

# Welcome To

*Malvern Bible Chapel*



# **Life Verses & Testimony**

**Part of the Summer Heart-to-Heart  
Preaching Series**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

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# Life Verses & Testimony

## Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

# Life Verses & Testimony

## Introduction:

- This text was on the living room wall of the home where I grew up in Upper Darby, PA. Looking back, it seemed to anticipate and continues to describe the cyclical process of my spiritual development throughout my life.
- Like a runner in a race, each lap begins and ends at the same place and then repeats the cycle for as long as it takes to reach the final destination.
- For the purpose of this message, I will divide my testimony into 3 parts (laps), and briefly describe this cycle in each part.
- It will also be the first time for most of you to ever hear my testimony.

# Life Verses & Testimony

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Proverbs 3: 5-6

# Life Verses & Testimony

## Body of Lesson:

### Lap 1: Pre-missionary Period 1946 – 1971 (25 years)

#### *Trust in the LORD with all your heart,*

- It all begins here. Saved at 10 years old (March 20, 1957) at Overbrook Gospel Hall (later Marple Christian Assembly).
- Baptized April 22, 1962 at Olney Gospel Hall.
- Started at PCP&S in 1964 but why? Bible League (I-V).
- Rededicated life to Christ; Will's Group Friday nights (1968).
- Met Glenda Horton at a weekend retreat at Four Brooks for I-V & NCF, on April 12, 1969. Began correspondence.
- Pharmacy graduation (BSc) on June 9, 1969 with Glenda as our first "date"; trusting the Lord that she was the Lord's choice for me.

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## *And lean not on your own understanding;*

- By this time we both had a lot of head knowledge.
- During courtship stayed open to overseas medical mission work but never heard of a need for a pharmacist until heard W.A.Deans give report at Enfield; with Glenda at Audubon.
- Read the biography of Dr. C.K.Becker, Medical Director of CME, Nyankunde. Began praying about this possibility.
- Enrolled in new Doctor of Pharmacy program later in 1969.
- Engaged to Glenda September 1, 1969 (Labor Day weekend at Greenwood Hills, PA). Married on December 20, 1969 in Calvary Independent Church, Lancaster, PA.
- Started Residency in Hospital Pharmacy at HUP (1970).
- Knowledge is not everything, it is just a tool. He wants us!

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## *In all your ways acknowledge Him,*

- Put the Lord first in everything, including your marriage.
- Attended Lansdowne Bible Chapel; helped at Mission; Coffee House in Villanova; Urbana '70 (challenged by “you can’t do overseas what you aren’t first doing at home”).
- Completed Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) in 1970; completed Residency in Hospital Pharmacy (HUP) in 1971.
- Worked full-time with the Swim House and its new local church in Villanova (His House, later moved to Berwyn).
- Needed to get experience working with a local church, not a local pharmacy, if we were going overseas. “Prepare as if to go and God can close doors just as easily as open them.”
- Recognize His authority in our lives! He is Boss!

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*And He shall direct your paths.*

- Investigated various overseas and local job opportunities.
- Did not want to put down roots in the USA if God wanted us overseas.
- In April 1971 we committed to go to Nyankunde if the Lord kept the door open, even though lots of other missionaries were leaving Congo at the time.
- Took crash course (Berlitz) in French, packed to leave for Belgium for 1 year of language and tropical medicine studies. No deputation!
- Commended by His House; CMML at first dubious of this new non-traditional assembly!

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## Lap 2: Mid-missionary Period 1971 – 1996 (25 years)

(“sanitized version”, like 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles!)

### *Trust in the LORD with all your heart,*

- Our first year (1971-1972) was the hardest year of our lives!
- Came home for 1 month after year in Europe before going to Zaire (Congo changed its name while we were studying).
- “Never doubt in the dark what God has revealed in the light!”
- Go ahead with plans—continue to trust in the Lord! Arrived in Kampala, Uganda at the time of Idi Amin and all the troubles there (our flight to Nyankunde on August 30, 1972 with our MAF pilot Ernie Doerksen was their last flight).
- Trust the Lord for our new life in Africa!

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- Faced with overwhelming needs. Learn a new language (Swahili). Orientation to pharmacy work and nursing work for Glenda (until John born, June 16, 1973). Filled in and worked under Mrs. Becker, 70+ year old former teacher and wife of Medical Director who was in charge of the pharmacy.
- Why was I doing this with all my pharmacy training? Trust God to know what is best! Use the time to get to know the people, and earn the trust of the veteran missionaries.
- Heather was born Dec. 11, 1974. Our first furlough was 1975-1976. Lois Nelson covered the work in the Pharmacy.
- Learned in Nairobi that my mom had died August 26, 1975; she didn't want us to change our furlough plans just for her! Arrived just in time for her funeral and burial. She never saw her first two grandchildren alive. Stayed with dad.

