



Life Lessons – It’s About Time



Rev. Tracy McConnell

RECIPES

Farm Stand Blueberry Pie

Robyn Kosinski, Kosinski Farm Stand

There are so many things competing for our time that, if you’re like me, you’re often left wondering where all the time went by the end of the day. That’s why the Apostle Paul says, “See then that you walk circumspectly (look carefully at how you live), not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16). The word “redeeming” refers to the amazing opportunity we have through Christ to use the time we would have spent living for sin, living for God instead.

There are several obvious ways we can spend our time living the life God intends. We can spend time reading our Bibles, praying, listening to uplifting Christian music, attending church, and fellowshiping with other believers. But I learned several years ago about one not-so-obvious way I needed to redeem the time while, you guessed it, listening to Christian radio. The host was interviewing Pastor and author Wayne Cordeiro about his book, *Leading on Empty* (with Bob Buford, 2010). When he asked the host, “How much of what you do can only be done by you?” I thought about what I did and what only I could do. As a pastor, I was the only one who could preach, administer the church, lead worship, and run the children’s program because no one else in the church could.

Then Pastor Wayne said, “85 percent of what I do, anyone can do. 10 percent of what I do, someone with a modicum (basic amount) of training should be able to accomplish. But five percent of what I do, only I can do. I have to discover this five percent and make it the epicenter of my life, and learn how to delegate much of the rest.” Of course, my mind went right back to the things I’d already listed, but then Pastor Wayne started listing the things in his five percent. He said, “Only I can be a husband to my wife, only I can be a father to my children, only I can be a son to my parents, and only I can take care of my spiritual and physical health.

Suddenly, God shifted my perspective away from what I thought only I could do, to what, in fact, only I could do: being a godly husband, father, and son, and a good steward of my body, mind, and spirit. Which is exactly what the Bible teaches:

- Husbands are to love their wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Eph. 5:25)
- Fathers shouldn’t provoke their children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

- Adult children need to “Honor their father and mother (Eph. 6:3)
- Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; therefore, we should glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits (1 Cor. 6:19–20)

I also realized how my distorted thinking was negatively affecting my life. Because I thought my ministry job was my 5 percent, I was investing energy in it that I should have invested in my true 5 percent. And because I believed I was the only one who could preach, administer the church, lead worship, and run the children’s program, I wasn’t doing my job as a pastor to equip “the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Eph. 4:12

It’s not that we need to abandon all of the 95 percent of what we do and focus entirely on the five percent. God has given us responsibilities beyond the five percent, like being an active member of a church, being a good neighbor, being a good boss or employee, earning a living, and so on. The problem comes when those things push the five percent from being the priority God says they are. Here are some questions to help you identify your five percent and “make it the epicenter of my life,” by weeding out what doesn’t need to be there and delegating what God wants someone else to do.

- What are the things in my top five percent? Am I giving them the time they deserve?
- What are the 10 percent things I’m doing that can be done by someone with a small, but necessary amount of training? What can I step away from or delegate to others by finding someone who is, or can be trained to replace me?
- What are the 85 percent things I’m doing that almost anyone else can do? What do I need to step away from so I can give my top five percent things the time they deserve?

Then just keep whittling down those 95 percent things until you’re doing the five percent well.

It doesn’t matter whether you’re a man or a woman, or whether you’re just starting out or the CEO of a Fortune 500 company; you have an amazing opportunity to use the time you would have spent living for sin, living for God instead. There’s no better time to start than now!

Pastry	Filling
2½ cups all-purpose flour	1 cup sugar
1 tsp sugar	¼ cup corn starch
1 tsp salt	½ tsp ground cinnamon
¾ cup vegetable shortening	6 cups blueberries
1 large egg lightly beaten	1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 ½ tsp white vinegar	
6-8 tbsp ice water	

