



SUMMER 2008

GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

**I Am Blooming
Where I Have Been Planted**

*Look around you: Winter is over;
the winter rains are over, gone!
Spring flowers are in blossom all over.*

The whole world's a choir—and singing!

Song of Songs 2:11-12a The Message

Send Me in Coach. I'm Good To Go!

"I cried out to the LORD in my suffering, and he heard me. He set me free from all my fears" (Psalm 34:6 NLT).

"Nothing grips God's heart like the tortured cry of one of His children."

—Joni Eareckson Tada

Two things made it clear that it was time to write an article on suffering. The first was an email from Pearl, which contained a quotation from author Hannah Hurnard:

Can love be terrible my Lord?
Can gentleness be stern?
Ah yes!-intense is love's desire
To purify His loved—'tis fire,
A holy fire to burn.
For He must fully perfect thee
Till in thy likeness all may see
The beauty of thy Lord.

—Hannah Hurnard

Pearl's email offered these words of wisdom: "Sometimes when we walk closest to God we seem to have the most difficulties.... A new step of faith or extra measure for devotion on our part is taken as a signal by God that we are ready for a new level of love and service for Him." As one reader responded, "What a great reminder of the refining power of God! Sometimes I think I will never shine, but He sure keeps me in the fire a great deal."

The second motivation to write on suffering was preaching on Philippians 1:29 recently: "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake."

Many times we limit our understanding of how God uses suffering in our lives to that great truth revealed in Romans 8:28: "And we are knowing that God is working all things together for good to them that love God and to those who are called according to His purpose" (DAV). Yes, God is sovereign, and He is at work even in our suffering. But there is more.

Let's expand our thinking regarding what God is trying to do in the difficult times we face. Selected verses from 1 Peter suggest seven purposes of God in our suffering.

1. He is TESTING us.

1 Peter 2:20-24: "For what credit is it if you sin and are mistreated and endure it? But if you do good and suffer and so endure, this finds favor with God. For to this you were called, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example for you to follow in his steps. He *committed no sin nor was deceit found in his mouth*. When he was maligned, he did not answer back; when he suffered,

he threatened no retaliation, but committed himself to God who judges justly. *He himself bore our sins* in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed" (DAV).

James 1:2-3: "My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance" (NET).

I'm presently reading a delightful little book in my devotions called *The Loveliness of Christ: Selections from Rutherford's Letters*. The author's prayer says it well: "Lord cut, Lord carve, Lord wound, Lord do anything that may

perfect thy Father's image in us, and make us meet for glory" (7).

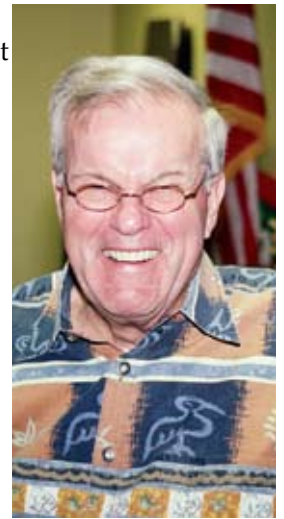
Job even understood this. Job 23:10: "But he knows the pathway that I take; if he tested me, I would come forth like gold" (NET).

2. He is TEACHING us.

1 Peter 4:16: "but if one is suffering as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him be glorifying God in this name" (DAV).

On gym walls everywhere is the famous statement: "There is no gain without pain." The Lord must teach us many things if we are to pursue the pathway of

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Let's expand
our thinking
regarding
what God is
trying to do
in the difficult
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From the Editor

We hope this *Grapevine* finds you enjoying a restful summer. Unfortunately, we must start with a correction from the spring 2008 issue. We mistakenly attributed the poem published on the back cover, "Lord Thou knowest I am growing older," to our friend JoAnn Macan, whose work has previously appeared in the magazine. The poet is unknown and we apologize to all for the error. We *do* know that Dr. Rick Rigsby is the author of a very meaningful book, *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout*, featuring the wisdom of Rick's father. Dr. Rigsby has graciously allowed us to excerpt a portion of the book in this issue as part of our feature article. We know you gentlemen will want to make plans now to attend the Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church men's conference October 24-25, 2008, where Rick Rigsby will be the featured speaker. See page 15 for details. Why not plan also to join Don and Pearl at Summers Mill next spring, too, for a couples conference? Details are on page 15 and on the order form on page 10. Finally, we invite you to consider participating in a videoconference class with Don this year. Mike Rodgers explains how in a letter from the BTR board on page 6. May the Lord bless you and yours this summer. Thank you for your faithful friendship and support.

