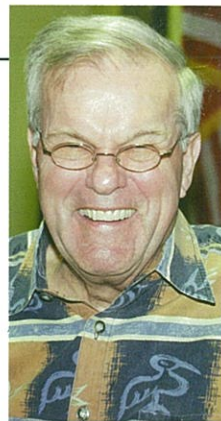


GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

WINTER 2011

"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalm 16:11 NIV).



I Am Third

"As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands" (Psalm 119:143 NLT).

Jesus
Others
You

The National Football League boasts many men who are solid, committed Christians.

Tony Dungy's newest book *The Mentor Leader* makes me rejoice in those in the coaching field who possess the proper focus. In Tony's words: "Truly serving others requires putting ourselves and our desires aside while looking for ways and opportunities to do what is best for others" (39).

I just finished reading Drew Brees's *Coming Back Stronger*. He quarterbacked the New Orleans Saints to a Super Bowl championship last year. Drew writes: "You can never let a play from the past affect the present. Your job is to play in the moment" (26).

What a great crop of Christian quarterbacks came into the NFL this year: Tim Tebow of Florida, Sam Bradford from Oklahoma, and Colt McCoy from Texas. These men have made a common commitment to the philosophy of life now widely popularized by a national ad campaign: "I Am Second."

I love the campaign, but I guess I just want to drop it down a notch. The key to finding real, authentic, consistent joy is to realize that "I Am Third."

Jesus is first. Others are second. And you, yourself, are third. This is the key to real joy.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss has written a most refreshing book related to the subject of joy, *Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy*. She writes the following:

Over time, choosing gratitude means choosing joy. But that choice doesn't come without effort and intentionality. It's a choice that requires constantly renewing my *mind* with the truth of

God's Word, setting my *heart* to savor God and His gifts, and disciplining my *tongue* to speak

words that reflect His goodness and grace—until a grateful spirit becomes my reflective response to all of life. (17)

**Jesus is
first. Others
are second.
And you, your-
self, are third.
This is the key
to real joy.**

She states further: "Cultivating a thankful heart is a safeguard against becoming bitter, prickly, and sour. A grateful child of God can't help but be a joyful, peaceful, radiant person" (17). With this in mind, I'd like to make five observations from a scriptural perspective about this whole business of joy.

I. Joy = Sins Forgiven

Luke 15:7: "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (NASB). Romans 14:17: "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (NASB). Psalm 16:11: "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (NIV).

I remember back in the early days of my ministry that we would gather around the campfire to close our time of fellowship together by singing that wonderful little chorus: "If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, Let Jesus come into your heart; Your sins He'll wash away, Your night He'll turn to day. Your life He'll make it over anew. If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, Let Jesus come into your heart."

II. Joy = A Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness" (NASB). Jesus said to the men on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane in John 15:11: "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in

GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2011

CONTENTS



Clipboard: 2

I Am Third

Don Anderson

The Breckenridge Bunch 4

Genevieve and Billy Martin

From the Board: Clyde Womack..... 7

FAX..... 8

Media News

Pearl's Reflections

Donna's Delights

Gift & Sponsors, Mailbag 11

Homework

Inexpensive Holiday Gifts 12

Cowboy Poetry

"The Yellow Slicker" 15

Debra Coppinger Hill

Winter Tourback cover

From the Editor

A friend recently concluded an email with photos of her daughter's wedding with these words, "Our kids are grown... somehow we look the same." That was wishful thinking, indeed (although she does look pretty good)! I'm glad we cannot say that about things at Bible Teaching Resources. BTR does *not* look the same. Yes, Don still tours, but now much of that is facilitated by the Internet. What will never change is our commitment to communicating God's word clearly and passionately. The theme of this issue is joy, something that should be very real to believers preparing to celebrate the Savior's birth. Don offers reflections on the subject in "Clipboard." Billy and Genevieve Martin chime in with an account of the big change in their lives—their move to Breckenridge Village of Tyler where their family lives and works with special needs adults. Board chairman Clyde Womack offers Christmas greetings from BTR. We wish you and yours great joy this season. May we never forget that Jesus is the reason! Thank you for your faithful friendship and support.

