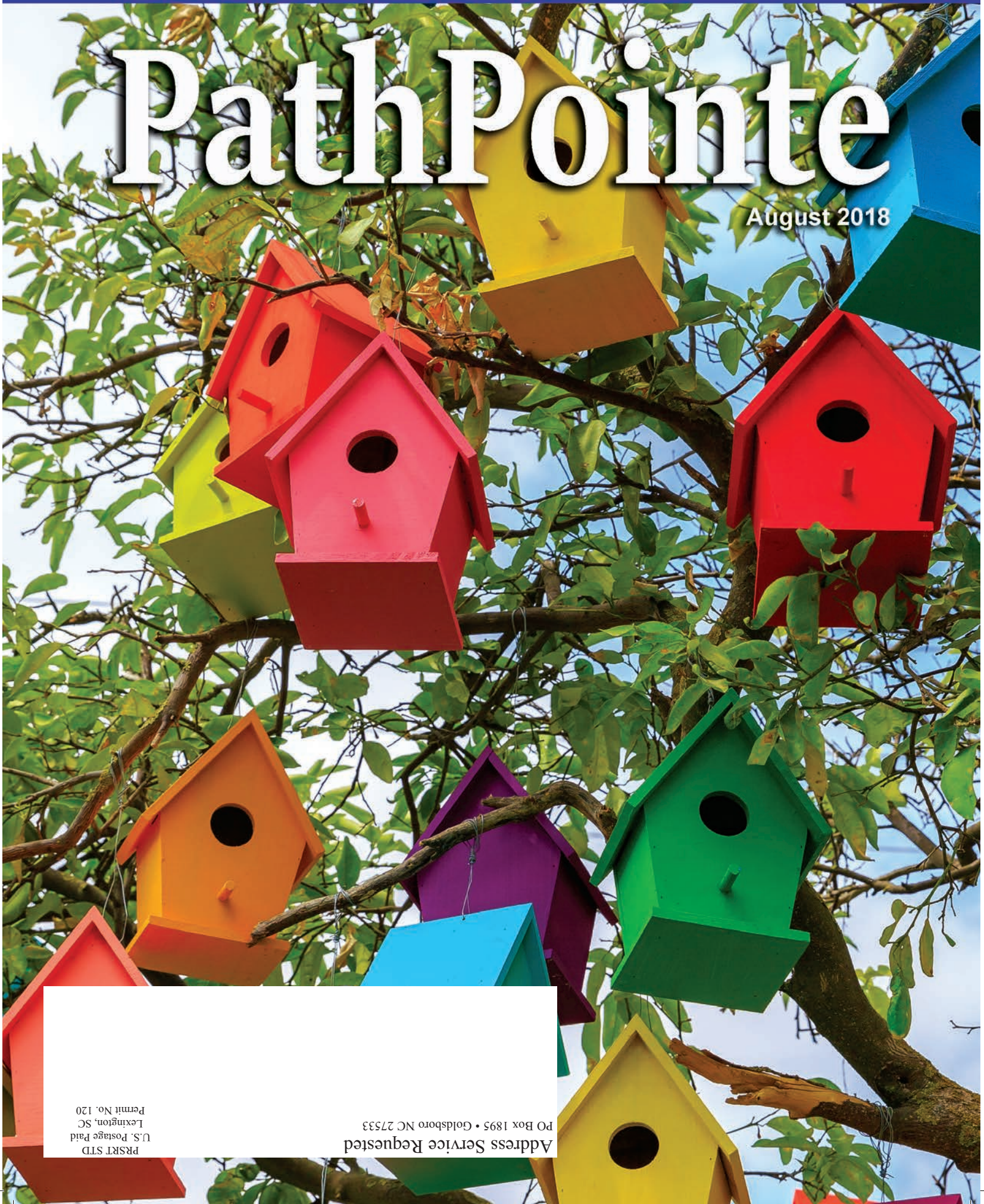




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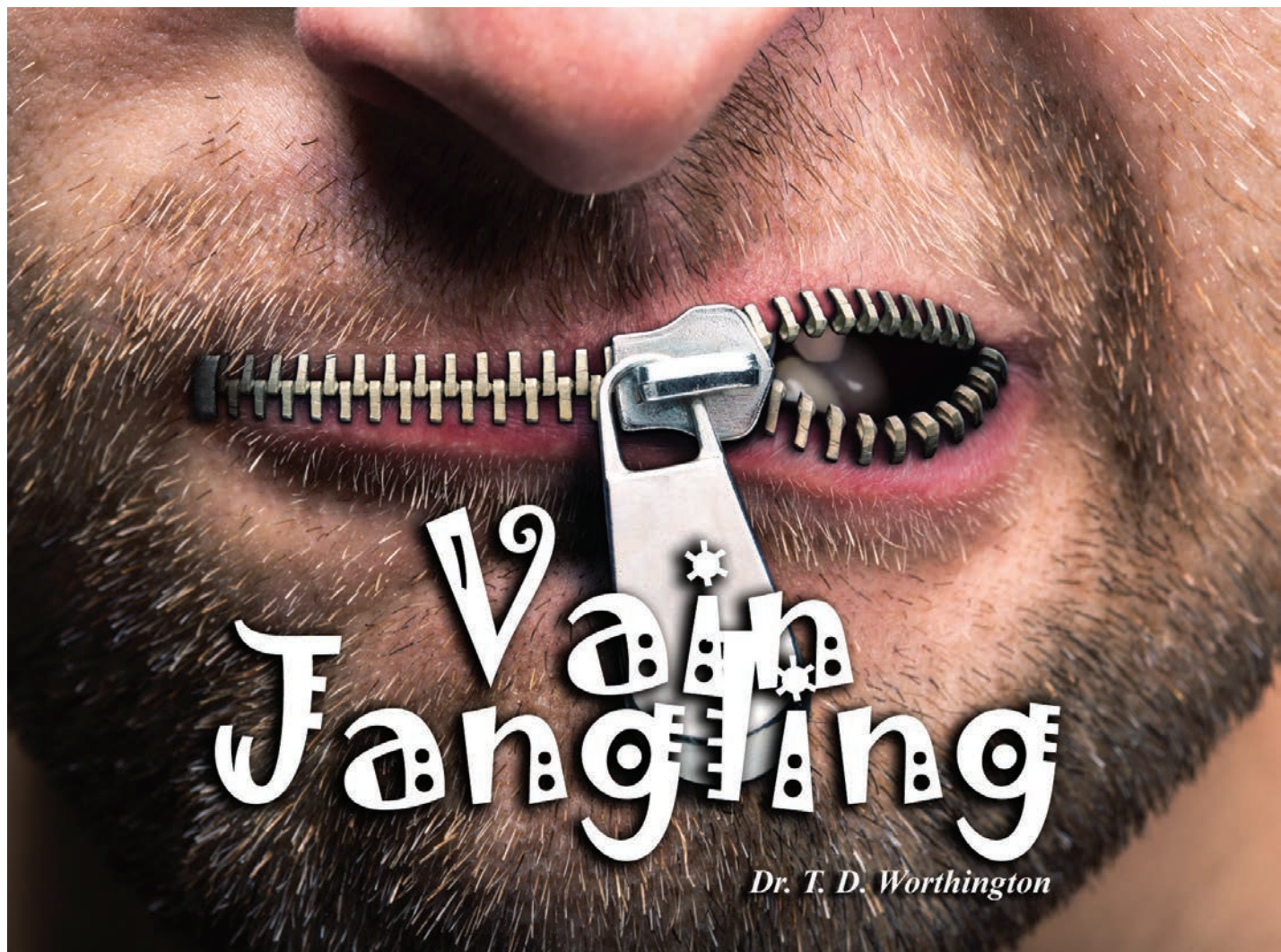
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In giving instruction to Timothy, the Apostle Paul warned him about certain ones in the church who had swerved or deviated from the pathway. They are likened unto a person who twists their bone out of its socket. They turned in a painful direction **“...unto vain jangling.”** **I Timothy 1:6**

