

Randy Bale is now teaching at Stafford Creek Correction Center

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Raymond High School alum Randy Bale said, "Contrary to peer perception... I wasn't born in a barn!" He was born in the hospital in South Bend to Don and Ena Bale. His father graduated from RHS and his mother from SBHS. His father is deceased, but his mother still lives in Baleville, where Randy grew up.

Randy attended Raymond schools. He remembers some of his grade school teachers. He said, "I got my first 'A' from Mrs. Neisinger in the first grade. Mrs. Kruswick taught me discipline in the third grade. Mrs. Wilde gave me a great appreciation for reading books."

Of his high school years Randy says, "I had fun in school!" At RHS he participated in track wrestling, and cross country. He was a member of Pep Club and R Club and was the senior class Yell King. He said all these activities really helped him. "I learned that hard work, self discipline and consistency really pay off," he said. "Where there's a will, there's a way and teamwork is always a winning combination."

He said, "All the coaches and teachers were very good. Mr. Semon Anderson ran right ship and things ran in a controlled, respectful way." He especially remembers one teacher, Mr. Barry. "Doc' Dave Barry was an outstanding teacher for biology, botany, zoology and environmental sciences. His efforts really helped me in college. He should have taught in collage, so he could have gotten he proper respect he deserved."

Randy graduated in 1970. "In my opinion," he said, "it's the best ever class from RHS. It was one of the largest graduating classes ever – Baby Boomers!"

After graduation Randy returned to the family farm in Baleville and helped run the farm. According to Randy, "I became a vice-president of Bale Farms, Inc., and I supported the local teams, especially RHS."

He also attended Grays Harbor College for two years, then transferred to Washington State University, graduating in 1975.

He married Vickie Guernsey (RHS. Class of 1977). He said, "We got married July 14th, 1979. That was just three days before I turned 27. We're looking forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2004!" They had two children – Sarah Lynn in 1980 and Isaac Micah in 1982.

The family moved to Pennsylvania in 1984 where Randy was on the staff at Teen Challenge Training Center, a Christian Alcohol and Drug treatment program. He taught vocational subjects for nearly seven years. While there he and Vickie adopted four children from Brazil and the Philippines – Daniel, Mary, Josiah, and Hosana. He says, "In 1984 we left Baleville as a family of four and went to Pennsylvania. In 1991 we moved to Ellensburg, Wash., as a family of eight."

In Ellensburg Randy helped establish a new Christian programs o help men who were down because of poor life choices get back on their feet. During their three years in Ellensburg, they adopted another child, Joshua.

In 1994 the family of nine moved to Pendleton, Ore. Randy taught in the prison there for seven years and eventually became the Regional Manager of four prisons on the eastern side of Oregon.

In 2001 the family moved again. They returned to the Pacific/Grays County area. For the past two and a half years Randy has been teaching for Grays Harbor College at the new Stafford Creek Correctional Center. He is presently studying for his Master's Degree in Education. He says, "I plan to be finished in 18-20 months."

Randy says that he has traveled to Brazil, Mexico, and the Bahamas. In addition, he says, "While we lived in Pennsylvania, we visited some of the tourist sites like New York City, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington D.C., and other east coast areas."

In addition to his work Randy says, "I love doing things with my wife, kids, grandkids, and church. I enjoy work and landscaping. I like bicycle riding, walking as well as preparing fancy meals and baking Swedish bread and cookies."

His advice to this year's seniors is, "Treat others like you want to be treated. Don't ever stop learning and loving your friends and family. Never forget to help others or forget where you came from. Your CHOICES will have the greatest impact on your life – more than generics or your environment (where are how you were raised)."



RHS Alumnus Randy Bale, 1970