



June 2025

Dear CWR/PTM Friends and Partners,

**F**or we live *by faith, not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:7). Many of you have graciously asked me through your cards, letters, emails, and phone calls about my eyesight condition and how I am doing here at PTM. I always appreciate the question, and your deep care behind the question, and so, I would like to take some time to give you an update.

You may recall, I have written previously of my eyesight condition in *Plain Truth* magazine articles and columns, and also on our website, [www.ptm.org](http://www.ptm.org), through various blog posts. I suffer from a rare form of macular degeneration known as Stargardt's Disease. This eyesight condition, which I have lived with since my early days at college, affects my retina, and has left me to do all that I do with only the use of my peripheral vision. At this point, I have no central vision remaining. The result of this eyesight condition is that I haven't been able to drive for nearly forty years. And, I sit pretty-close to whatever it is I am working on at my desk day-to-day.

The good news for me is that my vision loss has stabilized, and there will be no further deterioration due to the Stargardt's. Peripheral vision is by far the larger field of vision, and central vision, although more acute, is far smaller. Any further challenges I may face with my eyesight have more to do with life's wear-and-tear, with aging, such as we all face as we grow older.

I use visual aids and good lighting, as well as public transportation (trains, Uber, friends and family) to get around. I get lots of walking in, which is excellent for my heart health. The bottom-line is that I am truly grateful; I have an eye condition that connects me with people, one I can use to give encouragement and comfort. Yet, I am able to get around quite well and do all that I need to do with a relative ease. I am quite fortunate.

The opportunity to give an update on my physical sight has me thinking about the topic of spiritual sight as we follow Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, *for we live by faith, not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:7). Many translations read, *for we walk by faith, not by sight*. This verse is a favorite of many Christ-followers, and would surely make any list of most-quoted passages.

**What does it mean to live (or walk) by faith and not by sight?**

As Christ-followers, we believe that *faith* and *spiritual sight* have much to do with one another. First and foremost, *whose faith* are we talking about? *Whose spiritual sight* do we live by? We believe and trust that it is Christ Jesus who lives within us. He indwells us, resides with us, transforms us, and gives us his gift of *faith*, and his gift of *spiritual sight*. The spiritual sight that we live by as we walk with him, the sight we enjoy that is far beyond physical sight, comes from him. His gift helps us to see life in new ways.

Christ Jesus helps us to see life differently. His *spiritual sight* within us helps us to be present, to let go of deeply engrained preoccupations with regrets from the past and anxieties about the future. His *spiritual sight* in us helps us to perceive our world, our circumstance and life events, other Christ-followers, and the people around us, in general, in a new way.

We begin to see all with compassion and patience; as we yield, we begin to see with fresh insight and understanding. This new sight starts with seeing the truth of our own humanity, and then extends to those around us. Those who are also so human. We begin to see other people as *us* and no longer as *them*.

In this fine summer month of June, we find ourselves in the thick of a brand-new major league baseball season. We are baseball fans here at PTM, and I would have to say, to a person, we throw our support behind our local team, the Los Angeles Dodgers, at least for those of us who live and work here in the Pasadena/Los Angeles area. That said—we realize many of you deeply love and support your local teams in various sports.

One of my favorite movies set within the culture of major league baseball is the movie, “42.” The film “42” is the story of Jackie Robinson, a black baseball player, who was the first of his race to enter and play at the major league level.

Jackie Robinson, a uniquely gifted talent from his college days at UCLA, found breaking into the establishment of an **all-white** professional sport to be an incredibly long and painful experience. At the time, few team owners, managers, and major league-level players were open to integration. The process of racial barrier change was an ugly business. Jackie Robinson bore the scars.

In his early days playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Jackie Robinson made a friend named Wendell Smith. Wendell Smith, a black man himself, covered Jackie’s story for the big city newspaper, *The Pittsburgh Courier*. Having broken into a world that had previously been closed to any person of color, Wendell Smith took a personal and particular interest in Jackie’s career, and served as a wise counselor to Jackie as the two moved into a challenging new world together.

Jackie Robinson had an ability to *slow the pitch down* in his mind as it traveled from the pitcher’s hand to the catcher’s mitt. In *slowing the pitch down*, Jackie had the time to see the baseball more clearly, and to make the necessary adjustments to get his bat on the ball. It was as if Jackie could slow time between the pitcher’s mound and home plate. The result of this special ability is reflected in his batting statistics we celebrate to this day.

