

A winter landscape featuring snow-covered evergreen trees in the foreground and a bright, hazy sky with soft light filtering through the clouds. The scene is serene and cold.

GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2008

Celebrating 35 Years

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

*"For I know the plans I have
for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

A Gift Too Wonderful

In honor of the advent season, the following words have been excerpted from the author's Christmas book, *A Gift Too Wonderful for Words*.

While I'm ambling through the malls each December, I make a practice of studying the other shoppers. I people-watch. Preachers do that, you know – it's called gathering material for illustrations. By the way, you can do this at airports, too – it works just as well. Either place, you're guaranteed to see some strange sights. I am often rewarded with one gem or another. It's interesting, but the season of good will toward men seems to have very little effect on the species *homo sapiens shoppus* – that breed of human who frequents the shopping centers.

The last time I set out to Christmas shop, I decided to make a conscious effort to notice how many times people stood up for their "rights," and how many times they yielded their prerogatives for the sake of others. I watched department store entrances to see who held the door for whom, and who stepped aside to let others pass. I scrutinized crowds at cash registers to see who fought to keep his or her place in line, and who jockeyed for position. I kept an eye peeled in the parking lots to see who zipped into a space in front of whom, and also to observe the reaction of the "zippee" to the "zipper." It was an education! I found that most of us are extremely concerned with protecting our "rights" – including our places in line and parking spaces we've staked out. We don't naturally surrender what we feel is due us. On the other hand, we're always ready for a free ride when the opportunity presents itself. We are, in other words, a "me first" generation. No matter what we profess and confess, we seem terribly impressed with ourselves and with our rights.

Why the Free Rides?

"Me-firstness" seeps into all facets of life. An example of this which really hit home took place in one of my favorite bookstores. I often drop in to check out the new volumes at this shop, which is located a few blocks from Dallas Seminary. One day while I was browsing, a young man strode to the counter and plopped down a stack of books. "I'm a student at the seminary," he told the clerk. "I guess you have a discount for me." That remark, coupled

with the young man's attitude, struck a sore spot with me.

I almost said to the kid, "I buy ten times the number of volumes you do in this bookstore and I have never once asked for a discount, nor do I intend to. The people who own this place are Christians, and they have needs, too!" But I restrained myself in righteous indignation, figuring the kid just had a lot to learn.

We don't deserve the special privileges which me-firstness seeks. Clergymen, be warned: what follows may ruffle your feathers. Yet what really riles me more than anything is the attitude among some men of the cloth that everyone else is supposed to minister to them. We preachers have got people so well trained that a minister

Servants are
concerned with
serving...

can't buy his own lunch or pay his own green fee— someone else does it for him. The privileged-status syndrome must start early, because even a wet-eared seminarian feels he deserves a special discount! I tell my congregations, how about letting the pastor (if he can afford it) pay your way once in a while,

just like everybody else? Occasionally, let him materially minister to you. We're not talking about big expenditures, but a few of the niceties: lunches, parking charges, tips, or frozen yogurt all around.

You see, none of us really has any rights in this world – not shoppers, not ministers, no one. We don't have the right to be treated with special privileges. The only privilege Christians really possess is the right to be servants.

Servants aren't concerned with haggling for discounts, snatching parking spaces, palming off green fees, and generally using others for selfish gratification. Servants are concerned with serving – with meeting the needs of other people. Servants of Jesus are dedicated to opening doors to the hearts of people so that the reality of Christ's message might spill forth into the life of another. And, make no mistake about it, we are called to be servants for Jesus' sake.

The Ultimate Servant

You see, Jesus was a servant – the ultimate servant.

As His birth was, by our standards, an event encased in humility, so was His life upon earth. He lived and died with the interests of others at heart – the interests of many, in fact, who hated Him. He tabernacled or "tented" among

continued on page 14

GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2008

CONTENTS



- 2** Coach's Clipboard:
A Gift Too Wonderful
Don Anderson
- 4** Dody Stovall: A Tale of Remarkable Courage
Jane Rodgers
- 6** From the Board—Garner Roberts
- 7** Coming after Us with Flashlights
Life at Bible Teaching Resources after the
Final Tour
Don Anderson
- 8** Bible Teaching Resources FAX
Recipes by Robichaux
Catch Don!
Bookshelf
Gifts & Sponsors
- 9** Pearl's Reflections
- 10** Mailbag
- 11** Bookshelf
- 12** Homework...Classwork
Eddie Jenkins & JoAnn Macan
- 15** A Room with a View *by JoAnn Macan*
- 16** Photos of friends during the final week
of tour



Don & Pearl Anderson, June Lininger, Robert & Zelma McKenzie at the Pine Cove 40th anniversary

From the Editor

Season's greetings! We hope you find this issue a blessing. We know you'll enjoy reading about vivacious Dody Stovall, an ovarian cancer survivor with a dynamic ongoing ministry to fellow sufferers. Dody reveals how God has used her in the last 17 years to reach out to those afflicted with the deadly and often misdiagnosed disease.

Don and Pearl Anderson ended 35 years on the road this fall, bidding adieu to the traditional Bible study tour in 2007. Please read Don's article entitled "Coming after Us with Flashlights," where he shares future goals and plans. Part of the legacy of Bible Teaching Resources involves the Bible study resources produced over these many years. Eddie Jenkins and JoAnn Macan, skilled Bible teachers, graciously share the ways they use Bible Teaching Resources materials to prepare for their teaching times. We've changed the title of our traditional Homework section to Classwork in this issue, in honor of Eddie's and JoAnn's contributions. Garner Roberts offers greetings from the board of directors. We've even included a few pieces of poetry for your enjoyment and inspiration this season. Thank you for your continued support and friendship. May 2008 be filled with the Lord's best for you all.

