

# Ron Boehme Journal 2022

## Port Orchard, Washington

January 4, 2022 – 25,825 - 6,038

During the month of December, I finished fifty years of journaling—to the glory of God. It's been an amazing run, and now all I need is the inspiration and energy to turn it into an autobiography that will bring honor to the Name of Jesus.

I hope to begin that amazing process next week.

This year begins with my throat still not 100% (my thorn in the flesh), some cold winter weather and a couple of “graduations to glory” that took place this week.

First, my New Zealand spiritual father, Roly Houghton passed away two days ago at the age of ninety-two. His precious Claire had gone to be with Jesus eight years ago--so I'm sure the reunion was sweet. I dedicated my weekly blog to him today with these words:

*“Roly Houghton, a New Zealand spiritual father, passed away this week at the age of ninety-two. I lived with him and his family in Auckland in 1972-73 while seeking God's will for my life. He was a man of God's Word—distributing Bibles to every home in NZ. He also served in leadership with Open Doors, including smuggling Bibles into China and other nations where they were in short supply.”*

*“Because he loved and trusted the Scriptures, Roly shared a big view of the world and God's Kingdom purposes. I dedicate this annual “View of the World” to his memory and influence. He taught me to see things through the ‘eyes of God.’”*

This morning I heard the news that Don Watkins had passed at 11:45 AM into the presence of His Savior. Don was sixty-four but had suffered with early onset dementia for some years. He was a part of our 1975 Europe team and went onto a YWAM school afterwards. I always appreciated his frank honesty and winsome personality.

His dad entered the gates of heaven only two months ahead of him—though there are twenty years between them. Again, the reunions of the other side of the Veil must be amazing!

I also began this week my eleventh year at Faith International University with the largest group of students (49) I have ever taught in one quarter. It is a privilege to disciple them in your ways and impart the secrets and blessings of the life you have given me.

May they become nothing less than world-changers for the Kingdom of God.

Lord Jesus-I feel very weak as I enter 2022 and ask that you immerse me in your strength and power. Thank you for those who have gone before. As I now enter the 6/16 Window of my

own service on earth, I commit to diligent prayer, generous love, and ruthless trust in You alone. I love you with all my heart.

*January 9, 2022 – 25,830 – 6,033*

I friend that I had a falling out with some ten years ago came by to see me yesterday totally unannounced. It was wonderful to see this former co-worker and to realize that God is the master of reconciliation and brought us back together in His love and great grace.

Mistakes were made in our friendship—on both sides. God really dealt with me over them a long time ago and I hoped our relationships could be restored.

Yesterday it was—and it was very sweet.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are the reconciler of all our sins and errors and the one who can bridge every divide and every break if we will just humbly follow you. I stand in awe of your bridge-building ability and want to live a life of humility before you that will be beautiful fragrance in all my friendship. Praise your blessed Name.

*February 7, 2022 – 25,859 – 6,004*

The winter responsibilities continue with praying through the growth and rebirth of FCC and our partnership with New Life, my biggest student load ever at Faith, and simply being responsible in all the other little areas of “assignment” that God gives to me.

Last week it was touching to watch live the Memorial Service for Roly Houghton who passed away recently. I am so grateful that his family welcomed the four of us into their home in the fall of 1972 and helped set the course for our discipleship and calling.

**Thank you, Roly, for your example of faith, the Word, and loving hospitality.**

I finished Chapter One of my “life Story” last night and finally feel that I am kicking into gear with the writing of this book (thank you, Jesus). It will probably take the better part of the year to do it. Tomorrow, we have our first ever SK Hope meeting at FCC and pray that God will richly bless it.

The fight for America and the Western World continues to rage and I’m trying to do my part in daily prayer, timely blogs, and serving every way I can. Lord, hear our prayers, revive your work, and glorify your Name through our turning to you.

*February 18, 2022 – 25,870 – 5,993*

I spoke Wednesday at the Lighthouse Christian School in Gig Harbor at a Chapel service. It was wonderful to see the people directing traffic, cars in every direction, and many adults taking their kids to this beacon of light (and out of the public schools) to receive a godly education. May that trend continue and explode.

Quincy Biadog teaches there along with her mother, Janie, and Rachel Davison.

The auditorium—where I’ve spoken before to another group—was filled with hundreds of elementary school kids. I wowed them about Mongolia and its people, used many props to keep them excited and attentive, and even used a human “guinea pig” to demonstrate how they

humanely butcher sheep in the countryside and then make khorskhov”—a national dish—with the mutton, potatoes, veggies, etc. The theme was being on “Journey with Jesus” and using “multi-tools” in that task. I focused on food, fellowship, and hospitality.

I hadn’t spoken LIVE to a group for months, so I enjoyed the opportunity. Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege of speaking for you in numerous settings. It has been the great privilege of my life.

*February 25, 2022 – 25,877 – 5,986*

It was a great privilege today to join the YWAM Faith Friday simulcast to “tell my story” of God’s call in Youth With A Mission and hopefully inspire others around the world with the call to revival, changing nations, and world evangelism.

Dave Gustaveson and Kelly Meyer served as the interviewer hosts and did a great job. I felt a great freedom to share for the ninety minutes—both the good and the lessons learned in a lifetime of service.

I consider this a *legacy* item from God that I deeply appreciate. It has been the honor of my life to serve in YWAM all over the world as a revival evangelist and prophetic voice. I want to continue to be faithful to that call for the rest of my life.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

*March 9, 2022 – 25,899 – 5,974*

We’ve had some wonderful doctoral students receive their degrees recently and truly confirm to me that *mentoring* other leaders in their gifts and callings is a major calling of mine during this stage in life. One of them was the first YWAMer after me--David Hewitt—to receive his doctorate—and his project could draw myriads of new YWAM students into an on-line version of DTS.

Extremely exciting—and more and more the students we’re championing live around the globe.

I had the privilege of speaking at YWAM West Sound’s annual banquet in Bremerton this past week to a crowd of about 300. I think I was the oldest Young Lifer in the room and shared my story and greatly enjoyed the fellowship with the YL folks.

Thank you, Jesus, for using Young Life to bring me to personal faith and launch my walk in you. I will be eternally grateful.

And due to the coming partnership between FCC and New Life at our campus, I will be moving my office in the coming weeks to what I hope will be a final “resting place” in the northeast corner of the youth wing which will soon be under renovation. Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege of keeping my library here and the quiet and stability it provides.

You’ve always taken care of me—and I love you for it.

Here’s my most recent blog which gives a sense of what I’m seeing in the world today and how I am praying on my daily prayer walks.

