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# PathPointe

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# What Is A PathPointe?

often in life we get so caught up in the rat race of life that we forget Who made us, why He made us, when He made us, where He made us, how He made us, and what He made us.

Just surviving the daily grind while negotiating the maze of life can rob us of the time we need to consider the awe, wonder, and beauty of God. When we take this time out of our busy lives to spend it with the Creator of the universe, He can reveal His will for our lives, He can realign our thinking according to His will and desires, and He can talk to us about anything and everything just like He used to do with Adam in the cool of the day. That is what the **PathPointe** is all about!

It amazes me that after all Job endured, all that he suffered, the Lord basically told Job: “**Look around you.**” Yet, that may be the best advice for someone who is suffering affliction. We can get so drawn into ourselves that we fail to see the many wonderful blessings around us. Just like Job, we can spend a lot of time complaining, considering only the terrible suffering we are enduring. Sometimes it is difficult to look beyond the reach of our own afflictions. The **PathPointe** is a place where we are reminded to view things from a loftier perch.

Job was reminded to stop long enough to open his eyes and see. He was to behold God’s wonderful works. He was to observe the mysteries of evaporations, of cloud formation and accumulation, of thunder, of lightning, of snow and frost, of gentle showers and fierce downpours, of summer and winter, of the former rain and the latter, of the gentle breeze and the whirlwind.

So, when you feel alone and isolated by your hardship and affliction look for a **PathPointe**, a pause mark, a comma, or a Selah. Look around at all He has made. Behold the love, grace, mercy, and majesty of our God. Enjoy His Creation, and fellowship with those He has placed in your life.

***“Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.” Job 37:14***

Exactly what is a **PathPointe**? It is a special place along life’s journey where we should pause, reflect, and consider. All around us we see stressed people with a look of total exhaustion on their faces. Few have the joy of the Lord. Few have found His peace in this hectic world and have learned to slow down long enough to celebrate the blessings of God. So, we give you **PathPointe**; a series of little markers along the pathway reminding us to slow down and consider.

Spring is a wonderful season to implement this. It is easy to be amazed as we watch the season unfold with the splendor God has placed within it. All of Creation testifies of the majesty of our God, if we take time to look. **PathPointe** is a reminder to take a moment and thank God for the beauty that surrounds us!

As we pause at the **PathPointe**, we take in the blue skies above us and the intricate insects upon the ground. We are humbled by what we see when we take the time to quietly observe. As we pause we may also find we are surrounded by kind and loving people. It would be a shame to get so caught up in the busy world that we fail to appreciate those our Lord has placed along the same pathway we trod.

We have all heard the encouragement to stop and smell the roses. This is what **PathPointe** is all about. Too



