

REFLECTOR

VOL. 53, No. 8

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

August 2007

Maggie's Study Bible

My spiritual metamorphous came in 1977, the year that I began reading the Bible for my food rather than to find a message to preach. My plan was simple—to read the Bible through systematically in a devotional sense. To keep me focused, I found it was helpful to read with a pen or pencil in hand. When the Holy Spirit touched my heart with a word, phrase, verse, or passage, I marked it and made notes of my impression. My decision was to follow this practice year by year, which I have done faithfully for the past thirty years. Since I began with a new study Bible on January 1 of each year, I am now working in my thirty-first Bible.

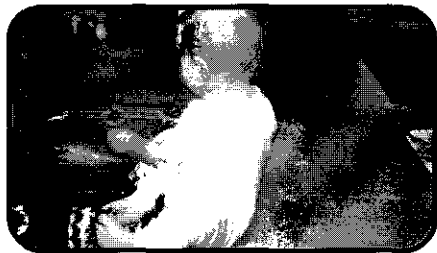
Not only did my life and ministry change, I have a legacy for the three M's (our children, Mona, Mark, and Melody), our seven grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren. Each Bible is full of my notes. I am glad to leave a legacy for our off-spring, a Bible that their "Dad," Granddad, or Great-Granddad marked.



Maggie chooses her study Bible

A few weeks ago, I had a visitor in my office, our great-granddaughter Maggie, who was thirteen months old. At one point, I noticed she had walked over to the bookcase where

the study Bibles are shelved. She reached up, chose a Bible, sat down on the floor, opened the Bible, and began to turn pages. I realized at once that this would be my legacy to Maggie.



Maggie opens her study Bible



Maggie turns pages in her study Bible

I love the Word of God. The title of my book on the Bible is a comment from Job. The Word of God "is my necessary food." The time I spend daily in the Word of God provides the strength that I need for my journey. You are making a wise decision when you spend time in the Word.

It is certain that I will never develop a meaningful, sustained prayer life apart from the Word of God. As you read, examine your prayer life. Is it in neutral just now? Could it be that it is because you are not in the Word of God?

"I have treasured His words more than my necessary food"

Job 23:12

Perspectives

God's Method for Holy Living

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word” (Psalm 119:9)

The Bible has the answer to every question that is vitally important to us in relation to this life and the life to come. Some people think that the Bible is not relevant today. They agree that for David or for Paul it was ideal in its teaching and application, and even for the Lord Jesus Christ (for the Old Testament was his Bible). But they say that the Bible is not geared to our needs in the twenty-first century. Such ideas are entirely wrong, for the Bible is the only book that speaks with authority about the great needs of time and eternity. It is the only guide to a life of holiness, to a life that is pure, dedicated, and well-pleasing to God.

An interactive Bible study

The psalmist, who was deeply concerned about the matter of personal purity, cried out: “How can a young man be clean?” The answer was “by keeping [God’s] word.” We might rephrase the question: “What is the secret of personal, practical holiness?”

In **Psalm 51:10** we read of a clean heart. But how can we have a clean heart? In **Isaiah 52:11**, we learn of the importance of being clean before God can use us. But how can we be clean? In **Jeremiah 17:9**, we read of the deceitfulness and the desperate wickedness of our hearts. But how can our hearts be cleansed and changed? In **Matthew 5:8**, we read about the pure in heart. But how can we gain this purity? In **Romans 7:18-34**, we have a description of a struggle that every one of us experiences. But how can we gain victory? In **2 Corinthians 7:1**, we read of the importance of entire cleansing. But how can this be effected? In **1 Timothy 5:22**, we read of the importance of personal purity? But how . . . ? This is the great question: HOW CAN I BE CLEAN? God’s answer is given in the Word of God.

The theme of **Psalm 119** is the Word of God. Throughout the psalm, the writer praises God’s Word, explains its effects in his life, and describes his relationship with the Scriptures and with the Lord by means of His love.

This study is one of a series of six studies that will be built on truths from **Psalm 119**, the longest psalm. Please don’t read it casually, but study it as you would a chapter in a textbook in school. You will discover satisfaction listening to God through His Word and will derive strength in the same sense that food strengthens your physical body. Be willing to look up the verses cited. You will find that the Bible has the answer to your questions about life if you will do this.

