

REFLECTOR

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

May 2006

AMERICA, HONOR GOD.

National Day of Prayer

Many point out, rightly so, that some participate in public services related to the National Day of Prayer who are not on praying ground. The scripture that is often claimed is **2 Chronicles 7:14**: "If My people who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Certainly, America needs healing and only God can bring the healing. It is important to remember, however, that God is speaking to "His people called by His name" (since **Acts 11:26**, believers have been called "Christians"). Until God's children meet His requirements, there will be no healing in the land. As we meet God's conditions, there will be healing.

At the same time, I concluded a number of years ago that a National Day of Prayer is a good thing for several reasons. On one day, across the nation in cities, towns, villages, and rural areas—God is acknowledged. For eight years, JGHM (at considerable expense of time, energy, and resources) served as the Tennessee state coordinator for the National Day of Prayer. Among the activities we promoted was an annual governor's prayer breakfast, attended by a large number from across the

state. We worked with the Governor in proclaiming the day and issuing a resolution. We promoted the day with officials in every county. Year by year, the number involved increased.

Whether you attend a public prayer observance, you can have a part in this special day. My suggestion is a simple one that we promoted throughout Tennessee:

TAKE 5 AT 12 NOON

Join thousands of others across America at 12 noon on Thursday, May 4, for at least five minutes of united prayer.

- Acknowledge our dependence upon God.
- Give thanks for the many blessings He has given us.
- Confess specific sins in our nation and ask for God's mercy upon us.
- Ask for a spirit of repentance among God's children.
- Ask God to guide our leaders and to bring healing and spiritual wholeness to our nation and all our people.

May this 56th consecutive National Day of Prayer be special in your life and in the life of a nation that has, in many ways, forgotten God.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER—THURSDAY, MAY 4

"Those who honor Me, I will honor ..."

1 Samuel 2:30

Asking and Receiving

"You have not because you ask not ...

*You ask and receive not
because you ask amiss."*

James 4:2b,3a

In two brief, concise and clear declarations, James, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has provided remarkably valuable insight into prayer. Due to the vital importance of understanding these two statements in gaining a proper perspective of prayer, there are two times in the prayer seminar that attention focuses on them. Repetition is the mother of learning.

Ask

In **II Chronicles 7:14**, we are told to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from sin. The result will be God's hearing from headquarters, forgiving our sin, and healing our land. Here, as other places in the Scripture, "pray" means "ask" in the sense of seeking God's hand to move either on behalf of self (petition) or others (intercession). Note that James does not say "pray" to explain his point; rather, he uses the word "ask" in the same sense of wanting **God's hand to move**. It is clear that God has instructed His children to ask. Prayer is asking.

Motive

"Amiss" has to do with **wrong motive** in praying. "Why do I pray? Why do I ask?" is the point being made. In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord Jesus Christ dealt with the wrong motive in giving, praying, and fasting. In essence, He dealt with the public forms of worship zealously and assiduously practiced by the Scribes and Pharisees. He explained that a desire for the attention and commendation of men for these acts was hypocrisy. A hypocrite is a person who does not want to be holy before God, but only to appear holy before men. Instead of being concerned about having the **reality** of righteousness, they only wanted the **reputation** of righteousness. The sense of "hypocrite" is

the Greek actor's wearing a mask to portray someone he is not.

"Paid in Full!"

As He spoke of hypocritical giving, praying, and fasting, Jesus used a Greek word that cannot be adequately translated by one English equivalent. It is *apechoo*, made up of the preposition *apo*, meaning "from" and the verb *echoo*, meaning "have." It is translated "reward" in the King James version. When this term is used, it indicates **BEING PAID IN FULL WITH NO BALANCE LEFT OVER**. When rent was paid, this compound *apechoo* was used. The receipt was marked "**PAID IN FULL!**"

Jesus was teaching that when a person gives so he can be commended by onlookers, he is "paid in full," which means God will give him nothing in the world to come. However, if a person does not give to receive commendation from men, there is reward in the future. In regard to those who pray publicly to be commended, the same is true. They have their reward in full in this life. **Prayers meant for the ears of others never reach the ear of God.** This is true in fasting, also.

It is possible to have the wrong motive in private, closet praying as well. A believer can even pray in the name of Jesus as he is instructed to do (Remember page four in the Prayer Seminar Workbook? **John 14:13,14; 15:6-8, 14, 16; 16:23-24, 26** — PRAY, but PRAY IN HIS NAME!) and still ask amiss, which means that the motive is wrong. After all is said that can be said, **the bottom line related to proper motive is that God Himself will gain glory from whatever the answer to the prayer is.** The aim of prayer should never be any less or any lower than to bring glory to God. Most of our prayers are for ourselves and our close kin. And in most instances when we pray, we are motivated with selfishness, rather than having the glory of God foremost in our hearts. By the way, this could be a place to start in getting on praying ground! If you have not already incorporated this understanding into your praying, I urge you to begin today. You

will see quickly the difference that this makes!