—M. Jane Rodgers



The Grapevine is a publication of
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by Don Anderson Ministries
P.O. Box 6611
Tyler, TX 75711-6611
email: Dam@BibleTeachingResources.org
website: www.BibleTeachingResources.org
903.939.1201
FAX 903.939.1204
Toll-free phone:
1.877.DAM.PRAY (1.877.326.7729)

Editor: M. Jane Rodgers
Magazine designer: Keith D. Yates

Bible Teaching Resources is a nonprofit organization and charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

The Brecken

R

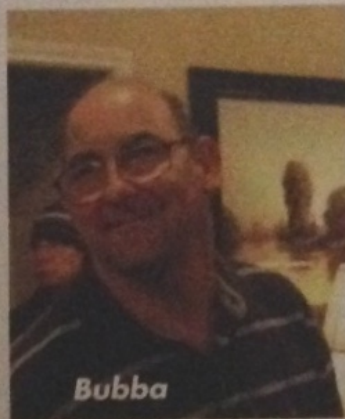
emember the first time you asked God for something really big and, boy, did He give you something BIG?!

That's how we felt a year and a half ago. We had just returned from our oldest son's wedding in Southern California. Our oldest daughter's boyfriend had just asked for permission to ask her to marry him. And then the dreaded economy ate another job. Unfortunately, the job lost was Billy's job that he had held for over 16 years.

When job loss hits your family it's devastating to say the least. With our youngest entering her junior year at a private Christian school, things were extremely stressful. The same day Billy was laid off, he began applying for jobs. His field was data processing and most such jobs in Tyler are held by long-timers who don't easily let go of them. After a couple of months, Billy was discouraged and ready to give up.

He began substitute teaching. After several months and with encouragement from friends, he decided to get his teaching certificate and change careers. But God had other plans. In Texas there is a certification test you have to take, and even though Billy did very well, he missed passing the test by only a few points. You can only take the test every three months, so we knew it would be a very long three months.

Severance package running out...health insurance running out...options running out...it looked like Billy was going to have to go out of state to find a job while Haley and I stayed in Tyler. Or he was going to have to go into teaching and take a major cut in salary. That's when Billy prayed "the prayer." You know the one, the one that gets answered right away in the most unlikely manner. "Lord, whatever you want me to do, I'll do it. You just tell me and I'll do it. I'm trusting



Bubba

you in FAITH." That's when the feathers hit the fan!

Billy had applied for a position with Breckenridge Village in Tyler (BVT). BVT is a facility for adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism, mental retardation, etc. The residents live in houses and enjoy day program activities, outings, and living as a

family within the community. Billy didn't get the original position for which he had applied, but the assistant director, Jim Anderson, called with another opportunity. Jim is a long-time friend of Don and Pearl Anderson. His wife, Marsha, worked at Pine Cove; Don had even married Jim and Marsha years earlier. Jim said he held on to Billy's application and resume because he was touched by some of the things Billy had said in his cover letter.

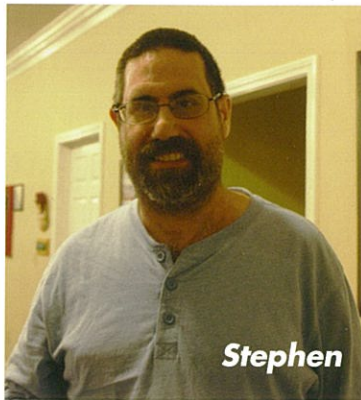
In the Gladewater public schools, Billy had been working every day with an "at risk"



Clay

ridge Bunch

by Genevieve & Billy Martin



student. If Billy didn't come to work, the student could not go to school. When Jim asked him if he could come in for an interview, Billy replied that he would have to schedule a day off from working with the student and would get back to him. Before

Billy could even make arrangements for this, the school secretary called to report the student was sick and wouldn't be in class that day. Billy immediately called Jim Anderson and went for an interview. After much prayer and planning, a few weeks later we were moving into House 4 at BVT!

The Lord's timing is perfect. Billy's severance pay ran out December 15. The first paycheck from the new position came on...December 15. Our health insurance ran out January 1. After a month at work, our new health insurance took effect...on January 1. The position pays substantially less than Billy's previous salary, but the rewards are more than we can count.

