



# Update



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Vernon & Martha Hedge

## “Knowing truth is only part of the answer”

Practical application of the Word has been my passion most of my ministry. That’s the core of Calvary Commission, equipping Believers to have a living relationship with our Savior. That’s when lives are truly transformed.

Roger has been in my class since last September. His motivational gift is probably prophetic insight. His comments in class reveal that he is a champion for the righteousness of God. He had studied some theology before arriving at our campus and has studied outside the class assignments this year. He is sharp on points of theology and has pointed out a few statements I had loosely defined that could be misinterpreted. I really appreciate that help.

Roger was born in Paris, Texas to a couple who had been married before, so altogether Roger has a younger brother and two half-sisters. A year or so after Roger was born, his dad joined the Navy. Living in military housing, sometimes the family was together, but other times his father was on assignment and they lived separately. Neither of his parent were Christians and his only exposure to Christian teaching was a few times he went with his grandmother to her church. His mother was a tender-hearted person who served as a nurse’s aide and often would be hired to reside

at someone home and give total care—a week on and a week off.

When Roger was seven, his parents divorced over a dispute concerning one of the girls. This was Roger’s first challenge to relate. He felt close to his parents growing up, but there was also a disconnect. When they divorced, he visited back and forth between the two homes. His mother was in Texas and his dad was stationed in San Diego, California.

Both Roger’s parents had multiple marriages, so his step-grandparents kept at a distance. Thus he couldn’t connect with them as family. As a teen, his Texas accent made him different in California and it was difficult for him to make friends. After a while in California his accent changed, and the reverse happened when he returned to Texas.

Having a good mind and able to grasp things quickly, he became bored with school because it was too easy, and he was not challenged by the study material. He dropped out of school at the end of his Junior year and moved from Texas to San Diego to be

with his father.

He decided to get his GED and joined the Navy. He was in the SEA BEES where he learned to operate heavy equipment. During most of his tour the U.S. was not at war, so his assignments were to serve at a Naval reserve base where people in the Navy reserve would come on the weekends for the training. During the week he and his team would make any repairs to be ready for the weekend reserves. During wartime, the SEA BEES go in and establish camps, build runways for the planes, build barracks, and get things ready for the fighting troops.

He pretty much enjoyed his work in the SEA BEES, but on the weekends when they had leaves, it involved drinking. Roger loved to play pool and became a part of a team that frequently played against other teams in pool tournaments. His team won the competition often. He also liked to go bowling, but these activities on each weekend involved drinking and some drugs. He says, *Anyway, that’s really when my troubles with alcohol and drugs began. I didn’t get into trouble every time I drank, but every time I got into trouble in my life I had been drinking.*

His last station was in Staten Island, New York. After he finished his tour, he went back to Texas. Because he had worked as a roofer in his teens, he established a

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roofing and painting construction company.

Roger met Lori when she moved into the same apartment complex where he lived. He helped her move some of her furniture, and that opened the door for her to join Roger and his friends on different outings. Eight months later they married, but she had a troubled youth and carried a lot of wounds. Both drank alcohol and did drugs, mostly pot.

As time went by, Roger kept up with his work, but she began to neglect her responsibilities in keeping the house. She would stay up late at night and be zoned out the next day. Roger needed things like his clothes washed and meals cooked because he was working hard in construction. The tension over money became a collision point and Lori moved out.

1998 was not a good year for Roger. His mother died, and after five years of marriage Lori brought divorce papers that he signed. Signing divorce papers made a big impact on Roger. He was in misery and like so many he turned to more alcohol to kill the pain. He had the attitude that there was nothing to live for and nothing to lose; he was going no where with his life.

He kept his business going but was drinking daily. He went to church with his brother and was born again. But, he said, *The church was a good one except no one tried to teach me how to live the Christian life. They just patted me on the back and said "see ya next Sunday." Needless to say, seven or so months later, I fell back into my old familiar ways. That's when I got my first two DWIs. My life was a mess.*

*I cried out to the LORD and HE began to show me the answers in HIS word. Knowing the truth is only part of the answer. The other part is applying what we have learned in the word of GOD. I still had no real experience walking out this truth, so I flopped and floundered around. Up and down, in and out of fellowship.*

Roger was in pain and alcohol deadened the pain on the short run. It seems when one is used to driving a car, they end up driving while intoxicated, and that led to DWIs, which led to a prison term of one and a half years. But after release, it was back to the same town, same friends, and same lifestyle. You guessed it, shortly after, there was another DWI and back to prison for another year and a half, then back to the same town, same friends, with no inner strength to follow through on his earlier profession of faith in 1998.

He went for about seven years before the third DWI which led to prison for four years this time. However, he pressed in to the prison church, did some Bible studies, and went through Celebrate Recovery. The last year and a half of this four-year sentence was spent in a trustee camp. Life is different in a trustee camp. No walls or security fences. The inmates are a repair crew around the prison complex and return to camp where they have some time of their own. They have

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a schedule, but they have liberty to move about within that schedule. They are in a trustee camp because they have demonstrated a good attitude, and there is very little if any negative lawless attitude.

It was in the trustee camp that Roger began to memorize large portions of Scripture. He asked the older inmates who seemed to be strong Christians to help him in the overcoming life, but they didn't know how. He said that he wanted to put the Word in his heart to keep him living right. He taught a few Bible lessons and prepared and delivered several sermons to the inmates. In 2015 a group from Calvary Commission led in the prison church service and Roger decided to apply for acceptance after his release.

Although he was accepted in 2016, it was August of 2018 before he was paroled and arrived on campus. He is enrolled in the Calvary Bible Institute. Now a student at CBI, he says:

*It sure seemed a long time getting here, but GOD used me a lot and taught me a lot as well in those two years. I really am enjoying this stage of His plan for me and hope to do well as things progress. GOD is good and I love Him for all He is and does.*

Roger is a team leader on the campus and feels that he will be a Bible teacher of some sort after graduation. He plans to move near his father who is in ill health and has already made contact with a company that builds campers. He expects to work there and wait for the Lord to open the door for him to teach the Word. Roger is strong now in his walk. He will make a good teacher of the Word. ✨

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