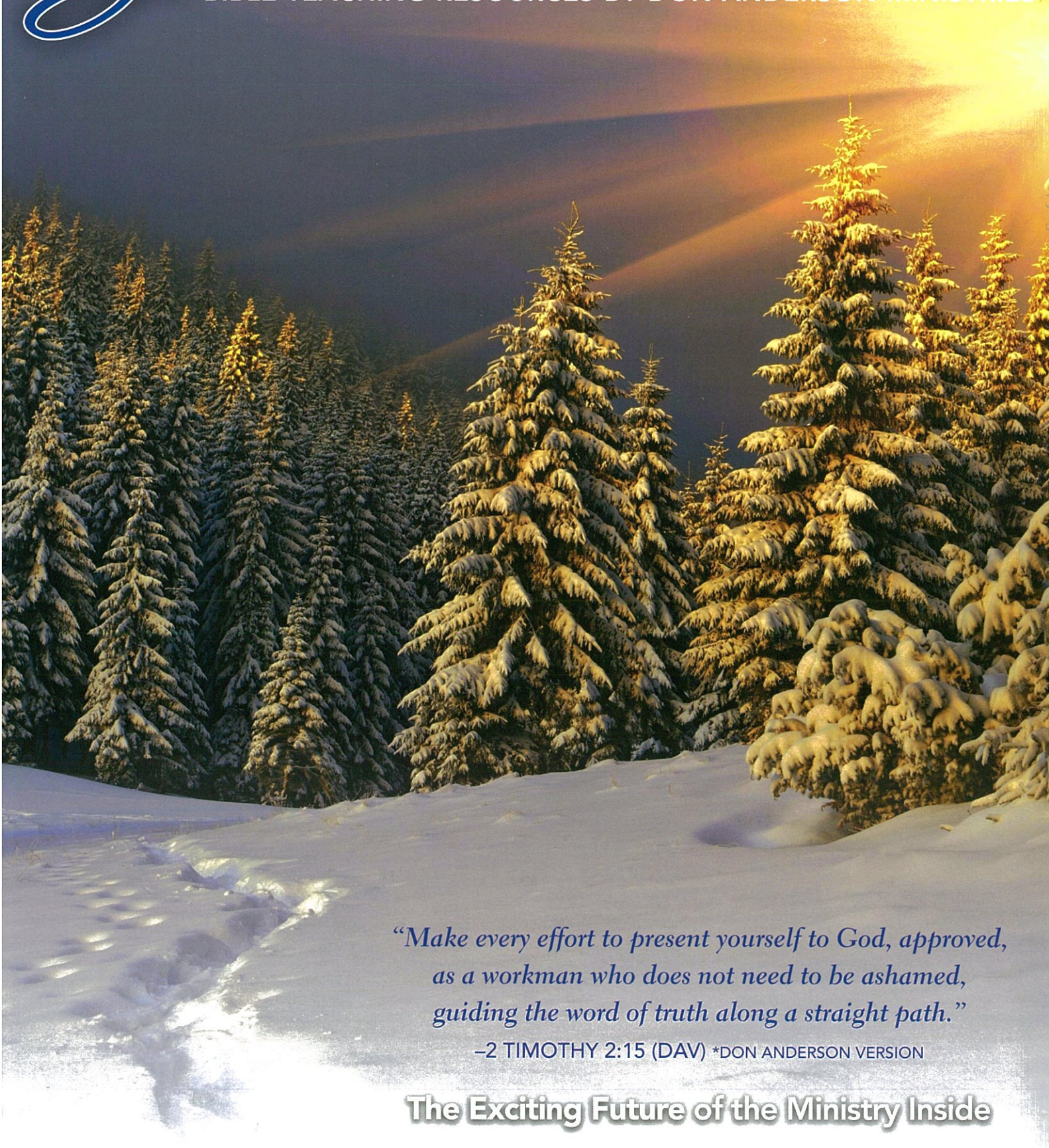




WINTER 2017: MEMORIAL ISSUE

# GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES BY DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES



*“Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved,  
as a workman who does not need to be ashamed,  
guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (DAV) \*DON ANDERSON VERSION

**The Exciting Future of the Ministry Inside**



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## Monday Morning Emails

We are still here, and we are pumping out emails every Monday morning to get you started on the week. We would love to minister to you. If you are not currently receiving the devotional email, please email us so we can put you on the list to look into the Word with us on Monday mornings.

The Grapevine is a publication of Bible Teaching Resources by Don Anderson Ministries

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Bible Teaching Resources is a nonprofit organization and charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.





Tom Dance Painting: Don & Pearl

Bible Teaching Resources (BTR) will need the help of you, our faithful friends and supporters, to accomplish the project of preserving Don Anderson's legacy.

My husband, Mike, and I knew with more than a measure of sadness that the time for a memorial issue of *The Grapevine* would come. Don, as most of you know, completed his earthly race and went home to be with the Lord in July of 2016. We will always be grateful for the influence of Don and Pearl on our lives as dear mentors and friends. Much of who we are as believers, we owe to the Andersons.

Don is gone, but with your help, his work will be preserved and continued as a resource for teachers and students of the Bible. Donna Anderson Skorheim, board chairman Brian Mills, and Genevieve Martin have all written articles explaining the plan and included them in this issue. Bible Teaching Resources (BTR) will need the help of you, our faithful friends and supporters, to accomplish the project of preserving Don Anderson's legacy.

The BTR website, [www.BibleTeachingResources.org](http://www.BibleTeachingResources.org), will continue to function and will offer Don's materials for sale. The plan is to organize and make user-friendly his life's work of Bible studies and teaching materials.

We hope you enjoy the pictures inside this issue—a blast from the past for many and sweet memories for all, we trust. Don always liked to say, "See you here, there, or in the air!" To that we add, you will still be able to find us on the web!

God bless you and yours this Christmas season.

*"...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1b-2*

*Jane Rodgers*  
Jane Rodgers



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES

October, 2016



Dear Friends of Don and Pearl Anderson,

We are so pleased to bring you this memorial issue of *The Grapevine*, reflecting Don and Pearl's forty-four plus years of ministry. Many of you have been associated with the Andersons for the entirety or bulk of that time. Like the rest of us, you were deeply saddened to learn of Don's passing. Those who attended Don's funeral were treated to a joyous celebration of life and will not soon forget the impact that he and Pearl had on so many. It has been my honor to serve on the BTR board of directors. I considered Don my friend and spiritual mentor. If you are reading this issue, I know you feel the same way.

In the months following Don's death, the board of directors wrestled with decisions about the future of Bible Teaching Resources. Our first priority was to ensure that Pearl was well taken care of. She is doing well and continues participating in the ministry.

Together with members of the family, the board determined that there were **two important tasks to accomplish in the short-term**. The first was to produce this memorial issue of *The Grapevine*. As you look through these pages, I hope you smile, perhaps shed a tear, but mostly thank Don and Pearl for their years of devotion to bringing the good news of Jesus to ALL of us. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as the staff enjoyed sifting through all the memories.

Second is a bigger task but one we trust will solidify Don's legacy. Don wanted so much to make his Bible studies and study materials available to the widest audience possible. You can well imagine the wealth of materials Don generated during his more than four decades of ministry. Therein is our second challenge: to "preserve" Don's materials. We have a team of folks working on this effort, which we estimate will take some twelve to fifteen months at least to complete. **The idea is to digitize and catalog his materials, not only to preserve them for the future, but also to make the information portable and easily accessible.** Genevieve Martin, Don's longtime assistant, has rejoined BTR part-time to assist with this effort. Kathleen Leo continues faithfully in the office and is an integral part of this project.

In the meantime, without Don at the helm, there will be a shift in the vision of the ministry. We covet your prayers to help us follow God's will. We will keep the website updated. Please stay tuned to learn of the latest news. For those who were unable to attend Don's funeral, you can find a video of this celebration also on the website as well as a sample of what we hope to do in preserving Don's study materials for use by posterity.

On behalf of Bible Teaching Resources and the board of directors, I want to thank each of you for your support of Don and Pearl over the years. I know your lives have been changed because of Don's ministry, as mine has been changed.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. **If you wish to donate to what we are calling the Preservation Project, your gift will assist in this worthwhile continuation of Don Anderson's work.** Rest assured, BTR will remain a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability.

The board of directors and I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas season and a blessed 2017!

