

GRAPEVINE

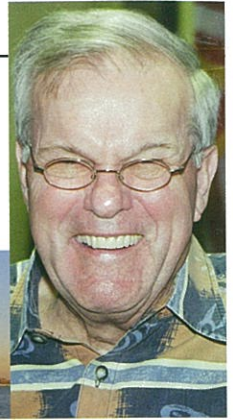
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

FALL 2011

*I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished
the work which Thou hast given Me to do.*

— John 17:4 NASB

When Will They Ever Learn?



"They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them. If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be!" (Deut. 32:28-29 NIV).

September 11 marks the tenth anniversary of a horrible terrorist attack. Let's relive that day for a moment. President Bush addressed the nation with these words:

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil -- the very worst of human nature -- and we responded with the best of America.... Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me."

Ten years have passed! How is America today? On July 4 we celebrated our 235th birthday. Let's take a brief trip back to 1790. Let's hear from George Washington in his inaugural address, as the first president acknowledges the work of God in the founding of our country: "...since we ought to be no less persuaded that

the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained...."

At the beginning of the Civil War, when issuing a proclamation for a national day of fasting, Abraham Lincoln offered these words on August 12, 1861, similarly linking trust in God with the fate of the nation in a prayer for restoration that "the inestimable boon of civil and religious liberty, earned under His guidance and blessing, by the labors and sufferings of our fathers, may be restored in all its original excellence." Calvin Coolidge put it more succinctly: "The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

Alexis de Tocqueville, the Frenchman whose observations of 19th century America are recorded in his mammoth *Democracy in America*, sums up the role of morality in the United States thus: "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Popular culture would have it otherwise. Witness Kathy Griffin's speech when she received a creative arts Emmy award in 2007 for her reality TV show, *My Life on the D-List*: "a lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one has less to do with this award than Jesus." She went on to utter other offensive remarks. The speech was deleted from the taped Emmy broadcast which eventually aired on the E! channel.

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From the Editor

As we wrap up production of the fall *Grapevine*, temperatures are registering well above the 100s in Dallas. Hopefully by the time the magazine arrives at your home, the heat wave will be long forgotten and you'll be enjoying crisper, cooler days. With 2011 in its waning months, our thoughts turn to 2012, when BTR will be celebrating 40 years of ministry. Won't you consider joining us for one or more events next year? Please help us by filling out and returning the enclosed 40th anniversary survey by October 1. Feel free to email or phone with your response as well. We must finalize plans as soon as possible and need your input.

Meanwhile, in this issue, Don shares thoughtful concerns about the direction our nation seems to be headed in his column. We are pleased to profile two saints standing for Christ as we feature our Q & A with Steve Simmons. Steve and his wife, Whelma, are the proprietors of Mindanao Praise Radio 105.3 FM in the Bukidnon province of the Philippines. MPR features Don's radio program, *Persevering and Pressing On*, daily as part of its ongoing ministry.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

—M. Jane Rodgers



The *Grapevine* is a publication of
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
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Bible Teaching Resources is a nonprofit organization and charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Mindanao Praise Radio MPR 105.3 FM
Radio Worth Listening To!

Q & A with Steve of MPR 105.3 FM



How does a Texan from Gainesville wind up running a Christian radio station in the Philippines? Marrying Whelma Villaester, a Filipina, in Dallas, Texas, in 1992 may well have started Steve Simmons on the unlikely journey halfway across the globe.

Following Steve's lengthy career in radio in the United States, Steve and Whelma left Texas in 2007 to found Mindanao Praise Radio MPR 105.3 FM the following year. The station is the only full-time Christian radio station in the province of Bukidnon and serves the cities of Malaybalay and Valencia in the Philippines. From Monday to Friday, the station broadcasts Don Anderson's radio program, *Persevering & Pressing On*, along with its other regular programming. The technology on the BTR end is simple: Billy Martin edits Don's recorded messages, adding a custom introduction and a standard closing. He converts the recording to MP3 format and uploads it so that staff at Mindanao Praise Radio can retrieve each program for the daily broadcast. On Sundays, the station generously features a highlight broadcast of *Persevering & Pressing On*.

