



From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines

**An Authorized Biography
of the Life of Russell Anderson**

What God did through an uneducated coal miner
Russell Anderson

RUSSELL ANDERSON'S

From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines

AN AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

This book was updated and produced in a digital format by Dr. Russell Anderson with the help of Dr. Gregg Nash.

First Printing - 2003
Digital Formating - 2016

ISBN: 0-9745499-4-0

To get additional copies of
From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines,
please go to:
www.draucm.com

Email: raucmc@gmail.com

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Dr. Jack Hyles. The Lord used him in my life from the first time I heard him in 1960.

He became one of my closest friends and he is one of the greatest Christians I know.

Dr. Hyles taught biblical principles that I applied to my businesses and I learned God's methods that allowed the Lord to prosper me and use me and the Lord has allowed me to make over \$100,000,000 and I have had the privilege of giving over \$40,000,000 to the Lord's work.

– Dr. Russell Anderson





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the following for their help and contributions to this book:

Mrs. Rena Fish
Pastor Jeff Fugate
Dr. Jeff Owens
Pastor Bob Gray
Dr. Bob Marshall
Pastor John Vaprezsan
Mrs. Linda Vaprezsan
Miss Kristi Wertz
Mrs. Nanci Wonson.

I would like to thank Mrs. Linda Stubblefield, for her valuable help in the publishing of this book. Thank you for your research and organization.

I would like to thank my dear wife, Mrs. Maxine Anderson and my three daughters for their help in providing information for this book: Tomi Sue Anderson Stuart, Kelly Lynn Anderson Vacendak, and Lisa Kaye Anderson. Thank you, girls, for your labor of love. You are such a blessing to me.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	8
1 A Blessing in Disguise	9
2 A Hero in the Holler	17
3 Paying His Own Way	21
4 To the Coal Mines	27
5 Business with Pleasure	33
6 A Changed Life	41
7 Proving God	46
8 Making His Second Million	52
9 A Fundamental Friend	56
10 Hyles-Anderson College	63
11 Memories of a Friendship	67
12 A Love for Kentucky	73
13 A Millionaire in Souls	83

A Profile of Dr. Russell Anderson

1	Russell Anderson—The Church Member	102
2	Russell Anderson—The Soul Winner	110
3	Russell Anderson—The Christian	117
4	Russell Anderson—The Family Man	125
5	Russell Anderson—The Friend	140
6	Russell Anderson—The Businessman	148
7	Russell Anderson—The Preacher	154
	Epilogue	162
	Appendixes	166

FOREWORD

The friendship between Dr. Hyles and Russell Anderson was a pure friendship which lasted after Dr. Hyles went home to be with the Lord. That friendship is one of the reasons why Dr. Anderson's biography is possible. As you learn the life of Russell Anderson you will find him to not only be a successful business man but also someone who understands friendship and its scriptural principles. He was a friend not only to Dr. Hyles but to many fundamental Christian soul winners as the chapters to come will further explain. He has used his wealth to further the cause of Christ and kingdom of God and only the Judgment Seat of Christ will show the impact of his life.

Proverbs 17:17 teaches, *"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."*

1

Blessing in Disguise

The childhood that began to form the character of Russell Anderson can best be described in three words: “poverty” and “hard work.”

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Lady Mary Hamilton, daughter of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland, was engaged to a man who was chosen by her father. She did not want to marry this man who was much older than she. Instead, Mary eloped with her tutor, Robert Anderson. The couple left Ireland and moved first to Pennsylvania, then to West Virginia.

No information about the next generation of Andersons has been found, except that Robert and Mary Anderson gave birth to a son who eventually had five children. One of those children born in 1868 was named Adam Luther Anderson.

Adam Anderson married Emma Ripley (*b.* 1870). This couple gave birth to Carleton Anderson in 1893. Carleton Anderson married Alverdie Lee. From this marriage, three children were born: Virgil, Ralph, and John Frederick Anderson.

Clovia Audrey Allen was the daughter of a foreman in the coal mines, Luther Allen, and his wife, Quillie Allen. Clovia Allen met and married Ralph Anderson in Seko, Kentucky. The Ralph Andersons had five children: Ralph, Russell, Helen Ruth, Robert Charles, and Judith. Another child, John Lawrence, died at childbirth.

Russell Anderson was born on May 16, 1931, at home with the aid of a country doctor. His life began in Floyd County in the rural town of Hunter, Kentucky, which had a population of about 100. Hunter was a town in the eastern mountains of Kentucky. Life in the hills of Kentucky was substantially different from life in much of the rest of America. There was no trouble as long as the three “golden rules” were followed: (1) Leave a man’s

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

children alone, (2) Leave a man's dog alone, and (3) Leave a man's wife alone—perhaps in that order. If these rules were violated, there was sort of a self-rule among the hill people.

Dr. Anderson says life in Hunter was not unlike the life portrayed in the old Western movies. Russell once saw a man killed with a butcher knife at his coal camp and then carried out. There was a lot of moonshining back in the hills, and life could be much more rough there than it was in the city.



Russell in 1939

Besides the rough way of life, poverty is the word which would best describe the early childhood of Russell Anderson. The people in the hills did not realize how poor they were, but their simple life was stricken with the effects of poverty.

At the age of four, Russell awoke to hear his mother yelling to his dad that their house was on fire. Russell looked above him and saw the ceiling burning. He escaped the house just as the roof was about to cave in. This was not the last time Russell would see one of the unpainted shacks where he and his family lived destroyed by fire. Russell was in the hospital as the result of a mining accident when family members came to visit and told him their house had burned down for the second time.

Because of the fire when Russell was four, the Anderson family moved four miles away to a larger and rougher mining town. Not long after, when Russell was seven years old, his family moved again to a holler called Minnie. Until Russell was 17 years old, Minnie, Kentucky, was his home.

Minnie was a small coal mining community where everyone knew each other. Citizens did not lock their doors, and they left their car keys in the

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

ignition of their automobiles. Again, poverty and simplicity described the way of life in the two homes in which the Andersons lived in Minnie. The Andersons had no electricity or indoor facilities. In fact, Dr. Anderson did not have a home with indoor facilities until he moved to Michigan as a young adult. In Minnie, as he puts it, they had “three rooms and a path.”

Life for the Anderson family consisted of a lot of hard work. Though poor, they worked hard to stay clean and neat. They washed their clothes on a washboard. The family made their own soap. Their clothes were left to soak, and then they were stomped on to loosen the dirt before scrubbing them on the washboard. Whites and bed clothes were washed by being boiled in a black kettle. After the clothes were washed, they were hung on a line to dry. Oftentimes, soot from the coal mines would blow on the laun-

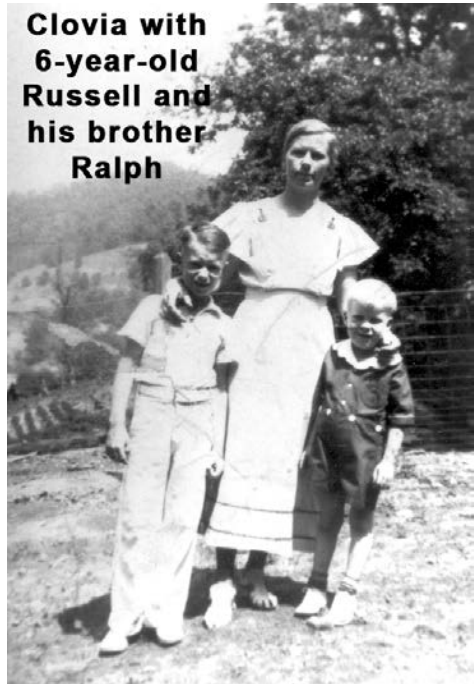


**Russell with
two siblings**

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

dry, and the washing process would have to start all over again.

The Anderson family owned a hog, some cows, and about 70 chickens. They raised hogs to be slaughtered in the fall so as to have meat to eat. Russell remembers collecting eggs and many times wringing the necks of the chickens to prepare them for eating. The Andersons raised and canned their own food. They had a meat house and a smoke house. Salt would be placed in a rough container made of boards. Fresh meat would then be placed on top of the salt. About two more inches of salt was added on top of the meat. Because they had no electricity, this method was used to preserve their meat. When the meat was ready to be eaten, it had to



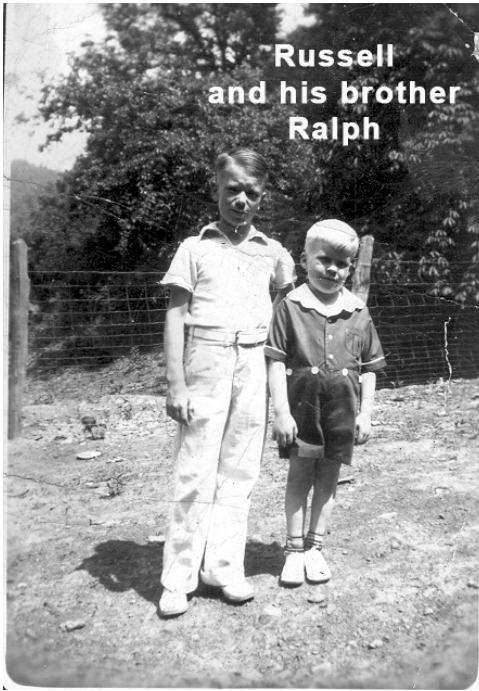
**Clovia with
6-year-old
Russell and
his brother
Ralph**

be boiled for a lengthy time to remove the salt before it was prepared to eat.

Potatoes were stored in a hole that was dug and filled with straw. Plywood and tar paper were layered over the potatoes. Green beans were strung on a string to be dried on a clothes line. This drying preserved the beans until winter when they were soaked in water to plump them before cooking. They were called shuck beans. The Andersons made their own butter, then stored it in their well to cool and harden.

Russell attended grade school in the holler. McDowell School was two miles from Minnie. Russell and his brothers and sisters rode a bus up the valley and back down again to attend the McDowell School. Russell was a mischievous child in grade school. His teachers heard many complaints from his female classmates about numerous pranks such as throwing snow-

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



balls at them, tripping them, and picking them up and carrying them. He received many spankings for his misbehavior, but as he grew older, Dr. Anderson's mischief became properly directed. He became a decent, law-abiding citizen, but he remains a fun-loving friend who has shared many a joke and prank with friends.

The Anderson family did not attend church, but a few times a year, missionaries would come to the schools in the holler and tell Bible stories. Russell still remembers some of the stories he learned.

The childhood that began to form the character of Russell Anderson can best be described in three words: "poverty" and "hard work." Russell had to do a lot of chores both before and

after school. He remembers getting kindling and coal for the next morning's fire. Coal was everywhere in Minnie, and it was either dug out of the hill in the backyard or collected along the railroad tracks from that which had fallen from the train cars.

Russell remembers tending the animals, helping with the gardening, picking corn, and helping to can sausage. Russell's first job was working in the cornfields for 50 cents a day. He plowed behind a mule in the cornfields and sold beans and corn for two dollars a sack. At the age of 14 or 15, he wheeled sawdust for the sawmills. While he was in the tenth grade, Russell worked as hired help. Once he was left in charge of an entire restaurant.

While there was a lot of poverty in the Kentucky hills in those days, Russell Anderson was poorer than most. Poverty caused Russell to have to

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

attend school wearing pants with the knees torn out. But it also caused him to learn early the value of hard work, as well as valuable lessons regarding how to direct his money. God instilled in Russell Anderson what he instilled in many others from the “greatest generation.” He instilled the value that money is to be **earned** by hard work, and then it is to be handled with caution and great wisdom. Russell’s father was the first human instrument used to be the teacher of these great truths.

“Poverty is a blessing in disguise,” says Dr. Anderson, and it certainly proved to be a blessing to the molding of a successful businessman and fundamental friend, Dr. Russell Anderson.



**(Left to right) Ralph Anderson, Russell’s dad;
Russell’s sister Judy; Russell’s grandmother;
Alverdie Lee Anderson; and himself**

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



(Above) A man who has always enjoyed classy cars, Russell poses with his 1949 Ford convertible.

(Below) One of the classic vehicles Russell Anderson donated to be sold for the First Baptist Church building fund, this one-of-a-kind, fully hydraulic, computerized 1972 Chevy pickup is called "Endangered."



2

A Hero in the Holler

God used a hero and a
heartache to mold the
man, Russell Anderson.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Russell Anderson has some fond memories of his mother, Clovia Anderson, helping him with his homework by the light of a kerosene lamp. Most of his memories, however, center around the man who was his first hero. This man was the first to teach Russell that poverty is a blessing in disguise. He was the first man to teach Russell how to work hard and how to handle his money. This man was Ralph Anderson, Russell's father. Ralph was a superintendent in the coal mines. He worked six or seven days a week, and he never took a vacation.



**Ralph Anderson,
Russell's hero in the holler**



**Russell Anderson
1942-1943 school picture**

A HERO IN THE HOLLER

When Russell was eight years old, he began to visit the coal mines with his dad. Russell's father taught him at this tender age how to shoot coal with dynamite. He was actively involved in the process of getting the coal by the age of 12. During these years, Russell noticed the great respect that Ralph Anderson's fellow workers had for his father; and as a result, Russell's respect for him grew also. He was impressed with the amount of work his father was able to accomplish. Ralph Anderson was a serious and a strict man. He never took Russell hunting or fishing. He never attended PTA meetings or his children's school activities. This hurt Russell, and he vowed he would be involved in the lives of his children someday, a promise which he kept. Still, the time that his father spent training Russell built a solid foundation of respect between the two men.

Heartache in the Holler

Ralph and Clovia Anderson had an unhappy marriage. Russell heard and saw a lot of fighting between them. He made it a goal to have a happy marriage in his own home someday and to be good to his wife.

Russell often prayed,

Dear Lord,

Help Mom and Dad to quit fighting. It's hard to take sides when you love both of them.

In the hollers of eastern Kentucky, God used a hero and a heartache to mold the man, Russell Anderson. His hero reinforced the teachings of hard work and the handling of money. His heartache, in some way, turned him to God and instilled in him a desire to use time and money to help others, particularly his future wife and children. The foundation for the "rags-to-riches" story of Russell Anderson was starting to be laid.



3

Paying His Own Way

A character reflected through hard work and paying his own way was being strongly formed in Russell Anderson.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Beginning in the eighth grade when he opened his own bank account, Russell Anderson paid his own way financially. Except for a graduation suit that his father purchased for him, Russell paid for all of his own expenses.

Russell Anderson became a self motivator in business from an early age. At the age of 14, he started trapping muskrats and minks. Russell would check the traps at 4:00 a.m. each morning. He would take his catch and hang it on the hearth to dry during the day while he was in school. When Russell returned from school in the evening, he would skin and stretch the hides of the animals he caught. When the furs were ready, Russell sent them away to Sears and Montgomery Wards. He received anywhere from \$2.50 to \$4.00 for a muskrat and as much as \$30.00 for a mink.

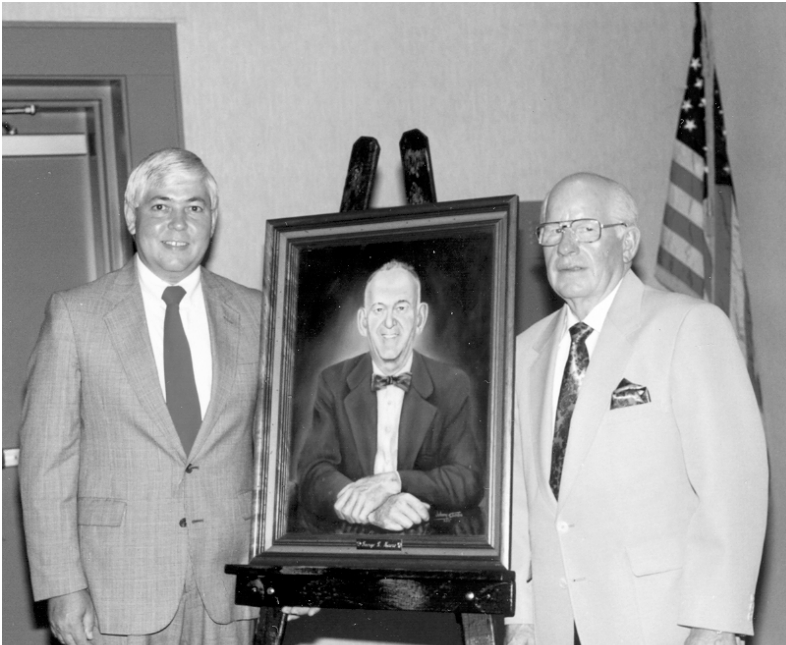
Russell attended McDowell High School, a school of about 300 students, where he was referred to as “Cotton” because of his full head of white hair. He wanted to quit school during his sophomore year, but his father would not let him. So he continued to ride the bus up and down the valley until he graduated from high school. Once, on the way to a ball game, the bus he rode to school rolled over on its side, landing on the exit door. Russell kicked out the windshield with both of his feet, making a way out for the passengers.

Russell Anderson remembers all of his teachers in high school as being good ones who genuinely cared for the students. But during high school, Russell found one role model in particular, his high school principal, George L. Moore. Russell had tremendous respect for this man who took him under

PAYING HIS OWN WAY

his wing. He says he believes George Moore did more for his part of Kentucky than anyone else. It was his careful observation of the students, and his thorough discipline that earned George Moore such respect. He spanked Russell Anderson frequently, yet it only fostered greater respect in the heart of the teenage boy. The feeling was mutual. After Dr. Anderson became successful, his principal, George Moore, wrote articles commending him.

After George Moore's death, McDowell High School combined with another school and became the South Floyd High School. Dr. Anderson continued honoring Mr. Moore by donating several thousand dollars to build the George L. Moore Library in the Left Beaver High School.



From left to right are Gary Frazier and Russell Anderson with a portrait of George L. Moore, former principal at McDowell High School. The new library has been named in honor of Moore.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Left Beaver High School Library Will Become Totally Automated

When the new Left Beaver High School opens its doors, it will house one of the most modern libraries in the state. The George L. Moore Library will be completely automated and will feature state of the art equipment.

The library was named at the request of Russell Anderson in honor of the late educator George L. Moore, who was a principal at McDowell school for many, many years. The Board of Education agreed to the request and the announcement was made at the recent reunion of McDowell High School graduates.

Anderson, a lay minister of the Baptist faith and a graduate of the McDowell High School class of 1950, donated \$7,000 to the library to make it one of the best in the area.

Anderson said he has a great admiration for Moore and has never met his equal. "He did more for Eastern Kentucky than any other educator," Anderson said.

Moore was a strong authoritarian and challenged each student to do his or her best. "He'd get us all in the auditorium and chew us out," Anderson said. "He'd say, 'You'll never amount to a hill of beans.'"

This challenge worked for Anderson, who owns 430 apartments and homes throughout the world.

Floyd County Times

Another of Russell's role models in high school was the husband of one of his teachers. Blaine Hall was an insurance salesman who sold insurance by day and worked in the coal mines by night. He taught Russell to value hard work over education, saying such things as "P.H.D.'s are old jail weeds."

Russell and his family did not attend church at all. Dr. Anderson has only three recollections of church attendance before adulthood. Once he attended a dinner-on-the-grounds at a Regular Baptist church upon the invitation of a friend. The Regular Baptists were popular in the hollers of Kentucky, but they did not provide Sunday school for children, only adults.

Twice Russell attended a Holiness church where the congregation spoke in tongues. Other than regular visits by the missionaries to his school, where he learned Bible stories through flannel graph, Russell had no contact with Christ or religion.

As a teenager, Russell Anderson lived in an era where kids would build bonfires, have sings, and cruise around in their cars. Those who did not have cars rode on horseback to the local theater. The theaters in the holler shared their movie reels. Theater patrons would often wait in line for the movie reel to arrive before they could go in and

PAYING HIS OWN WAY

watch the movie. No food such as popcorn was provided by the theaters in those days. The customers brought their own snacks with them. Because he was not taught to know better, Russell spent much of his free time partying and drinking alcohol.

His godly character was not yet being formed, but a character reflected through hard work and paying his own way **was** being strongly formed. During high school, Russell worked in the sawmills. He also worked in the coal mines during evenings and on Saturdays hauling supplies on a mule for \$2.00 a day. He walked two miles to the coal mines and two miles back home each day that he worked. After Russell's senior trip to Washington, D.C., and his graduation in 1950, he began to make his living in the coal mines with a starting pay of \$18.00 a day. Out of the 24 who graduated in Russell Anderson's class, only five were boys. Most of the boys had already dropped out to work full time in the coal mines. Thankfully, Ralph Anderson made his son finish high school.

Though Russell was an athlete in high school, he chose work over play. Russell played basketball and baseball during his sophomore and junior years. He was very successful as a guard in basketball, but baseball was his real love, a game in which Russell struck out only one time during high school. Though many of his teammates continued to play sports during the summer in leagues, Russell chose to work in the coal mines in the summer. Russell also missed playing first string on the basketball team because his



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

work in the coal mines caused him to miss many practices. A back injury received in the coal mines kept Russell from playing sports at all during his senior year. Instead, he participated as the team manager that year.

Russell learned to be conservative and cautious with his money during high school. He purchased his first car during his sophomore year for about \$70. But because it cost him \$3.00 a week to maintain the car, he got rid of it soon after he purchased it. Instead, Russell frequently caught rides with his neighbors.

As Dr. Anderson reflected upon his teenage years, he expressed thankfulness that he had learned to fend for himself during his teen years. "It harms children to give them everything," he said. Dr. Anderson worked his own children as much as eight hours a day when they were as young as 12 or 13. By then, Dr. Anderson owned several apartment buildings. He hired his own daughters to haul garbage from the apartments, and he taught them how to keep the books.

As a successful businessman, Dr. Anderson continued to pay his own way by repaying his mother. He rented and furnished an apartment for her during the latter years of her life. Dr. Anderson's friend, Dr. Jack Hyles, influenced him to do this because of the way he cared for his mother, Coystal Hyles.

Poverty brought heartache to Russell Anderson. That heartache caused him to want to pay his own way and to provide a better life and home for his own family someday. But between his teenage years and his years as a millionaire, there was much hard work, sweat, and toil ahead. The road to his dream began in the dark caves of the coal mines.

4

To the Coal Mines

In the coal mines, a man
was truly a man.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

After high school, Russell Anderson began working full time in the coal mines. He started earning \$18 a day and worked up to earning about \$32 a day. Russell became the #1 coal loader in his mine.

Life in the mines was dark and difficult. In the coal mines, a man was truly a man; this was no place for a sissy. Before the unions in the 1920's and 1930's, miners would walk to the mines before sunrise and not return until after sundown. For weeks at a time, they would not see the light of day much, if at all. Miner's cough would eventually develop in the lungs of most of these men who worked in the mines.

Each early morning, a miner, wearing a hat with a light on it to lead him in the darkness, would walk two or three miles into a mountain. A miner would usually put in an eight-hour day. Bulldozers were used to find the coal seams. Once a seam was found, two tunnels approximately 16 feet wide were made to extricate the coal. Coal was usually buried 29 to 42 inches deep in the side of the mountain. Dynamite was used to shoot the coal out of the mountain. This process was performed at night because of the resulting smoke.

**Russell's foreman-
his father**



Thankfully, Russell's shifts in the coal mines were eight-hour days. Russell learned to load coal quickly as a teenager. At the age of 16, his dad gave him a job as a loader, but he exclaimed, "I'm giving you a job, but I'm not going to make you a living." Just because he was the boss's son, he received no special treatment. His competition at that time was a 22-year-old man named Billy Tackett. Billy could load six loads a day; as a teenager, Russell had

TO THE COAL MINES

already managed to beat him by loading seven loads of coal a day.

A track was built to the coal seam. By day, a motorman would call for a coal car. A brakeman would bring the car to the coal, and a loader would load the coal into the car. The coal would be pulled from the car, taken to the scale, and weighed. Then a gondola would carry the coal to a freight train, where the coal would be shipped for sale.

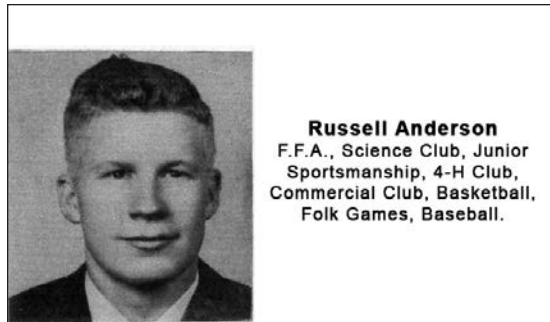
Russell Anderson worked all of the different jobs of coal mining as well as all of the different time shifts. A loader was paid every two weeks, according to how much coal he had loaded.

Singer Tennessee Ernie Ford sang a song which went partially like this:

*“Load 16 tons, and what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt.”*

An average loader in the coal mines could load 14 to 16 tons of coal a day. As an adult, Russell loaded 25 to 35 tons. At one point, in a contest with another loader who was getting close to replacing Russell as the #1 coal loader, Russell’s nose began to bleed. He wanted to win the contest, so he stuffed fine coal dust up his nose in order to beat out this guy as the best loader!

In 1953, three years after Russell’s high school graduation, more heartache came to him. Russell’s parents, Ralph and Clovia Anderson, divorced. Russell became more responsible, not only in his duties in the mines, but also in his duties at home. He helped his hard-working father by cooking his breakfast in the morning and by packing his lunch for the coal mines each day. When his dad came home from the mines each day,



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Russell cooked supper and washed the dishes.

A coal miner worked up quite an appetite each day. An average breakfast eaten by the Anderson men might consist of a pound of sausage, several eggs, a can of biscuits, and a bowl of oatmeal with pineapple. An average lunch usually consisted of three sandwiches, fruit, cakes, and a candy bar. The coal miner brought his food in a lunch bucket, and he was allowed to go to his bucket to refresh himself at any time.

