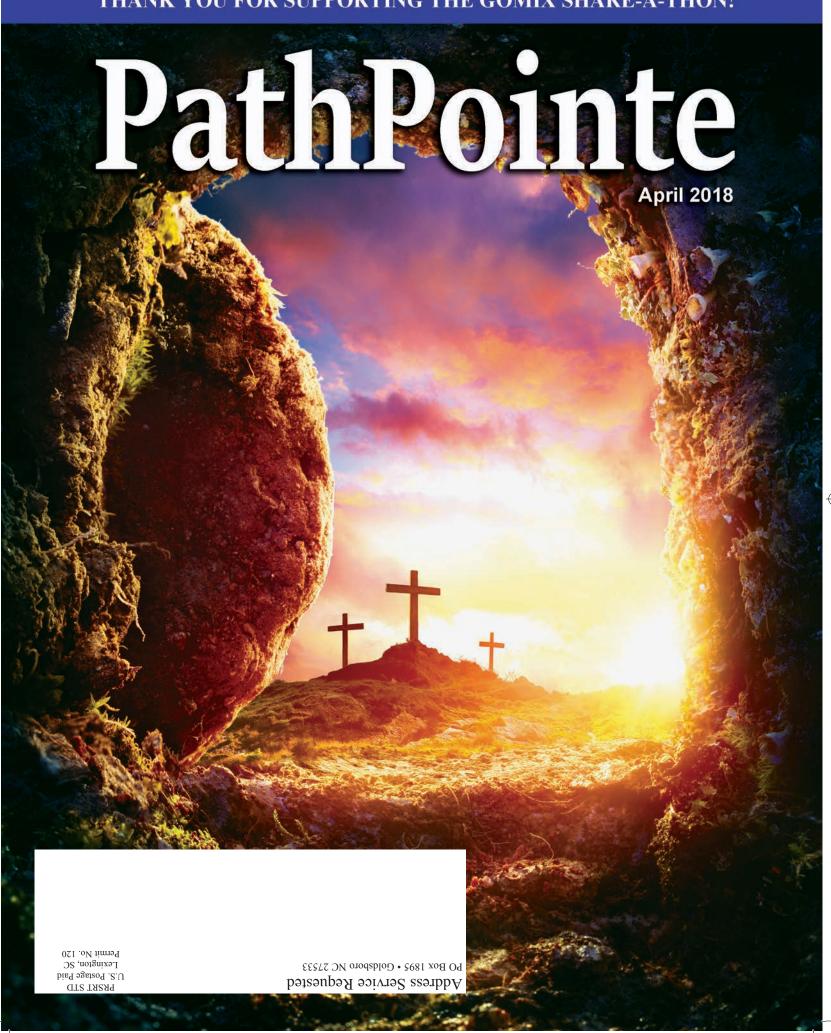


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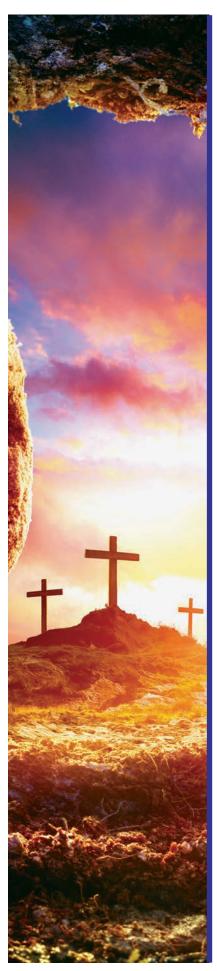
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contents

PathPointe Magazine Volume 19, Issue 4 April, 2018

Page 2 The Sleazy Affair

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Page 5 A Ministry For The Last Days

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Page 6 Radio Bits

Your Christian Superstations!

Page 8 A True Christian

Dr. Glenn Mills

Page 10 Stop Making Excuses...

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

Page 12 And Finally...

Husband Appreciation Day...

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Are you having a sleazy affair with someone? I know this is a subject more suitable for a tabloid headline or a movie plot, but still I beg to ask the question. After all, misplaced attraction or love is a frequent occurrence, even in the church. Actually, the question is not whether we are having an affair but a better question might be how many are we having?