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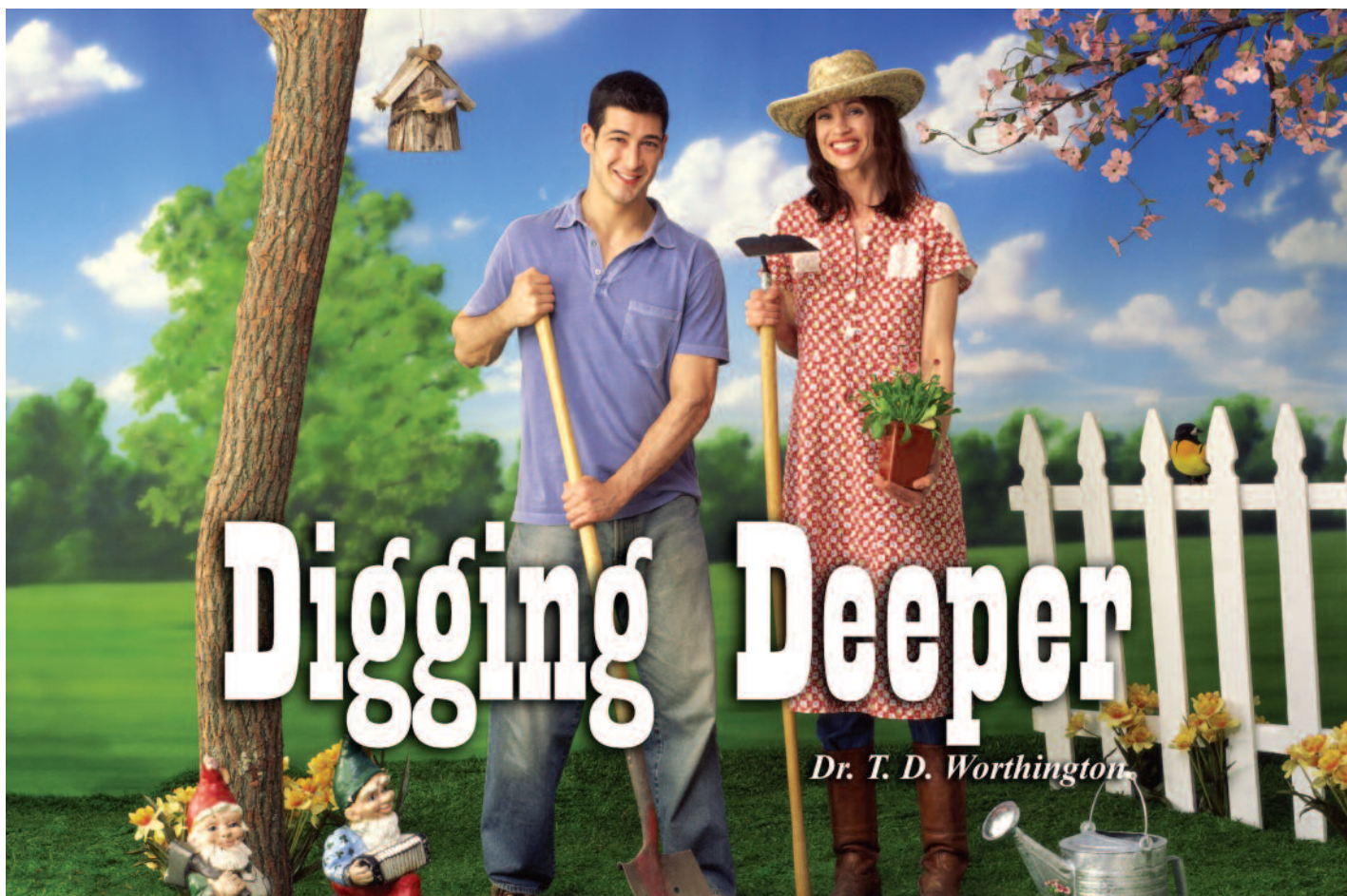
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Some men dig deep into the bowels of the earth in search of diamonds or gold. Usually, the risk men are willing to take and the depth they are willing to go, is determined by the value of what might be excavated. If you know there is something of great value beneath the surface, you are more willing to exert the effort of digging deeper.

My Dad often gave this advice to me as a young boy. Whenever I faced a challenging situation, he would remind me that I might have to *“dig down a little deeper”* to find the strength and courage to face my problem. As usual, his advice was sound.

I have found the Christian life to be the same way. If you want to extract priceless pearls and wisdom more precious than rubies, you will have to dig deep. The sad testimony is that many Christians could revolutionize

their life if they were willing to dig just a little bit deeper. Tragically, they stop just a few inches short of victory.

As we observe the condition of the modern Christian community, one of the things immediately apparent is there are not enough believers who are really living a healthy, growing Christian life. Many have heard the Gospel and have even accepted Christ, but they are missing out on the life changing power available to them.

*“Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a drought”*  
**Luke 5:4**

*“Launch out into the deep”* has a ring of immediacy and urgency about it. One thing you can be sure of is that you cannot expect to have a successful Christian life in this modern world if you just do the nominal. Success

seldom comes easy. Jesus taught the disciples a valuable lesson on launching out into the deeper waters.

Usually in the Sea of Galilee, those who fished during the daylight hours fished in the deep waters while the night fishermen found the shallow waters more suitable. When Peter chose to obey Jesus and launch out into the deep, he was choosing to go against his years of experience. The miracle that followed teaches us that one single act of logic-defying obedience can change the course of an entire life. When Peter chose to place his faith in the powerful word of God, his life would never be the same.