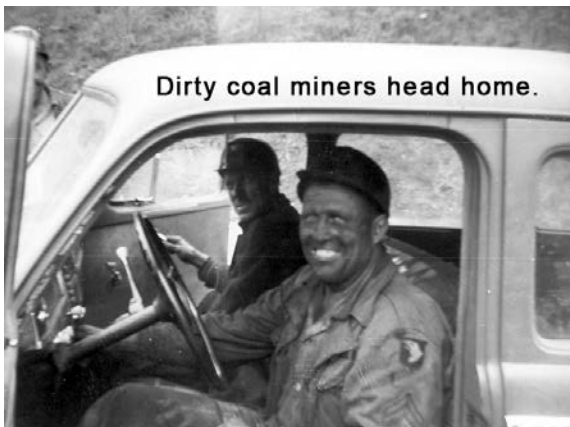
The coal miner's life was tiring, lonely, and costly. Many miners lost their hearing in the mines. Dr. Anderson lost 50 percent of his hearing in one ear as the direct result of shooting off dynamite too closely in the mine. Many suffered damage to their eyes as a result of the smoke that got in their eyes on a daily basis.

The coal miner's job was a sweaty one. Although the underground temperature is a year-around 68°, the comfort index in the mines fluctuated throughout the day, depending upon the work being done as well as the time of day.

Coal mining was a filthy job. Miners returned home from their job each day dirty from head to foot (or should I say from head to soot). Ralph and Russell Anderson ended their day by soaking in a #2 tub. Before Russell

left the mines, showers were built so that men could clean up before they left the mine to return home.

The coal miner's job was costly. Coal affects some more than it does others, but black lung was a prominent disease which came to the coal miners. Black lung occurs when tiny coal particles coat the lungs of a miner and interfere with his breathing.



TO THE COAL MINES

Many of the townspeople could be heard approaching and could be recognized by the sound of their miner's cough.

It takes determination and spunk to live the life of a coal miner, characteristics which Russell certainly possessed. These same characteristics caused Russell to be a fighter in his early adult years. He didn't start fights, but he knew how to finish them, and he had a reputation for this. He continued to live his drinking life during these years. Though he was a tough guy, Missionary Nella Rose Caudill recalled how he stood up for her when she was collecting money for missions. Some guys were giving Nella a hard time. Russell donated 72 cents and told the other guys to leave her alone.

In spite of the difficulties, Russell Anderson liked the work in the coal mines. He worked there for six years. He had already valued hard work for many years, which made the work of coal mining not only tolerable, but also somewhat enjoyable.

Before Russell Anderson became a millionaire, he paid his dues by hard work. His destination was to become a millionaire. But he went into the coal mines before he reached that destination.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Though Russell worked inside the mountain, this sight greeted him daily as he went to work.





5

Business with Pleasure

In 1955, Russell had left the coal mines for good, and his life as a successful entrepreneur had begun.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

After Russell worked six years in the coal mines, the coal mining business in the entire state of Kentucky became unsteady. The coal mines would sometimes close for several weeks in a row. In 1953, Russell Anderson's brother Ralph had left Kentucky and moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan. Ypsilanti was a town where B-29 airplanes were manufactured. Some of Russell's friends from high school also moved to Ypsilanti and worked in the drywall business. So many Kentuckians moved to Ypsilanti during this time that Ypsilanti began to be called "Ypsytucky." In 1955, 24-year-old Russell followed his brother and his friends to Michigan. He began his work in a factory. His father made the move with him.

Eventually all of Russell's family moved to Michigan. Dr. Anderson's sister, Judith Stierendurf, opened a beauty shop in Ann Arbor in 1988. Her business has become very successful, and she has a staff of 41 people working for her. Another sister, Helen Salisbury, worked at Ford Motor Company for 34 years, from 1957 until she retired.

During his first two years in Ypsilanti, Russell lived in a rooming house and worked in the drywall business. It took him two years to learn the trade of taping drywall. At the end of those two years, his hands were as skilled as those of a surgeon. Russell started in the drywall business making \$1.50 an hour; and by 1957, he was making \$32 a day. That same year he decided to go into business for himself.

Russell Anderson borrowed \$500 from his insurance policy and began his own drywall business. He bought a \$3 desk and started his business in a basement. In 1958, he started a building supply business to save money on

BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

his own drywall supplies. Russell had left the coal mines for good, and his life as a successful entrepreneur had begun.

He started his business in a house he purchased on 1430 McCarthy Street in Ypsilanti. Russell Anderson was really climbing up in the world now. He went from “three rooms and a path” in Kentucky to a brand-new house in Michigan with three bedrooms and a bath.

Often when Russell would drive down Hunter Street, he would see a beautiful petite blonde coming out of another house in the neighborhood. Russell had done a lot of dating; in fact, he was dating someone at the time he began noticing this blonde. The aunt of the girl he was dating paid Russell a visit in his new house. During their visit, the guest told Russell that she knew the pretty blond whom Russell had been noticing. She knew that Maxine Ramsey was her name and that she was an employee at Michigan Bell.

“I’ve been parking my convertible across the street from where she lives, trying to find a chance to meet her,” Russell said. “Fix me up for a date with her.”

In the meantime, Maxine had noticed the pretty convertible that kept driving down Hunter Street. “That’s a pretty car,” she said to her brother.

Russell and Maxine continued passing each other on the street, and they began to speak to each other. Russell’s “little bird” told Maxine of Russell’s interest in her. They had their first date, and immediately Russell knew that there was something different about this girl. After only one date, he sent her a dozen roses with a card which read, “To the nicest and prettiest girl I ever dated.” After only one week, Russell knew that Maxine would become his wife. “We had so much in common,” he said.



Russell Anderson,
the entrepreneur

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

The Andersons have now been married since 1958; and on every anniversary, Dr. Anderson has sent roses to his wife. For the first 12 years of their marriage, he sent her 12 roses each year. Beginning with the thirteenth year, he has sent her one rose for each year of marriage. Each year the card has the same message, "To the nicest and prettiest girl I ever dated." Dr. Anderson has figured it mathematically and has discovered that he has sent his sweetheart over 1,000 roses.

The couple had 30 dates in approximately five weeks, dating several times a week. The time came when Russell put Maxine to the acid test. "Can you cook chicken?" he asked. He bought her a chicken, and she proceeded to cut it up and fry it for him. They sat together in Maxine's home when Russell first tasted her fried chicken. After tasting it, he said, "Maxine is the girl for me!"

Russell and Maxine did a lot of dating by phone because of their busy schedules and strong work ethic. She would call him from work at Michigan Bell Telephone every day while he was eating lunch.

They went out to dinner often, particularly enjoying drive-in restaurants. One of their favorites was the Chick Inn Drive-In. On a recent anniversary, the Andersons went with another couple to the Chick Inn, which is still in operation. Maxine wore tennis shoes, bobby socks, and a full 50's style skirt. The two couples rode to the drive-in in a bright red and white '59 Ford Thunderbird. (This was the Thunderbird which was given to Dr. Jack Hyles, by the First Baptist Church of Hammond for his fortieth anniversary as their pastor. Upon Dr. Hyles' death, his family decided to give the car to Russell Anderson.)

After 90 days of dating, Russell and Maxine decided to get married on December 12, 1958. As Dr. Anderson puts it, "I got tired of sleeping single in a double bed."

BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

The couple asked Maxine's pastor, Donald Currey, to marry them. He was a member of the General Association of Regular Baptists (GARB) and a graduate of Bob Jones University. Pastor Currey refused to marry them because Maxine was a Christian, and Russell was not saved. Pastor Currey advised against Maxine's marrying Russell. Though they were disappointed and did not take the pastor's advice, Russell grew to respect the resolve of a pastor who would stand by his Bible convictions.

Years later, Dr. Anderson started the tradition of sending a Christmas gift of \$1,000 to Pastor Currey each year. Dr. Anderson also sent Brother and Mrs. Currey to the Holy Land, giving them \$3,000. When Pastor Currey was seriously ill in the hospital, Dr. Anderson sent him \$500. Pastor Currey exclaimed, "That is the exact amount I need for all of my hospital bills!" After Pastor Currey's death, Dr. Anderson continued to send his widow \$1,000 a year until her death.

Pastor Young of the Emmanuel Baptist Church performed the wedding ceremony for Russell and Maxine. Before the wedding, Russell remembers standing outside the church house and praying a prayer that would take him to the next level of his rags-to-riches story:

Dear God,

Please make me worthy of this girl that I am about to marry.

Russell was 27; Maxine was 21. The Andersons had a traditional wedding with Maxine wearing a rented, but beautiful, wedding dress. Maxine was a beautiful bride! When the newlyweds had their kiss at the wedding altar, the earth did not shake, but the wedding candle behind them did fall to the floor!

The wedding reception took place in the finished basement of Russell's home. The couple had no honeymoon. They did spend the first night of

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

their marriage in a motel in Ypsilanti. Then they went to Russell's house, which was now Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's home.

Though Russell and Maxine had a lot in common, they were in a way, as different as night and day, light and darkness, saved and unsaved. During their wedding reception, Maxine's friends enjoyed wedding cake and coffee on one side; Russell's friends enjoyed beer and whiskey on the other side. One of Russell's friends was still at the house drinking and making shady comments when the Andersons returned from their honeymoon night in the motel.

Within 24 hours of asking God to make him worthy of his wife, God began to answer that prayer. Right then and there, Russell saw that he did not want his wife around those with whom he had been keeping company. He cleared out all the beer and whiskey in the refrigerator, took it back to the store, and traded it. Because he did not want his wife around drinking men, no alcohol was ever brought into the house again. This decision was a direct result of the prayer he prayed just before being married.

Russell Anderson had lived a rough life up until his marriage in 1958. He had very little religious training and no record of faithful church attendance; he really did not know any better. Russell carried a gun with him. He was not afraid of death; he had never even heard of Hell. He had experienced seven car accidents by the time he was 24. Once, when he hit a high tension pole, the impact caused his car to roll on its side. The top of the car came totally off. He would have lost his eye in this accident had he not placed his finger over it, severely injuring his finger.

Russell had learned from poverty and from his father the value of hard work. He had learned to pay his own way, and that philosophy had brought him from the coal mines to starting his own business. Now his success was ready to blossom further, and a God he did not yet know had sent Russell

BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

a completer—a virtuous woman named Maxine. She would be a vital instrument to lead Russell on his journey toward success, to God, and to salvation.



Russell and Maxine Anderson on their wedding day

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



6

A Changed Life

What if there had not
been the testimony of a
faithful church attendee
and a virtuous woman
that Russell saw in
his wife Maxine?

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

After her marriage, Maxine Anderson continued doing what she had done before. She went to church every Sunday. Russell Anderson, however, did not. He often said to his wife, “If you loved me, you’d stay home on Sundays with me. I work so hard during the week. You should stay home with me on my day off and cook my dinner for me.” Maxine stood her ground and remained faithful to church.

So he could eat sooner, Russell began to drive Maxine to church. He dropped her off, played poker with friends, and then picked Maxine up from church. The Sunday morning service was supposed to end by 12:00 noon. Many times Pastor Currey would carry the service overtime. The irritated Russell Anderson would often ask his wife, “Doesn’t he know when it is quitting time?”

Four months after their marriage, Russell Anderson attended a special program at Maxine’s church. Shortly thereafter, he began to attend Sunday school. During the first 28 years of his life, he had never heard the Gospel. At Maxine’s church, the pastor would ask during the invitation if anyone wasn’t sure he was saved. Russell would raise his hand, but no one responded to his raised hand. In his own ministry, Dr. Anderson now emphasizes the importance of strong preaching on confrontational soul winning because of these experiences.

Russell began to hear some teaching on the Gospel of John. He realized for the first time that he did not need to join a church or be baptized to go to Heaven. He also heard preaching on the Rapture. As he heard of Christ’s second coming, he realized that if Jesus returned in the Rapture, his

wife would be gone, and he would be left behind. Russell wanted to get saved. However, he put it off because he felt he could not live the Christian life. As Dr. Anderson has stated, “The Devil will give you 1,000 excuses why you should not get saved; then when you get to the bottom of that list, he’ll give you a new list.” Russell Anderson was under conviction for several months. He would drive around town in his truck praying that God would let him live to get saved. Russell tried to clean up his life, but he just could not do it without the Lord.

Russell began attending the Sunday morning services. On September 13, 1959, during a Sunday invitation, a church member came to Russell during the invitation and offered to go forward with him for salvation.

“I don’t need you!” Russell exclaimed.

But after he had left the service, he was under so much conviction he returned to the church and found that everyone had left except the pastor. Russell got on his knees in the pastor’s office and asked Christ to save him; he was 28 years old. He finally understood that trusting Jesus’ death on the cross would save him from his sins. He rushed to meet his wife at her mother’s house to share the wonderful news of his salvation.

Dr. Anderson says he feels that he was nearing the point in his life where he was beyond salvation. He had lived a wicked life, and he had put off salvation time and time again. He believes had he not accepted Christ when he did, he would have grieved the Holy Spirit, and he would have never gotten saved.

II Timothy 2:2, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” When Russell Anderson became a Christian, he became a fiery soul winner. Soon there was a revival at the Rawsonville Community Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, with Adam Osborne from Hazard, Kentucky. Russell

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

attended and brought many of his family members. Within six weeks, eleven family members got saved, including two aunts, an uncle, and some cousins.

Russell's brother soon visited him in Michigan from Chicago. "Go to church with me," Russell invited.

"I don't have a suit," he responded.

"I'll buy you a suit."

Russell's brother Ralph soon became a Christian. "My brother was a tightwad. I knew his salvation was real when he offered to buy me a suit," his brother quipped.

Russell began to cry around the house, begging God to save his other family members. He claimed Matthew 5:4 for his mother's salvation. "*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*"

The night after claiming this verse, Russell took his mom to church. On the way to the service, he pleaded with her, "Get saved tonight."

"I'll not get saved tonight," she replied. "I can't live it."

To the contrary, however, that same night when the invitation was given, Russell's mother, Clovia Anderson, was the first person to come forward for salvation.

At the time of this writing, Clovia Anderson is already in Heaven, and all of Dr. Anderson's immediate family members are saved. Dr. Anderson says that their salvation reminds him of Psalm 126:6 which says, "*He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*"

Russell Anderson cried many tears for his mother's salvation, and she became a Christian. She was saved before her son was even baptized. Russell and his mother were baptized at the same time.

In the year 2000, Dr. Anderson was preaching a tent revival at Hazard,

A CHANGED LIFE

Kentucky. His uncle, Sylvester Allen, came to the service but did not get saved.

In May of 2001, Uncle Sylvester was in a hospital in Lexington when he called for one of Dr. Anderson's good friends, Pastor Jeff Fugate. Brother Fugate won Sylvester to the Lord at the age of 78. His wife was a Christian and rejoiced greatly. Very quickly thereafter, Sylvester Allen passed away.

It is impressive to know the fact that it was his wife who had brought him to salvation. Salvation made an immediate change in his life and ignited in him the fire of zealous soul winning.

Without his salvation, Dr. Anderson could not have accomplished what he has for the Lord and in business. He also would not have had the desire to give to the Lord's work what he has given. Truly on September 13, 1959, the life of the successful millionaire/preacher began.

This next step was mostly because of the influence of the virtuous wife, Maxine Ramsey Anderson. As Dr. Anderson questioned, "What if my wife had quit going to church when I asked her to do so?"

What if there had not been the testimony of a faithful church attendee and a virtuous woman that Russell saw in his wife Maxine?



7

Proving God

“I’ll ruin your business
and send you back to
Kentucky,” threatened
a millionaire.

As soon as Russell Anderson became a Christian, he did two things: he became faithful to church, and he started tithing consistently. Russell continued his business from the basement of his home. Maxine did all of his payroll even after giving birth to two babies and having both of them in diapers. Two of their three beautiful, blonde-haired daughters were born at this time just a year and four months apart. Their oldest daughter, Tomi Sue, was born on July 27, 1960. Kelly Lynn followed a little over a year later, on September 7, 1961. Then on March 14, 1967, their youngest daughter, Lisa Kaye, was born.

Eventually the business moved out of the house and to an office on Emmerick Street, at which time Russell hired his first secretary. Things went along quite well for a while; when suddenly a major financial reversal came.

A builder with whom Russell was working went broke. He owed Russell \$27,000 and could not pay. An owner of a building supply company claimed Russell owed him \$2,000. In reality, Russell did not owe him any money. The \$2,000 debt had been made by the builder who had gone broke.

“I don’t owe you any money,” Russell said.

The company owner responded, “If I called myself a Christian like you do, I would pay the money.”

Russell had been witnessing to this man for a long time. To keep his name clear with this lost man, Russell decided to pay the debt he did not owe.

Russell and Maxine bought an old house, fixed it up, sold it, and used the revenue to pay the debt. During all this time of financial struggle, Russell continued to attend church faithfully and to tithe. He had made

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

\$150 a week when his business was going well. He continued to tithe \$15 a week, even when he didn't make a salary. After fixing up the house, selling it, and paying his debts, Russell had a net profit of \$2,000.

He used that \$2,000 to start over in his business. He had managed to keep two men working for him during the entire struggle. God truly blessed Russell for his faithfulness. His drywall business soon became the largest in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

His subcontracting business was costing him \$40,000 in supplies each month, so Russell started his own building supply business, Anderson Materials, Incorporated. At this time Russell moved his business to what would be its final destination, 1255 W. Michigan Avenue, a street which runs all the way from Detroit to Chicago. Soon Russell not only became the number one drywaller in the county, but he also built the largest drywall supply in the county. He placed a large sign the entire length of the building, which read in bold letters, **“CHRIST IS THE ANSWER.”**

A Jewish multimillionaire in the same business became a threat to Mr. Anderson. This man offered discounts to any customers who would cancel their contracts with Russell's business. “I'll ruin your business and send you back to Kentucky,” the millionaire threatened.

Dr. Anderson said that the situation drove him to his knees. He prayed and read his Bible, seeking the Lord about what to do. Two years later the multimillionaire shut down his business and moved out of Ypsilanti. Even though the Jewish people are God's chosen people, God chose to bless a tithing Gentile over one of His chosen.

“They said they were going to break me,” Dr. Anderson said. “Instead, I became the largest drywall supply business in the county.” Dr. Anderson proved that indeed Christ is the answer.

Russell started his third corporation. He purchased trucks with booms

and started a delivery service, delivering his own supplies.

In 1963, on the same day that John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Russell Anderson went into the real estate business. He bought one apartment building with five apartments in it and some vacant land. Within six months, he had built two more buildings on the land. Altogether, he built nine buildings on this property, containing over sixty apartments.

The wisdom God gave Dr. Anderson to build those apartments is amazing! He would go to the bank and ask the banker, "How much money will you loan me?" He would take out a loan for the maximum amount the banker was willing to loan. After each building was finished, he found he had extra money left in his bank account. He continued to succeed in real estate and in all of his business, even though he had no previous business experience and no financial investments. God blessed his faithfulness to attend church, to tithe, and to win souls by giving Dr. Anderson the wisdom to know what to do with his money.

Russell bought more land across town, two miles from his other apartments, and built 302 apartment units. Again he asked the banker, "How much will you loan me?" After all of the apartments were built, Russell was left with \$300,000 of extra money. This was the money he used to help Dr. Jack Hyles start Hyles-Anderson College.

Russell Anderson started building houses. He bought lots and built houses at the cost of \$70,000. Then he would sell them for around \$100,000 each. He built just under 100 houses.

Dr. Anderson started his own Management Corporation and managed his own real estate. He also started Anderson Service Corporation. This was a maintenance service which did maintenance on his own real estate. Russell Anderson started a health food store. By this time he had 70 to 75 employees. All of his businesses were located in the same building which

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

bore the sign reading **CHRIST IS THE ANSWER.**

One day Mr. Anderson's accountant handed him a financial statement showing him that he was worth a million dollars. He went home and told Maxine. Russell and Maxine made a promise not to tell anybody. They were both from poor families and were concerned that folks would think they had become snobs.

On a *Sword of the Lord* cruise to Nassau, Bahamas, Dr. Anderson told one woman that he was now a millionaire; he asked her not to tell anyone else. That woman "spilled the beans," however, and soon the whole nation knew. Dr. Anderson had already become known through his relationship with Dr. Jack Hyles and others.

His millionaire status (his secret) was soon published in *The Sword of the Lord* magazine. For a week, Dr. and Mrs. Anderson fretted and worried about what people thought. After a week, Dr. Anderson said to himself, "I don't care what they think. God allowed me to become a millionaire, and God can get the glory from it."

When Dr. Anderson was asked to tell, in a nutshell, how he had made his first million dollars, Dr. Anderson answered, "I made it as a result of proving God." At the time he became a millionaire, Dr. Anderson was



Dr. John R. Rice, the editor of the *Sword of the Lord*; Dr. Anderson; and Dr. Jack Hyles, on a cruise

tithing 30% of his income. If one had to describe what they could learn from Dr. Anderson about how he stayed financially successful in business, it could be described like this.

1. He tithed and gave offerings.
2. He was faithful to every church service.
3. He was faithful to win souls.
4. He was faithful in Bible reading and prayer.

These four points describe Russell Anderson's bargain with God. God's end of the bargain was to give wisdom and to keep blessing and blessing and blessing the businesses of Dr. Anderson.

Russell Anderson believed that God could get the glory from his becoming a millionaire. And indeed, if ever God has gotten glory from a millionaire, surely He has in the person of Russell Anderson.

8

Making His Second Million

“The love of money makes
men bitter. The love of
Jesus makes men better.”

MAKING HIS SECOND MILLION

The Bible says in II Corinthians 9:6, “*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*”

Dr. Anderson says, “The love of money makes men bitter, but the love of Jesus makes men better.” Once people achieve success, whether it be spiritually or materially, many begin to enjoy their success and stop doing that which made them successful in the first place. Russell Anderson attributes his success to the principles he learned at the Pastors’ School conference of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, founded by Dr. Jack Hyles. Dr. Anderson has kept doing the things he had been doing before he became a millionaire. Dr. Anderson and his family still shop at Wal-Mart for many items. Russell’s wife Maxine cans the vegetables from her own garden.

In the 1970’s, Dr. Anderson was a frequent speaker at the Sword of the Lord Conventions as well as for the Bill Rice Ranch of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and many other places. During one of his sermons, Dr. Anderson held up a dollar bill while he was preaching and reminded the audience that they had a choice of what they would do with the money. The question he proposed they ask about money is this: “Will I waste it, or will I make it serve me?” Dr. Anderson has definitely made money serve him; even better, he has used money to serve Christ. From his sermons preached at Bill Rice Ranch, Dr. Anderson published, in 1974, a 152-page book entitled, “*Things a Millionaire Can’t Afford.*”

Another time, Dr. Anderson held up a dollar bill as he preached, plac-

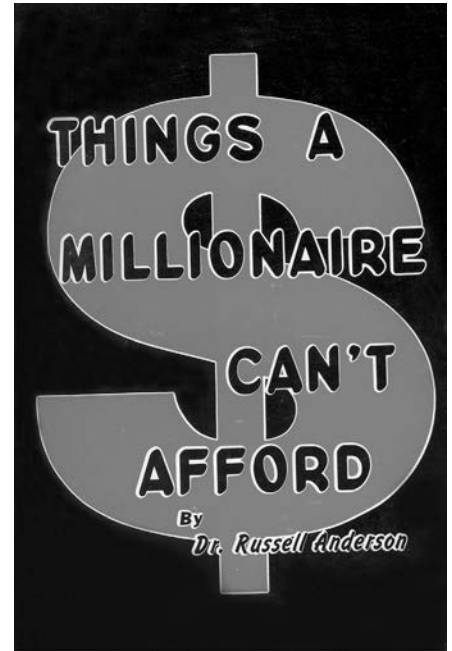
FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

ing it close to his eyes and then holding it at arm's length. Then he said something like this: "As long as I have money at a distance, I can see you. When I hold it too close to me, I can't see you." Some millionaires allow their wealth to make them snobbish and to blind them to the needs of the lost and the poor. Dr. Anderson did just the opposite with his wealth. He continued doing the things he had done before; and just two and a half years after he became a millionaire, he had made his second million.

In 1970, Russell Anderson made a goal to make \$1,000,000 in just one year. He also decided to tithe 50% of his income. When the year was over, he had not made \$1,000,000; he had made \$1,300,000.

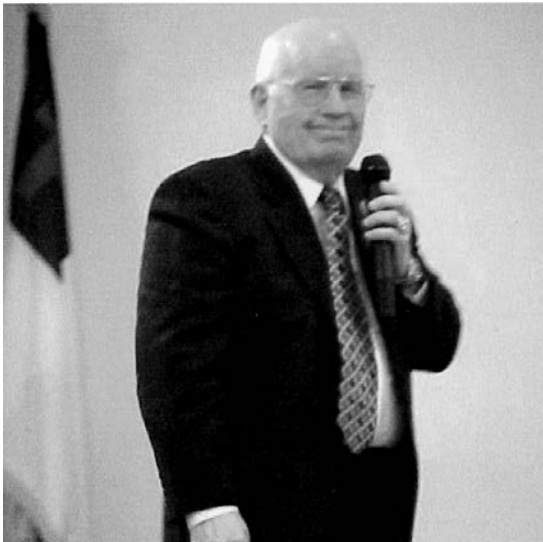
In 1998, Dr. Anderson decided to give God \$1.50 for every \$1.00 he made. He thought that he could always dig into his reserves. Instead, he had such an enormous year that he gave God an extra \$300,000.

Dr. Anderson described his giving this way: "God and I are playing checkers. I move. Then God moves. When Dr. Anderson makes a move, he says, "God, look what I did; it's Your move."



Dr. Anderson's book
published by the Bill Rice Ranch

MAKING HIS SECOND MILLION



9

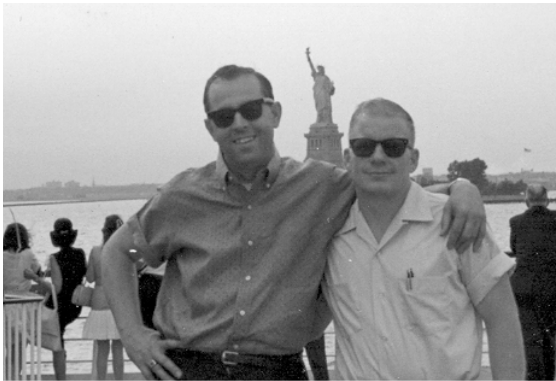
A Fundamental Friend

Dr. Anderson is also a special man in his friendship. He has combined his giving and friendship and has used these to be an encouragement to many men of God.

A FUNDAMENTAL FRIEND

Not only is Dr. Anderson an amazing man in his giving, but he is also a special man in his friendship. He has combined his giving and friendship and has used these to be an encouragement to many men of God. One of those men of God was Dr. Jack Hyles.

