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REVEALING THE STORY OF JESUS THROUGH MEDIA

2023 EDITION

Nurturing Faith

ONE GENERATION
→ TO ANOTHER



PG 06

ON SET OF
THE CHOSEN 3

PG 10

AFRICVILLE: HONOURING
CANADA'S FORGOTTEN PIONEERS

PG 14

WHAT GOD IS DOING
THROUGH PRAYER CARE

PG 20

7 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES
TO PREPARE FOR A 2023 RECESSION



PRESENTS

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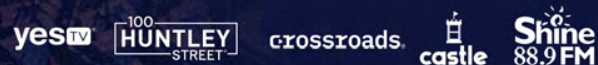
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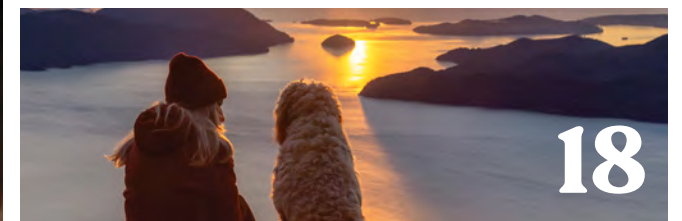
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Reach Magazine

BY **crossroads.**

INSPIRING STORIES. IGNITING COMPASSION. INNOVATING TOGETHER.

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WHAT'S NEW

BY THE NUMBERS

NOTE: Numbers are cumulative

Revealing the transforming story of Jesus through inspiring and innovative media to anyone, anywhere, anytime!

60+ YEARS OF TRUSTED MINISTRY
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\$48.8M DELIVERED IN RELIEF AID
131 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CARED FOR



100 Huntley Street and Kevin Shepherd, CEO of Crossroads and YES TV, are headed to Newfoundland to visit with ministry partners and capture what God is doing in the lives of people along Canada's Atlantic coast! Watch for a special week of programming this fall, presented in part by Deeks Insurance.

Hey Meisha! is reaching more children with the Good News of Jesus with new content placed on YouVersion in the Kids Bible Experience.



Turkey & Syria
EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Thank you to our generous partners! Crossroads Cares has provided **\$100,000+** in humanitarian aid to people in Turkey and Syria following the earthquakes in February 2023. While other organizations had difficulty getting supplies into Syria, our established aid corridors helped families receive food, water, blankets, heaters, medical supplies, and tents.



A donation of **2,998** seed packets valued at **\$7,000** will provide nourishment through **63** Indigenous community garden projects this year.

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MY SINGLE STORY

PODCAST

WITH MEISHA WATSON



LISTEN NOW



BY **crossroads**.
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THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVING ON THE SET OF *The Chosen* SEASON 3

A DEVOUT RELIANCE ON PRAYER
IS MAKING THIS JESUS STORY
MORE REAL THAN EVER
FOR MILLIONS

"I COULD NEVER FOOL
MYSELF INTO THINKING
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR
ANYTHING...GOD DOES ALL
THE HEAVY LIFTING."

- Jonathan Roumie

BY LARA WATSON
HOST & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,
100 HUNTLEY STREET

I know I am touring the set of *The Chosen* in 2022 Midlothian, Texas, but another part of me feels like I have been transported to a different time and place. Wandering through a replica of Capernaum, I am in awe of the ancient city they have recreated here. It is more than just

Much like watching *The Chosen* on screen, being on set has a way of deeply immersing you in this Jesus story. It makes you wonder in a whole new way who you might have been in the world when Jesus walked through it, and who you are in Jesus' story even today.

I try to put my finger on what it is about this whole project that feels so different, and moving. What is making the Jesus story feel so real for me here today, and for over

All are true, but I find the missing piece of my puzzle while watching a scene being recorded for Season 3. I see the cast assemble for this long, complex scene. Jesus, played by Jonathan Roumie, is walking through a crowd of people, starting and stopping, speaking monologue after monologue, welcoming person after person into the open, compassionate arms of Jesus. The focus and endurance required for a scene like this can't be overstated.

But what really catches my attention is what I see transpiring between Jonathan, and Program Creator, Dallas Jenkins.

Let me preface by saying that I spent years of my youth doing community theatre, so I am familiar with the usual dynamics between actors and directors. This was something entirely different. Rather than commanding directions or creating a high-pressure moment, what I see instead is a dialogue of prayer between the two men – reverent, Holy-Spirit led prayer. They are coming before God in utter dependence, right there in between each scene. Prayer isn't just part of the work they are doing, it is leading the entire creative process.

It moves me to tears. This is what I'd been feeling all day! It's the kind of sacredness that only a prayer-infused space can have. It makes sense that this project is having the kind of



SITTING DOWN WITH
JONATHAN ROUMIE...
EAGER TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT HIS
PROCESS.

impact that only a prayerfully-led mission can have.

Sitting down with Jonathan Roumie for an interview, I am eager to know more about his process. A Jesus-follower himself, he tells me about his regular dependence on prayer throughout his work, feeling free to stop and call on God constantly.

I'm also curious how he manages the pressure of playing this role of Jesus, the Son of God.

His words come patiently and thoughtfully, with pauses in between that feel prayerful again. He says he tries to treat the role more as an "opportunity" than a "responsibility."

"I think if I actually did think about it as a responsibility I would probably be crushed under the weight of it all," says Jonathan. "I could never fool myself into thinking I'm responsible for anything...God does all the heavy lifting."

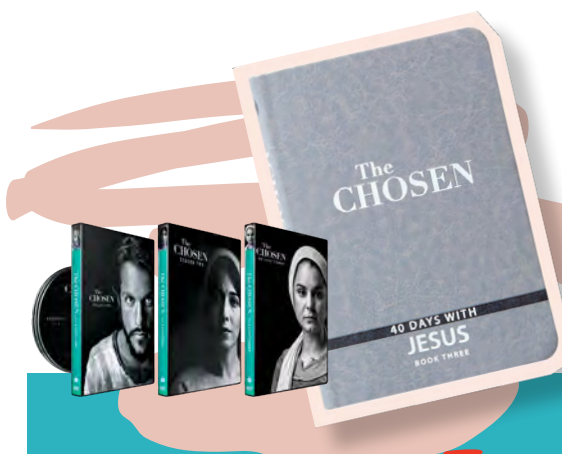
And it is indeed heavy lifting, on set and off. He is tenderly aware of the millions of lives being impacted by this show. He tells me about one young woman he met who decided not to end her life after watching episodes of *The Chosen*, and now works with youth in her own community.

