

THE FAITH BUILDER

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“YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN” JOHN 3:7

by Henry Vanderbush

In all the years I've been a Christian, I still marvel at the experience of the new birth. I hope I never get over it. That moment in my life as a boy in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Bushnell, South Dakota, I came to an altar, and in a simple prayer and with the help of the pastor, my life was changed forever. It doesn't make any difference where you pray that prayer of repentance, or where you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. It may be in a barn by a bale of hay. If you can't believe that can be done, you just call Rev. Richard DeRuyter of Ruthton, Minnesota who now pastors a wonderful church there. You let him tell you about the Sunday morning out on his farm in his haymow, kneeling beside a bale of hay he accepted Jesus. He said, "I never really prayed in my life. I didn't know what to say, but I just stumbled through a prayer doing the best I could because I wanted to turn my life over to God". He said, "God must have understood that prayer because that morning when I came down from the haymow, I was completely new. I knew something had happened in my life." It didn't happen by an altar in a church, but by a bale of hay in a haymow.

God wants you to live a blessed life. He doesn't want you to live a defeated life. He doesn't want you to live in bondage and chains. God wants you to live victorious. You can enjoy the blessing of the new birth, but you cannot experience the new birth without knowing it. You cannot belong to the family of God and not know that you are a child of God, because you have been adopted. In John chapter three we read about Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night. He was a good, moral, honest, hard-working and affluent person and if he needed to be born again, I'm sure we all need it. Thank God that experience is for you right now. You may be in your tractor, or driving your car or

pickup. You may be bedfast somewhere at the end of a hall in a nursing home. I don't care where you are. Jesus will meet you anyplace if you are honest. It isn't what you pray or how long you pray. It's the attitude of your heart when you pray. The thief on the cross said three words, "Lord, remember me". That day he changed from a cobblestone sidewalk of a prison cell, to the golden streets of the New Jerusalem just by saying three simple words.

How many of you have called somebody and said, "I've got a real good deal and I just couldn't pass it up. I'll never get another deal like this and I'm accepting it." The new birth is the best deal you have ever seen. Imagine trading all your sin, heartaches, burdens and all your junk

for a brand new way of living, and then to inherit eternal life in heaven with our Lord forever and ever and ever. There is nothing like

the plan of redemption. It took

the life of Jesus God's only son, but the miracle of the new birth is still the miracle of the ages. The greatest men that have ever lived have not been able to explain the experience of the new birth. With just a few words you can accept a Person who will change your life forever. Everyone who enters the gate of heaven is there because they were born again. Everyone who enters the gates of hell will be there because there weren't.

Throughout all eternity the host of the redeemed will be singing about it. Through all eternity the host of hell will be weeping and wailing because they missed it. Today the door of grace is still open. The mercy seat is still available. The blood is still available. It might not be open tomorrow. I can't predict that, but it's available today. The most important thing right now is not how much money you have or

how long you are going to live, but have you been born again? Have you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life confessing your sins and accepting the Lord as your personal Saviour?

But you say, "I've been a good church member, I'm faithful to the church and I've done a lot of good things. I've taken communion, I've joined the church and been baptized." These things are wonderful, but when we stand before the judgment bar of God, the thing that is going to make the difference of whether I go to heaven or hell will be if my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The greatest thing in the world is not your healing, not how much money you are going to make or not that business transaction. The greatest thing in all the world is this - Am I ready to meet God? Am I going to heaven? The Bible doesn't say, "Except a bad man be born again". It says, "Except a man be born again." That includes every man, woman and child.

God wants to bless you so much. Oh, if only you could realize that. In fact, I think it took more love for God to send His only son down here, not to die for his friends, but for his enemies, than for Jesus Christ to die on the cross that he might shed his blood and we might be saved. Right now you can make the final decision to go with God. You can bow your head right where you are and say, "I'm tired of the way I am living. I'm tired of what I'm doing and what I'm going through. I can't go on anymore. Lord, I accept you right now as my personal Saviour." If you prayed that prayer and meant it with all your heart, then WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD. Luke 15:7 says, "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

(Taken from a radio message Henry preached in 2004).

