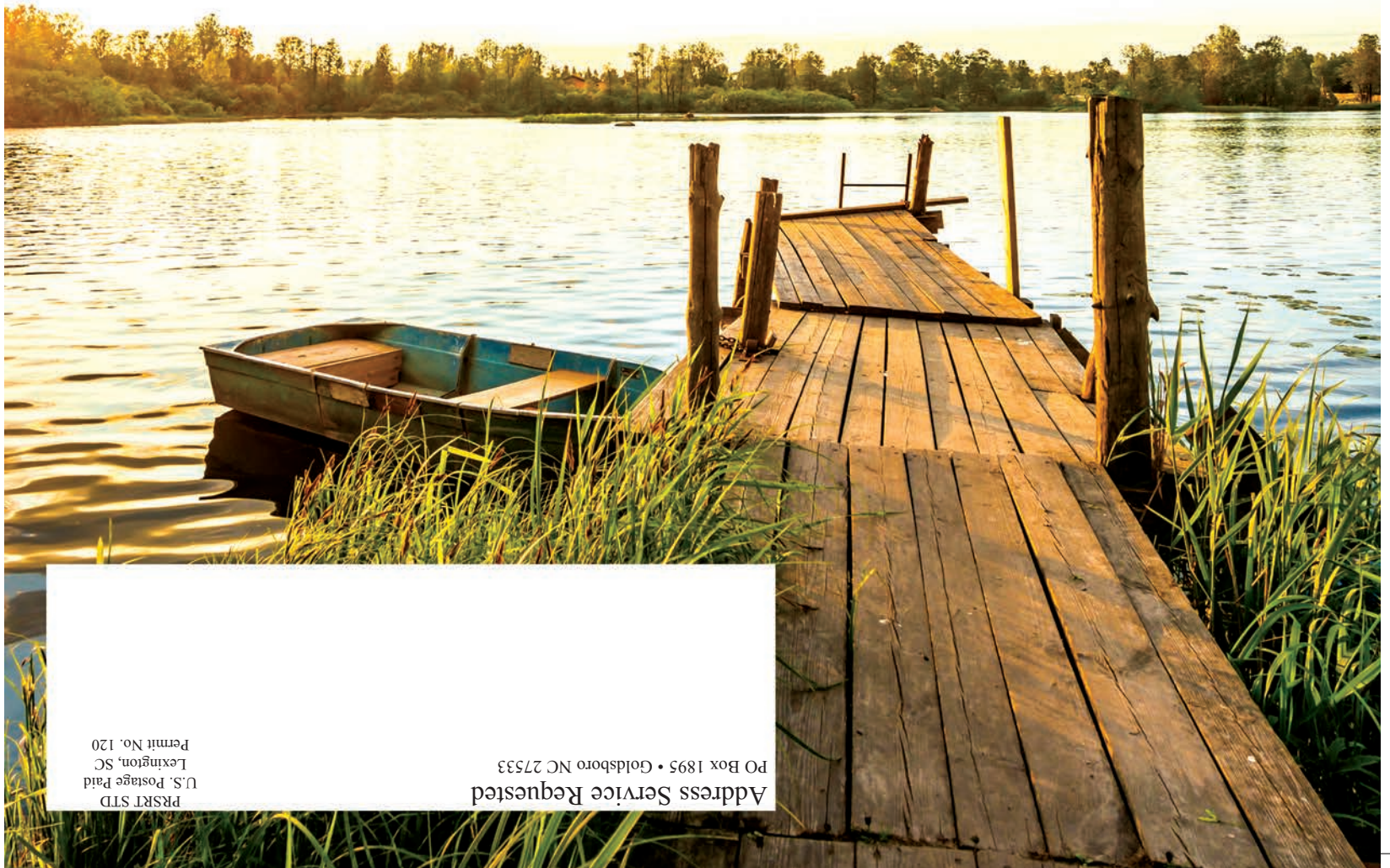


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People are complaining. They say they are not achieving the American Dream. They demand government take action. Perhaps, the real problem is they don't have any understanding of what the dream actually is. After all, the American Dream appears to keep changing. The concept keeps evolving at such a pace, many Americans don't even believe in something called the American Dream anymore. The average citizen apparently believes the decks have been stacked against them to such a point that achievement of the dream is no longer possible. Of course, it is also possible that some think the American Dream is dead because they really don't know what it is.

