

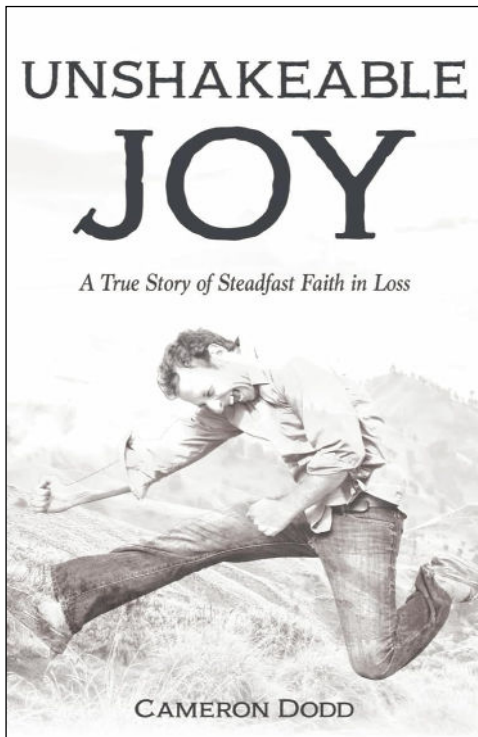
It is a special opportunity when we get to have a book of the month written by one of the precious members of GBC (Cameron Dodd). Even more special is that this is a biography of her husband, Matt Dodd, a long-time part of GBC, a missionary we sent to Papua New Guinea, a man of emulatable faith and joy in God, and my best friend for more than a decade.

Unshakeable Joy would be a helpful, encouraging read for anybody. In it, Cameron walks the reader quickly through Matt's life and the experiences that God used to shape him into a Bible-

translating missionary who was prepared to face a terminal cancer diagnosis and the process of dying with steadfast faith, infectious joy, and God-honoring perseverance. Then the book slows down and takes the readers slowly through those final months of Matt's life until—despite intense pain and real suffering—with more joy than he had while he lived, Matt left this body to be with the Lord he loved. This book will grant its readers an eternal perspective that will enable God-glorifying faith and joy in life... or in death. I commend it to all.

But for those of us at Grace Bible, it is an even more precious book. Because it is about one of our own whose legacy lives on among us. Matt's wife—the author, Cameron—continues in our body. We see and interact with his sweet children—Susanna, Benaiah, Onesimus, and Mary—each Sunday. The team that he co-founded with the Canns in PNG continues to serve in the Finisterre Mountains in the village of Maweroro where the gospel has been proclaimed and a new fledgling church has started. And countless Christians who Matt disciplined, encouraged, and otherwise impacted are members of our church and those we have planted. GBC, when you read this book, we learn about ourselves and the God who continues to be at work in us.

We will all die, and, like Matt, it will likely not be in the manner or at the time we might anticipate or choose. God had numbered Matt's days and prepared him through blessing and trial to glorify Him in life and in death. That same God has numbered each of our days, and He has set a racecourse of our life (see Hebrews 12:1ff) before each of us. There are a cloud of witnesses who have run that same race before with their eyes set on Jesus so that we would know how to run by faith. Matt Dodd is now among that faithful cloud of witnesses. We would do well to consider his faith, set our eyes like Matt, on Jesus, so that we can run this race with endurance and joy. I cannot commend *Unshakeable Joy* more highly to you. Please, if you have not already read it, make this month the month that you (and the whole church) read this book together.



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(Average 8 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday January 1st - Sunday January 7th

Introduction, 4 pages

Prologue, 4 pages

Part I From the Desert to the Jungle

1. God, Is This the Girl I'm Supposed to Marry? 7 pages
2. Use Me, God, For Big Things, 11 pages
3. Being Mastered by That One Very Great Thing, 8 pages
4. Do You Know For Sure You Don't Want to Go to Papua New Guinea?, 8 pages
5. This is Your Will?, 9 pages

Week 2: Monday January 8th - Sunday January 14th

6. Five Planes and Eight Days Later, 20 pages

Part II A Change in Direction

7. Held Fast, 7 pages

8. That's the Lord's Will, 11 pages

9. This Doesn't Change Your Goodness, 14 pages

10. The Clock Runs Out, 14 pages

Week 3: Monday January 15th - Sunday January 21st

11. Our Hope is in Him and Him Alone, 9 pages

12. Not Giving Us More Than We Can Bear, 8 pages

13. Weeping for Joy, 7 pages

14. I've Got the Lord, 9 pages

15. God is Still Good!, 7 pages

16. Four Truths to Sustain a Dying Man, 10 pages

17. It's Going to Be So Sweet to See You in Heaven, 7 pages

Week 4: Monday January 22nd - Sunday January 28th

18. Make Us Lights in This Dark World!, 11 pages

19. Whatever You Will For Me, 11 pages

20. In Need of Much Grace, 4 pages

21. See You in Heaven!, 9 pages

22. We Can Still Rejoice!, 14 pages

Part III The Man Who Died Best

23. Triumph, 7 pages

Jacob Hantla, Pastor-Elder