

REMEMBERING OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE!

PathPointe

July 2023



Address Service Requested
PO Box 1895 • Goldsboro NC 27533

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbia, SC
Permit No. 185



Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:30
 Saturday 8:30 - 3:00
 (919) 734-1045
 2530 Highway 70 West
 Goldsboro, NC 27530
 www.sassergolfcarsinc.com



Travis Worthington

Personalized
 Home Buying And Selling
 For Each Client!



919-429-2807

A Proud Member of *The Brink Team!*

trustingtravis@gmail.com

1402 E. Ash St., Goldsboro, NC

www.HomesInGoldsboro.net

Grant's Garage

601 East Washington St.
 LaGrange, NC 28551
 252-566-3323



Rollback & Wrecker Service,
 Tires, Tune-ups & More!



Windows, Doors, Parts, Skirting, A/C & Heating, and More!

F O R B E S

MOBILE HOME SUPPLY, INC.

*If we don't have what you
 need, we'll order it!*

**1716 Highway 11-55
 Kinston, NC 28504**

**252-527-2166
 Mon-Fri 7-5, Sat 8-12**

Laminates • Wood • Area Rugs • Vinyl • Ceramic • LVP • LVT
"Check out our stocked warehouse for extra specials."

Southland

FLOORING & DESIGN

40 Years Experience - Family Owned & Operated

*Upload A Picture Of Your Space And See Our Products In Your Room At
 www.southlandflooringdesign.com*

John 3:16
 201 E. New Bern Rd.
 Hwy 70 E.
 Kinston, NC 28504



*"Find us on Facebook
 @ floorstore 252"*

Kendall & Rhoda Rikard
 (252) 523-9010
 Fax (252) 523-1678
 southlandflooring@hotmail.com



PIZZA VILLA

Since 1973

*Tuesday Night Special
 All You Can Eat Spaghetti*

\$5.25

"Dine In Only"

*Open: Tuesday thru Saturday
 11AM-9PM*

Closed Sunday & Monday

1400 West Vernon Avenue, Kinston, NC (252) 527-2260



Carpet Design Center, Inc.

3205 S Memorial Dr. • Greenville, NC 27834

Jamie Harris, Sales Manager
 Office: 252-439-0840
 Fax: 252-439-0843
 jm.harris.1@hotmail.com

Cell: 252-902-8944

www.carpetdesigncenteronline.com



contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 24, Issue 7

July 2023

- Page 2 **A House Divided**
Dr. T. D. Worthington
- Page 6 **Radio Bits**
Your Christian Superstations!
- Page 8 **Wake Up America!**
Mrs. Sherry Worthington
- Page 10 **Wounds From A Friend**
Mrs. Amber Sherman
- Page 12 **After Glow**
Mrs. Connie Peters

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

PathPointe Magazine

© 2023 Pathway Ministries Group. All Rights Reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without permission. Published monthly by Pathway Ministries Group, a nonprofit organization recognized for tax-deductible giving by the Federal government. *Printed in the USA.* All Scripture references are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: Pathway Ministries Group, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895.

PathPointe Magazine is written for the Faith Partners, Business Underwriters, and friends of Pathway Ministries Group.

Subscriptions: PathPointe is provided free of charge to interested parties within the USA, as our Lord provides. All other subscriptions are \$30.00 per year.

Address Changes: Please either send us a photocopy of your mailing label with your partner number or use the provided insert to carefully print your name, new address, and partner number and send it to: Pathway Ministries Group, Subscription Services, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895. Please allow 6-8 weeks for address change information to be activated.

Back Issues: A limited quantity of back issues are available. If needed by churches, businesses, or other groups, bulk quantity information will be available upon request.

Reprints: Call 252-747-8887 for reprint information and reproduction rights for select articles.

Letters And Press Releases: There are four ways to send us material. 1. Fax to 866-537-8189. 2. By courier to 1302 South George Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530. 3. Through the mail. 4. Through our web site at GoMixRadio.org. These are in order of preference. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned.

Advertising Policy: Advertising published in PathPointe Magazine is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly available as indicated herein. PathPointe Magazine does not necessarily endorse the products, services, views, claims, and opinions of its advertisers or contributors. Submitted copy that is deceptive or misleading will never be knowingly accepted. PathPointe Magazine reserves the right to reject any copy, for any reason.



“And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
Mark 3:25

Although it has been called such, America has never been an actual “melting pot.” Most people groups have always maintained their unique culture and identity. However, America is more divided today than she has ever been. Quite simply, the United States is a house divided and partisan disagreements run deeper than ever measured. We must reach back to the War Between the States to find periods of US history where the country has been more divided; and even then, we were divided into fewer groups. We were less fragmented than today.

