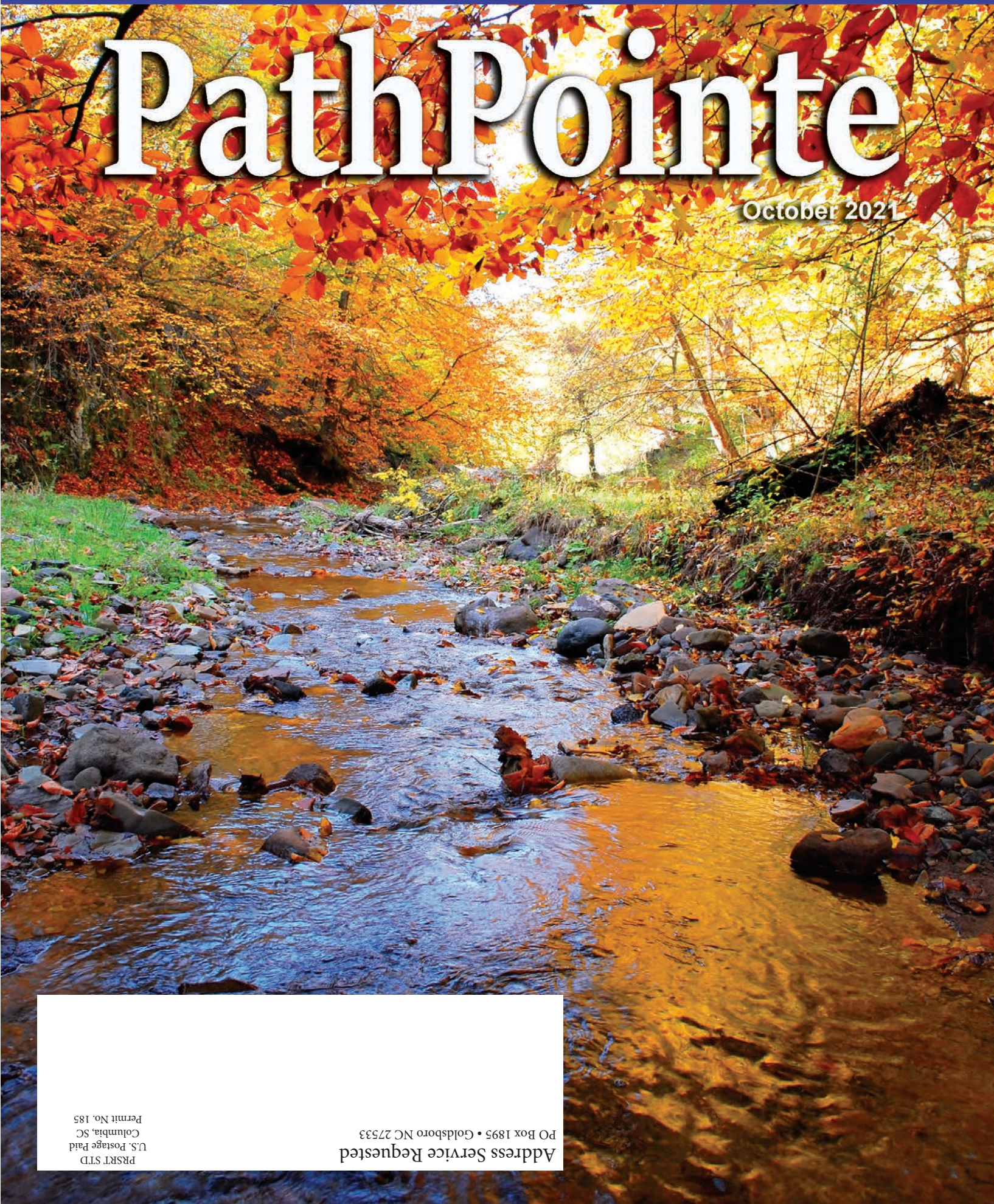


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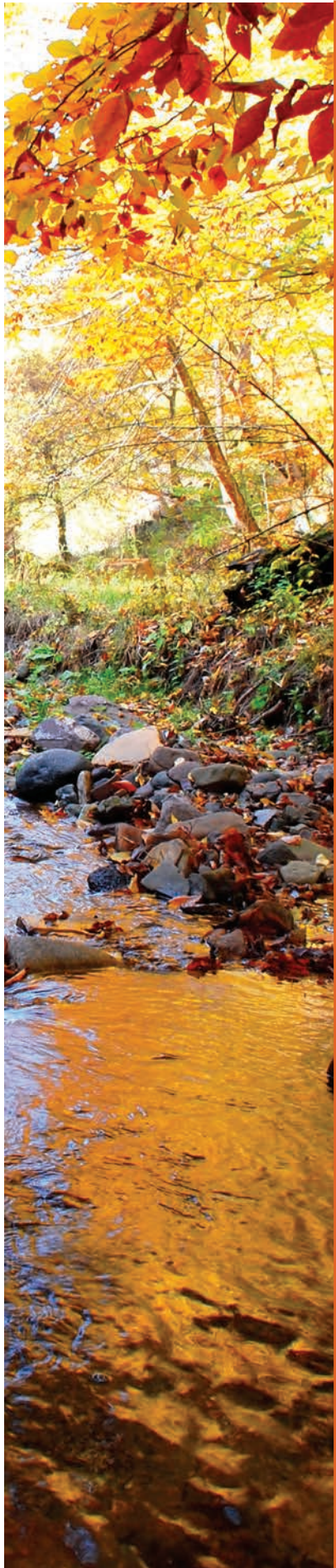
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My Favorite Teacher...

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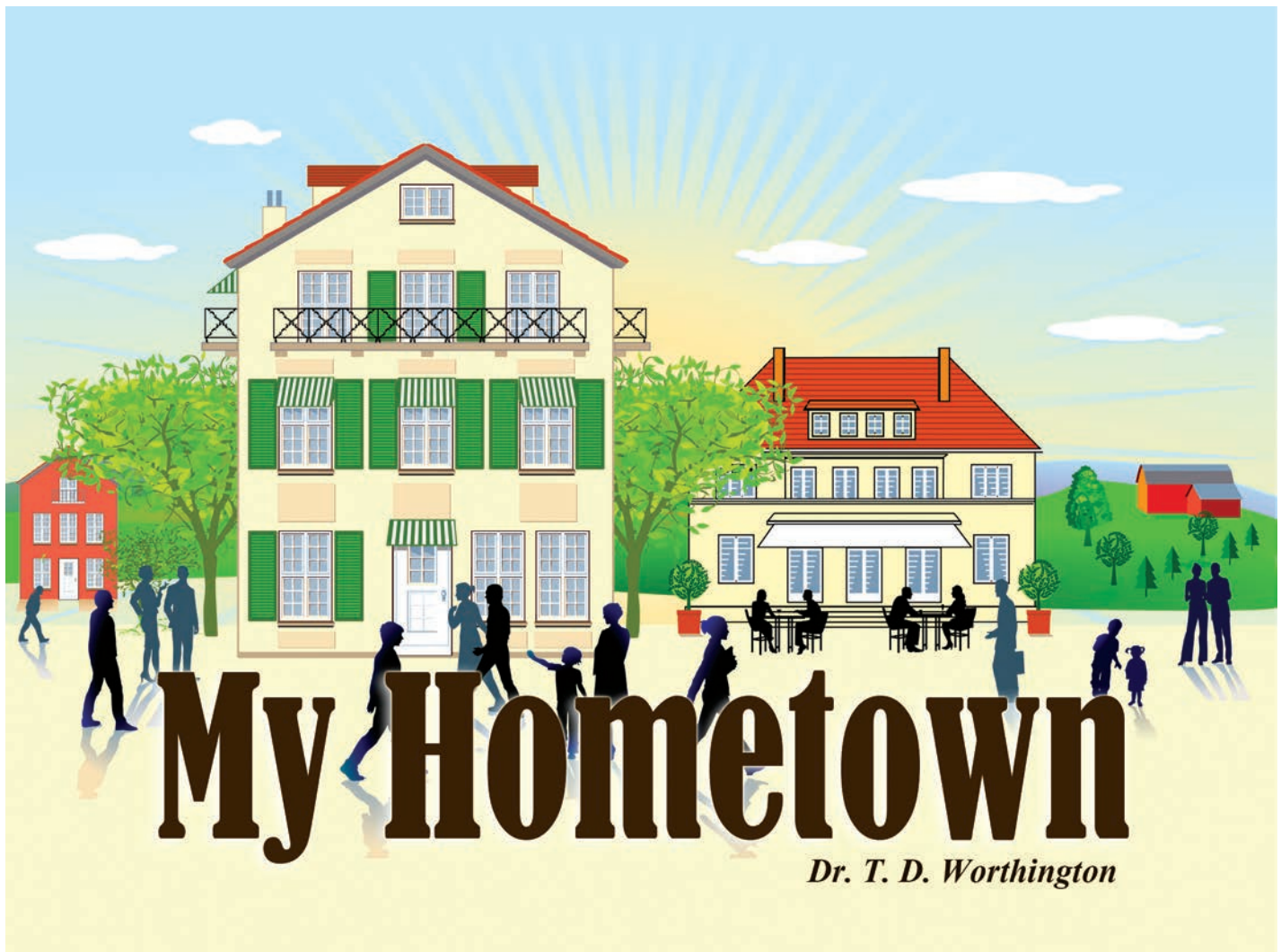
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“Jesus came into his own country.” He’s has now left the place where he healed Jairus’ daughter and the hemorrhaging women and has returned to Nazareth. It’s the place where he grew up and spent the first thirty years of his life. He’s come home, back to His hometown.