—Jane Rodgers



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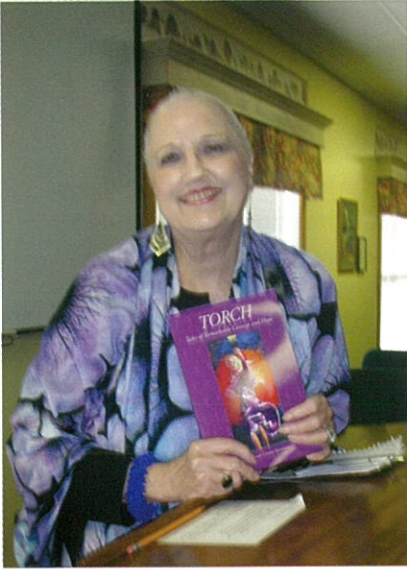
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Dody Stovall

A Tale of Remarkable Courage

by Jane Rodgers



In January 1990, Dody Stovall underwent what was supposed to be a routine hysterectomy at Baylor hospital in Dallas. Midway through the operation, physicians called in gynecologic oncologist Dr. Allen Stringer to finish the procedure. Dody was diagnosed with Stage IIIA ovarian cancer. She has battled the disease for over 17 years.

Dody was one of Dr. Stringer's very first patients. Three weeks after the surgery as Dody prepared to take her first dose of chemotherapy, Dr. Stringer told her, "Dody, I'm going to get you well because I have plans for you."

"Plans? What sort of plans?" Dody replied, surprised. "We'll talk about that later," said Stringer.

Later turned out to be three weeks later, when Dody showed up for her second dose of chemo, and Dr. Stringer asked her to go to the infusion waiting room to talk to a young girl about to receive her first chemo treatment.

"Tell her about your first time," Stringer said.

"I don't think she'll want to hear it," Dody said hesitantly, but she headed to the infusion room and saw the young lady huddled in the corner of a couch. Dody knelt beside her and told her she was a patient, too. The girl relaxed.

"Then she velcroed herself to me!" Dody recalls. "I became her lifeline. Her support at home was limited. That girl refused to let go. I gave her my phone number and she called me. That was what Dr. Stringer meant when he said he had plans for me. He wanted me to go to the hospital every week and visit his patients who were undergoing chemo or awaiting surgery. He wanted me to become their friend, someone they could talk to who had been there, done that. It has changed my life."

Stringer's project, Dody says, "opened a whole new ministry" that she would have never dreamed possible.

"I never asked God to heal me," Dody says. "I never felt it was necessary for Him to heal me. It was a win-win situation if He did or did not. But I did ask God to use me.

I realized I couldn't go through that junk without being used!"

The staff at the Baylor Medical Center was helpful. They told Dody to enter the hospital rooms, pull up a chair next to the patient's bed, and talk to her. She recalls a typical early visit.

"I would walk in to the hospital room and the girl would assume I was a social worker or that my visit was about insurance. She would frown. Then I'd tell her my name and that I had ovarian cancer and had come by to talk. Her whole countenance would soften. She'd sink down in her pillow and start firing off questions. I'd climb onto her bed and sit cross legged just like we were having a girl chat."

Typically, Dody would give her phone number to the ladies, encouraging them to call. They did. Dody made sure to get addresses and phone numbers so she could stay in touch. She decided it would be good to have the "girls" to the house for lunches and even retreats. Even after moving to Hide-A-Way Lake from Garland, Dody continued this outreach. She even started going to Camp Make a Dream in Montana when the camp began inviting ovarian cancer patients to enjoy a week there in September. Dody expanded her ministry, hosting girls from all over the nation at her home in Hide-A-Way. One bunch chose to come in February, the year of a terrific Texas ice storm. After Joe and Dody fetched the girls from the DFW airport in the church van, they all headed to East Texas where they were virtually iced in.

Dody recalls, "We played games. I had gobs and gobs of good food for them. And one of the girls died shortly after she returned to her home in Florida. It was a sweet yet heartbreaking thing."

One reason Dr. Stringer had "plans" for Dody is that ovarian cancer enjoys comparatively little attention or funding, compared to that given to breast and other forms of cancer. Support groups for ovarian patients are rare, because the girls are often too ill to participate. Dody sums up the situation, "Ovarian does not have much money backing it. We don't have that kind of money. It is a low key cancer group even though it is such a killer. Three to five years is the lifespan of most patients once diagnosed. Girls aren't well enough or don't live long enough to stay involved in support groups, so there aren't many."

In fact, the ovarian cancer support group which meets in the basement of Baylor's Virginia R. Cvetko Patient Education Center and to which Dody belongs is the only such group in the state of Texas. It was founded after Dody's diagnosis. Today meetings are led by Chaplain

Jann Aldridge-Clanton. The group, which started with three or four girls, now numbers 30-35. The girls come when they can. They share their struggles. Newcomers to the group are encouraged to talk. Twenty-five of the members have even contributed their stories in a book published by Baylor.

The book was a God thing, Dody explains. One of the support group patients, Becky Teter, learned of her ovarian cancer diagnosis the day she graduated from seminary. She realized that God wanted her to forego loftier ambitions and "work in a basement," with the Cvetgo support group. Becky felt the Lord telling her to have the support group members write their stories and compile them all in a book. The title which came to Becky seemed another gift of God: *TORCH: Tales of Remarkable Courage and Hope*. The book was written and published within eight months of its conception. Dody contributed a chapter.

"It's selling like hotcakes," Dody exclaims. "It's listed on Amazon.com and can also be purchased through Ernie's gift shop at Baylor. All the girls are selling it, too. Dr. Stringer's wife, Shannon, wanted to do something for the book. She is an accomplished artist and offered to do the cover. It's beautiful." While the book is not explicitly Christian, many of the contributors are Christians. All stories are inspiring.

Dody hopes that the book will raise awareness of ovarian cancer, which, she says, is often misdiagnosed.

