

## Special Collections and Archives

### Brown Library

### Abilene Christian University

This document is from the Landon Brady Saunders Papers, Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #575.

The Saunders Papers are held at the Brown Library in Abilene, Texas, and include Saunders' personal and organizational records of Heartbeat. This digital asset was generated by Heartbeat and/or ACU archives staff and preserves the original formatting, spelling, punctuation, and other features as it was created, or as close to the original as possible.

This and other material can be viewed and downloaded from the ACU online digital repository at <https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/saunders/>



# ACU\_Saunders\_MS575\_5069a

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

life, dream, buckets, feel, young man, world, person, face, lie, mirror, men, facts, ship, thirst, space, important, nose, people, affirm, picture

## SPEAKERS

Landon Saunders

### **Landon Saunders** 00:03

Hi, I'm Landon Saunders. Welcome to the course of human events. When Columbus started out on his famous voyage, we're told he didn't know where he was going. And when he reached his destination, he didn't know where he was. And when he got back, he didn't know where he had been while he'd been to America. But nowadays, America itself has become a place where all too many people don't know where they are or where they've been or where they're going. Paul Simon describes this feeling in his song America, Kathy, I'm lost. I said, though, I knew she was sleeping. I'm empty and aching. And I don't know why. Counting the cars on the New Jersey Turnpike. They're all gone to look for America. What are we looking for? I believe we're both looking for something. And I think life is looking for something in us that before we can find anything important, we must find some dream space. When they gave Saul Bellow the Nobel Prize for Literature, he said the hardest thing he found was to get himself enough dream space. Now what is dream space? Well, dream space is what it takes to create a work of art. It's what it takes to make your life a work of art. Dreamspace is what we're doing right now we've created some space to think about ourselves, and you're giving yourself some time to understand you to grow a new dream for your life. Something happens when we do this. When a human being stands up and says, I have a dream, that person has something powerful, he has a place to stand. Archimedes said give me a place to stand and a lever long enough and I can lift the world. While dream space is where you find that place to stand. It's a place in which you can meet any challenge of any problem. You can deal with your relationship to others, and you can get on with it. Too often we just let life happen to us. And when it doesn't turn out the way we want. We complain that somebody ought to do something. Well, with a dream, you'll be saying, I am somebody I can do something with the right dream for yourself, you won't wind up like the man who had so much trouble finding his clothes in the mornings as he was trying to get off to work that he decided one night to make a list of where he put everything as he took it off. The next morning, very pleased with himself, he took the piece of paper and red cap. There was his cap. So we put it on next pants. There they lay he got into them. And it went on until he was fully dressed. And then he became very upset, and said, Now all of this is very well. But now, where am I myself? Where in the world am I? And he looked and looked. But it was a vain search. He couldn't find himself. That's exactly how it is with us when we never take the time to get to know who we are. We never take the time to grow a dream of where we're going with our lives. Dream space is the place where you get that question mark off your face. When I look closely at the face of a newborn baby, I see that question mark and ask Who Am I? Where am I going? What does life want from me? I think it's part of what makes a baby so beautiful. And it's also a great tragedy. It people

should walk through your flower covered casket 70 years later. And the question mark is still there. And nobody can remove that question mark from your face for you. And you can do it for your children. Each person must do that himself. Each of us carries within ourselves our own private war, and we must wage it win or lose ourselves. And your dream space is where you prepare for this daily battle. Hemingway said, the world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong in the broken places. Well, you're strong, because you have a dream. And your dream gives your life some direction. And when you have direction you can endure pain, tension, stress, the broken places that destroy some people. And at the same time, we can encourage one another as one man put it, we're all in the same boat in the stormy sea. And we owe each other a terrible loyalty. Now that's how I feel toward you a bond a loyalty. And that's why I want to visit with you. If we share this voyage together. I think it'll be less fearful. In fact, our fears can be turned to exhilaration. One of my all time favorite lines is this one. It's great to be in a ship on a storm tall sea if you're sure the ship won't sink. But I may not be describing you you may not feel you're out there riding the waves in a storm. You may feel more like you're drifting in a sea of boring monotony. You are feeling maybe better expressed and The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, day after day, day after day we stuck nor breath nor motion as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean. Water Water everywhere and all the boards did shrink, water water everywhere, nor any drop to drink. What do you do when you feel like your life is stuck when you thirsting for Life something more but but you're sure you're surrounded by nothing but briny saltwater. a sailing vessel in the dense heat of the tropics had run out of drinking water. There was no wind, so the ship had been becomes in one spot for days, the men on board were about to die of thirst. When they suddenly saw dark spot on the horizon, it was a steamship. And when it was close enough, the men shouted their need for water. But the reply from the other ship was let down your buckets where you are. The men again in desperation, cried out for them to share their water. And again, the reply was heard as it steamed on out of sight. Let down your buckets where you are. Finally, the men dying of thirst threw down a bucket and drew up fresh water. They had been sailing for days on millions and millions of gallons of fresh water, they were at the mouth of the Amazon River. And this is the first thing we must learn to do. Let down our buckets where we are right now. We're all in a sea and there's plenty of life to go around. But there's a problem here. Because when we finally get around to letting down our buckets, we often use such small buckets. It has been estimated that the average person accomplishes only 10% of his promise sees only 10% of the beauty in the world about him hears only 10% of the music and poetry of the universe is only 10% open to his emotions to tenderness to wonder and all embraces only a small part of what he is capable, a person's heart is often only 10% alive with love. When you use only a small part of your potential, you're using a small bucket. If you want a larger bucket, get a bigger dream for your life. With the right dream, you'll know where you've been in your life, where you are and where you're going. You'll quiver with excitement, like the arrow endures the string to becoming the gathering athlete something more than itself, because it is going somewhere. Your new dream will also give you a new motive for your existence, a guide for your action, a reason for courage, courage that will let you face all the facts of your life and live beyond them is one man put it in the middle of winter, I at last discovered that there was within me an invincible summer. Now that you with a dream that won't die. Do you know who the people are, who have the greatest trouble finding this dream space? It's people who feel they've got to be doing something every second to be worthwhile. And if you're like that you've fallen into the first trap. So here's what I want you to do right now for the next few seconds. I want you to take a vacation. Just relax. You're totally free of everything. Not in a hurry to go anywhere. Do anything be anybody you just are. You're back at your happiest moment as child lying in the sun warm,

