

ANGELS FOR HIGHER

Newsletter: Volume Three - June 2019



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Robert's Father's Day Testimony: Voyagers Bible Church, June 17, 1990

"Good morning, I'm Bob Hendershot.

While I imagine not many of you here may know me by sight, I believe many more of you have at least heard about Trevor, Melissa and myself, because I know for a fact that a whole lot of you have been praying for us. This is not going to be easy for me, but I wanted to take a minute or two to thank all of you for all of the prayers we've received over the last forty-five days or so.

Last Sunday was the first time all three of us were able to make it to church at the same time--Melissa and Trevor are coming to the second service today--but I have to tell you that thanks to your prayers, every day has felt like Sunday, at our house.

For those of you who don't know, Trevor was born on May 4, and as of today, physically, he's doing fantastic. He eats well...has a good heart—we're very fortunate. Developmentally, however, the Lord has given us—and ultimately Trevor—an additional challenge. Now when you've tried for so very long to become parents—daily prayer, monthly heartbreak, and five years of disappointment—and then you at last see your first and most likely only child being born, and the doctor tells you, “He’s a boy,” that was the happiest moment of my life.

But when that same doctor, five minutes later, asked me, “Do you know what Down syndrome is?” that was by far the saddest moment of my life. Let me tell you, to go from utter joy to utter devastation in the five seconds it took for the doctor to finish her question was the hardest thing I've ever had to endure.

While I already had a general idea of what it meant to have Down syndrome, I've learned a whole lot more over the last few weeks by reading books, talking to other parents, and just observing Trevor. Without getting too technical, it

does mean that Trevor will be delayed in his development, although we're not sure exactly how much or how high a plateau he will eventually reach. God knows, and time will tell.

Now when I think of all the men and women in this church today—those of you who have great hope, solid belief, and tremendous faith—well, some of you have been Christians for many years, and a few practically all of your lives. If you would've asked me seven weeks ago which couple was best qualified to handle a challenge like this, I know that Melissa and I would be down at the bottom of the list. The fact of the matter is we could not have handled it without the prayers I've already mentioned, but also the support—the practical, physical, hands-on support—we've received from all of you in the way of cards, phone calls, and just actually being available to help us bear this burden in any way that you could.

We learned right away, within minutes, that if we had to rely on the world's view of such special children, for a great many people—more than you might think—if Trevor had been their son and they had known in advance, then he would not be here with us today.



Now I must confess that when I've heard a negative comment like that, my first thoughts have been those of hurt, anger, and rejection, but what these people have really needed and what others like them will need—and that I know we'll continue to encounter in the years ahead—are our prayers, don't they? Because they're not aware of some biblical truths that, I must admit, I probably had only cursory head knowledge of before Trevor's arrival.

First, they're not aware that the Lord our God, the Lord is one. He does exist. He's the creator of the universe. He will not grow tired or weary. And while His understanding sometimes no one can fathom, He does not make mistakes, does He? No. Trevor—just like all children, even those we might think of as imperfect (just like all of us, for that matter)—is here for a reason.



Our God doesn't make mistakes, Trevor is here for a reason.

Second, the world doesn't understand that "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." And that does go for *all* things, doesn't it? Yes, even those things we may not have asked for.

Most importantly, however, I feel they don't understand that I know as a believer that when I die I'm going to heaven, and when I do, I'm going to lose my own imperfect body and be transformed both physically and spiritually. And it is my greatest hope and prayer today—and I trust it's the same for all fathers here on this Father's Day—that our children . . . *my son* . . . will be with us there in paradise.



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Now, Melissa and I have additional hopes and prayers for the Lord's wisdom and discernment in the years ahead regarding Trevor's upbringing. As a result, therefore, when we at last get to that point in heaven, although Trevor may not ever have been able to clearly articulate it in this lifetime (then again, he may lead one hundred people to Christ—God only knows), we just hope and pray that in his own glorified body he can say to us—perhaps for the first time ever in a clear, understandable voice—“Thank you, Mom and Dad, for being the kind of parents I needed you to be.” And he's also going to be able to say, “Thank you, Voyagers Bible Church for being the church home I needed you to be.”

And yet as I stand here this morning, while I'm confident there will be many more in the years ahead, I think that the greatest blessing Melissa and I have already received from the life of our son—and it is our great desire for everyone here to also receive this morning—is something that we'll be able to tell *him* at that point in heaven. We'll be able to say, “No, Trevor, you've got it all wrong, son. Praise God . . . praise

Jesus. . .and thank *you*, special boy, for the example of your life—a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood parable, teaching so many of us here so much of what we needed to know about God’s perfect love. It's a love that looks at the heart, one that sees the soul inside a man and not the outward appearances--the things that man looks at...



I guess because Melissa and I have that hope, we have that belief, and we do have at least that much faith, we are able to say today that while of course we certainly would not wish a disability on any of you, your children, or your grandchildren, we do appreciate all the prayers, all the support, and all the love we’ve received from our friends, our relatives, and this congregation. Lastly, but absolutely, positively not least, I’m here to tell all of you—that we just love our special son, Trevor William Hendershot, with all of our hearts. And with the whole earth as our witness, we *would not* have traded him for anything or with anyone in the world!



That is why we can also finally say today that while we still would not consider ourselves to be the best choice to be Trevor's parents—in fact, just the opposite—by the grace of God, with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we do consider ourselves, as a family now, most richly blessed!"

Happy Father's Day!



Middle son Taylor and Jocelyn's Wedding Day: July 6, 2018

(left to right: Trevor, Robert, Melissa, Taylor, Jocelyn, youngest son Tanner and his wife Delaney)



Thank you for all of your Prayers!

We really want to thank all of you for the prayers we've received over the years! God hears our prayers and responds in love! Thank you so much! Please continue to pray for us!

Volunteers needed to work from home



Volunteers are needed to work remotely a few hours each week updating Angels for Higher's website. If interested, please email your availability to Bob: rmhendershot@cox.net



Angels for Higher also needs your support to help us change the public perception of individuals with Down syndrome by facilitating their employment as Greeters at sports stadiums. Any large and small tax-deductible donations you contribute will play an important role in this year's plans for expansion. Thank you in advance for your prayerful and financial

partnership with our mission!

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