

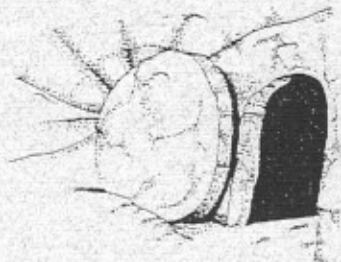
# REFLECTOR

VOL. 52, No. 4

*"Holding Forth the Word of Life"*

April 2006

**LIFE IS FRAGILE;  
HANDLE WITH PRAYER.**



"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. **COME, SEE** the place where the Lord lay. And **GO** quickly and **TELL** His disciples that He is risen from the dead" (**Matthew 28:6-7a**).

The Resurrection is the keystone of all Christian faith and history. It is the best attested fact in the New Testament, where no fewer than ten appearances of the Risen Christ are recorded. In the miracle of the empty tomb is found the power of God in its supreme manifestation. This was the clear interpretation of the Resurrection in the early church. Paul wrote that Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead" (**Romans 1:4**).

The principalities and powers of this world were rendered impotent when Calvary's Victim walked victoriously from the garden tomb. Death had been conquered by life; hate had been overthrown by love; and sin had been defeated through sacrifice. Men walked

## HOME WITH THE LORD

*"absent from the body, present with the Lord"*  
**2 Corinthians 5:8**



**Dr. Henry Madison Morris**

*"Well done, good and faithful servant"*  
**Matthew 25:21**  
**[Tribute, pages 18 through 26]**

thenceforth in the newness of life, confident that as God had spoken the first word so also would the heavenly Father speak the final word.

The Resurrection was the joyous theme of apostolic preaching. The day of resurrection became ever after an occasion of prayer and praise. The door of the tomb became the radiant gateway to life and immortality. Easter is the most spiritually energizing experience any man can know!

## THE GREATEST COUNSELOR IN THE WORLD

**"And I will ask the Father, that He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever."**

**John 14:16**

## **A Faith Lift**

**"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"**

**Psalms 85:6**

There are many ways to say it. The ground of a Christian gets hard to the point that he is no longer sensitive to God—either speaking from the Word or through the Holy Spirit. He backslides from the level reached and, as did Peter, travels far off. He loses his first love. The joy of God's salvation is no longer vibrating. He grows cold and drifts. He fails to stay clean before God and the fellowship is broken. The sense of nearness with God's hand resting upon him is gone.

### **Withdrawal from battlefield**

The result of broken fellowship is a tendency to withdraw from the battlefield, to surrender ground to Satan, to lose the burden for the unsaved. Self, more and more, dominates until there is little evidence of the fruit of the Spirit. Eyes turn from the Lord Jesus Christ to people. Generally, people disappoint us and we become easily disillusioned about the meaning of Christianity.

Which one of us can say that there have been no periods in our lives when either one or all of the above characterized our walk with God? All of us need a **FAITH LIFT** from time to time. Each Christian needs renewal or revival right along that comes only with a fresh encounter with God. Even full-time Christian workers can easily allow the fire to grow dim. It is then that the trumpet puts forth an unclear sound.

### **Renewing the covenant**

Often folks come forward during the invitation in a church service indicating that they want to "rededicate" themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ. The key to the Old Testament is the covenant, which is its theme and unifying factor. Israel's history can be divided according to the nation's obedience

or disobedience to God's conditional covenant; blessings from obedience and destruction from disobedience. Upon completion of the Jerusalem wall, the nation reaffirmed its loyalty to the covenant. Study **Nehemiah chapters 8-10**.

### **A call to renewal**

*Nehemiah knew that national security ultimately rested not in military but spiritual integrity.* A spiritual vacuum existed in the lives of the exiles who had returned home from Babylonian bondage. A public assembly was called (**Nehemiah 8:1-4**). Entire families gathered attentively for a six-hour service led by Ezra who read and explained the Scriptures. Attentive to the Word of God, the people's hearts were turned to God and revival broke out (**8:5-18**), just as had happened in the days of Josiah. Revival fervor was characterized by worship of God (**v 6**), remorse for sin (**v 9**), joy in the Lord (**vv 10-12**), and obedience to God's Word (**vv 13-18**).