I have often spoke about the little town I grew up in. I knew most everyone there. I had the same friends year after year after year. I graduated high school with many of the same kids I had known since first grade. I knew everyone and everyone knew me. There was a closeness. We had a history, a common bond. My hometown was familiar, comfortable, and predictable. There was a

consistency and routine. We knew what to expect. There was stability and security. Not much changed from year to year—not many people moved in—or out. I lived close to my grandparents and could see them most anytime I wanted. I felt I belonged there, I felt safe there and we looked after each other. I never thought about leaving my hometown, but eventually I did. And although the world I once knew does not exist anymore, there are times I would like to go back for a visit.

I wonder what your hometown experience was like? Maybe you never felt you had a hometown. Perhaps your family moved around quite a bit or perhaps you lived in

a large city and did not enjoy the spirit of a small community as I did. Maybe you were further out into the country and were not around a lot of folks. Maybe you can’t quite comprehend it when someone says, *“There’s no place like home.”* Or, perhaps they say, *“You can never go home again.”*

Jesus had a hometown too. It was a place called Nazareth. We can study its history and its geography, but we still don’t know a lot about the day to day life our Lord enjoyed there.

Yet, as I consider your hometown and mine, I want to think about *more than a geographical location*; more than old memories from a

scrap book. This hometown isn't something outside of us, *its within us*. It's not a place, but a way of being and a way of thinking. It's the place where we form our routines and habits, attitudes, beliefs, opinions, prejudices, assumptions, and values. It's where we formed the patterns of how we've always done things and the way we've always thought. It formulates the way we think and the way we see things. This hometown is a lens through which we see the world, one another, and ourselves. This internal hometown shapes who we are and how we live. It's our place of comfort and familiarity. It is that place inside your own skin where you feel you belong, your internal hometown.

In many ways, your internal hometown is just like a literal one. It is the place where a lot of the things that determine the way you think were born. This hometown contains your faith and church, your political views, your national and racial identity. Chances are your family is there, what they told or taught you, or the family way of doing things. Your work is there, and so is your reputation and social status. Your friends are there, of course in this hometown you choose the ones you let in and the ones you keep out.

For most of us, our internal hometown is our comfort zone. In this zone we like to believe that we have the hometown advantage. We think that playing the game in our comfort zone, on our own home field, gives us an edge, an advantage. Of course, there is also a hometown disadvantage. Here's what I mean by that.

In the literal hometown where I grew up there was not a lot of opportunity for jobs. In order to find work, I had to leave. I didn't especially want to leave, but I knew I had no choice. The same is true of your internal, or spiritual hometown. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone to accomplish what you were born to accomplish; to do what God has called you to do.

