

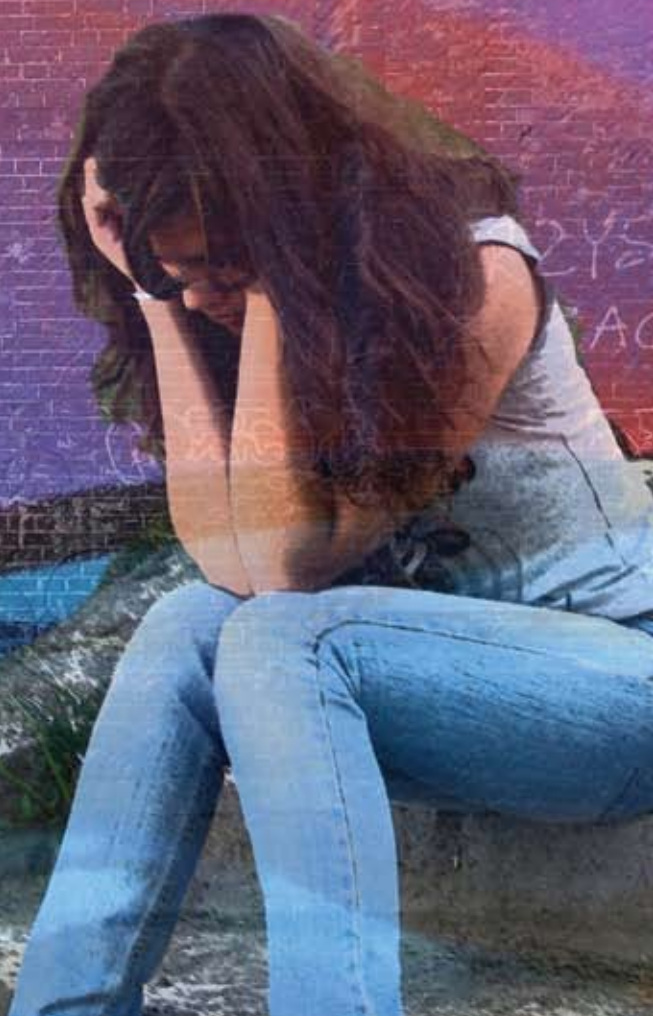
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES  
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

FALL 2008

# GRAPEVINE

*They are a nation  
without sense, there is  
no discernment in them.  
If only they were wise  
and would  
understand this and  
discern what  
their end will be!*

Deuteronomy 32:28-29 (NIV)





## Happy Birthday America!

**A**merica, you are now 232 years old! Congratulations, Lady Liberty! You are still standing in New York harbor.

Great civilizations typically last 200 years, so we are going for the record. Could it be that God has given us an extended period of grace as He did with ancient Nineveh in Jonah's day?

In the words of Thomas Jefferson: "Yes, we did produce a near perfect republic, but will they keep it or will they in the enjoyment of plenty, lose the memory of freedom? Material abundance without character is the surest way to destruction."

Tocqueville, the French observer who toured the new Republic, wrote, "When America ceases to be good, it will cease to be great."

More recently, May Craig, a Washington correspondent, put it thus: "Unless there is a change deep down in the American people, a genuine crusade against self-indulgence and immorality, public and private, then we are witnesses to the decline and fall of the American Republic."

In 1993, Os Guinness stated in an excellent book called *The American Hour*:

The well-ordered images in red-white-and-blue of 1986—the Olympic torch, Lady Liberty, tall ships, heroes in the gallery at the State of the Union addresses—gave way to a darker cataract of impressions—the Challenger explosion, family farm bankruptcies in the Midwest, Wall Street millionaires in handcuffs, star athletes dead from cocaine, marine officers subverting democracy to save it, presidential friends found guilty of peddling influence, a conservative nominee for the Supreme Court withdrawn for having literally "gone to pot," a religious charlatan in disgrace for debasing PTL from "Praise the Lord" to "Pass the Loot" and "Pay that Lady," Black Monday on the New York Stock Exchange, Washington as the "murder capital" of the nation, and a president said to conduct international

summitry on the basis of astrological charts.

So it went in the late 1980s... (15)

The death throes of American culture are all about us.

Will Durant said: "No great nation has ever been overcome until it has destroyed itself."

Things are not very pretty here in our homeland:

1. School shootings
2. Domestic and foreign terrorism
3. Space shuttle disasters
4. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts
5. 9-11-01 – another date that will live in infamy
6. Enron and other corporate scandals
7. Politicians and their indiscretions
8. Abortion
9. Same sex marriage
10. Couples living together
11. Divorce
12. Internet pornography
13. Hollywood violence



**"Material abundance without character is the surest way to destruction."**

*Thomas Jefferson*

We started with these:

1. Faith
2. Freedom
3. Family
4. Flag

The lethal injection has already been drawn by those who would destroy the body of truth that formed the framework of this great land!!

It is time for a change. Listen to the Lord speaking through Jeremiah on the eve of the destruction of Jerusalem:

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it'" (Jeremiah 6:16 NIV).

Confucius said: "To see what is right and not to do it is a real want of courage."