—Jane Rodgers



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Meet Rick Rigsby: **Motivating with a Message**

Rick Rigsby is a busy man. President and CEO of Dallas based Rick Rigsby Communications and founder of Rick Rigsby Ministries, Dr. Rigsby is a gifted speaker and master storyteller, engaging audiences throughout the United States and around the world with a compelling and relevant message for today. Rigsby is dedicated to proclaiming the “uncompromising message of a loving God to audiences of all ages” and to sharing biblically based principles that empower listeners to make an impact in Christian and secular venues.

Following a successful career as a television news reporter for a CBS affiliate in Northern California, Rigsby earned a master’s degree from California State University at Chico and a doctorate from the University of Oregon. A college professor for over 20 years, Rick spent the last 14 at Texas A&M University, where he continues to serve as chaplain for the Aggie football team.

With over 200 speaking engagements annually, Dr. Rigsby considers it a privilege to address church groups, business executives, educators, service professionals, college students, and teenagers. Rigsby’s client list is impressive—including corporations such as Dell, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Toyota, General Motors, Verizon, McLane, and Brookshire Grocery Company. Rigsby has also spoken at numerous state and national events such as the National Future Farmers of America convention, National Campers Association, National Elementary Principals Association, and the American Public Works Association. Any given weekend, you might find Dr. Rigsby on a Saturday morning speaking to thousands at a national corporate event and on Saturday evening conducting a devotional service for a National Football League team. Most Sunday mornings, Rigsby will be found in the pulpit, addressing congregations of every denomination.

In recent years, Dr. Rigsby has been privileged to speak before thousands at numerous Promise Keepers men’s events. This year Rick will not only be speaking at several Promise Keepers gatherings but will also be joining Dr. Joe White, founder of the newly formed Men at the Cross Ministries, at several conferences sponsored by that organization.

We at Bible Teaching Resources are pleased to announce that Dr. Rick Rigsby will be the featured speaker for a men’s conference, October 24-25, 2008, at Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church in East Texas. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend as spots are filling. Registration information may be found on page 10 of this issue or on our website.

Dr. Rigsby’s book, *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout*, offers timeless, practical wisdom learned from the author’s late father whose honesty, common sense, and



diligence greatly influenced his very successful sons. We highly recommend the book (reviewed in this issue of the *Grapevine* and excerpted at right) and the man. Rick’s life has not been without struggle, as he reveals in his book and will share with you at the conference.

Rick Rigsby is making a profound impact for Christ—fulfilling his God-given potential and encouraging others to do the same. Join us October 24-25 as Rigsby challenges and inspires men to make an impact and not just an impression!

For more information, visit Dr. Rigsby’s website: www.rickrigsby.com or contact Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church.



An

Hour Early

by Rick Rigsby, Ph.D.

I wish I had a dime for every time my father said, “Son, you would rather be an hour early than a minute late.” Believe me, this was not just a phrase. Dad meant it, and he practiced it. My father was a cook at California Maritime Academy (CMA) in Vallejo, California, located just 30 miles north of San Francisco and about 15 minutes from our home. Today, CMA continues to educate and train midshipmen for careers in the maritime industry. From the 1950s through his retirement decades later, my dad worked the breakfast and lunch shift beginning at five o’clock in the morning until one o’clock in the afternoon.

According to Mother, Dad was never late in his three decades at CMA. He believed that a person ought to keep his or her word, and if you promise to be some place at a certain time, then you are there. No excuses. No justifications relating to traffic, road construction, oversleeping, or other “personal issues” which may have resulted in tardiness. While military training no doubt influenced his choices, my dad had an inner clock. He believed in arriving early. His belief in arriving early was so strong that to assure the promptness of my mother...every clock in our home was set at least ten minutes ahead of the actual time!

Arriving early speaks to a value reflective of an era gone by. Just a generation ago, when people were not so self-absorbed, workers and worshipers were on time! If you began work at five o’clock in the morning, then you were likely there at least a half-hour early.