### **The place of prayer**

*Revival brought a national attentiveness to prayer.* The people prepared for prayer with public contrition (**9:1-3**). The longest prayer in the Bible (**vv 4-31**) documents the people's prayer of penitence. The people had changed their minds about the way they were living. Adoration (**vv 4-6**) was followed by a review of Israel's history, contrasting God's faithfulness with Israel's repeated failures and lapses in faith and obedience (**vv 7ff**). Turning to the present, the prayer became an appeal for mercy, based on God's gracious character (**v 32**). Confession of sin (**vv 33-35**) was followed by a national determination to learn from history and not repeat it.

The prayer of confession was followed by an oath of allegiance. A renewed statement of Israel's covenant obligation and their promise to fulfill it was put into writing (**Nehemiah 10**) with civil leaders (**v 1**), priests (**vv 2-8**), heads of Levitical households (**vv 9-13**), heads of leading lay families (**vv 14-27**), and finally the general populace (**vv 28-29**). The result was genuine revival.

## The prayer seminar

There is a universal need for individual renewal. For over a quarter of a century, I have been going up and down the land calling God's people to repentance. As did Ezra, six hours are used to present the prayer seminar with a focus on the Word of God, Spirit-filled living, prayer, witnessing, and stewardship. Often someone comes at the end of a seminar and says simply: "This prayer seminar was for me. I needed renewal and it has come." As revival comes, the work of the Lord Jesus Christ is strengthened. What a joy it is to have a part in seeing renewal come as God's children come together for an encounter with Him. It is certainly worthwhile and worth all the cost involved in providing this service to God's people wherever and whenever He opens the door.

Yours in Calvary love,

*J. Gordon Henry*

## The greatest Counselor in the world

No matter what difficulty or heartache you face, you can have immediate and free access to a Counselor who will comfort, encourage, guide, and help you discern the will of God and prompt you to take appropriate action in particular situations. Further, He never makes a mistake.

That Counselor is the Holy Spirit who came to live in you the very moment you trusted Christ. A wonderful promise was made by Jesus in the Upper Room, the night He was crucified, and was fulfilled a few days later on the Day of Pentecost: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17NIV).

The Greek word is *Parakletos*, a word overflowing with inspiring implications. It is

translated *Comforter* in the King James, *Helper* in the New King James (my favorite), and *Counselor* in the Revised Standard Version and the New International Version. *Parakletos* was associated with courts of law and signifies one who is the counselor for the defense, one who pleads on behalf of another. In a broader sense, it identifies one who stands by a person's side or one who is ready to aid a soldier in battle.

In our day of stress and challenge, it is imperative that a believer understands and experiences the particular ministry of the Holy Spirit as our Counselor. Once you understand, you will want to schedule and keep regular counseling sessions with the Holy Spirit, the greatest Counselor in the world. His counseling will be based on the Word of God, which you need to read daily. As you read and memorize the Word of God, He will bring the Word alive and see that the proper application is made.

Several years ago, Dr. Robert Witty (founder, Luther Rice Seminary) and I wrote a book on the Holy Spirit entitled **The Enabler**, which has recently been revised.

Several study groups are using the book for a Bible study, including one in Newport News VA where one of the members has prepared a study guide available from our office. If you have been looking for a study on the Holy Spirit that is sane, scriptural, and simple, contact JGHM.



**IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE NEED THE BIBLE. IN TIMES LIKE THESE WE NEED AN ANCHOR. THERE IS ONLY ONE ANCHOR WHO WILL HOLD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**



**In Loving Memory**  
**Dr. Henry Madison Morris**  
**October 6, 1918--February 25, 2006**  
**"a man sent from God" (John 1:6)**

When I think of my friend, Dr. Henry Morris, the words of the Shunammite woman, speaking of Elisha, are appropriate: "I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually" (**2 Kings 4:9**). After a series of minor strokes, the man known as the "father" of the Modern Creation Movement" is now Home with the Lord. One of our most faithful **Doorkeepers**, he was peacefully ushered into the presence of his Creator, Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ, on Saturday, February 25, around 6:30 p.m. Pacific Coast Time.

