

REFLECTOR

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

December 2007

Troubling storm clouds

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). God bless America, land that I love, stand beside her and guide her with a light from above-- THE LAND OF THE FREE, THE HOME OF THE BRAVE.

As I travel the world, I am increasingly aware of the blessings that God has placed on my country. Many express their longings for a nation like ours where there is religious freedom for one and all. In America, a person is free to be a believer or is free to be a non-believer, even an atheist. I know that is true. God has blessed our nation.

As I listened, I did not want to believe what I was hearing. In responding to the Muslim's Ramadan, President Bush said that he believes "in an Almighty God, and I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion, prays to the same God. That's what I believe." Then, in meeting with the Dalai Lama in October, Bush called him "His holiness" and a great spiritual leader. Congress followed suit by awarding the Buddhist the Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian.

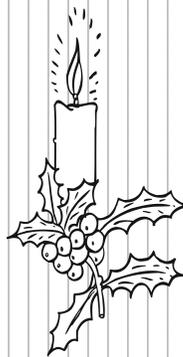
Further, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is pressuring Israel to divide the city of Jerusalem in a "land for peace" deal. Recently, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law bills designed to teach homosexuality as normal in his state's public schools. A school board in Maine voted to give birth control pills to sixth graders.

Since 9/11, President Bush has bent over backwards to promote other gods at the expense of his own Christianity. I wish this

Season's Greetings

from our house to your house

Yours in Calvary love,
THE J. GORDON HENRYS



"For there is born to you this day . . . a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

troubling behavior were not true, but it is. Through its leadership, the United States is on a fast track in turning against God. **It is time for Christians to wake up and pray.**

Daniel prayed for his nation in **Daniel 10**. He was reading Scripture (Jeremiah's books) and believed what he read. As he reflected on why Israel was in bondage, he began to confess specific sins and ask for God's mercy. He identified with the sins when he said "we" when he had done none of the things. We need God's mercy. We need a spiritual awakening. We must ask Him.

I believe President Bush has been one of the most prayed for presidents in history. Continue to pray that his leadership will turn us toward God, not away from Him. **The hour is late.**

Perspectives

Christmas 2007

Several years ago, I was touched by the message that was on a Christmas card sent by **Doorkeepers Bob and Sandi Swain** (Newport News VA) and mulled over it for a long time. It was entitled “God Sent Us a Savior.” Here it is: “If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If your greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, So God sent us a Savior.”

Of course, His coming into the world is the meaning of Christmas and we are wise to contemplate God’s great gift in a special way on the day set aside to remember Christ’s birth. “And [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins” (**Matthew 1:21**).

Yes, Christmas day calls for special reflection; but how much better it is to spend time daily in adoration, praise, and worship. Many of you are doing this, already. Since this act brings much joy and peace, you will likely keep it up—although your enemy Satan will try to thwart you. If you are not having a daily time of worship, there is no better time to begin than today. Don’t waste time in regret, do it. Usually, we must make definite, concrete plans if we are going to make life-style changes.

Soul nourishment first

Encouragement is given to each believer to read the Word of God systematically and regularly. By reading three chapters a day and five on Sunday, you can read the Bible in one year. Until you are in the Word of God for yourself, you will never become a prayer warrior—the greatest need in the church today. One advantage of having a plan to read through the Bible is that you will know what you are going to read tomorrow and can stay on course.

It is necessary to make an appointment with God on a daily basis and keep the appointment. Having a set, shut, secluded place to pray is helpful, as well. Jesus talked about closet praying. In His day, people kept their valuables in a closet so there was limited access to that place. Find a place that is as free from interruptions as possible and designate it your prayer place.

Long ago, I discovered that the best approach to my quiet time (which is early morning) is to spend a brief moment in acknowledging that I am coming into the presence of God. In my mind, I determine to wait before Him (**Isaiah 40:31**), to be still and know He is God (**Psalms 46:10**), and to take the initiative in drawing nigh to Him as He draws nigh to me (**James 4:8**). The result is an atmosphere of serenity, calmness, and excitement. Then I ask Him to open my eyes to be able to see wonderful things out of His Word (**Psalms 119:18**) as I open the Bible and begin to read. George Mueller termed this “soul nourishment first.”