What was my dad communicating to his family? What lesson was he trying to teach my brother and me? Upon years of thinking about his phrase on time, struggling with my own promptness, and returning to his words, I see clearly what Dad’s central message was. My dad’s wisdom lesson had less to do with time, and more to do with discipline and self-control....

A life of discipline has the power to transform a person from an impressionable existence to one who makes an impact. Revealed in the dimensions of disciplined living is the quality of honor and the potential to live an honorable life. During the four decades I knew my father, I observed a behavior that captured a dynamic marriage between endurance and honor.

When you talk to people born during the first four decades of the twentieth century, you discover an unusual quality rarely displayed among citizens of the new millennium. Imbedded in their consciousness is this belief that you just don’t quit. Indelibly etched on the hearts of such folks is the notion that if you tell someone you’re going to do something, you do it—no matter what the cost, no matter how early, no matter what the hardship is for you.... My father’s generation simply and unwittingly said what they meant and meant what they said. Listen to the language of their generation:

- Talk is cheap.
- Actions speak louder than words.
- Your word is your bond.
- Don’t say it if you don’t mean it.

Contrast these words with the language that consumes our culture today:

- Learn to talk a good game.
- All things are negotiable and subject to change.
- Never promise what you cannot deliver.
- Well, I showed up, didn’t I?
- Just do the best you can.
- Oh well, you tried, didn’t you?

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Dear Friends of Don and Pearl Anderson,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Bible Teaching Resources. As many of you know, Don did not physically tour last spring but continued his Bible teaching ministry via videoconferencing. Don's transition to life "off the road" has been coming for quite a few years. Thankfully, modern technology has made it possible for Don to keep teaching Bible classes from a remote location. People can gather in a home in Sherman, for example, and listen to Don as he teaches from studio in Tyler. And it all occurs in real time! Consequently, Don can visit with folks attending class miles away, and they can visit with him, as if everyone were in the very same room. You can imagine the surprised looks as Don greets his students from Tyler as they walk into a room in Fort Worth!

The purpose of this letter is twofold. First, I want to encourage you to attend a Bible study when Don "comes" to your city via a videoconference. It seems it is getting more difficult to find Bible teachers who systematically teach God's word without dilution or compromise. Those of us who have sat under Don's teaching know that God has gifted Don as a Bible teacher and that he faithfully exposit scripture. And I can tell you that after only one series of video studies using the new technology, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic.

Second, this technology is expensive, and I want to make you aware of the financial need. We will spend \$30,000 this year to upgrade equipment and also to make equipment available to more locations. Next year and in all subsequent years, our investment in technology will continue to grow as we fulfill the BTR board's vision for reaching more and more people with God's word. In its 35 years of existence, Bible Teaching Resources has never been underwritten by that one single individual or trust but has always depended upon God through the generosity of a multitude of His people. Thus, I invite you to consider helping with your financial gifts.

My wife, Jane, and I have been involved with Don and Pearl since 1984. We have both invested ourselves and our resources, as many of you have done, in Bible Teaching Resources because we have seen God change lives through the Andersons. We also know that the organization is fiscally responsible, seeking always to honor God and exercise faithful stewardship of all gifts and contributions. Please join us again in investing in God's work



With much gratitude in Christ,
Michael W. Rodgers
Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors
Bible Teaching Resources

I Corinthians 15: 58

Christlikeness. We must realize that this teaching process will go on for the rest of our lives. Therefore, we can be joyfully expectant when the next teaching period comes from the hand of our Lord.

In Rutherford's words: "O, what owe I to the file, to the hammer, to the furnace of my Lord Jesus!" (8).

Dave and Jan Dravecky have teamed up with Joni Eareckson Tada to provide a daily devotional. Jan Dravecky quotes Psalm 139:23-23: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (NIV). She then writes the following:

When I can't feel his presence, when I don't know what he is trying to teach me, when the way before me is shrouded in fog and I can't see the path ahead, when my motives and actions come under question and truth is elusive, when my soul is desperate for God's direction and guidance—I can throw my soul down before God and utter this psalm, this heart cry of a soul longing for his Father's help (May 7).

3. He is TRAINING us.

1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in your faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are enduring the same kinds of suffering" (NET).

Hebrews 12:7, 11: "Endure your suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?... Now all discipline seems painful at the time, not joyful. But later it produces the fruit of peace and righteousness for those trained by it" (NET).