Just like Peter, we are also given life changing opportunities to experience the miraculous power of God. Sadly, rather than obey we often prefer to just voice our complaints and stop there.

***“Master, we have toiled all the night (utilizing our methods, and safe within our comfort zone) and have taken nothing.”***

**Luke 5:5**

All too often we think our resources are all we need. We have found that just applying a little human effort and utilizing our boat and net will usually bring in all the fish we need. But, sometimes the needs are not met so easy. There are times when you will not reap the miracle by sitting on the dock and casting your net into the shallow waters. Just like Peter’s disappointing night of fishing, we often fail to dig deep enough to experience the miracle.

Just think about it for a moment. Many husbands and wives could bring a much needed restoration to their marriage if they were willing to dig just a little deeper. Parents could make great progress in reclaiming their rebellious children if they would only dig just a little deeper. Yet, digging deeper requires a full commitment. It means you leave the murky waters of shallow Christianity and launch out into the deep.

Perhaps there is someone you need to forgive or something you need to make right, but doing so will require you to dig down a little deeper than you are willing to dig. Could it be your prayer life is missing the vibrancy it needs, or your dedication in studying the Word of God is falling short of your best intentions? Could something as simple as digging a little deeper solve the problem? Are you as faithful to church as you should be? Crawling out of bed on a cold rainy Sunday morning is not easy for anyone, but the faithful are willing to dig down a little deeper and find the will to go forward.

Digging deeper can be hard work. But it is sure better than sitting in the shallows and complaining about how bad things are. Of course, I know a lot of people in the shallows who are very busy, but they are busy doing the wrong things and thereby achieving no lasting fruit for their labor. We can lament the state of our finances, families, and churches, or we can roll up our sleeves, pick up the shovel, and dig a little deeper. It is high time to hoist the sails and launch out into the deep.

But, you are not sure it will work are you? You do not think that revolutionizing your relationship with Christ could possibly be that easy. I wonder what might have been Peter’s thoughts as the Lord told him to launch out into the deep? Perhaps he thought: ***“What is Jesus talking about? I am sure He is great at carpentry, and I will give Him credit as a great teacher, but fishing is my specialty.”*** His logic was sound. Few people understood

fishing on the Sea of Galilee better than Peter. Nevertheless, Peter, the captain, allowed Jesus, the carpenter, to assume command of the boat.

On many occasions, I have seen experienced teachers at our Academy reach down into their treasure vault of knowledge and give parents priceless advice in raising their children, but all too often it falls on deaf ears. I have discovered many times it is not because the parents are unconcerned or think they know best. Fact is, in most cases, they simply don’t want to exercise the effort to dig down deep enough to address the issue.

Peter had a hundred logical reasons not to obey the words of Jesus, and based on his knowledge and years of fishing experience, most of them were good ones. But Peter was willing to dig deep. So, he turned from his logic and staked everything on Jesus’ word.

***“Nevertheless, at Thy word, I will.”***  
**Luke 5:5**





When Peter launched out, he was committed to go all the way. He didn't leave his nets on the shore. Launching out into the deep was only the first half of Jesus' command. Letting down the nets was just as important.

If you didn't already know this story, you might guess when Peter saw the **"great multitude of fishes"** in his net, he would let out a great shout and eagerly calculate his new found wealth and success. On the contrary, Peter's response was startling:

***"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished..."***  
**Luke 5:8-9**

Warren Wiersbe says of this moment, ***"Peter was humbled, not by his night of failure but by his astounding success; this is a mark of real character. If success humbles you,***

***then failure will build you up."*** As Peter bowed in the presence of Jesus, the Lord brought it all together for Peter, ***"Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."***

When you are willing to dig deeper you will not just find something of great value, you will find something priceless. No longer would Peter be focused on catching fish, now he found a greater calling than he ever imagined. From now on he would be a fisher of men.