Most of the eleven years that I served as the first full-time executive director for the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), Dr. Morris was the board chairman. His dream was to develop a quality Christian accrediting agency to serve institutions of higher learning committed to the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, including creation, not evolution. God, in His goodness, allowed the dream to become a reality. Had it not been for Dr. Morris' leadership and encouragement, there would be no TRACS and many Christian institutions would not have an accreditation home led by professional educators committed to the Word of God.

Dr. Morris, a respected scientist, was a prolific writer authoring more than sixty books on biblical creationism, scientific creationism, and commentaries on the Bible. He was the one man most responsible for bringing us back to the biblical position of a six solar-day creation. He led the battle repudiating humanistic evolution. **The Genesis Flood**, more than any other work, revitalized interest in a young earth cosmology among evangelical Christians. He said: "God was there when it happened. We were not there. Therefore, we are completely limited to what God has seen fit to tell us, and this information is in His written Word."

To me, the remarkable thing about my friend was his understanding of the Word of God, which is highlighted in the thousands of annotations in **The New Defenders Study Bible**, released shortly before his death. Having the privilege to edit his notes, for both the first and second editions, was one of the most enriching tasks I have ever had. He accepted the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, as the infallible and literal word of God. Dr. Morris was a gentle, humble, and faithful servant of the Lord, an exemplar who modeled what it means to consistently follow the Word of God in his daily life.

In 1971, **The Bible Has the Answer**, which answers 100 frequently asked biblical questions, was released. One of the questions deals with Heaven. Certainly, all of us want to know all we can about the home to which we are headed. In tribute to Dr. Morris, I want to share his answer. If you will read this material carefully and prayerfully, you will find yourself with greater understanding of Heaven.

### Question: Is Heaven a real place?

**Answer:** Actually, the Bible speaks of three "heavens." One of these is the earth's atmosphere, the "open firmament of heaven" in which "fowls fly above the earth" (**Genesis 1:20**). Another is the vast region of the sun and moon and stars. Of these the psalmist said, "When I consider Thy heavens, the work

of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou has ordained; what is man, that Thou are mindful of him?" (**Psalms 8:3-4**).

But there is, of course, a "third heaven" (**2 Corinthians 12:2**), sometimes called the "heaven of heavens" (**2 Chronicles 6:18; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:4**). This is the

heaven of God's presence, the location of the throne of God. It was to this heaven that Jesus Christ ascended after His resurrection. "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (**Mark 16:19**).

Many and marvelous have been the speculations of men about life after death and heaven. But those who have actually died and thus are in a position to really know about such things are not in any position to come back and report their observations to us! "It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment" (**Hebrews 9:27**).

With one exception! Jesus said: "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the son of man which is in heaven" (**John 3:13**). After his death and resurrection, He said, "I ascend unto My Father" (**John 20:17**).

The Lord Jesus is the one man, in all history, who died and then rose again bodily from the dead, "alive forevermore" (**Revelation 1:18**). If we wish to have certain knowledge concerning life after death, therefore, we must learn it only from Him and from His Word, the Holy Scriptures.

Furthermore, we must somehow get the idea out of our minds that the Bible reveals truth only in vague, symbolic language which we then try to decipher and apply in terms of our own experience. Such an approach to God's Word in effect makes it impossible for God to communicate with us at all. That is, if God's Word does not mean what it says (allowing, of course, for figures of speech, which are always clearly self-interpretative in the Biblical context itself), then how are we to know what it does mean?

Thus, on the question at hand, we should realize the Bible teaches that heaven is a real place, not just some intangible, spiritual concept, some kind of fourth-dimensional, anti-matter, looking-glass sort of existence.

Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; ... I go to prepare a place for you for you" (**John 14:2**). [He is preparing a place, not a state of mind nor some vague sphere of spirit activity.] The fact of Christ's bodily

resurrection and ascension is of basic importance. The Scriptural records are emphatic in teaching that it was not His spirit but His body that was raised from the dead. It was a glorified body, but nevertheless a physical body, in the most real sense. And it was this physical body which ascended into heaven and which will some day return from heaven. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (**Acts 1:11**). [Heaven is a real, physical place, existing somewhere in this physical universe.]