Jack Hyles had no brother; he had two sisters who went to Heaven when they



**Dr. Hyles and Russell Anderson
on the ferry to Ellis Island**

were small. He grew up with his one other sister, Earlyne. Russell Anderson became the brother Jack Hyles never had. From the time they met, until the time of his death in 2001, they remained the best of friends and talked on the phone weekly. Jack Hyles phoned Russ (as he called him) every Saturday between 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.



Around the year 1960, Russell Anderson heard Dr. Jack Hyles preach at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. After this, he followed Dr. Hyles and went to hear him preach whenever he was anywhere in the Detroit area.

Dr. Anderson began to write letters to Brother Hyles, bragging on his preaching. He saw Brother Hyles three times while he was visiting the Bill Rice Ranch in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Brother Hyles was a featured preacher there. Dr. Anderson did not introduce himself to Brother Hyles

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

right away. Dr. Anderson said, “I was afraid of him because of his hard preaching.” Finally, one year after Dr. Anderson had introduced himself, he and his wife took Brother and Mrs. Hyles out to dinner. During the dinner, Dr. Anderson mentioned that he had 30 employees.

Brother Hyles responded, “You could become a millionaire.” This was the first time Dr. Anderson had thought about that possibility.

The time came that the Anderson family was able to visit the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana. While visiting, a lady church member named Louise Clifton introduced herself to the Anderson family and invited them to dinner at her house. While he did not accept her offer, Dr. Anderson was impressed with the friendliness of Dr. Hyles’ church members, as well as with Dr. Hyles’ preaching. Dr. Anderson says he felt that in visiting the Hammond church, he had seen a New Testament church in action.

In 1964, the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, suffered a major fire. A new auditorium had recently been built. It was badly damaged through smoke and water. The old auditorium, which was being used for other purposes, was destroyed.

Dr. Hyles watched as the building burned. Sometime during that fire, Dr. Hyles placed his hand against the hot bricks on the outside of the church building and began to pray. He prayed these words:

Dear God,

Please give me a sign that You still love me.

That night he received a \$500 check in the mail from Dr. Anderson.



The friendship between Dr. Hyles and Dr. Anderson is inspiring. He often would slip checks for as much as \$5,000 into Dr. Hyles’ hand when he saw him.

A FUNDAMENTAL FRIEND

He offered Dr. Jack Hyles 7 apartments, encouraging him to sell them and to use the profits for his ministry. Dr. Hyles refused. He was just as committed to not



taking too much as Dr. Anderson was to giving. Dr. Hyles and Dr. Anderson loved each other deeply— not for what each other possessed, but for who they were.

Dr. Anderson offered Dr. Hyles more than one Cadillac as a gift. He refused. He told Dr. Anderson, “I want you to offer it to me, but I’m not going to accept it.”

In 1966, Dr. Anderson tried to give him 7 apartments with no strings attached, but he would not accept them. Dr. Anderson put Dr. Hyles and the famous preacher, Dr. John R. Rice, on the board of his business. He paid them

\$2,000 a year, which they used for their ministries, though he never required them to attend his meetings.

Dr. Anderson was a guest of many of the Pastors’ Schools of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, and was sometimes used as a featured speaker. Pastors’ School was once combined with the Sword of the Lord Convention. One of Dr.



Two pictures of Dr. Hyles with the monument erected in his honor in Italy, Texas. Dr. Anderson is seated to his immediate right.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Anderson's fondest memories of Pastors' School was when a banquet was hosted for the Sword of the Lord at the Sherman House in downtown Chicago. At that time, the Sword presented Dr. Hyles with a new car.

On August 27, 1974, a monument was erected in honor of Dr. Jack Hyles on the east end of his hometown of Italy, Texas. Dr. Hyles was 48. The monument was a gift from Dr. Anderson. The six-foot granite monument was engraved with Dr. Hyles' favorite Bible

verse, Daniel 12:3. The pedestal was encased on four sides with four other Bible verses from Romans. These verses gave the plan of salvation.

The entire family attended the dedication ceremony. Dr. Anderson and Evangelist Lester Roloff were among the speakers. A congratulatory letter was sent from Dr. John R. Rice and from then Texas governor, Dolph Briscoe.

The friendship between Dr. Hyles and Dr. Anderson was a pure friendship which has lasted even after Dr. Hyles' death. To learn the life of Russell Anderson you find him to not only to be a successful business man but also someone who understands friend-



(L-r) Cindy Hyles, Earlyne Stephens, Linda Hyles, Becky Hyles Smith, Tim Smith, Coystal Hyles, Trina Smith, Dr. Hyles, Dave Hyles, and Beverly Hyles (Sword of the Lord photo)



An enjoyable friendship!

A FUNDAMENTAL FRIEND

ship and its scriptural principles. He was a friend not only to Dr. Hyles but to many fundamental Christian soul winners as the chapters to come will further explain. He has used his wealth to further the cause of Christ and kingdom of God and only the Judgment Seat of Christ will show the impact of his life.

Proverbs 17:17 teaches, “*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*”

*First Baptist Church of Hammond
In Indiana*

*Fine Twenty Three Sibley Street
P.O. Box 6448*

November 14, 1997

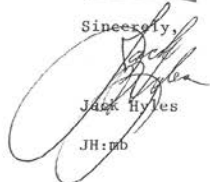
Mr. Russell Anderson

Dear Brother Russ:

I am on the bus traveling from the airport to Hammond. I spent some time thinking of you and praying for you and thanking God for all you have meant to me through the years. I cherish every minute that we spend together. There is no way to describe what your friendship, your love and your expressions of that love mean to me.

I wish our paths crossed more often because I love you dearly. I have no better friend. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Jack Hyles

JH:pb

Jack Hyles, Pastor

Zip Code 46325

219-932-0711

10

Hyles-Anderson College

Dr. Hyles expressed
interest in starting a
college for preacher boys
and in naming it
Hyles-Anderson College.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

In 1970, Dr. Anderson took a trip with Dr. Jack Hyles to Albuquerque, New Mexico. One morning the two took a walk around a shopping mall for about two hours. Dr. Hyles expressed interest in starting a college for preacher boys and in naming it Hyles-Anderson College. Dr. Anderson responded that it would be a great idea and that he would be honored to have his name associated with the college. Dr. Anderson gave the first \$300,000 for the starting of Hyles-Anderson College.

Hyles-Anderson College was started in 1972. From its founding until the year 2016, Hyles-Anderson College was training men to be pastors, assistant pastors, evangelists, school administrators, teachers, and missionaries. There were also degrees offered to young ladies, training them in the area of marriage and motherhood, teaching, missions, and secretarial work.

Hyles-Anderson College has 700 graduates all over the country pastoring churches and 300 missionaries all over the world.



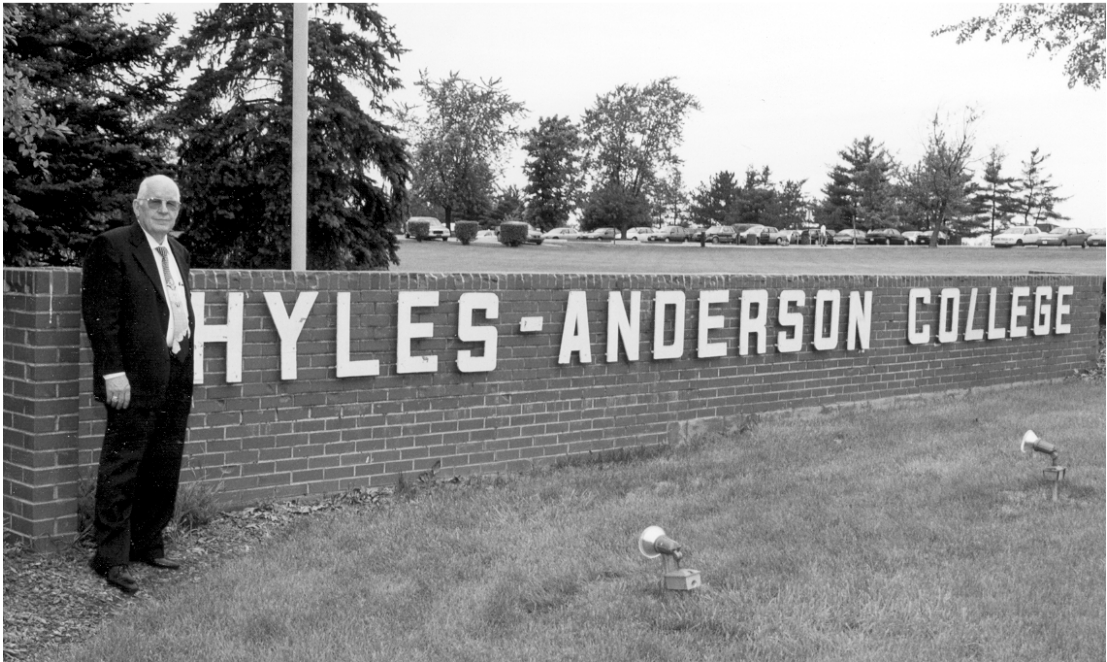
In 2001, Dr. Anderson donated over \$100,000 to help in the creating of Founders' Park, a beautiful park erected at the entrance of Hyles-Anderson College. That park was built in memory of Dr. Jack Hyles, as well as in honor of Mrs. Hyles and Dr. Russell Anderson.



HYLES-ANDERSON COLLEGE

Dr. Anderson preached at least once a year in Hyles-Anderson College chapel. He was present each May for the big Hyles-Anderson College graduation service.

Below: Dr. Anderson poses at the front of the college.



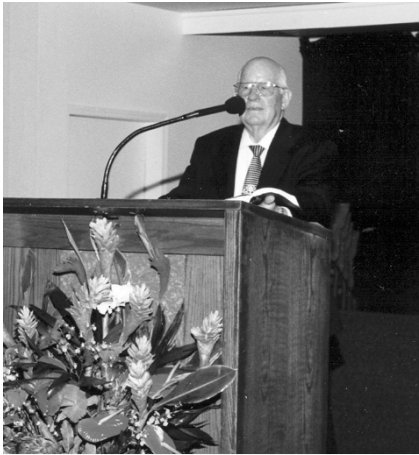
FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



An aerial veiw of Hyles-Anderson College



Dr. Anderson and Dr. Wendell Evans,
President of Hyles-Anderson College



Dr. Anderson preaching in chapel,
at Hyles-Anderson College

11

Memories of a Friendship

Theirs was a friendship
well-cemented together
by the common ground
of a love of laughter
and teasing.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Dr. Hyles' and Dr. Anderson's friendship was more than just a business or a ministry; it was indeed a lot of fun. Theirs was a friendship that was well-cemented together by the common ground of a love of laughter and teasing. Jack and Beverly Hyles took eight cruises with Russ and Maxine. They cruised to ports in the Bahamas and to St. Thomas of the Virgin Islands.

The friends' love of humor was very evident on the cruises they took together. On one cruise, the Andersons, the Hyleses, and the others with them played "Follow the Leader" with the ladies in their high heels and party dresses. They had to skip, walk with one shoe off, etc. Dr. Anderson said that people looked at them as if they had one too many to drink.

At a perfume store in the Bahamas, Russ sprayed Brother Hyles with some ladies' perfume. On one cruise, Russ took a picture of Brother Hyles



Bro. Hyles winning a cab driver to Christ.

winning his cab driver to the Lord. At another time, Russ found a Romans Road tract in the Bible of one of Brother Hyles' cabbies.

The Andersons and the Hyleses flew to Hawaii together. Russ saw his buddy win souls in the Bahamas and in Hawaii. They traveled to Bermuda together and went deep-sea fishing.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Hyles

visited Japan together, where Dr. Hyles was preaching at a Sword of the Lord conference in Tokyo. While in Japan, they went to Hiroshima, where the bomb was dropped during World War II. Both were deeply moved by the sights they saw there and by interviews they had with the survivors of the dropping of the bomb.

On the way home from Japan, the luggage inspector asked, “Did you buy anything here?”

Dr. Anderson answered, “Yes, I bought a necklace for my daughter.”

The inspector looked in his suitcase, and Dr. Anderson almost missed the plane.

Brother Hyles left Russ standing there, and the two later teased each other about it.

On the flight home from Japan, the landing gear wouldn’t come down. The wheels had to be cranked down manually. Brother Hyles said to Russ, “Paul said, ‘For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain,’ but Paul didn’t have four children to rear like I do.”

Russ and Brother Hyles flew to



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Germany together. They stayed three days, and they both preached at Dr. Wally Beebe's bus conference for missionary Dr. Bob Gray.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Hyles enjoyed golfing together, especially in the early days of their friendship. Always a competitive man, Brother Hyles demanded complete quiet at the time of a shot on the golf course. Russ enjoyed interrupting him at the most inopportune times with a joke or an unnerving question.



The Hyles family and the Anderson family purchased a duplex cabin on Lake Austin in Portage, Michigan. One side was for the use of the Hyles family, and the other for the use of the Andersons. A red-and-white pontoon boat was also purchased. The friends named the boat after their wives. The "Bevine" took its name from the "Bev" in Beverly Hyles' name and the "ine" in Maxine Anderson's name.

There were wonderful memories of the family's trips to the cabin. They usually went alone, but were sometimes afforded the privilege of going with church staff. A couple of times they met up with the Andersons there, and what a great time they had.



On a cruise together!

MEMORIES OF A FRIENDSHIP

On February 6, 2001, Dr. Jack Hyles went to Heaven. The friendship built on giving, loyalty, teasing, and fun came to its earthly end. Yet, the friendship continues on in affection for Dr. Russell Anderson and his family, and in his association with Dr. Hyles' ministry. The friendship also continues on in the memories, the many wonderful memories that were made by two great men, Dr. Russell Anderson and Dr. Jack Hyles.



Friends for a lifetime!

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Mrs. Anderson with Dr. and Mrs. Hyles



Russell Anderson and Dr. Hyles



12

A Love for Kentucky

“Our own boys will be more willing to stay in the small churches and will understand the ways of the Kentucky people.”

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Dr. Anderson has never forgotten his roots, something rare for a millionaire. As he himself stated it, “I got saved, and six weeks later I heard Dr. Jack Hyles and Dr. John R. Rice preach. I got addicted to the Gospel. I’m a ‘Hylesite’ and a ‘Riceite.’ But I never heard the plan of salvation in Kentucky. I was 24 years old when I left for Michigan. In 1959, I heard the Gospel for the first time.”

Just two years after his salvation, Brother Russ developed a burden for the state of Kentucky. He sent money to get some churches built in the type of areas in which he grew up. It was hard to get the churches to “take off” though. There was so much ignorance and sin in the hollers. Alcoholism was rampant. Though Floyd County, the county in which Russell lived as a young man, was “dry,” he had driven to the next county to drink his alcohol. Brother Russ knew where these people were coming from.

In 1998, Dr. Anderson again grew burdened about Kentucky. He was invited by Dr. Dennis Corle to speak at a Revival Fires Conference. The conference was hosted by Pastor Jeff Fugate’s church in Lexington, Kentucky. This was a church about which Dr. Anderson had heard good things, but one he had never seen. Dr. Anderson was really impressed with the people of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church. He saw successful businessmen who brought their lunches to church on Sunday so they could work on a bus route. Their homes were too far away for them to ride the bus, go home, and get back for Sunday evening. So they ate out of sack lunches and stayed away from home all day. Dr. Anderson was also impressed with the many children he saw from the bus routes.

Dr. Anderson shared with Pastor Fugate his pleasure in seeing the quality of the people of the church. At this time, Brother Fugate mentioned to him the idea of starting a college to train Kentucky boys from the country to start churches in their own home areas.

Dr. Anderson thought it was a great idea stating, "Our own boys will be more willing to stay in the small churches and will understand the ways of the Kentucky people. Let's do it!" he exclaimed.

The people of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church set a goal to raise \$150,000 for the starting of a college. They surpassed their goal by raising \$200,000. Dr. Anderson donated \$1,000,000 to Pastor Jeff Fugate for the starting of the Commonwealth Baptist College of Lexington, Kentucky. After two years of waiting for the deal to go through, a beautiful 25-acre campus has been purchased. Though the campus is probably worth \$20,000,000, it was purchased for \$1,200,000.

Dr. Anderson says that it takes a rare type of fellow to pastor the people in the Kentucky hills. It is Dr. Anderson's desire that this college will attract its own Kentucky citizens, and that those citizens will return after graduation to their home areas. Dr. Anderson has a burden that areas such as the one in which he grew up be reached with the Gospel and have the training of good fundamental churches. It is his desire that Commonwealth Baptist College will have a part in not only bringing revival to Kentucky, but also in helping the poverty that still exists in so many areas there.

Tent Revivals

Since meeting Dr. Fugate, Dr. Anderson has helped to start ten new churches in Kentucky. His tent revivals have been greatly responsible for the starting of these churches. For nearly seven weeks every summer, the millionaire Anderson conducts tent revivals, mostly in the hills and hollers

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



of Kentucky. The revivals are held in tents placed on vacant lots or wherever a place can be found. One revival was held in a vacant lot across from Wal-Mart. The tents have fans but no air conditioning. Dr. Anderson lives in an RV during the revivals and keeps it parked close to the tent.

During the day, Dr. Anderson, Pastor Fugate, and young college-age men from his church, go door to door and hand out flyers about the meeting, as well as advertising it on one of the 40 radio stations on which Brother Fugate has a program. "Come and hear a millionaire preacher from the hills of Kentucky speak on 'From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines.'" This promotional statement draws many of the area laymen, as well as others, to the revivals. The revivals are held on Monday through Friday nights. Dr. Anderson also preaches several times at area churches during the week of the tent revival meeting. He may preach as many as ten times a week. In these revival meetings, Dr. Anderson challenges his listeners to set goals for soul winning.

The services are simple, consisting of

A LOVE FOR KENTUCKY

special music, congregational singing, and preaching. Usually Pastor Fugate preaches and Dr. Anderson follows. Sometimes, another area preacher will preach. On Wednesdays, Dr. Anderson preaches the revival alone while area preachers conduct their own Wednesday evening meetings.

One night the Holy Spirit power was so evident that Brother Fugate closed the service after Dr. Anderson's sermon and told the people to go soul winning for the rest of the evening. Thirty-two people were saved that night.

Once the revivals become known in the neighborhood, a preacher boy is chosen to claim a city, and a church is started. That preacher boy begins knocking doors, inviting people to attend the new church, and he also hands out fliers advertising Commonwealth Baptist College.

From these tent meetings, several churches have been started in Kentucky. A church was started in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. This church was conceived from a tent revival which took place in 105° weather. The church, pastored by Ken Shaver, celebrated its first anniversary in September of 2002 with an attendance of 140.

A church was also started in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. This church, pastored by Jeff Harris, also celebrated its first anniversary in September of 2002 with an attendance of 130.

Still another church was started in Ashland, Kentucky. Its first service was in October of 2002 with an attendance of 85.

In 1999, Blue Grass Pike Baptist Church was started in Danville, Kentucky. On its third anniversary, the attendance was 235. The pastor is Tim Russ.

As a result of tent revivals, a church has also been started in Tennessee, just west of Knoxville.

Dr. Anderson helped to start a Spanish-speaking church at the Clays

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Mill Road Baptist Church of Lexington, Kentucky, pastored by Jeff Fugate. The Spanish church is already running around 120 in attendance.

Dr. Anderson travels and preaches yearly and pays his own way when he does. He does not take a love offering, and he spends around \$50,000 a year on traveling expenses.



McDowell Reunion

Dr. Anderson, with the assistance of Lester Breeding (a retired principal) and his wife Betty Rae, and Homer Lee and Eloise Hall, helped to institute the McDowell class reunion. Classmates who graduated in the years 1949, 1950, and 1951, reunited for the first time on September 5, 1992. Dr. Anderson's secretaries called and invited the alumni. Dr. Anderson accepted a donation from the attendees of \$25, which was to be sent in advance to his office.

The reunion lasted from Friday through Sunday afternoon and was located at the Jenny Wiley State Park of Prestonburg, Kentucky. "The sky's the limit," Dr. Anderson said to those who helped him plan the reunion. "Make it as nice as you can. All I ask is that there be no alcohol." Dr.



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Anderson said that no Presidential Hall was decorated more beautifully than the reunion hall was. Mrs. Eloise Hall decorated the reunion with the school colors of blue and gold. There were blue and gold goldfish at each table, swimming amidst blue and gold marbles in blue and gold water.

Classmates visited the old high school during the reunion. At this meeting, Russell Anderson presented \$7,000 to the Left Beaver High School for the building of the George L. Moore Library in honor of Russell's former principal and role model.

On Sunday morning of the reunion, Dr. Anderson preached to those present. After the reunion ended, Dr. Anderson reimbursed each attendee their \$25 fee.

The comment was made in one of the area newspapers that the events of the reunion proved that you can have a Kentucky gathering without liquor.

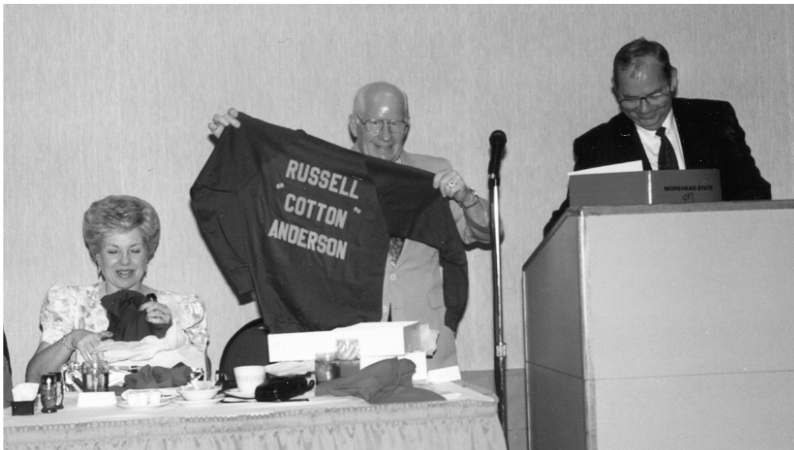
Dr. Anderson has kept his passion for the hills and hollers of Kentucky,

A LOVE FOR KENTUCKY

and he has used that passion to see souls saved all across his homeland. “God is going to give us the state of Kentucky,” is his battle cry. But he has not only reached souls all over Kentucky; he also has reached souls all over America; yes, and all over the world.



**(Back row):
Homer Lee Hall,
Lester Breeding,
Russell Anderson
(Front): Betty Ray
Breeding, Eloise
Hall, and Reba Hall**



Lester Breeding honors Russell with a sweat-shirt bearing his nick-name, “Cotton.” Seated is Mrs. Anderson.



**Lester Breeding emcees
the class reunion at the
Jenny Wiley State Park in
Prestonburg,
Kentucky**



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



**Dr. Anderson (r) with
Homer Lee Hall (l) and
Adrian Hall, a coach from
high school days**



**Those from the McDowell High School class of 1950 who
attended the reunion (Dr. Anderson is on the front row.)**

13

A Millionaire in Souls

After his decisions in 1999, Dr. Anderson set a new goal: to see 1,000,000 souls saved through his money and his ministry.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

During the early years of his work in the business world, Russell Anderson went to his friend, Brother Hyles, for some advice. “I’d like to get out of the business world,” he said. “What can I do to make my life count more for God?” Dr. Anderson was winning 15 to 20 souls a week and was thinking of going to serve the Lord full time.



Bro. Hyles poses in one of Russell Anderson's classic cars.

Brother Hyles responded, “America needs soul-winning businessmen; stay where you are.” This would prove to be a profitable decision, not only financially, but also spiritually. In 1999, Dr. Russell Anderson retired; well, at least, he called it retirement. He closed his business, keeping only one employee—a full-time bookkeeper and bill payer.

Dr. Anderson also went to the Lord and prayed,

Dear Lord,

Show me what keeps You from using me.

At still another time he prayed,

Holy Spirit, how about taking a message for me? Tell God the Father “Thank You” for 28 years of salvation. I should be in Hell. Tell the Father what I’ve done with His money. As Nehemiah in the Bible did, ask Him to remember me and my good deeds.

Dr. Anderson claimed the story of Nehemiah chapter 5 and verse 19 which says, “*Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.*” In his retirement, he has accomplished more than ever before in his life and ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

It cost Russell Anderson \$2,000,000 to build the apartments he owned; he sold them for \$10,000,000. Dr. Anderson gave **all** of this increase to the Lord’s work. As he said, “I never even got a Diet Pepsi out of it, but when I get to Heaven, God’s going to give me a milkshake.”

Beginning in 1970, Dr. Anderson gave 50% of his income to the Lord’s work. After his retirement in 1999, Dr. Anderson set a new goal: to see 1,000,000 souls saved through his money and his ministry. Indeed, he has reached that goal; as of this writing, he has now seen over 3,000,000 souls saved through his money and his ministry!

Soul Winning on the Mission Field

Dr. Anderson did not know veteran missionary Kevin Wynne, a Hyles-Anderson College graduate, very well, but he had heard about the tens of thousands of souls that were being saved through his work in Mexico City. One morning while he was studying his Bible, the Lord told Dr. Anderson to help Kevin Wynne start a college in Mexico. He called Brother Wynne and told him his plans. “There is a lot for sale that we could purchase,” Kevin responded.

“Don’t purchase a lot; purchase acreage,” Dr. Anderson advised. Immediately, the lot became unavailable.

Dr. Anderson had a vision of building a large college in Mexico so that the Mexican missionaries could get to their field more quickly. Since the

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Mexican citizens already know the language, they don't have to go to language school. They do not have to go on deputation to raise money to get to their field; they are already on their field. "Why not get Mexican preachers to reach the Mexicans from Mexico?" he reasoned. Acreage was purchased, and the college in Mexico was started.