## **Our New World and the Character It Will Require**

Fourteen years ago, while taking a prayer walk in the east Texas countryside, God spoke to my heart that the world was about to change--radically. I thought it would happen immediately (prophetic people sometimes get the right idea but miss the timing).

Looking back, I believe the Obama years accelerated change in America--and now it is upon us.

We're entering a new world--a new era in history. The critical thing we must develop is the character necessary to survive and thrive in it.

Character is destiny.

## **Our New World and the Character It Will Require**

I believe it's clear to many that the world as we know it is changing. If we have any sense of history (many don't), we know that change is normal in a fallen world. Even if we go back just 120 years (let alone 6,000 years of human history), we see many different eras of change:

- The Industrial Revolution with cars and airplanes that altered the way we travel (and shrunk the planet).
- The "Roaring Twenties" abuse of capitalism--after the first World War.
- The Great Depression which affected the entire world for decades.
- World War II--when a dictator began to gobble up nearby nations just as Russia is doing today.
- The baby-boom cultural revolution in the 1960's and 70's.
- The Civil Rights movement which enhanced equality, and permanently changed the South.
- The dawn of the Information Age, computers, Internet and an inter-connected globe.

And many more.

Since we live through only two-or-three of these changes in a lifetime, it's easy to forget their impact--and how hard the adjustments were from one era to another.

Most of us don't like change.

When Barack Obama became president in 2008, he talked for the first time about bringing ["fundamental change to America."](#) I believe he was referring to many factors, some already in motion, and others to come:

- The breakdown of the American family now focused on transgender rights and the denial of gender.
- The toppling of free enterprise capitalism for some form of socialism (or even communism).

- Increased dependency on government as experienced during the Covid pandemic through economic lockdowns and various mandates i.e., removal of individual freedom.
- Increased tyranny and denial of free speech via the collusion of High Tech and Big Government.
- America's weakness on the world stage in the inept presidency of Joe Biden (voted into office by 81 million voters "who knew not what they were doing ([Luke 23:24](#))."
- The rise of America-haters (Critical Race Theory and others) superseding minor differences in public policies.
- And still on the horizon: economic tremors or collapse due to out-of-control deficit spending.

All this cultural drift took place during the absence of a much-needed spiritual awakening in United States/worldwide which might have altered or neutralized the destructive elements at work.

Then in 2022, the latest Hitler to arise--Vladimir Putin--invades a sovereign and peaceful Ukraine--putting the whole world on edge. Because the current U.S. government remains beholden to the Green New Deal, oil spikes to \$130 a barrel.

Yesterday at the pump I paid \$4.50 a gallon for gas (I know it's more elsewhere). That's the highest price of my *seven-decade lifetime*.

I also spoke at a banquet last week where a young Christian leader of a major youth organization told me she had never heard of Billy Graham--and her husband didn't recognize that "John" was a book in the Bible.

My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge ([Hosea 4:6](#)).

While another Hitler--Xi Jinping--the communist dictator of China, is possibly licking his chops over the invasion of the sovereign nation of Taiwan.

Yes, the world has entered a new era and we must be prepared to navigate it.

For forty years, I had the privilege of training God's people in many nations and American states. Much of this took place in discipleship schools where I taught on revival and other subjects. I was never told what to teach--but invited because of known strengths and the specific truths or emphases God gave me.

I prayed over every week of training. God revealed many different subjects to teach. But He almost always nudged me to share one particular six-to-eight-hour series. I didn't consider it my best nor my most exciting material. But I knew it was the most important long-term.

*Developing Christ-like character.*

For the next few weeks, I'd like to combine a burden for what's happening in the world with a focus on the hope of godly character which we need to survive and truly thrive in it.

Character is the key that unlocks our personal destiny and empowers us to weather the storms of life.

What is character?

Character relates to the totality of the moral qualities you possess in your life. A person can choose poor or bad character traits (stealing, lying, lack of love, unforgiveness etc.) or they can develop godly or God-like character (respect for private property, honesty, love, forgiveness etc.).

Good character is God's desire for every believer. Left to our human fallenness, sin looms as the biggest problem or stain in our lives. It separates us from a Holy God. It hurts our relationships. Lack of character in a nation destroys its foundations and leads to bondage and lack of freedom.

Since sin is the greatest problem in the world, developing godly character is the biggest solution.

God's supreme goal for human beings is that they be "be conformed to the image of his Son"(Romans 8:29). That takes place through the salvation of the Cross, being born again and filled with His Spirit, and cooperating with the grace of God by developing his traits (good character) in our lives.

Jesus' characteristics inside us allow us to fulfill his plan for our lives ([Acts 13:36](#)) and to withstand the difficulties that life throws at us ([James 1:2-4](#)). That's why character is destiny. It empowers you to do his work, strengthens you to survive Satan's attacks, and brings you safely into his heavenly kingdom (even through suffering or death).

When I teach students about building godly character in their lives, I usually ask them to start with three foundational character qualities.

The first: What is one of your greatest natural character strengths? For me, it is faith. I must focus on growing my faith just like exercising a muscle.

The second: What is one of your greatness character flaws? In my case, that speaks of pride. What is its opposite? Humility. So, I've set my heart on developing the humility of Jesus ([Matthew 11:29](#)).

The third: I encourage the same character quality for all--hard work.

In my life, if I grow faith and humility over a lifetime and combine it with working hard in my calling or vocation, I will probably be successful. Elite athletes do the same: They maximize their greatest ability. Minimize their greatest weakness. And work hard.

Add to it many other wonderful character qualities of Jesus and you will live a great life.

How about you?

"Character is doing the right thing when nobody is watching" (J.C. Watts).

"People are interested in talent. God is impressed by character" (Rick Warren).

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only by experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened. ambition inspired, and success achieved" (Helen Keller).

A new world is upon. What type of character do you need to survive and thrive?

*March 20, 2022 – 25,910 – 5,963*

It's the break before Spring Quarter at Faith and I'm really looking forward to working on "One Small Life." I need a *spurt* to get some momentum and flow in the writing—and I hope this will be it.

Saturday I'll be sharing in Canby, Oregon at Pastor Steve's Memorial Service. Am very much looking forward to honoring a wonderful spiritual father to me.

*SK Hope* remains small, and we need to seek God about what that means (how we can really bless our classmates). I'm a little discourage, but also understand people's hearts, schedules, resistance to God, and many other factors. Please lead us, Lord Jesus, into maximum blessing for the friends we grew up with.

Had to move my office one more time this week—from where it's been for two years at FCC to the new "office wing" of the soon-to-be-renovated campus. Took me eight hours alone just to move the library intact (books all in order). My new space is five feet smaller than the old, but I'm grateful to have anything and thank God for ALL the offices He has given me in my short life.

