

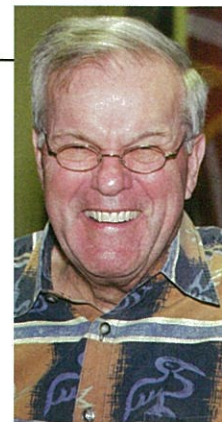
GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

WINTER 2010

*For this God
is our God
for ever and ever;
he will be our guide
even to the end.*

Psalm 48:14 niv



Learning To Lean: Depending on the Adequacy of Christ

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

—PSALM 48:14 NIV

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.

—Matthew 11:28–30 NASB

Left to ourselves we are at the mercy of our passions and fears.

—William Barclay

Facing the reality of human tragedy, we tend to think we can't cope, even as Christians. We don't believe we could handle the death of a spouse or child, the debilitating illness of a loved one, the ravages of a disease of our own, the trauma of losing everything we have, the shame of being forced to sell our possessions, the indignity of depending on our children for support. We think we couldn't do it. We wouldn't survive. Any such trial would be the death of us. And it might.

But you know, it probably wouldn't.

The old cowboy said: "You can always stand more than you think you can."

We would survive.

And some of us would survive better. Without becoming bitter. Without resisting. Without kicking. Without resenting. With great, great joy. We would achieve this soaring survival not because of the kind of people we are, but because of the One Person we do know: the God who gives us His strength to compensate for our weaknesses. We'd make it, thanks to Him. Better yet, we'd go to

Facing the reality of human tragedy, we tend to think we can't cope, even as Christians.

be with Him in His time. God hasn't lost a battle or a believer yet.

God arms us with strength and makes our way perfect (2 Samuel 22:33). As we declare our dependence upon the Designer, He gives us His power to overcome obstacles, to undergo tests, to navigate turbulent waters, and most of all, to finish this life as winners.

The closer I get to the tape, the more I want my finish to be a good one. Please, Lord, let me cross the

line and fall into your arms! And with each passing year, I realize that going out in a blaze of glory involves learning to lean now. We cannot go it alone.

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27a NASB).

I find myself singing verse 3 of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms":

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all
alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting
arms.

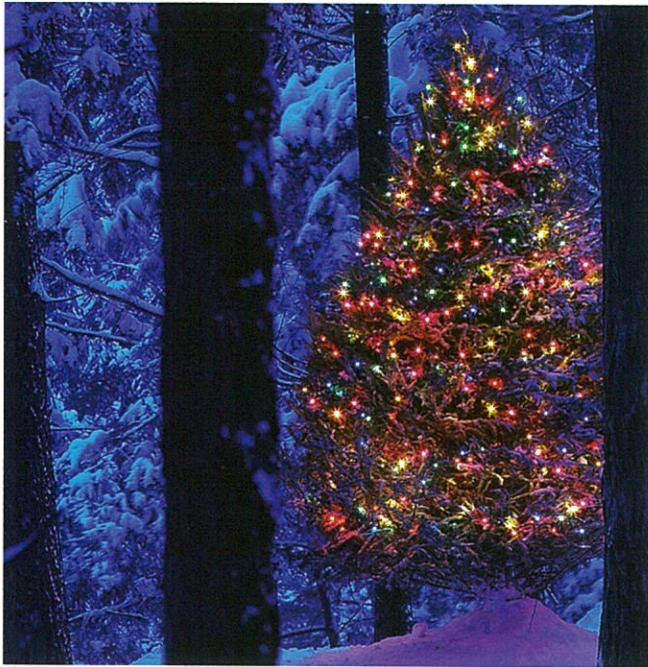
I know this has been a very troublesome and fearful year for most of us. We lost so much in the financial upheaval and we also faced not only financial challenges but physical challenges. The old body is just beginning to fall apart.

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GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2010

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From the Editor

When the going gets tough, the wise turn to the Lord for guidance and hope. As 2010 approaches, we at Bible Teaching Resources, like many folks at many ministries, are facing financial and personal challenges. Yet our hope is in Him, and we desire to encourage all with this truth. Don Anderson offers insights from scripture in his "Clipboard" article. Tres Ward of Wichita Falls, writing on behalf of the BTR board, gives a perspective on God's timing that we hope will refresh and encourage you. My husband, Mike, and I brainstormed on the contents of "Unemployed in a Down Economy," sharing what the Lord has taught us during a very stressful season. We hope you will consult the "Resources" feature in the FAX section where, to conserve BTR resources, we have included a mini-catalog of DVD and CD products. Our paramount desire is that this Christmas and New Year bring blessings to you all. Thank you for your faithful friendship, prayers, and support.