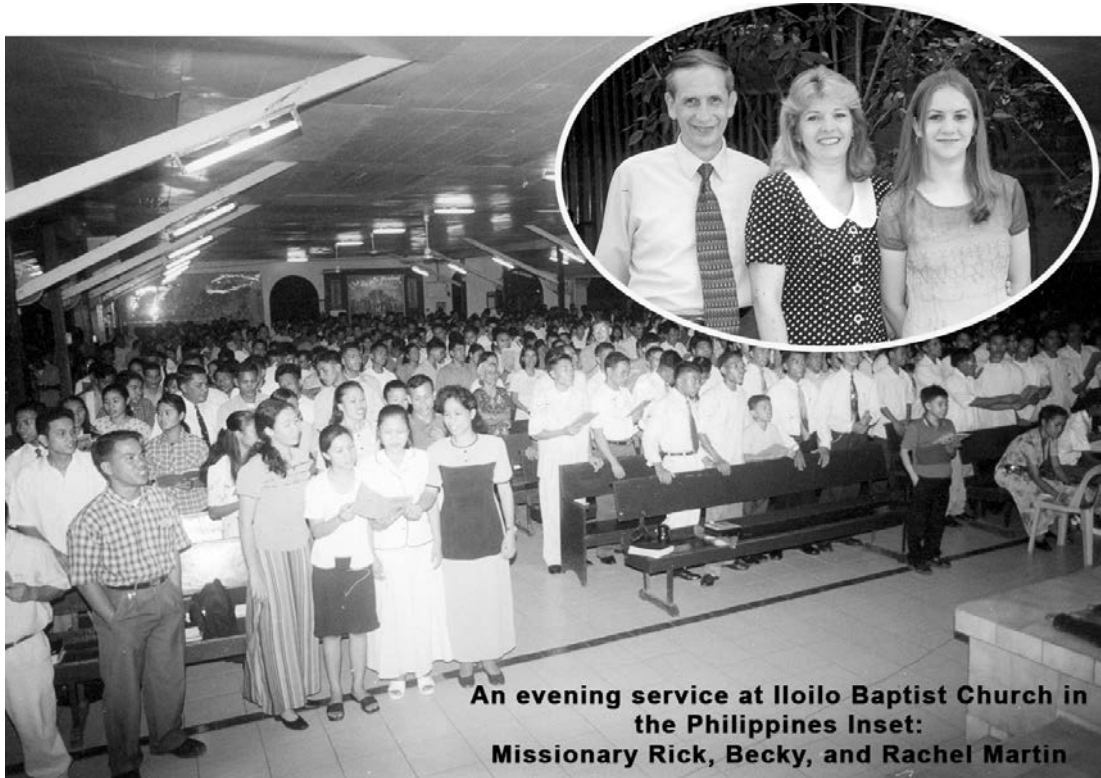
Dr. Anderson says, "There is some point in a preacher's life, when he passes a certain number of tests, and God sends him a Russell Anderson. God is looking for a nobody to make a somebody out of him." Kevin Wynne was not looking for Russell Anderson's money; Russell Anderson was looking for Kevin Wynne. Dr. Anderson called Brother Wynne and asked him to hire soul winners from his college for a dollar an hour.

Dr. Anderson has always been a goal setter, whether it be in business or in spiritual matters. His first soul-winning goal was set on New Year's Eve while he was on his knees in his condominium in Hawaii. He had already seen 300,000 souls saved through his ministry. "Dear Lord," he prayed, "Give me a double portion; give me over a million souls." (That's a triple portion, by the way!)

From that point on, Dr. Anderson's goal became his boss. Though Kevin Wynne was doing a good job in his soul winning, Dr. Anderson would frequently call him and ask, "Kevin, is that the best you can do?"

Russell Anderson began paying ten students from Kevin Wynne's college to go soul winning after school each day. The money kept them from having to work a second job; soul winning became their second job. Now around 200 college students in foreign countries are paid by Dr. Anderson to make soul winning their second job. The students keep finding new territory and seeing more and more souls saved. The students bring back their reports to Dr. Wynne, and he gives them to Dr. Anderson.

Dr. Anderson increased his soul-winning impact by beginning to send



An evening service at Iloilo Baptist Church in the Philippines Inset: Missionary Rick, Becky, and Rachel Martin

money to Missionary Rick Martin, another Hyles-Anderson College graduate, in the Philippines. Dr. Anderson hires soul winners in Brother Martin's ministry, as well as sending money to hire soul winners in the countries of Haiti and Africa. Each soul winner receives \$40 a week, the equivalent to a generous week's wages in these countries.

Soul-Winning Colleges

Dr. Anderson has used his money to help start four soul-winning Bible colleges in the United States: (1) Hyles-Anderson College of Crown Point, Indiana; (2) Texas Baptist College of Longview, Texas; (3) Commonwealth

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Baptist College of Lexington, Kentucky; and (4) Grace Baptist College of Gaylord, Michigan.

Texas Baptist College of Longview, Texas, was started in 1982. The college is centrally located in the pine woods of East Texas. Longview is located 120 miles west of Dallas and has an estimated population, within its 50-mile radius, of 4,000,000. Interstate 20 connects Longview to Dallas on the west and extends to Atlanta on the east. Texas Baptist College was started and is operated by the Longview Baptist Temple, pastored by Dr. Bob Gray.

At Texas Baptist College, students are taught Longview Baptist Temple's philosophy of ministry in the classroom, and they are provided with a wide variety of Christian service opportunities. The college already has 50 pastors leading churches across America and 37 missionaries around the world.

Commonwealth Baptist College, started by Pastor Jeff Fugate, and Grace Baptist College, started by Pastor Jon Jenkins, are new colleges that were started in 1999 and 2003 respectively.

Dr. Anderson has also started colleges in four foreign countries. He has started one in Mexico, one in Haiti, one in Africa, and three in the Philippines. He has paid for dormitories, jeepneys, rice fields (to provide places of employment for college students), pigs, and taxis for the college started by Missionary Rick Martin in the Philippines. All three of the colleges started in the Philippines, as well as those in Africa and Haiti, were started by graduates of Dr. Rick Martin's college in Iloilo City, Philippines.

As mentioned previously, Dr. Anderson employs men from around the world to win souls full time. Dr. Anderson demands payment for his services to these Bible colleges. His payment is to be informed each week of the souls who have been won by the students of these colleges. Missionary Rick Martin gives reports of the colleges in the Philippines, Africa, and Haiti.

Missionary Kevin Wynne reports about the souls saved from the college in Mexico. Dr. Anderson gives \$500,000 a year to missionaries.

The Russell Anderson Fund

The Russell Anderson fund was started with the giving of \$1,000,000 to the Pastors' School conference at the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, at the time sponsored by Dr. Jack Hyles. This idea was conceived by Dr. Anderson through a phone conversation he had previously with Dr. Hyles. From that \$1,000,000 donation, 39 churches have been started.

Young men who desire to start churches may submit their name to the Russell Anderson Committee at Hyles-Anderson College. That committee discusses these names, and if they are approved, each man is given money to help start his church. This has prevented some men from having to work a second job as they start their church, thus causing the church to grow at a faster rate.

At this writing, the following is a list of the churches Dr. Anderson has helped start:

Bethel Baptist Church, Sligo, Pennsylvania

started by Rob Hranicky

First Baptist Church, Gladstone, Michigan

started by James Roberts

Gospel Light Baptist Church, Selma, California

started by Marty Stalnaker

Lighthouse Baptist Church, Winter Park, Florida

started by Chad Asbury

Old Time Baptist Church, Rowlett, Texas

started by Joseph Wesolowski

Lighthouse Baptist Church, Westfield, New Jersey

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

started by Jim Gelhausen
Parkway Baptist Church, San Jacinto, California
started by Kirk Beard
Victory Baptist Church, Brentwood, California
started by Walter Santos
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina
started by Bill Davis
Capitol City Baptist Church, Boise, Idaho
started by Tim Bruce
Blue Grass Pike Baptist Church, Danville, Kentucky
started by Tim Russ
Gospel Light Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
started by Warren Johnson
Clark County Baptist Church, Vancouver, Washington
started by Aaron Baxter
Harbor Light Baptist Church, Hamden, Connecticut
started by Dale Schwarz
Rutherford County Baptist Church, LaVergne, Tennessee
started by Paul Chisgar
Gospel Light Baptist Church, Malvern, Arkansas
started by Jon Horton
Lighthouse Baptist Church, Theodore, Alabama
started by Randy Tewell
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Tracy, California
started by Gregory Bowser
Lighthouse Baptist Church, Hickory, North Carolina
started by Brian Odham
New Heights Baptist Church, Huntertown, Indiana

A MILLIONAIRE IN SOULS

- started by Gary Lovens
Lighthouse Baptist Church, Pasadena, Maryland
- started by Paul Arcand
Great Valley Baptist Church, Stockton, California
- started by Todd Herbert
Providence Baptist Church, Hurricane, West Virginia
- started by Travis Bradley
Richmond Baptist Church, Richmond, Indiana
- started by Jay Sheppard
Keystone Baptist Church, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- started by Robert House
Rock Hill Independent Baptist Church, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- started by Justin Westall
Lighthouse Baptist Church, Ashland, Wisconsin
- started by Tony Lashbrook
Desert View Baptist Church, Marana, Arizona
- started by Jesse Dominguez
Sun View Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama
- started by Mark Boyd
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Findlay, Ohio
- started by Walt Sheppard
Timberline Baptist Church, Sherwood, Oregon
- started by Jerry Lindsey
Liberty Baptist Church, Starke, Florida
- started by Vaughn Faust
Capital City Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
- started by Andrew Beise
Tri-County Baptist Church, Port St. Lucie, Florida

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

- started by Donald Mulkey
Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Santa Maria, California
- started by Emiliano Balderas
Nui Hani Baptist Church, Ewa Beach, Hawaii
- started by Albey Horat
Gospel Light Baptist Church, Cottondale, Alabama
- started by Steve Rimes
West Palm Beach Independent Baptist Church, Palm Beach Gardens,
Florida, started by Ryan Marsh
- New Heights Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico
started by Dave Reyes

Dr. Anderson now speaks at churches he helped to start. He used Pastor Rob Hranicky, who pastors Bethel Baptist Church of Sligo, Pennsylvania, as an example of a church he helped to finance and of which he is proud. On a recent week, Pastor Hranicky won 38 souls to Christ.

Dr. Anderson has given to three building programs in the United States: two churches in Michigan and one in Mississippi.

Dr. Anderson has given to four building programs worldwide: one in Bermuda, one in Japan, and two in Korea.

All in all, Dr. Anderson has, in some way, financed the starting of approximately 1,698 churches worldwide.

Dr. Anderson has preached in churches all over the United States and in several foreign countries. When he preaches in churches, he often hosts a “millionaire’s dinner” which consists of meat, vegetables, beans and corn-bread, and dessert.

It is very important to Dr. Anderson so he keeps track of the souls won by those to whom he has contributed. He keeps watch like a mother hen keeps watch of her chicks or as a parent would mark the accomplishments

A MILLIONAIRE IN SOULS

of his child. Dr. Anderson mathematically calculates souls won like a man would calculate his investments in the stock market.

It is also impressive how much God has been able to accomplish through a businessman, a layman, so to speak. God has used Dr. Anderson to accomplish even more than most preachers. Since Dr. Anderson set his goal to reach 1,000,000 souls through his ministry, over 22,880,000 have been saved.

In the year 2001, Dr. Anderson and a committee of preachers started the Fresh Oil Conferences. These conferences are conducted by Dr. Russell Anderson, Dr. Bill Burr, Dr. Carl Hatch, Dr. Mike Haynes, Dr. Dean Miller, and Dr. John Vaprezsán. Dr. Anderson said he would join under one condition: Do not attack any other Christian brother. "If you attack another Christian brother, I resign," he said.

Just as the Lord Jesus Christ is not willing that any should perish, so Dr. Anderson continues to set new goals in soul winning. In 2002, as he was interviewed for this book, he said, "My goal is to have 3,000,000 souls by this time next year!" Dr. Anderson's lifetime goal is to see 25,000,000 souls saved and to finance the starting of a total of 1,800 churches in foreign countries.

Dr. Anderson loves to brag on the Lord and give God the glory for what He has done through his life. LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE THROUGH AN UNEDUCATED COAL MINER FROM KENTUCKY. God is no respecter of persons. If God can use me He can use you.

These numbers were given in reports to Dr. Anderson from Missionaries Rick Martin in the Philippines and Kevin Winn in Mexico City.

Year	Souls Won	Total
1999	65,000	
2000	392,892	

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

2001	811,902	1,269,794
2002	1,036,874	
2003	1,209,682	3,516,350
2004	1,304,159	
2005	1,367,686	6,188,195
2006	1,414,510	
2007	1,372,471	8,975,176
2008	1,377,010	
2009	1,399,145	11,751,331
2010	1,536,205	
2011	1,490,519	14,778,055
2012	1,517,443	
2013	1,495,496	17,790,994
2014	1,502,329	
2015	1,516,835	20,810,158

Estimation from Rick Martin as of June, 2016 - 2,070,520

To Date Total **22,880,678**

Based on 1,000 churches as of 2013

Total Churches:	Rick Martin	1,338
	Kevin Wynne	360
		1,698

These figures are as of June 2016 and are increasing at an average of 4,000 souls per day.

A MILLIONAIRE IN SOULS



RUSSELL ANDERSON BUILDING CORPORATION
RUSSELL ANDERSON APARTMENTS

January 10, 2002

I did not think it was appropriate for me to write your wife, therefore I have chosen to address this letter to both of you. I am enclosing a copy of a letter Dr. Hyles sent me stating that Cindy would be interested in writing a Biography of my life. I know of no one else I would even consider for this, because I want my name to always be associated with Dr. Jack Hyles and Hyles-Anderson College. May I suggest some possible titles? From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines, or What I Did After I Made My First Million, or Why I Gave Away Eleven Million Dollars.

In the last three years the soul winners I supported in foreign countries have won over 1,250,000 souls. I have also built over 300 churches and 5 colleges.

I would like the two of you to discuss this matter and let me know as soon as possible.

Respectfully,


Russell Anderson

RA/sh

FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES. IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. EPH. 2:8

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

DECEMBER 30, 2002

FAX 734-941-2385

FROM: KEVIN WYNNE

TO: BROTHER RUSSELL ANDERSON



Missionary Kevin Wynne
with two of his people

Dear Brother Anderson,

The week of December 23rd through December 27th your soul winners won 14,267 souls to Christ. The total for this year of 2002 is 781,993 Thank you for your sacrifice to see people saved.

Your Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miguel Reyes".

Miguel Reyes
Assistant

Mexico Total For Year	781,993	
Philippines Total For Year	254,881	- Rick Freyquist 254,891
Grand Total	1,036,874	← 2002



One of many examples of Bro. Wynne's soul-winning outreach ministries in Mexico City

A MILLIONAIRE IN SOULS

From: **Victorio Robles** victoriorobles@hotmail.com
Subject: **Year End Report**
Date: **January 5, 2016 at 8:56 PM**
To: **Russell Anderson** tomisue78@yahoo.com

Year End Report

Dear Doctor Anderson,

Thank you with all my heart for all you have done and are doing to reach lost souls in Mexico! Thank you for the 3,500 seat Auditorium you built. I only wanted a 1000 seat building but you had faith to build a much larger building and make it expandable to 7,000. Now we fill it twice on Sunday mornings! Thank you for the Bible College and Dorms you built! We now have some 360 Churches started with men trained in your College. Our goal is 700 Churches in Mexico and 500 in Central and South America thanks to God using you!

2015 was your best year ever! 798,355 were saved by your full time soul winners going door to door soul winning!!

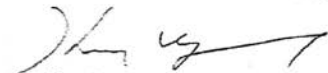
The Bible Clubs and street meetings you paid for produced 164,467 Salvations! For each person saved an average of 10 people heard the Gospel preached. I have no doubt many make decisions we don't know about.

You bought food baskets for 4020 poor families and small toys for some 80,000 poor children. By the Bible Clubs throughout the year we saw 5003 of the converts come to Church and get Baptized because of your giving! Many families are now faithfully coming to Church who were saved by your giving and many are now soul winners. Thank you!

In all 962,822 Received Christ as Savior because of your hard work and sacrificial giving in 2015. Thank you with all my heart! Thank God for using you!

I have mentioned before that as a young man I read many Biographies and I know of no one in history who has seen more Saved as a direct result of their life and work than you have had! Many have told me that this Church has the largest attendance of Independent Baptist Church. If that is true it is also because of you. God is greatly using you and I thank you with all my heart.

Your Friend and Servant,


Kevin Wynne.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



THE MARTINS
Your Missionaries in the Philippines

PHILIPPINES

January 13, 2003

Dear Brother Anderson:

We praise the Lord for how you allow God to use you in this ministry.

2003 → You have now built 86 church buildings for the men trained in this ministry during the year. These men really appreciate your help. These pastors and their church members have also helped by donating money, materials, and labor for these buildings. For years our graduates have started churches and would have to meet in a home or school for a long time before being able to have their own church building. This has been a great help for these pastors. You have helped build 347 buildings for them!

In addition to this, you have built 12 dormitories and three classroom buildings for Bible Colleges started by graduates of Iloilo Baptist College. You have also helped with job projects from some of these men including a bakery, rice land, coffee land, sewing machines, and pig raising.

Thanks again for the soul-winning jobs you've provided for our Bible students and 86 other Bible colleges in the Philippines, Haiti, and Zambia. This has been a great help. One of the greatest challenges we have is finding jobs for our students. Having some of our students work their way through school by soul winning during work hours has not only helped our students, but has definitely helped those who have accepted Jesus Christ as a result. You have also helped in the Every Village Campaign, the Unreached School Ministry, Hospital, and the Extension Bible Classes for children. Hundreds of our graduates are helping in the Every Village Campaign, as well as many of their church members.

This past year there were 254,881 who received Christ as Saviour, according to our records, through the Bible college students and the outreach ministries. This makes a total of 455,421 since you began.

God bless you and thanks again.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rick Martin

A MILLIONAIRE IN SOULS



PHILIPPINES

THE MARTINS

Your Missionaries in the Philippines

January 4, 2016

Dear Brother Anderson:

Hope and pray this letter finds you well!

Thank you for providing soul-winning jobs for our Bible college students—not only ours but the other Bible colleges in the Philippines, and those in Zambia, Africa. This is a tremendous help to these young people and a great help to me in finding a way for these students to work their way through school. As you know, finding jobs for these students is very difficult and having students work their way through school with soul-winning jobs has helped us so much. Best of all--souls are being saved!

In 2015 there were 554,013 who received Christ as Savior through the Bible students and the outreach ministries. This makes a total of 6,777,653 since you began.

As for church buildings, this past year there have been 64 built for the men trained in this ministry. These men appreciate this so much. Their churches have also helped by donating money, labor, and materials. Graduates starting churches would meet in homes or schools for months or years, as they had no building so this is a great blessing. You have built 1,188 buildings now for them and if you include the 150 other church buildings in the USA and around the world it would be about 1,338. I'll send you a list soon of the next group of pastors.

I have estimated the number of people being saved through the new churches you have helped the past 15 years. If you divide 1000 churches by 15 years that's about 66-67 per year. I estimate a minimum of 5 people being saved per week by each church through their outreach ministries. This would add up to 2,070,520 souls. The Lord has greatly blessed your involvement in these churches getting off the ground and seeing so many saved. I tried to be somewhat conservative in the estimates.

We pray God will richly bless you for all you have done for the cause of Christ in the Philippines and around the world. You have been such a good friend to me and more important to our savior.

Sincerely in Christ,

RM
Rick Martin

Rick Martin Soul Winner 554,013
Missionary Kevin Myron Soul Winner 962,822
1,516,835

Year 015

*Over 4000 people
Praise the Lord*

FIELD ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 88, Iloilo, Philippines 5000
Tel # (63-33) 320-4557
Fax # (63-33) 300-0998

MISSION ADDRESS:
Baptist International Missions, Inc.
Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412
bimi.org

HOME ADDRESS:
1899 Saddleback Blvd., #4
Norman, OK 73072 USA

EMAIL & WEBSITE:
martinsbc@yahoo.com
martinsbc.jimdo.com

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

A Profile of



Dr. Russell Anderson



1

*Russell Anderson—
The Church Member*

Faithful: He is always in his home church when he is in town, never missing church for a business deal.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Dr. Anderson's pastor, Pastor John Vaprezsan, grew up in Hammond, Indiana. His parents were members of the First Baptist Church of Hammond.



John and Linda Vaprezan with the Andersons

After John Vaprezsan's graduation from Bob Jones University, he became a successful businessman. While in his late twenties, God called John to preach. He enrolled as a student at Hyles-Anderson College in 1972, the year the college was founded, for a one-year Pastor's Refresher course.

In May of 1973, as his graduation was nearing, John prayed all night long, asking God to lead him where he should go to pastor.

In the meantime, Dr. Russell Anderson had become burdened to start a church in Belleville, Michigan, near his home in Ypsilanti. The month before, he had taken a loan from the bank. He used the money from the loan to purchase six and a half acres with both a church and a house on its property. (Eventually, the Metro Baptist Church repaid this loan, though Dr. Anderson has donated many love gifts to this great church.)

Dr. Anderson called Max Helton, who was then the vice-president of Hyles-Anderson College, expressing interest for a man from the college to

RUSSELL ANDERSON - THE CHURCH MEMBER

help start a church in the Belleville area.

The morning after John Vaprezsán had prayed all night seeking God's direction, Vice President Max Helton approached him, telling him about Dr. Anderson's phone call. Pastor Vaprezsán recalls looking for Belleville on the map and being unable to find it. He and Dr. Helton drove to Belleville, saw the church and its property, and met Russell Anderson. John felt that he had received the answer to his prayers of the previous night. He agreed to go to Belleville.

John, his wife Linda, and their family moved to Belleville, Michigan, and spent one month cleaning and preparing for the starting of their new church. The Metro Baptist Church of Belleville, Michigan had its first service on July 15, 1973.

Though he did not plan for it to be this way, Russell Anderson was not present on the Vaprezsán's first Sunday pastoring. He was on a cruise with Dr. John R. Rice, and he first attended the church on the third Sunday of its inception.

Pastor Vaprezsán said that from his first Sunday attending Metro Baptist Church, Russell Anderson set him at ease. "If you don't tell me how to run my business, I won't tell you how to run your church," he quipped.

Russell Anderson helped a lot in the early days of the church by going soul winning with his new pastor. For a short time, Russell Anderson was the chairman of the deacon board. His pastor describes Dr. Anderson as a strong leader, yet maintaining a low profile with his fellow church members. Rich people are often known for causing trouble in their churches. To some, money is given to the church to purchase influence and power, sometimes even over the pastor, but Dr. Anderson's reputation is different.

Dr. Vaprezsán says, "I admire Dr. Anderson. He has been gracious and has kept his hands off." Russell Anderson has always believed in his pastor, and Pastor Vaprezsán said that things have always gone well between them, in spite of the fact that their personalities are extremely different.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Linda Vaprezsán, his pastor's wife, says of Russell Anderson, "He does not like a lot of attention. He wants to be treated as a 'common Joe,' just like any other church member." Most of his fellow church members do not even know he is a founder of colleges. He doesn't intimidate the people.

Out of respect, Pastor Vaprezsán began calling his new church member, "Dr. Anderson." However, Dr. Anderson requested that he be called "Russ" or "Mr. Anderson" or "Brother Russ." "I'm not known as Dr. Anderson around here," he says.

However, Pastor Vaprezsán lovingly calls him, "Doc," a nickname which Russell Anderson enjoys.

As a church member, Dr. Anderson has been described as faithful. He is always in his home church when he is in town, never missing church for a business deal.

Russell Anderson has been described by his pastor as a quiet giver in the church. Metro Baptist Church has its own Christian school. Dr. Anderson has quietly bought houses for the Christian school teachers. Twice Dr. Anderson has built houses, only to sell them afterward and give the money to the building program of his home church.

He gave five different houses to his pastor to sell for building programs. Dr. Anderson has also donated property to the church, which the church sold for building programs.

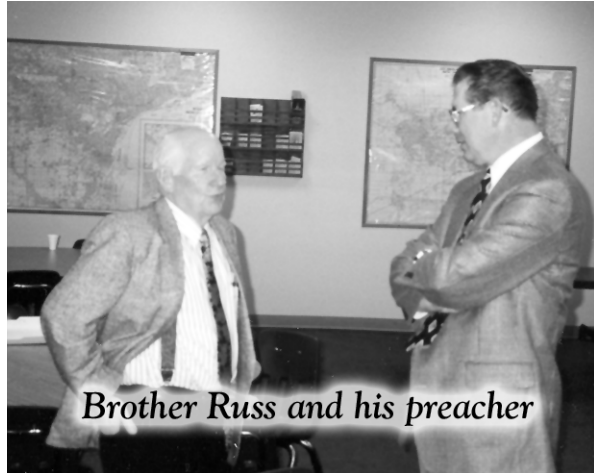
In November 1995, Metro Baptist Church built a gorgeous colonial-style auditorium. Dr. Anderson offered to match the pledges of all of the other church members. He gave to the building program the amount that was given by all of the others combined.

"Pastor John" (as Russ calls him) said that Dr. Anderson rarely tells him of money he has given to churches around the world. In Pastor Vaprezsán's words, "Russ is not a bragger. He gives his money to be a blessing to others

RUSSELL ANDERSON - THE CHURCH MEMBER

and to please God.”

Russell and Maxine Anderson have been good friends to their pastor and his wife. Linda Vaprezsan commented on how good Brother Russ has been to the Vaprezsan children. The Vaprezsans and the Andersons have gone to dinner several times throughout the years. Even better, the four have been to Hawaii together several times.



Mrs. Linda Vaprezsan describes Russell Anderson as funny and fun-loving. “Brother Russ and my husband have a lot of fun when they get together. Brother Russ loves to tease, and he cackles when he catches somebody in a joke.” The kids in the church love to tease him, and he returns the teasing, of course. Brother Russ enjoys taking the teenagers of the church for rides in the cars from his sports car collection.

When asked to describe Russell Anderson as a church member in just one or two words, Pastor’s wife, Linda Vaprezsan, used the word “supportive.” Pastor John Vaprezsan chose these two words: “faithful” and “wise.”

Dr. Anderson was asked how he would like to be remembered as a church member, he answered, “I want to be remembered as ‘one of the guys.’ ” Dr. Anderson doesn’t socialize a lot, but when he does, it is only with God’s people. Dr. Anderson also said that he would like to be remembered as a church member who wanted no special recognition and who was an asset to his pastor.

