



INFO

Words From The Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

Have you ever watched the TV show, *The Price Is Right*? For many years, the host of the program was the very dapper Bob Barker. Prior to him serving, Bill Cullen was the original host of the game show that started in 1956. Barker took over in 1972 and remained as the master of bidding until his retirement in 2007 when comedian Drew Carey (*The Drew Carey Show*) became the host.

"What has this to do with anything?" you might ask? "I dunno!" I just wanted to plug my all-time favorite game show. That and, say something about PRICING!

This past Saturday, our local Kiwanis Club had a yard sale here on our church parking lot. I arrived at 5:30 a.m. and began, in the dark of the early morning hour to set up the tables, etc. Now if you want to see total chaos, you do not have to go to downtown New York City and see all those Yellow Cabs vying for position on Broadway. Actually, the traffic in New York is very sedate in comparison to five men trying to program a Yard Sale. I had no clue as to what to do, and neither did most of the others. But salvation came to us in the forms of Pastor Jim Collie, our own Bob Spera, and my lovely (American Picker) wife, Diania. These three really know how to pick people clean at a Yard Sale. That is to say, they have such a wonderful gift of gab! And things went along well until the three of them, in unison, had to leave for other appointments. This left former town Mayor Cliff Carson and myself and two other poor, lost souls

almost virtually alone with the task of selling this vast accumulation of somebody else's junk! "How much y'ant fer this y' her thang?" one said to me. "I dunno. Maybe a quarter!" says I. "Take fifteen cents?" said the redneck! "Take it free, I don't care, just get it out of here!" answered me with all the enthusiasm of a rat trying to abandon ship!

Most people know the value of an article of clothing or a pair of rusty pliers or an 8-track Player that has not worked in twenty-five years. Most people! I don't and I don't care to know. But most people know when *the price is right!*

In the New Testament account of Matthew's gospel, we read of a merchant who went in search of a great piece of jewelry, or a pearl, as it were. We read in Matthew 13: (45) **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. (46) When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

This is one of the great parables of Jesus. In this one, a merchant is seeking beautiful pearls and finds one pearl of great price. He is undeterred by its price and sells all that he has in order to buy it. (Wish he had come to the yard sale. I would have sold the whole 'kit and caboodle' to him for a quarter.)

But here, the merchant is on a mission to find that which is of great value, and believes there is something out there worth looking for, or he would not be seeking it in the first

place. He knows it is there. When he finds it, he immediately recognizes its value and is willing to sell all to obtain it. I am not suggesting we can 'buy' or otherwise 'earn' our salvation because salvation is a gift FROM God. Romans 6:23 says, **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** We can only 'buy' salvation in the sense of gaining rightful possession of it by grace through faith and submitting to the working of God and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. This parable, then, describes how some people react to the kingdom of heaven, when they know there must be something out there of great value and are busy searching for it.

I think that many people know in their heart of hearts that there is something out there; that there is a right and a wrong way to live; and that there is something (life) after death. Some are blessed by having the gospel brought to them by either the preaching of the Word or by a missionary or evangelist. Some go in search, as did this merchant. They know there is something more as I have said. But some never hear and some never search so unfortunately, they never find! And the sad scenario to all of this is that the Price (of salvation) Is Right! It is free. The great hymn of the church states, *Salvation's free, glad joy to all of Adam's fallen race. We'll tell the story far and near of SAVING KEEPING GRACE!* The Price Is Right.

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr—Chair
Phyllis Belcher
Sue Ellen Fleming
Diania Murphy
Diana Mullins

“INFO” GUEST COLUMN

“GOD, MARY KAY AND ME”

By Diania Murphy

I am a Senior Sales Director in the Mary Kay Cosmetics Corporation. Let me tell you a little bit about the history of our company.

Mary Kay Ash born in [Hot Wells, Harris County, Texas](#) where she attended [Reagan High School](#) in Houston, and graduated in 1934. She married Ben Rogers at age 17. While her husband served in World War II, she sold books door-to-door. After her husband's return in 1938, they divorced. Mary Kay then went to work for Stanley Home Products. Frustrated when passed over for a promotion in favor of a man that she had trained, she retired in 1963 and intended to write a book to assist women in business. The book turned into a business plan for her ideal company, and in September 1963, Mary Kay Ash and her second husband began Mary Kay Cosmetics with a \$5,000 investment. Before the company could open its original storefront operation in [Dallas](#), her second husband died, and her son, Richard Rogers, took his place. The store opened in 1963, but grew rapidly, particularly after Ash was interviewed for [CBS's 60 Minutes](#) in 1979. Mary Kay was widely respected. She considered the [Golden Rule](#) the founding principle of Mary Kay Cosmetics, and the company's marketing plan was designed to allow

women to advance by helping others to succeed. She advocated "praising people to success" and her slogan "God first, family second, career third" expressed her insistence that the women in her company keep their lives in balance. And that is what sold me on becoming a part of the Mary Kay Cosmetics family! But that is not where the story began for me.

