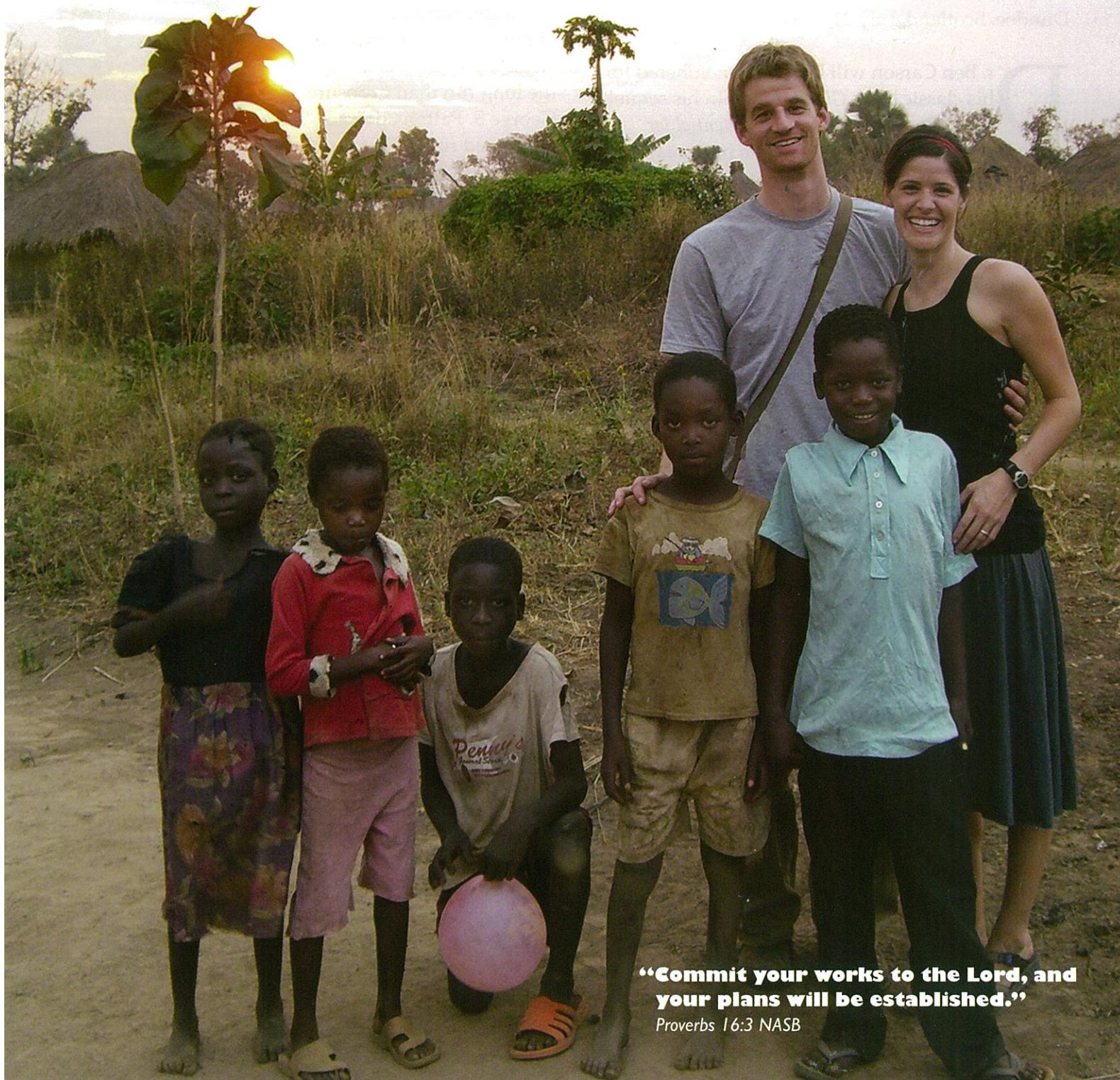


SPRING 2008

GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES



**“Commit your works to the Lord, and
your plans will be established.”**

Proverbs 16:3 NASB

Throwing It All on the Line

Our dangers are great, but our opportunity is incomparable.

Winston Churchill

Dundee, Scotland, July 21, 1917

Dr. Ben Carson will long be remembered for his classic book *Gifted Hands*. In his sequel *Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence*, Carson writes: "After the presentation, someone said, 'But, it was dangerous, wasn't it? The patient might have died.' 'Sure, it's a dangerous procedure...but look at the alternative if we do nothing'" (68).

Ken Gire, in *Windows of the Soul: Experiencing God in New Ways*, quotes Howard Macy on the subject of risk taking:

We don't like risk...and even though the frontiers of spiritual growth require it, we prefer to avoid it. Not only would we like to have the frontiers of the spirit scouted out for us, we would also like to have the frontier fully tamed and settled, like a new suburban development with well-lighted streets and sewers installed, established zoning codes, houses built and finished save for seeding the lawn and planting the shrubs, shopping centers nearby, and adequate police protection. No pioneering for us—no danger from the dark wild, no felling trees or clearing boulders so that we can plant a subsistence garden, no climbing mountain passes or fording swollen streams. We prefer comfortable safety to risk. (104-105)

Most books on leadership address the subject of the leader as a risk taker. In *Time-Out Leadership*, Donald Luce quotes a number of folks on the risk

factor. Helen Keller said, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure" (54). George S. Patton advised, "Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash" (87). Maxwell Maltz put it this way,

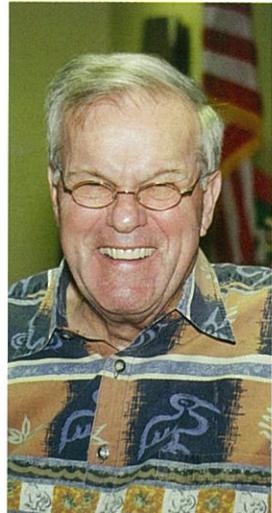
"Often the difference between a successful man and a failure is not one's better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on his ideas, to take a calculated risk—and to act" (151).