In your hometown, it's easy to know about others, but not really know them deeply. The hometown often has a way of convincing us that the hometown way is the right way, the best way, the only way. Sometimes our vision of the world and life extends only as far as the city limits sign. We value our closeness, but risk becoming closed to someone or something new. Excessive familiarity often keeps us from recognizing, valuing, and appreciating what is right in front of us. Yes, I knew everyone in my old hometown, but as I look back there are a lot of folks I wish I had known better. Let me give you an illustration:

I was about thirteen I guess, and I remember coming home from school one afternoon. As I walked toward our house, I saw a very attractive young lady sitting on a friend's front porch. Actually, she wasn't just attractive, she was gorgeous. I decided a closer investigation was in order. So, I walked up to the house, and with every ounce of courage I could muster, I said "hello" to the young lady, while knocking on my friend's door. My friend came to the door and I asked if I could speak to him outside. We walked back toward my house, and I asked him, "Who is that sitting on your porch?" He replied, "That's just Susan, she's my creepy cousin!" I stood there looking at my snagged toothed, freckled faced, and obviously blind friend and said, "Someone that looks like that, is related to you?" You see, to him, she was just Susan, to me she was the prettiest thing my thirteen-year-old eyes had ever seen. To him, she was just an annoying relative that hopefully wouldn't be there very long. As for me, I wanted him to move away and for her to move in his house.





I wonder how many times the people of Nazareth said, “*Oh, that’s just Jesus.*” I am sure as He began His public ministry, they were astounded by the wisdom in His teaching and they knew about the miracles and the great deeds He had done. But, it made no difference, because, “*That’s just Jesus. He lived across the street.*” That’s the carpenter; the son of Mary; the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon; the one whose sisters are right here with us.

They knew all about Him, and yet saw no special value in Him. Actually, the Bible says, “*they were offended at him.*” I think that’s the hometown disadvantage. That can happen in our internal hometowns also. Sometimes, we can’t see the forest for the trees. We miss the blessings. We don’t see the beauty of where we are; the value of the

moment. That can happen in our internal hometowns, especially when...

We settle for what we know rather than opening our hearts and minds to what we don’t know;

We take for granted those we love most, and are closest to;

We forget that many of the blessings we enjoy were not earned but were freely given because someone cared;

We choose being content and comfortable over being challenged;

We believe that if God really speaks to us, it will not come through those who are most familiar and closest to us. It will come through someone greater, or more famous;

Or when we miss the presence of God in our life, world, and prayers because it didn’t come “with the pomp and circumstance” we think we deserve.

Thus, our internal hometown has become a walled city. We are afraid to leave, yet also afraid to let anyone else in. I wonder if the hometown disadvantage is at work in your life, or in mine? And if so, in what ways? I wonder if it’s preventing great miracles and deeds of power from being done in our lives. I wonder how the internal hometown disadvantage might be diminishing our lives and impoverishing our world. And I wonder how we might be limiting our hometown advantage by not seeing the beauty that is right in front of us. Or, perhaps we may be trapped by the hometown disadvantage by not being willing to leave our comfort zone and step out on faith if that is what God wants me us do?

Many Christians are right where God wants them to be. Don’t let familiarity blind you to the manifold blessings of your internal hometown, of where you are right now. On the other hand, if God is moving you to a new field of service, a new calling of faith, it may be time to shake off the dust and move on.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.

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The trouble is that many of us see power as something we are uncomfortable with. For example, some people are uncomfortable around guns because they are

uncomfortable with the power associated with them. So, it is with the power of God. Some look at it as a negative. They wish they didn't have it so they would not be judged for not using it. Others prefer to convince themselves that they don't have it, or that it really doesn't exist at all. Still there are others who believe in the power, but they desire to use it for themselves, for their own benefit. Either way, we are missing our calling to use our power for God's glory.

The Gospel writers go to great lengths to emphasize our Lord's power utilized throughout His earthly ministry. Then we have the resurrection, which is a display of power unseen since the first moment of creation.

Jesus gave His disciples authority to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons. There is no

doubt that we have also been given power for the mission assigned to us. Christians are not powerless! We are called to manifest the abounding, true power that comes from bearing the true image of God in a world full of idols and injustice.

There is so much we can accomplish when we apply the power we have been given. We have been called to take the Gospel to the world. That mission will require great power. Fortunately, that power has been given to us if we will only use it.



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FEAR OR FAITH?

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

My friend and I were talking on the phone about teenagers and their difficulties in our world. She is a counselor at the school where she works, and she made a statement that has stuck in my mind. She said that she has seen one child after another for the last few days with anxiety. My friend talked about the home environments and the other things in the lives of her students. Some of her students think that social media posts are an example of how everyone lives. Life is just rosy all around to the rest of the world. This seems to be a prevalent notion.

I have students who have fears, but most of them seem to have good homes, and their parents are trying to deal with it. Of course, we try to

help as much as possible. Student fears seem to be much more prevalent in today's society. We don't have to look far to see some of why our children are fearful.