The audience of MPR 105.3 is large... and growing. Over half a million people live in Malaybalay, Valencia, and surrounding townships in Bukidnon. The station format is music-driven, featuring a mix of inspirational greats including southern gospel, traditional hymns, Christian country, and contemporary Christian music. In addition to playing favorite selections in English, the station also features Christian songs in these native languages of the Philippines: Tagalong, Cebuano, and Ilocano. News headlines are also broadcast throughout the day. Between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., the station features biblical teaching, including *Persevering & Pressing On*. Says Steve Simmons, "Rev. Don Anderson's program,

Simmons in the Philippines

Persevering & Pressing On, has been on the air with us since day one when we signed on the air for the first time in November 2008." We at BTR are honored by our affiliation with Mindanao Praise Radio and with Steve and Whelma Simmons.

Recently we posed a few questions for Steve to answer for our readers. We think you'll find his insights provocative, thoughtful, and even amusing. Just what are a Texan and his bride of nearly 20 years doing halfway across the globe? We think you'll agree: they are doing the work of the Lord.

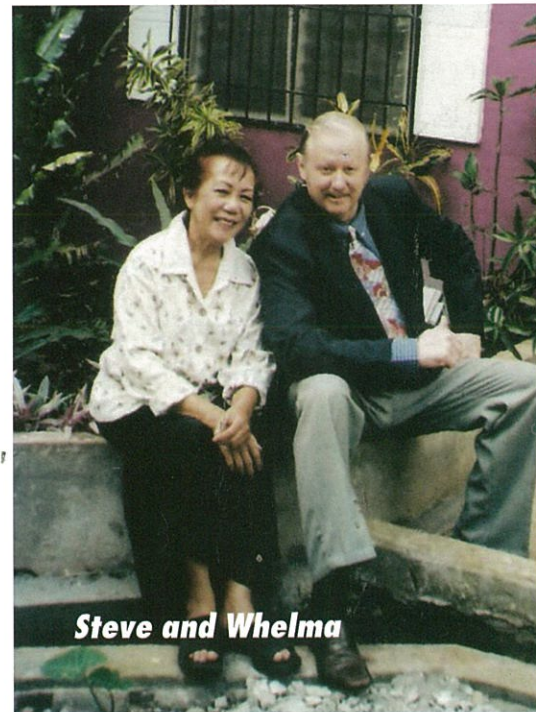
Q: Tell me about your background in radio. And how did you meet Whelma?

STEVE: Might as well start at the beginning. I met Whelma, a Filipina, in Texas, shortly after she got her visa to travel to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1983. I was an on-air announcer and station manager for what was then station KCLE-1120 AM in Cleburne, Texas. Whelma worked nearby as the manager of a furniture store. I made a business call at the store one day to sell some radio ads. I sold the ads to them and one thing led to another. As the late Paul Harvey would say, "The rest is history." We were married in Dallas in 1992. [Note, Whelma lived in Dallas for 17 years and has fond memories of "Big D." She also worked for 13 years in the health care industry in the U.S., including working in medical records and as a receptionist with Kaiser Permanente and serving as a medical transcriptionist for Baylor.]

From 1989-99, I was working both as an on-air host and in advertising sales for what was then a Christian format radio station, KPBC-770

AM, in Dallas. The station was owned by Crawford Broadcasting Company, which had approximately 30 major market radio stations in the U.S. I had the pleasure of working with some real radio pros at KPBC, including the late "Deacon" Don Evans, Bill MacCormick, Jack Davis, and Gordon Griffin.

I returned to work for the Crawford Broadcasting Company from 2002-07 at their station in Dallas/Fort Worth, 770 AM, after they had flipped the station format from Christian to adult standards. At that point, they also changed their call letters to KAAM. I was production manager and operations manager, and I also did some weekend announcing for KAAM. By the way, this year, I've been in radio for 40 years: 37 in the U.S. and 3 here with our Christian station in the Philippines. In the Bible, 40 years is considered to be a full generation as time is reckoned. And I must say that it feels like a full generation most of the time these days, but it's still a whole lot of fun and exciting to me to be working in radio today. Especially doing



Steve and Whelma



Christian radio. That's really where my heart is. It's most rewarding spiritually to be a part of impacting the lives of listeners with Christian music that has a real meaning versus so much of secular music that, conversely, is devoid of any positive meaning or uplifting message at the end of the day.