Then adoration

Seldom is it necessary to read more than a few verses until I see something revealed about God the Father, or the Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit that brings me to an attitude of worship and praise. My prayer time begins with praising God for Who He is as revealed out of my reading. I read with a pen or pencil in my hand which produces a readiness in my mind to have a message from Him from a word, a phrase, a verse, or a passage. By taking a page of notes out of my reading each day, I remain focused and alert.

For many years, the worship aspect of my prayer time has never been stale. As “*His mercies are new every morning*” (**Lamentations 3:23-24**), so is His Word. There is something new in the Word each day that will set your heart on adoration—praising and loving God for who He is.

Seek His face

Have you ever been in love? When you fell in love, the night didn’t get too dark, the rain

too heavy, the snow too deep, or the fog too thick, to keep you from wanting to be with the one you loved. For what purpose? Being in the physical presence of the one you love is enough within itself. Lovers often gaze in to each other's eyes

The focus on praise is God Himself — and not what He has done. Thanksgiving in prayer is offering specific thanks to God for things He has done for us or others. There is a difference in thanking Him for what His hand of blessing has provided and in praising Him for Who He is.

Before you ask Him for anything, spend time in meditation. Praise Him! Bless His name! Think about His greatness and seek to understand Him. Delight in Him! Love Him!

A. W. Tozer prayed, "*O God, I love Thee as Thou art. I would not have Thee other than Thou art. I adore Thee for every attribute that Thou hast shown Thyself to have, and long to behold Thee in the days of eternity to come and thus to learn more of Thy glory and Thy being.*"

The Names of God

There are nine special names of God in the Old Testament derived from His works. Each one provides insight into who God is and what He does for His children. There are occasions when it is proper to focus on His names in worship. Learn the name and the context of the revelation. Knowing His names will help us know Him better.

Jehovah-Jireh - "*the Lord will see to it*" or "*the God who provides*" (**Genesis 22:14**).

Jehovah-Rophe - "*the Lord who heals*" (**Exodus 15:26**).

Jehovah-Nissi - "*the Lord our Banner*" (**Exodus 17:15**).

Jehovah-McKaddesh - "*the Lord our Sanctifier*" (**Leviticus 20:8**).

Jehovah-Shalom - "*the Lord our peace*" (**Judges 6:24**).

Jehovah-Tsidkenu - "*the Lord our righteousness*" (**Jeremiah 23:6**).

Jehovah-Rohi - "*the Lord my Shepherd*" (**Psalms 23:1**).

Jehovah-Sebaoth - "*the Lord of hosts [armies]*" (**Psalms 46:7**).

Jehovah-Shammah - "*the Lord is there*" (**Ezekiel 48:35; Joel 3:21**).

The Lord is to us all that we need, no matter what that need may be. He will perform. "*From the rising of the sun to its going down, The Lord's name is to be praised*" (**Psalms 113:3**). Worship Him for all that He is. It will make a difference in helping you and me walk with Him in confidence.

His Character, Attributes, Essence

Adoration is looking at God and loving Him for who He is. Recall His character, attributes, and essence as revealed in the Word of God to guide your praise and worship. Who is God?

One way to think about who God is that has been beneficial to many is to find key words describing Him for each letter of the alphabet. I learned this in the early '80s and found it to be an exercise that keeps me focused.

For each letter, I endeavored to make a list of as many words as I could for what I already knew about God. Over time, I have added to the list. Although I did not use a concordance, it is obvious that one way to develop an initial list or add to a list would be to do that.

Not only have I periodically used this approach in prayer during my quiet time, I have found it helpful at other times during the day in praising the Lord. In fact, I have often driven down the highway praising the Lord looking at the letters of the alphabet on the license plates of automobiles. Why don't you see what words you already have in your repertoire or suitcase with which you can use to praise and worship the Lord? Worship is the loving ascription of praise to God for Who He is, both in Himself and in His ways. Key words will keep you focused.