I would if we'll have anything like them in heaven (or what the "libraries" will be like?).

Now that I've turned sixty-nine and am finishing up the seventh decade of my life, I want to continue to serve God and people with all my heart, complete my autobiography and devotional for the glory of God, and help lead others into the challenging new era we're entering in history.

*Faithful* and *serve* seem to be the key words in my life right now. Thank you for teaching and empowering me, Lord Jesus.

*March 28, 2022 – 25,918 – 5,955*

Saturday, I got up early and drove the three hours across the Washington-Oregon border to Canby for Pastor Steve's Memorial service at Bethany Church. A crowd of about seventy-to-eighty showed up for the service with many others watching online.

It was great to see Teri Wortman (Steve's daughter) and other family members, and also re-unite with Michael Jaye and Deborah Isome, DAVE AND Ellen Saavedra, Ken and Charlene Morrison, and a few others from the Harper years. Was one of the best memorials I ever attended (the Photo Tribute to Steve was the *very best* I've ever seen).

I had the privilege of honoring Pastor Steve as a spiritual father while talking about our relationship over fifty years—including our work together in Mongolia. I focused on three things I learned from my dear teenage pastor:

- The primacy of prayer, starting in the “Eagle's Nest” at the church,
- The centrality of Scripture—to base all our convictions in its truth.
- The importance of unity in the Church—not looking down or avoiding those different from us spiritually.

Pastor Steve as a great example in all three—and in many other areas.

I'm grateful for his discipleship in my life and commit to pass those values on to my own disciples. That's the role of the Church on earth.

Thanks, Pastor Steve. I commit to do my part until we meet again in heaven.

*April 16, 2022 – 25,937 – 5,936*

The new quarter at Faith has become and we're seeing a strong influx of students due to better promotion on social media. I have my largest class-load ever of 52 students and have also begun teaching my first live class on Thursdays nights for the first time in two years (due to Covid). My vocal cords are holding up okay, but we shall see.

This was the Easter weekend, and for the first time again in two years (Covid), we did the crosswalk together through Port Orchard. Not a large group, but very meaningful and with a slightly smaller (lighter cross) that means that we older ones can carry the heavy end. Wise move.

I struggled with some spiritual warfare pressures this weekend related to family but emerged out of it through prayer and thanking for his incredible death on the cross and glorious resurrection—the *proof* of his divinity and the guarantee of eternal life.

You are so wonderful, Jesus, and I thank you for walking with me during this season. Thank you for helping me with my book as I use every spare hour and day to tell your story in my life. Give me the strength and grace to finish and publish it—for your glory.

**My *One Small Life* is yours alone.**



*May 2, 2022 – 25,847 – 5,926*

It's the week of the National Day of Prayer and I continue to whittle away at the "One Small Life" book project. It's quite a mountain to climb, but I sense God's inspiration on me as I write along the way and think about all that He has done in my life.

It was interesting to be working on the "Washington For Jesus" chapter this week which is, in some ways, the centerpiece of the book—at least as far as my own destiny is concerned.

Of all the 365 days in the year, I finished the WFJ chapter on April 29, 2022—forty-two years after the event took place. I didn't have to do much "from scratch" writing on the event because I had already done so four decades ago.

Still, the timing was amazing.

That's been true of my entire life—which shows the hand of God in it.

Lord Jesus, I rejoice in your incredible involvement in each of our lives and commit again today to fulfill those assignments you've given me to the glory of the Father.

And I commit to prayer on the National Day of Prayer.

*May 6, 2022 – 25,851 – 5,922*

It's the National Day of Prayer and it's my fifth year not being able to make it to Washington, D.C. That's okay, because life moves on, and I still enjoyed a great day of praying for our nation:

- We held a Pastor's Prayer meeting at the Nazarene Church and cried out for our city and nation (I was the oldest one among a new generation of pastors and leaders). Corinthia Boone called me just after our meeting and I told her I was with her in spirit on the Washington Mall for this year's Capital City Celebration.
- I had a great prayer walk at church and time in the Prayer Room.
- I watched the evening NDP Prayer broadcast that went for two hours and showcased about forty different American leaders praying for our nation. Most of them are a "new generation" as well—a changing of the guard.

I noticed that the older guard of leaders prayed much for revival and spiritual awakening—not so much the younger leaders. I hope revival is not a generational thing.

Lord, we desperately need you in our nation to forgive us, change us, and revive us from top to bottom to be the people you intended us to be.

I will never stop praying for revival—and look forward to a return to Washington, D.C. one day in the future. Thank you, Jesus.

*June 11, 2022 – 25,887 – 5,886*

I've not written for a while—and that's primarily because I'm using every spare waking hour to write "One Small Life." As of today, I've finished Section Three, Chapter Fourteen, and

have about 200 pages under my belt. I hope to make some substantial progress during this break between quarters at FIU.

I'm just about to celebrate ten years at the college—amazing to me. I have my largest student load ever, and just granted the first doctoral degree in the DIS program to Beniam Habthemariam, an Ethiopian pastor in Renton who goes back and forth to Africa. Many other students are now in the pipeline to complete their doctorate in intercultural studies—and most of them are fabulous.

It's a blessing to be serving and releasing them.

We are at a key point in the vision for a new "First Christian Church." Permits were authorized this week for New Life to begin a \$500,000 upgrade to the facilities. We will sign a contract soon with them. And within a month we may hire a new, young preaching pastor that we desperately need if God is to revive us and bring us back to life.

It's been a difficult process—but I am hanging on to God to see us through and trying to be a wise prophetic voice in the process. I'd love us to remain our facilities "Faith Community Campus" and our congregation, "First Love Fellowship."

I need you so desperately in all these things, Lord Jesus. Thank you for your daily inspiration on the prayer walks, for the privilege of writing my story, and the greater privilege of serving you and your Kingdom.

I love you, Lord Jesus.

*July 10, 2022 – 25,916 – 5,893*

I'm in one of the busiest stretches of my life (and feeling my age at times) as we head into the heart of summer.

The busyness centers around:

- Having to move my office from FCC and now playing "musical rooms" at our place to be able to make the current pantry hopefully my "library/office" for life. I'm grateful for the years at FCC but see the handwriting on the wall that I'm no longer valued enough there to have office space in the re-remodel. So, home we come.
- Continuing to work away on "One Small Life." It's an immense project, but I've reached Chapter Nineteen this week and still hope to be finished by Christmas. I'd be very happy at this point if the book comes out the summer of 2023—when I reach seventy.
- My class load and responsibilities remain high at FIU. I'm grateful for this, but it's a lot of "discipleship" amongst all the other priorities.

