

# The Body Builder

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## Ed's Editorial:

### *Pastor Ed Before HPC - Part 2*

by Pastor Ed Vasicek

In part one, I shared how that I was saved at age 17 (in the middle of my senior year of high school). I then began attending a fine, Bible-teaching church (Cicero Bible Church, Cicero, IL). That fall, I met George, who had just come back from the military. Although brought up in a Christian family, George had given his heart to the Lord a year earlier. We began growing in the Lord together. About six months later, I met Norman. Norman had just accepted the Lord, so was newer in Christ than I was. He began attending the same church, which is how I met him. Norm was a student at Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL), but he was home for the summer, holidays, and many weekends. About 6 months later, another friend, Victor returned to church from college and became part of our informal discipleship group. Victor had known the Lord for some time; his mother and brother were also believers.

What times we had! We held all-night prayer meetings, helped our church with services at some pretty crude rescue missions (in the inner city), passed out tracts, did Bible memory, and talked about Bible passages and theology. We also had a lot of fun in the process.

Those college years — when you are single and have few commitments — are great years to grow in the Lord. Such experiences would have been hard to replicate had we come to know the Lord at an older age. That's why I encourage college students to get involved in groups like Cru or churches like Kossuth Street in Lafayette. You can certainly grow later in life, but usually not at such an accelerated rate.

Incidentally, Norman earned an M.Div. degree from Trinity Seminary, but decided he wasn't called to vocational ministry; he serves as a social worker in the Chicago area, dealing with Welfare recipients. He is a key layman in his church and a faithful witness to God's grace; his son was a freshman at Moody when our son, Luke, was a senior. Victor went to medical school and is now a practicing MD in the inner city of New York.

Back to the storyline. The following Christmas break, my friend Norman invited his friends from church (including me) to join his friends from the Campus Crusade (Cru) group (i.e., those who lived in the Chicago area) to a social gathering at his house. I first met Marylu at this meeting. She was a student at Northern Illinois University and part of the Campus Crusade group there. When back home, she lived in the next suburb (Berwyn), and attended a sister church, Community Bible Church.

Marylu came to know the Lord a year before I did. She had graduated high school and was working as a waitress to save up money for college. She got a job at Walgreens. At that time, some select Walgreens pharmacies had a complete restaurant attached to them.

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*The Body Builder* is published monthly by Highland Park Church, P.O. Box 11, Kokomo, IN 46903-0011.

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Some of the bus boys at the restaurants were students at the Plymouth Brethren school, Emmaus Bible College (at that time located in nearby Oak Park, IL). They shared the gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Like me, Marylu was religious, but trusting in her church attendance, rituals, and good works to make her right with God. These students gave her Billy Graham's book, "Peace With God." She read the book and determined to depend solely upon the atoning work of Jesus Christ as the basis for her salvation. Shortly after she personally trusted Jesus' work for her, she sought out a Bible-teaching church. Like me, she highly cherished the Scriptures.

Even though I met Marylu at Norman's home, I did not begin dating her until several years later. There was no special chemistry either way; we were both just meeting Norman's friends.

It was during my second year of a two-year electronics program that I sensed God calling me to the ministry. At first, I just thought it was some sort of daydream or stray thought. I knew the strength of the church was dedicated laymen, and that was my intention. But it came to the point where I realized I could be happy doing nothing else but ministry. So what should I do? I had one more semester to complete my AAS degree; should I quit? I determined if I did, my testimony would be relegated to "spacy religious fanatic." So I decided to finish my degree, which I did. But I applied to Moody Bible Institute for admission in the fall and was accepted.

I loved being a student at Moody Bible Institute. I had amazing roommates, amazing professors, and great opportunities to participate in practical ministry. Few people in our world experience the fellowship and spiritual camaraderie we experienced at Moody. So many of my peers are now pastors, missionaries, and executives in Christian corporations, or dedicated laymen. Sure, a few have fallen away from the Lord or gotten sidetracked, but most are still faithfully serving the Lord after all these years.

When I was a senior at Moody, I was able to finagle the best preaching assignment. Chelsea House was a retirement hotel (the predecessor to today's Assisted Living facility), and they had a Sunday morning service in their meeting hall, staffed by Moody students.