Winston Churchill wisely said: "If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed, if

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# GRAPEVINE FALL 2008

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## From the Editor

As the presidential campaign of 2008 grinds to a close, we thought we'd offer our readers some varying perspectives on the role of the Christian in government. Who better to consult than Probe ministry's national director, Kerby Anderson? For over three decades, Probe has been on the cutting edge of all things cultural, ethical, and political, nationally and internationally. In an intriguing interview, Kerby Anderson shares his thoughts on the candidates and the American political tradition. He also has graciously allowed us to excerpt an article from the Probe website which addresses the topic of America's Christian roots. Don Anderson similarly supplies some insights into the subject in his *Clipboard* article. Regardless of the November election outcome, the Lord is in control. May we remember the words of the psalmist: "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes" (Psalm 118:9 NIV). May the Lord bless you and yours this fall. Thank you for your faithful friendship and support.

—Jane Rodgers

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Couples Conference**  
May 22-24, 2009  
Summers Mill Retreat & Conference Center

**Cost: \$350/couple  
for 2 nights and  
6 meals  
REGISTER ON  
PAGE 10**

**"HOW A MAN LOVES A WOMAN"  
PROVERBS 30:19**



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A higher purpose.*

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# America's Chri

The following has been adapted from an article by Kerby Anderson published by Probe Ministries and included on the Probe website.

**T**he founding of this country as well as the framing of the key political documents rests upon a Christian foundation. That doesn't necessarily mean that the United States is a Christian nation, although some framers used that term. But it does mean that the foundations of this republic presuppose a Christian view of human nature and God's providence.... Our focus in this article will be to pull together many of the themes of these resources and combine them with additional facts and quotes from the founders.

First, what was the perspective of the founders of America? John Adams was the second president of the United States. He saw the need for religious values to provide the moral base line for society. He stated in a letter to the officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts:

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.<sup>1</sup>

John Adams wasn't the only founding father to talk about the importance of religious values. Consider this statement from George Washington's *Farewell Address*:

And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever

may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.<sup>2</sup>

Two hundred years after the establishment of the Plymouth colony in 1620, Americans gathered at that site to celebrate its bicentennial. Daniel Webster was the speaker at this 1820 celebration. He reminded those in attendance of this nation's origins:

Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary.<sup>3</sup>

Religion, and especially the Christian religion, was an important foundation of this republic.

## **Christian Character**

It is clear that the framers of the new government believed that the people should elect and support leaders with character and integrity. George Washington expressed this in his when he wrote, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports."

Benjamin Rush talked about the religious foundation of the republic that demanded virtuous leadership: "the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid on the foundation of religion. Without this there

can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."<sup>4</sup> He went on to explain that "A Christian cannot fail of being a republican . . . for every precept of the Gospel inculcates those degrees of humility, self-

**"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports."**

—George Washington

# stian Roots

denial, and brotherly kindness which are directly opposed to the pride of monarchy. . . . A Christian cannot fail of being useful to the republic, for his religion teaches him that no man 'liveth to himself.' And lastly a Christian cannot fail of being wholly inoffensive, for his religion teaches him in all things to do to others what he would wish, in like circumstances, they should do to him.<sup>5</sup>

Daniel Webster understood the importance of religion, and especially the Christian religion, in this form of government, as evidenced by his Plymouth Rock speech of 1820: "Lastly, our ancestors established their system of government on morality and religious sentiment. Moral habits, they believed, cannot safely be trusted on any other foundation than religious principle, nor any government be secure which is not supported by moral habits. . . . Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens."<sup>6</sup>

John Jay, one of the authors of the *Federalist Papers* and America's first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, also served as the president of the American Bible Society. Jay understood the relationship between government and Christian values, as his words reveal: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."<sup>7</sup>

William Penn, in the *Frame of Government* for his new colony, commented, "Government, like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad."<sup>8</sup>

The founders believed that good character was vital to the health of the nation.

## New Man

Historian C. Gregg Singer traces the line of influence from the seventeenth century to the eighteenth century in *A Theological Interpretation of American History*: "Whether we look at the Puritans and their fellow colonists of the seventeenth century, or their descendants of the eighteenth century, or those who framed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, we see that their political programs were the rather clear reflection of a consciously held political philosophy, and that the various political philosophies which emerged among the American people were intimately related to the theological developments which were taking place. . . . A Christian world and life view furnished the basis for this early political thought which guided the American people for nearly two centuries and whose crowning lay in the

writing of the Constitution of 1787."<sup>9</sup>

Actually, the line of influence extends back even further. Historian Arnold Toynbee, for example, has written that the American Revolution was made possible by American Protestantism. Page Smith, writing in the *Religious Origins of the American Revolution*, cites the influence of the Protestant Reformation: "The Protestant Reformation produced a new kind of consciousness and a new kind of man. The English colonies in America, in turn, produced a new unique strain of that consciousness. It thus follows that it is impossible to understand the intellectual and moral forces behind the American Revolution without understanding the role that

Protestant Christianity played in shaping the ideals, principles and institutions of colonial America."<sup>10</sup>

Smith argues that the American Revolution "started, in a sense, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenburg." It received "its theological



*continued on page 13*

by Jane Rodgers

# Q&A with Probe's Kerby



A typical day might find Probe Ministries National Director Kerby Anderson speaking at a church retreat, addressing teens at a Summit Ministries conference, lecturing to audiences on college campuses, or putting the finishing touches on his latest manuscript. He is a busy man, with numerous media commitments.