I. THE CLEAR QUESTION.

“Wherewithal [by what means] shall a young man cleanse his way?” Note three things about this question.

- A. It is a **plain question**. It means exactly what it says. Here is a young man, his heart is sinful, his life is offensive, his thoughts are impure, his habits are dirty, his conversation is foul, his reading matter is beastly, his relationships are immoral—how can he be clean? That is the question, and it is a plain question. Look up **Mark 1:40-41**. Whether we are young or old, we know what the question means, for it touches our deepest need.
- B. It is a **priority question**. This is the chief question we need to ask. There are other important questions, such as: How shall I *make my way*? Or “How shall I *reform my way*?” But notice this question is: “How shall I *cleanse my way*?” This question does not have to do with education, a career, success, marriage, popularity, or security. It has to do with the purifying of the heart and the life. By nature we are sinful, and we are surrounded by evil forces. Our eyes, our lips, our feet, our hands, our ears—they all want to sin, and there is sin in our members. How can I be clean? This is the first question we need to ask and have answered for us.

C. It is a **practical question**. It calls for action. It is the testimony of a man who knew his need of cleansing and who also knew how that need could be met.

This great question contains an admission of need, a confession of desire, and a suggestion of urgency. Does this describe how you feel? If so, you are ready to have the question answered. Just what is God's method for holy living?

II. THE CLEAR ANSWER.

How can my heart and life be made clean and kept clean? The answer is "by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." Examine this sentence clearly, and you will see the things that you must do to gain the cleansing you need.

A. **Stop in your tracks.** This is suggested by the words "take heed" and by the word "way." The word "way" has in it the meaning of "rut" or "track"—the kind of track that would be made by a cartwheel. First, then, you must stop in your tracks and obey the injunction of **Haggai 1:7**.

B. **Take yourself in hand.** It is so easy just to drift on and to get more and more enmeshed in all the sordidness of sin and of life as we know it today. Do you read impure literature? Do you indulge in unclean habits? Do you foster unclean thoughts? Take yourself in hand and do something about these things.

C. **Apply the remedy.** This simply means, take the Bible and apply it to every part of your life and conduct. That is the way to be cleaned up spiritually and morally.

But how can we enter into this experience of cleansing so that we may become clean and be kept clean and thus be well-pleasing to God from day to day? **Psalms 119:9-16** gives us the answer. The key verse is **v 9**, but verses ten through sixteen state what you must do to have this cleansing:

A. **Verse 10:** *Search your Bible diligently and be ready to obey all that God commands.*

Immediately you will begin to experience cleansing. Look up **John 15:3**.

B. **Verse 11:** *Let the Word of God enter right into you.* God's Word not only has the power to cleanse you but also to keep you clean. It is important your heart be kept clean. Look up **Proverbs 4:23** and see why this is true.

C. **Verse 12:** *Be humble, lowly, teachable, and submissive.* Notice the words, "Teach me" in this verse. You must do what Mary did in **Luke 10:39**. Take note of **Matthew 11:29**.

D. **Verse 13:** *Declare the truth of God's Word in your daily walk and at your work.* This will help you to exert a cleansing, purifying influence from day to day.

E. **Verse 14:** *Rejoice in God's Word and treasure it above everything.* Riches and possessions disappear, but God's Word abides. Look up **Proverbs 1:23-25**.

F. **Verse 15:** *Learn, mark, and inwardly digest the Word of God and never question what it says.* To "meditate" means to "chew the cud." To "respect" means to submit to the fact that God knows better than you do and that His way is always best.

G. **Verse 16:** *Keep on keeping at this daily process of taking the Word of God and applying it to your life, obeying it, and making it your all-sufficient rule for faith (what you believe) and practice (what you do).*

If you will take your Bible and use it in this way, it will not be long before you come to Calvary, and when you ask the meaning of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ did there and of His precious blood, you will discover the way to be cleansed from the guilt and penalty of your sin. Look up **1 John 1:7**. Then, as you go on reading and obeying God's Word, you will receive daily cleansing from defilement. This is a life-long process, and every time you are conscious that you have grieved the Lord by sinning against Him, if you will humbly, penitently turn to Him and confess your sin,

you will receive the assurance of His forgiveness and cleansing. Look up **1 John 1:9**. You will learn to keep short accounts with God, and thus you will keep clean moment by moment.

