

# The Day Our World Changed Forever - 9/11, 2001

**By Van Yandell**

We arrived in Hamburg, Germany just after dark from Amsterdam. Walking a street a few blocks from the train station, we passed by a group of Middle-Eastern men. One was heard saying “Americans!”

Later my traveling friend told me they followed us. This was a little over a year before the 9/11 terrorist attack on America. We later learned that the terrorist staged in Hamburg and I will always wonder if those men we passed on the street and followed us were some of those hijackers.

Had they attacked us the possibility of their plans being discovered was extreme. That may have been what prevented trouble with those six men. We’ll never know for sure.

The morning of September 11, I had been to a local hardware store. When I pulled into the driveway, wife Margie came running out telling me “America is being attacked!”

We sat at the TV watching the disaster unfold and I remember thinking “I’m sure glad we’re here in our Western Kentucky home and not in New York.” A year before to the day we had been in New York with another couple.

The size of the World Trade Towers was overwhelming to this country boy. A work of architectural design, engineering and construction expertise, the towers were an impressive work of artistic design.

Early in the morning of September 12th, we

received a call from our Disaster Relief team leader. Our team was headed to New York “tonight” and we were needed.

We loaded up our gear, which we kept packed for immediate call-outs, and left home bound for New York. We were to meet the DR convoy in Ashland, Kentucky but by the time we arrived they had already left.

We drove through the night but never caught up with them. We discovered at Raritan Valley church in New Jersey the next morning, they had stopped on the interstate to sleep and we had passed them. The DR convoy arrived a few hours later.

Total confusion was the perfect descriptor for the next few days. Finally on Friday of that week, national DR found us a place to set up, under the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side of the East River.

The following is an excerpt from my article published September 2022:

“We crossed the Verazano-Narrows Bridge in the middle of the night, after one a.m. As we crossed the bridge, to the left, the Statue of Liberty was visible. Beyond her, we could see the smoke blowing out over the water from the destroyed twin towers. I remember saying to wife Margie, “Our world is changed forever.” Little did I know how accurate that statement actually was.

We arrived in the city about two in the morning. The streets were not deserted at that time of night as I would have expected. Several people standing and

talking waved at us as we approached our destination.

A silence existed in the city that was surreal. There were no sirens, horns, people chattering or construction noises as we had heard on previous trips. A pall of death, fear and apprehension hung over Manhattan like a dense cloud.

America, once again, went to war. Retaliation seemed logical, but the terrorists thought their attack was retaliation. They saw America as the invading force when we attacked Saddam Hussain’s Republican Guard in Kuwait in 1991. By invading their sacred land, the fight was on.

It is not my place to say if that was right or wrong but it started a fight that would last for generations. Actually, I should say it continued a fight that began 4000 years ago between Sarah and Hagar (Genesis 21: 10). Always remember, everyone is a terrorist to someone.”

Once in New York City, we set up the mobile kitchen unit to be ready to prepare breakfast for first responders by morning. The unit was capable of preparing 15,000 meals per day. Later, intelligence determined the Brooklyn Bridge was considered for a second New York target.

We camped out in a warehouse under the bridge. It was full of supplies sent in by civic groups, churches, fire departments, school children and many others. We were told there were seven such warehouses around the city.

We had gone to New York in our Nissan pick-

up. We were drafted to haul supplies to Ground Zero. There was a fireman from Louisville with us. The three of us crammed into the front of the Nissan. Most loads were taken between midnight and dawn. We hauled gloves, coffee, lip balm, side grinders, sledge hammers, cheese crackers, peanut butter and anything else the site workers needed.

Near Ground Zero, even after a week or more, there was a smell in the air. Several times we smelled human flesh burning. We had grit in our teeth and probably in our lungs. Walking down a street near the site, even at night, we could see thick layers of gray, powdery concrete dust through store windows.

The on-site workers to whom we delivered supplies did not talk. When I asked where to put supplies, they usually just pointed. The only response I remember was a statement of appreciation when we delivered coffee pots and coffee.

We had little rest time during the days. During the day, barricades were blocking the site several blocks out from Ground Zero.”

All in all, our experience could be described as horrible, yet we saw a building of American patriotism and resolve not seen in many years. “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Since then I have been accused of promoting Christian Nationalism

for America. While that is not my intention, we must understand one of our most precious freedoms is freedom of religion. Lest we forget our experiences on 9/11, we must not forget the religion America was founded on was Christianity.

Christians should

promote freedom from the penalty of sin as a faith based belief in Christ Jesus, crucified and resurrected.

*Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of permitting decisions made by the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Webster County

SEBREE MINING LLC 9170039 RN 3 7/14/2026  
SEBREE MINING LLC 9175027 RN 7 7/9/2026

**-- PUBLIC NOTICE --**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living is soliciting proposals from qualified applicants for services to older adults in the seven-county GRADD region: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster Counties.

Separate Requests for Proposals are being solicited for service programs as follows:

1. In-Home Services

2. Legal Assistance

The Requests for Proposals will be available at the GRADD office beginning Wednesday, September 16, 2026, through Thursday, October 1, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST). Applicants may request a digital copy of the RFP by scanning the QR code below.

