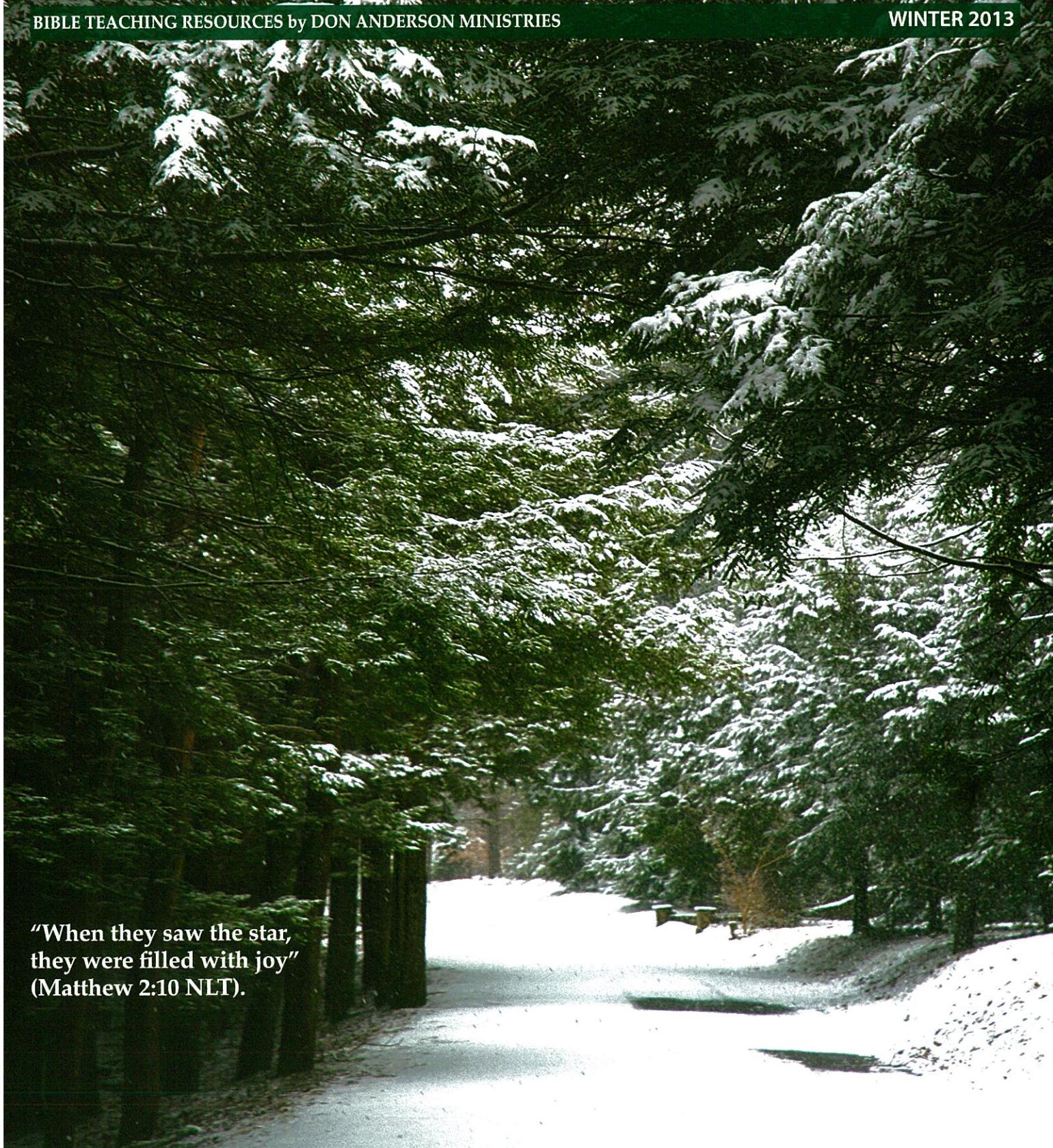


GRAPEVINE



BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

WINTER 2013

**"When they saw the star,
they were filled with joy"
(Matthew 2:10 NLT).**



The Star Still Shines

"The LORD ALMIGHTY HAS SWORN THIS OATH: 'IT WILL ALL HAPPEN AS I HAVE PLANNED. IT WILL BE COME ABOUT ACCORDING TO MY PURPOSES. ... I HAVE A PLAN FOR THE WHOLE EARTH, FOR MY MIGHTY POWER REACHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAS SPOKEN—WHO CAN CHANGE HIS PLANS? WHEN HIS HAND MOVES, WHO CAN STOP HIM?'" (Is. 14:24, 26, 27 NLT)

"God is not a man, that he should lie. Nor a son of man that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Num. 23:19 NLT)

May I say, right at the beginning, the star still shines? Why?

