

# COLM



**COMMUNITY OF LOVE MINISTRIES**

WHERE LOVE LIVES... LOVE FOR GOD... LOVE FOR PEOPLE

**JUNE 2024**

**FATHERHOOD—  
A DIVINE  
CALLING AND  
RESPONSIBILITY**

**It's GREEK To Me  
(BINDING AND LOOSING)**

**THE POWER  
OF LIONS MANE:**

**THE INVESTMENT**





THIS IS HOW I SEE IT...

Vashti

We have all been blessed to have  
our own opinion, perspective,  
or point-of-view.....

It's not necessary that we all agree.

It is my hope that you see  
the truth within my words for  
this is how I see it....

bycherylvashti

## THE INVESTMENT

### 'WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE INVESTMENT THAT GOD HAS PLACED IN YOU?'

I grew up hearing and repeating the same prayer every Sunday morning during the morning service, every Sunday night during the evening service, and at other services throughout the week. As a child, I didn't fully understand the power of the message in the prayer. But reflecting on these words as an adult, I now realize that the repetition of that prayer lingered into my adulthood, and the truth of those words came alive in me. The words that stand out are the closing words of the prayer: ***"by the power, ability, and authority of the Almighty God invested in me."*** These words tell me that I can call things into their rightful place, aligning them with the divine design God intended. In other words, things can be brought back into the order God intended.

So, if that investment is part of God's idea of us being made in His image and likeness, and His investment includes the works and greater works that God did... my question is, what are you doing with the awesome investment placed within you during your formation and the life given to you?

For many of us, it's like an unwatered seed lying dormant within. This divine investment activates when the spiritual laws of God's Word water it. In other words, our awareness, realization, and acceptance of the spiritual laws of life set us free from the learned experiences of our human nature—our flesh. Furthermore, God's Word serves as our guide, leading us to the investment and activating it for growth. His Word says in Jeremiah 29:13, ***'Seek me and you shall find me.'*** Let me add this... He is not hiding.

Our hunger and thirst for righteousness with God guides us to a place of fulfillment in Him. In that state, we move beyond our fleshly knowledge and understanding, stepping into the true essence of a new spiritual life. From this spiritual awakening, we achieve true understanding and the meaning of living in Him, moving in Him, and having our very being awakened in Him.

It is from that place of ultimate inward heart awareness that the activation of all the power God has invested in us manifests outwardly. We get to speak to the mountain and watch it move. We can call those things that are not as though they were, because they are. The manifestation of those things appears when the investment God created in us is activated. Reiterating the power of faith, our belief in the spiritual laws as our sole truth surpasses the made-up laws we've given to our human senses. We are spiritual beings on a human journey, not the other way around.

To illustrate this further, the Word of God repeatedly tells us in many different ways that the only power that exists is the spiritual power derived from God's spiritual laws. For instance, ***"the things that are impossible with men are possible with God."*** ***"Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."*** ***"Meditate day and night on the Word."*** ***"Faith, (an inward dealing), is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."***

The only way something outside of God's intention gains power is if we give it power by believing it has power and speaking as if it does. There is only one power, and that is God's power. What we choose to believe is our choice, and our belief gives power to it.

It's in the choice of words we use, the thoughts we entertain, and the focus we place on things that attempt to steal, kill, and destroy the truth of the investment God placed within us.

The investment is God Himself, but we must accept that investment as our truth. We have to die daily to self-awareness by learning and receiving the spiritual laws on a heart level and walking in them. Jesus is our greatest example He said, ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life."***

Well, who is Jesus? He is the Word that became flesh and walked among us to demonstrate God's original intention for us and the design by which we are to live.

What is the Word, or where did the Word come from? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So, God, who is the Word, presented Himself as Jesus, His Son, giving us the opportunity to walk and live in the space He originally created for us, following the spiritual laws He set for us.

This thought takes us to a deeper place in understanding. Everything God made is good. His purpose for man was to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Walking in the spiritual laws, in my opinion, is a form of worshiping God in spirit. Since God is the way, the truth, and the life, we are also worshiping Him in truth.

