



FEBRUARY 15, 2024
SAVANNAH COMMUNITY MEMORIES PROJECT
“FAITH IN ACTION” RESIDENCY
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWER: TOM KOHLER
DIRECTOR/CAMERA: ERIC DARLING
PRODUCER: MICKEY YOUMANS

SUBJECT: BOBBY HANSON



Bobby Hanson

- 09:17:44:19 [Tom Kohler]: Yep. Well, good morning.
- 09:17:47:23 [Bobby Hanson]: Good morning, Tom. How are you? Doing great.
- 09:17:50:09 [Tom Kohler]: That's good. You know, one of the things I've always liked about you is you are always doing great.
- 09:17:56:17 [Bobby Hanson]: Thank you. Appreciate that.
- 09:17:59:07 [Tom Kohler]: I need you to tell me your name, and if you don't mind, actually spell your name for us, please
- 09:18:03:16 [Bobby Hanson]: Be glad to. Bobby or Bob? H-A-N-S-O-N. Hanson.
- 09:18:09:14 [Tom Kohler]: Thank you so much. And then just for the record, how do you identify with regard to the pronouns?
- 09:18:16:12 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay. I'm a, I'm a man, 73-year-old man.
- 09:18:20:20 [Tom Kohler]: Got it. Thank you so much. And then would you mind talking a bit about where you were born and about sort of your life, if you will, and about what has moved you to become the person you are today?
- 09:18:37:17 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay. My life, I was born in Savannah 73 years ago. Been here pretty much ever since. Stayed right here, went to school here, eight years at Blessed Sacrament. Went to BC for one year, contrary to some rumor I was not kicked out, but I was asked to not return. So went to Jenkins the 10th through 12th grade. Went to Armstrong for half a day. College... When orientation, when they said go to lunch. I went and never
- 09:19:11:12 went back because I was in a band at that time, thought I was gonna be the next Mick Jagger or somebody, and I didn't need college, which turned out to be a big mistake later on. Was in the National Guard here for six years. Played in bands here for many years, been in churches here, worked here. So I've just been here my whole life and have been married for many, many years to a beautiful lady named Ruth. And we have a very happy marriage.
- 09:19:39:15 And we have five married children who, as far as I know, are very happily married. We have 18 grandchildren ranging in age from one to 33. Does that kind of sum it up?
- 09:19:53:14 [Tom Kohler]: Thank you. Yes. When I think of you, one of the things I do think about is the Kmart parking lot. Do you mind telling that story?

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- 09:20:05:08 [Bobby Hanson]: Not a bit. I was selling shrimp in the Kmart parking lot out of the back of a truck. And I had seen you there on occasion. And yeah, that was just a part of our life, not having an education. And when I quit playing music professionally, I was somewhere around 33 years old or so, and anybody watching this can maybe identify with some of this. If you get to that age and you don't have an education, you don't have any manual skills, Ruth puts in the light bulbs in our
- 09:20:38:05 house. And that's the truth. I'm just horribly challenged. So I'm going, okay, I'm 33 years old, no education, no skills, what do I do now? And so somehow ended up selling shrimp in the Kmart parking lot.
- 09:20:53:15 [Tom Kohler]: Do do I remember a bible
- 09:20:55:05 [Bobby Hanson]: In that? Yes. That was a time when I really was able to increase my biblical knowledge because I sat there for eight, nine hours a day or whatever. And so I was able to study my bible quite a bit while I was selling shrimp.
- 09:21:10:12 [Tom Kohler]: When you were in the selling shrimp and studying your Bible, were you affiliated with the congregation at the time, or did that come later?
- 09:21:18:15 [Bobby Hanson]: Yes, I was with the church then. Yes.
- 09:21:21:03 [Tom Kohler]: Do you mind sort of talking about, if you don't mind your No, your, your church journey
- 09:21:25:02 [Bobby Hanson]: Is Okay. My church journey, we were at Mount Olive Christian Church, which is on Montgomery Crossroad for 16 years. We were at Islands Christian Church on Wilmington Island for 12 years. And we have been at Compassion Christian Church where we serve now for 13 years.
- 09:21:43:08 [Tom Kohler]: And when you say serve, would you talk a bit about what that means to you in your life today?
- 09:21:49:23 [Bobby Hanson]: In our church service, that would be mainly what we, what Ruth and I think of ourselves as now, our main job, so to speak, although it's not a job, is a service, is hospital visitation, hospital nursing home, hospice, shut-in visit type thing to visit people and pray with them. And that is pretty much our main job. We do other things as well. We are prayer team members and other words, at the end of a service,
- 09:22:21:11 if somebody's heard something in the sermon and they wanna know what it, what does it mean to become a Christian, or they just want somebody to pray for 'em, Ruth and I, and a handful of other folks are up front at the end of the service to meet them and do that. So that's kind of our, also, our daughter started a organization called P.A.C.K, People of Action Caring for Kids. And we have

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been very involved with that for 11 years, so that's a, a big one there. We're also involved with a homeless feeding, which we have

09:22:53:20 been doing for 15 years, but that is not like under a church umbrella. There's many different churches and organizations represented there.

