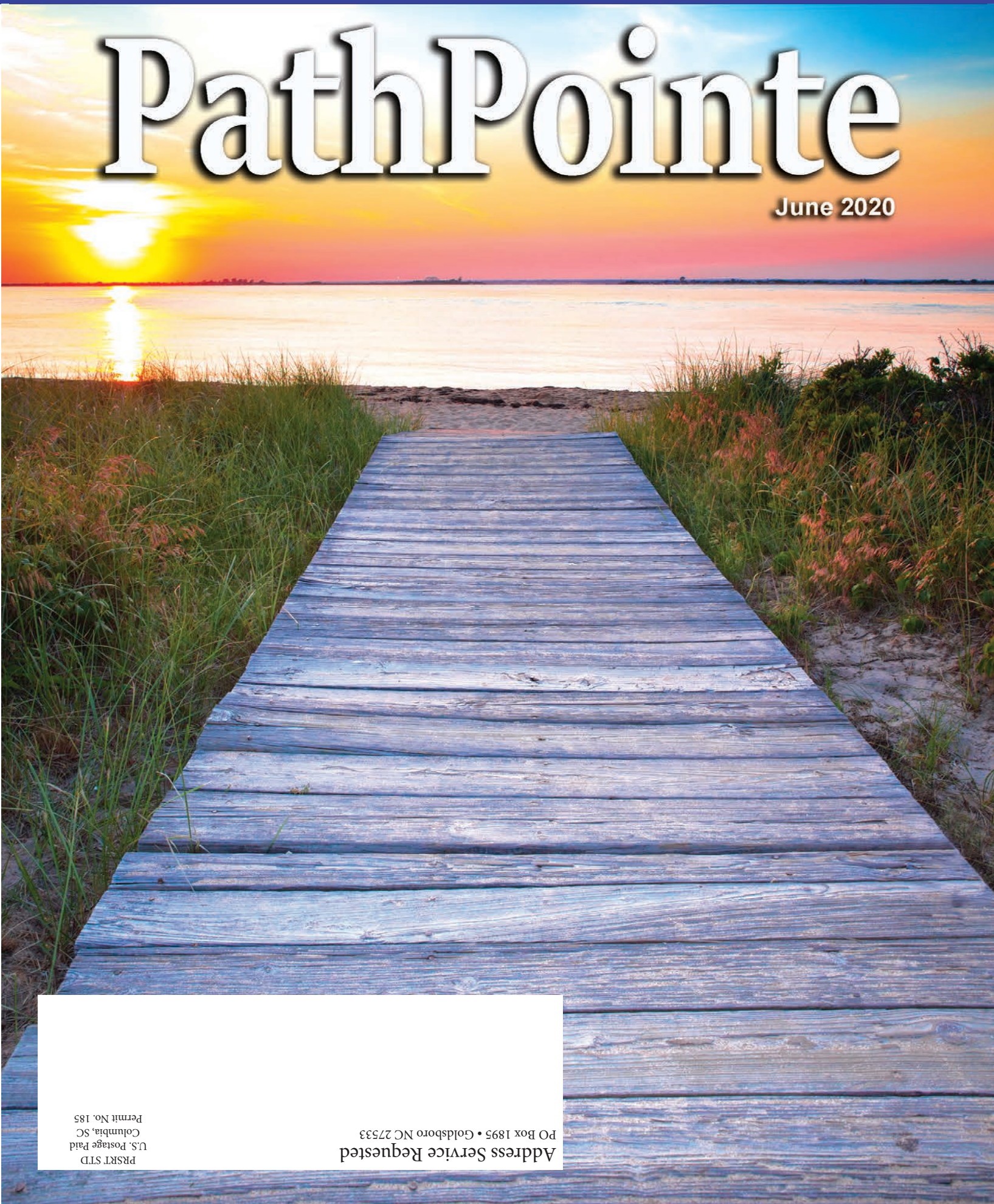


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PathPointe

June 2020



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A Special Note To Our Readers

(Please Read)

Dear Friends,

Just like many of you, we have faced many significant financial challenges during the recent pandemic. Although we are grateful for all of our faithful partners that supported us by mailing in a contribution, not being able to have our regular on-air **Share-A-Thon** has drastically reduced our income.

PathPointe is mailed each month to all of our **Faith Partners**. We have also gladly added anyone to our mailing list that requested to receive the magazine regardless of their ability to give. We have always looked at the magazine as a method of outreach, communication, and accountability. The advertisers in the magazine have always helped with the expense of the printing and distribution. We are also grateful for all the positive feedback we receive from the magazine. It has evolved into an evangelistic outreach tool much larger than we ever imagined.

