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# PathPointe

**GOMIX CHRISTIAN RADIO - SALUTING OUR ARMED FORCES!** 











PathPointe Magazine Volume 21, Issue 5 May 2020

Page 2	Them, Then and There <i>Dr. T. D. Worthington</i>
Page 4	The Technology Trap Mrs. Sherry Worthington
Page 6	Radio Bits Your Christian Superstations!
Page 8	Hearing His Voice Mrs. Amber Sherman
Page 12	And Finally

Saluting Our Armed Forces...

President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett Contributors: Tiffany Johnson, Amber Sherman, and Sherry Worthington PathPointe Magazine PO Box 1895 Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895

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"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

I Corinthians 10:11

I have read, more than once, the story about the children of Israel in bondage in Egypt. It was a good story, but it was a good story about *them, then, there.* I've read on many occasions about problems that Paul addressed in his letters to the churches. These are Holy Spirit inspired narratives that address strengths and weaknesses in the church. But again, it is about *them*, *then*, *and there*. They are all good stories, but if we assume it is just about *them*, *then*, *and there* we are missing the point.

It is not just a story about *them*, *then*, *there*. It is my story, and it is your story. It is a story for *us*, *now*, *and here*. My Egypt, or my Corinth, or my Ephesus is different from theirs, but I can learn from the Word of God just as they could.

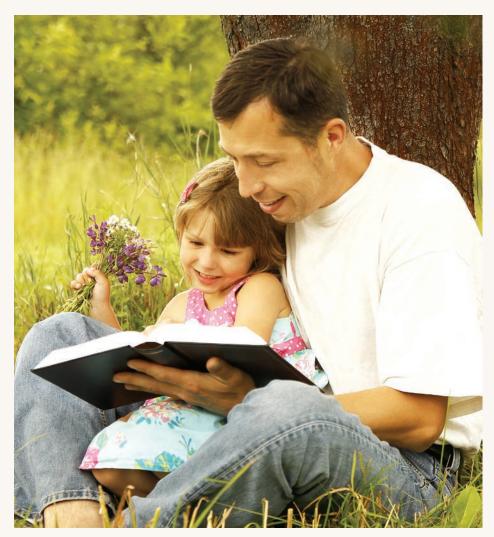
What about you? Maybe you could tell of a story about when you were stuck and in bondage like the children of Israel. Maybe it was a job, a relationship, a feeling, a grief, an addiction. We've all been to Egypt. And we've all wandered in the wilderness. The wilderness is a place in life when *what was is no longer, and what will be is not clear yet.* We might feel lost, angry, scared, frustrated, maybe even ready to go back to the old place despite not liking it or really wanting to be there. Sometimes in the winderness even Egypt can look attractive. It often feels like we're going in circles. There should be a more direct route, the map says there is, but the wilderness is a place of working out life as we head toward the promised land.

And how about those times when we finally arrive? We're in the zone, life has come together in a beautiful way, and we feel we've arrived in our promised land, often after much time and hard work. We could each tell stories about that as well.

It's one thing to read the Bible stories, it's another to live them and apply them to our own lives. That can be a real challenge for all of us.

As an older fellow, it annoys me that many young people cannot read a map. But still, it is one thing to read and understand the map. It's another to actually walk the terrain and feel the sand between your toes, get lost in it, stumble or fall down, discover unexpected beauty, or find one's self in the process of finding one's way across the land. None of those things can happen when we stay home and just read the map or read the story of someone else's adventures. I wonder if we sometimes do that with the Scriptures; treat them as someone else's stories and experiences of wandering and getting lost, falling down, experiencing mountain top beauty, finding a new life in places never expected. I wonder if we sometimes let the particularities of the stories, distance us from *that* story in our lives.