In the classic affair there is somewhat of a love triangle. That is, usually three people are involved, and at least one of the parties is trying to manipulate between two love interests. These two love interests, whether they are aware of it or not, are competing with each other for the time, attention, respect, and love of the third person.

Our Lord addresses the subject of sleazy Christian affairs in the following verses:

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 10:37-39

Although this form of misplaced love might not be what we usually think of, I assure you it is prevalent in the modern church. Jesus illustrates a couple of very common love triangles. He speaks of loving our parents or children more than Him as being an example of misplaced love. These are by no means the only love triangles in our lives. Love affairs can involve anyone or anything.

Regardless of the entities involved, they always confront us with the question of whom or what do we love most? Who is it that occupies first place in our lives?

As Christians we all know that Jesus should occupy the first place in our lives, but does He? Is the Lord our most important relationship, or are we indulging ourselves in a sleazy affair with someone or something else? It is not enough to give theological consent

2 PathPointe

that Jesus is first in my life. I must be honest about what the actual evidence shows.

Is Jesus more important than my wife? That's a tough one! I know the right answer, but honestly I am not sure I always live up to the message I preach. Fortunately, she never puts me in a position to have to choose. But what if she does, what would I do? Of course, I must ask if I ever put her in such a position? How about *your* relationship with *your* spouse? Do you ever put them in a position where they have to answer the question; "Who do you love the most, Jesus or me?" It is a sad reality that some couples do that to each other quite frequently.

According to my calendar, it would appear that the ministry is my most important relationship. That's where I spend more time than anywhere else. You may say, "Well that's the same as spending time with Jesus." Sure, it can be, but it is not always the same thing. If you should see the passionate loving looks I give when I pass the Krispy Kreme Shop, you might assume I have a love interest that works there. If you were to look at my checkbook you might say, "I think he's got a thing going on with someone at the grocery store. That's where he spends a lot of his money." On the other hand, if you catch me at a certain time, you might conclude that I love myself more than anyone else.

I'll bet you know what I'm talking about. We're probably not that different. Our true answer reveals many different love interests that we have. However, when Jesus asks us to love Him more than any other relationship, it means we can have but one primary relationship in our lives, and Jesus says it is to be Him. His

demand for first place is not limited to our parents, children, or spouse; it has to be first place over everyone and everything in our lives. He could have easily continued the list.

He might have also said, whosoever loves a friend more than Me is not worthy of Me. Perhaps He could have said, if you love your leisure time more than Me, your priorities are misplaced. Certainly, He could have included things like career, power, wealth, or reputation. So may I ask, are there any misplaced love affairs going on in your life? Whom or what do you love the most? Is there some sleazy affair keeping Jesus off the top of your list?



Jesus demands we make a choice. Does that mean we must reject our parents, our children, our spouses, and all other love interests? No, that's not what Jesus is asking. Jesus is not demanding exclusivity, but He is demanding priority. Jesus refuses to be just another one of our many love interests. He is not asking for a place on our love list, even if we offer Him a slot near the top. No, He commands priority.

Although the Scripture teaches us that God is a jealous God, this command has far more to do with our benefit than His. Keeping the Lord as our primary relationship gives us identity and direction. It becomes the lens through which we see the world, each other, and ourselves. It is the foundation on which we build our lives. It guides the choices

we make, the words we say, and the ways in which we act and relate. It sets a trajectory for our lives and determines how we love.

Simply stated, the more we love Jesus the more we are capable of loving others. He increases our capacity to love. The more I love Jesus the more I can love Sherry, the more I can love my parents, and the more I can love my children. The more I love Jesus the more I can love others. Why then would we want to love anything or anyone more than Jesus?

But how do we do it? How do we pick Jesus over our child, our spouse, or our parents? I have already given you the secret. When you love God most you are capable of loving everything else more. This breaks the love triangle. There is no longer a sinful and improper love affair going on. No one is left out, excluded, or rejected. Everyone is loved more as God, and not ourselves, becomes the source and origin of our love. This means we are allowing God's love to flow through us to others. This is allowing God to love others through us. Then, and only then, are we capable of loving others with the same love with which Jesus loves us. That's pretty powerful!