However, in the interest of better financial stewardship, we need to implement a change in our policy.

PathPointe will continue to be mailed to anyone who has made a financial contribution of at least \$30.00 over the past three years. In addition, we will still freely send the magazine to anyone who may request to receive it. Limiting our mailing to current responders will save us hundreds of dollars each month.

If you are a current Faith Partner (*contributing within the last three years*) **you do not need to do anything.** You will continue to receive the magazine as usual. However, if you have been unable to give and still wish to receive the magazine, we will need you to fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it in the envelope provided to insure your name is not deleted from our address file.

May I also remind you that **PathPointe** is also available on-line at pathpointemagazine.org. The website also contains additional articles that may not be included in the print edition.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

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contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2020

- Page 2 What Did The Coronavirus Reveal...
Dr. T. D. Worthington
- Page 6 Radio Bits
Your Christian Superstations!
- Page 8 Could The Church Be At Fault?
Mr. Linwood Grant
- Page 10 Surprises
Mrs. Sherry Worthington
- Page 12 And Finally...
Blessings During Lockdown...

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What Did The Coronavirus Reveal About Your Marriage?

Dr. T. D. Worthington

As the number of veterans from the Second World War dwindles year by year, many young people have no understanding of the hardships of a war-time romance. While a world at war was able to curtail many things, it was not powerful enough to stop love. Young couples continued to fall in love and marry, despite the war and the complications that it caused. Once the United States joined the conflict, the urge to get married among many young couples proved too compelling to resist. In 1942 alone, 1.8 million weddings took place, up 83 percent from 10 years before. And two-thirds of those brides were marrying men newly enlisted in the military.

World War II created challenges not only for the ones fighting on the front

lines but also for those who stayed at home. One of the biggest, was limited resources, meaning people had to do without many things for the sake of victory. Getting married during the war years presented a unique set of challenges to young bridal couples. With grooms marching off to war, wedding plans were made quickly and services were held in churches, homes, government offices, and even funeral chapels. Couples often scheduled weddings around service leaves and short week-end passes.

Planning a wedding around wartime shortages required teamwork and ingenuity. Sugar ration coupons were saved up and taken to the bakery to be applied to the wedding cake. Fabric was so expensive that a great number

of women simply weren't able to afford a wedding dress, and many of them had to improvise with materials. In some cases, wedding gowns were made from flour sacks or even made of silk from the parachutes that had saved their grooms in battle. Honeymoons, if time and finances allowed, were spent close to home due to the shortage of gas and tires.

World War II was a time of intense emotions: excitement, fear, homesickness, longing, and love. Young men, away from home for the first time and facing an uncertain future, sought comfort in correspondence to sweethearts waiting back home. The separation caused by wartime service was keenly felt by young couples whose dreams for a bright future

together were suddenly put on hold. Thoughts of my “*girl back home*” sustained many a soldier during months of training or combat duty on foreign soil. As the war progressed, letters and photographs from that someone special back in the states soothed sagging spirits and lonely hearts.

Young wives with husbands away at war struggled to maintain some semblance of normal home life for their children. Wives would often rely on family members or neighbors to help establish and furnish their meager homes. Many times, the wives themselves were helping with the war effort or working outside the home to supplement their small military allotments.

For those delaying marriage, a message of “*I will wait for you*” made absences easier to bear. For these sweethearts, the wait was well worth it when at the end of the war the soldier would come home to the waiting arms of the girl he loved, ready to build a life together.

Of course, once the war was over, returning to a normal life was not an easy task, especially when one considers how devastating the war years were. Rationing was still in place in the years that followed the war, and people had to be careful to use their money wisely because the cost of almost everything had risen. In spite of the hardships, couples must have been able to adapt as those years led to what has been called the “*baby boom*.” It also led to my birth, so I am glad things worked out for my Mom and Dad.

Years exactly like the ones that followed World War II may never be repeated, but perhaps every couple needs to start seeing marriage through the vision of a war-time mentality. I have noticed that in many war-time pictures, most grooms were married in their military uniforms. Their marital attire testified of the desperation and determination of the time. Maybe there is a message in that for you and I. As Christians, maybe we need to get married in our uniforms also. The Bible calls it “*the whole armour*

of God.” When we move past the decisions of the wedding dress, the flowers, and how many people to invite, we are faced with the daily decisions of living out our marriage vows. The sweet romantic bliss of the wedding day is to be treasured--but it’s the conflicts won on the battlefield that sustain a marriage.

