



BRAVE BELIEVERS

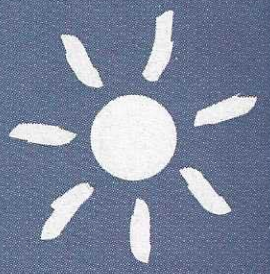
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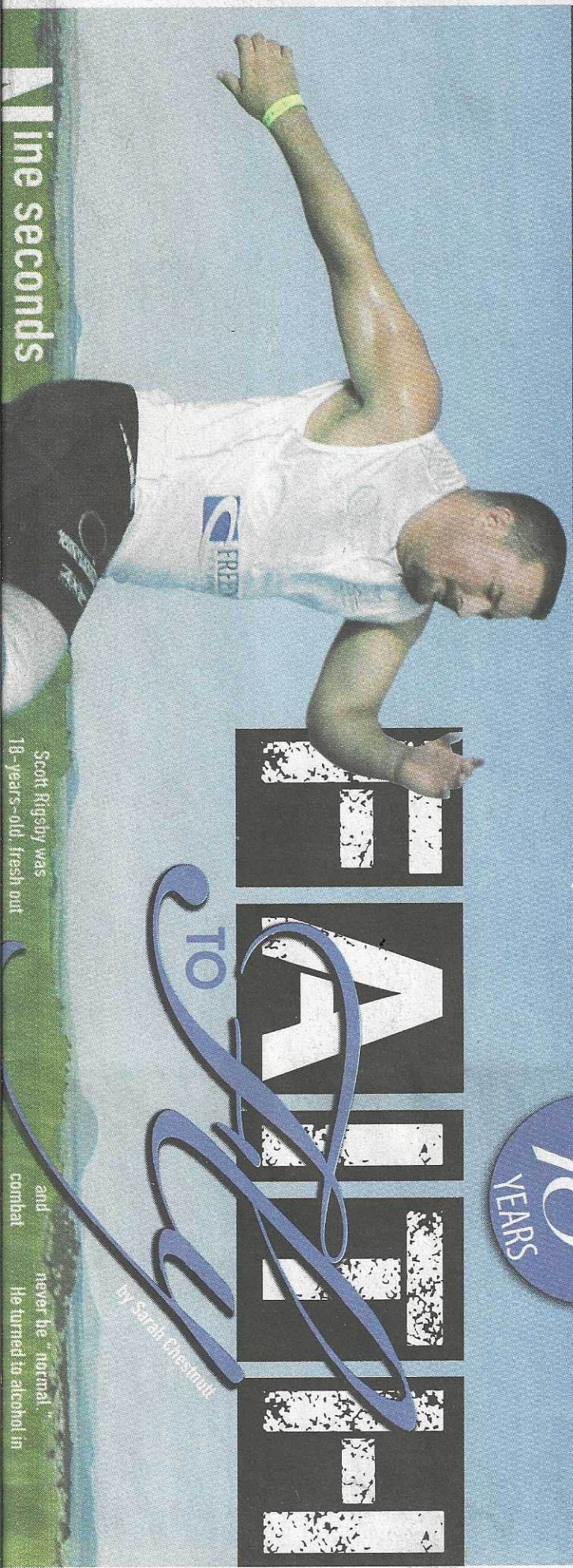
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FAITH

TO LIVE

By Sarah Chestnut



Five seconds

Scott Rigby was 18-years-old, fresh out

and never he "journal" combat He turned to alcohol in

Was all it took for his life to turn upside down.



CALVILLO'S CODE OF CONDUCT

BY CAMERON ZIMMER

He's coming off one the best seasons of his career, with 5,633 passing yards, a trip to the Grey Cup, and a CFL Most Outstanding Player award to complement the one he earned in 2003.

And he's on another torrent pace this year, leading all quarterbacks in passing yards while directing the league's top team.

At this point, you couldn't fault Anthony Calvillo, the Montreal Alouettes' 6-foot-1, 213 pound quarterback, for taking some credit and listening to the buzz about being a candidate for another outstanding player award.

He does the opposite, however, by pointing to Coach Mark Tressman's leadership, the team's stellar defense, and his main weapon: running back Avon Cobourne.