Brian Mills, Chairman

Bible Teaching Resources Board of Directors





# The Preservation Project:

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

BY GENEVIEVE MARTIN

As we reflect on Don Anderson's passing and plan ways to preserve his legacy of faithfully studying and teaching the scripture, we can't help but get excited about what the Lord has done and continues to do in and through the ministry of Bible Teaching Resources.

Don's deepest desire has always been to teach God's word and to light a fire in others to hunger for biblical truth.

In October, members of the board, family, and staff met to pray and ask for God's direction in preserving the thousands of pages of manuscripts, reference materials, charts, and books. This is no small task, but under the

direction of the BTR board, we plan on doing just that. Don always said, "Persevere and Press On!" Those of us left behind to carry on his legacy have our own version: "Preserve and Press On!"

You've heard the saying "out of sight, out of mind"? Once Don was no longer able to travel and teach or speak to groups, he began to disciple groups of men locally and nationally who wanted to take up the torch and continue in ministry. They have used his materials, as have many others. We would like to make it easy for everyone to access his life's work.

The staff at the BTR office has been charged with locating, scanning, and



preserving Don's materials. Our plan of action follows. Below is a list of items that will be made available on the Internet based upon each Bible study in the BTR library.

### 1. Charts

From the very beginning, as part of the inductive study process, Don created and graphed charts of the scripture. These charts could be extremely helpful to seminary students, pastors, and lay teachers who would benefit from his careful dissecting of the scripture.

### 2. Study notes

Once the "bones" of any Bible study were laid out, Don would use a recorder to dictate and the staff would transcribe the commentaries, book excerpts, references, word studies, and so forth, formatting them into a verse-by-verse study. These notes could be extremely detailed, containing up to 200 pages of material. These extensive study notes are available for most of the studies Don taught from 1994 on. Prior to that time, many of the studies were either typewritten or handwritten.

### 3. Lecture notes

Once the study notes were compiled and as Don prepared for a tour class, conference, or other speaking engagement, he would clip, highlight, condense, and add emphasis to items he felt were most important to communicate to the particular audience he was addressing. During a Bible study tour, he might repeat this process

before every class. For example, when presenting to a group of retirees, he would emphasize certain applications of scripture different from those he might stress when speaking to a group of businesspeople. His lecture notes include multiple illustrations geared for multiple audiences. These lecture notes could be an invaluable source of information for pastors, teachers, and students.



### 4. Video/audio recordings

During tour classes and other speaking events, Don's sessions were recorded. These recordings have variously been reproduced on tape, CD, VHS, DVD, and Mp3 format. Many have been streamed on the Internet or broadcast on the radio. BTR sells these audio and visual resources in its webstore. We would like to make these items even more accessible.

### 5. Transcriptions of audio

The staff years ago began to transcribe Don's audio records. These have been utilized for book publications, magazine articles, and as resources for pastors and lay people who have used them to teach classes and or enrich their own sermons and lessons. These transcripts of Don's messages are potentially excellent tools for those wanting to teach God's word.



## 6. Books

Some of Don's studies have been published in book form. The texts of these publications have been preserved in pdfs that will allow for online downloading or e-reading.

## 7. Study guides

Don's study guides have long been available on the BTR website for anyone to access. These will continue to be a part of the preservation process.

## 8. Commentary bibliography

Don's personal library of commentaries and theological works is extensive. When he began the process of outlining, charting, and preparing to write a study he would consult commentaries from noted biblical scholars, excerpting key points and incorporating that material into his study notes. For many of the studies, annotated bibliographies have been compiled. These resources would be useful for pastors, seminary students, or biblical scholars of all sorts.

## Preserving the Legacy

We wish to preserve and make accessible each of Don's studies so that future generations will have the ability to draw on his knowledge and life's work. We have created an example of what we hope to accomplish. This is now available on the BTR website: [www.bibleteachingresources.org](http://www.bibleteachingresources.org). Go to the home page and click on the link to access the sample, a study of 2 Timothy 2:14-19 featuring eight

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BTR has always run a tight financial ship. Some operating funds to complete the preservation project are available, but more are required. In typical Don Anderson fashion, we are making that need known to our faithful friends and supporters and trusting God. You may:

- Give online at the BTR website.
- Contact the office with your gift.
- Mail your donation marked "Preservation Project" using the enclosed envelope.

We're challenging everyone who has been touched in some way by Don and Pearl's ministry to give something—small or large. In this way, everyone can be part of the future of his ministry.

downloadable items.

Right now, we are in the process of identifying and evaluating the wealth of material Don left us. Currently, we have determined that fifty-one study series with a total of 734 lectures or individual studies need to be preserved. It won't be easy and it won't be fast. We estimate the project will take from twelve to fifteen months just to preserve and properly archive the studies.

Once the studies are archived, we will turn to Don's couples conference materials, Bible teacher training materials, remaining books, and other items. The goal is to preserve and make these items user-friendly and accessible. 🐼



# The Legacy of My Father

BY DONNA ANDERSON SKORHEIM

"DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE APPROVED, A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED AND WHO CORRECTLY HANDLES THE WORD OF TRUTH."  
(2 TIMOTHY 2:15 NIV)

One of the legacies of my father is that he was a faithful student of the scriptures. He studied countless hours before teaching.

One of Dad's heart desires was to get his teaching notes in the hands of those teaching and studying God's word. His lecture notes contain a treasure trove for teachers, pastors, and students of the scriptures.

One of the main goals of Bible Teaching Resources now is getting Dad's teaching notes available and ready for distribution. Please pray for this project.

With this article is a picture of one of Dad's study charts. As he would begin his study on any book of the Bible, he would first handwrite the entire book on a chart.

One of our funny memories as a family

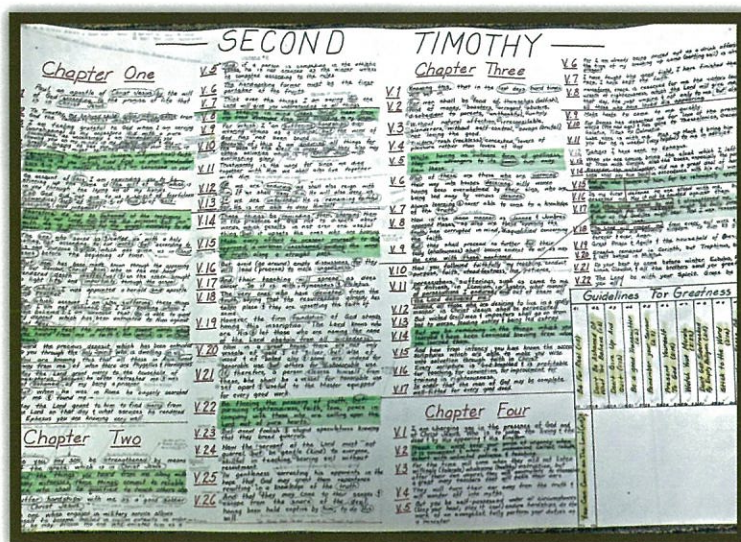
(not so for Dad) occurred during the writing of one of his famous charts. At the time, we had a cat in our home that had been bathroom trained to newspaper. You guessed it! There was much anguish in Dad's voice as he showed us what had

happened to the chart and he realized he would need to redo it!

As mentioned, Genevieve Martin is assisting with the task of preserving and making accessible Dad's life work. Be sure to read her article in

this issue if you haven't already done so. Please understand that this project is being undertaken with the full support of our family and of the Bible Teaching Resources board of directors.

We thank you all for the many kindnesses you have all shown my family over the years, and especially in these months since Dad's home going. 🙏





Over the last several months Pearl has received some of the sweetest and encouraging cards, letters, and notes. We wanted to share excerpts from some of them with our friends and supporters. The sheer volume was incredible. To those who sent condolences, know that your kind words touched our hearts in a way we never imagined. We covet your prayers and thank God for each of you.

Dearest Pearl,

I want you to know how thankful I am to have been a part of your lives and ministry. I will cherish all those Bible studies in our home and getting to know you both. Can't wait to get to heaven and see how many and who came to Christ during those years.

Love,  
Donna S.

Pearl,

Don was a wonderful man of God and you two were a great team working together for God's kingdom. The legacy of that ministry will continue to touch many lives—as it has touched our lives.

Love,  
Chuck & Inez C.

