

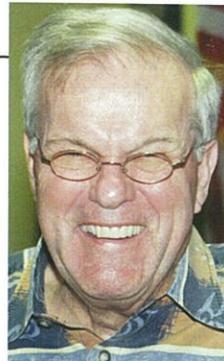
PASSING THE BATON
SPECIAL ISSUE

GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

Winter 2016





Come What May, I Want to Run

Ahimaaz son of Zadok again said to Joab, "Come what may, please let me run behind the Cushite." But Joab replied, "My son, why do you want to go? You don't have any news that will bring you a reward." He said, "Come what may, I want to run." So Joab said, "Run!" Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite (2 Samuel 18:22–23 (NIV)).

Running became a craze in the 1970s and the '80s and with it came 5ks, 10ks, half marathons, full marathons, and other small races. I ran in four full marathons and finished two of them. Scripture speaks a lot about running. Just consider 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.



Training is crucial. Failure to prepare is preparation for failure.

Paul has a burning desire that he might secure an all-out Corinthian commitment to Christ, a commitment that would have no reservations but a willingness to pay whatever price necessary to hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Just as there are rules for physical fitness so are there rules for spiritual fitness. Paul lists four of these rules in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

1. Run to win. "Are you not knowing that those who are running in a race are indeed all running, but one is receiving the prize? Be running in such a manner in order that you may

win" (1 Corinthians 9:24 DAV). Rule one has to do with an attitude orientation and mind set. In 1 Corinthians 10:5, Paul makes perhaps the greatest understatement in all scripture: "Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness" (DAV). The children of Israel all had the same privilege, but privilege does not guarantee the prize. Although three million emerged from Egypt with the promise of a new land and a new relationship with God, only two—Joshua and Caleb—ever received what God promised. The marathon from Egypt to Israel only had two finishers. Indeed, the race is not always to the swift but to those who keep on running.

2. Discipline produces reward.

1 Corinthians 9:25: "not everyone who is engaging in the contest is exercising self-control in all respects. Those to be sure in order that they may receive a perishable crown but we an imperishable crown (DAV). Any development in our personal lives toward progress will be the direct result of discipline. Determination, not desire controls our destiny. Many a professional fitness trainer insists there is no gain without pain. Advancement comes by strict method, stern discipline, rigid attention to detail, ceaseless labor, and the fixed determination of an unbreakable will that brings the victory.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

PASSING THE BATON

From the Editor

The theme of this *Grapevine* is “passing the baton,” perhaps an odd choice for a Christmas issue, but an appropriate one. My husband, Mike, and I are honored to have been chosen by the Andersons and the BTR board to pick up the mantle thrown down by Elijah (okay, Don). By God’s grace, we plan to continue the good work of Bible Teaching Resources in publishing, communications, teacher training, and the creation of Bible study materials, building upon Don’s decades of work and study. Both Don and Pearl are immeasurably important to us as spiritual mentors. They are family. They are our heroes. We hope that they will stay as involved in BTR as they wish to be. In fact, Don and I plan to write at least one more book. But their day to day presence in the office has become too difficult, with Don’s health issues. They are not retiring, just re-tooling. Please watch your mailboxes and inboxes for an invitation to an event this spring where we all may gather and honor them properly. Until then, consider Mike and me the “transition team” to take BTR in the direction God would have it to go. We have some good ideas, but ultimately He will bless them or redirect us. As always, your faithful friendship, support, and most importantly, your prayers, are essential and appreciated. May our Lord bless you and yours this Christmas season and in the new year to come.

—M. Jane Rodgers



Christmas greetings from

In Dr David Jeremiah's commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes, he notes: "Time cannot be stored, stopped, or slowed. Because there is a time limit to everything in this life, each experience is a gift that we have been entrusted with and must not waste. The time we have is our gift from God."

