

FALL 2013

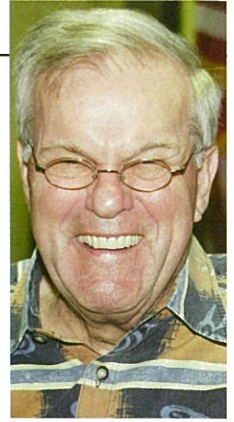
# GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES  
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

*I leave the past behind  
and with hands outstretched  
to whatever lies ahead  
I go straight for the goal –  
my reward the honour  
of being called by  
God in Christ.*

**Philippians 3:13-14 (Phillips)**





# Focused and Flexible

For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

*“I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”*

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

*“Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?”* declares the Lord.

Isaiah 66:2 (NIV)

In God’s economy, focus must be accompanied by flexibility. It is not an either/or; it is a both/and experience. When you have focus without flexibility, you pursue the pathway to failure.

Most New Year’s resolutions last about two weeks. When you miss a day or two, you put the blimp back into the hangar till next year.

Let’s look first at focus, then flexibility.

Focus has to do with our passion. Flexibility has to do with the Father’s plan.

Our focus should be on the living word, Christ, and the written word, the Bible.

To be focused means to be single minded and determined, organized to achieve a particular goal.

We don’t focus on what is; we focus on what will be. In the words of the writer of Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us be running with perseverance the race lying before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of faith, who for the joy lying before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1 -2 DAV)

Focus means, “This thing I do.” Spurgeon warns that the man who does a “half-a-dozen things generally fails in them all....a minister with his heart at all divided will make a failure of his ministry.” In the words of martyred theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The essence of Chastity is not the Suppression of lust, but the total orientation of one’s life toward a goal.” A.W. Tozer says the essence of running life’s race well is found in Hebrews 12:2: “From all this we learn that faith is not a once-done act, but a continuous gaze at the heart of the Triune God.”

Dr. Howard Hendricks finished his earthly race with dignity and grace. What a hero, mentor, and model for thousands of Dallas Seminary students (yours truly included) he was. According to Professor Hendricks, the foundation of all must be “focus.” In his words:

Paul riveted me many years ago with his words, One thing I do...

...I heard Dr. A. W. Tozer say, “What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.”

Jesus told Martha that...only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:42). That tells me that I have to make tough choices. So many “goods” and “betters” have to be discarded in favor of the one thing....

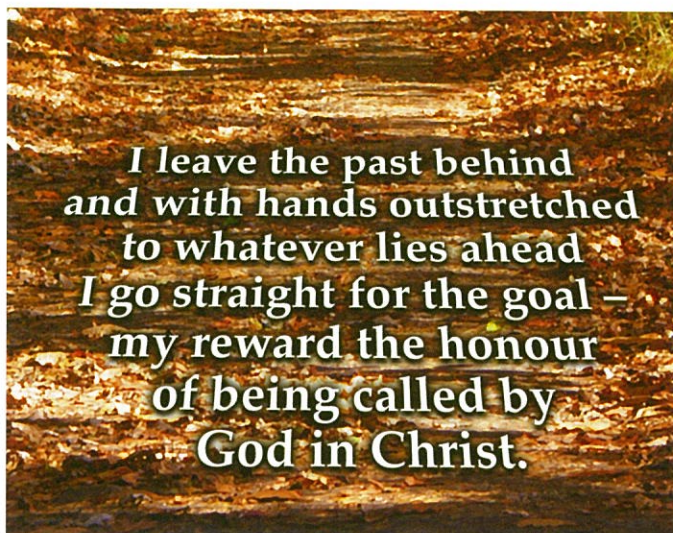
If anything has kept me on track all these years, it’s been skewered to this principle of central focus. You might remember my inverted triangle; there are many things I can do (and you can especially), but I have to narrow it down to the one thing I must do. The secret of concentration is elimination.

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# GRAPEVINE FALL 2013

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## From the Editor

This year is one of significance as BTR embarks on its second 40 years! Don and Pearl Anderson have celebrated some major milestones: Don's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their marriage. Join us in congratulating them for going beyond the "gold" and reaching the "diamond" level in their journey together. We hope you will enjoy the tribute to Pearl that Don has included in this issue to mark the occasion. This issue also features news about BTR's advancing technology and soon-to-be launched Facebook page. The FAX page contains the details. We are also commemorating the appointment by Governor Rick Perry of Tom Prothro, longtime BTR friend and supporter, as presiding officer of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. Be sure to check out Don's tour dates and schedule; perhaps you can join him and Pearl for a live Bible class. As always, we thank you for your faithful friendship, prayers, and support.