—Jane Rodgers



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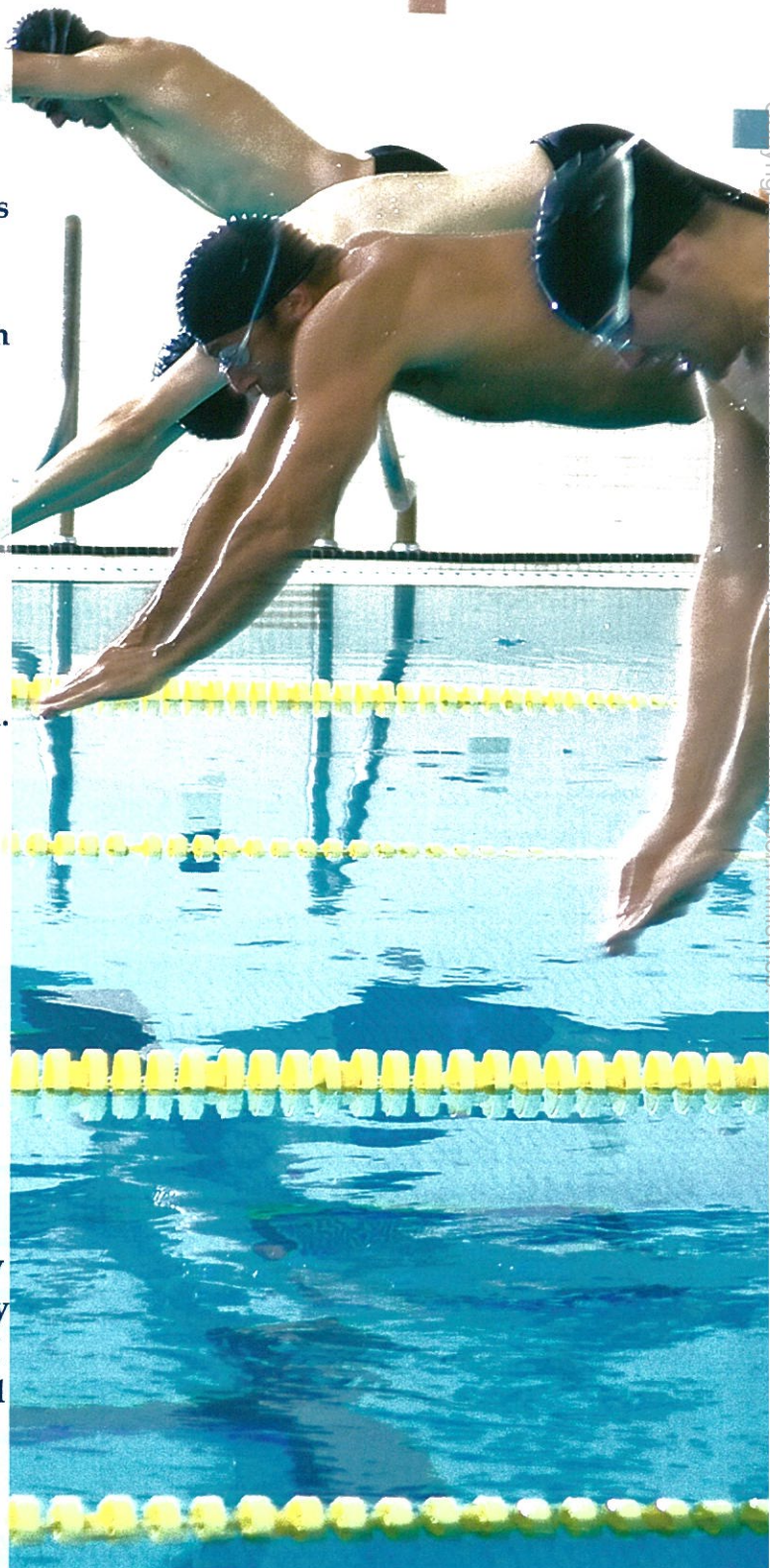
A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

God's D

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED about the thin thread your life has followed to get where you are right now? We can usually trace that thread back to a person, event, or decision from our youth. I made a seemingly insignificant decision in 1975 that forever changed the direction of my life: I joined the Lee High School swim team in Tyler, Texas. That's where I met him—a tall crazy kid full of energy and mischief. You know the type, always having fun and getting into trouble. But what would you expect? Bobby Anderson was a preacher's kid! With a shared love of adventure, we became fast friends—forming a bond that has grown stronger through the years. Bobby's dad had a ministry called Don Anderson Ministries. Little did I know then how much of an impact on my life that was going to be.

