



HIGHWAY NEWS



Celebrating the Life of Vernon Erb - Page 8



A Word from Our President

The Bible tells us in I John 1:5-4, “Everyone who is a child of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world—our faith.”

You get impatient with your own life, trying to master a habit or control a sin and in your frustration you begin to wonder where the power of God is. Be patient. God is using today’s difficulties to strengthen you for tomorrow. He is equipping you. The God who makes things grow will help you bear fruit.

Dwell on the fact that God lives within you. Think about the power that gives you life. The realization that God is dwelling within you may change the places you want to go and the things you want to do today.

Do what is right this week, whatever it is, whatever comes down the path, whatever problems and dilemmas you face. Just do what is right. Maybe no one else is doing that, but you do what’s right. Be honest. Take a stand. Be true. After all, regardless of what you do, God does what is right: He saves you with His grace.

These are difficult days we live in and maybe you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior. You are feeling all alone and helpless. You don’t know where you would be if you were to die today.

Let me state something important. There is never a time in which Jesus is not speaking. Never. There is never a place in which Jesus is not present. Never. There is never a room so dark or a lounge so sensual or a house so empty that the ever-present, ever-pursuing, relentless tender Jesus is not there, tapping gently on the doors of our hearts, wanting to be invited in. The Bible tells us that few hear His voice. Fewer still open the door to Him. Don’t be one of them. Cry out to God, and He will meet you right where you are.

Never interpret our numbness as His absence. For above the fleeting promises of the world’s pleasures is the promise of His presence. He tells us, in Matthew 28:20, that “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

There is no cry so loud that the voice of God cannot be heard if we will only listen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fran'.

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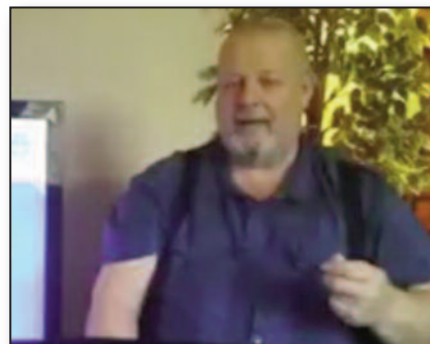
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Celebrating the
life of Vernon
Erb, an award-
winning trucking
industry execu-
tive and long-
time supporter
of the ministry of
TFC Canada.
See story on
page 8.



Canadian Staff Holds Nationwide Virtual Fundraising Concert

- By Chaplain Paul Leger -

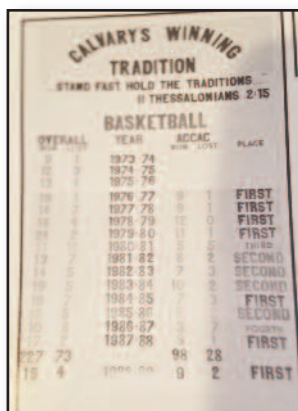
As I was seeking the Lord through prayer about how we might engage our supporters and others by gathering together in a different way, I felt His leading to try something that was a bit of a foreign concept to me, to say the least. I began to think that we might try hosting a “Virtual Gospel Concert/Fundraiser” on Facebook live. Staff across Canada joined in the event and it happened on March 23rd at 7:00 PM Eastern Time. The event itself featured some regional artists sharing in their gifts of Gospel Music, featuring messages like “God Can,” “Blessings,” “The Promise,” and “Help Is On The Way,” along with many others.



We even had our lead chaplain from St. Liboire, Quebec, Jacques Poirier (on left), share a worship song in French. Following the Gospel Music segment, I presented the ministry of TFC Canada and shared about the existing ministry needs, both nationally and internationally. We shared the need for continued prayer for this ministry, as well as the opportunity for people to partner with us in reaching those in the trucking industry with the life-changing message of the Gospel.

I am thankful for the opportunity to try something new in light of our new and challenging reality, and am even more thankful for those who have come alongside to help with this endeavor. Ultimately, I am most thankful for God’s leading and direction in all of this. All glory is His!

The concert is available on facebook.com/paul.leger.39794/videos.



CALVARY'S WINNING TRADITION				
STAND FAST HOLD THE TRADITIONS II THESSALONIANS 2:15				
BASKETBALL				
OVERALL	YEAR	ACCAC	PL	PLACE
1973	74	1	1	FIRST
1974	75	1	1	FIRST
1975	76	1	1	FIRST
1976	77	1	1	FIRST
1977	78	1	1	FIRST
1978	79	1	1	FIRST
1979	80	1	1	FIRST
1980	81	1	1	FIRST
1981	82	1	1	FIRST
1982	83	1	1	FIRST
1983	84	1	1	FIRST
1984	85	1	1	FIRST
1985	86	1	1	FIRST
1986	87	1	1	FIRST
1987	88	1	1	FIRST
1977	78	98	28	FIRST
15	4	9	2	FIRST

