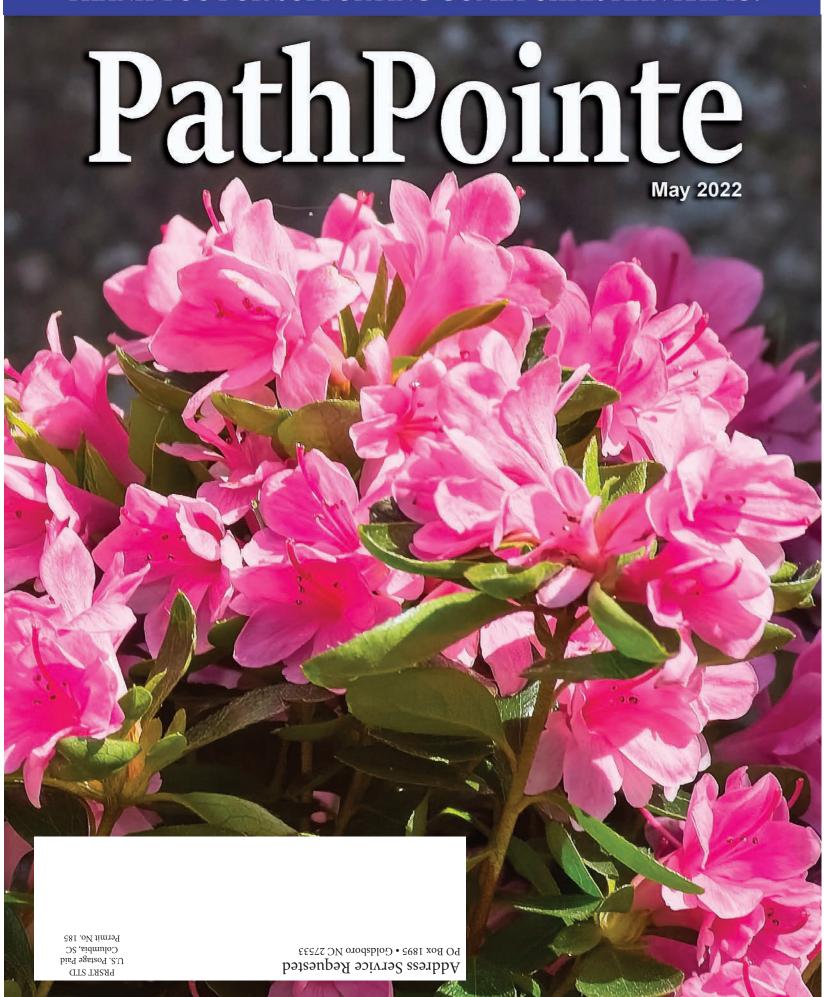
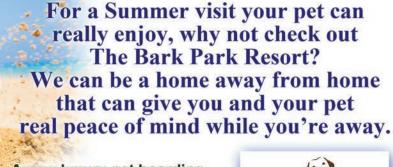
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Lord, Teach Me To CARE

Dr. T. D. Worthington

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Philippians 2:4

Something that amazes me is how many people I come across in certain positions of care, that really don't care! There are school teachers, medical staff, civil servants, even pastors, that make it pretty clear they really don't care about people. We take into account that people in these positions can have a bad day now and then, but I'm talking about those who have shown a pattern of not caring.

Judas was someone who acted like he cared, but he really didn't. Politicians act like they care but it's only to secure votes. Businesses act like they care, but it's only to sell a product. Media outlets act like they care, but it's only to boost ratings. A

person can make a sincere sounding apology, but it may only be to avoid further trouble. I'm not saying this is true across the board for any of these groups, but it does happen; and it happens a lot. Often, people are not as sincere and caring as they would like you to think they are.

I guess we've been guilty of this on occasion. In our sinful nature, we naturally care about ourselves first. Sometimes we're the only ones we do care about, and just because we are saved doesn't mean we won't be tempted to have a lack of concern for the welfare of others. Perhaps it might be prudent to identify the ways we don't care. We also need to identify with the things that perhaps we might care too much about.