The changes at First Christian are exciting but not easy. But after years of persevering with the word of the Lord on a partnership with New Life, a twenty-year contract with them will be signed on July 2022, to enter a twenty-year "share-the-campus" partnership. Amazingly, Jonathan Stone has come back to Port Orchard this month to help lead the charge, and I believe this timing is all of God. Thank you, Lord, for your amazing attention to detail.

I continue to be greatly burdened for revival in America but saw some rays of hope this past month as the U.S. Supreme Court made some wonderful decisions that bode well for our future. Donald Trump's appointees make all the difference.

Here's how I wrote up the triumphs in a recent newsletter. I especially highlighted the gutting of Roe v. Wade after forty years of prayer. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

## **Life Wins**

So many troublesome things are happening in 2022 that it's often hard to raise our eyes and see God at work.

But three recent Supreme Court decisions are great cause for joy:

- Striking down the New York concealed carry law (2nd Amendment right to bear arms),
- Affirming religious liberty (Coach Joe Kennedy praying at school), and
- The Dobb's decision striking down Roe v. Wade.

These stand out as bright rays of sunshine and wonderful answers to prayer, perseverance, and maybe a turning of the cultural tide.

Especially the defeat of Roe v. Wade--on June 24, 2022.

After forty-nine long years, life wins.

## **Life Wins**

We *finally* possess in the 21st century a United States Supreme Court where a majority believe in the rule of law and the wisdom of the greatest government compact ever written--the U.S. Constitution. It is history's greatest blueprint for good government and has preserved the world's longest running democratic republic.

The U.S. Constitution reflects reality (a fallen world) and helps preserve human dignity and God-given rights--against a continual onslaught of evil.

A quick synopsis of the 2nd Amendment victory.

I've never owned a gun. But I understand as clearly as I see the nose on my face that an armed citizenry is crucial to protect against criminals and government tyranny.

I settled this issue forty years ago when I saw a bumper sticker in Oklahoma that read, "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." That ended the debate for me. The right of personal defense is a no-brainer.

The prayer case was close to home.

Bremerton High, where Coach Joe Kennedy prayed on the fifty-year line after games (and some players joined him voluntarily), is eight miles from our house. I played football there when I was in school (not very well) and prayed before basketball games in their locker rooms (we won).

Here's the simple, historic truth about religious liberty enshrined in the 1st Amendment. First, *Congress* can't legislate a national religion. Second, all American's are free to practice their religious beliefs, both at home and in public places.

"Separation of church and state" is not mentioned in the Constitution. It was originally coined to keep the *government* out of religious affairs--not force atheism upon the public domain.

I love the way one group described Coach Kennedy's victory:

It's the end of the fourth quarter. There's no time remaining on the clock. The final score: 6-3. Coach Joe Kennedy has won. After a seven-year legal battle, the Supreme Court on Monday affirmed Kennedy's right to take a knee in silent prayer in view of the public after high school football games.

Touchdown for freedom.

Pray and read your Bible, Koran, or Vedas at school, government buildings and the county courthouse, and may the best worldview win.

Now to the colossal victory against the feds declaring a "right" to kill babies. The Daily Signal writes:

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned, not only the heinous 1973 Supreme Court decision known as [Roe v. Wade](#), but also the equally flawed decision from 1992, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

Ruling in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#), the Supreme Court found that these earlier cases, the foundation of so-called abortion rights for a half-century, were without legal merit. Therefore, the final ruling was as follows: "The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."

These are momentous words. They are an answer to multitudes of prayers over the shedding of innocent blood of sixty-three million Americans--a high percentage of them African America.

Who deserves the most credit for this legal victory? President Donald J. Trump.

I wrote with conviction in 2016, that despite his flaws, I would vote for him solely because of his ability to re-make the Supreme Court on originalist grounds--which he did. He was aided by Sen. Mitch McConnell's refusal to consider the Merrick Garland nomination during the waning months of the Obama presidency--awaiting the 2020 election.

After Trump's victory, the new president nominated Neil Gorsuch, Patrick Cavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett--better choices than Ronald Reagan made (he regretted nominating Sandra Day O'Connor) and George W. Bush (John Roberts).

President Trump personally pointed heavenward after Dobbs: "God made the decision. This brings everything back to the states where it has always belonged."

The Never Trumpers were wrong. Time to admit it--and change.

Abortion was always a hideous evil, using the same arguments once used for slavery. 1) Babies aren't fully human (like Negroes). 2) People are free to choose (slave states and free states).

Point one was flat out false in both cases. And "choice" is either good or bad depending on *what the choice is*. In the case of abortion, it's choosing to kill another human being (no matter how small).

That's wrong--period (with debatable exceptions for self-defense).

Now, the abortion battle moves to the states--and we must prevail. For a time there will be "death states" and "life states."

Let's keep praying that life wins in the end.

The Daily Signal points out how extreme the USA has been on abortion:

As the beacon of hope for those "yearning to breathe free," it is shameful that the United States joins human rights offenders North Korea, China, Vietnam, and Canada, as well as South Korea. These are America's abortion-policy peers who also allow a doctor to abort a woman's child right up until the moment of birth.

Around the globe, 77 nations outlaw abortion completely or only allow abortion where the woman's physical health is at risk. Perhaps more surprisingly, 94% of countries (186) have national restrictions on abortion in the second trimester. Except in cases of rape, incest, fetal anomaly, or economic hardship, 56 countries—including 48 of 51 European countries—ban abortion after 14 weeks.

It's time for us to catch up--and eventually *lead* on the issue of life. Be encouraged by [a story](#) of a woman who prayed for Roe v. Wade to be overturned.

Eleanor McCullen, 85, prayed for the reversal of Roe for 22 years. It was at a prayer service over two decades ago, McCullen says, that she felt called by God to put action behind her pro-life beliefs.

She became actively involved in the pro-life movement in Boston and began praying outside her local abortion clinic. Soon, she began speaking with women who were coming to the clinic for an abortion. McCullen estimates that she has been a part of saving the lives of about 300 babies.

“We have to go forward and praise the Lord for this decision and realize that many babies will be saved,” she told The Daily Signal, adding that “men and women will also be greatly helped.”

I think June 24, 2022, should become a new national holiday--celebrating life. If we want to add a worthy name to it, let's make it "Nellie Gray Day." She was the tireless anti-abortion activist who founded the March for Life in 1974 and was credited with popularizing the term pro-life.