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- How will we survive in Africa? Only took our suitcases with us the first time. Packages arrived with clothing for the kids; funds supplied for daily expenses from assemblies and individuals we had never met; extra funds supplied for furlough travel; homes where we could stay for furlough and cars to drive were all supplied as great lessons for all the family to trust in the Lord with all our heart!
- Trust in the Lord when the greatest need was for teaching and that was the area I felt least gifted to do! From teaching our kids at home, nurses and eventually pharmacy school students (French) to teaching in the church (Swahili), when you find yourself doing (and enjoying) what you thought you could never do, you know that can only come from Him.
- Trust Him to help you do the impossible or the unexpected.

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- Trust Him when the political situation changes. Zairianization, or nationalization of all aspects of life (including pharmaceutical industry), left no reliable source of pharmacy supplies in the country. What to do? Trust the Lord to help find alternate sources of supply in Kenya (Didy) and Europe (IDA), as well as began preparations to manufacture as much as possible locally.
- Many stocks arrived just as the last product was used. In 1979 a gift of a full container of IV solutions arrived, then borders were closed because of cholera epidemic. When the epidemic ended the last IV bag was also just finished!
- The first Zairian pharmacist came (Pascal Gisenya) and became a Christian while at Nyankunde!

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- Learned even more about trust with the birth of Sherry (March 26, 1978) and then later Amy (March 5, 1980) who was born just days before going on furlough (1980-1981). Rob & Marlene Laird were our pharmacy replacements.
- A shipment of household belongings and supplies for our growing family were crated in Havertown, PA and put in a new Ford pickup with parts supplied by West Chester Ford (now Fred Beans). When Dave Madsen drove them to the shipper he asked, "Where will the \$10,000 come from to pay for this?" The answer came via a call that day confirming funds had been deposited in our bank for the full amount!
- There is a fine line between trust and presumption!

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- While on a later third furlough (1985-1986) in Hatfield, PA the Lord provided for housing needs once again (Woolers), as well as an opportunity to attend Biblical Seminary 1 year.
- Trust Him when a much bigger Central Pharmacy and manufacturing facility were needed. How to design this, write project proposals, where to get funds (>\$80,000) for equipment and supplies? Never taught this at PCP&S!
- More trust was needed for the arrival of the shipment into the heart of Africa, for the construction and operation of the new Central Pharmacy, and for specialized help. Stan & David Madsen (install the A/C system), Bill Hulshizer install the Apple 2c computer system (64K), John & Jean Landis visited and John provided illustrated procedures for making sterile products that adorned the pharmacy corridor.

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# Life Verses & Testimony

## *And lean not on your own understanding;*

- Disastrous trial to send John & Heather to missionary boarding school (Rethy) while Sherry & Amy at home.
- Doubts about undertaking too much in the pharmacy! Not enough help and trained Zairian pharmacists to be able to delegate the work. No practical school available to train Assistant Pharmacists (AP), but desperate need to create such a school (1986). How? Dr. Philip Wood had just been to Regional Capital of Kisangani and met a Christian there.
- He suggested that I visit the Regional Capital and talk to the Regional Pharmacy Inspector who must give the approval.
- Walked into the office of Paul Kabanga Kapuya, Bible on desk, who began to pray before we did anything else!

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- Paul outlined all the steps needed, agreed to accompany me to Kinshasa to get the approval of the Minister of Health.
- “What is your qualification to open a new AP School?” “I have a PharmD.” “That is perfect!” Now after 15 years I understood why the Lord led me into the PharmD program!
- Paul agreed to help write the curriculum, teach with us for 1 month to open the school, and return for a month to close out the 1<sup>st</sup> year (1986-1987).
- After prayer he agreed to come and teach with us full-time for the next 3 years (required Paul to ask to be demoted to Sub-Regional Pharmacy Inspector, based at Nyankunde)!
- Four other pharmacists eventually joined us; the first 12 AP students were graduated in 1990.

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*In all your ways acknowledge Him,*

- Six-month mini-furlough in 1990. The AP School, Central Pharmacy including the manufacturing work were left in the hands of our national pharmacists (including Paul) and APs.
- Returned in 1991 for 10 months, but the political situation turned bad; advised by the elders and US Embassy that the family should leave Zaire, with only 1 small suitcase each.
- Family evacuated by MAF to Nairobi on November 2, 1991.
- God is sovereign—He is still in control of everything! We soon returned to the States for the kids' education and eventual marriages when it became clear that we could not return to Zaire (renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, after the removal of Mobutu from power as President).

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*And He shall direct your paths.*

- Lived at CMMML for 1 year after evacuation. Where would we live if impossible to return to the DRC? Where would the children go to school? Who would they marry? What church would we attend? What pharmacy work would I do?
- He answered all those questions! With help of MBC (esp. Stan Madsen) purchased a 5-bedroom home, continued homeschooling the girls, John to LeTourneau for Aviation. Eventually each child finished, and found their life mates.
- International Pharmacy Consultant for 5 years working out of our home; 10 trips overseas to the DRC for teaching and encouragement; helped start Affordable Medicines For Africa (AMFA) and Plesion International with Jim Harshaw, including a “Water of Life” trip to Russia.