Subsequent studies from **Psalms 119** will be the following:

1. How to pray when reading the Bible
2. The immense benefits of meditation
3. What it means to be converted
4. God's dealings with His own
5. Why we love the Bible

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Someone has written an article "When I Read the Bible Through" that reminds us of the value of reading the entire Bible:

I supposed I knew my Bible, reading piecemeal, hit or miss—Now a bit of John or Matthew, now a snatch of Genesis; Certain chapters of Isaiah, certain Psalms (1st, 23rd); 12th of Romans, 1st of Proverbs.

Yes, I thought I knew the Word. But I found a thorough reading was a different thing to do, And the way was unfamiliar when I read my Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible, dip and dabble here and there, just before you kneel awcary and yawn out a hurried prayer:

You who treat the Crown of Writing as you treat no other book, Just a paragraph disjointed, just a quick impatient look, Try a worthier procedure, try a broad and steady view. You will kneel in very rapture, when you read your Bible through.

By reading three chapters a day and five on Sunday, you can read through the Bible in a year. There is value in reading systematically. There are through-the-Bible reading programs such as **Bible Pathway**, my favorite. By reading fifteen minutes a day, you can read through the Bible in a year. Contact Dr. John Hash, Bible Pathway Ministries, PO Box 20123, Murfreesboro TN 37129.

Make notes as you read

Many of us who intend to read the Bible through systematically get to Leviticus and Numbers and drop out! However, if you will look for a message in your reading each day, God will speak to you. Write down what He says to you. This will help you in your retention for application in your life.

STAY IN THE WORD! Do not worry about what you do not understand. Practice what you do understand. Keep putting the Word of God into your heart. Remember that the Holy Spirit, Who came to live within you when you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, is your Teacher (**John 14:26**). You will never have a better teacher, so look to Him, depend on Him, seek His help, and thank Him for it.

GOD SPEAKS OUT OF HIS WORD. If anyone is getting a word from some place other than the Word of God, he may have the wrong message. Some years ago, there was a serious wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad. The engineer was entangled in the wreckage of the locomotive and was dying. Blood was streaming down his face and from his nostrils. There were tears in his eyes. Clutched in his hand was a slip of paper and he said to someone, "*Here, take this. It will prove that somebody gave me the wrong orders.*" When our orders are from the written Word of God and the Holy Spirit burns them into our minds and hearts, we can be sure that we have the right orders!

Dwight L. Moody said that he had never seen a useful Christian who was not in the Word of God. **No person will ever have a sustained prayer life apart from the Word of God.**

Since few are in the Word of God, there are few prayer warriors. Letting God deal with us from the Word of God on a daily basis will result in strengthened praying. "*If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you (that's Bible reading) . . . ask what ye will (that's prayer), and it shall be done for you (and that's a promise!)*" (**John 15:7**).

If you have not been faithful reading the Word of God, don't waste time in regret. Start today.

Early Notes from my Bible

There are some personal things that I will share with you out of my own life that have been blessings and encouragement to me. In further studies, I will include actual notes about the Bible that I've written in my study Bibles over the years. Thinking about the Bible, itself, will bless you as it has blessed me. Our necessary food is the written Word of God. My respect for the Bible has increased more and more. For many years, I have made notes in my Bible—almost daily. Many of them have to do with the Bible or the Word of God. I want to share a few of these notes with you with the hope that these thoughts about the Bible will bless your life as they have blessed mine. I encourage you to make writing notes in your Bible a practice. You'll be surprised at the positive impact in your life.

"The devil is afraid of the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit." "Master the Word and let the Word master you." "Bible reading is our spiritual food." "The Bible is the most important book I will ever study. It was written for my transformation, not just for my information." "This Bible is not used for analytical Bible study, but devotional reading." "These words are the eternal words of God." "The Scriptures speak to each generation with fresh power to give wisdom that leads to salvation, that men may serve Christ for the glory of God."

"Read the Bible slowly and thoughtfully integrating what you read." "Read with a pen or pencil in hand." "As God speaks to a need, HEAR what He says, and HÆED it." "Ask the Holy Spirit to take familiar phrases of the Word and infuse them with new meaning and life for you." "There is no better compass to guide my life than the unchanging Word of God."