**I STILL MARVEL
AT THE EXPERIENCE
OF THE NEW BIRTH**

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RONDA'S PRAISE AND PRAYER REPORT

by Ronda Vanderbush

There is something unique about the year 2011. I feel it so strongly. For one thing, the number 11 keeps popping up so frequently nearly every day when I least expect it, that it makes me think, "This is not a coincidence." And I've noticed it perhaps for nearly a year now. Then one day, I heard a minister on the internet say, "Have you noticed something unusual about the number 11 lately?" I really have no prophetic word about this, but the thought that comes to mind everytime I see 4:11 or 2:11 and so forth on the clock, is the tragedy that occurred in our nation on 9/11/01. I feel the urgency to pray for the protection of our country against further attacks, and it serves as a warning to pray for America. So my word to you which I believe is from the Lord is to pray, pray, pray. I also believe that this will be a year of signs, wonders and miracles for the believers. I've said it before and will say it again, as we draw closer and closer to the end of this age, we will see wickedness increasing in the world, but we will see righteousness increasing in the people of God and in God's kingdom here on earth. So again, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

It's been such a treat to have northern visitors come by and see us here in Texas, and the past few months have brought several long time friends our way. Walt and Nita Odom drove down to Austin from northern Texas. We have known Pastor Walt since back in the 70's when we first held him a meeting in Kearney, Arizona. You may have heard Henry's story about his sore back when Walt came to our trailer and said, "Well, let's pray about it". He prayed, and then he promptly insisted that Henry get up off the couch and walk up the hill to the church with him. Of course, Henry knew that he could never do that, but after falling on the floor with the first try, he finally got going feeling pain all the way. But part way up the hill the pain completely left him and he was totally healed!

Then our pastor and wife from Ruthton, Minnesota came to Austin for a week, and it was great to see them after being gone for over a year. Richard and Fran DeRuyter are a great blessing to us. Not only are they our pastors, but we are very grateful to them for taking care of our house in Ruthton. The couple to the far right in the picture are Gerald and Glenice Ihnen who back in the 80's owned the same house we now live in. Gerald worked in the Ruthton bank and they helped in the very first barn revival out on Rich and Fran's farm in the fall of 1984.

Then in January, Rodger and Linda Brandt from Clinton, MN came through. They are the hardworking farmers who held twenty barn revivals

on their farm. It was wonderful to have them here for a couple days before going on down to southern Texas. All of these wonderful friends took time to pray for Henry and I and truly blessed us. We are so grateful.

It's been three years now since Henry had the stroke that took his speech, and then soon after, another one that crippled his left side and impaired his memory. He has had a number of setbacks, but every time the Lord brings him back to a certain point which has made it possible for me to care for him. But for me to continue doing that, I really need a breakthrough now. I know God has heard the many prayers for Henry, and I trust Him completely. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your



Fran and Richard DeRuyter, Gerald and Glenice Ihnen, Ronda and Henry



Nita and Walt Odom

Blessings!

HOPE

We should never reach a place in our lives where hopelessness becomes an option. God did not create hope as an optional thing. Every time you agree that there is no hope in a situation in your life or someone else's, you are doing nothing more than making an agreement with the devil over your life, and /or someone else's. As people who are meant to carry the kingdom of God in this world, we cannot let hopelessness be an option. And we cannot let hopelessness rule us. I don't remember a single place in the Bible where it says, "Hope, but once you reach a certain point,

you might as well just be hopeless because there is nothing you can do about it." We are not hopeless people, but people who were created to bring hope to a hopeless world. Hope is imminent. Hope is now.

Dance for hope, Dance for life. Crying for death and crying for lack of life does nothing now, does it? Dance and sing. There is a light that is greater than that little shadow in the corner.

Hope is here! Hope is now! So Hope!

I break doubt and hopelessness off of every human being who reads this.

By Britain Vanderbush



Britain ministering at R.W. Shambauch's campmeeting

KEEP YOUR FOCUS

by *Bill Vanderbush*

I remember, back in the days before Attention Deficit Disorder was invented, that my teachers had the following advice for the parents of the kids who couldn't sit still and pay attention in class. Stop feeding them so much sugar. Now even though I may have been ramped up by a bowl of Frosted Flakes, the reality is the world is a fascinating place and taking it all in was my job. There was so much to see, so much to absorb, so much to remember, and my parents didn't help matters. Looking at the world through a windshield meant that Dad's second most repeated phrase was "Oh, Billy, look at that." The first most repeated phrase, (in case you're curious), was "Praise the Lord". I wandered through the world in wide-eyed wonder, taking it all in, and I still do.



Bill Vanderbush

So I have this soft spot in my heart for Elisha in 2 Kings. He has this appetite for what Elijah

carries. It's not hero worship or indulgent loyalty. He literally recognizes a genuine anointing of God upon a man who is now about to end his race, and he wants to ask, but instead he follows. He walks with Elijah as they travel from Gilgal, a place of grace, where God removed the reproach away from his people as Joshua led them over the river, to Bethel, a place of wrestling and decision where Jacob saw the gate between heaven and earth.