Anderson hosts *Point of View*, a daily radio program broadcast over internet and shortwave, and featured on 180 radio outlets nationwide. He also regularly contributes to the Probe radio program, heard on over 600 radio outlets, including the USA Radio Network, Moody Broadcasting Network, Bott Radio Network, and American Family Network. Anderson's daily radio commentaries are carried on various broadcast networks as well. He appears weekly on Moody Broadcasting Network's *Prime Time America* and is a monthly guest on American Family Radio's *Fire Away* program. His editorials have appeared in major newspapers across the country; his radio commentaries have been syndicated by International Media Services, United Press International, and the USA Radio Network. Anderson's television appearances have included spots on *The 700 Club*, the *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*, *Focus on the Family*, *Beverly LaHaye Live*, and *Bible Answer Man*. He has authored ten books and contributed to many others. It's all in a day's work for Anderson, who has served with Probe Ministries for more than three decades.

The Probe website describes the organization's mission as follows: "to present the Gospel to communities, nationally and internationally, by providing life-long opportunities to integrate faith and learning through balanced, biblically based scholarship, training people to love God by renewing their minds and equipping the Church to engage the world for Christ."

Perhaps more so than any other Christian organization, Probe has consistently been on the front lines of engaging an increasingly secular culture with the truth of scripture and the message of Christ. With an emphasis on scholarship and

a recognition of the importance of defining and articulating a distinctly Christian worldview, Probe missionaries write, speak, debate, and discuss topics of current interest. Like Kerby Anderson, they appear on radio and television broadcasts. The Probe website features 1200+ articles on current affairs. Probe also sponsors weeklong MindGames conferences for high school students during the summer. All in all, the organization continues to fulfill the original vision of founders James F. (Jimmy) Williams, Jr., and Jon Buell, who began the ministry in 1973.

Kerby Anderson joined Probe in 1976. Probe's emphasis on research and scholarship prompted Anderson to acquire graduate degrees in science from Yale and government from Georgetown University. These twin areas of expertise form much of his subject matter. As the 2008 presidential election draws closer, we thought it would be of interest to our readers to get Kerby Anderson's views on coming events, including Probe's ongoing mission, and he graciously consented to this interview.

**Q: You've been with Probe since 1976. How did you find out about the ministry?**

A: Yes, I joined Probe 32 years ago. My wife actually told me about it. Jimmy Williams had been her teacher. I applied to Probe and they were emphasizing graduate degrees, so I went to Yale and Georgetown. Science and government are my interests.

**Q: When did you start speaking on college campuses?**

A: Almost immediately, I started speaking in college classrooms. Most of the time I would find myself speaking in science classes on science topics. As an undergraduate, I was vice president of the student body, and government had also always interested me. I became intrigued with the ways science and government interface through such issues as bioethics, abortion, euthanasia, etc.

**Q: Do you have the same opportunities today to speak at colleges?**

A: Less so today—political correctness has taken us out of the classroom. It used to be that the liberals would allow us equal time. Professors tended to be open minded—they'd tell the students, you've heard my side, now let's hear another side. All that has changed. We are still in the classrooms some but not as often as before.

**Q: How has Probe adapted with the times?**

A: With the opportunities dwindling to engage students on college campuses, we began to be convinced that media was the key. Opportunities increased. Today, I host *Point of View* on U.S.A. Radio Network. I also host one week of

# Anderson

shows per month on the Probe radio program. We discuss topics like intelligent design, bioethics, human rights.

**Q: Do you mostly appear on Christian radio stations?**

A: We are carried by 600 radio outlets, mostly Christian or, if not, then someone on staff who is a Christian has probably opened the door for us.

**Q: Do you prefer radio?**

A: I do. It is immediate. You have an opportunity to talk to so many people at once. The audience for *Point of View*, which is on from 1:00-3:00 CST, may be 200,000. Sometimes you can have a million listeners. It's hard to gauge. It's not that different from speaking before an audience, although I've noticed that some people who are great platform speakers can be a little flat on the radio. Some people need the live audience in front of them.

**Q: Would you mind sharing your thoughts on the election? We won't ask you to be partisan.**

A: (Laughing at the partisan comment.) Barack Obama has brought a lot of new voters into the system, a lot of people who previously were not involved in politics. There is a new dynamism in the Democratic party. There's new energy because they've been out of office for many years. Correspondingly, there is less energy in the Republican party.