I looked online and checked into some statistics. Healthychildren.org states 43 percent of children have some type of fear or concern. Fear of the dark is one of the most common ones. Many times the children outgrow them, but as they get older the fears can become phobias. According to heathychildren.org, one in three children age 13 to 17 will suffer from some form of anxiety disorder. This is hard to believe. The article stated that this is a large increase from past years. The culprits were supposed to be pressure to succeed

(*standardized testing, end-of-grade testing, etc.*), the scary world we live in, and social media pressures. Other children have unexplained reactions to normal activities of life.

A parent can feel helpless when his or her child is feeling irrational anxiety. It is hard to know how to deal with it. We must take our children's fears seriously and try to help them overcome them. Find ways to slowly help them conquer their fears. We must remind them that the devil is the source of fear. He is not worth listening to. Only God's voice is worth listening to. The word fear is mentioned 326 times in Scripture. When God tells us, "**Be not afraid,**" He always tells us He will be with us. So when

your child is afraid of the dark, turn the light on, inspect the room, be with him, and show him the way. God takes us where we need to be one step at a time.

Did you know that children are not the only ones that have fears? According to loudcloudhealth.com, 33-40 percent of our population are afraid of flying, and 30 percent are afraid of failure. Did you know 77 percent of people are afraid of public speaking? I know the way our world is headed causes fears and anxiety for many of us. According to Time magazine, one of the major reasons people are more afraid today is that we have lost confidence in our government. I would say that is a true statement.

One way we could help our children is to face our own fears and trust God to see us through. **Isaiah 41:10** states, *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”* Our Almighty God says, I am with you, I am your God, I will help you, and I will uphold you. Wow! What a God! He does all of those things for me.

We must show our trust in God in the *“best of times and the worst of times.”* Our children need to hear our concerns for our world and the events around us, but they also need to hear our confidence in God. They need to hear how we trust God, no matter what.

Hopefully, you have times to share with your children about how God protected you and took care of you



in a time of trouble. I know I have several, and they keep coming. We must be the ones that share Christ in a time of crisis. We can teach our children during this time like no other.

Conquering fear is an act of self-control. We must realize that when David faced Goliath, he was afraid. But he knew he was doing what God wanted him to do. He knew God was with him and God would help him. In **I Samuel 17: 45b** David says, *“...I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”* He ran towards Goliath, but not only Goliath. The armies of the Philistines were there, too.

Sometimes, we are afraid, but we have to run toward the enemy and say, *“Father, all I need is You.”* We can beat this thing. We have to have control of our emotions and let Christ sustain us. The missionaries overseas and the people who are

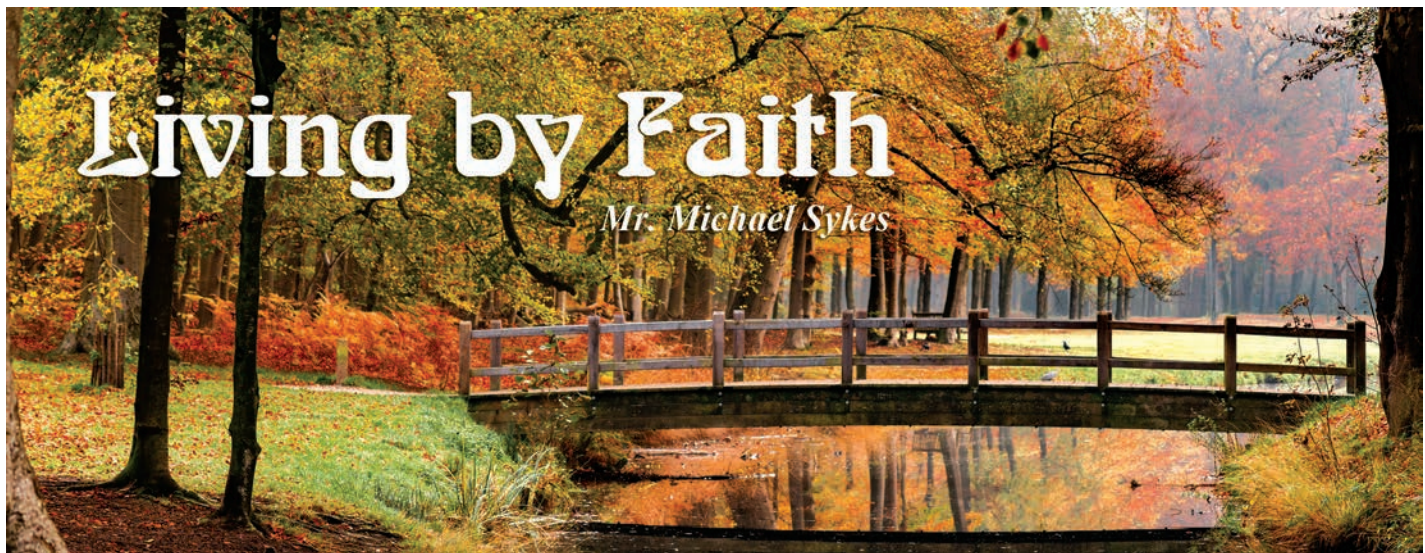
being persecuted are afraid, but they are doing what is right. They have conquered their fears.