When we live in the spirit, the power invested in us has full control over life's situations. But we must not waver or be double-minded. Doctors diagnose, but God has said healing and health are our truth. Believing in anything but the truth of God's plans opens the door to believing in two powers. Whose report will you believe when confronted with afflictions and mountains on the path? Many are afflicted, but God has already established the outcome.

We are God's greatest creation, and His investment in us must be realized, acknowledged, fed, and watered through daily hunger, thirst, meditation, and surrender of all things. My question to you again is, what are you doing with the investment God has placed within you?

*This Is How I See It!*

## FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Father, we lift up every father in the world. Strengthen and empower them to support and care for their children. Turn their hearts to their families, making them the best fathers they can be. Lift every father to be a loving gatekeeper over their children, providing emotional, spiritual, and financial support. Increase their awareness of the importance of their presence and understanding. Give every father a revelation of Your love, allowing them to see their children through Your eyes. Help them extend grace, mercy, and love, making their children feel special and wanted. Grant wisdom and direction to every father as they raise a new generation filled with love and possibilities. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen. (It is so...)

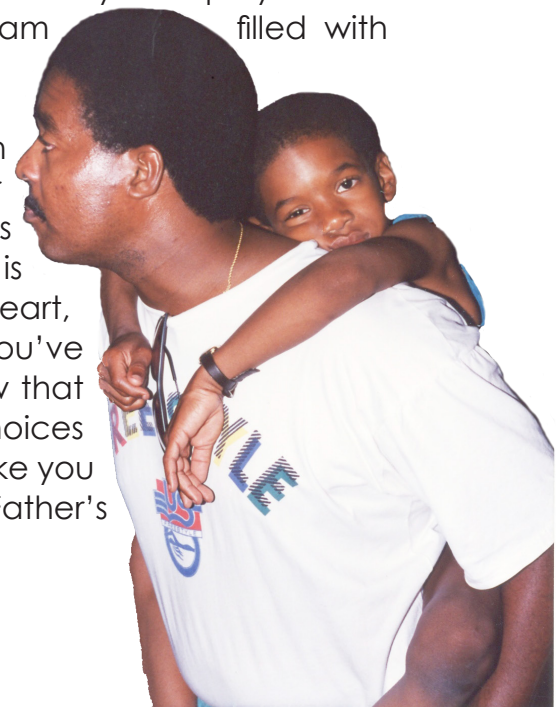


## Letter to My Father. . . by jonandregordon

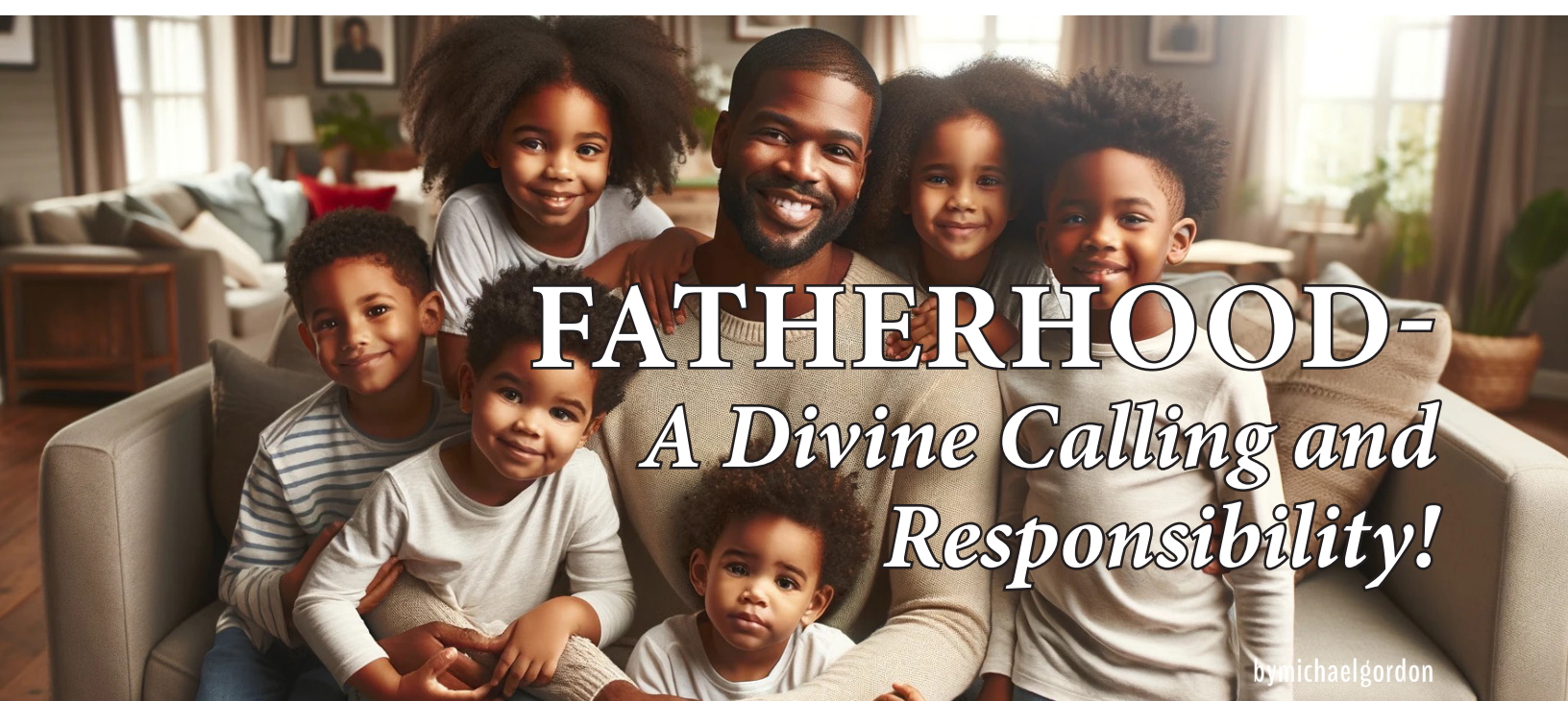
To my father, I would like to thank you for all of the things you have taught me directly and indirectly. Although you were not a man of many words when it came to life experiences, you were a man of many words when it came to religion, political viewpoints, and history, particularly slavery and segregation. Despite the limited life experiences shared, your actions spoke volumes about how you must put your head down and provide. Your quiet dedication and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on me, teaching me the value of hard work and perseverance. Your silent strength has been a guiding light, even when words were scarce.

