

10 minutes with...



John J. McLaughlin
Author of the new book “A Walk to Freedom”
Lived in area: 14 years in Selma
Age: 62

What is your new book “A Walk to Freedom” about?
It’s a testimony to the love and saving grace of my savior Jesus Christ.

How long did it take to write the book?
It’s been 15 years in the making.

Can you share some of the details of the book?
I met the Lord the day I got out of prison. I had a pistol in my hand. I was on my way to kill (a judge). The Lord spoke to my soul that night. I had never known the Lord. And I distinctly heard inside my being, “Enough John, enough.”

So you put down the gun?
I not only put away the gun, but I was transformed and started walking a new direction. For 47 years I had been a man of violence and darkness who knew nothing but hatred, prison cells, resentment and hostility. In one second I was transformed. I was set free through the love of Christ.

Why did you choose to put your story on paper?
Because I wanted to give praise, glory and honor to Christ Jesus for plucking me out of the slime barrel and giving me life. I’ve had that life for 15 years. I was inspired by the fact that I spent 47 years in hell and Christ talked to me and I stopped and listened. I needed to say thank you publicly.

How did you write the book? On a computer? Journal entries?
I did it on a little typewriter over a long period of time. I finished it in 1999. I let it sit dormant for a while and realized it needed tremendous refining. It really needed a blessing from the Lord to be done right. Gospel Life Lines Ministry asked if they could publish the book and this is Life Lines’ first publication.

How many books were made? Where can we get one?
There were 500 printed on the first run, and we have covers for 2,000 more. It will be sold at Tree House Florist and Gifts in Cave Junction for \$10. I will be doing a book signing there on December 5 and 6. And we’re going to create a fund for locally abused children. I did not write the book for profit.

What would you like people to learn from your book?
I was beyond hope. I had no hope. I pray that somebody would find something in the book and in their darkness they would know the love of Christ and be saved.

Are you a member of a church locally?
Illinois Valley Praise Center.

What are some of your hobbies?
Lifting iron. I’ve been lifting for 25 years. I’ve also taught youngsters how to play ball and lift weights.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
Vanilla.

— Interview by Steve Fairchild

Family ...

(Continued from page 5)

ure for younger generations.

“The memory books are a wonderful link to the past,” said Alene Brown of Portland. “Julie has done books on both my grandparents and it is comforting to know that their stories and pictures are located in one place that I can easily access.

“Having the memory books to pass on to my child is an incredibly wonderful gift.

Recording and writing down family stories is a task many people would like to do but often don’t get to, and then it is too late.”

Some people turn to historians like Zander to compile their personal history, while others prefer the do-it-yourself approach.

Most families include one or two history buffs who know stories going back generations. But death or disaster can rob the family of its key to the past, unless those memories have been recorded, preserved, and archived.

Here are some tips:

*Prepare a list of open-ended questions, including some about experiences and some about values and beliefs. *Use photo albums and other treasured collections to trigger memories. *Practice being a good listener. *Purchase high-quality tapes for your recordings, and make a back-up copy. *Talk with siblings and extended family members about the value of preserving and sharing memories.

There are a number of books on gathering and preserving life stories, from self-published guides like Amy Oaks Long’s *From Shoeboxes to Books: Writing Great Personal Histories* (available from the Web site personalhistoryhelp.com) to the well-organized and illustrated *Legacy: A Step-By-Step Guide to Writing Personal History* by Linda Spence.

For those interested in capturing their stories on video, *How to Create a Video Family History* by Rob and Laura Huberman fills the bill.

Gathering, preserving, and distributing a collection of family stories takes time and money.

A professional can help at any step in the process, from interviewing people to designing and printing books.

Professional personal historians interview family members and record their stories on video or audiotape, then publish them in formats that can take many forms.

Hiring a personal historian can incur fees ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars, depending on the scope, quality, and chosen format.

For more information visit the Web site of the Association of Personal Historians Inc., www.personalhistorians.org.