Thus, right now, Jesus Christ is in heaven, in His physical body! And so, for that matter, are Enoch (**Hebrews 11:5**) and Elijah (**2 Kings 2:11**), both of whom were taken directly into heaven without dying. The third heaven is just as real and physical as the heaven of the clouds and the heaven of the stars.

The Bible always speaks of this heaven as somewhere "up" from the earth, so that one must "ascend" when he goes there. Since the earth continually rotates on its axis, "up" could mean any and all directions away from the earth. The third heaven thus, in some sense, is all around the starry heaven, just as the latter likewise surrounds the atmospheric heaven. It cannot be reached by telescopic observations, because the second heaven is itself too vast, and possibly also, if relativity theory is valid, curving back upon itself.

Nevertheless, it is there, and Christ is there! "He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all heavens, that He might fill all things" (**Ephesians 4:10**).

Dwelling in heaven, with Christ, are "an innumerable company of angels" and the "spirits of just men made perfect" (**Hebrews 12:22-23**). When a believer dies, his spirit "departs to be with Christ" (**Philippians 1:23**), probably carried thence by angels (**Luke 16:22**). [His spirit is translated immediately into the presence of the Lord.] "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (**2 Corinthians 5:1**).

However, this is not the believer's final body, but only an intermediate spirit-body, real and distinct, but not physical. The latter awaits the great resurrection day when "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise" (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**). At that time, He "shall change our body of humiliation that it may be fashioned like unto His body of glory" (**Philippians 3:21**). [Spirits and bodies will be reunited when Christ comes again.]

At the present time, the angels, who are "ministering spirits" (**Hebrews 1:14**) apparently can cross easily and quickly from the third heaven to the earth (note **Luke 1:19, 26**). Their bodies, though capable of materialization in the form of men as occasion requires, are essentially spirit-bodies and thus not subject to gravitational forces, mass-energy relationships, and other physical restrictions common to objects in the universe of observational science. They "excel in strength" (**Psalms 103:20**) and can "fly swiftly" (**Daniel 9:21**), not limited even to the velocity of light, although of course neither their strength nor their speed is infinite, since they also are created beings.

Ultimately, the "heavenly Jerusalem" (**Hebrews 12:22; Galatians 4:26**) will descend from heaven to the earth (**Revelation 21:10**), which will have been "made new" (**Revelation 21:5**), to serve as the perfect home for redeemed men through the eternal ages to come.

For the present, although we may understand very little as yet concerning the actual nature and structure of heaven, we can be confident that it does really exist. The supremely important issue confronting all men, therefore, is whether they are destined for heaven or hell. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God,

through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).

[Heaven is a real, physical place, existing somewhere in this physical universe. Somewhere, right now, far out beyond the starry heavens, too far to be observed by man's puny telescopes or space vehicles but quite real nonetheless, exists "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (**Hebrews 11:10**). The place that He is now preparing is described in **Revelation 21:2**: "I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." This passage is not a description of heaven; rather it describes a city coming down *out* of heaven, to the earth. God's throne is itself in the midst of the city. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it" (**Revelation 22:3**).

In this city are abiding the departed spirits of all those whose bodies are "asleep in Christ" in their graves. These are the ones who are now "absent from the body and present with the Lord" (**2 Corinthians 5:8**).]

## **TWO NEW NATIONS**

Kenya # 46 (April 28- May 15)

Peru # 47 (June 1-15)

Budget	\$9,070.00
Amount Received	2,733.00
Number of Gifts	22
Goal for number of Gifts	100



## **YOUR HELP NEEDED TO TOUCH LIVES IN KENYA & PERU**

**Remember the last beatitude from Jesus:**  
**"It is more blessed to give than to receive"**  
**Acts 20:35b**



## Understanding Islam

Several years ago, I was conducting a prayer seminar at Wake Eden Baptist Church in the Bronx and was staying in their guest house. During my Quiet Hour, early in the morning, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me to do a study of Islam. Earlier I had been with the Arabic Baptist Church in Washington D. C. and observed Muslims kneeling in the snow outside their mosque on Massachusetts Avenue. Since that time, I have made it a point to learn about this religion that has influence over so many people in the world.

