

# GRAPEVINE

SUMMER 2013

*"Even when you are old, I will take care of you, even when you have gray hair, I will carry you. I made you and I will support you; I will carry you and rescue you"*

*(Isaiah 46:4 The Net Bible).*

INSIDE

Thoughts on turning 80

## An Incredible Journey

"Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it....So watch your steps. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants."

Ephesians 5:10, 16-17  
(The Message)

Dear Ones!

When you receive this letter I will be 80 years young! I wish I could say what Caleb said in Joshua 14:10:

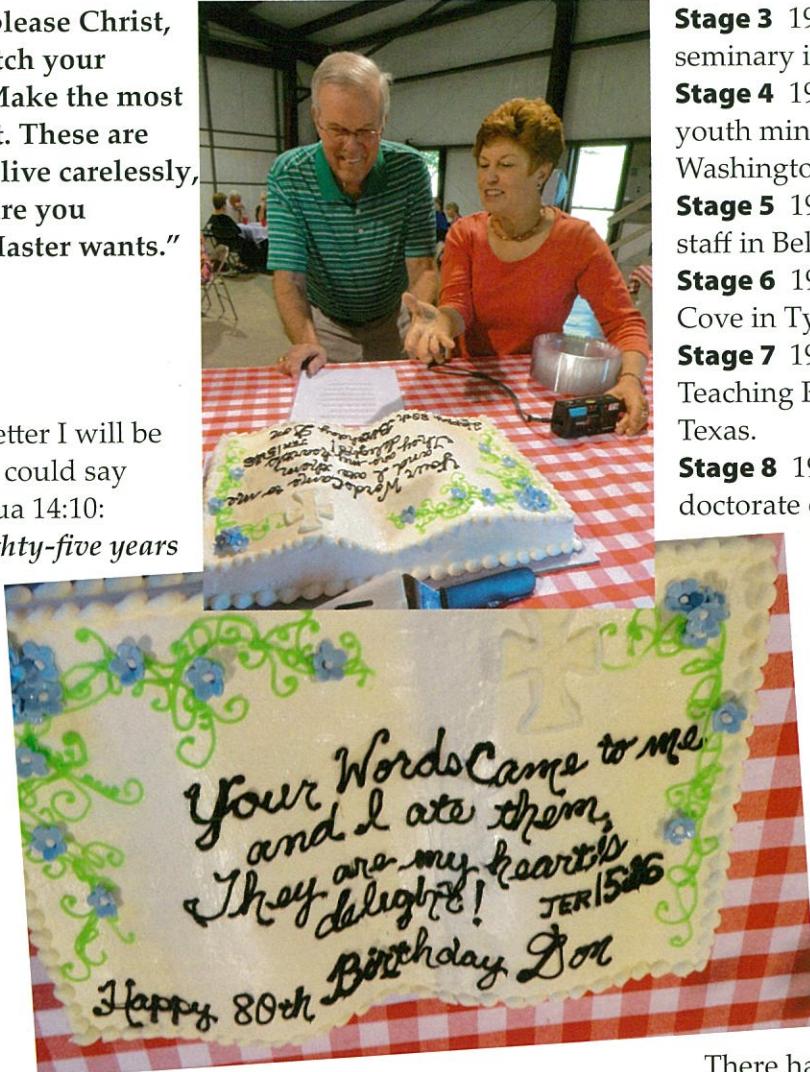
*"So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out [45 years ago] (NIV).*

Our whole family loved Walt Disney's film *The Incredible Journey*. Do you remember it? Two dogs and a Siamese cat, entrusted to caregivers who unintentionally abandon them, make a treacherous 250 mile journey through the Canadian wilderness. Nothing can stop them. Guided only by instinct they make an incredible journey to find their "lost" family.

My 80 years have been an incredible journey too. After I received Christ as savior in 1939, my life has unfolded in 11 stages:

**Stage 1** 1951 Graduating from high school in Salem, Oregon.

**Stage 2** 1955 Graduating from college in Minneapolis, Minnesota: years of basketball, the Bible, and best of all, a bride on August 14, 1953, my sweet Pearl.