"Seven seasons is worth that one life," he says resolutely.

Amen to that. This is the miraculous work of prayer. It's the work of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' ongoing ministry of human redemption, which we are also dedicated to sharing here at 100 Huntley Street. Through our 24/7 prayer lines and digital media, we are blessed to hear how many lives are radically transformed by these stories of Jesus daily.

In the very DNA of 100 Huntley Street is David Mainse's dependence on prayer. It gives our team, like the team on *The Chosen*, ongoing permission to have an intentional, prayerful process on set so that our

viewers may be invited into the open arms of Jesus even today, thousands of years after He walked the earth. ■



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ON SET OF *The Chosen* S3

historically accurate, it feels real. From the marketplace, to the homes, to the ornate tapestries hanging on walls, the level of detail helps you connect with the real people of the New Testament, who were living real lives and having real encounters with Jesus.

400 million people around the world who have streamed these episodes?

Is it the level of historical accuracy? Is it the warm kindness of every single staff member I interact with? Is it the talent of these professional actors helping us relate to the characters?

Cheryl Weber becomes Director of Crossroads Cares

Q&A BY AMY LAFORET

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

I first met Cheryl Weber in 2005 when I joined Crossroads. She was the supervisor of 100 Huntley Street's field reporting team, and I didn't take long to notice her dedication, passion, and steadfast spirit. I saw her coach many young people in the ways of journalism, and it was clear she had earned this privilege. Like many 100 Huntley Street viewers, I've lived vicariously through Cheryl's extraordinary adventures diving the Great Barrier Reef, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, and exploring the Holy Land with our Crossroads partners! Cheryl has also led us into dark places of great need and been a witness for compassion and practical love that transforms lives. When I heard Cheryl was picking up the Crossroads Cares mantel, I knew we needed to venture into the heart of the woman who has dedicated her life for such a time as this.

"The world is being shaken to new levels, and people need to see followers of Jesus being His hands and feet in the world."
- CW

A: WHEN DID YOUR HEARTBEAT FOR MISSIONS BEGIN?

C: My first real memory of being touched by the suffering of the world was during the Ethiopian famine of 1984, when more than a million people died. I remember how Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie wrote the song "We Are the World" which brought together well-known musicians of all genres to raise funds for food for those who were starving. I saw how powerful it could be when the world gathers around one cause with one voice. I learned that global change could happen through compassionate, motivated action.

Years later, at my Christian University, they sent out invitations for people to join our mission teams working around the world over the summer. I would watch their videos of the impact, cry and pray. I told God that if He wanted me to go, please



Cheryl with students in Kenya

open a door. I needed to work in the summers to help pay for school, so I knew it would take a miracle. I was both touched and terrified. The thought of serving overseas under challenging circumstances frightened me. But I was also filled with compassion and drawn to the idea of helping those who were suffering.

A: YOU ARE AN EXPERT WORLD TRAVELLER. WAS THAT ALWAYS A DREAM?

C: Most people would be surprised to find out that I never desired to visit the developing world. Throughout my childhood, people would pray for me and tell my parents that I had a call on my life to go to the nations of the world. So, I always had the idea but I thought it would be safe, comfortable travel. Perhaps I could speak at conferences?

Years later, I was in a church service where they asked people to come to the front if they felt a calling to the nations of the world. I knew that I needed to answer that call. The speaker then challenged us to remove our shoes and commit our feet to God. I could hear God whispering to me these words: "dusty corners of the world, remote places where no one goes," and I

was appalled. Those words really scared me. I didn't want to take off my shoes if that's what it meant. Yet I had given my life over to God, to obey whatever He asked of me. After battling within, and despite the fear I was feeling, I decided to say 'yes'. But I asked God for one thing. I said: "You own my life. If this is really what you have for me, then I ask you to change my heart. I don't want to be someone reluctantly doing your will, complaining the entire way. You own my heart – please give me a love for this work." When I finished that prayer, I took off my shoes, dedicated my feet to God, and wept from the depths of my being. A battle had been won. God owned my feet.

A few years later, I lived in Germany for the summer, working for Crossroads at Expo 2000. I backpacked across Europe at the end of my time there and fell in love with global travel. When I returned to Canada, I was barraging heaven for an opportunity to live and work overseas. I had the chance to do some amazing global reporting occasionally, but the door remained largely closed for almost a decade. God had changed my heart in answer to my prayer, but it was not yet His timing for my feet to follow the path He had shown me many years before.

My first international reporting trip occurred in 2005. I had travelled to Cuba on vacation and connected with a Canadian named Tony, who had a travel agency there. He gave people a good deal for their vacation and had them bring much-needed aid to the Cuban church. He would deliver it to remote areas where no tourists ventured. I brought aid to him on that vacation, and he offered to show me the real lives of Cubans. I spent a day with him outside of the tourist resorts, and the impact of seeing the desperation of the people rendered me speechless. I could hardly process the suffering he shared with us. I had to do something.

When I came home, I pitched my boss at 100 Huntley Street to allow us to go undercover into Cuba and tell the story of this amazing Canadian who was risking so much to help people. He agreed and soon my cameraman Mike and I were undercover in



Cuba. I told Mike that we could never speak of our true intention to be there while we were on the island as spies were everywhere. We would likely be fine, but the local people we were partnering with could be in immediate danger from the communist government. My co-worker found this especially difficult as we saw heartbreaking scenes every day, but he couldn't process them with his family (who accompanied him to help our cover story). He came to talk to me about it with discouragement, but we couldn't take the risk.

