

FALL 2009

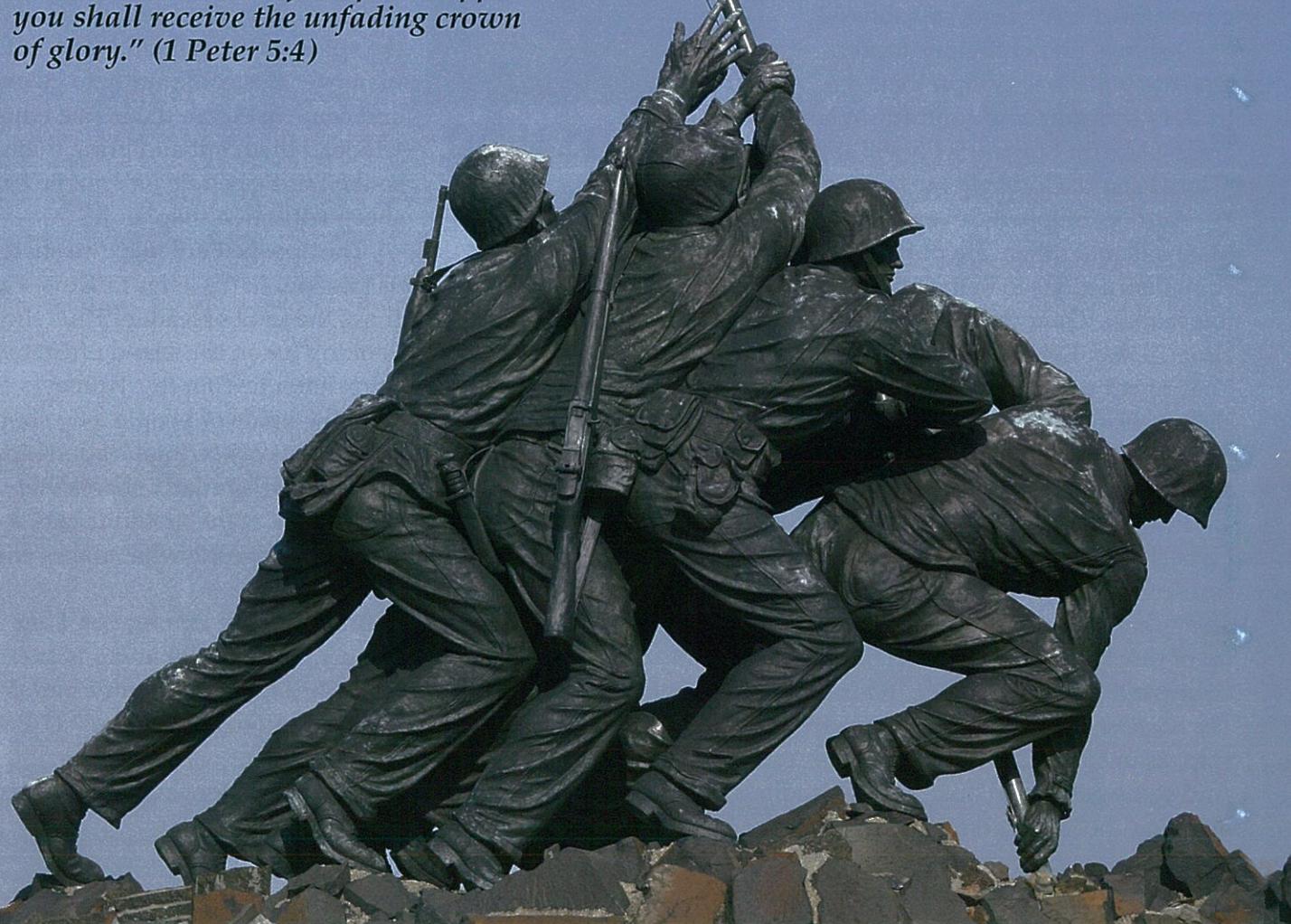
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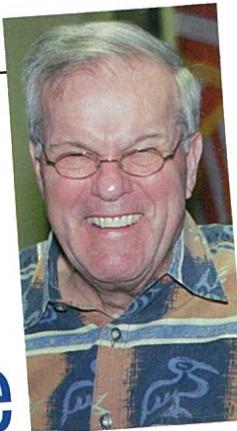
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES



Leadership with Character

*"And when the Chief Shepherd appears,
you shall receive the unfading crown
of glory." (1 Peter 5:4)*





Charisma without Character or Confidence Leads to a Catastrophe

We are living in a time of leadership vacuum. Who is prepared to step up to the plate?

The vacuum shows up as I counsel married couples. The wife asks "What are we going to do?" and the husband replies, "I don't know."

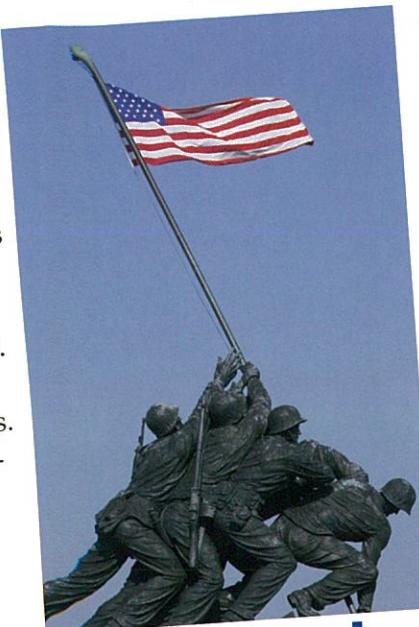
It shows up at funerals of veterans. Who will take their place?

It shows up in the political process. Politicians crave power and push personal agendas. How can fair and just government come from selfishness?

It shows up in religious leaders who are willing to compromise the truth of scripture and conform. Where are the Martin Luthers who will say "Here I stand, God help me?"

Authors Stephen Covey, John Maxwell, and others are putting in print instructions to help create effective leaders. Over the last six years at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church, I have read a chapter by John Maxwell each week to the team. His words have proven instructive and helpful to the leadership.