After high school Bobby and I went our separate ways—keeping in touch via mail. Remember when we used to actually write a letter on a piece of paper? Bobby and I wound up as roommates together at Texas A&M for one semester, the most fun I have ever had in college...and my last in College Station. After flunking out of A&M, I transferred to Texas Tech. Away from the distraction of my best friend, I made good grades and actually graduated. In Lubbock, I found out that Don was going to be teaching a Bible study in the home of Joe Dale and Joan Bryant. Of course I had to check it out, and, boy, was that a treat. Don's teaching style was so gripping, even for a young, slightly crazy college student.

After Bobby graduated from A&M, he found an engineering job in Wichita Falls. After I graduated, I applied at his company and was hired. We were together again! He was married to Jan, so of course I had to get married. I met my wife, Julia, at the company we worked for. Bobby nagged me for weeks to ask her out. Eventually I got up the courage and three years later, Don tied the knot for us in Wichita Falls.



irection



I couldn't wait for Julia to get to know Don and Pearl better and listen to his teaching. After going with Bobby to a men's conference, I fell in love with Kaleo Lodge. Julia and I attended couples conferences at Kaleo, bringing several other couples with us through the years. These retreats have definitely made our marriage stronger. Since Don married us, I have always referred to his couples conferences as the "service after the sale."

I can't imagine how my life would have turned out had I not met Bobby. Julia and I are part owners of a machine shop in Wichita Falls. Two of our best machinists are Bobby's older sons, Ian and Andrew. Their work ethic, dedication and Christian values are a direct reflection of their upbringing. Bobby and I are godfathers to each other's sons. Our friendship will be intermingled into the next generation.

When I was best man in Bobby and Jan's wedding, Bobby gave me a pocket knife as a gift that I still cherish. On one side of the knife is inscribed "PROV 18:24" which reads: "There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is one friend who sticks closer than a brother."

I am also thankful that we have had Don and Pearl in our lives these many years. Don ran me into the ground often out on the Lee High School track back when he was training for marathons. We had the pleasure of hosting him in our church a few years ago when he was more mobile. Now I am excited about the prospect of getting his new videoconferencing going here. Bible Teaching Resources has so many resources available now. You don't have to be very computer savvy to find Don on Oneplace.com or to download a podcast. We are so thankful for the prayers and support from you all. I pray that you will continue to be blessed by the many ways in which Bible Teaching Resources touches lives. Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year.

—Tres Ward

Unemployed in a

Resigning from a job in a tough economy may not seem like the best plan. Certainly many family members questioned my husband, Mike, when he did so last May. Polite inquiries such as, “What? Are you out of your mind?” coupled with advice like, “Never quit a job till you have found another one” were passed around with the potatoes and gravy at the table. No matter. With declining enrollment at his school, Mike, the assistant head of the school, felt he had no choice but to write himself out of the budget. So, at age 52, in a down economy, he reentered the job market to find it had changed considerably even in the ten years since his last job change.

Assumption one: As a CPA, Mike assumed that even if no desirable jobs in education were available, he would have little trouble finding a job in business. Wrong. The economic downturn coincided with a glut of CPAs thrust upon the market when their companies downsized or opted to retain or employ younger, lower salaried workers. Unemployed middle-aged CPAs haunted job fairs and networking events in record numbers. Online sites like Craigslist and Careerbuilder posted temporary jobs for accountants at rates of fifteen to twenty dollars an hour. There was a fire sale on CPAs last summer.

Assumption two: It’s not what you know, it’s who you know. Mike knows a lot of people. But jobs were simply few and even though your pals will pray for you and ask around, they cannot manufacture jobs. Mike’s friends and connections did help his search considerably, however. They prayed, sent his resume to contacts, posted his resume on networking websites, contacted clients, and provided moral support.

“Are you discouraged?” one buddy asked in August.

“No. I can’t afford to be,” Mike replied.

Assumption three: If I can get my foot in the door, a job offer will likely follow. Nowadays, it is

hard to get your foot in the door for that interview. Resumes and cover letters are no longer mailed or delivered by hand. They are submitted online. Find an interesting job and you’ll have to fill out an online application and hope that yours somehow stands out among the other thousand or so submitted. One human resources person called the process of sorting through the resumes “triage.” Middle-aged applicants whose experience may also suggest the demand for higher salaries are often shuffled aside in favor of thirty-somethings in the process of triage. After Mike had been triaged out of one promising job, I wondered if his age had relegated his job prospects to the realm of DNR (do not resuscitate).