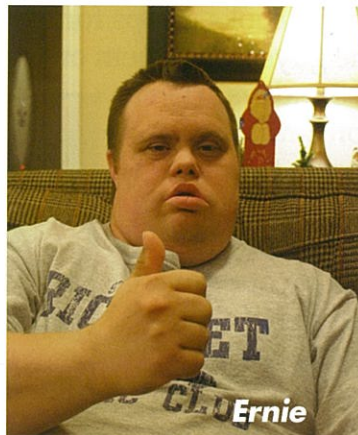
Did I mention that our youngest daughter, Haley, had decided a couple of years before that she wanted to be a teacher? Then after working at a summer camp for special needs adults she decided she wanted to be a special needs teacher. Before accepting the position at BVT, we went to an event called "Christmas in the Village"—a craft-type sale for items made by and on behalf of the residents to support their scholarship program—and Haley realized she knew quite a few of the individuals who live at Breckenridge. That made it even more special as we diligently sought the Lord's will in our decision. We even learned that we had known one of the residents from

years earlier. Jean Powell, former staff member of BTR who lost her battle with cancer in 1999, has a stepdaughter who lives at BVT. Robin Dumas, who attends Hideaway Lake Community Church with her parents and whom Don baptized not long ago, is also a resident of BVT.

We have now been at Breckenridge for a year and we thank God every day for these special people He has placed in our lives. We'd like to introduce our house to you! They are each unique and special and we love them all and wouldn't imagine our life without any of them.

Brien W.—Our gifted singer who loves the

Lord and is a special blessing to everyone he meets.



Ernie—Our resident teddy bear. Loves hugs and *Walker Texas Ranger*. We enjoy our nightly bedtime hugs.

Brian I.—Our "house clown." He loves to play practical jokes and his favorite pastime is cleaning—

which makes Billy very happy since he needs all the help he can get.

Stephen—Our house handyman. He enjoys helping out wherever he can, which is really great! He takes care of filling the bird feeders on campus and he makes the most beautiful bird-houses.

Brian F.—Our smart and quiet guy. He loves to read. I'm jealous I don't get to read as much!

Bubba—Our talented artist and avid collector of all things Charlie Brown and John Wayne. Billy would say he's got almost as much stuff as I do... if that's even possible.

Brandon—Our special, special son. He's like

continued on next page

one of our own. He's usually the brunt of Brian I.'s practical jokes! Haley said when she gets married she's taking him with her!

Clay—Our food connoisseur and high school football expert. He's got a great memory and enjoys quizzing Billy on football colors and mascots. Clay is the son of Cliff and Gay Wallstein, longtime friends of Don and Pearl. This was a special surprise to all of us!

Our family is not the same as most. We have our grown children—Lindsay and Tyson (and their spouses) and Matthew. Then we have our youngest, Haley, who will be attending Dallas Baptist University in the fall, with God's provision. Our pets, our dachshund CoCo and a tank full of tropical fish, round out the Martin clan. And now we have eight guys who make up our "Breckenridge Bunch." Billy is the "stay-at-home-mom," in a sense, and I enjoy cooking evening meals and other goodies as well as decorating the house for special occasions and planning parties. Billy cleans, cooks, shops for personal care items for the guys, takes them on outings and to church on Sundays. There are often extra activities on Saturdays. He works in the day program two days a week, too. Paperwork, meeting with guardians...it all makes for a busy life. We have been blessed not only by our guys, but also by the many other new friends we've met at BVT. Brian and Kathleen Leo, fellow house parents, have helped and encouraged us throughout this first year. We frequently bring our houses together for dinners, birthdays, and other activities.

God has blessed us indeed! Each day is definitely different, and special. It's never boring, that's for sure! I reflected on the prayer of Jabez as I wrote this article. Don and Pearl have prayed this prayer, as did Bill Lawrence. It is a wonderful prayer that leaves you desiring to know God more personally and intimately. "Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!' And God granted him what he requested" (1 Chronicles 4:10 NASB).



Brien



Brian



Brandon

For information on Breckenridge Village of Tyler (BVT), a ministry of Baptist Child & Family Services (BCFS), visit their website: www.breckenridgevillage.com.



Brian I.

From Bible Studies and Christian Camping to the Internet

Clyde Womack, Retired CPA
Chairman of the Board of Bible
Teaching Resources:

It was 1987 and we were looking for a Christian camp for our family to attend. At a friend's suggestion, we signed up for Don Anderson's family camp at Trail West Lodge in Buena Vista, Colorado. At the time, our girls were six and three years old and what followed were seven annual weeks of making wonderful memories at Don and Pearl's camps. One year we even asked our daughters Missy and Whitney if they would rather go to Trail West or Disney World. It was "Don's camp!" hands down.