1. Because God is truth. "God is not a man, that he should lie."
2. Because God is unchangeable. "Nor a son of man that he should change his mind."
3. Because God is sovereign. "Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

Deuteronomy 31:8: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (NIV).

Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (NIV).

1 Thessalonians 5:24: "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (NASB).

Several months ago our daughter Julea guided Pearl and me to a much better lifestyle. This lifestyle involves an early morning breakfast and also an early morning walk. One of the things we have enjoyed most is seeing that morning star in the east. It was so bright this morning, just beautiful. There are mornings when the cloud cover is heavy or the weather is inclement that we don't see the star.

We know that it is there, but we just cannot see it.

This year has brought us a whole series of distractions and cloud cover: Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Iran to name a few. Even with these difficult circumstances, we lift up our eyes and see the Star still shining.

Matthew 2:2: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him" (NASB).

Matthew 2:9: "And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was" (NASB).

Matthew 2:10: "And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy" (NASB).

2 Peter 1:19: "And we are having the

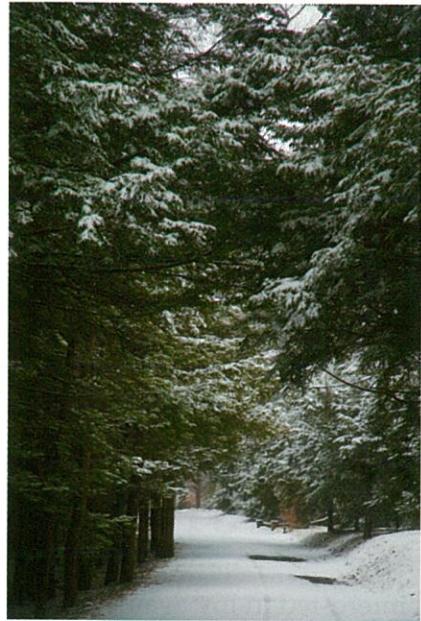
"And when they
saw the star,
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GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2013

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From the Editor

As BTR's 40th anniversary year draws to a close, we couldn't resist a final journey down memory lane. Inside you will find the original Coach's Clipboard Christmas article, reprinted for your reading pleasure. The words are timely yet today. Thanks to Dr. John Miller for offering greetings to our friends and supporters from the BTR board. John and Loretta Miller have been with BTR since the earliest days. It is fitting that John should close out our year of celebration. We hope you will enjoy the cowboy poem from one of our favorites, Baxter Black. Be sure to check out the back cover for winter tour live and videoconference locations. Thank you all for your ongoing support and friendship. May 2013 be filled with blessings for you and yours.

—M. Jane Rodgers



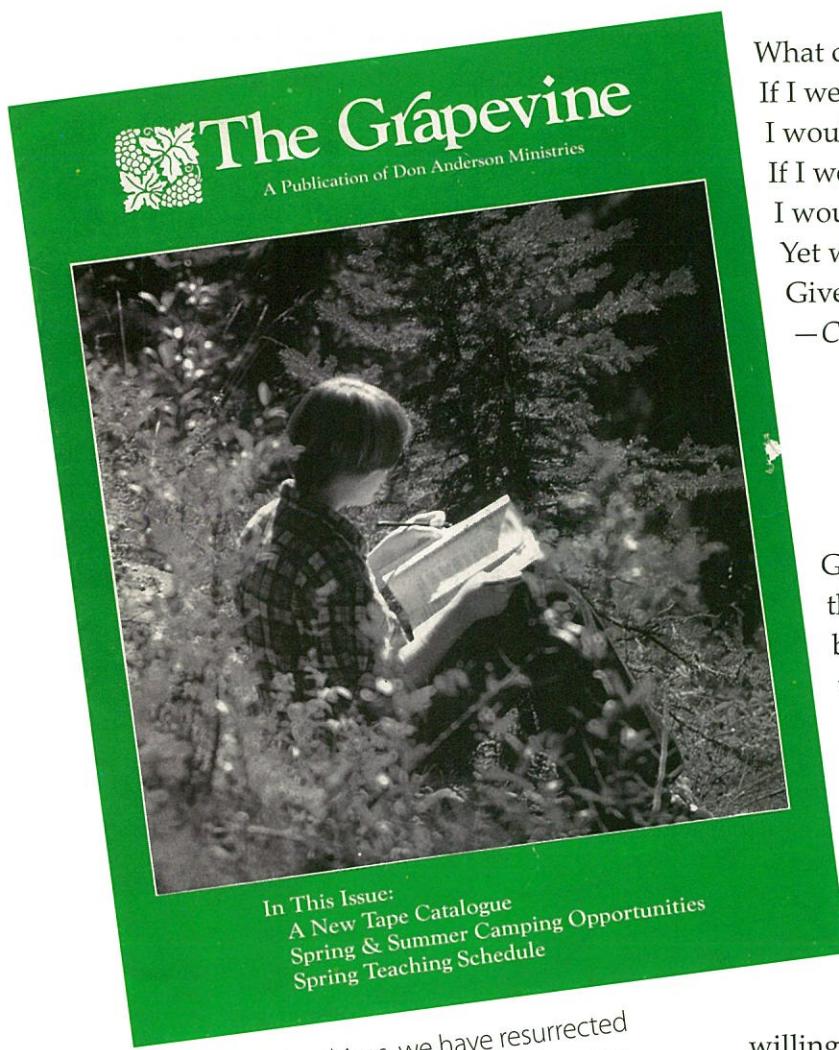
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This Christmas, the original COACH'S CLIPBOARD by Don Anderson