09:23:02:20 [Tom Kohler]: We are particularly interested in this idea of interfaith action in Savannah. So since you brought it up, kinda elaborate on that a little bit about who's involved in the work around homelessness and how people get connected and that sort of thing.

09:23:16:04 [Bobby Hanson]: Yes, I'd be glad to. And that's a real loose thing there. So there's a lot of different churches and we started, do you wanna know how we got into that? Okay. We have, we have, we have been, Ruth and I have been Life group leaders, which is a, a home bible study prayer group for 21 years. And 15 years ago, just one night I said, Hey, we need to be doing some more service in the community if anybody's got any ideas,

09:23:48:16 would like to share with us. So a lady named Pat Ewell raised her hand and I said, yeah, Pat. She said, well, Chris, that's her husband. We're involved in a, a homeless feeding ministry. And I went, oh, okay. All right. Anybody else? Anything. And so we're riding home and I said, wow, homeless feeding, I, I don't know, I, that makes me kind of nervous. And so

09:24:16:22 we went, and that was 15 years ago and we stayed, we, we only go once a month and we started, we about seven and a half years, we did twice a month. And then our hospital visits increased exponentially. So we went to once a month.

09:24:37:11 [Tom Kohler]: Is there a particular place that you go once a month?

09:24:40:21 [Bobby Hanson]: Do you know where the Emmaus house is downtown? And I can't explain exactly where. Okay. It's almost to Bay Street,

09:24:52:04 [Tom Kohler]: Maybe on the corner of

09:24:53:17 [Bobby Hanson]: Abercorn. Yes. In Bryan. Right in there. Yes. And there's a first Saturday of the month, second Saturday of the month. And then if there's five Saturdays, there's people out there doing that there. In fact, our, our daughter Naomi and her husband Chris, they have been involved and there, whenever there's a feeding, they're there. We're just there the first Saturday of the month. And there are all kind of different organizations involved with this, which is great. So we've met a lot of wonderful people, different churches and, and the P.A.C.K. Ministry is the

09:25:24:06 same thing. There's a lot of different churches.

09:25:27:15 [Tom Kohler]: Let's talk about that a little bit. I mean, that's your daughter.

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- 09:25:30:15 [Bobby Hanson]: Sure, Yes.
- 09:25:31:09 [Tom Kohler]: And would you And we'll probably see her, quite frankly, sometimes
- 09:25:35:06 [Bobby Hanson]: I, I hope so. Yes. Yes.
- 09:25:36:18 [Tom Kohler]: But if you kind of at a 40,000 foot level, okay, what are they doing? How are they, how are they trying to do it, et cetera, and where is it
- 09:25:43:03 [Bobby Hanson]: And all that. Okay. P.A.C.K the building, they, well, they started 11 years ago, and my daughter and her husband and their three boys started making sandwiches, like 50 peanut butter sandwiches to give out. And do you wanna know how, wanna know how this started? Because this is a great story. They were at a red light and there was some guys at a bus stop, excuse me. And one of the boys said, what are those guys doing? And my daughter said, well, they're, they're waiting on a bus. And one of
- 09:26:14:08 the boys said, why don't they just get a car? So my son-in-law's a doctor. In other words, they, they don't know what it's like to, why don't you just get a car? So my daughter said something in our family has to change. And so they started making sandwiches and that went from their kitchen to the gym at our church that went from the gym at church to a trailer on the
- 09:26:47:23 church property. And it's growing. It's growing. And now they're in a, and I could be wrong on this, excuse me, I'm getting hoarse here. A 9,500 square foot warehouse. And you've been there. And it's on Waters Avenue, right behind the KFC. And so they are there now and they are sending out
- 09:27:14:07 about 4,600 bags of food every week and servicing 39 schools and community centers.
- 09:27:24:19 [Tom Kohler]: Do you have roughly,
- 09:27:25:16 [Mickey Youmans]: Hang on a second before we, would
- 09:27:26:21 [Bobby Hanson]: You like some water? Thank you, Mickey. I'd love some. Appreciate it. I got it. Pop up.
- 09:27:30:12 [Tom Kohler]: We just ordered something, didn't we? There we go. Yeah.
- 09:27:32:16 [Bobby Hanson]: Thank you. Yeah.
- 09:27:39:17 [Tom Kohler]: Do you have a feel for how many volunteers are in that building every week?
- 09:27:44:15 [Bobby Hanson]: Molina told me there are, and this is a guess, Tom. Sure. 16 to 18,000 a a year volunteer there. There are, like today, when we leave here, we'll

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go to P.A.C.K. Today, Thursday is the big day, the big packing day. And there might be 150 people there.

