

## **Just Tell the Truth”**

**By Pastor Bill Hayden**

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I’m sure that we have all heard the expression, “Just tell the truth.” This statement is often asked by the person hearing the information because they have difficulty believing what they have heard. I admit that some things seem unbelievable when first heard from certain people, but on the other hand, some individuals sound so convincing in their falsification of the truth that we accept what they say without fact-checking their statements.

I have had friends, who I grew up with, who were so convincing that you were willing to follow them. Sometimes, a brother or sister in your family convinces a parent that they are being truthful, and someone takes the blame. What happens is, they become adults who are skillful in the game of deception. As kids, we lied to our parents with straight faces when we didn’t want to tell the truth... “Did you eat your broccoli?”

Untruthfulness reminds me of the first time I planted a small bush in front of a bedroom window that grew out of control. So, I decided to remove the plant, digging deep... removing every visible root! When I finished, there was no evidence that it was ever there, and for many years, nothing grew there. Ten years later, suddenly, up from the *ground, that plant began to emerge.*

The truth is that I placed that plant in the ground and tried to conceal all evidence of its existence. I had dug deep and wide in the ground, removing all the roots... so, I thought!

Telling the truth keeps a person free. Regardless of the circumstances, the truth will always surface, no matter how deeply we try to bury it. People may not want to hear and accept the truth, but happy is the person who can be truthful in all ways.

Let’s remain free and happy and always be a person who speaks the truth in love. Proverbs 12:17 NLT: “*An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells liars.*”

“Heaven will be filled with truth-tellers!”

October is our celebration of renewal, reconciliation, and revival! Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel, in Cribari

Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at [www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club](http://www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club)