From the BTR archives, we have resurrected the original Clipboard article from the 1973 Christmas mailing sent out by Don and Pearl. Forty years later, the words still ring true. Above is the cover from the first issue of the Grapevine, published in 1981.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part—
Yet what can I give Him,
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti

AVAILABILITY and the CHRISTMAS STORY

God is far more interested in my availability than He is in my ability. Our availability becomes God's opportunity to show the world what He is capable of doing with us.

II Chronicles 16:9 serves as a reminder along this line: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him."

In contemplating the three main characters in the Christmas story, we cannot help but be impressed with their willingness to be totally available for some very difficult assignments.

Paul tells of Christ: "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God but emptied Himself and took upon Him the form of a servant, and is made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." In another place, he says: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty, might be rich."

Jesus Christ was completely available, no matter the cost, to do the Father's will. "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish and completely finish His work."

Willingly He came from the atmosphere of Heaven to the air of a stall. He departed from the presence of angels to live in the presence of animals. He left the light of the halls of eternity to dwell in the darkness of a world of time.

Matthew speaks of Joseph: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place under these circumstances. When His mother, Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit; And her husband Joseph, being a just and upright man and not willing to expose her publicly and shame and disgrace her, decided to repudiate and dismiss her quietly and secretly. But as he was thinking this over, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, 'Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife. For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit' ... Then Joseph, being aroused from his sleep, did as the Angel of the Lord had commenced him. He took her to be his wife, but he had no union with her as her husband until she had borne her first born son and he called his name Jesus."

Have you ever thought what it would have been like to have been given Joseph's assignment: to marry a pregnant woman? Our human response is to be repulsed at the thought. Joseph's response, however, is instant obedience. "Obedience is better than sacrifice." He had learned the secret of trust and obey for there is "no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey."

Luke records Mary's reaction to her part in the story: "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true... Oh how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! for he took notice of his lowly servant girl."

Mary's sweet submissive spirit is a tribute to her womanhood. The cost of her is indeed high but how refreshing it is to behold her willing enthusiasm in this matter.

O Lord in my heart there's a welcome for thee
Gladly I now would say.
Come in blessed savior, my heart and my life;
Henceforth would own thy sway,
Long hast thou waited and long knocked in vain,
Outside my heart's closed door.
O cleanse me from sin then, Dear Lord,
Enter in and dwell there forevermore.

—Hilda M. Jarvis



PEARL'S POETRY PARLOR STEPPING UP TIMES

by Pearl Anderson

Sometimes when we walk closest to God we seem to have the most difficulties. Logically, it would seem that God would return our devotion by treating us in an extra special way.

A new step of faith or extra measure of devotion on our part is taken as a signal by God that we are ready for a new level of love and service for Him.

If God the Father, who loved His Son Jesus Christ with a capacity and depth of love which we humans could never comprehend, would still allow the events to come into His life and even His death, does it not seem possible that He would carry out the same things in our lives?

Our Wish
for You Is
a Blessed
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year! We
Love You...
the Andersons



From Don and Pearl

"GOD, your God, has blessed you in everything you have done. He has guarded you in your travels through this immense wilderness. For forty years now, GOD, your God, has been right here with you. You haven't lacked one thing"

(Deuteronomy 2:7 The Message).

Dear Ones:

Christmas is my favorite time of the year! It's the birthday of our blessed Lord. Even if we aren't sure of the day we can't deny the fact that God's Son came to dwell among us.

It was 40 Christmases ago that our family launched into a Bible teaching ministry. What a trip it has been.

This next year Pearl and I will be in our 80s, and we will celebrate 60 years of marriage.

We realize our ground time will probably be brief, and we both want to finish strong.

At our annual board meeting in November, one of our board members said: "It sure must be a comfort to you to have so many people who really care about your future."

Yes, it is, and we want to thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting, encouraging and giving wisdom and admonition along the way.