Pearl,

Hard to believe Don's gone from here, but we both know how much he looked forward to being where he is now. What a mentor he was for me, growing up in my teen years... oh yes, and you too were a mentor for me. I could never repay both of you for the direction you gave me.

John

Dear Pearl,

I will remember Don as an encourager

and a very special teacher. He made scripture live in my everyday world. My memories are many and go back quite a few years from DVBS at First Presbyterian to a zillion camps. If Don and Pearl were going to be there, that camp was high priority for our kids as well as for us.

In His love,  
Joyce V.

Pearl,

What an amazing Bible teacher Don was. Although he is talking to Jesus about his teachings, we feel a void and sadness that he is not with us. He (and you) were a wonderful example of a couple dedicated to each other and to raising a family and teaching God's truths. You all blessed thousands and were such an inspiration to anyone who crossed your paths. There has never been a teacher quite like Don. As I read the devotional each morning, I picture Don sitting on his stool, proclaiming the Scriptures with a sparkle in his eye and great examples to amplify his point. Laughter was always a part of his teachings. I am so grateful for a life well lived for Jesus.

Blessings and love,  
John & Linda M.

Dear Don & Pearl,

"Thank you" doesn't seem sufficient to



express our gratitude for how we have been blessed through your ministry for more than 30 years. I heard Don teach for the first time at the Polo Club in North Dallas in the late 70s. Then my husband and I attended several classes before we were sent to South Korea for his work in 1988. We took all of your teaching tapes with us and were fed and encouraged...you were a wonderful link to home. When we returned to Texas we were able to attend classes in Arlington before being transferred again. Once more your tapes were a source of teaching, blessing, and encouragement. Only when we all get home will you understand how many lives you've touched.

In His love,  
Sue & Mearl A.

Dear Pearl,

Your road has been trod by many in the past and will be trod by many in the future. It's never easy to adjust to life without our mate. You have been a wonderful role model as the wife of such a unique preacher/teacher as Don.

Best love and concern,  
Bettye & Bill K.

Dear Pearl,

We have been listening to Don's studies in our little group here at The Firs for many years. His legacy will be with us forever with his tapes, CDs and books. We will always enjoy his cowboy poems, sense of humor, and most of all his great faith in our Lord and Savior. You have been a wonderful partner in all of this, and his love for you was evident in all his teachings. My faith has

been strengthened 100-fold through Don's teachings.

Much love and blessings,  
Virginia P.

Dear Don,

The mental picture of that evening in Tyler [when you] became my spiritual father will be imbedded in my mind and heart forever. Thank you for thinking of me by sharing your book *A Great While Before Day*. It's kept in my desk drawer when I'm not on the road and in my briefcase when traveling.

Love you both,  
Lonnie H.

Dear BTR,

Don and Pearl are spiritual heroes of mine. I met them back in the late 70s/early 80s during a very difficult season of my life. The Lord used them to intervene and protect me by recommending I go to a Bible school in Portland, OR. I will always be grateful to them.

God bless!  
Debbie P.

Dear Pearl,

After Pine Cove, life changed. I taught high school for a decade, married Paul, reared a family, and began teaching ladies Bible studies. The beginning of Don Anderson Ministries coincided with that juncture of my life. As I searched for material, I found all I could ever want in Don's studies as he "rightly divided the Word of Truth." I have seldom taught anything without having his materials at my side. He has spent hours with me in the



kitchen as I have listened over and over to his Bible studies, gleaning while I was cleaning or cooking!

In His matchless grace,  
JoAnn M.

Don,

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

Admiringly,  
Chuck

Sweet Donna,

I had no doubt that your father was a wonderful man of God, but after hearing the many testimonies today this idea of "legacy" seemed so prominent to me. I thoroughly

enjoyed the service and seeing/hearing about the many lives touched by your parents. What an amazing legacy! The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Love always,  
Jill

Dear Don,

We first met you in Jasper, Texas, where you were teaching a Bible study in the home of a local dentist ... Virginia and I were starving, but we didn't know why. We knew we wanted something, but didn't know what. You came along and we said, "That's what we've been looking for!" ... the Word of God taught as Truth, not just some place to get a good thought or two then wing it! The Holy Spirit got it started and you were willing and able.

Tom & Virginia J.

## RECIPE

## Corner

The beautiful atmosphere, gracious hospitality, and wonderful food at Kaleo Lodge made it a favorite conference site for Bible Teaching Resources and Don Anderson Ministries over the years. Kaleo was an oasis of blessing to so many in East Texas. And who could forget Kaleo's Johnnie and Preston Robichaux? They ran the place with dedication and love. Johnnie was kind enough to share many recipes with Grapevine readers over the years. Her delicious cinnamon rolls were a crowd favorite. In this memorial issue, what better tribute could there be to the ministry and friendship that Don and Pearl shared with the Robichaues than to include the recipe for Johnnie's heavenly cinnamon rolls? Enjoy.

### Johnnie's Cinnamon Rolls

Mix together the following:

4 cups flour  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 tsp salt  
Cut in 1 cup butter (softened).

Directions:

Roll out dough in jellyroll fashion; spread melted butter on top; sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon mixed together; sprinkle chopped pecans on top. Roll up lengthwise as tightly as possible. Slice and place in cupcake pans that have been oiled or sprayed with a non-stick spray. Let rise until double in size and bake in a 350-degree oven for about 20 minutes. Ice while still warm with a mixture of powdered sugar, melted butter, vanilla flavoring, and half-n-half blended to the desired consistency.

Stir in a combined mixture of the following:

1 cup milk  
3 beaten egg yolks  
1 heaping tablespoon yeast  
dissolved in 1/2 cup of warm water



# SWEET MEMORIES

BY GENEVIEVE MARTIN & KATHLEEN LEO

As we prepared the memorial timeline, we found ourselves poring over 40+ years of “Coach’s Clipboards” and *Grapevines*. Following are some excerpts from several of them to enjoy.

## FROM AN EARLY ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE

Praise:

- For the Lord’s faithfulness to use His Word in lives
- For those who have received Christ
- For safety over the many miles of travel
- For a new car for the ministry
- For great response to the classes
- For faithful friends who make our ministry possible
- For health and strength to meet the opportunities



## FINANCIAL REPORT (1978)

Pearl and I and the staff want to thank each of you for the part you have played in being faithful stewards that were available for the Lord to use. Since the beginning of the ministry in 1972, it has been our policy to trust the Lord to supply our needs as we remain faithful in serving Him, without initiating the letting of our needs be known except to the Lord. We have watched the supply prove adequate each month to pay all the bills and meet our needs.

## FROM AN EARLY ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE : “PINE COVE: TRANSFORMING LIVES”

It was September 1967 when Don and Pearl Anderson left The Firs in Bellingham, Washington, to serve in East Texas at the new Christian camp, Pine Cove on Lake Palestine near Tyler, Texas. In the summer of 1968, Pine Cove played host to over 300 campers. By the time of Don’s departure from Pine Cove in 1972, the center featured a full slate of kids and family camps, serving over 2,700 campers. Today it ministers to tens of thousands of campers every summer and throughout the year in multiple locations.



## FROM "REACHING THE PRISON" (GRAPEVINE, SUMMER 1985)

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" Mark 16:15

In 1979 the Lord led a Richardson, Texas, couple named Jean and Wanda Revelt to tape Rev. Don Anderson's Sunday sermons from Hide-A-Way Community Church to minister to shut-ins. They called their tape cassette ministry, "Sunshine for Others." Then the Revelts began praying for the Lord to provide a way to expand this ministry to include prison inmates.

At approximately the same time, another Richardson couple (not acquainted with the Revelts), prayed the Lord would let His Love shine through their lives to inmate families. Jerry and Mary Lou McNevin requested permission to introduce Don's teachings at the Federal Correctional Institution in Seagoville twice a month starting in September 1982.