As I prayed afterwards about this issue, a picture popped into my mind. I saw a beautiful flower opening up and heard the words: "You were made for this". I didn't fully understand what God meant, but I knew I had somehow been equipped

for situations like these. It would be years before I truly understood God's call on my life for justice and global care.

A: IS THERE SOMEONE WHO INSPIRED YOU IN THIS WORK?

C: Like so much of the world, Mother Theresa inspired me personally. But I'd also have to say that all our overseas partners have deeply touched me in this work. The people we work with are true heroes and worthy of the utmost admiration. They sacrifice and serve on a level that most of us could never imagine. Yet almost no one knows their name. They truly live out the exhortation of Luke 12:33: "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."

A: WHAT ARE SOME MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE MISSION FIELD?

C: In 2004, I watched a Dateline NBC Documentary titled Kids for Sale. It told the story of young girls who were sex trafficked to foreign men. The story sickened me. I began to pray three specific things for the little girls on that video: that they would be rescued, come to faith in Jesus, and have their hearts and souls healed. Fast forward through a long story to 2009 when Crossroads Cares sent me to Cambodia to report on our work rehabilitating trafficked girls with the NGO Ratanak International. Suddenly, I found myself sitting across from girls in their pre-teens who were the very girls I had prayed for in the NBC documentary. They were rescued, had faith in Jesus and were on a journey of healing. I could scarcely take it in. God had literally placed me in front of answered prayer. I knew without a doubt that when we pray for the issues we see on the news or in the world, God hears our prayers. He wanted me to know that beyond a shadow of a doubt. It was one of the most impactful moments of my life.

A: WHAT WISDOM FROM DAVE SHELLEY, YOUR PREDECESSOR OF 20 YEARS, WILL YOU CARRY FORWARD?

With David Shelley in Puerto Rico, 2018



C: I've learned so much from Dave. My biggest lesson is that you can be sincerely motivated to help those who suffer, but that doesn't mean you are really changing the situation with your efforts. True compassionate care combines the motivation to make a difference with real expertise about doing humanitarian work well. If possible, it involves local, Indigenous partnerships because they know what works in their context. They will still be there long after you've gone and continue to minister to the hurting. It also involves finding ways to empower people to care for themselves, instead of creating a dependency culture. I often reflect on the idea that God doesn't just care for our physical needs, but our emotional and spiritual ones as well. The need for dignity is so essential for healing. Dave has always told us that we are working ourselves out of a job. We'll help this community of people and then move on to others who need the help. Sustainability, local expertise, and dignity make a huge difference.

A: WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THIS NEW ROLE?

C: I really have a strong desire to build on the solid foundation that David Shelley has enacted over his 20 years and continue to grow the work. The world is being shaken to new levels, and people need to see followers of Jesus being His hands and feet in the world. I aim to reach new audiences through digital engagement and social networks. But overall, I want to empower our partners on the ground to reach and help more people. It's as simple as that. ■

CHERYL WEBER IS A REGULAR CO-HOST ON 100 Huntley Street WHERE SHE PROVIDES UPDATES FROM CROSSROADS CARES. YOU CAN LEARN MORE AT CROSSROADS.CA/CARES

AFRICVILLE: HONOURING CANADA'S FORGOTTEN PIONEERS



BY MAGGIE JOHN

AS SEEN ON *CONTEXT BEYOND THE HEADLINES*, STREAM AT [INTOTHECASTLE.COM](https://www.intothecastle.com)

Do you have a bucket list? Things you want to do before you die? Mine isn't that long, mostly because I haven't given it much thought since I'm always so busy! Years ago, I added one place to that short list, and I checked it off last December.

Visiting Africville and telling the story has been a dream of mine for over 15 years. Now I get to share it with the viewers of *Context*.

The history of Black Canadians in this country is long and complex. Some came as enslaved people; experts say there were around 300-500 Black slaves at one point in Nova Scotia. Yes, Canada had slavery. Some came as Black Loyalists, agreeing to fight in the War of Independence and again in the War of 1812. The British promised them land and freedom in what would later become Canada. Several Black migrants came from the Caribbean Island of Jamaica called the Maroons. When all was said and done, historians think there were just under 4,000 Black settlers in Nova Scotia in the mid-1700s, long before Canada was founded, or the province had a name. Pioneers in their own right—I call them Canada's Forgotten Pioneers.

These pioneers created 52 Black settlements over that period. They were places where African descendants could live in community and find belonging at the height of racism and segregation. While African Nova Scotians, as they are called today, played pivotal roles

in forming the province, they were not welcomed by white society. They were viewed as a threat. David George was a Black pastor in Shelbourne County who had been baptizing White Loyalists. Many of the White community members were angry. It added to their fears, like jobs being taken away - inciting the first race riot in North America in 1784 in Shelbourne, Nova Scotia. This man of God was beaten to a pulp forcing him to leave the village and move to the predominantly Black community of Birchtown.

As I walked on the land that once was Africville, a small community created along the water just outside of Halifax around 1848, I thought about the early Black settlers who worked in the city during the day and needed a community close enough to their jobs so that they could get to work. I learned about their determination to create a community out of nothing. Located on the outskirts, one can only imagine what it was like to watch it slowly establish new independence. I wondered if there were lessons from their courage that we could glean from today. At its height, 400 families were living in what became known as Africville.

A church was built in the centre of the town. A schoolhouse, stores, and shops opened.

But slowly, the city started encroaching on the land. A railway was constructed next to the community. The city piled garbage in a dump beside homes. A bone-crushing facility opened at the top of the hill. As Carme Robertson, Educator at the Africville museum, said, "They paid their taxes but didn't receive any of the amenities...they didn't have clean water, and emergency services refused to come to Africville."

Over time there were boil water advisories, sewage backed up, and the promises of freedom and land made so many years ago by the British became a distant memory.

By the 1960s, the city started to talk about razing the community and "relocating" the residents. Many outside the community called it an "eye-sore" and wanted it gone. Those that lived in Africville called it home.

After community consultations, a decision was made: Africville would be no more. Protests and petitions were ignored. In the darkness of a summer night in 1967, Seaview United Baptist Church, the centre of the community for many years, was destroyed. Soon after, houses were bulldozed while residents' belongings were removed by dump trucks.