I want to love Sherry. I want to love my children. I want to love my grandchildren. I want to love others. Fact is, there are a lot of things I want to love, and I want to love them with purity and intensity. But, I can only do that when I put Jesus first.



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







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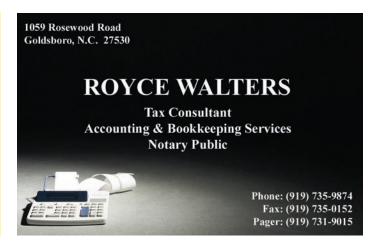


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We believe our Lord is trying to break through to His people in these last days. God knows things are getting tough for us. He knows we will face difficulties with our children. He knows that our marriages will be stretched to the limit. He also knows we may have a tendency to grow weary in well doing. Right now God's people need a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a supernatural touch from heaven.

Although the early Christians had their own set of problems, they didn't have to fear some maniac with nuclear weapons. They didn't face gay marriages in mainstream society. They did not battle terrorism. Today we face a unique array of difficulties wherein we need God's power and wisdom.

The outspoken prayer for many of God's people might be: "Lord, in Jesus name, we desperately need Your help. We are losing our marriages. We are losing our children. Our churches are dying and our ministries are being neglected. We need a touch from you like we've never known before."

We know the Bible says evil men will grow more and more wicked and there will be a great falling away. We know it says the love of many will wax cold and the faith of many will be shipwrecked. We know it says false preachers will come to deceive many and that people will love pleasure more than God. We know it says even God's elect will be greatly tempted. We also know many

churches will grow lukewarm as the coming of Christ draws near.

Even through all this, we must encourage ourselves by remembering none of these things can stop the work of God. Nothing can hold back the great swelling tide of triumphant praise that is coming. Nothing can put out His fire or stop His rain from falling. That is one of our missions at GoMix Christian **Radio.** We are here to remind you of God's love and grace during the difficult days which may be in our future. Thank you for your support which is so vital in sustaining our ministry.

Dr. T.D. Worthington
PathPointe 5





Gratitude

Now that *Share-A-Thon* is over for the spring, the phone calls have slowed down, the paperwork is just about caught up, and things are almost back to normal around the *GoMix Christian Radio* studios. One thing we do have left over, however, is a great big heap of gratitude. We have once again been amazed at the response of our listeners in helping meet the needs of this ministry for the glory of our Lord.



Over the past month, we have heard from many of our **Faith Partners** who have supported us for years as well as new listeners just tuning in or new to the area. Some of you may even listen online on our website at **www.gomixradio.org** and have chosen to support **GoMix** even though you are currently living outside of our listening area.

We appreciate all of your support during *Share-A-Thon* regardless of whether you called in, wrote in, sent us an email, or lifted up prayers on our behalf. We are so very grateful for your partnership!

We would like to once again extend a warm "Thank you" to our on-air guests, telephone volunteers, and food vendors who donated their time and resources to help with the success of *Share-A-Thon*. Rest assured that all the work done, whether in the spotlight or not, was of equal and great importance.

Our goal is to be just as much of a blessing to you as you have been to us. Most importantly, as we join hands together in service, may we also be a blessing to our Heavenly Father!

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Artist Spotlight - Servant's Heart

Servant's Heart had its singing debut in October 1989, when three members of Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Pikeville, N. C. were asked to sing during the church's homecoming memorial sing. They gladly accepted, though the challenge was no easy task as they were all alto singers. Nevertheless, with these three ladies all having come from musical backgrounds, Joan Allen, Janie Wilson, and Lynette Hales were able to arrange the song for three-part harmony.

Thus began the trio inspiration rendering special music, mainly in their home church as well as some area churches and various events. Over the years, there were times when one of the ladies would have a conflict and April Wilson, Joan's daughter and Janie's daughter-in-law, would fill in. There were basically three different trios within the group of four.