Rutherford writes, "Neither need we fear crosses, or sigh, or be sad for anything that is on this side of heaven, if we have Christ" (16). He says further: "I pray you learn to be worthy of his pains who correcteth; and let him wring, and be ye washed; for he hath a Father's heart, and a Father's hand, who is training you up, and making you meet for the high hall" (28).

The words of the apostle in 1 Peter 12:1 yet ring true: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance [perseverance] the race set out for us" (NET). Paul describes this training process in 1 Corinthians 9:25: "Each competitor must exercise self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one" (NET). He concludes the 1 Corinthians 9

with these words in verse 27: "Instead I subdue my body and make it my slave, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be disqualified" (NET).

4. He is TRIUMPHING through us.

1 Peter 4:19: "Therefore, also let those who are suffering according to the will of God be entrusting their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good" (DAV).

Romans 8:37: "No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!" (NET).

Rutherford writes, "They are not lost to you that are laid up in Christ's treasury in heaven. At the resurrection ye shall meet with them: there they are, sent before but not sent away. Your Lord loveth you, who is homely to take and give, borrow and lend" (6).

2 Corinthians 2:14: "But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and who makes known through us the fragrance that consists of the knowledge of him in every place" (NET).

5. He is TOUGHENING us.

1 Peter 3:17: "For it is better to be suffering when doing good, if it should be the will of God, than when doing wrong" (DAV).

Paul says much the same thing to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:3-4: "Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one in military service gets entangled in matters of everyday life; otherwise he will not please the one who recruited him" (NET). The King James Bible translates verse 3: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of

Jesus Christ." The training is designed for the toughening in order that the believer might be battle-ready when the time of war comes.

Joni Eareckson Tada's devotional entitled "The Beauty of Frost" is inspired by Psalm 119:71: "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (NIV).

The crocuses in my backyard are fragrant and beautiful, even for the dry, warm climate of Southern California. I don't know how to account for such a profusion of flowers except to say that we had a couple weeks of hard frost back in January. I'm only an amateur gardener, but I'm convinced the freezing cold forced a lot of beauty out of my crocuses.

A theologian who also knew something about gardening once said, "The nipping frosts of trial and affliction are often needed if God's trees are to grow. They need the cold to revive and bud." What

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Recipes by Robichaux

Greek Stew

3 lbs. stew meat
12 small whole
onions

4 carrots, cut in chunks
3 celery stalks, cut in pieces
2 cans beef broth
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon garlic
2 cups red cooking wine
1/2 cup flour
Fresh green onions
1 pint mushrooms

Salt and pepper meat. Brown in 1/2 cup hot oil. Remove meat to casserole dish, add flour and beef broth to oil in pan to make gravy. Pour gravy and wine over meat. Add garlic, bay leaf, onions, carrots and celery. Bake at 325 degrees for 3 hours. Serve over hot rice. Just before serving, top with sautéed mushrooms and sliced green onion tops.

*Originally published in the
Summer 1990 issue.*

OnePlace.com update

Join the thousands who access Don Anderson's teachings by clicking on the "Persevering and Pressing On" link at www.OnePlace.com. We are pleased to announce that Christa Schweikhard of San Luis Obispo, CA, will be updating, improving and editing our OnePlace.com broadcasts. We are excited about enhancing these broadcasts which are now heard round the world. See the Mailbag for a few notes from international listeners and U.S. friends.

New and improved website: www.BibleTeachingResources.org

By the time this *Grapevine* arrives, our newly upgraded website should be fully functional. The site is easier to navigate. We'll also be able to accept all major credit cards (MasterCard, VISA, Amex, Discover) through PayPal. Also coming your way: Mp3 downloads!

MP3 CDs available

Soon you'll be able to purchase a single CD for an entire BTR study series! For example, *The Life of Moses* is a 24 CD set, but may soon be ordered in MP3 format on a single CD, at a reduced cost. A binder with study guide will accompany the MP3 compatible CD.

Prayer requests

Please pray for the raising of funds for videoconferencing equipment. Mike Rodgers's letter on page 6 gives more details.

Keep us in your prayers during these summer months and during the transition to videoconference classes. Thank you for your faithful friendship and support.

ACH: automatic donation plan

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

Hide-a-Way Lake Men's Conference: Battle-Ready Men, October 24-25, 2008, featuring Rick Rigsby, Ph.D., and Larry Kent, Hide-a-Way Lake Community Church. See back cover.