How can I describe what went on during these many years of going to Trail West with Don and Pearl Anderson? In short, we felt the love and warmth of the Lord, made so many friends, and were filled with outstanding Bible teaching. Don baptized both of our daughters in the Trail West swimming pool and later married Missy and her husband, David Williams. They met at a "divine appointment" while working on the staff at Don and Pearl's Wind River Ranch Christian Camp. Missy and David have since founded Seed Effect, a microfinance initiative dedicated to bringing hope to Sudan by providing the poor with access to microloans, education, and spiritual discipleship.

Over the years the ministry board has been working with Don and Pearl on the best way to keep all of Don's vast Bible teaching resources ongoing when Don can no longer continue as a traveling Bible study teacher. The answer became clear: the Internet and technology. We changed the name of the ministry to Bible Teaching Resources in order to be at the higher end of the Internet pecking order when individuals were using search engines to look for Bible research and teaching aids. Who would have thought that we would use the Internet to enable a traveling "Coach on a



stool" to continue his teaching and reach people virtually all over the world?!

Today, you can listen to Don at Oneplace.com, or download his messages as a podcast. He is continuing his Bible classes via video conferencing and webcasting. Don also does a radio broadcast in the Philippines and has even been asked by a radio station in Turkey to get his teachings to the people of Turkey. We are exploring this possibility and marvel at what the Lord has in mind for this great ministry that has meant so much to me, my family, and so many others. Please don't miss out on Don's wonderful studies that have remained true to God's word over the years whether they originated from a family camp, a Bible study or now, the realm of the Internet and other electronic means. Visit our website at Bible Teaching Resources and take part in our high tech teaching of scripture. Have a Blessed Christmas!

Clyde and Kathy Womack live in Fort Worth. He retired after 42 years with KPMG LLP and Kathy is a homemaker. The Womacks attend Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth.

Bible Teaching Resources FAX

A Great While Before Day: Issue 10

If you're on our mailing list you'll be receiving the newest issue of this devotional: As last year, you will be receiving part one, January-June, with the issue of the *Grapevine*. Part two, July-December, will be coming to you in June. If you need extra copies or back issues, let us know and we'll get them to you.

Webcasting Made Easier!

We've made viewing our webcasting easier for everyone. Simply go to our website: www.bibleteachingresources.org. There you'll find a link to the webcast! You are able to view live broadcasts at designated times during tour season and recorded messages from our video vault at any time. If you have any questions, just give us a call and we'll be glad to help you out.

Webstore Upgrade

Our webstore is getting a new look and some needed changes which we hope will make ordering easier and more efficient. The biggest change will be the addition of the ability for you to download Mp3 audio collections. This promises to be a great way for folks to get Don's recorded messages 24 hours a day. We're so excited about this new capability!

Inventory Clearance Sale

Several items from our inventory clearance sale remain:

VHS920 *Breaking Barriers to Intimacy*

For only \$3.55 you will receive 2 sets of the marriage videos (VHS) along with 2 CDs containing the workbook files.

or

For only \$4.33 you will receive 2 sets of the marriage videos in a VHS binder along with 2 CDs containing the workbook files.

VHS900 *The Pathway to Marital Blessing*

For only \$4.33 you will receive 2 sets of the marriage videos in a VHS binder along with 2 CDs containing the workbook files.
(VHS series original cost: \$60.00)

CD201plus *Abraham & anniversary tote*

We also have several sets of Don's messages on Abraham, recorded at Cannon Beach Conference Center. These sets come with an anniversary tote bag. Receive this timeless CD series along with the bag for our shipping cost of \$3.55.
Original cost: \$30.00

#BK965 *Holiness: The Heart God Purifies* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Original price: \$10. **Sale \$5.00**

#BK950 *31 Days of Power: Learning to Live in Spiritual Victory* by Ruth Myers. Original price: \$10. **Sale \$5.00**

#BK907 *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions* by Arthur Bennett. Original price: \$12. **Sale \$6.00**

Quantities of all clearance products are limited so hurry and order today! These prices are valid for shipment within the continental US only. Thank you for understanding. See order form on page 10.

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

We know you'll enjoy this quick and easy yet delicious appetizer from our own Donna Anderson Skorheim.