At each location Elijah directs him to stay behind, and on any other day, Elisha might have obeyed. But in this moment, the greater obedience is to follow the hidden invitation behind the testing command, for the command to stay is overridden by a hunger and value for that which may be ultimately the only thing that truly has value – the Presence, favor, and anointing of God. The pursuit of that is what Elisha is after. Elijah supernaturally crosses through the Jordan's parted waters with Elisha right beside him, and on the other side he asks the question Elisha has been waiting for. Elisha responds to the opening by asking for a double portion of the

anointing that Elijah carried. This is a hard thing, because you can't give what you don't have. Elijah discerns that God wants to grant this, but at a price. "If you see me when I am taken, then you can have what you have requested," he says. It doesn't seem like a big deal, until two things begin to happen. A whirlwind lifts Elijah off of the ground, and in the same moment a flaming company of horses and a chariot sweep down from heaven in between the two of them. Now consider this test. All Elisha has to do is watch Elijah while he's being taken up. But then God sends this spectacular show of power and glory.

Here's the point. In order to qualify for the greater anointing that your heart longs for, you have to be able to function with focus on what God has called you to, and not be distracted, even by the supernatural things going on around you that are from Him. Keep your eyes focused, and your heart pure, set on one voyage, fixed on His voice, set your gaze toward nothing else but Him. Do that, and you'll never again lose that sense of child-like wonder that is the requirement for those who long to see the Kingdom of God.

A DREAM COME TRUE

by *Traci Vanderbush*

Over 20 years ago, I studied French for three years and I would often dream of going to Paris. I would imagine the sights, sounds, and smells: amazing, old, beautifully-designed buildings, conversations in French, and pastries whose fresh aromas would draw me into another world. Sounds dramatic, I suppose.

My desire and passion for God led me into daydreams of teaching the people of France about His great love for them. My mom and dad bought me a French Bible and I would spend many moments reading the Scriptures, trying to memorize them in French just in case I got the opportunity to go there. When my husband and I married, we wanted to go to Paris for our honeymoon, but finances only got us as far as, well, an hour away from home. It was a nice, quaint, cozy honeymoon...and needless to say, we spent most of our time indoors, warmed by the fires of passionate, young love, so there was no room for touring a new destination. We figured we would visit Paris for our 5th anniversary...10th anniversary...15th anniversary.

Time passed and we never got there.

In January of 2009, Georgian Banov came to town and as I sat on the front row, listening to him preach, he stopped and looked over at me. He came and took my hand, saying, "God says, 'France!' He is giving you France and He is awakening dreams within you." I was overcome by the Spirit of God as I felt Him invading my heart and reawakening the desires that I once had for France.

Fast-forward---> Through an amazing series of events, topsy-turvy moments, beautiful times and harsh times, God brought my husband and I to a new place in life in which we are ready to find out what treasures God has hidden for us in France. As we go there in February, totally by miraculous provision, I am anticipating something wonderful...something new. While there, we will renew our wedding vows since it will be our 20th year of marriage. There is something symbolic and, perhaps, prophetic about remembering and re-establishing covenant in a place where God wants to remind the people

of Europe of His covenant with them. Like a child on an Easter-egg hunt, I am ready, basket in hand, to seek and find sweet surprises and things of value. Thank You, Father, for this dream come true.

Along with the trip to France, God has opened a door for us to stay in Albania for two weeks with some dear friends. We will be connecting with a local pastor who is organizing an event for pastors from all over Albania! We are looking forward to a time of ministry there, so we highly value your prayers as we make this amazing journey. Thank You, Father, for this dream come true.



Bill and Traci

SUNDAY RADIO SCHEDULE

Minnesota	• Faribault	KDHL	AM 920	7:30 a.m.
	• Fergus Falls	KBRF	AM 1250	8:00 a.m.
	• Pipestone	KLOH	AM 1050	8:30 a.m.
	• Preston	KFIL	AM 1060	7:00 a.m.
	• Madison	KLQP	FM 92.1	6:00 p.m.
Nebraska	• O'Neill	KBRX	AM 1350	1:10 p.m.
North Dakota	• Jamestown	KSJB	AM 600	6:30 p.m. ct
South Dakota	• Huron	KOKK	AM 1210	8:00 a.m.
	• Watertown	KWAT	AM 950	8:30 a.m.
Wisconsin	• Waupaca	WDUX	AM 800	8:30 a.m.

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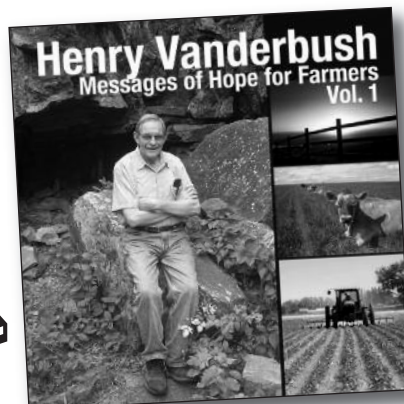
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