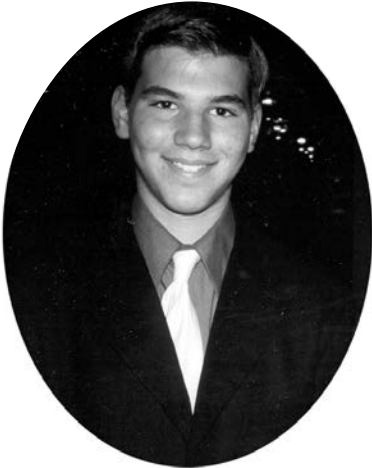
FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



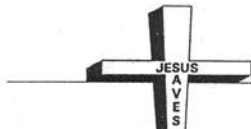
Dr. Anderson and Dr. Hyles clowning in Hawaii



The Andersons with Todd Vaprezan



Todd Vaprezan



Metro Baptist

CHURCH

47100 I-94 N. Service Drive, P.O. Box 562
Belleville, Michigan 48111
Phone: (734) 697-4065
Fax: (734) 697-5103

Dr. John Vaprezsán
Pastor

Bro. Joe Reddick
Assistant Pastor
-Bus Ministry

Bro. Jim Lutz
Assistant Pastor
-School Principal

Bro. John W. Vaprezsán
Assistant Pastor
-Youth & Music

- Sunday School 10 A.M.
- Morning Service 11 A.M.
- Childrens' Churches
 - Juniors
 - Primaries
 - Beginners
 - Toddlers
- Evening Service 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday Midweek Service 7:30 P.M.
- Nursery - All Services
 - Soul Winning
 - Saturday 10 A.M.
 - Thursday 7 P.M.
 - Bus Ministry
 - Teen Ministry
- Metro Baptist Schools

December 4, 1998

Dr. Russell Anderson

Dear Bro. Russ:

I rejoice with you over the recent court victory and I know that you are giving God the glory for it. Really, the Lord deserves the glory for your entire life. God has blessed you and used you mightily.

Thank you for speaking to our people on Wednesday night. You challenged them in so many ways. They were greatly helped. I trust that you will share your testimony with many others.

Thank you for the pizza party, the first class dinner at the Marriott and also for the Lincoln that you gave the church.

Doc, I don't take for granted all that you've done for us through the years, as well as what you are doing for us weekly and monthly.

God bless you! I'm praying for you and your family!

Sincerely in Christ,

John Vaprezsán
Pastor

JV:lv

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



John Vaprezan with Dr. Anderson at Dr. Anderson's seventieth birthday

Dr. Anderson preaching at Metro Baptist Church in 1998 for their twenty-fifth anniversary.





2

*Russell Anderson—
The Soul Winner*

How many people have
you known who have
worked to earn millions of
dollars—only to give it
away for the purpose of
winning souls to Christ?

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

As Dr. Jeff Fugate said, “Dr. Anderson is a one-of-kind man in so many ways. How many people have you known who have worked to earn millions of dollars—only to give it away for the purpose of winning souls to Christ?” Dr. Anderson not only pays to see souls saved all over the world, but he is also a personal soul winner.

For the first couple of years after the founding of Metro Baptist Church, Russell Anderson and Pastor Vaprezsan went soul winning together two or three times a week. Dr. Anderson excelled not only as a soul winner, but also as a soul-winning partner. He once babysat triplet babies while his pastor witnessed to their parents. “I never did think those people were going to get saved,” he teased. One winter night, Brother Russ stood in a warm doorway witnessing while his pastor nearly froze to death outside. “I was getting you back for leaving me so long with those triplets,” Russell quipped.

One of the most humorous events of their soul-winning experiences occurred when a parrot landed on Russell’s head while Pastor Vaprezsan was witnessing to a man and his wife around the kitchen table. Not wanting to disturb the pastor and his soon-to-be converts, Brother Russ let the bird sit on his head. After the couple got saved, he finally brushed the parrot away, only to find that the bird had left something behind!

Amazingly, the millionaire Dr. Anderson has often used his time to take groceries to needy church members such as the couple mentioned above.

On a trip that Dr. Anderson’s friend, Bob Marshall, took with him to Hawaii, Russell took Bob on a tour around the island. Dr. Anderson took Brother Marshall to the highest point in Hawaii and with sadness he men-

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHURCH MEMBER

tioned that he knew of only two good churches in Hawaii. Over and over, Dr. Anderson shared his burden for souls by saying, “Bob, a church needs to be started here.” It seems that everywhere they went in Hawaii, Russell Anderson was sharing his burden for a church to be started in that particular place.

Russell Anderson faithfully emphasizes soul winning. Brother Bob Marshall added, “Dr. Anderson realizes his limitations, but he devotes most of his summers to preaching revivals in Kentucky. No one businessman devotes more time, not to secular work, but to Christian work as does Dr. Anderson.”

Dr. Jeff Fugate said, “Dr. Anderson should be known and remembered as the layman responsible for more souls being saved than any other layman in history. One summer while we were preaching together in a week-long tent revival, Dr. Anderson and I met early one morning in his motor home. He told me of his goal to see 2,000,000 souls saved, and he showed me his plan to reach that goal. He reached that goal within a couple of years, and he is now working on a new goal to see 5,000,000 souls saved! I can imagine getting to Heaven and seeing him being greeted by the multiplied millions of souls that heard the Gospel because of his work and sacrifice.”

When soul winning, Dr. Anderson uses a tract called, “A New Life for You.” He has distributed thousands of them through the years. Jeff Fugate testifies that Dr. Anderson has won souls on airplanes and in motels. “He has won paper boys, elderly people, elected officials, and hard cases. He has won hundreds in door-to-door work.”



Dr. and Mrs. Anderson with Bob and Cyndilu Marshall in Hawaii

Favorite Soul-Winning Experiences

While traveling to speak with Dr. Bob Gray in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Anderson went into a Wal-Mart to purchase an Adkins candy bar. He stopped in the Wal-Mart restroom and found a large Indian man there. Dr. Anderson asked him, “Did you hear the biggest lie ever told? The biggest lie is that Roloids spells ‘r-e-l-i-e-f.’ ” Then he further questioned the man, “Did anybody ever tell you how to get relief from your sins?” The Indian man was tearfully saved right there in the Wal-Mart restroom!



In Mesquite, Texas, Dr. Anderson was accidentally assigned a smoking motel room. He requested a non-smoking room. After he was adjusted in his room, the lady at the front desk called and said, “The people from the church where you are speaking have already placed treats in another room for you [the previously assigned smoking room].”

“Bring them to me, please,” Dr. Anderson requested.

A lady from the Philippines showed up at his door. Dr. Anderson happened to have with him a letter from Missionary Rick Martin, a missionary to her native country. Dr. Anderson showed the lady this letter. She was an intern from the Philippines studying restaurant and hotel management, and she was sweetly saved in the motel hallway.

The next morning, another lady at the front desk greeted him, “Good morning, Dr. Anderson.” Dr. Anderson had never met her. He discovered that the lady he had won to the Lord the night before was her roommate, and she had told her about Dr. Anderson. This second lady was also sweetly saved.



RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHURCH MEMBER

On the same trip, Dr. Anderson went to get some supplies from the motel maid. She only spoke a little English. Dr. Anderson asked her if she went to church. “I’m Catholic,” she answered.

“I’m a priest,” responded Brother Anderson. When he made that comment, he said her eyes lit up like a Christmas tree! “I’m a priest, but I can’t do anything about your sins. However, I know the High Priest Who can. His name is Jesus.” (*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”* –I Peter 2:5, 9)

Dr. Anderson explained, “I gained her confidence, and her guard went down. When I showed her that only Jesus could take her to Heaven, she bowed her head and prayed. When I won her to the Lord, I did my priestly duties.”



Another time, Dr. Anderson and his soul-winning partner, Dale Bennett, visited the house of a Spanish-speaking family in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The daughter was bilingual. She interpreted for her parents as well as two aunts and two uncles who were visiting. After the plan of salvation had been given, Brother Anderson asked if they wanted to get saved. When Dr. Anderson prayed in English, the Spanish-speaking people also prayed in English. After that prayer, they could only speak in Spanish. Dr. Anderson believes the Holy Spirit interpreted for them. The following Sunday, the family came to church. He then called Mrs. Rose O’Brien, who was then the director of the Spanish Department of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana. He asked her to call the family to see if they knew what they had done. Mrs. O’Brien made the call and assured Dr. Anderson

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

that the people did get saved. A few years later, this Spanish-speaking family became some of Dr. Anderson's tenants.



In October 2003, Dr. Anderson's older brother was injured and put in a burn unit in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While there visiting his brother, Dr. Anderson led to Christ a mother and her seriously burned 20-year-old son after sharing the following soul-winning story. An insurance representative who was inspecting one of his buildings for fire hazards was very insistent upon the proper fire walls. When Dr. Anderson asked him why, the investigator showed him his terribly scarred legs and related how he had worked in a paint factory and had been trapped in a fire. Brother Anderson said, "Mr. Sherman, you have been burned once, and you have had a taste of what Hell is like. Why don't you ask Jesus to save you so you will never have to taste Hell again?" The investigator said, "I surely would," and accepted Christ as his Saviour.



Dr. Anderson is not only an excellent soul winner, but also an excellent soul-winning partner. While soul winning in Oklahoma City with an evangelist, Dr. Anderson kept the children quiet by painting their fingernails.

Once while soul winning with Pastor John Vaprezsan, a baby spit up on Dr. Anderson's cashmere coat. These experiences display the unselfishness Dr. Anderson puts forth as a soul-winning partner. Anything that needs to be done to keep the lost soul's attention on the soul winner is considered worthwhile.

During one year alone, Dr. Anderson has personally won over 500 people to Christ. Also during one year, he won people to the Lord in approximately thirteen states and three foreign countries.

I was impressed with the fact that Dr. Anderson said his favorite soul-

winning experiences are the ones that have happened most recently. Dr. Anderson has been soul winning for decades, and he continues to go faithfully. He always has a recent experience to share.

When asked to describe Russell Anderson as a soul winner in just one word, Bob Marshall said: “burdened.”

Dr. Jeff Fugate says that Dr. Anderson is sacrificial in his soul winning.

3

*Russell Anderson—
The Christian*

Dr. Anderson has never
gotten over the joy of the
fact that God saved him.

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHRISTIAN

As a Christian, Dr. Anderson can best be described as a man of wisdom. He is an energetic man who does not require much sleep. He is a very scheduled man. When he was in business, he would spend one or two hours in Bible study each morning before he went to work. He now gets up at 4:30 a.m. and spends two or three hours with the Lord every morning. Brother Anderson wakes up at this time automatically. He begins his day by quoting Psalm 121 and Psalm 32:8 which says, *“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”* He also claims Proverbs 3:1, 2, asking God to help him to have *“length of days,”* and to get a lot of work done each day. *“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.”* (Proverbs 3:1, 2)

Dr. Anderson begs God for wisdom and invites God to give him the mind of Christ. Dr. Anderson reminds others that the wisdom of God is better than gold. He was very busy during his days in business; he would have to go from one phone call to another, bidding contracts and solving problems. He needed to be filled with the mind of Christ so that he could make right decisions quickly. This remarkable walk with God has given him the wisdom to be successful both in business and also in his Christian life, even though he never earned a college degree.

One of Dr. Anderson’s daughters remembers that he was always the first one up in the morning. The light was always on in his study when she got up for the day. *“Dad set the example for his children in the area of Bible study,”* she said. He was studying for what he calls *“nuggets”* from God’s

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Word. Dr. Anderson has volumes of spiral notebooks filled with nuggets of truth he has learned in his Bible study.

When his daughters would come to the breakfast table as little girls, they would often hear their father singing the songs of God. He was happy after spending so much time in Bible study.

Considering the fact that before he was saved, he once looked down the nose of a double-barreled shotgun; and many times in his life he could have been killed and would have gone straight to Hell, Dr. Anderson has never gotten over the joy of the fact that God saved him. "I've always been a happy man," he stated.

Dr. Anderson loves to study the Bible and prepare sermons, and he has done so for years. He especially enjoys using the *Matthew Henry Commentary*. Since the sale of his business in 1999, Dr. Anderson often spends six or seven hours a day studying, listening to sermons, and feeding his spirit. Brother Russ often calls his pastor friends to share something he has gotten out of his Bible reading.

Those who travel with him say it is not unusual to peek into Dr. Anderson's motel room and to see



**Dr. Anderson with his preacher and his pastor friend,
Dr. Dean Miller (L)**

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHRISTIAN

the desk top covered with his Bible, different concordances, and notes from Bible study. Dr. Anderson also works on memorizing the Bible.

Dr. Anderson uses the Bible to solve problems. A friend who knows him well says he has heard Dr. Anderson say that he regularly prays for God to bless anyone who has hurt him in a business deal.

Russell Anderson's pastor has often sought his wisdom. "Russell can spot things before I do," his pastor said. Dr. Anderson once warned his pastor that a seemingly nice man in his church was going to cause him trouble. Pastor Vaprepsan didn't believe him. Eventually, the same man caused a church split.

Dr. Anderson is a humble man. When he shares the testimony of his wealth in public, he often shares that he wants to be careful not to brag. Instead, he shares his success story as a way of showing what God has done for him.

Russell Anderson does not take a love offering when he travels and preaches. He pays his own air fare and motel expenses. He will, however, accept a home-cooked meal from time to time from some of the older ladies in the churches where he preaches, especially if that meal includes pinto beans and cornbread!

Dr. Anderson is a modest man. One of his favorite restaurants is Golden Corral. He became very upset one day when his friend paid the bill at Golden Corral. Whether eating in an expensive or an inexpensive restaurant, Russell Anderson insists on paying the bill.

When buying things for himself, Dr. Anderson looks for the cheapest prices. He loves to shop at flea markets when in Hawaii. He enjoys shopping at discount stores like Costco.

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson both dress conservatively. Dr. Anderson buys many of his own suits at J. C. Penney's, waiting for their \$425 Stafford

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Executive suits to be reduced to \$190-\$195. He is generous with his friends, however. A friend of his testified, "When he took me to buy a suit, he insisted on taking me to one of the most expensive men's clothing stores in the area."



The Anderson's home in Ypsilanti

Russell and Maxine have lived in the same nice, but modest, house since 1964. They will drive the same car for years. Dr. Anderson does, however, enjoy buying collector cars as a hobby; no one has cars like the ones he owns. Most of the time, however, those sports cars sit in their warehouse. He does not have time to use them or sell them. Since car shows are usually held on Sundays, he does not attend them. He has loaned his cars a few times to churches sponsoring car shows for the purpose of getting out the Gospel at the car show. After the cars are shown, the plan of salvation is given, and many have been saved through this soul-winning effort. Though he loves his car collection, Dr. Anderson said, "I'd give anything up for Jesus."

Another hobby he enjoys is fishing. He used to go fishing four times a year; now he goes once a year.

Though Dr. Anderson loves to talk, if there is any hint that the friend to whom he is talking must go, he bows out. He doesn't like to tie up the time of other people.

Dr. Anderson is a generous man. Though he doesn't like to be asked for

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHRISTIAN

money (he generally throws away requests for money), he will usually give money wherever he sees a need. When he hears of or sees a need, and it comes to his attention a second time, Dr. Anderson then feels that the Holy Spirit of God is showing him to provide for that need, and he does.

Dr. Anderson is a simple man. He loves simple meals like vine-ripened tomatoes, green beans, and corn bread, soaking his corn bread in buttermilk. He greatly enjoys fresh produce. The Anderson family would often gather a bushel of green beans and snap beans together.

Dr. Anderson most loves peanut butter. His family commented that he puts peanut butter on everything! Dr. Anderson loves to make peanut butter milk shakes for himself and for his family. “When he makes them, we eat them—whether we want to or not!” his daughter teased.

During the summer, Dr. Anderson often eats lunch at home. One of Dr. Anderson’s daughters once watched the delight on her father’s face while he was eating a simple lunch of cantaloupe and tomatoes. Because she did not like either, she asked him this question: “Do you eat that because you like it or because it is good for you?”



Dr. Anderson enjoys the beauty of God’s nature while walking around the lake on Hyles-Anderson College campus.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Dr. Anderson laughed and said, “I eat it because I like it.” This has remained a standing joke between the two. Often while eating something with delight, Dr. Anderson will look to his daughter and say, “I’m eating this because I like it.”

It seems that a close walk with God always produces a love for simple things and also a love for nature. Those who walk closest to the Great Creator seem to most enjoy His creation. This is true of Russell Anderson. He has a special love for birds, in particular, and he loves to watch a sunrise and a sunset.

When Dr. Anderson was asked how he would like to be remembered as a Christian, his first answer was this: “I want to be remembered as someone who was a separated Christian.”

Secondly, Dr. Anderson wanted to be remembered as someone who was faithful to church. He never let a business deal interfere with his prayer meeting night, his soul-winning night, or with any other church service.

“Also, I want to be remembered as someone who cared for the needs of others. No one in my church will go to bed hungry if I know they need anything,” continued Dr. Anderson. “I grew up poor with no electricity, so I never took advantage of the poor. Remember me as someone who helped the poor.”

Because of that wish, Dr. Anderson has often given money to his pastor, asking him to give it anonymously to another church member in need. He once noticed a “For Sale” sign on the station wagon of one of the bus captains in his church. The bus captain had a large family, so Brother Anderson knew he needed that station wagon. Dr. Anderson asked Pastor Vaprepsan if he knew why the car was being sold. When Dr. Anderson discovered it was because the man’s employment was slow, he gave his pastor money to make the car payments for his fellow church member. This dear

RUSSELL ANDERSON - THE CHRISTIAN

man wept when he heard his car payments would be made; he had just spent two hours on his knees praying that God would provide the money for him to keep his car.

Often, when Dr. Anderson is out of town, someone will come up to him and thank him for the money he has given to him in the past. Recently,

someone came to him thanking Dr. Anderson for the \$100 he had given him. Usually, Dr. Anderson doesn't even remember giving the money.



Dr. Anderson is not afraid of any kind of work.

When Dr. Anderson was facing surgery for colon cancer, he asked God to spare his life. He reminded God of his gifts to the poor and claimed this promise in Psalm 41:1: *“Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.”* God healed him of his cancer.

Russell Anderson is described as a Christian by his friend, Dr. Bob Marshall as “humble,” and by his pastor, Dr. John Vaprezsán, as “deep.”



4

*Russell Anderson—
The Family Man*

“Dad taught us to be hard
workers and to be honest.
He set the example of
being faithful to church.”

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FAMILY MAN

Russell Anderson and his wife Maxine have shared much time together through the years by way of evening dinners, trips away, and especially by way of the winter months they spend together in their condominium in Hawaii. Their daughters recall that the couple had a date night each week when they left the girls with a baby sitter and went out to be alone, just the two of them.



The Andersons also had a family night each week. The kids took charge on family night, and their dad and mom played any games that the girls chose to play. “Though Dad was busy, when we had him, we **really** had him,” commented Kelly Vacendak, the Anderson’s middle daughter. The Anderson family worked many puzzles together. They played records, and their mother, in particular, spent hour upon hour reading to them and coloring in color books with them.

Though Dr. Anderson was tired after getting up at 5:00 a.m. and going to work, he would often come home and throw softballs outside with his girls. Their father was very athletic, and at the age of 50, he often played racquetball with University of Michigan students he would meet at the racquetball courts. He was proud of the fact that he most often beat these young students in racquetball. Dr. Anderson taught his three daughters how to play racquetball and golf. He took them bowling, and he bought them their own bowling balls, bags, and shoes. He wanted his daughters to be well-rounded. Dr. Anderson also loved music, and he acquainted Tomi

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Sue, Kelly, and Lisa with many types of music. He played waltzes, marches, and symphonies, as well as playing Gospel music in their home.

Dr. Anderson took his girls sledding each winter on the golf course



Mrs. Anderson with Tomi Sue and Kelly



Dr. Anderson with the girls.

which was next to their home. Eventually, he bought a snowmobile and took rides with the girls, an adventure which they loved.

Dr. Anderson loved ice cream, and a favorite memory of the girls is their after-church visits to an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, Miller's Ice Cream.

The family had many wonderful excursions together. A favorite was a Christmas visit to Greenfield Village, where they enjoyed an eighteenth-century dinner. The restaurant was decorated in the style of the eighteenth century, and carolers sang old-fashioned Christmas carols. After dinner, the family took a sleigh ride. Each year, Dr. Anderson took his daughters and one of their friends to the Cedar Point Amusement Park.

Because of his busy schedule, Dr. Anderson took his family on yearly

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHRISTIAN

and sometimes bi-yearly trips from the time his children were just small girls. The family spent 30 days a year on family vacations. The Anderson family began going to Florida each year for Christmas, and the family often took yearly cruises in the summer.

Dr. Anderson also took his family where there was good preaching. Several of the young Anderson family's trips were taken to the Bill Rice Ranch in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There the Anderson girls became better acquainted with great preachers of the day such as Dr. Bill Rice and Dr. John R. Rice. They ate in the homes of these men. The girls were able to ride horses at Dr. John Rice's house. They became familiar with Dr. Rice's co-workers such Dr. Viola Walden and Dr. Fairy Shappard whom they lovingly called "Aunt Fairy."



**Dr. and Mrs. Rice with
Tomi Sue**

It has been said that you will be just as you are ten years from now, except for the books you read and the people you meet. Dr. Anderson wisely introduced his girls to many of the great people of his generation and of the previous generation. The Anderson family was able to cruise with several of fundamentalism's best-known preachers. Once, they cruised with Dr. Curtis Hutson. More than once, they cruised with Dr. John R. Rice. They once went to Bermuda with Dr. Rice, but most of their voyages with the Rices took them to one of the Caribbean Islands which the family loved. The girls remember playing pool and going deep sea fishing with Dr. Rice on their cruises. They also remember that Dr. John R. Rice loved to play the game of Rook, as well as hearing that he took an hour nap in his pajamas every afternoon on the cruise.

Russell Anderson attended church with his family every Sunday and Wednesday. He also took his daughters out soul winning with him on

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Tuesday and Thursday nights when they were young. When the Anderson family went on a cruise with Dr. Rice and others from the *Sword of the Lord*, the Christian newspaper which Dr. Rice started and published, they had devotions together each night.

Dr. John R. Rice and Dr. Jack Hyles stayed in the Anderson's home, as well as did many missionaries, demonstrating not only the wisdom, but also the hospitality of Russell and Maxine Anderson. Wisely, Dr. Anderson took pictures of their girls with the famous guests and men of God who stayed in their home.

Dr. Anderson also wanted his girls to be influenced by reading good books. During the summer months, he gave them specific books to read, and he asked them to write book reports on these books. The girls were paid for writing reports on books written by such authors as Andrew Carnegie. Dr. Anderson didn't want his girls to lay around in the summer. He paid them five dollars for every chapter in Proverbs that they memorized.

When his daughters were still small, Dr. Anderson purchased a duplex cottage which he shared with his friend, Dr. Jack Hyles. The cottage was located on Lake Austin in Portage, Michigan. The Anderson family would visit this cottage three or four times each summer. The



The duplex cottage

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE CHRISTIAN



The Andersons with friends at the duplex.

night before leaving for the cabin, Dr. Anderson took his girls to the golf course next to their home where they would go worm hunting. He taught his girls how to shine the flashlight at an angle and how to grab the worms with their hand. All of the worms were taken to the cabin. At the cabin, their dad

took the girls fishing on their pontoon boat. Dr. Anderson always baited the first hook for the girls, and after that, they had to bait their own. Once they lost the first worm, the girls could either sit on the boat and do nothing, or they could bait the worm on the hook themselves and continue fishing. Dr. Anderson always cleaned and filleted the day's catch.

Dr. Anderson loves fishing, and he has taken a fishing trip to Northern Canada once or twice a year for the last 30 years, often going with his good friend, Dr. Jim Vineyard. Once Dr. Anderson took his girls on one of his yearly Canadian fishing trips near the mission field of Missionary Mark Bohman. The family would begin fishing in the morning and would fish all day every day, catching hundreds of fish. Sometime during the day, they would go to one of the nearby primitive islands to start a fire and eat their catch. The scenery at their fishing spots was breathtaking. His girls remember their dad frequently pointing out the beauty by saying such things as,

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

“Look at what God made. Isn’t that like a postcard picture?”

At night, they slept in a rustic cabin; though, when he was without the girls, Dr. Anderson usually roughed it in a tent. They would fish for about a week, and on the last day of their trip, the Andersons would stop in an Indian village to trade any items they had for larger fish. This special trip was also once shared by Dr. Anderson with his only grandson, James Stuart.

One year the Anderson family went alone on a cruise to Europe. Russell and Maxine, with their two teenage daughters, Tomi Sue and Kelly, and their younger daughter Lisa rode on the ship *Queen Elizabeth II*. They caught the *Queen Elizabeth* on the last leg of her first world-wide tour. Their journey was from New York City to the coast of France. They then took a train to Paris, where they stayed for four days in a luxury hotel. From Paris, they flew to London where they stayed in a castle and indulged themselves with English tea and scones. Another fond memory of the Anderson girls is the visit they made to Shakespeare’s home while in London. They stayed in London for four days before flying back to the states.

Kelly, the Andersons’ middle daughter, fondly remembers the fact that the Andersons always went to church while on vacation. If there was no church, the family would have their own service during church time. Other places the Andersons visited together included Jamaica, and Caracas in Venezuela.



As the years passed, Dr. Anderson relocated the family Christmas celebration from Florida to Hawaii, eventually buying several condominiums at Waikiki Beach on Oahu. Russell and Maxine spend a couple of months in Hawaii each year. Their

children and grandchildren often make a yearly visit to them there. Spring break is a favorite time for Kelly Anderson Vacendak to visit with her parents in Hawaii. She shared that her father loves to cook big breakfasts of such things as omelettes and bacon for the grandchildren while they are visiting Waikiki.

Dr. Anderson has been generous with family gifts and surprises. Once a car backed over daughter Kelly's tricycle and destroyed it. Dr. Anderson saw Kelly's sadness and immediately went and purchased another one. Dr. Anderson bought his girls some of the very first Barbie dolls.

Dr. Anderson doesn't like celebrating birthdays; rather, he prefers surprises. To this day, it is not unusual for one of the Anderson children or grandchildren to receive a surprise package in the mail. If Dr. Anderson sees something interesting in his travels that he thinks one of his family would like, he sends it to them. He has a granddaughter who is a Dallas Stars hockey fan. He loves to tease her by sending her Detroit Redwing paraphernalia. She in turn teases him by sending him Dallas Stars items. He pampers his grandchildren by sending them such items as music boxes, jewelry, and sports memorabilia.