Whether we’re aware of it or not, the battle begins, not ends, when we make our vows. Before the wedding we may have suppressed it, but shortly after the service our selfish sinful self-will begins to surface. Satan will hurl his fiery darts. We will have to watch our step, lest we set off his explosive land mines hidden in our own homes. Many times, it’s our own unrealistic expectations in marriage that blind us from seeing the bullets flying all around us. A marriage relationship, by definition, involves challenges. It is a mixture of two different people into one flesh, and this is tricky because each person has unique preferences, backgrounds, biases, and values. When partners connect, they will create interesting combinations--





some exciting, and others just plain aggravating. We must ask God to open our eyes to the spiritual warfare in our marriage.

The Coronavirus has been a battlefield for many marriages. Couples forced to spend more time together while fighting the possibility of job loss has been a harsh climate for love and romance. Let's see, we've faced tight quarters, little sleep, financial stress, constant childcare, home schooling, and a diminishing tissue supply. Even without the threat of illness, it's a recipe for conflicts in a relationship. Considering the far-reaching circumstances that surrounded the pandemic, a partnership completely free of conflict is probably unrealistic. We are all a bit more stressed and stretched. In such an environment all emotions are taxed. Have you suddenly noticed how loud your partner chews potato chips? Have you discovered that her placement of items in the cabinets or in the fridge makes no sense at all? Have

you wondered how one man can use so much bathroom tissue? Are you suddenly beginning to question your partner's parenting skills? If any of this sounds familiar, you might be married during a pandemic.

During the battle many couples had to figure out new ways of working, living, parenting and just getting along with each other. We've polished up our marital problem-solving skills, but the fact is most problems in life don't get "solved," they get managed. We make corrections and adjustments as we go. The good news was that partners had a lot of together time to work out those issues. However, the corresponding bad news was that they had to learn to manage their problems under a lot of pressure.

Relationships that were strong before the pandemic, although facing a few stressful moments, have probably been strengthened. However, relationships that were a bit unsteady before the pandemic have likely taken a real

hit. Already there have been reports of a spike in applications for divorce in the Chinese city of Xi'an as a result of couples being quarantined in close quarters. American lawyers are probably also looking for a windfall. The pandemic has been a pressure test on marriage that some were completely unprepared for.

What we need is more of a war-time mentality in our marriages. Not fighting against each other, but fighting along beside each other; against a common enemy. The Coronavirus will not be the last crisis we will have to endure. There will continue to be hurricanes and floods and other seasons that will test even the strongest of relationships. How do you survive when the unexpected and unprecedented circumstances come your way? Romantic bliss is one part of marriage, but it's the hard-fought battles won with grace that sustain a marriage. We must all learn to deal with the days when the sound of the battle shells drowns out the wedding bells.

I would assume that every young couple has great expectations for a wonderful marriage, but what happens when reality doesn't line up with our hopes and dreams? What if the real story of our life and marriage disappoints us? During the pandemic did your dream boat turn into an old barge? Does the glass slipper no longer fit your Cinderella? We all want the happy ending; sometimes we even demand it. We all have a romance story playing in our head of what married life will be like, but eventually we'll discover this fantasy world doesn't always match reality; especially during a crisis. Our lofty, fragile hopes and dreams are shattered. We never realized marriage could be so hard. Just remember, whatever your family situation, there is an opportunity to find grace in the midst of this crisis. Families can use this time as an invitation to focus on our deepest relationships and on building strong family bonds. In a crisis, one of the greatest blessings is having each other. You may not see it yet, but it can be a real gift. You might be too close to it to see it as a gift right now, but step back and re-focus.

Personally, I am thankful for the extra time Sherry and I have had together. It is the most quality time we have been able to spend with each other in a long time. There is something about having to pull together, sacrifice together, and face the challenge together that just seems to bring you closer; especially on the battlefield. In some ways it has been a time of renewal. Usually when people say that a goal is on their "bucket list" it means that sometime in the as-yet-unplanned, perhaps even distant future, they'll hopefully get around to doing something they always wanted to do before they die. The Coronavirus, as tragic as it has been for so many, has taught me that "sheltering in place" with my wife should have been on my bucket list all along. I know many people are isolated in this crisis and forced to be alone. The joy of my companionship with Sherry has compelled me to ask God to help me feel the loneliness you may be facing. You are in my prayers. I trust His glorious presence has been your constant companion.