- A** ABLE, ALMIGHTY, ALL-SUFFICIENT
- B** BEAUTIFUL, BEGINNING, BREAD
- C** CHANGELESS, CREATOR, COMPLETE
- D** DELIVERER
- E** ETERNAL
- F** FAITHFUL, FRIEND, FORGIVING

G GOOD, GRACIOUS, GLORIOUS
H HOLY
I IMMUTABLE, INFINITE, INVINCIBLE
J JUST, JUDGE, JEALOUS
K KIND, KING, KNOWING
L LOVE, LIFE, LIGHT, LIMITLESS
M MAJESTIC, MERCIFUL, MIGHTY
N NEAR
O OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT
 OMNIPRESENT, OMEGA
P PATIENT, PURE, PRESENT
Q QUIET
R RIGHTEOUS, RESPONSIVE, RELIABLE
S SOVEREIGN, STRONG, SUFFICIENT
T TENDER, TRUTH, TRUSTWORTHY
U UNDERSTANDING, UNIVERSAL
V VICTORIOUS
W WISE, WONDERFUL
X EXCELLENT
Y YEARNING
Z ZEALOUS

Worship changes us

The time that we spend in genuine worship does not change God. He will never be any greater than He already is. As Matthew Henry avowed, "You can never add to God's perfections." R. A. Torrey said that when he learned to go to God just to be with Him, not to ask for anything, his life changed. Of course, there are many things to pray about at any given time. The benefit of adoration is the confidence that it gives that there is one who cares and is ready to hear your petitions for yourself and your intercession for others.

Just do it

Let's determine to make each morning in December 2007 special by letting God speak to us out of His Word and then speaking to Him in prayer. If you have not been following this pattern, just do it. You can!

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

A wise admonition:
"Preach the Gospel at all times.
If necessary use words."
Francis of Assisi

"If I could do it over again"

Someone asked Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, the founding editor of *Christianity Today* (who is recognized as a foremost author, educator, lecturer, and theologian), what one change he would make if he could live his life over again. His answer speaks volumes.

"I think that I would spend more time in prayer. Prayer is critically important, and the patterns that one establishes early in life have a molding influence. I had good patterns in the early years with a disciplined quiet time with God. It included Scripture reading, prayer, and waiting before God for His rebuke of anything in my life that He was displeased with, for direction or for guidance about speaking to other people about a relationship with Christ. But the pressures increase as one gets more actively involved...one finds in the later years that time is a very precious commodity that one seeks to use in a disciplined way for completion of certain priorities among his projects..."

Dr. Henry's comment is clearly a message that is easily understood. If you identify with what he said as you examine your own prayer life, don't waste time in regret or in morbid introspection. Wisdom is making prayer a priority in our busy lives! The Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, is the best example of a life that made prayer priority.

I visited with **Dr. Warren Wiersbe** in his office at Back to the Bible a few years ago. He, too, said that if he could do it over again, he would spend more time in prayer, as he did in his early ministry.

**To talk with God no breath is lost --
 Talk on!**
**To walk with God no strength is lost--
 Walk on!**
**To wait on God no time is lost --
 Wait on!**

A Right Christmas

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (**Luke 2:11**).

Christmas means many things to many people according to their backgrounds, ages, and interests: profits, presents, trees, toys, lights, wrapping presents, decorating homes, paying bills, working extra hours. **What does Christmas mean to you? Are you ready to have a right Christmas?**

For the born-again believers, Christmas means everything! It means that there is a Father Who loves us, a brother Savior Who shed His blood on the Cross to pay for our sins and make a way for us to be reconciled to the Father, and a Holy Spirit who is our Helper in every aspect of life. God regarded our lost condition and did something about it by giving the best Gift ever! Our Savior was born. That is the meaning of Christmas. Note how sharp is Dr. Luke’s diagnosis! **“Unto You”**--that is personal; **“This Day”**--that is present; **“A Savior”**--that is precious!

Actually, **three symbols** show the real meaning of Christmas: a **cradle (1 Timothy 3:16)**, a **cross (John 19:18)**, and a **crown (Isaiah 9:6)**. Incarnation—Jesus, God of very God in human flesh—was laid in a manger for His cradle (**John 1:1, Galatians 4:4-5, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**). He came to die on our behalf on the cross (**John 12:32**). One day He will return and will be crowned King of kings with every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that He is Lord (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

Ingredients of a right Christmas

It is important for a Christian to have a RIGHT CHRISTMAS! Here are some ingredients to include in your celebration.

1. A Right Christmas Includes Making Room for Jesus. The inn keeper is a symbol of those who have no room for Jesus. Be sure your heart is not so full of other things that there is no room for Him this Christmas. Jesus is the

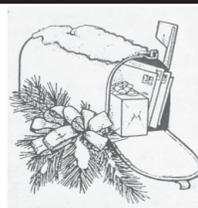
reason for the season!