Now that I have become a father, it definitely makes me see things differently and see how you may have suffered in silence with many things others may never understand. I clearly understand the responsibility placed on a father in this world, even when you may feel invisible to the very family you are sacrificing every ounce of your being for, yet you continue to charge ahead. Fatherhood has given me a new perspective on your struggles and sacrifices, and I am in awe of the resilience you displayed. The weight of your unspoken burdens is now clearer to me, and I am filled with respect and gratitude for the quiet battles you fought.

Thank you for being who you are and who you're not. Even though I probably don't say it much (apple doesn't fall far from the tree), I love you and I appreciate all of the sacrifices you've made from the beginning to the present. No one is perfect and no one is without skeletons; therefore, in my heart, you are not defined nor judged by any flawed choices you've made. If there is anything that you are holding on to, know that I love you and appreciate you no matter what, and all choices are a part of the life experience. Your imperfections only make you more human, and my admiration for you only grows. Happy Father's Day to a great man and father! *Love Always, Jon Andre*







*“Esau said to his father, ‘Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me, even me also, O my father!’ And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.” (Genesis 27:38)*

In this passage of scripture, Esau, the eldest son of Isaac, has a deep emotional outburst upon realizing that his younger brother Jacob received the blessing that was rightfully his. Esau did not understand the importance of his father's blessing until he realized that Jacob had deceived his father to obtain it. When he comprehended that Jacob had been given the blessing, he wept bitterly and asked his father if he had another blessing for him. Children need their fathers' blessings.

