

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Monday, June 22, 2015

## This Is My Story (Part Two)

### “My Adventure In Christian Living”

The dictionary says an adventure consists of,

1. Bold Undertakings With Risk Or Danger.
2. New And Exciting Events.
3. Exciting Experiences In the Line of Duty.
4. Explorations Requiring Courage.

### Our Local Church Adventures



As previously mentioned, Billy Graham said we should “*join the church of your choice.*” That was foolish and unscriptural advice coming from a compromising preacher on the road to apostasy. However, by God’s grace we joined a Bible-believing church. Although it was what we now call an *evangelical* church, as compared to a *fundamental* church, it was more fundamental at that time than most so-called fundamental Baptist churches of today. It was at that church, at the age of twelve, that I met the young lady who would become my wife. When we joined the church it

was in a house. In 1959 the new church, pictured below, was built. Our family was baptized by the pastor who is seen at the pulpit in this picture.

### I Immediately Became Involved In The Service of The Lord

One of the first things I remember in serving the Lord was going out on visitation with a deacon of the church.

We drove his little Vauxhall Victor to a home where we were greeted in the driveway by two very vicious-looking German Shepherds.



The deacon laughed and said I we should go to another house. I said, “*where is your faith?*” I got out of the car and walked to the front door of the home, the dogs barking and growling at me all the way.

The woman opened the door and with an astonished look asked me if I was not afraid of those dogs. I said “*No,*” and gave her the Gospel material we came to deliver, and got back in the little Vauxhall. The snarling dogs were only inches from my face as I sat in the front seat of that little car. I don’t know if that lady got saved or not; however, if she didn’t, it wasn’t going to be my fault.

**Every tomb stone testifies that life is a short dash between two dates. Make it an adventure!**

### **Asked To Preach**

In my early teens I was teaching Sunday School, running a children's program, and actively involved in the youth work at the church. One day they asked me to preach a message in the Sunday evening service.

I had been studying my Bible about the soon return of Christ. I decided I would preach about **"His Soon Return As Taught In The Scriptures."**

I spent much time in my message denouncing A-millennialism. I had no idea that the church I was preaching in was an A-millennial church. Sometime later when a deacon asked me to preach again, he told me I needed to preach a straight forward message and not get on any controversial subjects like the second coming. I said *"sir, with all due respect, find someone else to preach."* I said, *"when I preach, only God will tell me what to preach about."* I had that figured out at thirteen years of age.

### **We Always Become Like Whom We Run With**

The church had a very active youth group. They were active in everything except spiritual things. Soon I was smoking cigarettes just like the ones I associated with. The influence and the peer-pressure to fit in was very powerful.

The people we associate with always have an effect on our character and behaviour. And so it was, that much of my teenage life was wasted playing church.

### **The Blame Lies At The Feet of The Pastor**

I have no doubt about that statement and I make no apology for making it. Our family was on fire for God; however, that middle of the road Baptist church put the fire out. If we had received some Bible teaching about the issues we would have followed the Scriptures; however, like most of our

so-called fundamental churches of today, the focus was on numerical growth rather than spiritual growth.

My friends smoked and had motorcycles, and soon I smoked and had a motorcycle so I could fit in with my peers; however, God had this sweet little teenage girl in that church that caught my eye. I knew if I got too worldly I would not have a chance with her and that helped to keep me in line.



### **Married In 1964**

By 1964, the cost of the average house had risen to \$13,000, the average income was \$6,000.00, a new car cost about \$3,500.00 and gas had risen to thirty cents a gallon. A loaf of bread sold for around twenty cents and a letter could be mailed with a three cent stamp.

However, the really big news in 1964 was Bob Kirkland married Daphne Jones on July 25. Our first apartment, in a brand new high rise apartment building, rented for \$1,105.00 a year.

### **Big News In 1967**

Canada was 100 years old, the Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup. (As of the writing of this article they have not won it since.) The Boeing 737 took its maiden flight and more important than all of that a little girl was sent from Heaven to our home.



Debra weighed in at only five pounds, four ounces. The doctor handed her to me just minutes after she was born. As I looked into her tiny face with those big dimples, I realized it was time for me to grow up.

The awesome responsibility of raising a child hit home during the first few seconds that I held her. At that moment, I determined with the Lord's guidance we would raise our children to the glory of God.

## A Solid Family Needs A Solid Church

The first change in our lives would be to seek a church where the pastor would not shy away from preaching “*all the counsel of God*” (Act 20:27). In the previous twelve years, the church we were members of never warned us about any of the issues of the day. The church was also picking up speed on the road to apostasy. This was not what we wanted for our children. We did not know for sure what we were looking for but we knew there had to be something more to Christianity than what we were experiencing.