2. A Right Christmas Includes Worship and the Grace of Giving. Adoration is simply looking at Jesus and loving Him for who He is. Take time for special worship as did the shepherds and wise men. **Since it is His birthday, shouldn’t your most expensive gift be given to honor Jesus?** The wise men “...fell down, and worshiped Him ... and ...presented unto Him gifts” (**Matthew 2:11**). Can we do any less?

3. A Right Christmas Includes Telling Others. The shepherds “made known abroad” what they had seen and heard (**Luke 2:17-20**). The need is great and the hour is late. How many on your street or in your neighborhood are waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus? We are not called to be lawyers, but witnesses. What an opportune time we have at Christmas to tell others its real meaning!

Peace on earth

Were the angels wrong when they talked about peace on earth and goodwill to men (**Luke 2:14**) since we have so much hurt today? No, the peace God offers is for those who will trust His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord. **The best present you could give to Him would be yourself this Christmas Day. If you have not, do so now. If you have, reaffirm your dependence upon Him!**



Priceless gifts to give others

To your enemy—forgiveness;
To your opponent—tolerance;
To your friends—your heart;
To children—a good example;
To your father—honor;
To your mother—conduct that will make her proud of you;
To yourself—respect;
To everyone else—charity.

Edna McCann

PRAYER CALENDAR**DECEMBER 2007**

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1****1 THES 1-5 (Portugal 10.6 M)**

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)
 Burnace Abrams (OH)
 Joseph W. Adams (OH)
 Mae Adams (NC)
 Marie Adams (VA)
 Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
 Rosalee Adams (VA)
 Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)
 Norma Ailes (FL)
 Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Leonor Avila (MD)
 Lon & Denise Anderkin (FL)
 Milcie Arnold (VA)
 Solomon & Kriskna Arrington (MD)
 Kenneth Banks (NC)
 Carolyn Barkley (NY)
 Steven & Marie Basilici (NC)
 Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)
 John & Joan Bateman (PA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**2 THES 1-3 (Puerto Rico 3.9M)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
 Jean Beasley (TN)
 Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
 Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
 Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
 Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
 Bethesda Ministries
 Jerry & Joan Crain (SC)
 Dorothy Spickard Biddle (TN)
 Stephen & Joyce Bishop (VA)
 Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

1 TIM 1-3 (Qatar 885,359)
 Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
 William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
 Gordon & Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
 Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
 Emilee & Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
 Nancy Bretz (PA)
 Von M. Bridges (TX)

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)

Shirley Brown (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5**1 TIM 4-6 (Reunion 787,584)**

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
 Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
 Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
 Janice Bugg (TN)
 Alvin & Berthena Bullard (FL)
 Ruby Burger (TN)
 Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
 Neal & Maryann Cabannis (VA)
 Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
 Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)
 Joreatha Capers (FL)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6**2 TIM 1-4 (Romania 22.3M)**

Ron & Julia Carlin (AL)
 David & Martha Cecil (VA)
 Merry J Chandler (MD)
 Mary Clarke (VA)
 Margarie Coffee (VA)
 Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
 Ted & Terry Cooper (SC)
 Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
 Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
 Joe & Paula Criz (HI)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**TITUS 1-3 (Russia 142.9M)**

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
 Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
 Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
 Ida J. Davis (GA)
 John & Margaret Davis (VA)
 Mark and Charmaine Davis (VA)
 Lelia Dean (FL)
 Robert & Virginia DeBoer (NE)
 Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
 Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**Philemon (Rwanda 8.6M)**

Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)
 Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
 Mary J. Dugans (LA)
 Walt Edwards (NC)
 Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
 Lynn Elkins (TN)
 Evalena Enoch (VA)
 Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
 Lynne Farrow (NJ)
 Larry & Cara Fields (VA)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

June Fisher (TN)
 Josephine Fitzgerald (AL)
 Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
 Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
 Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
 Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
 Carole B. Garvin (PA)
 Frank & Doris Geiger (HI)
 Robert & Sara George (GA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**HEB 1-2 (Saint Helena 7,502)**

Frances Glass (AL)
 Gloucester Co. Community Church
 Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
 Ronald & Maryann Gold (CO)
 Odether Gray (GA)
 Eddie & Georgianna Green (NC)
 Linda Gregory (NJ)
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
 Sue Hamm (KY)
 Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
 Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**HEB 3-4 (Saint Kitts 39,129)**

Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)
 Doug Henry (TN)
 J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
 Jacqueline Henry (VA)
 Mark Henry (TN)
 Melody Henry (VA)
 Roger Henry (OH)
 Sean Henry (KS)
 Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
 Joanna Holland (VA)
 John & Glenda Holland (VA)
 Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12**HEB 5-7 (Saint Lucia 168,458)**

Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
 Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
 Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
 Lamar & Cindy Sue Houser (MD)
 Bonnie Houston (TN)
 Coy Hunsucker (NC)
 Joyce Hunt (TN)
 Wilbert & Almareta Hupp (PA)
 Ed Hurlow (IN)
 H. J. & Paula Hutchins (MS)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13**HEB 8-10 (St. Vincent 117,848)**

Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
 Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
 Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
 Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
 Jonathan & Julie Jobe (NC)
 Peter & Millicent John (NY)
 Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
 Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
 Tara Johnson (KY)
 Wilbur & Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14**HEB 11-13 (Samoa 176,908)**

James Jones (FL)
 Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
 W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
 Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
 Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Joyce Kelley (OR)
 Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor

<p>Alice Kern (NJ) Archie & Mary King (TN) Kenneth & Bonnie Kirby (PA) <u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15</u> JAMES 1-5 (Sa Tome 193,413) Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN) Sherry Klutz (WA) Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH) Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY) Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI) Korean Branch: Dr. Shin Kwang Suk Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ) Phil & Loetta Landers (OK) <u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16</u> Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI) Bob Lawrence (MD) Kevin & Kay Layne (NC) Kehaunani L. S. Lee (HI) Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT) Rose Lewis (MD) Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL) George & Ginger Locklear (NC) Stacy Logsdon (KY) Ray & Bobbie Long (WV) <u>MONDAY, DECEMBER 17</u> 1 PETER 1-5 (Saudi Arabia 27M) Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC) Manship Chapel (DE) Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY) Larry & Sue Mason (VA) Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA) Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH) Bill & Mirle Matheny (VA) Deborah Mathias (NY) Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN) Bill & Shirley Maybin (SC) <u>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18</u> 2 PETER 1-3 (Senegal 12M) Gary & Anna McElwaine (KY) Sid & Jane McLaughlin (AL) Jim & Lin McLean (TN) John & Egberta McSween (Trinidad) Leonard & Martha Meador (VA) Don & Barbara Meduna (CO) Memorial Christian Church (VA) Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI) Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA) Lewis & Martha Miller (IN) Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA) Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO) <u>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19</u> 1 JOHN 1-5 (Serbia 108M) Earl & Marvel Mills (VA) Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC) Katherine Morgan (VA) New Harvest Ministries (MD) Marcus Johnson, Pastor Chet & Betty Nichols (WA) Craton & Helen Noyes (KY) <u>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20</u> 2 JOHN (Seychelles 81,541)</p>	<p>Ann Palumbo (NJ) Jim & Barb Peterson (MI) Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA) Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD) Ben Poplin (VA) Ayers & Nina Porter (TN) Marshall & Lois Powell (KY) Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA) <u>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21</u> 3 JOHN (Sierra Leone 6M) Phyllis Reed (NH) Mike & Joyce Riley (KY) Cynthia Roach (VA) Windi & Caleb Roach (OK) John & Sandra Roberts (FL) Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY) David & Cathie Rocke (IA) <u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22</u> JUDE (Singapore 4.5M) Clark & Marie Rogers (VA) Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN) Bob & Shirley Rose (MI) Sandra Rumore (VA) John Saint (PA) Don & Marie Satterwhite (MD) David & Betty Schaum (NY) Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA) Dwayne Schmaltz (WI) Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA) Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA) <u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23</u> Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI) John & Peggy Seibert (AL) Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH) Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA) Eric Farel, Pastor Nellie F. Shepard (CT) Sam & Lola Simpson (NY) Mary Skiles (KS) Doris Snyder (FL/OH) John & Helen Sourlis (MD) <u>MONDAY, DECEMBER 24</u> REV 1-3 (Slovakia 5.4M) LeRoy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA) Marion J. Stansell (TX) Tim & Pam Steger (ID) Carol Snow Stewart (CT) Gary/Leta Fern Stillwagon (GA) Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA) Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR) <u>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25</u> REVELATION 4-6 (Slovenia 2M) Bob & Sandy Swain (VA) Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC) William Stroman, Pastor Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX) Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA) Stephanie Taylor (GA) Temple of Praise (TX) Gilbert Perez, Pastor Mona Henry Thomas (VA)</p>	<p>Mildred V. Thompson (GA) Paula Tipton (TN) <u>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26</u> REV 7-9 (SOLOMON IS 552,438) William & Katie Toney (NC) Virginia Trask (VA) Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY) Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY) Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY) Malcom Troutman (KY) Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY) Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA) Sara Underwood (TN) <u>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27</u> REV 10-13 (SOMALIA 8.9M) Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN) Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL) George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY) Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ) Tommy Waddell (TN) Horace & Becky Ward (NC) Michael & Sandra Ward (IN) Beau Ware (VA) <u>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28</u> REV 14-16 (SOUTH AFRICA 44M) Kay Warmerdam (TX) Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN) Adrian Waters (MD) Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY) Alan & Shirley Whitmore (TN) Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA) George & Virginia Whitner (FL) Paul & Diane Wieland (PA) Edward Williams (NC) Julie L. Wilson (PA) <u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29</u> REV 17-19 (SPAIN 40.4M) Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo) Stephen Latong (Nigeria) Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa) Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela) Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya) Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya) Onesimus Sule (Nigeria) Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Zambia) Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria) <u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30</u> Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA) Dot Winfield (MD) Amos Wipf (GA) Deron & Lekeshia Wood (MD) The Word Church (NJ) Buz Offenbacher, Pastor <u>MONDAY, DECEMBER 31</u> REV 20-22 (SRI LANKA 20.2M) Greg & Lori Worley (GA) Todd & Stephanie Wright (KY) Lili Wykle (VA) Robin & Deborha Yohee (PA)</p>
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“For God [the greatest Person] so loved [the greatest love] the world [the greatest number ever loved] that He gave His only begotten Son [the greatest Gift ever given], that whoever believes in Him [the simplest requirement possible] should not perish [the most awful destiny avoided] but have everlasting life [the greatest gift for all eternity].” John 3:16