Could it be that God wants to bless you beyond your ability to imagine? Peter was astonished. Perhaps this same astonishment can be yours if you are willing to step out of your comfort zone and launch out into the deep with the Lord! Perhaps like Peter, we feel we have areas of our life in which we are knowledgeable and experienced. We may feel we don't need much help or counsel in those areas. Yet the

truth is, in many areas of life, we have toiled all night and caught nothing. We have worked hard, we have used techniques we believed to be sound, yet we have achieved little success. When was the last time you found yourself astonished at something God did in your life? We may be toiling, but are we astonished?

Perhaps the answer to your most challenging problems is simply digging a little deeper. So, go ahead and launch out into the deep, and let the Lord reveal where to cast your nets and devote your energies. May the resulting blessing leave you overwhelmed and astonished.



***Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.***

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do their best for the glory of our Father.

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*“For we are laborers together with God...”*

**I Corinthians 3:9a**

Words once again fail as we make a meager attempt to say “thank you” and express our gratitude for all you have done. Your sacrifices will not unnoticed or

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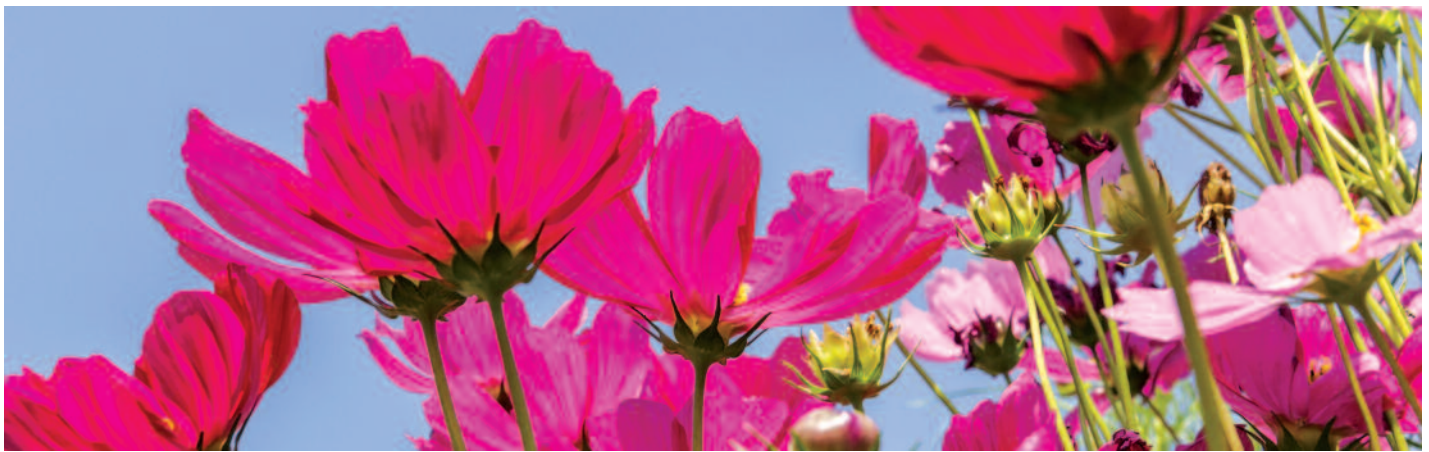
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## Bethel Moments

I suppose it is common in life to one day realize something that up to this point we had never noticed. For years, we may think or act in a certain way, and one day wake up to the fact that something needs to change. We describe such a change by saying, *“It finally dawned on me,”* or *“Suddenly I realized.”*

This is apparently what happened to Jacob. He awoke from his sleep with a new and powerful realization:

*“Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not”*  
Genesis 28:16

Sometimes we can be so blind. We miss a lot of what the Lord is doing for us, with us, through us, and around us. We theologically accept His continual presence, but on occasion we seem to become completely unaware of it. As long as our thinking is limited in such a fashion, we cannot respond to the Lord properly or cooperate with His goals for our life.

You see, it takes real effort to be aware of your surroundings. Should we walk through a field with a farmer, he would notice a lot of things we could not see. The melody of a beautiful song may bring the lover of fine music to great emotion, but the casual listener would miss it entirely.