Treated like chattel, the Africville community disappeared.

On February 24, 2010, Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly apologized, saying, "We realize words cannot undo what has been done. But we are profoundly sorry and apologize to each and every one of you. The repercussions of what happened to Africville linger to this day. They haunt us in the form of lost opportunities for the young people who never were nurtured in the rich traditions, culture, and heritage of Africville." A replica of the original church was erected and opened in 2011 as part of the city's apology.

I walked through the museum housed inside the new church, and I explored the hallowed grounds of what once was a bustling community stolen forever. I felt their pain in the soil, simultaneously quiet and deafening. While the new

structure symbolizes the past, the Africville Museum houses only artifacts of what it once was. A sad reminder of an ugly past.

To this day, there are still boil water advisories in Indigenous communities across Canada; and the conditions of some of the communities are in disrepair. How can this still be after what happened in Africville? Should lessons not have been learned? These lessons have been hidden from generations of Canadians. Many school history books are void of the full breadth of Canadian history, including the role Black Canadians played in forming this country.

What amazes me about Canada's Forgotten Pioneers is that we do not know much about them, even though they played a pivotal role in the formation of our country. For years I heard about the Underground Railroad and Canada's role as a place of refuge for many Black slaves fleeing the Americas looking for freedom and finding it here. But nothing was ever shared about the Black Loyalists who fought in the British army for a promise never kept. Nothing has been taught about the 300-500 Black slaves owned and traded on this soil.

In the summer of 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited Nova Scotia and issued an apology to the descendants of the Number 2 Construction Battalion - a group of Black men who were not allowed to fight in the Canadian army during the First World War. Instead, they were assigned to repair roads. According to the PMO, "they cut the lumber used in the trenches, railways, and even aircraft - they faced systemic anti-Black racism throughout the war." But there are also stories of hope and success.

During my visit, I met with the First Black Female Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, The Honourable Mayann Francis. It was the second time I had the honour of interviewing Her Honour.



"I WALKED THROUGH THE MUSEUM HOUSED INSIDE THE NEW CHURCH, AND I EXPLORED THE HALLOWED GROUNDS OF WHAT ONCE WAS A BUSTLING COMMUNITY STOLEN FOREVER."

She is someone I hold in great reverence. I know personally what it is like to be the "first Black woman," and with it comes much honour and yet, a great burden.

This time we discussed her legacy. She served in the office from 2006-2012 and brought the name Viola Desmond to the country and the world. Ms. Desmond's face now adorns the ten-dollar bill, but the injustice shown to Ms. Desmond in 1946 when she went to a movie theatre one night after her car broke down and was asked to leave the "Whites only" section of the theatre is despicable. She was arrested and thrown into jail, charged a penny for her crime, a fine she was never allowed to pay. That fine was still connected to her name until 2010 when the first Black female Lieutenant Governor appointed a free pardon and forgave Ms. Desmond's debt of one cent—an honour that Ms. Francis calls 'God's calling on her life.'

Viola Desmond will now forever be memorialized on our currency.

But as Vanessa Fells, Director of Operations for the Nova Scotia Decade for People of African Descent Coalition, believes we need to look past performative gestures, "It's time that you see us as contributing to Canadian society each and every day."

So, what does this mean for the future of African Nova Scotians, of which many generations still live to this day? What does this forgotten history mean for the future of Canadians in general? What does this mean for the painful past and trauma?

I pray that as people of God, we sit in the uncomfortable, live face-to-face with the truth, and commit to being agents of change in our country. That is what being followers of Christ looks like. ■

GO BACK TO GO FORWARD



EXCERPT FROM *RESET* BY DEBRA FILETA

To move forward, we have to first go backward. I know that may not be the typical message you hear in Sunday school. Many times, we want to do a quick brush over the past and focus on the present and the future.

The apostle Paul wrote, *“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:13-14). We often misinterpret this to mean that you should literally “forget” your past. Forget the trauma, forget the pain, forget the hurts, forget the abuse, forget the betrayal, forget the abandonment, forget it all.

But please hear me on this: That’s not what Paul is advising! Paul wasn’t talking about forgetting his past struggles; he was talking about forgetting his past victories. He wasn’t talking about forgetting his past pain; he was talking about forgetting his pride and his boasting in his accomplishments. Just a few verses earlier, he listed all the things he could boast in—all his victories and accomplishments: his accolades, statuses, and successes. What he’s trying to say here is that his past identities are nothing compared to his identity in Christ!

Don’t take this verse out of context and use it as an excuse to avoid looking

back. To avoid grieving. To avoiding healing. Friend, let me remind you of a powerful reality: You have to deal with your past to be freed from your past! In fact, there could be some things in your past that are actually keeping you

“OUR EMOTIONAL RESPONSES IN THE PRESENT ARE OFTEN ROOTED IN OUR EMOTIONAL WOUNDS FROM THE PAST.”

stuck today. Our emotional responses in the present are often rooted in our emotional wounds from the past.

If you were to come see me in my office for a counseling session, the first thing I would have you do is tell me about what’s going on in the present. What is

the key issue that brought you in today? We would discuss that issue at length and look for immediate solutions and practical next steps. You have to deal with alleviating the pain in the present, the most pressing symptoms first. It’s like emergency room triage. If you come in with severe pain in your abdomen, we’re going to help alleviate the pain first and foremost. But after that, we need to get to the root of what’s causing this pain to begin with. It could be anything from indigestion to your appendix, all the way to pregnancy!

The same thing goes with emotional health: We need to get to the root. So as we continued your therapy process, eventually we would get to your past. Somewhere between sessions 2 and 6, I’d ask you to do what I call the Timeline Activity. I would ask you to write down significant events, starting from your earliest memories all the way to who you are today, and note experiences that have shaped you for both good and bad. And then we’d talk through it with our eyes open to themes that might come up again and again in your life. We’re looking for emotional responses that might come up repeatedly without your awareness. We’re looking for patterns. We’re identifying roots.