Though Dr. Anderson does not like birthdays, he loves Christmas. He tries to be creative in his gift giving. One year, he put several bricks in huge boxes. The grandchildren were surprised to find 100 one-dollar bills in their boxes.

During Christmas of 2000, the whole family celebrated together at daughter Kelly Vacendak's house near Dallas, Texas. Dr. Anderson is very competitive, and he enjoyed many games of ping pong and pool with his children and grandchildren.

Other cherished memories that Dr. Anderson's girls have of their father are the times when he put them to work. At the ages of 11 and 12, the girls began working 40 hours a week in the summers. Their dad hired one of the

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

teachers from their Christian school to work with them for the summer. They began by cleaning the utility rooms in the Anderson apartments for one dollar an hour. They would empty the trash, sweep, mop, and clean the washers and dryers. They also mowed the lawns at the apartments. They cleaned up after construction workers, picking up 2x4 boards and nails and sweeping up sawdust. Kelly Vacendak said, “Dad had us believing that if we stopped working for him, it would break him financially, so we worked really hard.” Dr. Anderson made his girls feel needed and that their work was important. The girls learned to work overtime, for which they were paid time and a half for their labor. As the girls cleaned, their dad taught them to watch for pop bottles. They would collect them, and at the end of each week, they would turn them in at the local grocery store. The girls would split the money and spend it each Friday at Dairy Queen.

As young teenagers, the Anderson girls opened their own checking and savings accounts, and they began collecting interest on their earnings. Dr. Anderson taught his daughters to give money as well as to save money. Each year when the girls went to camp, Dr. Anderson gave them an extra ten dollars with their spending money. He admonished them to find a poor child who didn't have money for a snack at camp or for a meal on the bus ride home, and he instructed the girls to give away the ten dollars to that child.

When they became teenagers, the girls began helping at Dr. Anderson's Mother Nature Health Food Store. They learned customer service, how to order supplies, how to cash out, and how to keep inventory. The girls even learned how to research the health problems of their particular customers. Because the health food store was located in the front of Dr. Anderson's office, the girls also collected money for the apartment rentals, as well as balancing out supply sheets. The Anderson girls value the principles that they learned because of the challenge and the opportunity their dad pro-

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FAMILY MAN

vided for them to work.

Tomi Sue, the Anderson's oldest daughter, says that she and her sisters learned from their father the following principles about hard work:

1. Don't look at the clock while you are working.
2. Arrive at work ten minutes early.
3. Don't stop working until your time is up.
4. Stay a few extra minutes after work.
5. Don't stay on the phone while you are at work.
6. Don't talk to the other secretaries while you are at work.

Dr. Anderson had strict standards for his girls. They followed strict dress standards, as well as strict dating standards. They could not date unsaved boys, and the girls had to have a chaperone with them for every date. Dr. Anderson was particular about whom they dated. His beautiful, cotton-haired girls naturally attracted a lot of attention. When an unsaved boy, who mowed the Anderson's lawn, became interested in Dr. Anderson's daughters, his employment was terminated.

One evening a boy with long hair sat down beside Kelly Anderson in church. Brother Anderson approached him and stated, "It is none of my business how you wear your hair, but it is my business who sits by my daughter." He never again sat beside Kelly in church. Once a boy rode his bike four miles to the Anderson's home to see one of the girls. Dr. Anderson made him go straight home without seeing her because he didn't call first.

The Andersons had a built-in pool in their backyard, but no mixed bathing was allowed. Of course, a millionaire businessman was given numerous opportunities to attend cocktail parties, but Dr. Anderson refused those opportunities.

For many years, the Andersons had no television. For a while, they had a television in the basement. The girls were only allowed to watch two pre-

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

approved programs a week. Otherwise, they could only use the television for playing the computer game Ping-Pong. A special memory the girls share is listening to the Children's Bible Hour on the radio every Saturday.

Though Brother Anderson didn't have much of an education, he highly valued education for his girls and made it a top priority. Beginning in the first grade, the daughters began attending a Christian school in Ypsilanti.

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FAMILY MAN



FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



An Anderson family get-together



The Andersons enjoying a cruise.



RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FAMILY MAN

When his daughters became teenagers, their dad sent them to one of the top rated Christian high schools in the nation. It was a 40-minute drive each way, but the Andersons felt it was worth the drive. In spite of the long drive, several times a year Dr. Anderson would pick up one or more of his girls at their high school to take them out during their lunch hour. They had hamburgers, onion rings, and milkshakes at the nearby Big Boy Restaurant. They also occasionally ate breakfast on the way to school at the Sweden House breakfast buffet.

The Inner City Christian School of Allen Park had a great music program, something which was important to Brother and Mrs. Anderson. Dr. Anderson determined as a young man that he would attend all of his children's activities, something his own parents were unable to practice. He was faithful to his promise. Both Mom and Dad attended every one of their daughters' musical concerts. Each girl was given piano lessons from the first grade. Both of their parents attended every piano recital. Dr. Anderson was very supportive of his daughters. He would play the tapes of one of his favorite pianists, Dino Kartsonakis, and then comment to the girls, "Someday you will play as well as he does."

Each evening at bedtime, the Andersons had family devotions. During this time, they memorized Bible scriptures such as Psalms 1, 8, 23, 100, and 121. Dr. Anderson also taught his daughters principles of character during family devotions. They were taught how to shake hands properly; how to call a person if you could not pay your bill on time, making arrangements ahead of time; how to look someone in the eye when you talk with him; how to sit properly; and how to introduce a friend properly. Dr. Anderson taught his girls to be patriotic, to be proud to be American, and to stand each time they heard the National Anthem sung or played. The girls loved to play the National Anthem on the piano. Even if their Dad was lying on

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

the couch, he stood when he heard them playing!

The Anderson girls were taught by both parents to live frugally, in spite of the family's financial success. They rarely ate at expensive restaurants. When they did, they ordered the closest thing they could find to a hamburger because that is what they were used to having. The Andersons shopped at stores such as the Salvation Army, Kmart, and J. C. Penney's.

One of the most remarkable things about Dr. Anderson as a family man is that he learned to provide for his family, in spite of the fact that he had no pattern from his own home. He was ashamed to bring his friends to his house when he was growing up, so he determined that he would always provide a nice place for his own children to bring their friends. He set the example for his daughters in the area of Bible study, and this Bible study provided him with the wisdom he needed to rear his girls without much previous teaching.

When asked what she most appreciated about her dad, one of the girls said, "He taught us to be hard workers and to be honest. He set the example of being faithful to church."

Other thoughts from the girls were these: "We learned from Dad to be faithful in whatever we do. We learned that we have to work hard for whatever we want in life. We learned to love God and to do right."

As a family man, Dr. Anderson wants to be remembered as someone who wanted to rear his children for God, someone who made sure his children were faithful to church, and someone who wanted to be an example of putting God first to his children.

5

*Russell Anderson—
The Friend*

“We talked about things
‘Kentucky’—plowing
mules, working in the coal
mines, pullets, and the
‘good ol’ days’ of growing
up in the mountains.”

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Russell

Anderson has always been a good friend to his pastor. An energetic man, in his younger years Russell played racquetball with him regularly, as well as with others in the church. Brother Russ could beat teenagers in racquetball, though he was a man in his fifties.

Dr. Anderson cultivates his friendships. For several years, Russell has taken his friends to an island in Northern Canada for a two-week fishing trip. Once a year friends such as Pastor Jim Vineyard and Pastor John Vaprezsán and his sons would join him for a couple of weeks. They would also use Russ's bass boat to fish in Michigan on Lake Erie for walleye and Northern Pike as well as for perch. One time they caught 300 perch in half an hour. (And that's not just a fish story!)

A friend said of Russell Anderson, "You don't have to wonder if he is your friend. Perhaps it is hard to know who his friends are because of his money. But he really enjoys the friends that he has."

Dr. Anderson enjoys inviting friends to visit him in Hawaii where he and his wife spend the winter months. While talking on the phone, Dr. Anderson asked Bob Marshall, "Bob, are you my friend? If so, you'll come over to Hawaii and bring me a glass of iced tea."

For years, Bob Marshall had hosted Dr. Anderson during his visits to Hyles-Anderson College and made him feel important. Now it was Dr. Anderson's turn to host Brother Marshall.

Friends, Bob and Cyndilu Marshall, were brought by Dr. Anderson to stay in one of his condos in Hawaii. They were met at the airport, taken to dinner and shopping, and taken to Pearl Harbor. When he felt they wanted

to be left alone for awhile, he loaned them his Lincoln and left them alone. “He left us alone when we wanted to be, yet cared for our every need,” recalls Brother Marshall.

Close Friends

Dr. Anderson was asked to describe some of the great men to whom he has been close friends:

Dr. John R. Rice

“I was on his Board of Directors for the *Sword of the Lord* newspaper. I spoke in *Sword of the Lord* Conferences. I went to the Holy Land with him and on cruises with him. He was a great student of the Bible. From Dr. Rice, I learned to read and to study the Bible; I also learned about the fullness of the Holy Spirit’s power.”

Dr. Jack Hyles

“From Dr. Hyles, I learned to walk with God and to prove God. Most of all, I learned to be a soul winner from Brother Hyles.”

Dr. John Vaprezsán

“Most preachers don’t remain faithful. Pastor Vaprezsán has been faithful to what he learned at his college, Hyles-Anderson College, and at his home church, First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana.”

Dr. Bob Gray, Longview, Texas

“He is faithful. Because of this faithfulness and the large number of people he baptizes in his church each year, I gave him \$1,000,000.”



As I mentioned previously, Dr. Anderson has allowed his collection of cars to be used by churches to put on car shows. After Dr. Anderson shared the idea with Brother Bob Marshall, Brother Marshall put on a car show for

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, on May 5, 2002. Dr. Anderson allowed the use of seven of his own classic cars. There was a total of 78 cars at the show. Over 3,000 people attended the car show. The plan of salvation was given over the public address system, and 230 people were saved. The church ended the car show with 1,000 prospect cards from the event.

Dr. Anderson enjoys talking with his friends about their ministries. He likes to get alone with them at a restaurant where no one knows him. He loves to be a part and to know what is happening in his friends' lives and especially in their ministries.

Dr. Anderson's pastor remembers when "Brother Russ" gave a house to a pastor friend in Ypsilanti, Michigan, who had been praying for one.



Dr. Anderson and Dr. Jeffery J. Fugate

Dr. Anderson's close friend, Jeff Fugate, says, "I had the privilege of meeting Russell Anderson when I was a 12-year-old boy. I grew up in Hazard (Perry County), Kentucky, where my dad was founder and pastor of Bible Baptist Church. Russell Anderson was born and reared in Floyd County, Kentucky, in that same Appalachian Mountain Region, approximately 30 miles away. Although we grew up in different generations, our values of life are the same.

Brother Anderson left the mountains in 1955 to go to Michigan to find work.

Around 1976, Dr. Anderson came home for a visit, and he stopped by our church for the Sunday service. He offered to take my family out to eat (which was some-

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FRIEND

thing we seldom did, and there were few restaurants anyway). My dad invited him to our house for lunch. He accepted and honored our family by joining us for a simple mountain meal of “soup beans” (pinto beans), cornbread, meat, and vegetables.

During the meal, my two brothers and I sat there without saying a word, just listening to Dad and Dr. Anderson talk. After the meal, Dr. Anderson came out to the front porch where I was swinging on the porch swing, and he began to talk to me. I recall how nervous I was—talking to a man known as a “millionaire” and the co-founder of Hyles-Anderson College! He told me about the drywall businesses he had built, and he challenged me to work hard and to earn my own way in life. After a short while, he drove away in his beautiful car. For many years after that, I only heard or read about him, sometimes hearing Dr. Hyles talking about him at Pastors’ School.

Years passed after that day, and many things happened in my life. My dad passed away with cancer at the age of 40. I surrendered to preach and pastored my dad’s church in Hazard for five years. I then moved to Lexington, Kentucky, to become the pastor of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church.

In 1999, we were holding a special meeting at our church, and Dr. Jim Vineyard from Oklahoma City was preaching for me. Since Dr. Vineyard knew that I was from the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, and so was Russell Anderson, he asked me when I had last talked to Brother Anderson. I told him that it had been years since I had talked to him, and I told him the story of meeting Russell Anderson when I was a young boy. Dr. Vineyard asked me to hand him my cell phone. I did, and when he got Brother Anderson on the phone, he handed it to me!

I did not know what to say! After a few simple statements, I asked Brother Anderson if he would consider coming to speak to my people at Clays Mill Road Baptist Church. In a few days, I got a letter from him saying that he could not

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



(Left to right) Dr. Russell Anderson, Mrs. Brereton Hones, Former Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones, Dr. Jeff Fugate, Dan Issel, former University of Kentucky basketball star and NBA player/coach



Dr. Anderson in the pulpit of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE FRIEND

come to speak to “my people,” but to “our people.” He said, “The Kentucky people are my people, too.”

In a few months he came to our church to preach. From the very beginning, we enjoyed the fellowship and talking about all things “Kentucky.” We talked about plowing mules, working in the coal mines, pullets (young chickens), and the “good ol’ days” of growing up in the mountains. We rehearsed that day when we talked on the porch of my boyhood home years before. We immediately shared a kindred spirit.

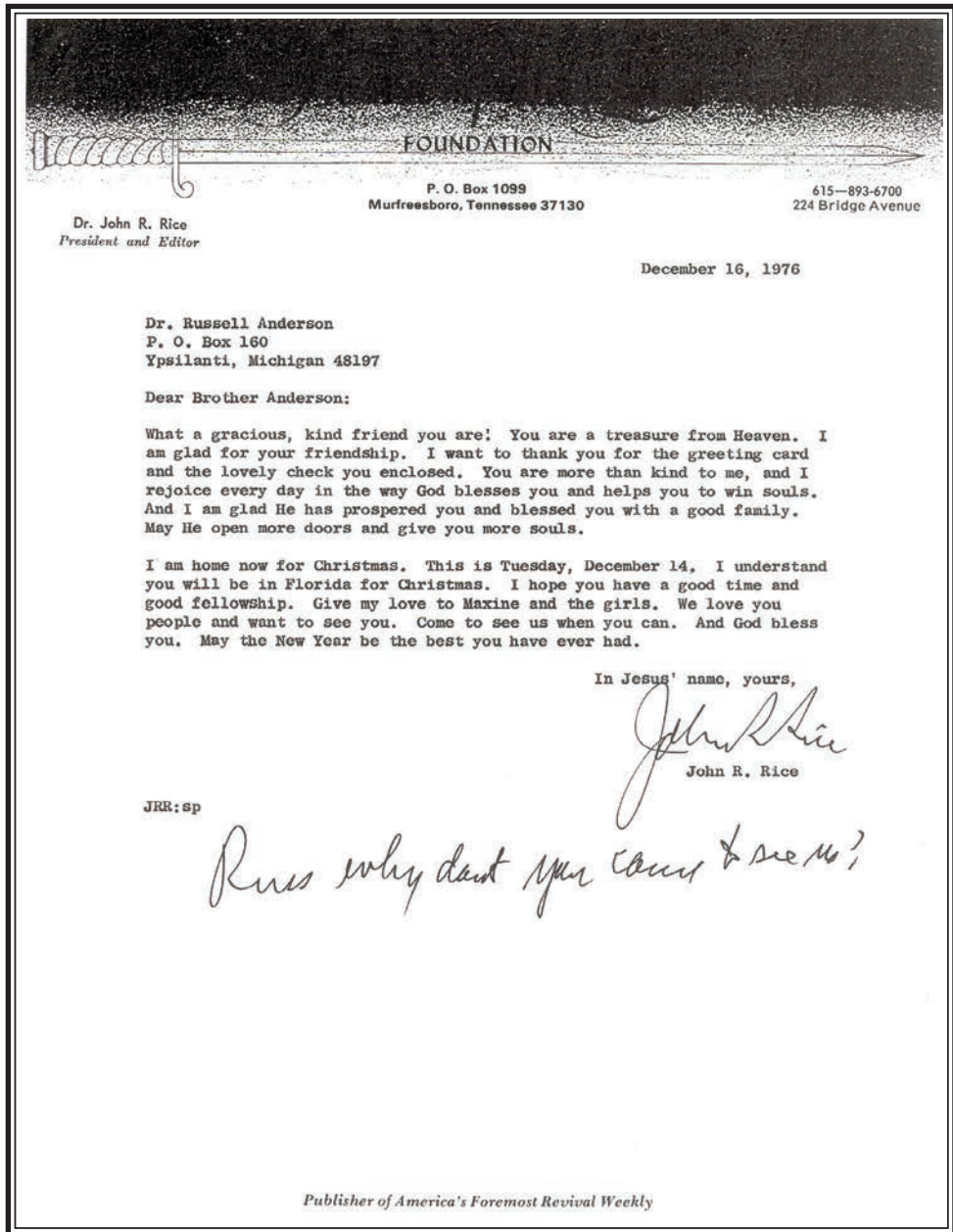
Since that time, Dr. Anderson and I have worked together preaching in tent revivals across the state of Kentucky. We have preached together in conferences. We co-founded Commonwealth Baptist College together. We held a city-wide rally in Lexington with over 6,300 people in attendance. We have become the very best of friends.”



When his friends were asked to describe Russell Anderson as a friend, Pastor Vaprezsán said, “loyalty in every respect, consistent; he has given me no anxious moments.” Dr. Bob Marshall said, “loyal; he lives by the quote from Dr. Jack Hyles, ‘A friendship is not a contract between two people; it’s a contract with yourself that you will be a friend to another person.’” Dr. Jeff Fugate called Dr. Anderson “a close and personal friend.”

Dr. Anderson was asked how he would like to be remembered as a friend, he replied, “I want to be remembered as someone who enjoyed helping those in need.”

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



6

*Russell Anderson—
The Businessman*

“Don’t do as I say;
do as I do.”

Pastor Vaprezsan sat across the desk from Russell Anderson at Dr. Anderson's place of business. He looked at Russ and through the large window behind him. Pastor Vaprezsan saw trucks coming and going outside that window, and he heard Russell Anderson giving orders to his workers. He noticed how quickly Russell could transfer from one item of business to another or from one employee's question to another's. And he thought to himself, "This guy overwhelms me."

Dr. Anderson has been a hard worker in business. He did the work each day until it was finished, not leaving at any particular time. He often went home for supper and returned to work afterward, working most of the evening. Still, Dr. Anderson gives all of the credit for his business success to the Bible principles he has applied. He has no college education; he never took a business course, but he has made millions of dollars.

Though he is personable apart from business, in business he is a professional. Russell Anderson is a hard worker and a fair businessman. He does right by others, so he expects others to do right by him.

When his tenants could not pay, he was willing to work with them. As long as they were willing to come and see him, he would not evict them. If the tenants did come to see him and expressed they could not pay, Dr. Anderson would sit down with them and go over their budget to help to teach them a way to fix the problem.

He expected his tenants to pay rent. If they continued to be negligent, he started paper proceedings in court immediately. He did this hundreds of times and never lost a case. In court he represented himself without an

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE BUSINESSMAN

attorney. He was shrewd in business in that he expected people to treat him as fairly as he would treat them.

In business, Russell Anderson believes in and lives by the parable: “Give a man a fish, he eats today. Teach a man to fish, he eats forever.”

As a businessman, Dr. Anderson feels obligated to get the most out of his money. He thinks through carefully before he gives away money to be sure that the church or benefactor gets the most out of the deal. For example, rather than selling property and giving away the money, he gives away the property itself, thereby allowing the church to gain the money that would have gone to capital gains and income taxes. Dr. Anderson lives the same way when he considers spiritual value. He carefully thinks through the situation to see how he can get the most souls for his dollars.

Dr. Anderson is always looking for opportunities, both monetarily and spiritually. While traveling with Dr. Jack Hyles in Hawaii, Russell recognized the value of buying property in Hawaii. He has since bought many condominiums there.

Though Dr. Anderson does invest some in the stock market, he does not advise the average man to do so. When investing in the stock market, he does not just look at the immediate condition of the companies in which he invests. He considers the long-term financial health of that company. He recently made a lot of money by investing in United Airlines. The company was struggling financially. Stocks were down, and Dr. Anderson invested in several shares. After declaring bankruptcy, United stock went way up, and Dr. Anderson profited financially. A similar circumstance took place with Ford Motor Company. Dr. Anderson profited much from his investments in the General Electric Company. He purchased stocks there because of his admiration for their former CEO, Jack Walsh. The Lord gives Dr. Anderson wisdom to consider many factors and look long term as he

makes his investments.

Dr. Anderson has not been a compromiser as a businessman. He allowed no smoking, drinking, or cursing in his offices. He avoided cocktail parties, and he kept strict standards of Christian living.

When asked to describe Dr. Anderson as a businessman in just a few words, Dr. Bob Marshall said, “aware of opportunities,” and Dr. Jeff Fugate stated, “wise.”

When Dr. Anderson was asked how he would like to be remembered as a businessman, he answered, “I want to be remembered as a man who led by example. I wouldn’t ask an employee to do anything I would not do. If a man’s digging a ditch, I’ll help him.”

One time he spent an hour helping his employees carry shingles. Then he asked, “Do you know any other millionaires who would carry shingles like this?”

One man replied, “There ain’t none!”

When carrying the shingles, Dr. Anderson knew that he had cancer in his arm. He did the task anyway, as he often did, to identify with the men who worked for him. This was one of many actions that gained their respect.

Another time, Dr. Anderson shed his tie and helped load trucks with drywall. His philosophy as a businessman is: “Don’t do as I say; do as I do.”

THE MAN WHO GAVE \$11 MILLION DOLLARS TO GOD'S WORK IN 1999

Jan/August 2000

The Baptist

An Independent Baptist Christian Magazine

GOD'S BUSINESSMEN

"I like to invest God's money where it makes a good return. If one bank is paying 5% and another bank is paying 10%, it makes good sense to put your money in the bank that's paying 10%. The best place to invest God's money is in a church that's busy after sinners, having souls saved and converts baptized, and running buses to pick up poor boys and girls. God in Heaven knows when you're giving money to help the poor. I will not put my money in a church that does not win souls and does not go out and pick up little boys and girls. Jesus said to go out into the highways and pick up the poor, the halt, the maimed, and the blind. He never said to go out and pick up the millionaires."

RUSSELL ANDERSON
FROM COAL MINES TO CONSTRUCTION TO MILLIONS

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Just a few of the awards and memorabilia that have come to Russell Anderson



7

*Russell Anderson—
The Preacher*

He does not like to experiment with new ideas as much as he likes to relay truths already used which have proven successful.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Because of his business success and his associations with other great preachers, Dr. Anderson soon became in demand as a speaker at churches and conferences. At first, he felt inadequate because of his southern ways and his lack of vocabulary. He did not like being called a “hillbilly.” To him, the word “hillbilly” was a cuss word. As Pastor Jeff Fugate said, “Dr. Anderson would say that he is not a preacher, but a businessman who challenges laymen. Still, he puts as much effort into preaching a sermon as he ever did to earn a business contract or to complete a job.”

Decades later, Russell Anderson has become a great preacher, and preaching has become a great love of his. Dr. Anderson’s preaching began in 1963 with his giving his testimony entitled, “From the Coal Mines to the Gold Mines.” Usually traveling on the weekends, he shared with others how he became a millionaire, encouraging them to put God in charge of their finances. In the late ’60’s, he began traveling quite often. He now travels and preaches in about 40 meetings a year, usually preaching two or three times a week. Sometimes he will preach three or four times during the weekend in one church, and then be in another church the following Monday and Tuesday, preaching Monday night, Tuesday morning, and Tuesday night.

Occasionally, Dr. Anderson hosts a millionaire’s luncheon in the church where he is preaching, an event he started at Pastor Jeff Fugate’s church. Dr. Anderson invites people to come eat what a millionaire eats, and he serves his favorite foods: corn bread and pinto beans with banana pudding. As he himself stated, “I was raised on it, and I haven’t found anything better!”

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE BUSINESSMAN

He has preached with preachers like Dr. John R. Rice and Dr. Jack Hyles. In his meetings, the Holy Spirit of God is often so evident that the atmosphere is described by his pastor as “thick.”



“He has put in the behind-the-scenes work for years with his walk with God and Bible studies. Now it is paying off in his preaching,” Pastor Vaprepsan said.

Russell Anderson has so much material in his preaching, it is a challenge for him not to speak too long. He is helpful as a guest preacher because he connects with the average men of the church. As a layman, he relates well with the other laymen and businessmen.

Dr. Anderson uses a lot of stories in his preaching, yet he also gets

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

across the message of proven truths. He does not like to experiment with new ideas as much as he likes to relay truths already used which have proven successful. One friend says he believes this comes from Dr. Anderson's business knowledge. He likes to invest his time in preaching on the sure things of life.

One of the main thrusts of Dr. Anderson's preaching is against laziness. He often complains about preachers who work hard to build a church until they become successful. They obtain a nice salary, a nice house, and a nice car. Then they stop soul winning.

As mentioned previously, while preaching with Brother Jeff Fugate, the power of God fell so strongly upon Dr. Anderson's preaching that the service was dismissed early. People went soul winning directly after the service ended. Thirty-two people were saved in the hour that followed.

On another occasion, Dr. Anderson and Jeff Fugate held a city-wide Patriotic Rally in a baseball stadium in Lexington, Kentucky. After Dr. Anderson gave the Gospel, over 125 people were converted.

Russell Anderson rehearses each part of his sermons beforehand, and he is willing to ask advice about his preaching. Dr. Jeff Fugate said, "As busy as Dr. Anderson has been with his businesses, investments, traveling, and work, he always takes time to talk to preachers. He loves preachers and is a friend to many men of God around the country and around the world. What a blessing it would be to have Russell Anderson to teach your men and families, to preach in your pulpit, and to be a help and influence to your people!"

Pastor Fugate went to say, "Dr. Anderson could live any lifestyle he wants to live. He could go anywhere in the world or do anything he wants to do. He could have his own airplane. He could have servants, chefs, pilots, or anything else. Yet, he chooses to travel the nation speaking in

RUSSELL ANDERSON—THE BUSINESSMAN

conferences, challenging laymen to get a burden for souls and a desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. He pays his own way. He accepts no love offering for speaking (although I have known him to accept chicken and dumplings.) If we could see laymen decide to live their lives following the example of Russell Anderson, we would see a greater work done for Christ.”