Jacob didn’t know God was there. Of course, he was not alone in his lack of knowledge. The Emmaus Road disciples did not recognize they were in the presence of Christ. Neither did Peter when the Lord told him to cast the net on the other side of the ship.

It is obvious that our Lord was at work during our recent **Share-A-Thon**. As God’s children we must always be on the look-out for special encounters with Him. As surely as we are to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord, we must likewise prepare for these *“Bethel Moments”* which may come into our lives. We are thankful for the hundreds of friends who opened their eyes and desired to participate in what our Lord was doing during our fund drive.

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A few weeks ago, we had some awesome storms come through Eastern North Carolina. I have never seen anything like it before. In the Midwest, I am sure it is a common occurrence, but not here. Eastern North Carolina ended up with four *small* tornadoes, if there is such a thing. Praise the Lord the damage was relatively minor. *Of course, it is only minor if it doesn't happen to you, right?* No lives were lost in North Carolina, but other states were not as fortunate.

When the storm warnings came out, we proceeded to take precautions. At the academy we had already announced early dismissal. We kept an eye on the weather throughout

the morning to be sure there were no additional surprises. As soon as school let out, we released our staff and said a prayer over the families and properties of the ministry. On my way home, my mind shifted to the families and friends who may be in harm's way.

All afternoon my husband and I sat and watched the weather anticipating what would happen next. There were bands of storms coming through on the radar. The first one was a very large band and it appeared an area of concern was coming straight for us. As it got closer, it seemed to veer away. It was honestly confusing to me because the storms and fronts seemed to be coming from different directions. We began to watch intently as the area of circulation

proceeded toward Goldsboro. We prayed as a tornado appeared to set down in Seven Springs. Our minds went to the families we knew who lived in that area. When the worst of the storm was headed to a new place, we began to pray for the families and ministry properties in that area.

Then there seemed to be a break in the storm. My husband and I breathed a sigh of relief when the sun came out. Wow! We were so glad things were calming down. We walked outside and saw we did not have any damage. As we came back inside, the meteorologist announced, "Don't be fooled by the sunshine. There are more storms coming! We cannot let our guard down."

We sat back down and listened to what he had to say. He explained that there was another band of storms coming. We suddenly had more decisions and more concerns. It was Wednesday, so was it safe for our church families to venture out? Where were the storms headed? How much damage was expected? We weathered the second round of storms and checked on family, friends, and property. We took a trip into Goldsboro to insure the school was ready for the next day. It was obvious when we arrived that God's hand of protection had been on us. We stopped and praised Him for keeping us, as well as His building, safe.

It was no surprise to me to find out my husband was well aware of the danger long before the storm hit. He had been praying for God's protection while I was going about my daily responsibilities. His watchful eye was over our family and ministry. I was secure because I knew he wasn't worried. His faith was in our Creator. Whatever the outcome, God was in control.

Isn't it amazing how seriously we took the tornadoes? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would take the storms of life so seriously? We need to prepare for them as we would prepare for the tornadoes. We look out over our yard and make sure nothing can blow around and hurt or destroy anything. We go to the gas station and grocery store to prepare for the worst. If the power goes out, we need to drive to work and have food and water for sustenance. How well do we look around us and get rid of those things which would hurt our testimony? Do we get rid of the things that pollute our

minds? These pollutants are much more destructive than tornadoes and do more permanent damage.

We go to the grocery store and get food and water. Do we spend time in prayer and Bible study feeding our soul? The Bible is the tool the Lord used to battle the devil. Three times in Luke chapter 4 our Lord told Satan, **"It is written!"** How are we going to use Scripture in our struggles if we don't study and memorize it? The Bible has so many promises given



to us by God. Romans 4 speaks of the promises given to Abraham and helps us to realize how our faith can be strengthened. Romans 8 lets us know we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Why are we so weak? We have an awesome God who loves us beyond compare, yet we cower and whine in our problems. We cannot look past our bank account and see our God owns the cattle on all the hills.

When the storm comes, we panic instead of resting in our Lord's hands.