I do not want to deny the historical meaning or value of the Scriptures, but neither do I want to relegate them to a bunch of ancient stories that have



very little to do with the here and now. After all, what good is it to us if Mary is full of grace and we are not? What good is it to us if Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem, if he not also born in us? What good is it to us if the blind man's eyes were opened if our eyes are not also opened to a new vision, new insights, a new way of seeing? What good is it to us if Jesus is resurrected and we are not also resurrected to newness of life?

So, what if rather than just reading the Bible, we let the Bible read us? What if rather than just knowing the Bible, we let the Bible help us to know ourselves? What if instead of just trying to discover the meaning and relevance of the Scriptures we let the Scriptures reveal meaning and relevance in our lives? What if rather than trying to fit God's story into our lives we fit our lives into God's story? The Word of God takes on a deeper meaning and relevance, when we embody and live the word, that is, *when the word becomes flesh in us.* 

So, what if we let the words of Scripture become flesh in us? What would that look like in your life? How might you live and embody the words? And when we do that, the Word becomes flesh and fresh as it takes new life among us in the now and here.



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

# **Technology Trap**

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

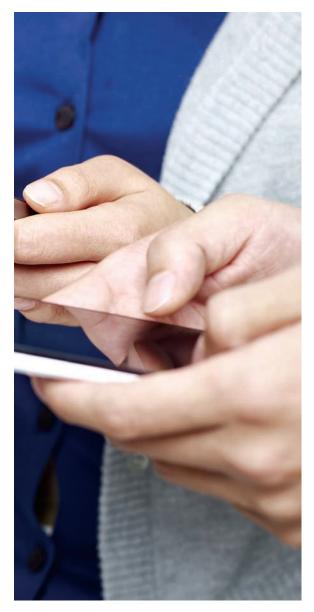
Technology, technology, technology! For someone who does not enjoy technology and all the nuances of it, I sure have had to step up and learn more of it than I wanted to. I just watched in some instances because I was lost through some of the processes. I must say that I am thankful for the technology because it enabled us to better communicate with our ministry families during this time of crisis.

I have learned that I prefer to teach upfront and personal. This longdistance stuff is for the birds. I want to sit with my students and talk to them. I enjoy being around them and spending part of their day with them. Video conferencing is the next best thing, but it is a poor substitute for up close and personal.

Communicating by text or other means can be very useful. It is a nice way to let others know that you are thinking about them or sending them a quick reminder to stop by the store. However, it has become much more than that. Communication through technology has grown rapidly over the last decade. I found some interesting statistics.

According to textrequest.com, Americans send roughly 26 billion text messages every day. On average, each American sends and receives 94 text messages per day. As far as the amount of time goes, an average American spends 55 minutes a day but an average 12<sup>th</sup> grader spends about two hours a day texting. Adults tend to send reminders or make a schedule whereas teenagers tend to have in-depth conversations that will last for hours.

Can you imagine how much time we spend on our phones each day? If we spend this much time on just texting, and we add the time we spend on Facebook and all of the other Social Media sites, it is mind-



boggling. There are so many areas we have made progress in because of technology, but I want to look at the areas in which we have lost ground.

One that is obvious to me is time. I hear many people complaining that they don't have time. I wonder how much time is spent with their smartphones in all different capacities-texting, social media, surfing the web, etc.

I also notice that it takes away from family time. It is obvious in restaurants when families are all on their own devices and ignoring each other. I have heard children complaining about their parents being on their phones all the time. It hurts the family.

I think it has hurt relationships in so many ways. We don't know how to communicate face-to-face anymore. When a business has to teach its employees to communicate with the customers, it is sad. When I was trained for my first job, I was taught how to greet, but that was a fiveminute conversation. I understand they have complete employee training sessions on communication now. I read of a psychologist who had to help a married couple work out their differences through text because that is how they communicated when they dated. How sad is that?

Text messaging and other types of communication can be so easily misunderstood. If you are having an important conversation, the tone of your voice and the look on your face is so important. It should be a written rule that any important words should be spoken.

If many young people have important conversations through text messaging, how will they become good leaders? Will they be in Congress texting each other when we are in the midst of a crisis? How will they communicate with their employees? Will they fire them with a text message? Leaders have to be good communicators. They must know how to reach and inspire their people.

