Something Old, Something New
by Tim Grissom & Eric Stanford

The Story of Dean & Sandy Faucett

"A marriage built on lies" is how Sandy Faucett describes her home life prior to 1990. Outward appearances gave the impression to relatives, friends, and fellow church attendees that all was well with the Faucetts: Dean and Sandy doted on their three children, their lifestyle was beyond comfortable...

Dean's annual income as a golf equipment salesman surpassed $300,000, all four of their cars were less than a year old, and their home was large and beautiful. They appeared successful, content and happy.

Sadly, the happiness was a facade, for the Faucetts were hiding several dark secrets from one another. Just beneath the attractive surface was an ugly, tangled mess of lies, guilt, and suspicion that threatened to boil over at any moment.

But sometimes it's a good thing when these matters work their way to the surface. Exposed lies can be corrected; hidden ones cannot.

Sandy recalls the events that led to her and Dean finally becoming truthful. "We had just started attending the First Baptist Church of Katy, Texas, which is near Houston. That year Life Action held a crusade at our old church in Houston, and I attended some of the sessions there without Dean. It was such a powerful experience that I urged our new pastor, Dr. Charles Wisdom, to try to get Life Action to come to Katy. They finally did in November 1990.

"I remember I was so excited. I had been praying that God would use the crusade to change Dean's life and the life of others in our church. It didn't occur to me that God would change my life, too."

Dean's reaction was neutral. He wasn't really enthusiastic about the prospect of a revival crusade, but he wasn't opposed to it either. He had several out-of-town sales appointments already lined up, so he planned only to attend the first and last sessions. That
would be enough, he reasoned, to keep Sandy happy and to give the right impression to others in the church. "But from the very first Sunday there was something happening," Dean recalls. "God started acting in me, so I canceled all my appointments. The crusade team ended up staying at the church for three and a half weeks, and I missed only one service in all that time."

Going into the crusade, neither Dean nor Sandy realized just how much they would confront over the course of the next few weeks. They were blinded to their own need, and to the pile of deception that separated them from one another. Neither could they see how drastically past decisions barricaded them from genuine joy in God. So, with loving purpose, God began to deal with them.

Sandy recalls, "In March of 1982 I had a nervous breakdown. I was anorexic and bulimic and weighed 82 pounds. I had pulled so far away from Christ that I felt He had abandoned me. I think a lot of it was due to my past catching up with me. In my college years I had begun to abuse drugs and alcohol. At the age of 20, before I met Dean, I had an abortion. At the time, I really didn't know what an abortion was. But later, when I realized that I had actually ended the life of my own child, I couldn't get over the guilt. I hadn't told Dean about any of this."

Dean is equally ashamed of his past: "I was a full-fledged adulterer and liar. You can't be an adulterer without being a liar, and I cheated on Sandy from the time we were dating. As a traveling salesman, I had lots of opportunities for affairs with women. It was a lifestyle for me. For most of that time, I didn't even feel guilty about it."

Like two trains unknowingly converging on one another in the darkness, Dean and Sandy were on a collision course. And they would indeed collide, with one another and with the truth. As a result, they would be wounded, but they would also be healed.

God arranges things that we later come to acknowledge and value. In the Faucett's case, there would be only one night during the crusade that Sandy would miss, and that would be the night that the revivalist preached on infidelity. By Sandy's not being there, Dean was more free to listen and to respond.

Dean explains, "I had been getting some feeling before that I needed to make some changes in my life, and what Tim (St. Clair) preached that night really hit me. I got up and made that walk to the prayer room. Two men who were friends of mine went in there with me and prayed with me. I laid my life before the Lord, confessed my sin, and sought forgiveness. When I got up, it was like I'd taken a 10,000-pound monkey off my back."

"At first I had no intention of telling Sandy anything about the affairs. But the next morning I had breakfast with Bill Elliff, who was with the Life Action team at the time, and he told me that I needed to go to my wife and confess. I said, 'Hey, wait a minute now. I'm going to go to my wife and tell her that I've been committing adultery and I've been lying to her every day that we've been married? No chance! I'm not going to do that.'"

"But Bill wouldn't let it go. It was at that point that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I left Bill and called my wife at work: 'Honey, we've got to talk.' We agreed to meet at home."
When Sandy heard Dean's confession, she was livid. She had suspected that Dean struggled with pornography, but the thought of his having an affair had never crossed her mind. She recalls the events of that day, "When he shared with me that morning that he'd been unfaithful to me, I felt that my world had fallen apart. It was horrible. But what was weird about it all was that I got mad at the Life Action people. I thought, How dare they ruin my marriage when I prayed that they would come here!"

"Some friends talked me into going to speak with the revivalist. I remember walking up to Bill Elliff and him saying, 'Sandy, just let me pray with you.' And right to his face I said, 'I don't want you to pray for me.' And again he said, 'Just let me pray for you.'"

"As Bill began praying, God started penetrating my heart. When the prayer was over and I got up off my knees, the forgiveness was there. I never once thought about leaving Dean or him leaving me."

A broken marriage can hardly be rebuilt in a day. The Faucetts have prayed and worked long and hard to have what Sandy now calls "a supernatural marriage." Dean takes great efforts to avoid places and habits that formerly set him on the path of immorality. Sandy looks to Christ, not Dean, to be the source of her security. To both, honestly is indispensable. At the heart of their marriage is what all marriages need: two people who love Jesus first and foremost, and a God-sized dose of forgiveness.

Sandy says it best: "I had to fall in love with Jesus before I could fall in love with Dean."

"My parents began being honest with us."

Michelle Faucett, the daughter of Dean and Sandy, was thirteen years old at the time of the revival crusade in 1990. We asked her what she remembers about the work God did in her parents' lives during that time.

"To look at my parents today I am in awe of what God has done in their lives. They did not tell us (children) what had happened until a year after the crusade. During that year there were so many changes: my dad had a new found love for Christ that radiated in everything he did, and my parents began being honest with us about issues in our family. That new level of honesty was perhaps the biggest change.

"My parents' marriage went through a transformation. I guess, to answer your question, all I can say is, everything changed!"

"By no means has our life been a bed of roses since that crusade in 1990, but with each obstacle and what the world would say is a setback, my family has become stronger in the Lord and closer to one another. My parents have shown me how to love unconditionally, how to forgive, and how to move on from the past."

- Taken from the "Spirit of Revival" Magazine

Walk Worthy

Men's Conference

• March 5th, 2016 •
Drawn by Tim Downs, co-author of “One of Us Must be CRAZY... and I’m pretty sure IT’S YOU”  
(Pastor Del shared some of these during his message “The Loving Husband” on January 10th)

“Folks, this is an electronics store. Male-to-female adapters don’t work on people.”

“Of course I’d like to know how you’ve been feeling lately. Why don’t you Facebook me?”

“I don’t know, let me ask him. John, would you say you’re an introvert?”

“So I love the kids. Is that a crime?”

“I can’t be spontaneous! I just like a little advance notice.”

“Of course those are my socks. After all these years you’d think you’d learn to recognize my socks.”

“Jack’s just recharging. People drain him.”

“You don’t have to be sarcastic. I just said, ‘You look pretty a little more aware.’”

Next Herald - Please submit any contributions by February 7, 2016. You may e-mail them or place them in the Office mailbox.