In *Axiom: Leadership from the Proverbs*, Bill Hybels delineates what he calls Axiom 21: "I tried all sorts of mental grids for prioritizing people-qualities along the way, but the only one that stuck was made up of three simple Cs: character, competence, and chemistry" (75). Bob Briner, in his wonderful book *The Leadership Lessons of Jesus* writes that, in leadership, as in baseball, "'You win some. You lose some. And some get rained out.' A wise leader will understand the implications of this for his or her lead-



**Leaders who
can't handle
rejection,
defeat, or
delay don't
last.**

ership....Leaders who can't handle rejection, defeat, or delay don't last. Leaders who have to win everything *every time* are short-lived with limited success" (92-93). Nancy Ortberg writes, "Leadership, done well, will continually be a force that drives you back into the center of yourself to find out what you are really made of" (124).

Moses, late in his career, expresses his passion for effective leadership. Numbers 27:15-17: "Moses said to the Lord, 'May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.'"

The apostle Paul likewise shares this passion. In his letter to Titus, Paul outlines the kind of leaders Titus should be looking for on the island of Crete. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul also describes the kinds of people who should be in positions of spiritual leadership.

The apostle Peter similarly shares that passion. Let's look at the first four verses of 1 Peter 5 and learn from the apostle what makes effective leadership.

"Elders, therefore, who are among you I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed" (1 Peter 5:1).

Throughout the epistle, Peter singles out special

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GRAPEVINE

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From the Editor

By the time this *Grapevine* arrives, we will be reliving fond memories of family camp at Trail West. In this issue, we desire to honor two men whose service to our country and to our Lord is worthy of note. More than 30 years ago, Tyler attorney Bill Lawrence personally carried the legal papers incorporating the non-profit organization Don Anderson Ministries (now BTR) to Austin, Texas, walking them through the bureaucracy. For more than three decades, Bill faithfully served as the executive chairman of BTR's board of directors. Now BTR chairman *emeritus*, Bill offers timely counsel to all Americans and recalls his experiences in World War II. This issue also profiles another great American, retired USAF Colonial Norm Walker, now chairman of the board of Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church, whose story will inspire all. This fall, Don Anderson will be back on a Bible teaching tour, offering videoconference classes at Fort Worth and Dallas, and live classes at Holly Lake and Hide-A-Way. Check out the back cover for details. As always, thank you for your friendship, prayers, and support.

—Jane Rodgers



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The Greatest Generation: Bill Lawrence

Editor's note: William R. Lawrence, now chairman emeritus of Bible Teaching Resources, served as BTR board chairman from 1972-2009. Prominent Tyler, Texas, attorney, civic and Christian leader Lawrence has spent a lifetime serving the Lord. What follows has been excerpted from chapters one and ten of Bill's World War II memoir. A veteran WWII pilot, Bill is indeed part of the Greatest Generation.

My background caused me to have an interest in the Air Force. I was raised in an idyllic time. Richard Halliburton wrote many tales of adventure. Lowell Thomas traveled over the whole world and recorded his adventures. Those were the days when the globe still featured unexplored areas. Admiral Bird went several times to the Antarctic, on at least two occasions taking a Boy Scout, Paul Siple. Paul wrote of his experiences, and he was only a few years older than I was. It was fun to live through his reports. One time he came to Tyler

and I heard him speak and got his book autographed.

I should never forget my wonderful grandparents, the Oberthiers. They spurred my spirit of adventure. They related the stories of their parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts who, as pioneers, moved into West Texas in the times of the Indian depredations. These stories raised the hair on my neck many a time. My grandparents were highly active and provided for all of us grandchildren activities and happenings that would spur adventuresome thoughts and ideas—camping out, cooking on the ground, even just lying outside on the lawn and studying the stars at night. My grandmother took me on my first airplane ride—what an adventure that was! In those days following World War I, barnstorming fliers traveled around giving rides. My mother told me of her first flight with an army pilot friend who came through Fort Worth when she was at TCU and took her up in his fighter plane. She said that he did loops and other maneuvers to give her a thrill. My flight was in a Ford Tri-motor, prob-

ably the first plane designed to carry passengers. It had three engines—one in the nose and one on each wing. Its body was made of a corrugated light metal. The sponsor put an ad in the Hereford paper; the pilot landed in a pasture outside town and started carrying people for flights. Granny took me on a flight that I will always remember. Oh, how exciting it was! No one ever had grandparents as great as mine. I can never rise to that level with my grandchildren, and that makes me sad.

I remember, as I grew into the teenaged years, the ascension of Hitler to power in the early 30s, and his takeover of the government of Germany. I remember Mussolini and his actions, especially his overthrow of Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, who was greatly admired. I remember Mr. Neville Chamberlain, and his trip to Germany and his giving to Hitler the Czechoslovakia nation. What a traitorous act it was. Czechoslovakia was a great nation with an outstanding and sound democratic government. I remember a talk in Tyler by the former president of that nation and his telling us of what all went on. I well remember Pearl Harbor, as I was then in my junior year in the University of Texas at Austin.

Bill enlisted in what was then called the Army Air Forces on August 25, 1942. What follows are his remembrances of a hair raising mission in a B-24 over Isarco-Albes, Italy.

We caught big trouble on the Isarco-Albes mission. It was pretty routine until we neared the IP (initial point) when someone back in the formation broke radio silence, a serious violation of the rules. The guy complained that he was not at the right altitude, blaming this on the flight leader. Then a bit later he complained that he was stalling out because the formation was flying at too slow an airspeed. None of this was true, but in complaining over the radio, this guy gave away some exact measurements to the enemy. The Germans were really waiting for us.

Flak hit our inboard engine on the left and outboard on the right. The inboard engine furnished electric power to the plane in addition to powering its flight. The hit made us lose the pumps that boosted the air into all our engines and enabled us to fly at high altitudes. We thus lost at least half of our power and all our ability to stay at altitude. We found ourselves over the Alps, dropping into the valleys. We dropped out of the formation and fell behind so far that we could not even see the other planes. We fought to stay at 10,000 feet. The B-24 was technically not supposed to fly on only two engines, but we did. We used excessive power from the remaining engines, and we did not know just how long they would hold out. Our engineer had to shift gasoline to the tanks that fed the working engines, and we were using gasoline at a rapid rate. We were flying down the valleys of the mountains and hoping that we would not encounter any ground (route) flak for we would have been dead ducks at that altitude.