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 or use the form on page 10. Also see page 15.

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



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Don and I have set up two bird feeders on the fence outside our kitchen window.

We have learned a lot about bird behavior.

Unfortunately it is easy to

relate bird behavior to our human tendencies as well.

A male cardinal we call "Mr. Big" visits often. Even if there is only one smaller bird at the two feeders he flies in, lands precisely where that single tiny bird is perched, and chases it away.



One day we watched a tiny bird teach Mr. Big a lesson in perseverance. Mr. Big did his thing, and the little bird flew off, but just around to the other side of the feeder. Well, Mr. Big followed the little bird back and forth until his bird tongue must have been hanging out. I looked out later and the two were eating at the same feeder—albeit Mr. Feisty Bird was on the opposite side from Mr. Big, eating to his little heart's content.

As we face obstacles and challenges, large or small, we have an infinite God who always makes sure we have our place at the banquet table...or the bird feeder.

God has a way of working relationships and circumstances for our good and His glory. Our part is to wait on the Lord. We put our hope and trust in Him. He has promised His love, care, and power to all who put their faith in Him.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord"
(Psalm 27:14 NIV).

ACH - Automatic Donation Plan

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Registration & Order Form

CONFERENCES

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

BOOKS

- Keep the Fire!*—\$15
 God Wants a Relationship—\$15
 A Word from the Word—devotional—\$20

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FAX: 903.939.1204

* You will be contacted by our conference registrar for additional information.

MAILBAG

From Victor in Rwanda:

Hi brothers,

I'm very very happy for your mercy and I'm ready to use the materials for raising the holy name of God. God bless you so much. Hope to get them and inform you. Thanks and God bless you once again.

I've just received our post mail about 3 hours ago (materials, books) and I'm really very happy for them. God bleeeeeeees you. So let me thank you for such aid. Amen.

From Mark in the UK:

Thank you so much, I've just opened them [studies] and they're exactly what I was looking for. I've found these studies really helpful and edifying to me personally and they've given me some seed thoughts that I've been able to grow and apply to life here in Scotland. Thank you so much again, every blessing on your ministry.

From friends in the U.S.:

I want to share exciting news! As I have mentioned, I co-lead a Wednesday lunch time Bible study of mostly co-workers at a church across the street from our office. We have taught the entire Bible chapter by chapter, which took us over 9 years, and now we are using the study of Moses that you prepared. For the first time ever, everyone is actually reading their lesson and coming prepared to discuss the questions in their lessons. Our group has now grown as well and we've had to ask for a larger room.

Thanks so much for being obedient to God's call to prepare and make your studies available to us as teaching material. It makes my job easier!

We miss seeing and hearing you but think that the "new way" of your ministry is fantastic! The morning of April 22, I read your devotional to start the day, and my reaction to the words of Psalm 119:101, "I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word." was the immediate thought, "I wish I could say that." Imagine my surprise (and relief) to see that your reaction was exactly the same! Good stuff. I praise the Lord that I could honestly speak the rest of your comment that morning, "...but I do want You to know that You have my heart and that I am learning to be an obedient child." Thanks, and God bless you both.

What a blessing this devotional is to me. I share it with others and they too are blessed so the ministry is multiplied. We have been blessed by Don's teaching and Pearl's ministry for more years that I can count. Does that mean we are getting "old"; no, just "older and wiser." There are many Bible teachers, but very few who makes God's word so alive and applicable as Don does. Blessings to you and the ministry.

We think the [live videoconferencing] classes are exceptionally life-like!

Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout: How the Timeless Wisdom of One Man Can Impact an Entire Generation by Rick Rigsby (Thomas Nelson)

I'm looking forward to visiting with Rick, who will be the speaker at our Hide-a-Way Men's Conference this fall, because he is launching into a personal ministry similar to ours at Bible Teaching Resources. He has graciously allowed us to excerpt a part of *Lessons* in this issue of the *Grapevine*. Rick shares the homespun practical wisdom of his father, a third grade dropout. Lessons addressed include growth, parenting, kindness, humility, the use of time, the importance of character and excellence, the struggles with pride, and perseverance. He also focuses on finishing well and leaving a legacy. This book is a special treasure.