Praise God for all those fighting the Lord's battles. Be encouraged and hang onto the words of Daniel Webster:

Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6000 years may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.

And most importantly, trust in God and keep praying for his truth to prevail.

\* \* \*

I need *more discipline* in my life at a weaker stage at this important time in my life. I also know that others must increase, and I must decrease—and be content as I navigate the elderly years of life.

Thank you, Jesus, for the grace for each day. Show me how to “number my hours” that I might present to you a heart of wisdom that makes a difference in this world.

*July 30, 2022 – 25,936 – 5,873*

One of my most important mentors as a prophetic voice—and one of the greatest teachers of our mission—Joy Dawson—graduated to heaven on July 21 at the age of ninety-six.

No one ever impacted my life more powerfully through the spoken word than Joy—and I’m sure a generation of YWAMers would all say the same. By teaching YWAM how to hear God’s voice, the character and fear of God, and the priority and privilege of intercession, Joy shaped the entire through if Youth With A Mission.

We are deeply grateful.

I had the privilege of spending several days with Joy—especially during the 133 C Street years. I also sought her and Jim’s counsel regarding by political run for office in 2008. They both greatly encouraged me.

Joy is now doing cartwheels with her Savior on the other shore of eternity. I want to be faithful as she was on earth and join her and the saints in glory when it’s my time to come home.

*August 14, 2022 – 25,951 – 5,858*

I spoke at FCC today of the “Destiny of First Christian Church.” It brought back some memories that go back many years.

My journal records that the first time I ever spoke her was on July 27, 1980, just after our Around-The-World trip following Washington For Jesus. I was twenty-seven years old at the time, and the church still met in the old building on DeKalb Street.

The message was entitled “Obedience,” and I shared on that same theme nearly half a century later as we try to help steer the church in the 2020’s and God’s renewal and blessing. I felt God’s anointing on the word and received a good response.

A couple days after, I even heard from Jeremy Alexander, formerly a candidate for the church, who was deeply touched by the message. He watched it on-line, and we are getting together for lunch on Wednesday.

Lord, if he is the one to help resurrect FCC at this crucial time, speak clearly through our time together and to his wife. You are the author of revival—which we deeply need. If you can use my message in a strange way to “bring him back “to us, I would be deeply grateful.

May you be honored through the future of First Christian Church, my Lord and King. Thanks for the years to serve them—and you, Jesus.

*September 13, 2022 – 25,981 – 5,828*

God answered prayer, and on Friday September 10, Jeremy and Brook Alexander accepted the call to be our new pastor at FCC. Praise be to God Most High.

It will not be an easy assignment. Re-igniting a dying church is not easy task. But I believe they are called to do for God’s glory and will do everything in my power to help and support them.

The church facility “transformation” is well underway and will be completed sometime between November and January. I pray that the greatest days in the history of First Christian Church will come in our not-so-distant future. I want to pray it into existence.

I’m now in a break between quarters at FIU and working on the final seven chapters of “One Small Life.” It’s been one of the biggest projects of my life and I hope that the Lord will be pleased with my reflections on his work in my life. I’m also building the “final” office/library into our home campus as well as the new pantry during the next few weeks.

May it all be done in wisdom for the glory of Jesus.

October 10, 2022 – 26,009 – 5,800

Shirley and I quietly and while serving our family (mothers) celebrated our 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary today. It was wonderful to look back on forty-six years of faithful love to one another and the growth that has taken place in our lives and relationship since God called us together in 1976.

She remains God's greatest gift to me on earth—and I am thankful.

The chicken roof is now done, I'm in the final stage of finishing the new "library" on the property, FCC is moving forward with new vision and leadership, the fall quarter at FIU has begun with me teaching fifty eager students, and I continue to be burdened about the state of America and the world.

With the mid-term elections approaching, there is much to pray about—and a great need for revival.

How I thank you, Jesus, for your faithfulness in my life. This week I will finish Section Six in "One Small Life" and then have only the final four chapters to complete. It's been quite a project and I'm weary—especially with the many other assignments.

But I want You to be glorified through it—and will persevere to the end. It's all for you, King Jesus.

**\*\*October 30, 2022 – 26,029 – 5,780**

Today I celebrate the faithfulness of God in teaching and empowering me to *journal* for the past fifty years straight. Blythe Harper in New Zealand taught me the concept in 1972 when I was nineteen, and by God's grace and leading, I have done it ever since.

Because of that fact, I'm in the final three chapters of my *Life Story* and will finish by Thanksgiving. That book is only possible because of the journal.

I knew very little at age nineteen on October 30, 1972. I had lived less than seven thousand days on earth. As you can see above, I have lived now almost four times as long and "God has directed my steps" over a lifetime. The key in life is taking the "Next Step" God calls you to do. I did that fifty years ago, and my *life* now is the result of continuous obedience to God.

Thank you, my Lord and God, for the privilege of serving you and writing down your great acts in my life. You are my life, my King, the Lover of my soul. Whatever time I have left is yours, and I will faithfully record it as you give me strength to the glory of Jesus.

November 13, 2022 – 26,043 – 5,766

I was privileged to speak today at FCC on the subject "Peter—The Rock or the Wreck?" Was great to the preaching in the "Fellowship Hall" (soon to become the East Auditorium) where



I first spoke to the congregation in 1982. God blessed the message as I invited some folks to their knees at the end to humble themselves before God and *repent*.

There's a whirlwind of change on the campus and I'm excited about what God is doing. Lord, bring us all the way through into the blessings of repentance (change) and great faith.

I will post below my thoughts on a very disappointing 2022 Mid-term election which should have been great gains for the "righteous" in America but didn't really materialize. I continue to pray for revival in the land and for God to use this nation for his purposes in world evangelization. Thank you, Jesus.

### **Thoughts on the 2022 Midterms and the Road Ahead**

I took an extra day to ponder the USA 2022 midterm elections.

I was greatly disappointed by the initial results. An extra twenty-four hours to ponder, listen, read, and pray brought greater perspective and understanding.

When you're in a cultural civil war (which we are), every election is consequential. Your side either advances or recedes--which means freedom grows and tyranny is restrained, or freedom shrinks, and government power expands.

Here are my thoughts on the 2022 midterms.

### **My Thoughts on the 2022 Midterms and the Road Ahead**

Being able to vote for your leaders and societal direction is a amazing privilege.

For most of history, the masses of humanity lived under various forms of dictatorships and tyrants with few human rights or daily securities.

Today, about half of the world's countries are democracies--of varying types. The end of World War I led to the birth of many, but during the 1930s, many of these young democracies reverted to being autocratic.