This division is easier for all to see today than it was then. During the War Between the States, unless enemy troops were marching through your town or a loved one was in battle, many Americans might go weeks at a time and not be

reminded of the war. Not so today. The media keeps us constantly aware of the divide. Plus, social platforms only increase the problem.

Years ago, it was only very limited editorials in the newspaper we had to contend with. Today, people from a multitude of persuasions are constantly sharing their political and societal views on apps like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and more. The problem is that these platforms have a worldwide audience and with virtually no accountability. Comments, often totally unfounded, still spark fear, anger, and resentment. Many times, those speaking have no idea of what they are talking about. But, the rambling chatter still takes a toll. A recent poll suggests that sixty per cent of Americans say our nation’s “best days are in the past”.

Criminal investigators always ask themselves a crucial question when starting on a new case: Who stands to benefit the most from the crime?

So, I ask you this same question: who stands to gain the most from sowing division and hatred in America? The obvious answer is; those in charge, the ruling class... *the government.*

The Constitution, although often ignored, is still the law of the land. Through the Constitution we learn that the citizen is the master over the government. “We the people” are the ones who hold the power, not a group of elite bureaucrats. However, government has learned that if they can keep the people fragmented, foolish, and frightened, the power of the people will be diluted. Government knows that division causes conflict. Surely this was proven in China/Taiwan, East and West Germany, North and South Korea, and in North and South Vietnam. Government likes to divide even though the long-term results are seldom favorable.

Of course, government also likes problems, because problems give

government an excuse to grow. Sometimes going so far as to create problems to solve, or implementing programs to address problems that don't even exist.

First, let's consider how government likes to create problems so it can grow its power and control.

Explaining this is as simple as a study of supply and demand. For example, racism is a valuable tool for dividing people. Trouble is, most clear-thinking people, regardless of race or religion, are not racist. For most rational people, racism doesn't make any sense, so it doesn't just happen. It must be created. So, when government determines that we are not divided enough because there is a shortage of racism, they create more. They accomplish this by creating more racism, through short-sighted programs that give preference to a particular race.

Now, I am not saying that racism has never existed, nor am I stating that it does not exist today, I am just saying that it is not a monumental problem for most Americans anymore. Yet, even at its climax, government at the local, regional, state and federal level always played a role in creating and maintaining racial inequality. A wide range of laws and policies were passed, including everything from who could vote, who could be a citizen, who could own property, where one could live, and various segregation laws, were all government programs to keep us divided. Government sponsored racism is still being implemented against African-Americans, but it is also being waged against Hispanics, Christians, political conservatives, and straight white men.

Second, Government also likes to exploit hate.

Hate is also a great tool to divide us. Since government does not think there is enough hate, they are seeking to create more. Selected prosecution has caused hate. When one group can riot and be ignored while another group is vigorously prosecuted, that causes hatred to grow. Things such as gun control, abortion, election legitimacy, climate change, vaccines, and masks can turn one group against another. Cultural, economic, and political issues generate outrage and hostility. We are constantly being told that the other side does not play fair. Now, let's also throw in another ingredient—*enmity*. It is clear that partisan Americans dislike each other a great deal. The result is politics of fear and rage, where the party in power uses the resources of the government to oppress the other side.

Third, Government also likes Americans to be in debt.

At any time, government feels there is not enough debt in America, they seek to create more. Taxes have been a method in which a government can modify personal behavior. If

the government wants people to stop doing something, it creates a "sin" tax to make it more costly. When a government offers tax incentives for acquiring debt, they are basically stating they want you to purchase things with debt. The government then rewards you when you comply. The economy hums along best when people buy and buy and buy. Whether or not they need or can afford what they're buying is beside the point. The government and all the business interests don't seem to care.

Fourth, Government desires for citizens to be ignorant.

Governments don't want a population capable of critical thinking, they want obedient workers, people just smart enough to pay taxes and just dumb enough to passively accept what their leaders tell them. I am not saying we are stupid, just ignorant. "Stupid" means "unable to learn." Most American people, are very capable of learning regardless of their social, economic, or educational backgrounds. "Ignorant" means "lacking knowledge." It is altogether different from "stupid", and that's what the government





wants. They desire American voters to be ignorant of the intricacies of many issues in public policy. Take socialism for example. Socialism is a system of government that has been a disaster everywhere it has ever been attempted. Yet: 70 percent of millennials say they will vote for socialist candidates, and an astounding 36 percent of millennials say they approve of communism. These people are dumb as rocks. We are talking about the mental capacity of a turnip; pathetic ignorance of the highest level. Where did they obtain this lack of knowledge? The amazing answer is: *in school*.