Another problem with text messaging is no one knows how to listen. Once you text, you wait for a response. That may be in a few minutes or a few hours. While you are waiting for an answer you go about your business by texting other people, surfing the web, or actually doing some work. Once you get a response, you will answer when it is convenient, if you answer at all. A good communicator not only speaks, but he listens. He lets you know what you are saying is important to him.

Our Heavenly Father is a great communicator. He communicates through His Holy Bible and through His still, small voice. In **I Kings 19:11-13**, God spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice. It wasn't in an earthquake or in a fire. He spoke to Elijah quietly. What was Elijah doing when God spoke? He was waiting for God to speak.

If we don't get still and learn how to pray and wait for God's response, we are not going to grow in our relationship with God. We must praise our Heavenly Father, and we give our petitions to Him. After praise, the most important part of prayer is listening. How can God talk to you if you aren't waiting for an answer? What do you want me to do, God? What is your will in this situation? To get an answer, we must learn to stop in our tracks and take time to listen.

John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" Do you recognize God's voice? Let us silence our cell phones and get in a quiet place. Maybe your quiet place is in your car or somewhere in your home. Put away distractions and have a conversation with God. Better yet, stop and listen to His still, small voice.



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





### **A Share-A-Thon Update:**

As many of you know, our **Spring Share-A-Thon** was originally scheduled for last month. Due to Covid-19 and the subsequent closings of businesses, schools, churches, and canceling of other events, we also felt the need to postpone our biannual fund drive.

We realize many are out of work, have health concerns, and are facing other difficulties at this



time. We are joining hands with you in prayer that our Lord will be glorified as He meets your needs.

Although we had to postpone the onair segment of our **Spring Share-A-Thon**, we were humbled and blessed by the great number of our *Faith Partners* who returned their *Pre-Share-A-Thon Contribution Cards* with a generous gift. Like so many others, it is no secret that we are struggling financially at this time. Yet, your sacrificial gifts encouraged and inspired us in this season of great need.

Of course, when I think about it, your response is not too surprising. You have always been there for us. You have always been attentive to our needs. As of this writing, we have still not been able to reschedule our on-air fund drive, yet the faithfulness you are demonstrating will sustain us as we each do our part in sharing the message of Christ to the world.

Grace and peace,

Allotha





## The Kingdom's Response to Trouble

We have certainly gone through some dark days, but when it is dark, that is our opportunity to shine the most. Whereas fear naturally causes people to become self-absorbed, the Kingdom moves in the exact opposite direction. The Kingdom moves in the direction of concern for others.

Of course, you always need to honor your responsibilities to your own family, but in the Kingdom, there is always space for the other guy. In any difficulty, it is important that we consider what a true Kingdom response might look like.

*The first Kingdom response should be that this is not that surprising.* This is the devil's world. He is the god of this world. So, it should not be too surprising that we will have a lot of trouble. Jesus said the last days would be filled with war and famine and disease. In fact, Jesus came healing people who were afflicted.

In Matthew 13, Jesus told a parable about the weeds being sown in the midst of good crop. The weeds come from the "enemy," yet at the same time, they exist in the midst of God's glory. We're living in a world that is full of both God's goodness and Satan's evil. It is just the reality of things. And as such, it is a war zone.

*The second Kingdom response is for us to act like the Church.* Our call is to be the church in the midst of the war zone, no matter the circumstances. Christ demonstrated what God looks like and therefore what love looks like, and we are to follow in that path. The call to love is the call to keep others in mind. This means that we should look for opportunities to shine, to put on display the glory of the Kingdom in practical ways. Most of the time, our love will come in the form of a hundred little things we do and not in some grand action.