I began my working career at the age of sixteen in Chicago Heights, Illinois as a junior in high school. I was trained by a man by the name of Mr. Charles Lauhton in the craft of cosmetology. I apprenticed with Mr. Lauhton for 2,765 hours and in so doing I began building a clientele. I began working in the beauty salon in the summer of 1965, attending high school a half day and working in the salon the rest of the day. I worked everyday except Monday, including Saturday's. I graduated from Bloom Township High School in June of 1967 and took my State Board Exam for my license that same month. I continued to work for Mr. Lauhton until I moved to Southern Illinois in 1969.

I had always been taught from an early age the importance of a strong work ethic. All of these things contributed in their own way to my future life as a Christian. Strong parents, having an em-

ployer who was a Christian, and later, Mary Kay was such a blessing in my life. I would see Mr. Lauhton, his wife and children as they walked by my house hand in hand to attend Sunday school and church. I thought how wonderful for a family to be serving God as a unit. I began praying that God would allow me some day to have a Christian family. In those days, while others were out having fun on Friday nights, I was working late hours in the shop. Then came the life changing moment that so often comes and we accept or reject God's Holy Spirit. One day Mr. Lauhton asked me this question: "Diania, if you were to die today, where would you spend eternity?" I had been raised to attend church but at seventeen these words from a wonderful Christian man became the eye-opener that I needed. From that moment on I gauged my life on eternity and began praying then and there for a Christian husband and having a Christian home.

When I moved to Southern Illinois, I met Ben in the summer of 1969 and we began dating and were married in February of 1970. We were both saved in March of that year and left in August to enter into public ministry and we have been involved in working for the kingdom ever since.

*“GOD, MARY KAY AND ME”
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My message is simply this: once you have found this marvelous free gift of God we know as salvation; the pearl of great price; please, please then *stay on the path with Jesus*. (And by the way. If that path inadvertently takes you by a yard sale, and you see that I am the only one working in it, you’d better stop. You will see something that you just can’t live without and I will guarantee you ahead of time, **THE PRICE WILL BE RIGHT!** Maybe even....FREE!)



During the month of June we are collecting Toothbrushes, Toothpaste and Combs as a continuation of the May collection.

“GOD, MARY KAY AND ME” cont’d from Page 2

As Ben studied for the ministry and later worked in Christian music, I continued as a beautician owning my own beauty shop for many years. However, health problems began to occur in 1980. It was in that year that I was introduced to Mary Kay Cosmetics through my Sister Joy, and sister-in-law Diane. I gave up my full time beauty shop and began devoting my time to Mary Kay. I realized then and there that as a Christian, I could not only be a help to women who were in search of their beauty on the outside, but I could be a witness to them and show them the beauty that they have on the inside. This is one of founder Mary Kay’s desires and principles, and coupled with my de-

sire to spend eternity in heaven with my Savior, I can say that my professional career led me to the life with Christ that I had always prayed for.

(Diania is the wife of Wise First Church of God Pastor Ben Murphy and the mother of two children, Derek Murphy and Dawn Hays. She is also the grandmother of five grand children.)

Get Ready!

VBS

July 17-22

**“Big Apple”
Style!!**

**See Missy or
Heather for details.**

Like Father, Like Child

As we celebrate Father’s Day, we likely see traits in our dads (or other father figures) that we hope to be known for ourselves: integrity, gentleness, a great sense of humor, a love of learning, a humble spirit.

Amy Grant’s song “Father’s Eyes” tells of a young girl who wants nothing more than for others to recognize

her father — and her heavenly Father — in her. “When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say, ‘She’s got her father’s eyes.’”

What characteristics of God your Father are reflected in your eyes, heart and life? And what godly qualities would you like to cultivate?

May others see our heavenly Father in us!





Sunday School

Kenneth Rose was the winner for the Sunday School attendance drawing for the month of April!

Congratulations Kenneth!

The Ultimate Destination

What's better than the first day of a long-awaited vacation? The excitement of reaching our destination, the anticipation of fun-filled adventures, the freedom to relax and lay down our burdens for a while — we'll pay good money for that.

But it's a fleeting pleasure. Before our bags are even unpacked, the clock has already begun counting down to when we'll have to return to the pressures of everyday life.

It won't always be so. One day, we'll lay down our burdens for good. When we reach our ultimate destination, God our Father will welcome us. Our loved ones, long gone,

will gather to celebrate. And every day of this breathtaking adventure will be like the first because time will no longer rule over us.

The best vacations are just a shadow of what God has in store for his children.

The Importance of Failure

“Our society is so caught up in winning,” said Carlton Young, “we forget that most of the great men and women in history have, at one time or another, failed at something. Often repeatedly and discouragingly. But each failure is nothing more than a brick in the wall that forms the foundation of our success.”

In *The Upper Room*, Bob La Forge writes, “Failure does not mean that God is against us or that we are hopelessly inept. Failure may be exactly what God can use.”

Moses and David, two giants of faith, also knew failure — and not just the average variety that comes from everyday mistakes.

Their huge moral missteps resulted in severe consequences. But failure wasn't the end of their stories. These men repented and moved forward, and God used them mightily.

And so it can be for any of us who fails or falls short.