I mentioned racism earlier. Crying racism seems to be the very easiest way to take advantage of the ignorance of Americans. Never mind that America is one of the least racist countries on Earth. Never mind that we recently elected and re-elected a black president in a country that is made up of a population that is 14 percent black. Our ignorance shows in liberal

cities that defunded their police departments and — *surprise, surprise* — murders and other crimes have skyrocketed. Pretty sure a kindergarten student could have predicted that outcome.

No, Americans aren't actually stupid, but they are highly ignorant. Government has systematically brainwashed millions of kids from kindergarten to college into believing that America has been a bad, racist country from our founding. They were taught that we are bad because we have too many freedoms and that socialism is the only viable system of government. They have been taught that the only truth can come from far-left media outlets and that only a bigger and more powerful government, void of outdated Constitutional restraints, can cure the ills of our corrupt society.

Fifth, Government has also learned that fear is a good way to divide people while increasing their own power. So, if there

is not enough fear, government seeks to create more. John Adams observed, *“Fear is the foundation of most governments; but it is so sordid and brutal a passion, and renders men in whose breasts it predominates so stupid and miserable, that Americans will not be likely to approve of any political institution which is founded on it.”* The Founding Fathers hoped the American people would possess the virtues and strength to perpetuate liberty. Unfortunately, politicians over the past century have used trick after trick to send Americans scurrying to politicians to protect them.

In the same way that some battered wives cling to their abusive husbands, the more fiascos the government creates, the more some voters cling to rulers. In the days after the 9/11 attacks, polls showed a doubling in the number of people who trusted government to *“do the right thing.”* The media fanned this blind faith. The Bush administration exploited this trust to unleash itself at home and abroad, and the nation is still paying the costs of its post-9/11 infatuation with government protection.

Bogus fears can produce real servitude. The Founding Fathers expected the American people to bravely stand up for their rights if their rulers trampled the law. Citizens cannot cower on cue without forfeiting any possibility of keeping government on a leash. If America is to have a rebirth of liberty, it must begin with a rebirth of courage.

Sixth, Government has learned to protect and isolate itself from “We the People.” Will anyone

ever really be held accountable for destroying our republic? No, not unless the voters wise up. Political tribalism protects America's leaders from being held accountable for everything from failed policies to war crimes. Furthermore, the government has led in the moral decline of its citizens to the point that most don't acknowledge that we are accountable to God. So, if leaders are not accountable to God, or to the people, who remains to be accountable to? Answer, no one! Mission accomplished!

Government healthcare, welfare, and education, are all failed programs. But Washington is in love with itself, so once you gain political power, it means never having to say you're sorry. It's not that ordinary Americans never get what they want from the political

system. It's just that they only get what they want if the elites in control want the same thing.

No, government cannot be trusted. The irony is that most Americans know this, but they still want to give it more power. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, only 24 percent of Americans trust the federal government, down from over 70 percent during the late 1950s. So, why do we keep voting for guys we can't trust? When will we learn that man lives by production, government lives by confiscation and redistribution?

America may be divided, but yet in many ways we are still a unified country, bonded together by more than we might think. On the surface it may sound like I despise my country. I do not! I

love my country, I just don't care much for the government because the government seems to despise our country. Recent government actions are not consistent with a free republic. My hope is that once again all Americans will come together under the Constitution, under one flag and pledge allegiance, under one God, to one country.

You see, Jesus said: ***"... if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."*** Those words were true when He said them, and they are still true today.



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

The Heritage Elite

ESTATE

"A PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY"

WWW.HERRITAGEELITE.COM





- Elite "Chore Free" Retirement • 24 Hour Staff •
- 3 Home Cooked Meals Daily • Month-to-Month Commitment • 1 or 2 Bedroom Suites • Independent Living at its Finest • Life Enrichment Activities •
- Housekeeping and Laundry Service •

(252) 527-9131

910 North Heritage St., Kinston, North Carolina 28501



Radio**bits**

88.7, 90.1, 90.5, 90.9, 91.1, & 91.3 92.9

July, 2023
www.gomixradio.org
Your Christian SuperStations!



Let's Conspire

Think about a moment when you held another person so close that you could hear the sound of life through their breathing. Maybe it was a spouse, parent, child, or grandchild. You could feel their breath brush across your cheek, and they could feel yours. You were close. The two of you shared and breathed from the same air. Breathing in. Breathing out. There was only one breath, one life, and one love. Whether you knew it or not, you were conspiring.