*The third Kingdom response is to be encouraged.* Jesus said in John 16 that in this world we will have trials, but not to let our hearts be troubled because Jesus has overcome the world. This statement came shortly before Jesus was arrested. It did not look like Jesus had overcome anything; in fact, just the opposite was the case. However, the crucifixion did not have the last word. The resurrection demonstrated that the cross was the means by which God has overcome all that stands against God.

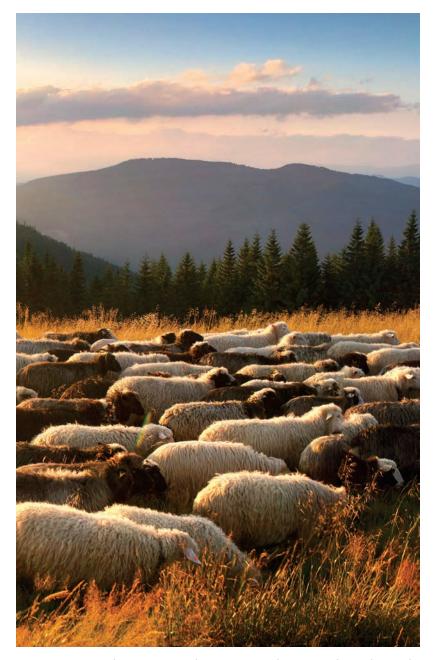
In the midst of the challenges we face, we can trust that Jesus has already overcome it. The victory is won. And when we keep this truth in mind, we can be encouraged. This is not wishful thinking; it is a reality that gives us the ability to have peace that passes all understanding. It may not fully make logical sense when we look at our circumstances, but it is a truth that is rooted in the deep reality of our Lord's victory on the cross.



"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine...they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John10:14,16b

As things first began in America with the coronavirus, I found myself searching for peace. The first step that helped me was to start singing hymns. The two particular ones God led me to begin humming and meditating on were "In Times Like These" and "On Christ The Solid Rock I Stand." As I began to hum the verses, focusing on Jesus Christ being my Saviour, my anchor, and my Solid Rock, comfort began to seep into my spirit. The Scriptural truths saturated and calmed my mind. There were also sermons helping and reminding me how these are times for Christians to shine for Christ and glorify His name. Kindness, sacrifice, calm assurance, level-headedness, and courage are traits of God's people (2 Timothy 1:7). *The world is afraid right now.* Christians can point the way to our God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As COVID-19 began to grow, schools were shut down, gatherings of over 100 were banned, then went down to groups less than 10 being recommended. Other states were doing "stay-at-home" orders. I must admit I began to battle becoming anxious. I got on my knees in prayer and bowed my head. I thanked the Lord for this time of testing and how it was causing me to search just how much I trusted Him. I also confessed I was scared. "Lord, I must admit I am scared. What about my children and husband? What about my parents,



grandparents, and so many others? What about the ministry? What about making ends meet month to month? My Father in Heaven, I confess I am scared."

And here is where I began to hear His voice, for He calls His sheep by name, and His sheep hear His voice (John 10). He said, "Be anxious for nothing." I recalled hearing in a sermon just a couple of days ago the Scripture of Philippians 4:6 which says, "Be careful (anxious) for nothing..." I paused, and He said it again, "Be anxious for nothing." Then as I began to read my Bible, I reviewed the verses from that sermon.

"Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Here was my answer. Give it over to God. Pray to Him, but be sure to do so with thanksgiving. Then His peace, which we cannot explain or understand, will keep my heart and mind calm and sure. Jesus will be my answer in all of this. Then, I saw this a couple of nights later:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are 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

Hmm. Yes, if I made sure to check my COVID-19 thoughts against this standard, it would help a lot. Then, to top it all off, after I had bowed my knees and placed my face to the floor, my hands forward, imagining I was holding His nail-scarred feet as I prayed, this is what my God led me to. I sat to study the Holy Bible and see what He had for me in answer to my prayers. (You see, often God uses His Word, Hymns, and Sermons to answer my prayers. The answers are always founded and proven upon His Word.)

