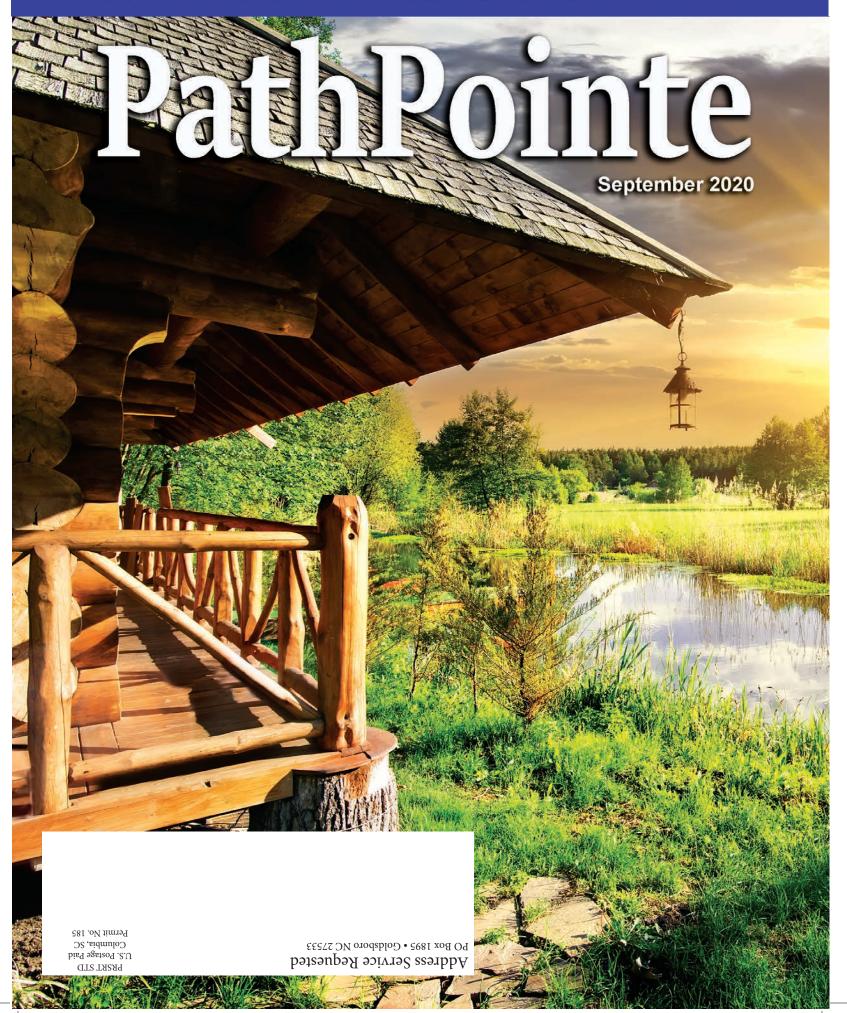
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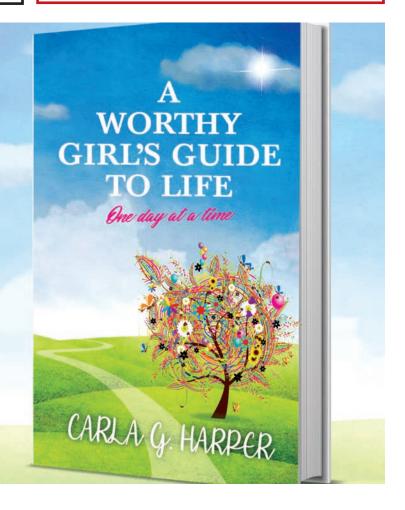
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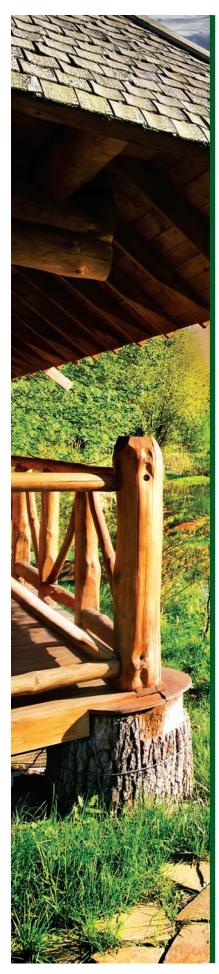
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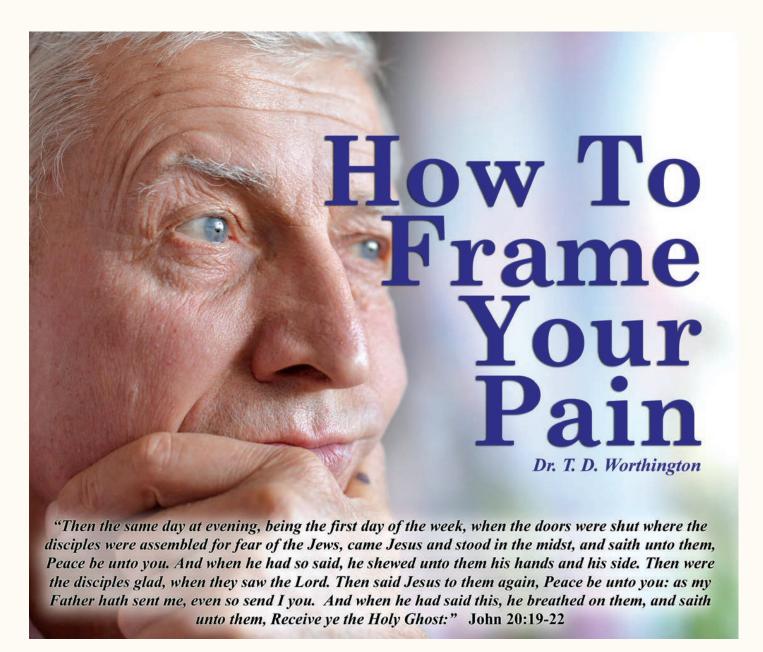
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When we think of Pentecost we usually think of the rush of wind, tongues of fire, speaking in other languages, and a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit. That's how Luke describes it. But John's account of Pentecost tells about locked doors, fear, wounds, peace, a shared breath, and being sent. In John's gospel Pentecost is more quiet and personal. It is night now, when fears tend to be enhanced, and the disciples are afraid. They're hiding behind locked doors fearing the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and sensing their fear said, "Peace be unto vou." Then He showed them His wounds from the crucifixion.