09:28:04:10 [Mickey Youmans]: Can I just say something, can I get you to say, at P.A.C.K there are that many people, like a statement of fact about that, you know, you said it, but, but from a,

09:28:15:00 [Bobby Hanson]: I'm kind of guessing is the deal, whatever, but okay. Just

09:28:18:23 [Mickey Youmans]: Mention the name and then mention the number. Say the number

09:28:22:04 [Tom Kohler]: You want declar the statement like at P.A.C.K there

09:28:24:19 [Bobby Hanson]: Are, okay, I can do that. Okay. You want me to start there, Mickey? Yes,

09:28:29:04 [Mickey Youmans]: Yes, please.

09:28:29:22 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay. At P.A.C.K there are roughly somewhere between 16 and 18,000 volunteers a year. And so today is the big packing day. Thursday is when the majority of the food gets packed and there will be minimum 150 people there or so. Today.

09:28:48:05 [Tom Kohler]: Would you have any idea, again, just broad, what percentage of those people have come through their church involvements?

09:28:56:16 [Bobby Hanson]: Quite a few. And there, once again, there are many churches involved here. This is not just Compassion Christian Church, this is many denominations represented here. And not everybody goes to church. I remember a few years ago, someone asked a guy there said, well, what church do you go to? He said, I don't go to any church. I don't want to go to church. Okay, great to have you. You know, you're packing bags for children. We are really happy you're here. So there are all kind of different churches, people, organizations, businesses have come in there.

09:29:29:19 Amazon has done some great things there lately. You get people from different businesses. We know people, their boss will give them an hour off every week to come over and pack bags or whatever. So there's all kind of things represented there. And some people you might see 'em once or twice and that might be it.

09:29:48:15 [Bobby Hanson]: That's why that number's so high. And then there are people who are there every week, and there are people who are there multiple times a week. And everybody's a volunteer. My daughter is not paid, nobody's paid. So every dime that goes to P.A.C.K goes to helping these children. And so, and there are roughly 2000 children, I think, on a waiting list. 'cause she also has a foster child. I don't know if you saw the boutique when you were in there, because, because she clothes foster

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- 09:30:23:12 children. There's something close to 90 children can come in there every three months up to the age of 18. And they get brand new clothes. Children who don't even have any idea what size they wear 'cause they've never been shopping. And so they can come get brand new clothes and things in there.
- 09:30:40:16 [Tom Kohler]: When you first talked about P.A.C.K, you said it's in a warehouse. And when I hear the word warehouse, I have a certain image in my mind. When you walk into P.A.C.K, tell me what you see
- 09:30:55:01 [Bobby Hanson]: When you walk into P.A.C.K. And I worked in warehouses. I drove a forklift. And so you're that's a great point. I appreciate that. You walk in and I, I remember one of our pastors from, from one of our churches came in. He said, this is just such a happy place. I was standing there when he said it. I've seen people come in and break down crying. I've seen that because you just walk in and you see people doing things for children, children who are really in need. And it is a
- 09:31:30:20 happy place. You know, you're doing something good when you're in because you've got people packing bags, you got people doing clothes at Christmas season. They start doing wrapping Christmas presents around June or July or something like that. Hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds of Christmas presents go out to really needy people. So there's people, and some folks say, well, my back is bad. I can't stand up at the P.A.C.K food. There'll
- 09:31:56:05 be something, my daughter will find you something to do. I can promise you that there's always something to do.
- 09:32:01:16 [Tom Kohler]: And then are these used raggedy clothes?
- 09:32:05:12 [Bobby Hanson]: No, they're brand new. Everything is brand new. Got the tags on them. So those kids who've never seen brand new clothes can go in and they're getting, everything is new, brand new, nothing used.
- 09:32:19:08 [Tom Kohler]: And then are there people who volunteer who may be perceived as a little different than other people? And are they able to be involved included?
- 09:32:33:16 [Bobby Hanson]: Yes. And that's a great question too, because, you know, our friend Irv, okay, Irv is, Irv is challenged. He's, he's handicapped and he's in a wheelchair and he, I called him last night, Irv, I see my wife laughing over there. He, I am the official greeter at P.A.C.K. And so if I can't be there, I will call Irv and say, Hey Irv, I'm running late, man, can you handle it? He'll say, I got it. You take your
- 09:33:06:18 time. I got it. And so he's just great to be there, welcoming people. And we have a line that every now and then I'll throw out to folks. I'll say, alright folks, less yaking, more packing. And Irv has learned that, and he will probably be saying

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that before I get there today. So yeah, we have people in all kind of situations who can help. Yes, we're careful

09:33:29:05 [Mickey Youmans]: With that paper. When you stick it over there, it sticks up in

09:33:31:20 [Tom Kohler]: Front of the Thank you. Gotcha. Yep, yep, yep. Just outta curiosity, in a given week, tell me the different places you and Ruth will be.

