

REFLECTOR

VOL. 52, No. 3

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

March 2006

**FAITH HONORS GOD;
GOD HONORS FAITH.**

The Diary of a Bible

January 15. Been quietly resting for a week. The last few nights after the first of the year my owner read me regularly, but he has forgotten me now. Another New Year's resolution gone wrong!

February 3. Owner quickly picked me up and rushed off to Sunday school; he did not open me, however.

February 23. Cleaning day. Dusted and put back into my place. I have been in the lower hall since my trip to Sunday school.

April 2. Busy day. Owner had to present a lesson at a church meeting and quickly looked up a lot of references.

May 5. In Grandma's lap every afternoon. A comfortable place.

May 7,8,9. In Grandma's lap every afternoon. She let a tear fall on **John 14:1-3**.

May 20. Baby born here today. They wrote his name on one of my pages.

July 1. Had a couple of four-leaf clovers put in me today.

July 5. Packed in a trunk with a lot of other things. Off for a vacation.

July 7. Still in the trunk.

July 15. Still in the trunk.

July 20. Still in the trunk. Almost everything else is now out.

July 25. Home again in my old place. Quite a journey, though I don't know why I went.

August 2. Rather stuffy and hot. Two magazines, a book, and an old hat are on top of me. Wish they would take them off.

August 9. Cleaning day. Dusted and put back in my place.

August 16. Cleaning day. Cleaned again with special care and put in a prominent place on the library table. Heard them say the minister is to be here for dinner.

August 20. Owner wrote Grandma's death in my Family Record section. He left his glasses between my pages.

December 31. Owner just found his glasses. Wonder if he will make any resolution about me for the New Year? Isn't this a funny world?

Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20

Ambassadors never get a day off. Regardless of where they go or what they do, twenty-four hours a day, they are representing their country. Everything they say or do reflects back upon the nation they are representing—how they dress, how they eat, and how they spend their leisure time. To assume their responsibilities, they forfeit their freedoms on behalf of the country whom they represent. As Christians we are royal ambassadors for Christ.

DO YOU WANT GOD TO LOOK YOUR WAY?

A MOST DISTURBING VERSE FOR A CHRISTIAN:

"But on this one will I look; on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

Isaiah 66:2b

Perspective

"But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word." Isaiah 66:2b

The most disturbing verse in the Bible for me is **Isaiah 66:2b**. God promises to look to the person who is humble (contrite) and who trembles at His Word. **Humble** means **dependence upon God** and not one's abilities or competencies. **Contrite** means **brokenness**. It is so easy to come to a point that the Word of God has no more impact than any other piece of literature. Starting in 1977—the year that I came to the realization that I was reading the Word only to get a message to preach, not for my own food and guidance—I have read through the Bible systematically each year. By reading three chapters a day and five on Sunday, a person can complete the Bible in 365 days. For the last twenty-nine years, I have taken a page of notes out of my reading each day. The danger in such a routine is to come to the point that I don't really pay attention as I read.

Most Christians are not in the Word of God and many who are don't really pay attention to the Word of God! How pleased Satan must be! How about you? Ask yourself simple questions: "How long has it been since I **read** the Word of God and **TREMbled** at the Word of God?" "How long has it been since I **heard** the Word of God and **TREMbled** at the Word of God?" "How long has it been since I **studied** the Word of God and **TREMbled** at the Word of God?"

At all times in a person's life, there is a danger that he will major on the minors and minor on the majors, a subterfuge Satan uses in a Christian's life. When a believer enters his time to read the Bible and pray, he often has a pervasive sense that there are things he needs to be doing and that he does not have time to waste, a santanic tactic. No person has any more time than any other person. As

we face each new day, we can be sure that each has all the time needed to accomplish all that God intends. We simply must be willing to **establish priorities** and **exercise the discipline** needed to stay on target. To prioritize is to order according to importance; e.g., if there are ten things to do on a given day, the most important item is number one and the least important is number ten. **For most Christians, Bible reading and prayer are seldom high on the list of priorities.** Since we do what we think is important, the problem apparently is our view of the worth of these two activities.