Sometimes it's not that we don't care, it's that we care too much about lesser things. Sometimes,

we really do care, but due to a lack of knowledge or training, we just have trouble showing it. I know there are also times when we care, but we're honestly not able to do anything about it. But, what about the times when we can help but don't? And then there are the times when we finally do help, but only because we know we need to, not because we really want to. Helping is better than not helping, but helping because we care is much better. May I share some thoughts?

FIRST: Most of us care about the big stuff. You can hear it in our conversations. We care about the unborn, racial injustice, religious persecution, sexual harassment, child abuse, immorality, authority figures who abuse their power, corrupt politicians or businessmen. Yelp, we care about all that stuff, because it is easy to care about! It

usually requires no effort at all on my behalf. All I have to do is gripe, and I feel good about griping, because it shows how much I care.

SECOND: It's the "little" stuff that we miss caring about. Maybe the first thing you and I need to do is to ask this question "What should I really be caring about right now?"

That question will help you settle a lot of other questions. What is it that God wants you to do today, this very minute? Those responsibilities may be given by your spouse, your employer, your government, or your God. They also may be given by yourself. These are the things that you feel need to be addressed right now.

Now, I know pretty well what my responsibilities are today, but I find that unless I constantly go back and review them I can quickly get side tracked. With all the interruptions added to my unfocused mind, the idea of my responsibilities can get a little fuzzy from time to time. Would that be true of some of you? Do you sometimes get side tracked? It is a good thing for me to step back and say "Now, Lord, remind me once again of what my priorities should be today?" And in that moment of review and prayer, God refreshes in my mind the things that really matter.

THIRD: We need to develop an attitude of caring. It has to start with your heart somehow being changed. How do you do this? The Bible teaches us in Romans 5:5 that, "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." It is the love of Christ makes us do what we do.

Next, we need to develop a caring spirit everywhere we go. I am referring to a constant commitment to care. I try to discipline myself to make sacrificial caring something I do many times each day.

Then, look for specific people to bless. Our contacts with most people are largely superficial. You pass people day by day and say "Hello, Jim. How are you?" And he says, "Fine. How are you?" You say, "Fine." Then, you both go on your way. It didn't mean a thing except that you greeted each other in passing. And so, if you're going to care about people, it means you have to stop and interact with them.

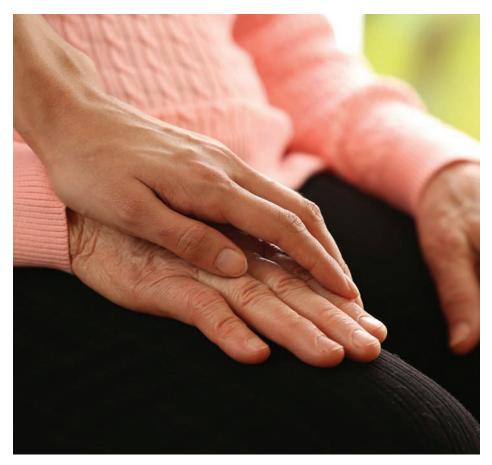
What is there about this person that I need to be concerned about? What is there about this person about which he or she may be burdened or unhappy? And what is there about this person, assuming that there's something over which he or she is burdened or unhappy, what is there that I can do about it?

To care about somebody doesn't necessarily mean to be emotional about them. It does mean to stop and think about them rather than just passing them by like ships that pass in the night.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Stop and think about people. Consider what their needs may be. You'd be surprised what the Lord will do for you as you pray specifically for the needs of others. Often, the Holy Spirit will suggest to you something that He wants you to do as a result of your praying and then do what you can out of your own resources. To care about a person means stop and think, pray, and then do what you can. Now, you can't do everything but you can do something.

Obey that "generous impulse." When you have the impulse to do something generous, why not just do it? God will help you do this if you'll think about people, if





you'll pray about them, and then if you'd be willing to do what you can personally for them. I believe this is what the Bible refers to as "a succourer," (Romans 16:2) an effective helper of people in their need. You don't know what God has for you, but you have to start somewhere by caring.