After World War II, the number of democracies grew again. But it was the end of the Cold War that led to a more dramatic increase in the [number of democracies](#) worldwide.

The United States is the world's longest standing constitutional republic utilizing many democratic principles. But our freedoms have been dying for at least two generations--putting our future--and righteous influence for liberty and stability in the world--at risk.

If I could choose another title to summarize the 2022 midterms, it would be: *Voting (or Not Voting) Your Own Destruction*. Bill O'Reilly described it on "[The No Spin News](#)" as "Americans voted against their own self-interest."

He didn't mean *altruistically*. He meant they voted for more bad policies to hurt themselves.

I will use numbered points to share my thoughts on the midterms for clarity and diversity of topics. I begin with some "macro" observations and will then return to the "micro" details of the recent election.

1. We must never forget the unseen spiritual warfare behind human events. Demonic forces seek to destroy human beings through policies like abortion, rising crime, open borders and gender confusion. God longs to set people free through the Good News of salvation in Jesus and his will being done "on earth as it is in heaven" via good laws and social institutions.

2. The current American cultural civil war is between the biblical worldview (which created our legal-social foundations) and the atheist/secular worldview (Francis Shaeffer called it *humanism*) trying to destroy and impoverish the nation. The Democratic Party and its allies (mainstream media/Hollywood celebrities/higher education elites) promote an atheistic slate of policies that have been ascendant since Barack Obama. The Republican Party still holds onto our Judeo-Christian roots and principles.

3. Andrew Breitbart once noted that "politics is downstream from culture." To which we must add that *culture is downstream from the state of the Church*. The rise of atheistic policies hurting people in our country is the result of the weak condition and actions of God's people.

There are 250 million registered voters in the USA. In the 2022 midterms, only 120 million of them voted (forty-eight percent). Many of those not voting were believers who could have changed scores of election results through their participation. Their apathy hurt the nation's future. Another dagger came in the form of ignorance. A young pastor told me recently, "I don't believe Christians should get involved in politics." I reminded him that God-followers have a prophetic role in society, and that "all that's necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing" (Edmund Burke).

4. A huge problem we face in America is *deception* which comes from lack of faith in and fear of God, the blinding power of immorality, and selfish ignorance. Lee Zeldin won 90% of New York's counties in his bid for governor. But he narrowly lost to incumbent Democrat Kathy Hochul because the African American population in NYC voted 9-1 for the Democratic governor who allows drug gangs to kill them in the streets. 9-1 is similar to a "communist vote" in Cuba. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won her crime-ridden NY district by 70%. Why? There's only one plausible explanation: Ignorance caused by *deception*.

It also appears that Independents swung +4 to the Dems this election cycle. Do they not see their gas and grocery bills, open borders, and rising crime? Are they blind? Yes. *Deception*.

4. There was no national red wave or political tsunami (Republican sweep) as many expected. even though most people can see that Democrat policies are hurting the economy, the border, and our inner cities (70% say America is headed the wrong direction). Twenty-seven-out-of-thirty crime-ridden cities in the U.S. are controlled by Democrats. Yet, in many states and

precincts, people voted to *hurt themselves*, especially Gen Z, who increased their participation in the midterms by 28% (CNN Exit poll) --guaranteeing many Dem victories.

Brandon Morse explains:

Gen Z did their job. Win the youth, win the future. If Republicans want to stop the eventual destruction of the nation, then they must begin attacking the snake at its head. Involve themselves more in the culture and become societal tastemakers. Investigate your kid's schools and make sure they're being taught things they need to be taught to become productive citizens, not loyal activists... It's going to take time, but the time to start is now.

5. Florida *did* see a red tsunami due to great leadership and many patriots moving there (from oppressed Caribbean nations and other American states). Jarrett Stegman tells the story:

In 2018, DeSantis edged out his Democrat opponent by the slimmest of margins—0.4% or 32,463 votes out of about 8.12 million votes cast. On Tuesday, DeSantis won by more than a million votes and took Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, which were deep blue, even as recently as 2020. That's not just a big win, that's a realignment.

DeSantis won in large part because he didn't back down from culture war fights, because he didn't let militant woke zealots—even ones empowered by mighty Disney—dictate how his state would be governed.

“We reject woke ideology. We fight the woke in the legislature. We fight the woke in the schools. We fight the woke in the corporations,” DeSantis said in his victory speech on Tuesday night. “We will never, ever surrender to the woke mob. Florida is where woke goes to die.”

Those are bold colors, not pale pastels. Importantly, DeSantis' leadership hasn't just been rhetorical, and that's key. He's delivering. You win with competence and vision.

6. I view the 2022 midterms as a small but significant gain for the GOP. We now have a Republican House thanks to gains over the past two election cycles (30-40 seats). Under [Rep. Kevin McCarthy's leadership](#), a renewed House will at least block the destructive Democrat agenda and expose the growing corruption in Washington, D.C. (DOJ, FBI, Hunter Biden laptop etc.) Nancy Pelosi, one the worst House Speakers in U.S. history, will now thankfully leave the political scene (at age eighty-two).

The Senate was disappointing and will probably remain 50-50 (Democrat-controlled), or become 51-49 Republican with a Herschel Walker run-off win in Georgia and/or a Blake Masters' miracle in election-challenged Arizona. Plus, Republicans still dominate in the executive houses of the nation where national policy has been successfully challenged.

7. The great need in our nation is for a revival of the Church--especially in the inner cities--which could multiply the blessings of liberty to every street and neighborhood in the land.

No matter what happens, we must never weary of battling evil on earth.

Ultimately, God's truth *will* prevail.

*November 17, 2022 – 26,047 – 5,762*

After fifty years of journaling, two years of transcribing and formatting, and one year of writing, *today* I finished *One Small Life*. It's an amazing feeling to have completed your life story and now move it forward for publication.

Praise be to the God of my life.

The book runs thirty-five chapters and around 750 pages double-spaced. I felt that anointing of God upon it all the way through—and now can't wait to complete the Index, Addenda, and photos, and send it off to be printed.

To God be the glory.

I have no life and story worth writing about except for the work of Jesus in my life. I pray His Story in me will inspire others to live their one small life for Him.

*November 29, 2022 – 26,059 – 5,750*

Another sad day in American history. A “Dirty Dozen” of Republican senators joined with the Democrats today in passing into law the “Respect for Marriage Act”—which is anything but what its name implies. It is the “Christian Persecution” bill that will lead to tax exemptions being removed from churches and faith-based groups that oppose same sex marriage.

We are so far down the slippery slope that only a God-sent revival can save us.

I will pray for that revival until my last dying breath. Come, Lord Jesus!