If we have accepted Christ as Savior we are His children; we belong to Him. Just as a child feels safe when Daddy is home in a storm, we should feel safe in our Father's arms in the storms of life. Whether the storm is a small one as a child having a cold or a large one when the child is taken unexpectedly, we should feel secure in our Father's love. The small storms help prepare us for the next storm around the corner. As long as we are in this world, storms will come. We cannot let our guard down. We must stay prepared. We must be vigilant.

When each storm is over, we must look around and thank God for bringing us through the difficulty. Each time we will be stronger for the things we have learned in the situation. As other people go through the same storms that we have, we will be able to guide them through their difficulties. We are placed on this earth to serve our Heavenly Father. We do that by serving others.

Each time we walk outside and see the *Sonshine*, we can praise God for loving us, protecting us, and teaching us. After that final storm, we will finish our walk here on earth and walk in Heaven with Him. The struggles of life are gone. What a beautiful walk that will be!



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and eight grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



# Are You A Churchaholic?

*Mr. Brent Maupin*

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

**Hebrews 10:25**

This verse tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, which is in an encouragement and admonition to grow together. There are so many other scriptures which support the fellowship of Christians. We see the early church meeting on the first day of the week to break bread, sing, and worship as described in the book of Acts. The church has since become so organized, and at times, so

very businesslike that it can consume us. Those in leadership positions are often called to meetings several times a month, or even several times within a week, leaving their families and responsibilities at home. The pastor, especially if he is full-time, has many obligations each day to visit the sick and lost, and complete other tasks for his ministry. Often pastors become so engulfed in their ministry that their family, especially their children, have been put to the side. That is the reason we sometimes hear the terms MK and PK, Missionary’s Kid and Preacher’s Kid, in a not so positive way. It truly takes a balanced life to be effective in all roles. But this is not just for those

in higher level ministries. I write to the church member, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Choir Leader, or others who have become so involved in church work they may have lost their focus or direction.

There are segments of society that believe the Church is the place to be every day of the week. I have taught children in the public school system whose parents, often mothers and grandmothers, are in church so much that it seems they don’t spend quality time with their children. Sometimes the services hold late into the night and the children would come into my classroom the next day, not prepared physically

for lack of sleep, and definitely not prepared academically. I could not openly criticize the situation because I knew there were good intentions, and I felt I would sound like a heathen if I recommended them missing a service now and then to help their children. Subsequently, many of those children fell behind academically and often had behavior issues, even though ironically, they were being reared in a strong “spiritual” environment. There were others which made me wonder if their church involvement was a part of their spiritual checklist. The more they attend church or the more they did for the church, the more credit they felt they would get towards their salvation. The Bible never teaches this.

***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”***

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

I believe we have many examples in the Bible to look to for balanced service. The Apostle Paul was a diligent servant as a devout Pharisee before his conversion and became even more diligent for the cause of Christ after his conversion. Even then, he cautions about marriage and the balance it requires and does a great job of presenting his argument to the Corinthians in his first book, Chapter 7. Many believe Paul was unmarried. I feel he would have loved to have been married and had a family, but that wasn't his calling. He followed the Lord's leading in his ministry, and for that, all Christians are grateful.

A great example for women is the **Proverbs 31** wife. Strangely enough, you don't see her busy about the Temple. Her calling was at home, caring for her family. That was her ministry! I feel

women are often criticized if they aren't very involved in the church and have decided to be almost solely devoted to serving their family. An occasional duty in the nursery would be honorable, but the time to prepare and present a lesson for Sunday School might be a little too much. They shouldn't feel guilty if they say they can't when asked.

Not to cast blame anywhere, but I often wonder about some of the churchaholics I have witnessed as to their intent and purpose. When I look back on my own personal involvement in the several churches we attended during my military career, I know I lost focus. I was teaching Junior Church, I was a Music Minister leading the song worship, I was a member of the choir, I was always busy with leadership meetings and visitation, and I had many other church responsibilities. As I look back, I realized I left my wife home with several children while I was out “serving the Lord.” Was I? I thought I was at the time, but my life was out of balance. My wife couldn't join me as she had parenting responsibilities... but so did I. I neglected them for what I thought was the “spiritual” thing to do. Please don't get me wrong, I am by no means criticizing involvement in the local church. We have way too many “Pew Lumps” already. Too many rarely attend church other than Sunday mornings and never offer to lend a hand with anything, which leaves the chosen few to do most of the ministering.