Many inmates attending the series sought Don's prayers and counsel, and Don Anderson Ministries donated many taped Bible Studies to the prison chapel. Many asked if there was a way for Don's messages to be sent to a new location when they transferred. In December 1984, Don put Wanda and Mary Lou in touch with each other and "Sunshine for Others" now is expanded to include two prisons. Arrangements to include additional prison

facilities are underway. The following letter was recently received from one grateful inmate:

February 27, 1985

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Revelt,

*Thank you so much for forwarding those Don Anderson tapes to me. I studied Abraham, The Epistle of I John, the spiritual gifts, and the Sermon on the Mount through his tapes ... For some strange reason, Mormonism, existentialism, and various cults dominate the religious scene here. Because of this, I started a Bible class a couple of months ago. Regardless of whether or not I was qualified, the class had to be done ... And the Lord can use anyone He wants. The tapes are very valuable for exposition, which I need badly for class preparation.*

*In Christ, Terry R.*

## OUR FIRST PUBLISHED "OUT OF THE MAILBAG" (SUMMER 1984)

Dear Don,

Thank you for coming to Denton and sharing with us. I want to encourage you to continue to put forth your efforts in teaching. God has certainly given you an abundance of teaching ability. Use it!

*Continued on page 20*



MAY 21, 1933 – JULY 27, 2016

# WELL DONE, FAITHFUL SERVANT

*“Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.” —2 Timothy 2:15*

1933

#### Don Anderson Born

Donald Edward Anderson born May 21, 1933 in Nebraska to Wesley and Rosalea Anderson.



Don's beloved nickname was Coach.

Don & Pearl met.

1951

Don & Pearl Anderson married on August 14th.

1953

#### Donna Born

The Andersons were blessed with the first of their five children.

1954

Don graduated from Northwestern College.

1955

#### Call to ministry.

##### Becky Born

The Anderson family grows to 4 members.

1956

##### Bobby Born

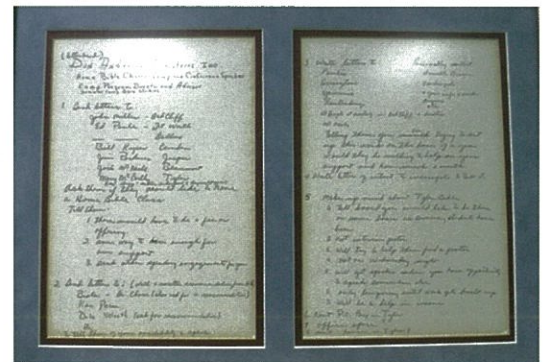
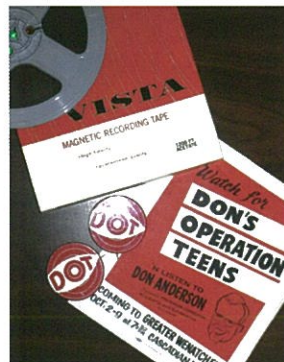
And just a year later, they become 5.

1957





Don and Pearl enjoying raising their 5 children.



Don graduated with a Masters of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary.

1959

**Andy Born**  
Andy joined his 3 siblings and parents.

1963

**Julea Born**  
Shortly after Andy was born, Julea was added to the mix. Don & Pearl have welcomed a total of 5 children into their covey.

1964

**DOT (Don's Operation Teens) at Firs Camp & Conference Center Bellingham, WA.**  
Don ministers to teens in recorded messages.

1966

**Don serves as founding Director of Pine Cove Christian Camp Tyler, TX.**  
Don helps lay the foundation for what becomes a nationwide camping ministry reaching tens of thousands of campers every year.

1967

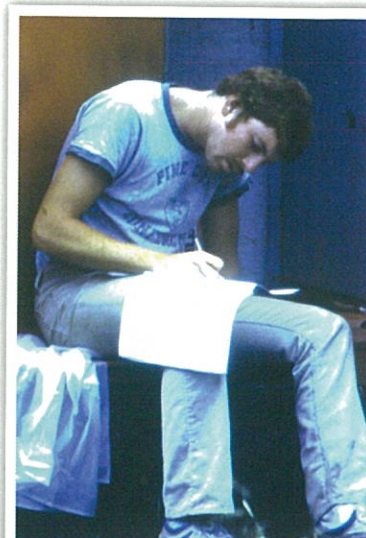
**Don Anderson Ministry Formed**  
Don Anderson Ministries, Inc. was organized for the purpose of introducing new concepts in camping, counseling and communication of God's Word.

**First Bible Study Classes**  
For over 40 years, Don taught Bible study classes throughout Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

**First "Coach's Clipboard" Produced**  
The original "Coach's Clipboard" is the precursor to *The Grapevine*. It contained event details, tour information, financial reports, and prayer requests along with other important Ministry updates.

1972





### First Board Retreat (Kerrville, TX)

The first board retreat was held and a board of directors was appointed to advise and guide Don and the staff of the Ministries. Twenty-five men were appointed to serve on the board in 1974. The current board consists of 12 members, including Pearl Anderson. Please pray as they direct the staff in the preservation of Don's materials.

1974

### Hide-a-Way Lake Pastorate

From 1975-1989 Don served Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church.

### First Couples' Conference

First Ski Retreat  
(Steamboat  
Springs, CO)

1975

### First Travel Camp

Tents, canoes and a big red trailer! Who can forget these incredible coast-to-coast adventures?

### First Family Conference (Lake Livingston)

The Ministries' tradition of family camps and conferences began in 1976 at Lake Livingston. These events continued until 2012 when the final family camp was held in Buena Vista, Colorado.

### First Jr. & Sr. High Young Camp (Athens, TX)

From 1976 to 1994, camps were held in numerous locations. Some of the favorites were Frontier Camp and Gilmont. During these extended events, young lives were touched forever for the Lord.

1976



### Emerald Bay Pulpit Ministry

From 1977-1990 Don delivered the weekly message at Emerald Bay Community Church in Bullard, Texas.

Thanksgiving  
Family Conference  
(Hawkins, TX)

1977

First Holy Land  
Trip

1978

### Don Anderson Ministries became a charter member of the ECFA

Bible Teaching Resources continues to maintain its membership with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

1980



# 1981

*The Grapevine* was produced and mailed to supporters free of charge. Volunteers assisted in addressing and preparing the magazines several times a year for many years until automated processing was required for bulk mailings.

## Sailing Trip (San Juan Island)

## Dallas Cowboys Chaplain

Don was asked to serve as a one-time chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys Football Club on December 13, 1981.



# 1983

## First Women's Retreat

The first Women's retreat was held at Kaleo Lodge in East Texas. Ladies enjoyed Bible study and fellowship during a weekend getaway.



# 1986

Production of video tapes began.

# 1987

Don, along with Jane Rodgers, were very busy in 1987. Loizeaux Brothers published four of Don's books that year:

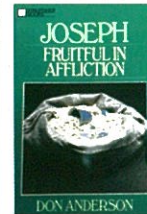
*Song of Solomon*  
*Gift too Wonderful for Words*  
*Ecclesiastes*  
*Abraham*

**15th Anniversary of the Ministries**

# 1988

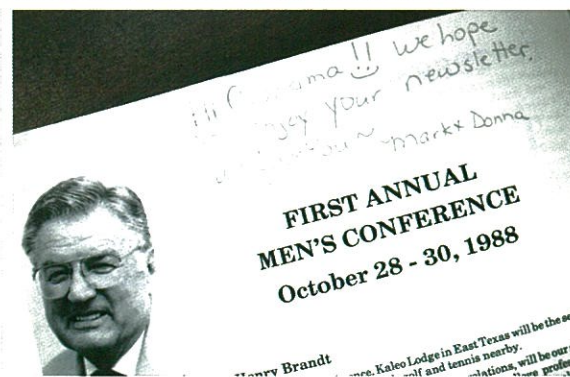
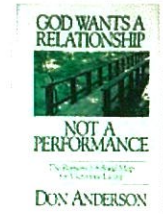
## First Men's Retreat at Kaleo Lodge

*Joseph Book Published*



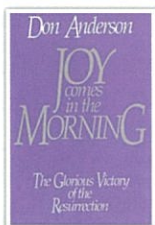
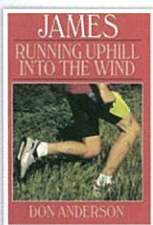
# 1989

*God Wants a Relationship Book Published (First Edition)*



Handwritten note by Donna Skorheim who volunteered along with hundreds of others over the years to prepare and mail *The Grapevine*. Volunteers enjoyed writing notes in the magazine when they came across the names of their friends or family members.



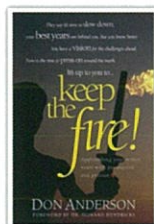


Don graduated with a Doctorate of Ministry in Marriage & Family. For years following, he counseled with couples and families whose desire was to honor God through their relationships. Don also worked with young couples preparing to be married.

