A scenic mountain landscape. In the foreground, a tall, thin pine tree stands on the left, with its branches reaching across the frame. The background features majestic, rugged mountains with patches of snow clinging to their rocky slopes under a bright, slightly cloudy sky.

Fall 2014

# GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES  
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

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*"The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights"*  
*(Habakkuk 3:19 a NIV).*

## Climbing the Mountain of Unceasing Gratitude to God

**P**aul tells young Timothy in his final epistle in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." In this, the apostle looks to the past, "I have fought the good fight." He looks to the present, "I have finished the course." He looks to the future, "I have kept the faith."

Many saints affirm that death for a believer is like climbing a mountain.

As our friend John Mackinnon neared physical death, he wrote eloquently about his thoughts and feelings. This meant he had to painstakingly peck out his messages on a keyboard as ALS ravaged his muscles and robbed him of coordination. With the recent social media emphasis on raising money to fight ALS with the bucket challenge, it seems timely to reprint John's farewell letter to his home church. He focuses on how the Father has used his illness. Read on and view the depth of a relationship with God made richer by suffering:

It is now well over a year since these circumstances of illness came upon me. But I want you to know, like the Apostle Paul, these present circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel. Several close to me have come to life in the Light and others have deepened their faith in the Faithful One.

...But as my world has become smaller, His world has expanded. It is His world that excites me. Other than His people and His Word, He has helped me discover that I am not attached to anything in this world. It is His radiance that holds me captive. His arms my security. His paradise my home. Being part of His creation, my

body groans eagerly for adoption as a son, the redemption of my body.

...He has deepened my understanding of what it means to be silent before Him. When we strive for duty, He usually desires devotion. When we run our various programs, He may run us down. When we count the time, He counts the cost.

...So circle the wagons, put on your spiritual armor. The evil one will actively contest your devotional life. Give attention to building up the inner man. God doesn't use empty vessels on the front line.

...There is only one race. Run with endurance the race that is set before you, fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. Run to win the prize. Press onward towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

With joy, unspeakable and full of glory, John Mackinnon prepared to exit this life and enter eternity. The view from the top, as John would call his final days, was worth the climb.

One of my favorite Bible characters is Habakkuk, a contemporary of Jeremiah, Nahum and Zephaniah. Each prophet served in a pivotal era in Judah's history, 625 to 575 BC. In this fateful historical moment, Judah lost her national life and her religious center.

The little book of Habakkuk is divided into three chapters. In Habakkuk 1 we see the impatient prophet; in chapter 2 we see the waiting prophet; in chapter 3 we view the praying prophet. Habakkuk



begins with confusion and ends with confidence in Jehovah. In the beginning, Habakkuk's mind is on the problem and at the end, his mind is on a person.

In the opening of his book, the prophet complains via two questions, How long oh Lord must I call for help but you don't listen? And how long oh Lord must I cry out to you violence but you do not save?

After Josiah's death four years earlier when Jehoiachin begins to reign in Judah, Judah hits the skids. It is a fast, slippery slide to the pit, faster than anything at Wet-n-Wild.

The Lord begins His response with three commands: look at the nations, watch, and be utterly amazed. I am doing something in your days that you would not believe even if you were told.

The prophet's response is another complaint. Why, God, are you using a more wicked nation to cleanse a wicked nation? Two dirties don't make a clean.

Habakkuk 2:1: "I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." When you are confused, here is where you need to be: waiting and trusting. Reflect by submission and obedience. Simply wait.

The Lord responds to Habakkuk by revealing five sins of the Babylonians in 2:2-20: greed, covetousness, violence, immorality, and idolatry.

Habakkuk's response is in 2:20: "But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

As we open the final chapter of the book of Habakkuk, chapter 3, we read Habakkuk's prayer, a humble song of worship.

The prophet's gratitude is toward a God who has been very active in the past, who is active in the present, and who will be active in the future.

Habakkuk closes with an affirmation of God's work in what Warren Wiersbe calls "one of the greatest confessions of faith found anywhere in scripture."

Habakkuk 3:17-18: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle

in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior." The NET Bible translates verse 18: "I will rejoice because of the Lord, I will be happy because of the God who delivers me."