"The Word of God offers hope, brings joy and comfort, and above all, new life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." "What a privilege it is to be able to read His Word and to share its message with those around us." Gypsy Smith said: "What makes the difference is not how many times you have been through

the Bible, but how many and how thoroughly the Bible has been through you."

"A person will never become a competent student of the Bible by accident." "Plan a daily encounter with God every day. Talk to Him. Meditate on the truths of His Word throughout the day. Change life to conform to His Word."

"REVIEW. 1. What have I forgotten about this passage since the last time I read it? 2. What new insights can I gain? 3. How can I remember these truths until I read them again?"

"DAILY. Never leave the passage you are reading in God's Word until it has made a mark on you!"

"The Bible does not tell us to live and learn; it exhorts us to learn and live."

Profitably engaged

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.

Abraham Lincoln

A problem to be rectified

"Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (**James 1:22**).

Too many of us hear without heeding, read without responding, confess without changing, profess without practicing, worship without witnessing, and seek without sharing.

William Arthur Ward

At home with the Lord

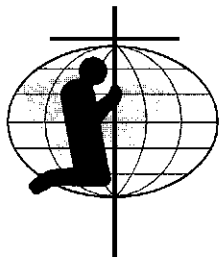
Word has been received of the Homegoing of **DOORKEEPER Tom Polumbo (PA)**, a loyal friend of the prayer seminar ministry for many years, at the age of fifty-seven. Ann wrote how much this ministry meant to him. Pray for Ann, who shared that her most difficult time without Tom is Sunday mornings.

DOORKEEPER PRAYER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2007

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b



Basic principles

"Ask [and keep on asking]..."

Matthew 7:7

1. Be specific (James 4:2b)
2. With right motive to glorify God, not self (James 4:3)
3. Pray for laborers (Luke 10:2)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

JEREMIAH 1-6 (Ireland 4M)

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)

Burnace Abrams (OH)

Joseph W. Adams (OH)

Mae Adams (NC)

Marie Adams (VA)

Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)

Rosalce Adams (VA)

Norma Ailes (FL)

Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

JEREMIAH 7-10 (Isle of Man 75,441)

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)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

JEREMIAH 11-15 (Israel 6.4M)

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)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

JEREMIAH 16-20 (Italy 58.1M)

Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)

William & Debbie Bowden (MD)

Gordon & Chloce 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)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)

Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)

Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)

Janice Bugg (TN)

Alvin & Berthena Bullard (IL)

Ruby Burger (TN)

Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)

Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)

Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)

Joreatha Capers (FL)

MONDAY, AUGUST 6

JEREMIAH 21-25 (Jamaica 2.8M)

Ron & Julia Carlin (AL)

David & Martha Cecil (VA)

Merry J Chandler (MD)

Mary Clark (VA)

Margarie Coffee (VA)

Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)

Ted & Terry Cooper (SC)

Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)

Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

JEREMIAH 26-29 (127.5M)

Joel & Paula Criz (HI)

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)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

JEREMIAH 30-33 (Jersey 91,084)

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)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

JEREMIAH 34-36 (Jordan 5.9M)

Junc 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)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

JER 37-39 (Kazakhstan 15M)

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 (VA)

Sue Hamm (KY)

Uei & Hazel Hartless (VA)

Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

JEREMIAH 40-45 (Kenya 34.7M)

Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)

Doug Henry (TN)

J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)

Jacqueline Henry (VA)

Mark Henry (TN)

Melody Henry (VA)

Roger Henry (OH)

Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)

Joanna Holland (VA)

John & Glenda Holland (VA)

Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

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 & Almaretta Hupp (PA)

Ed Hurlow (IN)

H. J. & Paula Hutchins (MS)

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

JER 46-52 (N. Korea 23.1M)

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)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

LAM 1-5 (S. Korea 48.8M)

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

Alice Kern (NJ)

Archie & Mary King (TN)

Kenneth & Bonnie Kirby (PA)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

EZEKIEL 1-6 (Kuwait 2.4M)

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)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

EZEKIEL 7-11 (Kyrgyzstan 5.2M)

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)

Bob Lawrence (MD)

Kevin & Kay Layne (NC)