Legacy of Faith

A word from Joanna Maart, Director of Communications

When I was growing up and into adulthood, my dad coached high school boys basketball for our small Christian school. He was very successful due to his focus on basic skills, unwavering commitment to the team and the belief that sports were an avenue for teaching about life. He required his players to memorize Bible verses that directly related to subjects he deemed important. One year, he chose a verse that has resonated with me often in the last few months. It was 2 Thessalonians 2:15, “...stand fast, and

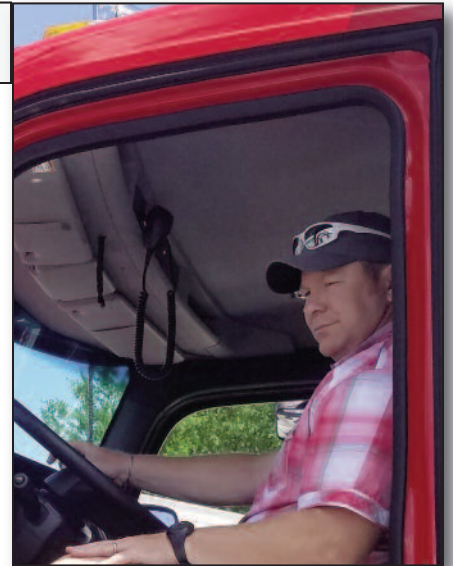
hold the traditions which you have been taught.” You see, a tradition of winning was part of my dad’s motivation to keep the team performing at a high standard of excellence. That tradition carried over beyond the winning of games to winning in life...living a life that honored God as a young man. This verse is a constant reminder to me of how my dad held respect for God, family and country as traditions to be kept and held fast. Even though he is enjoying his heavenly home, my dad’s traditions make up who I am as a believer and woman of God.

What about you? Are there traditions in your family that you hold with a steadfast grip? Or, are your family traditions a reason to re-evaluate future choices and habits? As a young man or woman, do you purpose your life as someone who honors God and develop traditions that you use as a filter for everyday choices? In your home, do you lead with purpose in holding traditions of honoring God with your giving?

Giving to TFC Global has been a tradition for many of you. It’s a tradition that has allowed us the privilege of meeting the needs of commercial drivers across the world for many years. It takes repetition and communication to pass on a tradition to your people. If you prioritize the tradition of giving, that practice will continue for generations.

Pastor's Corner - Craig Maart

Craig has been married to his wife, Joanna, for 25 years. They have raised two children, now in college. Craig has a master's degree and has been a pastor in student ministry for 25 years. His passion is for people to become disciples of Jesus and for men to rise up and fulfill their God-given role as leaders in their family and in the local church. This is from a presentation he gave at a men's meeting in his church.



Being a Better Man of God - Part 1

What is a Godly Man?

- ◆ One Who Rejects Passivity
- ◆ One Who Accepts Responsibility
- ◆ One Who Leads with Courage
- ◆ One Who Expects God's Greater Reward for Obedience

A Godly Man Rejects Passivity

I Corinthians 15:45-49—"Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."

These contrast the first Adam and the Second Adam:

- ◆ Genesis 3:6—"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."
- ◆ Philippians 2:5-8—"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

A Godly Man Accepts Responsibility

- ◆ Psalm 40:7-8—"Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'"
- ◆ John 4:34—"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.'"

Jesus allowed these responsibilities as a man to define Him.

A Godly Man Leads with Courage; He Is Driven By Truth, Not Feelings

- ◆ Joshua 1:9—"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

A Godly Man Expects God's Greater Reward for Obedience

- ◆ Hebrews 12:1-2—"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
- ◆ Hebrews 11:24-28—"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."
- ◆ I Corinthians 2:9—"But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.'"

HIGHWAY NATIONAL EVENTS & NEWS

D.C. protest reached an apex inside the White House Amid financial pressures and abysmal rates for many small-business truckers, the demonstrations in D.C. on their 20th day Wednesday reached an apex with a meeting in the White House with administration reps on the subject of issues in the brokered-freight market. *May 25, 2020*

Amid anemic freight market, some independents see glimmer of hope While COVID-19-related freight and rate problems persist, a recent Overdrive survey shows an increasing share of respondents is optimistic that conditions will improve soon. *May 20, 2020*

Quick takes: Readers mixed on hours of service changes' impact on their own operations On the issues of the 30-minute break and new split sleeper options for drivers, readers at first blush are mixed on how the changes will impact them -- and their opinions of FMCSA's final rule to reform hours. *May 18, 2020*

News roundup: Trump chief of staff pledges dialogue on independents' issues Fleet Advantage has designed a new "Sales-Leaseback" program for truckers to use excess or older equipment as a cash-flow tool to offset down revenues. During a visit with D.C. demonstrators Wednesday, Trump Chief of Staff Mark Meadows pledged ongoing dialogue on independents' issues. *May 14, 2020*

Full articles are available online at www.overdriveonline.com. All news blurbs are used with permission and are part of the Overdrive electronic newsletter available for free at www.overdriveonline.com.