Herbert Hoover's idea back in 1928 was *"A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage."* I suppose that slogan identified the American dream

back then. Home ownership became the symbol of the American dream in the 1950's. But, today a free college education, free medical care, retirement security, and the opportunity to live without debt have all been added to the evolving dream.

Of course, expectations have also risen over the years. Sixty years ago many people would not have expected to live in an air conditioned home with an indoor toilet; much less a telephone. A 21 inch black and white television was a luxury. While we may not expect people to live without the modern technological advances that have been made, are we to define these things as part of the American Dream?

I suppose the American Dream can be whatever we say it is. It is still *"we the people"* who are supposed to

define our nation, so if we say owning a gigantic flat screen television is the new American Dream, then I suppose that is our right. However, the question which must be addressed is will this revised dream be compatible with our form of government? Was our republic established to insure all Americans have a free lunch? Furthermore, do our founding documents give government the authority to give a free lunch, even if some politicians wish to do so? The answer is *no!* If the dream is reconfigured, then government must be reconfigured; and that is exactly what is happening today!

Perhaps You Have A Personal American Dream.

Personal dreams should not be confused with national dreams. Your personal dream might be to pay off

your mortgage or to take a trip to Hawaii. Certainly there is nothing wrong with that; however it is personal in nature. Your neighbor will likely have his own dreams which may have little in common with yours. Although government may provide you with a proper environment to achieve your personal dreams, it is not responsible for your success or failure in the realization. A shiny new boat parked at your lake-front home might be your dream, but it is not the corporate dream of all Americans, therefore this cannot be the American Dream.

The Original American Dream.

The authors of the Declaration of Independence gave us the definition of the first American Dream. They defined it as being so simple it was a self-evident truth. They explained it by saying all men are created equal, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are ***“life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”*** This was the American dream as the founders saw it. Once they defined the dream, then they undertook the effort to build a form of government in which the dream could flourish.

The pioneers who came to this land were lured by this dream. The homesteaders who left the big cities of the east to find their little piece of land in the unknown wilderness were pursuing these unalienable rights. The immigrants who came to the United States were looking for their little piece of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our soldiers went around the globe defending this dream, and our veterans came home to enjoy the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness their sacrifice had helped preserve. The original dream was a massive motivator.

That was the original American Dream. That was the dream our form of government was established to protect and sustain. So, although it may be our right and prerogative to change the dream at our own pleasure, by default that will also change our form of government. A government such as our founders established was not designed to put a chicken in a pot or a car in a garage, much less a cell phone on your hip or a diploma on your wall.

No, the American Dream was a call to create a society with the freedom and security to fulfill God’s first cultural mandate: *“to be fruitful and multiply.”* Our founders gave us a form of government totally compatible with the dream they defined. The dream came first! It was stated in the Declaration of Independence. Several agonizing years later the Constitution was finalized which established the form of government required to secure the dream. And what was that dream again? To institute a government where people could flourish and be secure in

their life, liberty, and property enabling them to peacefully pursue God’s first and last mandate; to be fruitful and to share the Gospel.

The Dream Has Changed, So the Government Has Changed.

Some say, the new American Dream is the pursuit of material prosperity, the acquisition of stuff. Others say the American Dream is beyond the grasp of many citizens who are just trying to survive. Thomas Wolfe said, ***“...to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity...the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him.”*** Opportunity, that’s it. That is the word I have been looking for! That is exactly what the founders were talking about. They established a government not to insure you would succeed, but to give you the opportunity to succeed. That was the golden theme of the original American Dream.





For the majority of American history, our success was enabled by our individual and collective self-reliance, independent spirit, rugged individualism, and faith in God. Then, by the multitude of freedoms allowed by a limited government, we were able to pursue and achieve life, liberty, and prosperity. Our country, just like her citizens enjoyed self-reliance.