As we truly learn to care, can you imagine how that might revolutionize church our fellowship? When you learn to walk into the church with three or four people in mind to say, "I just want to touch that person this evening and refresh them, encourage them, support them, and bless them." I know this can be challenging for an introvert, but to love people, you have to interact with them. Have a small conversation here or there. This is the true beauty of our fellowship when we can express it through mutual care for each other.

When we are unified in mission and in our care and concern for each other, we will be better positioned to show love and care for others outside the church. There are so many little ways to show your care. These caring actions give legitimacy to our witness.

A FINAL WARNING: If you care, you will get hurt. Paul says in II Corinthians 12:15: "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."

Paul says I, for my part, will spend, all I have to help you. And yet, with all that, there was the painful knowledge they might not return his love and care. I learned a long time ago that if I trust people, I will get betrayed. If I love people, they will not always love me back. If I support someone, they may stab me in the back. And, if I care for

people, that does not mean they will care for me. However, the other option is to go through life never trusting, never loving, never caring—and I refuse to do that! I would rather care and be hurt than to go through life as an uncaring soul.

Sometimes that happens even in our own families. Parents take care of the kids and when the teenage years kick in, they don't acknowledge or appreciate all that you've sacrificed for them. Hopefully, as they get older and more mature, they will realize how much their parents really did for them and how they didn't show much gratitude for it. We can also be that way toward God. He has done a lot for us; His care is beyond measure. Sometimes we too are like ungrateful teenagers.

In closing, when we are truly unified as a church, we will care for one another in tangible ways. We will render our care physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. So, what's holding us back? To be a church means to be a community of believers that carry one another's burdens. Imagine what the Church would look like if each of its members would share the weight of the load.

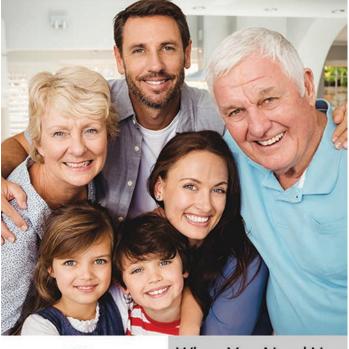
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Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.









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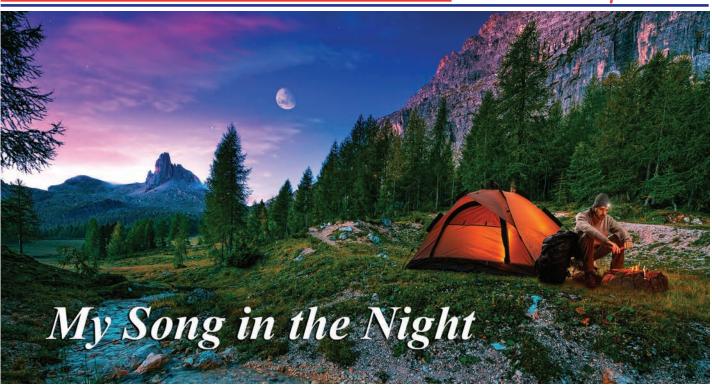
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"I call to remembrance my song in the night:"

Psalms 77:6a

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During the summer months, the nights might not be quite as long, but they can still be pretty dark hours for some of our listeners.

There can also be times in the life of a believer when we may feel we are about to sink under a great distress or trouble. It often seems as though these trying moments are most pronounced during the darkest of night. The blessing is, even during such heavy moments, our Lord provides a song in the night.

"... and in the night His song shall be with me..."
Psalms 42:8b

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generosity of our **Faith Partners** and **Business Underwriters** that we are able to be your constant companion twenty-four hours a day.

"Ye shall have a song, as in the night... and the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard..." Isaiah 30:29-30

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Life In Focus

As a radio listener, I am sure there have been times when our signal has not been clear. Perhaps we were having technical difficulties, or there were weather issues, or perhaps you were just too far away from our transmitter. Especially if there was a program you wanted to hear, you desperately wanted to get our signal into focus.

One of the things that strikes us about Jesus is His absolute clarity. Jesus was always in clear focus regarding who He is and the task before Him. He was absolutely clear in the choices He made. And He is absolutely clear that nothing will stand in His way. Perhaps, in His humanity, He gained that clarity as He struggled in the wilderness; I don't know. But, one thing is for sure, His life was in focus.