The term refers to fruitless discussions, idle talk, or meaningless and empty conversations. In the 1600’s, when the King James Bible was translated, the words meant to **“excessively talk or squabble about nothing; to fuss for the sake of fussing.”** Rather than having profitable words which build up, these empty talkers only babble and speak of things of which they are ignorant. In the modern world, where might we hear this vain jangling?

#### ***We Might Hear Vain Jangling In The Church.***

God says His end goal is for us to display *“charity.”* That is, His purpose was to get men to love God and their neighbor by telling them how to *behave* toward God and their neighbor. But apparently some in the church had *swerved* from that goal and **“turned aside.”**

The apostle did not choose that phrase at random. Three times we are told that Israel **“turned aside”** when they made the molten calf. God gave His people a law warning them against making graven images, and they turned aside from it. Paul used the same phrase to describe those in Ephesus who had turned aside from the goal of the law,

which was loving each other, and instead were **“vain jangling”** against each other. Actually, another definition of the word *“jangling”* is *quarreling* or *bickering*.

If you remember, Paul had to write to Titus about the same problem:

**“...there are many vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision...”**

**Titus 1:10**

What do you think those Jewish vain talkers were conversing about? The term *“vain talkers”* is actually a form of the same words translated **“vain jangling.”** Apparently, the vain talkers in Crete were talking about the same thing as the vain janglers in Ephesus,

the law. When forms of legalism are placed upon people of grace, it becomes vain jangling.

***Perhaps We Might Find Vain  
Jangling In The Home.***

Wouldn't it be nice if husbands and wives could look each other in the eyes and speak the following words to each other:

***“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, ... Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”***

**Ephesians 4:29-32**

Is that the theme of your home? If those words were obeyed would it revolutionize your home environment? Christians are admonished to seek after things that are virtuous and praiseworthy. The Apostle Paul taught us the value of positive thought and conversation.

***“...whatsoever things are true and honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure; whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”***

**Philippians 4:8**

When our daily conversations in the home fail to focus upon things of a good report, we risk falling into a trivial trap of speaking and listening to “vain janglings.” Paul preached:

***“But shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.”***

**II Timothy 2:16**

Vain jangling also affects our children. Parents sometimes speak to their children with tongues as sharp as razors. Spouses lose patience with each other and raise their voices in anger and frustration. Others sit in the corner and pout. The Bible teaches us to treat each other with love, respect, and dignity. This is especially true for family members.

More and more I see defeated husbands and heart broken wives suffering from the vain jangling of their spouse. I see children burdened down under the barrage of criticism leveled by mothers and fathers. In my opinion, vain jangling is the seed that often germinates into divorce. In Christian

circles, divorce doesn't usually start with adultery or some other grievous sin. It often starts when a husband or wife gets fed up with the persistent nagging of their mate. Constant complaining is the catalyst that often leads to a complete breakdown of the family. We must silence the voices of hurt and discord that are destroying our families from within.

***Social Media Tends To Breed Vain  
Jangling.***

Nothing is lost in the electronic world. Your emails, Facebook posts, text messages, and other electronic media can come back to haunt you. Much of the material we see on social media is bankrupt of virtue and praise. Plato once said: ***“Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have to say something.”***







With all the modern avenues to communicate, we might tend to forget that our Lord's warnings about the tongue are not limited to words which we speak out loud. My words have meaning, and they also hold great power. They hold the power to build up or cast down; to encourage or discourage. I need to guard my speech, *"wherever it is heard."* Vain jangling is just as wrong when spoken electronically as it is when spoken verbally.

