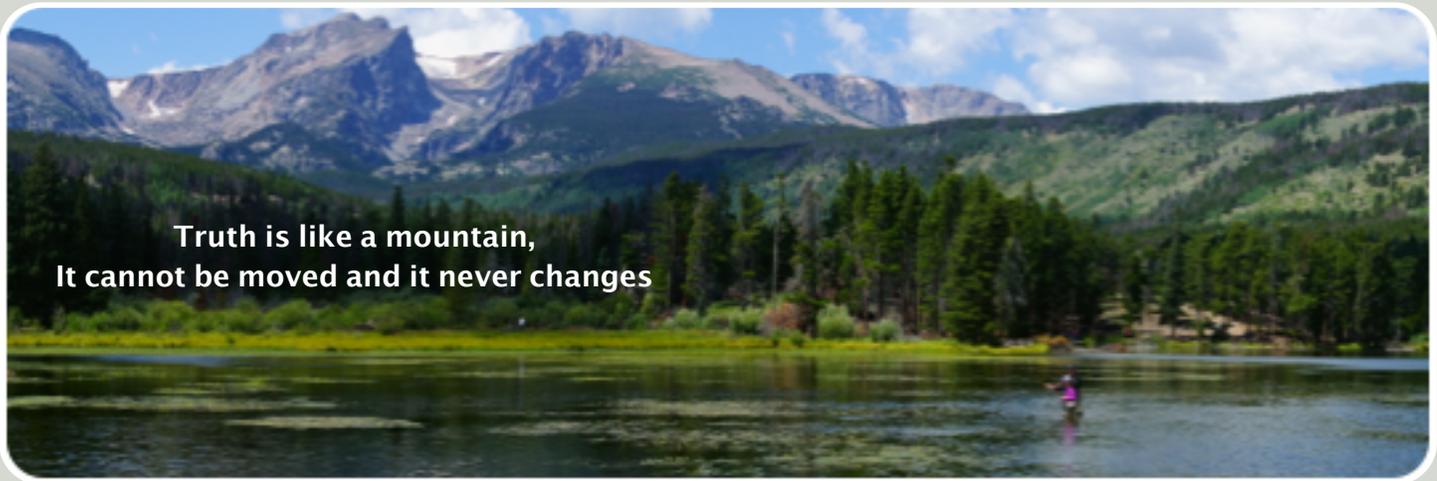


DECEMBER 2019

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,  
It cannot be moved and it never changes

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## UPDATE

This month is very special to the Stocker family because on December 7th Miss Linda celebrates her 75th birthday. To commemorate this great occasion I have written the feature article to honor her. Our three children have also contributed to this article.

All of this had to be been done in total secrecy because if she found out she would have exercised her veto power. I guess what she doesn't know won't hurt her! Come to think of it, I may be the one who gets hurt when she finds out what I have done.

### **THREE BOLD PREDICTIONS FOR 2020**

In the January PROPHECY UPDATE I will bring you three very bold predictions that I firmly believe we will see come to pass in 2020. I have always avoided writing anything that included a specific time frame, but next month will be different.

**You don't want to miss this.**

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "OUR TRIBUTE"

**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!**

I will never forget the first time I saw her; she looked so afraid and unhappy. Her dad worked for IBM and had accepted a transfer from New York to Minnesota. Teenage girls do not handle things like that well and she has often told me that it was the darkest moment she had ever experienced. Her entire world had been uprooted and now she found herself feeling friendless and alone. I guess you can figure out that I am talking about Miss Linda.

Being the chivalrous young men that we were, my best friend and I decided to reach out to her and get acquainted. A few nights later we had arranged a double date with her, his sister, and myself. I guess you can figure out who was with who. It was the worst night of my life. The longer I looked at her the more I felt strong feelings for her. In fact, I had never experienced anything like it before. **There was only one problem, she was with my best friend!**

His sister could see what was going on in my head and said to me, "You really like her, don't you?" I had to admit that I did. She then told me that it was OK with her if I wanted to pursue Miss Linda. That was all I needed. Things went very slow for a while, but a few months later we began to date, and about three years later we were married.

I am writing this because on December 7th she turns 75, and for 56 of those 75 years she has been my forever sweetheart. For her 75th birthday, I wanted to honor her by writing an article about the amazing woman she is and also allow our children an opportunity to write something about their mother. You can read what they have written later in this article.

When you are young, you have little ability to really understand what qualities are important in a mate and what qualities those you are dating may or may not have. For those reasons I have always said that God smiled his favor upon me when He brought Miss Linda into my life. There was no possible way I could have known what an amazing woman I was

marrying. Spending a lifetime with her has opened my eyes.