Assumption four: God is in control. This is most definitely true. After five months of looking and many interviews, Mike accepted a job in November. The position seems a perfect fit... vice president of business and finance at a local Christian college. Ironically, it was a post for which he had interviewed earlier in the summer. In fact, he received two job offers from excellent nonprofit organizations in the same week and after much prayer, chose to stay in education. God’s timing was perfect, as always. Unemployed, Mike was free last summer to help us deal with my mother’s hip surgery and lengthy rehab. He was available, also, when Mother succumbed to lung cancer this fall and was ushered into the Lord’s presence. Mike’s time would have been severely limited had he been enmeshed in the demands of a new job.

Things We Learned

1. Trust God. This is non-negotiable.
2. A single resume will not do. In this electronic age, you need to customize your resume for the job. Mike ended up creating academic, business, and nonprofit resumes, and even these he tweaked depending upon the employer.
3. Wake up every day with a plan for that day (and for that day only).

Down Economy?

4. Pray for God to open and close doors. If it looks good and God says no, that's okay. You are being spared from something worse. One educational nonprofit with which Mike had a promising interview never contacted him again. Later we learned that this group was a bit New Age in outlook and practice. Let's just say that I cannot envision Mike working for an outfit where in meetings he would have to wait to talk until the sacred stone was passed his way.
5. Speaking of never contacting folks...it was a surprise to both of us how few potential employers actually let Mike know when they had chosen another candidate. It made us appreciate the ones who took the time to inform him that they had gone another direction rather than leaving him hanging.
6. Being unemployed does have some advantages. No one asks you for money. People take you out to lunch. It's easy to tell telephone solicitors no, you are sorry, but you cannot afford to sponsor circus tickets for underprivileged children this year because you do not have a job. Your own kids ask if you need cash. Now that's a switch.
7. We learned we can live on less...and we intend to continue being more frugal and judicious in our personal expenses. Just because it is on sale does not mean we need it.
8. On the other hand, being unable to make contributions to the organizations and ministries you wish to help is difficult, but you need to see this as a temporary situation, one which you will rectify once you again have an income.
9. Use the time wisely. It is still a full time job to look for a job. Applications take a long time to

**After five months
of looking and
many interviews,
Mike accepted a
job in November.**

fill out; searching the appropriate websites can be exhausting and daunting.

10. Recruiters may work hard for you and then again, they may not. Don't depend upon recruiters alone.
11. Network. This is essential. It is best never to let your network of contacts grow stale or out of date. You never know when you will need help.
12. Upgrade your technological skills. You'll need it. Most jobs require some level of comfort with computers and software programs.
13. Stay current in your profession. You'd best be doing this before you find yourself pounding the pavement.
14. Volunteer! It keeps you busy and feeling productive. Warning: don't get so busy with volunteer work that you neglect the search. Volunteer opportunities can seem just like jobs but they only go so far when you need a paycheck to pay the bills.
15. Family and friends who show they care are a blessing. Sometimes people hesitate to ask folks how a job search is going, but when friends and relatives expressed interest, we appreciated both their concern and the opportunity to share specific prayer requests. We did not consider it nosy.

Take heart. A *USA Today* study predicts that jobs may rebound in 2010. But even if that does not prove to be true, we would do well to remember the words of Daniel 2:21: The Lord "changes times and seasons. He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning" (NIV). This same Lord is able to manage the economy and work all things together for the good for all who are called according to His purpose.

Bible Teaching Resources FAX



New!

Esther

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Esther & Mordecai are the tools God uses to preserve the Jewish people. God's providential control is seen on every page. He is the sovereign of the universe and He can make it happen.

(6 studies)

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#CD800TW* CD set \$20

*Trail West recording - w/ special music, praise & worship, along with the message



New!

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(6 studies)

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New! Bible Teacher Training

Now available is a DVD of Don's Bible Teacher Training class. Along with this collection of

DVDs, you will receive a workbook and a CD with the workbook contents. This series is great to use individually or in a group. The extra CD allows you to run copies of the workbook for the entire group.

#DVD950 Set of 4 DVDs & 1 workbook \$60

#DVD950w Additional workbook \$10



New!

How a Man Loves a Woman

The relationship between a man and a woman has long been a mystery. When it comes to understanding God's ideas for marriage, we could all benefit from some sound advice. Proverbs was written by the wisest man who ever lived—Solomon, king of Israel. His book teaches us how to gain godly wisdom and use it to benefit ourselves and others. Don Anderson applies these key insights to strengthen marriage relationships and teach couples about real love.

#CD995 Set of 5 CDs & 1 workbook \$60.00

#CD995w Additional workbook \$10



A Great While Before Day: Volume 9 (January-June)

This volume offers pure scripture for the soul and prayers of response to get you on track with the Lord. Our hope is you will use this devotional as a prelude to your personal time with the Lord.