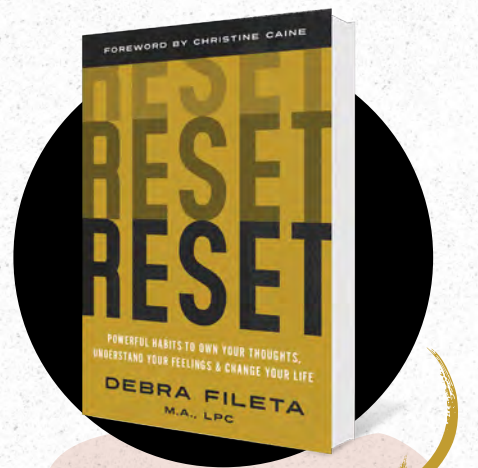
Carla was one of those clients. She was so desperately trying to keep the relationships in her life strong that she was starting to feel exhausted, drained,

and empty. She had a pattern of doing all or most of the work in her relationships—the giving, the serving, the forgiving, the initiating—out of fear that people wouldn’t like her or wouldn’t stick around. She felt like she had to prove to others that she was worth having around; she needed to be needed in order to feel secure in the relationship. But ultimately, she felt alone. She was trapped in a host of one-sided relationships, and her deepest fear of feeling alone was starting to become a reality.

Again and again, in different stages of her life, we began noticing that pattern. Out of fear of abandonment, Carla ended up giving too much in the relationships around her. Out of a deep insecurity that a person would leave, she desperately gave everything she had. Even to people who didn’t deserve it. Even to people who were too unhealthy to give back. As the pattern

emerged, Carla opened her eyes to the fact that she had been functioning out of deep wounds for many years. These deep wounds caused patterns that started in early childhood but repeated themselves in different seasons of her life. Before she could begin to heal, she first needed to acknowledge the pain of being abandoned by her mom.

Your patterns might not be as obvious as Carla’s, but let me assure you, they are there. Patterns emerge in how you act, interact, feel, think, or behave. Those patterns need to be called out, examined, and faced. Because the only way we can successfully move forward is when we have successfully looked back. We all go waaaaay back, my friends. And sometimes it takes going backward to move forward. You’ve got to face it to replace it. So let’s go there. Let’s do this. Together. ■



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CHANGE YOUR LIFE, ONE HABIT AT A TIME

Debra Fileta is a licensed professional counselor, national speaker, relationship expert, and author of *Reset: Powerful Habits to Own Your Thoughts, Understand Your Feelings, and Change Your Life*, *True Love Dates*, *Choosing Marriage*, *Love in Every Season*, as well as *Are You Really OK?* She’s also the host of the hotline style Love + Relationships Podcast. Her popular relationship advice blog, TrueLoveDates.com, reaches millions of people with the message that healthy people make healthy relationships. Connect with her on Facebook or Instagram @DebraFileta.

debrafileta.com



What God is Doing Through Prayer Care

CALGARY CONNECTION

Diane* was recovering from a painful knee operation and travelling to visit family for Christmas. She became stranded in Calgary when a connecting flight was cancelled due to the snow. In pain and with limited mobility, Diane didn't know what to do, so she called her sister Maggie*. Maggie called the prayer line! God answered their prayers with a surprise family reunion. It became known that another relative was stranded at the same airport, then other nearby relatives picked them both up and the group celebrated Christmas together. Maggie is praising God for His provision and is grateful for the Prayer Partner who supported them during this situation.

SUPERIOR SUPPORT

"I am in my 80s and called in asking for prayer support to find someone willing to help me around the house. A younger Christian neighbour came over and offered to help me and he has done excellent work. I am so thankful for God's provision and for your prayers."

- Dorothy*

GRANDMOTHER'S PETITIONS

Cheryl* has been calling for two weeks for prayer for her granddaughter Macy* who has been sneaking out to meet a man at night. Her father firmly but lovingly confronted her, and she reacted with anger and stopped going to school. Praise the Lord, she returned to school and caught up on missed work. We continue to pray for God's work in Macy's life. Cheryl is very thankful for the prayer line.

EMERGENCY HOURS

*Jack's 7-year-old grandson was in the hospital, not eating, and the doctors could not find what was wrong. The surgeon wanted to operate on his spleen or remove his appendix, but John and his family went to prayer first. Jack called Crossroads at around 3:00 am. He spoke with a Prayer Partner who commanded any sicknesses to flee. Jack's grandson was released from the hospital perfectly well, no surgery was needed. His parents and the whole family are rejoicing. John wanted to thank the Crossroads prayer team for being available during those emergency hours.

HEALING JOURNEY

"I am so thankful for the Prayer Partners and follow-up pastors who have helped me through a 15-year-long journey of healing from childhood trauma. When you prayed for me, the words were exactly what I needed to hear, personalized just for me. Thank you for the prayer line, your availability, and how you manifest the care of God."

- Tommy*

DIVINE PROVISION

Fred* called the prayer line because he was in financial need. Two hours later, he received a ministry call saying they would pay a whole month of his rent. He called back, grateful for the prayer, and said his faith has grown through this experience.

OPEN DOOR

"I called the prayer line when my son was unemployed, and the Lord answered our prayers by providing a job for him. I am so grateful for all of the Prayer Partners."

- Linda*

URGENT PRAYER

Tim* called the prayer line because he had just received news that his brother Jason* had a brain aneurysm and was taken to the hospital. After praying, he got in the car with his wife and they just drove, the peace of God keeping them calm. His brother had surgery that evening, and the surgeon spoke to Tim and the brother's wife, saying he knew something else was

at work here because Jason only had one chance in a million to survive, and he did! On the third day, he could eat, communicate with his family, and sit up in his bed. They are all amazed and praising God! Tim would like us to know how thankful he is and how in his own words, "I was so messed up when I got the call that I couldn't pray, then found your number online and called. Thank you for your ministry." ■

*Names have been changed to protect privacy



Turn your
worries
into
prayers

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Crossroads

24/7 PRAYER LINE
1-866-273-4444

A Life Devoted to Prayer

BY JORDAN BERTA

PRAYER MINISTRY
REPRESENTATIVE TEAM LEADER
& STAFF WRITER

Crossroads Prayer Centre provides 1,300 prayer interactions daily, and this is made possible because of our faithful volunteer Prayer Partners. When we discovered Theresa C. was our most generous volunteer last year, **serving nearly 800 hours**, we knew we wanted to inspire others with her story!