Now, looking strictly on a human level, wounds would hardly be a symbol of peace. They would usually be a symbol of violence and pain. They could also serve as a warning that if the disciples were not careful, the same thing could happen to them. So, I wonder why Jesus illustrated His peace by displaying His wounds. I wonder what lesson He was teaching them and how it might apply to you and I.

Some contend that this was simply an act of identification. The wounds would clearly demonstrate that this was the same Jesus who was crucified. However, I think more is going on here.

I think that in showing us His wounds Jesus is identifying with every person who has ever been hurt or wounded. The wounds of Jesus are saying, "Where does it hurt?" Is it in your feet, your hands, your heart, or is it in your mind? Is the wound physical or emotional? The wounded body of Jesus is an emblem of our wounded world. To look at Jesus' hands and His side is to see the wounds we've received and the ones we've inflicted upon others. Let's personalize those wounds for just a moment. What hurts

your heart today? What are the tender spots of your life? What's festering deep inside that you perhaps don't want anyone else to see? Where do you see another hurting? Can you look at them, or do you look away because you just don't want to see their pain? In what ways have you and I added to the pain of another?

I have known a lot of people over the years that have faced many tragic hardships. For some the hardship produced bitterness, for others it produced peace. The wheelchair, the crutch, the brace, the hospital bed; either became a sign of a bitter soul and resentment, or a sign of peace and contentment. Some chose to allow their wounds to display their anger. Others chose to allow their wounds to display their peace.

What is the nature of your wound? Is it a relationship problem with someone else that has produced bitterness? Is it a financial problem that has given you fears? Is it a physical problem that burdens you with constant anguish? Has someone treated you unfairly or taken advantage of you? What is your wound? Does your wound display your bitterness —or your peace?

Some folks are facing real hardship today, and they are bitter, and they want the world to *know* they are bitter. *That is the nature of bitterness; we want others to see it.* Yet, I see others who endure the same pain. Their wounds are deep and sometimes hard to bear. They struggle under the load. Yet, within the struggle there is peace. You look for the bitterness, but it cannot be found. You expect to see anger and resentment, but instead you find peace. They too would like to find healing, but until the healing comes they have determined to let their

wounds display their peace—rather than their hurt. Peace doesn't hold up banners or shout. No one gets a megaphone to tell the world about their peace. Peace throws no stones and burns no buildings and seldom produces a headline on the evening news. Whereas bitterness is usually loud, peace is usually quiet. But, it still can be heard and seen.