Crab Appetizers

2 cups grated Velveeta cheese
1 cup mayonnaise
1 can lump crab meat
3 green onions chopped (just white part of onion)

Mix the above together and spread on bread squares (I use sliced baguette bread).
Bake at 350 until cheese melts.



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Pearl's Reflections

Everyone loves a baby. Well, almost everyone. God does. He loves His new little creations.

Babies are God's way of saying the world should continue.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, in obedience to the message from God was courageous to give birth to God's son, our Savior. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1:38 NIV).

How important was this birth? The lyrics of Mark Lowry's "Mary Did You Know?" say it well:

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM."

History is measured as before the birth of Christ, B.C., and after the birth of Christ, A.D.

History hinges on the door of the Bethlehem stable.

How important is that birth to you and me? What we do, accept, and believe, about Jesus Christ is the key to where we spend eternity. Rejecting Him as Savior means spending eternity separated from God. Accepting Him as Savior provides a relationship now and throughout eternity.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderfully blessed New Year.

Clipboard

continued from page 2

you, and that your joy may be made full" (NASB). Acts 13:52: "And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (NASB).

In the words of Spurgeon: "He is the happy God, and would have those round about him happy.... Do you not know that his name is the happy God, and nothing gives him greater happiness than to give happiness to his creatures."

Nancy Leigh DeMoss raises the question: *"So why don't we see more of this kind of robust, grace-based gratitude flourishing in our own hearts and among God's people? Among other reasons, there is a powerful challenger that counters true gratitude at every turn. And we don't have to look far to find that opponent; it lurks in every human heart"* (43).

Romans 15:13: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (NASB). Nehemiah 8:10: "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (NIV). Psalm 126:3: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (NIV).

III. Joy = A Witness to the World

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20: "Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart" (NIV).

Spurgeon writes: "A happy face attracts many of us, and a happy temperament, a quiet mind, a serene disposition, why, a man who has these, inevitably tries to make others happy; and it is, I suppose, because God is infinitely happy, that he delights in the happiness of his creatures." DeMoss cites the example of Fanny Crosby, author of thousands of hymns, who learned to thank God for her physical blindness—that she had not been "hindered by the distraction of seeing all the interesting and beautiful objects" of the world, and thus had been free to compose. There are, as DeMoss puts it, "Two kinds of people: the grateful and the ungrateful. It's the difference between squandering life and sharing life, between being blinded to glory and 'To God Be the Glory,' between assured bitterness and 'Blessed Assurance'" (79).

continued on page 10

Order Form

A Great While Before Day

- ☐ BK920a (January-June) FREE x _____
☐ BK920b (July-December) will be available June 2011

Add me to Don's weekly e-newsletter:

My email address: _____

Inventory Clearance

- ☐ VHS920 Breaking Barriers to Intimacy
2 sets without binders \$3.55 x _____
☐ VHS920 Breaking Barriers to Intimacy
2 sets with binders \$4.33 x _____
☐ VHS900 The Pathway to Marital Blessing –
2 sets with binders \$4.33 x _____
☐ CD201plus Abraham & anniversary tote
\$3.55 x _____
☐ #BK965 Holiness \$5.00 x _____
☐ #BK950 31 Days of Power \$5.00 x _____
☐ #BK907 The Valley of Vision \$6.00 x _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME PHONE _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

FAX _____

☐ CHECK ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMX ☐ Disc

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CID # _____

SIGNATURE _____

MAIL TO:

Bible Teaching Resources
P.O. Box 6611, Tyler, TX 75711

Phone: 903.939.1201

Toll free: 877-326-7729

FAX: 903.939.1204

Clipboard

continued from page 9

IV. Joy = A Witness to Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I walk each morning from 4:00-5:00 a.m. in our neighborhood. I very seldom meet other people. The other morning a lady was walking toward me and I gave her a greeting, "Beautiful morning!" And her response was "It makes you believe that it was worth getting up!" That really made my day. I loved hearing something so positive and affirming. Psalm 126:5-6: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (NIV). Psalm 30:5: "For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (NIV). Psalm 63:7: "Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings" (NLT).