Their fears do not control them. They have given them to Jesus. Have you given your fears to Jesus? Remember, He is with you, and He is with your child too.

In closing, we need to help our children by being good examples. Show our children how we conquer our fears. We cannot be consumed by the negative things going on around our world. Keep our anxieties in check. We must utilize relaxing music, put Scripture verses on our walls, keep positive attitudes and spirits, and never discuss problems in front of our children. We should always be in control of our emotions, and most of all, we must have faith in God!



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



Almighty God wants to transform your life! He wants to do this because He loves you and cares about every aspect of your life. And Jesus is proof, isn't he? Jesus was with the Father in all of eternity passed, *"In the beginning..."* as **Genesis 1:1** puts it, and He was willing to leave the Father and all of His glory to come to earth as a baby. He grew up as any child would with the same temptations and opportunities to stray from God as we do, yet He remained holy and sinless. This is what made Him the perfect sacrifice for the sins of man. He truly is the Lamb of God.

Scripture can be so powerful in transforming our lives when we eat of it, digest it, and realize it is alive and sharper than any two-edge sword. A familiar scripture to most of us is **Galatians 2:20**: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

Many sermons have been preached and books have been written as well on this verse. For the purpose of this lesson, let's concentrate on the second half of the verse. *"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* We live in the faith by adherence to, reliance on, and complete trust in the Son of God.

It will be helpful to read **Galatians 2:20** over and over until you can quote it. Paul speaks of the life he lives in the flesh. We have to live in our flesh as long as we are on this earth, but we are not to fulfill the lust of the flesh (**Galatians 5:16-17**). We are to learn to allow our spirit to

roll over our fleshly desires. Our bodies and their desires are always going to give us trouble. Don't focus on those desires. Focus on the Son of God and how you can please Him. Our flesh is to come into submission to God, to His Word, and to His Spirit. Remember in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was about to go to the cross? His flesh didn't want to die, but He prayed, *"...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."* (**Luke 22:42b**) It may be painful at times to deny the worldly desires of the flesh, but it is profitable in the end and pleasing to God.

The apostle Paul uses the word "now" in today's scripture. He says, *"...the life which I now live in..."* There has been a time in all of our lives when we were lost. We stumbled through this world fulfilling our desires and cares. We were not spiritual beings, but we're dead in our sins. Hopefully, all of us have realized we need a Saviour and have repented of our sin and turned to Christ for the forgiveness of our sin. That turned a page in our lives. It is a new chapter. Praise God, it's even a new book! The Bible says, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (**II Corinthians 5:17**)

Before we were born again, we followed the ways of the world, but now we follow Jesus. Before we were washed in the precious blood, we selfishly sought to satisfy ourselves, but now we sacrificially offer ourselves in service to God. The life which we now live in the flesh, we live by faith in the Son of God!

Let's discuss faith. Commentaries say that to live by faith is to adhere to, rely on, and have complete trust in the Son of God. We know that without faith it is impossible to

please God. We also know that faith can be measured. The Bible shows examples of men and women who had great faith and also those who had little faith. Faith is described by our Lord as a mustard seed. In other words, it can grow! The mustard seed starts out the smallest of all seeds and grows into a large shrub with branches so that the birds of the air are able to make nests and dwell in its shade. God wants our faith to constantly grow thus teaching us to rely on our Lord and have complete trust in Him in every area of our life.