When You've Been Wronged: Moving from Bitterness to Forgiveness by Erwin W. Lutzer (Moody)

Nancy Leigh DeMoss endorses Lutzer's book thus: "Hardly a day passes that I don't hear another story of betrayal, broken promises, and damaged relationships. Even our churches and Christian homes are strewn with the wreckage of estranged relationships. Dr. Lutzer urges us to make Christianity believable by pursuing reconciliation and moving from bitterness to blessing." It is an excellent read.

A New Kind of Normal: Hope-Filled Choices When Life Turns Upside Down by Carol Kent (Thomas Nelson)

I have always enjoyed reviewing Carol Kent's books. She is such a vibrant, dynamic Christian. In this work we discover how tragedy has hit her family. Kent dedicates the work to people who "are living in their own 'new kind of normal,'" those who have embraced the "new opportunities and unexpected joys" that result when survivors choose to trust and forgive.

Monday Night Jihad by Jason Elam & Steve Yohn (Tyndale House)

Jason, kicker for the NFL's Denver Broncos for many years with the Super Bowl rings to prove it, has written an excellent novel. It is very similar to the works of Joel Rosenberg, but written from a different perspective, exposing the subtle work of terrorists who infiltrate our society and create disaster. This book is well worth your time.

The Faith: What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It, and Why It Matters by Charles Colson & Harold Fickett (Zondervan)

Colson has done it again. I am one of his greatest fans. In a day of spiritual confusion concerning the existence of God and the inerrancy and authority of scripture, Colson comes back to the basics and helps clarify our thinking. It is definitely required reading.

Good Ol' Cowboy Stories by Jack Terry (Harvest House)
Jack is a gifted artist and writer. In this work, he draws upon history to remind us of our roots. If you're inclined to the cowboy culture as I am, you will really enjoy this book. And if not, it surely will make an excellent gift book for the coffee table.

Deep Heat by Joel C. Rosenberg (Tyndale)

This book is the fifth and final of Rosenberg's "Last Days" series, including *The Last Jihad*, *Last Days*, *Ezekiel Option*, and *The Copper Scroll*. I was among the first in line the day *Deep Heat* was released. I immediately spent a couple of days absorbing it. Joel's work begins with the premise of imminent nuclear attack. In Joel's words:

America had long been living on borrowed time.

After all, they said, why should God keep blessing a nation that celebrated its sin? More than forty million abortions since 1973. Pornography sales topping \$13 billion annually, more than annual NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball revenues combined. The most toxic cultural pollution imaginable pouring out of Hollywood and the music industry every day. Nearly seventeen thousand murders a year, more than double that of the 1950s. The list could go on and on. (219)

This novel issues a tremendous wake-up call to the United States. I encourage you to read all five books in the "Last Days" series.

S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life by Erik Rees (Zondervan)

This is my first exposure to Erik, the pastor of ministry at Saddleback Church (known for Rick Warren and The Purpose Driven Life). Erik uses the acronym "S.H.A.P.E." to help us find and fulfill our unique purpose in life. The acronym stands for Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. This excellent read will help you discover your spiritual giftedness and suggest how you can find fulfillment in accomplishing what God has designed for you to do.

Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America by Brigitte Gabriel (St. Martin's Press)

Brigitte Gabriel, a journalist based in the U.S., has written an excellent book uncovering Islamic terrorist plans and purposes. It serves as a great warning to all Americans. It is really well-written—a must-read because of what she has personally experienced from Islamic terrorism.

Stop Whining, Start Living by Dr. Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins)

I have not read any of her previous works, but I have often heard her give counsel on the radio as Dr. Laura. The principles outlined in excellent work parallel those of scripture. Dr. Laura discusses sessions with patients and callers, and does an excellent job presenting constructive plans for handling the difficult times of our lives.



CHRISTIAN WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS

Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice. We're thankful to Debbie Elkins for emailing us the following list, adapted for our readers.

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say no to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others
6. Simplify and de-clutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time. Don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it except in prayer.
12. Live within your budget. Don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups: an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps in your desk, etc.
14. K. M. S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the "Kid in You" everyday.
16. Carry a Bible, devotional book, or set of memory verses to read while waiting.
17. Get enough rest.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. While driving, listen to a CD that can help improve your quality of life.
21. Keep a journal of thoughts, inspirations, answered prayers.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having a problem? Talk to God on the spot. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you, Jesus."
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less. Listen more.
34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one new thing you're grateful for.