On May 28, 1972, Dr. Anderson received an honorary doctoral degree from Midwestern Baptist Bible College under the direction of Dr. Tom Malone. Shortly thereafter, he began preaching a sermon entitled, “What I’m Going to Do with My Doctor’s Degree.” He preaches that he is going to:

1. Make house calls (door-to-door visitation)
2. Prolong life (teach how to get eternal life)
3. Deliver babies (soul winning)

4. Prevent suffering (in Hell). In the sermon he adds, “I’ve never been to college, but I can do all of these things.” This sermon, which was once preached at a hospital in Tague, Korea, was published in the *Sword of the Lord* Christian newspaper.

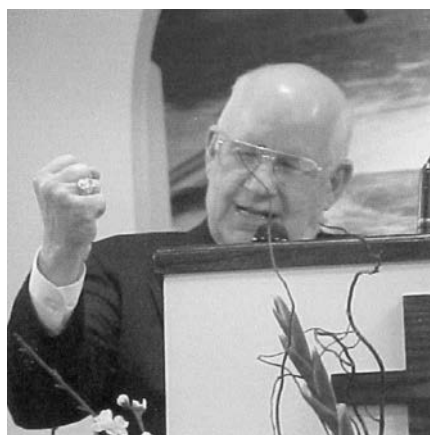
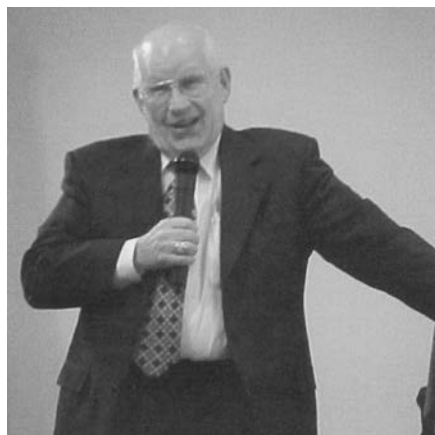


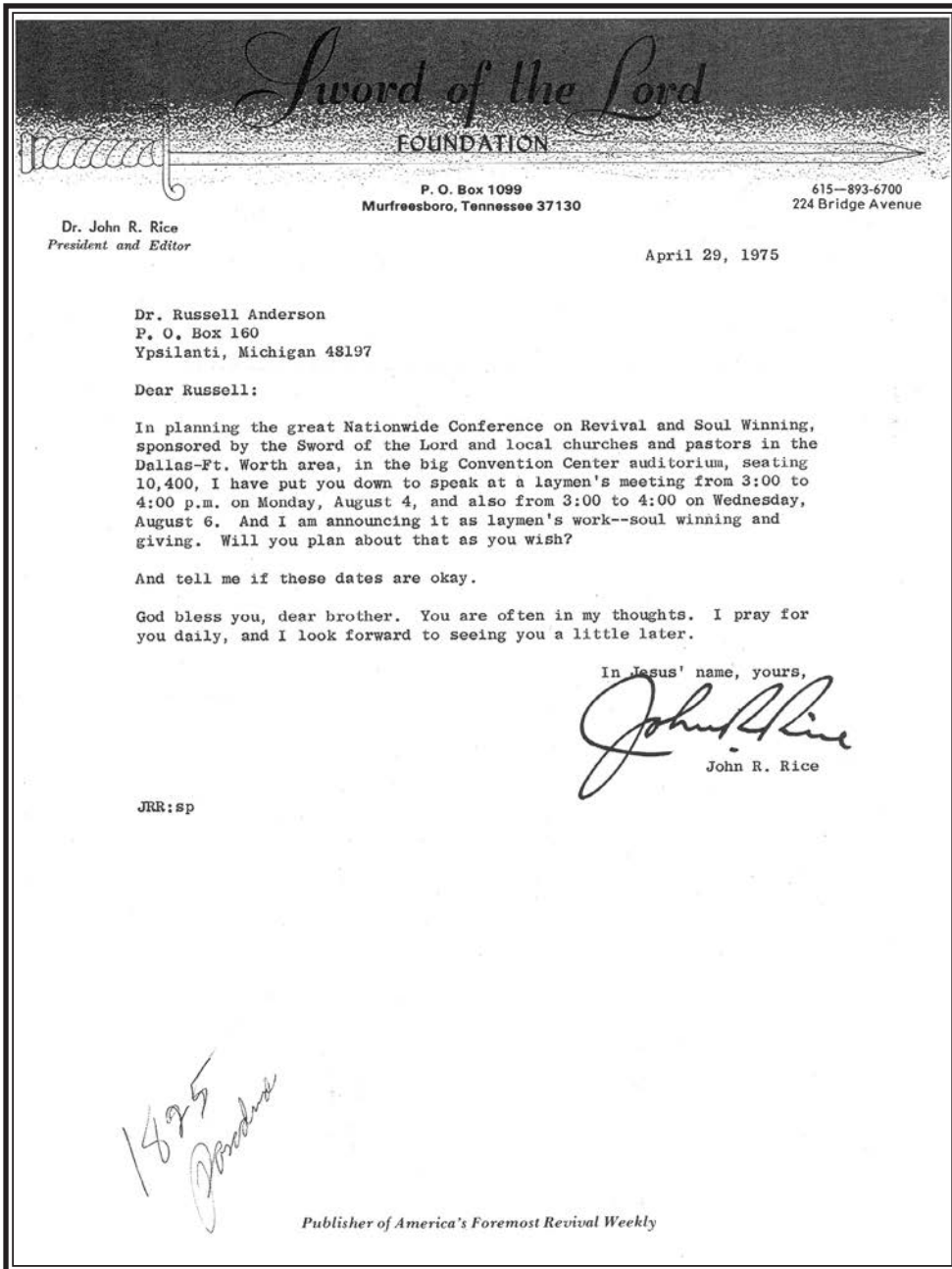
Dr. Anderson (second from the right) stands with the other men who received their doctoral degrees at Midwestern Baptist College. Dr. Tom Malone is on the far left.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Also, Dr. Anderson received a Doctor of Philosophy degree on December 3, 2001, from the Baptist College of America.

Those interviewed were asked to describe Russell Anderson as a preacher in one or two words: Pastor John Vaprepsan used the words “witty” and “prepared” to describe his pastor friend. Dr. Bob Marshall said, “thorough” and “colorful, folksy.” “Humble” and “hardworking” were the two words Dr. Fugate chose as an accolade for Dr. Anderson, the preacher.





FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



Applebee's Park in Lexington, Kentucky, the site of the Patriotid Rally on July 2, 2002, sponsored by Clays Mill Road Baptist Church with over 6,300 in attendance



Dr. Anderson preaching at the Patriotid Rally

Epilogue

Russell Anderson is a great
Christian—an outstanding
and rare kind of a
Christian—and a mover in
the greatest soul-winning
works
being done.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

The writing of this book was one of the last requests of Dr. Hyles before he went to be with the Lord. Out a love for him and the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana this book was penned and worked on.

As you have read and learned of what God can do with an uneducated coal miner I hope you discovered that Russell Anderson was not just a great friend to Jack Hyles, the brother he never had. He was also a great Christian—an outstanding and rare kind of a Christian—and he is a mover and a shaker in the greatest soul-winning works being done in our country and around the world.

Dr. Anderson has given away \$40,000,000 to the Lord's work in his lifetime, a number which continues to grow. In March of 2003, while this book was being written, Dr. Anderson sold a condominium. He paid \$165,000 for it, and he sold it for \$570,000. Before he had signed the closing of the sale, he had already given away the entire amount.

In 1999 Dr. Anderson had 457 houses and condominiums paid for when he went to the Lord in prayer and said, "For years I have asked you to show the world what you can do through an uneducated coal miner and you have done that, now I want to give it all back to you and if you will have churches to contact me about speaking, I want to spend the rest of my life traveling around and bragging on what a Great God you are and I will pay my expenses every where I go." Though Dr. Anderson's family will be cared for financially, his goal is to die just when he has given away his last penny to the Lord's work.

EPILOGUE

Dr. Anderson wanted this book written as a way of teaching others how to get God's blessing on their life in the matter of giving and obeying God's Word from Malachi 3:8-10. Hopefully, each reader, while reading this biography, has already learned the secret.

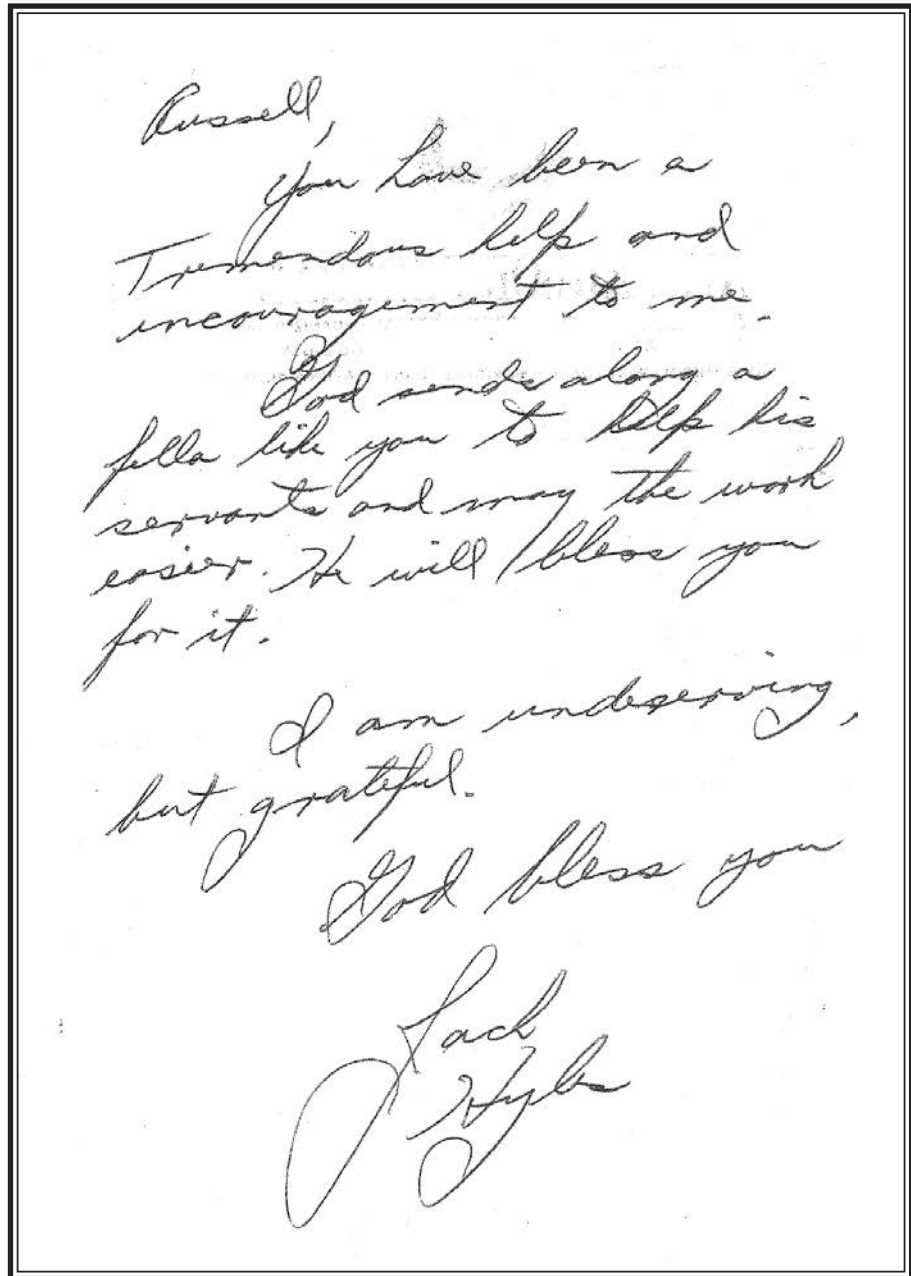
When speaking at seminars, Dr. Anderson gives these points on being a successful millionaire.

1. Walk with God.
2. Work hard.
3. Give yourself away. (Don't keep what the Lord gives you.)
4. Do right by people. Go above and beyond for people in your work.
5. GIVE!

This sums up not only how to be and stay a successful millionaire, but it also summarizes the life of Dr. Russell Anderson. Dr. Anderson truly has traveled all the way from the coal mines to the gold mines. Yet, the gold he has gathered on earth, he has given away. He is laying up treasures in Heaven. Surely he has gold mines in Heaven that await his arrival.

Dr. Anderson has said that on his tombstone he would like the following words: **the man who wanted to please God.** Dr. Anderson has changed his mind and now on his tombstone he wants this put: **Forgiven: I Serve a Great God!** These words could be written truthfully.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES



A
handwritten
note from
Jack Hyles to
his dear
friend

APPENDIXES

Appendixes

Appendix A

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of three daughters.
They have five grandchildren.

Tomi Sue Anderson Stuart	July 27, 1960
Alisa Dawn Stuart	September 17, 1982
James Stuart	December 31, 1986
Victoria Stuart	April 3, 1996
Kelly Lynn Anderson Vacendak	
Nicole Lynn Vacendak	December 27, 1986
Lauren Vacendak	June 6, 1991
Lisa Kay Anderson	March 14, 1967

Appendix B

A Word from Dr. Bob Gray

Thirty years ago, I was introduced to the greatest generation of fundamental leaders America has ever known and probably will ever know. It was an amazing era with Dr. B. R. Lakin, Dr. Dallas Billington, Dr. Ford Porter, Dr. Bill Rice, Dr. John Rawlings, Dr. Harold Henneger, Dr. Curtis Hutson, Dr. G. B. Vick, Dr. Bill Dowell, Evangelist Lester Roloff, Dr. Lee Roberson, and Dr. Tom Malone. I could go on and on listing the greatest collection of leaders fundamentalism has enjoyed in its history.

In my opinion, six of these men not only held the status of being great leaders, but they also had a profound impact on a movement that will never die, in spite of their passing away. These men are Dr. Jack Hyles, Dr. John R. Rice, Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. Tom Malone, Evangelist Lester Roloff, and layman, Dr. Russell Anderson. These men were and are as unique as the day is long. They each, in their own way, have not only made history, but continue to make history. It is one thing to leave a legacy, but it is an entirely different accomplishment to continue to influence the generations to come. Such is the heritage of these great leaders.

It is easy to spot greatness, but it is difficult to explain greatness. Dr. Jack Hyles was the most complete man of God I have ever met. Dr. John R.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Rice was the most intellectual and methodical man of God I have ever met. Dr. Lee Roberson was the most organized man I have ever met. Evangelist Lester Roloff's life of faith was unique, to say the least. Dr. Tom Malone is the master pulpiteer. I doubt if there will ever be another like any of these men again.

Among them, in the background, was a layman who loves the souls of men and soaked up in detail what these men taught. Dr. Russell Anderson began to employ the principles taught by these men. He traveled to hear them preach. He listened intently to their every word. He began to spend early hours with God. He began to win souls on a weekly basis. In essence, he became the symbol of the layman in the pews of America's fundamental Baptist churches. He became a leader of laymen, while these other giants were leading other men of God onto higher ground for God.

Over 30 years ago, this man began to use Bible principles in his business. God began to bless, and soon this layman found himself not only with thousands of personal converts, but also with millions of dollars in annual business profits. He had given his all to God, and God had proven himself to Russell Anderson.

This coal miner from Kentucky accomplished what few in history have ever accomplished.

Through the years, Dr. Anderson has traveled to nearly every state in the union to give his testimony and to challenge laymen to live the Spirit-filled life and to win souls to Christ. He has set the example and continues to set the example. I have had the wonderful privilege to share the same platform with him for the past five years. We have spoken all over this nation together in the Baptist Conferences on Soul Winning. I have watched him as he has won souls and, with great care, has given his heart to laymen, in hopes of raising up a new generation of laymen who will help

their pastors do great things for God.

I have known Dr. Anderson for these 30 years and observed his life at a distance. I must say I was not disappointed when, out of necessity, we became close in the work of God. He is a layman who loves God, loves God's Word, loves God's men, and loves the souls of men like few I have ever met in my life.

No man in history has given as much money to the work of God as Dr. Russell Anderson has. The truth is that millions of souls will be in Heaven because of his financial generosity. However, none of this could have happened if Russell Anderson hadn't "given God the man in the pants that held his billfold." May I say, "Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for loving God like few men have ever loved Him."

In the past 23 years, the dear church I pastor, the Longview Baptist Temple of Longview, Texas, has won 903,000 souls to Christ. Our church has grown from a weekly low of 159 to over 4,000. We have been able to baptize between 8,000 and 10,000 converts a year for the past decade. We have given 6.3 million dollars to missions in these 23 years. Our own college, Texas Baptist College, has trained 250 couples who are serving the Lord around the world. I am a graduate and a product of Hyles-Anderson College, and all that I have been able to do, humanly speaking, I owe to Dr. Jack Hyles and Dr. Russell Anderson. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for not only being my friend and a friend to fundamentalism, but also for being God's friend.

– Pastor Bob Gray
Longview Baptist Temple
Longview, Texas

Appendix C

Things a Millionaire Can't Afford

(A sermon by Dr. Russell Anderson preached at the Bill Rice Ranch)

Thank you, Dr. Bill. It is a pleasure to be here this morning. First, let's pray. "Our Father in Heaven, thank You for the opportunity that is ours after we come to know Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. And then, Lord, if there be one here this morning who does not know Jesus Christ, we pray, Father, before this hour is over, that he will put his faith and trust in Him. Then Lord, I pray You would help me to say something this morning that would challenge these young men—our leaders of the future, our preachers, our pastors, our evangelists. May this morning some young man see the benefit and the need of surrendering and putting his life on the altar for service. We ask Thy blessings now upon this service and the rest of this day. In Jesus' name, amen."

Now first of all, I would like to establish this morning, young men, that I used to work for 50 cents a day. I didn't have any rich relatives who left me any money, but I finally got into big money. My dad got me a mule! I

used to plow hillsides in Kentucky for \$2.00 a day. That's when I got into the big money—plowing with the mule for \$2.00 a day.

I didn't know much about the Rapture of the church back then. I was no older and not as large as some of you boys here today. But if I had known much about the Rapture, I would have thought the Rapture was taking place when I was plowing with that mule. Sometimes a plow would get caught in one of those roots, and it would jump up and hit me in the stomach. But a fellow can stand that when he is making so much money!

I'm a millionaire now, but I wasn't one then. I worked on the hills cutting timber, working in sawmills and mines. I worked in coal mines for five years, maybe six. And I've run a restaurant.

And today, I own four or five businesses. I own a lot of apartments—nearing 400. I build houses. I own a trucking company. I have a supply company. And then, I manage my own apartments. So, I am busy, but yet I spend, on the average, five nights a week out on God's work. Monday and Tuesday night this week I was out knocking on doors. Last night I was in Hammond, Indiana, near Chicago in the Lord's work. Why? Because I know where to find butter for my bread. I know where to find happiness. A lot of people think happiness lies in money, but it doesn't. Let me tell you what happened to several millionaires.

Hemingway was a swashbuckling adventurer who became one of the four greatest novelists America has ever produced. He was wined and dined by the great of this earth. He gained fame, fortune, and popularity. He lived it up. But in spite of all of this success, Hemingway killed himself in his home in the far West. He put the twin barrels of a double-barreled shotgun to his head and blew out his brains.

Eastman, of Eastman Kodak Company, committed suicide. This man had more millions of dollars than he knew what to do with. He had won

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

every award for photography achievement, and yet, he put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger.

Forrestal, the famous Secretary of the Navy under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, jumped from a window high above the streets to his doom.

The man who played Superman on the television serials became rich and famous, but he killed himself.

Marilyn Monroe reached the top of movie stardom. She was frustrated, disillusioned, and heartbroken. And when she found that worldwide fame and millions of dollars could not satisfy her heart, she committed suicide.

Young men, money isn't everything! I would like to speak to you on the subject, "Things That a Millionaire Cannot Afford." A lot of you boys this morning maybe would like to have a sports car, a new motorbike, a new Honda, or a Cadillac, or an airplane, or anything like that; but you say, "I can't afford a Honda or a Cadillac or an airplane or anything like that." There are things no man, no matter how much money he has, can afford.

Listen, and I will tell you the things that a millionaire cannot afford. Matthew 16: 21-26 says, *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

A Millionaire Cannot Afford to Lose His Soul.

As a millionaire, I cannot afford to try to gain the world and lose my soul. “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” I am talking to some of you young men who do not know for sure if you died right now that you would go to Heaven. Listen, you would like to make a million dollars; you would like to become a millionaire. But being saved is more important than that.

God loved you so much that He let Jesus die on the cross for your sin. By the way, do you know how many people were on the earth when God promised a Saviour for your sins? After Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis, chapter 3, there were only two people. So God loved you and me that much. He didn’t want you and me to go to Hell.

Therefore, as a businessman, I cannot afford to try to gain the whole world and lose my soul.

HE COULDN’T SIGN HIS NAME

I heard the story once of a man who went down to apply for a job as a custodian at the Baptist church. He didn’t have much of an education. And so the pastor said, “You’re hired. Just sign your name right here.” The guy had big muscles and was a strong-looking man. And the man said, “Pastor, I can’t sign my name. I never learned to write.”

The pastor said, “You can’t be a custodian here at this job. You can’t be a janitor here at this church if you can’t sign your name.”

So he felt bad, and he went outside and he thought, “Now how can I make some money? How can I make a living?” He felt in his pocket, and he had a dime. He said, “I know what I can do. I can buy two apples for a nickel a piece,

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

and I will go down by the beach and sell them for a dime each.” He did that, and then he came back and bought four apples, took those down to the beach, sold them, and doubled his money. He kept doing this and doubling his money until he got enough money to buy a little corner and put a fruit stand on it. This one fruit stand became two, became three, four, and five.

The man became rich and famous. He accumulated a million dollars. He couldn’t sign his name, but he could count. So he went to the bank one day, and he told the lady at the bank, “I have a million dollars in this sack, and I want to deposit it in the bank.” She got all excited and ran to see the president of the bank and said, “I’ve got a man out here who has a million dollars he wants to put into your bank.”

The bank president said, “Well, rush him on into my office. We want customers like that. Large depositors.” So the customer was brought into his office. The bank president said, “Count it out.”

The man began to count it out, and sure enough, he had a big stack of money; he had a million dollars. The president said, “We sure are glad to have you as a customer of this bank. I’ll tell you what to do, you just sign your name right here.”

The man said, “I can’t sign my name. I never learned to write.”

The president of the bank said, “What? You have a million dollars, and you can’t sign your name? Where would you be if you could sign your name?”

He said, “Custodian down at First Baptist Church.”

So some of you may think, “What could I do if I had a million dollars.” Well, one thing you might do is go to Hell! You might be worse off.

Now listen, we know that Jesus Christ made this world and made everything that is in it. That is what the Bible says in John, chapters 1 and 17.

As Jesus was talking to the Father, He said, “Now I’ve done what You told Me to do. And now glorify thy Son with the glory Ye had with me before the beginning of the world.” And yet, after Jesus has made the world and all these mountains that contain the minerals, the coal, the gold, the silver, the oil in the ground, and all the wealth it contains, Jesus says, “Don’t place too much value upon this world.”

What would one of you young men gain if you were to gain the whole world and yet lose your soul? It would be a bad investment, a bad trade, a bad bargain.

JESUS WOULD NOT TRADE

Young men, some things are more important than this world. Jesus knew this. Matthew chapter four tells how Jesus was tempted of the Devil. Satan wanted Jesus to turn stones into bread, but although Jesus was hungry, He refused. Then the Devil wanted Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple, and again Jesus refused.

Notice verses eight through eleven: *“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”*

“All these things”—the entire world—“will I give thee,” the devil said. But Jesus would not trade. Although Jesus knew better than anyone how wonderful this earth is, He said, “Be gone, Satan!”

Some things are worth more than this world. Some things are more important than riches.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

RICH, BUT FOOLISH

Luke 12 tells of a man who had time to get rich but never had time to get right with God. Notice the sixteenth verse, *“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?”*

Now this man worked hard. There is nothing wrong with this man working hard. And by the way, I would just like to say this, young men, expect to work for what you get. When I was your age, I was out making money. Don't run to Dad and Mother all of the time and stick out that paw. Be figuring how to get you a paper route. Be figuring out how to work.

My little girls work. My children, 11 and 12 years old, are out at my apartments. They have worked most of the summer. I pay them \$1.00 an hour. My wife packs them a lunch, and I have a Christian school teacher who works for me who picks them up at 9:00 each morning, and they go over to my apartments and work all day long sweeping out apartments and burning the trash. Girls! They have about \$175 earned now and will probably have \$200 before school starts. They will come to camp next week.

When they start to school, I am going to sit down and write each one of them a check for whatever time they have coming. They keep their own time. Then I am going to take them to the bank and start a bank account for them. I am going to give each one of them a checkbook. Remember, they are just 11 or 12 years old now. They will give ten percent to the Lord's work because I already taught them to give ten cents out of every dollar to the Lord's work. They will each have about \$170 left. Then during the school year, if they want some ice cream or pop or any other treat, they can just write a check. You know why? Because they worked for it!

And so you young men ought to expect to work. You should be looking

for some job to do. Learn to work while you are young. I am sure this rich man in Luke 12 did. He was foolish but not about working. Most rich men are men who learned to work while they were young.

The rich man was not wrong to work. Here was his mistake: He said, “*I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*”

He made a mistake—he had no room in his life for Jesus. He never recognized God in his life. It would be utterly foolish to get your eyes on money and forget God. Don’t trade Jesus for the world. Don’t lose your soul for money.

MONEY IS NOT FIRST WITH ME

You fellows may think, “Russ is a millionaire. Money must be the most important thing in the world to him.”

I want to tell you something. The Bible says, “*For the love of money is the root of all evil.*” Notice that word, “love.” There is nothing fundamentally wrong with a Christian’s being rich. Abraham and David and Job were rich. It is the “love” or greed of money that is wrong.

Right now, I give 55 percent of everything I earn to the Lord. If I were greedy, I wouldn’t give that much. I probably wouldn’t even tithe.

The more money I make, the more I have for the Lord’s work.

I Cannot Afford to Turn Down the Gift of Salvation.