"Symptoms of ovarian cancer include bloating, your clothes getting tighter around the waist, slight changes in bowel movements, frequent urination, and back pain," says Dody. "Many doctors ignore these, saying it's irritable bowel syndrome or a touch of arthritis in the back. Diagnosis is delayed. Colonoscopies and pap smears do not reveal ovarian cancer. A doctor needs to order a CA-125 blood test and a transvaginal sonogram."

Six years after her initial bout with ovarian cancer, Dody underwent another surgery and a six month session of chemo, after which she was again pronounced "NED (no evidence of disease)." This remission lasted five years. For her most recent recurrence of ovarian cancer, surgery has not been an option. For the past few years, Dody has been taking various chemo treatments.

"The goal is to keep me stable, and that's fine with me," she says.

Meantime, Dody has Dr. Stringer's work to continue. Dody is not completely sure why Dr. Stringer chose her, although she knows it has something to do with the Christian faith they share.

"He had no patients. I was new. He was new. I was available," she muses.

Dody Stovall claims she is a "nobody," preferring to work behind the scenes. But just ask any of the hundreds of "girls" she has ministered to in the past 17 years and you will hear another story. For all her "girls," and for her Lord, Dody is somebody who is always available.

Dody Stovall and her husband Joe, a retired banker, will celebrate 56 years of marriage in November 2007. They have three children and seven grandchildren, and make their home at Hide-A-Way Lake in East Texas. Dody can be contacted at 903.882.7277 or through e-mail at dodys@suddenlink.net. She welcomes those with questions or concerns about ovarian cancer.

Torch: Tales of Remarkable Courage and Hope is available through Amazon.com or Ernie's at Baylor.



Warning Signs of Ovarian Cancer

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition lists the following conditions as symptoms of the disease. Women experiencing persistent symptoms (two weeks or more) should consult their physicians.

- Pelvic or abdominal pain or discomfort
- Vague but persistent gastrointestinal upsets such as gas, nausea, and indigestion
- Frequency and/or urgency of urination in the absence of an infection
- Unexplained weight gain or weight loss
- Pelvic and/or abdominal swelling, bloating and/or feeling of fullness
- Ongoing unusual fatigue
- Unexplained changes in bowel habits

Greetings from the Board of Bible Teaching Resources

by Garner Roberts

Christmas is my favorite time of year.

This season evokes memories of happy times with friends and family, especially family. I was blessed to have godly parents and extended family. The priority that my parents, Bob and Jeanelle Roberts, put on living the Christian life, made it very easy and natural for me to recognize at an early age that I needed a savior, and His name is Jesus. As a child, Christmas was all about gifts, but my sister and I were taught that the reason we gave and received gifts was in recognition of "The Gift" from God, salvation through Christ.

As I grew, my parents continued to be the primary spiritual mentors for my life. About 30 years ago I was working for my dad, when he told me about a businessman's Bible study in downtown Fort

Worth hosted by a local attorney named Buzz Kemble. Don Anderson was teaching. Dad was extremely impressed with Don's teaching and wanted me to hear him.

Now Dad had been a Sunday school and Bible teacher for many years and was well respected as a teacher, so for him to be impressed told me I should check this out. As all of you who have heard Don will understand,

I was impressed by Don's God-given insights into the scriptures and his passion to teach them. Dad and I became regulars and in fact, a year or two later, Dad took over for Buzz as the host of the downtown group. He continued to host that class until his death in 2005.

Don's style and depth made such an impact on my dad, that he began to emulate Don's style of teaching and used many of Don's materials. Many people who never heard Don teach the word were still touched by his teaching, as Dad used Don's material. I am sure that there are many other examples of people whose lives were touched by teachers who learned under Don. As God told Abraham, I will bless you to be a blessing to all peoples, so God also promises to bless others through our faithfulness to Him.

This has impressed upon me that at Bible Teaching Resources, we need to continue a legacy of teaching the scriptures in the future. Although Don is not able to travel the circuit any longer, we will continue his ministry through new and exciting avenues of technology. Recently we acquired podcast capability and we are videotaping Don's teacher training this fall to package for distribution. This winter we will begin to teach the tour via two way video conferencing with Don. The ministry has acquired the equipment to allow Don to teach from his office in Tyler and speak to audiences in Fort Worth, Granbury, Waco, Temple, etc. In return, the class members will be able to speak to Don as well. It will be as if he is in the same room with them. This is a wonderful new opportunity to spread the word. In Acts 8:31, the eunuch asked Philip; "[H]ow can I understand what I am reading unless someone explains it to me?" God called Philip to come forward and present the word. We want to be as faithful as Philip.

On behalf of the Bible Teaching Resources board, Melodye and I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas. "JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME!" We thank you for your continued friendship, prayers, and support which make the ministry possible.

Bible Teaching Resources board member Garner Roberts is president of BGR Specialties. Garner and his wife, Melodye, live in Fort Worth, Texas, and are the parents of three daughters.



Coming after Us with Flashlights

Life at Bible Teaching Resources after the Final Tour

by Don Anderson



Left: Don and Pearl with John and Loretta Miller

The story was told in a recent email of little Billy and Grandpa who, while entering their vacation cabin, kept the lights off till they were inside to keep from attracting insects. A few fireflies entered with the pair, causing the little boy to whisper to Gramps, "It's no use, Grandpa. The mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

At this writing, Pearl and I have come to a transition lap in our lives and ministry. If we try to quit, the Lord will be coming after us with a flashlight. But we are shifting gears and heading into the direction we believe He is leading.

Our last Bible study tour was held this fall. Many wonderful folks attended. It was bittersweet, but we know it's time to quit the traveling. During my devotional time on Thursday morning, the last day of tour, I was greeted with two blessings from the Psalms. Psalm 92:4: "You thrill me, Lord. With all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done." Psalm 18:30: "As for God His way is perfect."