Joni Eareckson Tada has always been such an inspiration and blessing with her triumph in suffering and the worldwide ministry she has been able to have from a wheelchair. She writes in her devotional *Pearls of Great Price*:

In a crowded ladies restroom during a break at a Christian conference, a well-dressed woman putting on lipstick turned to me and said, "Oh Joni, you always look so together, so happy in your wheelchair. I wish I had your joy! How do you do it?" Several around her nodded.

"I don't do it," I said. "In fact, may I tell you honestly how I woke up this morning?" Several women leaned against the counter to listen. "This is an average day. After Ken leaves for work at six, I'm alone until I hear the front door open at seven. It's a friend coming to get me up. While she makes coffee, I usually pray, 'Lord, my friend is about to give me a bath, get me dressed, sit me up in my chair, brush my hair and teeth, and send me out the door. I don't have the strength to face this routine one more time. I have no resources. I don't have a smile for the day, but you do. May I borrow yours? I urgently need you, God.'

"So when my friend walks into the bedroom, I turn my head on my pillow and give her a smile sent straight from heaven. It's not mine, it's God's. Whatever joy you see today"—I gestured at my paralyzed legs—"was hard won this morning." (1/15)

continued on page 14

GIFTS & SPONSORS

Gifts

In HONOR of:

Mr. Richard Beene
by Mrs. Dorothy Lawrence

In MEMORY of:

Matthew Adam Isbell
By Mr. & Mrs. Jess Isbell
Lynn Brush
By Mrs. Dorothy Lawrence
Nora Byers
By Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hamilton
Les Farmer
By Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hughes
Bill Cornwell
By Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Williams
Virginia Ruth Murphey
By Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Williams
Rev. Stuart Latimer
By Mr. & Mrs. Alex Moore
Dody Stovall
By Mr. Joe Stovall
Becky Devine
By Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Barker

GRAPEVINE SPONSORS:

From Broken Arrow, OK:

Mr. & Mrs. Ben C. Nightingale

From Grove, OK:

Mr. & Mrs. Jess Isbell

From Bixby, OK:

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rodich

From Ft. Worth, TX:

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cochran

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Walker

From Bremerton, WA:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Helander

From Seattle, WA:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. George

From Winnetka, IL:

By Mr. & Mrs. Alex Moore

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

Your cards and notes are always a blessing. Here are a few excerpts from recent letters.

- I enjoyed [the] article in the last *Grapevine* issue on the book *Same Kind of Different*. I am passing the article on to the one in charge of our church's homeless ministry.

- Thank you for the personal notes you write on our receipts. It is always nice to read them. The notes are encouraging and uplifting.

- Thank you for the *A Great While Before Day* issues.... The scriptures have been a healing balm during these days of grieving our beloved and only son.

- May God continue to bless your ministry! I enjoy the *Grapevine*.



- At 5:00 a.m. I enjoy and use your writings every day and next year my wife will use them.

- My father was reading the devotional [*A Great While Before Day*] faithfully as he shared this with me the last time I saw him. He had a heart attack the next day and died shortly after.... It was a great comfort to know he was reading your devotionals and looking up the scriptures.

- We enjoy the newsletter and the devotionals and all of the resources you have provided through the years.

- About a month ago I rescued *A Great While Before Day* from the trash in our post office. I began reading it daily to our residents here at University Village, the retirement community Oral Roberts built.... I feel like this was something I could add to their lives here at UV. I am only the activity director, but I feel like I am helping all of us daily. I would like to continue to do this. You never know what treasures you may find in the trash. I would appreciate any other materials to read to them.

Inexpensive Holiday Gifts

We hope you'll check the FAX section of this issue for clearance items from Bible Teaching Resources! In addition to these, here are our top 20 inexpensive gift ideas (in no particular order). Part of this list has been adapted from David Weliver's article "Cheap Gifts: 53 Inexpensive Christmas Gifts" on www.moneyunder30.com.

1. A devotional book
2. Movie tickets
3. \$10 iTunes card
4. A potted plant
5. A photograph in nice picture frame
6. Hat, mittens, or scarf
7. Homemade cookies or other goodies
8. Board games
9. A bottle of nice olive oil
10. Puzzle books (crosswords, Sudoku, etc.)
11. Warm, good quality socks
12. A travel pillow
13. Pancake mix & maple syrup
14. A travel guidebook for an upcoming vacation
15. Decorated recipe cards with favorite recipes & an item (pan, potholder, meat thermometer, cookie cutters, etc.) needed for one of the recipes
16. Travel size toiletries
17. Christmas tree ornaments
18. A USB thumb or flash drive
19. A travel alarm clock
20. Winter skin care set (lip balm, hand lotion, etc.)