God, in His great and infinite wisdom and love, determined that children need both their mother and their father. There has been a long-standing effort to minimize and marginalize the importance of fathers in families. Much of the “Women's Movement” has centered on the narrative that women and children only need men or fathers as “sperm donors.” But family is God's idea, and He designed the family to function best when there is a fully present and committed mother and a fully present and committed father.

Whether society admits it or not, children need love, support, and the presence of an engaged father in their lives. I have heard single mothers say, “I am my child's mother and father.” I tip my hat to every single mother raising a child without the benefit of the father's assistance, but let's be crystal clear: mothers, as well-meaning as they may be, cannot instill the necessary qualities, virtues, or values that can only be given by a father.

As I look back over my own life, I am thankful and grateful to God that my father was involved in my life and that I could learn from him and pass those lessons on to my children.

**1. Identity:** I believe children get their core identity from their father. Because my father was present in the home as I grew up, I learned my identity and who I was as a person from him. Fathers, through their consistent presence, give their children a sense of self and how they fit into the world around them. Children without their father in their lives often struggle with self-awareness and the socialization process. As a chaplain for the Cook County penal system, I

spoke with many young men who had been arrested and placed in the prison system. Many expressed their belief that they would have avoided a life of crime if they had a father in their life to show them who they are and how valuable they are in the world. Each one of those young men, without exception, was crying out and longing for their father to bless them and be present in their lives. I made a lot of mistakes as a father, but I am grateful that my children have good self-esteem, self-awareness, and are contributing members of society.

**2. Industriousness:** Another thing I learned from my father is a good work ethic. As children grow older and move toward adulthood, they need to be industrious and learn how to work to sustain themselves. However, there must be a balance between a father working to support his family and being fully engaged on an emotional level. Financial support of children is crucial and is one of the major roles of a father. But a father must also be an emotional supporter of his children. There were times in my life as a father when I worked two jobs and fell short of being there for emotional support. There is no excuse for fathers to neglect their children in the emotional arena. There must be a balance, and fathers must be present and engaged for emotional support.

**3. Generosity and Compassion for Others:** One of the main lessons I learned from my father is to be generous and willing to give to others. I grew up seeing my father give to people in need, and he was always very supportive of widows and orphans. Whenever we went out to a restaurant, he would pay

for other people's meals, give money to those who didn't have enough to pay for their meals, and put money in the hands of strangers. My children are givers, and they give to homeless people and those in need. Children need to see a good example from their father in the area of generosity!

**4. Spiritual Formation:** This is probably the most important thing I learned from my father. He taught me to love God! Fathers must support their children in every area of life, and they must teach their children about the things of God. My father has been a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ for over 60 years and taught me and my siblings the value of loving God. I was a "prodigal son" who strayed away, but thank God I found my way back home! As fathers, we must always have love and grace for our children, even when they are not doing the things we would like them to do. We must always remember the times when we got off course and off the path of God. Fathers must always pray for their children and extend love and understanding of their challenges. We must teach them to love God and to love people.

Fatherhood is the most important job that any man will ever do. As a matter of fact, it's not just a job but a calling! There are many things I would redo as a father, but I cannot go back in time to correct mistakes I have made. However, by the grace of God, I can move into the future with a mindset to be present in the lives of my children where I may have missed in the past.

So, I say to every father, Happy Father's Day! Love your children and give them all of you... every day!





# Lion's Mane: The Magical Mushroom for Your Mind and Body

by michael aaron gordon

Step right up to the magical world of mushrooms, where one fungus reigns supreme with its tripped out hairdo and superpowers. Meet Lion's Mane, the mushroom that looks like a lion's flowing mane and packs a punch with its mind and body benefits.

## Unleashing the Lion's Mane Magic

Lion's Mane, known to the science world as *Hericium erinaceus*, is like a superhero in the mushroom kingdom. It's got two main sidekicks, hericenones and erinacines, which help your brain produce nerve growth factor (NGF). NGF is like the handyman of your nervous system, fixing and maintaining your nerve cells.