Battling the coronavirus has caused a lot of hardship in our country. The promoted theme of the virus has been: "We're all in this together." Yes, but "we're not all together in this." We are not "all together in one place" as on the day of Pentecost. Our country is divided, fragmented, and wounded.

It's not easy to talk about our wounds; whether it's our individual wounds or our national wounds, whether it's the wounds we've received or the ones we've inflicted. To talk about our wounds requires us to look at what we've done and left undone. It means we each have to look within ourselves. It means taking responsibility for our lives. It means valuing the life and wounds of another as much as our

own. We might need to confess and we might need to forgive. We might need to reach out to another, and we might need to open ourselves to another's reaching toward us. We might need to offer the balm of healing to another, and we might need to receive another's ointment for our own healing.

Can I make a confession? Many times I don't initially look for ways of displaying peace, I look for remedies. I look for quick answers. I look for solutions. I just want my wounds to go away. More often than not I just deny that they hurt. I want to cover up and hide my wounds so you can't see them. After all, you've got your own problems, you don't need to be burdened with mine. Sometimes we are prone to make judgments about our wounds or blame others for causing them. Other times we use our wounds, we revel in them, and play the victim so we can get some attention or sympathy, or special favor or consideration. And worst of all is when we use our wounds as a justification for hurting someone else or making them feel guilty. We may even want to make them pay for





what they've done or for what we think they've done.

But Jesus doesn't do any of those things. Instead, He shows up quietly behind the locked doors, stands among the disciples in the midst of their fear, and says, "Peace be unto you." Then He shows them His wounds and He says the second time, "Peace be unto you." The wounds of Jesus, inflicted by men, sit in the middle of the peace He now offers mankind. Peace is like bookends on both sides of His wounds, therefore His wounds display His peace. His peace is the showcase. His peace is like the picture frame that surrounds His wounds. What if that could be true for you and me? What if the greatest peace we can display to the world comes out of the wounds we've suffered?

"Peace be unto you," Jesus says. What does that mean for the friends and family of the thousands of people who have died during this pandemic? What does that peace mean when many continue to be out of work, and businesses that are in danger of going under? What does that peace mean to those who have been

treated unfairly by society? What does that mean for the cities that have burned and the businesses that have been looted?

It is obvious that the peace Jesus offers doesn't mean we will never have wounds or a lack of conflict. It doesn't mean we will always be treated fairly, and it doesn't mean that we necessarily get our way. I also think that the peace Jesus speaks of is more than a truce, an agreement to disagree, or the resignation to go along in order to get along. No, the wounds may still hurt. The pain may bring you to your knees. The anguish produced by the divorce, the rebellion, the loss, the betrayal, the disease, or a thousand other human hurts is real. But, the question I submit to you is this; "how are you choosing to display your hurt?"

"Look at these wounds! Someone is going to pay—and they will pay dearly for hurting me this way."

OR

"You see these wounds. They hurt. Sometimes they bring me to my knees. But these wounds have taught me something. They have taught me to trust God. They have taught me to pray for those that hurt me. I'm not talking about denial or running away. I am talking about fixing what I can, while trusting God with all the rest. In the end, my wounds shall put a spotlight upon the peace God has given me."

I know you have wounds. Fact is, we all do. Some wounds are deep and the pain is ever before you. But, here is my question: Are your wounds displaying your peace? If not, by default, they are displaying your bitterness. The wounds you bear may have arrived beyond your control, however the frame you put them in is totally up to you.



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

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It's Finally Finished!

It's finally over! Thanks to our many Faith Partners and volunteers, we have finally finished our **Spring Share-A-Thon**. You may be thinking, "Spring? But it's almost Fall!" You're 100% right. In case you weren't aware, we had to postpone our *Spring Share-A*-**Thon** due to the Covid-19 closures and quarantines. We scheduled several "mini" make-up Share-A-Thons in June, July, and August and were finally able to meet our goal of \$250,000 on August 7th. Although it took place over several



months, essentially we were able to reach the goal with just 7-1/2 days of on-air fundraising, a new There are not enough words to use to express our gratitude to you for your prayers, financial support, and words of encouragement during these difficult times.

As for now, the work goes on and the trying times continue, just in a different way. If you were listening to one of our 8 GoMix frequencies during Hurricane Isaias, you know we were off the air for a little while due to problems with our generator at our 88.7 FM tower site. Hopefully we now have it ready to go for the next storm.