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- Pharmacy work at Nyankunde continued under national leadership for nearly 11 years until the Central Pharmacy and everything was destroyed by a tribal war at Nyankunde along with a terrible and bloody massacre on Sept. 5, 2002!
- Humanly speaking, nearly 30 years of work was destroyed overnight, but God knows the fruit that remains eternally!
- Paul remained at Nyankunde for a time after we left (1991). Started the CPFI-DRC Chapter with help from the USA.
- Eventually Paul opened another AP School in the former Regional Capital Kisangani, and finally moved to Kinshasa where he is “retired” (like me!) from active pharmacy, but is involved with his home assembly and also CPFI-DRC, and assists Plesion with its Hope Pharmacy Ituri (HPI) in Bunia.

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## Lap 3: Post-missionary Period 1996 – Present (23 years and counting)

### *Trust in the LORD with all your heart,*

- When it became obvious that consulting work in Africa was drying up, and it would be impossible to keep returning to Nyankunde for encouragement and teaching, we resigned from CMMML at the end of 1996.
- Now what would I do in pharmacy? Pharmacy license kept active to practice in PA, but felt totally unqualified to work professionally as a hospital or community pharmacist.
- Encouraged by Dr. Gene Cooper at MBC to work for his entrepreneurial company NanoSystems and start a new career in the pharmaceutical industry (back to my first plan).

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- Became part of a team of 6 people working out of PMRS in Hatfield, PA; cutting edge clinical supplies manufacturing of new pharmaceutical products using NanoTechnology.
- NanoSystems bought out by Elan Pharmaceuticals; moved to new facility in King of Prussia, PA, now with Joe Tirrell.
- Company was reorganized and our department moved to Ireland. Now I was out of a job and “retired” after 13 years (May 2009). What to do without pharmacy work?

## ***And lean not on your own understanding;***

- Began to work full-time at MBC helping with administrative and other responsibilities after the death of Merv Madsen.
- Continue to help as one of the elders and teachers. Began writing the weekly Praise & Prayer (P&P) updates.

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- Involvement with Plesion International also gave opportunity to provide assistance with various overseas missionary projects (Water of Life in Romania, Nigeria) and eventually research into natural products for the treatment of AIDS, malaria, and other major health problems in Africa.
- Developed “triple natural therapy” (TNT) in conjunction with former colleague, Dr. Pascal Gisenya, and Cyril Ngongo.
- Clinical trial of *Artemisia annua* for malaria at Rwanguba Hospital with Dr. Daddy Bati and team at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) headed by Dr. Pam Weathers.
- Malaria results and other possible research still pending.
- These are all areas of work that I was never trained to do!

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*In all your ways acknowledge Him,*

- He is still sovereign.
- Work with Plesion led to an exploratory trip back to Africa in May 2014.
- Saw the tremendous needs and heard the request of many of our former colleagues in the church medical work to come and help with the rebuilding effort after the pharmacy work at Nyankunde was completely destroyed (September 2002).
- After much prayer and consultation with CMML and the other MBC elders, in September 2014 Glenda and I were commended once again by MBC to serve under the auspices of CMML for “Other Overseas Service”.
- This necessitated 2 trips (60 days total) to the DRC yearly.

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**Bob & Glenda Watt**

*Serving the Lord in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

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- Over the next 4 years, made 8 more trips to the DRC to teach in the assemblies and to encourage and help with their ongoing medical work, now fully in national hands.
- Also helped to plan for the eventual local manufacturing of essential natural medicines when political conditions permitted, and with the assistance of Pascal Gisenya to help with the research clinical study of Artemisia tablets for the treatment of malaria and other serious diseases like AIDS.
- Prepared (with the help of Paul Kabanga Kapuya) for the opening of the first Hope Pharmacy Ituri, located in Bunia, the new Regional Capital of the Ituri Province. That perhaps will be the last trip to the DRC (10<sup>th</sup> in the last 5 years)?
- Each year we need to evaluate our missionary status with CMML. Pray with us now if we should be “Refocused”.

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*And He shall direct your paths.*

- That is where we are right now! No idea how many more years the Lord has for us.
- Getting ready to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 20, 2019. After that, provision has generously been made, in the will of the Lord, to visit Australia and New Zealand (country of my father's birth) for a month to celebrate that golden anniversary.
- Maybe the Lord will come back for us soon? All we know for sure is that while we wait for that event to happen, He shall continue to direct our paths! To God be all the glory!
- Glenda and I have that assurance after seeing how He has done this in every lap of our lives up to this point!

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## Application:

### Four questions to challenge us all:

1. Have you trusted the Lord with all your heart?
2. Have you stopped leaning on your own understanding?
3. Have you acknowledged Him as the Boss of your life?
4. Have you experienced His direction for your life?