For Chocolate & Coffee Lovers Only

CHOCOLATE SPOONS

Try this recipe, adapted from the website www.thelaboroflove.com.

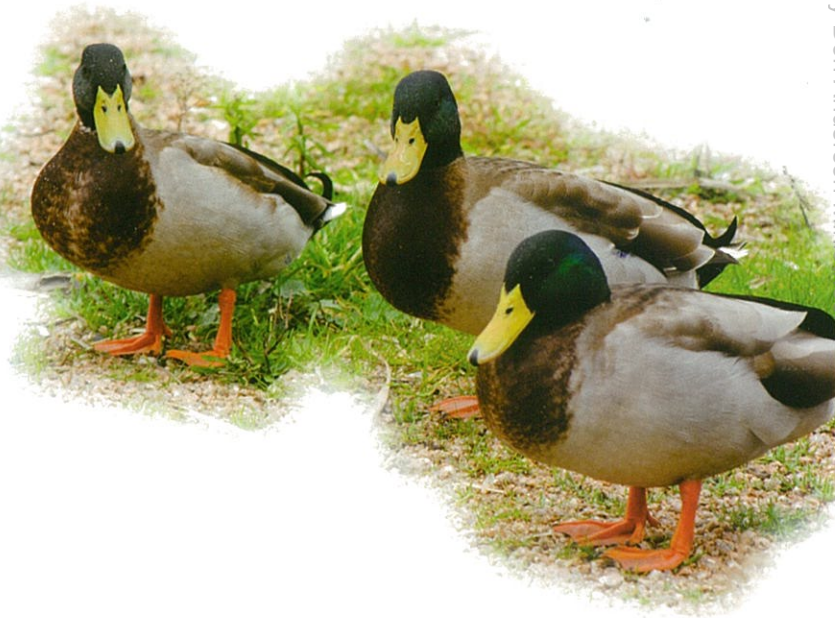
Dip good quality gold, silver, or clear plastic spoons into melted chocolate. You can experiment with various extracts to create different flavors (orange chocolate, almond chocolate, etc.). Melt the chocolate till it is liquid (beware it does not scorch). This can be done in the microwave. Add a few drops of extract to the melted chocolate and stir. Dip the spoons into the chocolate. After dipping, set the spoons on a wax paper lined cookie sheet with the handle of each spoon over the edge of the sheet till set. You may wish to drizzle white chocolate in a design over dark or milk chocolate...or dip 1/2 of the spoon in dark and 1/2 in white. Just don't dip lightly. You want a nice puddle in the spoon part and part way up the handle.

Use good quality chocolate for the best results. These make great coffee stirrers and some folks just like to eat the chocolate.

Wrap spoons in clear plastic bags tied with raffia and a tag stating the flavor.

Gifts That Make a Difference

Many Christian and charitable organizations offer opportunities to make a lasting impact while remembering those you wish to honor during the holidays. Check out the World Vision website www.worldvisiongifts.org for a number of unique ideas. A donation of \$30 provides 5 ducks for a family in a developing country; \$100 will purchase a goat and 2 chickens for struggling families overseas. For access to a more comprehensive (though not necessarily Christian) list of charities, visit the Greater Good Network at www.greatergood.com. Gift cards you can share with your loved ones to explain what you have done generally come with these donations.



Priscilla Maurice writes in *Sickness, Its Trials and Blessings*:

To give thanks to Him for all things, is, indeed,
a very difficult duty:
for it includes giving thanks for trials of all
kinds;
for suffering and pain; for reproaches; for
loneliness.
Yet those who have learned submission will
not find
it a hard duty. (246)

Jeremiah 15:16: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty" (NIV).

V. Joy = Finishing Well

Hebrews 12:2: "We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne" (NLT). Paul, writing from a prison cell, says: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4 NASB). Philippians 2:17: "But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all" (NASB). That is, if I am to die for You, I will rejoice. I want to share my joy with all of you.

Paul says to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6-8: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (NASB).

Acts 20:24: "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God" (NASB).

Yes, the secret to it all is realizing that I am third: Jesus, Others, and You. JOY.