M. Jane Rodgers



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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



# Tom Prothro:

by Jane Rodgers

## Meet the Top CPA in Texas

For Tom and Kim Prothro, longtime friends of Bible Teaching Resources, 2013 has featured the best of times and the worst of times. March 2013 brought the devastating, unexpected home-going of their daughter, Ashley Prothro Trant, who passed away in Lafayette, LA, following a brief illness, leaving behind a husband and four young children. In May, Kim received a masters degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. On July 30, 2013, Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Tom presiding officer of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, by any measure a career highlight.

We know what a credit Tom is to his profession. His CPA firm, Prothro, Wilhelmi & Company of Tyler, TX, serve as accountants and auditors for BTR.

We caught up with Tom recently to discuss his new state position and life in general. He graciously gave us his time.





**Q: You've been a member of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy for some years now. Tell us about your involvement and appointment as presiding officer.**

**Tom:** I am finishing my fourth year and starting my fifth. Board members serve six year terms. Somewhere around every two years, we get a new presiding officer. Governor Perry appointed me [presiding officer] a couple of months ago. I was just thrilled that somebody from a small market like East Texas would get the opportunity to do that. It is a real honor that I never anticipated.

I was talking to a fellow—there are five members appointed to the state board every two years—I was talking to one of the fellows in, I guess, my class. He is from Abilene. He was telling me he was glad I was going to assume the leadership. I answered, “All I can tell you is that I will do my very best.” That’s all we can do.

**Q: God has evidently put you in this position, and this has not been an easy year for you and your family. Has your faith played a role in your work at the state board?**

**Tom:** God really did put me in this position. Through [our daughter] Ashley’s ordeal, when I was driving from Tyler to Lafayette where she was hospitalized, some of the first people I called were ones who worked for the state board or were on the state board. That’s how much they care for one another and that’s how much the board members care for one another...and how much the staff cares. I was just amazed at how much they reached out to me and cared for me. And they still do. Not a conversation goes by, after we’ve finished with the business, without someone asking, “Tell me how you are really doing. Can I pray for you? Can I help you in any way?” I find that remarkable for a state agency.

We have about 50 employees down there at the state board, and I received a card signed by all of them personally with little messages [after Ashley’s death]. We received flowers from many board members. Several came to the funeral in Tyler. Most of them drove up for the day and

drove back that same day. They turned around and drove back to Austin and other places. They didn’t have to do that. It really touched me that they would put that kind of effort into caring for us.

**Q: It sounds like the state board consists of some remarkable people.**

**Tom:** Yes. The executive director Bill Treacy has put together a team that has been together for many, many years. Many are employees of 20 plus years. He has built an organization that you and I would be proud of as taxpayers in Texas because of just how much they care for people and what a professional organization it is.

**Q: The Texas state board has unusual continuity.**

**Tom:** Yes. That is a lot of continuity. They know their job. There is a national organization called the National Association of State Board of Accountancy, and the Texas board is recognized as one of the absolute leaders in that organization of all state boards of accountancy. The Texas board is well

respected and carries a lot of influence. This is in no small part due to the organization Bill Treacy has built. My hat’s off to Bill Treacy.

**Q: What will your job involve as presiding officer?**

**Tom:** [Governor] Rick Perry appoints all 15 members of the board, 5 members every two years for six year terms. He also appoints the presiding officer. One of my first duties was to call a nominations committee to nominate new officers and to set up the committee structure for the coming two years that I would be chairman.

I average a trip every other month to Austin, usually for a couple of days. Now there are also swearing in ceremonies for new CPAs. I have attended every one of those since I have been on the board; those take place in June and December on Saturdays. That’s a really cool time, a really neat time. We also recognize all those who have been CPAs for 50 years and tell little stories about

*continued*

**I find lots  
of good  
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to share my  
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settings and in  
different ways.**



each of those. The ceremony is well attended. We do a great job of that.

Surveys consistently show that CPAs are among the most well respected professions. We did not always do the swearing in ceremonies. When they started, they were held at the LBJ Library on the University of Texas campus. We've since moved to the Austin civic auditorium and are about to outgrow that. There's always someone in his or her 60s getting a CPA. Why not?