We love you,
Don & Pearl

"I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us"

(Philippians 3:14-15 The Message).

From the BTR Board

It was 40 years ago, yes, 40 years! A large number of couples were at our home in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas to hear the plans of a tall preacher from Tyler, Texas. We were well aware that he had great ability to communicate God's word and a heartfelt vision for ministry. But he needed prayer warriors and a team of financial supporters to help make this vision a success. A Tyler attorney, Mr. Bill Lawrence (now enjoying Heaven), completed the legal work; a board was formed; and on December 19, 1972, *Don Anderson Ministries* was born.

My wife, Loretta, and I have been honored to have Don and Pearl in our home for hosted Bible studies going all the way back to Oak Cliff, later in Duncanville, and more recently in the Granbury area. And our children Dana, Mike, and Alisa were also influenced by Don's teachings and enjoyed participating with several ministry trips in California and Colorado, as well as camps in



Texas. Don performed the wedding ceremony for our daughter Alisa to Mike Snelson in 1999. And Loretta and I went on ministry skiing trips in Colorado, family camps at Trail West, and couples conferences in Branson and Cannon Beach...all wonderful opportunities for sweet fellowship and more great Bible teaching from Don!

Looking back, it's easy to see that Don and the ministry – and its profound teaching of God's word – have deeply impacted not only our entire family, but also positively influenced so many others (including the many friends we've been privileged to know and serve with throughout the years). And now, we are still being blessed to hear Don's teaching again at the home of friends here in Granbury. Please come join us if you're in the area!

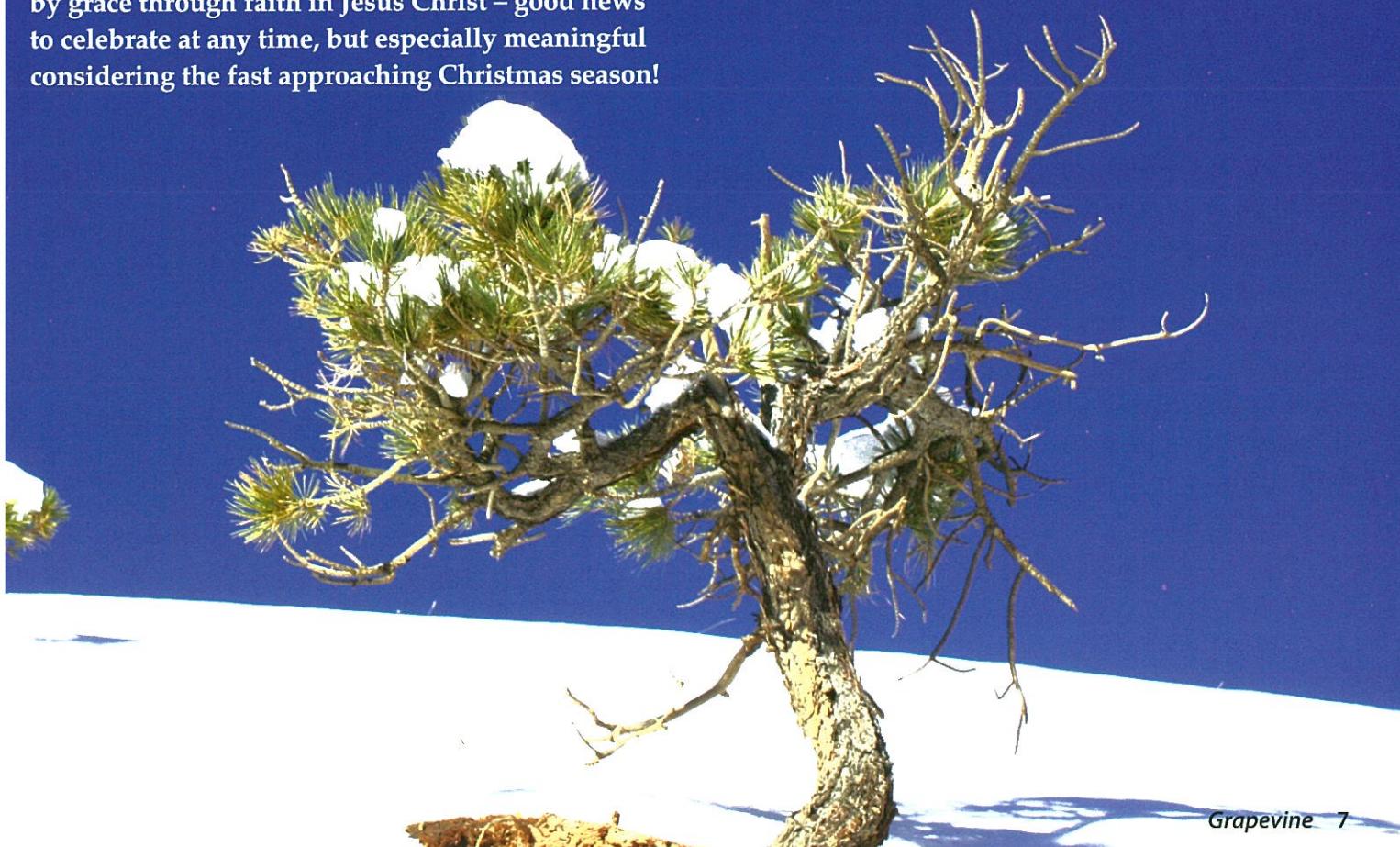
Today, I'm concerned with the rapid deterioration of the culture and the compromise of God's word. Even in many churches, clear teaching of scripture is being replaced by worldly beliefs and other false principles. But be assured, this will never be the case with Don and his teachings! His messages are always based wholly on scripture and offer a clear gospel presentation of God's free gift of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ – good news to celebrate at any time, but especially meaningful considering the fast approaching Christmas season!