**Stage 3** 1959 Graduating from seminary in Dallas, Texas.

**Stage 4** 1959 Working as a youth minister in Bremerton, Washington.

**Stage 5** 1962 Serving on a camp staff in Bellingham, Washington.

**Stage 6** 1967 Coming to Pine Cove in Tyler, Texas.

**Stage 7** 1972 Founding Bible Teaching Resources in Tyler, Texas.

**Stage 8** 1990 Receiving a doctorate of ministry at Talbot seminary in Los Angeles, California.

**Stage 9** 1996 Operating a family camp in Estes Park, Colorado.

**Stage 10** 1998 Returning to Tyler, Texas.

**Stage 11** 2012 Celebrating 40 years with BTR / Don Anderson Ministries.

There have been failures and losses along the way. My attitude in the midst of all this is inspired by the words of Job: "Teach me what I cannot see: if I have done wrong, I will not do so again" (Job 34:32 NIV).

I know we have failed many times, but thank God for His grace.

The words of Oswald Chambers are filled with such hope: "God will turn what might have been into a wonderful lesson of growth for the future." To God be the glory...He has done this, indeed!



*Don greets the crowd at his birthday bash!*

Bishop Andrewes prays the following beautiful prayer:

...instruct me to do what things are pleasing in thy sight, for Thou art my God: Let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.

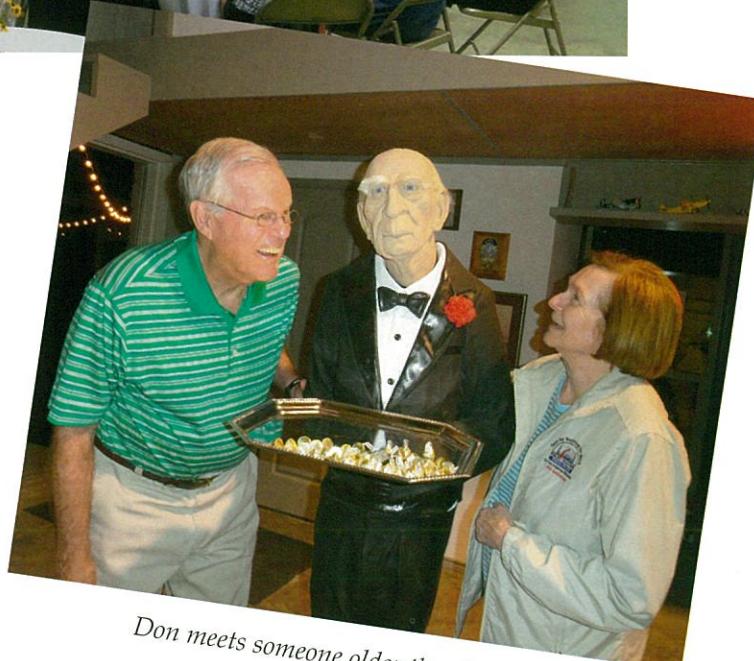
I am singing a great old hymn for my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday—“Higher Ground,” verse 4:

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

Please pray for Pearl and me, that we will really finish strong.

Persevering & pressing on,  
Don & Pearl

*“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”*  
(2 Timothy 4:6-7 Phillips).



*Don meets someone older than he is!*



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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P.O. Box 6611  
Tyler, TX 75711-6611  
email: [Dam@BibleTeachingResources.org](mailto:Dam@BibleTeachingResources.org)  
website: [www.BibleTeachingResources.org](http://www.BibleTeachingResources.org)  
903.939.1201  
FAX 903.939.1204  
Toll-free phone:  
1.877.DAM.PRAY (1.877.326.7729)

Editor: M. Jane Rodgers  
Magazine designer: Keith D. Yates

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# 80 Years Young

*The following poetic tribute comes from the pen of Carl Low.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Hoboes and Tramps,  
Cross-eyed Mosquitoes and Bowlegged Ants:

It was 80 years ago on this day in May,  
God sent us Don to teach us to pray.

He set off in this world to make God his life,  
Found a lady named Pearl and made her his wife.