Habakkuk outlines a six-point crisis scenario: no figs, no grapes, no olive crop, barren fields, no sheep, no cattle. Yet he will rejoice.

I am reminded of Joni's prayer, "Thank you for working everything in my life into a pattern for good. I want to participate with you and work today for your glory."

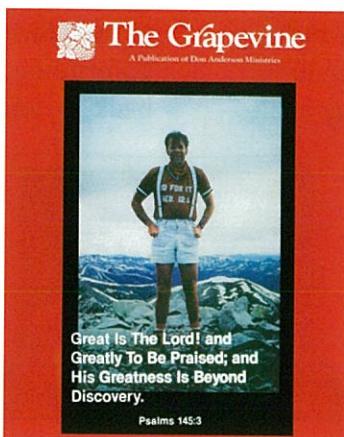
Joni writes further, "Something happens, something supernatural, something powerful, something that touches both time and eternity when a believer gives praise to Christ in the midst of trouble and adversity. People notice and wonder, angels observe and worship, demons flee from the brilliance, and more than all these things the name of God gains honor and glory."

Habakkuk 3:19a: "The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights."

This is similar to the apostle Paul's final message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:8: "in the future, there is reserved for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing."

The NET Bible translates "heights" as "rugged terrain." The challenge of aging is to climb every mountain. Whatever the Lord has for us in store for the future, we can look to Him with utter

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# INTRODUCING: DAVID GUICE & SKYPE TECHNOLOGY

**A**t BTR, every six months, we work on a new issue of *A Great While Before Day*. Don spends 6-8 weeks prayerfully pulling the information together, developing the material and hymns for the scriptures, and recording each day's devotional. As he records the information, Kathleen sends me the title information, tapes, and hymn information for each month. When I receive that information, I transcribe the taped information into a format that includes the hymns. Then I edit and proofread each month with Kathleen's help before sending the manuscript to the typesetter.

During this process, I set aside large chunks of time dedicated to the devotional. I enjoy listening to Don's insights and teaching of the word, but it is also stressful. It is an 8-10 week period where I am very dependent upon modern conveniences like electricity, the cassette tape machine, the printer, and especially the computer. What could possibly go wrong?

Last fall on a Thursday, I was deep into the transcribing the April section of *A Great While Before Day*, Volume 13, when my computer slipped off the couch and fell onto the floor. At first the computer and file seemed fine, but then the screen went dark. I tried rebooting several times with increasingly less response. In a panic, I called Brian Mills, who knew a wonderful computer guy who would even come to my house. Brian arranged for David Guice to be at my house the next morning.

David quickly put my fears at ease. While he did not know what files could be recovered yet, he felt confident we could recover most. He took the computer with the recovery disks to pick up a new hard drive. David called me on that next day to let me know the computer was on the mend. He had loaded the new hard drive, recovered all but a few picture files, and even discovered the computer had an additional hard drive that wasn't being utilized.

Over the weekend, he finished putting the computer back together. On Monday, he brought the computer to my house and worked with me to load software, set up printing, and reconnect email. We were able to get back on track with our *AGWBD* schedule with very little interruption despite the hard drive crash. David was a lifesaver.

Over the past year, we have relied on David's guidance and expertise with our technical issues. When Don Saddoris was no longer able to work on the video files, David took over editing and uploading them on our website. We feel very blessed to consider him an integral part of the BTR team.

For anyone in the Dallas -Ft. Worth area, we would highly recommend him for your home or business computer services. He can be reached at (817) 228-3556 or [david\\_guice@1scom.net](mailto:david_guice@1scom.net).

We wanted you to get to know David, too, so we have asked him to provide some more information regarding Skype and setting up Bible studies with Don in the fall.



## From David...about Skype

Hello! As Karen has explained above, I'm David Guice, owner of DPG Services. I'll be talking about Skype.



Skype is a video- conferencing system that uses your computer or, in some cases, your smart TV with a camera and microphone, to allow you to talk to and view others who have also setup their system with Skype. To use Skype you will need the following equipment:

- A computer running Windows, Linux, Or OSX (Apple OS)
- A webcam
- A microphone (In most cases your webcam will have a built in microphone. This may or may not pick up well in your location so you may need a separate microphone to get good sound pick up.)