One day, in the face of extremely harsh and racist taunts from the opposing team and their fans, Jackie’s friend, the reporter Wendell Smith, encouraged Jackie to use his special ability in a new way. “Jackie,” he said, “*slow the pitch down*.” What Wendell Smith meant in the context of this encouragement was, *when faced with an ugly taunt, a racist remark, or a criticism that is thrown at you to evoke an angry reaction, slow the ugly taunt, racist remark, or criticism down in your mind*. In so doing, in slowing the pitch (the taunt, remark, or criticism), Jackie could give himself the time he needed to adjust, and to react differently. In that brief space of nonreaction, Jackie could absorb the hurt and anger. He could rise above the ugliness and the pain of the moment and respond in a new way.

As Christ-followers, there is much in our world today that can evoke an angry or a hurt

response. Harsh words can be thrown at us; words that feel like (or are) hurtful taunts, ugly remarks, or unfair criticisms. We can react strongly to events and circumstances, challenges and difficulties, or to other people in ways we may later regret. Even if we are in the right, still, we can respond in a way that is less than ideal. We can react in a way that is based on how we see with our physical sight. Spiritual sight, as a gift from God, can give us that special ability to *slow the pitch down*. Spiritual sight can give us the time we need to make an adjustment, and to react to the difficulties of life in a different way.

### **What does it mean to live (or walk) by faith and not by sight?**

**We trust.** We trust in Christ Jesus to see us through. We trust that no matter what harsh realities, circumstances, or events we may face, he walks with us through all of it. Jesus never leaves nor forsakes us.

**We yield.** We remember that it is Christ Jesus who lives in us and transforms us. Yes, we let, allow, yield, and participate in the work he is doing, but we never lose sight of the fact that he is the one who gives us the gift of faith, the gift of spiritual sight. Jesus completes us for his good pleasure.

**We walk.** We walk with him, each day, which means we keep going even when life is tough. We remain aware that although we may feel as if we are alone at times, we are never left alone. We live in a community of Christ-followers, and in a communion with Christ Jesus. We give thanks that Jesus helps us with each step along the way.

**We live.** And so, we live free in Christ Jesus. We live trusting in him, yielding to him and walking with him. We live by the gift of his faith, his spiritual sight within us. We live, and see, in a new way, as new men and women in Christ. Although life can throw harsh and hurtful circumstances and events our way, Jesus helps us *slow the pitch down*, and make the necessary adjustments, so that we may react and respond anew.

Your brother in Christ,



Ed Dunn, Vice President & Chief Executive Officer  
Plain Truth Ministries

## CWR/PTM Prayer List—June 2025

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

*Please pray for my husband. He is having trouble with his eyesight. I pray that God will open the minds and hearts of people around the world to follow him and his ways.—North Carolina*

*Please pray for me to be able to continue to support PTM. I'm 96 years old and I pray for God's strength and love to sustain all of you wonderful people and the work of PTM.—Arizona*

*Please pray for a dear friend who is fighting cancer of the esophagus. Pray for healing and comfort.—California*

*I pray that I may continue to support the work of CWR/PTM and help wherever I can in Jesus' name.—Illinois*

*Please pray for me as I continue to grieve the death of my husband several months ago. Father's Day will be really hard for me and our family this year. Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement.—Missouri*

*Please keep me in your prayers. I am 86 years old and having trouble with dizziness. Sometimes mild and other times severe. I've been tested for everything imaginable with no diagnosis.—Colorado*

*Please pray for all those who have lost jobs suddenly and without warning and who are now scrambling to make ends meet and figure out what to do.—Michigan*

*Please pray for the Middle East, Ukraine and horrible conditions endured by millions in other countries.—Georgia*

*Please pray for my dad—he is in the last stages of kidney failure and now living in a nursing home.—Kentucky*

*Please pray for me as I struggle to understand and incorporate grace into my life. I am so thankful to have found CWR/PTM online—I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders.—Florida*

*I pray for everyone still struggling with the aftermath of the wildfires in Southern California. May God be with all affected and give them strength to carry on.—North Dakota*

*I pray that God will protect and direct everyone at CWR/PTM. You pour out such uplifting and encouraging information; words just don't begin to express our appreciation for all you do.—Washington*

*Please pray for me. I'm enduring the trauma of watching over my mother while she slowly fades away.—California*

*Please pray for my cousin who is struggling with neck and back pain from arthritis. We pray for all of you at CWR/PTM and thank you so much for all the good work you do.—North Carolina*

*You have been such an inspiration to me over the years. I pray you will all continue to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit wherever it leads you.—Illinois*

*I pray the work of PTM will continue to flourish. Thank you so much for all you do to encourage and uplift so many. It is immensely encouraging to trust that our Heavenly Father will never abandon us.—Washington*

*Pray for this world. When I read and listen to materials from PTM I feel you're about the only media I can trust. What I hear everywhere else drives me to despair. Thanks for being "all Jesus all the time."—Colorado*

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.