### ***Often, Vain Jangling Occurs Between Christians.***

Paul does not ridicule the empty talker's intelligence or say they are too simple to understand the Scriptures. He does, however, warn us that ***"vain jangling"*** is often a sign of spiritual immaturity. Many of the problems between church members could be eliminated if we would simply get rid of empty talking and empty thinking.

We are to be instruments of the Lord's peace. In the words of Peter, we have been claimed by God for His own, to proclaim the triumph of Him ***"...who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."*** **I Peter 2:9**

Surely we would not intentionally hide the light of the Lord by entering into a culture of slander and of giving and seeking offense? There is no place between brothers and sisters in Christ for this type of foolish and carnal behavior.

### ***Is There A Cure?***

I know sometimes negative subjects have to be addressed. But, even so, they must be presented in a positive and uplifting way. There is a vast difference between positive conversations and healthy ideas and negative conversations and empty ideas. When we indulge in such empty communications, we reveal who we are from our core. Jesus taught that the words we speak flow from the good or evil treasures of the heart.

***"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."***

**Matthew 12:34-35**

James calls the tongue a beast that is extremely difficult to control. However, since our words reflect what is really in our hearts that might give us an indication of how to deal with the problem. Dark words will naturally come out of a person with a darkened heart. Although a person may be saved, they might still be controlled by a dark heart. That's why, even in the church, we all know people that seem to ooze darkness. Can you imagine how it would be to be married to someone like that?

To bring an end to the vain jangling we must first cure the darkness within. We must be changed from being a negative and dark person to the person of light and love our Lord desires us to be. Renounce the darkness within you that generates vain jangling. This involves confessing your failures and asking the Lord to cleanse your negative heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with pure thoughts, worthy words, and the desire for loving actions and attitudes. Just like pure water naturally flows from a pure fountain, you will soon see a positive and uplifting spirit begin to flow. In so doing, you will be giving a marvelous gift to your Lord, to your family, and to your church.

In a few months, we'll all be singing the seasonal melody of ***"Jingle Bells"***. Unfortunately, ***"Jangle Bells"*** is the grating noise we have to endure during every season of the year.



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





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# Radio**bits**

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## Wasted Knowledge

We've all heard about wasted talents. We know if you have certain skills and don't use them, over time, you will lose them. As we grow older, we are told of the importance of keeping our minds active. There are all types of "brain games" on the market now to keep our minds sharp and clear. Why? Because we can lose unused knowledge. Of course, they say the brain never really forgets anything, it simply files or stores information away. Either way, we aren't making use of many of the resources we have available.

As Christians ever growing in the faith, we should constantly be

learning new things and putting to use the knowledge we have already learned. How often have we made bad financial decisions or bad business partnerships, received bad counsel, or just made bad daily decisions in general because we failed to put to use the knowledge and understanding the Lord has given us? Maybe there are Bible verses you have memorized in the past that deal with a trial you are currently facing. For some reason, instead of revisiting those verses, you are looking for guidance elsewhere. What about the Bible stories and personal testimonies of other Christians you know of? Have you forgotten to remember? What about those specific promises God gives us in His Word? What about your very own personal experiences? Are you facing a tough time right now and not sure how you'll make it through? Well, has our Lord ever let you down before?

Definitely not. And you have that knowledge available. Use it to your advantage!

At *GoMix Christian Radio*, we hope we can serve as a daily reminder to you of the knowledge you have available. As you hear a song about Daniel in the den of lions, the widow's mite, or a simple song about the goodness of God... remember those things personally. Dwell on them and how they relate to you and others around you. Don't just tune in with your ears, but also with your heart and mind. When it comes to knowledge, use it before you lose it!