Following 9/11, I reduced things that I had learned into an article that appeared in the **Doorkeeper Report** (VOL. XVIII, No. 11, November 2001). My thesis was that Islam is not a peaceful religion. A study of the Koran, the Muslim writings that are their equivalent to the Bible, will reveal teachings contrary to peace in the world. The fact is that millions have been killed or enslaved in the name of this religion. This does not mean that all Muslims are violent, but overall you cannot understand Islam and conclude that there is an identity crisis among its adherents. Contact us if you would like a copy or you can read the article on our web site. It is important that we understand Islam and the challenge it represents toward our faith.

All of us have been aware of the murderous rioting that followed the publication of the Danish cartoons that satirized Mohammed. The amazing thing is that Muslim countries hold membership in the United Nations whose Universal Declaration of Human Rights has acknowledged peoples' right to change their religion since 1948.

**CHECK OUR WEB SITE:**  
[jgordonhenryministries.org](http://jgordonhenryministries.org)

### That figures!

One gossip to another: "Well, I won't go into detail. I've already told you more than I know."



"For, lo, the winter is past ...The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come"

Song of Solomon  
2:11-12

## NOTES from my BIBLE

**Note 1016.** Good advice: anchor yourself to the Throne of God, then spend time each day shortening the cord.

**Note 1017.** Prayer is faith verbalized. When you have enough faith to turn to God, that is all the faith that you need.

**Note 1018.** As a believer MEDITATES on God's Word, the Spirit makes it a part of his inner being and will bring it alive to cover all circumstances and challenges he faces.

**Note 1019.** The need for God-called leaders is no less today than it was in Bible times, but before following a leader, be sure he is headed in the right direction.

**Note 1020.** The last Word Christ gave to His church was "repent" (Study His messages to the churches in **Revelation 2 & 3**). True repentance involves a change of mind that leads to a change of life."

## DOORKEEPER REPORT

February 22--March 20, 2006

	# Gifts	Amount
Regular	48	\$2,451.00
Kenya/Peru	22	2,733.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$5,184.00</b>



**Thanks, Doorkeepers!**

**Welcome! New Doorkeepers!**

Paul & Doris Blevins (KY); Sue Hamm (KY);  
Dr. Amos Wipf (GA)

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J. Gordon Henry Ministries

1127 Lakeview Drive

Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-8807

(434) 239-8837 (E-mail: jghm84@aol.com)



EIGHT-MONTH-OLD SAMUEL, SON OF  
TYLER & REBECCA SCARLETT,  
IS PERHAPS OUR YOUNGEST READER!

## A tremendous responsibility

A poem written by Annie Johnson Flint has often spoken to my heart regarding the tremendous responsibility that rests upon each believer:

Christ has no hands but our hands  
To do His work today;  
He has no feet but our feet  
To lead men in His way;  
He has no tongue but our tongues  
To tell men how He died;  
He has no help but our help  
To bring them to His side.

Any student of the Bible knows that this is a correct interpretation of His teachings. The Lord Jesus Christ depends upon those who love Him to urge those around them to put their trust in Him. Today would be an ideal day for you to share the Gospel message. You might begin with members of your own family and others around you.

## Jesus prayed

Jesus had a very busy day in Capernaum. He taught in a synagogue service, cured a demon-possessed man, healed Peter's mother-in-law, and faced a great crowd of diseased and demonized people. Instead of sleeping in the next morning, He got up a great while before day to pray (**Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42**). When the disciples found Him and reminded Him that a great crowd was waiting to see Him again, He told them that He must move on to other towns and villages.

What lessons can we learn for our own praying? The busier the day, the greater the need for going aside to pray. Marching orders for the day come from the quiet place of prayer. Prayer clears the vision, defines the duty, sweetens the spirit, and strengthens the resolve. Before you begin your work in the morning, don't forget to spend time with your Heavenly Father; Jesus didn't forget! If the Son of God needed to begin His day with prayer, so should we.