More storms will come and go, figuratively and literally, but we know because of people just like

you that we have fellow believers standing with us ready to take on the challenge. As for our upcoming Fall Share-A-Thon, we're still seeking the Lord's wisdom and trying to figure that one out. We'll give you updates as soon as we have them available. As for now, know you can tunein 24 hours a day for encouraging words, teaching programs, news updates, and more on your Christian Superstations!

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Artist Spotlight - Leave 99

Most of Eastern North Carolina is familiar with the gospel group, *Men of Faith*. They have just finished a new project, and have also announced that they have changed the name of their ministry to *Leave 99*. While the news may seem sudden to many, it has been part of their plan for a number of years.

When asked why they are changing the name, they listed two primary reasons. First, the name *Men of Faith* was never trademarked by the group, which created problems when people searched for them online or through other avenues. Secondly, with natural turnover over a 20-year ministry, it felt like it was finally time to change the name with the core lineup they currently have. The current group members are Spencer Owens, Grant Barker, Jeff Barker, and Prentice Tyndall.

So, why the name *Leave 99*? According to the group, "We chose the name as it really resonates with our mission. The Bible talks about the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep for the one that is lost. We've all been that one lost sheep at some point, and our ministry hopes to find and witness to those individuals." What a message!

The first self-titled project as *Leave 99* has officially been completed and the recording features many original songs written by Spencer and Grant. The group is excited about the release and hopeful that they reach a wide-spread, captive audience. The songs feature inspiring messages about salvation, redemption, conviction, and fear and faith. While the name is

different, their mission remains the same; to witness to more people about Jesus. The group says they "are driven by the sacrifice Jesus paid, resulting in the salvation for those that accept Him, and walk with Him. The great commission leads us to go out and witness to others, and we're honored to do it."

For bookings or to preview their new recording, visit them online at www.leave99band.com.

Upcoming Schedule:

September 13 @ 11:00am

Aspen Grove FWB Church, Walstonburg, NC

September 27 @ 10:30am

Piney Grove Baptist Church, Washington, NC

September 27 @ 6:00pm,

First Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC

October 4 @ 11:00am

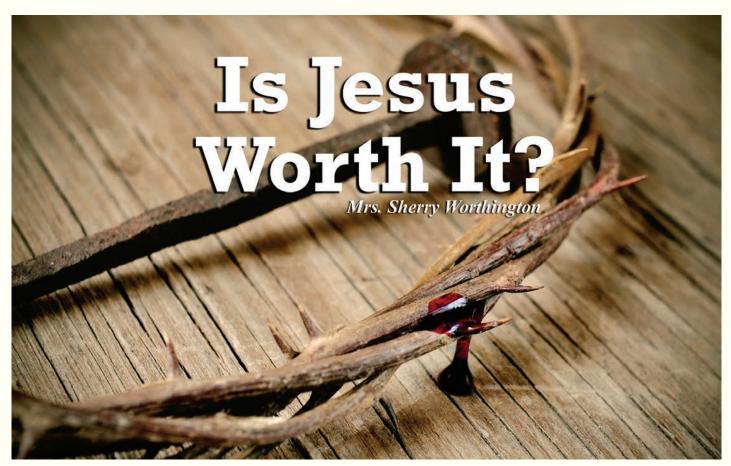
Cabin Missionary Baptist Church, Pink Hill, NC

October 11 @ 10:30am

Independence PH Church, Bailey, NC

October 18 @ 10:30am

Croatan FWB Church, New Bern, NC



At the beginning of each school year, we have staff meetings to get ready for the next school term. When I prepare for those meetings, I ask God what message would He like me to share to encourage our staff. Obviously, this year was different than any other we have experienced. We did remote learning from March to June, and we were doing everything we could to bring our children back to school.

Many things went into that process. We obviously missed the children, and we felt they needed us, too. As we made plans to reopen the school, roadblocks stood in the way. We wanted to keep the children safe, but we also wanted them to be able to be children. We wanted to hear their laughter and see the light bulb go on as they learned something new.

Well, we made a plan that we felt would be safe and followed the CDC guidelines. We marked off the school for social distancing and put sanitizer in every room. We ordered masks, sanitizer, toilet paper, hand soap, and other important items. I must admit I was not happy about wearing masks all day and having to do things differently. I should have just been grateful that we were able to start school.