**Q: It sounds like you have significant committee work.**

**Tom:** The presiding officer presides over board meetings. These are held on a Thursday morning at 10:00 and last two to three hours. The day before, several committees meet. I am an ad hoc member of all committees, so I keep my pulse on them. All board members serve on committees, usually two or three separate ones. We try to rotate members round to get people with different experiences in place. It used to be that the Thursday board meeting was an all-day affair, but with the enhanced use of the committee structure, the main meeting is shorter and way more efficient. The committee structure was in place before Bill Treacy's appointment as director, but he has made better use of it.

**Q: So what exactly does the state board do?**

**Tom:** I'll direct you to the website ([www.tsbpa.state.tx.us/](http://www.tsbpa.state.tx.us/)) for the whole picture. Basically, we have two enforcement committees [to uphold the standards of the profession], one concerned with technical standards for review of auditing or accounting principles. The other enforcement committee has to do with behavioral infractions: treatment of clients, billing issues. Those two committees are the ones which might recommend we penalize someone, put practice restrictions on somebody, or revoke their license to practice in an extreme case. We have a CPE committee to set standards for continuing education in the profession and to authorize CPE providers in Texas. Our primary purpose is to administer the CPA exam in the state of Texas.

**Q: Do you see your involvement on the state board as a ministry?**

**Tom:** I find lots of good opportunities to share my faith in different settings and in different ways. It's just another opportunity that God puts before you to share your faith and to be an example. I am surprised at how many believers there are in the profession and how many there are in the organization.

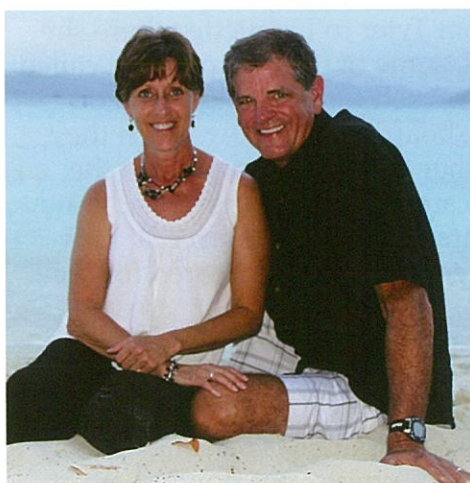
**Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

**Tom:** Well, maybe this...I'd like to give a sincere thank you to Bob Roseman and Walter Wilhelmi, my partners. We really prayed about my involvement on the state board. You have to apply to get appointed and we prayed about it. They felt it would be something to do that would be a ministry, an outreach, good for our firm. It is a big time commitment I appreciate them being willing to let me serve in that way.

We at BTR would like to give our sincere thanks to Tom Prothro for serving his state and his savior in such a significant way. Our best goes to Tom and Kim and family in a tough year full of challenge and opportunity. In fact, after this interview was conducted, Tom suffered a stroke from which he

has made a remarkable recovery. Our prayers continue to be with one of the good guys, Tom Prothro.

**Our best goes to Tom and Kim and family in a tough year full of challenge and opportunity.**





# God's Provision for the Final Stretch

by Don Anderson

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. (Hebrews 12:1-2 The Message)

I love the name Jehovah Jireh, "The Lord will provide."

*"So Abraham called that place 'The Lord Will Provide.' And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided'"*  
(Genesis 22:14).

For 41 years we have experienced God's faithful provision for all that we have needed.

*"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"*  
(Philippians 4:19 NASB).

2012 was a year of celebrating 40 years of service with BTR. It also was a year when a few of our well qualified and beloved board and staff members resigned. God provided replacements, and we moved on with grateful hearts for a smooth change of leadership.

Viewing the magnitude of what was ahead, Pearl and I contemplated hanging it up. Ahead were Bible studies, the *Grapevine*, and *A Great While Before Day* to be written. An IRS audit loomed, not to mention our day to day operations which continued to be demanding.

The Lord spoke to me through Isaiah 43:18-19:  
*"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?"* (The Message).

We started singing, "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

Celebrate with us as we honor the team that makes it happen.