Most Moody students were not from around the Chicago area, but I was one of the few who was. The Practical Christian Work department of Moody was eager to maintain this choice ministry, but most Moody

students could only fill the pulpit during the school year. Often, the head of the Practical Christian Work department had to preach during the summer, which limited his involvement in his local church. Since I was local, I offered to preach there throughout the summer, in addition to the school year. So Chelsea House became my assignment the summer before and during my senior year. I would preach an expository sermon every week, great training for real church ministry.

As a senior, I had decisions to make. Would I go on for an advanced degree? Or could I find a church to pastor? When I would graduate, I would be only 22 years old — and a Christian for only 5 and ½ years.

Here is what happened: Cicero Bible Church had (in its heyday) planted dozens of other churches in the Chicago area, mostly in the newer suburbs. At this point, Cicero Bible Church only had one branch work left, a difficult church of 12 people in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, near White Sox Park. The pastor at Cicero Bible arranged for me to candidate (auditioning with a view toward possible employment) at Victory Bible Church one Sunday in March.

The Friday before I preached there, Marylu and I went on our first date! Talk about things coming together!

How did our first date happen? I had tickets to the Civic Orchestra (connected to the Chicago Symphony), but all the girls I knew at Moody were home for spring break. I remembered Norman had a friend, Marylu, who had her own car and lived nearby. I didn't want to waste the ticket, and I needed transportation from my parent's house.

So I asked her to accompany me; she was not interested in me, but jumped at an opportunity to visit Orchestra Hall. Almost as a portent, Margaret Hillis directed the Civic Orchestra. Years later, we discovered she was from Kokomo. Hillis was the granddaughter of Elwood Haynes! After our first date, we both realized we were interested in dating some more. The rest is history.

Part three will follow next month!



## Missionary Letters



Dawsons

July, 2016

Dear Pastor Ed and Friends at HPC,

It's been an emotional week for us, with the killing of the officers in downtown Dallas and the departure of Jessica. We are saddened by both events, but in different ways. Jessica's departure from the home to start her career, although more

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personal, is much easier to handle. The deaths of the officers is less personal for us, yet much more difficult to process, given the context. There's so much there to process, but this is not the venue. If you'd like to process with me by email, feel free to respond and let me know. As we heard Sunday in a sermon, it's not enough to say that we ourselves are not racist. We have Jesus, the solution. What are we doing to make Him known and to make disciples who walk in His ways of compassion, humility, and truth? First of all, are WE disciples who walk that way? Matt and I are happy to be part of the solution on a global scale, along with you, but what about locally? That's what I've been asking God; so far, no clear answer.

We do see God working on a global scale through Wycliffe and Wycliffe's primary partner, SIL, and we rejoice. Back in March 2015, Ugandan people who speak four different languages, with a total of 900,000 speakers, gathered together to celebrate the completed drafts of their New Testament.



*The translators chose to commemorate the occasion with memorial stones like the ones the Israelites of the Old Testament set up after God rolled back the waters of the Jordan River and allowed them to walk across on dry land (Joshua, chapter 4). During the celebration, each translator lifted up a stone bearing the name of his language.*

See the joy on the face of that translator? At the end of this month, on July 29, the Lubwisi, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, will dedicate their published New Testament!

This past week, Matt, despite his migraines, has continued work on visa documents for the various Board members who need one for the November Board meeting in Germany. He also helped Jessica pack up her belongings which she designated to go directly to Seattle.

Last Saturday, we accompanied Jessica down to Austin, Texas, where she started her new-hire training on Monday. We made her get her picture taken in front of the main entrance to her company headquarters.



Jessica had a reception to attend Saturday afternoon, so Matt and I left after we moved her into her hotel suite. We toured the Texas State Capitol before coming home. The visit reinforced our understanding of this unique state that was once its own nation.



Praise God for:

- His sovereignty and goodness which are the foundation of our stability in life.
- His Word in a language we can understand.
- His Word, freshly translated for the Libwisi.
- His upholding Valerie through another week on the cashier job and all that He is teaching her through contact with the general public (we're a sinful, self-centered lot, aren't we?).
- His protection over our cars and over us, to and from Austin, despite a blinding, windy thunderstorm on the way home that left a tractor-trailer on its side in the middle of highway I-35.