We need to evaluate our gifts and talents and use them for the Lord, our family, and the church. We must limit our involvement to what the Lord has equipped us to do and be careful in our attempts to go beyond that. We need to encourage one another to join the body and function as the member He has chosen us to be. While the hand may

do most of the work, it cannot function without the arm, elbow, or shoulder, and so on. Every member of the church is important. That kind of balance places a challenge to the pastor and the church leadership. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, they are charged to observe and evaluate the gifts and talents of the members and involve them at the right level. If someone is overdoing it and neglecting their family because of it, the leadership needs to step in, counsel, and redirect.

Provision for the family goes way beyond finances and physical things. A man who does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel. Ensure your provision is also in the way of time, affection, attention, emotions, and physical presence. The younger days of a child can never be repeated or made up. As many of us know, they grow up so fast! I encourage you to live your life so as to not have the regrets I now face and ask forgiveness for.

I am not trying to discourage anyone from getting involved, but on the contrary, to get involved in moderation, to minister to family first, and to always check your motives. As a Child of God, look to your Father's leading and direction and what He would have you do. Learn to say “no” when appropriate. I learned my lesson too late and regret the neglect my wife and children experienced as I was a devout churchaholic. I look back and wish the church leadership would have asked me to do less instead of involving me more and more because of my open willingness to “serve and minister.”



***Mr. Brent Maupin is the father of 5 and grandfather of 7. He and his wife, Carrie, reside in Snow Hill, NC.***

# And Finally...



## Favorite Antiques...

*I have a curio cabinet that is filled with antiques from my grandparents. My most favorite item is a doll that once belonged to my mother's mom. We rescued this doll from my grandma's trunk several years ago. She was missing a hand, part of the head was broken, and was detached from the cloth covered straw body. She has been restored to a beautiful doll I am sure my grandma would be proud of. She is dressed in a long, blue dress trimmed in white lace and a matching hat. She has bright blue eyes and brown hair. She was so broken and in so many pieces, I could not believe the transformation. She proudly stands on a doll stand in the center of my curio. I am not sure how Grandma's doll was dressed or if she once had brown hair. I am not sure if she had a special name or a doll bed. It just makes me smile to know I am holding a doll that Grandma once cuddled and loved. I will always treasure her doll and will pass her down to my granddaughter one day.*

**V. P.**

*When I was a teenager, my mother gave me the recipe box that was passed down to her. The box is from my great, great grandmother who, if still living, would be around 145 years old today. This recipe box has always been in a prominent place in my home, and I cherish it so much. One day I will pass this box to my daughter. I keep my mother's favorite recipes in the box and I still use them on a regular basis. There's nothing like family tried-and-true recipes!*

**D. P.**

*I have a chest that was in my grandfather's insurance office. When my mom went to college, she refurbished it, painted it red, and stored her records inside and her*

*record player on top. I use it to keep blankets and other such things in my living room. I absolutely adore it and its history!*

**S. F.**

*My grandfather lived with us when I was growing up and passed away when I was 12. We cleaned out his room and I came across a small, square, gold locket. I opened it up and on the left side of the locket there was a picture of my grandfather in an overcoat and fedora. On the other side, there was a picture of my grandmother, who died when my father was 5, in a fur coat, all dressed up, and standing next to a car. We think the picture is from the 1940's. I asked my father if I could keep the locket, and he said I could. I thought it was so sweet that my grandfather kept this tiny, gold locket sitting in a jewelry box in his dresser.*

**J. A.**

## “Cancer Survivor Day”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

National Cancer Survivor Day is in June! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about a cancer survivor you know. The deadline for submission is April 15th, 2016.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe  
wago@gomixradio.org

Or write to: Pathway Ministries  
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