We called for fighter escort as we were still over enemy territory, and although we had not seen any enemy fighters, we knew they might be coming for us. We ultimately were intercepted by four Mustang fighter planes who flew with us for a while. During this time we determined that we could not possibly make it back to the base and we decided to head for a place on the west coast of Yugoslavia

called Zara. It was a small British fighter base with a modest American contingent consisting mainly of a few mechanics placed there to try to put some of the planes back in the air. Our plan would be junked after this mission.

The landing at Zara took a special effort. There was just a short grass runway; the American area was across the field from the British. Altitude was important

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The Greatest Generation II:

Editor's note: Retired Air Force veteran Norm Walker is the chairman of the board of elders at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church.

Norm was born in 1932, the middle of three boys, on a small sharecropper's farm near Doyline, Louisiana. It was a hardscrabble existence during the Depression years, and the family was displaced in 1941 by the construction of an ordnance plant, necessitating a new start in a patch of woods near Minden, LA. Clearing and planting the land meant more hard work

and long hours, for the family needed the land to provide much of their needs. Norm's parents worked at the ordnance plant, and his father picked up as many carpenter jobs as he could.

Norm's boyhood days were full from before daylight to long after dark: doing chores, riding the school bus, attending school, completing homework by kerosene lamp, avidly listening to war news on a battered radio, cutting and bringing in fire wood and seeing to the thousand things that must be done on a farm. While working in the fields chopping cotton, thinning corn, or digging potatoes, Norm's attention was drawn to the Stearmans and DC-3s that would occasionally fly over. He dreamed of one day soaring over the hot dirt that held him.

It was a hard but happy life, and the family faith-

fully attended Antioch Baptist Church, where some of Norm's father's family had been charter members near the turn of the century. Norm's mother taught Sunday school there for well over 50 years; the elder Walkers attended faithfully into their 90s, and were revered by the congregation every Sunday until their death.

At the age of 11 or 12, Norm felt the Lord's tug and turned over his life to Him one Sunday night as the music of "Just As I Am" echoed throughout the church. He continued to work at the church, sing in the choir, help in vacation Bible school, and be otherwise active through his high school years. One year, he and a buddy split logs and peddled oak fence posts to raise enough money to attend Mandeville, the religious camp for youngsters in southern Louisiana, where Norm dedicated his life for "special service" to the Lord. It was not clear to him then what this meant, but this goal has marked his life.

High school years were intensively active. Besides working at home, Norm was prominent in school activities as part of the cheerleading squad, choir, men's quartet, swim team, and 4-H Club. He was a delegate to Boys State. As graduation neared in 1951, Norm was ripe for the draft and Korea, and although he wanted to go, he longed to be flying airplanes there. The only way he could do that was to enroll in the Air Force ROTC program at a state university and qualify for flight school. Nobody in



Norman B. Walker

as told to Genevieve Martin

his family had ever attended college, and Norm's folks couldn't afford college for him, either.

Nevertheless, Norm borrowed a little money to enter Louisiana Tech, then worked his way through school by lifeguarding, cutting right-of-way for the highway department, and working the college switchboard at night. He wooed and won one of the campus beauties and married her in his senior year. He held one of the ROTC unit's three command positions, qualified for pilot training, was both an honor graduate and a distinguished military graduate, received his commission as a second lieutenant, and applied for immediate flight training.

A career in the Air Force followed, with training in San Antonio, Tucson, and Enid, Oklahoma. Subsequent assignments were to Long Beach, CA; Montgomery, AL; Riverside, CA; Newburgh, NY; Reno, NV; Honolulu, HI; Oklahoma City, OK; Tachikawa, Japan; Saigon, RVN; Dayton, OH; Ft Walton Beach, FL; Clark AB, Philippines; Pleiku, RVN; Nha Trang, RVN; Clinton, MD; and the Pentagon, Washington, DC, plus temporary travel to lots of other places.

Norm's time in Vietnam over a three-year period was rewarding because he flew air evacuation missions to get wounded servicemen to medical care. One year he flew psychological operations missions to help rally the population to support the South Vietnamese government in resisting the communist invasion. Vietnam duty was heartbreakingly painful, but it was what a professional was supposed to be doing.

While at the Pentagon, Norm completed requirements for a graduate degree in management. He

served 25 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1980 as a colonel. He logged some 8,000 flying hours, including 1100 combat hours, in 21 different kinds of aircraft, earning 19 different awards and decorations. Most of his flying duties entailed serving as instructor pilot/flight examiner. Besides his flight duties, he held a wide variety of positions, including Executive Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations in Headquarters, USAF, and Assistant for Southern Europe on the International Security Affairs staff of the Secretary of Defense.

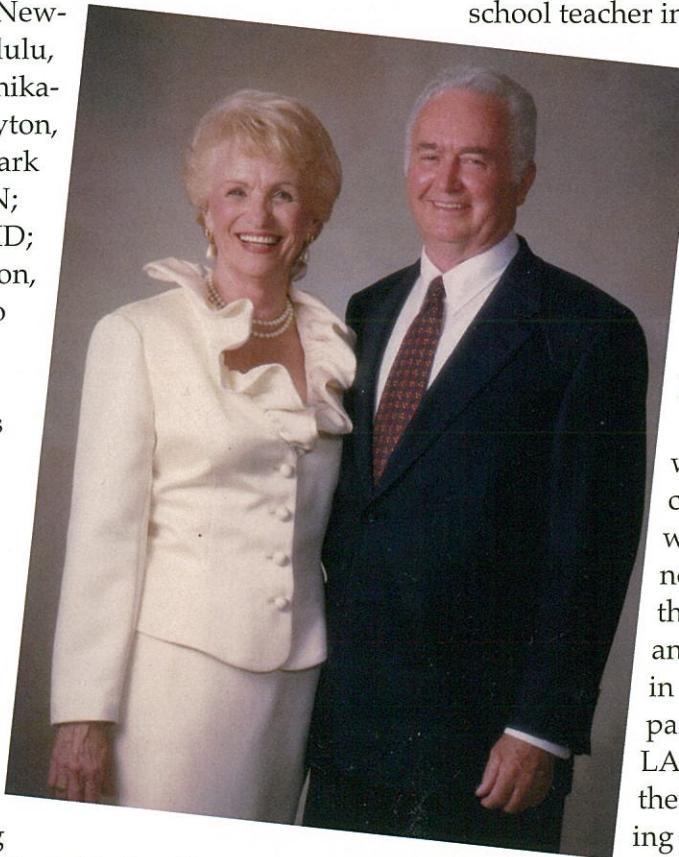
After retiring from the Air Force, Norm spent 15 years with companies in the Washington, DC, area doing international business, primarily in aviation-related fields, with companies and governments in Europe and Asia. He and his wife, Betty, a public

