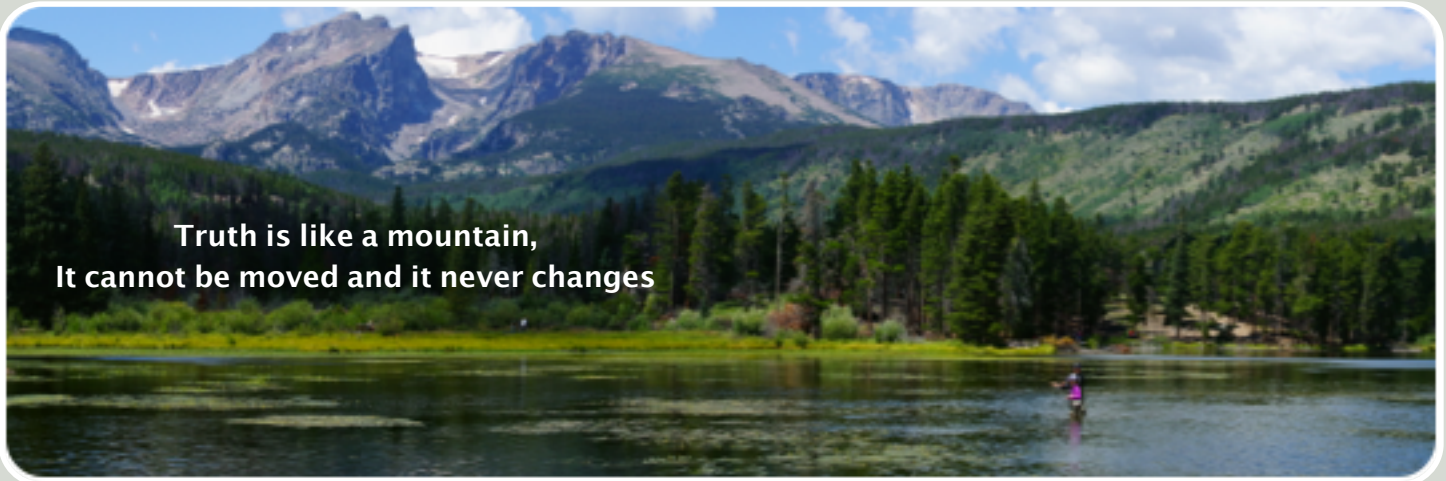


**JULY 2023**

# “TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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## UPDATE

This month as we celebrate the birth of our nation I want to encourage you to add to the backyard barbecues, the picnics at the lake, and the fireworks displays some deep intercession. America is in deep trouble and I think most of us realize this. The corruption in our government is staggering and the moral decline in our public schools is terrifying. We are a society that is rotting from the inside out. Unless there is a radical change America will self-destruct and it may not take long for this to happen.

As I see it, there is only one hope and that is a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit that is so great it changes the course of human history. Certainly, we don't deserve it, but God is a God of great mercy and He has told us to pray. He will never turn a deaf ear to prayer and repentance.

God, have mercy on us, our children, and our grandchildren. Pour out your Spirit and heal our nation. Deliver us from evil and establish your kingdom we pray in the mighty Name of Jesus.

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "Sixty Years And Counting!"

**WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.**

**You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!**

This July is a special month for Miss Linda and me for it was on July 6, 1963, that we said, "I do". For the past 60 years, God has guided, provided, protected, and blessed us more than we could have ever dreamed. Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and we shall forever be grateful.

Ours has pretty much been a textbook-perfect marriage, but you need to remember that 'textbook-perfect' doesn't mean perfect. (You might want to stop and think about that.) If the truth were known, all marriages (even the good ones) have struggles and trials and there are no exceptions. Certainly, ours was not an exception.

We were both way too young when we got married and quickly found that out. We had dated for over three years and had rarely had a disagreement so you can imagine our shock when we began to experience severe marital problems. I shall not go into detail except to say that we needed to get it figured out quickly or our marriage was going to be short-lived. It didn't get fixed overnight, but we gradually began to understand what each of us needed to do to save our marriage.

### **We both needed to die!**

That may sound a bit severe unless you understand that I am not talking about wanting to kill each other.

(🤔) Although that thought may have crossed our minds. (🤔)

Rather I am talking about coming to a point where we gladly put aside our own wants and desires in an effort to see our mate happy. As we worked on this, we learned one of life's greatest principles:

**"The more you give, the more you live."**

As the years went by Miss Linda and I witnessed an amazing metamorphous take place. At first, our wants and desires were very different from each other's but as we deferred to one another we began to experience a change and found ourselves thinking more alike and having the same desires. It was amazing. Perhaps this is what Paul was talking about in Ephesians 5.

### **Ephesians 5:31 CJB**

"Therefore a man will leave his father and mother and remain with his wife, and the two will become one."

As I look back on all this I am convinced that the biggest threat to any marriage is selfishness. As I see it, it all boils down to one question: Who do you love more, yourself or your mate? If you want to go through life loving yourself and always getting your own way, please stay single and spare someone else the pain of a failed marriage. I know that sounds harsh but I promise you, it is true.

And so on July 6th, you will find pictures on social media of an elderly couple who have had an amazing marriage and are still crazy in love. I am sure there will also be pictures of their children, grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Hopefully, you will view all this propaganda with the awe and admiration it deserves, but as you do please remember, what you are seeing was only made possible because two young immature kids decided that their first priority in life needed to be their mate's happiness. A long time ago they learned that dying to self brought life to their marriage and that is why they have what they have today.