The Christmas classic "Winter Wonderland" says; "Later on we'll conspire, as we dream by the fire."



The word "conspire" literally means "breathing with" or "to breathe together." For most of us, the word "conspiracy" brings up ideas of wrongdoing, secrets, and planning to do something illegal or harmful to someone else. That is a reality in our world today.

Although "conspire" is always used in the negative sense in the Bible, Jesus does instruct us to be in unity, to breathe together; to conspire as one. Scripture tells us, "*how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" (Psalm 133:1)

We are called by the Bible to be of one mind (I Peter 3:8), be of the same mind and judgment with other believers (I Corinthians 1:10), and to always maintain unity in the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

Far too often, the air we breathe is polluted with sorrow, death, addiction, fear, anger, revenge, sin, and brokenness. We live as people in need of fresh air, always getting a whiff of foul odors. At **GoMix Christian Radio**, it is our desire to be "*Your Clean Air Stations.*" It is our desire to display the purity of God's truth, while pointing out the noxious odor of error.

Thank you for your prayerful support as we conspire together to glorify and honor our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Additional Information:

GoMix Radio

PO Box 1895

Goldsboro, NC 27533

call 252-747-8887 or

fax 866-537-8189

www.gomixradio.org

**When Writing, Please Enclose
Your Mailing Address And Partner
Number.**



Freedom's Price

Of the 56 men that signed the Declaration of Independence, 5 were captured and tortured by the British as traitors before their deaths, 12 lost their homes to invasions and burnings, several had family members imprisoned, and some died penniless after surrendering their fortunes to the cause of freedom.

These brave men and the families that stood behind them with support, are the reason we are here today in what we still believe to be the greatest and most blessed nation in the world. Although things are growing more corrupt day by day, we are still free and enjoying the benefits of God's blessings on our nation's Godly beginnings. Beginnings that came at a great price for our founding fathers and their families. We remember and salute them this July 4th and we thank the Lord for His continued blessings upon us.

As Christians, we also remember the price paid for our freedom by Jesus Christ. By the shedding of His sinless blood, we have been given the gift of grace in exchange for our sins. Have a safe and happy Independence Day as we remember freedom's price.

PREMIER BUILDERS
ROOFING SPECIALISTS

- Residential/Commercial
- New Roofs/Flat Roofs
- Metal Roofs/Shingles
- Warranty On All Labor

- Insurance Claims
- Certified Hydro-Stop Application
- Drywall Replacement/Repair
- 100% Financing

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

910-533-3479

MasterCard VISA

www.pbroofingspecialist.com

DRUG CARE PHARMACY
"Giving You The Knowledge To Stay Healthy"