Finally, as a challenge to parents, I would remind you that your children are taking note of how you handle a crisis. A strong marriage where love

between spouses is clearly visible provides security and stability for children. Children often come to know the love of God through the love their parents have not only for them, but for each other. If you want your children to experience God's love, then be willing to do what it takes to fully and selflessly love your spouse. The family is the school of love. Little ears are listening, little eyes are watching, and impressionable teenagers may be observing. Take a moment to whisper a prayer calling upon the help of the Holy Spirit to be with you before you act or speak, in moments where your strength is lacking. A loving and secure home is one of the greatest gifts you can give your children.

Most of the young couples that were married during the days of World War II are no longer with us. And since grand-parents are usually the "storytellers of family history," most of their love stories will never be whispered again. The hardships they endured and the skills they learned are buried in the history books or in an old tattered photograph. But just as they, may we also rise to the occasion. May we also learn to build a strong marriage even in the midst of the battle. May we also develop a wartime mentality. May we daily adorn ourselves in the uniform of "***the whole armour of God.***" The sweet romantic bliss of the wedding day is to be treasured — but it's the conflicts won on the battlefield that sustain a marriage and build a family.



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



The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

It's been a tough year so far for many of us. It's doubtful anyone can say they have remained 100% unscathed by the events of this year. Impeachment trials, wildfires, military action against Qassem Soleimani, tornadoes, the coronavirus, protesting ... just overwhelming things happening all over the world that have affected us all in some way. Is it going to end? Is there a bright side? Where is the light at the end of the tunnel?

Well, we can't give you a date when things will return to normal or if they ever will. We simply don't have the answer to that any more than you do. However, there is a bright side. We know the One that does hold the answers! Our Lord has never stopped being in control.



He's watching and waiting. He'll intervene as He always does when the timing is right... no... when the timing is perfect! When he doesn't seem that close, take a look around.

Do you see birds hopping across the grass picking up food just on the other side of the road? That means He's there! ***"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*** (Matthew 6:26)

Have you had to cut the grass in your yard yet this year? Guess what? He was there! ***"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"*** (Matthew 6:30)

Oh, and how about this one? Have you seen any of your hair on the bathroom floor recently? Maybe even a little too much? He not only knows how many you lost, He knows the exact number He gave

each strand! And He was there to mark each one as it fell! ***"But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered..."*** (Luke 12:7a)

Wouldn't it be better sometimes if we didn't have to face these struggles? Wouldn't it be better if we didn't have to gather food, cut grass, or watch our hair fall out? It seems that way at times, but rest assured, He's got a plan, and He's working it all out for our good. The best part about it is that He's with us every step of the way! What may seem like the worst of times may just in fact be the best of times as we allow these trials to draw us closer to Him.

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Artist Spotlight - Highway Revival

In 2010, a vision was formed in the hearts of Rachel and Phillip Marley to start a trio that was more than just a Gospel singing group. They desired to be used by God as a ministry. This group, *Highway Revival*, not only offers a rich heritage in music, but they also have a wonderful sense of humor and joy as they proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, the Saviour that this world is so desperately looking for. It is all to honor Him, the Only Star, the Only One worthy of praise. Their mission verse is found in **Luke 14:23**, *“And the LORD said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”*

Singing alto with *Highway Revival* is a young lady with incredible God-given talent. Missy Reed is no stranger to Southern Gospel music. Since childhood she has been on stage with her family, on praise teams, and as a soloist sharing her gift. Missy has a genuine, sweet personality and voice that connects with her audiences.

Also joining the *Highway Revival* ministry team is Michelle Ball. Michelle will be filling in as needed and on special concerts throughout the year singing and playing the piano. She is a gifted, anointed vocalist with a rich heritage in the church and music ministry who has traveled and has sung on occasion with her brother, evangelist Michael Ball, and for a number of years with a worship team at her local church.

Although she is no longer traveling full time with *Highway Revival*, Nicole Thomas will continue to

sing the alto spot and play the piano on select dates. Nicole has an incredible love for Jesus and desire to testify to God’s amazing grace in a humble and powerful way. Nicole traveled with her father, Harry White, and *Southern Sound* a number of years and is a veteran, accomplished drummer.

Phillip Marley has been singing gospel music his whole life. As a young boy, Phillip would sing with his brothers while his dad would play the piano. He learned harmony by listening to his mom and dad sing the old hymns and he learned to read music in the band while playing the trumpet. Through the years he has served as minister of music and as choir director in a number of churches. For five years he traveled with *The Liberty Boys Quartet*. Phillip also serves as the minister and emcee for the group.