## **Our BTR board**

Brian Mills, chairman

Don Saddoris, videography chair

## **BTR Staff**

Kathleen Leo

Karen Domel

Pearl Anderson, prison ministry and receipt letters

## **Auditors**

Prothro & Wilhelmi

Tom Prothro (featured in the issue) handled the IRS audit

## **Grapevine**

Jane Rodgers—editor

Keith Yates, designer

Chip Allen, printer

**AGWBD**—January–June 2014 is finished!

Davis Printing donated 1,000 extra copies

Kim Denman

## **Media**

OnePlace.com

Philippines radio ministry

Lecture notes: nine messages on Ephesians are complete, three to go!

*continued on page 13*



## RECIPE CORNER

### *Donna's Delights*

by Donna Anderson Skorheim

This is my favorite recipe, given to me by my Biola college roommate Debbie Rowley in 1975! It's still my favorite hot chicken salad!

#### **HOT CHICKEN SALAD**

4 chicken breasts  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
¾ cup mayonnaise  
¾ cup toasted slivered almonds  
1 can whole mushrooms  
1 cup chopped celery  
1 medium bag of Ruffles potato chips

Cook chicken, cut into inch pieces. Crush chips; reserve ¼ bag for topping. Mix all ingredients and put in ungreased 1 quart casserole. Cover with foil. Bake for 30 minutes at 450 degrees. Serves 6-8.

## **The Wonderful Resources of Technology God Has Provided**

by Karen Domel

Taking over some of the responsibilities from a seasoned and valued team member like Genevieve Martin has been a little intimidating at times, but also exciting (at least that is what I tell myself when I feel somewhat overwhelmed!). BTR has tapped into some wonderful opportunities with resources like OnePlace.com, the BTR website, and MPR Philippines Radio broadcasts. As a new team member, I wanted to learn more about these venues to successfully support them. I started by introducing myself to our contacts who graciously tutored me on exactly what we were doing and how we were using these mediums. During these introductions, our contacts made me aware of new tools and services we could implement and utilize. Don asked me to share with our BTR family the steps we are taking to make the best use of promoting BTR materials with these wonderful resources.

#### **The BTR website:**

James and Shelly Bowman are our web designers at Design by Geeks. In April, they began working on the website with several objectives: (1) create a new Wordpress platform to allow the website to be presentable and function well on multiple devices, (2) redesign the webstore to improve functionality and upgrade the security for transactions, (3) solve our FTP issues, and (4) make the website user-friendly for BTR staff to implement new resources or edits to keep the site current.

Currently, Design by Geeks has created a test site with the new platform and functionality. We have reviewed the test site features and provided feedback to James and Shelly for implementing the real changes to the website. They are working to fulfill our objectives and we look forward to completion of this project in the next few months.

#### **OnePlace.com:**

If you have not visited the *Persevering and Pressing On* link on the OnePlace.com page lately, you are in for a treat. We are back on schedule uploading weekly broadcasts of Don's Bible studies, and we have added some additional features. Our new contact, Dustin, has been eager to help us utilize new tools available for OnePlace ministries.

After general updates were made and some downloading issues corrected, Dustin added our most recent *Grapevine* issues for download, created a link to our daily devotional on



the BTR website, and added a “Devotional” section to our menu that includes all of our *A Great While Before Day* volumes for PDF download. In the next few weeks, OnePlace.com will roll out a “branded player” for our website. Basically, it provides a gateway to the broadcasts on OnePlace.com, but allows functionality without folks having to go directly to the OnePlace.com site.

#### **Philippines MPR (Mindnao Praise Radio) Broadcast:**

James and Shelly are working with us to find a more user-friendly FTP solution for uploading and downloading broadcast files of Don’s Bible study series with the MPR folks. Currently, we are testing a free software that will allow us to share folders instead of using our FTP site. We look forward to providing new broadcasts when we have confirmed a new solution that works well for MPR. Currently, MPR is playing past broadcasts until the file transfer issue is resolved.

#### **Coming soon: BTR Facebook page:**

This is a new technological tool we look forward to rolling out when the website changes are completed. The BTR Facebook page will direct folks to the BTR website, our OnePlace.com page, and Don’s books on Logos.com. For anyone not familiar with Facebook, it allows access to folks around the world through friends. When any of our BTR family “likes” our Facebook page, they will begin to receive posts from BTR on their personal Facebook page. Any friends viewing their page will see our posts. This gives us the opportunity to reach friends of friends who might not discover BTR otherwise.