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## *Artist Spotlight - Gaylon Pope & SweetWater*

***Gaylon Pope & SweetWater*** is a trio of vocalist that travels regionally, nationally, and even internationally. They are committed to the Gospel and to excellence! They approach every event with one agenda; to bring to the stage an experience that will leave you wanting more! It is with commitment and that call to excellence that you will find their harmonies to be tight, their stage presence to be professional, and their energy to be contagious. ***Gaylon Pope & SweetWater*** are at home and very comfortable on any stage during their various productions. Because they believe that they are called to be fishers of men, they do not stop with just your typical church concert. They truly go about the Kingdom's business by reaching out to those who may never attend a church by way of their productions that range far beyond a typical Gospel concert. Their events include Gospel, Country Gospel, Oldies and Beach Music, and even a popular Christmas Show. *"Music is our platform. Ministry is our heart."* Because of this mission statement, they have seen many come to find the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Gaylon Pope & SweetWater*** consider their unique productions as their "bait" shows stating, *"After all, no good fisherman would use the same bait time and time again. So no matter the bait, as long as Jesus is glorified, he has promised to draw all men unto Himself. That's why we do what we do!"*

During their Christmas tour, they do some 38 shows between mid-November and mid-December. These

Christmas shows really get people's attention as they begin with the traditional "feel-good" songs of Christmas, but then bring it all home to where Christmas really belongs as they sing and testify about the Christ of Christmas.

Whether it's a Fair, Festival, Concert Hall, Performing Arts Theatre, The Barn at The Farm, or sharing a testimony and singing at the church, you will find ***Gaylon Pope & SweetWater*** to be just the right touch to offer your audience something that will bring laughter, inspiration, joy, and great testimonies. To see where and when they will be at a venue near you, you can visit their website at [www.gaylonpopeandsweetwater.com](http://www.gaylonpopeandsweetwater.com) and click on the "Tour Dates" tab. Reservations for their **"Ho-Ho Christmas Dinner"** shows in Beulaville, NC, begin August 1st and typically sell out by October 1st. To make your reservation, call 910-324-3770.

### **Members of Gaylon Pope & SweetWater:**

Kerry-Jo Mozingo (*Vocals*)

Gaylon Pope (*Vocals*)

Jill Stroud (*Vocals*)

Patsy Pope Mozingo, aka. "Granny No-Mo" (*Comedy*)

Mark Midkiff (*Chief of Tech. Production*)

Layton Edmondson (*Tech. Production*)

Matthew Howard (*Tech. Production*)



# Watch The Miracle Before Your Eyes

*Dr. Randy Spaugh*



We understand that conversation is two-way communication. For most of us, as we get older we come to realize that listening may be more important than speaking. When we speak, we are sharing only what we know. When we listen, we are likely to learn a great deal. The same is true concerning prayer. The things God has to share with us are infinitely more important than what we have to share with Him. I don't want to take away from the fact that our petitions are important, but if that's all prayer is to us, look what we are missing.

God speaks to us in a multitude of ways. He speaks to us from His Word, and we often feel His guiding hand in our day-to-day activities.

Let me tell you another way He definitely speaks to us. Just open your eyes! Look at what God has created just for you. Often we do not notice what God has created, because mentally we are

too busy. We are so busy thinking about other things, problems, or concerns that we miss all that God has given us.

Has it crossed your mind that God may have created this day just for you? He may have something to do with who you meet today. Certain problems may come your way for a reason. We really can rejoice in all things.

If you are going to see these miracles, you are going to have to do something to calm your mind. In the spring of the year we will sometimes go out the door only to say, "*Where did these leaves come from?*" We were so preoccupied that we didn't see them develop. Almost any occupation will require you to focus your attention. Focus your attention on what God has done and what He has given. Find a short verse of Scripture you can focus on when your mind gets really unruly.



Are you seeing Jesus, yet? If not, let me tell you one more place that you might look for Him, and you will always find Him there. I know that because He specifically told me! In **Matthew 25:40**, Jesus says, *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

Just look for someone around you that qualifies as “one of the least of these,” and you’ll see Jesus. The poor are often seen as individuals who are just in our way. Yet, Jesus told us that He would be found with His children who are hurting the most.

Do you want another miracle? Read the words of **Psalms 41:1-2**, *“Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the*



*earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.”*

Open your eyes! These miracles have been right there all the time.