What we must acknowledge is the astonishing decline of both individual and national self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Only a few decades ago, America possessed unrivaled manufacturing capacity, unmatched agricultural productivity, inventions and creativity so boundless that “*American Know-How*” was a term understood worldwide. Our God given natural resources were in great abundance, and being used to the limits of technology. We had virtually no real need to rely on other nations for products, services, or resources. Do we not understand that these are the very things that made America such a powerhouse in World War II?

But now, we have allowed our manufacturing industries to shrink drastically or to relocate beyond our borders. America is manufacturing

few of the products we consume today; most goods are imported. Furthermore, the same nation that became the world’s banker, lending money and rebuilding shattered nations after World War II, is now drowning in the red ink of trade deficits and debt to foreign nations. This is all that is propping up our wobbly economy and false prosperity.

Can the original American Dream be restored? Yes, but it will take a concerted effort to address two underlying problems. *First*, we must re-educate people in the knowledge of what the dream really is. Unfortunately, many Americans still believe that it is government’s responsibility to solve all their problems, so they have no understanding of the original American Dream. *Second*, we need to reestablish a government that can bring it back to life. The concepts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are in critical condition. The few remaining ideals of the original government are nearly impossible to access, or are in the process of being recreated to support the new socialist agenda. The American Dream of the past inspired hope and optimism, modern Americans have little of either. Poll after poll confirms the belief we’re

heading in the wrong direction. It is time to end the war on poverty. It is time to stop the culture conflict against our Judo-Christian heritage. It is time to reign in the regulatory and tax burdens hindering our industry. It is time to restore and protect the rights of life, liberty, and property; the concepts of freedom and self-government that birthed the original American Dream. In short, it is time for the federal government to return to its few and defined enumerated powers.

Modern day politicians from both parties have discarded the original dream in favor of promising chickens in pots and checks in the mailbox. A government that grants these things will find it incompatible with also delivering on the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Surely, in a country where people carry more technology in the palm of their hands than the astronauts had when they went to the moon, with God’s help, we ought to have the ability to fix the mess we are in and restore the dream. As Christians, these are things we already spiritually possess in Christ; it is high time we repossess them as Americans. After all, these are the things we were promised.

“...in Him was life; and the life was the light of men.” John 1:4

“...the glorious liberty of the children of God” Romans 8:21

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” John 13:17



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



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Listen To The Lord

We encourage people to listen to the voice of God and seek His direction. This is especially important when selecting the ministries you might financially support. Our spirit must be trained to respond immediately to the leadings of the Holy Spirit of God. Sometimes we may call that voice a conscience or simply intuition. It is a voice of guidance. But the human spirit is like a radio receiver that may be tuned to respond to several different signals. However, this spirit within us must be trained to listen to the Holy Spirit of God.

Your spirit has the capacity to contain the life and nature of God. If you are saved, the Holy

Spirit dwells within you. The devil can't be giving you internalized information because he is not in you. He is on the outside of you. The world and the flesh are outside of you. God communicates with you internally through your spirit because that is where He is. He isn't in your head. He is in your spirit. It is important to learn to obey your spirit.

The conscience is not an infallible guide; however, the conscience can be a safe guide in the Spirit-filled believer. The believer's conscience, the voice of his spirit, can become the voice of God within him. Paul acknowledged he obeyed his conscience (*Acts 23:1*).

The Bible also says: *"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord ..."* (*Proverbs 20:27*). God will use your spirit to guide you. He will use it to enlighten you. As your spirit meditates and feeds upon the Word, then it becomes more and more a safe guide.

As we learn to obey the voice of our spirit, we will come to the place where we know what actions we should take a majority of the time. The Lord will guide us and illuminate our pathway. *"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (*Proverbs 3:6*).

At *GoMix* we always encourage people to give only after prayerful consideration. Please allow the Lord to guide you, and then be obedient to His guidance.



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The Power Of Words

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

The quote above is one many are familiar with. Believed to be a saying from the late 1800’s, it’s often learned in childhood as a way for children to try to cope with name callers and verbal bullies. It may be old, but that doesn’t mean it’s accurate. The truth is, words do hurt and have the power to make or break an individual or a nation. In the Bible, James warns us of the power behind our words.

“Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”

James 3:4-5

James then goes on to write in the same chapter of how difficult the tongue can be to tame. The Bible teaches that our words go deeper than mere sounds or communication from one person to another. The words we speak are at the core of who we are.

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the

man.”

Matthew 15:18

What kind of words have you spoken today? Are they words of blessing or words of cursing and strife? Are you lifting up or tearing down others with your speech? Do your words forecast negativity, or do they bring peace and hope to those that need it most?

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.”

James 3:13

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SLOW FADE

Dr. Glenn Mills



“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth...”

II Timothy 4:3-4a

My heart is heavy as I continue to witness the decline of morality in America, a once great and moral nation. To many around the world, we were once considered a Christian nation. That is no longer true, but we are a nation which contains Christians. Sadly, there are other countries that hold to a higher moral standard than America, but this has not always been the case. So how did it happen? It was a slow fade.

I was just a child when the right for teachers to lead students in prayer was taken out of public schools. The really sad fact is many parents had already stopped praying with their children at home. Along with prayer being neglected, many stopped reading and studying their Bibles. Since the 1960's we have raised a generation of prayerless, faithless, and biblically illiterate people. Now these people are running our nation from the Supreme Court to our City Councils. The only thing that reveals their blindness to morality is the never changing truth from the Word of God. Believe me when I say it is going to get worse before it gets better.

As a Believer, I find myself asking God what I can do that will make any difference when so many are blind to the truth. What can Christians do now that we are the minority? What do we do when our leaders do not see the dangers in the decisions they are making, such as allowing girls, boys, men, and women to use the same bathrooms? Who would have EVER thought that would be an issue, but it is, and more is to come. Is there any hope for America? Can we stop this slow fade to destruction?

I am excited to say, YES! There is hope. God reminded me of the condition of the Jewish people before Jesus came on the scene.

John the Baptist was already preaching repentance of sin and preparation for the Messiah. Then Jesus comes bringing the presence of God to people who were living in a darkened world. While they were religious, they knew little about the true love of God. Jesus was later crucified and buried, but rose victoriously from the dead offering eternal life to all who would believe in Him.

As His Disciples began to spread the ‘Good News’, the light of God’s love began to shine. The Church began with just a few believers, but grew rapidly until the Gospel spread around the world. Though often persecuted, the Church continued to grow. Rome could not stop it. Kings could not stop it. The skeptics could not stop it. Not even Satan could stop it. That same Gospel is true today. Jesus is the answer for America and every lost soul. Although we are sometimes discouraged by how things are, we should still be encouraged by how things could be.

We can stop this slow fade of destruction by turning up the “Light” of Jesus Christ. It is time for every believer to turn on the high beams and let the love of God flow through all we say and do. We will greatly impact those around us when we read God’s Word, study it, speak it, pray it, and live it. Why? ...Because the Word of God changes people. We must fast and pray for America, our leaders, and the lost.

My friends, we have the answer and it is time to give it to all who will hear it. Stop complaining and start doing what we know will make all the difference. If we desire a



“holy” nation then we must first be a holy people. That starts at home with everything we say and do. The Holy Spirit will guide and teach us if we will listen and follow.

Our battlefield should be our Prayer Room where we seek God in everything. The battle for America belongs to the Lord, and we are in His army to do whatever He says. Turn every immoral and negative report to God in prayer.

Speak God’s Word over every situation until it yields to His plans and purpose. Love people with the love of God and watch their lives change for His glory. The Holy Spirit is waiting for us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus to victory. The light of Jesus in us will drive back the darkness and open the eyes of those Satan has blinded.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

If we will live this verse, we will see the glory of the Lord in America again. Let’s do this!



Dr. Glenn Mills is a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry. He can be heard each weekday on GoMix Christian Radio.



A School With Heart

Mrs. Sherry Worthington



When you hold your baby in your arms for the first time, you know you have something special. He is a unique individual created by our Lord. Our God knew your child even while he was in the womb. This child is an individual unlike any other. The DNA in his cells, the prints on his fingers, and the very essence of his personality are his and his alone.