On the BTR Facebook page itself, we plan to post daily scriptures and quotes with a link to the daily devotional page on the BTR website. We will include the weekly e-mail. We will also post any events and provide informational links whenever new

issues of the *Grapevine* and volumes of *A Great While Before Day* are published. Additionally, the page will have links to OnePlace.com, Logos.com, and the BTR website. When the website updates are completed and we invite you to our Facebook page, we hope you will visit and “like” us.

While technology can be overwhelming at times, it is also a wonderful resource to reach a greater audience than we ever could have dreamed possible through the expansion of the internet, cell phones, and computers in the past several years. The increase in access and variety of devices now allow us to communicate easily with folks across the world as well as those folks right in our own backyard. Just last month, Don received an e-mail from a South African missionary who stumbled upon the BTR website and has been using Don’s Bible study guides to teach there. We hope to share more stories like this one in the future as we use technology to further BTR’s mission of providing tools for the body of Christ to teach God’s word.







## Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

### Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

There are legitimate causes for fear in our society today. Not since the Civil War have we encountered so much danger. Never have we seen, on so many fronts, the potential of mass destruction and the possibility of violent death, as we now do in our country.

Our fear is not assuaged when we read that the president uses a tank whenever he travels and even on the streets of Washington, D.C.!

Technology, when used for good, benefits mankind in health, communication, and every other area of our life. Technology, in the hands of evil forces, sends mankind in a deadly downward spiral to destruction.

We who have a great respect and love for our country find it hard to cope as we realize how far we have descended into a morass of evil. There is no need to make a list. If your senses are working, you know.

Am I wringing my hands crying, "Woe is me? We're done." No, a thousand times, no! Let's bring our Almighty God into the picture with His promises for the future.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18a NASB).

"Say to those with an anxious heart, 'take courage, fear not'" (Isaiah 35:4 NASB).

"The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted" (Proverbs 29:25 NASB).

Keep reading! Read on in Isaiah 41:10, Jeremiah 32:27, and Luke 2:10.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 NASB ).

Study Jeremiah 33:3, Colossians 1:11, Isaiah 43:11, Revelation 21:7-8.

"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23 NASB).

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8: 38-39 NASB).

At BTR, we have some exciting opportunities to use technology to establish Bible classes in unique areas of the world. We have capable staff and some of the equipment. Please pray with us that God will supply every need and throw open the doors for ministry that will glorify Him.

Listen to Zacharias as he glorifies God at the birth of John the Baptist in Luke 1:74-75: "That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life."

"He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection" (Psalm 91:4 NLT).

There is absolutely nothing to fear about tomorrow, for God is already there!



# 60 Years!!

**WHAT A GOD! WHAT A GIFT! WHAT A GRACE!  
WHAT A LORD! WHAT A LIFE! WHAT A LADY!**



When we reached the Gold, remember what I said:

"As we stand at this milestone of marriage, I am filled with gratitude for your faithfulness, friendship and the fruitful life you continue to live. You are such a joy and so much fun. Christlikeness shows up in your peace, contentment, kindness, gentleness, prayer life and your daily walk with God."

Now we have reached the 60 year summit. Few make it this far. The air is thinner up here! I have watched the qualities I saw at 50 mellow, ripen and become more beautiful to behold. We have walked death's dark valley together in the death of our second born: BECKY.

## MY TOAST AT 60 YEARS

### *Looking to the Past*

Many women have done wonderful things, but you've outclassed them all!"  
Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades.  
The woman to be admired and praised  
is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God.  
Give her everything she deserves!  
Festoon her life with praises!  
Proverbs 31:29—31

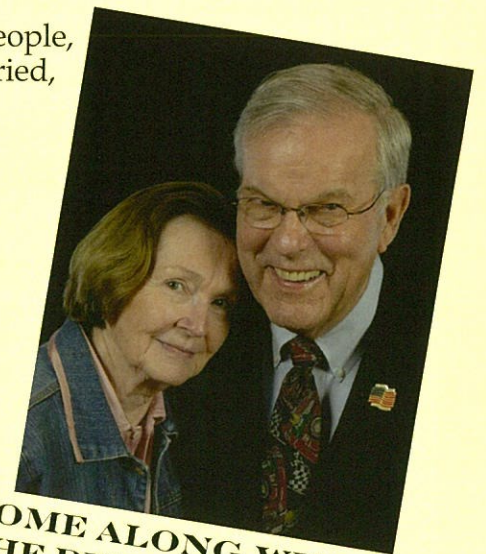
### *Looking to the Future*

But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me GOD—not even death itself is going to come between us!"  
Ruth 1:16-17