Dr. R. A. Torrey preached on **John 3:16** as “The Greatest Sentence Ever Written.” **Martin Luther** called it the “Miniature Gospel” because it represents all the great truth of the Gospel and the meaning of Christ’s coming into the world.

Dr. H. A. Ironside tells the story of a little girl in Martin Luther’s day, when the first edition of the Bible came out.

The little girl had a terrible fear of God. God had been presented in such a way that it filled her heart with dread when she thought of Him. She brooded over the awfulness of the character of God and of some day having to meet this angry Judge.

But one day she came running to her mother, holding a scrap of paper in her hand. She cried out, “Mother! Mother! I am not afraid of God any more.” Her mother said, “Why are you not?” “Why, look, Mother,” she said, “this bit of paper I found in the print shop, and it is torn out of the Bible.” It was so torn as to be almost illegible except for two lines. On the one line, it said, “God so loved,” and on the other line it said, “that He gave.” “See, Mother,” she said, “God so loved that He gave.”

“See, Mother,” she said, “that makes it all right.” Her mother read it and said, “God so loved that He gave. But,” she said, “it does not say what He gave.”

“O Mother,” exclaimed the child, “if He loved us enough to give anything, it is all right.”

Then the mother said, “But, let me tell you what He gave.” She read, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Then she told how we can have peace and eternal life through trusting Him.

Just As I Am

I stood at that manger
Just as I am
And wondered why Christ
From heaven came down.
The Word became flesh
And dwelt here for me
But for what reason
Could this all be?

I sat in my church
Just as I am
The preacher was preaching
Of Bethlehem town
Explaining why Christ from
heaven came down.
He said that God loved me
There was no other way,
That on the cross
For my sins Christ would pay.

The choir then was singing
Just as I am
And I began to question
From somewhere deep down
Just as I am—
“Lord, You really mean me?”
Just as I am—“Can it really be?”

I walked down the aisle
I knew it was true
I made a decision
That made me brand new.

Carol Breece, Murfreesboro TN
11/1/88

YOU
HAVE
HEARD
THE
GREATEST
STORY
EVER
TOLD.
GOD
SENT
HIS
SON
TO DIE
FOR
YOUR
SINS.
DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THAT
GOD
RAISED
HIM
FROM
THE DEAD?
THEN
TRUST
HIM
AS
YOUR
SAVIOR
AND
CONFESS
HIM
BEFORE
OTHERS.