In 1994, April joined the group as lead singer, making the group a quartet. Since October of 1998, the Lord has given April the words and melodies to ten songs. One of these songs, entitled "Trust in the Lord," is included in the group's first project, *Led By Faith*, which was released in November of 1999. Three of April's songs are included in the second project, *God's Child*, released in 2001. They are entitled "God's

Child," "Praisin' the Lord," and "Who Is This Man." On their third project, *A Glimpse of Home*, the song "Father, I Will Lead Them" was written by April. It is a powerful song about Jesus' great love for us.

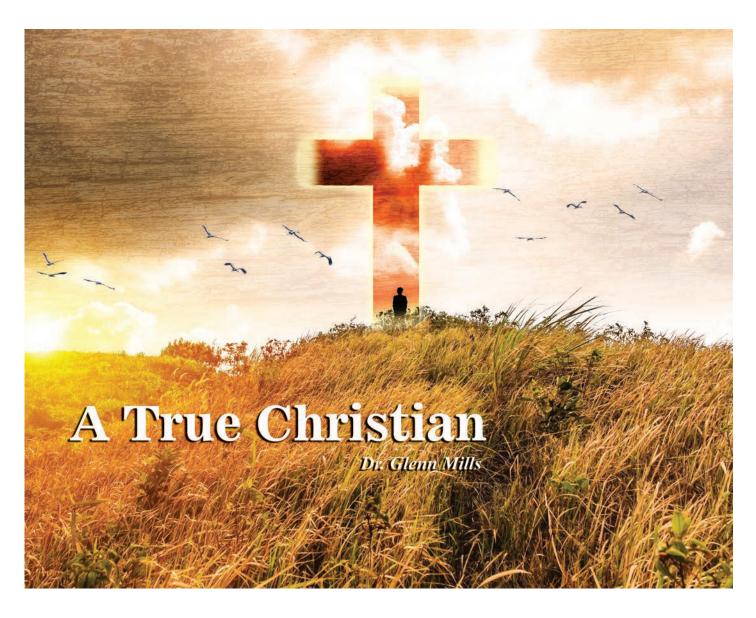
In March 2005, Lynette left the group to lead a divorce ministry in her church. Connie Mercer joined the group at that time. Connie had previously been singing in her local church as well as with her husband in a group called The Foundations based in Pikeville, N. C.

If you would like more information about *Servant's Heart* or would like to see a full list of their upcoming events, visit them online at www.servantsheartlq.com or call 919-222-5851.

Upcoming Events:

Woods Grove Church, Goldsboro - April 18 @ 7PM Oak Grove OFWBC, Vanceboro - April 29 @ 6PM ECGMA Family Day, Selma - May 5 @ 5PM WHFL-TV Studio, Goldsboro - May 29 @ 8PM Kenly Gospel Music Hall, Kenly - June 23 @ 7PM Roger's Bay, Topsail Beach - July 22 @ 9AM Haymount FWB Church, Fayetteville - September 30 @ 10:45AM





"...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Acts 11:26c

A Christian is one who has made Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour and believes He arose from the dead. They have confessed their sins, and they follow His teachings. They know Christianity is not a religion, but instead a beautiful relationship with God. It is not just about someone who has a changed mind, but one who has also allowed God to change their heart. Christianity is not a habit or a ritual, but a lifestyle of walking and communing with Jesus.

A true Christian is not just someone who attends a church service or ministry event. As one wise person said, "Sitting in a church will not make you a Christian any more than sitting in a garage will make you a car." People are not Christians because they put money into an offering plate or give to some type of ministry activity or group. Christians are not just people who sing hymns, solos, are on a praise team, or in a choir. Even a Bible under their arm or a Bible app on their phone or on their tablet does not identify them as a true Christian. Serving in one of the many offices or ministries of the church still won't make a person a true Christian.