Ella Grace is the youngest of our son-in-law Steve and daughter Julea's three children. While we were on a mission to the Northwest, we were able to stop by and attend Ella's violin lesson. I'll never

forget the thrill of her playing that great hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Can there be any better way to close our meditation on joy than with those glorious words of Henry Van Dyke?

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Hail Thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the Joy Divine.

BOOKSHELF

by Don Anderson

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers (Discovery House)

I used this classic as part of my devotional reading in 2009 was going to substitute another work for it in 2010, but Pearl caused me to recognize that reading Chambers again is just like taking a fresh new trip. I love it and recommend it very highly, even the second time through.

In God We Still Trust by Dr. Richard G. Lee (Thomas Nelson)

This little paperback is a treasure, offering many wonderful stories from American history—starting with the account of the first prayer of Congress. Subjects include George Washington, colonial America, and the Liberty Bell. The work is filled with quotations from the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Buzz Aldrin, Thomas Paine, Samuel Morse, and Ronald Reagan.

OLD YELLOW SLICKER

She wore his yellow slicker,
though it almost drags the ground,
It seems to make things easier,
as if he is still around.

He's left her some big boots,
she's gonna' have to fill,
But his old yellow slicker,
Seems to give her the Will.

The Will to keep on going,
The Will to be wise and strong,
The Will to make their dreams come true,
and remember, where she belongs.

She wears it to feed the cattle,
and when she cleans the stalls,
She hangs it on that high nail by the door,
and remembers he was tall.

She wears it every time,
the storms come rushing in;
She even wears it sometimes,
just so the tears will not begin.

She wears it to keep the wet out
and to hold the cold at bay;
It eases the hardness of the ground,
each time she kneels to pray.

She wears it to chop the tanks,
and when she mends the fence,
She wears it on the best of days,
and on the ones that make no sense.

She wears it though it's ragged,
and has completely lost its charm,
Because, if she's inside of it,
she's back inside his arms.

It's just an old yellow slicker,
but it makes her life complete,
It reminds her what's important,
and it keeps her on her feet.

She's worn it across a lifetime,
and she's never felt alone,
She raised their kids, raised their cows,
she's made their farm a home.

And when she's gone, she tells the kids,
just hang it on that nail in the barn,
When you look at it, your hearts know,
his yellow slicker, saved the farm.

© 1996 Debra Coppinger Hill, All Rights Reserved
(To "Miss Oleta" Nichols, Pioneer, Lady, Texan)
From Cowgirl Poetry: One Hundred Years of
Ridin' and Rhymin' edited by Virginia Bennett.
Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith. Copyright – Virginia
Bennett, 2001.

Contact Debra Coppinger Hill at Old Yellow Slicker
Productions & 4DH Ranch / Cutting & Ranch Bred
Horses, P.O. Box 348, Chelsea, OK 74016; phone:
918-789-5288; web: oldyellowslicker@yahoo.com;
admin@cowboys-n-cowgirls.com.

If you do not wish to continue receiving this free magazine,
please return the address label to our offices.

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES

P.O. Box 6611
Tyler, Texas 75711-6611

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CENTRAL TEXAS
PRINTING

Winter Tour 2011

(Class Curriculum listed below)

January 24-March 3, 2011

MONDAY – January 24 & 31,

February 7, 14, 21 & 28

(VIDEOCONFERENCE)

6 Week study in Galatians

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 24 & 31,

February 7, 14, 21 & 28

(LIVE & WEBCAST)

6 Week study in Revelation

7:00 P.M. – location TBA

TUESDAY – January 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22, March 1 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

6 Week study in Galatians

7:00 P.M. — **DALLAS EVENING CLASS**

Brookhaven Church,

13000 Marsh Lane

Dallas, TX 75234

Class hosts:

Gary & Sydney Smith,

cell: 972.322.9050

WEDNESDAY – January 26,

February 2, 9, 16 & 23, March 2

(VIDEOCONFERENCE)

6 Week study in Galatians

12:00 P.M. — **SHERMAN NOON CLASS**

Sherman Bible Church,

2515 W Lamberth Road

Sherman, TX 75092

Class hosts:

Larry Watkins, office: 903.868.1623

Tommy Hudspeth, home:

903.893.7603

THURSDAY – January 27,

February 3, 10, 17 & 24,

March 3 (LIVE & WEBCAST)

6 Week study in Galatians

7:00 P.M. – location TBA