What if we lived with that kind of clarity? What if we brought that kind of clarity to our relationships, conflicts, and decisions? What if we engaged the world with that kind of clear focus? I'm not talking about the kind of focus that gives rise to arrogance, single-mindedness, an unwillingness to listen to others, or the false self-assurance that we are always right. I'm talking about the kind of clarity that gives rise to integrity, wholeheartedness, and a vision of life that is connected to something larger than and beyond ourselves.

That's the kind of focus we all need in our lives. I know that may be impossible all the time, but what do you imagine our lives and world would be like if we lived with that kind of focus...even most of the time? I think it would change our relationships, how we treat each other and ourselves, the way we pray, our priorities, what we do, the decisions we make, and what really matters to us. I think it would enlarge our world, deepen our lives, and open our eyes, ears, and hearts to each other in new ways. It may not eliminate our fears, but I think it would show us that some things are more important to us than what we fear.

Obviously, our Lord has given us many tools to help us keep our lives in focus, but I believe that one of those tools is **Christian Radio**. With a continual stream of godly music and programs, we are able to help stabilize your life with the Gospel message. As we welcome our *newest* Faith Partners to our fellowship, we realize that over the years hundreds of dedicated partners and **Business Underwriters** have helped us to develop and continue this ministry. I hope you will encourage your friends to utilize this valuable asset. It just may help them to live their life in focus.

T. D. Worthington



We experience lots of changes this time of year. The grass is greener, the flowers are blooming, and many baby birds have flown out of the nest. Many couples are planning their weddings and contemplating a new life together. Graduates are looking to the future, and their lives are changing in a big way.

Graduates of any kind are entering a new phase of life. Kindergarten graduation is the first official graduation in children's lives. They are putting their big boy pants on and going to school. More will be expected of them now, because they will be in first grade.

High School graduation is probably one of the most intimidating for most young people. For the last thirteen years, their days have been planned. Monday through Friday they get up and get dressed then head off to school. After school hours are different according to the individual, but seven hours of the day are the same for everyone. They are a routine they are used to. Many can't wait to graduate... until after they do.

Graduation is the next step in life. The young person has to decide, "Where do I go from here?" Some young people choose to work and save some money for school or the future. Some learn a trade, either by apprenticeship or taking a course at a trade school or community college. Others enroll in the college world and know what they want to do, while many are still undecided and take introductory courses suitable for all degrees.

I know that many people contemplate how to make the most money without hating their job. Others want to do something exciting. While others just want to be on their own and not have any rules. I always laugh on the inside

when I hear that one. As an adult, I have more rules than I ever had as a teenager. Most of the time, graduates are unsure of what they want to do, but they may have a general idea of where their interests lie.

As a Christian, a young person needs to seek God for his direction. God is not going to lead them down the wrong path. Why don't young people ask God what He wants them to do? Is it perhaps because they have never seen the adults in their lives seek God's will in their decisions? Is it because they have heard their parents discuss money and problems, but they don't ever hear them say, "We need to prav about it and see what God wants us to do?" I hope they hear those words. It is not always a parent's fault when their children falter, but we must ask ourselves this question. Are we a good example for our children? Do we rest in

God's promises when things go wrong? Do we trust Him when we are unsure of ourselves, or do we panic and try to figure things out on our own?

Your graduates need you right now more than ever. They are walking into a new world, and they want you to think they have it all together. But I promise, they are nervous and scared. Be sure you have given them the tools to navigate the road ahead of them.

One day they will graduate into a marriage that will require their dependence on God more than anything they have ever done. When things aren't going well, will they know how to handle the problems? Have you laid the groundwork for them? Are the tools in their hands?

Next, you receive the gift of grandchildren. This is another graduation for you and your children. I know it was for me. It is a job knowing when to keep my mouth shut and not interfering, yet showing concern when it is appropriate. Being a grandparent is a joy, but it hurts just as much when grandchildren get hurt or falter as when it was your own children. We thought life would get easier when all of our children graduated into adulthood and had their own families, but it didn't. tougher because there are so many more children to love and ways to be hurt. That being said, I wouldn't trade it for the world.