09:33:48:05 [Bobby Hanson]: Probably... Like last Saturday. I'll just use that as an example. We were, I'm sorry,

09:33:53:20 [Mickey Youmans]: You gotta pull that one down because you got on the wide shot at the show on that. Just that,

09:33:58:18 [Bobby Hanson]: I'm sorry. See about the fourth person who's in this chair. He'll have all that done. Oh yeah. I have, you know, be a piece of cake. You the gu pig. That's all right. Hey Mickey. I've been called worse than that, believe me. Hey man. Yeah. Okay.

09:34:17:16 [Tom Kohler]: In a given week, for example. Yes. Let's talk about the different kind of places that you and Ruth would be and why you'd be there.

09:34:24:08 [Bobby Hanson]: This past, I'll just use the past week as, that's just a general example. We were in three nursing homes, three different nursing homes. We went to take brownies and pray for someone who's shut in recovering from surgery. We had another home visit with someone. And so that we do as hospitals if someone's in hospice, in in nursing homes, lots of that, that kind of thing. And we were talking beforehand, if you've been

09:34:57:17 around Savannah your whole life, most of this is through our affiliation with Compassion Christian Church. But the past five years we've had almost a thousand hospital visits, real close, 900 up upper nine hundreds. And so a lot of those come through the church. But just through being in Savannah, we get calls saying, Hey Bob, I know you go to Candler Hospital some... If you are there. I've got a cousin in room 412, could you swing by and see

09:35:28:01 him? You know, we get a lot of those kind of phone calls just 'cause people know that, that we do that. So they don't hesitate to call and see if we will go see someone and pray with them.

09:35:40:03 [Tom Kohler]: How has this changed who you are?

09:35:45:02 [Bobby Hanson]: Completely, because I'm a sluggard, basically. I'm selfish. What I would prefer to be doing is sitting around the house reading, listening to Louis Armstrong records or Duke Ellington, Lester Young and Billie Holiday. That's how I, and nothing wrong with relaxing every now and then, we all gotta do that. But it changes me because it takes me so far out of my comfort zone to walk into somebody's hospital

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- 09:36:15:03 room that I don't know. And I don't really know what's going on with them. And to say, Hey Bill, I'm Bobby and this is my wife Ruth. We're from Compassion Christian Church, so what you doing here? You know, so what's going on? How can we help you in any way? It takes me way outta my comfort zone.
- 09:36:33:22 [Tom Kohler]: Has it changed your marriage?
- 09:36:37:02 [Bobby Hanson]: Probably made it better because it's something we do together in a lot of marriages. I know we know people. They do all kind of, they might play golf together, do Ruth and I, she's not a musician. I'm a musician. That involves a lot of my time. And so there's going different ways this brings us together because we're walking into these rooms together and you know, we pray before we go in there and I always say, Lord, give me something to say because I'm kinda like, in the Bible it
- 09:37:07:23 talks about the apostle Peter and it says Peter not knowing what to say, said.... And that's me. Sometimes I don't, but somebody's gotta say something, so I'll say it sometimes it ain't the right thing to say. So yeah, it's helped our marriage. Definitely.
- 09:37:24:06 [Tom Kohler]: You mentioned music. I'd ask you about sort of your faith journey a little bit, but your, your musical journey as well. You started off playing rock and roll and
- 09:37:35:21 [Bobby Hanson]: Started off playing rock and roll. I was playing in topless clubs and I, I remember seeing you there. I think you were there at a place called the Hershey Bar on Congress Street. And Tom, I was, at least that was my job. I was being paid to be there. I'm not sure exactly what you were doing there, but, so we kind of went from that and put oh boy,
- 09:38:03:04 [Eric Darling]: Occupational hazard, Tom...
- 09:38:06:06 [Bobby Hanson]: See, I'll go off script now. I mean, you know, I won't do that every now and then. So have one
- 09:38:12:05 [Tom Kohler]: Word in defense... "Ministry."
- 09:38:17:13 [Bobby Hanson]: Yeah, right. Okay. So I played in bands. I played in a band called The Easy Walkers and a band called the Joja Band. And, and that took up all, all those together, took up almost 10 years and have a blues duo with Michael Amburgey. And we've been playing for over 40 years and we just play periodically. And our church band has been together some of the same guys for over 30 years. So I do some jazzy stuff with, with Steven Bryan and just a lot of different music still even even though I'm
- 09:38:50:16 supposed to be retired, pretty much. There was a time a couple of months ago when I did basically three completely different styles of music, like in a 10 or 11

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day period. So I still stay real active with that. And it's, it's a, it's a blessing. It can be a curse too.