GRADD reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all proposals.

Applicants are advised that contract requirements include applicable conditions of employment, Section 109, Executive Order 11246, Title VI, and other applicable requirements. Minority applicants are encouraged to submit proposals.

All proposals shall be returned to GRADD by 1:30 p.m. CST (2:30 p.m. EST), Monday, October 26, 2026. Sealed proposals shall be returned to Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director, Green River Area Development District, 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Proposals received after this time and date shall not be considered for review. Sealed proposals will be opened at that time.

This project is funded in whole or in part by funds from the U.S. Administration for Community Living and the Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living.  
EOE.

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## God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

**Don't Lose Sight Of God's Goodness and Faithfulness**

**Q:** I've had a severe case of pneumonia that has slowed me down. My job at the plant has been terminated, AI and automated robots have taken my job. My wife fusses because I lay round the house depressed. My faith in God is waning. What can I do to get back on track?

**A:** In hard times, it is especially important to stop and remember blessings in the past. Make a list of events in your life when you felt certain God was at work. Then apply some lessons learned to your present situation. We should never lose sight of God's goodness and faithfulness.

Choose a Bible verse that helps you remember. One that is encourages me is God's prom-

ise to Joshua as he was tasking him to lead the Israelites into battles with the pagans possessing the land that would be theirs. God promised him, "I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you" (Josh. 1:5). Read it each day for a week and commit it to memory for daily encouragement.

After the Israelites crossed the Jordon River at flood stage, they took large stones from the bottom of the river to make a memorial to help them remember God's provision for them. He told them, "This is so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD'S hand is strong, and so that you may always fear the LORD your God"" (Josh. 4:24). God is faithful and He is strong. He is fully able

to meet your needs if you'll turn to Him for help. Never lose sight of His goodness and faithfulness.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

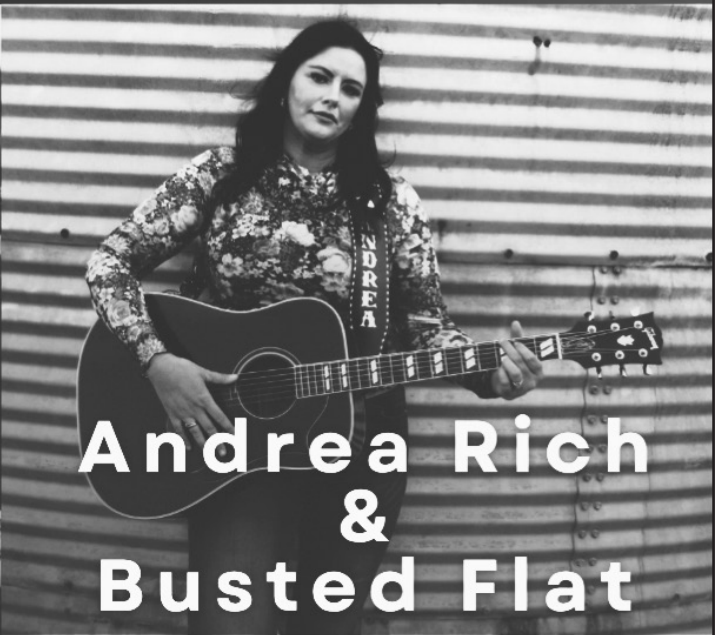
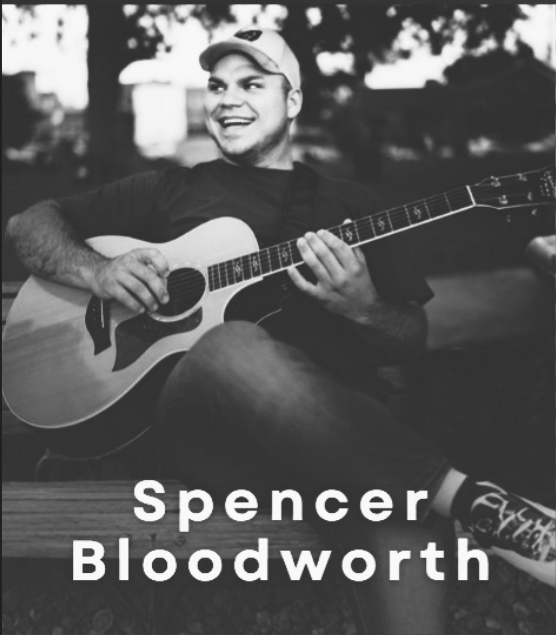
The City of Clay will hold a public hearing in the council chambers of the city building on Thursday, September 17th at 3:00 P.M. to hear public comments regarding the proposed general tax levy of 31.4 cents.

The General Fund tax levied in 2025 was 31.6 cents and produced revenue of \$99,730. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 31.4 cents is expected to produce \$104,604 for 2026-27. Of this amount \$460,000 is from new property. The compensation rate for 2026 is 31.4 cents and is expected to produce \$104,604.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and the information contained herein.

9/16c

# United with Sebree



**Spencer Bloodworth**

**Andrea Rich & Busted Flat**

## Free Community Concert

Food trucks will be at the event.

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an evening of live music!

**September 18 • 5-8:30 PM**

Hosted by  
The City of  
Sebree

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