Please ask God for:

- His glory to be reflected, as a revision of the New Testament in Ila is celebrated tomorrow in Zambia.

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- His protection over the celebration preparations for the Libwisi NT.
- His clear direction as to what local mission we should pursue.
- Grace for Valerie, as she deals with the general public.

Please continue to ask God for:

- Matt's migraines, which continue to bother him, to stay away.
- Valerie to have physical stamina for her job.
- My parents to experience the joy and comfort of the Lord's presence, not anxiety nor loneliness.
- Jessica to have the desire to nurture her relationship with Jesus and use her talents for His glory, and for Christians to reach out to her.

Thank you for being in this journey of life with us! Making disciples is a long process and having clear and understandable Scriptures is essential to that. Bible translation is also a long process, with much that goes into getting it done. Our (you, Matt, and I, collectively) part may seem small, but what we do is part of the BIG redemption story that God is writing in this broken world. May you be encouraged and blessed to be reminded of that.

Love and Blessings,

Janet & Matt

*serving with the Wycliffe Global Alliance*

*Personal address: 7206 Blackwillow Ln, Dallas, TX 75249*

*Phone number: 469-212-2155*

*Mission address: Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200, [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)*

*For financial partnership, please click [here](#) or include with your check a separate note indicating "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Matt and Janet Dawson"*



## Smile



On the way home from church one Sunday little Jason cried all the way home. Finally his dad asked what was wrong. Jason replied, "The preacher said he wanted us kids brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

The garage called to say that the car we had taken in to be served was ready. "Great," I said. "My wife's in the bathroom getting beautiful. We'll be over as soon as she's finished." The voice on the other end asked, "Will that be today?"

## Just Words

Sunday mornings in a pastor's family are the stuff of legend. Besides having to feed, wash, and dress everyone, we are also expected to actually get to church on time. In our family, this means that my husband and I usually end up driving separately (our apologies to planet earth).

This last Sunday was no different. My husband had already left with our two boys, leaving my daughter behind with me as I finished getting ready. For some reason, I was feeling a bit spiritually disheveled that morning and so I did

something I've never done before in my life. I asked my daughter to read to me while I was doing my hair and makeup.

It went something like this:

*"Phoebe, get your Bible and come here to my bathroom. Now, open it. What day is today?... I know it's Sunday. What day of the month is it?... The 12th? Okay. Find Psalms and read me chapter 12."*

So much for intentional parenting. Thankfully, God is always intentional, and in the next few moments, my baby-girl-turned-fourth-grader read me words of life and hope. \_

Psalm 12, like many of the psalms, opens with a lament for the brokenness around us.

*"The godly one is gone," David cries. "The faithful have vanished from among the children of man."*

And how does David know this? Is it the violence he sees in the streets? Is it the sexual promiscuity rampant in the marketplace? Is it that the wrong parties rule in government? No, David knows that the world is broken by the words he hears.

*"Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak." They say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"*

According to David, evil men have a weapon and it is their words.

I'll admit it: I don't think about words this way. Even as a writer and blogger, I tend to undervalue words. Maybe it's some sort of linguistic inflation that occurs when I write: the more words I produce, the less valuable they seem. In my world, words are a dime a dozen and what can they really accomplish anyway?

Apparently, a lot.

The truth is that despite being all around us, words are powerful. They are powerful because they are tied directly to our true selves. Jesus taught that "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." So more than simply being a set of sounds or shapes, our words are actually the embodiment—the incarnation—of our hearts. *What we say with our mouths or type with our fingers reveals what is going on inside us.*

And suddenly we understand why David feared them so much. The evil in men's hearts takes form in the words they use; worse still, evil men will use their words to act out the evil in their hearts. But this truth—that our words are directly tied to our hearts—cuts both ways. It is also why David can proclaim that we will be saved by the words of the Lord.

*"Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will arise," says the Lord; "I will place him in the safety for which he longs." The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace."*

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The safety we can find in God's words isn't in the words themselves. It's in what these words reveal about the Father's heart toward us. It's what they reveal about His power, what they reveal about His faithfulness. When David says that "the words of the Lord are pure words," he is reminding us that unlike all the deceitful, untrustworthy people around us, the Lord Himself is pure. He is faithful.