09:39:07:15 [Tom Kohler]: In, in broad terms, this notion of guys that started on the... Started on the musical journey early and now that they're in their sixties, fifties, sixties to seventies, is that a common, is, is it more of that in Savannah or are you the guy or

09:39:23:20 [Bobby Hanson]: No, no, there's plenty of that. Yeah, plenty of folks still, still working in music as much as they can. I believe it was Louis Armstrong said, you don't retire from music, people just quit calling you. And so you run into some of that the older you get.

09:39:40:17 [Tom Kohler]: What congregations would I go to to see the old rock and rollers that are now doing praise

09:39:48:16 [Bobby Hanson]: In the larger churches? And I don't mean this in a negative way, but they want younger people. So what they call the seeker friendly churches, they pretty much have young people because they're playing young music and they are trying to attract the 30, 35, 40 year olds. And so to find the older, what we play, we go to smaller churches, people closer to our age, they, you know, they, they seem to appreciate

09:40:20:10 that more. And that's just the way it is, right? I mean that's just, that's just life. Yeah, yeah.

09:40:26:12 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. Can you remember at the time when the moment when your faith led you to your first personal action?

09:40:39:17 [Bobby Hanson]: When my faith led me to my personal action, yes, there's a chapter in, in the New Testament Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25. And Jesus said, I was hungry and you fed me. I needed something to drink, you gave me something to drink, I was sick, you came to see me, I was in prison, you visited me. I needed clothes, you gave them to me. Things like that. And I, that just hit me like a sledgehammer because I was going to

09:41:10:20 church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, but I was not serving like I should be. And reading that because Jesus said I didn't come to be served, I came to serve and I started really thinking, I need to get busy 'cause I'm not serving like I should be. And so that was just a, a moment to me. And we pretty much got busy then and just have kind of kept our hand

09:41:41:12 on the plow and hadn't looked back. Just have, have stayed with it.

09:41:45:18 [Tom Kohler]: How old were you then?

09:41:48:05 [Bobby Hanson]: I was mid-fifties when we really started getting more serious. I didn't become a Christian till I was 34 or so and we were doing a lot of the right

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thing. We were doing hospital visits and that kind of thing all along. But not in a smaller church. There's just less people to visit. And what we have now, like at large churches, they have teams that do different things. We have a hospital visitation team and the smaller churches, you don't have that. So if you're elder, deacon,

09:42:22:15 preacher, you go see the people. So we did that kind of thing. But, so it just increased a whole lot as the years went by. Plus, as you get older, as you well know, there's a whole lot more. I mean the conversation we have now is not what we would've had 20 years ago because so many of our conversations now start. Did you hear about and it's usually not going

09:42:49:14 somewhere you want it to go?

09:42:57:00 [Tom Kohler]: I'm going to move a little bit in different direction. If I may...

09:42:59:14 [Bobby Hanson]: Sure.

09:43:00:22 [Tom Kohler]: Just curious, are there particular memories or of these fond memories of times when you've been involved with faith in action? Are there a couple of things you look back and think that was maybe the sweetest moment or one of the sweetest moments?

09:43:18:02 [Bobby Hanson]: There's a bunch, Tom that I can think of. Great memories. I'll tell you one very recent story 'cause this has just happened in the past month when we started with a homeless ministry, there was a gentleman named Rico and we met him right off the bat, just right off the bat. And when you do things for people, you, you, as you well know, because you've been serving for many years, you're not, you shouldn't be looking for anything in return, right? Like I do something for you because I scratch your back, you're gonna scratch mine, right? It's to do it because

09:43:50:10 it's the right thing to do. So we did some things for Ricoh and I won't go into detail, we didn't think we did a whole lot for him at all. He died year and a half or so ago. He ended up in Riverview nursing home and we had quite a few visits with him.

09:44:06:08 [Bobby Hanson]: We'd wheel him outside so he could smoke a cigarette, take him stuff, this kind of thing. And so one of the ladies who kind of heads up the homeless feeding, her name is Marjo, she had called and said, Bob, are you gonna be coming my way anytime soon? This is maybe six weeks ago. I said, no. She said, well, I've got something for you, so whenever I see you, you know, just remind me. I said, well, if it's money I'll send Ruth to pick it up. And she said she, well, she just didn't

09:44:40:04 really reply, she just said, well, I'll see you soon. So next thing I know, get an envelope from her with a very nice note in it and open it up. And there's \$700 in

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cash. It was from Rico because he left her \$1,400 and I don't know how or where he got it, Social Security or whatever, but she

09:45:05:21 halved it with us. She said, I know you'll know what to do with this money. And that was just such one of those things where I just look up, I say, Lord, I wasn't expecting anything here. We just did it. He was in need and we did it. So there's just a whole lot of things like that. You know, our buddy Howard Jarret very well. Howard broke his neck on a trampoline at Jenkins High School in 1966. We lived across the street from each other and we have been

09:45:39:07 great friends ever since. 19 years ago, we were coming up on the 20th anniversary. He was baptized. And when I say baptized, I mean what the Greek word means baptiso - to dip, to immerse in his swimming pool with my son Jeremy on one arm. And my son-in-law, Chris on the other arm. And so you talk about a highlight moment to see that a guy you've known your whole life and loved and who's been through what he's been through, and to see

09:46:09:13 him go through that. Yeah. So that's a highlight. There's a bunch of them.