**For me to die is gain....**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“Fear Not!”*

The world we live in has become a very dangerous place and unless you are a hermit who lives totally separated from society, you are exposed to its dangers every day. In addition to

real dangers, we are also bombarded with newscasts, books, social media posts, and videos sent to us by well-meaning people who apparently feel they have been called to be sure we know about every dark nefarious conspiracy known to man. **Are all these videos and books based on fact? I highly doubt it, but believe me when I say that fear does not need fact to function.** If you don't believe that, try convincing a young child that there are no monsters living under their bed. 🙄

My reason for sharing this is to point out that if we want to live in victory, fear is something we are going to need to learn to deal with. Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) I think it should go without saying that the life Jesus was talking about cannot coexist with fear. Fear is a thief and it will steal the peace and joy God wants you to have.

In the Bible, 365 times we are told not to fear. Interestingly, this is exactly how many days there are in a year. Can this be a coincidence? Since this admonition is given so many times it is something we should give careful thought to and a good place to start is to understand where it comes from. In his writings to Timothy the Apostle Paul reveals that fear is an evil spirit that is not from God.

#### **2 Timothy 1:7 KJV**

For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Satan's objective when using this weapon is to paralyze us and stop us from boldly following God and experiencing his best for our lives. To function it does not require that we listen to fake news or watch videos about dark conspiracies. Rather, it manifests itself each time we encounter things that have the potential to harm us or imagine an outcome that could bring us harm. These things, whether real or imagined, become an embryo from which Satan creates fear.

Here is a good example. Recently, our son and his wife were given the opportunity to record a new "Scripture Lullabies" album in London at Abbey Road Studios with the London Philharmonic Symphony providing the orchestration. How this amazing opportunity came about was totally supernatural and we all stood in awe at how God opened that door. But, little did they know that before their trip was over they would face one of the most life-threatening moments any of us will ever face.



**"Fear Not!"**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

The recording sessions went flawlessly, but on the first leg of their flight home the plane they were on experienced an engine failure over the North Atlantic, and they were forced to turn around, go back, and land with only one engine. I think this would qualify as a time when fear could have been a legitimate emotion. But, when we talked with them we didn't pick up that they experienced any overwhelming fear. Instead, they had peace and calm that passed understanding. How can this be? Let's take a look at this question.

The main reason people fall victim to fear is that they focus on their situation (real or imagined) rather than focusing on what God has promised them. Here are four things God has given to us that will act as an antidote for fear.

**1. He gives us strength and Victory.**

**Isaiah 41:10 Easy-to-Read Version**

**10 Don't worry** ..... I am with you.  
**Don't be afraid** ..... I am your God.  
I will make you strong and help you.  
I will support you with my right hand that brings victory.

**2. He gives us peace.**

**John 14:27 King James Version**

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**3. He promises to never leave us.**

**Hebrews 13:5 KJV**

5.... he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**3. He gives us His love.**

**1 John 4:18 NIV**

18 **There is no fear in love.** But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

These are important promises that should be planted deep in our hearts now because we cannot plant and expect to reap a harvest all in the same day. Life doesn't work that way. Plant today so you have a harvest to reap down the road when you need it.

So, how do we get them planted deep in our hearts? Every day we need to seek a deep intimate relationship with the Lord by reading and meditating on His Word so that when our engine quits out over the ocean we are delivered..... from all our fears.

**Psalms 34:4 NIV**

**4 I sought the LORD,** and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# P R O P H E C Y   U P D A T E

## "The Church Will Live!"

The prophet Ezekiel lived during the time of the exile and would have been one of those carried into Babylonian captivity along with the prophet Daniel. Psalms 137 gives us a glimpse into the mood of the Jewish people at this dark time.

### **Psalms 137:1-4 VOICE**

1 By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept when we thought of Zion, our home, so far away.

2 On the branches of the willow trees, we hung our harps and hid our hearts from the enemy.

3 And the men that surrounded us made demands that we clap our hands and sing—  
Songs of joy from days gone by, songs from Zion, our home.

Such cruel men taunted us—haunted our memories.

4 How could we sing a song about the Eternal in a land so foreign, while still tormented, brokenhearted, homesick?

In many ways, this tragic time in Israel's history is reminiscent of where we are today in church history. Sometimes it almost feels as if the church has been carried off into captivity and all we can do now is weep as we remember what we have lost. Gone are the days when we fell on our faces in worship, overwhelmed by the presence of our King. Gone are the times when spontaneous praises erupted in our church services and gone are the altar calls where each week sinners publicly came forward, acknowledged their lost condition, and were changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Some may not concur with this observation, but if you do then what I have to say is for you. I believe what God showed Ezekiel in chapter 37 can be applied to our situation today. In that chapter, God showed Ezekiel a valley filled with human bones. It appears Ezekiel was struck by the fact that the bones were **"very dry"** (Vs. 2) so he could have never imagined what he was about to

experience. Ezekiel was instructed to prophesy to the dry bones.

### **Ezekiel 37:4-6; 10 KJV**

4 Again He said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

**10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.**

Having lived during the time when this amazing prophecy came to pass causes me to have hope for the church. I ask, if God was able to do this with bones that lay dead and dry for thousands of years, is He not able to raise up the church from its spiritual grave today? **We cannot and we must not discount God's ability to revive the church!** The church may look dry and dead, but these bones can live and you and I need to prophesy this in faith.

**"In the mighty Name of Jesus, the Name that is above every other name, I declare that the church can and will live! The breath of God will enter into it and once again it will stand up as a mighty army. It will be a powerful glorious church, filled with His Spirit and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!"**

Speak it in faith and believe it,  
because this is the message found in your Bible.

**Jesus is not finished with His church!**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!