1. Pastry: In bowl, mix flour, sugar, and salt. With pastry blender, cut in shortening until coarse crumbs. (Reserve 1 tbsp of beaten egg). Add vinegar to remaining egg; stir into flour mixture. Sprinkle water 1 tbsp at a time mixing lightly with fork until dough just holds together. Shape dough into 2 disks and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
2. Filling: In bowl, stir sugar, cornstarch, & cinnamon. Add blueberries; toss to coat.
3. Place foil-lined cookie sheet on lower rack and preheat oven to 350°.
4. On floured surface and with floured rolling pin, roll 1 disk to 12” round. Ease into 9” pie plate. Spoon filling into crust; sprinkle with lemon juice.
5. Roll remaining dough into 12” round. Cut slits for steam, center over filling. Fold overhang under; pinch to seal. Brush with reserved egg.
6. Place pie on hot cookie sheet. Bake 1hr. 25min, or until filling bubbles and crust is golden. Cool on wire rack.

Helpful Hints

Beneficial Bugs: Some bugs are good for the garden. We call these good guys “Beneficial insects,” and they can really help your garden by eating pest insects that would otherwise eat your plants. Here are some tips for making your garden an inviting home for them without resorting to chemicals to remove the pests.

- A diversity of plants will attract a wide range of insects.
- Early-blooming plants, with tiny blossoms like alyssum, or biennials such as carrots or parsley that are left to bloom, will help attract beneficials to your yard in spring.
- Later, plants with compound blossoms, such as yarrow, goldenrod, and Queen Anne’s lace, and flowering herbs like lavender, mint, sage, dill, fennel, and lemon balm will attract them.

From The old Farmer’s Almanac 1975

Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry L. Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terrylbalko@gmail.com. **Don’t let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!**

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Fernando Garza, Interim President



2026

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not nor do they spin. And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Matt. 6:28-29

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BRM Interims and Associates Engaged in Ministry:

>Rev. Steve Barack, BRM Associate – Interim Pastor of Village Baptist Church, Lake Village, IN

>Dr. Al Carson, Sr., BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Edwards Corners Bible Church, Marcellus, MI

>Dr. Joe Stewart, BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Grace Bible Church, Dallas City, IL

>Rev. Darwyn Hassert, BRM Associate – Smyrna Bible Church (and vicinity), MI, preaches and assists as needed in nearby areas

>Rev. Don Zimmerman, Interim Pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church, IL

>Rev. Jim Vyleta, Interim Pastor of Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church, Appleton, WI

>Rev. Tracy B McConnell, BRM Associate – Monthly BRM Newsletter publication, Interim Pastor of Portage Bible Church, Portage, IN

Mother’s Day

After her mother died in 1905, Miss Anna Jarvis wanted to memorialize her mother and started campaigning for a day to honor all mothers. Her mother was a homemaker and life-long activist who organized “Mother’s Day Work Clubs” to combat unsanitary living conditions and organized women’s brigades to help without regard for sides during the Civil War. On May 10, 1908, a Mother’s Day service was held at a church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna’s mother had taught. Thus, the idea was born to set aside the second Sunday in May to honor all mothers, dead or alive. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill making the second Sunday in May a legal holiday to be called Mother’s Day

BRM Field Report #5

Our men have been busy with pulpit supply again last month, filling in for Pastors at 3 churches. One is for two weeks while the Pastor is away for a funeral.

Interim President Fernando Garza spoke at Roberts Road Bible Church on Saturday, April 11th, at their Men’s Breakfast, discussing ministering in small churches.

After months of preparing a member of La Grange Bible Church for ordination, Associate Steve Barack and a BRM friend report that the ordination was successful!

Longtime BRM friend and former Associate Pastor Larry VanGundy will be retiring from pastoral responsibilities at The Living Stone Community on June 14th. Congratulations on finishing well! Larry will continue to work part-time at the Rural Home Missionary Association.

BRM is here for you! As we wait on God to provide BRM with a new Executive Director, Fernando Garza (BRM Interim President), along with Dolores and the BRM Associate Pastors, are working together to fulfill BRM’s mission. The phone lines are open and manned. Don’t hesitate to call with any questions, needs, concerns, or issues.

We would like to offer our condolences and ask for prayers for the family of Samuel Garcia, the father of Pastor Juan Gill’s wife, Sophia, who passed away on April 9th, 2026.

Please continue to pray for BRM:

1. For God to provide a new Executive Director
2. For God’s wisdom and guidance for the BRM Board