Zander can be contacted at (888) 864-6937 or via memory-books@chaptersoflife.com or contact www.chaptersoflife.com

A weed is a plant whose virtues have not been discovered.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson-

Database gives forestland owners in Oregon more marketing capabilities

Faced with a changing forest products economy, Oregon’s family forestland owners have struggled to get full market value for their harvested timber, particularly big saw logs that are 30 to 72 inches in diameter.

That search is easier now, thanks to the Oregon Log Buyer Database, also called the “big log” database.

“An online listing of more than 200 Pacific Northwest log and timber buyers, the log buyers database is designed to help private woodland owners find more marketing options for their harvested timber,” said Eric Hansen, who works with the forest products marketing faculty at Oregon State University (OSU) at Corvallis Extension.

Developed by OSU Extension Service forestry faculty, the database is organized by county and offers information on the log requirements of each company listed, as well as contact information.

Now in its 11th month of operation, the database has been downloaded more than 6,000 times, said Scott Leavengood, OSU Extension forestry field faculty in Washington County and member of the database development team.

Earning timber dollars typically isn’t a top priority for private woodland owners, but even so, they still contribute approximately 20 percent of the annual timber harvest in Oregon, Hansen noted.

“Private owners manage for a variety of goals such as improving wildlife habitat and water quality on their land or working to preserve their forest resources as much as possible because they just love the land and like to see bigger, older trees,” Hansen said.

Since end markets often aren’t a major concern, saw logs marketed by private owners tend to come in a wide variety of sizes, many of them in the big log category. Getting fair market value for big logs has become particularly difficult for a number of reasons.

According to Hansen, the Oregon timber industry is now largely geared toward processing small logs -- approximately 8 to 10 inches in diameter -- that come from corporation-owned tree farms.

“The mills shifted their manufacturing strategy to streamline production,” said Hansen. “They can process small logs more quickly and efficiently than larger logs.

“As a result, many Oregon saw mills won’t accept large logs that the private owners are more likely to market.”

Another factor hurting the market value of large logs is the dramatic decline in the number of timber mills in the Pacific Northwest over the past decade - a trend that has coincided with the gradual reduction in timber harvest on fed-

eral lands.

“Earlier in the 1990s, federal land was the main source of larger logs,” Hansen said. “Now that supply isn’t available anymore and those mills that handled big logs have gone out of business or retooled to handle smaller logs.”

“Private woodland owners usually harvest very small numbers of trees at a time and they harvest timber infrequently.

“Unless they keep up with the constant changes taking place in timber markets, finding the best buyer is difficult. The database helps fill the gaps in their knowledge of the marketplace.”

The database may be viewed at <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/extserv/log.php>.

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Come and work together with your neighbors on projects that can really make a difference. *Turn your vision into reality!*



Get involved in the

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Board Meetings (1st and 3rd Thursdays of month) :

Board Meeting	County Building	7:00-9:00PM	12/04/03
Workshop Meeting	County Building	7:00-9:00PM	Canceled

Committee Meetings (Held throughout the month, subject to change):

Quality of Life	Family Resource Center	5:30-6:30PM	Thur	Cancel
Bus. Dev./Tourism	IVCRT	6:00-7:00PM	Weds	Cancel
Coordinating Council	JoCo Court House	6:00-7:30PM	Tues	Cancel
Education	Family Resource Center	5:00-6:00PM	Mon	Cancel
Executive Committee	IVCRT Office	5:30-6:30PM	Tues	Cancel
Infrastructure	IVCRT Office	5:00-6:00PM	Wed	Cancel

The Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) is a non-profit organization working to build community consensus around projects that aim to improve the quality of life and foster economic and community development in the Illinois Valley. Meetings are open to the public and Illinois Valley residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

Office hours are 8:30AM-5:00PM, Monday -Friday
Please call 592-4440 for more information! Fax: 592-4106 TDD: 1-800-735-00

IVCRT is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Assistance to individuals with handicaps is available upon request.