You will need to have the Skype software. Most new computers come with Skype preinstalled on them, but if you do not have it, don't worry. It is easy to get by going to [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and clicking on downloads. From there, you will click on what type of download you want. For a PC, Mac or laptop, click on computer, then click on the operating system your computer has. In most cases this will be Windows; if you have a Macintosh, click Mac. Skype will download to your computer. Then, click on the file name to start the install and follow the prompts to install Skype.

After installing Skype, you will need to set up your Skype account. Click on create account and follow the prompts to set up your account. Remember to write down your Skype name and password so you don't forget them! Sign on to Skype and it will then test your camera, speakers, and microphone. You are now ready to use Skype.

From the Skype home page you should now add Don to your contacts. Click on search box (It's the box with a magnifying glass on the left) and type BTR Skype 14. Then click search Skype addresses. When you see Don Anderson, click on his picture and then click add to contacts. You are now ready to go. If you have any problems you can reach me via email at [dpgservices5@gmail.com](mailto:dpgservices5@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing you online.

We hope you will take advantage of this easy-to-set-up technology that will allow Don to provide Bible studies anywhere, at any time! Be sure to call Kathleen to schedule for the fall.

## MEMORIALS & GIFTS

In memory of **Asa Holleman**  
by Billie Holleman

In memory of **Asa Holleman**  
and in honor of **Billie Holleman**  
by Bill & Peggy Kyser

In memory of **Maxi Lynn**  
by Clint & Joan Davis

## Clipboard continued from page 3

and complete confidence that the Lord who started with us on this journey is going to be there when we reach the summit.

I find myself worshiping and praising the Lord. Won't you join me in singing all four verses of Johnson Oatman, Jr.'s "Higher Ground."

I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm  
gaining ev'ry day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant  
my feet on higher ground."

My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise  
and fears dismay;  
Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My  
prayer, my aim is higher ground.

I want to live above the world, Tho' Satan's darts  
at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of  
saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height And catch a  
gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found, "Lord,  
lead me on to higher ground."

Chorus  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on  
Heave-en's table-land,  
A higher plane that I have found; Lord, plant my  
feet on higher ground.

In memory of **Neil & Carol Day**  
by Victoria L. Bredin

In memory of **George G. Butler, Jr.**  
by David & Cherise McCollum

In memory of **James Saxton**  
by Mr. & Mrs. Milam Johnson, Jr.

# My Tribute to the Knarrs

by Don Anderson

Dick Knarr called to say that Ethel, his sweetheart of 50 years, had gone home to be with the Lord.

Dick and Ethel are forever friends—45 years of tears and triumphs. They have served over 40 years on the BTR board. We've been through the deaths of our daughters: Amy and Becky.

Dick has been my Doctor Luke—we officed together for a while: we called it the “body & soul clinic.” I had a kidney stone attack in the Greek islands and Dick drove to DFW to bring Pearl and me home to Tyler for treatment.

Father and son camping trips, Christmas parties, fishing for salmon...we have done much together.

What a gifted partner to share the journey, Ethel was the queen of homemade ice cream. She shared her secrets with me for chocolate and crème-de-menite. We had such fun making treats for our board meetings.

Ethel assisted Dick in his medical practice: handling blood work and insurance.

Ethel and I shared a love for praise and worship music. She loved to sing in the choir at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler.

There are some people who walk into your life with a smile and servant's hearts and leave behind, forever, footprints of love on your heart.

Dick and Ethel have done that for Pearl and me.



# MY APOLOGIES

by Don Anderson

Making a list and checking twice and still leaving out people who are really nice! Every time you make a list and begin to think back over 40 years of your life, some blips will occur. I'm not offering excuses; I'm just offering an apology. It just happens that out of the 70 teaching sites we highlighted in the last *Grapevine*, we omitted two very significant ones.

The first is Texarkana, Josh & Diana Morris served on our board for a number of years and sponsored a Bible class in Texarkana. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for their service and help in the ministry. Thank you, Josh and Diana, for being there and being so supportive over the years with us.