**Q: What other trends do you see?**

A: It's interesting to look at the numbers who say they will vote. A high percentage of young people said they intended to vote in April and May. Now that number has dropped off the table. Many were excited in the primary. Will they maintain their excitement until the general election? Are they experiencing buyers' remorse? Will their youthful enthusiasm wane? Indicators do suggest that youthful interest has dropped off a bit. Studies show the older you are, the more likely you are to vote. The younger you are, the less likely you are to vote. Obama's people were very good in invigorating young people with things like Rock the Vote, campaigns to get young people to vote. The question remains, will they? How apathetic will they be? Do they see Barack Obama as changing? Did they think he was the messiah?

As for McCain, the big question is whether or not he gets traction. Will his campaign dig in and get going or keep spinning its wheels? The big issue is whether or not he will be able to energize his base in time. The Republican National Convention is not till September. Many people are saying of McCain, "Well, he wasn't my first choice...or my second choice." Will they vote?

The election hinges on Barack Obama—people will be either voting for him or against him.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing America concerning the election?**

A: Many of the issues come back to the courts. The next president will likely have three Supreme Court nominees. John Paul Stevens did not retire during the Bush administration. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's health is not good. David Souter might step down. The next president could dramatically change the make up of the court. If John Paul Stevens is replaced by another liberal, that won't change things, but what if a conservative justice steps down? Even in a normal presidential administration, the Supreme Court justices outlive the president. Three of the nine on the court today were appointed by presidents who are no longer living. Gerald Ford has been out of office since 1977, but his nominee, Stevens, is still on the court swinging the vote. I do believe that if John McCain is elected, he is more likely to appoint conservative justices than Barack Obama. McCain has said he will use the model of John Roberts. Obama voted against Roberts and Alito; McCain voted for Roberts and Alito. Many Supreme Court votes today are 5-4.

Perhaps a more pressing issue concerns the federal judicial system. A president, in two terms of office, generally appoints about half of the 800 federal judges. But the system is currently bogged down. The Democrats in Congress are playing "hold the ball"—they have been derailing or postponing confirmations of President Bush's nominees. Our appellate courts are not at full strength. The next president will have a disproportionate number of federal judicial appointees.

**Q: Given the world we live in, what is your advice to grandparents and parents to prepare the next generation to face challenges to their faith?**

A: I would recommend sending kids and grandkids to a Probe MindGames week or a Summit Ministries camp. Probe also sponsors Worldview Weekends and the Worldview Academy. It's important for young people to be prepared for their college experience.

Probe Ministries is a faith-based ministry. Kerby Anderson and the rest of the Probe staff raise support and work diligently to keep the rest of us informed about the pressing matters and choices facing Christians today concerning social issues, politics, culture, world affairs. Like Anderson, they are articulate, gracious, scholarly, and media-savvy. They are Christian thinkers who unabashedly defend the faith with the voices of reason and truth.

*For additional information concerning Probe events and broadcasts or to access materials and resources, see the organization's website: [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org). Contact Kerby Anderson and other Probe staff members at Probe Ministries, 1900 Firman Drive, Suite 100, Richardson, Texas 75081, or phone: 972.480.0240*



## Recipes by Robichaux

Here are a few South-of-the-Border treats from the inimitable Johnnie Robichaux. These were originally printed in the fall 1990 *Grapevine*.

### Mexican Cornbread

1 cup yellow cornmeal  
 2 eggs, beaten  
 1 cup sweet milk  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
 "handful" of fried, chopped, bacon or  
 1/2 cup bacon drippings or oil  
 1 can cream style corn  
 1 large onion, chopped  
 1/2 lb. grated cheddar cheese  
 1 small can chopped green chilies or jalapenos (optional)

Mix all ingredients. Grease iron skillet and sprinkle with a small amount of cornmeal. Heat skillet before adding batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 2 hours. (Yes, 2 hours!)

### Mexican Cheese Dip

2 1/2 lbs. American cheese, grated  
 1 large can Carnation evaporated milk

Beat mixture with mixer until smooth. Then add the following ingredients and continue mixing until well blended:

1 cup sour cream  
 2 cups Hellman's Mayonnaise  
 2 cans Rotel tomatoes  
 1 can chopped green chilies

### Media Update

As we mentioned in the last issue, the new and improved website is up and running! Big thanks go out to James and Shelly Bowman for their hard work and beautiful redesign! Check out the site regularly as new items will continue to be added. MP3 downloads via the store will be available soon. This feature will allow you to go online, purchase and download Don's messages directly to your computer or MP3 player for half the price!

Also coming in time for Christmas will be MP3 series collections. Entire collections (biblical biographies, books of the Bible, and topical studies) will be available in an MP3 format and packaged in a handy travel case. There will be a separate CD containing the study guides for you to view on your computer or to print out. Watch for these new items in the next resource catalog.

### Videoconferencing Equipment Update

Thank you to all who have prayed or given funds for the purchase of additional videoconferencing equipment. We were able to purchase one new unit for the fall tour. With the addition of this receiver, Don will be teaching a class at Saint Andrews in Fort Worth. Please pray that additional funds will become available to purchase even more equipment. Our goal is to have classes in Temple, Granbury, Sherman, and Waco in the near future.

### 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.

**Couples Conference, May 22-24, 2009 @ Summers Mill.** Register online at [www.BibleTeachingResources.org](http://www.BibleTeachingResources.org) or use the form on page 10.