Theresa C. watched 100 Huntley Street twelve years ago and discovered the need for new Prayer Partners. Theresa said, "When I heard this invitation, my heart started pounding, and I was in tears." She shared this experience with a friend who encouraged her to apply. Once accepted, she followed through with Crossroads' professional training program and began answering prayer calls.

Today, Theresa is a passionate team member, serving on the prayer lines nearly 800 hours last year—that's an average of two hours per day! In addition to her scheduled shifts, Theresa shared that she logs in and answers prayer calls whenever she feels led by the Lord to pray for people. Her heart's desire is to see people accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and walk in the freedom that Jesus offers.

Each time she begins a call, she asks the Lord to guide her in encouraging each caller with prayer and scripture. Theresa has a deep passion for praying God's will for her callers using the Word of God and believing in His loving power. While we cannot solve everyone's problems, we can introduce them to the One who can.

She also shared how being on the prayer lines has helped her to grow in her study of scripture, as the conversations on the phone will lead her to research a new area of God's Word after her shift.

One day, Crystal* called the prayer line, and Theresa answered the call. *Crystal had a lot of questions, and Theresa simply asked God to help her pray for this caller. At the end of the prayer, the caller said she felt an extraordinary peace in her heart during the prayer time.

Theresa encourages anyone considering becoming a volunteer Prayer Partner to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, as you may be moved like she was, to join the Crossroads' prayer team.

If you have a heart for prayer and personal ministry, if you feel the nudge of the Holy Spirit to volunteer, go to crossroads.ca/prayervolunteer for more information and to access the volunteer application form.

We are grateful for our faithful volunteers like Theresa and look forward to seeing how God will inspire others to join His work at Crossroads through prayer. ■

Four Ways To Nurture Faith in God

ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER

We will not hide them
from their descendants;
we will tell the
next generation
the praiseworthy
deeds of the LORD,
His power, and the
wonders He has done.

– Psalm 78:4

BY CROSSROADS

STUDY THE BIBLE REGULARLY

Read God's Word together! To help you learn more about scripture, check out Castle for free video Bible teachings by some of the best teachers of our generation-for all ages, families, and small groups.

MAKE PRAYER A ROUTINE

The more you invite God into your life, the more you see Him at work. Crossroads prayer lines are open 24/7, and our compassionate Prayer Partners would love to pray with you and your family; call **1-866-273-4444**.

ENGAGE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Your local Bible-believing church is a great place for all ages to encourage each other in the Christian faith, and we can help you find a church if you don't have one. Crossroads also offers engaging connections through social media, prayer lines, and our friendly teleministry team.

GET INVOLVED IN GOD'S WORK

Whether volunteering as a Prayer Partner, supporting a Crossroads Cares relief project, sharing your testimony, or partnering to reveal the transforming story of Jesus through inspiring and innovative media, there are many ways to build a legacy of faith! ■



To learn more, visit crossroads.ca or call 1-800-265-3100

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Serendipity: God's Greater Plan



BY MELINDA ESTABROOKS
HOST & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,
SEE HEAR LOVE

When I stepped into the airplane that Monday afternoon at Pearson International Airport in Toronto, I was all focused on the three one-on-one interviews and the four Bible study episodes I would be recording in downtown Vancouver. There were also two live-audience panel discussions to host and record in Whistler at the Leverage Women's Conference shortly after.

My mind was overwhelmed with the details, the scripts, production notes, and the coordination of ALL THE THINGS involved in this *See Hear Love* marathon! As Host and Executive Producer, I felt the weight of responsibility to ensure everything would go right and deliver well.

I was SO focused on what was going to happen that coming week that I almost missed what was happening right beside me...across the aisle, in the window seat.

I heard the crying. I saw the service dog.

And I ignored it all.

I buried my head in my phone. I played games and listened to music.

I wanted to protect my mental focus and emotional strength to be fully prepared for these BIG *See Hear Love* productions.

I didn't have the bandwidth for more people, drama, and anything that would expend my energy.

So, I ignored her.

Well, I tried to.

Then the woman across the aisle asked the woman between us to watch her service dog while she went to the back of the airplane. "Can you please make sure my dog doesn't follow me? Can you hold him back if necessary?" she said.

My seatmate looked at me, and I at her. And we instantly knew we had to step up, show up right now.

Now there's something about a dog, its eyes, waggy tail, and trusting demeanour that can instantly melt any hard heart, which it did to mine.

That dog's entire existence on that plane, at that time, was to love, not judge, and soothe that woman who was in trauma.

And I think that dog, well, God using that dog—was also there to change my heart and snap me out of my selfish ways...and do the thing that I SAY to every viewer and listener after every show...SEE, HEAR and LOVE those around you!

I had chosen NOT to do THE THING that I tell everyone else to do. HEART CHECK...and thank you, Holy Spirit.

So, after the window-seat woman returned to her seat and the dog jumped up and gave her cuddles of welcome and care, my seatmate and I asked how she was doing.

And that was all it took.

Tears flowed. A story of recent trauma was shared. A traumatic event that she blamed herself for. And we listened. And listened. And told her it wasn't her fault.

And when she stopped to wipe her tears away and blow her nose, she looked right at me and asked if I was a religious person, a Church person...what they call a 'Christian.'

And I said, "Yes, I am a Christian. I follow Jesus."

And she said, "I knew it! You have a LIGHT. There is kindness in you. I could tell you were of faith. I needed some understanding, someone to listen, someone to pass me tissue paper, someone to say it wasn't my fault, someone to encourage me in my next steps...and it's, it's serendipitous, destiny...that YOU happen to sit in the same row as me!"