**James Book Published**

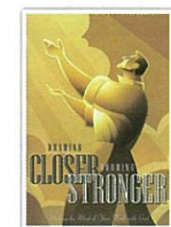
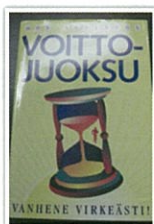
**Joy Comes in the Morning Book Published**

1990



The first edition of *Keep the Fire!* was published by Multnomah and Don attended numerous book signings, radio interviews and other public events. The book was also published outside the US shortly after its release.

1994



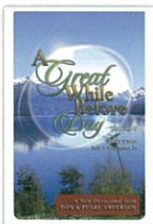
Multnomah published Don's book, *Drawing Closer, Growing Stronger*.

1997

**Life Recovery Bible Contributor**

Both Don, as well as Jane Rodgers, contributed to the *Life Recovery Bible*.

1998



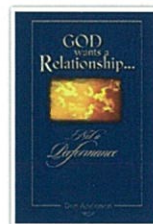
**A Great While Before Day Published**

For many years Don's daily devotional was included as part of *The Grapevine*.

**A Great While Before Day (15 Volumes)**

From 2001 to 2016, a more extensive devotional was published and mailed either once or twice a year to those on our mailing list. Back issues are still available for most volumes.

2001



**God Wants a Relationship Book Published (Second Edition)**

Don was able to "freshen up" *God Wants a Relationship, Not a Performance* and publish the second edition through Xulon.

**Hide-A-Way Lake Pulpit Ministry**

Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church called Don to serve the church for a second time. This second term allowed him to teach this body of believers for almost 9 years.

2003



## 2004

After much prayer, Don Anderson Ministries officially changed its name to **Bible Teaching Resources**. The name change communicates the mission of providing tools to believers who desire a deeper understanding of scripture.

### OnePlace.com partnership

Don's messages became available on the OnePlace.com platform. Messages are available as weekly podcasts and previous broadcasts are available in their archive.

### A Word from the Word and A String of Pearls Book Published

Don & Pearl worked on this project together along with the help of their daughter, Donna. This year-long devotional is an incredible collection of scripture, prayer, and illustrations published by Xulon.

### First Bible Teacher Training Held

Don and the staff hosted a group of men and women at the Tyler office for the first time to learn Don's inductive Bible study process.

## 2005

### Keep the Fire! Published (Second Edition)

Don reworked and updated his book *Keep the Fire!* and published it through Xulon.



## 2006

### Don & Pearl's Daughter, Becky Anderson Devine, Passes Away

Her sweet spirit and gentle heart will be missed by those of us who remain. Daddy and daughter are now praising the Lord together.

### XM Radio

For one year, Don's messages were available on XM Radio on Sunday mornings.

## 2007

### Second Bible Teacher Training Held

A second Bible Teacher Training was held in Granbury at Pecan Plantation. The event allowed for an additional group of individuals to spend time learning Don's study and teaching processes.

## 2008

### MPR 105.3 FM Philippines Radio Ministry

Since 2008, Don's messages have been broadcast in the Philippines. Over the years, we have received pictures, letters, and emails from individuals who have been blessed by these messages. Believers come together in a group to study scripture and fellowship.

## 2012

During 2012, Bible Teaching Resources hosted their **40th Anniversary Couples Conference, 40th Anniversary Alaska Cruise, and Trail West Family Camp**.

## 2016

On **July 27, 2016**, Coach went home to be with his Lord and Savior.



**The Disciples, a group of couples Don personally discipled to carry on the work of the ministry, will continue in the future and work with the Board. Scott Borgman, Disciple member, describes their vision.**

Immediately following Don's memorial service, we sat in the offices of BTR for the reception and shared what God had done through this ministry. As a group of disciples, we discussed how to carry on the ministry. Kervin Campbell was quick to point out the mission statement inscribed on a wooden plaque behind Don's desk: "To glorify God with a national ministry which will continue to change lives based on the belief that 'Christ is all and in all.'" With the materials and tools God gave to us through Don and Pearl, we are able to continue to carry out that mission. Colossians 3:11 clearly states, "Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all." Our nation needs to hear this more than ever. Through God's promises, we can share the hope we have through Christ. As disciples whom Don and Pearl have poured so much into over the past few years, we desire and commit to moving the ministry of Bible Teaching Resources into the future.



Dear Don,

A gift of gratitude for your time/counsel and coming to Lubbock to teach II Peter! I love you and appreciate all of your love for Jesus! It draws me to hunger for Him more!

Dear Don,

I spent the past weekend on a trip with my brother-in-law and family. I gave him the tapes on mid-life crisis that you prepared for his 40th birthday last year. He enjoyed them so much and gained so much insight into his life that he is sharing the tapes with others. He is now thinking of having a Bible study in his home using your tapes to minister to the "40" and over crowd.

Don,

I just wanted to write you a note and let you know my appreciation for you and your ministry. You have a special place in my heart. It hasn't been that long ago since you led me to the Lord. And even more recently you have encouraged me to continue seeking and working for the Lord instead of being lukewarm.

Don,

Finally found the time to let you know how much Susan and I have been blessed by your ministry. You have encouraged, educated, and challenged us with your Bible study and your lifestyle and I thank God for your life!

Dear Don,

Thanks again for your time and your counsel over lunch last Thursday in

Dallas. The Lord has been using you and your weekly study at One Main Place to affect my life for many years now.

Dear Don,

How could we ever express to you our gratitude for including us and our friends [in Lubbock] on your tour? "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you." (Col. 1:3) The joy that filled our home as each Monday rolled around has never been matched. We know without a doubt that God wants to be able to use our home for such Bible studies as yours...If you had never come, we would still not have known that God had given us the gift of hospitality. You helped in answering a prayer about our gifts. We'll never forget the precious minutes we had alone with you while you listened to us, exhorted us, and encouraged us. Thank you for that time you spent with us.

Dear Don,

I really want to thank you for your dedication to spreading God's word in your yearly travels. This is truly a very effective way to bring those who hear you to salvation as well as helping us Christians to grow. God clearly spoke to me this year through you, and you really ministered to me. I am really grateful that you are the faithful servant to Jesus Christ that you are. I pray that we will be able to continue a noon study next year where we invite more of the Austin business community to hear God's message through you. 🙏



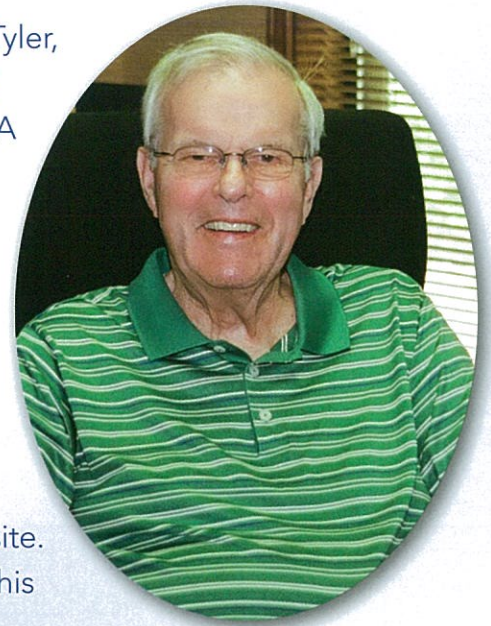
# Don Anderson: I Made It! Wow, What a Ride!

BY JANE RODGERS

On Monday, August 1, 2016, family and friends gathered in Tyler, Texas, for a memorial service honoring Dr. Donald Edward Anderson, founder and president of Bible Teaching Resources. A notebook and cowboy hat arranged on Don's otherwise empty director's chair at the front of the chapel reminded all that with his last earthly heartbeat on July 27, he was ushered into the presence of his heavenly father and heard, "Well done."

Don's obituary from the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* has been adapted below. The remarks of those who spoke at the service have also been edited and included here as a tribute to a man who finished the course and kept the faith. A complete digital recording of the memorial service can be found on the BTR website.

The title of this article are words Don often used to describe his entry into heaven, an event he eagerly anticipated.



## A Life Lived Well

Born May 21, 1933, in Nebraska to the late Wesley and Rosalea Anderson, Don graduated from Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul, where he played varsity baseball and basketball. He received a master of theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1959 and a doctorate of ministry from Talbot School of Theology.