ON THE HOMEFRONT

One of the ways we take care of our staff when they minister at locations across the country is by dividing the country into districts, led by district managers who can invest in our staff in a way that encourages and supports them. Please pray for these managers.

Southeast	Howard Hill
Northeast	Robert Keiderling
New England	Rich Desmond
Great Lakes	Chad Roedema
North Midwest	In development
South Midwest	In development
Northwest	In development (Michael DeBay is interim manager)
Southwest	Michael DeBay

We are also welcoming new staff members who are being trained through our Chaplaincy Training Institute. Pray for our staff and training teachers as they develop chaplains who are prepared and equipped for their ministry. We will be introducing them to you in the August issue of *Highway News*.

Overseas Ministries Update

— By Kevin Scott —

Our world has changed, but our God and our mission have not! As Christians we can stand strong in the knowledge that God is in control, that He is the same yesterday, today and forever, that He loves us with an everlasting love and that He wants all people to be reconciled to Him. And even in the midst of all the turmoil that is happening right now people are being reconciled to Christ. Our chaplains have had to adapt how they share their ministry but they continue to share God's love with drivers in need. We know of 54 salvations that have taken place through the ministry of our chaplains during this pandemic, despite limitations on gathering and contact!

Brazil—The chapel in Paranaguá has continued to function throughout the pandemic. They had to move services online and can only meet with one person at a time in the chapel, but ministry continues. They have seen 12 people saved in the last six weeks, and the numbers continue to grow. Driver Neureudes (pictured on right), who comes from a town 14 hours north of Paranaguá, is at the port often but this was his first visit to the chapel; he felt compelled to come in to get some answers, and gave his life to Christ during his visit.



Chaplain Marcelo reports that drivers are asking deeper questions, searching for answers. Joice, one of the two ladies pictured on left (wearing black) came to the chapel in Paranaguá looking for some answers as to what was really happening and what the future may hold. She left knowing that her future is solid thanks to Jesus and His forgiveness and love.

The chapel in Imbituba was closed for three weeks when the city closed everything to stop the spread of the virus, but it's now open full time again. The first day it opened Driver Elioberto and his wife stopped in at the end of the day. Chaplain Alexandre talked to them about the mission behind the ministry, and that night Elioberto accepted Christ, to the joy of his wife, who had been praying for him for years. Driver Vinícius heard about our ministry through the WebRadio broadcasts and was anxious to get a load to Imbituba so that he could visit the chapel and accept Christ!

Paraguay—The restrictions and curfews have started to lessen, and Chaplain Baldomero reports he is again able to take the chapel back to the border to work with the drivers who are waiting for it to reopen so they can return home. He asks us to pray for these men and women who have lived in their trucks throughout this pandemic and says that the border should be opening soon. He has been able to meet some very real, physical needs as he ministers Christ's love to the drivers.

Russia—Moscow is currently in a full lockdown and has been for a number of weeks as the hospitals can't keep up with the number of sick. This means our chaplains have many days when they can't even leave their buildings, so they have been keeping busy contacting drivers that they have been in touch with over the last number of years. Chaplain Vladimir tells us that one driver he has been talking to for more than eight years finally gave his life to Christ!

Zambia—The country has taken the threat of COVID-19 very seriously. Some of the companies have supplied the drivers with very serious protective gear (photo on right). They have also been quarantining any drivers coming into the country but not providing any medical tests. Chaplain David went to the Prime Minister's office regarding this negligent treatment of the drivers, and after an uphill fight not only was he able to obtain guaranteed medical treatment for the drivers but he was also asked to be a part of the task force to determine how to reopen the country safely. He reports that only six out of the more than 300 drivers who were in the quarantine camp actually tested positive and got medical help, and the rest were released to continue on their journeys. He was able to share Christ with many of these drivers in quarantine and 11 of them accepted Christ.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF VERNON ERB

"He spoke volumes with his actions and modeled servant leadership."

Vernon Erb, founder of one of the largest refrigerated transport companies in Canada and a long-time friend and supporter of TFC Canada went to be with the Lord on May 20 after a brief battle with an aggressive form of leukemia. The flood of tributes and remembrances after his passing give honor to a man who, in the words of a company employee, was one who "spoke volumes with his actions and modeled servant leadership." Stephen Laskowski, president of the Ontario Trucking Association, stated in a report published in the association's website: "When I first entered the industry as a young man many years ago, Mr. Erb taught me many lessons about conduct in both business and life."