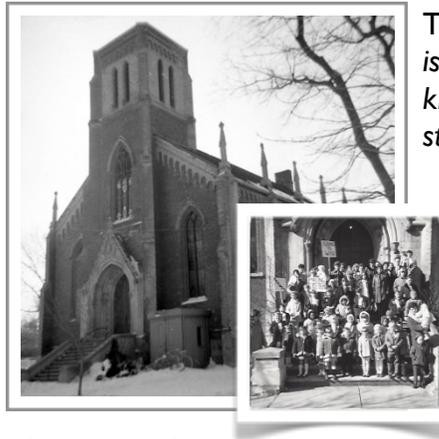
### We Started A Church

We met a man who wanted to start a church in our area. We explained that we wanted a church that was interested in winning the lost, had Bible standards and would teach about the issues of the day.

People who say pastors should not preach standards are stupid people. Everyone from prostitutes to perverts have some kind of standards. The army, the navy, the boy scouts and every other organization on planet earth has standards. The only place that doesn't teach standards is a church with a compromising pastor.

Most of the Bible deals with the standards God demands for Christians. We are to be “*Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord*” (Ephesians 5:10).

We bought the building pictured here and the new church was underway. Things went well for awhile, however, before long we realized the pastors talk was better than his walk.



## From The Frying Pan Into The Fire



One night while we were having a prayer meeting, the pastor's teenage daughter was in the local cemetery with some other teens having a seance trying to raise some spirits of dead people. We also found out that he had a very bad reputation with the business people in the area. This was not at all the kind of Christian leadership we were looking for. Our children deserved better.

## My Formal Education

Immediately after I trusted Christ as my personal Saviour, I began to study the Word of God. I fell in love with that Book. I still study it about forty hours a week. The Bible promises the Holy Spirit will guide the sincere Christian into all truth. The dictionary tells us that, “*A formal education is the process of training and developing people in knowledge, skills, mind, and character in a structured and accredited source.*” There is nothing more structured in this world than the Word of God and there is nothing more accredited than the Word of God. In that case, I guess I have a formal education.

### R. DeHaan And A.W. Tozer

Two men who had a very strong influence on my life were M. R. Dehaan and A.W. Tozer. I have every radio booklet that DeHaan wrote and many of the twenty-plus other books he wrote. These books helped form the foundation for my Christian life.



M.R. Dehaan - A.W. Tozer

It has been said of A. W. Tozer that he “*combined the power of God and the power of words to nourish hungry*

souls, pierce human hearts, and draw earthbound minds toward God." At the age of fifteen, Tozer began a lifelong pursuit of God. He said "It will cost something to walk slow in the parade of the ages while excited men of time rush about confusing motion with progress. But it will pay in the long run and the true Christian is not much interested in anything short of that."

It was statements like that, that helped define my philosophy for Christian living. A philosophy is "a theory or attitude held by a person or organization that acts as a guiding principle for behavior."

## **"He Shall Direct Thy Paths"**

**My life's Verses Are Proverbs 3:5,6.** "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

## **"Hills And Valleys"**

God warned the Israelites saying, "The land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys" (Deuteronomy 11:11). The next phase of our adventure in Christian living certainly fits that category.

## **Go West Young Man, Go West**

When our daughter was eighteen months old, we began a trek across Canada looking for a solid church. Our journey took us west to Alberta because that area was often referred to as "**The Bible Belt.**"

## **The Bible Belt???**

**Premier William Aberhart**, was the seventh Premier of Alberta. He was known as "*Bible Bill*" because of his outspoken Baptist views. In 1918, he began a Bible study group in Calgary, which steadily grew until the Palace Theatre had to be rented to accommodate the number of people

that attended. In 1925, radio station CFCN began broadcasting his Sunday sermons.

His Sunday broadcasts proved as popular as his Bible studies and Aberhart drew listeners across the Canadian mid-west, and the northern United States. In 1927, he became the Dean of the newly-founded Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute. Aberhart served as the seventh Premier of Alberta, Minister of Education, and as Attorney General.

**Ernest C. Manning**, was the Premier of Alberta from 1943-1968. As a direct result of listening to Aberhart's radio broadcasts, Manning became a student at the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute in 1927. He was their first graduate. That same year, Manning also began speaking on the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute's radio broadcasts with William Aberhart. After the death of Premier Aberhart in 1943, Manning continued these broadcasts on his own. The broadcasts were eventually aired on over ninety radio stations across Canada, from Halifax to Vancouver, with a very large listening audience. I was one of those listeners in the 60's.