And suddenly we understand why John called Jesus "the Word" of God. Jesus Christ is the embodiment—the incarnation—of the Father's heart. What we could not see, what previously had had no form, reveals itself to us in Him. To paraphrase His own words, "Out of the abundance of God's heart, Jesus is."

And this is why the Lord can guard us from the evil around us. Even as the wicked prowl, deceiving and flattering on every side, we will be saved by the final Word of the Lord because His words represent His nature. His words are trustworthy because He is trustworthy. His words are pure because He is pure. And because He justice, His words will never be "just" words.

Even if they are delivered to us from the lips of a petite 9-year-old girl on a frantic Sunday morning.

*Hannah Anderson lives in Warsaw, Indiana, and is the author of Made For More. You can find her at [sometimesalight.com](http://sometimesalight.com).*

## Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study will resume in August, 2016 on Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 12:15 p.m. Please join us!!



## Quotes



*1 Corinthians 3:7 says, "Neither the ones who plants nor the ones who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow." He can create beauty among the rocks.*

*God brings men into deep waters not to drown them, but to cleanse them.*

*All growth that is not toward God is growing to decay.*

## Recipe of the Month

### Asian Lettuce Wrap Chicken Chopped Salad

*Rather than serving these Asian Chicken Lettuce Wraps as an appetizer, you could instead serve everything over a great big chopped salad! Light, quick & easy to make!*

#### Ingredients (for the dressing)

- 3 Tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 ½ Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger (or 1/3- 1/2 teaspoon dried)
- 1 clove garlic, minced

- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

#### Ingredients (for the chicken)

- 1/4 cup hoisin sauce
- 1 Tablespoon rice vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Sriracha sauce
- 2 Tablespoons lo-sodium soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger (or 1/3- 1/2 teaspoon dried)
- cooking spray
- 1 pound ground chicken (*I used diced boneless, skinless chicken breast instead*)
- 8 ounce can water chestnuts, drained & diced
- 2 Tablespoons chopped unsalted cashews
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced

#### Ingredients (for the wrap or salad)

- 1 head Boston or Bibb lettuce leaves (chopped for the salad)
- 1 romaine lettuce heart leaves (chopped for the salad)
- 2 carrots, grated

#### Directions (for the dressing)

In a small bowl, whisk together the vinegar, oils, honey, ginger, garlic and salt and pepper taste. Set aside.

#### Directions (for the chicken)

In a medium bowl, whisk together the hoisin sauce, vinegar, Sriracha sauce, soy sauce and ginger. Set aside.

Heat a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Spray with cooking spray and then add chicken and cook until browned and cooked through, 8 - 10 minutes. Add the water chestnuts and cashews to the pan. Pour the hoisin mixture on top and cook for 1-2 minutes to heat through. Stir in the scallions. Remove from the heat and set aside.

#### Directions (for the wraps)

Serve the Asian chicken with the fresh lettuce leaves to make wraps. Garnish each wrap with the grated carrot & dressing.

#### Directions (for the salad)

In a large salad bowl, combine both of the lettuces and the carrots. Toss the salad with the dressing and divide into 4 bowls. Top each with 3/4 cup of the chicken mixture. Serve immediately. *Delicious!!*

## The ABC's of Wisdom: Building Character with Solomon - Sovereignty - God Has the Last Word

*To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue.*

Proverbs 16:1

We might paraphrase this verse as follows: “A man can have his own ideas, but the Lord inspires the words he utters.” This is a powerful reminder that God is in control. In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, “He ordains whatsoever comes to pass.”

Romans 8:28 tells us that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” What does Romans 8:28 mean by “all things”? How inclusive is it? It is utterly inclusive. It includes all that can happen in the life of a child of God. It includes the good and the bad, health and sickness, wealth and poverty, the sunlight and the shadow, high noon and midnight, life and death. That means that Romans 8:28 is just as true in the hospital as it is in the sanctuary. It means that when you are in the waiting room and that clock will not move and you know your loved one is in the hands of a surgeon, that no matter the outcome, whether life or death, cancer or no cancer, whether you see her again or not, you know that moment is in God’s hands. It is part of the “all things” that work together for good. There is nothing that can happen to the child of God that is outside of the “all things” of Romans 8:28.

Do we really believe that? There is no greater question facing men and women who believe in God. For every person who doubts the deity of Christ there are a hundred who secretly wonder about the goodness of God.