PANELISTS AND ORGANIZERS
AT THE LEVERAGE WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

And in that moment, in the midst of her utter despair, surrounded by a sweet dog, me, and my seatmate, God met us all there—divine connection, for sure. Not across the TV screen or at a large church event or at a Christian concert or listening to a podcast—and those things are all great too—but today, God met us in REAL LIFE.

He met us right at that moment, exactly where we sat on that airplane, at 35,000 feet in the air.

And I learned something very valuable that day.

**MY SEATMATE
LOOKED AT
ME, AND I AT
HER. AND WE
INSTANTLY KNEW
WE HAD TO STEP
UP, SHOW UP
RIGHT NOW.**

I could get so caught up in my GOOD plans that I could miss the even GREATER plans and connections that God has for me.

Listen, planning my *See Hear Love* shows is really, really good. But listening to the Holy Spirit say 'Melinda, ask the woman in the window seat how she's doing because I want her to know that she is SEEN, HEARD, and LOVED by ME' is even better!

I can never lose sight of that. Ever.

And WE can never lose sight of that. Ever.

Often the people that need us the most, that need God the most are right in front of us – at home, at our workplaces, at



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KRISTA PENNER PRODUCE
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the gym, at the driving range, at your favourite retail store, at the cottage, at your favourite coffee shop, in your travels.

Or, maybe it's YOU that you have to get in front of. Maybe YOU need a moment to stop all the busyness and listen to what God is saying to you and what God is asking of you.

After we landed, we took a picture (which I won't post for privacy reasons) and exchanged phone numbers and hugs. And as I took my suitcase off the carousel, a thought struck me: What if the entire reason I went to Vancouver, BC, was for THAT moment to be on THAT airplane at THAT time to listen to our new friend?

I know that's how God works sometimes. A lot of times.

He cares for the one. He sees the one. And he will use dogs, airplanes, and even TV shows to remind that one person that they are seen, heard, and deeply loved by HIM. ■

PS. OUR *SEE HEAR LOVE* PRODUCTIONS WENT REALLY WELL, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING! WE SHARED WONDERFUL GENERATION-TO-GENERATION CONVERSATIONS ON MENTORING, CULTIVATING GREAT LEADERS, AND PRACTICALLY LIVING OUT FAITH IN COMMUNITY. YOU CAN CATCH ALL THE SHOWS HERE, AT SEEHEARLOVE.COM





7 Biblical Principles to Prepare for a 2023 Recession



BASED ON 100 HUNTLEY STREET'S INTERVIEW WITH DR. DAVID JEREMIAH

For many people, worry, anxiety, and fear are constant companions. And too often, these fears are crippling, keeping us from the life God has called us to live. But it doesn't have to be that way, says Dr. David Jeremiah. As Christians, we have been given all we need to face down even the most frightening, unexpected, and overwhelming obstacles in life.

The past few years have been challenging for people in many ways, including with their finances and questions looming about what 2023 may look like for the economy and personal finances. These concerns are having a significant effect on people's mental health.

Dr. David Jeremiah explores the fear of financial loss in this interview with Moira Brown and shares 7 Biblical principles to help us replace fear with faith based on Psalm 37:3-4, "Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart."

Here are the seven principles along with a quote from Dr. Jeremiah...

1 DECIDE TO TRUST IN THE LORD

"Trusting is a decision not an emotion. If you want to come to Christ, you need to decide to come to Christ, you don't just all of a sudden wake up with warm fuzzies one morning and now you are going to be a Christian. To become a Christian is a decision and to trust God is a decision."

2 DO THINGS THAT HONOUR THE LORD

"Trust God and don't stop doing the good things He has given you to do."

3 DWELL ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE LORD

"When you are tempted to be afraid of loss don't dwell on your financial loss dwell on the faithfulness of God."

4 DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD

"I remember when we went through the serious recessions of years past, I'll be honest with you, we had some of the best worship we have ever had. We worship God better in times of adversity than we do in times of prosperity."

5 DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD

"When you are going through financial loss, you reboot your life in a sense. You go back to the basic thing you are all about."

6 DOWNLOAD YOUR WORRY TO THE LORD

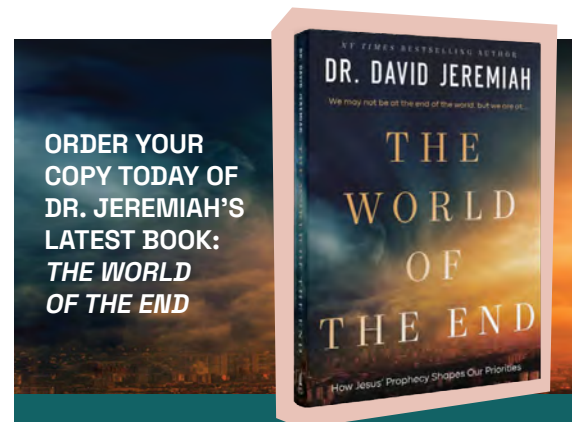
"If there is one thing people learn when going through stress, it is that your periods of time of trusting the Lord get smaller, sometimes hour-by-hour or minute-by-minute."

7 DISCIPLINE YOURSELF TO WAIT ON THE LORD

"Nobody likes to wait but waiting is purifying. Waiting reminds you that you live in a time-zone but Almighty God does not."

Focusing on the Lord is key to finding peace in any circumstance. ■

WATCH THE FULL INTERVIEW AT [YOUTUBE.COM/100HUNTLEY](https://www.youtube.com/100HUNTLEY)



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'Kokum': Loving the Next Generation

BY BEV HADLAND

AMBASSADOR TO THE FIRST PEOPLES

I am always looking for young people whom I sense that God wants me to support, as a representative of Crossroads but also in my own personal relationships. It's about building strong, long-term relationships beyond the 'job description.'

I first met Sarah and Jelina in 2018 when they flew to Ontario as part of a Youth Media Mentorship program that Crossroads was offering. They stayed in my home, and I had the privilege of driving them to their daily classes and giving them some after-hours fun. At that time, Sarah lived in a small town, and Jelina lived on the Maskwacis First Nation reserve.