## Brain Boosting Like a Boss

In today's hectic world, we all need a little brain boost. Enter Lion's Mane, the natural brain booster. It's like coffee for your brain but without the jitters. Studies show it can improve memory, focus, and mental clarity. Plus, it might protect against the brain fog that comes with aging and even fend off illegal villains like Dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

## Mood-Enhancing Magic Tricks

Feeling a bit down? Lion's Mane to the rescue! This mushroom is like a natural mood elevator. Research hints it might help reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. It's got the power to regenerate nerves and make your brain more flexible, contributing to its feel-good vibes.

Hippocrates —  
'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.'

## Gut Feeling Groovy

Did you know your gut is like your second brain? Lion's Mane is here to keep both in check. It supports a healthy gut microbiome, which can boost your mood and brain function. Some studies even suggest it might protect against stomach ulcers and soothe your digestive system.

## Immune System Power-Up

Your immune system is your body's defense squad, and Lion's Mane is ready to give it a boost. It's got bioactive compounds that might enhance immune cell activity, helping you fend off pesky infections and illnesses.

## Culinary Capers

Not only is Lion's Mane a health hero, but it's also a kitchen superstar. With a taste and texture similar to seafood, it can jazz up your stir-fries, soups, and even desserts. Plus, its lion-like looks add a dash of whimsy to your dishes.

## Embrace the Lion's Mane Lifestyle

Adding Lion's Mane to your daily routine is as easy as pie. Whether you prefer it in supplements, powders, or as part of your culinary creations, this mushroom offers a fun and holistic way to support your health.

And as always,

If God didn't make it don't take it!

**\*\*Disclaimer:\*\* I am not a doctor. While Lion's Mane is generally safe and sound, it's may be good to chat with a healthcare professional if you have concerns about diving into any new supplement, especially if you have medical conditions or take medications.**

# It's All Greek to Me!


## ("Binding and Loosing")

*"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18)*

This passage has been quoted in many church services and has often been used to suggest that we should cast out devils or "bind and loose" Satan and his demonic minions. However, the Greek phrase used here literally means, "Whatever you declare illegal on earth has already been declared illegal in heaven, and whatever you declare legal on earth has already been declared legal in heaven." This verse reveals to us that, as believers, we have the authority to "disallow" things on earth that have already been disallowed in heaven and to allow things on earth that have already been allowed in heaven.

For instance, sickness has been declared illegal in heaven, and therefore, we can declare sickness illegal in our bodies on earth. We do not deny that sickness may present itself, but we can proclaim that sickness is illegal in the body of a believer. God is the ultimate power, and anything that presents itself in the life of a believer is illegal if it has been declared illegal in heaven, and it is legal if it has already been declared legal in heaven. As believers, we must use our authority to "bind and loose" in a scriptural way!

**Declaring Peace in Turbulent Times:** In today's chaotic world, many of us face anxiety and fear. However, as believers, we can declare peace over our lives. By consistently praying and affirming that peace, which is already declared in heaven, we can experience a sense of calm and assurance despite external circumstances.

**Financial Breakthrough:** Financial struggles are a common issue, but we can apply the principle of binding and loosing here as well. By declaring provision and abundance, as it is in heaven, we align our faith with God's promises. This doesn't negate the need for wise financial practices, but it does invite God's favor and blessing into our financial situation. 



'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.'  
Hippocrates —

## CHOCOLATE TAHINI BANANA SMOOTHIE

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1-3 overripe banana
- 1 cup almond milk  
*(or any plant-based milk of your choice)*
- 1 tablespoon tahini
- 1 tablespoon cacao powder
- 1 tablespoon honey or maple syrup  
*(optional, depending on your sweetness preference)*
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
*(optional)*
- 1/2 cup ice cubes  
*(optional, for a colder smoothie)*

Optional: **1 tablespoon chia seeds or flaxseeds for added fiber and omega-3s**

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Peel the banana and place it in a blender.
2. Add the almond milk, tahini, cocoa powder.  
*(optional honey or maple syrup, and vanilla extract)*
3. Blend until smooth and creamy





# DIVINE NOBODIES

*“Living to Serve because of GOD’S LOVE”*

What defines Divine Nobodies is not their status or title, but the depth of their empathy and their unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others. They understand that true fulfillment comes from lifting others up, and they embody this ethos in everything they do. —————♥—————



## VASHTI'S SWEETS

Looking to make your special occasions even more memorable? Vashti's Sweets, is where exceptional taste meets impeccable service. Chef Mi Mi is available for private events and catering services. Let her create an unforgettable culinary experience tailored just for you.