252-445-3414

132 Whitfield Street
Enfield, NC 27823

Personal Consultation With Each
Customer Prescription

Delivery Services Available

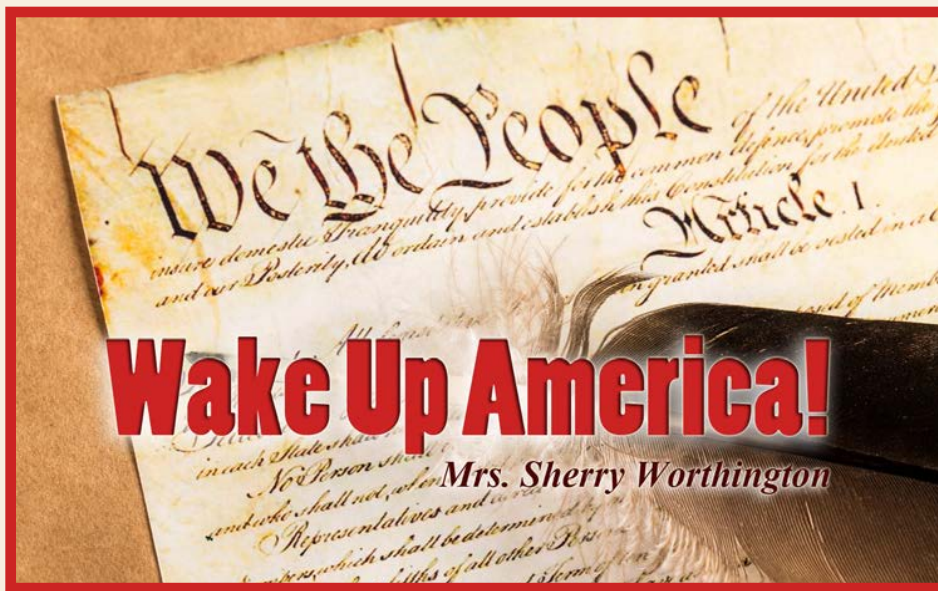
Hair & Nail Trendy
SALON

HAIRCUTS • COLOR • HI-LITES • PERMS • WAXING
PEDICURES • MANICURES • GEL NAILS

919-581-6458
919-221-3145
919-922-1734

1017 N Berkeley Blvd.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
In The Delmus Hardware
Shopping Center!

Linda 919.221.3145
Sandra 919.922.1734



One afternoon my husband and I were walking in the park. We were enjoying the shade of a beautiful oak tree when we saw something that disturbed us. There was an elderly gentleman in strange clothes weeping on the park bench. We weren't sure whether to bother him or not, but we chose to check on him. We asked him if everything was alright.

He kept saying, "It can't be. It just can't be." He seemed very hot, so we gave him a drink and sat beside him.

"Sir, can we be of service? You seem distressed. Can we get someone for you?"

The gentleman looked at us tearfully and said, "You don't understand. There is no one to get. I am in great distress over this land."

My husband, Thurman, looked thoughtfully at him and said, "Sir, I don't believe we have met. Do you mind telling us your name?"

"Certainly, I am Alexis de Tocqueville."

Thurman looked at me concerned. I did not know why because the name was not familiar to me. I later

learned that Alexis de Tocqueville was a French historian and political thinker who died in 1859. Either this gentleman was a descendant or he was out of his mind. We engaged him in conversation and learned he really was the Alexis de Tocqueville who died over one hundred and fifty years ago. He had come to America for a visit. He had made a request to travel ahead in time so he could see what this grand country of America would be in the future. Mr. Tocqueville had traveled previously to America in the 1830s to find out why America was so successful. Why was she such a great nation? Finally, he felt he had discovered the answer. This is a summary quote from one of his books:

"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors...; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be

good, America will cease to be great. The safeguard of morality is religion, and morality is the best security of law as well as the surest pledge of freedom. The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other."

Mr. Tocqueville had made the observation in the 1830s that Americans lived their faith. When they heard God's Word on Sundays, they brought it into the fields, businesses, and schools on Mondays. America was a Christian nation. We decided to ask him why he had been saying, "It can't be."

He replied, "I have seven days to tour this great land before my time runs out. It is much larger than it was when I came in 1830. It has more people, and it obviously has many inventions that I have never seen. After traveling about America, my heart is very burdened. It is no longer the great country it once was.

The countryside is filled with litter. It is hard to believe why anyone would throw trash on the ground and not feel responsible to keep America clean. Every item I find, from a toy to a piece of clothing, is made in another country. But worse than that, I have learned that the Bible has been taken out of the public schools. The Ten Commandments cannot be posted on the walls. The Constitution has been compromised by men and women who obviously have not read it. I have learned that America slaughters babies in the womb by the thousands. I began to weep and thought surely this cannot be. I must be mistaken. The people of the America I visited before would not have allowed this to happen.

I decided I must visit as many churches as possible. I could not find many open. Churches were unlocked when I visited before for people to pray and seek guidance. I wanted to talk to some pastors and see if they could tell me what has happened. How could the citizens of America allow this immorality to invade its borders?

I found something called the Internet. It had lots of sermons on something called YouTube. I watched so many messages. A few were very good, and I could see some ministers were trying very hard to spread God's Word. However, many messages were just feel-good sermons from speakers trying to get your money. But I knew I had to visit a real church to get some answers. I was able to visit a few this week. I learned the biggest difference in the churches today and when I came in the 1830s. There is no passion any more. No one seems to take God seriously. I tried to talk to several of the church members. They were business owners, teachers, factory workers, and others from all walks of life. When I visited their workplaces, I could not see God there.

I am sure some Christians take their faith seriously, but I could not find any. I have no time left. I will be leaving in a matter of minutes. Can you give me any hope?"

Our visitor from another time made a lot of sense. He was obviously upset about the condition of America. Thurman answered the gentleman, "Sir, I do believe there is hope for America, but all Christians will have to pull together. We will have to start taking our faith to work with us and spread the Gospel to all people. We will have to cry out against atrocities like abortion. The men in the pulpits must not compromise God's Word. This country was built on the foundation of God's Word, and we can bring it back. Furthermore, we still have our Constitution in place, ignored though it is. Our leaders still have the framework to rebuild our great nation and restore the principles of our free republic."

The gentleman looked up and smiled at us. He said, "Thank you for the encouragement. I only hope that you are right. I would like nothing better than to see America great once more. I must leave now. Be blessed!"