**Trail West, Buena Vista, Colorado, August 17-22, 2009.** Register online at [www.BibleTeachingResources.org](http://www.BibleTeachingResources.org) or use the form on page 10.

### OnePlace.com

New messages are available each Monday online. Simply visit "Persevering and Pressing On" at [www.OnePlace.com](http://www.OnePlace.com). There is a quick link on our website to take you directly to Don's studies. A free study guide is also provided.

### Radio Ministry

Currently in the works is a radio broadcast in the Philippines on 88.5 FM, Mindnao Praise Radio. We are excited about this new opportunity to teach God's word! Please join us in praying for this very important ministry.

### Weekly E-letter Now Available

For many of you, Don & Pearl's weekly E-letter has been a blessing. We have done our best to collect email addresses and add people to our distribution list. If you would like to receive these articles/updates, please let us know by calling the office or by sending us a quick email: [gen@bibleteachingresources.org](mailto:gen@bibleteachingresources.org).

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## Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Don and I are big fans of the Texas Rangers professional baseball team, and although we watch their TV broadcasts, we find some of the advertisements disconcerting. In one ad, a good looking guy is sitting on the couch beside his wife (or fiancée—she is reading a bridal magazine). The phone rings. The fellow explains, "It's so-and-so; he really needs to vent." The young woman encourages the guy to go help his friend. The next scene shows the fellow with a case of beer (evidently cans with new vent-top lids) at his pal's apartment. Several guys are sitting around "venting," or drinking the beer and watching the game. Wife/girlfriend is deceived, thinking her man is there to help a friend when in reality, he is only downing a six pack.

The scene is really not funny.

Watching Don spend so much emotional energy counseling couples has made me realize that the first lie often starts a slide on the slippery slope of marital decline.

Also becoming aware, through the prison ministry, of the end results of alcohol and drug abuse has made me sensitive to what that first drink of alcohol, first experience with drugs, or first experiment with premarital sex can lead to. Recently we received letters from two ladies in prison who asked for *Life Recovery* books. Both of them requested prayer—one had three young children and the other had four. Each asked us to pray that the children would be safe and cared for while they are incarcerated. A man requested the materials and asked us to pray that he could restore his relationship with his ex-wife and kids, "'cause I did them wrong 'cause of my drug use and it hurts me every day that I am not with them and for the things that I did when I was on the drugs."

Praise God that He has allowed us to make a difference in lives of several hundred incarcerated folks such as this one: Thank you for sending me *The Life Recovery Bible*. I know you get many requests. I can not begin to express how much this means to me. Thank you for the wonderful Bible. I will use it in my recovery and walk with God. May God bless everyone who makes it possible to have this Bible.

I want to thank those who support the prison ministry. *The Life Recovery Bible*, *Life Recovery Devotional*, and *Life Recovery Workbook* are from Tyndale House publishers and are the best we have found.

Thanks for walking with us as we serve the Lord. The closest bonds in life are those whose prayers mingle together as they ascend to our Heavenly Father.

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### Some of our favorite letters from the

## MAILBAG

Thank you Pearl for those awesome promises!! So encouraging!! Hope you all are having a wonderful summer. Remember we would love for you to use our lakehouse in Granbury if you ever wanted to.

Wow! I love the scriptures, the promises that Pearl has claimed over the years. One especially helped me this day. Don, I know you are blessed beyond words with your lovely partner in the ministry. She is on fire! I love how God is using her in my life. Love ya so much,

Thanks Don for the great work you do. I always enjoy hearing you speak. You are a natural teacher, with a style I admire very much. "Preachers" turn me off. You do not preach. You teach from a historical perspective not unlike a really good college professor. Very down to earth...but with power when a point is to be made. I'm a fan.

# Registration & Order Form

## CONFERENCES

- Couples Conference @ Summers Mill \*  
—May 22-24, 2009: \$350/couple
- Trail West 2009\*  
—August 17-22, 2009

## BOOKS

- Keep the Fire!*—\$15
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\* You will be contacted by our conference registrar for additional information.



## Trail West, Buena Vista, Colorado August 17-22, 2009

I find myself singing with John Denver: "Gee, it's good to be back home again." For years we did camps at Trail West and now we get to return. Won't you join us next summer at Buena Vista, Colorado?

What a beautiful facility it is!

Everything is falling into place for picnicking, river rafting, square dancing, fishing, Frisbee golf, mountain climbing, volleyball, swimming, sauna, hot tub, a day trip to Aspen over Independence Pass.

Larry & Mary Kent will lead in worship. Russell Newport will thrill your hearts with special solos, and Don Anderson will teach the word. Yahoo!

Families, couples, single adults—everyone will find something to love at Trail West. All are welcome!

Cost for the week, including a 5 night stay, 14 meals, and program fees is \$900/couple. Additional persons in the same room (up to two) are \$200/each.

Special excursions such as rafting with Noah's Ark are available for an extra charge. A deposit of \$75/person is required to hold your spot.

We are receiving registrations already. Sign up now so you won't be left out



in the cold. You may register online at our website, contact our office, or use the form at left and mail in your reservation.