See
Romans
10:9-13

Itinerary:

December

2 **Prayer Seminar**
First Baptist Church
Mifflintown PA
Contact: Ron Shupe (717) 436-2221

January

13-16 **Prayer Revival**
First Baptist Church
Madisonville KY
Contact: Bob Bouchard (270) 825-1760
20-27 **Prayer Seminars--FRANCE**

Growing your prayer life

Sunday Bwanhot
Eighth in a series



PRACTICAL STEPS

8. Be Still Before the Lord

Someone has rightly observed that 'hurry is the death of prayer.' This is very true! Especially in this our jet and instant age, we have become slaves to time and we serve time instead of time serving us. We budget our day and allocate time for our overloaded schedules. The fine Christians among us also budget time to meet with God --a very commendable thing.

Since the time we allocate for our devotion with God is very limited, we come before God with a business man's mentality--straight to business even before proper exchange of pleasantries. We cannot come to God with that type of attitude and really meet with Him.

Year-end giving

As you plan your December giving, what are you giving Jesus for His birthday this year? What is under the tree for Him? Is He FIRST on your shopping list? There will be many reminders that the very best and most expensive gift we give should honor the Lord Jesus Christ since Christmas is essentially based on giving. Every gift we buy will be one reminder if we are thoughtful.

It very well may be that as you pray about your end-of-the year giving you will want to make your gift to honor Jesus in a special way through the prayer seminar ministry. Over the years, many have. If so, as a faith ministry

Scripture says: "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth." **Psalm 46:10.**

As you come before God in prayer, be quiet in your spirit and heart; remind yourself that you are before God. Calm yourself down, let your spirit connect with God and feel in your heart and all around you the presence of God.

Sometimes it could take just a couple of minutes for that to happen, other times it could take much longer. As long as you are in a haste to get into business with God, you will miss it. Try being still for a couple of minutes every time before digging into your devotions.

JGH: Since 1988, Sunday has been a part of the prayer seminar ministry, first in Nigeria and then in the Chicago area. He is undertaking treatment for a medical issue and needs all of our prayers. If you have been blessed by his studies, you might want to write to Sunday and Grace and tell them so: **Sunday & Grace Bwanhot, 7927 S. Troy, Chicago IL 60652.** His e-mail address is <bwanhot@sbcglobal.net>. If you have an e-mail address, ask to receive his weekly **Prayer Update**. His studies will be a blessing and complement completely what is taught in the prayer seminar.

depending on the gifts of its friends, we will be grateful.

December is also a time to catch up on making gifts we planned to make earlier in the year. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions, such as home mortgage interest and medical expenses, can deduct charitable gifts. A larger-than-usual gift usually boosts your allowable deduction above the standard one built in for those who do not itemize. Gifts postmarked December 31 are deductible this year.

Again, thanks for your faithful partnership in making the prayer seminar ministry possible. Your prayer and financial support are investments in eternity—and you could have no greater investment than to support the Lord's work to bring Him glory.



AM I THIS KIND OF CHRISTIAN?

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus said to [the lawyer],

VERTICAL: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all thy soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.”

HORIZONTAL: “And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

PRAYER: “Abba, Father, I come to You through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. My desire is to close 2007 and enter 2008 being the salt and the light where I live. I pray that I will love You supremely and will love my neighbor as myself. I ask for Your grace to make my desire a reality. I want to please You and bring you glory. With thanksgiving, I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Heart’s cry

Oh, Lord, clear my mind of any debris
That it may be turned wholly to Thee—
That no outside thoughts would creep
through
To distract my prayer from flying to you.

The prayer channel so be open, clean and
free

That the sacrifice of my lips
In thanksgiving, worship, and praise
Would ascend in purity.

Doorkeeper Kay Warmerdam

Lewisville TX

June 10, 1982

Word from Kay: *The Lord sometimes gives me little tid-bits when I am in prayer or study. I came across this one while going through my papers and thought I would pass it on to you. These little “little bits,” as I call them, are from the heart’s cry.*

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1121. Christ is coming soon--perhaps today--not as a babe lying in a manger, but as the King of glory triumphantly!

Note 1122. The cross is God’s Christmas tree.

Note 1123. What’s under the tree for Him? Be sure that Christ is at the top of your Christmas giving. He deserves the most expensive gift.

Note 1124. This Christmas may you see and know anew just how great His love is toward you. Look at the cross.

Note 1125. The essence of prayer is humility, which means dependence on God not self. No one can meet this requirement for you.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers”

1 Thessalonians 1:2

October 23-26, 2007*

Regular	1	\$50.00
Africa	18	\$1,017.00
Total	19	\$1,147.00

*To be updated in January '08 Reflector



A Doorkeeper is a JGHM partner in all we do--teaching, preaching, writing. Through regular and designated gifts, Doorkeepers make the prayer seminar ministry possible.