I also worked on air in the radio markets of Beaumont-Orange-Port Arthur, Texas; Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Wichita, Kansas. Actually my first experience in Christian radio was in Beaumont- Port Arthur back in 1988-1989.

Q: Your station literature notes that MPR is music-driven, but you also have daily teaching broadcasts. What can you tell our readers about your audiences and the need for a Christian radio station in the Bukidnon province?

STEVE: Yes, we are music-driven, but we also disseminate the spoken word daily with superlative Bible teaching over MPR with ministry programs, none finer anyplace than *Persevering & Pressing On*, hosted by Rev. Don Anderson. Don's keen ability to uncover biblical gems of truth and his manner of being able to relate these inspiring insights to the radio audience are truly extraordinary.

A couple more things occurred to me to share with you since my initial email. MPR is a non-denominational/Independent Christian radio station. We do not engage in political discussions on the air here as there are various other stations in this market that specialize in that sort of thing. We just stick to Christian radio broadcasting via our music and ministry

teaching and preaching programs. During election times, the campaigns of the different candidates are allowed to pay for air time to get their messages out to the public, but we do not endorse any of them even in some tacit or indirect manner.

The make-up here religiously in the Philippines is about 85% Roman Catholic, 5% Muslim, with smaller percentages of other Eastern religions like Buddhist. Only 8% of the Philippines comprise the various Protestant denominations; virtually every denomination that you can find in the yellow pages of any large city in America is here as well. This is a true mission field, and Christian radio where we are located was long overdue!

Q: Why did you and Whelma move to the Philippines to start a Christian radio station?

STEVE: In early 2007 before I left KAAM in Dallas in August of that year, Whelma and I were praying about our opening up the first ever Christian radio station in the province of Bukidnon, where the station is. In the Philippines, a province is similar to what a state is in the U.S. We had a good lead to maybe buy an existing station, but that opportunity fell through. But in early 2008, we were able to open up a new station after we finally secured all of the licensing from the Philippine government and purchased our equipment-- the transmitter and all the other gadgets necessary--to broadcast. We encountered a lot of red tape in the process, but then that is just government anyplace on the planet. There are about ten other radio stations (secular formats) in this local market area of some 600,000 people. MPR really has the privilege and responsibility of being "a beacon that shines on a hill or mountain." (Bukidnon in the Cebuano Filipino language means mountain!) Our audience continues to grow on a daily basis.

In the U.S., there are some 13,000 radio stations, and about a thousand follow Christian formats or are considered part-time Christian at any rate. Here in the Philippines there are only about 300 licensed radio stations and only a couple of dozen Christian radio stations across the whole nation, MPR being one of those few Christian stations over here. I believe that Christian radio in the U.S. is taken for granted,

even by Christians, as they can pick it up even in the smaller towns today. Over here it is a rare commodity indeed, and bear in mind that as of 2012, the Philippines is now the twelfth largest nation in the world in terms of population with 96 million people!

Q: What challenges, besides government red tape, have you faced?

STEVE: The good part for me, especially here, is that English is the second language taught in all of the schools in the Philippines, even through college. The majority of people here are very fluent in English in addition to their native languages. Otherwise I'd be up a creek without a paddle.

Now, I have learned some key phrases and select words like "kanus-a ang paniudto." It means, "When is lunch?" Oh and some of the translations from Filipino into English can be very amusing. In the U.S., we have "all you can eat" buffets, but over here they call it "eat all you can," and they insist that their version is the correct one! You know how in Texas, they have "quick oil change" places? Well, here they call them "quick change oil" stores. If I didn't know better, I'd think somebody is being a bit difficult, taking a nonconformist approach to the English language! But I've learned that the main thing is we understand each other even if we say things somewhat differently. They don't call a refrigerator over here, a fridge. They call it a *ref*. That's what we call referees in the U.S.! See, it does become pretty humorous. They call an air conditioner an *air con*. And here's one that takes the cake. A restroom or bathroom over here is called a CR. That stands for comfort room. Who would have thunk it?

As for the business end of MPR, it has not been a piece of cake convincing businesses to advertise over a Christian radio station. At the beginning, such a concept was alien to them.



They had only known secular radio locally before MPR showed up. We've had to build their trust in us, and I always remind clients, with a smile, that "Christians have money, too, and it spends just like anyone else's pesos!" Slowly but surely we have been able to establish some solid partnerships with stores around town that see the real value of advertising on Christian radio.