09:46:13:03 [Tom Kohler]: And, where'd you have lunch yesterday?

09:46:14:16 [Bobby Hanson]: We had lunch with Howard. What... And, and you have been to these, we call it the Fourth Quarter Club, and there's anywhere, there's, I don't know, 50, 60 members of this club. And there's anywhere from 25 to 35 people that come once a month. And we started doing this many years ago to have lunch with Howard just to do something for him because he's, he's paralyzed. He's also a two time cancer survivor in the past six years or so. So he's just been, there's not a more inspirational

09:46:44:16 person you can be around, as you well know, he wrote a book recently and had a book signing at Tubby's and sold over 150 copies that one night. So he's a, a local celebrity, but he's just, he's an inspiring guy. He's the kind of guy that you spend some time around. Speaking personally, I walk off from him many times going once again, just looking up and saying, Lord, forgive me again because I gripe... My wife sitting here... If I got the

09:47:17:11 wrong kind of ice cream in the freezer, and here's this guy who never complains about a thing. So what an inspiration. So that Fourth Quarter Club, I don't think I need to explain how that name came up. We're not quite at the two-minute warning, we don't think. But you know, we are in the fourth quarter and we, when you hit about 65, 70 or so, you, you're in the fourth quarter. Yeah.

09:47:44:19 [Tom Kohler]: You're not talking football.

09:47:45:19 [Bobby Hanson]: No, no, no, no. Not at all. Uh-uh.

Bobby Hanson

- 09:47:53:12 [Tom Kohler]: Are there people in your congregation that you feel are people that we should do this with, that people that you feel are living faith in action in a powerful way? And are there other people in this community that you feel like are living their faith through action in a powerful way that you would like to suggest that we as we go forward over the next nine months that we reach out to?
- 09:48:15:14 [Bobby Hanson]: The problem here, Tom, is there's so many people that have been... And when you start naming names, that's just so tricky because if someone sees this and say, well, 'cause I know how people are because I'm like that, you know, well, why I did something, why didn't, why wasn't I mentioned? I would just mention, I would certainly say my daughter Molina, because she is done something. Not, not just because she's my daughter, but to do what she has done with feeding thousands of children, clothing all these children, they have a, a space set up where if someone
- 09:48:48:15 is left homeless in the middle of the night or a child is abused, there's a place they can go to and get, she's had people show up with a towel wrapped around them that they can get help. So I would definitely say her, not just 'cause she's my daughter, many times people will say, you must be so proud of your daughter.
- 09:49:09:13 [Bobby Hanson]: And I say, which one? Because we have four and we're, they're, they all serve in their ways and we have a son we love very much so. But she has done something that I believe is really extraordinary. There's a guy named Jim Boland, great friend of ours. He and his wife Sandy, started many of the service ministries at Compassion Christian Church, marriage counseling, hospital visitation, and on and on it goes lighthouse ministry. Just a lot of stuff. And Jim is the guy who 10
- 09:49:41:17 years ago when we were at Compassion Christian Church thinking, we're serving in this and this and we're doing this and this on this side, but we need to be more involved. We, we really need to get on a hospital visitation program. And we met with Jim, I called it an audition. He says, it wasn't that, but you know, we went to see him to see if we were what he's looking for. And so we must have done pretty well because he said, okay, well if y'all can, can go to Candler on the weekends and, and pray with people and take
- 09:50:14:04 communion. Yeah, we can do that. And so then he says, well, why you're at it if you would swing by Memorial too? And I said, sure. And so as we're walking to... Ruth and I are walking to the parking lot, I said, wait a minute, swing by? You don't swing by a hospital, right? I mean, you, you gotta find a place to park. You gotta... What floor? You got a lot of stuff
- 09:50:40:04 you gotta go through to get there. So anyway, Jim has been a, a huge influence on us. Just, just a great guy, great guy. There's a young lady named Sarah Buck. Sarah has written a book, also some of the medical struggles and things that she has gone through and her family.