#BK919a (January-June) Free

#BK919b (July-December) Free

(available June 2009)

Videoconferencing Update

Make your tent larger, stretch your tent curtains way out! Spare no effort, lengthen your ropes, and pound your stakes deep. — Isaiah 54:2 NET

The Sherman Connection videoconference ministry is off the ground. We have a place; now we need two things:

1. Someone in Sherman to take the responsibility for making arrangements for food (luncheon meeting).
2. We still need about \$4,000 to buy the receiving unit (one time cost).

Folks in other cities are expressing interest. What a joy! What a dream come true! Contact us at Bible Teaching Resources if you want to be part of making use of this technology for BTR a reality in Sherman or in your home town.



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Sweetest name I know
Fills my every longing,
Keeps me singing as I go.*
L. B. Bridges

If we can have a tea party for our country let's have a great big birthday party for Jesus this Christmas.

Let's make sure His name is on every card and piece of mail we send out in December. The Christmas postage stamp is not clear but it will help.

During the Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles, the owner of the largest newspaper told his staff to "Fluff Graham." As we celebrate the birthday of our Savior, let's make known ("fluff") the name of Jesus in our sphere of influence in every way possible.

Society today seems determined to marginalize Jesus and His name. We need to fight back. Paul writes to the Corinthians about how to wage war by using God's mighty weapons.

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. (2 Cor. 10:3-5 NLT)

The heartbeat of the Christian faith is this: Jesus Christ is God. He came into the world to save sinners. He is the only deliverer for sin-laden, lost people who are the object of God's love.

No wonder the evil one is "pulling out all the stops" in his fight against the Son of God. Satan pledged after the three-fold temptation of Jesus to "come back at a more opportune time." Satan now not only has his demonic helpers but also depraved humanity at his disposal. There seems to be no limit to the cruel, obscene and wicked acts of violence perpetrated by mankind under satanic influence.

Let's use God's mighty weapons in this battle for the future of our nation, our family, and most of all for the Lord Jesus Christ and His redeemed ones.

May your walk, talk, and home be "Jesus friendly" object lessons to the world this Christmas, signs to all of your love of Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Donna Anderson Skorheim offers a yummy holiday treat.

PUMPKIN CRUNCH

- 1 16-ounce can of pumpkin
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 13-ounce can evaporated milk
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. cloves

Mix all of the above in a bowl. Pour mixture into a 9X13 pan. Sprinkle 1 box of dry yellow cake mix on top of pumpkin mix. Drizzle 1 1/4 cup melted butter or margarine over the cake mix. Sprinkle 1 1/2 cups chopped nuts over top. Bake in 350 oven for 50 minutes.

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Trail West 2009



***10 Lies about God: And the Truths That Shatter Deception* by Erwin W. Lutzer (Kregel)**

This excellent book offers insight into some of the most troublesome questions often brought up by those who are still in unbelief. I love what Lutzer writes on pages 116-17:

Can we trust a God who controls nature? Yes, for unless He does, we would be subject to the whims of impersonal fate. I find no consolation in accepting the premise that God is not the ultimate cause of natural disasters. If the devil creates tornadoes and hurricanes without God's approval, I could die in a disaster before my appointed time. Perhaps God still has work for me to do, but a stray bolt of lightning over which God has chosen to have no control might strike me as I walk along the sidewalk. But if the weather is His to route, then I rest with the confidence that my life is ordered according to His will and plan. *If nature is out of God's hands, then my life is also out of His hands.*

***The Red Sea Rules: Ten God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times* by Robert J. Morgan (Thomas Nelson)**

We have chosen to give this book to the retiring board and the incoming board at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church. It makes for outstanding devotional reading.

***The Beautiful Fight: Surrendering to the Transforming Presence of God Every Day of Your Life* by Gary Thomas (Zondervan)**

Gary Thomas has written some wonderful books on marriage and family. This one is special because learning how to surrender to the transforming presence of God in every day of your life will help you to grow more like Christ. On page 63 he writes:

The gospel of transformation calls me to progress from not lusting to having eyes that honor, respect, and generate compassion. God wants to transform my eyes from being selfish possessors and consumers to being his servants of selfless love.

***From Anger to Intimacy: How Forgiveness Can Transform Your Marriage* by Gary Smalley & Ted Cunningham (Regal)**

Gary Smalley's books on love and marriage are well known. This is an excellent text because it deals with anger, the issue that keeps marriages from true intimacy.

***Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message* by Ravi Zacharias (Thomas Nelson)**

Ravi Zacharias always does his research. His books are stimulating to read and this is no exception

***Fearless: Imagine Your Life without Fear* by Max Lucado (Thomas Nelson)**

I am a big Max Lucado fan. I have shared this most recent work with several friends because it deals with so many issues relevant to this time in our history. Dealing with fears, Max concludes chapter 6 with these words:

God has hung his diplomas in the universe. Rainbows, sunsets, horizons, and star-sequined skies. He has recorded his accomplishments in Scripture. We're not talking six thousand hours of flight time. His résumé includes Red Sea openings. Lions' mouths closings. Goliath topplings. Lazarus raisings. Storm stillings and strollings.

