



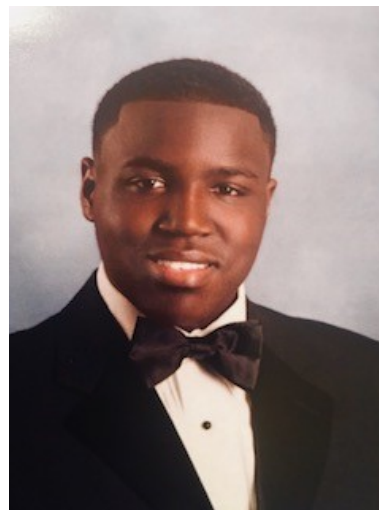
Alanna Armor  
William Penn High School  
Georgetown University  
Pre-Med



Alyssa Armor  
William Penn High School  
University of Delaware  
Criminal Justice



Markiyah Brooks  
William Penn High School  
U.S. Navy



Tyler A Dennis  
Mount Pleasant High School  
University of Delaware  
Business Analytics

## Mt. Pleasant's Class of 2018 Scholars



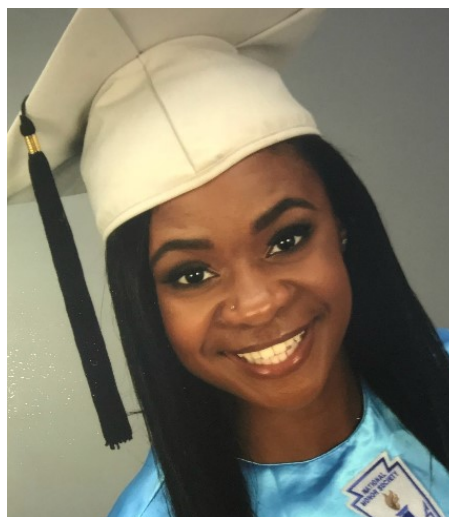
Brianna Evans  
William Penn High School  
Delaware Technical Community College



Nyah Garrison  
Bonner & Prendergast Catholic High School  
United States Naval Academy  
Pre-Med



DeShauna Haynes  
William Penn High School  
Delaware Technical Community College  
Nursing



Natee' Himmons  
Chichester High School  
The George Washington University  
International Business

## Mt. Pleasant's Class of 2018 Scholars



Micah Rice  
Cardinal O'Hara High School  
Delaware County Community College  
Dental Hygiene



Kennae Wood  
Cardinal O'Hara High School  
Widener University  
Nursing

## College



Geneva Alvin  
Neumann University  
BA - Early Elementary Education



Barry Cooke  
University of Delaware  
BS – Marketing &  
Operations Management



Ayanna Jackson  
Spelman College  
BA – Psychology

## Mt. Pleasant's Class of 2018 Scholars

### Graduate School



Kia Brinkley  
Temple University  
Fox School of Business  
MBA–Marketing  
& Entrepreneurship



Sheila Coleman  
University of Phoenix  
MA Education  
Adult Education & Training



Andrew E Nelson  
Temple University  
Fox School of Business  
MBA

### Post-Graduate School



Adrienne Gordy  
Gwynedd Mercy University  
Doctorate in Education – Education Leadership



## Mortgage Tips

### By Crystal Triplett

As a Licensed Certified Signing Agent and a former Loan Officer, I have spent more than 14 years helping people understand how to get out of debt and, just as importantly, showing them how to pay off their mortgage up to as much as 18 years sooner. It takes time and dedication to be a good steward of your money.

Let's say you have a 30 year fixed rate mortgage on a \$200,000 loan and you are paying 5.5% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) and you want to pay your mortgage off early in 12 years, here are some simple tips:

- Pay off all other debts, starting with the smallest bill first. This is your revolving debt. Getting rid of all other debts will allow you to free up your needed cash flow and attack your mortgage aggressively.
- Save at least six months of "emergency money" for the things you don't expect.
- If you can't save six months of emergency funds, you need to get an equity loan (takes 30 -45 days) or refinance for cash out (can take 45 -60 days). This is only if you have enough equity in your home to do so. (Don't forget the appraisal fee you will pay out while trying to take care of that emergency). Start saving six months of your monthly bills today.
- Start investing significantly for your retirement. The sooner, the better. You only have one shot at retirement. Start your

retirement now if you haven't already!

### PAYING OFF YOUR MORTGAGE EARLY

- Make a payment every two weeks. In other words, split your monthly mortgage payment in half (PITI = Principal, Interest, Taxes and Homeowners Insurance) and pay that bi-weekly. If you're not escrowing (putting your taxes and insurance into your mortgage payment), just split your principal and interest payment (PI). If you do that, whether a current homeowner or first-time home buyer, you will pay your 30-year mortgage off in slightly less than 25 years. If your mortgage company doesn't take the bi-weekly payment, just multiply whatever your payment is now by 1.083 in order to pay the equivalent of 13 payments a year. Make sure that the bank is applying each payment to your principal and interest.
- Change your W-4 form so that you get less of a tax refund each year and use that extra money to pay down your mortgage. An extra \$200 in your paycheck each month, used toward the principle of your mortgage, will take you from a 30-year mortgage to about a 21-year mortgage.
- Refinance your loan and keep making the same payment. If you can refinance your current loan and get at least a 1% lower interest rate, and you keep

making the same mortgage payment as if you still had the higher interest rate, you will pay off your mortgage six years sooner. You will see a lower payment on your note and your paperwork, but make sure that you keep making the larger payment.

- Let your pay raises work for you. Find out what percentage your mortgage payment is to your take-home pay, and continue to pay that percentage on your mortgage even when you get annual increases. The more you make, the more you'll pay monthly on your mortgage, allowing you to pay off a 30-year mortgage many years earlier. If you don't receive a raise one year, keep making the same payment.



Tips to  
Save  
Money on  
Your  
Mortgage

If you do all of these things, you will pay off your 30-year mortgage in 12 years and three months or so.

Knowledge is key when being a good steward of your money. Pray about it, map out a plan and get started. You'll be glad you did!

**For more information, email [crystalcredit64@yahoo.com](mailto:crystalcredit64@yahoo.com).**