Don was the founding executive director of Pine Cove camps, where his innovations in developing counselor-centered Christian camping continue. Indeed, Don's philosophy and methodology of Christian camping, honed in his time at The Firs in Bellingham, Washington, and developed fully at Pine Cove, have influenced Christian camps throughout

the nation and world.

In 1972, Don founded Don Anderson Ministries, now known as Bible Teaching Resources, a Christian publishing and teaching ministry based in Tyler, Texas. He was the author of ten books, taught thousands of Bible classes, and spoke at hundreds of camps and conferences. His teachings are featured online and on the radio.

In addition to his work at Pine Cove and Bible Teaching Resources, Don served as program director at The Firs; youth minister at First Presbyterian Church, Bremerton, Washington; Young Life facilitator in Dallas; and pastor of two community churches at Hide-A-Way Lake and Emerald Bay in East Texas.

Always an athlete, Don was a runner, completing the Houston, Las Vegas, and Dallas White Rock marathons. He scaled



several 14,000-foot-plus mountains in the United States and was a Red Cross water safety instructor. He served once as a pregame chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys.

Don Anderson was preceded in death by his precious daughter Becky in 2006. He is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Pearl Anderson; sister, Lila Graves of Albany,

Oregon; and brother, Marv Anderson of Lebanon, Oregon. He is the father of four surviving children: Donna Skorheim of Tyler, Bobby Anderson of Wichita Falls, Grant Anderson of Seattle, and Julea Gulbrandson of Portland, Oregon. Don and Pearl have ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## The Service

It surprised few that Don planned his memorial service. Walter Wilhelmi welcomed all; Richard McKellar opened in prayer; Shannon Line performed special music; Travis Markle read Psalm 90. At the end, Joe Freeman closed in prayer. Here are some highlights.

### JULEA ANDERSON GULBRANDSON AND FAMILY MEMORIES

My dad, “Coach” to those of you who knew him well, told me that I would be speaking at his funeral today. He told me exactly what story of connection between us he wanted me to relate to you [laughter], and some of you will find this funny because you know how bossy my dad could be. My instinct tells me the reason Dad wanted me to speak on behalf of our family was because he loved to talk about heroes of the faith and now he is one of them in a long legacy of people we have had the privilege of knowing in this journey through life. I think he would also want you to know about three heroes in his life.

The first hero in my dad’s life is my sister Donna. If I had to sum up a life, I would say my sister Donna is driven with a purpose to care about people knowing Jesus. She is so in line with my dad, it is a beautiful thing. She has taken care of my parents in every way humanly possible.

She loves them. She was not afraid to connect with my dad and care for him in a way that he really needed.

The second hero in my dad’s life is my brother Bobby. I followed his lead in caring for my dad. I depend on his wisdom. I am not sure how to put into words what a pure, humble hero he is. About a month ago, when my daughters and I were staying with my mom, I woke up early in the morning and went searching for my brother. I found him dripping with sweat, standing on a ladder, big clippers in his hands, cutting back a bush in my parents’ driveway.

“Every time I visit Dad, he always wants me to cut this bush back,” Bobby said. This is a perfect example of this humble, supportive hero of a man. He cares and does the right thing in the most profoundly self-sacrificing and meaningful, everyday productive way.

The third hero in my dad’s life is my mom. Gratefulness has changed my life. Gratefulness has a way of getting me out of the cocoon of life and breaking me free as



a butterfly. It sounds cliché, I know, but it has worked for me. Every day I write down six things I am grateful for, and it changes me. My daughter Taylor, who knows the meaning of gratefulness too, decided a few weeks ago, that it was time to tell each other what we were grateful for in each other. My mom, Taylor, Ella, and I did so around the dinner table. When it was my turn to talk about my mom, I couldn't speak at first as a wave of emotion overtook me. As I gained my composure, I told my mom that I was grateful for the example of a caring and committed wife.

My mom cared deeply and patiently and beautifully for my dad. I overheard some of their conversations at the hospital and rehab and when things turned awful, such as the following:

"It is okay, darling. I know it is just the medicine confusing you."

"I love you. I will be back to see you soon."

"We spent our lives together. We want to be together."

"I just want him to have the best life he can have here at the end."

My mom has loved the man so deeply, so richly, and so much like God would love us. This woman has done a good job, as I have heard her say so many times when she feels good about a situation. She displayed for our family what it means to do a good job.

But let me return to the idea of gratefulness. My dad has given me the most beautiful, lifelong gift by demonstrating and teaching what it means to live in an intimate, personal way with Jesus. For that, I am grateful. Thank you, Dad. I know you are up in heaven right

now, bossing around some angels.

The last story I leave you with is my dad's and my favorite memory together. This is the story he wanted me to tell you. When I was in middle school, my dad took a bunch of us on a canoe trip in the middle of the Minnesota wilderness. We were mostly miserable on this trip because it was so much work. I still use lessons from that trip with my kids today.

My dad and I decided we would go fishing early in the morning before everybody woke up so we climbed in a canoe. There was fog and mist on the calm, still lake. We could hear the slow call of the loons. My dad said to me, "The only problem we will have is, if we catch a pike, it will try to bite us."

So sure enough, our tranquil scene erupted into a frenzy. My dad caught a pike. We put it into the canoe, both terrified it would bite us. We started beating the jumping, flopping fish with canoe paddles. We were both laughing so hard, we were relieved we didn't capsize the boat. We were so glad to have a fish to eat instead of our normal backpack meal.

In this little story, my dad gave me many gifts that I still recognize as meaningful. Some of those gifts include one that showed me what connection with a parent can be like. Other than connecting with God and my husband, my most important connection in life is with my children. Dad gave me such an appreciation of the outdoors. Dad also nurtured in me a desire to have fun. Fun is one of those things that make my life worth living, especially when circumstances are painful and dreary. Fun raises our spirits and



props us up when we feel like falling, like that miserable trip in the Minnesota wilderness where we found fun. Thank you, Dad.

### **RICH KNARR**

The Andersons have been dear friends of my family for over forty years. I have many fond memories as a young boy of going on father-son camping trips with Don. It feels a little funny for me to call him Don. As Julea mentioned, I knew him as Coach. We had a good, fun group that would go on these trips all those years ago. We went to places like Big Bend, Lake Amistad, the Illinois River up in Oklahoma, where Pearl is from. Big adventures for a little boy.

But the story I want to share with you is one in which Don had an impact on me when I was a little bit older. It was my fifteenth birthday, a special one for me. Not only was I turning fifteen, but it was also the day I became an Eagle Scout.

Being in the Boy Scouts at that time, I was really into camping and backpacking and outdoor adventure, a lot of the things Don liked, too. As such, there were two items of gear that I really wanted: a new North Face sleeping bag called the Blue Kazoo, the latest and greatest, state of the art, perfect for backpacking and very expensive. The other was a pair of top of the line Danner hiking boots, also very expensive.

Don and my dad shared an office building together and I was the janitor. As I was cleaning the office a few nights before my birthday, I worked my way over to Don's side of the building to find him

there working late and waiting on me.

He called me into his office and he had gifts for me. Any guesses? The first was the Blue Kazoo. And the second was a brand new pair of Danner hiking boots, size ten. I still remember this day how thrilled I was to get those gifts. I wondered how he knew. For a fifteen-year-old kid, both of those items were monetarily out of my reach, even on my janitor's salary. The hiking boots are long gone, but I still have that Blue Kazoo. It's worn and old but I still use it.

Don had a third gift for me that evening, a Bible. Inside he had quoted Ecclesiastes 2:1 and 2 Timothy 4:12, listed other verses, and closed with these words: "Go forth, man. You have the tools right here in your hand."

I can't read the fine print of this Bible any more as my eyes get older, but it's still my favorite. I will never forget the impact that night had on me. Don encouraged me. He showed belief in me.

One word that would describe my admiration of Don is attitude, as in positive attitude. I loved that about Don. He always had a wonderful, positive attitude. Whenever he was teaching or engaging us in the word, he always did it with a wonderful positive attitude, always encouraging. I am thankful and grateful for knowing Don and I am humbled and honored that he saw value in me, that he took the time to invest in me. I love you, Coach, and I miss you.

### **DICK KNARR**

I would be remiss if I did not point out to everyone present that to live with a man for sixty-five years has got to be a God



thing. Pearl, your crown is filled with stars.