Q: What is Whelma's role at Mindanao Praise Radio?

STEVE: Whelma was a licensed high school teacher in the Philippines in the 1970s and taught at a Christian academy in Cebu City. Whelma loves Christian music and Christian radio as well. She formed the first ever southern gospel style male quartet here in the Philippines back in 2003. They are called The Mindanao Melody Boys Quartet (MMBQ) and they still perform concerts over here today. Whelma is also a true public relations expert. She is invaluable for MPR in forming alliances for the station, and she easily makes friends everywhere she goes. She is really gifted in this way and also contributes greatly in organizing things around the station.

continued on next page

Q: So radio has really been part of your journey as a Christian? Tell us about it.

STEVE: I'd like to credit my father, Rev. Wilbur Simmons, a retired Baptist preacher of 50 years who lives with my mother in Temple, Texas, for getting me into radio. It happened unexpectedly, but I believe it was God's hand at work all along to make it happen. In 1971, while I was a junior in high school in Gainesville, Texas, Dad hosted a 15-minute live program early every Sunday morning at the local radio station, KGAF-AM & FM, before we went to Central Baptist Church, where he pastored. One Sunday, he asked me, "Want to come along with me to the station?" I said, "Yes." I had never been there before with him. I fell in love with the whole atmosphere at once! It turned out that the board-op at the station, a nice guy named Greg, told me there was an opening for a weekend announcer. He invited me to record a voice demo, read some news and weather, to be considered for the slot. I did and a few days later they called me and offered me the job. I was as happy as a trained circus seal going after a thrown sardine! It was the happiest day of my life since I had accepted Christ as my savior one night when I was seven years old back in 1959. Still today, the world over, even with all of the various forms of social media, the Internet itself, TV, and printed material, more people hear the gospel message that genuinely connects with them through radio, and particularly through Christian radio, than through all of those aforementioned forms of media. Radio still goes everywhere with people—at home, out walking, working in the garden, driving to and from work. Whelma and I are thrilled and blessed highly to get to broadcast Christian radio here in the Philippines. We're more than satisfied that it's a God thing.

And we at BTR know it's a God thing, Steve and Whelma!

You may contact Steve and Whelma Simmons at mindanaopraiseradio@yahoo.com or at the mailing address given below:

MPR-105.3 FM
P.O. Box 82
Malaybalay City
Bukidnon 8700
Philippines

Bible Teaching Resources

Welcome, Babies!

We'd like to welcome these newest members to the BTR family! Grandchildren and great-grandchildren are blessings from God.

Helen Eloise "Lucy" Anderson – born July 27, 2011 (great-granddaughter of Don & Pearl Anderson)

Zackary Martin Duvak – born July 11, 2011 (grandson of Billy & Genevieve Martin)

Sophia Elizabeth Williams – born July 2, 2011 (granddaughter of Clyde & Kathy Womack)

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Thanks to Donna Anderson Skorheim for a hearty and easy to prepare recipe that will be great on a chilly fall evening.

SIRLOIN & RICE

- 1 lb. sirloin steak, cubed
- 1 stick butter
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 1 onion, diced

Brown meat with all of the above ingredients. Pour into 9x13 casserole dish and add the following:

- 1 can golden mushroom soup
- 1 can chicken and rice soup
- 1 can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup long grain rice (uncooked)
- 1 cup water
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce

Bake, covered, 1 hour in 350 degree oven.

Some of our favorite letters from the mailbag

First, I want to thank you for the wonderful work you are doing. Second, I have been reading the *A Great While Before Day* devotional. I have been reading Psalm 19.... Keep up the good work!



AGWBD is a wonderful way to start my day!

Just a note to tell you I read your devotional every morning and it ministers so much to me.... We have been blessed in your classes before.

The devotional books you put out get better each year. This year's is truly gifted in wisdom. I especially like the closing songs that go along with the day's inspiring thought.

Thank you so much for continuing to send these devotionals to my mom. Her caregivers read to her daily and she loves it!

We wanted you to know how much we are enjoying volume X of AGWBD. The teaching has been a real blessing to us and the Lord is obviously using you to reach the saints in this difficult time. We particularly enjoy...the verses of the great old hymns. This is a special blessing since the old hymns are full of the Lord's truth. We are looking forward to part II.