Over the past 43 years, we have been blessed to have Don and Pearl Anderson at the helm of first, Don Anderson Ministries, and currently, Bible Teaching Resources (BTR). As Dr Jeremiah further states, there is a time, a season, that comes and goes. These past years have truly been a "gift" of ministry by Don and Pearl that has touched



thousands. Don and Pearl will be remembered for being Bible teaching circuit riders. We celebrate those years and know in our hearts that Don and Pearl have been faithful not only to the Lord, but to each of us who have come to know and love them.

As we write this letter, my wife, Karen, and I, like you, have a sad-

ness that this phase of Don's ministry is coming to a close. Keeping the pace that would amaze any person 30 years younger is now daunting to even Don. The BTR board is grateful for his faithfulness and totally supportive of Don and Pearl's election to slow down and pass the baton. As you might guess, Don will not fully retire but will

the BTR board

remain available to consult and will continue to disciple the ten couples he is now mentoring. Way to go, Don! I remember a statement Don made in years past that he wanted to finish this life “used up completely for the Lord.” He is doing just that! What an example for all of us he is.

I am happy to announce that Mike and Jane Rodgers will assume the leadership of Bible Teaching Resources in January 2016. Mike and Jane have been associated for decades with BTR. Mike has long served as board member, overseeing our financial responsibilities for years. Jane has served largely behind the scenes as writer and editor of *The Grapevine*. She has helped Don write nine books and edited much of his published material. They, like all of you, have been loyal and dedicated followers of Don and Pearl’s ministry. Mike and Jane are now ready to lead BTR. Mike is not only a master of financial matters, but also is a teacher of the Word and a Bible scholar himself. He and Jane have a passion for spreading God’s precious Word. He has an exciting plan regarding where he and Jane want to take BTR. You will read about some of his ideas in this edition of *The Grapevine*.

Don and Pearl will be remembered for being Bible teaching circuit riders.

Karen and I want to encourage each of you that this transition has been fully vetted by the BTR board and has our complete blessing. We are excited about the future of BTR and look forward to how our Lord will continue to lead and bless this ministry. Don and Pearl will not be forgotten. I do ask you to join with us as we “pass the baton” to Mike and Jane. We will keep you posted on our progress and plans. You can stay in touch too by “tuning in” to our website: bibleteachingresources.org.

In this season of celebrating God’s gift of His Son to us, Karen and I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas. We remain grateful for your friendship, prayers, and support.

*Brian Mills
Chairman,
Bible Teaching Resources Board of Directors*

Word Search

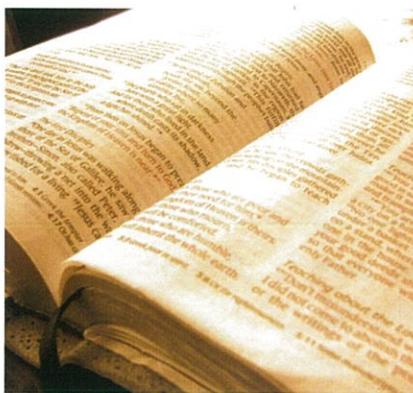
by Mike Rodgers

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV).

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14 ESV).

Do a word search in an electronic concordance for the “Word of the LORD” or God’s Word or something similar and see how many times the expression comes up. I entered a search using *LORD* and *word* in the same verse and was surprised to find over 5,000 verses. Naturally, the way scripture uses this expression differs. For example, it sometimes refers to God’s direct communication with a prophet or it may simply mean that God was present with His servant. The point is that God historically chose to communicate with men and women through the spoken word. Although the Christian faith is transmitted in various ways—traditions, the church and its followers—foremost of these is the Bible. The Bible contains God’s revelation of Himself, of His personal intervention in history, and of His work in the lives of His beloved creatures, men and women.

The hallmarks of Bible Teaching Resources and the ministry of Don Anderson have been the commitment to teaching the Bible and to inductive Bible study. And why not? After all, it is the Word of God that changes lives. As Paul emphatically told Timothy, all Scripture is profitable. Paul



understood the primacy of studying and teaching God’s Word so that the lives of Christians might be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Truly, this is a wonderful promise.