"When I go into a season, I set goals for myself — being the MOP is not one of them," Calvillo tells Living Light News.

"I think when you're on a winning team, the quarterback is always going to be one of the guys that get recognized but I've always shared this whole experience with the whole team."

This selfless attitude isn't just a gimmick for media microphones.

In 2007, Calvillo put football into perspective for players and fans alike when he left the team late in the season to be with his wife Alexia Kontolomos, now 40, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphomas.

"Frequently what happens with athletes is that they'll give lip service and say, 'Well my dad died and I'd be at his funeral but the

in the back of a pickup truck when an accident threw him from the vehicle and dragged him 324' before being pinned under a trailer. His life would never be the same. The next time his friends saw him he was lying in a hospital bed, with one of his legs amputated below the knee. Over the next 12 years he endured 26 surgeries to reconstruct his remaining leg

team needs me for this game because that's what he would have wanted, and there may be some legitimacy to that," shares Alouettes' Chaplain Tom Paul.

"Anthony was on the verge of setting several CFL records, but his wife needed him. With the permission of the team and the respect of his teammates he took that time off to be with Alexia.

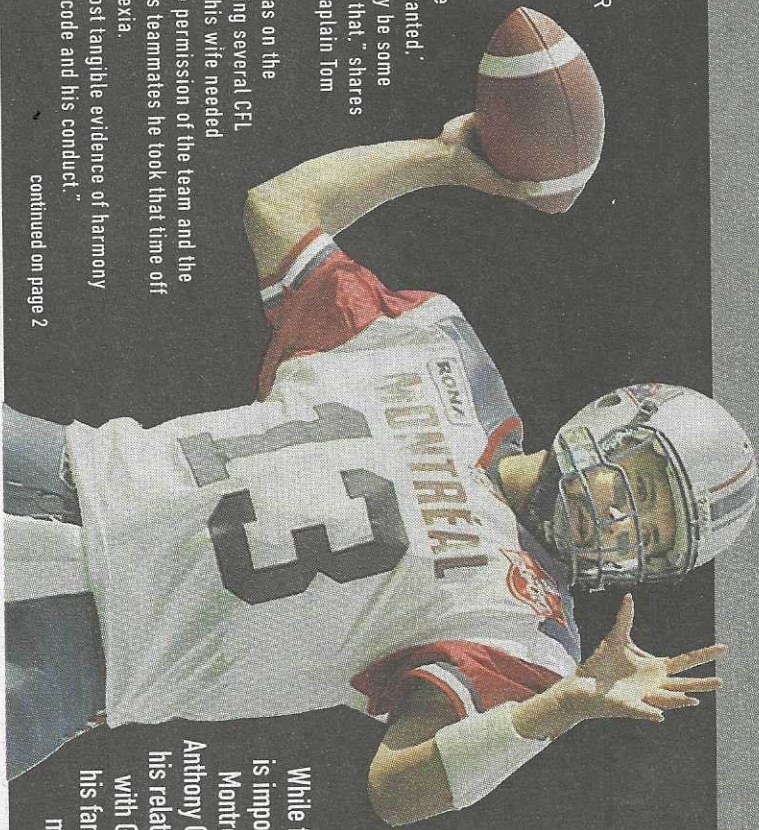
"It's the most tangible evidence of harmony between his code and his conduct."

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from what you saw. Although it wasn't diagnosed until years later, he also developed a traumatic brain injury, causing mood swings, depression, and erratic behaviour. It wasn't just physical pain that Rigshy was dealing with however. The accident took an emotional toll on him as well. His legs were a constant reminder that his life would

Canadian, especially when attending college. Drinking became a regular occurrence as he tried to prove to the world, and himself, that he didn't need two legs to be the life of any party. No matter how hard he tried to hide it from friends, he was falling apart inside. His depression was always at the forefront of his mind.

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While football is important to Montreal star Anthony Calvillo, his relationship with God and his family are more so.

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BRAVE BELIEVERS

ROBINSON'S RISKY ROLES

by Crystal Kupper

Dressed as a 19th-century French soldier, Allen Robinson readies himself for work. Today, he will get shot and killed by the British Royal Navy at least half a dozen times before clocking out.

As one of Hollywood's top stuntmen, Robinson often dives from buildings, crashes tricked-out cars, and occasionally fights onboard a warship, as he did in the 2003 film *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*.