school teacher in Maryland, had two children and five grandchildren, now scattered along both coasts. In 1993 Betty was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, rapidly becoming progressively impaired; Norm served as sole caregiver. Betty died in 1995 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

For some time Norm was quite bitter, not even considering that God was working a plan that he could not know. He spent about the next year going back and forth between his home in Alexandria, VA, and his parents' home in Minden, LA, helping his folks, then in their late 80s. After determining that his parents needed constant assistance, Norm sold

out in Virginia and moved within 30 miles of Minden, commuting daily to help his parents with their medications, shopping, medical appointments, and

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We still have inventory of cassette tape series at half price! Inventory is limited so if you're interested, please order online or give us a call. Here's a list of what we have left:

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Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

How many people have even heard of the name King Sennacherib?

He was the king of Assyria during the time of the prophet Isaiah and the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah.

Sennacherib and a great army had destroyed all the nations surrounding Israel. He sent a letter to King Hezekiah about his exploits, victories, and power. He advised them that they could not stop the invasion of Israel so they should surrender at once. Scripture records Isaiah's response.

Then Isaiah ... sent this message to King Hezekiah. "This is what the God of Israel says against King Sennacherib of Assyria ... Whom do you think you have been insulting and ridiculing? ... It is the Holy One of Israel! ... But I know well your comings and goings and all you do. And because of your arrogance against me I will put my hook in your nose and my bridle in your mouth. I WILL MAKE YOU RETURN BY THE ROAD ON WHICH YOU CAME. His (your) armies will not enter Jerusalem" (Isa. 37:21, 22a, 23a-b, 29b, 33b NLT, emphasis added).

As Isaiah and Hezekiah faced danger in their lives and nation, so we also face a troubled time in our nation and the world. We have many enemies within and without our country, poised to attack. They build their forces and look for any display of weakness.

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Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church Men's Conference

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\$50 per person

Guest speaker: *Bob Vernon*

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For additional information, please contact
Michael Eddy, Hide-A-way Lake
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Fortunately, we have the word of God and the promises of God. God stated there will always remain a seed of his covenant people, the Jews.

We have a savior, the eternal Son of God. Because of His death, burial and resurrection we have eternal life through Him.

There will always remain witnesses to salvation through Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Dear Christian friends, do not be worried or dismayed. Our eternal God is in control.

1 John 4:4b: "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (KJV).

1 Peter 5:7: "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you" (NLT).

Romans 8:26a, 27-28: "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. ...And the Father who knows all our hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will" (NLT).

How glorious it will be to when the Jehovah God one day utters words such as these: "King Jesus, now is the time. Go. Bring your redeemed ones to their eternal home."

RECIPE CORNER Donna's Delights

A simple vegetable casserole sure to delight comes to us this issue from Donna Anderson Skorheim.

Squash Casserole

1 pound yellow squash or 2 cans squash
1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
4 carrots, grated
1 can cream chicken soup
1 onion, chopped
1 pkg. herb stuffing
1 stick margarine

Cook squash; drain and mash. Add chopped onion and grated carrots, sour cream and chicken soup. Melt margarine and mix margarine with stuffing. Put half of stuffing mixture in bottom of a large, shallow casserole. Pour squash mixture over this and top with other half of herb stuffing. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

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Chasing Daylight: Seize the Power of Every Moment
by Erwin Raphael McManus (Thomas Nelson)

"There are few things more powerful than a life lived with passionate clarity. Every moment is waiting to be seized by those who are chasing daylight."

While I was reading this excellent book I kept thinking of Psalm 90:12: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The author writes, "I am convinced that God longs to put His fingerprint in our lives, to act on our behalf and surprise us with His magnificence. I am equally convinced that most of the time we do not give God a context in which to do this" (82).

Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker (Tyndale House)

We reviewed Tony Dungy's first book *Quiet Strength* and were so blessed and encouraged by it. This is a fabulous follow-up, a must-read. It reflects maturity and offers challenges. Tony says it well in the beginning of the book:

At the end of the day, I'm sure of one thing: accumulating stuff and women and titles and money are wrong keys. Fitting in, following the crowd, and being common are not what we're supposed to do. There's more in store for us. (xix).

What in the World Is Going On?: 10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford To Ignore by Dr. David Jeremiah (Thomas Nelson)

David Jeremiah is a prolific writer, many of whose works we have reviewed. This book focuses on an area of Dr. Jeremiah's special expertise: prophetic themes. The work will bring you up to speed with regard to what's going on in our world today. Don't miss it!

Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of Seal Team 10 by Marcus Luttrell with Patrick Robinson (Back Bay Books / Little, Brown & Company)

This well written book will help you understand the peril our servicemen are facing as they endeavor to deal with global terrorism. A warning is in order, however—the book contains profanity, although it accurately captures the language of the military heroes. This is a book that you can't put down and a story you don't want to overlook.