The gentleman disappeared before our eyes. My husband and I looked at each other in disbelief. What just happened here?

Well...no...we didn't meet Mr. Tocqueville, but we had a great history lesson as well as a challenge. What

do you think? Can we bring America back to her original splendor? Is she too far gone? Our ancestors fought hard for the future of their children and grandchildren. They endured sacrifices for the freedoms of America. Are we willing to do the same?

Christians need to wake up and stand for Christian values. We must be willing to sacrifice our comforts to make a difference. We have lost so many freedoms on the couch of comfort. We don't want to make a rift. The beer drinkers of America took a stand against Bud Lite, and it cost the company billions of dollars. Why are they more willing to stand than the Christians? If we would stand with a united front against the issues in our country, whether they are immoral or anti-freedom, we could make a difference. There are some lone rangers standing, but we must join their fight.

May we be willing to stand, so America won't fall! God bless you all! God Bless America!



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

Donald A. Ribeiro, MD David Baker, MD
 Sarah Davis, FNP-C
 Meredith Harper, FNP-C

Hookerton Family Practice
Quality Health Care

516 S. William Hooker Dr.
 Hookerton, N.C. 28538

Phone 252-747-2089
 Fax 252-747-2734

Walk-ins Welcome
Appointment Necessary

Primary And Urgent Care For The Family With No Appointment Necessary.

This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer.

1059 Rosewood Road
 Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

ROYCE WALTERS
 Tax Consultant
 Accounting & Bookkeeping Services
 Notary Public

Phone: (919) 735-9874
 Fax: (919) 735-0152
 Pager: (919) 731-9015

Wounds From A Friend

Mrs. Amber Sherman



What do you do when a Christian brother or sister has let you down, hurt you, frustrated you, or even angered you...again? Sometimes it is our actual flesh and blood, and sometimes it is brothers and sisters in the faith.

I love deeply, which means I hurt deeply. At one time in my younger years, I was hurt so greatly that I determined to stop caring about others and shut myself up in a "shell." I eventually grew out of it as the Lord healed me from the deep betrayal, and as I felt His healing love, His love began to flow from me to others. My mother told me when I first learned I was pregnant that I had always been a giver of love, but I was going to have to use caution now because I had little ones depending on me. She knew my tendency to extend myself to the point of exhaustion.

God has given me a great love for others, especially children. The more I love others, the more love He gives me to pass out. The trouble comes when I get hurt through that love. My dad has always preached that he would rather love and get hurt, than never love and never get hurt. I have come to agree...though it does not make the hurt less when it does come. For it inevitably does come - repeatedly. Sometimes I take the hurtful hit hard. Sometimes I face disappointment. Sometimes I even become angry. *(Usually, my anger signifies I am loving myself more than that person.)*

So, what *do* you do when facing hurt and disappointment? Not from a lost person, but from a Christian brother or sister who serves the same Lord you do, yet at this time is not acting like it?

My first battle, if the hurt is a repeated one, is I have to fight my childhood reaction to give up on that person in order to shield myself from further pain. Self-preservation I believe we call it.

My second battle is usually facing my anger and putting myself to death (*"I die daily"* **I Corinthians 15:31**). Sometimes this is hard. I faced an incident this week where I was prayerful during a sudden, tense confrontation with a fellow Christian **that for the purpose of this article I will call Jamie**. I prayed before answering and even throughout, kept calm, answered quietly and logically, and overall handled the situation how it needed to be handled. I can honestly and humbly say I cannot see how I could have handled it better. Jamie stormed off in an angry fit and left things very unsettled. I was afraid during the confrontation, but held my ground, believing the stand I had to take was a necessary one, one that would have bred more difficulty if not faced. It was my reaction over the next couple of days that was the problem. The more I mulled it over, the angrier I became. This was a repeated offense by Jamie, and I was sick of it. I wanted to throw in the towel and say, *"Phooey on you, I am done with you!"*

I asked the Lord to guide me and help me, because I knew getting angry and giving up was not the godly way to handle it. The interesting thing is I had just been praying the week before for the Lord to help me mend the rift that was between us, to help me with my heart and feelings toward Jamie. I had asked the Lord to direct me in ways to minister to Jamie, and to please enable me to find a way to get past these deep hurts and division. *Then* a blow up happens.

The more I pondered it, the more I saw that I could not control Jamie's reactions, only my own. I also saw that I could not control the future. As I searched the Scriptures for several days, the Lord began to impress upon me that I was going to have to have tough love where Jamie was concerned, but that also meant forgiveness. I was going to have to forgive Jamie before I could love Jamie. I also was not going to face healing inside of me until I let go and became ready to love. I was honestly expecting another blow up sometime in the future and began to try to be ready to handle it in a loving but firm way. I was going to have to love Jamie enough to die to self when Jamie's temper arose, yet stand up to Jamie and be an example of what real love does.