He has faithfully led us in the past, He is leading us in the present, and He will lead us in the future, and ultimately He will lead us safely home.

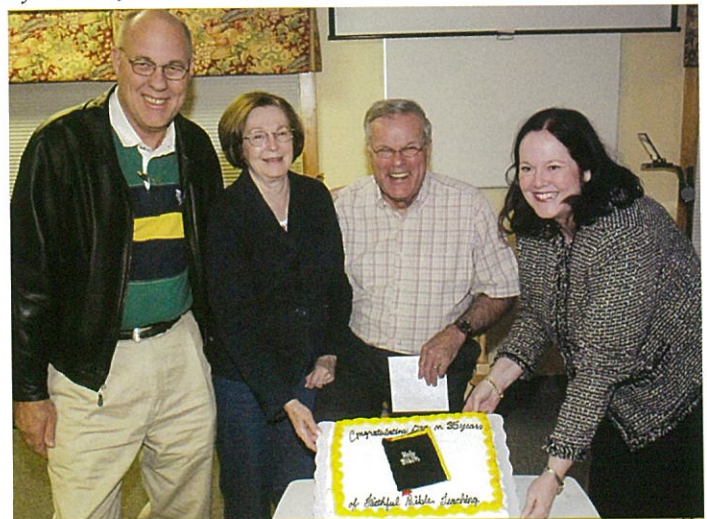
At this writing, our annual fall board meeting in November is yet to be held. Many agenda items will be discussed. The next issue of the *Grapevine* will report on many of these decisions.

We do know these things. Pearl and I will be staying on at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church as long as they will have us. What a precious flock they are! We are considering video conferencing. I could teach from Tyler. I am excited! Pearl and I will be continuing our writing ministry, too—we are currently working on a book on marriage. We will continue publishing the *Grapevine* and the *Great While Before Day* devotionals. Our 35 years of Bible teaching ministry has been preserved in the hundreds of CD and DVD studies available to you online and through our Resources catalog. We continue to

broadcast on OnePlace.com. The Bible Teaching Resources website will remain up and running. Pearl remains actively involved in providing Bibles and devotional materials to inmates of our prisons. We do counseling. Future plans include continuing Bible teacher training seminars and offering adult conferences again, once I get this old hip repaired in November. The future is bright, but it is just not on the interstate.

We give thanks to God for all of you. And we pray that you will continue to be involved with us with your prayers, support, and friendship.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



Above: Don and Pearl with Mark and Donna Skorheim

Right: Don and Jerry Lang





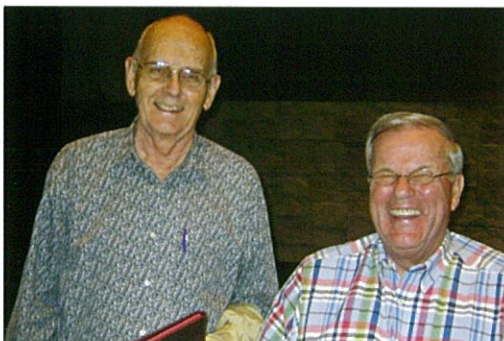
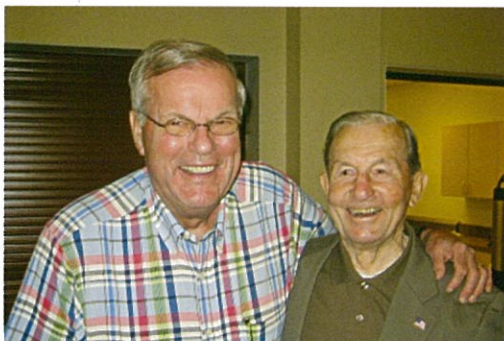
Recipes by Robichaux

Mocha Punch

This delicious holiday punch was always a favorite at Kaleo.

4 cups hot coffee
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 quart chocolate ice cream
1 quart vanilla ice cream
1 cup whipping cream, whipped
ground nutmeg (optional)

Combine coffee and sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Chill. Add almond extract and stir well. Scoop softened ice cream into mixture and again stir well. Fold in whipped cream. Sprinkle with nutmeg when poured into serving glasses. Yields 3 quarts.



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. Over 1000 folks have already done so!

NEW Resources

What You Need to Know about Abraham—updated CD series recorded at Cannon Beach is now available for purchase for \$20.00. Order online or use the order form on page 10. Request #CD201. Special 30th Anniversary set available for \$30. Includes tote tag, Abraham CD series, and 4 bonus CDs. Request #CD201plus.

New Marriage CDs

Marriage Metamorphosis is now available for purchase. The 4 CD set includes a workbook and costs \$60.00. Order #CD990.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the transition from Bible study tours to video conferencing.
- As of this writing, Don is recovering from hip revision surgery. Please pray for a full, speedy recovery.
- Thank you 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.

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Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

The Planned Entrance of God's Son into the World

The birth of this child was orchestrated by God from the beginning of time. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit planned how God the Son would make His entrance into this world. They set up in infinite detail every event that came to pass during the 33 years He lived on earth.

The Birth Foretold in the Old Testament

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Micah 5:2-5a NIV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

Lord, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power.

Jeremiah 10:6 NLT

"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3:1 NLT

"Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. ... This is the word of the Lord concerning Israel. The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares.

Zechariah 3:8 & 12:1 NIV

The Birth Announcement to Individuals

To Elizabeth and Zechariah:

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear

you a son! And you are to name him John. ... and he will change disobedient minds to accept the wisdom of the godly."

Luke 1:13, 17b NLT

To Anna and Simeon:

I have seen the Savior you have given to all people.

Luke 2:30-31 NLT

She talked about Jesus to everyone who had been waiting for the promised King to come and deliver Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38b NLT

To Mary:

You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Luke 1:31-32a NLT

To Joseph:

"Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:20b NLT

To the Shepherds:

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!