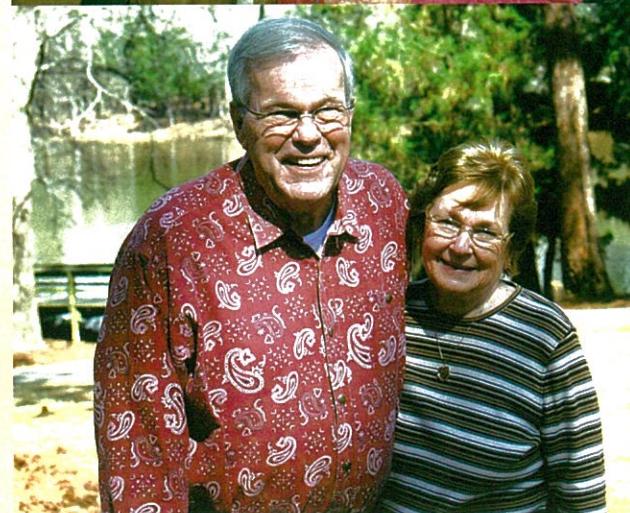
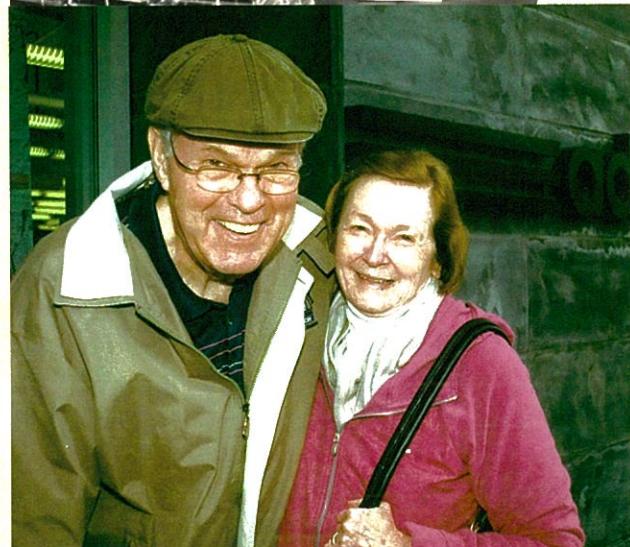
It was a pair made in heaven like two turtle doves,  
Preaching God's word and sharing His love.

They crossed this land, mountain and prairie;  
Fortunately for us they stopped in Granbury.

God spoke through Don, teaching his glory,  
With scripture Don taught and a few  
cowboy stories.

So tonight we are here on this day in May,  
To say we love you and Happy Birthday!

—Carl Low



Pearl's Reflections

# Gleanings from my Reading Notes

by Pearl Anderson

Be sure your mind is in gear before you put your mouth in motion.

And let me not lay my pipe too short of the fountain, never touching the eternal spring, never drawing down water from above.

Puritan prayer, *Valley of Vision*, 69

Keep seeking...those thing above where Christ is...Set you mind on things above, not on the things of earth.

Colossians 3:1-2

A good Christian begins his repentance where his sin begins, in his thoughts.

*Voices from the Past*, 208

...and we have to learn to interpret the mysteries of life in the light of our knowledge of God.

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, July 29

In creation we see God's hand, and in redemption we see His heart.

*Our Daily Bread*, August 7, 2012

Heart sorrow is a faith journey.

Pearl O. Anderson

The Lord is our portion in life and our deliverer in death.

Unknown

But godliness is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

1 Timothy 6:6 (NASB)



A special verse to the 80 year olds and beyond:

He [the Holy Spirit] will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. John 14:26b (NASB)

On a personal note: we are grateful for your letters, not only from Texas, but several from other states and even Canada. It is fun to receive letters from people who attended a class, church, camp, or couples conference 30 or 40 years ago.

Thank you! We love hearing from you. I hope all is going well. God bless!  
Please pray for BTR.

—Pearl

# Bookshelf

A Journey with Joel  
by Don Anderson

Joel Rosenberg is making an international impact with 13 books in print, including one e-book.