Although Don and Pearl are stepping aside, Bible Teaching Resources will unashamedly and adamantly continue to focus its ministry on the studying and teaching of God’s Word. It has long been my observation that those who devote themselves to prayer and meditation on God’s Word become, in Paul’s words, equipped

for every good work. Bible Teaching Resources will use Don’s materials from 43 years of serving the Lord as a foundation to continue publishing resources to help people understand and apply the Bible in their lives. In addition, we want to come alongside local churches and provide biblically sound curriculum for Sunday school classes and life groups that is accessible over the internet. We also realize that many churches often lack the resources to adequately train lay teachers and small group leaders to effectively teach the Word of God. We believe that Bible Teaching Resources will be a valuable partner in helping believers to grow and walk in Christian maturity.

During the Christmas season, Christians from all over the globe celebrate God’s Word becoming flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. In every sense, Jesus revealed God’s glory. He was able to do so because, besides being fully man, He was also fully God. I admit that I do not fully understand how this can be but I know it is true because it is the message of Holy Scripture. And I believe that if God is righteous and holy, so too is His Word. My desire for you and your loved ones is that reading and proclaiming the Word will be the central holiday activity this year.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In November, the BTR board of trustees appointed me as the Executive Director of Bible Teaching Resources as Don is ready, in his words, to "pass the baton." (We all know that Don would never retire.)

Many of you who are regular readers of *The Grapevine* know my wife, Jane, but may not know me, although I was on staff with Don Anderson Ministries in the early 1990s and have been on Don's board for over 30 years. I have served as administrator and teacher at two Christian schools and, most recently, at Criswell College in Dallas. I have a Masters of Christian Education from Dallas Theological Seminary (thanks in part to Don Anderson Ministries) and am the associate teacher in a large Sunday school class at First Baptist of Dallas.

Like many of you, Don has had a tremendous impact on my spiritual life and that of my wife. Don and Pearl's marriage has been an example to us, and Don's mentoring has enabled me to experience what success I've had in challenging positions of leadership in Christian organizations.

The question many of you may be asking at this moment is about the future focus of Bible Teaching Resources. Will it primarily be a teaching ministry as it has been in the past? In other words, will I assume the vaulted position on the green stool? (As if anyone could.) Although I have many years of teaching experience, Don's speaking ability and style uniquely shaped the ministry of Bible Teaching Resources and I would be a poor substitute, indeed.

Instead, we will build upon the publishing ministry taking it into new directions. We will continue to publish *The Grapevine* and *A Great While before Day* as well as Don's books. In addition, Don's messages are being digitized and will soon be available in a better than ever format. Rest assured, we will continue the unwavering commitment to God's Word and inductive Bible study.

Bible Teaching Resources will also be expanding its horizons. We are very excited about developing on-line adult Bible study curriculum and training for lay teachers in church Sunday school classes and small group fellowships. We believe there is a real need for quality materials that encourage in-depth Bible study as part of the local church. And, we hope, to eventually offer these resources in Spanish and Chinese.

The staff, the board and I appreciate your loyal commitment as we take this crucial ministry into the future to address real needs for churches in our changing world. Without your prayers and financial support this work would not be possible. Thank you!

Many blessings for the Christmas season,

Mike Rodgers
I Corinthians 15:58



Passing the Camping Baton: a Final Word on Wind River

Adapted from a letter from former BTR board member Chuck Taylor

Chuck and Margie Taylor for many years served on the board of Don Anderson Ministries. Chuck was instrumental in helping the Ministries acquire a property in Colorado then known as Wind River Ranch. While BTR's involvement in the camp proved short-lived, much fruit has still resulted, as explained in Chuck's letter, adapted here. We are grateful for all the many men and women who, at various times during these past 43 years, have stood alongside us in ministry. Paths may eventually diverge; people are called by God to serve in other areas as years go by. But our mutual labor is never in vain while our hearts are focused on Him.