Along with Dr. Dick Knarr and his wife, Ethel, Loretta and I have been honored to serve as members of the board of directors since the inception of the ministry. We've been truly blessed beyond measure to serve in this capacity and look forward to God's wonderful plans for the ministry in the future (including its expanding impact through the many communication avenues and other tools for teaching God's word now available through *Bible Teaching Resources* and its website).

In closing, I sincerely ask for your prayers upon this ministry...and that by God's grace we would all run well and finish strong! I also hope you will remember the many financial needs of the ministry, and ask that you will consider a donation to *Bible Teaching Resources* as part of your year-end giving plans. Please also pray for our nation and a humble return to God, as well as peace for Jerusalem.

Thank you for your continuing friendship and support.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,
—John D. Miller





Mailbag

Thanks to our friends for these recent letters & emails. We love hearing from you!

Greetings:

Thank you! Thank you! For the Alaska cruise trip. Listening to Don Anderson speak on Titus was our “highlight” of the trip. We really enjoyed it. Of course it was great to see Don and Pearl. Thank you! Thank you! For your Bible teaching ministry. Great teachers of the word of God are getting fewer. Thank God for Don and Pearl Anderson.

—Paul & JoAnn Macan

Don & Pearl

As I reflected this weekend on the past 40 years, I am eternally grateful for the blessing you have been in my life in building God’s word into my life, my relationship with Nancy, my family, and the countless individuals you have touched. Thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord, His word, and His body! God has used you to powerfully impact generations. May our Lord continue to use and bless you richly.

—Lee Bailey

“To God be the glory, great things He has done!!” To think we started our journey with you as young, single college students at UT, then have traveled quite a wonderful winding road to Hideaway, Lubbock, College Station, Trail West, Kaleo Lodge, San Antonio, and points beyond. All the while you have powerfully spoken practical truths from God’s word woven through life’s lessons. Thank you for showing us God’s faithfulness and power. We love you both more than words can say!!

—Love in Him, Nancy Bailey

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Here's a traditional holiday favorite, with a special twist, from Donna Anderson Skorheim!



FROZEN CRANBERRY SALAD

2 cans whole cranberry sauce
1 medium can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup chopped nuts
1 8 oz. Cool Whip
1 can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk

Stir ingredients together. You can put the entire mixture in a 9x13 pan and freeze. I prefer to put cupcake papers in muffin tins and place the mixture in these to freeze. Take the salad out right before serving. It gets soft quickly.

A Time To Stay, a Time To Go

by Baxter Black

Ya know, I got this ranch from my daddy;
He come here in seventeen.
He carved this place outta muscle and blood;
His own and his ol' 'percheon' team.

I took over in fifty
And married my darlin' in May.
Together we weathered whatever came up;
She had what it took to stay.

Last winter we finally decided
We'd pack up and leave in the spring.
The kids are all grown and 'city-folk,' now;
We never raised 'em to cling.

Oh sure, I wished they'd have wanted
To ranch and carry it on
But they did their part, I thank 'em fer that
And they chose. Now all of 'em's gone.

The last thirty odd years we've collected
An amazing number of things!
Bonnets and bottles, clippings and letters
And Dad's ol' surcingle rings.

We've spent the winter months sorting.
Our hearts would ache or would jump
As we looked at our lives in trinkets we'd saved
Then boxed up or took to the dump.

We cried sometimes in the attic
I'm not ashamed of the truth.
I love this ol' ranch that we're leavin'
We gave it the strength of our youth.

I love this ol' woman beside me
She held me and stayed by my side.
When I told 'er I's thinkin' 'bout sellin'
She said, "Honey, I'm here for the ride."