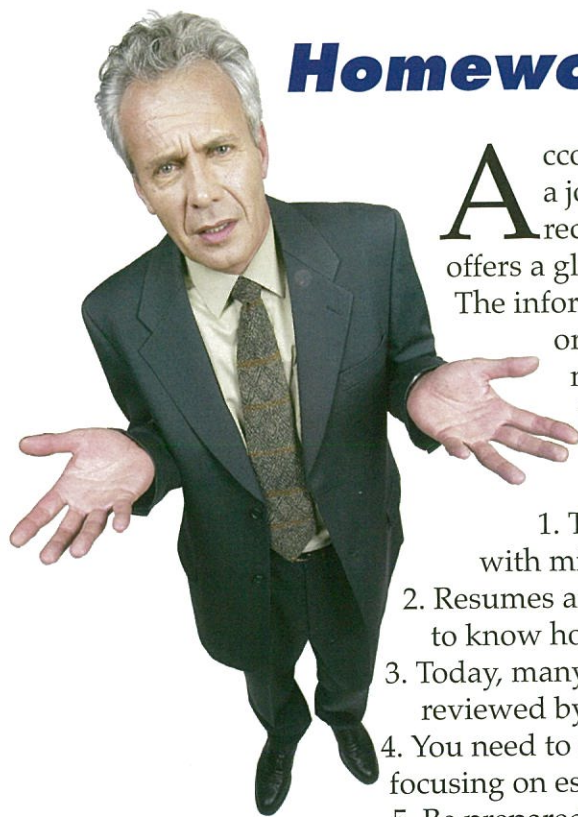
His lesson is clear. He's the commander of every storm. Are you scared in yours? Then stare at him. This may be your first flight. But it's certainly not his.

Your pilot has a call sign too: I Am Here. (76)

***Lectures to My Students* by C. H. Spurgeon (Banner of Truth Trust)**

This large volume is well worth reading, featuring a side of Charles Hadden Spurgeon not found in his other writings. Here he is giving lectures to young seminary students and preachers for the future. I've been using it as an addition to my devotional time and recommend reading small sections at a time.

Homework: The Job Hunt 2010



According to the American Association of Retired Persons, looking for a job at 50+ is not easy; the job market has changed markedly. AARP recommends the following strategies in these changing times and offers a glimpse of ten possible interview questions an applicant might face. The information has been adapted from online articles published by AARP.org, a website well worth consulting if you intend to reenter the job market. One thing missing from the AARP website is the counsel to pray, which Christians know is the password to the ultimate search engine!

1. The internet, not the newspaper, is a main source of job listings, with millions of these.
2. Resumes are now emailed; online applications are the norm. It is important to know how to properly format your resume for online submission.
3. Today, many resumes are initially scanned electronically rather than reviewed by a live person. The right keywords trigger a response.
4. You need to develop multiple resumes, emphasizing the past 10-15 years and focusing on essential skills and achievements.
5. Be prepared to explain employment gaps.
6. Use only trusted sites when submitting your information online.
7. Recruiters are probably younger than you are; employers, too. Be prepared to communicate to a younger generation.
8. Personnel is now called Human Resources (HR).
9. Highlight your technological skills.

Ten Tough Interview Questions

- 1. Tell me about yourself.** Stick to relevant skills and experiences and keep this answer short and sweet.
- 2. Why are you looking for a job?** A straightforward answer is best; avoid negative statements about former employers or coworkers.
- 3. You haven't worked for a long time. Why not?** Be ready to explain the gaps in your employment history—and stress the skills you gained during times out of the traditional workforce.
- 4. What are you looking for?** Be specific—be prepared to name the type of position you think would be appropriate for your skill levels and for the employer.
- 5. Aren't you overqualified for this position?** Stay positive and explain why you want to make this move at this point in your career.
- 6. Our technology is state of the art. Will you be able to jump right in?** Show you are flexible and technologically-savvy.
- 7. We don't have many employees your age?** Would that bother you? Explain how your age is an asset and describe recent experiences showcasing age diversity in a positive light. Show you are ready to learn, no matter how old or young the teacher is.
- 8. What is your biggest weakness?** AARP calls this a “reverse invitation to toot your own horn.”
- 9. What are your salary requirements?** Try to postpone answering this till an offer is made. Ask the interviewer, “What salary range are you working with?”
- 10. Do you have any questions?** Show interest and initiative by asking specific questions about the organization and job expectations. Don't answer no.