The Furious Longing of God by Brennan Manning (David C. Cook)

Brennan Manning is no stranger to our book reviews. I have enjoyed each of his books. This one is extra special and will bless you. In Manning's words:

My experience of His furious love often fills me with a fury as well when I hear well-known preachers and televangelists distorting Abba's image. Jesus says, "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you" (John 15:4 MSG). *Home* is a place of welcoming love, nonjudgmental acceptance, accompanied by many signs of affection. His invitation to intimacy is startling, contrary to all the pontifications of certain religious leaders and champions of deuteronomistic morality. Their unbending rule-keeping petrifies His furious compassion. This should not be so.

The awesome love of our invisible God has become both visible and audible in Jesus Christ, the glory of the only Son filled with enduring love. (36)

A Lifetime of Wisdom: Embracing the Way God Heals You by Joni Eareckson Tada (Zondervan)

I am so thankful that Joni has taken time to preserve, as part of her legacy, a compilation of the many and varied lessons the Lord has taught her through 40 years of living in a wheelchair. As with all of her books, this one will truly encourage you as you read more of her story.

The Love Dare by Stephen & Alex Kendrick with Lawrence Kimbrough (B & H Publishing Group)

The wonderful movie *Fireproof* spells out 40 days to recovery of a marriage relationship that was on the rocks. *The Love Dare* is the record of those forty days in print so that you can use it as a follow-up to the message of the movie in working on your own marriage. My challenge to you is watch the movie and then take the *Love Dare*.

Jesus Himself: The Story of the Resurrection – from the Garden Tomb to the Mount of Olives by Marcus L. Loane (Banner of Truth Trust)

This is a delightful devotional book you can read in your daily time. You will love meditating upon these experiences surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Bill Lawrence

to us as a safety measure when flying in distress, so we stayed as high as we could until we found the field. We called in on the radio and got landing instructions. On the downwind leg, we dropped to about 5000 feet. Then on the crosswind leg we let down to about 2000 feet. We turned on the approach leg and let down to about 1000 feet and then flew to about a mile from the end of the runway. We cut all the power and turned off all the switches as a safety factor. Then we held the nose of the plane up until we reached a stall and then pointed the nose to the end of the runway and more or less dived down for a landing. We had no power, so we could not go around and try again. This had to be it. We made a perfect landing, rolled to a stop, and called the tower for instructions for taxiing advice. We then realized there was no tower, and that all radio instruction had come from a mechanic sitting in the top hatch of a wrecked B-24. That was the best they could do for us. It was enough.

Bill's closing exhortation to his fellow Americans features words of wisdom for us all:

In the light of certain happenings most recently and especially that of September 11, 2001, along the eastern seaboard, I feel called upon to add to these writings some of my philosophy. I guess that this is directed to my descendants of whom I am most proud and who I feel really hold with my thoughts and ideals and probably do not need my continued mouthings. Still here it is—

And so my dear ones take great pride in your nation, your state, your community, and your family. Work to protect this nation at all costs from the encroachment of those elements that treat it lightly and call for change for the sake of change. Remember your faith in God and hold it proudly for all to see. Do not blanch from letting people know where you stand and what you stand for. Be a leader in this and do not shy from taking a stand. We must not let morality and religion weaken in our time. It is said that morality, like religion, has the double aspect of satisfying an emotional need and serving a social purpose. Without morality (some inner restraint) society must assign two policemen to watch every citizen day and night. And without a religion, which sustains conduct or at least organizes the facts of life and the cosmos, men seek in vain for the meaning of their existence.

We react to the chaos in American cities and towns and call for more police, more money for crime prevention, more prisons, and more and bigger government, but then we disregard the most critical need of all, which is the historical imperative that all elements of society hold a high view of their citizenship: which is that all of us demonstrate by our attitudes and behavior that we have respect for and commitment to ethical responsibility, that we support the moral and ethical values upon which a civilized society depends. But can any society survive when stripped of its sources of meaning and moral restraint? History says NO! Force always follows in the wake of lost faith.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND
PLEASE, GOD, HOLD AND SUSTAIN
THE UNITED STATES.



Norm Walker

continued

other daily care needs. He took them to church every Sunday morning.

One Easter Sunday morning in the service at Antioch, Norm and his parents were surprised by the arrival of Pat, one of Norm's childhood buddies from Antioch whom he had not seen for 47 years. Pat was visiting her sister, who had been a missionary nurse in Gaza for 25 years, but was now living in the area and attending Antioch. Needless to say, after the service, there was a warm reunion, especially since Norm had been "sweet" on Pat when they were youngsters, to no avail. Now, however, both had been widowed and other possibilities loomed, but Norm still assiduously resisted any relationship, even though they saw each other a number of times during the ensuing months. It later became clear that Pat's sister was more attuned to God's plan than Norm was, and she had been insistent in her invitation to Pat to visit at Antioch.