Hang my locket around your neck, wear my ring on your finger.  
Love is invincible facing danger and death. Passion laughs at the terrors of hell.  
The fire of love stops at nothing—it sweeps everything before it.  
Flood waters can't drown love, torrents of rain can't put it out.  
Love can't be bought, love can't be sold—it's not to be found in the marketplace.  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7

## MY TRIBUTE AT 60 YEARS

P – Precious   E – Enjoyable   A – Awesome   R – Rock   L – Lovely



**COME ALONG WITH ME  
THE BEST IS YET TO BE.**



## **Grace**

by Max Lucado, Thomas Nelson, 2012.

I am a big fan of Max Lucado and have enjoyed each of his books. This one is a treasure concerning one of my favorite subjects, grace. I love the illustration he uses on page 56:

We can relate to the reaction of some US soldiers in Afghanistan. A troop member received a "Dear John" letter. He was devastated, but to add insult to injury, his girl wrote, "Please return my favorite picture of myself because I would like to use that photograph for my engagement picture in the county newspaper." Ouch! But his buddies came to his defense. They went throughout the barracks and collected pictures of all the other soldiers' girlfriends. They filled an entire shoebox. The jilted soldier mailed the photos to his ex-girlfriend with this note, "Please find your enclosed picture and return the rest. For the life of me, I can't remember which one you were." Retaliation has its appeal, but Jesus has a better idea.

Max has done it again. You will love this work!

## **The Sower**

by Franklin Graham, Worthy Publishing, 2012.

Franklin Graham has written a wonderful little gift book inspired by his father's life and inspiration. I love the question he asks on page 93, "Is your heart plowed, prepared and planted with the good seed of God's word?"

## **Kingdom Man**

by Tony Evans, Tyndale House, 2012.

Tony is one of my favorite authors and I love the message he brings in this book. On page 131, regarding keys to claiming your territory, he writes the following:

If God is going to take you where he wants you to go, you can't be tethered to where you have been. A crucial principle for advancing God's kingdom as a Kingdom Man is that if you are going to move ahead, you're going to have to let go of the past. All of us have past that involve the good, the

bad and the ugly. We can look back over our shoulder and see the good things that have happened, the bad things that we have done, and the ugly things that others have done to us. But that was yesterday, that was the past. You have to let it go. You can learn from yesterday, just don't live in it because if you live in yesterday, then you are going to kill tomorrow.

## **Gray Matter**

by David I. Levy, MD, Tyndale House, 2011.

Pearl was so affected by this book, she ordered several copies and sent them as Christmas presents last year. Dr. David Levy practices neurosurgery in San Diego, California.

He is so transparent in telling what a difference it made when he decided to pray with his patients. This is what he says on page 46:

From that day forward, I have offered to pray for nearly every patient before surgery. It has clearly blessed many people as they dealt with illness and loss of control. I began to actually enjoy surgery more than I had previously. Trying to control outcomes and, therefore, what people thought of me had taken the joy from my practice of medicine and from my life. Throughout my training, I had used performance, perfectionism and fear of failure to hone my technical skills.

The book follows his journey with several illustrations after he made this decision. God's presence has been real to Dr. Levy as he has performed his surgeries. The Lord has blessed him so much in ministry to patients simply because he has made this commitment to pray. I know you are going to really be inspired and enjoy reading *Gray Matter*.

## **Every Day Is a New Shade of Blue (Comfort for Dark Days)**

by David Roper, Discovery House, 2012.

I attended seminary with David Roper and have long loved his spiritual insights. Every book is a blessing. These meditations are on Psalm 23. On page 101, we read as F.B. Meyer

*continued on page 15*



# mailbag

■ E-mail: Greetings from South Africa.... I have been a missionary here for 24 years. I "stumbled" across your Bible studies one day and began teaching them to my people here...beginning with Ephesians...now 1 and 2 Thessalonians....and next, James. Thank you so much. [Your material] is so beneficial, and so well written and useful and easy to teach.

--Nancy Hudson

■ Dear Don & Pearl,

My husband, Mel, and I were with you at Trail West last year, at a couple's retreat in Texas, and one year plus in a study in Branson years ago. Since then we have received your devotional materials through the years and have been so blessed through that ministry.