Vernon is remembered with gratitude and appreciation by everyone who worked for or with him. Jacqueline Culham, Erb's Communications and Marketing Coordinator, recalls her early days with the company: "Within my first week working at Erb Transport I knew that the company was built on faith and trust. I had heard kind words about our founder from all my new co-workers. It was within my first week there that I met Vernon Erb. He came into the head office, and even though he had retired, he still made his rounds and checked in on everyone to see where he could help. What fascinated me was that he knew everyone's names!"

"Vernon was not one to preach with words," says Dale Bauman, who works in the company's special projects division. "But he spoke volumes with his actions. He truly modeled servant leadership. It was said that in his younger days, all knew who the boss was, but there he was, helping to load trucks and move freight on the dock. When an employee made a mistake, big or small, he would go the route of forgiveness (some thought to a fault). He once caught his dispatcher lying to a customer on why we were late for the pick-up; Vernon quietly told him, 'We do not lie in this company.'"



Vice-president of Human Resources David Dietrich concurs. "I have had the honor of working with Erb Transport, and specifically Vernon Erb, for over 27 years now. Mr. Erb was truly a great, charismatic man and leader. He was a real people person, and one of his greatest strengths was his concern for his employees. I sincerely believe that created the unique culture we still have today at Erb Transport."

TFC Canada director Dennis Finnamore recalls Vernon as a sincere, soft-spoken gentleman who could make you feel respected and appreciated. "He lived his Christian testimony to the fullest," Dennis says. "He touched the lives of so many people, and he will be greatly missed."

Murray Scott remembers when Vernon learned about this ministry: "We first met Vernon and Viola and their family at a TFC Canada function 52 years ago, when I was working fulltime for the

ministry. Vernon was excited to hear there was a ministry for truckers. Seven years later both Audrey and I went to work for him at Erb Transport, and worked there for the next 16 years. Vernon and Viola became our very close friends, and he and I served together on both the International and the Canadian boards of TFC for many years.

"In 1993, when Audrey and I began Overseas Ministries, Vernon and Viola were some of our first supporters, and have been instrumental ever since. They traveled with us to Russia in the early days to see Russian trucking and the ministry there first-hand. Vernon was always pleased to hear of Russian drivers coming to the Lord, and to hear of how their families' lives were changed for the better.

"In our last visit, just before his passing, he wanted to know all about the latest news of what was happening with Overseas Ministries. He especially liked the story of an African trucker/chaplain dressed in his white PPE suit while leading a fellow driver to the Lord (see Overseas Ministries Report, page 7). Vernon called it the chaplain's 'ministry gear' and told me to be sure and have my son Kevin, now the director of Overseas Ministries, include that in the next newsletter (which he did). Vernon has left a great legacy of faith in both the Christian community and the trucking community."



(Previous page, top): Vernon with a new acquisition and one of his antiques, back in 2000; (bottom) Vernon and his son Wendell, CEO of the Erb Group, at a celebration last November; (above) Vernon, on right, during his visit to Moscow in the early '90s, with Chaplain Alexander (center) and Chaplain Peter (back to camera).

- Continued on page 10

IT WAS PLANNED AS A SMALL DRIVE-BY...

In a desire to pay tribute to Vernon's life work and give friends an opportunity to express their love, appreciation and support, the family planned a small drive-by of his place for May 1st. However, when word spread through the community, "what started out as small local tribute quickly became an entire parade because of the overwhelming love and respect that the community, company and the trucking and farming industries had for him," they posted on their Facebook page. In the same post they reported the count of vehicles, as logged by Erb driver Richard Van Dyk:

- Cars/pickups/motorcycles: 323
- Transport trucks: 169
- Farm tractors: 24
- Police, including traffic control: 7
- Fire trucks: 3

For a total of 526 vehicles! Top photo shows Vernon and Viola's children who joined their parents to greet the drivers (from left, Karen, Viola, Vernon, Darryl, Wendell).



Jim Pinder, Senior Corporate Fleet Director, writes, "It is a great honor to share a memory and acknowledge [Vernon Erb] as a special person, and it has been my pleasure to work for and with him here at the Erb Group... Finding long-term employees is an easy task, as there are many with over 20 years seniority and many who tried the job market elsewhere and returned to complete their careers here at the Erb Group because they too recognized the special qualities that Vernon brought to our lives... Even after all the industry awards and company success and accomplishments, Vernon just wanted to be sure everyone was treated well."

Highway News contributor Donald Hollinger remembers Vernon as a friend. "I have so many good memories of the times Alta and I spent with Vernon and Viola while on vacation in Florida, and also visiting them in Canada. Vernon and I had a lot in common: we both grew up on a farm, driving tractors; we both dropped out of school early to work on the farm; then we became lifelong truckers. The only difference is that after retiring I continued to drive part time while Vernon went back to farming. I remember when the company was celebrating its 50th anniversary—I wanted to write about it for *Highway News*, so I called his cell one summer evening. When he answered there was a loud noise in the background. I asked him what it was and he explained he was driving the combine harvesting soybeans because there was rain in forecast and he wanted to get it done before it hit. Many times if a church or some non-profit organization was planning a new building, Vernon would volunteer his time to do the grading with one of his tractors. Then there was the time a neighbor's barn burned down and Vernon spent three days helping clean and grade the area with one of his crawler tractors. That was Vernon! A very humble and caring brother in the faith."



From left, Donald and Alta Hollinger, Viola hugging Cindy Weaver, and Vernon, during the Hollingers' visit in 2000.

Bonnie Beam O'Hare, Terminal Manager at Erb Transport in Elverson, Pennsylvania, has very personal memories of Vernon. "I met Vernon in 1982 when I had just started dating his nephew Doug Beam... Shortly after we got married in August 1983, Vernon asked Doug and me to start a US division of Erb in Elverson, to be called Erb Transport, Inc. It meant a lot to both Doug and me that Vernon saw something in us to give us this responsibility. From the moment I met him, I realized what a kind, caring person he was...Over the years, Vernon would call and check in, just to see how we were doing, ask about our girls, etc. Usually the questions about how the company was doing came at the end of the conversation, so I always felt that he sincerely cared about us as family, not just employees. After Doug passed



away from leukemia in 2013, Vernon's calls came a little more frequently to check in on me... I got remarried in 2017 and Vernon and Viola traveled to Pennsylvania for my wedding to Kevin, welcoming him with open arms to the extended Erb family. It's hard to believe he is no longer with us, but memories will keep him alive in our hearts forever."

That probably expresses the sentiments of anyone who has had contact with Vernon Erb—a man who truly lived out his faith.

Go to page 14 for the full tributes and more photos of the convoy.



Be part of something that is changing the way people in our culture view the trucking industry and community!

Join the ICTA.

I have often been asked, “What is the ICTA?”

The ICTA stands for the International Christian Trucking Association, which is a group that has been created to provide a way for the trucking industry and their families to know Christ and grow in their walk with God through discipleship opportunities, educational resources and seminars. Our desire is to connect the professional drivers (both active and retired), trucking company owners and other trucking-related individuals in supporting and encouraging one another.

So you may ask, “Why do we need an organization like this?”

The answer is simple. Professional drivers are one of the unhealthiest professional populations in the world. That includes the physical, psychological and spiritual aspects of their lives. The many and varied factors that impact the professional driver are interlinked. The conditions under which they are required to work create immense pressure. The immense pressure created is reflected in excessive driving speeds, poor eating habits, high chronic fatigue levels, reduced quality of judgment, absence of leisure time, and severely reduced time spent with family, leading to a high rate of divorce, addictions, depression and in some cases suicide.

It has been found that religious involvement is related to greater marital and family stability, greater reliability in the workplace, greater job satisfaction, more productive employees and less job turnover. The ICTA provides information and training on how to live a better life on the road with health and safety seminars, a way to give back through mentoring, support through trained chaplain professionals, and a platform to share your story with the goal of guiding others. It also connects you with other people who have had, or have, the same struggles as you do as well as the same passion for the trucking industry.

The ICTA not only provides ways for drivers to get involved with other believers and find support and encouragement but it also helps you grow your business and develop networking opportunities.

Through the ICTA you can:

- Gain a better understanding of the commercial driver industry.
- Discover guidance on improving your work environment.
- Gain ample opportunities to network with peers, as well as experts and providers.
- Find professional development support.
- Receive recognition for achievements.
- Access opportunities to align your company mission and business strategies with the importance of the trucking industry.

For more information, go to tfcglobal.org/international-christian-trucking-association; If interested in becoming a member, you can go directly to tfcglobal.org/ICTA.

NEWS FROM SIOUX FALLS, SD

- An interview with Lead Chaplain Ryan Albrecht -

1. How has your ministry changed from when you first started?

The ministry was started in Sioux Falls in 2005 by Chaplain Rallyn Van Beek. We started out at the Pilot truck stop off I-90. I came on board as a volunteer in 2007. Through the encouragement of Rallyn, I later came on as an assistant around 2012. We moved from Iowa to Sioux Falls to be closer to the ministry that year. Rallyn went to be with the Lord in 2015, and I took over for him as the lead chaplain. I have witnessed chaplains coming and going over the years. We still have a few chaplains who originally started with Rallyn back in 2005. In 2012 Pilot moved to another, larger location off I-29 here in Sioux Falls (now a Flying J). We got the approval to move our chapel (now FaithLife Center) to the new location, and we moved it in the fall of 2012. I have witnessed several new truck stop managers come and go over the years. Thankfully they all have been supportive of our ministry and for that we praise the Lord!



2. What is one encounter that sticks out to you in the last year?

The encounter that has stuck out to me over the past year is the Muslim driver I led to the Lord. I have witnessed to many Muslims over the years, with no one ever receiving the Lord. However, this encounter was different and he was willing to listen to the Gospel. I think it was helpful that he was not a practicing Muslim. He accepted the Lord and wanted to share the good news with his family when he got back home to Washington State. It so happened I was training a volunteer chaplain that day and he got to witness it. We praised the Lord together!

3. What are two things we can be praying about?

Please pray for more drivers to come into the FaithLife Center and come to know the Lord. Over the years the number of drivers has decreased and it's our prayer more drivers would come in again. The second prayer is for continual approval of the management for us to stay where we are.

The logs below are an additional glimpse of how the Lord is using the witness of the ministry in Sioux Falls:

- ◆ When I went to pick up the keys, I had the opportunity to encourage two Flying J staff members. In the FaithLife Center, a driver came in for prayer and fellowship. He has been driving for over 33 years and shared his testimony. He feels called to witness and be faithful to God. We studied God's Word and had a time of prayer and encouraging one another.
- ◆ The wife of a driver came in and said she was concerned about COVID-19. She also said she wanted to get back in a right relationship with the Lord. She was struggling with unforgiveness and understanding what the will of God is for her. We opened up God's Word and I tried to help her. She thanked me and was happy she came into the FaithLife Center.
- ◆ Several drivers came in today. One asked for prayer because he is struggling with swearing and porn addiction. Another driver, originally from Ukraine, asked for prayer for his wife who has drifted away from the faith—that she would return to the faith she once had.
- ◆ A driver came in to share what the Lord is doing in his life. He is separated from his wife because of wrong choices he has made, but now wants to live for the Lord.
- ◆ A driver came in to share some problems he is having in his life. After he shared, I prayed with him and told him to call me any time.
- ◆ A driver from Washington State came in for fellowship. He had been witnessing to the truckers in the lounge before he came to the FaithLife Center. We shared our testimonies and studied God's Word for over two hours. He said he would pray for TFC Global, and I told him I would be praying for him.
- ◆ A driver came in for prayer. He was having mechanical problems with his truck and wanted prayer for the situation.

THIS IS MY STORY

"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story"

"Is this what life is all about?"

Psalms 107:2

I was considered a productive member of society who owned a successful fleet of semi-trucks and contributed positively to the economy. Prior to that, I served six successful years in the US Army, graduating from both Airborne and Ranger School and was honorably discharged with the rank of staff sergeant. Any time I saw someone in need of help, I volunteered without expecting anything in return. I made sure I didn't hurt or take advantage of anyone. People knew they could depend on me.

As a young entrepreneur, I had the ambition for success. I was about to achieve what many strive for—a stable financial income to maintain a comfortable lifestyle and eventually retire at an early age (32 according to my plans). I began to ask myself, "Is this what life is all about? That's what society teaches us... How boring! Life has to be for something else, something better than this!"

I was a "cultural Christian" who never attended church; I thanked God for things but didn't know how to actually pray to Him. But when I found myself in the life situation I described, I finally started talking to God. I looked at the sky and asked, "God, if You exist, is this what life is really about? Now that I'm about to accomplish what I consider success, I find it boring to keep on living with no more challenges in life! What is life really about?"

If there was anything negative about me at that time, it would be that almost every weekend I would get drunk with beer, eat pizza and chicken wings, and watch boxing on HBO. My wife at the time seemed to be proud of the life I had provided to her and our children. Her only complaint was that I put my business before our family. She was right, but I didn't understand it at that time. I felt that if I didn't put business first, I would be putting at risk the comfortable lifestyle I was providing.

To my surprise, I later realized God did hear me when I started talking to Him. I felt in my heart to ask Him if I was supposed to go to church, and if so, which one. I knew God heard me speak to Him when my business began to do poorly, with my company fleet size decreasing. I had begun

to read the Bible and realized God was actually testing me, according to some stories I had read in it. God began to test my faith because I was asking Him to show me who He IS.

I ended up losing my business, my marriage, and my properties. But in the midst of it all, I knew God was in control of my life, and that gave me great peace. I now know it was the Spirit of Christ that came in when I prayed for Him to be my Lord and Savior and told Him I wanted to follow Him with all my heart. My wife did not take lightly my losing the business and began to act strangely toward me. Little did I know she had been actively involved with witchcraft for a long time. Eventually she decided she did not want to be with me any longer. I returned to school to pursue my bachelor's degree and also became involved with an evangelical church. My new lifestyle did not suit her needs, and she could not accept the fact that I would have joy and peace through the changes in our life.