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend:"
Proverbs 27:6a

Verse after verse God gave me exhorted knowing when to stay silent and when to speak up. It said to love and forgive, firmly and unyieldingly. It was also cautioning me not to think too highly of myself and not to think I was always right. Verses told me not to be hasty to strive (**Proverbs 25:8a**) and to strive to be of an excellent spirit (**Proverbs 17:27**). Interestingly enough, I also was led to many verses about how much we need each other, such as iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend (**Proverbs 27:17**). Lastly, God told me to be patient and not to give up. If a prince can be persuaded by someone's persistence, then surely I will eventually get through to Jamie if I do not give up!

"By long forbearance is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone."
Proverbs 25:15



VENTURE BUSINESS SYSTEMS

For Home or Business
 Repair of Copiers,
 Fax Machines, and Printers.
 Sales · Service · Supplies

Call or Text Today!
 Al Strickland
 1 (919) 759-0121

PO Box 1742
 Goldsboro, NC, 27533

I am not sure how you handle it when a Christian hurts, disappoints, or even intimidates you. Perhaps you have other things the Lord has taught you about yourself, or most importantly, about Him. I fail so often. I must remember this when I am tempted not to offer grace or forgiveness to another. Jesus said to forgive seventy times seven (**Matthew 18:21-22**). It does not make the pain hurt less deeply, but perhaps *that* is when I need to think about how I hurt my Lord with my failings and my sins.

"We love Him, because He first loved us."
I John 4:19

I must not give up. If God can love me first, then I can love Jamie first. May my pain *remind me* of my Lord's pain. May it solidify inside of me that *I will love my God*, showing it through my love for others...even when wounded by a friend.



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



Local help with your Medicare questions.



Serving
 Wayne,
 Pitt, Lenoir,
 and Greene
 Counties!

Wes Stocks
 Licensed Sales Agent
 919-738-4452, TTY 711

wesstocks@me.com



The Sparrows

After reading from **Luke 12:6-7**, I began to think about the sparrows. *“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?....Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*

During the winter months, I put bird food outside to feed the birds. A wide variety of birds eat the food: cardinals, goldfinches, doves, chickadees, and a multitude of sparrows to name a few. There must be thousands of sparrows that reside in my little town. Then I thought of the innumerable population of sparrows in North Carolina, the United States, and the world. And yet, God does not forget any one of them!

The Holy Spirit reminded me as I pondered the vast population of sparrows living today that God also remembers the sparrows that existed in the past. I read that sparrows live from one to three years. If the earth has been around for thousands of years, there may have been thousands of generations of sparrows that have lived here. And yet, God does not forget any one of them!

Does God know the future sparrows that have not yet hatched? The Bible tells us that He knows us before we are born (**Psalm 139:15-16**). So although I cannot be dogmatic, it certainly is conceivable that He welcomes each new sparrow into existence having foreknown that each would exist. The possibility of God’s remembrance of each individual sparrow is mind-boggling. And yet, God does not forget any one of them!

Luke 12:6 tells us that five sparrows could be sold for two farthings. Two farthings is worth approximately one half of a penny. Although I am not sure why anyone would want to buy five sparrows, their value seems miniscule at best. And yet, God does not forget any one of them!

Why did Jesus choose to use sparrows in His illustration? Why didn’t He use some other animal? Why didn’t He use some prettier or more majestic bird? Instead, He used a plain, ordinary sparrow. Sparrows are very commonplace birds. Sparrows don’t seem to serve any particular purpose. An online search tells me that the sparrows’ purpose is to be a prey for other birds and to consume large amounts of seed. Would the sparrow really be missed if he didn’t even exist? And yet, God does not forget any one of them!

No matter how insignificant we may feel we are, how unlovable, or how unworthy, our Heavenly Father cares for us more than the sparrows. Maybe that is why He chose a common creature as the sparrow.

If God does not forget even one sparrow, He must remember us, our needs, our pain, our desires, and our prayers. No one is too insignificant or too far away from God that He has forgotten. For each of us is *“of more value than many sparrows.”* Ponder that!



Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. She serves as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



NC Stairway Solutions

Offering Stair Lifts & Wheelchair Lifts



GRAY HARRISON, Owner

(252) 474-4674

ncstairway@gmail.com

NCSTAIRWAY.COM



JacksonandSons.com

When You Need Us - We'll Be There!