As you watch your little one grow, you determine to be the best parent you know how to be. You desire to make wise and Godly decisions that will mold his life according to the will of his Creator. As a parent and a teacher, I realize one of the most important decisions you will make concerning your children is the school they will attend. It goes without saying that you

will desire an environment that will love and care for him, a place where he will be given opportunity to learn, and a place which is safe and wholesome in its atmosphere. As a Christian, you will seek a place where he can learn of God's Word and develop a Godly character. But what about a place which will recognize and stimulate his personal uniqueness? For that unique

and special task, you will need a *school with heart*.

As I have opportunity to interview prospective staff members at Pathway Christian Academy, I always ask a very important question that is essential to our method of education. Can you love a child no matter what the need? For I believe our ministry is to the individual need of each child. God considers each hair on your child's head to be important (*Matthew 10:30*). God knew him before he was even born (*Jeremiah 1:5*). Our Lord will also one day judge him on his own merits. The only logical conclusion is that if God treats your child as an individual, then we have no choice but to follow His example.

At Pathway, we maintain that uniqueness by developing a learning program that will proceed at your child's own precise academic level. He may be advanced in mathematics but behind in reading. Your child is tested to determine his exact level of ability and then he is given realistic goals to help him continue to excel or catch up if he is behind. Throughout the day, your child has one-on-one tutoring as needed should he hit an academic roadblock along



the way. His program of learning will evolve along with his needs. Our goal is simply to encourage each individual to achieve his own potential before God. Our country needs great doctors, missionaries, teachers, and construction and factory workers. Each one has his own special place in our nation's economy, and likewise, in God's economy.

One of the greatest challenges of an education system is to discipline the students in all areas of life. A system of rewards is in place in order for the student to earn privileges when he shows responsibility with his academic and social requirements. Obeying the rules is a necessary part of life. Therefore, it has to be a dynamic part of the school environment. At Pathway, respect for authority is a policy of paramount importance. We expect a child to be obedient. If a child will not obey in "*small things*" when he is young, then when he grows older these small things will only become larger things. Teaching respect for authority through obedience is the best way we know to teach obedience to ultimate authority--God. Working with the parent, we form a ministry team to guide the student in this area.

The greatest tool for teaching character is learning to follow the rules at home and school. If a student attends Pathway and graduates with honors, but does not exhibit character, then we have failed. Teaching accomplishment through goal setting, honesty through proper scoring, perseverance through completing a task, and Godliness through the identification of over sixty character traits is instrumental to the future success of your child. Without these qualities, he has no future.

God's Word is the core curriculum for teaching obedience. The day begins with prayer and a short devotion. Each test is not complete unless the student is able to quote the corresponding Scripture verse on his test. Our staff will answer your child's questions about the Bible in a way that will always honor God. We all strive to be living examples of what the Bible teaches.

Why do we consider Pathway to be a school with heart? Because our staff desires to reach the mind, but we realize to truly make a difference, we must reach the heart!

NOTE: We are extremely thankful for the many excellent home schools and Christian schools serving the needs of God's people. As the government schools sink deeper into the evils of our modern society, we urge all parents to consider the alternatives available to them in the education of their children.



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



Prayer: The Rest Of The Story

Dr. Randy Spaugh

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

This verse is usually heard at an evangelistic service or at an altar call. Addressing this to an unbeliever might not be wrong, since there are other verses that confirm this truth, but in this particular situation, it is addressed to the church. Verse 14 makes it very clear that this is a letter to the church of the Laodiceans. It is written to believers.

It is written to a very messed up and deluded church. One is deluded because one believes something is true, when it is in reality very wrong. Verse 17 makes this clear:

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

Revelation 3:17

In the midst of that kind of deluded church, Jesus takes the initiative and

knocks on the door, even willing to sit down and eat with them. Jesus cares about the believer, even if they are messed up and deluded.

Let’s say the preacher has just begun his message and there is a knock at the door. It’s Jesus! The preacher stops preaching and all eyes are on Jesus.