Mel passed away in April of this year from liver cancer. The day he died I read, as was our custom, from that daily devotional, April 19th (Vol. XI). You should read it to see how appropriate it was. We loved the hymns included at the end. That day it was "In the Sweet By and By." I have confidence we shall meet on that beautiful shore!

Years ago when Mel was away on a trip, I had to have a breast biopsy. I picked up your devotional to take with me. My mother had died from breast cancer. Waiting alone in the waiting room, I read all of the devotionals as they were shorter then. It was as if the Lord was right beside me speaking through each one! I was so amazed and strengthened.

Now, He has continually been beside me throughout this time of his illness and now. Mel was able to be at home which was a blessing.

I'm enclosing this gift in memory of him as I know it would please him. We both loved your classes and you and Pearl.

--Susan Johnson

■ Dear Don,

Congratulations on your 80th birthday!

It has been more than 30 years since we have seen or spoken to each other. And, this letter is far overdue. I have kept up with you via the *Grapevine*.



We met at the home of Patsy & Charlie Summers (sp?) in January 1975.... Carl Oelze introduced me to you and that evening you guys twisted me into a pretzel, backed me into a corner, and I trusted Christ. Carl had been working on me for over a year, and you closed the deal!

Since that night my wife, Dana, and I have chosen to walk with Christ. Until my resignation in May 2013, I had been an elder at Midland Bible Church for 27 years. We raised three sons and, by God's grace, all are believers walking with Christ. Our oldest son, Tyler, was the MBC preacher for 7 years. We have 12 grandchildren, and those old enough to understand have trusted Christ.

Thank you for your ministry! Thank you for your faithfulness! Thank you for your love of Christ! Thank you for leading me to Christ...closing the deal! Thanks to Carl for his love of Christ and his perseverance! God used both of you to change my life, and subsequently the lives of our family. I am eternally grateful.

--Tom Beard

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## Computer upgrades

Dan from Complete Computing for his hard work

James and Shelly Bowman, Design by Geeks

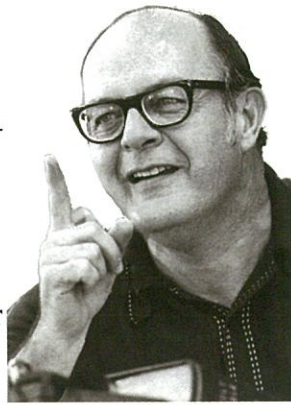
We are also getting our feet wet in the technology world. Mentioned in this article are the leaders of this process. They are all very smart and love the Lord with all their hearts.

Also encouraging, our financial support has held up through the summer months. We thank God that gifts have come in from unusual sources plus the AGWBD and *Grapevine* readers. The monthly supporters are special because we can depend upon their regular support.



Our flesh keeps right on trying to con us into saying “yes” when we should say “no.” It will always be a struggle. It has been for me. Just wanted you to know that down the road where I am, it’s an A-1 priority. Keep your eye on the target.

Focused on Christ,  
Howard G. Hendricks



Now let’s consider flexibility. Flexibility is the key to consistency.

The need to flex is seen in Isaiah 55:8-9: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (NIV).

In 1 Corinthians 16:6-7, Paul writes, “and perhaps I shall stay with you, or even spend the winter, that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits” (NASB).

By nature we are headstrong and unyielding. Yet flex has to do with the Father’s plan.

Proverbs 3: 5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (NIV).

1 Thessalonians 4:1: “To sum up, my brothers, we beg and pray you by the Lord Jesus, that you continue to learn more and more of the life that pleases God, the sort of life we told you about before” (Phillips).

Ephesians 5:15—17: “Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don’t be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of God” (Phillips).

The cowboy knows that the round pen will ultimately produce brokenness. Brokenness is the key to flexibility.

When we manifest flexibility, three things are true:

We have surrendered to God’s sovereignty  
We are studying His word. 2 Timothy 2:15:  
Make every effort to present yourself to

God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path” (DAV).

We are seeking His instruction daily. Psalm 25:4-5: “Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long” (NIV).

Here are some scriptures to encourage us in flexibility:

1 Timothy 1:15: “Reliable is the word, and worthy of wholehearted acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I AM FOREMOST” (DAV).