Providing Heating And Air Solutions Since 1974.

919-734-9611



Hours
Wed - Thur 3:00 - 9:00
Fri - Sat 3:00 - 9:30
Sun 11:00 - 8:30
Closed Mon & Tue

Seafood, Steak, or Chicken made just the way you like it!

Seafood Varieties Include Flounder, Oysters, Scallops, & Deviled Crab!

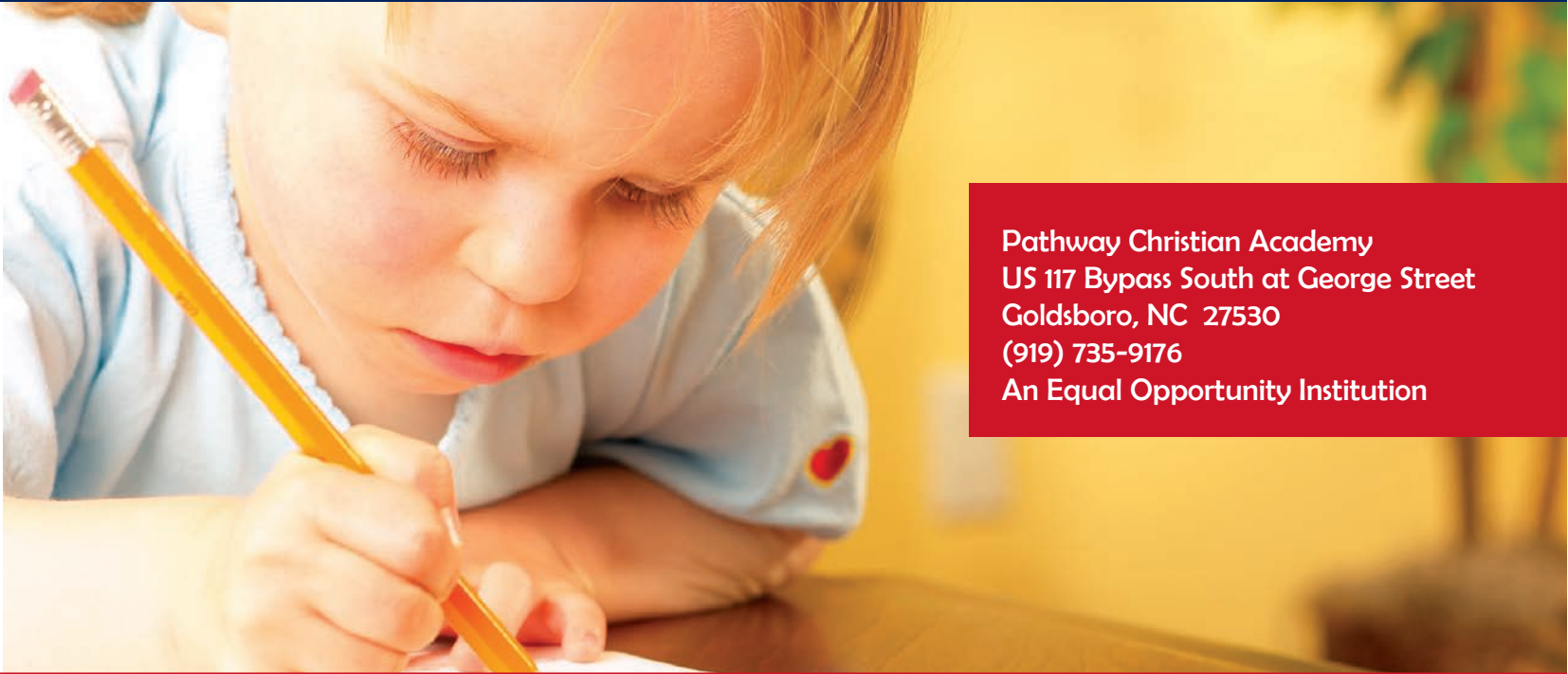
All seafood is broiled, steamed, or fried.

Conveniently located on Highway 70 East of LaGrange!

252-566-4067

Special Discounts apply for Senior Citizens!

Pathway Christian Academy: Building The Lives That Will Build Tomorrow.



Pathway Christian Academy
US 117 Bypass South at George Street
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 735-9176
An Equal Opportunity Institution

PATHWAY MAKES YOU SMART

OK . . . Maybe not! But surely you would admit that a wholesome and safe environment promotes learning. Certainly you would agree that a well disciplined classroom with innovative student-centered individualized curriculum encourages excellence. At least that much is right . . . isn't it?

Call today for additional information. It's a smart move!

www.pathwayacademy.org