We were almost ready to start the year. Then Hurricane Isaias hit. Honestly, it was not a bad hurricane, but it dumped a lot of water. It was not nearly as destructive as Hurricane Matthew or Florence. Our academy roof has been in bad shape for several years. We have patched it and prayed over it trying to postpone getting a new roof. However, Hurricane Isaias dumped a lake on top of our building. When we came in to check things out, we called in our staff and did some major clean up. It had stopped raining outside, but it was raining inside. I guess it is time for a new roof!

The staff members that were able to make it worked all day to clean up the mess. I started feeling sorry for myself. I was tired and frustrated, and to make matters worse, I was having a pity party.

Mind you! I should have been thankful. I wasn't wading in water nor was I watching chairs float down the hallway. Memories flashed from the other two floods we had been in. It was much better to have water coming from the ceiling than mud coming in from the streets.

Little did I know that the message God wanted me to share with His staff was a message for me. We have two days of organized meetings. The first part of each day is spent with a devotion. On the first morning we did a character study and our staff, including me, shared an area we were struggling with. This was a very humbling experience for all of us.

On the second day, I had planned for us to watch a documentary that I felt would minister to us all. It is called the "The Insanity of God." It is a story of faith and persecution. As I watched the movie, I could not take my eyes and heart away from it. I watched as it told of this missionary couple's pilgrimage. The documentary had been described as "the gripping, narrative account of a personal pilgrimage into some of the toughest places on earth, combined with sobering and insightful stories of the remarkable people of faith Nik and Ruth encountered on their journeys, will serve as a powerful course of revelation, growth, and challenge for anyone who wants to know whether God truly is enough."

I originally wanted to show this DVD because I felt it may make us less negative about what is going on in our world. I also wanted us to be able to appreciate our faith and the freedoms we still have to share the Gospel or even go to church. I wanted us all to be thankful for the problems that we

have. It could be so much worse. I also wanted us to realize the sacrifices other Christians are making around the world. I did not realize how this movie would touch my life.

I watched intently as Nik and Ruth Ripkin faced difficulty after difficulty. I was glued to the movie as different people from different countries were sharing about their persecution. The church was thriving under persecution. They have so much more zeal than I do, and I have the freedom to witness and worship. In one instance, a young boy came to visit his father in prison. It had been a long time since he had seen him. His father laid on the table beaten and frail because he refused to deny Christ. His eight-year-old son said, "I am so proud of you." Would I be that brave? Have I taught my children to be so courageous?

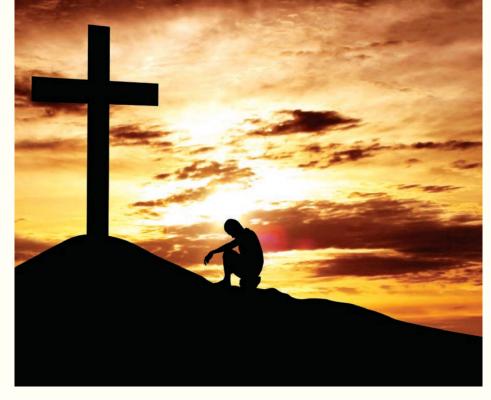
In Somalia, a whole generation of Christians was gunned down in the streets. There was story after story about persecution in the toughest areas of the world to minister.

I became convicted over my shallowness. I was feeling sorry for myself because I had to clean up some rainwater. I was complaining about wearing a mask. Yes, I was tired. Yes, I was weary. But I was not the kind of weary the people in this documentary were. They did not know from day to day if they would live or die. It may come to that one day in America, but we are not there yet. The liberal viewpoint is taking over, but we must continue to fight for our freedoms. We cannot be lulled to sleep.

Am I willing to conquer the areas I struggle with? Am I willing to be uncomfortable for my faith? Am I willing to die for my Lord? Am I willing to allow my children or grandchildren to die for Jesus Christ? There were so many questions at the end of the film, but the most sobering of all was the last question. "Is Jesus worth it?" What is your answer to that question? I encourage you to watch the documentary, "The Insanity of God."

How will you answer the question, "Is Jesus worth it?"