I introduced them to other Ontario families, unique restaurants, and tourist attractions that were on their list.



SARAH (FAR LEFT), JELINA (THIRD IN FROM LEFT) AND THE OTHER GIRLS ENJOYING ITALIAN CUISINE AT THE HOME OF JANE AND JERRY WALKER.

"THE MOST PRECIOUS THING TO ME IS JELINA CALLING ME 'KOKUM,' WHICH MEANS 'GRANDMOTHER' IN CREE."

The class was invited for homemade Italian food in the home of Jane and Jerry Walker.

Since that first meeting in 2018, I have made a point of staying in touch and dropping in for a visit at least once a year when I am in their area.

Sarah continues working full-time with Youth Unlimited while Jelina concentrated on completing her high school diploma. In June of 2022, she was the first one to graduate in her family. I was able to arrange my tour to Alberta and Saskatchewan, so I could attend her graduation and party. Today, Jelina helps Sarah with the children's programming at their

church. Not only does Crossroads support their efforts by shipping Christian resources, but we support them with love that goes beyond a job. The most precious thing to



SARAH AND JELINA (LEFT) JOIN OTHERS IN CROSSROADS' MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AT OUR STUDIO IN BURLINGTON, ON.

me is Jelina calling me 'kokum,' which means 'grandmother' in Cree. Grandmothers are for life, and that is my intention.

First Peoples Voices allows me, through your help, to support and strengthen relationships from one generation to the next. ■

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CROSSROADS' CARE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, VISIT [FIRSTPEOPLESVOICES.CA](https://firstpeoplesvoices.ca)



A Generational Legacy

BY RON MAINSE
HOST, A BETTER US

It was in June of 2006 when my father, David Mainse, fulfilled a family dream. He always wanted to take his extended family on a road trip to retrace his roots and share stories of God’s faithfulness through the years. So, Dad and Mom, their children and 16 grandchildren, all loaded into a bus and off we went.



Great grandfather Joseph Mainse was the first in the family dynasty to give his life to Jesus

We visited Dad’s birthplace, a small parsonage in Campbell’s Bay Quebec, as well as several places in the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario where Dad spent his boyhood years. And of course, he had a story for each stop. His emotions often overwhelmed him as he related the life-shaping history of God’s faithfulness.

At one particular stop, the past and future collided with a significant impact on all of us. It was a cemetery. Dad pointed out one particular tombstone and said, “This is where it all started.” The tall obelisk stone had engraved on it “Joseph Mainse, Died April 23, 1869.” With tears in his eyes, Dad shared that his great-grandfather, Joseph, was the first of our family to give his life to Jesus—a single decision with such far-reaching influence, rippling down through the generations.

Then, to the shock of his kids and grandkids, Dad walked over to a particular spot in the same cemetery and laid down on the grass. With a twinkle in his eye, he said, “This is my plot, and some day this is where my old body will lay, but I won’t be here...I’ll be with Jesus!” He had an excitement in his voice as he thought about the prospect of spending eternity with his Saviour.

Fast forward to September, 2017... our family gathered around that same

plot as Dad’s casket was lowered into the ground. We cried, we sang, and we rejoiced that he was exactly where he longed to be!

David Mainse, like the generations before him, passed down to us a powerful and inspiring example of what it looks like to truly follow Jesus, to love God and love people fully with a servant’s heart and with integrity. And if I were to suggest just ONE KEY as to how he accomplished that, I would say it’s having a VISION for the kind of legacy you want to leave. When you have a VISION for the future, it has a profound effect on your decisions TODAY, your attitudes TODAY, and your relationships TODAY!

The problem comes when we get so caught up in the day-to-day of our immediate needs, stresses and selfish desires that we give little thought to the lasting ripple effects our words and actions have on those around us—especially on our family.

It’s so easy to get distracted by focusing on the ground at our feet, putting all of our energy into that next step. But what if, instead of constantly looking down, we look up—TO THE HORIZON—and with God’s help through eyes of faith, we see what CAN BE? What a profound impact that has on our decisions here and now, with amazing repercussions into eternity!

The Apostle Paul raises our sights in 2 Corinthians 4:18, saying,

“So, we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

So, what ARE those things that will last forever? Certainly not the material stuff we accumulate, but rather the people we cultivate, as we plant unseen spiritual seeds that grow and reproduce from one generation to the next.

At family gatherings, Dad loved to lead us all in a family prayer, especially during his last few years with us. Surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he would lift his voice to God and, at some point in his prayer, Dad would get a little weepy and say these heartfelt words: “Lord, may we all meet together some day as an unbroken family circle around Your throne in Heaven!” I have NEVER forgotten that prayer. That was the vision Dad chose to focus on.

Now he’s IN HEAVEN waiting for its fulfilment. And his passionate prayers continue to echo in our hearts today. We all, with God’s help, can pass down that kind of lasting legacy from generation to generation. ■

Legacy Webinar Series

PRESENTED BY:  ADVISORS with Purpose |  crossroads.

The Joy of Generosity – The What, Why, and How of Planned Giving

THURS MAY 25TH
7PM ET/5PM MT

PRESENTED BY LORNE JACKSON
AND ABRAHAM SOMOVARAPHA

You’ve seen the ads, read the stories, and watched the commercials about legacy giving but are unsure what it means and how it’s done and whether it is the right thing to do. In this webinar hosted by our partners at Advisors with Purpose, two advisors of different generations will answer those questions and explain the difference your generosity can make not only for the recipients but for you as well.

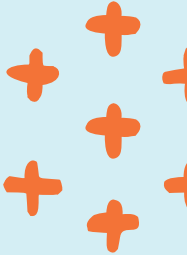


Thoughtful Will Planning for those remarried or in blended families

TUES JUNE 20TH
8:30PM ET/6:30PM MT

PRESENTED BY
CHANTEL GIBBS

Blending families and finances can become complex but good planning can help ensure that your Will reflects your new situation while ensuring that every person, situation, and asset is considered. You are invited to join us for a webinar hosted by Advisors with Purpose that will present solutions and ideas that need to be addressed.





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