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An Hour Early

continued from page 5

Inherent in the earlier generation of people was the belief that an honorable life was contingent upon an unflinching commitment to personal discipline. However, our generation has misplaced our allegiance to discipline and instead embraced convenience....

Roger Marion Rigsby was early to all events and engagements. The early arrival was the outward expression of an unwavering commitment to promote a lifestyle that made self-discipline among his most cherished and valued possessions.

What would your life look like if you made a choice every day to be an hour early? While it may be impractical to follow such a mandate to the letter, how about embracing the spirit of the lesson? How might your professional life improve if you were early to every appointment from this point on? Would you be more influential as a leader, a mentor, a husband, or a student?... You cannot imagine the impact something as simple as showing up early can have on another person.

What would
your life look like
if you made
a choice every
day to be an
hour early?

The preceding article has been excerpted from pages 40-41 and 48-52 of Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout by Rick Rigsby, Ph.D (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006). © 2006 by Rick Rigsby. Used by permission of author. For more information on Dr. Rick Rigsby, see www.rickrigsby.com.

is true for crocuses is true for people, as verse 71 declares afflictions are God's way of helping to create something beautiful in our life.

Do you feel the nipping frost of loneliness or the biting cold of persecution, the icy sting of rejection or the numbing chill of heartache? Just as flower bulbs need the nipping frost to revive the blossom, hardships have a way of helping peace and joy blossom in your life. Patience can flower out of failure, and self-control or kindness can bud out of brokenness" (April 29).

Rutherford writes, "He delighteth to take up fallen bairns and to mend broken brows: binding up of wounds is his office" (2).

1 Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (NASB).

What a joy to hear from the lips of the apostle Paul as he breaks the tape, finishing the race of life in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (NASB).

6. He is TRIMMING us.

1 Peter 1:6: "In this you are rejoicing, though now for a little while, if it must be (if there is need for it), you have been distressed in the midst of various kinds of testings" (DAV).

Jesus said in John 15:1-2: "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit in me. He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit" (NET). In John 15:8, the Lord continues: "My Father is honored by this, that you bear much fruit and show that you are my disciples" (NET).

Rutherford says: "Why should I start at the plough of my Lord, that maketh deep furrows on my soul? I know he is no idle husbandman, he purposeth a crop" (8).

Jeremiah is instructed by the Lord to go down to the potter's house; in Jeremiah 18:4 we read: "Now and then there would be something wrong with the pot he was molding from the clay with his hands. Then he would rework the clay into another pot as he saw fit" (NET).

It would be well for us on a daily basis to turn to the Lord and tell Him to take us down to the potter's house and throw us on the wheel and make us into the vessel

that would seem good to Him to make.

I love the way the New Living version translates Isaiah 64:8: "And yet, Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are all formed by your hand" (NLT).

7. He is TENDERIZING us.

1 Peter 4:12-13: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is coming upon you, as though something strange were happening to you; but inasmuch as you are sharing the sufferings of Christ, be rejoicing; in order that also at the revelation of His glory, you might shout for joy" (DAV).

Sweetness and kindness exude from the life of one who has been crushed by the heel of affliction.

Eric Rees in the book

S.H.A.P.E. says: "There is purpose in your past....An automobile accident in May 1996 took the life of singer and songwriter Jana Alayra's four-year-old daughter, Linnie.... Jana made an important decision in her life. She could have turned away from God in bitterness over her loss. Instead, she ran into his arms and allowed her crisis to become a catalyst for Christ. Faith and experience taught her that true comfort is found in God alone" (96).

Rutherford says: "There is no sweeter fellowship with Christ than to bring our wounds and our sores to him" (3).

Peter begins to draw his epistle to a close with these words in Peter 5:10-11: "But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall

ground you as on a foundation. To Him be the power (dominion) for ever and ever. Amen" (DAV).

Rutherford's prayer offers a fitting end to our reflections: "Let him make anything out of me, so being he be glorified in my salvation: for I know I am made for him" (12).



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affliction.

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“HOW A MAN LOVES A WOMAN”

PROVERBS 30:19

Schedule

Friday, October 24th

Registration	6:00 p.m.
Dinner	7:00 p.m.
Worship & Message #1	8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 25th

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	

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Rick Rigsby
Guest Speaker



Larry Kent
Music

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

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

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