Rosenberg's thirteenth book is *Damascus Countdown*. I finished reading it on a Wednesday and on that Sunday, Joel spoke at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler. What a treat it was to hear him speak in two services after I had devoured his 13 books! It reminded me of that future day when the Lord is going to ask us if we have read His book.

Perhaps you would like to get started reading Joel Rosenberg's works. Here are a few tips to maximize your time.

There are 8 novels divided into two series

The first series of 5 books should be read in this order:

1. *The Last Jihad*
2. *The Last Days*
3. *The Ezekiel Option*
4. *The Copper Scroll*
5. *Dead Heat*

The second series of three should be read in this order:

1. *The 12<sup>th</sup> Imam*
2. *The Tehran Initiative*
3. *Damascus Count Down*

There are 5 non-fiction works

1. *EpiCenter 2.0*
2. *Inside the Revolution*
3. *Impllosion*
4. *Israel at War* (e-book)
5. *The Invested Life* (excellent on discipleship)

There is your Rosenberg reader. All 13 books are awesome! It's time to get started. You will be hooked.

# FAX

## Website upgrades

Be sure to visit our website, [www.bibleteachingresources.org](http://www.bibleteachingresources.org). We are in the process of making it more user friendly. On the website, you will find the following treasures:

*A Great While Before Day*—a devotional for each day—can be accessed.

Every Monday morning a new e-mail will greet you

Cam-corded studies are available for download or viewing...you can study the word with Don on camera

Enhanced security upgrades now make it possible to order safely on line

## Logos Bible Software

BTR books and resources are now available from Logos Bible Software, [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com). Search for Don Anderson when you visit the Logos website.

## Video conference cameras available

We have 3 video conference cameras to use for a Bible study during the fall and winter tours. Bring Don to tour in your home, business or church. Contact us at 1-877-326-7729!

## Gifts

We appreciate your prayers and contributions.

It is possible to donate safely online at the BTR website: [www.bibleteachingresources.org](http://www.bibleteachingresources.org).

Gifts in memory or honor of others are recognized in the Grapevine.

Gifts designated for special projects, publications like the Grapevine, or individuals are also very much appreciated.

You, our faithful friends and supporters, keep us going. Thank you!

# mailbag

Dear Pearl & Don  
We read your devotional together at the kitchen table and enjoy praising the Lord with the song at the end.



We miss your great studies after so many years in Sherman, Texas. God bless you,

Dear Don  
Just a brief note to thank you and tell you how "A Great While Before Day" has/is blessing me each day.

My wife has suffered with Alzheimer's since 2007 and I'm sure you know what all that involves. Each morning I get a cup of coffee and reach for your daily devotional which always gives me encouragement for the day. I have really enjoyed the series on Romans.

## In honor of our friends in West

Our hearts and prayers go out to our friends in West, Texas, who remain in the midst of recovery from the fertilizer plant fire and explosion. To the fallen heroes, we extend the gratitude of a grateful people. The following poem by Ben Hagins appeared in the Waco newspaper. We are reprinting here with Ben's permission.

*One week ago  
Seemed Hell broke loose  
A few short miles from here.*

*An accident happened,  
Devastation all around,  
Brevity of life so near.*

*In one split second  
On a normal spring day,  
Our plans—they changed in  
a blink.*

*This close-knit town  
Of hope and faith,  
In an instant—their hearts  
did sink*

*To the depths of their souls,  
We all said—Why?  
The answer is on the other side.*

*One day we'll know  
When we meet our Lord,  
But for now—West, Texas,  
has cried.*

Ben Hagins, Printed in the Waco Tribune-Herald, April 24, 2013

## GIFTS

### In Memory of

**Dr. Howard G Hendricks**  
by Dr. & Mrs. Don Anderson

**Wm. H. Curry, Jr.**  
by Mrs. Shirley D. Curry

**Dr. Ronald E. Oas**  
by Mrs. Georgia L. Oas

**Bryan Douglas Boyd**  
by Dr. & Mrs. Don Anderson

**Frank Harris**  
by Royce Brooks

### In Honor of

**Don Anderson's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**  
by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Rodgers

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**BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES**  
P.O. Box 6611  
Tyler, Texas 75711-6611

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*I have kept the faith.*