These new fellers movin' in Monday
Are nice and I wish 'em good luck.
But I'd rather be gone, so Ma, git yer stuff
I've already gassed up the truck.

Lookin' back over my shoulder
At the mailbox I guess that I know
There's a time to be stayin', a time to be goin'
And I reckon it's time that we go.

(From *Coyote Cowboy Poetry* by Baxter Black) Brighton,
CO: Coyote Cowboy Company. Copyright - Baxter Black, 1986, p. 80.



Bible Teaching Resources **FAX**

Welcome to Kathleen Leo Our Newest Staff Member

Help us in welcoming Kathleen to BTR! She is a blessing and a joy to serve alongside!

Kathleen Leo joined the staff at BTR in June 2012. After many years in banking, Kathleen and her husband Brian now serve as house parents at Breckenridge Village of Tyler. Brian and Kathleen have been married for 32 years and enjoy their ever-growing family of 5 children, their spouses, and 10 grandchildren. Their oldest grandson graduated from Texas A&M in May and their youngest is only 3 years old. In their spare time Kathleen and Brian enjoy reading and camping.



Technology

In the past number of years, technology has provided a wonderful opportunity for extended ministry. What began in 1972 with a tape ministry has grown into CD, DVD, Mp3 ministry resources. In 2004 BTR began utilizing the Internet to broadcast Don's weekly messages. To date, 25 full series have been made available through the Persevering & Pressing On site on OnePlace.com. Mindaneo Praise Radio in the Philippines began airing Don's audio lessons Monday through Friday, with a bonus broadcast on Sundays. As of this month, 38 complete series have been heard by thousands of Filipinos. Please pray for these ministries and the impact God's word continues to have on lives around the globe.

The BTR website continues to provide daily encouragement and Bible study resources. You may not be aware, but you are able to download FREE resources 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. An extended version of the *A Great While Before Day* is online, as well as study guides, teaching materials, brief audio devotionals, and videos. Over the last year we have loaded several video series onto the Internet. There is

a link under Resources/Bible Study Resources which allows you to stream the videos online or download them to your computer. Under the Webstore link you will find products available for purchase: CD series, DVD sets, books, and Mp3 downloads. Drop by our website and look around! www.bibleteachingresources.org.

In April 2008 Don began sending out a weekly email. This weekly e-newsletter contains scripture, a devotional, book excerpts, prayer list, and tour schedule. What a great way to keep in touch! Want to be added to the email list? Contact the office at dam@bibleteachingresources.org. In the email please include your name, location (ie. Dallas area, Fort Worth area, Oregon, etc.).

In 1972 (even before the formation of Don Anderson Ministries) Don and Pearl had been traveling the country teaching God's word. Seeing and hearing Don live has been an integral part of many of your lives. Several years ago donations made it possible for us to acquire 3 videoconference units. During tour season Don is able to remain at the Tyler office and teach a regular class anywhere a receiving unit is located. The best part of videoconferencing is that the technology allows Don to interact with class attendees. We have 2 units available for the winter tour. If you would like to talk to someone who currently hosts a class, contact us and we'll put you in touch with the right person.

40th Anniversary Notes

In celebrating BTR's 40th anniversary, we put together a book of personal notes of remembrance and encouragement for Don and Pearl. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share with us. If you would like to have a note included in the anniversary book, please email your message to dam@bibleteachingresources.org or mail your note to our office: Bible Teaching Resources, Attn: Anniversary Book, PO Box 6611, Tyler, TX 75711-6611.



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Chosen by God

1. God chose the youngest son of Jesse (David).

So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." (1 Sam. 16:11-12 NIV)

2. God chose Moses.

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Ex. 3:10 NIV).

3. God chose Mary.

"Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus'" (Luke 1:30-31 NLT).

4. God chose disciples.

"One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night" (Luke 6:12 NLT).

5. God chose Saul (Paul).

"But the Lord said, 'Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel'" (Acts 9:15 NLT).

6. God chose you.

"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will" (Ephesians 1:4-5 NASB).

"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain" (John 16:16a NASB).

CHOSEN BY GOD

If you have a need to feel loved and cared for (and don't we all?), do a reference study on the words *chosen* or *chose* in relationship to GOD.

"For you are a people holy to the LORD YOUR GOD. THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLES ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH TO BE HIS PEOPLE, HIS TREASURED POSSESSION" (DEUTERONOMY 7:6 NIV).

If we have received Jesus as our Savior (John 1:12), we can be confident and take comfort in the truth that He is always present with us. He has chosen us for all eternity. God's love remains steadfast and sure. Remember He chose you and you chose Him. That's a love you can trust.

Thank God for His Son—a gift too wonderful for words!

Merry Christmas to all our much loved friends,

—Pearl

31 Days of Encouragement: As We Grow Older
by Ruth Myers. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.
Copyright– Ruth Myers, 2011.