We need to understand clearly that God is there for us. Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (NASB).

2 Corinthians 9:8: "God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."

1 Timothy 6:6: "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

The big question that comes to our minds is: How am I going to survive in this chaotic crisis that I'm facing in a world filled with turmoil?

You don't have the strength? Oh yes you do, if you know the Lord Jesus as savior and if you are availing yourself of what He offers through His Spirit. "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7 NASB). Appropriating His strength should be a tangible goal of retirement. There is no better way to go out than by learning to lean on God.

Paul writes in Philippians 4:13, "I am having strength for all things in the One who is making me strong" (DAV). Who made Paul strong? None other than Jesus Christ. The strength came in "all things," too—meaning every situation Paul had ever faced. As another has said, "The task ahead is not greater than the power behind." How true, when that power is Jesus Christ.

It is electrifying to understand that we have a source of strength outside ourselves to empower us to handle what lies ahead, even the bumps and bruises:

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings of eagles;

they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

(Isaiah 40:28–31 NIV)

Paul had strength for all things—the flying, the running, the walking, the prevailing. In life or death, in prison or free, when full or hungry, in plenty or want—God's strength sustained him. The wonderful power of the indwelling Christ enabled him to do anything that was in the mind of God for him to accomplish.

Like Paul, the person who walks with Christ and lives with Christ can do anything Christ has for that person to do: "Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God" (2 Corinthians 3:5 NASB).

As we face the last laps of life, we need to remember Christ's presence, power, permission, and position. In other words, whatever we confront, let's remember:

1. The Lord is *alive*.
2. He is *adequate*.
3. He has *allowed* it.
4. He is *available* to carry us through it.

Real contentment in our lives comes by the following:

1. **Accepting ourselves.** We are valuable in the Lord's sight.
2. **Accepting His plan.** So many times our thoughts are not His thoughts and by accepting His plan we come to contentment.
3. **Accepting His provision.** Many times my wants and my needs are not together and when they are brought together in His will we are excited about his provision.

May we be reminded that our ever-conquering savior is still alive. He's still adequate and He has allowed the circumstances that we face. He has promised to provide the strength to triumph. He is available to carry us victoriously through the circumstance.

Bishop Lancelot Andrewes puts it well:

Be Lord,
within me to strengthen me,
without me to preserve,
over me to shelter,
beneath me to support,
before me to direct,
behind me to bring back,
round about to fortify.

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Clipboard

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Why is it so hard for us to be dependent upon the Lord and upon others? A phrase in the "Servant's Song" says it aptly: "Lord, give me grace to let others serve me too!"

I am reminded of Peter's words in John 13:8: "'No,' Peter protested, 'You will never wash my feet!' Jesus replied, 'But if I don't wash you, you won't belong to me.'"

Why is it so critical that we constantly be learning to lean on the Lord? He has all the resources we need to negotiate life successfully. How then do we tap into these divine resources?

1. Surrender to His agenda. What are His plans for my future?
2. Obedience to His Word. What pleases Him?
3. Acknowledgement of our need.
4. Confession and repentance over failure to have done this sooner.

John Stallings's hymn "Learning to Lean" is a fitting conclusion for our reflections on trusting Jesus in these tough times:

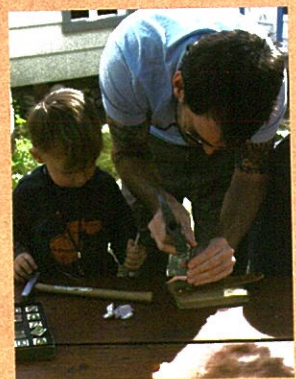
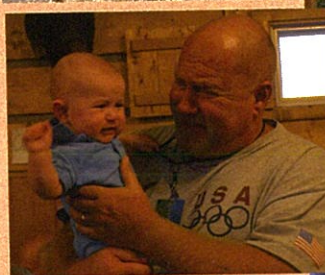
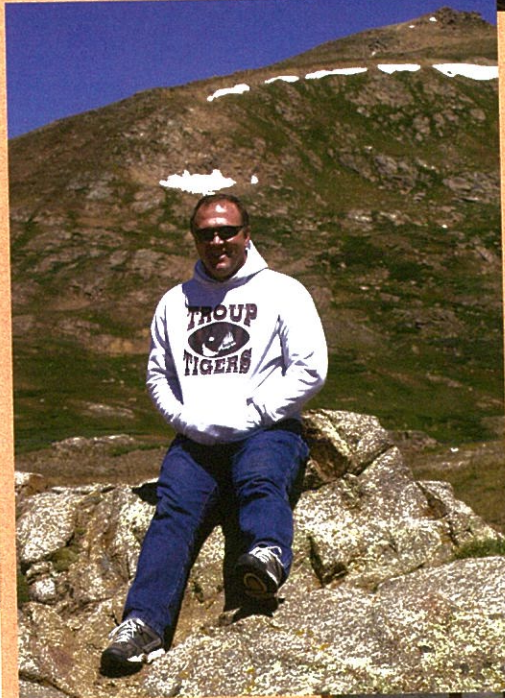
I'm learning to lean, learning to lean,
Learning to lean on Jesus;
Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed;
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