Luce affirms these statements with his own: "Risk taking is an essential value of a leader. A leader has to be courageous. If you are going to ask others to follow, you have to be willing

to take the first jump yourself into the unknown. But taking risks is not synonymous with being irrational" (87).

When we turn to the scripture we repeatedly find the biographies of men and women who were willing to take risks in order to accomplish God's purposes and plans.

Abram was commanded to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to a land that the Lord would show him. He took the risk. Moses, after an encounter at the burning bush with the Lord who had an answer for every excuse, finally took the risk of heading to Egypt to free God's chosen. David took the risk in the Valley of Elah against Goliath when he trusted



The time has
come at Bible
Teaching
Resources to
take the risk
and throw it all
on the line.

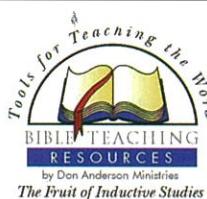
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From the Editor

We missed wishing you a blessed Easter this issue because Easter came early...as did Daylight Savings Time. Nonetheless, we are offering a springtime assortment of articles. We're pleased and proud to feature Missy and David Williams in this issue. Missy's parents, Clyde and Kathy Womack, are longtime board members and friends. Missy was a veteran of more than a few Don Anderson Ministries youth and family camps. Last winter, the young couple went on a life changing mission trip to Africa...and now they hope, with the establishment of a private foundation, to help impact the economic and spiritual futures of many Sudanese and Ugandans. This winter Don piloted our first videoconference Bible "tour," to rave results. We are excited about the possibility that this new technology will allow Don to keep teaching classes without having to travel. Please read Don's informative article and let us know if you might be interested in hosting a videoconference class. As always, we thank God for you, our faithful friends and supporters.

—Jane Rodgers



The Fruit of Inductive Studies

The *Grapevine* is a publication of
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by Don Anderson Ministries
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Praying... Sending... Go



Skies darkening overhead, Missy Williams pulled into a nearby parking lot to take my call on her cell phone. We'd been trying to arrange a time for an interview for some days. Hail pelted Missy's car but she wanted to talk.

"It's hailing," Missy commented.

"Do you want to drive to shelter?" I asked. "We can do this later."

"No. It is what it is. I'd be stuck in hail anyway. It's just a car."

So we talked on, our conversation punctuated by the pinging of small hailstones. It was just a car. For Missy Williams, cars don't matter. This attitude in one so young (26) is refreshing, yet in Missy, not surprising. She comes from good stock. Her parents, Clyde and Kathy Womack, are longtime Bible Teaching Resources supporters. Clyde has served on the board of our organization for many years. The Womacks' involvement in McKinney Memorial Church and other Christian concerns is active and longstanding. Missy's love of Christ reflects her

family's passion for the savior. Her husband, David, shares the same commitment.

Mike and I first remember Missy as a young soccer playing preteen attending Trail West Family Camp yearly with her folks and younger sister, Whitney. Besides Trail West, Missy was a regular at Frontier Camp as well in the days when Don Anderson Ministries sponsored weeks at both facilities. She met David when both worked one summer at Wind River Ranch. The two were married in 2003 by Don Anderson. They live in Dallas, where David works with his father at Williams Financial Group. Missy, who has a degree in finance from the University of Texas at Austin, is self employed as an interior designer and as a space planner specializing in residential remodels. She is currently pursuing

ing: Missy & David Williams

a degree in interior design. Missy and David serve in various ministries at their church, Watermark Community Church. Missy also works with the homeless in South Dallas in a partnership with Cornerstone Baptist Church. With her hectic schedule, it's no wonder it took some time for us to connect for the interview and why hailstones were not allowed to stop us.

My assignment was to discuss Missy and David's recent mission trip to the Sudan.

The couple's interest in Africa started in a class they took two years ago at Redeemer Bible Church. Missy says the class, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, "helped us understand what we are called to." It opened scripture to the young couple in a new way. In Missy's words, "The whole Bible came into view. I realized that not only was I struggling to live the way God wanted me to but I was not making myself available to God. God does not need us but He can use us. There's also praying and sending, not just going. We knew that we needed to make ourselves available; we just weren't quite sure what that looked like."

The couple started praying. Missy remembers, "We asked God what He wanted us to do with this information. What does this look like for us?"

The answer came in the summer of 2007, when Mike Congrove of e3 Partners walked into David's office at Williams Financial, introduced himself, and spoke with David about the possibility of going to Sudan. Mike's visit was a surprise. David's parents had supported missionaries linked with e3, formerly known as Global Missions Fellowship. Missy and David had received prayer letters from e3 missionaries. Yet going to Sudan was a new idea. David shared the news with Missy that evening.

Missy recalls her response: "I sat there and said yeah, I think so, I think we are supposed to go. But we sat on it a bit. We wanted to go with an e3 group in September. We continued to pray. Then a December trip was planned and this worked well with my school schedule. God was incredible in preparing us." She laughs, "Our hearts were prepared. Had they not been, we would have said, 'Are you crazy, Sudan? Why? You could go to Mexico!'"