"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." Matthew 10:37





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



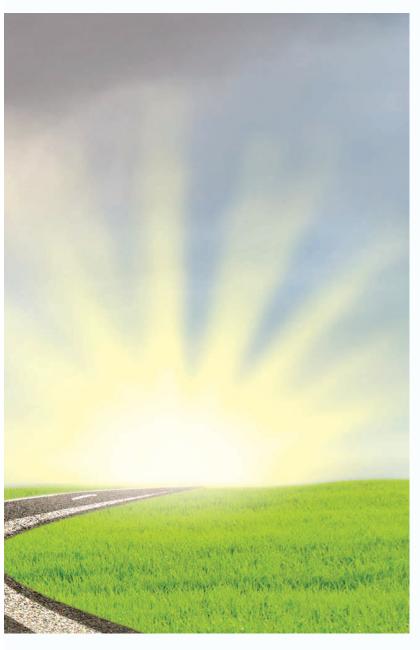
"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins," Hebrews 10:26

While we know that Jesus died for all sins, His sacrifice only applies to those sins that are brought before Him in true repentance. In other words, just as Paul said, our freedom in Christ is NOT a freedom to sin. God forgives us when we ask for His forgiveness, but not so we can just go on sinning without even trying not to sin. Sin is a CHOICE we make.

Some say we sin constantly without knowing it. That simply is not true. The Holy Spirit

convicts us of sin, and He will not allow a true believer to sin in any way and not reveal it to us. What many would call sin is only the temptation to sin, which is not sin. Paul said when we willfully sin without regret, we crucify Christ all over again. Heaven forbid we do such a thing! Jesus told the woman caught in the act of adultery to go and sin NO more. If it were not possible, He would not have said it. Sin is simply disobedience to God and His Word. So, how do we keep from sinning?

First, and most importantly, is the FACT that you cannot do it alone! If sin is a choice, then the first thing to do is to choose not to sin.



going to watch television then watch programs that are going to feed you spiritually or at least not cause you to be tempted or influenced in a negative way. The same with radio and reading materials.

Lastly, if you really want to live a godly and pure life then do what Jesus instructed.

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

That alone is the most powerful way to overcome sin. If we truly follow Jesus, He will never lead us to sin.

In no way am I saying that any of us will be sinless. What I am saying is that if we will read God's Word, listen to the Holy Spirit, and follow Jesus; then we will truly sin LESS.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry.

Secondly, invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to help you. Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us. He is with us by His Spirit. Because sin often comes by what we think about and are influenced by, we must change the way we think and what we allow to influence us. Get focused! If we focus on sin, then sin will come. If we focus on holiness, righteousness, and purity, then they will come.

Thirdly, feed your mind and spirit with God's Word daily. Choose friends that will be a godly influence instead of people that will only pull you back into sinning. Attend a great Bible teaching church and get involved. If you are



And Finally...



Continuing Letters...

My Hometown

I love my hometown of Goldsboro, in Wayne County, NC. After traveling with my Air Force husband for more than 20 years, we retired to Goldsboro in February of 1984. Born here more than 70 years ago, my favorite childhood memory is of attending Vacation Bible School where I learned about Jesus. I always felt safe in my neighborhood except when a stray dog would chase me as I walked to school. In my opinion, Goldsboro has the best teachers in the world. Our local college is a down-to-earth learning place. As a little girl, my mama took my sister, brother, and me to Herman Park where we rode the train, climbed the monkey bars, and pushed each other in the swings. Thankfully, the park is still there. There is no place like home and there is no place like my hometown of Goldshoro!

M. B.

Plan Your Epitaph

I would like mine to be short and sweet. Like Stephen in Acts 16. "She was a woman of great faith and full of the Holy Ghost." I would like the grave marker to say, "Come, sit with me for a moment. Listen to the birds sing. Hear the Word of God in the wind. Then you shall find atonement."

W. C.

Remembering Easter

When I was young, I couldn't wait to see the hats that everyone wore to church on Easter Sunday. I still love wearing hats all year! We always had big church picnics and Easter egg hunts. The biggest event was the Sunrise Service. Everyone would gather outside the church in the chilly morning weather wearing their new spring outfits and waiting until the sun arose. Then, we would sing "He Arose". I can almost hear them now!

J.D.

Blessings During Lockdown

I am an 81 year old senior. As I was sitting on my porch one day, a man came up and spoke with me. I found out he had no money or food and had not eaten in several days. As we talked he told me his name and more about himself. We talked of how much we missed going to church since many churches were closed. It was such a pleasure to get him something to eat and drink. It was such a blessing to be a blessing to someone in need as we shared with each other the love of God.

J.S.

"I Love Fall"

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

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us what you love about the fall season.

The deadline for submission is September 30, 2020.

You can send an email to: share@gomixradio.org

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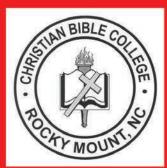
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