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living." Romans 14:7-9

I was amazed. He did not send me to verses about how much He loved me, though He had done that just a mere three nights before (Jeremiah 31:3). He did not send me to verses of reassurance of how I was in the palm of His hand, though He had done that two nights previously (Isaiah 49:16). Nor did He send me to verses about how mighty I could be through the power of His name (Philippians 4:13).



No, He sent me to the place in His Word that would address my specific fear and the struggle I was having: death. "What if's" were beginning to plague me over my children, my husband, myself, and my loved ones. Sadness and tears were surfacing at the thought of loss. And dare I admit it, panic was rising, if it was not squelched? My hands were clenching too tightly to those whom He had given me on loan and to a life which He had not promised me beyond today. He said to me in these verses, "Amber, this is why I came. I came and died, and rose, and lived again...so that I would be Lord of both the dead and the living. Death has no victory over Me. Coronavirus has no victory over Me. Will you still serve Me and trust Me, whether you live or die? Whether life or death comes to your loved ones?"

Here is where I surrendered to Him, to His Lordship of my life, to His sovereignty. This is when the peace began. Something began to change in me immediately, to which I am not sure even now that I can explain. Sure, I will still use caution, but no longer out of fear, out of prudence. Perhaps that is why it is called the "peace which passes understanding." I cannot explain it. I just know at the core of my being, I changed. The coronavirus is not my lord. Jesus Christ is. It is Him who is Lord over all. It is to Jesus Christ that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord, all to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

Yes, I am so glad to be one of His "sheep." For without His voice, I would not know where to turn. Will you turn to Him today and receive the peace which passes understanding? Start in The Gospel of John in the Holy Bible, and look to the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. God's Son is calling you today! Will you hear His voice? Will you follow Him? Allow Him to save you from your sins, sins which will take you to Hell and torments much worse than the coronavirus.



Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of four and serves as a part-time teacher at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro, NC.







# And Finally...



#### **Saluting Our Armed Forces...**

On Armed Forces Day, we honor all current and former members of the Armed Services. Our Country's greatness is built on the foundation of your courage and sacrifice. Thank you! **S.A.** 

I would like to thank all members of our armed forces for caring for the greater good of our country with your dedication, sacrifice, and time away from loved ones. I truly appreciate each and every one of you and your families. Thank you for all you did, are doing, and will do. You are the awesomeness of America. C. W.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. The time away from loved ones and the effort put towards your job does not go unnoticed and we appreciate all you do. Stay strong and know you are thought about. God Bless you! **A. V.** 

Thank you so much for the sacrifice you have made for your country. I am sure there have been missed birthdays, holidays, and special events. I cannot thank you enough for your service! Please know you are appreciated. **W. F.** 

Thank you so much for your service! My name is Hannah and I am 8 years old. I am currently learning about the military and I want to thank you for all you have done. Thank you for going away from your family and risking your life just to keep me safe. Thank you for helping make it possible to live in a country I can do anything in. **H. D.** 

You are my heroes, words are not adequate enough to express my appreciation. My father led his troops on the Normandy beach landing. He risked his life in order to save many lives just as you do. I hold you up with the same degree of gratitude and respect as I did my beloved father. Bless all of you and thank you for your service ... MY HEROES! **D. P.** 

#### "Blessings During Lockdown"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..." Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about something good you've experienced during the coronavirus quarantine. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2020. You can send an email to: share@gomixradio.org Attn: PathPointe Magazine Or write to: Pathway Ministries PO Box 1895 Goldsboro, NC 27533

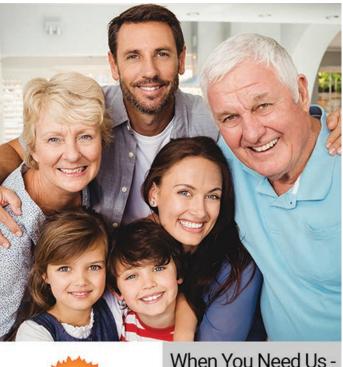


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