I had such mixed feelings reading your Clipboard article in the fall *Grapevine*. Don, I am so sorry to learn your Parkinson's has become so limiting. Fortunately, your brain seems to be fine, so God has chosen to preserve your most cherished asset: clear communication. Margie and I are aging with you for sure. Margie has early-stage dementia and struggles mightily. I am reminded of seeing Loretta Miller while in Oregon with you, and seeing the struggle she was having. We will need to move to a senior center in the next couple of years....

While reading your reminiscences of the important impact you had at The Firs and Pine Cove, I'd like to also add Wind River to your list. The experience was not as either you or I planned, but God has a funny way of using us in unexpected ways, not always of our choosing. Had it not been for your passion to establish a family ministry in Colorado, Wind River Ministry would not have been born. Margie often remarks how neither of us likes horses; I'm not good with young children, and any connection to a dude ranch would be deep in a black hole.

Yet, more than 20 years after you basically coerced us into taking a major role in the search, initial operation, and funding of your dream project, we are still very much involved. I am now on my third term as treasurer of Wind River Ministries. The path from Don Anderson Ministries to Fireside Ministries to Wind River Ministries is littered with emotions, some very painful to be sure. Yet today, Wind River Ministry is flourishing. Our annual revenue is approaching 1.5 million, of which a large portion consists of major donations from foundations. We now provide ministry weeks to Desire Street Ministries, Wounded Warriors, a pastoral and missionary retreat, and scholarships for at least 50 families facing physical, emotional, and financial issues. We average over 30 summer staff, mostly volunteer. Rob and Linda Luttrell act as ministers to them, providing a daily Bible study, and one-on-one counseling as these young staffers transition to adulthood. Each summer, we see many of them make a new commitment to Christ. Some have even gone on to missionary work, which we also help fund. Every Friday evening, the guests share at campfire what the week has meant to them and their families. I cannot even begin to describe the raw emotions shared by some of our Wounded Warriors. We no longer are affiliated with the national organization, so our new designation is "Healing Heroes." Many lives have been changed, families saved, and weekly commitments to Christ are all part of your legacy.

So, while listing your accomplishments over your life of ministry, please DO include the impact you initiated at Wind River Ranch.



Of Pine Cove & Tater

Many of our readers only know Don Anderson as a traveling Bible teacher, camp and conference speaker, and pastor. Don was also the first executive director of Pine Cove, now a whole string of Christian camps located in East Texas near Tyler. Bill McKenzie, Pine Cove founder and author of a book on the history of the camp, *Live for What Outlives You*, shared the following letter with Don and Pearl recently. We include it in this issue to give our readers an idea of the vast intergenerational impact Pine Cove has had and continues to have, from its earliest days.

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

Marilynn Savage Moritz here: "Tater" from the very early years at Pine Cove. I spent seven summers at Pine Cove. I wasn't there for the very first summer but from the summer of 1969 on. I was one of those Northwest kids that Don Anderson recruited from Camp Firwood. I flew into Tyler the day after my high school graduation, never having been to Texas in my entire life, and not knowing that Pine Cove would change my life.

This summer Preston Garrison sent me your book, *Live for What Outlives You*. I was thrilled to read it. I knew some of the history of Pine Cove of course, but had never had it laid out for me as you did in your book. Thank you for telling your story. Thank you to you and your family for having the vision and creating Pine Cove. I know thousands of lives have been changed and thousands of lives have been touched and will continue to be. My long-time closest friends over these 46 years (I am

64 and went to Pine Cove when I was 18) are those friends from the early years of Pine Cove. Two of my five children worked at Pine Cove.

When people ask me now (I have done lots of speaking over the years) what was the most influential thing in my life, my immediate response is "Pine Cove, Tyler, Texas"

I have been a marriage and family therapist for 40 years here in Seattle and for the past 15 years I have also worked for the Seattle school district as the trauma and grief specialist for at risk middle school students in our high poverty

area of Seattle. I love what I do, and thankfully am able to make an impact on young lives. I raised my five children on my own and God blessed me with terrific kids. My oldest son, Andrew, died of cancer at the age of 33, over three years ago now. We miss him every day.