enjoying just being you? Doesn't it feel good. Now when this vacation ends, remember, you are important just for who you are. You don't have to do anything to be important. You're already important. You are important. So relax, enjoy some Dreamspace. At this point, one person told me it's easy to talk like that. But look at me. I'm supplying looking. nobody even notices me. Uh huh. The second trap, you may have fallen for the old lie that says your value is dependent on your looks and performance. Let's expose that lie right now. Now, I admit it's not always the easiest thing to look into the mirror and feel good about what you see. And especially if the biggest thing you see is your nose. You have to look around the thing to see yourself. And what are you going to do about that? Well, I've got the answer to that one. Love it. And the bigger it is, the more you got to love it. Let's go back to that mirror for a moment. Usually one of the first things we do we get up in the morning is look in the mirror worst time in the world to look in the mirror. You look and you think why? There's that same old slept on thing again. Right off. You've started your day in the hole. Some time ago, I was talking to an audience about how to handle this mirror ritual. afterwards. Woman Psalm 76 years old came up and said, Do you know sir, tonight is the first time I ever heard that I was supposed to like myself and feel good about myself. I have hated myself all my life, because I thought that's what I was supposed to do. Then a little gleam filled her twinkling eyes and she cocked her head a little to the side and said, but do you know what I'm going to do in the morning? I'm going to get up go to that mirror and say, hey gal, You're something else. The other part of that old lie is that values based on performance. Now there is a difference in people's talents and the price they'll bring on today's job market. But does this mean the person who makes \$500,000 a year has personal worth while the person who makes \$10,000 a Year has little worth. Of course not. Each of the two persons has basic worth, that is not determined by the salary commanded. Human worth derives from the very fact that we are human beings, not how we look or how we perform. As a member of the human race, you're important, no matter what your IQ is, or whether you have a strong or weak body, or whether your mind is as sharp as the next persons or whether age is left you physically inactive, you have worth, because you are a person, and there are no insignificant persons. Let's face it, your dream may be a nightmare. You're not this, you're not that big nose, no hair too short, wrong education, wrong upbringing, you must stop that you must grow a new dream for your life. And you begin that by doing three things. Number one, face the facts of your life as they are. look in that mirror face the facts of the way you look, those looks are yours, nobody has the right to tell you how to feel about them, you claim them face the truth of what you see, you can't change that bone structure or the size of that nose or ears. What you can't change you accept as part of your own unique self that is not subject to the judgment of you or anyone else, it's you. And that's enough to make it valuable, accept it and love it. And to form a new vision of yourself as you want to be the greatest camera in the world is your imagination needs no film, there are no buttons to push. And yet it's the key to your life. You behave according to your self image. And your self image is based on the picture. Your imagination is taking a view if you've pictured yourself as defeated, that alone is enough to make you live like a loser. And if you'll picture yourself as a winner, though, that will help you forgive yourself when you fail. And keep on going. Feeling good about yourself begins then with a picture held in your imagination of what you would like to do or be a picture of you. Feeling good about yourself, spend a few moments each day with that. Looking at that picture. Number three, affirm this new view of a person and others that you meet every day. Do you know you're having an impact on the people around you? What kind of impact is it? are you dragging them down? Well, no more. Because now you found some dream space out of which you're living with new direction. You can affirm in people the very things you are affirming in yourself and you watch them respond to that. Don't overlook this step.

It's too important, affirm and others the things you are affirming in yourself. I once asked a young man what it was going to be when he grew up and he replied quietly. I already am. That young man has faced the facts of his own life and he's accepted them I can tell you that he has a vision of what it should be. And he's affirming that and others around him he has begun growing a great dream for his life. Once there was a young man who found some dream space, he became life and intoxicated. He wrung as much joy as he could from every moment his face was friendly, vibrant, smiling, his eyes always seemed to be laughing. And everyone he met felt that he had shared himself with them, that somehow because of him, their day had been brighter. Than One day the young man was brought to the attention of the shadow. The shadow had so effectively covered the world with cynicism and dream killing despair, that it found that hard to believe such a life and intoxicated person could still exist. He swore to sober this young man into submissive despair. First he blinded him. But the young man simply turned up the music inside himself and danced on and then he sent him into exile far away from family and friends. That didn't work either. It was too late for the shadow to get this one. The Life and intoxicated young man was like a bird gorge with fireflies. He was too full of life not to glow. In your search for Dreamspace, beware the shadow