*December 6, 2022 – 26,052 – 5,743*

Much has happened in our family's life in just seven short days. Here's part of what I wrote to all my students this morning during the final week of the fall quarter.

We all have times in life when pressures and trials pile up. That's life in a fallen world. Some of you have experienced that this quarter and have worked hard to overcome the difficulties.

It happened to our family last Friday.

First, an unusual dumping of snow took out the electricity for sixteen hours. Our generator came on, but broke. Our only four-wheel drive car to navigate the icy roads wouldn't start. While the power was still out, my wife's ninety-five-year-old mother (Margaret Cookson) fell and broke her hip. (She's been living in our family room for the past five years with my wife,

Shirley, giving her twenty-four-hour care.) For the past month, even before the fall (to use her own words), she was in excruciating pain.

We got her to the ER on Saturday and soon realized that we were moving into end-of-life care. The pain was still terrible—even with morphine between pumped into her frail body. We wanted to bring her home to live out her last days (as we did with Shirley's dad), but we couldn't control the pain at home even with home hospice.

Last night, I met her ambulance at 10 PM at the Hospice House in University Place (Tacoma), Washington where she is now resting comfortably for the first time in weeks. Within a matter of days, she will be ushered into her heavenly home. It's a sad but joyous time for our family as we say goodbye to Mom Cookson.

We'd appreciate your prayers this week and I ask for some grace in grading papers and posting grades as I will be at Hospice House every day until she passes.

Thanks for your understanding and prayers for our family.

So, what's a major lesson when troubles strike? To arise and finish strong. Completing tasks requires grit, determination, "setting your face like a flint," discipline, death to self, godly character and a never, never, never quit mentality.

King Solomon began well but ended poorly (Book of Ecclesiastes). The thief on the cross began poorly but ended superbly ("today you will be with me in Paradise").

I want you to end this quarter strong and complete your life well also. You can do it through the power of the living Christ reigning in your heart and mind--and growing in Him.

Some final quotes to encourage you:

"Any time you give up on anything, you're giving up on God." - Pamela Christian

"Regardless of what came before or of what is yet to come, what matters most right now is how I choose to respond to the challenge before me. Will I lie down, or will I fight? The choice is mine, and I chose to finish strong." – Dan Green

"I have fought the good fight. I have completed the race. I have kept the faith. 8 The prize that shows I have God's approval is now waiting for me. The Lord, who is a fair judge, will give me that prize on that day. He will give it not only to me but also to everyone who is eagerly waiting for him to come again" (2 Timothy 4:7,8).

*December 8, 2022 – 26,054 – 5,741*

Here's the blog I wrote honoring Mom Cookson after her passing.

### **A Tribute to Margaret Irene Cookson (1927-2022)**

Margaret Irene Cookson, Shirley's mother, passed away last night on December 6 at Hospice House in Tacoma, Washington. I spent two hours with her before she passed--thanking God that he would soon usher her into the arms of Jesus and a glorious time of reunion.

Mothers are the most important people on earth--imparting their lives and love to their children and extended family.

We miss you, Irene. But we know you've just experienced the greatest day of your life.

All because of Jesus.

### **A Tribute to Margaret Irene Cookson**

Margaret Irene was born on January 30, 1927, in Parsons, Kansas, to Roy and Jesse Taylor. Roy lost two wives before marrying Jesse--who gave him two beautiful daughters: Rosalie in 1924 and Margaret Irene, two-and-half years later.

The era was called "The Roaring Twenties," but things were not "roaring" in the agricultural south. Roy worked for \$1 a day in the fields and moved the family to Arkansas for a time to put food on the table--then back to Parsons.

Margaret was a spitfire early on, often standing up for her older sister when she was bullied for a speech impediment.

When the Depression and "Dustbowl" hit during the girls' teenage years, Roy traveled to Bremerton, Washington, to find work in the shipyard. Margaret joined him in 1942 at the age of fifteen, with Jesse and Rosalie joining them soon after.

Margaret graduated from Bremerton High on June 9, 1942, at seventeen because she skipped a year (the Kansas school system was better than Washington).

Following our victory in World War II, the attractive, hard-working bookkeeper fell in love with tall, dark, and handsome Charles "Chuck" Cookson, co-owner of Cookson's Texaco in downtown Port Orchard. They married in 1950 and move into an upstairs apartment overlooking Sinclair Inlet--just one hundred yards from the station.

Their marriage lasted sixty-seven years--all spent in that six hundred square foot apartment. It was a simple, hard-working life devoted to their business, family, church--and Margaret going to the beauty shop. For decades, she maintained her beautiful hairstyle through a weekly appointment with her hairdresser.

Margaret, known locally as "Maggie" or "Mag" by close friends, was told by doctors she could never have children. On February 26, 1952, Shirley Jean--my wife--was born to the extremely grateful parents. As their only child, she became their pride and joy.

I always said God created Shirley *especially for me*. The truth is, I was way down the line in their close extended family.

Margaret did the books for Cookson's Texaco with exacting detail. She complained regularly that the candy sales were in the red because big-hearted Chuck gave them away to precocious children. Some years she got so sick of bookkeeping she erupted: "I'm going to throw all these ledgers into the bay (across the street).

Chuck would reply with a smile, "Bookkeeping keeps your mind sharp."

It also kept her tongue sharp because Margaret Irene *always* spoke her mind--which she saw as the truth.

That ended most debates.

In the 1960s, the young Cookson family began attending First Christian Church, located only about six blocks from their apartment. In 1964, all three were baptized under the energetic preaching of Pastor Jack McDaniel. Maggie later served on the Worship Committee, and at her passing, was the second longest standing member at FCC (after Don and Lois Morrison).

I met Margaret in 1975 when Shirley and I started dating, joined YWAM, and were married in 1976. Early on I started calling her "Irene" during humorous banter. I then tweaked it to "Feisty Irene"--which she seemed to enjoy (I think). She called me "Ronnie B." I often reminded her that I was her favorite son-in-law.

She coyly smiled.

Margaret and I kept up the banter all her life. In 2014 after she broke her leg, I visited her in rehab and told her I had a new name for her current hairdo: *Roadkill*. With that, she feistily disowned me as her favorite son-in-law (just kidding).

Margaret Irene never returned to Kansas. But on January 16-20, 1996, I flew to Parsons to speak at a city-wide Revive America Seminar hosted by twenty-four churches. During the day I checked out her old haunts and even tried unsuccessfully to find the names of some relatives at a local cemetery (there was too much snow on the ground).