Reminder. Stick with Basics!

Many of you already have a handle on these truths, but there is a danger of neglecting to do what we know in times of blessing and prosperity when all is going well with us. It has been the history of His children to forget God when things are going well. My first sermon in 1953 dealt with this very issue. Israel was greatly blessed. God said to His people: "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments and His statutes which I command you today, lest--when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them ..." (**Deuteronomy 8:11-12**). They built goodly houses; their flocks multiplied; their gold increased. Then they forgot the Lord and esteemed Him lightly, if at all. This has ever been the pattern. By reminding us all of basics, we will have a time to do inventory to see where we are. My prayer is that what we deal with in the **Reflector** will make a difference in your individual lives and give you incentive to pass on to others what you know. Above all, my hope is that your prayer life will stay on target since God has commanded us to pray.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

Understanding the times

As did the "children of Issachar" in the days of David, Dr. William M. Curtis III has "understanding of the times" (**1 Chronicles 12:32**). His book entitled **The Last Days of the Longest War (9-11 Goes Back to Genesis)**, is one of the most insightful, relevant works that I have read and is available through WinePress Publishing (1-877-421-7323).

Longtime **Doorkeepers**, Dr. & Mrs. Curtis have given a memorial gift to remember **Dr. Henry Morris** (author of **The Long War Against God**) to whom his book is dedicated.

J. GORDON HENRY MINISTRIES TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD

It seems only yesterday that I met with my friend, Attorney **Paul E. Jennings**, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and shared my desire to form a nonprofit organization under whose umbrella we would serve the body of Christ. The Charter was approved and filed on May 29, 1984, at 3:47 p.m. Central Standard Time. The first meeting of the Board of Directors occurred on the same day. The areas of service covered by the charter include the following activities:

- Prayer seminars
- Bible conferences
- Christian tours
- Church growth seminars
- Consulting services: Christian colleges and schools
- Retreats: Leadership

Now, twenty-two years later (or 1,200 seminars and two million miles later or forty-five nations, forty-six states and the District of Columbia later), we continue to serve the body of Christ and are blessed to be able to do so. **We've come this far by faith** and are eager to share as often and as widely as possible.

Early in our work, **Sue Bell**, my secretary and administrative assistant, shared a verse that we jointly claimed for JGHM: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (**Jeremiah 29:11 TLB**). Day by day, JGHM has experienced the goodness of God as He has opened doors and provided for our every need.



MISSION UNCHANGED

Intercession: Most Important Work

There needs to be a thorough understanding of the Biblical teaching on intercession. In this regard, I have been touched over and over by the prayer life of Moses. *"And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold, Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin—, and if not, blot me I pray Thee out of Thy book which Thou hast written"* (**Exodus 32:31-32**). Israel had sinned grievously against the God who had delivered them out of Egyptian bondage. Moses stood between God and Israel; that is basic intercession.

Among all the different phases or elements of prayer taught in the Scriptures, intercession is most important and calculated to produce the most sublime blessings known to man. Few Christians are prayed for regularly by anyone after they are born into the family of God; fewer unsaved people have anyone calling their names personally before God. Within the same household (living under the same roof) are believers who do not pray regularly for each other and there are lost loved ones living with believers and no one is praying regularly for the lost loved ones. This ought not to be so! We need to understand and practice the ministry of intercession. One of the saddest commentaries in the entire Bible is **Isaiah 59:16**: "And [God] saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor."

Intercession Defined

The word *intercession* comes from two Latin words that mean *a go between*. An intercessor, therefore, is someone who is standing between people or circumstances and God. That is what Abraham did for Lot (**Genesis 18:22**). In intercession, we are concerned for the needs and interests of others. Thus, intercession is the unselfish aspect of prayer. The idea behind the Greek word for intercession is *"to fall in with a person, to draw near so as to converse freely, and hence to have freedom of access."* The word was used to

describe a child's going to his father in behalf of another or a person's entering a king's presence to submit a request. For you and me, **intercession is prayer addressed to God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit for others.** Intercession is acting as an intermediary between God and man.

Intercession Illustrated

The prayer of our Lord, as recorded in **John 17**, furnishes us with the greatest example of intercessory prayer. A few selections from this passage of God's Word will give us the very heart of this wonderful prayer and insight for our own prayers: "I pray for them. I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou has given Me, that they may be one, as We are. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil [one]. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which believe on Me, that they may be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou lovest Me before the foundation of the world." As our Lord faced death in just a few hours, He was not concerned about Himself in relation to the consequences that would follow His death upon the cross, but knowing the temptations, trials, and persecutions that awaited His followers, He poured out His heart in intercession to the Father for them, and for those who should believe on Him through their word. Further, His ministry of intercession continues forever in Heaven. So, if we are to follow the **FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS**, we also must become intercessors.