If graduation signifies a change in one's life, getting old meets the requirement. Life just gets a little harder. You don't notice it as much



on the inside, but you sure notice it on the outside. My body grows weary faster, and my steps do get a little slower. As we get older and suffer hurt knees or sore muscles, it takes a little longer to heal. I must admit, my mind isn't as sharp as it used to be, but I still give the younger generation a challenge or two.

As I get older, I have seen more of the final graduations. Both of my parents and my husband's parents are with Jesus now. Many of our friends have gone to be with the Lord. Death is the most important graduation of all. We must all be ready for it. If we are ready, it is the happiest day of our lives. We get to meet Jesus and see our Savior. We don't have any aches and pains, and our lives have completed their purpose. Our loved ones will be sad, but we will see them again if they know the Savior. I am glad I am prepared for that day.

But for those that are not prepared for their final graduation, it is the saddest day of their lives. They will not go to be with the Savior, but they are doomed for an eternity in hell. For the rest of eternity, they will be suffering and remembering the opportunities they had to meet the Savior. What a sad day!

It is so important to be ready for our final graduation. Are you ready? If you are, how about those that you love? Will their deaths be happy days or a sad ones? What about the world? What are we doing to bring them to Jesus?

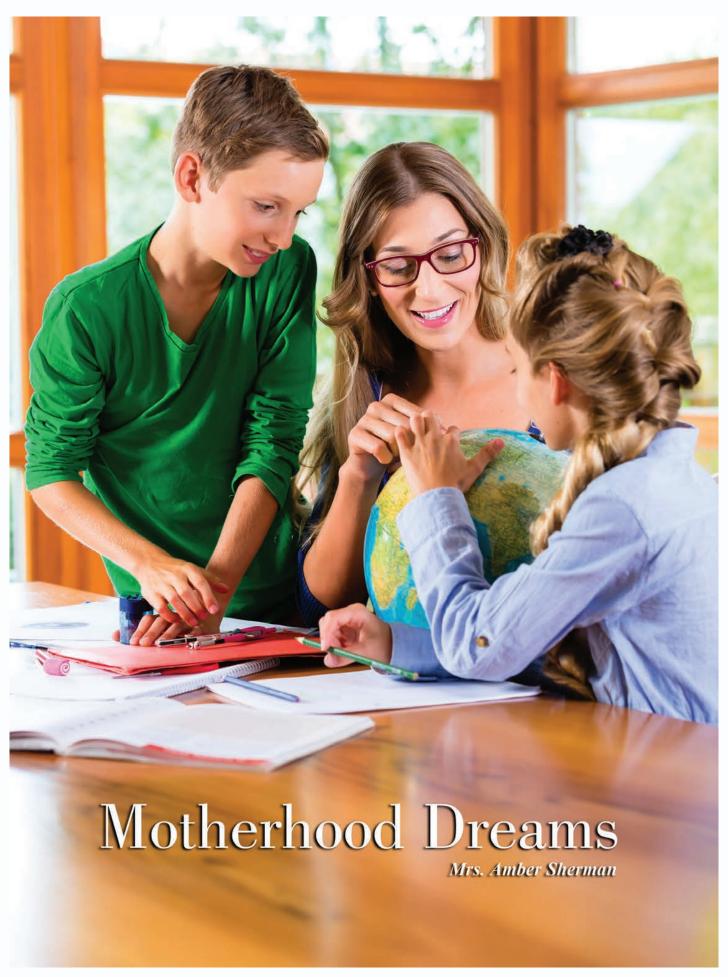
We must bring them all to Jesus, so no graduation will be a sad one!

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15.



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



I have had so many hopes and dreams of being your mother. I wanted to be the best mother possible for you. I wanted to help you achieve greatness. I wanted to raise the best Christian kids there could be. Oh, how I wanted to be the best mother out there!

But it would seem I have failed you. I sometimes grow impatient with you, even losing my temper. Instead of a wonderful mother, I fear that I am going to hinder you instead, scarring you from greatness. Rather than raising the strongest Christian kids out there, I find we struggle to have a Bible story and prayer before bed. Likewise, I find that my high standards have discouraged you from efforts of greatness instead of urging you on to higher heights.