It is hard to know where to start because there is so much about her that I admire. Many times, I find myself looking on in awe as I see how she consistently lives her life, deals with difficult situations, and always seems to do what Jesus would do. She truly has been the perfect mate and perfect pastor's wife. **The blessings we saw happen at Rez could never have happened if she had not been the amazing woman of God that she is.**

Over the years I saw her incredible dependency upon the Lord grow and grow as she tried her best to do the things God was asking her to do. **She never sought the spotlight**, but yet with God's help was able to build an amazing ministry that was a blessing to thousands of women. She would do everything in her power to avoid confrontation, but if pushed, with great love and humility, would walk in the authority God had given to her. **So many owe so much to her.**

I also watched in awe as she walked through situations where she experienced great hurt. It is in these types of situations that you find out what a person is really made of. In spite of how great her pain might have been, she never allowed hurt to turn into hate. Never even once did I see her return evil for evil. **She is a woman of God who lives her faith.**

However, the thing I admire most about her is not what she did in the church, but rather what she was in our home. Our children experienced what it was like to have a godly mother raise them and instill in them the values they would need to raise the next generation.

Speaking of the next generation, I am in awe of how she now speaks into the lives of our grandchildren.

"OUR TRIBUTE"  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

She has continued to keep pace with the technology available to us today and loves to FaceTime or text our grandchildren, some of which are away at college or have jobs that have taken them too far away for us to see them regularly. She is a woman of prayer and her family sits firmly at the top of her prayer list.

Proverbs 31 says that the children of a godly woman will rise up and call her blessed. **Here's what Miss Linda's three children have written about her.**

Dear Mom,

Over the years I have watched you in the capacity of a wife, a mother, a mother-in-law, and a grandmother. I continue to be amazed at how perfectly you have filled each and every one of these roles. You are an amazing example of a woman who stands firm in your faith and lives every day speaking truth with gentleness but firmness. I can easily look at my own life and see that so much of the woman I am today can be traced back to my mother and the woman of God she is. The Bible says that "her children will rise up and call her blessed" and so this month as we celebrate your 75th birthday, Mom, I rise up and say that you are a mighty woman of God. I rise up and say that your godly heritage will continue through your children and grandchildren. I rise up and say that your prayers have availed much. I rise up and call you blessed!

Love you...Dionne

Dear Mom,

With age comes a healthy dose of perspective. For me, perspective has illuminated the incredible blessing you've been to my life. There's so much I think back on with gratitude and fondness: I remember ice cream after school at the little store in downtown Loveland. I remember you taking me to piano lessons every week, and your not-so-gentle pushing for me to practice. I'll never forget the hundreds of scriptures you paid a dime each for me to learn. And I'll always be grateful for the way you would assure me that things were going to be just fine...because we have Jesus.

Most of all though, Mom, I remember the selfless person you were and will always be. You are kind, loving, and caring; truly beautiful inside and out. I'm grateful and so very blessed that I've had someone like you to show me what unconditional love looks like. Have a wonderful 75th birthday, Mom, you sure deserve it!

Love you...Jay

Dear Mom,

Thank you for being my mom and thank you for wanting me to be part of this family. I can't imagine having a better mom than you. You have been an amazing example of a godly wife and mother. Thank you for being compassionate, generous, patient, and kind. Growing up, you taught me to love God above all else, and to always trust Him. Thank you for always being a person I can call for help, even if it's something as simple as needing more soy sauce.

Thank you for all the time we have spent together. So, on your 75th birthday, I want to thank you for the 7 1/2 decades of memories, 899 months of happiness, 3,910 weeks of love, 27,375 days of wisdom, and 657,000 hours of laughter.

I love you so much...Trina

In addition to all her spiritual attributes, this amazing woman is also a very skilled photographer. You have been blessed by her work month after month. She shoots everything in manual mode. That means that she manually adjusts the shutter speed, aperture, ISO, and white balance. Ordinarily we never say who took the photos we publish because we have never felt like it was a competition. However, this month is different. **For the last year I have secretly been building a file of her best work to share with you this month.** All of you can see the Photo of the Month and our subscribers can view about 10 more of her best wildlife photos. However, I will be happy to send all new subscribers a link so they, too, can view all the photos. As always, there is no charge to subscribe.

Last but not least, please pray for me.

**I think I am going to be in so much trouble!**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS  
IS THE TRUTH!



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### ***“OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW”***

We are coming to the end of 2019 and 2020 is just around the corner. It doesn't seem possible that another year has gone by and that we are one

year closer to the return of Jesus.

Each new year I like to stop and take inventory of my life by asking the Lord what things I might do differently that would make my life more meaningful and productive. I firmly believe that our lives should never grow static or stagnant but should always involve change for the better. But, a word of caution is needed. If we are not careful, what looks like a blessing can actually become a curse.