During the evenings, God moved in power, and I wrote in my journal:

During the final Sunday evening service, God came down among us in a packed-out Wesleyan Church where Dean Sherman gave the final message. Crowds overflowed into the foyer, the choir loft, and sat on metal chairs in the aisles.

The time of communion and covenant signing was electrifying. At the close, forty pastors and associates came forward, spoke encouraging words to their people, and prayed. Parsons was deeply touched by God.

I was greatly blessed to visit Margaret Irene's childhood home.

After sixty-seven years of marriage in one apartment, Chuck graduated to heaven in 2017. Six months later, Maggie developed stress fractures in her back from coughing and then accidentally burned herself with a heating pad. She came to live with us in March 2018, and we enjoyed her close company for nearly five years.

She lived most of her nineties in our family room, curled up in her favorite chair, talking to Shirley and occasional guests and watching *Andy Griffith* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. She always lit up when family members came for a "visit."

During her final year, she began to experience "horrific" pain (her word) in her lower extremities. On Saturday, December 3, she fell onto the carpet near her chair and had to be ambulated to St. Anthony's Hospital with a broken hip. That only increased the pain in her body, and it took two days to bring it under control.

Shirley shared some tender moments with her mom in the hospital agonizing over her pain and both loved on one another profusely. I also spoke to her tenderly and let her know that she was "going home" and that we would meet her in paradise one day. I explained to her, "When we are in glory, I won't have my pride and you won't be feisty anymore." She then asked me to come close, looked into my eyes and said, "Ronnie B, can't I be a little feisty in heaven?"

We both teared up and I told her the Lord could handle that.

When we were leaving, I tried to bring one more smile to her face and quipped, "I'm going home to eat some of your chocolate cookies" As we headed out the door, she weakly called me back to her side and whispered in my ear.

"Don't eat my cookies."

I lost that debate.

Irene spent just one night at Hospice House in Tacoma. I was there when she arrived at 10 PM Sunday evening and spent some final hours with her Monday afternoon praying in her room and looking forward to her graduation to heaven. A couple hours later, she experienced eternal glory.

All because of Jesus.

I read Jesus' amazing words in John 11 in my normal devotions this week. He was speaking to Martha, a hard-working homemaker just like Margaret--when he exclaimed:



I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?

Martha did. Margaret Irene did too.

And even though we miss her, heaven is a little feistier today--because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

*December 12, 2022 – 26,058 – 5,737*

It was wonderful to have Nathan and Aleah do an early Christmas visit with us December 8-12. Family is the bedrock of our hearts and our American society.

One night while we were eating dinner, they handed us two “cards” they wanted us to open. We did and were a bit puzzled as we seemed to be looking at a primitive ultrasound—to which they remarked “Aleah is pregnant with a baby boy who will be your first grandchild.”

It was a stunning moment for which we’ve waited a long time. At times, I felt we never would be grandparents in this life. Now, after the passing of Margaret Irene into heaven, God has chosen to give us a baby grandson to pick up the torch of life and the Boehme name and lead us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lord, we are deeply grateful for this gift and pray that our grandson will be filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb and come forth to a powerful destiny in serving you and your Kingdom. Thank you for blessing the Boehme family. May this boy be a great blessing to your heart.

*December 25, 2022 – 26,071 – 5,724*

Last evening on the FCC campus, an eleven-years-in-the-making plan of God took place as New Life used the facility for the first time in two Christmas Eve services and we did the same—totaling about 800-1000 people in worship at the site. The parking lot was parked, even with the new graveled area in the back, and some even needed to park on the street. It was certainly the largest crowd ever to worship God at First Christian Church of Port Orchard in 134 years.

It was an electrifying moment as God brought to fruition a “word” that he gave me on November 7, 2012, that God wanted us to turn our property into a “multi-church campus to thrive during the difficult days ahead.”

Four years later, I took that word to Jonathan Stone, the founding pastor of New Life South who expressed openness to the idea. I then brought it to the FCC leadership who said no and plunged us into the Covid years with much uncertainty. In 2021, I brought the word again to the FCC elders and this time they wholeheartedly embraced it, we talked to New Life, and began to move forward.

In the last six months New Life has invested nearly \$650,000 to upgrade the facility into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After a flurry of activity the past few weeks, we debuted the beautiful campus last night with its large central lobby, many windows, wonderful area for Kid's Ministry, four different auditoriums and a vision for growth and Kingdom work in South Kitsap. I hugged Tag and Deidra Larson as I entered the "dream come true" then went to The East Auditorium (formerly the Fellowship Hall) to be a greeter at the FCC Christmas Eve services.

My heart was full of gratitude to God for his faithfulness over the past eleven years. His word will not return to him void.

Next Sunday morning, on January 1, 2023, FCC and New Life will be doing a joint gathering to launch the New Year. I will have the privilege of sharing how God fulfilled his word at the conclusion of that service.

Thank you, Jesus, for the power of your words.

During this Christmas season, God has brought two powerful revelations to my spirit. First, that Heaven will be a place where spiritual family will shine without blemish for all eternity. It will never be difficult to talk about and praise Jesus—no compromise in message—in the paradise of Heaven. That will be a great improvement to this fallen world.

I'm greatly looking forward to Jesus easily being the center of our conversations with no resistance—for all eternity. That brings me great hope.

Associated with that reality, I learned this Christmas why I sometimes struggle with small talk and worldly associations of Christmas. It's because I am wired by God to "shape, impact, and impress" people (my SIMA motivations) with God's truths in all situations. When I feel I cannot do so, it's like a "muzzle" being put over my gifting—and very uncomfortable for me.

Yes, I want to be loving to those not walking with the Savior. But I also always want to *share* His nuggets of truth in every setting in which I find myself. Again, that will not be a problem in eternity.

Praise the incomparable Name of Jesus.

*December 31, 2022 – 26,077 – 5,718*

Another year has come to an end, and the ending has not been easy with the passing of Margaret Irene and many things going in in our family, church, and world.

One of the blessings of this week was closing out the Cookson accounts and receiving their inheritance into our finances—allowing us to have \$150,000 in the back for the first time in our lives. It was the largest monetary gain in our lives except for selling out home (which we invested in buying this one and paying off our credit-line debt).

I'm struck with how the faithfulness of generations accrues to the next (Proverbs 13:22). The Taylors and Cooksons were faithful to pass on to their children the fruits of their labor and Shirley and I want to do the same for our children.

Thank you, Lord, for your blessing, the wisdom of your ways, and the families you allowed us to be a part of. It's not been an easy year, but I'm excited to bring some things of "completion" during 2023—my 70th year.

All because of your greatness and goodness, Lord Jesus.