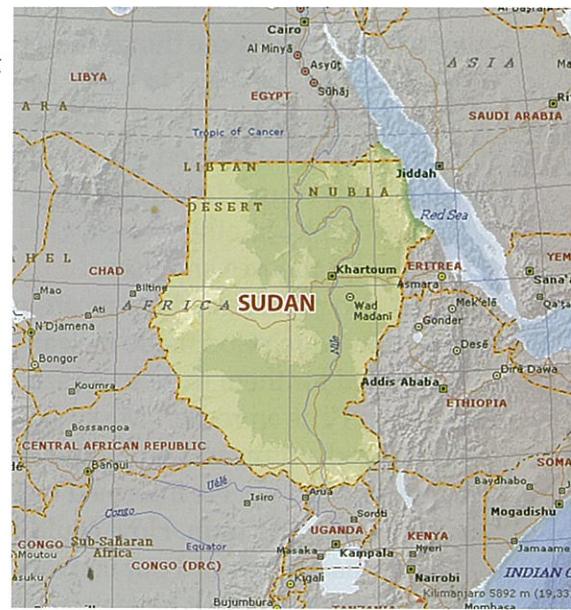
But Sudan it was. And prepared they became, in

ways they did not expect. Last fall, Missy and David had the opportunity to open their own home to a Nigerian woman and her three year old son for one month, until permanent housing could be arranged for them. The experience

provided lessons in culture and character for the young couple. With honesty, Missy recalls, "We absorbed the African culture from our guests. But I also learned how much my heart was not prepared for a mission trip to Africa. We saw our selfishness. I did not glorify God as much as I could have. It was all part of God's preparation process for us to go to Sudan."

December arrived. Not only would Missy and David be spending a week in Sudan, but they would also visit Jeremy Phillips in Uganda. Jeremy works for Empower African Children, an organization that provides education and leadership training for at-risk and vulnerable Ugandan kids affected by AIDS. The Williamses would spend their second week in Africa with their friend in Kampala, Uganda. Thus they would have the experience of working with e3, an organization devoted to evangelism and church planting; and Empower African Children, an NGO (non government organization) striving to meet the physical and educational needs of children. They would see more than one side of Africa.

Despite the preparation, Missy admits, "It was incredible to see how much we could not prepare. We had to fully rely on the Lord. I remember thinking—I don't know what to expect. I don't know how to connect with these people. It was overwhelming." The couple also experienced spiritual warfare before the trip. "We wondered what we were doing. We felt



unworthy to be going. We questioned our motives. Had we made a mistake? We did not feel prepared enough or spiritual enough. Satan attacked us to make us think the trip was about us." The young couple discovered some things that many older Christians have yet to learn. Missy's words of wisdom put it well, "We can do nothing to be used by God. He can use us when we make ourselves available or even when we don't." In other words, God is the One who chooses and uses.

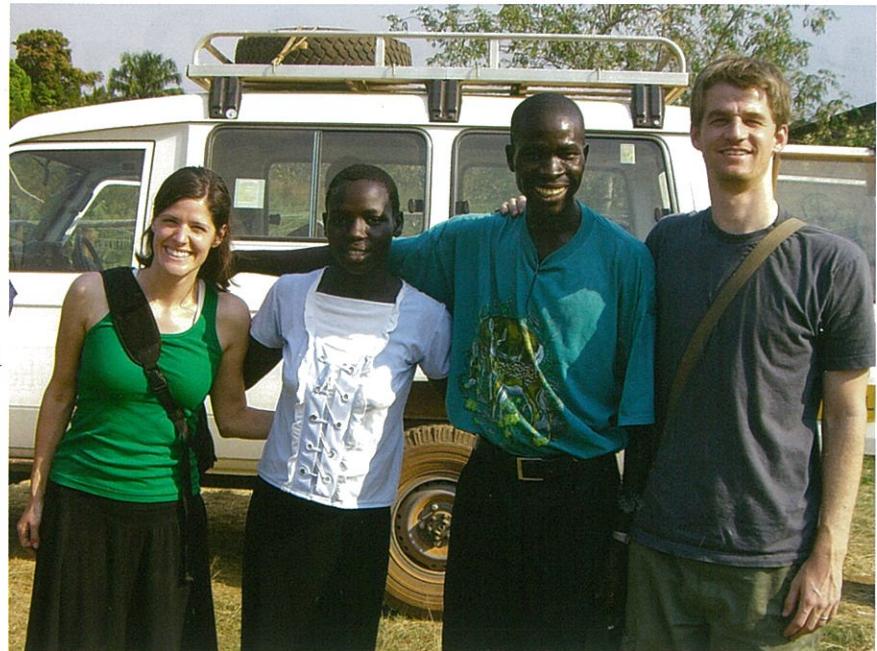
God also provides. Missy recalls many episodes in which God made it clear that He intended for them to go to Africa. "We stopped in Paris en route," Missy says. "We boarded a train and sat talking. A stranger walked up. He informed us we were on the wrong train. How could he have known? Maybe he had overheard our conversation. We began to realize that God must have wanted us to go to Sudan and He was going to be the One to get us there."

Upon landing at Yei, a city of 300,000 in southern Sudan, Missy, David, and the nine person entourage made a bit of a stir. There are little running water and electricity throughout the village and most people still function in survival mode. Many had just returned from the refugee camps. Mud huts abounded. There was no one at the airport to pick them up. "We began to learn that our disappointments are God's divine appointments," Missy offers. "So many times things did not work out as we expected, and God was glorified in everything."