Bobby Hanson

- 09:50:57:23 [Bobby Hanson]: And she, I think is a, she took over the leadership of the hospital visitation at, at our church. And she is, she's got a great testimony and a great witness as well. I would certainly say our pastor Cam Huxford and his wife Sarah, because they came to Savannah. Cam will be retiring in September of this year. And he has been, we met him when he came here 40 years ago. And it was a church of around 250 people at that time. It's over 10,000 now. And the thing I can say about Cam, what
- 09:51:32:06 impresses me most about him when we met him 40 years ago, if he came in here today, he's the same guy. And so, I don't know if I'm outta line in saying this, but in ministry as in anything else, ego can really come into play. And most people, if it's, it could be a, a business someone starts or anything else, if it just grows that much, you couldn't help but think, man, I'm really, I've really done something. But he just seems just like
- 09:51:59:02 the same guy that we met 40 years ago. So I think that's quite a testimony.
- 09:52:03:21 [Tom Kohler]: You know, I appreciate you talking about his 40 years here and that sort of long involvement. Yes. It makes me wonder, are there people, when you think back, maybe people who are no longer with us, that you look back and think, you know, I maybe I didn't even realize it when I was watching that person. Oh
- 09:52:22:03 [Bobby Hanson]: Gosh, yeah.
- 09:52:22:19 [Tom Kohler]: But that person showed me faith in action. Yes. And then they're no longer with us. Yes. Folks like that. Because I mean, our job here is to tell the long story of faith in action in Savannah. Yes. And historical Yes. As well as present. Does that bring to mind? Some people
- 09:52:39:14 [Bobby Hanson]: Sure does. There was a couple, Roy and Francis Chastain and Roy was an Iwo Jima Purple Heart survivor. And we met them years ago. He's been gone quite a number of years now, and his wife as well. And they were just, if someone asked me to, what was the perfect example, the epitome of just the perfect Christian couple, they, they'd be at the top of the list and just humble, completely humble. And I remember
- 09:53:12:22 one of the highlights of my life, I think was singing and giving a eulogy at Roy Chastain's funeral. And I said, only in America could a draft dodger like me be speaking at a Iwo Jima Purple Heart Survivor's service. So what an honor that was. I think of a couple, Claude and Alice Hudson. Claude died a couple of years ago and they used to take our children to church
- 09:53:42:11 when I wanted nothing to do with church. In fact, people will find this hard to believe now. But my wife was threatened. I said, if you even mention the name of Jesus, you're going out the door. I was that anti-Christian. So they took our children to church and they prayed for me and loved me and were just as nice and

Bobby Hanson

courteous to me when I wasn't nice and courteous back. So they made a big impression on me. Said, okay, that's

09:54:14:11 the way to be.

09:54:16:15 [Tom Kohler]: So this idea of faith in action is a chain. It's one link in the chain. Another link in the chain.

09:54:24:07 [Bobby Hanson]: Absolutely. Another link in the chain. Yes. Wasn't overnight. Definitely not.

09:54:32:00 [Tom Kohler]: What do you see in the world right now that worries you?

09:54:35:02 [Bobby Hanson]: Everything, everything kind of worries me. My wife is shaking her head over there. Shouldn't I asked him that one? I just see just a lot of stuff that makes me miserable, makes me uncomfortable. I I joke with young people. You may remember there was a very popular movie in 1958 named Gigi. It won nine Academy awards. And the great Marie Chevalier sang a song in there called, "I'm Glad I'm Not Young Anymore". And that's the way I kinda look at things because I think this world is

09:55:08:16 just a, a different place. I I, there was things about the world I liked better in the past. If you could remove the racism from it and all that that entailed, I think people were more courteous. I see things now that people do and say that have just entered our common language and all that just would not have been done when I was, was coming up. And it makes me

09:55:33:06 just very uncomfortable for my children and particularly my grandchildren,

09:55:39:10 [Tom Kohler]: And then your sources of hope

09:55:42:05 [Bobby Hanson]: That we will turn back to God. The scripture says, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then I will hear from heaven. And if they'll turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven forgive their sin and heal their land. I just think America needs a revival, needs to turn back to God. I think we've removed God from so much that we just need to return to him.

09:56:10:04 [Tom Kohler]: And this is the last question I'm gonna ask you is, will you get a harmonica out and play a gospel tune?

09:56:20:10 [Bobby Hanson]: What'd I do with my right? What You want to hear something fast or you want to hear something slow? "Amazing Grace"?

09:56:26:08 [Tom Kohler]: Amazing Grace would be amazing.

09:56:28:19 [Mickey Youmans]: Yeah. That's amazing. Okay.