"Injuries do occur," Robinson says. "I should stop sometime and count the bones I've broken."

biggest credits include *Forrest Gump*, *Road to Perdition*, *Spider-Man 2*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Poseidon*, and *World Trade Center*.

Robinson spends an average of three months on each project, often planning and rehearsing every intricate move in the stunt for days or weeks beforehand.

As a commercial hot air balloon pilot, avid skydiver, and bungee jumper with over



over 100 films and television episodes for 24 years.

The 50-year-old has hung from hot air balloons, rolled SUVs, and careened down stairs while doubling for some of Hollywood's most recognizable faces, including Jim Carrey and Tom Hanks.

Robinson, a U.S. Army brat born in Germany, dove headfirst into stunt work at age 26 when he saw a newspaper advertisement in Atlanta, GA. A local theme park offered to teach stuntmen everything needed to play outlaw train robbers.

Previously, Robinson had worked as a bartender, ski instructor, and handyman, but he felt stuck.

"I was just bouncing around and felt so frustrated," he recalls. "My parents would ask me what I wanted to do with my life and I didn't know!"

Soon, however, Robinson figured it out.

As a former high school football player, pole-vaulter, and springboard diver, he reveled in his new task of using his athletic abilities while playing to a crowd. He learned how to fall from trains as well as other stunts and was immediately hooked.

"After the live shows, I knew [stunt work] was what I wanted to do," Robinson says. "I enjoy what I do and have been fortunate and blessed."

From there, Robinson found stunt jobs at Disney World, which led to his first TV and film appearances. Today, his

heights, such as standing on a skyscraper's edge or parachuting from an airplane.

Despite his success in film, Robinson never performs a stunt without praying.

"I cannot imagine not having a relationship with Jesus

HE'S HUNG FROM HOT AIR BALLOONS, ROLLED SUVs, AND CAREENED DOWN STAIRS WHILE DOUBLING FOR SOME OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST RECOGNIZABLE FACES ...

Christ in Hollywood," he says.

"In this business, you don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. You have to have faith that God will provide."

Robinson began his journey toward God with much less enthusiasm than his stunt career.

Shortly after moving to California, he felt lonely and overwhelmed by his new environment. Despite growing up in a loving Christian home, he never felt the need for Christ. He embraced the party lifestyle through high school and college but still felt hollow.

That all changed when a friend invited Robinson to church in 1994. He had not attended a church service in years, yet he felt the tears spilling out the moment he walked inside.

"I thought, 'This isn't church. These are young, hip people and the music is so cool,'" Robinson remembers. "I could feel the love from God and the people right away."

The adrenaline-lover kept returning to church but didn't want to change his exciting lifestyle. Then one night, home alone and hungry for God, Robinson dropped to his knees and invited Christ into his life.

The next morning, he peered into the mirror anxiously to see if he'd changed.

"I still liked the things I liked. I still loved to stunt," Robinson says. "But it was really cool, because Jesus was slowly working inside of me."

Today, Robinson stays involved with several Christian media groups along with his wife of four years, actress Sandra Dee. She also runs her own business, Charisma on Camera, as an on-camera coach.

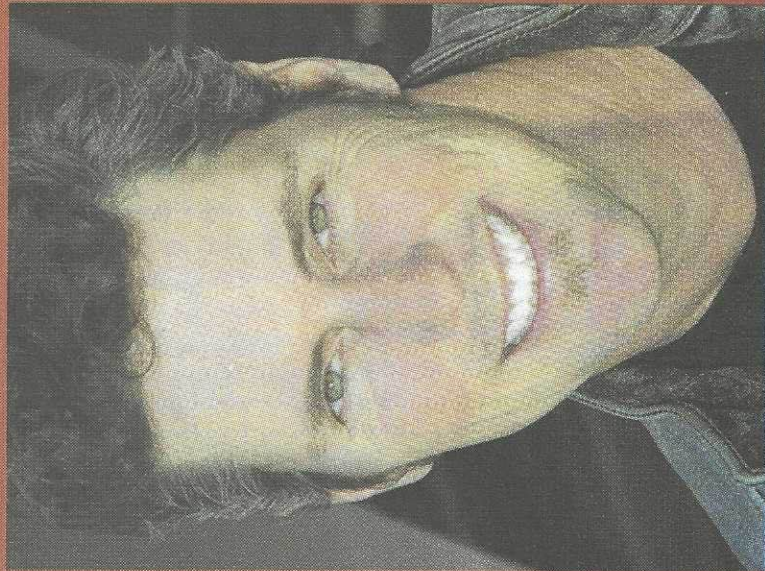
Robinson's current project is a Will Ferrell comedy called *The Other Guys*, due in theatres next year. Often, such work involves movies containing offensive material. He sometimes rejects projects but believes God places him on specific movie sets for a reason.