Preconceptions vanished on the trip. "As we prepared for Sudan, I thought our trip would be all about God using David," Missy remembers. "The trip was up David's alley. He has the gift of evangelism." Missy intended to go along simply to support her husband. God had different ideas.

"In Sudan, we partnered with the local church," Missy explains. "We went out in teams to plant churches. We (even I) shared the gospel with hundreds. Hundreds were saved. [The actual numbers were over 700 gospel presentations and over 200 professions of faith.] We saw people get healed. A whole group was baptized from a church. I began to understand that God did not have plans to just use David, but that He wanted to use me too!"

Spiritual warfare abounded. Missy shares a compelling experience. "On the third day we were in



Sudan, we were out again in the field, evangelizing. It was a rough day. Most of the crowds who gathered around us were drunk and unreceptive. There was a spirit of opposition despite the fact that Africans are commonly very hospitable. They will usually listen to what you have to say just to be polite. This day was different. Groups were agitated. We were supposed to head back to our headquarters by two o'clock but we felt led to stop before one group of mostly older kids and teens. The daughter of the pastor of the church was among them. We shared the gospel. When we finished, an intense feeling of oppression descended. We all felt it...then we heard an odd sound. A swarm of something was headed straight for us. We prayed, invoking the blood of Jesus to cover the area where we stood underneath a tree. The swarm came; it went right through us, not touching any of us. It was a swarm of killer bees. It passed us by and went to the next tree. Thousands of bees! Normally they would have attacked us. The oppression lifted. Three people accepted Christ. One was the pastor's daughter."

Missy has many stories like this. Their group would gather in the mornings and read from scripture—Luke 10, the book of Acts—then go out in pairs to private homes to witness. Missy says the experience made the "Bible come alive. It made us realize how small we had made God." Generally she and David paired up. Missy laughs, "We do everything together. We're kind of nerdy that way." She did go out in the field with another girl one day when David went to speak to a group of SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) soldiers at an army barracks.

How did they pay for the trip? Missy says she and David raised a little support, mostly from their parents, and paid for some of the trip themselves. They were hesitant to ask others for support. "We'll do it differently next time," Missy states. "I realized later that we had not given enough people the opportunity to send us. We had denied people the chance to participate. On the mission field, there are go-ers, send-ers, and pray-ers." Since their parents helped finance this mission trip, Missy and David were able to use funds they otherwise would have used for the trip to help other missionary endeavors.

The couple definitely plan a next time for Africa—and soon. They are hoping to return this summer. They, along with Mike Congrove of e3, saw a need among Africans for assistance in developing businesses and combating dependency. As the country has been at war for so long, most southern Sudanese have just been trying to survive. Most businesses in southern Sudan, for example, are imported from other countries. God has given David and Missy a vision to help the southern Sudanese entrepreneurially. They are in the process of researching and hope to set up a micro financing organization in Kajo Keji, Sudan, to supply funding and support for Sudanese businesses. This summer's trip will most likely be for the purposes of conducting market research and will focus more on meeting the physical needs of the Sudanese. David's family has set up a foundation which is based upon Isaiah 58:6-10. The foundation is not affiliated with any single organization; however, some of the money will be directed toward e3 Partners. "We have resources and contacts to facilitate the project," Missy explains. "We want to find a Sudanese national to serve as a director and train that person."

It's a tall order for a young couple, but Missy and David Williams now understand that nothing is too big for God.

Additional info:

- For more information on e3 Partners, contact Mike Congrove at mike.congrove@e3partners.org. e3 Partners is a Global Partners unified ministry dedicated to church planting, composed of three primary elements. You may visit the e3 website at <http://www.e3partners.org>.
- For more information on Empower African Children contact Jeremy Phillips at Jeremy@empowerafricanchildren.org. EAC is an organization that provides education and leadership training for at-risk and vulnerable Ugandan children affected by AIDS. The website is www.empowerafricanchildren.org.
- Information about the class taken by Missy and David, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, may be accessed online at www.perspectives.org.

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Recipes by Robichaux

Here's an all-time favorite from Johnnie Robichaux. The recipe for these delicious rolls was originally printed in the spring 1993 *Grapevine*.

Potato Rolls

1 heaping tablespoon dry yeast
1 1/2 cups warm water
2/3 cup sugar
2/3 cup oil
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 cup lukewarm mashed potatoes*
5 to 6 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in water. Stir in sugar, oil, salt, eggs, and mashed potatoes (you may mix this with a mixer or blender). Stir in flour. Place dough in warm place and let rise until doubled. Turn dough onto floured surface. Roll out and cut out individual rolls. Place in pans that have been oiled and flip-flop the rolls to remove excess flour. Let rise until doubled. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

*It's okay to use instant mashed potatoes.

Automatic Donation Plan: A New Way To Give

Many folks have asked us about the possibility of setting up automatic withdrawals from their bank accounts in order to make it easier to give to Bible Teaching Resources. Many of us already use such withdrawals in financial transactions. On page 9 you will find a form authorizing such withdrawals. If you are interested in giving in this manner, simply fill in and sign the form, attach a voided check, and mail both to Bible Teaching Resources. You may cancel automatic withdrawals at any time. Please feel free to call us toll free at 1.800.DAM.PRAY (1.800.326.7729) or email us with any questions about the process. We are very grateful to all who give and hope this will make things easier for folks who prefer the automatic donation method.