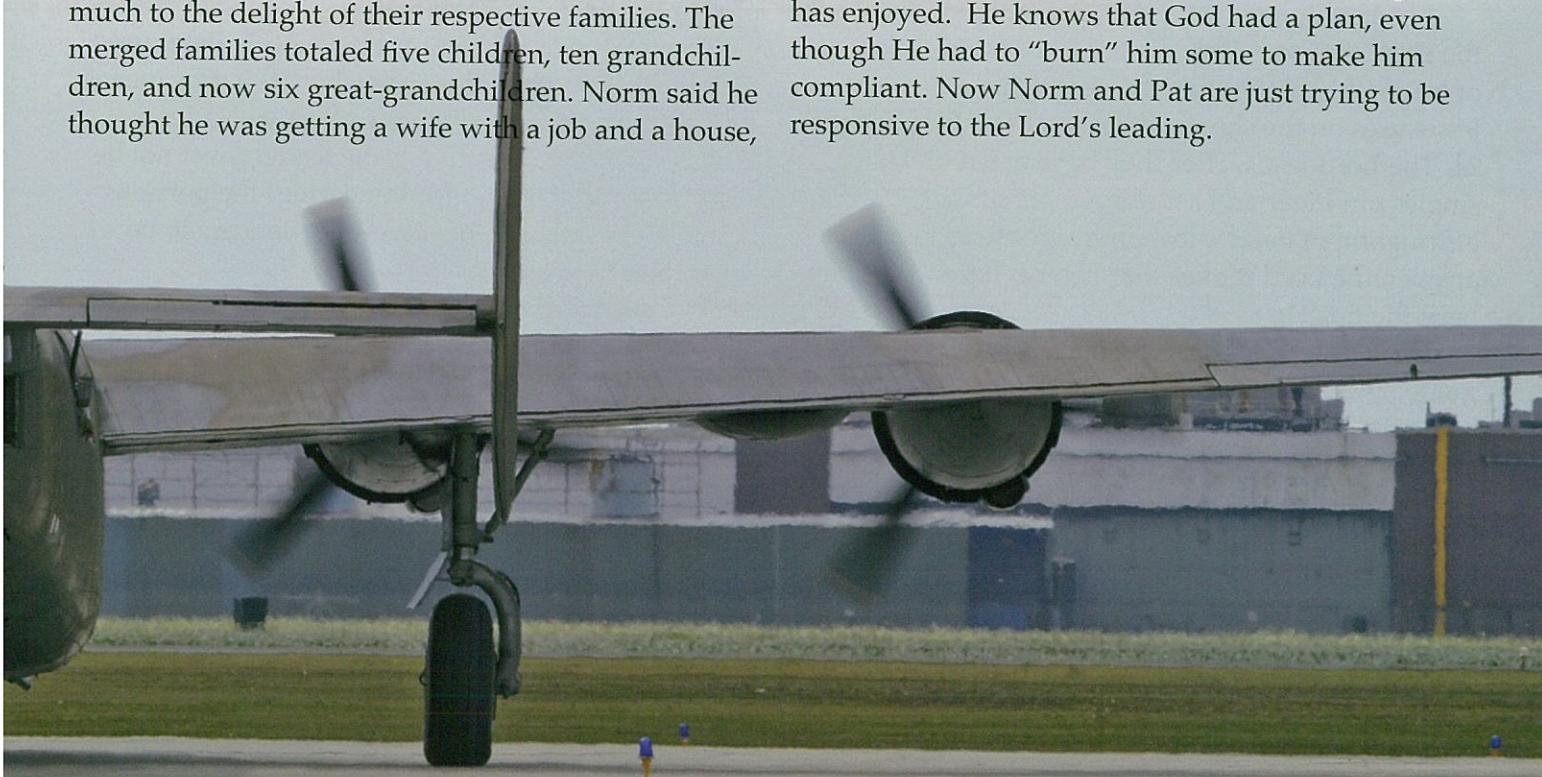
During those months when, after a hard day's work splitting wood or clearing land, Norm was sitting alone at his place in the woods, he could never quite still the small voice that kept whispering to him about how sweet Pat was and what possibilities were glimmering...and what a "stubborn blockhead" he was for letting a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity slip away! So God does persevere, and He let His plan unfold.

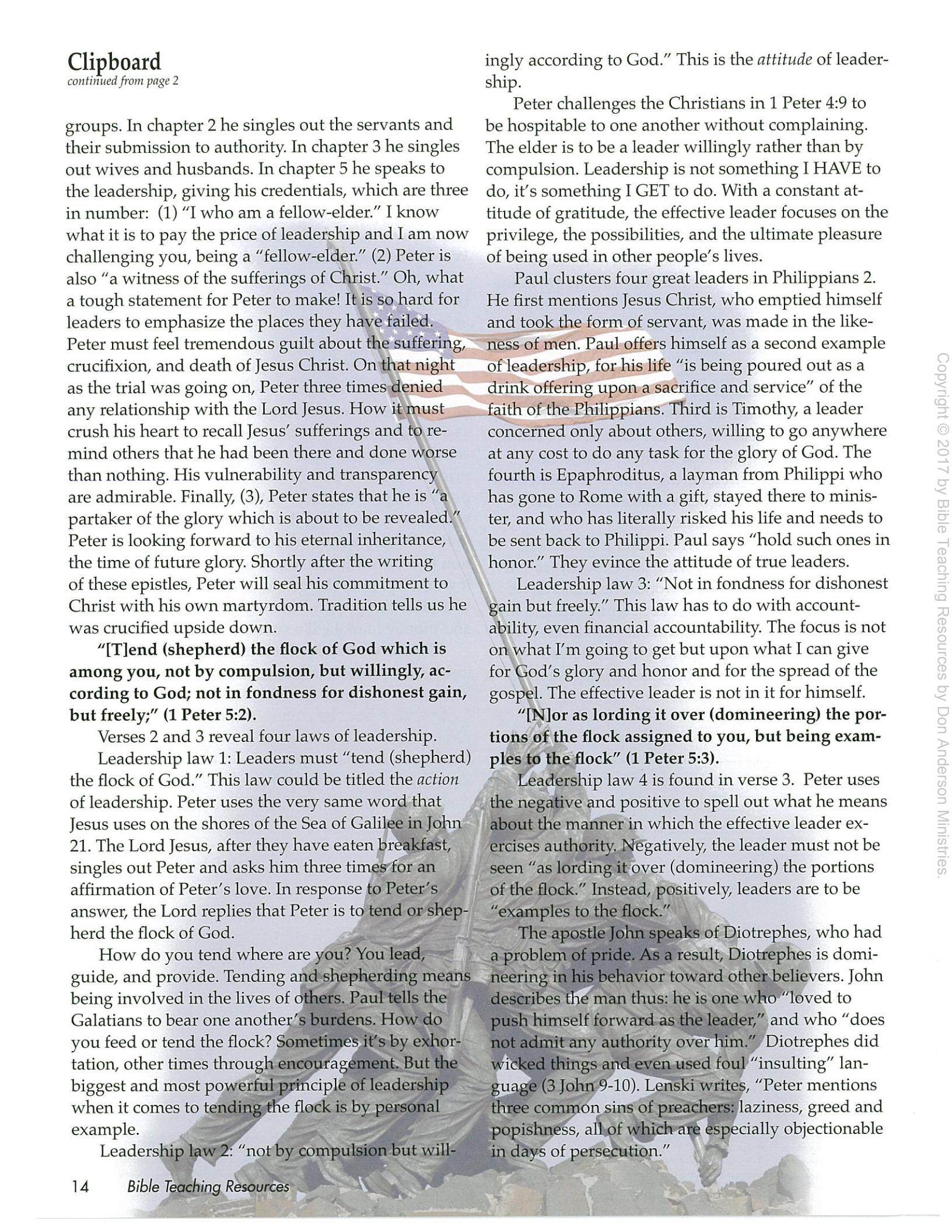
Norm and Pat were married the following year, much to the delight of their respective families. The merged families totaled five children, ten grandchildren, and now six great-grandchildren. Norm said he thought he was getting a wife with a job and a house,

but just before the wedding Pat quit her job and sold her house. Her mom didn't raise any dumb kids! They lived in North Dallas for a year, going back and forth to Minden frequently to care for his folks and the homestead. The travel became a chore, so they began to look for a place midway between Minden and Dallas, where Pat's children and grandchildren lived. They eventually found and loved Hideaway, and the warm, friendly, caring people at the Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church.