Kehaunani L. S. Lee (HI)

Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT)

Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)

Kevin & Stacy Logsdon (KY)

Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

EZEKIEL 12-15 (Laos 6.4M)

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)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

EZEKIEL 16-19 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Sid & Jane McLaughlin (AL)

Jim & Lin McLean (TN)

Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)

Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)

Memorial Christian Church (VA)

Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)

Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)

Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)

Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)

Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)

Katherine Morgan (VA)

Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)

Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

EZEKIEL 20-24 (Trinidad 1.1M)

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)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

EZEKIEL 25-28 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Phyllis Reed (NH)

Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)

Cynthia Roach (VA)

Windi & Caleb Roach (OK)

John & Sandra Roberts (IL)

Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)

David & Cathie Rocke (IA)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

EZEKIEL 29-32 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

Fred & Jeannette Rolator (TN)

Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)

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)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

EZEKIEL 33-36 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Phillip & 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 (IL/OH)

John & Helen Sourlis (MD)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

EZEKIEL 37-39 (Trinidad 1.1M)

LeRoy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)

Marion I. Stansell (TX)

Tim & Pam Steger (ID)

Gordon & Carol Stewart (AZ)

Gary/Leta Fern Stillwagon (GA)

Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

EZEKIEL 40-43 (Trinidad 1.1M)

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)

Mildred V. Thompson (GA)

Paula Tipton (TN)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

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)

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

EZEKIEL 44-48 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)

Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)

George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)

Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)

Tommy Waddell (TN)

Horacc & Becky Ward (NC)

Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)

Beau Ware (VA)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

DANIEL 1-3 (India 1.1b)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)

Alan & Shirley Whitmore (TN)

Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)

George & Virginia Whitner (FL)

Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)

Edward & Virginia Williams (NC)

Julie L. Wilson (PA)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

DANIEL 4-6 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)

Stephen Latong (Nigeria)

Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)

Adam & Dianna Nathanson

(Venezuela)

Cliff and Marcia Vincent (Zambia)

Andrew J.Sakari (Kenya)

Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)

Silas & Alicc Yashim (Nigeria)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

DANIEL 7-9 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)

Dot Winfield (MD)

Amos Wipf (GA)

The Word Church (NJ)

Buz Offenbacher, Pastor

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

DANIEL 10-12 (Trinidad 1.1M)

Greg & Lori Worley (GA)

Todd & Stephanie Wright (KY)

Lili Wykle (VA)

Robin & Deborah Yohec (PA)

Consider this

“My people do not consider. . . “ (Isaiah 1:3)

Having had the privilege to serve as a consultant, reviewing and editing Dr. Henry Morris' notes in **The Defenders Study Bible** was a unique blessing in my life. Not only did I gain knowledge and understanding, the wisdom that he imparts is unparalleled. Our ministry has disseminated several hundred of the study Bibles. In his memory, I plan to share **Morsels from Dr. Morris** periodically to enable our readers to profit from his insights.

“I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands” (Psalm 143:5). **Meditate on all Thy works.** An excellent antidote for an overwhelmed spirit and desperate heart (v 4) is to meditate on all the wonderful works of God in creation and in *“the days of old.”*

“Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God, Thy spirit is good: lead me into the land of uprightness” (Psalm 143:10). **Teach me to do Thy will.** There can be no greater goal or prayer request than to know and to do the will of God (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:9).

Dr. Henry M. Morris
The New Defenders Study Bible

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

2 Thessalonians 3:1

August

13 Board of Directors, Murfreesboro TN
18-31 Trinidad & Tobago

September

16-17 Beacon University--IOM (video)
(1) Madison MS
(2) Nassau, Bahamas

15-16 Prayer Seminar:
Hamilton U.M. Church
Hamilton MS

Contact: Dr. Mike Lips (662) 343-5455

29-30 Area-Wide Prayer Seminar
New Harvest Ministries
Baltimore MD

Contact: Beverly Johnson (410) 522-1300

Growing your prayer life

Sunday Bwanhot
Fourth in a series.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO GROWING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

4. Prayer requires planning.

As we consciously choose to obey God's call to pray and enjoy fellowship with Him, we must realize that without planning for it, it will not happen. Great ideas only become reality when we step into the field of play. Although the Holy Spirit may prompt us any time to pray, yet we know that this is just a small fraction of the time we should be spending in prayer. The bigger fraction of time must be scheduled or else other 'urgent' and 'important' things soon take its place.