Skeptics put the matter this way. If God were all-powerful, He would stop the suffering in the world. If God were good, He would not permit such things to happen. Whichever path you choose, God ends up either too weak to stop evil or too callous to care.

The Bible presents God Himself as the great Sufferer who fully met the problem of evil in the gift of His own Son. I am reminded of the distraught father who cried out, “Where was God when my son died?” The answer came back, “The same place He was when His Son died.”

How shall we deal with the unexplainable mysteries of life? When you look at a piece of fabric through a magnifying glass the edges are blurred while the middle is clear. Life is like a piece of fabric. Many times the edges are blurred; there are many circumstances we do not understand. But the center of life is clear, and in the center we find the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Most of the time we will never know the answer to the question “Why?” God never asks us to understand, but only to trust Him in spite of our doubts. Peace comes when we finally realize we don’t have to have all the answers.

The edges of life will often be blurry, but the center is clear and it points to the Cross.

*Father, if You gave Your Son for me, how can I ever doubt Your love for me? I can't, and I won't. Amen.*

What does it mean to you to say that God is sovereign? List some of the positive and negative events that have “worked together” for good in your own life.

If you could ask God just one question about something that has happened in your life, what would it be?

by Dr. Ray Pritchard

## ***My Utmost for His Highest - The Submission of the Believer***

Our Lord never insists on having authority over us. He never says, “You *will* submit to me.” No, He leaves us perfectly free to choose— so free, in fact, that we can spit in His face or we can put Him to death, as others have done; and yet He will never say a word. But once His life has been created in me through His redemption, I instantly recognize His right to absolute authority over me. It is a complete and effective domination, in which I acknowledge that “You are *worthy*, O Lord...” (Revelation 4:11). It is simply the unworthiness within me that refuses to bow down or to submit to one who is worthy. When I meet someone who is more holy than myself, and I don’t recognize his worthiness, nor obey his instructions for me, it is a sign of my own unworthiness being revealed. God teaches us by using these people who are a little better than we are; not better intellectually, but more holy. And He continues to do so until we willingly submit. Then the whole attitude of our life is one of obedience to Him.

If our Lord insisted on our obedience, He would simply become a taskmaster and cease to have any real authority. He never insists on obedience, but when we truly see Him we will instantly obey Him. Then He is easily Lord of our life, and we live in adoration of Him from morning till night. The level of my growth in grace is revealed by the way I look at obedience. We should have a much higher view of the word *obedience*, rescuing it from the mire of the world. Obedience is only possible between people who are equals in their relationship to each other; like the relationship between father and son, not that between master and servant. Jesus showed this relationship by saying, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30). “...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8). The Son was obedient as our Redeemer, *because He was the Son*, not in order to become God’s Son.

### **WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Am I getting nobler, better, more helpful, more humble as I get older? Am I exhibiting the life that men take knowledge of as having been with Jesus, or am I getting more self-assertive, more deliberately determined to have my own way? It is a great thing to tell yourself the truth. *The Place of Help*, 1005 R

# August 2016

31	1	2 Deaconess Mtg, 6:30	3	4 Ladies' Bible study 12:15	5	6
7 Service begins at 10:40 Bible Study 6:30	8	9 Deacons' Mtg., 7:00	10	11 Ladies' Bible study 12:15	12	13
14 Service begins at 10:40 Bible Study 6:30	15	16	17	18 Ladies' Bible study 12:15	19	20
21 Service begins at 10:40 Bible Study 6:30	22	23 Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm	24	25 Ladies' Bible study 12:15	26	27
28 Service begins at 10:40 Jesus Lodge 6:00 m	29	30	31	1 Ladies' Bible study 12:15	2	3

## Sunday Events:

- Early Service, 8:30 am
- Sunday School, 9:30 am
- Morning Service 10:30 am
- Bonfire 6:00-7:30 pm
- Jesus Lodge, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Sunday Evening Bible Study, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

## Important Events:

- August Services begin at 10:40 a.m. - only August
- Bible Study - August 7,14, & 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Jesus Lodge - August 28, 6:00 p.m.
- Ladies' Bible Study - August Thursdays, 12:15 pm - 2:15 p.m.



*Walter, Aimey & Abner Flowers - July 3, 2016*

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