Rachel Marley grew up singing in church and has a beautiful, sweet voice as she sings the lead. With her extensive musical background, she can also sing the alto and tenor parts when needed. Rachel competed in many choral and vocal competitions and garnered numerous awards and superior ratings. She has been called on to open up for some of the industry’s leading groups. For those who may not know, Rachel is the daughter of professional wrestler Ivan Koloff, the Russian Bear, who gave his life to Christ in 1995. In February 2017, Ivan went home to be with Jesus, whom he loved with all his heart. You can find his website at www.ivankoloff.com. More information can be found about *Highway Revival* as well as their upcoming schedule at www.highwayrevival.com.



Could The Church Be At Fault?

Mr. Linwood Grant

I have been a Christian most of my life; however, I'm sure there have been times I disappointed my Lord. The one thing I do know throughout my life is that Jesus has been with me; He has never given up on me. Now, how does the title of this article relate to my life?

I got saved when I was 12 years old. The preacher was preaching on sin. He was talking about reading magazines that could lead Christians astray. I loved to read comic books and somehow thought that reading comic books would put me in the hands of Satan. I went home and put my comic books in a metal trash can and set the books on fire... in the middle of the kitchen. For some unknown reason, my parents did not punish me. I learned later from the preacher that most comic books at that time were okay to read.

The point of this confession is that I was moved by the preacher preaching on sin. The preacher made me aware that sin is in the world and sin was in me. I never forgot that lesson and I know that people's lives are changed by God's Word. **Romans 10:17** says, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" If that preacher had not preached on sin that day, I would not have come under conviction and my life transformed.

As Christians know, and even many others who are not Christians know, the world is becoming more wicked by the day. **Isaiah 5:20** says, "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*" Well folks, that is exactly where we are today. There was a time when most people in this country knew what was right and wrong, even though many did not attend church or profess they were a Christian.

Why has this wickedness come upon us? We all have said, "*It is the fault of politicians. It is the fault of Hollywood. It is the fault of someone who led my child astray. It is the fault of terrible parenting. It is the fault of the media. It is the fault of...*"

Now let's get to where the true fault lies. It is at the door of the church. When I was a child, many years ago, churches that called themselves Christian churches preached the Bible as it is written. The preacher did not change the words so that the congregation would not be offended. The preacher would not say that the Bible does not mean what it literally says. The preacher would preach the Full Council of God.

Preachers in those churches once were very clear about what is right and what is wrong and that God's Word was spread into the population. The population, some believers and some unbelievers, had respect for the church and the Bible because they were consistent in their message. Now, one church will say certain things are a sin and another say it is not a sin. This causes confusion. **I Corinthians 14:33** tells us, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."*

When the Bible says something specifically is an abomination, or when it says you are not to do a specific thing, there is no latitude for any interpretation other than what the Bible says. **II Peter 1:20** says, *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."* The Bible means what it says: don't change it. **II Timothy 4:3** says, *"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;"* This simply means the time will come, and it is here, when many will not accept what the Bible teaches, but will expect only teaching that they want to hear. As I

said earlier, the wickedness that is growing day by day falls at the door of the church because many preachers in the church are causing confusion, and as a result, causing many to fall away from their faith and into sin.

Mr. Linwood Grant is a retired Lenoir County Principle, a member of Trinity FWB Church in La Grange, and also serves as a member Gideons International.



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Do you like surprises? Sometimes they are OK, but in most cases, I like to plan. Recent events have made me take a step backward. Oh, we still had to come up with a plan so our students could complete their grades. We had to be sure we could financially take care of our staff and pay the incoming bills of the academy. But there have been many surprises during this pandemic.

One big surprise for me was the shortage of toilet paper. Maybe I should have expected it, but in all of the crises of the past, we always had plenty of toilet paper. The different hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods brought shortages, but never toilet paper. Soon after the toilet paper, Lysol and disinfectant wipes became scarce.

Another surprise was the politics that came into play. I guess I should have known. Never waste a crisis! I think that is the motto of our politicians. I wish we could believe they have our best interest at heart, but the information I hear or read shows that our country is not their concern.

I must be naïve. I know the media is biased in its coverage, but I had hoped that during a national crisis, we would pull together. I keep seeing these commercials about pulling together and being united, but the very ones that produce those commercials are trying to pull our nation apart. I have been surprised by the selfishness of this crisis.