In my life journey over these years, as I think about Pine Cove, lessons learned, faith that matured, friends that are now forever, [these memories have] sustained me through my life. I thank you for having the vision that will live past you and me.

Thankfully,

Marilynn Savage Moritz "Tater"

PS. My closest friends still call me "Tate."



Marilynn (Tater) at far right with family.



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Precious Memories

December, 1972 marked the beginning date of Don Anderson Ministries, now named Bible Teaching Resources.

We did that for the reason now coming to fruition, "The passing of the baton." Our prayer and hope is that BTR will continue with hardly "a blip on the radar." Michael and Jane Rodgers have been friends and board members for 30 years.

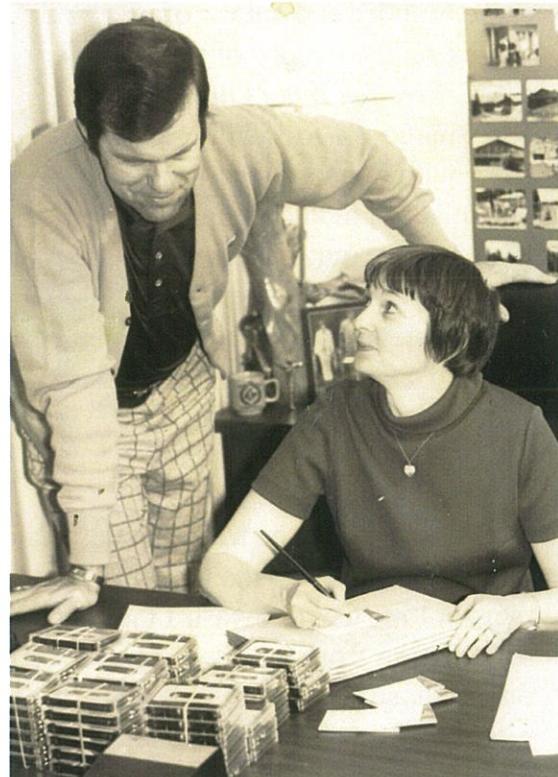
Jane and Don have written 10 books together. Jane is also editor of *The Grapevine* magazine and will assume editorial duties of *AGWBD*. Michael is a CPA. He has prepared the financial statements for board meetings and helped with financial reports, etc.

This is the culmination of several years of prayer, much more intensely these last two years. We started out 43 years ago trusting the Lord to lay it upon the hearts of His people to meet our needs. He has done it. His Word promised He would: "My God will supply all that you need from his glorious resources in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Thanks for being sensitive and available to help not only financially but in many, many other ways. You have truly refreshed our hearts, souls and spirits.

We have a treasure trove of great memories thanks to the big three: Father, Son, and Spirit. All you dear friends are fondly included in that awesome group.

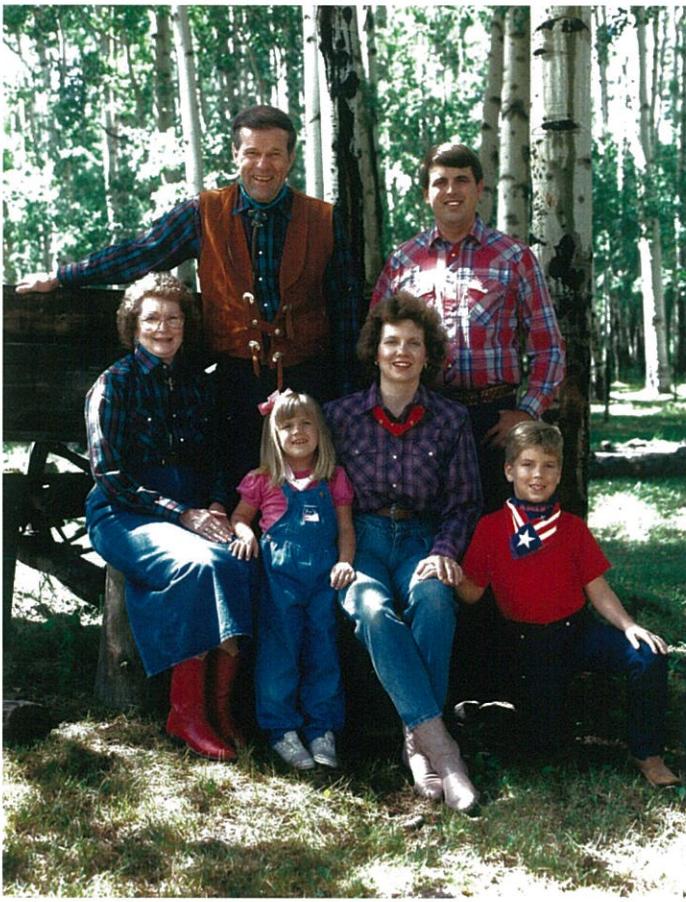
"Faithful is He who calls you who will also do it"
(1 Thessalonians 5:24 DAV).