After moving to Hideaway, Norm learned from a colleague from Tachikawa days, then a school teacher in Houston, about the Historic Aviation Memorial Museum at Pounds Field in Tyler. Norm joined, became a docent, and helped expand the museum into its current facility. He wanted to be a part of the effort to preserve the artifacts related to those who sacrificed so much to assure our freedoms, and to acknowledge and honor those who paid the ultimate price to guarantee our liberty. He feels that it is important to provide an orientation, particularly to the youngsters, regarding the role that aviation played in the development of this country, and the dedication and commitment required of those who made it work. Tyler can be proud of the museum, and the volunteers who spend so much of their time, energy and money to make it a success.

Norm feels that his lifetime of serving others has just been a prelude to being where the Lord wants him to be now... just trying to be of some help to those with whom he comes in contact, and trying to pass along, in some small measure, the blessings he has enjoyed. He knows that God had a plan, even though He had to "burn" him some to make him compliant. Now Norm and Pat are just trying to be responsive to the Lord's leading.





groups. In chapter 2 he singles out the servants and their submission to authority. In chapter 3 he singles out wives and husbands. In chapter 5 he speaks to the leadership, giving his credentials, which are three in number: (1) "I who am a fellow-elder." I know what it is to pay the price of leadership and I am now challenging you, being a "fellow-elder." (2) Peter is also "a witness of the sufferings of Christ." Oh, what a tough statement for Peter to make! It is so hard for leaders to emphasize the places they have failed. Peter must feel tremendous guilt about the suffering, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ. On that night as the trial was going on, Peter three times denied any relationship with the Lord Jesus. How it must crush his heart to recall Jesus' sufferings and to remind others that he had been there and done worse than nothing. His vulnerability and transparency are admirable. Finally, (3), Peter states that he is "a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed." Peter is looking forward to his eternal inheritance, the time of future glory. Shortly after the writing of these epistles, Peter will seal his commitment to Christ with his own martyrdom. Tradition tells us he was crucified upside down.

[T]end (shepherd) the flock of God which is among you, not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God; not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely;" (1 Peter 5:2).

Verses 2 and 3 reveal four laws of leadership.

Leadership law 1: Leaders must "tend (shepherd) the flock of God." This law could be titled the *action* of leadership. Peter uses the very same word that Jesus uses on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in John 21. The Lord Jesus, after they have eaten breakfast, singles out Peter and asks him three times for an affirmation of Peter's love. In response to Peter's answer, the Lord replies that Peter is to tend or shepherd the flock of God.

How do you tend where are you? You lead, guide, and provide. Tending and shepherding means being involved in the lives of others. Paul tells the Galatians to bear one another's burdens. How do you feed or tend the flock? Sometimes it's by exhortation, other times through encouragement. But the biggest and most powerful principle of leadership when it comes to tending the flock is by personal example.

Leadership law 2: "not by compulsion but will-

ingly according to God." This is the *attitude* of leadership.

Peter challenges the Christians in 1 Peter 4:9 to be hospitable to one another without complaining. The elder is to be a leader willingly rather than by compulsion. Leadership is not something I HAVE to do, it's something I GET to do. With a constant attitude of gratitude, the effective leader focuses on the privilege, the possibilities, and the ultimate pleasure of being used in other people's lives.

Paul clusters four great leaders in Philippians 2. He first mentions Jesus Christ, who emptied himself and took the form of servant, was made in the likeness of men. Paul offers himself as a second example of leadership, for his life "is being poured out as a drink offering upon a sacrifice and service" of the faith of the Philippians. Third is Timothy, a leader concerned only about others, willing to go anywhere at any cost to do any task for the glory of God. The fourth is Epaphroditus, a layman from Philippi who has gone to Rome with a gift, stayed there to minister, and who has literally risked his life and needs to be sent back to Philippi. Paul says "hold such ones in honor." They evince the attitude of true leaders.

Leadership law 3: "Not in fondness for dishonest gain but freely." This law has to do with accountability, even financial accountability. The focus is not on what I'm going to get but upon what I can give for God's glory and honor and for the spread of the gospel. The effective leader is not in it for himself.

"[N]or as lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:3).

Leadership law 4 is found in verse 3. Peter uses the negative and positive to spell out what he means about the manner in which the effective leader exercises authority. Negatively, the leader must not be seen "as lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock." Instead, positively, leaders are to be "examples to the flock."

The apostle John speaks of Diotrephes, who had a problem of pride. As a result, Diotrephes is domineering in his behavior toward other believers. John describes the man thus: he is one who "loved to push himself forward as the leader," and who "does not admit any authority over him." Diotrephes did wicked things and even used foul "insulting" language (3 John 9-10). Lenski writes, "Peter mentions three common sins of preachers: laziness, greed and popishness, all of which are especially objectionable in days of persecution."

"We all like to be recognized not for one piece of fireworks but for the ledger of our daily work."

Neil Armstrong



July 2009 marked the 40th anniversary of the landing upon the moon. The following words of Neil Armstrong should encourage anyone in leadership: "I guess we all like to be recognized not for one piece of fireworks but for the ledger of our daily work."

"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4).

In the preceding verses, Peter gives us the credentials for leadership and issues charges to leaders. Here he describes the crown for leadership. "When the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory."