## “Out With The Old, In With The New”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I found a quora.com blog that said, “The phrase ‘out with the old, in with the new’, literally means to **MOVE FORWARD**. The phrase suggests that in order to move forward, one must purge, remove or let go of one thing, with the expectation of gaining something else.” This philosophy may work at times, but can be dangerous and cause us to make huge mistakes.

Our decisions to buy the latest new thing or do something new can often result in sad endings. How many times have people purchased something like a new car, a new home, a new phone, or made a move to a different location only to end up totally disappointed? What they thought would be so good turned out to be a huge disappointment. All of us have probably experienced this at least once.

Early in our marriage, Chevrolet came out with their newest car called the Chevelle. We thought this car would fit our needs perfectly, so we saved our money and then made the purchase. However, we’d only had our new car a short time when we experienced great disappointment. One night there was a big rainstorm in Minneapolis, and the next morning we came out to find the inside of our new car filled with several inches of water. Our joy over our new car quickly changed to sadness and disappointment.

If we are going to apply this to spiritual issues, we need to look at the words of Jesus.

### **Matthew 13:52 (AMP)**

“He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household, who brings out of his treasure **things that are new and fresh and things that are old and familiar.**”

As always, Jesus’ teaching brings the balance we so badly need today. It appears to me that there is not enough emphasis being given to the value of the old. This is easy to observe when churches

follow fads that fail to cling to the values God has revealed to us in scripture. **Just because something is new does not always make it better or even right.**

What I am trying to help you see is that we need to be careful about throwing off the old that has been tried and tested, and embracing the new just because it appears as if everyone is doing it. This is never more true than when it comes to what we choose to believe and accept as truth. What some denominations and churches are teaching today falls into the category of throwing out the old when it should have been kept and valued as a treasure.

We live in a world where there are a growing number of false teachers, false religions, and counterfeit churches. **The Bible warns us about those who will teach false doctrines while claiming they have something new.** This is best illustrated by the approach some are taking in their futile attempt to reach the lost. If we really want to offer something new to the unbeliever, let’s tell them that Jesus died for them and that He can make all things new in their lives. Yes, I know this is an old truth, but it is an old truth we must never abandon because it offers all of us new life in Christ. I think 2 Corinthians 5:17 says it best.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)**

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a **new** creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the **old** things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. **Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].**”

If that is what “out with the old, in with the new” really means, then I am all for it.

**Truly it is a blessing and not a curse!**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# P R O P H E C Y   U P D A T E

## “In The Fulness of Time”

In Galatians 4 we learn that God had a plan regarding the timing of the birth of Christ.

### **Galatians 4:4-5 (AMP)**

“But when **[in God’s plan]** the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the [regulations of the] Law, 5 so that He might redeem and liberate those who were under the Law, that we [who believe] might be adopted as sons [as God’s children with all rights as fully grown members of a family].”

For hundreds of years Bible scholars have debated what might have been in God’s mind when He chose the specific time for the birth of Jesus. I don’t claim to have the answer to that debate but the argument that makes the most sense to me is one that is based upon what the language of the day was. While Jesus and His disciples undoubtedly spoke Aramaic, the language that was both spoken and written throughout the Roman Empire was Greek. Most Romans were trilingual and spoke Latin, Greek, and one other language based on their cultural background. However, Greek was the language of choice among those most highly educated.

This is significant when you consider the advantage it gave to those who were attempting to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the whole world. Imagine how it would be today if there was one language that missionaries could use that would be understood by everyone everywhere in the entire world. It would be a game-changer.

I am quite sure that this factored into the timing God chose for the birth of Christ. But I am also quite sure there were other things that God also considered. My point is, God had a plan and His timing was a part of His plan. With God, nothing happens by random chance or accident.

This brings me to the subject of the return of Christ. There is no doubt that He is coming back to earth. This time He will not come as a baby in a manger; nor will He come as a suffering servant. This time He will return as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

### **1 Timothy 6:15 (WE)**

“**At the right time** God will bring Christ back. Praise God! He alone is ruler. He is King over all kings, and Lord over all lords.”

If theologians have debated the thinking of God in regard to His timing for the birth of Christ 2,000 years ago, then for sure we ought not think we can figure out why He is delaying the return of Christ now. There is one thing we can be sure of: **The timing of this great event will once again be carefully thought out and established in the mind of God.**

Like most of you, I think He is probably waiting too long. With all my heart I cry out for Jesus to return and fix this mess. However, I have lived long enough to now realize that it is a good thing I am not God! Unlike me, **He makes no mistakes and His timing is always perfect.** Just as His timing was perfect when Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem, His timing will again be perfect when Jesus returns in the clouds to rule and reign over planet earth.

### **Revelation 1:7 (VOICE)**

“Look! He is coming with the clouds, in glory. He will capture every eye, Even of those who pierced Him through. All the nations of the earth will be pierced with grief when He appears.

**Yes, may all this be done according to His plan. Amen.”**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH