



Update

September 2019

Vernon & Martha Hedge

2019 Graduation

From Vernon as told to Martha:

Martha and I attended the Calvary Bible Institute graduation in Lindale, TX, September 1st at the Calvary Commission base. It was my first trip since the stroke, and I did well. Martha had to do the driving and communication is still a work in progress, but I didn't want to miss seeing many of my former students cross the finish line. Their hard work was rewarded. For some, it's the first degree of any kind they have earned. For others, they were building on a foundation already laid. For all, it is a high achievement.

The Calvary International Bible Institute and Theological Seminary is authorized by the State of Texas to give degrees in theology.

Of the 39 graduates, 22 earned Diplomas in Biblical Studies, one a Diploma in Missions, five an Associate of Arts Degree in

Theology, and one a Master of Arts Degree in Theology. Five students finished internships. I am so proud of each of them.

When you think of graduates, don't think of students in their early twenties. There were a few of those, but most were mature adults, even a few with gray hair. Many of them were the ones who met Jesus in prison and are wanting to learn how to live authentic Christian lives. If you ever want to be reminded how life-changing being born again is, just visit this group. Some of their testimonies are victories over dark places, so deep there was no hope apart from Jesus.

I was amazed and deeply touched by the outpouring of love toward me. These men and women have been praying for my healing. I don't think I've ever had so many hugs in one day! ✨

The Challenges

by Martha

The annual mission conference met for several days before closing out with graduation. This is when Calvary Commission missionaries and pastors from abroad come together. **Joe Fauss**, the founder and International Director, spoke in a Q and A session. He was asked to talk about the beginning of the ministry.

In the 60s and 70s, it was illegal for parolees to be housed together. There were no after-care or half-way houses; nothing like Calvary Commission. His efforts are largely responsible for changing that in Texas.

He and his wife Charlotte sold their dream home and their business and poured it all into ministry. When asked how he could do that, he said, "It's about the calling. That's how all these things happened." He knew that he knew it was what he was supposed to do,



(Continued from page 1)

and added, "It was worth it." He recounted too many God moments through the years to describe in a brief letter.

His challenges resonate for all of us. They were, find and follow your calling, "Obey the Lord and He will do the rest," and get a vision from the Lord. He added, "Without a vision, you will always go back to your past."

Calvary Commission has trained pastors and missionaries who are in many nations. Their orphanage in Reynosa, MX is being led by a man who grew up in the orphanage. Good seed in good soil with good harvest that continues.

At graduation **Anne Fauss**, Vice-President of Calvary Bible Institute, spoke and had timely words that could apply to all of us too. Her challenge was to Finish Life Well. There are those who start well, but do not finish well. Then there are those who do not start well, but by the Grace of God finish strong.

I overheard one graduate say, "I am a person who should never have been let out of prison. Jesus gave me a new life and my family."

There is hope because of Jesus! ✨

Multiplication

Calvary Commission has sent missionaries who have built churches in many countries. Now some of those churches have started Calvary Bible Institutes. Right now, that's Mexico and a partnership with a work in India. The need to train people in the Word is great, and what better way than a Bible school.

I can write some things about Vernon that he won't say about himself. A huge blessing came from one of his former students that he taught about 20 years ago. Pastor Nathan Cole has led in the establishing of a Calvary Bible Institute in Leon MX that already has graduates. He has been using some of the teachings Vernon developed. One, a Systematic Theology curriculum, is being translated into Spanish and will be used in the Bible Institute. They will then record the teachings so they can be used elsewhere. Nathan said once it's translated, he will send Vernon a copy.

As a teacher, working day-by-day with students, one doesn't always see if what they are doing makes a difference. It's moments

like this that make it worthwhile, if there were any doubts. There was a steady stream of students and ministers who are in the field who sought out Vernon to hug and thank him for how he blessed them.

The biggest surprise response came during the introductions at graduation. The teachers sat on the front row with graduates behind them. When Anne Fauss made a special acknowledgement that Dr. Vernon Hedge was able to be at the graduation, there was an instant, explosive response of cheers and clapping. Twice! It brought tears to his eyes. He knew he loved them. He didn't know how much they loved and appreciated him.

This is Pastor Nathan Cole, missionary to Leon MX. ✨



Closing thoughts...

I know that you also have been praying for Vernon's complete healing and restoration. I'm sharing these moments of accolades and appreciation to encourage you that you don't know how your life has blessed someone else. Or how that extra effort you made is being multiplied to another generation. And perhaps to another. As Joe challenged, "Obey the Lord and He will do the rest. We aren't finished yet." ✨

[If you would prefer receiving our newsletter by email, we would be glad to send it to you. Sometimes we can include more pictures by email than we can include in the printed version. Just let us know by sending your name and email address to VLHedge@att.net and we will make that change. Blessings!]