The crown to come is worth it. Let me close by sharing an excerpt from *Lectures to My Students* by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, where the great theologian exhorts his readers to fight the good fight and finish the course. Henceforth is laid up for us a crown of glory:

Having the integrity and the courage, dear brethren, may you be gifted with an indomitable zeal. Zeal—what is it? How shall I describe it? Possess it, and you will know what it is. Be consumed with love for Christ, and let the flame burn continuously, not flaming up at public meetings and dying out in the routine work of every day. We need indomitable perseverance, dogged resolution, and a combination of sacred obstinacy, self-denial, holy gentleness, and invincible courage.

Excel also in one power, which is both mental and moral, namely, the power of *concentrating all your forces* upon the work to which you are called. Collect your thoughts, rally all your faculties,

July 2009 marked the 40th anniversary of the landing upon the moon. The following words of Neil Armstrong should encourage anyone in leadership: "I guess we all like to be recognized not for one piece of fireworks but for the ledger of our daily work."

May these same sentiments help us to be faithful and to keep hanging in there, serving the Lord with perseverance, following biblical principles, and keeping proper priorities.

mass your energies, focus your capacities. Turn all the springs of your soul into one channel, causing it to flow onward in an undivided stream. Some men lack this quality. They scatter themselves and fail. Mass your battalions, and hurl them upon the enemy. Do not try to be great at this and great at that—to be 'everything by turns, and nothing long'; but suffer your entire nature to be led in captivity by Jesus Christ, and lay everything at his dear feet who bled and died for you. (257-8)

Some of our favorite letters from the emailbag

The following e-mails have come in response to BTR's weekly e-blast, News from Bible Teaching Resources. If you would like to receive our on-line newsletter and devotional, please let us know by e-mailing us at gen@bibleteachingresources.org.



Thank you for the e-mails of the *News from Bible Teaching Resources*. I look forward to receiving them, and I pass them on to others. God bless you.

Good words, good counsel, good and godly advice. Knowing you and Pearl is a joy.

Thanks Don and staff for this excellent newsletter it really hit a spot for me. Becky's piece and the snake in the garden really spoke volumes. Thanks for all you do and the very special touch you share each week. Appreciate you all!!!!

Thanks for the *News from Bible Teaching Resources* that you send to me. I always enjoy them and normally pass them on to someone else. Today I forwarded it to my son-in-law who just arrived in Iraq.

This is a good one, and timely. And the study today at St. Andrews was good, too. We had 34 enthusiastic students. Just think.

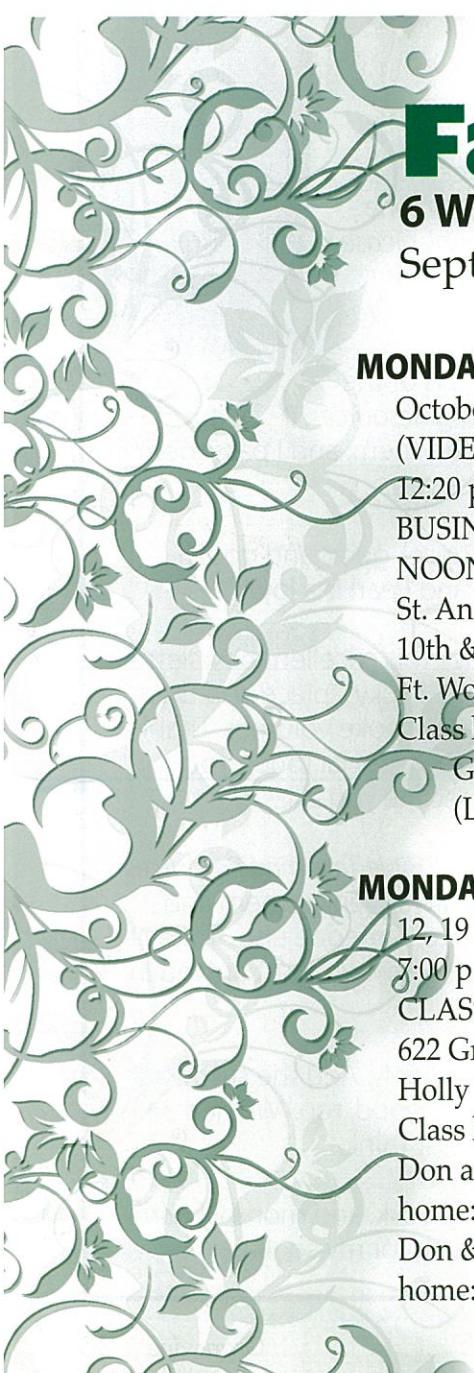
What a way to start a new wk. and month! Pearl's reflection does something for my soul.

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Fall Tour 2009

6 Week Study in Esther

September 21-October 29, 2009

MONDAY- September 21 & 28,
October 5, 12, 19 & 26
(VIDEOCONFERENCE)
12:20 p.m.—FT. WORTH
BUSINESSPEOPLES
NOON CLASS
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
10th & Lamar
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
Class host:
Garner Roberts, office: 817.763.5831
(Lunch available at 11:50 a.m.)

MONDAY- September 21 & 28, October 5,
12, 19 & 26 (LIVE)
7:00 p.m.—HOLLY LAKE RANCH
CLASS
622 Green Meadow Trail
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
Class hosts:
Don and Ann Weersing,
home: 903. 613.2193
Don & Lillie McWhinney,
home: 903.613.2058

TUESDAY-September 22 & 29 October 6, 13,
20 & 27 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)
7:00 P.M.—DALLAS EVENING CLASS
Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane
Dallas, TX 75234
Class hosts:
Gary & Sydney Smith, cell: 972.322.9050

THURSDAY-September 24, October 1, 8, 15,
22 & 29 (LIVE)
7:00 p.m.—TYLER EVENING CLASS
Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church
1500 Lake Park Cir., Hideaway, TX 75771
Ministries office: 903.939.1201
Class hosts:
Doug & Alice Byrd, home: 903.882.1419
John & Kay Loucks, home: 903.882.7432