Bobby Hanson

- 09:56:33:15 [Bobby Hanson]: I hadn't warmed up anyway. [plays "Amazing Grace" on harmonica] I hit one little clam in there, but I think Mickey will edit
- 09:58:16:08 that out.
- 09:58:21:14 [Tom Kohler]: Well, we're off to a roaring start
- 09:58:23:05 [Bobby Hanson]: Here. Okay. You done? Thank you. Okay.
- 09:58:25:16 [Tom Kohler]: Unless you guys want to do more, but I mean, I I
- 09:58:28:05 [Eric Darling]: I had one quick, interceding question. Just going back to the P.A.C.K, your daughter's program. If you don't mind, sort of, if, if you would, in your own words, explain why you think that has worked. You've talked about a lot of churches being involved, a lot of people who aren't even affiliated with a church being involved, and don't talk to me, but talk to Tom and tell and tell him why you think that is. Why do you think that there's, this
- 09:58:53:02 [Bobby Hanson]: Has been such a big success with this. Why,
- 09:58:55:05 [Eric Darling]: Why it's been, why it has grown and encompassed, interdenominational all these...
- 09:59:00:23 [Mickey Youmans]: Success because,
- 09:59:02:06 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay, okay, okay. Yeah.
- 09:59:03:20 [Tom Kohler]: P.A.C.K is successful cause I believe P.A.C.K is a successful cause.
- 09:59:06:10 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay. Tom, I believe that P.A.C.K is a successful cause just because it brings so many people from so many backgrounds together. Some who have church background, there are people of all faiths we've seen in there because they're doing a good thing. And if we sat around a table, we would have theological differences if we started discussing that. But as far as just people getting together and helping children, it's wonderful. And you see people who used to teach school
- 09:59:38:16 together, we have a lot of retired school teachers, as a matter of fact. And just people, gosh, I haven't seen you in 38 years and just reacquainting, we've seen great friendships develop from P.A.C.K, people who don't know each other. And then if they're week after week, they're going down the line putting food in bags, they just become great friends. So it's a wonderful thing. It's just bringing people together of all kind of different, all kind of ages. There are younger people and older people,
- 10:00:08:23 middle aged. So it's just, it's wonderful for, for everybody who wants to be involved.

Bobby Hanson

- 10:00:13:19 [Tom Kohler]: Would you be comfortable calling it a community?
- 10:00:17:08 [Bobby Hanson]: In a way it is. Yeah. That's a, that's a, I haven't thought of it like that, but that's very, could it be a community? Yes, very much so. Because there it is this group of people who get together on, on at least a weekly basis. And like I say, there are people who do a lot more than, than once a week. God bless 'em.
- 10:00:35:20 [Tom Kohler]: And then as you talked about it, the two words that come to my mind are common purpose.
- 10:00:40:03 [Bobby Hanson]: Common purpose. Yes. Tom. There's very much a common purpose there. And that's helping children who desperately need it. There are thousands of children who go to bed hungry in this city every night. And a lot of them, they get food at school during the week. But a lot of what is packed today primarily will be for their weekend food.
- 10:01:06:15 [Tom Kohler]: And have you been to any funerals of the P.A.C.K. Volunteers?
- 10:01:12:18 [Bobby Hanson]: Trying to think. Funerals of P.A.C.K. Volunteers. I'm sure I have. We go to so many and we do. But I know, well this is a good example of something that doesn't really, someone we met at P.A.C.K. Had a friend, excuse me, her sister has a friend whose mom was dying. So I said, would you like us to go see her? So we ended up having rough figure
- 10:01:49:05 9, 10, 12 visits with the mom. She ended up passing away. We had some great visits with her. We had still, and she had lost a daughter. This lady was in her forties and she had lost a, like a 20-year-old daughter a couple of years ago. Still has a teenage daughter, so who has no one. So we went to
- 10:02:14:03 the funeral and met the daughter, this teenage daughter. And what a blessing that was to us to see this young lady. And when you look in her eyes to know she just lost mama and she just lost her sister a couple of years ago. And to be able to pray with her and just, yeah. So we have been able to, to reach out on those areas as well. Yes.
- 10:02:40:16 [Tom Kohler]: Great. Well I can't say thank you enough and I mean that really sincerely.
- 10:02:46:22 [Bobby Hanson]: Well thank you. It's a blessing to me.
- 10:02:49:20 [Tom Kohler]: We've known each other a long time. Yeah, man. But I've never really known you the way I know you now, and I appreciate it very much.
- 10:02:55:05 [Bobby Hanson]: I just hope you get that part across that it's all God doing this, that I just wanna sit around and listen to records. I mean, I mean really Holy Spirit. Right. It's the Holy Spirit leading me because hey, I'm she'll tell you that's what I like to do. I'm learning. It was working this morning on, I'll never smile again. Frank Sinatra and Tommy Dorsey. I was learning that. So, so

Bobby Hanson

10:03:20:02 [Tom Kohler]: You're saying you'd be a slug without God and Ruth?

10:03:22:20 [Bobby Hanson]: Yes. Well, primarily without, without God. She kinda spurs me on a little bit too.

10:03:32:00 [Tom Kohler]: Oh that's great,

10:03:32:05 [Bobby Hanson]: Okay. Well I hope, I hope everything went, went okay there.

10:03:35:23 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. And did we do okay technically?

10:03:38:13 [Eric Darling]: Absolutely. That was beautiful. Thank you. Okay.

10:03:41:16 [Bobby Hanson]: You got it. We got well thank You'all so much. No, Thank you. Great, thank you. And and confirm for this to something that absolutely is, you know, for everybody kind of up in the air.