*Dr. Randy Spaugh is the Pastor of Faith Fellowship Church in Kinston, N.C. More information is available at [www.faithkinston.org](http://www.faithkinston.org)*



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The first day of school is right around the corner. With each new school term, the Lord always sends us a great batch of kids. We have some who have been with us for years, and others who are here for the very first time. We always miss the ones that leave us. Most left for reasons beyond their control, but it is still sad for all of us at Pathway when they are gone. We love all of our students so there is a hole in our hearts when they leave. We hope the best for them, wherever they may be.

God always sends me a new challenge with each school year. I am excited and maybe a little apprehensive to

find out what it will be this year. I am finding with each additional year that passes, I need to be stronger and more versed in the things that are going on around me. My students have real struggles. They are exposed to the same difficulties of young people of the past, but they are experiencing them in the digital world.

I have watched some of our young people grow up at Pathway. One of our seniors last year was with us since she was four. In fact, one of our teachers started our preschool program with us when she was four and has been teaching at Pathway for nine years

and has three children of her own. I have observed many changes that occur as a child grows up. One thing I have noticed is the way they view each other. I have had the privilege of watching many children go from thinking the opposite sex is awful to looking at each other with stars in their eyes. That's when the trouble starts. There is an awkwardness when this stage begins. A boy might pick at a girl in an attempt to get her to notice him. She gets upset and I tell her, "*He just thinks you are cute.*" Of course, she looks at me like I am crazy, but she is thinking, "*He is kind of cute.*" This has not changed over the years.



Young people are awkward around the opposite sex, at least at first.

But I have found something interesting that has changed. Two people will say they are “going out.” For those that are not in the know, that means they are boyfriend and girlfriend. I am puzzled because I don’t see them hanging out at lunch or breaks together. I don’t notice them looking at each other. Ok! I am dense, but how is this possible? Then I am enlightened! “*Oh, Mrs. Worthington! They are texting each other when they are not at school.*” So, when you like a guy or a girl you text them instead of talk to them. No wonder many young people have trouble communicating. They say things with the keyboard instead of with their words and their eyes. People say things with a keyboard that they wouldn’t dare say face-to-face. How is this healthy? When they do get serious with someone, are they going to have to text to discuss problems, or are they just going to ignore them? No wonder relationships are in trouble.

Another area that young people have always dealt with is bullying. In the 1950’s, young people were expected to handle things themselves. My

husband’s father told him to find an equalizer. What did that mean? He was expected to find the biggest stick he could find and defend himself. On one occasion my husband resorted to putting a tack in the front of his shoe. How did this help? The bully sat in front of him. Ouch!

I do believe we need to teach young people to be tougher and not allow people to get under their skin like they do. When a child says, “*Mrs. Worthington, he’s looking at me,*” I tend to expect them to get over it. However, there are other issues I take very seriously. But bullying has been taken up a notch. We now have cyberbullying. Relationships have turned into stalking in some cases. Some apps let the person or group that is “following” you know where you are at all times. The app lets the follower know if their special friend is at someone else’s house or at home. Spooky! Some young people are fussed at by their boyfriend or girlfriend if they don’t text them back right away. In my day, this was called stalking.

In the past, when young people left school, they would get a reprieve from

the bullying. They could go home and be in a safe zone. Now, they are followed with it at home because they stay connected. It seems a simple answer to cut the phone off. But our young people are addicted to the online existence more than ever. Social Media is calling their name.

Along with that thought, young people want so badly to fit in. Many young people have struggled with peer pressure from the beginning of time. Depression and anxiousness are at an all time high. What is to blame? Many claim that it is the online presence. People post their wonderful experiences of life and tell others how great things are, but they leave out the normal mundane affairs of life. Gullible young people and adults look at these posts and think that everyone’s life is better than their own. They become anxious because they don’t have what their “friends” do. They struggle to make their own life as great as the ones they see online.