Alberta was also the home of the Prairie Bible Institute which by 1948 had become Canada's largest Bible college and at that time took a solid Scriptural position. In spite of Alberta's past history, we found no Bible Belt in Alberta. The dictionary says a Bible Belt is "*Those areas...where Protestant fundamentalism is widely practiced.*" To our surprise we soon learned that the term "*fundamentalism*" was, and is, an ambiguous term that can have many different possible meanings or interpretations, as it does today.

## **An Adventure In Frustration**

We settled in Edmonton, Alberta, and began searching for a church that preached the Word. As we went from church to church, we found it to be

an exercise in frustration. Sometimes we visited three churches on a Sunday morning. I remember going to one church for their Sunday School hour and leaving thinking there would be more life in the average morgue. We arrived at the next church for the morning service and there on the platform was a man with a guitar and his shirt open exposing his hairy chest. Their religious country hoedown was soon underway and soon we were back in the car. We visited another church that evening that was a Calvinist church.

As a young man in my twenties, without much knowledge of the Scriptures, I knew that anyone that teaches that God brought some people into this world for no other reason than having them burn in Hell for eternity was teaching a wicked heresy! I am still amazed that some leaders in our so-called fundamental movement have no problem putting their stamp of approval on the heretics who promote that blasphemy in our age of fundamental apostasy.

### **We Would Start Another Church**

We left Edmonton and travelled several thousand miles in Canada looking for a solid church to raise our family in but found none. We ended up back in Ontario, and decided the best thing to do was to start a church and find someone to pastor it who had the same goals for Christian living as we had.

### **The Calvary Road**

I had been reading Roy Hession's book "The Calvary Road." It had a major influence in my life. I liked what it said and also thought it would be a good name for a church.



By this time we had had our fill of "Baptists" and decided to call the church "The Calvary Road Gospel Center." The "Calvary Road" part was good but the "Gospel Center" part was a mistake.

With a "no name" church we were classified as anything from a kookie religious group to holy rollers, so eventually we changed the name to the Calvary Road Baptist Church.

At the time, I was working at a full time job selling tires at an automotive centre. We started the church with a program on Tuesday nights that was designed for children. We called it "Happy Hour." That was before any booze-joints started having their so-called happy hours, which will bring far more sorrow than happiness.

We made up some flyers, handed them out in the area where my parents lived, inviting children to come to my parents home. Before long we were averaging over one hundred children every Tuesday evening.

### **Another Gift From Heaven**

In 1971, astronauts drove on the Moon in a lunar buggy. GM sold 21,801 Corvettes. Evel Knievel set a world record jumping nineteen cars on his motorcycle. Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida. Intel released the world's first microprocessor. The cost of homes had risen to over \$25,000.00, the average income was about \$10,000, and gas was pushing forty cents a gallon. Stamps were now six cents; however, the big event for us was the birth of our son. We named him Allan.



### **We Started A Radio Program For Children**

I went to C.H.O.O. Radio in Ajax and had them listen to a sample of the program that I wanted to air. I recorded it on a reel to reel recorder and took it in on a little portable player. It started off with the voice of a little girl singing "I'm On The Faith Line." It was a professional recording of a very



good quality and the manager of the station thought she was singing "I'm On The Base Line." There was a road in the area called **the Base Line** and he assumed we had a church there and with this quality of recording he figured we knew what we were doing.

We signed a contract and the program was extensively promoted by the station prior to the first broadcast. I did not know that the station used a full-track recording system and he never guessed we would be unprofessional enough to use four-track equipment.

Unfortunately, four programs played at the same time (two of them playing backwards) so as a result, our first program sounded like a bunch of turkeys speaking in tongues. Well, we got that all sorted out and that was the beginning of our adventure in the radio ministry that lasted seventeen years.

**We added Sunday services to the Tuesday night meetings as well as a weekly prayer meeting** and soon we found my parents home too small. We needed more space.

We rented a gym and several rooms in a local school and purchased a couple of seventy-two passenger buses. Soon we were averaging over 100 in Sunday School and I was still working a full-time job as a tire salesman. I decided we needed to get a pastor to take it over.

## **Right Motives - Wrong Methods**

At that time my motives were good; however, my methods were far from Scripturally correct. I sincerely wanted to see people saved; however, sincerity is not enough with God. God wants His work done His way. The Books of First and Second Timothy, Titus and the letters to the seven pastors in Revelation teach us all we need concerning the philosophy of ministry for a local church.

