



Update



December 2017

Vernon & Martha Hedge

What a Year!

This summer, family and friends honored me with a party to celebrate my 80th birthday, 60 years in ministry, and 54 years of marriage. When stated like that, that's a long time! But it doesn't seem like it. After all, we live one day at the time. Life is a gift, and the greater gift is to walk the journey of life with a Living Savior. In every season, He is there.

Two of our grandchildren, Stanton and Carissa, started college this year, Alyssa is a senior in high school, Erica a junior, Josiah a sophomore, and Elijah and Caleb are in the eighth grade. Our oldest grandson James is in North Carolina with his family, nine-year-old son Tristen, and two-year-old daughter Liah. (Yes, we are great-grandparents.)

Our eldest daughter, Christy, lives in Tyler and works for an oil production company.

Debbie and Michael are in Prosper, about 30 minutes from us. Michael is pastor of Radiant Life Church where we are members.

Corrie and Chris live in Plano. She works for the Hunt Institute with SMU and has started her doctoral studies. Chris is a sales manager and sells amazing high end 3D printers.

Jamie and David live close to us in McKinney. She will complete her bachelor's degree in a few months. David is a high level sales rep with Sysco Food. Both work with the youth at church.

Martha continues to enjoy life

coaching and she helps with our Calvary Commission newsletter and responsibilities.

Martha and I both have had some health challenges this year, but are recovering well now. Just a little slower moving than we would like. We are grateful for advanced medical technology to patch us up so we can continue doing what God has called us to do.



(Picture of the Grands at Thanksgiving)

My calling

When it comes to living one day at the time, The Message says it well, *Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes* (Mt 6:34).

And what God has had me centered on throughout my

ministry is teaching the Word in a practical way that can be applied to everyday life. I want to teach the Word of God in such a way to help people avoid unnecessary wounds, and when they are wounded, how the power of God can heal them. Jesus was practical when He was on earth; He still is.

For the past 21 years, I've worked with Calvary Commission as a volunteer. I've gone into jails and prisons in Texas and North Carolina, traveled to nine countries to teach pastors and church leaders, and am teaching once again at the main base in Lindale, TX in the Bible Institute. Many of my students will become pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders in the workplace.

My days of traveling to other countries to teach are over, but I can equip those who will be going into other nations. Whether going, sending, or equipping, we all are a part of God's plan to change lives by His power.

In a roundabout way, a pastor from Cuba sent me a copy of a copy of notes I taught in Cuba. He wanted to encourage me that people are being reached. At the mission's conference in September, a couple of my former students told me they are using my notes to teach their people in their countries. I am blessed! I've left teaching notes in Mexico, Cuba,

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Romania, India, Kenya, and places I've forgotten. It's the Word that transforms lives.

What is Calvary Commission?

We are one small part of a much larger ministry. Calvary Commission is a Christ-centered training center which focuses on an abundant prayer life and solid Bible teachings, with emphasis in prison ministry, discipleship, ministry training and missions work, both foreign and domestic.

It has works in Mexico, Cuba, Belize, Peru, Romania, India, and Asia, and prison outreach Stateside to 350 units annually in Texas and Oklahoma. I ministered in Butner Federal Prison in North Carolina for eleven years. The orphanage in Reynosa, Mexico has been there so long that the current director grew up in it. After accepting God's call on his life, he stepped in to lead.

The Calvary Bible Institute is the newest addition in the past few years. It offers degrees recognized by the state of Texas. Many, but not all, of the students are former inmates whose lives have been transformed by Jesus, and who want to live Christ-centered lives. Each graduation ceremony is a celebration, one filled with (loud) cheers and tears of joy, as the men and women receive their diplomas.

All of this had a small beginning in 1974 when Joe Fauss saw the great need in a men's prison. He told the warden, "I want to help these men." A prison major sitting in the warden's office said, "Preacher, if you really want to help these men, help them when they get out." Joe shared with David Wilkerson the vision of a residential center to help discharged or

paroled inmates who were drastically changed and on fire for God.

That vision is being fulfilled in a much larger way than he thought possible. There is the residential center, but there is an international outreach that was a natural outgrowth of men and women being equipped to minister the Gospel. Joe often says, if the Gospel will work in the prison, it will work anywhere. "Through God's grace, people can change. Where grace is, transformation will always follow."

For more detailed information about Calvary Commission, you can go to their website www.CalvaryCommission.org. This is not my website; it's the main ministry's site. My website is www.VernonHedgeMinistries.com

Where we fit

Our newsletter heading is "Hedge Ministry Update." As I said earlier, we are one small part of Calvary Commission. We, and others like us, have a ministry under their umbrella covering. We raise our own support, have our own ministry bank account, issue donor receipts, and give detailed accounting reports to the main base. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, all record keeping is under the supervision of a CPA.

I drive the 100 miles each week to teach three classes. For most of my courses, I write my own curriculum, which takes hours of preparation. I appreciate the years of theological training I've had in seminary and am grateful to pass on to others solid, balanced teaching. I give the course material to the students.

It is an absolute joy to teach

Bible students who often sit on the edge of their seats to learn more. And it is a joy to counsel them when they work through challenges. You have read some of their stories in previous newsletters. They know that they know that Jesus is a life changer.

Donations

We are often asked if we receive 100% of gifts sent to us. The answer is, yes. And all donations are tax exempt. We do ask that checks be written to "Calvary Commission," not to us, and mailed to 3106 Palmtree Drive, McKinney TX 75070.

All gifts postmarked by December 31st will be counted for 2017. Your tax receipts will be mailed by the end of January.

In God's Kingdom, when we serve people who cannot support us, God raises up those who can give to fill that gap. If you believe He would have you partner with us financially in ministry, we thank you. For each prayer—thank you. Many times I've walked in the power of other's prayers.

Merry Christmas!

We serve an amazing God who is not surprised by world events or our struggles. We pray for you that this season of Christ, the birth of our Savior, will be a time of new revelation of His great love for you. From our house to yours--Be blessed!