We are all already living by faith, but what or who is your faith in? Some have faith in their own ability. They will soon meet their match. Some have faith in their family members, friends, coworkers, or even elected officials. They will soon be disappointed. Some just leave life up to chance or luck, but then some live their life by faith in the son of God! This is a valuable key to the Kingdom of God and will enable you to not only survive this journey in this world, but also to be content while on this side of eternity. If Paul had not been living by faith in the Son of God, how would he have been content being in prison, shipwrecked, flogged, or stoned? How often was he without sleep, without food and water, cold and naked, and enduring tremendous hardships? How was he able to

endure? The same way you and I must endure... by faith in the son of God.

Our God is awesome! All things are possible with Him. He loves you so much that He allowed His only begotten son to be murdered on a cross. Jesus' innocent blood was shed for us so that you and I could be forgiven of our sins. Faith in Jesus is what fulfills man. It's what brings man joy, victory, and success and makes him valuable to the kingdom of God. Faith in Jesus delivers you from temptations and the schemes of our enemy. Faith in Jesus draws you out of the miry bog and sets your feet upon a Rock.

So when the world asks you how you can have joy when everything is falling apart, how you have peace in this day and time, or even how do you escape temptation when it's all around you, you can just reply that the life you now live you live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for you.



Mr. Michael Sykes resides in Mount Olive, NC with his wife, Mollie. They are members of The Mount Olive First P. H. Church and long-time supporters of GoMix.

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And Finally...



My Favorite Teacher...

As an adult, when I look back on the memories of library class, I realize all the small ways Mrs. Wright not only inspired me, but was patient, kind, and inspiring to other students as well. She never got frustrated with someone who had a hard time reading or a disability. Sometimes a true role model isn't the person who overtly shows you how to help, but silently does it anyways without proper recognition. She had passion for running the school library and passion for introducing magical adventures to all readers of all levels. For that, I am thankful.

J. B.

My favorite teacher in school was super funny, expected us to do well in her class, and was a fine mix of tough and empathetic. She didn't like excuses, but she was also understanding when necessary. I was in her psychology and anthropology classes, which I loved. Listening to her lectures prepared me for college unlike any other teacher I've had. She taught just like professors do, but maybe at a high school level. It was tough keeping up at first, but eventually, I got the hang of her ways and I did fairly well in her classes. Her spirit motivated me to get through some very difficult times in my life, and for that, I'm forever grateful.

T. G.

Mrs. B. was a caring and genuine person. She would always take the time to ensure you learned by using a methodology that worked for you! I recall her influence today. One day, we were studying Mexico and got to display collections of items we had or could find. Leather pouches with Azteca symbols, sombreros, piñatas, etc. Mind you, it was second grade! Mrs.

B. would share great stories of cultural differences to ensure that we really understood how important it was. With a big smile, she took the time to know how each of us learned, whether that was tactile, visual, or audible. For that, she will forever be missed.

C. A.

I had a high school teacher by the name of Mr. Cherry. Mr. Cherry truly cared about his students. He saw qualities in us that others did not and he pushed us out of our comfort zones to be the best we could be. He is part of the reason I became a teacher myself. I hope I am carrying on in his footsteps, finding the good in my students and pushing them to be great!

S. C.

“Thankful”

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

Write to us in 150 words or less and let us know what you're thankful for.

The deadline for submission is October 31, 2021.

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

Attn: PathPointe Magazine

Or write to: Pathway Ministries

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A Lot Of Things

Changed!

If we didn't know it before, we sure know it now. Now we know how quickly things can change. Not only have we seen factories and businesses cut-back or close, we've even seen our churches and ministries curtailed by the pandemic. So many things we took for granted quickly slipped from our grasp.

Did you notice that Christian Radio was one of the few ministries that did not have to cut back? Sure, we had to make a few adjustments due to a decrease in funding, but we actually ended up expanding our outreach during COVID. As churches closed, we responded by adding more church programs to our schedule. As Christian concerts were cancelled, we added new music segments, including expanding our oldies library and offering two new channels of on-line listening; GoMix GOLD and Serene.

Building on our history of ever-expanding outreach, we were even blessed to be able to place two new signals on the air in Onslow County. Evolving within our given environment is how we keep refining and renewing the vitality of our mission.

The pandemic also revealed that GoMix is ever in a state of becoming--becoming what the Christian community needs as day-by-day we await the coming of our Lord.



Please Support Our Fall Share-A-Thon!