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## **I Was Hooked On Hyles At That Time**

At least eighty percent of the New Testament gives us instructions for Christian conduct and church conduct; however, by that time in my life I had become hooked on Hyles. It was much more exciting to travel to Hammond, Indiana to the Pastor's School and listen to Jack Hyles, and his staff teach their carnal, worldly, and unscriptural methods than it was to follow God's instructions as outlined in the Word of God.

I had been going to the Pastors School at Hammond, every year for seven or eight years and figured this would be the best place to find a pastor for our growing church.

We found someone, and my wife and I personally paid all of the moving expenses to get him and his family here. The church continued to grow numerically; however, after his third literal fistfight our new fundamental pastor was involved in, I once again concluded that this was not the kind of leadership I wanted for my children.

## **Front Page News**

After one of the fights he was involved in, the pastor charged the other Christian man with assault. It went to court, the pastor lost the case. The judge told the man who had been charged, if he charged the pastor with assault he would win, and the pastor would have to pay all the court costs. The man told the judge he was a Christian and it was unscriptural to take a fellow Christian to court.

The court case made the front pages of the local paper, and the cause of Christ was greatly hurt. I wanted to be able to say to my children, "*follow that pastor as he follows Christ.*" Obviously we could not say that.

## **A Scriptural Meeting To Deal With The Problem**

**I do not believe anyone has the scriptural grounds to openly oppose a**

**pastor** and so we had a meeting with the pastor and the men of the church as outlined in the Word of God. At the beginning of the meeting the man who chaired the meeting said, *“we will operate and if there is a cancer we will remove it.”* During the proceedings the pastor lost control and came at me with his fist clenched and was about to punch me in the face. Two men had to physically stop him; however, in spite of the facts concerning the previous fights and the actions of the pastor at the meeting, the men decided to continue to support the pastor.

The man who chaired the meeting said, *“We must keep this quiet, what if other churches hear about this.”* It was obvious we had no choice but to leave. At that time, I had a bus route with two large seventy-two passenger buses on my route, one following the other, picking up children for Sunday School. It was very heartbreaking to leave those children.

It is not surprising that the pastor was soon out of the ministry. The church got another pastor from the Hyles group in Hammond. He told the people that God had called him to be a Canadian. He took the church into major debt, and moved back to the States.

Another pastor took over who soon left his wife and ran off with a married woman who taught in the Christian school. The church became the first church in the history of Canada to declare bankruptcy. And to think, we call all this *“fundamentalism.”*

## **The Adventure At Hammond**

Years prior to the destruction of the Calvary Road Church while still hooked on Hyles, we heard that Hyles was starting a college. We had made the trip to Hammond, Indiana every year to the Pastor’s school for many years, and so with a sincere heart, and a brain that was in neutral we set out for Hammond, to check it out.

We were totally unaware of all of the garbage they were sweeping under the carpet, and are still sweeping under the carpet at First Baptist Church in Hammond.

This next part of our story could have been avoided if it were not for those preachers who called themselves fundamentalists covering up all the depravity that was flooding out of that cesspool of immorality. One can only wonder how many young people will end up totally disillusioned with Christianity because of the coverup that still is being promoted by Baptist leaders who should be openly exposing First Baptist for what it is.



Totally ignorant of the situation, I talked with Hyles about going to the college. He thought it was a great idea and suggested I could continue my radio program from Hammond. Now, as I look back, the program would obviously have been a good marketing tool for the college. I would be his drone into Canada.

I drove home and found a letter saying *“Congratulations! You have been accepted as a student at Hyles Anderson college. You have met the necessary entrance requirements...we take this opportunity to welcome you to our student body.”*

It was signed by Max Helton - Dated July 17, 1972. Met all the requirements??? I had not been told about any requirements. On July 20, 1972 I wrote Hyles. The letter included, *“Brother Helton has found out the immigration department will allow me to work ‘on campus,’ and has arranged for me to begin working on the 7th. of August.”*

I quit my job, sold our house, packed the trailer and was ready to take my family on our most exciting adventure so far. All that was left to put in the trailer was our mattress which would be

packed when the house deal closed in a couple of days.

## **Our Adventure Turned Sour**

It was then that I received word that the college was not able to get the I-20 form that would allow us to cross the boarder into the USA.

I had been promised a job on campus but was now informed that job was not available, and foreign students could not work off campus. I found out the house I was told we could rent at a good price, if I agreed to paint it, was already rented to someone else. We had two days to get out of the house we had sold. I phoned Hyles three times and he finally phoned me back at one o'clock in the morning.