Vashti's Sweets | 708-872-0810

FB - Vashti's Sweets | IG - @Vashtis\_Sweets

Email - VashtisSweets@gmail.com



## BARRACHAS, INC.

*“Local Honey”*

Discover the Sweet Taste of Tradition at Barrachas, Inc.! Dive into the legacy of pure, local honey, lovingly nurtured for over 15 years. From our hive to your home, Elyse continues her father's passion, offering three delightful sizes of our golden treasure. Craving honey?

*Reach out to*

**Elyse Thompson • 312-631-6507**

*for Your Honey fix!*

**Three sizes: Quart | 16 oz | 6 oz**



## TIK CREATIONS

TIK Creations was birthed through Tawaga's passion of creating pieces that make people smile. A one stop shop, providing everything from tasty desserts, stunning decor, to personalized gifts for your guests. You provide the vision and she will do the rest!



**TAWAGA ROBERTS**

815-378-1579

Facebook and IG - tik\_creations

Email: Tikcreations2020@gmail.com



## DD&S

### "THE GARMENT SPECIALIST"



Indulge in luxury care for your cherished fur garments at DD&S Inc., where craftsmanship meets a legacy of over 50 years. Led by Donald DuPree. They specialize in custom design, creation, and rejuvenation of leather, suede, shearling, and fur pieces. Beyond our design prowess, we extend our expert touch to cleaning, repair, alteration, and secure storage, ensuring your valued items stand the test of time. Let DD&S transform and update your fur or shearling coats to align with your evolving lifestyle – experience the DD&S difference in fur care excellence."

- DONALD DUPREE -

DD&S, Inc. | 110 E. Delaware Pl. | Chicago, IL 60611 | (312) 266-0029

## WILLIAMS AUTOMOTIVES

### "Your Trusted Partner in Car Care!"



Williams Automotive, goes beyond servicing vehicles; they elevate your driving experience. Their expert team is dedicated to providing top-notch car services that ensure your vehicle runs at peak performance while you enjoy a smooth and safe ride.

1800 W. Vermont | Blue Island IL. 60406 | (708) 385-6229

[willsauto2015@gmail.com](mailto:willsauto2015@gmail.com)

## GORDON TECH SOLUTIONS

### Your One-Stop Solution for Apple and PC Challenges!

COREI GORDON SR. - 708-548-8663



Armed with a comprehensive knowledge of Apple products, including MacBooks, iMacs, and iPhones, as well as a deep understanding of the Windows operating system and various PC configurations, Gordon Tech Solutions possesses the versatility to tackle a wide range of technical challenges. From software glitches to hardware malfunctions, Gordon Tech Solutions approaches every challenge with enthusiasm and a determination to deliver results.

## matchmaker

### Property Solution, LLC

"God + Your Referrals = A Perfect Match"



Regina K. Washington

Managing Broker

Email: [reginarealestate026@gmail.com](mailto:reginarealestate026@gmail.com)

Phone: 708 • 925 • 2953

Victoria Gordon

Real Estate Broker

Email: [vcgordonbroker51@gmail.com](mailto:vcgordonbroker51@gmail.com)

Phone: 708 • 261 • 3618







**Need to sell your home? Or are you looking to buy, rent or invest?**  
**Tameka Washington** is a Chicago area licensed realtor who's attention to detail and practicality to every transaction will help you throughout the process. Contact Tameka for your next real estate transaction as she represents buyers, sellers and investors in our community.