This is Ruth Myers's final work; she went home to be with the Lord not too long ago. I have loved reading her books and we have reviewed many of them in the *Grapevine: 31 Days of Praise, 31 Days of Power, 31 Days of Prayer*, and others. Ruth saved the best to last! This would be an excellent addition to your devotional reading. Listen to the words of Ruth Myers as she prays the following: "Thank You, Lord, for all that is new this day—including all my fresh opportunities for loving You, obeying You, enjoying You. Open my eyes to see these things. Help me grasp how I can make the most of them" (18).

Work in Progress: An Unfinished Woman's Guide to Grace
by Kristin Armstrong. New York, NY: FaithWords.
Copyright– Kristin Armstrong, 2009.

I had not realized that Kristin Armstrong, former wife of Lance Armstrong, was such a vibrant, growing believer. Pearl and I are presently reading her devotional book *Happily Ever After*, written in the aftermath of her divorce. Writes Kristin:

When we become malleable in the Father's hands, we are molded into the beauty of our original design. I am reminded of playing "mercy" with my brother Jon when we were kids. We would lace our fingers together and attempt to bend each other's knuckles backward until one of us couldn't stand it anymore and shouted "Mercy!" in order to be released. Then the winner would be smug, and the other one would typically tattletale to report the abuse. I have played "mercy" with God before too. I lost, in case you were wondering. (62)

Kristin Armstrong is growing in her relationship to the Lord and her work is a joy to read daily.

Happily Ever After
by Kristin Armstrong (FaithWords)

Here's a word from Kristin:

When we thank God for all things, even the things that hurt, things we don't like or wouldn't

choose, those things lose power over us. In praise we enter into the realm of Jesus.
In everything give thanks:
In spite of everything.
During everything.
Because of everything.
Through everything.
In the midst of everything.
Always, in everything . . .
Give thanks. (153)

Implosion: Can America Recover From Its Economic & Spiritual Challenges in Time?
by Joel C. Rosenberg. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House. Copyright– Joel C. Rosenberg, 2012.

What a book! This masterful, well-researched work is one everyone needs to read. Joel accurately measures the pulse of civilization. He fears for the future of America: "America is headed into an assisted-living facility for retired global powers" (40). Rosenberg writes the following about America's relationship to Israel:

But let us make no mistake: if the United States stops blessing Israel and the Jewish people and either abandons them or begins actively working against them, then we will no longer be eligible for the blessings of God. Rather, we will face God's curse. This is a fate no nation can long endure. Certainly not ours. Indeed, given all the other enormous and existential economic, fiscal, spiritual, and moral challenges we face, I have no doubt that America will most certainly implode if we stop actively and consistently blessing Israel and the Jewish people.

God will not be mocked. One way or another, America will reap what she sows. (101)

Israel at War: Inside the Nuclear Showdown with Iran

by Joel C. Rosenberg (Tyndale House)
I found out recently that Joel Rosenberg had done this e-book. I was anxious to read it and spent one weekend doing so. His insights and understanding regarding what is going on in Israel right now are refreshing and timely.

Rosenberg writes the following:

On Wednesday, May 23, Netanyahu, Sara, their sons, close friends, and numerous Jewish scholars kicked off their first home Bible study. It was scheduled to last for an hour but went on for two, and it focused on the book of Ruth. . .

As the study began, Netanyahu said, "Ben-Gurion and Begin believed that the Bible should be the heritage of the entire nation—secular and religious, young and old, men and women. The Bible is the foundation of our existence. It unites the Jewish people, as it has throughout the generations. It also serves not only as a foundation but also as a map and compass. . . . The Bible is always relevant vis-à-vis today's problems and challenges. It inspires; it is a source of life for our people, and I think that it is important to expand Bible study and love of the Bible among all parts of the nation. This is also the goal of this circle."¹²⁵

The Radical Question and a Radical Idea

by David Platt (Multnomah Books)

We had the privilege of reviewing *Radical* and Platt's second book *Radical Together*. Now this brief work is refreshing because it gives you more of the "rest of the story." I was very touched by page 77 when he wrote:

We recently cut 83 percent of our worship budget. We did this not only to free up resources for urgent needs around the world but also to scale back our emphasis on non-essential elements of corporate worship. We want to focus on ways we can cultivate the best people: a people who love to pray together, fast together, confess sin together, sing together, and study together; a people who depend more on the Word that is spoken than on the one who speaks it; a people who are gripped in music more by the content of the song than by the appeal of the singer; and a people who define worship less by the quality of a slick performance and more by the commitment of a humble people who gather week after week simply to behold the glory of God as they surrender their lives to him. (77)

Needless to say, this is a must-read to keep relevant.