***The Little Red Book of Wisdom by Mark DeMoss***  
(Thomas Nelson)

My son Bobby gave me this enlightening and enjoyable book, which is divided into two parts: (1) Wisdom for Your Professional Life and (2) Wisdom for Your Personal Life. Each of the 23 chapters deals with issues relevant to our work and to our personal walk with the Lord. This would be a good book to read during devotional times—a chapter or portion of a chapter at a time. You will be blessed as you read.

***In Search of the Proverbs 31 Man: The One God Approves and a Woman Wants*** by Michelle McKinney Hammond (WaterBrook Press)

Michelle Hammond cuts to the chase to get her message across. We hear so much about the Proverbs 31 lady because of the tributes paid to her in scripture. Michele's message is that we should also have a Proverbs 31 man. She emphasizes the importance of knowing God and then pursuing His purpose. The book features several chapters on leadership and commitment. The work offers a new twist on a familiar subject and is excellent for those who want to have a successful marriage relationship.

***The Essential Wooden: A Lifetime of Lessons on Leaders and Leadership*** by John Wooden & Steve Jamison

This is the second book that I have read by John Wooden, the tremendously successful UCLA basketball coach. His life and career are matchless. I love Coach Wooden's summary of the practical wisdom of his father, who told Wooden, as a boy: Never lie, never cheat, never steal. Don't whine, don't complain, and don't make excuses.

***Finishing Well: Learning To Live Through Terminal Illness*** by John Eaves (Kingsley)

I found this treasure while perusing the Greek section at a bookstore. John records his confrontation with terminal illness as he followed a step-by-step process. He finished the race well on February 22, 2004, and we see these final words in the book:

Death is real but it is not final. We imagine John walking toward Jesus' throne, joined by a crowd of faithful followers who comprised the group of "first-timers" that Sunday morning. We picture John's huge smile as he walked to Jesus and waits for his face-to-face encounter. And we celebrate with John the affirmation Jesus gives our friend, "Well done, faithful servant. You finished well." (119)

***One Month To Live: Thirty Days to a No-Regrets Life*** by Kerry & Chris Shook (Waterbrook)

The Shooks follow in the tradition of Rick Warren's *Purpose Drive Life*, encouraging changed priorities.

The book focuses on four principles to be emphasized over a period of 30 days: (1) Live Passionately; (2) Love Completely; (3) Learn Humbly; (4) Leave Boldly. The work helped me understand what it would be like to have 30 days left to live and showed me what I would want to concentrate on and accomplish during those final days. This is a good read.

***Our Lord Prays for His Own: Thoughts on John 17*** by Marcus Rainsford (Moody Press)

I am reading this wonderful work daily, in small snippets, as a part of my devotional time. It is a rich classic and you will not want to miss the blessing of reading it. Rainsford meditates upon every word in the Lord's prayer in John 17.

You will be blessed by the author's fresh insights into the well known prayer.

***American Heroes: In the Fight Against Radical Islam*** by Oliver North (B&H Publishing)

No one is more qualified than Oliver North to represent our servicemen. He begins this fabulous work with a summary of Jihad and the history and background of Islam. He includes incredible testimonies of wounded servicemen, like Marine Sgt. Gregory Edwards, father of two, who says, "I lost my legs for the people of Iraq, so their children will be able to run around, just like mine. If time was turned back, I'd do it all over again" (237). This book will give you true perspective of the war on terror. It will also make you proud to be an American as you read the stories of the sacrifices that are being made for our freedom.

***Cries of the Heart: Bringing God Near When He Feels So Far*** by Ravi Zacharias (Thomas Nelson)

This wonderful book addresses cultural issues, and you'll be refreshed by reading it. The cries of the heart are the cry to know God, the cry to feel my faith, the cry for a reason in suffering, the cry of a guilty conscience, the cry for freedom in pleasure, the cry of a lonely heart, and the cry of God for His people.

***Day by Day with the English Puritans*** compiled and edited by Randall J. Pederson (Hendrickson)

This is also part of my daily reading. Pederson has compiled selections from the writings of different Puritans for 366 days of the year, featuring a different Puritan author for each day. I love William Spurstowe's words, featured in the January 2 selection: "One promise thoroughly ruminated and meditated upon, is like to a morsel of meat well chewed and digested, which distributes more nourishment and strength to the body, than great quantities taken down whole"(8).

# HOMEWORK

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Just for grins, here are some sayings taken straight from senior adult bumper stickers.

**There are three signs of old age. The first is memory loss. I forgot the other two.**

*I'm retired. I was tired yesterday, and I'm tired again today.*



When I was younger, all I wanted was a nice BMW. Now I don't care about the W.