Few Christians have a satisfactory prayer life. The main purpose of the prayer seminar ministry is to provide help and **encouragement** to believers to **establish a regular, daily, personal time with God.** More and more I am coming to believe that **the prayer life is unlikely to change unless a believer is willing to get into the Word of God on a daily basis and stay there until he knows that he has heard from God.** In God's plan the practice of searching the Scriptures was never intended to be divorced from the practice of prayer. Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you (Bible reading), you shall ask what you will (prayer), and it shall be done" (**John 15:7**). If you will study the Word of God, you will want to communicate with the God of the Word!

A believer who is not studying his Bible regularly is unlikely to become a prayer warrior. The Word of God is the fuel to feed the fire of prayer. "Soul nourishment first" was the expression used by George Mueller to describe the development of his understanding regarding prayer. Mueller (founder of five orphanages in Bristol, England, became a model of living by prayer and faith) began his time with God in the Word. He testified: "Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent, daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I

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have not had a good time over the Word of God." Staying in the Word is so very important that I give this advice to believers: if there are times when you have to choose either to read and study the Word or to pray, read the Bible. It is far more important for you to hear what God has to say to you than for God to hear what you have to say to Him. You will be surprised at how **your prayer life will be strengthened when you develop a working knowledge of the Word of God!**

There are five things that a believer must learn to do with the Word of God if He is to be used in the Work of God. **Hear** the Word of God; **Read** the Word of God; **Study** the Word of God; **Memorize** the Word of God; **Meditate** on the Word of God. Meditate, which means to mutter, to muse, or to talk to yourself, is the key. It is clear that the Holy Spirit activates the Word of God in application to daily life situations. It is just as clear that He cannot activate something that is not there! Whatever is in the mind determines your behavior. The mind is not born again. It is necessary to renew our minds (**Romans 12:2**) which we do by putting the Word of God into our minds.

I challenge you to establish a definite time in your daily schedule to meet God. You need to have a good study Bible—one with paragraph headings that will serve to direct your thoughts and alert you to keep reading when you come to the end of a chapter and the paragraph is not finished. Expect God to speak to you through His Word and He will do so. Read with a pen or pencil in hand. Use a small ruler to underline key verses as you read. It has been helpful to me to begin each year with a new copy of the Bible. One approach to follow in reading is the "**P-Q-R-S-T**" Method.

P-review. Before you start reading look over the paragraph headings in the chapters you are going to read. Begin to think!

Questions. Based on the paragraph

headings, form a few questions which come to your mind. This will get your brain in gear!

R-ead. Remember to have your pen or pencil ready for notes or Scripture marking.

S-tate. While you are reading, look away from the printed page and state to yourself what you have just read.

T-est. Later in the day or when you turn out the lights ready to sleep, test yourself to see what you remember from your Bible reading.

The secret is to get started. Plan an encounter with God every day. God speaks through His word, but we must have "ears to hear" and a willingness to obey. Do not worry about what you do not understand. Practice what you do understand. Keep putting the Word of God into your mind. Remember that the Holy Spirit is your Instructor (**John 14:26**). Look to Him, depend on Him, seek His help, and thank Him for it. **Did you have your time with God today?** If not, make up your mind to begin and **apply yourself as though your spiritual vitality depends upon it—it really does!**

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

Check out our web site!

www.jgordonhenryministries.org

Here's what you will find:

- **A Day in God's Courts Prayer Seminar**
- **Main Index Page**
- **Meet Dr. Henry**
- **A Personal Invitation**
- **An Interview with Dr. Henry**
- **Seminar Information**
- **Seminar Testimonies**
- **Sermon of the Month**
- **Favorites from the Archives**
- **How to Go to Heaven**
- **Notes from My Bible**

Why a Seminar? Fruitless

Although it is painful to acknowledge, **many believers are fruitless.** Following the principles of horticulture, it is not difficult to understand that the fruit of a Christian is another Christian—like kind bearing like kind. Frequently believers mistake the fruit of a Christian with the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). Consequently, they settle for seeking fruit that can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. Frankly, it would not be surprising in an average Sunday morning congregation to find that 95 out of 100 are fruitless! So, what are we going to do? We could close the door of the church or throw in the towel, but we don't have to do either.