I have been receiving and enjoying your mailings and materials for many years. What a blessing they have been!

Praise God—39 years teaching, preaching and living God's word—what blessings to those who have been privileged to feed off the word from your efforts under God's grace. Mary and I count ourselves among that number.... You have truly blessed our lives that we might bless others.



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

"Cast your bread upon the waters and after many days it will return to you" (Ecc. 11:1 NIV).

The prison ministry has been a blessing to us over the years.

We had a special reason to rejoice because of an event that happened recently.

A prisoner who received a *Life Recovery Bible* and other materials from us served his prison term and was released. He has reconnected with his family, has a job, and is living a productive life. To show appreciation for our help he sent a tithe of his paycheck to BTR. Even as I write this article, tears well up with praise and thanksgiving that we are privileged to have a ministry that is a help and blessing to others. He actually sent another check, in addition to the tithe.

God is so good. He cleanses, forgives our sins, and sets us upon our feet to live for Him.

I See – YOU See

I see the finiteness of people:
YOU see them through the eyes of infinite love.

I see what still needs to be done:
YOU see how much has already been done.

I see their weakness:
YOU see Your strength being made perfect for their weakness.

To YOU be all the glory
Great things YOU have done.

CATCH DON!

Holly Tree Chapel Men's Bible Study
Fridays – Sept. 23 & 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28,
Nov. 4, 11 & 18
Contact Holly Tree Chapel @ 903.769.3501 for information.

40th Anniversary Update

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

In the last issue of the *Grapevine*, we proposed three possibilities for BTR's celebration of 40 years of ministry. We are at the point of needing to sign contracts or cancel bookings. Fiscal accountability is vital. Would you please prayerfully consider in which of the following you might be able to participate and let us know by returning the survey or contacting us via email? We'd appreciate a response by October 1.

We will do just one or all three if the level of interest is adequate. Dates and anticipated costs are listed. A final list of events will be announced in the winter *Grapevine*.

Selecting any options at this time does not commit you to attending. This survey is to get an idea of interest.

☐ Option #1: Lakeview Couples Conference
(Waxahachie, TX)

May 4-6, 2012 — \$400 per couple

Anticipated # in party: _____

Non-refundable deposit of \$150 per couple will be required by 12/1/11.

Balance due by 3/30/12.

☐ Option #2: Alaska Cruise

July 6-12, 2012 — Price TBD

Anticipated # in party: _____

Leaving Seattle and returning to Seattle.
Prices range from \$1,104 to \$1,804 per person.

The cruise would be handled with Celebrity Cruise Lines. Travel to and from Seattle will need to be arranged by attendee(s). There will be an additional BTR program cost (TBD).

☐ Option #3: Trail West Family Camp
(Buena Vista, CO)

August 13-18, 2012 — \$500 per person
(double occupancy)

Anticipated # in party: _____

Travel to and from conference will need to be arranged by attendee(s).

Non-refundable deposit of \$150 per person will be required by 2/1/12. Balance due by 5/30/12.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ (daytime)

Phone: _____ (evening)

Please return survey to us by October 1, 2011.

Bible Teaching Resources

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fax: 903.939.1204

email: dam@bibleteachingresources.org

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By Mrs. Dorothy Lawrence

Bud Ray

By Judge & Mrs. Roby Hadden

Bill Lawrence

By Judge & Mrs. Roby Hadden

Nancy Tague

By Mrs. Dorothy Lawrence

Scott Walker

By Ms. Joan Trew

By Mr. & Mrs. Richard Morris

Glen Johnson

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Graves

Loved Ones Lost During this Past Year

By Mr. & Mrs. Gibson Jester

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Mrs. Scott Walker

From Seattle, WA:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. George

BOOKSHELF

The Twelfth Imam by Joel Rosenberg
(Tyndale House)

You will recognize this author's name immediately; we have reviewed all of his previous books. Many consider him a contemporary prophet because so many of the things he writes about have to do with prophetic themes—the end times. This book, though a fictional account, makes you walk away believing that events just might happen the way Joel Rosenberg describes them in the book.

I must warn you, this is the first in another fictional series and you will be left hanging when you finish the book. He has done a fantastic job in presenting the “what ifs.” Another must-read suggestion!