**I'm in the initial stages of my golden years: SS, CDs, IRAs, AARP.**

*Adventure before Dementia.*



*We got married for better or worse. He couldn't do any better. I couldn't do any worse.*

**At my age, everything I buy comes with a lifetime guarantee.**

**Don't worry about tomorrow! After all, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.**

*With age comes wisdom...and discounts.*

**I was always taught to respect my elders. Now I don't have anyone to respect.**

**I'm so old I don't buy green bananas.**



**Goodbye tension! Hello pension.**

*I was at the beauty shop for nearly two hours. That was just for the estimate.*

**Some days I wake up grumpy...and some days I let him sleep.**

*All the names in my address book end in M.D.*

**I'm not old, I'm chronologically gifted.**

**Be nice to your children. They will choose your nursing home.**

**Boxers or briefs? Depends.**



# America's Christian Roots

continued from page 5



and philosophical underpinnings from John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and much of its social theory from the Puritan Revolution of 1640-1660.<sup>11</sup> Most people before the Reformation belonged to classes and social groups which set the boundaries of their worlds and established their identities. The Reformation, according to Smith,

changed these perceptions. Luther and Calvin, in a sense, created a re-formed individual in a re-formed world. Key to this is the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer where each person is "responsible directly to God for his or her own spiritual state.... The individuals who formed the new congregations established their own churches, chose their own ministers, and managed their own affairs without reference to an ecclesiastical hierarchy."<sup>12</sup> These re-formed individuals began to change their world including their view of government and authority.

## Notes

1. John Adams, October 11, 1798, in a letter to the officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts. Charles Francis Adams, ed., *The Works of John Adams - Second President of the United States: with a Life of the Author, Notes, and Illustration* (Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1854), Vol. IX, 228-229.
2. George Washington, Farewell Address (September 19, 1796). *Address of George Washington, President of the United States, and Late Commander in Chief of the American Army. To the People of the United States, Preparatory to His Declination.*
3. Daniel Webster, December 22, 1820. *The Works of Daniel Webster* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1853), Vol. I, 48.
4. Benjamin Rush, "Thoughts upon the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic," *Early American Imprints. Benjamin Rush, Essays, Literary, Moral and Philosophical* (Philadelphia: Thomas and Samuel F. Bradford, 1798), 8.
5. Ibid.
6. Webster, *The Works of Daniel Webster*, 22ff.
7. John Jay, October 12, 1816, in *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed., (New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1893; reprinted NY: Burt Franklin, 1970), Vol. IV, 393.
8. William Penn, April 25, 1682, in the preface of his *Frame of Government of Pennsylvania. A Collection of Charters and Other Public Acts Relating to the Province of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: B. Franklin, 1740), 10-12.
9. C. Gregg Singer, *A Theological Interpretation of American History* (Nutley, NJ: The Craig Press, 1964), 284-5.
10. Page Smith, *Religious Origins of the American Revolution* (Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1976), 1.
11. Ibid, 2.
12. Ibid.

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## Clipboard continued from page 2

you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you may have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival."

To President Bush

What follows is an open letter to our 43rd president as he prepares to exit office:

President Bush, on the 232nd birthday of America, I just want to say thank you for being such a GREAT president. This is your last fourth in the Whitehouse. I want to thank you for standing tall and staying the course. You brought integrity back to the Oval Office. You joined Washington and Lincoln in beseeching God in prayer on a daily basis. Your deep compassion in the arena of human suffering will always be your legacy. I am sorry for the hatred and abuse you have had to take.

President Bush, thanks for all you did to prosecute the war on terror. I feel like I am alive and living the American dream because of your policies and programs you initiated to keep us safe.

My friends, we have been deceived by those who tell us the following:

1. There are no consequences for removing God from our lives and nation.
2. Hatred and bitterness are acceptable human responses.
3. We can kill unborn babies and God won't do anything.
4. There are no consequences for drug and alcohol addictions.
5. I can joint-venture with God on my salvation and feel secure about it.
6. I can selfishly pursue the good life now and God will still reward me in the sweet by and by.
7. I can divorce my wife and leave my kids and still be well thought of.
8. The law of the harvest doesn't apply to me: "He who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly." "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind." "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Don't be fooled by those in our culture who propagate such lies. There are consequences to our national disregard of God and His absolutes.

Here from a variety of sources, are quotations designed to appall and uplift. God is the God of justice and our times are in His hand.

"We love death—the Americans love life—that is the difference between us."

—OSAMA BIN LADEN  
IN A VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE  
FOLLOWING 11 SEPTEMBER 2001

continued on next page

## Clipboard *continued from page 13*

“War is our best hobby. The sound of guns firing is like music for us. We cannot live without war. We have no other way except Jihad . . . The Americans love Pepsi Cola; we love death.”

—MAULANA INYADULLAH,  
AFGHANI MUSLIM FIGHTING ALONGSIDE  
THE TALIBAN

“All who hate me love death.” —PROVERBS 8:36B

### **Solace from Scripture**

Billy Graham said it well: If God doesn't destroy America, He owes an apology to Sodom and Gomorrah." Thankfully, scripture reveals a living God who is the answer to our national disaster.

Matthew 23:37-38 NLT

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. And now look, your house is left to you empty and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, "Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Daniel 9:14 NLT

The Lord has brought against us the disaster he prepared, for we did not obey him, and the Lord our God is just in everything he does.

Matthew 6:21 NLT

Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

James 5:8-9 NLT

You, too, must be patient. And take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. Don't grumble about each other, my brothers and sisters, or God will judge you. For look! The great Judge is coming. He is standing at the door!