In 1983, God showed me clearly from **Luke 13:6-9** what is needed to change the situation. If you want to know what to do, study that passage. The context, along with other references, identify the barren fig tree as the nation Israel. It could very well be that the three years mentioned in verse seven refer to the length of Jesus' public ministry which was rapidly drawing to a close. However, it was common knowledge that a fig tree normally took three years to bear fruit. But, Israel is not the one expected to bear fruit today; rather, the fig tree is a Christian.

When the owner of the vineyard came the third year and found no fruit, he instructed the keeper of the vineyard to cut it down, asking "Why use up the ground?" But the keeper of the vineyard replied, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. Then if it bears fruit, well; if not, then we can cut it down."

Why a prayer seminar? Over and over across the years, we have seen the Holy Spirit dig around roots and put fertilizer in during the six hours of the prayer seminar. We have regularly watched as the Holy Spirit broke up fallow ground as believers experienced an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Pastors

testify that the spiritual impact of a prayer seminar made a difference in their personal lives, as well as in the lives of their people and recommend that other churches schedule seminars. We have many letters of reference available upon request. **Tell a friend if the prayer seminar has helped you! Many will schedule a seminar when they know!**

Itinerary

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course."

2 Thessalonians 3:1

March

5-7 **Prayer Revival**

First Baptist Church

Mt. Vernon KY

Eddie Nation, Pastor

10-12 **Course on Prayer (live)**

Harvest COGOP, Rock Hill SC

Beacon University--IOM

17-19 **Beacon University: IOM**

(1) **Community Fellowship***

Wendell NC

(2) **Abundant Life Fellowship***

Florence SC

26 **Prayer Seminar**

Memorial Christian Church

Lynchburg VA

Greg Powell, Coordinator

April

2 **Prayer Seminar**

White Oak Baptist Church

Morristown TN

Ayers Porter, Contact

* Video prayer seminar (10 hours)

**SHOULD YOUR CHURCH
SPONSOR A PRAYER
SEMINAR?
HERE'S HOW:**

**CALL: 1-434-239-8837, or
E-MAIL: jghm84@aol.com, or
WRITE: 1127 Lakeview Drive,
Lynchburg VA 23502.
Give us three possible dates.**

Holding our peace

When Syria besieged Samaria long ago, conditions were so desperate that those inside the city walls were starving. There were four lepers outside the city walls because of their physical condition. At one point, *"they said to one another, Why sit here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die"* (2 Kings 7:3-4). When they rose up in the twilight and went to their camp, they were amazed at what they found. God had intervened. The soldiers had fled their tents leaving behind their bounties—including abundant food supplies.

The lepers ate and drank. *"Then they said one to another, we do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: "* (v 9). You can imagine what good news it was for those dying in the city to learn that provisions were now available for their deliverance.

There is a plan for the spread of the Gospel and that is for us to be witnesses. **Success in witnessing is sharing the story of the Lord Jesus Christ and then leaving the results up to Him.**

The story is told of a Senator in Washington who hosted a dinner for the Ambassador from Belgium. His elderly father, who was a devoted Christian, lived with him and often spoke to those around him about Jesus. Prior to the occasion, the son warned his father not to offend the special guest by mentioning Jesus. When he came downstairs and was introduced, however, he spoke to the Ambassador about his salvation. Quickly, he apologized to his son and retreated to his room quite ashamed at what he had done. Sometime later, the old man died. One wreath stood out with a message from the Ambassador to Belgium: "In Memory of the only man in America who spoke to me about my soul."

**The fields
are white!
Don't forget!
Pray
for
laborers!**

NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1011. There is no time like the present to take God at His Word.

Note 1012. When we walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) rather than by sight, our lives are guided by the only One who sees, knows, and controls the future.

Note 1013. A Christian is a heart through which God loves and a hand through which God helps.

Note 1014. God's Word is still our lamp and our light (Psalm 119:105), the map to guide our paths each day, the guidebook to prevent our being lead astray.

Note 1015. True repentance involves a change of mind that leads to a change of life.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

January 18--February 21, 2006

	# Gifts	Amount
Regular	60	\$4,290.00



Thanks, Doorkeepers!

Welcome! New Doorkeepers!

Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Fred & Jeannette Rolater (Korea/TN)
Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)

**JGFM IS A FAITH MINISTRY
SUPPORTED BY GIFTS FROM
OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS.**

The Shenandoah Valley Baptist Church story

During my early days at Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University), word came that some believers in Winchester, 175 miles north of Lynchburg, were burdened to begin a bible-preaching, bible-practicing local church. I agreed to work with them. After I finished at the college on Fridays, I drove to Winchester, spent Saturdays working with the leadership to develop action plans for the next week, taping two radio programs to be aired on Sunday, visiting prospects, and leading Sunday services. I returned to Lynchburg Sunday evenings. The blessings of God upon our work confirmed that He was indeed leading.

After a few months, time came for our first service on October 1, 1972. Believers gathered at the Echo Village Restaurant meeting room on U. S. 11, south of Winchester. There were eighty-nine in Sunday school on that wonderful day of beginning, ninety-one in morning worship, and seventy-two returned for the evening worship. It was reported that over 100 different persons attended the opening day. Twenty-five joined the church. A decision was made that all who became members in October would be designated charter members. Fifty-four came into membership.

We called ourselves, initially, the Old-Time Baptist Church. In December, 1972, the official name was chosen—Shenandoah Valley Baptist Church. My commitment was to remain as pastor until there were 100 members. Amazingly, I baptized ninety-nine converts the next ten months. Today the church thrives with beautiful facilities (which can be seen on I-81 at the Stephens City exit) and a full ministry, including a strong Christian school.

Since those who receive the **Reflector** are interested in church growth, I want to share my "**Pastor's Paragraphs**" from the first bulletin (10-1-72). Although times have

changed considerably, I believe every word I said is still true and appropriate for today:

Welcome to the first services of the Old-Time Baptist Church, Winchester, Virginia. It is a delight to have you in the services and we are in prayer that these services can mean much to you as one who has trusted Christ as personal Savior and is seeking to allow the lordship of Christ to rule your lives.

We are also praying that if you have come today and you have never surrendered yourself in a moment of personal faith in Jesus Christ that you will do so today. We will do our very best to present Christ and God's Word to you in such a way that you will understand what you should do as the Holy Spirit leads.

Building a church is work. Most of the work is week-day work. Contacts must be made by all of us to REACH THE UN-REACHED. Never let a day go by that you do not contact someone to come to church. A card is good; a call is better; a visit is best.

Precious Memories

Of course, these were days that are among my "precious memories." As then, God still blesses His Word. We, as did Paul in Ephesus, proclaimed the "whole counsel of God." This includes the facts that sin is against God, there is a heaven to be gained and a hell to be shunned. We preached the only way of salvation as "repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ"—which is the Gospel in miniature and that the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin. We sung the hymns of the faith that prepare hearts for worship and service. The result was an in-gathering of souls and building the foundation for a strong, enduring church. God has not changed. He is ready to bless the same kind of effort today.

**DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR THE PEACE
OF
JERUSALEM.
Psalm 122:6**

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THOUGHTS TO PONDER

I EXPECT TO PASS THROUGH THIS
WORLD BUT ONCE. ANY GOOD,
THEREFORE, THAT I CAN DO,
OR ANY KINDNESS THAT I CAN
SHOW TO ANY FELLOW CREATURE,
LET ME DO IT NOW.
LET ME NOT DEFER OR NEGLECT IT
FOR I SHALL NOT PASS
THIS WAY AGAIN.

This is how God showed His love---
He sent His only begotten Son into the
world that we might live through Him.
1 John 4:9

Bridge Builder

"I have showed you all things, how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting your strength building
here;
Your journey will end with the closing day,
You will never again pass this way.
You have crossed this chasm deep and wide,
Why build you a bridge at even-tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I've come," he
said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fairhaired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must come in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building a bridge for
him."

**As a reminder,
write on your Bible's flyleaf:**

**THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU
FROM SIN; SIN WILL KEEP YOU
FROM THIS BOOK.**

**THIS BOOK CONTAINS MY
NECESSARY FOOD (JOB 23:12).**

**EVERY DAY. PUT CHRIST FIRST;
HE WILL SUPPLY ALL YOUR
NEEDS (MATTHEW 6:33).**