While all those things mentioned above are things that a true Christian would do, they are not the reason one is a true Christian. A person could do all these things, and yet, still end up lost forever. Sadly, some put their faith in outward actions, rather than an inward heart change. Jesus warned us in the Word when He said to some, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth,

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and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

Matthew 15:8

He also went as far as to say that many in the last day will declare what all they did for Him, but it will be in vain.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:21-23

How can this be possible? How can someone serve in the church, perform many ministry deeds, help others, and yet Jesus not know them? I've heard it said, "They, sadly, missed Jesus by eighteen inches." That is the average distance from one's heart to their brain. They had a head knowledge of Who Jesus was, but they never fully accepted Jesus into their heart to be their Lord and Saviour.

It is for this reason God does not want us to do anything *for* Him, but desires we do everything *with* Him. It has to be a personal relationship. If not, then it is only a religion and that will end you up in Hell.

Sadly, some who think they are Christians are really just religious. That is why they do many of the "churchy" things, while at the same time living worldly lives without conviction. Other than being in church, they live just like those in the world who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

When someone is a true Christian, it will determine everything they say and do. Their heart desires to please God above all else. They not only read His Word, but they do all they can with the help of the Holy Spirit to live by the Word. True Christians love God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They seek first God's way above their own. They gladly



serve Him, sing to Him, freely give to Him, and seek to please Him in all their ways. Genuine Christians are Christ-like in every way they can possibly be. When they sin, they quickly repent and receive God's forgiveness. They are obedient to God, not because they have to be, but because they love God above all else.

Considering all this, are we true Christians? I pray we all examine ourselves and see where we are in our walk with God. Do we just have a religion or do we have a loving relationship with God and Jesus?

We are not Christians because of what we do, but more so because of who we are in Christ Jesus. True Christians deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Jesus at any cost. Their hearts are set on things above, not on the material things of this world.

Just a thought: Other than attending church, would people call you a Christian based on what you say, how you live, where you go, or how you behave? Hopefully, the answer is yes!



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





If I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't have believed it! One of my students told me that her dog had eaten her homework slip. I looked at her with the look that says, "Really?" She should know better than to expect me to fall for that one. But guess what? She pulls out a half-eaten homework slip with a parent's note on the back explaining what had happened. I got a chuckle out of that one. I laughed about it throughout the day. So I guess her excuse was actually a reason.

As parents we hear excuses all of the time. Children love to blame their siblings for any of the problems. How often do we hear, "She made me do it, Mommy!" When Amber and Ashley, our two youngest, were about three years old, they had the chicken pox. We kept the calamine lotion on top of their chest of drawers. I rubbed it on them when they were itching. I came in their room one afternoon, and they had rubbed the lotion all over their legs. Not only was it on their legs, but

it was on the rug and every other thing they had put their hands on. Mind you, I had only left the room for a few minutes. When I returned, they each pointed to the other one. Even at this young age, they already knew how to blame someone else.

When I check homework at school in the mornings, I hear all kinds of excuses. "I didn't understand it" is the most common one. In many cases, they didn't try. I also hear, "I

didn't have time." I often ask, "Did you have time to go on your social media account or talk on your cell phone?" Yes, parents, you get blamed, too. They say, "Mom or Dad kept me out late" or "They wouldn't help me." That is why we insist on a note to excuse incomplete homework, otherwise demerits are issued. There is also the popular excuse "He did it first!" We get that one all the time. For some reason, when a child gets in trouble for something we hear, "Johnny didn't get in trouble." How

It is so refreshing when you correct a child and he says, "Yes, ma'am!" He doesn't try to get out of it or blame someone else. When I ask, "Why didn't you do your homework?" I would much rather hear, "I didn't want to" than the student make an excuse. I don't know if you have ever thought about it or not, but an excuse is a lie, which is sin.

is that for an excuse?

We expect our children to own up to it when they mess up, but we don't own up too well either. I hear as many excuses from adults as I do from children. Adults make excuses for their children's shortcomings, for not disciplining their children, for speeding, wasting money, being late, not losing weight, not doing our work, not attending church, and so many more areas of our lives. Many times, the adults use their children as an excuse just as much as the children use their parents.