The early days of the tape ministry.



Family has always been important to Don and Pearl.



Don and Pearl with Mike and Jane Rodgers.



Ever the Bible teacher.

3. Find the goal and hit the mark.

1 Corinthians 9:26: "As for myself, therefore, I am running that way, not aimlessly, as one who has no fixed goal; I am boxing that way, not as one who is punching the air" (DAV). The challenge issued in rule one is to run to win. We see that discipline produces reward in rule two. Rule three reminds us that we are running for the goal. We are fighting to hit the mark.

Running to hit the mark involves purposeful participation. Paul writes of believers in the heat of battle, no longer going through the pre-training period. This is the actual contest. My running is not just hither and yon but has a definite goal in view. My punches hit the mark; I just don't go around beating the air. I am not running in place and punching oxygen.

4. Extra effort produces excellence.

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). As the late great Vince Lombardi put it, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." Don't let up; don't give up. Just stay after it. Extra effort produces excellence. It's when the going gets tough that the tough get going. To have mastery over the body involves the ability to go beyond ordinary levels of endurance.

Keep the goal in view.

May it never be said of you what Paul writes in Galatians 5:7: "You were running well; who cut in on you that you should not obey the truth?" (DAV).

After several hip replacements and a knee replacement, I took to walking in the neighborhood with my walker about four miles a day. So it seemed fitting that on my 80th birthday I would continue to follow this practice. I was about a hundred yards from the house when, for no good reason, I just fell. After lying in the middle of the street for a few

minutes, trying to gather my thoughts about what happened, I forged a plan to retrieve my walker, which was down the road a bit, and to get back on my feet. I recovered and finished the walk to the house. But that morning began my journey with Parkinson's. There have been numerous falls on this life's journey, but this one has been life changing.

Psalm 119:71: "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (NIV).

Psalm 37:23-25: "If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread" (NIV).

Psalm 119:111-112: "Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end" (NIV).

Be a finisher.

There are many wonderful and inspirational biographies of men who have run. The film *Chariots of Fire* depicts the Olympic success of Eric Liddell in a warm story of sacrifice to honor the Lord. Louis Zamperini's story chronicled in *Unbroken* is also a marvelous inspiration. When I was running marathons, the story of Canadian Terry Fox became well known. In his early twenties, Fox was diagnosed with cancer, necessitating the amputation of his left leg at the knee. Terry was not going to let cancer whip him without doing something meaningful with the rest of his life. He hit upon the idea of running across Canada in a Marathon of Hope to raise funds for cancer research. Terry began his run at the Bay of Newfoundland in northeastern Canada. He ran 3,900 plus miles on one good leg and one

prosthetic limb. Each night on the journey, he would spend his time in a little camper trailer. He had a poem by Edgar Guest tacked up in the trailer that he often read. Guest's poem "It Couldn't Be Done," is reprinted here:

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!
Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you
it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you
one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing.