The patriarchs erected altars where they called upon the Lord. Moses set up a tent and went there regularly to meet with the Lord. Daniel used his upper room and showed up there unflinchingly three times a day to pray. David says in Psalm 119:164: “Seven times a day I praise you...” Jesus got up a great while before morning to pray (Mark 1:35). Paul travailed in prayer day and night for the church. You want to grow in your prayer life? Schedule formal times of prayer several times a day and mark that as: **Very important and Urgent!** so that nothing else is ever allowed to substitute for your prayer time.

The promises of God

During one very difficult time in the work of the China Inland Mission, J. Hudson Taylor wrote to his wife: “We have twenty-five cents--and all the promises of God.” Since Hudson Taylor walked with God in obedience, he knew the promises of God were his.

Never claim a promise from God unless you intend to meet any condition connected with the promise; otherwise, you are wasting your time and will be disillusioned when there is no answer.

One can't **stand on the promises** when all he wants to do is to **sit on the promises!**

The only plan

There is an imaginary story of what happened at the gates of heaven when our Lord returned to His throne following the completion of His earthly ministry. Gabriel and a vast army of angels gathered to welcome Jesus home. Gabriel, serving as spokesman for the group, inquired, "Lord, how did Your mission to earth come out? Was it the success you had anticipated?"

"Everything went off just as it had been foreordained by My Father," Christ is alleged to have replied. "But what plans have you made for making the message of salvation known to the rest of the world?" Gabriel asked. "I have entrusted that task to My disciples on the earth," the Lord said.

"But, Lord, what if Your disciples should fail you?" was logically the next inquiry. "Well, if My disciples should fail Me, I have no other plan," Jesus concluded.

This imaginary story emphasizes a very important truth: Christ expects each of us who have been saved to tell all of our unsaved relatives and friends about Him that they, too, may be saved. Our Lord never intended that pastors and missionaries should be the only ones to tell the lost about the Savior.

Frank E. Burkhalter

Testimonies talk

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so"
(**Psalm 107:2**).

People everywhere need to know that Christianity works, and you're proof of that. For that reason, your testimony can play a big part in seeing people come to the Savior. The story of how God brought you to Himself is uniquely yours. No two situations are alike.

When I was president of Northeastern Bible College (NJ), I developed an evangelism clinic to teach people how to speak in His name. One way is to use your personal testimony and the other is to use a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Christ. For those of you who archive your **Reflectors**, I shared basic

information in the July and August, 2006, issues. Pastors would do well to focus their approach to discipleship training on "how to ..." issues. One of these is witnessing.

Basically, an effective testimony has three parts. It should explain where you were as a person before you met Christ, how you met Him, and the difference He makes now. As you present these three areas, you are actually preaching a sermon in a conversational manner through your life story. As you speak and God works, the Holy Spirit will say to the person to whom you are witnessing "What I did for him, I will do for you."

Your testimony ought to have at its heart what Christ did for you on the cross, not what you're attempting to do for Him. By focusing on the cross, you communicate the objective truth on which your subjective experience stands. People need to know that the reason you are going to heaven is because of something historical, finished, and factual, namely, Christ died for sinners and rose from the grave. Make sure you keep Christ and the cross at the center of what you're sharing.

Focus on the eternal, not the temporal. Make it clear that extending to you the gift of eternal life was the greatest thing Christ did for you. Focusing on eternal life, as Christ's conversations with the lost did (**John 4:14; 11:25-26**) helps even the happiest and most successful people understand the need for the Savior.

As Paul did when sharing his testimony, emphasize above all the gift of eternal life that extends to all who believe (**Acts 26:18-23**). One professional athlete testified: "Had God given me only salvation, He would have given me the only thing that really matters."

Make it clear *how* you came to Christ. You trusted Him alone as your only way to heaven. Make it clear that you received the gift of eternal life by trusting the One who died for you on a cross and rose again. Otherwise, you could leave the person dangling.

Share with others the beauty of how God brought you to eternal life in Christ. You could soon have a friend to take along to Heaven.