I began to serve five to six days a week in the church I attended. After being in the Army for six years and owning my own company for another five years, being introduced to my real Boss filled me with excitement and motivation. When I realized that everything written in the Holy Bible is true, I committed myself to serve the Lord fully with my life. I am now an ordained minister, serving my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ everywhere I go. Eight years after losing my business, I am finally starting my own trucking company again, but this time with changed priorities. The difference? Before I did everything for my own benefit, now I do everything for the benefit of others in the name of my Lord. Before I met the Lord, I was a "good person"—a good person on my way to hell. Now, I know I am not good, for only Jesus Christ is good. All I can do now is continue to live righteously to glorify and honor our only and true God and enter heaven when I leave this world. God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Isaac
Hesperia, California*

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Real Life Stories, Trucker's Edition; edited for length.*

THE FULL TRIBUTES TO VERNON ERB BY THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM

Vernon was not one to preach with words, but he spoke volumes with his actions; he modeled servant leadership. In his younger days, it was said, “We all knew who the boss was,” but there he was, Vernon, helping to load trucks and move freight on the dock. Vernon was always asking everyone, “Where do you need me?” When his employees made mistakes, big or small, he would go the route of forgiveness (some thought to a fault). He once caught his dispatcher lying to a customer on why we were late for the pick-up, Vernon quietly told him, “We do not lie in this company.”

When churches and charities reached out for help to move freight, he would say yes and then get it worked into the LTL network and shipped for less than cost (in many cases for free). Many community and church events needed refrigerated trucks on site, and they would call Vernon and the answer was always yes. Many times I have heard him give the history of Erb Transport, and he never told the story without phrases like, “God made it possible” and “with God’s help” and “It was a miracle the way the door opened.” Vernon and Viola were a team and built the company together.

Vernon was known as an honest man, a man with integrity, a man of his word. Vernon knew Jesus and it showed in his everyday life. He lived out his life to the best of his ability following the teaching in God’s Word. Indeed, I would use Galatians 5:22 (the fruit of the Spirit) to describe his way, his actions. The Apostle Paul said, “Follow me as I follow Christ,” and indeed that is what Vernon acted out and hoped people would do with him. He would not want the praise and accolades; he would want those reserved for Jesus Christ.

*Dale Bauman
Special Project - Sales*

Within my first week working at Erb Transport I knew that the company was built on faith and trust. I had heard kind words about our founder from all my new co-workers. It was within the first week that I met Vernon Erb. He came into the Head Office in New Hamburg and even though he had retired, he would still make his rounds and check in on everyone to see where he could help. What fascinated me was that he knew everyone’s names! How could the founder of such a large company know everyone personally? I was excited when he got to me and, after introducing himself, he asked me my name, welcomed me, and told me about his humble beginnings and his passion for the trucking industry. He knew our names for no other reason than because he genuinely cared about everyone.

Later in my career at Erb, I was filming Vernon in the boardroom of our Baden Terminal, one of our largest terminals with hundreds of drivers. His son, Wendell, entered the boardroom and Vernon gestured out the window and said, “oh look, there is Rick coming back from California.” The two of them carried on talking about what trucks were in the yard and who was going where. I was amazed at his talent for knowing his employees stretched far beyond the office I worked from. Vernon showing care and respect to everyone within the company is the reason a company this large can still have a small company feel, and why so many employees stay at Erb for the duration of their careers. I am incredibly grateful for the time I got to spend learning from Vernon, he was truly a great leader and kind soul.

*Jacqueline Culham
Communications and Marketing Coordinator*

I have had the honor of working with Erb Transport, and specifically Vernon Erb, for more than 27 years now. Mr. Erb was truly a great, charismatic man and leader. He was a real “people person” and one of his greatest strengths was his concern for his employees. I sincerely believe that created the unique culture we still have today at Erb Transport.

Mr. Erb loved to walk through our terminals and meet as many of the employees as possible. Even with 1,500 employees, he knew many of the employees by name and he would ask them about their families and how they were doing. He was always very appreciative of the work that everyone did for the company and he would express his thanks when he spoke with people. I believe Mr. Erb invented the concept of “management by wandering around.”

My first memory of Mr. Erb was in January 1993 when I went to the Erb New Hamburg Head Office for a job interview. I came into the front reception area and it was deserted, as it was an after-hours interview. Not long after I entered, I was greeted by a friendly man, dressed casually. He asked me my name and when I told him my last name was Dietrich, he asked me if I knew or was related to this person and that person. He immediately created a very comfortable and welcoming environment for me. And yes, you guessed it, that person was none other than Vernon Erb, the President and Founder of Erb Transport! When we eventually got to my interview, he sat in as well. Needless to say, I got the job and the rest, as they say, is history!