Exploring the Mind & Heart of the Prince of Preachers: Five thousand illustrations under one-thousand topical headings from the works of C. H. Spurgeon

by C. H. Spurgeon (Fox River Press)

I found this volume to be a treasure indeed. I have implemented it into my

by Don Anderson

devotional reading. From this work, I have gleaned 1200 words of instruction that I want to preserve. Needless to say, I highly recommend this as a volume that you include with your devotional readings.

The Mentor Leader: Secrets to Building People and Teams That Win Consistently
by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker
(Tyndale)

I have enjoyed reading former NFL coach Tony Dungy's other books, *Quiet Strength* and *Uncommon*. I am excited about recommending that you continue to pursue his insights. This book is especially good from the standpoint of discipleship or leadership. In Coach Dungy's words: “Truly serving others requires putting ourselves and our desires aside while looking for ways and opportunities to do what is best for others” (39). Yes, he has caught the concept of servant leadership. While doing this “Bookshelf,” I received from Tyndale *A Playbook for an Uncommon Life*, based upon Dungy's *Uncommon*. You might consider using this as a men's study.

Clipboard

continued from page 2

"Kathy Griffin's offensive remarks will not be part of the E! telecast on Saturday night," said the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences said in a statement following the Emmy presentations but before the broadcast. Griffin's speech in its entirety made it onto YouTube nonetheless, and she reveled in the publicity her remarks engendered. The world of political activism offers another example of a people putting God on the back burner, as a group of atheists and agnostics filed a federal lawsuit in Austin, Texas in July 2011 seeking to stop a day of prayer and fasting endorsed by Texas Governor Rick Perry.

I remember during my Young Life and Pine Cove days we would often sing Pete Seeger's "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" The folk song, a commentary on the devastation of the war in Vietnam, offers the answer to the question in its title. Young girls have picked the flowers, every one. Seeger's plaintive chorus is haunting: "When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?" The songwriter writes of young men becoming soldiers, soldiers ending up in graveyards, graveyards turning to flowers. The lyrics always left me with the eerie realization that life is one big cycle. Sin, too, is cyclical. Or, to put it another way, life and sin are "sick-lical."

Consider the book of Judges which chronicles 350 years of national deterioration. Seven sin cycles are depicted in the book. Each cycle consists of five steps: sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, and silence. The book finally ends with everyone doing that which was right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

How many times in human history has God used wars and natural phenomena to call humanity to Himself? Floods, hailstones, frogs, gnats, flies, locusts, famine, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes... and even turtles on the runway at the New York airport.

What can we do to break the cycle of sin in

Consider the book of Judges which chronicles 350 years of national deterioration. Seven sin cycles are depicted in the book. Each cycle consists of five steps: sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, and silence.

which our country seems to be enmeshed? How can we get on track with the Lord? What do we need to learn? There are six things I would like to suggest.

1. We must recognize that God is holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16: "But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, 'You must be holy because I am holy'" (NLT).

2 Corinthians 7:1: "Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God" (NLT).

1 John 3:3: "And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure" (NLT).

2. Know also that God is love.

1 John 4:16-17: "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world" (NLT).

3. Understand that God blesses obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22: "But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams'" (NIV).

How many times during these ten years since 9-11 have I heard crowds sing "God Bless America"? I sometimes feel like this must really offend our awesome God. Our biggest problem in America is we don't want to deal realistically with the things that offend God and restrain Him from blessing us. I can sometimes hear God saying: "What you are doing is shouting so loud I can't hear what you are saying!"

Genesis 6:5-6: "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved

that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain" (NIV).

Jeremiah 2:13: "For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!" (NLT).

Billy Graham once said: "If God doesn't judge America He owes an apology to Sodom and Gomorrah."

4. Know that God delights in repentance.

The minor prophets repeat the same theme. God wants to bless His people, but first His people must deal with the sin and embrace repentance.

Hosea 10:12: "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you" (NIV).

Amos 5:14, 21-24: "Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ... 'I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!'" (NIV).

Joel 2:12-14: "'Even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God" (NIV).

Micah 2:10: "Get up, go away! For this is not your resting place, because it is defiled, it is

The greatest biblical illustration of servant leadership is seen in John 13 when Jesus Christ, just before He dies on the cross, dons the towel and begins to wash the disciples' feet.