Since this is the Christmas Bookshelf and you are preparing your devotional materials for 2013, I wanted to mention to you four books I have used this year. All of them have been very special.

Pause for Power

by Warren Wiersbe (David C. Cook)

Let me give you a snippet: "We lead by serving, and we serve by suffering. This is the way Jesus did it, and this is the only way that truly glorifies Him" (74).

Simply Sacred

by Gary Thomas (Zondervan)

Thomas always hits the mark in his brief daily devotions, as evidenced here:

If I know that a certain action will lead me through a difficult period of mourning, then the next time I face that action, I will not feel compelled by its pleasure or relief. Instead, I will remember its consequences, decidedly less than sweet. And so I can find the will to do the right thing the next time.

The next time you are convicted of sin, let it hurt for a while. Feel the pain. Taste the ugliness. But know this: Once we let it go into the grace of God, it is gone forever. (81)

Eternal Perspectives

by Randy Alcorn (Tyndale)

I'm reading the book *Eternal Perspectives* a little bit each day. Here is a quotation to entice you:

I haven't been cheated out of being a complete person—I'm just going through a forty-year delay, and God is with me even through that. Being "glorified"—I know the meaning of that now. It's the time, after my death here, when I'll be on my feet dancing. (6)

prophetic word as something altogether reliable, to which you are doing well to be paying attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts" (DAV).

God the Father sometimes enriches our lives with the glory of the unknown. What a joy to know that this Morning Star is the promised Messiah, the son of David, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

His future coming is a promise from the Father and His promises are reliable.

Let's look at a few phrases from 2 Peter 1:19 in more detail.

"You are doing well to be paying attention."

"Be paying attention" to the prophetic word.

Prophecy is like a lamp. Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (NIV). Psalm 119:130: "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple" (NIV).

"Until the day dawns."

It is not just a question of *if* but *when*, until the Son of righteousness rises with healing in His wings.

Until the great day dawns and the shadows flee away, I am supposed to be paying attention to the prophetic word.

"Until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."

Revelation 2:28: "and I will give him the morning star" (NASB)

Numbers 24:17: "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel" (NIV).

Revelation 22:16: "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star" (NASB).

Notice two important truths from the preceding verse. The Lord Jesus is saying that He is "the root and the offspring of David." Immediately we think of the Messiah, the future King of Israel. It is the star of David that is cast in blue on the white flag to represent the nation Israel. Jesus is the real deal, the "root and the offspring."

This holiday season we need to pray for Israel, that in the Father's sovereign purpose He will protect Israel and provide the wisdom necessary because the Israelis are surrounded by a hostile world.

I just finished reading an e-book by Joel Rosenberg, *Israel at War: Inside the Nuclear Showdown with Iran*. It records the story of Benjamin Netanyahu coming to the United States, where he was interviewed by Larry King. Netanyahu revealed that he reads from the Bible for an hour and a half each Saturday with his younger son, who won the National Bible Championship in Israel and placed third internationally. The Netanyahus also host a regular Bible study group in their home. God is definitely at work in the land!

Barnhouse writes in *Revelation*:

Lastly, Christ refers to Himself as "the bright and morning star." To the people of the East, the stars had great meaning for they were the heavenly time pieces by which the shepherds told the different seasons of the year, and the various watches of the night. It was the "morning star" which heralded the sunrise and the breaking of a new day. Thus how fitting it is that our Lord Jesus in relation to His return should be spoken of as "the bright and morning star." (413)

Proverbs 4:18: "The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine" (MSG).

Psalm 118:23-24: "This is the LORD's DOING, AND IT IS MARVELOUS TO SEE. THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE. WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT" (NLT).

Recently we dog-sat for our oldest daughter and her husband while they were away on vacation. Pappy is a delightful little dog. Just the mention to him about going for a walk and he starts wagging and wiggling with great anticipation. Sometimes he can't control himself and he lets out a joy-bark. I just wish that more of us, as we contemplate that unchanging star, that wonderful promise we have, could also start wagging and wiggling with great anticipation and maybe let out a joy-bark of gratitude and thanksgiving for our blessed Lord.

I guess the closest you can come to that unmitigated joy is on Christmas eve with the children. They are wiggly and excited with anticipation. May the Lord allow us to be filled with that same passionate joy and rejoicing during this holiday season, that we know the One who is promised. We know the One who never lies. We know the One who is the truth. Therefore let us be filled with joy for the glory of our Lord!

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“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him”

Matthew 2:2: (NASB).

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12:20 p.m. – Ft. Worth Businesspeople's Noon Class
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 10th & Lamar
Ft. Worth, TX 76102

Class host: Garner Roberts, office: 817.763.5831

(Catered lunch available at 11:50 a.m. Please call with your reservation by the Friday before each class)

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