OnePlace.com & Podcasting

Remember that you can access Don Anderson's messages on the internet through the www.OnePlace.com website (click on the "Persevering and Pressing On" link to do so), and you may also subscribe and receive an automatic download of Don's weekly messages that will be sent straight to your computer, iPod, or other mp3 player. Use the link on the Bible Teaching Resources website or visit the OnePlace.com website to subscribe.

Thanks to the folks who have generously contributed to help us continue the internet ministry. Letters and emails from across the globe confirm that we are reaching an international audience with Don's clear exposition of scripture. What an exciting age this is!

Resources

What You Need To Know about Abraham—updated CD series recorded on the Winter Tour is available for purchase for \$20.00. Order online. Request #CD201.

SALE!

Marriage CDs

Marriage Metamorphosis is available for purchase. The 4 CD set includes a workbook. Regularly \$60.00 / on sale this issue for \$40.00. Order #CD990.

Minor Prophets CD study with notes. Regular \$50.00 / on sale this issue for \$40.00. Order #CD230.

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for the transition from Bible study tours to videoconferencing. The initial responses to videoconferencing have been wonderful. We are excited about the possibilities.
- We praise the Lord for Don's successful hip revision surgery and recovery. Thank you for your many prayers, calls, emails, and cards.
- Thank you also for your many gifts. Please pray for God's continued provision for the work of Bible Teaching Resources.

Catch Don!

Sundays, 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services @ Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church. 1500 Lake Park Circle, Hideaway, TX 75771.
The Dunes Labor Day Retreat—August-September 1, 2008.
Visit their website @ www.dunesbiblecamp.com for more information.

Videoconferencing...coming your way...TBA!



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Walk the Line

"We are all travelers in this world. From the sweet grass to the packing house, birth till death, we travel between the eternities." —Bill

Crowder, quoting TV cowboy Prentice Ritter, *Our Daily Bread*, February 21, 2008.

Our experience of eternity past started in the heart and mind of God. Isaiah 44:2: "I am your Creator, you were in my care even before you were born."

Our walk on earth, in eternity past, began some 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago, give or take a **few**, for most of us!

The average time we have here on earth is 70 years, then we move on to eternity future.

Our time is indeed short on the timeline between eternities—eternity past and eternity future.

James writes, "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:4 NIV).

It seems like just yesterday we were raising our son Bobby, and this month Bobby's son Andrew is getting married. This will be our first grandchild's wedding. It was not long ago it seems that Don was officiating at Bobby and Jan's wedding and now he will be participating at our grandson Andrew and his bride Christie's wedding!

We use the phrase, "Time marches on." The question, as time quickly passes, is how are we walking on the line?

Dear friends, let us covenant before man and God that our "time on the line" will follow this paraphrase of Titus 2:7-8: "Be an example by doing good deeds. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Let your teaching be correct."

Let us learn much from those in the past.

Noah built an ark to save the human race and animals from complete destruction.

Abraham left his home seeking his inheritance from God. He provided the chosen seed through whom the Messiah would be born.

David was promised by God "I will establish your line forever" (Psalm 89:4a).

If there is a word or deed we need to do while we still are on the line between eternities, let us do so now.

Spurgeon states in *Morning and Evening*, "You may but speak a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian church in years to come" (101).

Hebrews 11 serves as our textbook on the journey of life. One day faith will turn to sight and we will step off "the line" into our heavenly home with our heavenly Father. Let us be preparing for that time in eternity future with the way in which we live as we walk the line in eternity present.

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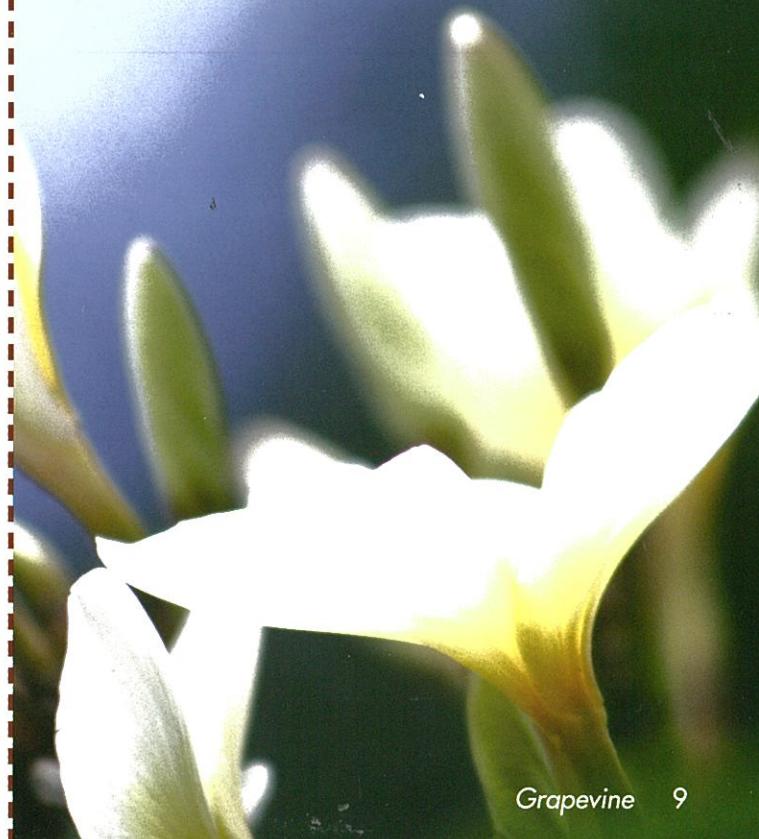
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MAILBAG

These letters and emails, excerpted below, have encouraged us. We love hearing from you!