Among the many things causing me to have a high regard for our military is that they truly demonstrate servant leadership.

ruined, beyond all remedy" (NIV).

Micah 6:8: "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (NIV).

Zephaniah 2:3: "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger" (NIV).

2 Chronicles 7:14: "if my people, who are called by

my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (NIV).

James 4:7-10: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (NASB).

5. Remember that God delights in servant leadership.

2 Corinthians 4:5: "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and bring out in the open the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God" (DAV).

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continued on next page

In *American Soldier*, General Tommy Franks writes of this servant attitude:

I've seen soldiers give their last pair of socks to enemy prisoners who needed them. I've seen tears in the eyes of troopers helping wounded civilians—an inevitable result of war. Such humanity is not the exception—it is the rule. I am proud of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who serve our country in places and under conditions most of us cannot imagine." (543)

Tommy Franks represents Vietnam and both Iraqi wars. Another witness is Louie Zamperini, whose story is chronicled by Laura Hillenbrand in the book *Unbroken*. The account is one of resilience, perseverance, sacrifice, a man's overcoming of impossible odds to survive imprisonment in a Japanese POW camp. It is also the story of Zamperini's eventual salvation from his tormenting memories as he trusted Christ at a Billy Graham crusade. Our military personnel understand servant leadership.

6. Remember God provides everything necessary for victory.

2 Peter 1:3: "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (NASB).

This message is for Christians too, to realize that God has provided everything that we need in order to be victorious and reflect the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am such a control freak that I've often made the mistake of trying to do the work of the Spirit of God. Nowadays, I say this statement every day: "I'm saying no to the flesh in the power of the Spirit." This helps me stay aware of the fact that the Spirit of God is there to provide all that is necessary for victory and reminds me that the Lord Jesus Christ should be reflected in my witness.

I'd like to conclude this article with some reflections from Lisa Beamer who lost her husband, Todd, on the flight that crashed in the Pennsylvania field.

Following September 11, I saw firsthand many dear people who were trying their best to cope with loss, hurt, anger, fear, and a host of other feelings. Some had lost a husband, father, daughter, mother, or friend. They wanted to soar like eagles; they deeply desired to get on with life. They wanted to look on the bright side and do the things the clichés recommend, but they didn't have the strength. Worse yet, they had no *hope*. My family and I mourned the loss of Todd deeply that day . . . and we still do. But because we hope in the Lord, we know beyond a doubt that one day we will see Todd again. I hurt for the people who don't have that same hope, and I pray that somehow the events of September 11 will encourage them to investigate the possibility that faith in Jesus really is the answer to all of their life questions. (232-33)

Lisa concludes the book thus:

Of course the three sweetest gifts are often gathered on my lap. To them, "Let's roll!" is not a slogan, a book, or a song; it's a lifestyle. A lifestyle Todd and I began together . . . and one my children and I will carry on. Each time I hear those words, Todd's voice calls out once again to the children and me, letting me know it's time to set out on another adventure. Our journey is different now, but it's still one of hope, faith, and a knowledge of our ultimate destination.

One day shortly before Christmas, just a few months after Todd's death, I was halfheartedly unpacking some holiday decorations. Evidently I wasn't moving fast enough for David, who was excited to put the stockings up on the fireplace. So he looked at me and, in a playful voice reminiscent of his father, said, "come on, Mom! Let's roll!"

I fought back the tears for a moment, and then said with a little grin, "You're right, David. Let's roll!"

It is well . . . it is well . . . with my soul.
Are you ready? Okay. Let's roll. (312)

Tribute to Two Dear Friends by Don Anderson

Scott Walker (1951-2011)



Scott Walker, 60, was escorted into the garden of his beloved Jesus on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at home. Before changing his address to heaven, he left behind a legacy of servant leadership both in his family and the community of Tarrant County. A man of precision,

wisdom and noble character, he led an exemplary life through his steadfast faith in Christ. Scott brought joy and strength into every part of his life. He was a rock. (*Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obituary)

Scott and Janina have been much involved in Bible Teaching Resources. They sponsored an evening study in their home. Scott attended the St. Andrews noon class regularly. They came Sunday nights to the Broadway Plaza class, bringing along Mimi Lankford.

They attended numerous couples conferences and other ministry events. Scott and I loved each other like brothers and I am going to miss his smiling face in the classes and the "at-a-boys" at the end. Scott, you ran a great race and I'll see you soon at the finish line!