—Edgar Guest

Terry wrote of the experience of his last morning of running when he was at the 3,990 plus mile mark, a little over half way across Canada: "At five miles Doug and I talked about it for a while. I cried because I knew I was going to make it or be in a hospital bed, or dead. I wanted to set an example that will never be forgotten. It is courage and not foolishness. It isn't a waste." One writer from Canada put it thus of Terry, "He has made our world a finer

place by his presence and he has sacrificed himself for a cause."

Philippians 3:14-15: "Brethren, I am not considering myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing: I am forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forward to what is laying ahead. I am pressing onward toward the goal for the prize of the call from above of God in Christ Jesus" (DAV).

Acts 20:24: "But I am not considering my life of any account as precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear testimony to the good news of the grace of God" (DAV).

The race is a relay.

A relay is a race involving two or more teams or contestants. Each contestant goes a part of the distance and then is relieved by a teammate. Each team has a hollow cylinder passed from runner to runner. The hollow cylinder is called a baton. Scripture offers many illustrations of the relay race.

1 King 2:1-3: "When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. 'I am about to go the way of all the earth,' he said. 'So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go'" (NIV).

2 Timothy 2:1-2 "You therefore, my son, be strong by means of the grace which is in Christ Jesus. And the things you heard from me, in the presence of many witnesses, these things entrust to faithful men, who will be qualified to teach others also" (DAV).

2 Timothy 4:6-8 "For I am already being

continued on page 14

poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. In the future there is reserved for me, the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing" (DAV).

Acts 1:8, quoting Jesus: "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (DAV).

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age'" (NASB).

Acts 20:32: "And now I am giving you over to the Lord and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been set apart for God" (DAV).

It is time to pass the baton.

God's timing could not be more perfect. He makes all things beautiful in His time. Mike and Jane Rodgers have been intimately involved in ministry with us for 30 years. Mike has served on the board for many years. As a CPA, he has handled our budgeting and protected our financial integrity. Bible Teaching Resources is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), a membership Mike will maintain. Mike shares a passion for the teaching of God's Word as well.

Jane has done a marvelous job editing *The Grapevine*. She will also assume the creative

direction of *A Great While before Day*. These publications will continue. I have just completed the copy you have in your hands for January – June, 2016. I have also completed the Constant Contact e-mail devotions through the end of 2015. Jane and I have written ten books together and we want to do one more on 2 Timothy. We have also compiled 135 teaching notebooks and volumes of reading notes that Jane wants to access for future publications. All in all, to quote longtime friend and BTR board member John Miller, "We are blessed."

We will finish our race.

Hebrews 12:1-2: "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" (DAV).

2 Corinthians 2:14: "But thanks be to God, who is always leading us in His triumph in Christ, and is making known through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place" (DAV).

1 Corinthians 15:57: "but thanks be to God, who is giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (DAV).

Please don't interpret this as "Don and Pearl are retiring." Our passing the baton in no way means our ministry is through. We are waiting for a call from the home office for that to be the case, and in the meantime, we are just handing off the baton to some wonderful, qualified people, Mike and Jane Rodgers.

mailbag

Dear Don and Pearl,

I have meant to write to you for a long time but have always procrastinated. I want to thank you for all these years that you have ministered the Word of God to me and Dinah through your teaching and devotional studies.



I use the studies for my Bible studies every day along with some others. I especially enjoy the songs. I find myself singing them all day. I often wake up singing or thinking about the Lord. As we have aged, we don't attend church anymore due health problems for Dinah and myself. I have been Dinah's primary care giver for over seven years since she had a stroke.

It's easy for a man to be a leader, but less so to be a servant. God is giving me a lesson in servanthood as I finish my race. Your ministry and provisions have had a very positive impact on my life and I thank you for your faithfulness.

In Christ's love,
Pat & Dinah

Dear Don & Pearl

Just a little note to tell you how much we enjoyed your teaching at The Firs. You have been a real blessing to us and you have enhanced our feeling of the "Second Heaven" at The Firs.