## **Hyles Lied To Me**

I asked him what he knew about this and he straight-out lied about it. He denied knowing anything about a meeting concerning foreign students not working on campus. I told him the night the meeting took place and named the five men who were in his office when the meeting took place. At that point he went into a yelling rage wanting to know how I knew about that meeting.

I did not reveal my source as I figured it would cost him his job. He suggested I had no character. I said *"I have enough character not to tell you where I got my information."* He hollered and screamed some more and hung up.

In a few minutes he called back at which time I asked again about the I-20 form. He advised me to tell the authorities at the boarder that I was a tourist. I asked what I should tell them about the trailer full of furniture at which point he hollered *"has God called you to come to college here or not?"*

He said Abraham went on faith and he wanted to know what was the matter with me. I said *"Abraham was very wealthy, I had nothing."* I said

*"Abraham didn't need an I-20 form."* I asked him if God would call me to lie at the boarder and he said, *"I'm not going to answer that question."* He started yelling again and hung up again.

He phoned me the third time, and still yelling at which point I said *"Dr. Hyles, I have a problem. I called you because I thought you were the greatest man of God on the earth. I said all you have done is holler and yell at me. I guess I needed that. Thank you."*

At that point he got very quiet. He said, *"If you will come down here I will help you."* I said, *"no I won't be coming."* At that point he went ballistic. He told me he didn't recognize my kind of Christianity and hung up again. (Note: I later received a letter from Max Helton apologizing for his part in this mess.)

I got off the phone and wept until I had no more power to weep. We had only our mattress to pack in the trailer and so we laid on the mattress on the floor of our empty house wondering what this was all about. I did not understand it at the time; however, I certainly did come to *"know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Soon my phone rang again. I hesitated to answer it; however, my curiosity got the best of me. It was a man from Alberta. He said *"I am calling you to tell you that God does not want you to go to Hyles Anderson College."* (No kidding). He said, *"God wants you to come over here and help us start a church."* Well, we had the trailer packed, our house was sold, and we had to go somewhere, so off to Alberta we went. We went down a 2000 mile hallway and the door was locked. It was definitely not God's will.

We rented an apartment and began checking out Bible schools in the west; however, it was not to be. My wife went shopping and I was at our apartment praying about what the Lord wanted us to do. I decided to listen to a message on a cassette tape.

In that message a preacher was preaching to preachers. He asked the question, “*why don’t you just start a church where God has put you in the first place*”? When my wife came home I asked her if she had gotten any of the groceries in boxes. She asked why? I said, we are packing up and going home.

### **Was I Crazy?**

Everyone who knew us had recently heard we were going to Hammond. Now, here we are, driving back from Alberta with two children, no job and no place to live. I knew that all my friends were going to think I was crazy and quite frankly, I was beginning to wonder.

I had taken the radio program off the air when we left Ontario; however, I thought it wise to keep the post office box open. As I parked in the lot in front of the post office in Pickering, Ontario, I prayed, “*Lord I really don’t care if everyone thinks I’m crazy as long as I know I am following your will for my life.*”

I went in the lobby of the post office and opened P.O. Box 22. There was one letter from a man whom I had met a year earlier at Perry Rockwood’s church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He had no idea of any of the things that had taken place in my life. I opened the letter and the first sentence read, “**A lot of things have happened since we first and last met but we can thank God that he foreknew it all.**”

There was forty dollars in the envelope for the radio ministry that he did not know we had taken off the air. I drove straight to the radio station and put the broadcast back on. The next day I was approached by the personnel manager of a large company and offered a job that would pay four to five times what I was earning when I gave up the other job.

**Romans 8:28 is true.** “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*” We purchased a home and wondered what God

had in store for us next in our adventure in Christian living.

### **A Dream Job And Lots of Money But Very Discontent**

God was blessing us in many ways. The average cost of a new house was now well over \$30,000.00. The average income was about \$13,000.00. Cars were now selling around \$4000.00 and gas was over fifty cents a gallon. I had a dream job; I was making a lot of money; had purchased a nice home, drove a new car, but we still needed a solid church for our family.

### **It Was Time To Start Another Church**

#### **1974 Begins The FaithWay Adventure.**

The previous church we started we turned over to someone from the Hyles organization who ended up destroying it. This time I determined we did not need to pay someone to destroy it, if that was going to happen I could do it for free.

I gave my employer two week’s notice, and my wife and I and our two little children started FaithWay Baptist Church with no income; however, we had a verse. “*My God shall supply all your need*” (Philippians 4:19).

God did supply all our needs. In our next issues we will deal with the FaithWay adventure.

**IMPORTANT**

*Timely Message*

**“DEAD FAITH”**

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