"Jesus didn't shy away from sinners and neither should I," he asserts. "My responsibility is to reach out to all."

Robinson knows that despite the coolness of his job, the stunt business involves long hours, months without pay, physical strain, and little glory. He realizes such work would not be possible without Jesus.

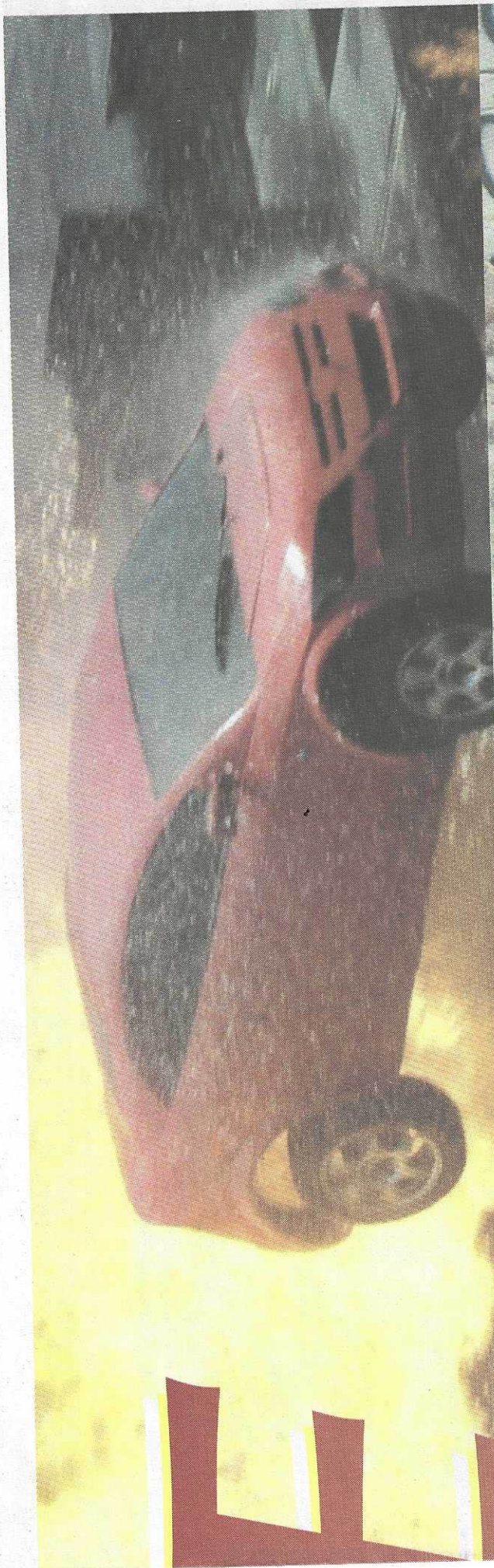
"I'm here to spread God's love and share Jesus with others," Robinson says.

"Hollywood has helped me reach out and do that."



Photos courtesy/Teri Cadente and Allen Robinson





FEATS OF FAITH

by Elisabeth Handley

A author life coach, inspirational

away, leaving her with a bloody face and the sewer

Continued from page 1

After the many surgeries on his remaining leg, Rigsby made the decision to become a double amputee. He was tired of being a "professional patient," spending more time in the hospital than out of it, and longed to move on from the accident.

That doesn't mean life immediately improved, however. His brain injury still caused depression and mood swings. He dealt with financial problems as he struggled to hold down a job. His actions were still erratic, putting strain on the remaining relationships in his life.