Intercession needed

Prayer touches three worlds: heaven, earth, and hell. When prayer touches earth, it looks toward people and circumstances. That's **work!** The greatest of all needs in God's work

today is prayer work since this is the work that must come before all other work (**John 14:12-14**). Without prayer work, all other work—preaching, witnessing—will have little permanent effect on anyone or anything. God's Word commands us to pray (**Jeremiah 33:3**! Let's obey! It is wise to develop a written prayer list to use as you pray. As the Holy Spirit prompts you to add an item, record the date. Pray Scriptures as much as possible. An example is to pray **Psalms 1:1-3** for a loved one. As you find similar passages, note them so that you will have them available as the Holy Spirit brings them to mind for specific people.

Plan for Greatest Impact

It is easy to become careless and lethargic about prayer and the Word! It is so easy to drift and neglect them for days on end. When you are ready to study intercession seriously, you might want to use my book, **Intercession: Prayer as Work**, which was revised in 2005 to include a section on revival in the church.

Sowing "Good!"

Nations #46 Kenya/#47 Peru

Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Principle: We can sow good seeds and reap from the sowing. Thanks for **Sowing "Good!"** through your prayers and gifts for Kenya (April 27--May 15) and Peru (May 31--June 15).



"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"

2 Timothy 2:2



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1021. We first make our habits and then our habits make us.; habits are at first cobwebs, then cables.

Note 1022. Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth.

Note 1023. We must often pass by the favor of man and the smiles of the world in order to have the favor of God and the happiness of a good conscience.

Note 1024. "God is good. It's good for us to be good. It's good for us to do good." -- **Doorkeeper Dr Sam Simpson, NYC.**

Note 1025. The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.

Testimonies from Three States

"I felt deficient, almost guilty, about my ignorance about prayer. I know now that I'll be able to pray and where it should be as a priority in my life ... Make sure others carry on your work."—**Dr. L. O., Ohio**

"I was very blessed today. I've been praying for the prayer life of my church for two years. This is truly an answer to prayer."—**Mrs. C. D., Tennessee**

"Made aware of what I can do through yielding myself to the Holy Spirit. I've always known the power of prayer, but this time was a great refresher, bringing it right to a personal relationship. And I realized I am falling far short of His perfect way through prayer. My desire is to greatly improve my prayer life!"—**Mr. B. B., Texas**

To schedule a prayer seminar:
Call (434-239-8837), write, E-mail <jghm84@aol.com> providing three possible dates. Plan for six hours teaching time, not including singing and breaks.

"Our nation's future is in our hands—folded hands in prayer."

Pastor Don Edwards

NOTE: Headlines in the Murfreesboro (TN) newspaper heralded the news that there would be no prayer in the local high school graduation ceremonies. A few weeks earlier, the Nashville newspapers reported that prayer was removed from the commencement exercises at Tennessee State University due to the objection of a Hindu professor. The context of these two events lead the Holy Spirit to speak to our pastor and JGHM board member, the late **Don Edwards**, to pen the words that follow for the May 25, 1993 issue of **The Messenger**, the weekly Southeast Baptist Church paper. Pastor Don expressed the burden of my heart. America needs prayer as never before.

Our greatest challenge as a nation is before us. Somehow we have moved from protecting the individual's right to worship as he sees fit, to protecting the public from anything Christian. That is not what our founding fathers intended! We have forgotten that we were founded as a Christian nation. God's laws were the basis for most of our laws. James Madison was quoted as saying, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of the government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

There now seems to be groups of people who want to remove any and all acknowledgments of God and His influence in our nation. The truth is, our decline as a nation began when these efforts started. A nation cannot ignore God and expect to be blessed. We are now leading the western world in violent crimes, divorce, teen pregnancies, abortions, illegal drug use, and illiteracy.

The ironic thing is that the one thing that could turn this around is the very thing that is under attack now. Prayer is our only

hope. Not a watered down prayer that acknowledges nothing. A prayer of recognition to the Almighty God, Creator of the universe, and Judge of us all, is the only thing that is going to save us.

We must again recall what Abraham Lincoln asked: "Not is God on our side, but are we on God's side?" We who are Christians must take a stand. Prayer must be important in all of our lives. We must not be ashamed to pray in public—in Jesus' name. People in restaurants need to see that prayer is important to us. People at work need to know prayer is a way of life. And yes, young people, you can pray in school. Bow your head before a test or a sporting event. Acknowledge that God is the source of all, even when you are eating in the school cafeteria. We can make a difference. We may have to be bolder than we have been in the past. The stakes are high. Our nation's future is in our hands—folded hands in prayer."