**Phone: 312-623-0065 Email: [tamekasellshomes.illinois@gmail.com](mailto:tamekasellshomes.illinois@gmail.com)**  
**Email2: [tw@wchomebuyers.com](mailto:tw@wchomebuyers.com) | [@tamekasellshomes\\_illinois](https://www.instagram.com/tamekasellshomes_illinois) (Instagram)**  
**[www.facebook.com/homessoldbytameka](https://www.facebook.com/homessoldbytameka) | [tameka.habloft.com](http://tameka.habloft.com)**

**- TAMEKA WASHINGTON -**  
**Broker: 475.176814**  
**Habloft LLC - A Real Estate Company**  
**[www.habloft.com](http://www.habloft.com)**



**773-234-3452 (Office)**  
**312-623-0065 (Direct)**  
**312-650-8201 (Fax)**



## **LAWNET CONSTRUCTION**

Elevate your construction experience with LawNet construction, where "quality craftsmanship meets a commitment to client satisfaction." They take pride in crafting innovative and sustainable spaces that stand the test of time. From concept to completion, their dedicated team ensures your vision becomes a reality with precision and care.

**- LAWRENCE NETTLES -**  
***Electrical, plumbing, decks, additional room and a lot more.***  
**708-768-2048**



## **LORD ENTERPRISES, H. V. A. C.**

**YOUR COMFORT SOLUTION!**

**EXPERT HEATING & COOLING SERVICES.**

Meet Richard, a seasoned HVAC expert with 40 years of hands-on experience in the industry. He earned his official HVAC technical license in the early 1990s, marking the beginning of a distinguished career. Richard's extensive knowledge and unwavering dedication to quality service makes him a trusted choice for all your HVAC needs.

**Call RICHARD NELSON at 708-341-0672**  
***for Reliable & Efficient HVAC Solutions.***  
**PROPRIETOR**



## **MOORE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

***"Renovation Excellence"***

Discover the art of transformation with Moore Construction! Specializing in turning your ideas into reality, we excel in kitchen remodels and complete home renovations. From precision to care, our attention to detail ensures every project meets the highest standards. Let us bring your dream kitchen or any space to life, tailored to your budget. Whether it's a modest plan or a grand vision, Moore Construction is dedicated to making every area or space beautiful, regardless of the size of your budget.



**PATRICK MOORE**

**Electrical, plumbing decks, room additional and a lot more.**  
**773-882-5038 | [www.facebook.com/PatrickMoore](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickMoore)**

## ♥ PRAYER REQUEST ♥

KINGDOM AWARENESS IN THE CHURCHES  
MARRIAGES - OUR NATION / AMERICA  
OUR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY UNITY  
OUR CHILDREN  
PASTORS AND LAY MEMBERS  
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND FAMILY  
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR • SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE  
BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS  
THE HOMELESS / THE SICK  
THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOODS  
OUR NEIGHBORS  
THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE  
DOCTORS AND NURSES  
FIREMAN AND FIRST RESPONDERS  
PARAMEDICS / LAWYERS  
PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

## PLAN OF SALVATION

*Jesus loved you enough to die for YOU so that you could have eternal life. (John 3:16) If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, He will come into your life now. (Acts 16:33; Luke 13:3) Just do these four things to begin your new life in Christ.*

1. Realize that God loves you and has a good plan for your life. (John 3:16; Romans 10:10)
2. Realize that Man is sinful and separated from God and, therefore, cannot know or experience God's love and plan. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)
3. Realize that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Only through Him can you know and experience God's love and plan. (Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6)
4. Realize that we must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:1-8)

If you are ready, I invite you to pray this prayer and God will come into your life right now: *Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.*



To view our "Voices of Fatherless Child" project scan the QR code or go on YouTube to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10y6RXEnM8E>



(773-617-5161)



[communityofloveministries@comcast.net](mailto:communityofloveministries@comcast.net)



COMMUNITY OF LOVE  
MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 208413  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60620

*We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed.*

## COMMUNITY OF LOVE MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 208413  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60620  
MICHAEL GORDON, ORGANIZER  
contact: 773 • 617 • 5161  
Email: [askmike2006@gmail.com](mailto:askmike2006@gmail.com)