



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

January 2021

The beginning of each calendar year brings back memories of Dad and Mom. Dad passed away in *January* of 1994; that's 26 years ago. And Mom 13 years later, in *February* of 2007. What a wonderful childhood I enjoyed!

The first eight years of my life were on Grandpa's small dairy farm in Millersville, PA. Then followed several years in Brazil, learning a new language, enjoying different food, and celebrating Christmas in the summer. Still a "child," I took part in planting a church in the small town where there had been no Christian church.

Next came an exciting move out into the "boonies." And, I'm talking "boonies..." my teen years were spent on a 600-acre coffee plantation which had been carved out of the virgin jungle. A colony of about 20 families formed the all-manual labor force. Dad was administrator of the farm, pastor of the church, principal of the grade school, and manager of the little store which sold food staples to the families of the colony. There was no electricity (we often ran a generator in the evenings). No nearby doctors, dentists, or hospitals. The roads were horrible, which challenged Dad's driving skills and became an absolute adventure to us boys (we KNEW that Dad was the best driver in the area!). We saw God at work in the day-to-day of our lives. A worker took sick? Somebody developed a serious toothache? We went to our Father in prayer. As a child, and then teenager, I observed that God hears our prayers. And, HE ANSWERS THEM!



Dad and Mom

Having completed their years of missionary service, Dad and Mom founded *Abundant Living Ministries*, offering encouragement... pointing people toward Jesus, the One who knows them best and loves them most! Here are some excerpts I just pulled from one of the very earliest newsletters written after ALM was formed in September of 1978.



Two years ago, we felt the Lord spoke to our hearts about going into a counseling ministry full-time. Many of our friends prayed with us about this and gave advice to form a non-profit organization. It is called "Abundant Living Ministries." Many people have come for help. Several came with the specific purpose to find the Lord. It is so exciting to see what the Lord is doing. We see Him reuniting broken homes, making good ones better, taking out roots of bitterness, and setting people free from fear, worry, anger and resentment. Our wonderful Lord heals hurts and wounds. Yes, He pours in the healing oil where no one else can reach.

Today, the work of ALM continues. And God, who healed sick people and cured toothaches in the jungle back-country of Brazil, is still healing marriages and mending broken relationships.

Thank YOU so much for your participation in this ministry. You have prayed... and you have given financially. Ultimately, we know it is FATHER GOD who provides. **Thank YOU, Lord.** But, we recognize that He uses PEOPLE... people like you, who pray and give financially. He hears your prayers. AND, He multiplies your giving. Thank you!

In 2021... Be blessed and... continue being a blessing!

John Charles (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)



UNSHAKEABLE TRUTH

Question:

As parents, we are concerned for our children who are receiving so many confusing messages from our culture. Even adults often don't know what to believe... how can we help the next generation keep clear minds in spite of all that is swirling around them?

Response:

The best defense against falsehood and deception is to know **truth**. Sadly, our culture says that truth is relative, i.e. *your* truth and *my* truth might not be the same. This statement is not accurate because truth is a constant and universal fact. *Opinions* may differ, be altered or even reversed. *Truth* however, is non-negotiable and permanent.

Consequently, Christian parents should put high priority on learning and teaching God's unchanging absolutes. These are the powerful tools that can equip children to live victoriously even in these tough times. Consider what the Bible says about truth...

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

... grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

The more that individuals become acquainted with **Jesus** and **God's word**, the more they are exposed to truth. Families should invest more time and energy in discovering what *the Bible* has to say about God, man, history, salvation, prophecy than what *the media* propagates. Wise par-



ents examine their own attitudes towards truth. If fathers and mothers exhibit little enthusiasm about, or commitment to, God's truth, they should not be greatly surprised when their children adopt

a similar attitude. Contrary to the world's assertion that the Bible teaches a joyless life, it is in fact the way to greatest fulfillment. The older generation hasn't always done well at communicating to the next generation the joyous freedom of living according to God's truth.

Warren Wiersbe said, "The remedy for discouragement is the Word of God. When you feed your heart and mind with its truth, you regain your perspective and find renewed strength." This holds true for everyone, old and young alike in spite of whatever chaos may be happening in the world.

Rather than desperately trying to eradicate the lies of culture, dads and moms could instead purpose daily to plant seeds of truth in their children's thirsty hearts. As parents lovingly saturate their homes with God's Word, they are providing, for their children, the basis for a vibrant and strong faith which, like the truth upon which it rests, will remain unshakeable regardless of what is happening in these uncertain times.



Sharon Charles



Open Arms Childbirth Class

**Four Consecutive Thursdays
April 8 - 29, 2021, 7 - 9pm**

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

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