His name is Donald Edward Anderson. Pearl calls him Don. I call him Coach. One of Merriam Webster's definitions for the word coach says "to train intensively, as by instruction and demonstration." Some of the synonyms for coach are guide, counsel, lead, mentor, tutor, and shepherd. I think Mr. Webster must have known Coach.

Coach and I go back a long, long way, to about 1967, when Coach came from the state of Washington to Texas. Pine Cove was just getting started and needed a director, so Coach came to get it rolling. I had heard that the new director's name was Don Anderson. That was when the great running back from Texas Tech had signed with the Green Bay Packers for 660,000 dollars. His name was Donny Anderson. So naturally I thought I was going to get to meet a wealthy football player turned camp administrator. Football player, wealthy—neither turned out to be true. But Coach turned out to be wealthy in a different way.

In God's bank, there is an account of saved souls. Coach made many, many deposits to that account. How many people has he led to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? How many has he influenced to return to Jesus Christ? How many has he encouraged who were down and out and downtrodden to seek our Lord Jesus? How many workers for Christ did he help to sharpen their skills so that they might better spread the word? How many? How many? I can't count that far.

We have camped together, canoed together, hiked together, studied together, officed together, fished together, cried

together, laughed together. I reckon you could say that we have shared life together.

One of my favorite of Coach's sayings was, "You never really get to know a man until you pitch a wet tent with him." Coach and I really got to know each other. We pitched a few wet tents together. Coach set a wonderful example for me. Unlike me, he never complained.

There is an inexorable outcome to life: death. As Coach lived that time, he continued with that wonderful, positive attitude. And he was thankful to those who were trying to help him. He set the example to you and me of how to emulate Jesus Christ.

Now, you and I need to go into the world and do the same. I close with one of my favorite quotes, an old American Indian saying. "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world will cry and you will rejoice." I'm crying. Coach is rejoicing. Goodbye, old friend. Save me a place.

#### WALTER WILHELM

How many of you remember Don saying, "The prophet Habakkuk is going to ask you, when you get to heaven, 'Have you read my book?'" I know Habakkuk has greeted Don and not only thanked him for reading his book, but for also teaching about it.

Don asked me to speak on the importance of accountability. For the last thirteen years, Don and I have met on the first Saturday of the month. When we first began meeting, I was going through a



difficult time, and Don really ministered to me and my faith grew and matured. As the years passed, our time was spent discussing our walk with the Lord, our family, business, other relationships, the things that most accountability groups cover.

However, what I want to share with you today is that we were more than accountability buddies, as he referred to us. We were investment buddies. The book *The Invested Life* by one of Don's favorite authors, Joel Rosenberg, influenced the latter part of Don's ministry. It's one of the reasons that the couples discipleship groups were formed. It's the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 played out: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

Remember that I told you a few minutes ago that my faith grew and matured as a result of those monthly meetings? It's because Don recognized that I was a babe in Christ. And the Lord used that opportunity to make me a more faithful and committed disciple.

Don invested in my life and I know in each one of you as well. And that is his charge for us today. Carrying out the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 by investing in the lives of others.

### BRIAN MAHONEY

A circuit riding Bible teacher made impressions on the lives of five men comprising the first group of disciples in whom Don Anderson invested in his final years. We are grateful for the investment that Don and Pearl have made in a Navy submariner, an actor and avid outdoorsman, an American Airlines

pilot, a Navy SEAL, and a civil engineer, alongside their loving wives.

In terms of a relationship with Jesus Christ, Don Anderson was the most devoted man I ever met. His unique ability to passionately share the gospel was peerless and he worked tirelessly through his very last days committed to that end. Despite enormous physical limitations, Don was eager, always there for us, chomping at the bit, kicking in the stall, well-prepared and faithful to the end, whether face-to-face, during Saturday mornings on Google Hangouts, or through hour long discussions on the phone about matters of faith and life. His personal example inspired us to improve daily the quality of our devotional time with God and he provided solid methods and resources to do just that.

Like his cowboy heroes, Don was a straight shooter, never missing his target and never pulling punches. Let me illustrate. As a career Navy submariner and now working as a Navy civilian supporting that enterprise, I do noble work. Don thought so. His love of country and support for the military, past and present, was one more facet of his complex character.

One day on the phone, after a significant positive milestone in my career, I stated that I was often conflicted with the noble work that I was doing for the nation as opposed to the more noble work I could be doing for the Lord. Imagine the smile on Don's face as he replied, "Brian, I hope you agonize over this every day."

### JAKE BILLINGSLEY



Wow. It's good to celebrate the life of a true champion, Dr. Don Anderson. Years ago, I moved into a little community called Hide-A-Way. People there told me, "You really need to meet our pastor."

I said, "Well why is that?"

"He likes the same things that you like. He loves the outdoors. He likes to camp. He likes to fish. He likes to do all those things that you like to do. He's an athlete. My goodness, he's done marathons."

I thought, wow, I really do need to meet him. I couldn't wait to get to that first church service and hear him speak. I was impressed. I met him right after that. I met Pearl right after that. And man was I overly impressed then. I'd go to his office and sit down to talk to him. The more we talked, the more I knew we were gonna be great friends. I had done a marathon. He had done three. I thought, this man's crazier than I am.

Jenny and I would go to Don and Pearl's house. They would come to our house. We'd have dinner. And we absolutely loved being with them. Pearl, she wasn't just his wife, she wasn't just his helpmate: Pearl Anderson completed Don Anderson. An amazing duo. An amazing life that we celebrate today.

I've been a friend of Don's for some nine years. Nine years I've known Don and I could never think of a day that I didn't enjoy knowing him. Not only was he funny, but he told things in a way that you could understand them.

He said, "Jake, God doesn't want a performance. He wants a relationship." After Jenny and I were with Don and Pearl for any length of time, we started having a

much more pronounced relationship with God. Our lives changed. We started studying more of the Bible. We started reading it from end to end, together. We had a devotional every single morning. It's almost osmosis. Because we were around Don and Pearl, we started praying together out loud.

I started wanting to relate to other people about what God had done to me. When I would go to Don's office, he would always give me a book. Man, I've got more books from Don! I've written one book. Don's written ten! And we did a book together, *What an Awesome God!*

I love nature. I love seeing things in nature. I love photography in nature. Don and I agreed there is a gift from God out there if you'll look at nature. You just have to see it. It's a beauty. If you see that beauty, you get that gift that God has given each one of us. Oftentimes when we go into nature, we don't even see it. We don't even think about it. But it's there all the same.

You know Don was a marriage counselor. He counseled us on marriage. I am married to Jenny, the sweetest, most wonderful wife in the world.

"Don," I told him, "if there's one thing I don't need, it's a marriage counselor. I am married to the greatest woman in the world. I just don't need to work on my marriage."

He said, "Everybody has to work on their marriage."

So I went home and said to Jenny, "Darling, Don wanted me to go to a marriage thing that he was gonna put on and I told Don that I didn't need to work on my marriage."

She said, "You told him what?"



"I told him I don't need to work on my marriage."

"Jake Billingsley, I have a masters in counseling. Do you know what you have done? You have carried me up here to Colorado. I have to pick up horse manure. You may not need to work on your marriage but I need to work on mine!"

Don was a man's man. He was an everybody's man. He was a real cowboy at heart. He liked the fact that I had ridden horses forever. He liked it when I'd tell him about rolling down a mountain on a horse. He liked that. He used to quote cowboy poetry. I wrote this poem for Pearl and for him.

### *Truth Takes Him Home*

*No matter what trail he took or who he faced,  
It mattered not to him.  
Anderson rode the range relentlessly,  
A fearless man and strong.  
The Holy Spirit, a gift promised long ago  
Rode with him in his heart  
As he delivered a simple message about God's  
Son,  
Jesus, and taught it all day long.  
And the horse named Truth, on which he rode,  
He totally trusted to carry his worn-out Bible  
And his old, tired body to a new place to roam.  
Of a sudden, Truth turned uphill and began to  
move faster,  
Climbing higher and higher.  
It was time for the cowboy named Anderson.  
He was finally a goin' home.*

### DOUG BROWN

I am an airline captain and I was surprised when Don selected me to disciple. I grew up in a Methodist church and my parents usually just dropped me

off and went about their business. But I am really glad they did that. That's a good basis. I grew up in church thinking I was a Christian. You go to church. You do the little Bible study classes. You study the Bible. You're a Christian. It works great!