Luke 2:11 NLT

The Birth Announcement to the World

And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

Luke 2:4-7 NLT

Does this give you as much comfort, peace and security as it does me? To my finite mind it seems like things are running amok in our world. I know by faith from God's point of view all is right on schedule as planned.

Charles Hadden Spurgeon says in his book *Morning and Evening*: "The Scriptures are the swaddling bands of the holy child Jesus; unroll them and you find your Saviour. The quintessence of the word of God is Christ" (325).

Merry Christmas! May your hearts be "strangely warmed" as you celebrate the planned birth of our Savior Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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MAILBAG

I wanted to say "thank you" for all you have done to impact lives for eternity.... May God bless you and Pearl as you continue to serve and honor our Lord and Savior.

Sometimes it takes sitting in front of an objective person and telling your story. We were too blind to see that our stubbornness was destroying us. I have made the first step in rectifying the situation with our family.

Thank you for so faithfully sending me materials for so many years. I first attended a Don Anderson Bible study in downtown Dallas as a single girl in the 1970s!

Thanks for providing an example of a man finishing and running the race well.

I was reminded of something you said in a teaching session years ago. That is...there are two great levelers in life: the cross of Jesus Christ and getting older.... Each year that goes by is just another mile marker as we get closer to our real home.

I was an untaught Christian when I first came to Pine Cove and you changed that a great deal.

Thank you for your generosity in giving me your study of Psalms CD collection.... I have listened to 12 of the teachings so far and have learned a tremendous amount.... The studies definitely keep me focused with all the traveling to Houston for work. During my childhood, I never read the Bible, so I appreciate all the background you give which helps to put everything into perspective. I learn more about the Bible with each teaching.

It was such a joy to have you here at The Dunes again this past Labor Day weekend.... The response from the retreat was overwhelmingly positive, so hopefully we'll see you again next year.

I had the privilege of being a part of your downtown Bible study in One Main Place in Dallas in the early '80s. I bought your tapes on Revelation then. My wife and I are currently leading a singles 50+ group on Sunday morning and our quarterly subject is Revelation. I told the group that I could not find a better source to supplement our study than your series and we are listening to a tape each Sunday morning.

My wife and I are in our fifth year of hosting a Bible study in our home. In the last four years, we have had over 130 people come in—stay and go. We average 14 people each Tuesday evening. Beginning with 30 minutes of prayer followed by intense Bible study, we go for 1.5 hours. We have studied about a dozen books of the Bible and I have used your CDs and tapes to prepare for many of our studies—giving you credit of course.

BOOKSHELF

by Don Anderson

***I Promise: How 5 Commitments Determine the Destiny of Your Marriage* by Dr. Gary Smalley (Integrity)**

The five promises appear in part two of Smalley's work and include commitments to conforming to God's truth, being filled by God, finding God's best in every trial, listening and communicating with love, and pledging to serve. This book provides a track to run upon to ensure your marriage will last till the finish line.

***Love That Lasts: When Marriage Meets Grace* by Gary & Betsy Ricucci (Crossway)**

Be sure and add this brief work to your list. It will enhance your understanding of the spiritual significance of your marriage. In the words of the Ricuccis, "With the exception of salvation, there is no more dramatic transition in life than marriage...[it is] just the beginning of a long process of becoming more completely who we have already become in essence" (45).

***The Five Languages of Apology: How to Experience Healing in All Your Relationships* by Gary Chapman & Jennifer Thomas (Northfield)**

Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages*, continues with the excellent *The Five Languages of Apology*, joining with Jennifer Thomas in research and work. It is required reading for those who want to experience deeper intimacy and greater growth in their marriage relationship. The five languages are (1) Expressing Regret, (2) Accepting Responsibility, (3) Making Restitution, (4) Genuinely Repenting, and (5) Requesting Forgiveness. We recommend reading *The Five Love Languages* before reading this one.

***Pearls of Great Price: 366 Daily Devotional Readings* by Joni Eareckson Tada (Zondervan)**

This daily devotional is Joni's best work yet. It will be an enjoyable supplement to your daily devotional reading.

***Choosing Forgiveness: Your Journey to Freedom* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss (Moody Publishers)**

Nancy's trilogy *Brokenness*, *Surrender*, and *Holiness* are awesome contributions to dynamic Christian living. This book reminds us that the Spirit is grieved and quenched by an unwillingness to forgive. You will be convicted to address issues in your life where forgiveness is needed. Nancy likens forgiveness to hitting the DELETE button on your computer. This is a must read.

***Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado (W Publishing)**

This book was very timely in that I was teaching the life of David at the time of its publication. Max offers fresh insights into the life of David. You will enjoy this work—vintage Lucado

***Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life* by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker (Tyndale)**

This fabulous book would make a great Christmas gift for all the men on your list. Indianapolis Colts coach Dungy is for real and you will be greatly refreshed by his responses to the adversities of life.

***The Grand Weaver: How God Shapes Us through the Events of Our Lives* by Ravi Zacharias (Zondervan)**

Zacharias's confession sums up this work nicely: "For me, the last few years have been more an intellectual journey than a material display. The latter has followed, however, and I have seen enough of God's intervention to make me quietly content with his plan and purpose in my life. Sometimes I thought he was silent; now I see he was not. At times I thought he was absent; today I know he was there. He has gently yet unmistakably demonstrated to me, both by argument and by experience, that he is very near and very active" (45).

***The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath* by Mark Buchanan (Thomas Nelson)**

We have reviewed Mark Buchanan's previous works favorably and this one is no exception. Being in a "hurry," Buchanan argues, is his "biggest regret." "Getting to the next thing without fully entering the thing in front of me. I cannot think of a single advantage I've ever gained from being in a hurry. But a thousand broken and missed things, tens of thousands, lie in the wake of all that rushing" (45).

***Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot* by Max Lucado (Thomas Nelson)**

Max cites the tremendous show of patriotism of the Texas Aggies in the aftermath of September 11, when a stadium full of A&M students donned red, white, and blue tee shirts as a display of patriotism. Then Max progresses to his thesis that the Lord distributes not shirts, but strengths to us, sending us to "assignments," rather than "bleacher seats." The challenge of this highly enjoyable book is to effectively serve God.



HOMEWORK...or CLASSWORK

Editor's note: This issue's HOMEWORK section is really more about CLASSWORK, so we've changed the title just a bit. Authentic Christianity demands that gifted teachers allow themselves to be used by the Lord to teach others. Eddie Jenkins, pastor of Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Valrico, Florida, and JoAnn Macan, retired school teacher and active Bible study leader in Hoquiam, Washington, fit the bill. Eddie, formerly a pastor in Fort Worth, has often attended classes and hosted Don Anderson at his church. JoAnn has known Don and Pearl since the early days of their ministry, when she was on their staffs at The Firs and Pine Cove. Despite considerable biblical knowledge and expertise in their own right, both Eddie and JoAnn have long used Bible Teaching Resources materials to help prepare sermons and lessons. We asked Eddie and JoAnn to share their insights concerning how they use Don's materials in their own ministries, and they have graciously obliged. It is the hope of Bible Teaching Resources that the materials Don and Pearl have prepared over 35 years of ministry will be part of an ongoing legacy.

Eddie Jenkins: Using the Best Available

I first became acquainted with Don Anderson in January, 1997, in Fort Worth, Texas. The Fort Worth Businessperson's Bible Study Luncheon was a part of his tour and it became a regular part of my schedule. It was here that I was introduced to a unique and penetrating form of teaching that I hadn't encountered before during college or seminary. And, it wasn't long before I began to incorporate aspects of Don's techniques into my own teaching and preaching.

As the pastor of a 400+ member congregation, I was always involved in looking for new materials or new ways of presenting tried and true materials. Don's perceptive writing style and his in-depth Bible study methods were extremely refreshing and renewed an interest for research and old fashioned verse by verse Bible study in me. This new interest has lasted for over 10 years now and it gets better all the time. Especially when I am able to have the opportunity to sit under Don's teaching in person, I get excited all over again!

I am now the pastor of a small congregation in Valrico, Florida, with approximately 70 members. So, Wednesday Bible study is like a family gathering in the living room after dinner. I have just completed teaching through the Epistle of James in this setting and it was really a good experience for all those involved.

I used Don's book on James as well as the CDs and study guides purchased online from Bible Teaching Resources. I duplicated the study guides for those who were involved in the study (I am not sure I checked to see if that was legal or not! *Editor's note: no problem!*) and folks were really excited about having such material to

help them stay focused and do extra work at home. I have found that it is always helpful to give your people something to help them follow along so they do not become disconnected. This is something I had learned years earlier, but it was reinforced by being in Don's classes.

I also strongly recommend using Don's books when applicable and the CDs of his personal teachings. I listened to the CD of each lesson on Wednesday afternoon before teaching the class Wednesday evening. It helped me to be able to recall ideas and illustrations that I may have missed in my teaching notes. On Wednesday morning, I would read through the book chapter dealing with the material for that night. I would often read excerpts from the book to reinforce applications that could be made from the scripture.

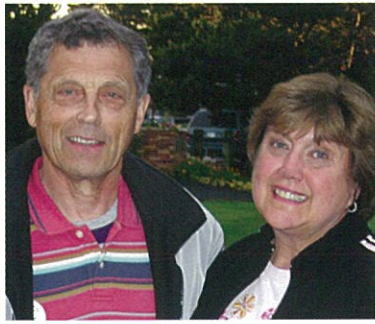
My people were amazed at the depth of this type of study and how it exposed the message of the scripture to us in ways relevant for today. They were always coming back to class each week with questions and comments after studying the lessons presented in their study guides. Several remarked that they had "never had Bible study this way before." This was particularly gratifying.

I have always found Don's research and scholarship to be right on the cutting edge of Bible teaching and I feel completely confident in using the resources that he has made available through his many years of study. I am firmly convinced that when you are teaching the word of God you should always give it your best and use the very best resources you can find. When you go to Bible Teaching Resources you can be assured you are USING THE BEST AVAILABLE!



JoAnn Macan: A Recipe for Success

It was easy to say yes to the request to write this article about how I use Don's materials as I lead a ladies' Bible study. Then the challenge emerged, the challenge to say helpful things in a memorable way. One night, as I lay in bed trying to go to sleep, a thought crossed my mind. Cake mixes. Yep, using Don's Bible study materials is just like using a cake mix!



Think about a cake mix; think about what goes in to making a cake mix. A master chef develops a perfect recipe. He gathers the ingredients, blends them together, kitchen tests them, makes adjustments, and continually tempers his ingredients until he has just the right blend. Then, he packages the mix to share with us who are no longer living the "make it from scratch" lifestyle. The mixes are complete except for the addition of two or three essential ingredients. On the package back, we're directed to prepare a pan, put the mix in a bowl, add water, oil and eggs. Well blended, into the oven it goes, and soon the smell of success fills the kitchen.

Picture Don Anderson as the master chef. Whatever Bible study he's working on, his method is the same. He gathers his ingredients. Diligently, he exegetes the text. He devotes untold hours to verse by verse examination, never shying away from difficult passages. He blends the truths together so they come alive. Then he supplies a plethora of related passages, bringing together truths from the entire Bible to strengthen the teaching. Finally, he adds stories, poems, and personal experiences that enhance the flavor, lightness and texture of the masterpiece.