The joy I can't explain fills my soul,
Since the day I made Jesus my King;
His blessed Holy Spirit is leading my way,
He's teaching and I'm learning to lean.

Sometimes we can be like the man who said,
My life is full now, I have everything;
But there is a strong Rock in Jesus, my Lord;
Thro' my trials I've been leaning to lean.

Sad, broken hearted, so often I've knelt,
And I've found God's peace so serene;
And all that He asks is a child like trust,
And a heart that is learning to lean.

TRAIL WEST 2009



Some of our favorite letters from the **mailbag**



Dear Don and Mrs. Anderson,
January 25 is marked on my calendar as the day you will be back to teach us again. I appreciate your casual way of teaching. I also want to thank Mrs. Anderson for coming and encouraging. I hope your surgery went well, and recuperation is swift. Thank you again for helping us learn more. —Katie Lockman

Thank you for sharing your insights and your lives with us. We enjoyed the sessions.
—God bless, Cecil & Kay Wallace

Don, I love and appreciate you. Thanks for your passion for Christ and for bringing the truth and the light to us the body week in and week out. I have been touched by your teaching over the years we have been together. I enjoy setting at your feet to learn more about Christ. Thanks.

—In Christ's love, David Powell

Dear Rev. Don Anderson,
Warm greetings in the love of God. I praise and thank the Lord for your ministry in my country, the Philippines. I enjoy listening to it and is benefitting me a lot. I am really blest by it. Jesus Christ is coming soon and it is my constant prayer that many more Filipinos be saved through your ministry. I am praying for your ministry and I told my neighbors and friends about it. Please keep it up here at Mindanao Praise Radio 105.3 FM, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Philippines. God bless your ministry.

—In Christ, Mrs. Will

Dear Pastor Don and Pearl,
My apologies for being so slow in writing you concerning our time at Trail West in beautiful Colorado. Miriam and I turned the week into a learning experience and a wonderful vacation for our 63rd wedding anniversary. The food and Christian fellowship leaves much to be remembered and the study of 2nd Peter was icing on the cake. I especially liked how you compared the personalities of Peter and Paul and their similar writings in 2nd Corinthians and 2nd Peter. Also the fact they both were probably martyred in the same year. You do a great job in mixing biblical writings with church history.

Thanks again for allowing Miriam and me to join this group of participants several days after the deadline for enrollment. I also became aware of how much work is entailed in making a program like this run so smoothly in spite of a few changes in the original plans. God bless you.
—Sincerely, Chris S. Jordan

Dear Don & Pearl,
Well, we write to share the way we summarize our "Mountain Top Experience" after returning from our week at Trail West. We will always remember it as a prelude to paradise! The very atmosphere shimmered with the Holy Spirit...the fellowship was heavenly, the music was wonderful and the teaching inspired by God.

What more can we say? Thank you sounds so trivial. But basically, this is the only way we can begin to impart our gratitude for all the time, energy, talent and heart that went into the planning and implementation of the retreat in the beautiful mountains at Buena Vista.

We treasure your friendship and thank God for putting us into each others lives.

—Grace and joy to you,
Larry & Jean Clark

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January 25–March 4, 2010

MONDAY- January 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22, and March 1 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

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

MONDAY- January 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22, and March 1 (LIVE)

7:00 p.m.—HOLLY LAKE RANCH CLASS
622 Green Meadow Trail, Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
Class hosts: Don and Ann Weersing, home: 903.613.2193
Don & Lillie McWhinney, home: 903.613.2058

TUESDAY-January 26, February 2, 9, 16 & 23, and March 2 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

7:00 P.M. —DALLAS EVENING CLASS
Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX 75234
Class hosts: Gary & Sydney Smith, cell: 972.322.9050

THURSDAY-January 28, February 4, 11, 18 & 25, and March 4 (LIVE)

7:00 p.m.—TYLER EVENING CLASS
Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church, 1500 Lake Park Cir., Hideaway, TX 75771
Ministries office: 903.939.1201
Class hosts: Doug & Alice Byrd, home: 903.882.1419
John & Kay Loucks, home: 903.882.7432