

outside of the books and in real action.

To many, such vulnerability to students is threatening. But to Dick, it's the most important part of his education process. "I want my students to see me — warts and all — to see that I haven't arrived either."

**D**ick's unique candor and vivacious personality don't stop at the gates to Biola. A few years ago, the producer of a Hollywood game show was looking for a "priest from Loyola" to compete in a game show hosting a feature on special knowledge. He wanted a traditional Bible expert. The producer's secretary misunderstood the name of the university and called Biola, instead of Loyola! Dick McNeely was the "priest" she scheduled for a taping! On his arrival, the producers were too embarrassed to reveal their faux pas so they gave him a spot on the show. Little did they know that he would defeat Bible experts from across the nation to win the \$50,000 grand prize — all to the cheers of hundreds of Biola students packed in the student union

memorized over four hundred hymns which he sings to God in prayer before his day begins. Whether in song or in sentence, Dick is a man of prayer. During his morning jogs, his drives to and from work, and in patches of time between class and meetings, he disciplines himself to meet with the King.

Dick's approach to life has been greatly molded by two key men. His father, Henry McNeely, modeled true manliness for young Dick, and taught him how to enjoy life.

"Dad was a hero to me — a man's man. He used to install windmills for power generators, and would take me with him to farms where he'd work. And when we lived in Kansas, we hunted pheasant together. Those were the times when we grew close."

Their closeness was such that Dick was able to know the real person beneath his robust, outdoorsman father.

"Dad could explode easily, yet he was so sensitive. He always admitted when he was wrong and cried when touched. He was very human."

"I was discouraged by my sophomore year at Westmont. It was hard to forge on alone spiritually, and going to Bible college didn't make me feel any more spiritual. I think God sends special men into students' lives to help turn things around. I remember walking out of Dr. Ryrie's doctrine classes unable to speak. I was so impressed with his ministry of teaching that I decided to apply to the school which trained him, Dallas Seminary."

Dr. Ryrie picked up on Dick's fascination with Scripture and took a personal interest in him. They hiked in the deserts and mountains together, and when Dick and Jean decided to marry, it was Dr. Ryrie who performed the ceremony. When Dick was graduated from Dallas Seminary, four years later, it was Dr. Ryrie who preached his ordination sermon. And when he completed doctoral studies in theology six years later, Dr. Ryrie hooded him with his Doctor of Theology degree. From this man of God, Dick discovered the impact of a teaching ministry, the importance of a balanced spiritual life, and the power of Bible doctrine.

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I believed it. Today I am jealous for  
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center before a TV. Where did the money go? In typical Dick McNeely fashion, one-third went to Biola, one-third went to the church, and the rest went to taxes, his three children, Dennis, Michael and Kathleen, and finally, to him and his wife, Jean.

**B**ut the Dick McNeely story runs deeper than game shows, band tours, and basketball seasons. In the quiet hours of the morning he spends his time in intercessory prayer and worship of his Lord and Savior. A lover of music, he has

When the McNeely family left the Kansas dust bowl for southern California, they visited a neighborhood church. Soon afterwards, eight-year-old Dick was led to Christ by his Sunday school teacher. Only weeks later his younger brother trusted Christ, and a few weeks after that mom and dad put their faith in the Savior. The whole family was reborn!

It was years later, as a junior literature major at Westmont College, that the second key man entered Dick's life. He was a young professor by the name of Charles Ryrie.

**T**he view of the Bible which Dr. Ryrie outlined for Dick in college was confirmed and reinforced at Dallas Seminary.

"At Dallas I got what's rare today. I knew *what* I believed when I got out, and *why* I believed it. Today I am jealous for the heritage and distinctives of Dallas Seminary."

Dick McNeely makes those distinctives a lasting part of a Biola College education. Through his ability to teach and live his convictions, thousands of young men and women have been marked by the truth of God's Word.

And I wouldn't be surprised if in twenty years there are a handful of outstanding Christian leaders who will gratefully say, "Through that man of God, I learned what it meant to integrate true spirituality into all of my life." ☝