We thank you and our Father, who made it possible.

With love,
Erich & Sieglinde

Dear Don & Pearl

I don't know if you remember me but in the 1980's you came to One Main Place in Dallas, Texas and had a Bible study. I worked for a law firm as a legal secretary and would come down on my lunch hour to hear your message. It was one of the greatest times in my life.

I bought a lot of your books and a whole lot of tapes which I still have to enjoy. You also send me *A Great While Before Day* each year.

I just wanted to thank you both and let you know that you still are a part of my life.

Sincerely,
JoAnn (now 84 years old)

Don

My wife and I read your latest *Grapevine* and wanted to tell you what a blessing your life and teaching have been to us over the years! You are one of our spiritual heroes! So faithful, never compromising and so gracious. I pray the Lord gives you many happy times in the future, as you surely will have great joy when you meet Him face to face! I have never seen someone not slow down, but *always* abounding in the work of the Lord, like you.

May God *strongly* see you through these medical challenges – the marathon runner we so admire!

Love & blessings to you & Pearl,
Jim & Morag

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Here is a winter winner, Mark Skorheim's favorite soup.

TACO SOUP

1 can of pinto beans
1 can of black beans
1 can of kidney beans
1 can of corn

Drain and rinse all cans of beans and combine, adding the following:

1 can of beef broth
1 can Ro-Tel tomatoes, chopped
2 cans of diced tomatoes
1 envelope of ranch dressing mix
1 envelope of taco seasoning mix
2 lbs. of cooked ground lean hamburger, drained

Put in all in a crock pot on low to heat or in pan on stove to heat. Enjoy!

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

In loving memory of Loretta Miller

Jim & Charlotte Thompson
Lester & Deirdre Robertson
Lowell & Wanda Conder

In loving memory of Susanna Redford Tommy Butler

In loving memory of Bob G. Roberts Truman & Kitty Bryce

Prison Ministry Steve Pickett Gary & Anita Cornett

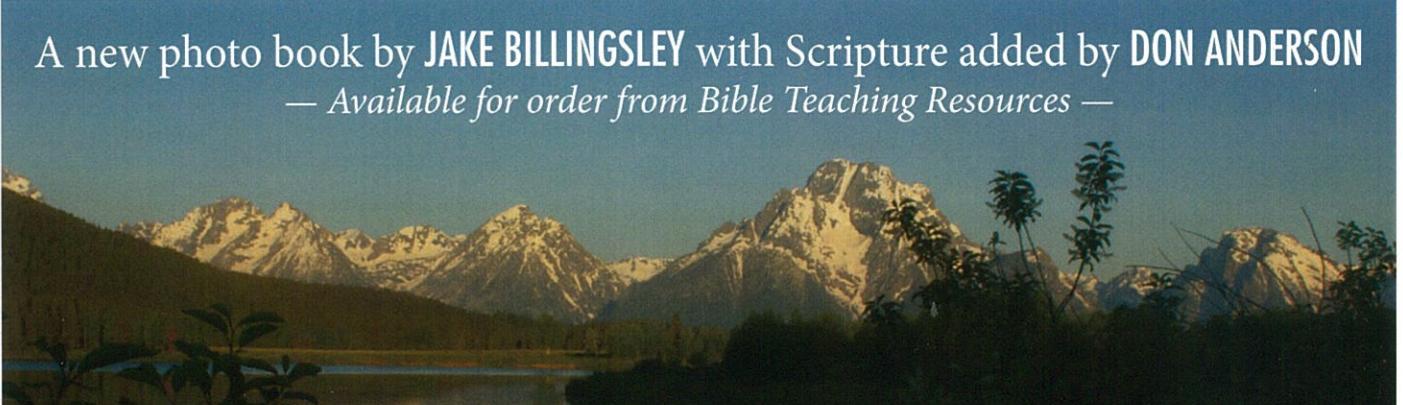
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WHAT AN *Awesome* GOD!

*For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great
KING over all the earth. —PSALM 47:2 (NIV)*