Welcome, New Doorkeepers!
Neal & Mary Ann Cabannis (VA)
George & Ginger Locklear (NC)

“Laborers together with God”
1 Corinthians 3:9

World on your heart

Venezuela! Canada! Ecuador! Peru! Bahamas! Trinidad & Tobago! South Africa! Kenya! Democratic Republic of the Congo! 2007, the twenty-third year of our international ministry, brought immeasurable joys with prayer seminars conducted in these nine nations. Each seminar afforded its own distinct dynamic and blessing. Thousands attended, including hundreds of pastors, listening, making notes in their workbooks (usually in their own language) – eager to receive the instruction. Often the seminars were videotaped which enable benefits of the seminar to be ongoing. During the year, the prayer seminar workbook was translated into two additional languages, French and Swahili. Congo was a new nation, the 50th for our ministry.

The indigenous church. Because many pray and give, we are able to strengthen and encourage the indigenous church. The role of missionaries has been outstanding in planting and nurturing churches. But the time may come when missionaries must step aside and leave the responsibility in the hands of nationals. This is vividly illustrated in Indonesia and Malaysia. The content of the seminar, laid out for systematic study in the workbook, is most appropriate to church leaders in any nation who have the task of guiding the growth and development of the local churches.

The world on your heart. We are grateful beyond words for all who have the world on their hearts and have helped us touch thousands upon thousands. You prayed! You gave! The people in these nine nations were blessed because you care. Thank you for being our faithful partners. You have made a difference.

REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA, KENYA, AND D.R. OF CONGO

The report on the November 8-30 seminars will be shared in the January '08 **Reflector**. Thanks for your prayer support.

“Call upon Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” **Jeremiah 33:3**

Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much.

John Newton

Patience

Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind.

Leonardo da Vinci

The will of God for every Christian is that he/she would be Spirit-filled, which means Spirit-controlled (**Ephesians 5:18**). When the Holy Spirit is in control, the fruit of the Spirit will be forthcoming. “The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE,” then emanating from love will be “joy, peace, longsuffering [**Patience**], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (**Galatians 5:22-23**). **JOY** is love smiling. **PEACE** is love resting. **PATIENCE** is love waiting. **KINDNESS** is love showing itself sensitive to the needs of others. **GOODNESS** is love making allowances and sacrifices for others. **FAITHFULNESS** is love proving constant. **GENTLENESS** is love yield. **SELF-CONTROL** is love triumphing over selfish inclinations.

The world seldom sees a Christian where the Holy Spirit is in control. As we contemplate the meaning of Christ’s coming into the world, ask Him to show you anything in your life that you are doing that He does not want you to do and anything you are not doing that He wants you to do. This exercise will surely bring conviction, followed by godly sorrow. The next step is repentance (changing your mind about your sins). Confess each sin specifically. Receive His forgiveness and cleansing. Yield to the Holy Spirit.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THANK GOD FOR A BANNER YEAR IN
2007. PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS
FOR 2008.

Exchange

“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him, who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself...”
(**Hebrews 12:2-3a**)

**Tell me the story of Jesus,
write on my heart every word ...**

He stepped from the measureless aeons of eternity into the confines of time and space. He laid aside the shining garments of glory to be clothed in the flesh of a helpless infant.

He left the immortal fragrances of Heaven for a world sick with the scent of mortality. He turned His back on gem-studded mansions to live where He had no place to lay His head. He waved aside the Father’s loving smile to walk among men who spat upon Him.

He removed the crown of His sonship in exchange for thorns and scars on His brow. He closed the gates of Heaven to stand accused while Pilate washed his hands.

He descended the ethereal battlements on high to climb a hill called Golgotha. He moved away from a throne of honor to be nailed on a cross, which was His curse. He replaced creation’s causative voice with a voice that cried, “Forgive them.” He gave up Heaven’s deathless climate for the airlessness of Joseph’s tomb.

And then, when all was finished as He had said, He stepped back into the measureless aeons of eternity. He now sits at the position of honor and authority at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us.

Whatever other gifts you give or receive this Christmas, may your heart be filled to overflowing with love and gratitude for the one PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT — the gift from Father, His only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.