Fast forward. I was working at a small airline in the middle of nowhere. They didn't have flight attendants. As a pilot, you could look around and see the passengers right behind you. The safety briefing was me, turning around and telling the people, "There's the door. If anything bad happens, follow me."

The thing about my life and career as an airline pilot, it makes me prepared. I am without question, qualified and capable and comfortable. You can't scare me. Matter of fact, last year, flying back from Hawaii, I lost an engine. It quit. That's pretty scary maybe for some of you, but I didn't even blink. I was prepared. I think that is probably the lesson here. As I move forward in my life, I didn't realize how important it is to be prepared to share Christ.

During one of those early jobs I had, when I was a young pup, the captain turned to me and said, "So, do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?"

"I'm good on that," I replied. "My relationship with God is personal. I don't want to talk about it." Does that sound like a Christian to you?

Years later, when I was saved, I got to thinking about all the people God had placed in my life.

I just kind of limped along. I didn't worry about the things I might do to represent God, to share my faith, till I met Don.



It started with my wife's family who were attending retreats and conferences with Don and Pearl. It never worked out in my schedule for me to participate. My wife insisted I go so to Colorado we went.

The first day of going to class with Don, my wife planted us in the front row. When I saw them wheel Don in, I saw he needed help going up the stairs. I got a little nudge from behind. It wasn't my wife. I jumped up to help him up the stairs. I didn't know why. I do now. We are called to serve.

Don Anderson was amazing at bringing that out of us.

When Don called me to be part of a discipleship group, I replied, "I'm not your guy. I haven't studied. I am not learned. I don't know what to do. I'm not ready to retire from flying. I'm good right now."

Don reminded me, "Yeah, but what's next? What are you going to do with that?" He reminded me that on a day to day basis, the opportunities I have to share my faith, are the most important parts of my walk right now. But we need to be prepared for the next. We need to listen for the whispers of God because He has a plan for all of us and He'll tell us if we will listen.

### SCOTT BORGMANN

Our relationship began Labor Day weekend 2011. My wife and I attended a camp at the Dunes Bible camp on the Washington coast. I had heard of Don from my senior pastor and from people in my church, including a special couple who had been part of a youth groups he led long ago.

At that first Dunes class, Don quoted from the book *Lone Survivor* where Marcus

Luttrell discusses part of the Navy SEAL ethos of determination and commitment. Don used this example to say that he wished someone would write an ethos for the Christian warrior similar to the SEAL ethos.

My heart raced. My mind lit up. I didn't go to Don right away and tell him I had served 20 years as a SEAL. I didn't know Marcus Luttrell personally but knew several of the SEALs he talks about in his book about Operation Redwing, which is what *Lone Survivor* is based on.

Another member of our church also knew Don and mentioned my military service. These seemingly small acts started a rich and rewarding relationship with Don and Pearl.

After my Navy service, I became a middle school teacher. I consider teaching a much harder profession than being a SEAL. My strength was in my physical ability but my weakness was in relationships. You need to be able to build relationships to excel as a teacher and Don well knew this.

My second career as a teacher was another connection to Don, who was a teacher of teachers. There's no doubt God had been preparing Jeanne and me for this relationship with Don and Pearl many years prior to our meeting. God was in this.

This relationship was only possible because I allowed Christ in my heart. I made myself available. For the next three years we attended family camp at the Dunes to hear Don's teaching. They provided us with this discipleship notebook. They were constantly sending us books and studies to use. They called us to Granbury, Texas, in 2014 for a special retreat with others who



are here today. This retreat forged special relationships dear to us today.

The most valuable gift Don gave was the gift of time. We started meeting on Google apps. Don led us through Revelation and Hebrews.

Don demonstrated how always to push through adversity. He lost his physical ability to get around but that didn't stop him. He humbled himself, trusted God, and allowed others to help him with that task. He never gave up the fight. Don once told me that God is looking for FAT disciples: faithful, available, teachable. Don was FAT to the end.

I did rewrite a small portion of the SEAL ethos, thinking of Don as I did. Here it is:

*I will never quit. I persevere and look to God in times of adversity. God expects me to be spiritually fit, to equip myself with the full armor of God so that I may face my enemy. If I am knocked down, God will be there every time to pick me up. I draw on every ounce of strength that God provides to love others and to accomplish the mission of the gospel. I am never out of the fight until God calls me home. We expect to be led by Christ. There is no absence of orders because Christ has made the way clear, but I may have to wait on Him. I will lead others as God sees fit to carry out His will. I lead by the example Christ has set in all situations.*

#### KERVIN CAMPBELL

Of Don's 83 years on earth, I was fortunate to know him the last five. I initially met Don at a lunchtime Bible study in downtown Fort Worth at St. Andrews Church that I was invited to by a coworker. Little did I know that the Lord

was about to introduce to me one of the most valuable people that I would come to know in my life.

I had been praying for the right person who would be willing to invest in me, mentor me, and teach me how to rightly and accurately divide the word of God. At this particular time in my life, I was in the early stages of my teaching ministry and needed guidance to help me develop in this area. After having attended a few of Don's studies, at the end of a session I waited around to watch how all of the attendees greeted Don to say thank you and observed how he greeted each one of them with the warmest smile. Some were longtime friends and some new acquaintances, but he treated them all the same.

So after they all left, I was able to build up enough courage to walk up to Don and introduce myself. He, in kind, greeted me with the biggest smile and treated me as if I were a longtime friend and the most important person in the world. I asked him a few questions about the Bible study while waiting for an opportunity to ask Don if he would be willing to mentor me and take me under his wing. I am certain this ordeal lasted about two minutes but it felt like a lifetime. After he answered my questions, I popped the question and asked Don if he would be willing to mentor me and to show me how to teach the word of God. Without hesitation or without blinking an eye, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "You betcha." It was that easy for him. What seemed to take all the faith that I had at the time was met with a split second acceptance.

We exchanged contact information and



Don began immediately pouring into me and taking an interest in me as a student of the word of God. I remember telling my wife about this experience with God and how God had answered my prayers for a mentor. She was excited. She knew my need for such guidance.

I remember Pearl jokingly coming up to me and asking, “Well, have you had enough yet? You better be careful what you ask for!” And she was right. To call Don a bookaholic would be an understatement. If there was a rehabilitation center for people addicted to books, Don would have taken up permanent residency there a long time ago.

Prior to meeting Don, I did not have a dedicated library in my house. After a brief time under Don’s discipleship, I realized I needed to get one sooner rather than later. I told my wife I wished I had met Don sooner, but then I realized I probably would have needed a much bigger house to hold all the books he would have sent me.

When I think back to this introduction with Don, it was certainly a God thing. For a guy standing here, originally from the small island of Nassau, Bahamas, to connect with a seasoned teacher of God’s word from Tyler, Texas, it could only be the doings of God. Not only did God answer my prayer, but he did so exceedingly, abundantly beyond all I could have ever asked for in Don Anderson.

Some of you may think that you cannot have a relationship with God or that you are not loved by God because you haven’t studied every chapter of the Bible. You haven’t gone on a dedicated life experience of teaching God’s word, like Don has done.

But that’s not what gets us acceptance into heaven. Don is now absent from us in body, but I am confident that he is with our Lord. I am confident of this because I know that Don did not put his faith in his works or his ministry for salvation, but instead, he put his faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. This is the only way that any of us can think that we can ever see Jesus. To think otherwise or contrary to this would be a catastrophic error. If you do not know him as Savior, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you not to delay. Today is the day of salvation. The same free gift that Don accepted, that I accepted, is also available and waiting for you. Don’t let it pass you by.

For those of us who have accepted this free gift, Don’s life is a great example to us of how we are to live every moment with purpose, living disciplined and diligently to fulfill our purpose and run our course which the Lord Jesus Christ has set before each of us. His life demonstrated not only how we are to run, but also how we are to finish and finish strong, running through the tape and leaning forward, breaking the tape as we complete our race. As Don would always say, “There is no retirement in the Christian life. Until we are called home into the home office, we need to be maturing and growing every single day.”

There will not be another Don Anderson. We are all called to a specific purpose in God’s master plan. However, it is such a blessing when others like Don come into our lives and help us to be molded into what Jesus Christ has created us to be. 🐾





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