Robert E. "Bob" Layton, Jr. (1925-2011)



Mr. Layton passed away on June 24, 2011, in Tyler, due to a brief, final battle with cancer. He was born on Jan. 22, 1925, in Corsicana to Robert E. Sr. and Mary Wilson Layton.

He was a 1941 graduate of Corsicana High School. Mr.

Layton attended Texas A&M College from 1941 to 1944, where he studied Aeronautical Engineering before joining the United States Navy to serve our country during World War II. In 1945 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Okla., and continued on to serve in the Pacific Theater of Operation until 1946 when he received an honorable discharge. (*Tyler Morning Telegraph* obituary)

Bob and Midge Layton served a term of three years on the founding board of Don Anderson Ministries from 1973-1976. Marsha, their daughter, served on our Pine Cove staff in the late 60s. When Marsha married Jim Anderson, she let me participate in the wedding. Bob Layton and Bill Lawrence were hilarious together and they brought so much joy. Precious memories, how they linger.

Going Home!

I am still processing the loss of these two friends. How true is the statement, "Once you turn 78, you go to more funerals than weddings." I would like to meditate upon death and our relationship to it with a few reflections from scripture and other sources.

Philippians 1:23: "But I am being hard pressed between the two, (life and death) having the desire to depart (break up camp) and to be with Christ, for it is much better" (DAV).

"When Christ calls me home I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school." (Adoniram Judson)

O the friends that now are waiting,
In the cloudless realms of day,
Who are calling me to follow
Where their steps have led the way;
They have laid aside their armor,
And their earthly course is run;
They have kept the faith with patience
And their crown of life is won.
(Fanny Crosby, *The Treasures of Fanny Crosby*, 83)

After I've attended my last meeting and preached my last sermon, written my last book and answered my last letter, told my last joke and said my last good-bye, and I wake up in the presence of my Lord, I want to be able to say to Him what Jesus said when He came to the end of His earthly ministry: "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given me to do" (John 17:4). (Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Myself*, 324)

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Fall Tour 2011

(CLASS CURRICULUM LISTED BELOW)

September 19-October 27, 2011

**MONDAY – September 19 & 26, October 3, 10, 17 & 24
(LIVE)**

6 Week study in Colossians

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 19 & 26, October 3, 10, 17 & 24
(LIVE)**

6 Week study in Revelation

7:00 p.m. — **Granbury Evening Class**

Sept. 19, Oct. 3 & 17

@ Don & Fran Sadoris's home

9409 Monticello Drive (Pecan Plantation)

Don & Fran Sadoris: 682.936.4097

Sept. 26, Oct. 10 & 24

@ Ken & Carolyn Stanford's home

9623 Champions Drive (Pecan Plantation)

Ken & Carolyn Stanford: 817.579.5562

**WEDNESDAY – September 21 & 28, October 5, 12, 19 &
26 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)**

6 Week study in Colossians

12:00 P.M. — **SHERMAN NOON CLASS**

Sherman Bible Church, 2515 W Lamberth Road

Sherman, TX 75092

Class hosts: Larry Watkins, office: 903.868.1623

Tommy Hudspeth, home: 903.893.7603

**WEDNESDAY – September 21 & 28, October 5, 12, 19
& 26 (LIVE)**

6 Week study in Colossians

7:00 p.m. — **Holly Lake Ranch Class**

Holly Tree Chapel, 1620 S FM 2869, Holly Lake Ranch,
TX 75765

Class hosts: Don & Lillie McWhinney: 903.613.2058

Jerry Ryan: 903.769.3501

**THURSDAY – September 22 & 29, October 6, 13, 20 & 27
(VIDEOCONFERENCE)**

6 Week study in Colossians

12:00 P.M. — **WICHITA FALLS NOON CLASS**

First Christian Church, 3701 Taft Street (Fellowship Hall /
east entrance)

Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Class hosts: Tres & Julia Ward: 940.696.3211

**THURSDAY – September 22 & 29, October 6, 13, 20 & 27
(VIDEOCONFERENCE)**

6 Week study in Colossians

7:00 P.M. — **DALLAS EVENING CLASS**

Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane

Dallas, TX 75234

Class hosts: Gary & Sydney Smith, cell: 972.322.9050