1 Corinthians 2:2: “For I DETERMINED to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and that One having been crucified” (DAV).

Philippians 3:7: “But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have considered as loss for the sake of Christ” (DAV).

1 Corinthians 9:27: “But I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified” (DAV).

Psalm 92:12-14: “The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green” (NIV).

I had been convicted about the lack of involvement in one-on-one discipleship in my life when my good friend and BTR board member, Don Saddoris, wrote the following words of exhortation:

Don,

Let me start by saying that I do understand what you were saying about discipling this past Monday. However, I also would like you to know that in all respects, I consider that you have discipled me. While this may not have come by a one on one close relationship, it was accomplished by your faithful teaching of the word. By that effort on your part, God was able to accomplish what He intended for the good



purpose of His will. I recognize three people who have had significant input into my spiritual life: my mom, Fran, & you! Thanks for your faithfulness to teach me and so many others. Don't lose sight of that.

As for your new God-given interest in close relationship discipling, I believe God is showing you how He wants you to finish strong even in the face of not being able to travel and teach on the tour, when that time comes. Praise God that He has promised that the righteous will be fresh and flourishing, still bearing fruit in old age.

Love you—Your Friend, Brother & Disciple, Don

2 Timothy 4:6-8: "As for me, I feel that the last drops of my life are being poured out for God. The glorious fight that God gave me I have fought, the course that I was set I have finished, and I have kept the faith. The future for me holds the crown of righteousness which God, the true judge will give to me in that day—and not, of course, only to me but to all those who have loved what they have seen of him" (Phillips).

I find myself worshiping and singing  
"Find Us Faithful." Care to join me?  
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

Let us run the race not only for the prize.

But as those who've gone before us  
Let us leave to those behind us  
A heritage of faithfulness passed on  
through  
Godly light.

Chorus

May all who come behind us, find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light their way.

May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe.

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

May all who come behind us, find us faithful.

## BOOKSHELF

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said: "If we have been told that we are supposed to be on a bumpy track, every jolt along the way simply confirms the fact that we are still on the right road."

### *Joni & Ken An Untold Love Story*

*by Ken & Joni Eareckson Tada, Zondervan, 2013.*

Larry Libby, one of my favorite editors, has done a masterful job putting together this wonderful treasure, the story of Ken and Joni's marriage relationship. It is an incredible book. Of the works we have recommended and you have read in the past, this is a true treasure. This passage from page 26 captures Joni's spirit as she learns she has cancer:

Okay then, how do I really feel about this Lord? Show me. She began speaking again. You have often heard me say that our afflictions come from the hand of our all-wise and sovereign God. And although cancer is something new, I am content to receive from God whatever he deems fit for me even if it is from his left hand. Better from his left hand than no hand at all, right? Yes, it's alarming, but rest assured that Ken and I are utterly convinced that God is going to use this to stretch our faith, brighten our hope and strengthen our witness to others.

I hope I have enticed you to read this wonderful work. You will want to pass it on to others.

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## Memorial Gifts

### **In Memory of Lonnie Holotik, Sr.**

by Merry A. Holotik Chenoweth

### **In Memory of Mel Johnson**

by Susan Johnson

### **In Memory of Mildred Marie Haas**

by Don & Pearl Anderson

by Earl & Patricia Pickering

by Ruth Berryhill

### **In Memory of Judy Morrill**

by Don & Pearl Anderson



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## **Fall 2013 Tour**

### **September 23—October 28, 2013**

#### **Monday@ 12:20pm**

6 week study in 2 Timothy, Part 2  
Ft. Worth Business Peoples Noon Class  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 10th & Lamar, Ft.  
Worth, Tx  
Class Host: Garner Roberts, office:817-763-5831

#### **Monday @ 7:00 pm**

September 23 & 30  
@ Don & Fran Saddoris' home  
9409 Monticello Dr. (Pecan Plantation)  
682-936-4097

#### **October 7 & 14**

@Ken & Carolyn Stanford's home  
9612 Champions Dr.  
817-579-5562

#### **October 21 & 28**

@ Lowell & Wanda Conder's home  
6412 Pinehurst Dr.  
817-279-0087

#### **TUESDAY @ 7:00pm**

McKinney evening class  
6 week study in 2 Timothy, Part 2  
McKinney, Texas  
Class hosts: Gary & Sydney Smith  
Cell: 972-322-9050