I seem to have little time for you, because there is so, so much to do!

This grieves my heart, for you are more important to me than all the things in the world that there are to do. How can I show you that?

I cry at night sometimes over how I regret treating you at some point that day. I find myself wondering if the time will come that you will cease to forgive me for my failures in being your mother. After all, you have seen me fail over and over again.

Perhaps I have done something right. Maybe some of my good traits can overshadow my faults. Do our hugs, cuddles, and talks show you just how much you mean to me? Can I somehow show you that if ever you need me, I'm just a "hey mom..." away?

Have I succeeded in showing you how important God is in our lives? Have I shown you at all the power of change He can affect in a person's life? Do you see a difference in me because of God?

Maybe I have done something right, for I am teaching you to see others and love others. In this self-focused world, this is so important. I am trying to teach you that true greatness comes from being a servant. Serving others, loving others, caring for others — being God's hands and feet to others. There are so many times you bring smiles and joy to others. You do this at church and in the grocery store, at home and in the neighborhood, or even simply driving

down the road as you wave at strangers and offer a smile through the windows.

Maybe my dreams are coming true after all. No, I'll never be the perfect mother, because there is not one. No, I'll never have the perfect kids, because there are none. I can, however, be the best mother I can be, ever striving to let my Lord mold me and change me more into His image. Can you love me and forgive me as I travel that journey? Can you see God work in real time through me, not just hearing of others' stories, but actually seeing God work in your mother with your own eyes?

I see Him working in you. He has carved you into the palms of His hands. He sees you ever before Him (Isaiah 49:16). He holds me accountable for how I am raising His children and preparing you for service to Him.

My motherhood dreams have not changed very much, but perhaps they are tinted with more reality than they used to be. Most of all, my motherhood dreams have your faces on them, with a hope and yearning that above all, God will be glorified and lifted high through you. Every mother has hopes and dreams for her children. Mine is that you would serve God with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength.

I love you, my four sweet ones. Be great, my loves. Be a servant of the most High. As God's eyes search throughout the whole earth, and He asks, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Be among the few that tell Him, "Here am I, Lord. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8). I can have no better dreams for you than for you to answer His call. I pray that in some way I am helping prepare you for answering it.



Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of four and serves as a teacher at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro, N.C.

And Finally...



Siblings...

My younger brother and I once thought it would be fun to have a rock fight. It was fun and we were laughing, right up until one of those rocks hit my face and chipped one of my front teeth! I now have a fake tooth to keep that memory alive.

B. K.

My brother is three years older than me and I have always tried to keep up with him, especially when we were little. One day we were sledding and I hit a tree. I think I was six and he was nine. I don't remember much from that incident, but I do remember him telling me, "Swallow your blood! You need your blood!" Thankfully, he's in finance now and not medicine.

D. L.

My sister and I are very close in age and grew up being best friends. We always thought it was us against my brother, who was much older. I think we cramped his style by being his annoying little sisters. I don't even remember why, but I would draw random stick figures of each of us one by one on scrap pieces of paper—two little girl stick figures and a bigger boy one. Years later, I was in my brother's room looking for something and I noticed his cork board had one of my stick figure drawings of us. I had forgotten I'd even drawn them until that moment. It was then that I realized he actually cherished us as siblings.

L.B.

On a fishing trip, my father told my five-year-old brother that it was time he learned how to bait his own hook. He then left him alone to figure it out. When he returned a few minutes later, my dad found my brother holding a fishing hook in one hand and a squirming worm in the other. "What are you doing?" Dad asked. My brother, nodding toward the worm, quietly answered, "I'm waiting for him to open his mouth."

D.K.

It was 1949, and we'd just had our first telephone installed in our home. Overcome with excitement, my 13-year-old brother, Udene, made his first call to a friend. The phone rang. His friend picked up and Udene excitedly blurted, "This is me, is that you?" N. D.

"Answered Prayers"

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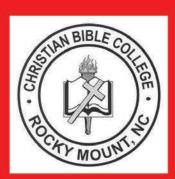
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