1 Peter 4:17 NLT

For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin first among God's own children. And if even we Christians must be judged, what terrible fate awaits those who have never believed God's Good News?

Hosea 4:1-3 NLT

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The LORD has filed a lawsuit against you, saying: "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You curse and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with

one murder after another. That is why your land is not producing. It is filled with sadness, and all living things are becoming sick and dying. Even the animals, birds, and fish have begun to disappear."

Deuteronomy 32:28-29 NET

They are a nation devoid of wisdom, and there is no understanding among them. I wish that they were wise and could understand this, and that they could comprehend what will happen to them.

Joel 2:12-14 NIV

"Yet even now," the LORD says, "return to me with all your heart—with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your garments!" Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and boundless in loyal love—often relenting from calamitous punishment. Who knows?

Perhaps he will be compassionate and grant a reprieve, and leave blessing in his wake—a meal offering and a drink offering for you to offer to the LORD your God!

Joel 2:21 NIV

Do not fear, my land! Rejoice and be glad, because the LORD has accomplished great things!

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

"For I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope."

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

The Lord said to his people: "You are standing at the crossroads. So consider your path. Ask where the old, reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you will find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not follow it."

Jeremiah 10:6 NIV

I said, "There is no one like you, Lord. You are great. And you are well-known for your power."

Jeremiah 10:23-24 NIV

Lord, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them. Correct us, Lord, but only in due measure. Do not punish us in anger or you will reduce us to almost nothing.

Jeremiah 17:7-10 NIV

My blessing is on those people who trust in me, who put their confidence in me. They will be like a tree planted near a stream whose roots spread out toward the water. It has nothing to fear when the heat comes. Its

**"If we ever  
forget we  
are a nation  
under God,  
then we will  
be a nation  
gone under."**

*Ronald Reagan*

leaves are always green. It has no need to be concerned in a year of drought. It does not stop bearing fruit. The human mind is more deceitful than anything else. It is incurably bad. Who can understand it? I, the Lord, probe into people's minds. I examine people's hearts. And I deal with each person according to how he has behaved. I give them what they deserve based on what they have done.

Jeremiah 32:27 NIV

I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. There is, indeed, nothing too hard for me.

Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

Call on me in prayer and I will answer you. I will show you great and mysterious things which you still do not know about.

2 Chronicles 7:14 NET

If my people, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I will respond from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

When is the offer of God's assistance void? How many missed opportunities have occurred because we waited too long? I think sometimes the Lord feels like the old cowboy: "My wife and I had words but I didn't get to use mine."

Ronald Reagan said: "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Jesus' final major address is recorded in Matthew 24:36-44 NET:

But as for that day and hour no one knows it—not even the angels in heaven—except the Father alone. For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. For in those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until

the day Noah entered the ark. And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at the coming of the Son of Man. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one left. There will be two women grinding grain with a mill; one will be taken and one left. "Therefore stay alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have been alert and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

To the prayerful woman in my life—Pearl, keep the faith! Live your life in such a way that when your feet hit the floor in the morning Satan shudders and says "Oh no...she's awake!"

## Schedule

<b>Friday, October 24th</b>	
Registration	6:00 p.m.
Dinner	7:00 p.m.
Worship & Message #1	8:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, October 25th</b>	
Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
Worship & Message #2	9:30 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.
Worship & Message #3	1:00 p.m.
Adjourn	


Conference includes three delicious meals. Join us for an incredible time of fellowship and praise! Cost is \$50 per person.

For additional information, please contact  
Hide-a-way Lake Community Church at  
903.882.6966

Hide-a-way Lake Community Church  
Attn: Michael Eddy  
1500 Lake Park Circle  
Hideaway, TX 75771

# Battle Ready Men

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.  
2 Timothy 2:3-4 nlt



**Rick Rigsby**  
Guest Speaker



**Larry Kent**  
Music

## Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church Men's Conference October 24-25, 2008

# **2008 Fall Videoconference & Live Tour**

**6 Week study in the Lives of Isaac & Jacob — September 15-October 23, 2008**

**MONDAY- September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13 & 20 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)**

**12:20 p.m.—FT. WORTH BUSINESSPEOPLES NOON CLASS**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 10th & Lamar, Ft. Worth, TX 76102**

**Garner Roberts, office: 817.763.5831**

**(Lunch available at 11:50 a.m.)**

**WEDNESDAY-September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15 & 22 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)**

**7:30 p.m.—FORT WORTH EVENING CLASS**

**McKinney Memorial Bible Church, 4805 Arborlawn Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76109**

**Use south entrance, room # and directions posted inside entrance**

**Tom and Joan Cochran, home: 817.738.1855 or cell: 817.907.7763**

**THURSDAY-September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16 & 23 (LIVE)**

**7:00 p.m.—TYLER EVENING CLASS**

**Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church,**

**1500 Lake Park Cr.,**

**Lindale, TX 75771**

**Ministries office: 903.939.1201**

**Class hosts: Doug & Alice Byrd,**

**home: 903.882.1419**

**John & Kay Loucks,**

**home 903.882.7432**

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