From classes & camps:

Well, howdy thar' Reverend Anderson – I hope that you are well, and that Pearl and the family are healthy as well. I am glad to hear that you are getting around better. I am one of your students at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. It saddens me that we will no longer meet at that location, it was so convenient to get in and out and back on our ways to work after the refreshing message you brought every week. Nonetheless, I will continue to listen wherever we meet if possible

I attended your studies this past Labor Day at the Dunes Bible Camp. I remember you getting ready to have your hip/knee replacement and wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know you're in our prayers. I've been getting your podcasts and they have been a blessing. Look forward to seeing you next year at the Dunes

An email from a OnePlace.com listener from Singapore:

I am from Singapore, and a frequent visitor to OnePlace.com and would like you to know that your ministry has been a tremendous encouragement to me, all the way across the Atlantic and in Singapore! In a very prosperous and multi-religious society like Singapore, we have no shortage of Christian resources (bookshops, Bible study classes etc), but I have found your Hebrews series currently being aired on OnePlace.com to be an incredible resource and a great help to my spiritual growth. Thank you for your faithfulness in preaching the word, and for the insights you have imparted! I have a question for you, which if you have some time, I would be grateful to hear your thoughts about. In your preaching of Hebrews 2, on the verse "how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation," you mentioned that the slate is wiped clean only once: when we receive our second birth. Thereafter, every deed done in the body will be captured on a "computer printout" to be used on Judgment Day—sins included. How would I reconcile this, please, with 1 John 1:9—"If we confess our sins, God is faithful & just and will forgive our sins ..." - I am curious about this as I had understood this verse to mean that our repentance even after our 2nd birth ensures that our sins are forgiven and remembered no more. Lastly, I am contemplating purchasing some of your other Bible study lessons and was wondering if you know which series would be aired on OnePlace.com after the Hebrews one please? If so, could you please let me know, as I am hoping to purchase some discs that will be different from what will be made publicly available.

BOOKSHELF

by Don Anderson

Holy Discontent: Fueling the Fire That Ignites Personal Vision by Bill Hybels (Zondervan)

This is a wonderful read for me because of where I find myself right now in my spiritual journey. Bill asks, "Why do people do what they do?" (13). This is a must-read for all you folks who find yourselves in ministry.

6 Rules Every Man Must Break: Cut the Leash, Liberate Your Faith by Bill Perkins (Tyndale)

Bill Perkins is a new author to me. His approach is refreshing. The book's subtitle is *Cut the Leash, Liberate Your Faith*. Perkins admits in the introduction: "I've always had an issue with rules...especially rules that serve no legitimate purpose. I've got an even bigger problem with people who make it their job to enforce those rules" (xiii). His delightful sense of humor makes palatable a profound statement regarding legalism in every form. It will be a fun read for you.

The Pastor in Prayer: A Collection of the Sunday Morning Prayers of C. H. Spurgeon by C. H.

Spurgeon (The Banner of Truth Trust)

I chose to read this work in my morning devotional times last year. As the title suggests, it is a collection of the Sunday morning prayers of Charles Haddon Spurgeon. They are a real treasure. Read them slowly and let the messages sink into your heart.

The Great Gain of Godliness: Practical Notes on Malachi 3:16–18 by Thomas Watson (The Banner of Truth Trust)

Watson fits the mold of the Puritan writers. Savoring small sections of this work will make for excellent devotional reading. For example, Watson considers the issue of the tongue and growth and godliness: "Were people's hearts more humble, their tongues would be more charitable. It is the sign of a hypocrite to censure others and commend himself" (67).

Every Day Deserves a Chance: Wake Up to the Gift of 24 Hours by Max Lucado (Thomas Nelson)

Max's works hit the nail on the head and this is no exception. Speaking on the subject of gratitude, Max writes, "Look at the totality of those terms. *Always be joyful. Pray continually. Give thanks whatever happens.* Learn a lesson from Sidney Connell. When her brand-new bicycle was stolen, she called her dad with the bad news. He expected

his daughter to be upset. But Sidney wasn't crying. She was honored. 'Dad,' she boasted, 'out of all the bikes they could have taken, they took mine'" (28). You will be blessed in the reading of this work.

Morning and Evening by Charles H. Spurgeon (Hendrickson)

Two devotions a day—one for the morning and one for the evening—provide the structure of this book. I've taken notes on observations from 256 of its pages. You will indeed be enriched and blessed in your devotional life by using this book morning and evening alike, as Pearl and I have done.

Turning Points: Moments of Decision in the Presence of God by David Jeremiah (Integrity)

Jeremiah provides a one page daily devotional for every day of the year. This, too, makes for excellent devotional reading.

The Apocalypse of Ahmadinejad: The Revelation of Iran's Nuclear Prophet by Mark Hitchcock (Multnomah)

I really enjoyed Mark Hitchcock's *Iran: The Coming Crisis*, and used it as a text in my recent exposition of Revelation. *Apocalypse* will help you understand why Iran is so eager to develop atomic potential. If you want to keep current and understand what is not reported in the news but is very important for our survival, this is a must-read.