“Jesus, I’m so glad you’re here,” we are heard to say. “I’ve got this list of things for you to do for me, and I can present it to you in person. I’d like to have new businesses and restaurants in my town. I would like for our church to grow. I have got some people that you need to straighten out.”

Would we really start by asking Jesus to be conformed to our will?

Would we just listen? Like the Laodiceans, maybe we need to be conformed to His will. Perhaps we need to grow more than we think. Maybe we really need to listen, even if we think we have got it pretty well figured out. Then why is this not true in our prayer lives? Listening to Jesus is prayer. Our grocery list, while valuable, is a minor part of what prayer is all about. It is more important for us to hear Jesus than for Jesus to hear us.

If He came to our church, would we just stand in awe of Him? Would we be overwhelmed with His presence? Perhaps we would be content not to ask or listen, but just to be close to Him. That is prayer, also. Maybe if we had a chance to be in His presence, have a little of Him rub off on us, then perhaps others would note that we had been with Jesus. This happened in the book of Acts with Peter and John.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13

We have been brought up to believe that presenting our grocery list to God is really all there is to prayer. If Jesus were really present (and He is), would our first priority not be to listen to Him? Perhaps our first priority would be to rest in His presence. Our intercessions, important though they are, would soon become less of a priority.

We don’t need to change as much as we need to expand our concept of prayer. It might need to be a little closer to the Biblical norm. We need a quiet time in our life. We need to seek His face. Like Mary, we need to set at His feet. We need time for Him to speak to us from His Word. Let Jesus conform us to His will. That is prayer. Have we been deluded enough to think otherwise?



Dr. Randy Spaugh is the Pastor of Faith Fellowship Church in Kinston, N.C.
www.faithkinston.org

And Finally...



My Thrift Shop Bargain...

I was deeply grieving the recent death of my husband of 54 years and noticed high up on the wall of my favorite thrift shop a black and white framed picture of Christ looking into the face of a woman He was embracing. Both Christ and the woman have a tear on their cheeks and the nail prints in His hands are clearly seen. This picture has been a great comfort to me for the low cost of \$9.00. I have taken a picture of it and sent it to other widows to comfort them. It hangs on my wall over my desk, and I wish I could locate the artist to tell them what it has truly meant to me.

N. P.

I love a great deal! Recently, I attended one of my favorite annual neighborhood yard sales. You know, where you can park your car and hit several sales at once. They are the best! I found so many treasures this year. One of those treasures was a vintage Cinderella pumpkin carriage cake topper. For just a few dollars, it's definitely a keeper!

C. H.

Well, I've never found that many good bargains other than a pair of jeans or kitchen nick-knacks, but I have heard of a few good deals others have found which gives me hope. There was a guy named Zach Norris in the Phoenix area that went to a local Goodwill looking for a golf bag. While there he came out with a vintage 1959 LeCoultre watch he paid \$6.00 for. It's said he recently sold it online for \$35,000.00. I'm sure you probably heard about Stan Caffy, a Nashville pipe fitter that had a copy of the Declaration of Independence hanging in his garage for over a decade. His wife urged him to get some junk cleaned out and take it to the local thrift store. Soon thereafter, they saw a story about another local man, Michael Sparks, who bought the document for \$2.48 and was preparing to auction it off

with a starting bid of \$125,000.00. The auction closed at \$477,650.00. I'm still holding out hope for a thrift store bargain that substantial, but until then, I'll be just as content with a good deal on jeans.

T. J.

It was close to the time when my daughter and I would go on an Inspiration Cruise to Alaska. I was looking for a lightweight beach robe to pack. In one of my favorite thrift shops, I spotted a white satin short robe for \$2.00. I didn't notice until I got home the back of it read in silver, "Bride"! I thought, "Well, I am a widow, but also a member of the Bride of Christ." My daughter said she didn't care if I wore it as long as no one thought she was the groom! Soon, I saw a small cloth emblem reading "Alaska", so I replaced "Bride" for "Alaska". We still laugh about my thrift shop bargain.

N. P.

"Clergy Appreciation"

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

Clergy Appreciation Month is in October! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your someone in ministry you admire. The deadline for submission is August 20th, 2016.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe
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