And of course, sin is rampant! There has always been the opportunity to sin. When I was a teenager, I thought it was tough. And it was! There was always the forbidden fruit that the flesh made







look so appealing. In most cases, you did have to think before you acted. If I had decided to watch a movie my parents had forbidden me to watch, I would have had to lie and say I was going to a movie with a friend. Then I would have to make sure I knew what the movie I said I went to was about. I would need to be sure nobody saw me at the movie that could tell my parents. It was quite an ordeal. Thankfully, I decided it wasn't worth it. What about now? Many teenagers have access to anything they want on their cell phones. Sneaking to watch an inappropriate movie is a joke in today's culture!

If parents aren't careful, innocence will be lost. Children have the potential to be exposed to so much more at such an earlier age. Some parents say they monitor their child's internet usage. That is a start, but many children have two or three accounts in the same app. The ones their parents see and the ones they set up for their friends.

Also, the young people they associate with may not have the same rules that your child does. I challenge parents of today! Please be vigilant! I see so many problems stemming from the digital age. Our young people were so much better off before social media came into their lives. I am seeing the results of the digital age, and frankly it frightens me.

Typically, according to statistics young people consume nine hours of screen time in any given day. That is as many hours as most adults spend at work. What is happening to our young people? Are the "screens" raising them? How much interaction do we have with our young people? Do we ask them about their day? Do we talk with them about the silly things so they will talk with us about the important? Do we send them away to play on their tablet or watch TV, or do we teach them what we are doing so they can learn beside us?

**Proverbs 22:6** says, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* Great advice for any age!

Can you take this challenge with me? Keep up with how much time your child spends playing video games or watching TV. Find out about your child's online presence! See what he is into! Better yet, limit or monitor screen time altogether. Training a child is a full-time challenge, especially in this digital world.

Stay informed and prayed up! Meet the challenge head-on!



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



# And Finally...



## Senior Citizen's Day..

*For August 21st, Senior Citizen's Day, I am hoping to use the day to make sure my grandparents know how special they are by taking them out to eat at their favorite local restaurant.*

**J. B.**

*I have never really celebrated Senior Citizen's Day before, but this year I think I will try to write some notes of encouragement to some of the seniors I know in my community. Maybe for those that are closest to me, I will also take a few baked goods or other treats to hopefully brighten their day.*

**S. M.**

*I am part of a ministry that visits a local retirement home once a month. I don't usually visit the home by myself, but I thought I might try to go around Senior Citizen's Day and spend some one-on-one time with a few of the residents I have come to know a little bit over the past year or so. They get so excited over the smallest gestures, so I thought I might pick up a few little goodies and candies from the dollar store to take with me.*

**E. W.**

*I am a senior. I will be 81 years old in November. So, I guess I will be celebrating the fact that I am still here, and God is not finished with me yet. I get the most joy when my children and grandchildren come to visit me. They usually all come over at least every week or two. Those that don't come will call to check on me. I am blessed to have such a great family. God has been very good to me all these years. My "Day" will probably be spent just like any other day. I'll do a little housework, call a few friends, and try to stay out of the heat. That*

*is enough for me. Every day I'm alive on this earth is a celebration.*

**V. L.**

*It is definitely a job now a days trying to raise children to be kind, giving, and respectful. We are going to take the opportunity this Senior Citizen's Day to have our kids do a few "good deeds" for some of the elderly people in the neighborhood. The kids are young, 7 and 9, and we are already taking notice of a few things in different yards we may be able to do to help out. I'm letting them brainstorm on ideas. So far they have noticed a driveway that needs sweeping, a few limbs that need to be picked up, a little bit of strewn trash in a yard, and some weeds in a flower bed. It's exciting to see them get excited about serving others!*

**D. B.**

## "Church Bulletin Bloopers"

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

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about a church bulletin blooper you've seen. The deadline for submission is August 25th, 2018.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe  
wago@gomixradio.org  
Or write to: Pathway Ministries  
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