Good to Great in God's Eyes: Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common by Chip Ingram (Baker)

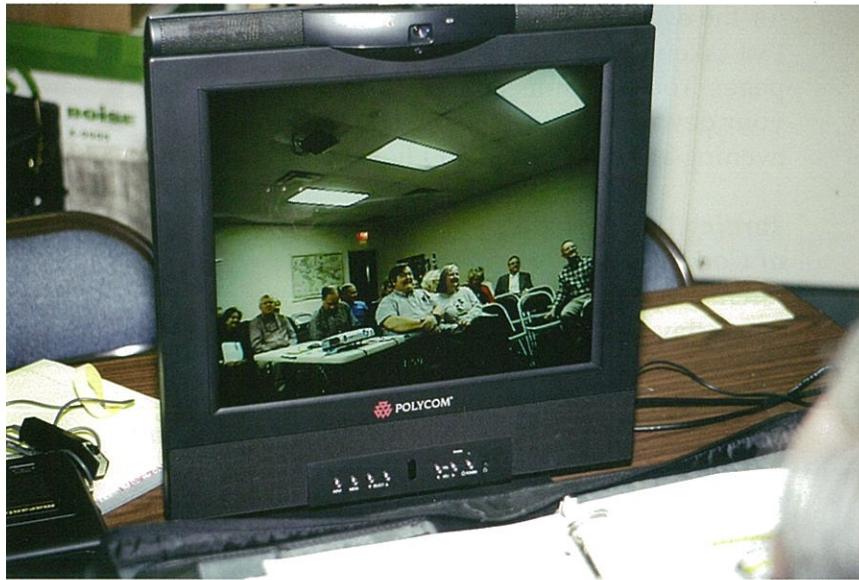
This would make a terrific textbook for a men's study. According to Chip, the ten common practices of great men are that they (1) Think Great Thoughts; (2) Read Great Books; (3) Pursue Great People; (4) Dream Great Dreams; (5) Pray Great Prayers; (6) Take Great Risks; (7) Make Great Sacrifices; (8) Enjoy Great Moments; (9) Empower Great People; and (10) Develop Great Habits.

When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box by John Ortberg (Zondervan)

Ortberg has done it again. You will laugh and enjoy the transparency in this book. Pearl and I purchased several copies of the book to give to friends for Christmas. Each of them has come back with words of thanksgiving for it. You will indeed be refreshed and enlightened by John's story.

Videoconferencing for the Future

by Don Anderson



Bible Teaching Resources board member Garner Roberts introduced us to the technology that would make it possible for me to teach classes by means of videoconferencing several months ago.

Because of Garner and Melodye Roberts, Don and Fran Saddoris, John and Loretta Miller, Tom and Joan Cochran, Pat and Cindy Hawkins, and Brian and Karen Mills, we have been able to have videoconference Bible classes in Granbury and Fort Worth.

Many people have stepped to the plate and made generous contributions to pay for the videoconferencing equipment.

If you would like to host a Bible Teaching Resources videoconference class in your area this fall, it is time now to make plans. We would be delighted to "come" to your city by means of a videoconference. Many churches and organizations already have videoconference equipment. For start up ventures, however, there are some expenses.

The main unit necessary for you to receive our signal in your city costs approximately \$5,200. In addition, you will need a video projector, VGA monitor, or TV with S-video connection. The cost of these would

vary on what you get, but the video projectors run around \$800.

Garner Roberts estimates that you would probably need an extra \$250 worth of cables in order to have the system set up and ready to receive our broadcasts.

That makes a total of \$6,250.00 for you to have a unit like the ones we have used in Granbury and Fort Worth.

Videoconference units would be a marvelous addition to the ministry of a local church.

The technology could be used in many ways to enhance the levels of communication and further a church's teaching ministry.

If you are interested in pursuing videoconferencing with us over these next few months, you might contact Garner Roberts at BGR Specialties, phone 817.763.5831 or fax 817.731.0625.

In acquiring our equipment, we also worked with Jason Ramirez, Regional Sales Manager for Providea Inc., 3625 N. Hall Street, Suite 936, Dallas, TX 75219. Jason's mobile number is 845.641.8326. His office number is 214.459.1230. His fax numbers are 214.459.1231 and 212.937.3110. Jason would be happy to answer any questions as well.

It will be a joy and delight to have you consider the possibilities of hosting a videoconference class in your area.

God bless you and thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement as we partner to spread the word of God.



HOMEWORK

1975 vs. 2008

Audrey Graham contributes the following laughable comparisons that we've adapted for our readers. We're afraid the list rings true for most of us. Enjoy!

1975: Long hair

2008: Longing for hair

1975: Acid rock

2008: Acid reflux

1975: Moving to California because it's cool

2008: Moving to Arizona because it's warm

1975: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

2008: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or
Liz Taylor

1975: Going to a hip new joint

2008: Receiving a new hip joint



1975: Rolling Stones

2008: Kidney stones

1975: Disco

2008: Costco

1975: Parents begging you to get your hair cut

2008: Children begging you to get their heads shaved

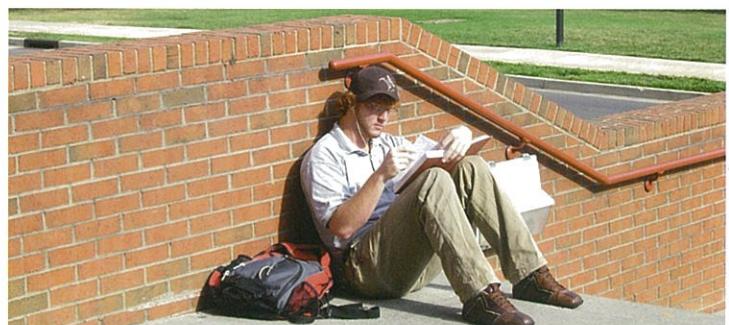
1975: Passing the driver test

2008: Passing the vision test

How Old Is Old?

Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen. Here's the list for 2007-08:

- The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1989.
- Their lifetime has always included AIDS.
- Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.
- The CD was introduced the year they were born.
- They have always had an answering machine.
- They have always had cable.
- They cannot fathom never having a remote control.
- Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.
- They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.
- They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.
- They have never heard: "Where's the Beef?" "I'd walk a mile for a Camel," or "de plane, Boss, de plane."
- They do not care who shot J.R. and have no idea who J.R. even is.
- They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.



that God could direct one smooth stone from a small sling straight to the forehead of a giant.

Esther risked her life to save her people from extermination. We read in Esther 4:15-16, "Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'"

The time has come at Bible Teaching Resources to take the risk and throw it all on the line.

With the dawning of 2008, we have ceased to travel on tours to teach the word. Instead we've switched over to technology. We are now teaching Bible classes through videoconferencing. We are also continuing to teach via the internet at OnePlace.com.

This change has been unsettling. When we travel on teaching tours, as we have done for over 35 years, people are reminded to pray and to give in order to support our non-profit efforts.

In spite of all that, we have chosen to move ahead. When you receive this *Grapevine* we will have successfully completed an eight week videoconference "tour" to two cities: Granbury and Fort Worth. Folks in Granbury and at McKinney Memorial Church in Fort Worth gathered on selected evenings to participate. We also did a "live" class at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church on Thursday nights.

The risk has been a wonderful experience.



What a thrill it was to discover I could actually sit in the office in Tyler, Texas and see and communicate with audiences in Granbury or Fort Worth. I could even see my students on the screen while I was teaching! We found we could spend 15 minutes before the class "visiting" long distance with friends who had come for the class. I also had the chance to interact for moments after each class before we said goodbye for another week.

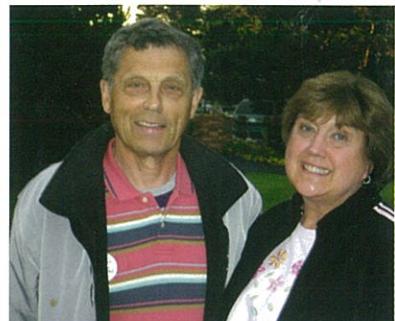
The potential for this kind of format is beyond human comprehension. Just think... anyone who has access to the internet and has the equipment to receive what we broadcast from Tyler could attend a videoconference class. We could have numerous classes anywhere in the world.

The old cowboy Baxter Black in his book *Cactus Tracks & Cowboy Philosophy* sums it up, "I've always liked Stephen Wright's observation that goes, 'Ya know when you lean back in a chair till it's just about to tip over and you teeter on the brink? I feel like that all the time'"(1).

Let's focus briefly on Hebrews 11: 23-27. "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict" (11:23). Moses was born at a very dangerous time. Pharaoh had issued the edict that all babies born to Jewish parents be thrown into Nile. Moses' parents "saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict." Their faith operated in the face of opposition and hostility.

As one writer put it, "It's one thing to cry 'Ole! Ole!' and it's another thing to get into the ring with the bull."

Moses' parents were used by God because their faith operated in spite of



present adversity.

Verse 24: "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter." Moses was born into risk. Now, grown up, he risks everything. His personal convictions caused him to refuse the blank check Pharaoh's daughter offered for his future. These convictions caused Moses to make the tough choice in verse 25 "rather to be suffering ill-treatment with the people of God, than to be enjoying the short-lived pleasures of sin."

Moses understood the difference between that which is temporary and passing away and that which is eternal and will last forever.

The convictions led to choices which led to a manifestation of Moses' character in verse 26: "considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking forward to the reward." The consummation of his faith is seen in verse 27: "By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as seeing Him who is invisible."

John Ortberg, in *If You Want To Walk on Water, You've Got To Get Out of the Boat*, quotes Eileen Guder:

You can live on bland food so as to avoid an ulcer, drink no tea, coffee or other stimulants in the name of health, go to bed early, stay away from the night life, avoid all controversial subjects so as never to give offense, mind your own business, avoid involvement in other people's problems, spend money only on necessities and save all you can. You can still break your neck in the bathtub, and it will serve you right. (20)

I'd like to make four observations about the risk we have taken to move forward into videoconferencing:

1 The risk factor is lowered by trust in God who controls all things. Romans 8:28: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

2 The risk factor lessens with peace that comes when we know we are in the center of God's will. John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

John 16:33: "These things I have spoken to you, that



in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

3 The risk factor dissolves when we are convinced that what's happening is just a part of His perfect plan. Proverbs 16:3: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:9: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

4 The risk factor is gone forever when we have surrendered everything to Him and our daily priority is obedience. Joshua 1:8: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Faith truly shines the brightest when God says no to our plans because of a greater purpose. Many times that purpose will involve risk.

Faith is displayed in perseverance, in the midst of adversity.

God will never lead you where His grace cannot keep you.

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Pearl and I are throwing it all on the line and we are asking you to come along with us because, truly, the best is yet to be.

Lord, Thou knowest I am growing older.



Lord, Thou knowest I am growing older.

Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed

With the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out

Everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail.

Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell

Of my aches and pains.

They are increasing with the years,

And my love to speak of them grows

Sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson

That occasionally I may be wrong.

Make me thoughtful but not nosey;

Helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom and experience,

It does seem a pity not to use it all.

But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want

a few friends at the end.

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