Joining hands

A father and mother had gone into one of the great Canadian wheat fields to look over their wheat crop. They took with them their small son. Somehow he became lost and when they were unable to find him, they called upon their friends to help them in their search. Darkness overtook them in their endeavor.

The next day they organized themselves for more effective searching. They vowed they would march until the boy was found. Hand in hand they walked. In about an hour, a cry went up that the boy had been found, but TOO LATE. During the night, he had died of exposure.

As the searchers gathered around the still form of the lad, one of the men said: "Why didn't we join hands sooner and search for the lad? If only we had joined hands sooner, he would be alive today." It's time to join hands!

Remembering Armin Gesswein

Up until 1977, my concept of prayer was bringing God down to earth and getting Him in on what was going on around me. One truth changed my prayer life. When my prayer life changed, my attitude toward the Word of God changed and my understanding of the Holy Spirit changed. The result was a life and ministry change, as well.

As I was seeking to know God more fully, I read everything that I could about the purpose and power of prayer. It was through a paragraph in a booklet written by Armin Gesswein, entitled **Seven Wonders of Prayer** that a thought was implanted in my mind, and then into my spirit, that the Lord used to change my entire approach to prayer. Prayer is not bringing God down; prayer is going into His presence, which is what changes life totally. We come through the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let me share Armin's very words:

"By prayer we enter into God's holy temple, and penetrate at once to the throne of grace. Prayer is not only the shortest distance to God's mighty throne, it is the only way in. To think that this supreme wonder could take place so suddenly with one bold, blood-bought step! There we see the Lord Jesus ever living to pray for us, and ready to give us of His own praying by His Spirit. Glorious discovery. **HE IS ONLY A PRAYER AWAY!** The veil of sense and space that hides Him within His temple-universe is suddenly removed as we pray. We enter silently into His temple, and lo, suddenly we are before His throne. Priests, before our great High Priest. There, too, we are suddenly in the presence of angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven we worship and adore Him. Only there do we discover the wonder of worship, that worship is before work, and that all His works are done in the spirit of worship. There are many churchgoers, but few worshipers, because there are few pray-ers."

Building on this basic concept, I have added to my understanding of prayer year by year. Being privileged to share what I have learned throughout the world surpasses my highest expectations when I started my ministry.

Armin and I became personally acquainted on Tuesday, March 16, 1982, when he spoke in the chapel services at Northeastern Bible College. We developed a close friendship which continued to grow more precious until March 10, 2001, when he entered the presence of the Lord at the age of 93 in his seventieth year of ministry. Many of you who have shared the value of the prayer seminar ministry in your life need to know our debt to Armin Gesswein, one of the most remarkable servants of the Lord whom I have ever known. With a grateful heart, I am remembering Armin Gesswein.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

March 21--April 15, 2006

	<u># Gifts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular	36	\$3,195.00
Kenya/Peru	35	2,945.00
Total	70	\$6,140.00



Thanks, Doorkeepers!

Laborers Together With God



Dr. Henry with Dr. Ed Hindson, an early faculty member at Liberty University who was hired during his tenure as VP for Academic Affairs

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REMEMBERING THE LIBERTY YEARS!
L-R: DR. HAROLD WILLMINGTON,
DR. JERRY FALWELL, DR. ED HINDSON,
AND DR. ELMER TOWNS

The Liberty years

My role as an educator began in 1957, when I accepted my first teaching position in the Berea City Schools, Berea KY. Moving into higher education, first teaching human development classes at Eastern Kentucky University and then as an administrator, was as natural to me as breathing and sleeping. If anyone told me that there would come a day when I would not be working in an educational institution, but would be conducting prayer seminars around the world, I would have emphatically disputed that statement.

During the period 1972 until 1978, I served Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University), Lynchburg, Virginia, as the chief academic officer, the first VP for Academic Affairs. My responsibilities were to guide the development of an academic program, with a competent faculty and adequate resources, to ensure that our students would receive a good education in a Christian learning environment to prepare them for a lifetime of service.

Dr. Jerry Falwell, founder, worked hard to provide the needed financial resources. His vision was clear and his support never wavered, which was one reason the college developed rapidly. **Dr. Elmer Towns**, the executive vice-president, provided the administrative direction. His optimistic spirit kept us looking forward with expectation, even when the tasks seemed insurmountable. Although **Dr. Harold Willmington** was guiding the launching of Thomas Road Bible Institute, he was a valuable colleague whose gracious spirit strengthened all of us.

The four of us, along with **Dr. Ed Hindson**, whom I had the privilege of hiring, came together for a luncheon on March 27. Not only did we look back on the early days, we rejoiced in the continuing blessings of the Lord upon the institution whose residential enrollment now approaches 10,000.

Liberty University needs our prayer support. The opportunity to impact lives who will in turn impact the world is great during these days of challenge.