I must admit! I make my excuses, too! Isn't it time we own up to our shortcomings? Shouldn't we say we haven't made this area a priority in our lives instead of making an excuse? We haven't disciplined our children because it is hard work. It is easier



to give in and let them have their way. We waste money because we are not disciplined. We haven't told ourselves no in any area, especially where spending or food is concerned. We are late because we didn't get out of bed in time. We didn't get our work done because we would rather do something else, waste time, or are just plain lazy. We don't go to church because we would rather be somewhere else, or it is just takes too much effort. Wow! We sure are spoiled! When you really look at the excuses we make, we need to apologize to the children.

When we make an excuse for not doing something, we are lying to ourselves and others. It is time to say I didn't compete the task, whatever it may be, because I didn't want to bad enough. It is too much work. It is time to make a change! Spring is a good time to start.

With our Heavenly Father's help, we can all change. Our weaknesses can become strengths through the loving care of our Lord. It won't be easy, but we can do it. Many people in the Scriptures changed when they met the Savior. Peter changed! He was a work in progress, but when he met the risen Lord face to face, he was a changed man. Paul encourages us in Philippians 4:13 with these words, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Yes, we can!

Isn't it time we quit lying to the Lord and ourselves! Take the initiative! Stop making excuses for the sins in our lives and claim victory. I am a work in progress! How about you?



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



And Finally...



Husband Appreciation Day...

My dear husband of almost 50 years, Rev. Paul Rose, has been my sweetheart since 1964. His love for God, others, and family is reflected in his daily walk of ministry. I recognize his devotion to me by his many acts of love such as getting the car warmed and ready for me on cold mornings. Frequently during the day he will tell me how much he loves me. He also shows his fatherly affection towards our daughter, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter who plays Barbie and has tea parties with him. He shepherds the flock at church tenderly and cares for the animals that live on out little farm. Love is his signal word, and I Corinthians 13 is his favorite chapter in the Bible. He is a keeper!

B.R.

I appreciate many things about my husband. For one, he puts up with me. That has to be a job in itself! He is a hard worker and always does what he can to provide for our family, seldom complaining about the task at hand. He is a good father and would do anything to help any child in need, not just ours. He loves family and is always concerned about his parents, especially now that they are getting a little older. On the outside he appears tough and rugged to many, but on the inside he has a tender heart and is always the first to volunteer to help the elderly and widows in our community and church. I probably don't tell him as often as I should, but he is definitely appreciated, loved, and respected by me!

J. A.

I appreciate my husband, Micha, for so many reasons! One I'll mention is that he rarely

discourages me from dreaming big, but he usually offers practical advice and asks hard hitting questions that bring me back to reality. When we first got married, I hated how he was always raining on my parade. But now that we have been married for nine years, I love how we can balance each other out.

K. W.

I am so thankful for my husband, Bob. I know that he will be by my side no matter what happens in our life. Two years ago I had a cancer scare and complications after the surgery to remove it. He relied on God for my healing and was not afraid to tell others we needed prayer. He is a wonderful man and will always be someone I can count on.

P. S.

"Father's Day"

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

Father's Day is on the way in June! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your dad.

The deadline for submission is

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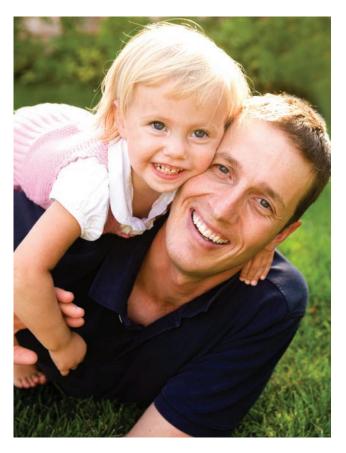




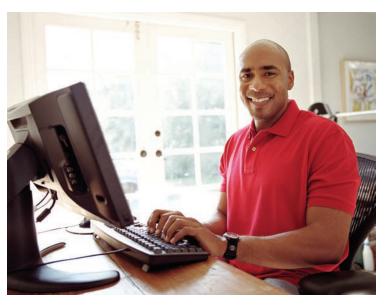
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