With humility, Don blends in the additional ingredients, essential for success: the water, the oil, and the eggs. The water speaks of the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ pre-eminently present in every study. Everything focuses on Jesus Christ. The oil pictures the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry each time the lesson is presented. And the eggs, my cook friends tell me, bind and hold things together. It sounds like the work of the Spirit, too.

Heat is necessary for the finished product. And it seems that in the Bible teaching experience, it is the baker who feels heat as he prepare to serve the spiritual cake. The fiery darts of the devil and the pressures of daily life seem to multiply in his life just around teaching time!

I have the privilege of teaching a most delightful group of ladies. Each adds her special touch. Our fellowship crosses denominational boundaries and binds hearts together. The book of the Bible we are going to study is usually suggested by someone in the group, like when Caroline said, "Let's do Revelation!" I inwardly cringed, but there was too much agreement, so we did Revelation for

about two years. All my fears were quelled as our focus was continually turned to Jesus and God's compassion toward a world in rebellion toward Him. Revelation nearly behind us, Peggy spoke up, "I want to do a study on joy. Let's do Philippians." So it was. Peggy, a diligent, delightful lady with an infectious laugh, is a student of the word. A few weeks later at class, she informed us, "I've been studying Philippians. It's not about joy, it's all about Jesus!!" It was wonderful!

When we choose a book, I begin to gather study materials. Stacks appear. Currently, there are a couple of different Bible translations and a sizeable pile of books on Philippians surrounding me. Most are opened up to the text under study. To my left is perched my tape player, with Don's tape in one slot. If I have a tape of another teacher's verse by verse teaching, it goes in the other slot. Then I listen to both and take notes. I push "rewind" and "pause" frequently! I listen to Don's lesson first because of his thorough and well-organized style. I spend a couple of days a week getting the lesson together.

At Bible class, I've incorporated many of Don's techniques. First, each lady has a large notebook. At the beginning of the lesson, I hand out copies of the text taken from the New American Standard Bible. The handouts are similar in layout to Don's, with plenty of room to take notes.

We, too, have study questions. I wanted the ladies more involved in the study process, so instead of using Don's questions or writing my own, I asked for volunteers to write them. Four ladies took on the task, and it's been great. Their personalities come through delightfully. We do take time in class to go over their answers, with the person who put the questions together leading the discussion. This shortens my teaching time, but seems to be beneficial. We're not on a schedule, so we just pick up the next week where we left off.

I've also encouraged the ladies to hand copy the scripture passage. I think the process of writing something down helps us remember it better. I was thrilled the night Caroline showed up with her six foot long scroll of Philippians!

Like Don, I teach from my notes, which are quite thorough. I try to include everything I intend to say for several reasons. I feel the need to be accountable when I teach the word, especially when ladies are from several different churches and spiritual backgrounds. I want to at least be able to point out what I intended to say! Such thorough notes also help to keep us from going off on too many tangents. Finally, having complete notes is a convenient way to pass the teaching on. One year a lady took the notes on James to her husband to read after every week's lesson.

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to teach God's Word. I thank Him for the privilege to have just a little part in it. And I thank Him for Don and Pearl and the lives they have poured into the ministry of reaching out with the clearly taught word of God.

us for 33 years, and during that time He did nothing that was self-serving or self-seeking. Sacrifice was the rule, not the exception...and though it involved unimaginable personal sacrifice at Calvary, Jesus sought only to do the will of the Father (see Matthew 26:39).

Certainly these qualities are evident as one reads of Jesus' life in the Gospels. Yet Christ's humility also shines forth in the writings of the apostles and other Christians who produced the rest of the New Testament. As we consider a passage from the book of Philippians, we'll see how vividly and clearly the apostle Paul presents the Savior as a servant. And His service for our sakes lies at the very heart of Christmas.

The Mind of Christ

To paraphrase the late Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry, "When a man thinks right, he'll act right. When he's right in the head, he'll be right on the field." The apostle Paul might have said essentially the same thing. He certainly recognized the fact that if the minds of the Philippians were like the mind of Christ, then their conduct would take care of itself.

What is that mind of Christ? How does that mind think? What decisions does that mind make in light of the thoughts that it thinks? We'll find answers to these questions as we consider Philippians 2:6-12. We'll be stepping behind the stage to see what precipitated the incarnation – the coming of Jesus to dwell among us in bodily form. The vision we'll see is of a compassionate Christ who considered the cost, who permitted Himself to be cradled in Bethlehem and offered up at Calvary. We'll examine His attitudes and His actions, subject matter well worthy of our Christmas meditation as we celebrate His coming.

Yielding His Position

Jesus existed in the form of God. And yet as Paul goes on to tell his readers in Philippians 2:6, Christ "considered not this being equal with God something to cling to." He willingly gave up His dwelling place with the Father in heaven to be born in blood and tears in an imperfect world. When the time came for His coming, Jesus could have said, "No! I don't want to go! Find somebody else! Send an angel instead!" But He didn't. Motivated by love, He permitted Himself to be shrouded in flesh for thirty-three years.

In that time, His life was the epitome of humility. When Salome, the mother of James and John, asked Jesus to place her sons at His side in His kingdom, Christ informed the twelve: "Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28 NASB).

During His tenure on earth, Jesus owned nothing of what we might call material wealth. He had to borrow

a place in which to be born, a house in which to sleep, a boat from which to preach, a donkey on which to ride, a room in which to eat His last supper, and a tomb in which to be buried. Not only did God's Son become poor in adopting human appearance, but by human standards He was homeless, hungry, and poverty-stricken. "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head," He said to a scribe who offered to follow Him (Matthew 8:20 NASB).

The verb *cling* used in Philippians 2:6 suggests the idea of a treasure to be retained at any price. Residence in heaven is an unimaginable treasure which none would give up. None, that is, except God the Son, who surrendered His "rights" for the purpose of saving sinners.