The second apology goes to Bill and Peggy Kyser from Camden, Arkansas. Bill and Peggy also served on our board of directors for several years. I met them first during our years at Pine Cove and when we started our itinerant ministry, Bill and Peggy complained that there were no Christians in Camden, so there we went. What a fertile place for service it was; the memories are sweet and special of the years that we taught the word of God in Camden. And yes, there are many, many special believers in that place. Raleigh and Ann Seifert hosted us many nights in their garage apartment. Cornelia Lindsey was a special blessing to Pearl and me. We have fond memories of so many others we were blessed to serve by presenting the word of God.

Please forgive us and remember we will soon be meeting around the throne with our blessed Lord.



# Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Most people do not know Billy Graham was the president of Northwestern Schools in the late 1940s. The gravely ill president of Northwestern called Dr. Graham, a Northwestern alumnus, and said, "God told me He has chosen you to be the next president of Northwestern Schools." Graham accepted, but it was a short tenure.

This was also the time the hugely successful Billy Graham Los Angeles Crusade was starting. After much prayer and with the advice of others, Graham resigned from Northwestern in 1952 to preach full time with what would be known as the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

That once small school is now Northwestern University—St. Paul and is doing very well.

Billy Graham is a humble man. His reaction to the ill president of Northwestern shows wise maturity and why God chose him to have a life-long, world-wide ministry. Two great organizations have prospered and literally thousands of people have been trained and come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The word for today is **humility**.

- "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way" (Psalm 25:9).
- "The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground" (Psalm 147:6).
- "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).
- "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).
- "But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace" (Psalm 37:11).
- "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).
- "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).

- "The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor" (Proverbs 15:33).
- "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (James 4:10).
- "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Don and I graduated from Northwestern Schools in the 1950s. Don was on the basketball team and had the privilege of shaking Billy Graham's hand when he came to watch the team practice.

## RECIPE CORNER

### *Donna's Delights*

by Donna Anderson Skorheim

#### **BLUEBERRY 'n CREAM MUFFINS**

1 ¾ c. flour  
½ c. sugar  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. baking soda  
½ tsp. salt  
1 c. sour cream  
1/3 c. milk  
1 egg, beaten  
1 c. fresh blueberries  
2 tsp. flour



Heat oven to 400. Stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, soda, and salt. Add sour cream, milk, and egg—stir together just enough to moisten. In small bowl toss together blueberries and 2 tsp. of flour; fold in batter. Spray muffin pans with Pam and spoon mixture into muffin tins. If dividing mixture into 12 muffins, bake 20 minutes. If making 18 muffins, bake 15 minutes or until golden brown.

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### Mailbag

Dear Don & Pearl

Thank you for your devotional book and the *Grapevine*. The cover was a painting by Kenneth Wyatt. We had the pleasure of meeting him some time ago when he was the guest preacher at our church. He brought many of his paintings and we purchased his book *The Apostles and Jesus*, which he signed for us. We are sure you are familiar with this book and how he used ordinary people for models as he painted each Apostle. It is a prize in our library.

Dear Rev. Anderson,

I have just finished looking at the spring and summer *Grapevine*. As I read your article and your mention of your years in Bremerton it reminded me of those years. I grew up in the Christian Missionary Alliance Church on Sixth St. and was at First Presbyterian for many events and many youth group events that you were involved in planning. But our family has felt a particular connection with you as you led a group of Boy Scouts in obtaining their God and Country Awards. My husband was one of those Scouts. He went on to earn his Eagle and stayed involved in scouting until his death in April of this year. He was always around to be able to tell people he had his Eagle and his God and Country. He was very appreciative of your guidance and leadership that allowed him to reach that milestone.

Dear Don,

I just got the *Great While Before Day*, Part II and today's was so excellent on being baptized in Christ. WOW! God and you make it so clear and we are so thankful. . . .

I have lost track of how many years ago you taught us a week at Stonecroft in Branson, MO, but am so thankful. You taught on Revelation—I learned so much and still read the scriptures every day.

Dear, dear Friends,

Just received *Great While Before Day* and I can't thank you enough. You taught Asa and me years ago to read several devotional books daily and yours especially is dear to me. I can see you sitting in your chair teaching and then singing the songs you end with. Many times I find myself wiping tears away. They bring back such great memories.