I cannot afford to turn down a good gift. If someone came in right now and wanted to give you a large, nice, expensive gift, you would accept it. I

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

cannot afford to turn down the gift of salvation. Ephesians 2:8, which is imprinted on my paychecks, says, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*” Now therefore, if you are here this morning and you are not saved, you would be foolish to go out from this service today and accept a gift of a million dollars and turn down the gift of salvation. I cannot afford to turn it down.

YOU SHOULD NOT WAIT ANOTHER MINUTE BEFORE GETTING SAVED

If some of you are not saved, I sat back there where you sit right now. I sat there for months. I wanted to get saved, and I kept waiting for a feeling. I felt sure it would hit me and knock me down the aisle. You see, I wanted something right spooky to draw me like a magnet.

But the Bible makes it plain it is not a feeling that saves. The minute that you are willing to bow your head and pray to God, you are praying in faith. And God will save you. The Bible says, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves.*”

But one night I drove my car from the church and got a few blocks from the church, and it seemed like the Holy Spirit said, “You’d better do it tonight. You’d better do it tonight.” Oh, the Holy Spirit had been convicting me and drawing me, trying to get me to Christ for months. And that night I turned my car and went back to my pastor. I said, “I want to be saved.” And I knelt in his office, and I told Jesus Christ I was a sinner, and I wanted to have forgiveness of my sins. And then He forgave me. I was 28 years old.

Young men, let me tell you the importance of surrendering your heart and life to God while you are young, while God can use you. For 28 years, I committed practically every sin. You name it, I committed it.

Do you know what the Devil has for you? He has a ruined life and a damned soul! And just one night in the wrong company is all it takes.

I was in a car wreck one night. I was with the wrong crowd. We were drinking—even had beer in the car. The car turned over on its side and scooted right into a high-tension pole. I do not know how any of us got out alive. You should have seen the car. It would have cut out my eye, but I threw up my hand, and instead of losing my eye, I almost had my little finger cut off. I had 27 stitches. In just one night, I cut my face, my eye, and my hand; that accident left scars on my body and on my life.

If only someone had told me of Christ when I was your age. If I could have heard Dr. Bill Rice or Dr. Paul Levin or Dr. Tom Malone when I was in my teens! I would give a million dollars today if I could erase those first 28 years—and all those sins I committed.

Do you know what the Devil uses against me most today, young men? It is the sins that I committed the first 28 years of my life. That's how I know what the Devil has for you. The Devil would love to tear you up. The Devil would love right now to pull you young men into sin. And some of you he has. Maybe the Holy Spirit has revealed to you the sin that you have been committing, and you won't walk the aisle. You haven't yet claimed Christ.

A millionaire simply cannot afford to refuse the gift of salvation.

I Cannot Afford to Rob God.

I next thing I cannot afford to do is I cannot afford not to tithe. I cannot afford not to give at least one dime out of every dollar I make.

You see, in 1960 I was broke. I had been saved six months. A builder went broke and broke me. Young men, I could have turned my back on

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

God. I could have said, “Now what is the use in serving God? I had more money when I was unsaved.” After being saved just six months, I was \$2,000 in debt; and I was giving ten percent of my income to the Lord’s work. I knew it was right to tithe. Even before I was saved, I began to give ten percent. I just knew it was right.

As I already mentioned, in 1960 I was broke. A little over seven years later, I was a millionaire! You know how I did it? I took God at His promise. I cannot afford not to tithe and claim God’s promises because in Luke 6:38 it tells us exactly how we are to give. Listen, we believe and claim John 3:16. The same Bible says, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” In other words, God says, “You can’t ‘outgive’ Me. The more you give to Me, the more I’ll give back to you.” The same principle is given in II Corinthians 9:6, “...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

DOLLARS FOR DIMES

(At this point in his sermon, Dr. Anderson took a large roll of bills and a few coins from his pocket. He held up the money for the teenagers to see.)

Now let me show you, young men, how I became a millionaire. There are several reasons, but one of them is this. As I mentioned earlier, I was broke in 1960. But God said to me, “Look, I’ll give you a dollar if you will give Me a dime.” That sounds to me like a pretty good deal, doesn’t it? Now, we have already established that Jesus made all the earth and everything that is in it, right? Jesus made everything that is in the world. It’s His. Yet, when He lets us make money, He wants us to love and trust Him enough to tithe.

Let me show you something. God said, “Sow bountifully—be generous with Me, and I’ll give bountifully to you.”

I said, “Okay, I’ll give you a dime.” (*Dr. Anderson put a dime on the pulpit.*)

God said, “I’m going to give you a dollar.” (*He put a dollar on the pulpit.*)

I asked, “Lord, do You want to trade like that again?”

“Yes,” He answered.

“All right,” I said, “here’s You a dime.”

God said, “All right, here’s you a dollar.” (*Dr. Anderson again placed a dime and a dollar on the pulpit.*)

How many of you young men would trade a dime for a dollar? That is what the Lord said, isn’t it? Sow bountifully and reap bountifully.

I thought about that promise—he that soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. The Bible says with the same measure that you give to God, it shall be measured to you again. God said that the more you give, the more he will give.

So I said, “Now, Lord, listen, let me give You two dimes out of every dollar. It seems like I am getting the best end.” And so there was a time in my life when I gave two dimes out of every dollar, and the Lord said, “All right, let Me give you more than one dollar. You can’t ‘outgive’ Me.”

So I said, “Look, I am getting the best end of this. I am going to keep this up! Lord, look, seems like I am getting the best end of the deal. You sure You want to keep on trading with me?”

God said, “Yes, I do.”

I said, “All right.” There was a time in my life when I went to three dimes.

And the Lord said, “All right. I’m going to give you more than ones. Let me give you some tens and twenties.” Boy, look who is getting the best end

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

of this deal? Do you believe the Bible? Isn't that what God said? Didn't God say, "...*he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*"

Let me clarify something: God did not say, "Everyone who tithes will become a millionaire." God did not promise that every tither will become rich. But He did promise that you would make more than you would otherwise, or you will have more than you otherwise would have.

A MILLIONAIRE!

It was when I was giving 30 percent of every dollar I made to God's work that my bookkeeper handed me a financial statement saying I was worth more than a million dollars. Now, young men, listen, I went around for two or three days, and I couldn't understand it. I knew my past. I knew what I was before God saved me. I reviewed myself.

I cheated death a dozen times. I had been shot at. I had been in car wrecks. And I began to think. What if I had been killed in the coal mines? I ran the machines and the motors. I've had the rocks and the mountains almost cave in on me. I carry scars today where the rocks hit me. I've had dynamite go off and hit my face just like you take a knife and cut it all to pieces. If I had been killed at a time like that, my soul would be in Hell.

I sat down and I wrote God a letter, and I thanked Him for His mercy during the first 28 years of my life. I still have that letter. I said, "I don't understand about this million dollars. But, God, if it is going to interfere with my service to You, take it away. God, don't give me anymore."

Fellows, I realized long ago that I don't want anything that will interfere with my service to God. If it is money, I pray that God will take it. I asked God then not to bless me any more. I said, "God, take it, take it."

But, praise the Lord, the money is still there. I was giving 30 percent—three dimes. Then I began to give more. God said, "All right. You

can't 'outgive' Me. Here are some more twenties."

Listen, young men, there came a time in my life when I went to 50 percent—one, . . . two, . . . three, . . . four, . . . five dimes. That is 50 percent of every dollar I made. And when I did that, God said, "Listen, Russ, it takes a long time to count those one dollar bills. And it takes a long time to count tens and twenties. Here, let Me give you a few hundreds!" (*Dr. Anderson began putting hundred dollar bills on the pulpit!*)

Young men, I used to work for 50 cents a day. And now, can you see why I cannot afford not to serve Jesus Christ? Can you understand? I would be foolish. I cannot afford not to tithe! I would be stupid. I would be foolish. You should give at least ten percent and more as you can.

I HAVE PROVED GOD!

The Bible says, "*he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully.*" I have personally proved the truth of that Scripture. I came to the Bill Rice Ranch and saw more people getting saved here than in 95 percent of the churches in the United States. God burdened my heart to help. After all, I am a businessman and believe in investing my money where I will get dividends.

I own a lot of real estate. In fact, I am the twelfth largest taxpayer in Ypsilanti, Michigan, my hometown. But I invest my money where I get the best returns—where the most souls are saved. I have given thousands to the Bill Rice Ranch. The first large gift I ever gave the Lord was \$5,000, and it was to the ranch. I was worth about \$100,000 then. I told my wife, "I think God will bless us so much this will look small." A few days later, I bid on a job, got it, and in less than 90 days made \$11,500! I have proved God over and over, and I know I cannot afford not to tithe.

I Cannot Afford Not to Let My Light Shine.

Another reason why I believe God made me a millionaire is this. In some small way, I cannot afford not to let my light shine. The Bible makes it very plain in Matthew 5:14, “*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*” Matthew 5:16 says, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”

Now the only way, young men, that other people get to know the Lord Jesus Christ is through you and me who are saved. Now therefore, if you and I are not living a separated life, we are not letting our lights shine before the world. If you are not studying your lessons in school, and if you are not the best student you can be, you are not letting your light shine.

When you get a job, if you are not one of the best workers on the job, you are not letting your light shine. You steal, actually steal, when you get a job and a man pays you for eight hours; and you goof off for 30 minutes. You have actually stolen 30 minutes from that employer. You should be the best workers on the job. You should let your light shine that way.

I cannot afford not to let my light shine. Some people think, “Well, now if I take a stand in business, I will lose some contracts.” Listen, I deal with businessmen all the time. I deal with crooks; some men are actually crooks. I also deal with some honest people. I deal with some Jewish people. I deal with Gentile people. I want my light to shine before all of them.

A GOOD ATTITUDE

Listen, we need to have the right attitude, young men. Psalm 1 tells us that we ought to have a right attitude. “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in*

the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” Don’t criticize. I think that the Christian who is murmuring and complaining and criticizing is not likely to be used of God today. I believe there will be a lot of people in Hell because of a lot of back-slidden, critical Christians. Young men, you develop a wrong attitude when you begin to criticize.

BE TRUE TO PRINCIPLE

I was negotiating a large \$133,000 contract. I finished one contract for this builder and was negotiating on another contract for \$133,000. They had a party for all of the officials, the inspectors, and the civic leaders. They had beer and cocktails at the party. I was told that I had to donate \$25 of my money to help pay for the drinks. Do you know what I told them? I told them I would not do it. I said, “My money is not going to buy booze for any person or any party. I am a Christian, and I have to face God. I am not going to do it.”

A lot of businessmen might say, “What is \$25? Don’t make them angry; you will lose the contract.”

I have never been to college. I have never had any business training except what I have learned since I was saved. But I read my Bible and find God’s principles in it. The Bible says, “*Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink....*” (Habakkuk 2:15)

I refused to give the \$25. You know who got the contract and performed the work? I still got the contract! God put me first. Listen, young men; I made at least eight or ten thousand dollars on that one contract. I believe if I had given that \$25 for booze, God would have taken that contract away from me. It pays to stand by your Bible convictions.

I Cannot Afford to Criticize My Pastor.

As a millionaire, I cannot afford to criticize my pastor. Young men, if you haven't heard it, you are going to hear it. Let me tell you that you are going to hear some people who will criticize your pastor in your presence. Our pastors carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. Hebrews 13:17 tells us that our pastors have to answer to God some day for us. If you are a member of a church, do you know that your pastor has to answer to God for you? Hebrews 13:17 says, "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*"

They must give an account for us. They have much responsibility. Therefore, I cannot afford to criticize my pastor. Do you know that God punished the children of Israel more for murmuring and complaining than He did for any other sin? That is why an evil spirit or a critical heart is so wrong.

Listen, a time came when the children of Israel were being led out of Egypt, and they were criticizing God and Moses. Numbers 21:5 says, "*And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.*"

They said, "Look, we have been eating this manna long enough." And they began to complain and gripe against Moses, their leader. And do you know what happened? The Bible says, "*And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*" Because of the complaining, the snakes bit them; and a lot of them died.

Why? It is a serious thing to criticize your leader. Young men, as a millionaire, I would be a fool to criticize my pastor.

Perhaps, young man, other boys in your dormitory look to you as a leader. Now maybe this week Dr. Levin or Dr. Malone has said something you do not like, and it is the very thing that those boys need. Yet, you get off and criticize them and that stops your friends from listening.

You will answer to God for it! You could die before tonight is over. Being critical is so serious. A lot of the Israelites died for their murmuring and being critical. Do you know what they said when they repented? *“Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD.”*

Ah, they complained against Moses and someone else—God! They confessed their sin. Therefore, you and I would be unwise and foolish to criticize our leaders—our pastors. I cannot afford to criticize mine. And I do not want anyone else to criticize my pastor.

So, young men, listen. Let this sink deep, right now. Do not develop a critical attitude! Even a millionaire cannot afford to have a critical attitude.

I Cannot Afford Not to Pay My Debts.

As a businessman, I cannot afford not to pay my debts. Young men, listen! It is wrong before the eyes of God when you get jobs, get married, and then you want everything that it took years for your mom and daddy to get. You want carpet. You want color television. You want a new car. Soon you get these items on payments and do not know how you are going to pay for them. That is wrong.

I teach my girls. I sit them down, and I teach them. I say, “If a bill is due

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

on the first, when should you pay it?”

They tell me, “The first.”

I ask, “How about the second?”

“No!”

I say, “Supposing you let it go until the second or the third. What are you?”

They say, “We’re liars. We promised to pay on the first.”

I then say, “All right. Supposing some time you get sick and can’t work. What should you do?”

“Go to the man and tell him that you will be late and make some arrangements with him.”

“When should you go? After it is due or before?”

“Go before.”

That is exactly right! Listen! I make \$36,000 a year just because I pay my bills promptly. Salesmen bring the best deals to me. They know that Russell Anderson pays his bills. They know I never lost a discount in 15 years. I make thousands of dollars just sitting in my office every day.

I Cannot Afford Not to Rear My Children for Christ.

The next thing I cannot afford is not to rear my children for Christ. Breaking this point down, I cannot afford to let my child date an unsaved boy. We have rules for this. They have heard it—you can never have **one** date with an unsaved boy. You know why people get married? They marry because they have the first date. If you never have the **first** date, there is not much danger of getting married.

Another thing my daughters know is this, young men. No boy can ever come and take out one of my girls who doesn't have his hair cut properly. I question whether a boy is actually a boy if he has long hair! I want husbands for my girls—not rebels against God.

You may want to argue with me on this point. But don't argue with me, argue with God. God said it is a shame for a man to have long hair. If you don't like what I am saying, get alone with God and discuss it with Him. I cannot afford to let a boy come to my house who has long hair and wants to live like the world even if he claims to be a Christian. I want my children to be used of God. I want them to be wives of whom a preacher or any Christian would be proud. (I hope they marry preachers.)

I am not looking for some man with a lot of money to marry my girls. Do you know the kind I want for my girls? I want a boy who works for 50 cents a day, \$2 a day, has a paper route, has surrendered his life at the Bill Rice Ranch, has worked his way through college and become a preacher—without ever having two cents to his name and wearing shirts that were worn out. That's the kind of boy I want for my girls—a boy with his heart on the altar.

BE SAVED NOW

A young Christian boy lay dying. He asked, "Mama, does it hurt to die?"

Mama said, "Well, I'll explain it to you this way. Many nights while you were sick, you went to sleep in Daddy's and my bed. But you woke up in your bed. After you went to sleep, Daddy took you in his strong arms and carried you to your bed." She added, "When you die, there are strong arms waiting to carry you to Heaven."

The little boy said, "I see."

That night the boy went to sleep in his bed. He died and woke in the

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

arms of Jesus. Young man, if you died right now, do you know you would go to Heaven?"

You can know 100% for sure, without a doubt, that you can go to Heaven. You need to know the following:

- **Realize there is none good.** Romans 3:10 says, "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*"
- **See yourself as a sinner.** Romans 3:23 says, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"
- **Recognize where sin came from.** Romans 5:12 says, "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*"
- **Notice God's price on sin.** Romans 6:23 says, "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"
- **Realize that Christ died for you.** Romans 5:8 says, "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"
- **Take God at His Word.** Romans 10:13 says, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"
- **Claim God's promise for your salvation.** Romans 10:9-11 says, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*"

Now pray and confess that you are a sinner. Ask God to save you and receive Christ as your personal Saviour.

Appendix D

Newspaper Announcements

Many newspapers have featured Dr. Anderson in a variety of ways. The following articles are just a sampling of the many that could have been chosen:

Coal Miner's Son Struck It Rich

by George L. Moore, Principal of McDowell High School

The Olive Hill Times, Kentucky

One of the most pleasant and rewarding experiences that can come to a school principal is to see one of his students become an outstanding success. For the past few months, I have been receiving a religious magazine called *The Sword of the Lord*. It is unique in one respect; practically all the contributors of articles to the magazine hold D.D. degrees.

It was a pleasant surprise to see the photograph of one of my favorite high school students appear on the front page. He had written a lengthy and intelligent article for the magazine called, "What Is a Layman Going to Do with a Doctor's Degree?" He proceeded to tell what he was doing and

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

what he was going to do with the D.D. he had recently received. His name is Russell Anderson, but all the school children called him "Cotton." Cotton was the type of boy who makes a principal's job a lot easier to perform. He is also the type you like to remember and hear from.

I have mentioned in many previous articles about the sons and daughters of Appalachia, leaving their mountain homes to seek greener pastures. Russell Anderson was in this group. After he graduated from McDowell High School, he migrated to Michigan and began work as a day laborer for a drywalling firm. He saved his money, and in time, went into business for himself. He made rapid advances in the business world and today owns four different companies. Last year his business grossed over five million dollars. He manages 300 apartments and has 100 new apartments under construction. This is not bad for a sawdust boy from Doug Hays' sawmill from the head of Turkey Creek.

Although he has prospered beyond his wildest dreams in the world of business, he does not consider this his greatest achievement. His financial success is more or less a sideline with him. He is perhaps the most outstanding lay preacher in the United States. One week he will be preaching in a church in California, the next week in New York. He calls himself a soul winner, and I agree. He devotes two nights each week to this work. He goes from house to house, knocking on doors and talking with people. He persuades them to turn from a life of sin and to accept Jesus as their Saviour. His article in the magazine would indicate that he is quite successful. He visits churches all over the United States to preach the Gospel. He is a dedicated worker who gives his time and energy without any thought of compensation for himself. His only compensation is the satisfaction that he derives from the knowledge that he is performing a needed service for his fellow man.

Disciples Honor Prominent Minister in Hometown

*written by Leo Logan, staff writer
Italy, Ellis County, Texas
August 30, 1974*

Hundreds of people, including members of the Hammond, Indiana, First Baptist Church, gathered in Italy, Tuesday, August 27, to honor Dr. Jack Hyles, pastor of the Hammond church, said to be the world's largest congregation. A monument in honor of Dr. Hyles, who was born in Italy nearly 48 years ago, was erected east of the city, and dedication ceremonies were held in commemoration of the event.

Dr. Hyles, who holds two honorary doctorate degrees from Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, and Midwestern Baptist College, Pontiac, Michigan, has served the Indiana church for 15 years, seeing the membership grow to almost 27,000 members. Prior to that time, he was pastor of churches in Bogota, Marshall, and Garland, Texas.

The touching ceremony Tuesday was a surprise to Dr. Hyles and was attended by many prominent people from many parts of the country. Among the speakers was Dr. Lester Roloff, a well-known Texas preacher. Also staff members from Dr. Hyles' church, and the chairman of the board of deacons from the Indiana church. Texas Governor Dolph Friscoe sent a letter of congratulations as did Rev. John R. Rice.

Sifting a handful of Italy soil, Dr. Hyles told the crowd, "The hardest thing I ever had to do was to leave this."

The six-foot monument, encasing on each side four Scriptures, is of

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

granite and was a gift of multimillionaire Russell Anderson, Ypsilanti, Michigan, a well-known building contractor and close personal friend of the preacher. Mr. Anderson also was one of the featured speakers at the event.

The Hammond First Baptist Church is said to be the world's largest, with a membership of 27,000. Sunday school enrollment has reached as many as 23,000 on one Sunday, and five different Sunday schools are being operated by the church. Seven associate ministers serve on the staff of the church. A bus force of 207 vehicles carries hundreds to and from services.

Dr. Lester Roloff, in his address, called Dr. Hyles a "major prophet" of our times, and equally high compliments were paid the preacher by the various speakers at the monumental occasion.

Dr. Hyles grew up in the Dallas area and has many close kin still living in the Italy area. "I'm glad to be from Italy, Texas," Dr. Jack Hyles told followers at the dedication of the monument in his honor, noting his birthplace Tuesday.

Builder Says Times, Not People Change

The Floyd County Times

September 30, 1992

Prestonburg, Kentucky

Russell Anderson learned about hard work in the coal fields of Kentucky where he was born. When he moved to Michigan, he applied that hard work to the construction industry to become one of the largest property owners in Michigan.

After he graduated from McDowell High School in 1950, Anderson became a miner, but coal work was sporadic. “It [coal mining] is good for a while, and then [down] for two or three months at a time,” said Anderson. “That’s the history of it.”

Anderson liked being a miner, but opportunity knocked in Michigan; and when he answered, he opened the doors to his future. When friends traveled to Michigan to do some construction work, Anderson went with them. In Michigan, he learned to finish sheetrock (drywall), and two years later, he established his own construction business. In those days, according to Anderson, there was a demand for housing in Michigan, and the construction business was booming.

In 1963, Anderson decided to build ten apartments, pay them off over the years, and then use the rent income as a nest egg for his retirement. The apartments were rented before he finished building them, so he built five more, then 15, and soon he was the owner of 60 apartments. That was just the beginning. Anderson now owns approximately 430 apartments and homes. He has \$5 million worth of condominiums, and his personal condo in Hawaii, where he lives from December to April, is valued at \$3 million.

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

Anderson has no plans for retirement and puts in 12-to-14-hour days. He has also tried his hand at other business ventures, including trucking, building supplies, and health food stores.

He also builds churches, so far about 15-20 throughout the world, including two in Korea. He donates these churches to God, Whom he gives credit for his success. He gives 50 percent of his income to charity, 40 percent to Uncle Sam, and the rest of it goes to his wife to “get her hair done.”

Religion plays a major role in Anderson’s life. A layman minister, he regularly travels throughout the world—Jamaica, China, and the Philippines—to deliver the message of God’s grace.

Anderson became a born-again Christian on September 13, 1959. The first time he heard the Gospel of salvation through grace was in Sunday school in 1959, and Anderson opened his heart.

He reads the Bible through about three times a year and begins each day by quoting Psalm 32:8, “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye,*” and says a prayer for God’s guidance. He is co-founder of the college, Hyles-Anderson College, in Crown Point, Indiana. Currently, 3,500 students are enrolled, and that number is growing, though guidelines for students are strict. Boys are required to wear ties at dinner and must seat girls at the table.

“We’re stricter than Alice Lloyd [College] used to be,” said Anderson. “We put character in them.”

Anderson’s Kentucky roots still pull him back to Eastern Kentucky from time to time, and he recently attended his class reunion at McDowell. While there, he donated \$7,000 to the new Left Beaver High School library. He also employs workers from Kentucky. “You almost have to be from Kentucky to work for me,” Anderson said.

At home in Michigan, when he spots a car with a Kentucky license

plate, he follows it and strikes up a conversation with the occupants. He's a supporting member of the Kentuckians of Michigan, who meet annually at a park there.

Anderson is proud of his roots; he often wears sweatshirts proclaiming he's a member of the Kentuckians of Michigan. "There isn't any group of people who can come up to Kentuckians," he said.



Russell Anderson of Ypsilanti, Michigan, is a native Floyd Countain. Anderson left the coal fields of Kentucky to make his fortune in Michigan, but he said he will never forget his roots. (photo by Mark Mueller, photographer for the Ypsilanti Press)

Ex-Miner's D.D. Could Mean "Doing Daily"

The Floyd County Times, Prestonburg, Kentucky

A former Floyd County coal miner whose formal education ended with graduation in 1950 from McDowell High School was recently honored by Midwestern Baptist College and Seminary, Pontiac, Michigan, with the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. The man so honored is 41-year-old Russell Anderson whose success in the business world has been overshadowed by his work in the area of the human spirit, although he is the millionaire owner of four large businesses in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

"Never a week goes by that he doesn't win someone to Jesus Christ," Mrs. Anderson told *The Times* last week.

The affairs and cares of his businesses are enough to keep two men busy, but he spends an average of five nights a week in what he simply describes as "the Lord's work," and travels almost every week to speak in churches across the United States.

Immediately after his graduation from McDowell High School, Russell Anderson went into the coal mines, working with his father, the late Ralph Anderson, till 1954 when he went to Michigan.

In Ypsilanti he got a job with a drywall contractor, later buying into the business and in 1957 buying his partner's interest. A year later, he married the former Maxine Ramsey, a native of Middlesboro, Kentucky.

"I already was a Christian; Russell was not," Mrs. Anderson said. "But in 1959 my husband was converted. He began tithing and learned a wonderful truth—that the more he gave, the more the Lord gave back."

In 1960 Anderson was practically wiped out when a building contractor went bankrupt. When he had paid all his debts, he had \$2,000 left. But he never ceased to tithe, started all over again, and now, 12 years later, owns not only his drywall contracting enterprise but also the Russell Anderson Apartments numbering several hundred in Ypsilanti; Anderson Materials; and the Anderson Trucking Company.

Although Mr. Anderson's formal education ended at McDowell High School, he is an avid student of the Bible. "He rises early every morning and spends two hours in Bible study before going to his office," his wife said.

When he conferred on the Floyd County native the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, May 28, Dr. Tom Malone, president of Midwestern Baptist College, told the Anderson story in these words:

"Only a few times in a lifetime do you find a man who is not a preacher, not a theologian, but a great student of the Scriptures; not an educator but a wise human being; not a pastor but a personal worker supreme whose main business is soul winning. Although he owns and operates four large businesses, grossing several million dollars last year, he spends on the average of five nights each week out in the Lord's work and travels nearly every week throughout the United States to preach in churches. Through God's sovereign grace, he has become not just a millionaire whose dollars are dedicated to God, but a man whose desire is to see other souls come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour."

FROM THE COAL MINES TO THE GOLD MINES

HEADER A