"It was Christmas 2005," he recalls. "I started considering taking my own life. I knew my life had been spared for a reason, it was a miraculous event that saved my life ... but I didn't have any vision (for the future)." Rigsby had recently committed his life to Jesus, and knew God had a plan and a purpose for him - he just didn't know what it was.

"I was about to give up, I was at the end of myself," he says. "Ironically, that's when God shows up. When we empty ourselves of our self, then that's when God is able to fill us up with Himself."

In desperation, Rigsby prayed to God. He didn't use an eloquent speech, he just said, "If you open up a door for me, then I'll run through it."

Not long after, a magazine caught his eye. Opening it up, he read about Sarah Reinertsen, a girl who had run a race nicknamed the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon - a 2.4 mile ocean swim, 112 mile bike ride over the Hawaiian lava fields, and a 26.2 mile marathon run all done in the time limit of 17 hours.

It's the toughest one day endurance race on the planet. And she had done it with an artificial leg.

"It was like God was speaking to me, saying, 'That's what I want you to do.'"

Like anyone excited about their next big plan, Rigsby

went to tell his friends the news. As he explained the race he had decided to complete, his friends had some concerns. "They remind me, you don't know how to swim, that's gonna be a problem."

He'd never ridden a bike on a prosthesis, and had never run even 2 of the 26.2 miles needed.

He knew it would be a challenge, but he also was convinced he wouldn't do it alone. He knew God "was going to bring people into my life that would allow me to accomplish His purpose."

Soon, he was in contact with trainers and friends who helped him prepare to do the unthinkable.

Sixteen hours, 42 minutes, and 46 seconds was how long it took Rigsby to make history. He became the first

double-leg amputee using prosthetics to cross the finish line of the Ford Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on Oct. 13, 2007. He had completed the ultimate endurance test and gained the title of Ironman.

"Most people think this story is one of tragedy to triumph," he says. "But it's really a story of many, many miracles ..."

Rigsby had a great support team. He was the one who had to swim, ride, and run further than anyone thought he could. But he knows he couldn't have done it without God's help.

decisions that had to be made, but we felt very confident that God was leading us.

"That was the one thing that really got all of us through this whole process - to be able to trust the Lord and know that His plan was going to work."

This unwavering trust in God didn't develop overnight. In fact, it has taken Calvillo the better part of his life to realize how much he needed God. Growing up in a Catholic family of six in Los

"To operate in faith will drive away your fear," he explains.

"The worst thing that ever happened to me was not losing my legs. The worst thing that ever happened to me was living my life in a constant state of fear for 20 years ... But faith drives out that fear."

Rigsby knows better than anyone that life is full of obstacles and hardships. He also knows God doesn't abandon people when things don't turn out the way they expected.

"In spite of the bad things happening, God still does have a plan, a purpose, and a destiny for us. That doesn't change in spite of our circumstances."

"I didn't learn anything when things were going good. My greatest lessons were learned during those times of hardship and trial because I had to really try to listen to the voice of God and lean on His strength."

After the Ironman, Rigsby found himself being approached by people who wanted to hear his story. Eventually, he wrote it all down in his recently released book, *Unthinkable* (Tyndale House Publishers).

"The book was a way to be able to share all the nitty-gritty details that actually happened because sometimes, even when I just talk about the highlights of the book, people go, 'there's no way that can happen - that's just crazy!'" he says.

Rigsby's story is one of determination, courage, and finding hope in hardship, and it's a story he wants to share with the world.

"I want people to understand, after everything that happened to me, if I can give God a chance, then I think you can trust me when I say to give God a chance."



Scott Rigsby

Photo by Patrick Heagney

didn't feel much conviction. After he became a Christian, he wondered if all his fun as a CFL star was over.

"I thought I was going to be missing out on a lot of things and I was totally wrong, because some interesting things and new people came into my life that really opened up my mind," says Calvillo.

Not long after he became a Christian, Chaplain Paul encouraged Calvillo to search

Continued from page 1

As much as his late season exit speaks to his personal character, Calvillo says Christian faith was the basis for his decision and the foundation for his family surviving this trying time.

Kontolemos is now cancer-free and the couple is happily raising their two daughters, but they were shaken when they first heard the cancer diagnosis two years ago.

As Christians, the only thing Anthony and Alexia

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