Coming to Calvary

As Jesus temporarily traded the sparkling mansions of heaven for the dusty hovels of the world, His journey was one of increasing humility, unto the greatest humiliation of them all: the cross. As Paul writes in Philippians 2:7-8, Jesus "emptied Himself, having taken the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men. And being found fashioned as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient even to death, the death of the cross." Let's look more closely at the stages of our Lord's humiliation.

Emptying Himself

First, Christ emptied Himself. He did not empty Himself of His Godhood or His deity, but He, as the King James Bible puts it, "made himself of no reputation." He was willing to take on human flesh. He was willing to surrender divine prerogatives. He was willing to suffer hunger, thirst, temptation, harassment, so that He might become our faithful, understanding high priest.

Coming as a Servant

Not only did Jesus empty Himself, but He also took on the form of a servant. Mark 10:45 says: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (NASB).

A classic example of Christ's servanthood occurs when He is in the upper room with His disciples: a group of men with dirty feet. The disciples are very "religious," yet too proud to grab towels and start washing. It is Jesus who redefines greatness and power and love by wrapping a towel around His waist and pouring water into a basin, then gently washing the dirt and dust from the feet of His followers. He does this even though He is fully aware that the hour of His suffering is ominously close at hand (John 13:1-16).

Fashioned as a Man

Christ emptied Himself; He came as a servant, and He also allowed Himself to be fashioned as a man, according to Paul. It was no coincidence that He was born through a virgin's womb, that He arrived as a tiny baby with all the

limitations of physical humanity. It was an absolute necessity. Born in abject poverty and obscurity to a peasant maid, the Christ came – a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. He had to be made like us, so that we might be made like Him.

Humbling Himself

All of the things Christ did in emptying Himself, in taking on human flesh, in performing as a servant, necessitated that He humble Himself. And this He did.

He subjected Himself to the authority of Mary and Joseph in His early years. Though the creator of the universe, He became a simple carpenter. He patiently waited thirty years before beginning His public ministry. He kept company with mere fishermen, not kings or princes. He allowed Himself to be betrayed for a few pieces of silver. He submitted to crucifixion – an excruciating execution from which Roman citizens were exempted because it was considered too degrading.

Obedient unto Death

It is amazing to realize that Christ willingly gave His life for us! Death is something we all resist. As I look out into my congregation, I see men and women who battle death daily. Their bodies riddled with cancer or weakened by heart disease, they keep fighting the fight. Sunday after surprising Sunday they make it to the sanctuary. They're Christians; they're not afraid to die. But they are not willing to be obedient unto death!

Christ, in all humility, had to set aside His life. But don't think that He eagerly anticipated physical death. He dreaded it, but He accepted it.

John 13:1 states that "Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father" (NIV). His hour had come. Aware of this, Christ left the upper room. Flanked by disciples He knew would fail Him, He marched through the Kidron Valley to the garden of Gethsemane. There He prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39 NASB). He really didn't relish the idea of dying. And yet to the cross He went.

Calvary was the ultimate humiliation. When Christ proclaimed, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46 NASB), and gave up His Spirit, He signaled the end of a life marked by full, complete, willing obedience to the Father, an obedience even unto death. That is humility. That is self-sacrifice. That is our Savior who, as 1 Peter 2:24 states, "bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (NASB).

Closing Thoughts

In a world filled with a me-first mentality, how refreshing it is to read of the humility of the King of kings! This Christmas, let's ask the Lord to work in us so that we might become more transparently humble. Let's pray for chances to be servants. Let's carefully watch for opportunities to place the interests of others above our own. (126-130)

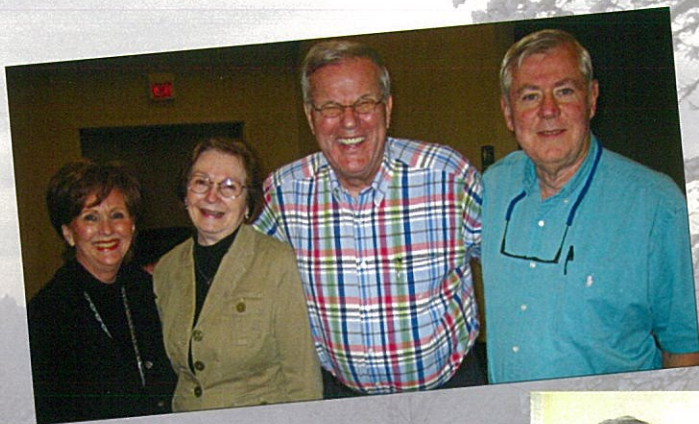
Servants want to be thoroughly used up when they die; so they can hear "Well done good and faithful servant."

A Room with a View

by JoAnn Macan

The King of Kings, as He sojourned on Earth,
was accorded a room with a view.
On the horizon glistened the Crystal Sea
and a throne with a rainbow hue.
On the shore were amassed the redeemed of all time,
their anthem of praise ringing clear.
To the Lamb in His room its message affirmed
the purpose of His journey here.
Just beyond the sill, and blocking His view,
the Father had set one lone tree.
Gnarled and weathered by the abuses of time,
it marred His view of the sea.
Though slight in appearance,
it loomed large in His mind.
Why had the Father placed it so near?
Alone at the window the Lamb pondered His choice:
Where would His focus be?
The glory beyond
or the weather-worn tree—
which would He choose to see?
The tree held the promise of life for the throng
who sang His praise on the shore.
Though it lessened His view,
its existence He knew
was at the very heart of their song.
So He set His gaze beyond the crude tree,
to the joy that with His own He would share.
Eternal glory, eternal joy,
with the redeemed secure in His care.
As a child of the Father, redeemed by the Son,
my life is a room with a view.
At times, the cross that I bear
blurs the glory I'll share
one day on the heavenly shore.
Lord, each day cause me to see
beyond my small tree
to my Savior awaiting me there.

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