Mr. Erb was also a great story teller and I mean that in the most sincere and positive way. Often when we would have terminal manager, operations or sales meetings, Mr. Erb would provide the welcoming comments to the group and he would usually share a story. It was normally an inspirational narrative about a special occurrence from the history of the company. It could have been about how he and Mrs. Erb founded the company or perhaps about the challenges they endured in the early years or maybe about how the company grew, in spite of him never having any real plans for it to get as big as it did. It didn't matter if I had heard the story before; I always reveled in hearing Mr. Erb share the details again. I am convinced that these stories helped perpetuate our unique, people-oriented culture throughout the organization, even as we grew, both in numbers and geographically.

Mr. Erb left an indelible mark on Erb Transport, the trucking industry and our community, and he will be dearly missed and always remembered.

David Dietrich
Vice-President of Human Resources

It is a great honor to share a memory and acknowledge a special person that it has been my pleasure to work for and work with here at the Erb Group of Companies, the company Vernon Erb founded over 60 years ago. Starting from humble beginnings, Vernon, his family, and his loyal employees built an amazing success story maintaining a very high level of humility and dedication to family and friends.

To get the true family culture and honest, open feeling of faith, a person can speak with any long-term employee or read back copies of *The Erban Report*. Finding long term employees is an easy task, as there are many employees with over 20 years seniority and many that have returned after trying the job market elsewhere, and will complete their careers here at the Erb Group because they, too, recognized the special qualities that Vernon brought to our lives.

~ Continued on page 16

As a technician by trade, I would meet with Vernon in the shop and we would talk specifications, maintenance and performance of equipment. I soon became aware that when Vernon asked you a question about equipment, it was to gauge your understanding and help you improve—because, with his experience and sharp mind, Vernon already knew the answer.

However, one day we were talking about a recent trip Vernon had taken up to Labrador supporting a charity out of Bellville, Ontario, to deliver items that had been donated for a group that would see these donations distributed to members of their community that required this support. On the way back Vernon, who was truly opposed to running empty miles, was dispatched to pick up a load of peat moss in eastern Quebec. When he arrived for the pick up, the yard staff there directed Vernon where to drop his trailer, cranked the trailer dollies, pulled the fifth wheel latch and disconnected the air and electrical connections and then directed Vernon to the loaded trailer he was picking up. Once he was latched to the trailer, they cranked the dollies up, connected the air and electrical connections, and checked that all lights were working. During this process Vernon had not had to exit the cab of his truck; as they handed him his paperwork, Vernon was quickly on the road again. As was Vernon's humble and honest nature, he asked me at the end of the story if I thought that the yard staff knew that the person driving that truck was the founder of the Erb Group. Vernon laughed heartily when I voiced my opinion that "if Jim Pinder showed up there he would be cranking his own dollies and making his own connections and going into the office to get his own paperwork."

Vernon was always humble and never expected special treatment. Even after all the industry awards, company success and accomplishments, Vernon just wanted to be sure his fellow drivers, his staff, and all individuals were just treated well. Vernon's faith that that would happen carried him through.

*Jim Pinder
Senior Corporate Fleet Director*

I met Vernon in 1982 when I had just started dating his nephew, Doug Beam. As way of explanation, Doug's mom, Violet, is a twin sister to Vernon's wife, Viola. Shortly after we got married in August 1983, Vernon asked Doug and me to start a US division of Erb in Elverson, PA, called Erb Transport Inc. It meant a lot to both Doug and me that Vernon saw something in us to give us this responsibility.

From the moment I met him, I realized what a kind, caring person he was. to everyone he encountered. Over the years, Vernon would call and check in, just to see how we were doing, how our girls were, what the weather was like, etc. Usually the questions about how Erb Inc. was doing came at the end of the conversation, so I always felt that he sincerely cared about us as family, not just employees. After Doug passed away from leukemia in 2013, Vernon's calls came a little more frequently to check in on me. He knew without my partner here at the office, that things were probably overwhelming at times. It was comfort to me that he cared enough to try and understand what I was going through and wasn't afraid to talk to me about it. I got remarried in 2017 and Vernon and Viola traveled to Pennsylvania for my wedding to Kevin, welcoming him with open arms to the extended Erb family. It's hard to believe he is no longer with us, but memories will keep him alive in our hearts forever.

*Bonnie Beam O'Hare
Terminal Manager
Erb Transport, Inc.
Elverson, PA*

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SOUTH CAROLINA:

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07/20

Do You Know Your ABCs?

If you were to die today,
where would you spend eternity?
You can know for sure.

ADMIT YOU ARE A SINNER. "... as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'" (Romans 3:10, 23).

BELIEVE IN JESUS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS AND FOR ETERNAL LIFE. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

CONFESS JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD AND TURN FROM YOUR SINS. "... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved ... for 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:9, 13). "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

FIND NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

To give your life to Christ, read the "ABC" Scriptures above and pray the prayer below. Let us know about your decision.

Come to Jesus Christ today and trust in Him alone for your salvation. Pray this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life. You are my Savior and Lord."*

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