On a positive note, I have been surprised at the blessings that have come out of

the Coronavirus outbreak. I know there is an abundance of heartache and trouble, but in every cloud, we must look for the silver lining. One such blessing is God's beautiful Creation. It has always been here, but I took the time to slow down and pay attention. I always notice the sunrise on the way to work, but not like this. It seems I focus on its beauty even more. Every strand of color just pops out at me. Just as in the rainbow we saw yesterday. My husband was on the porch, and I went to join him. A heavy rain had just let up, and there was a beautiful rainbow in the sky. It was a complete rainbow. Do you know how rare that is? We could see it from end to end. It was simply beautiful.

We also have had two birds' nests in our yard. We watched the parents go

in and out of the bushes. They fly to a perch beside the nest and look around singing. They were being oh so careful to protect their little ones. We sat and watched them in awe. Isn't God's Creation amazing?

I knew God had called me to teach, but I didn't realize how much I would miss it. I miss my students, and I miss teaching them and helping them with their work. I even miss the aggravating times. What we have been doing has been working in the interim period, but it is not an answer for the future. I don't want teaching to be through the internet.

I am careful about how I say this, but in many ways, this time has been nice. I know many people are struggling and have had loved ones to get sick or even die. Many are out of work, and others have had their hours reduced. We understand, because we have, too. I have had more time at home with my husband. My hours are reduced and at least one day a week I am working from home. When I get off work, I come home and fix dinner for the two of us. We eat at a decent hour, and we actually sit together after dinner and talk or watch the news. I have been able to do some projects at home and still get some school work done in between. I am enjoying being home more and taking life at a more relaxed pace.

I don't think the Lord intended us to be so busy that we see our families in passing and wave as we go out the door. I believe He wants us to be about His business, but how much of what we do is unnecessary. Maybe we need to examine our lives and learn from this time period. Notice how nice it is to have time with our spouses and our children. While remembering, time is



short. We must be about our Father's business. I think we can find a balance.

I am concerned about something. If we are not careful, Christians are going to enjoy this extra time at home too much. We all know when someone in the church starts missing services, it is harder to get them back into church. The longer they miss, the more comfortable they become watching church on TV or listening on the radio, if they even do that. We must remember to be faithful to be in God's house. When the doors open up, let's be there. **Hebrews 10:25** says, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

I think it is exciting that some churches have improvised and found other ways to minister to their members. Until we can fellowship together, let us continue to be an example of God's love to others. Some churches have done an outstanding job showing God's love by feeding those who have lost their jobs as well as meeting some of their other needs. We must show God's love to

everyone we meet. Let Christ's love shine.

Christians can be an example. Although it shouldn't be, let this be the biggest surprise of all. May God's people minister to others in a way that brings the lost into the fold. May the love of Jesus be felt by all we come in contact with, even if it is from six feet away. May the way we treat people during this pandemic cause a resurgence in the church. May people sit up and take notice. May our love and kindness make them want the Christ that we have. **Matthew 5:12** says, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Isn't this a great time to let our light shine!

We have the perfect opportunity to surprise the world. Let's take it!



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

And Finally...



Blessings During Lockdown...

I love to see how local churches have been getting creative to keep services going during social distancing. Some are doing on-line church, some are doing drive-in church, and some have done small groups. On Sunday mornings as I'm getting ready for our drive-in church, I can hear music and singing from another church's praise team getting ready for their morning service down the street from my house. In the afternoons, I hear the church bells ring from yet another local church in the other direction.

J. B.

Before this pandemic began, life was super busy. We have several teenagers and they always seemed to be on the go. Well, much to their dismay, things have slowed down for us all quite a bit over the past few months. The ball games have ceased, outings with friends have stopped, schooling has changed, and they haven't been working as much. It has been a great joy to have them home more, reconnecting with us, and just spending some quality time together. They may not admit it, but I think they have enjoyed it too. Hopefully, we've made some lasting memories together and been able to make the most out of an unexpected situation.

M. F.

My neighbors have been so great since the beginning of our "lockdown". Needless to say, it took some time to get used to things. But it really didn't

take too long before we were all helping each other out, sharing supplies, helping the shut-ins and elderly with groceries and other needs, and even helping each other with our kid's school projects and homeschooling (from a safe distance, of course). This whole thing has really brought us together as a small community. We've made new friends out of people we would once just wave to from time to time. Sure, we still have some struggles, and we're ready to get back to work, but it's nice to know there are people you can count on. There are still good people out there!

E. S.

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