THE BOOK OF BOOKS

Billy Sunday

I entered through the portico of Genesis and walked down through the Old Testament art gallery where the pictures of Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaiah, David, and Solomon hung on the walls. I passed into the music room of the Psalms and every reed of God's great organ responded to the tuneful harp of David. I entered the chamber of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard, and into the conservatory of Sharon and the lily of the valley's spices filled and perfumed my life.

I entered the business office of the Proverbs, then into the observation room of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events but all concentrated upon the bright star which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation.

I entered the audience room of the King of kings and passed into the correspondence rooms of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, and James penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation and caught a vision of the King sitting on His throne in all His glory, and I cried, "All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall, Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all." Amen and Amen.



Kenya and Congo leaders planning for the 2007 prayer seminars

These are busy days for our colleagues in South Africa (**Leslie Motsalane**), Kenya (**Martin Shikuku & Andrew Sakari**), and the Congo (**Mulamba Placide**) as they plan for the prayer seminars scheduled in their countries for **November 8--30**. Long ago, we learned that the key to success in seminars overseas is the coordinator who handles all scheduling details.

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1101. Once you've got a job to do, use your might and follow through. Be it big or be it small, do it right or not at all.

Note 1102. Putting Christ in the center of your life is precisely where He fits best.

Note 1103. Be content with what you have but not what you are.

Note 1104. You will never get to the top if you keep blowing yours!

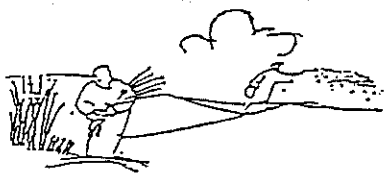
Note 1105. To communicate Christ to others, we must first communicate with Christ ourselves.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

**1 Thessalonians 1:2
June 23-July 20, 2007**

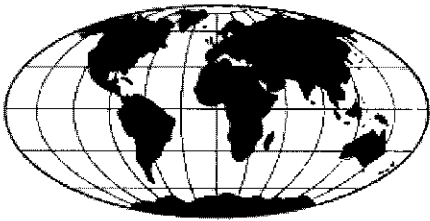
Regular	47	\$2,905.00
Trinidad	7	304.00
Total	54	\$3,209.00



"LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD"

We have been so richly blessed by your ministry that it would be unthinkable not to support you in your efforts to help Christians grow closer to the Lord through prayer. We look forward to receiving your paper and heartily recommend the prayer seminar to both new and mature believers. We want you to know that you can count on us to help you in what we consider to be one of the most important ministries outside of the local church.

Doorkeepers G&JC, Brooklyn NY



International ministries

When the late Dr. B. A. Prabhakar urged me to bring the prayer seminars to India in 1985, I could not see that we could accept. There were a number of reasons. First, my work as Executive-Director, Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) was quite demanding with many colleges indicating interest in working toward accreditation with us. Not only were we very busy developing a sound accreditation process (standards & evaluative criteria), we were working toward achieving recognition with the U. S. Department of Education, no simple feat. Second, JGHM was barely into its second year of existence, a fledgling ministry just getting started. How could we go to another nation?

When I had accepted the position with TRACS, the Board of Directors understood that the prayer seminar ministry was as important to me as my work as an educator. Our board chairman, Dr. Henry Morris, encouraged me to go using vacation time. I need not have been concerned about the financial element. Once I shared with our **Doorkeepers**, the financial need was met. For twenty-two years, lives have been touched around the world—besides the United States, there have been forty-eight other nations. Trinidad in August will be forty-nine and Congo in November will be fifty.

Twenty-first century blessings

When I think of our work in other nations in the twenty-first century, what can I say to our partners but “thank you!” Since January 1, 2000, 246 families have provided funds to enable us to provide seminars in twenty-one nations, some multiple trips: Canada (4), China (1), Colombia (1), Cuba (2), Ecuador (1), England

(1), France (1), Germany (2), Jamaica (1), Kenya (1), Lesotho (1), Mozambique (1), Namibia (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (1), Peru (2), Romania (2), South Africa (7), South Korea (1), Swaziland (1), and Venezuela (1). In addition to the 246, a number who have given in the twenty-first century are now in Heaven. Many have given sacrificially. What can I say but “thank you!”

Amazing supply

As I prayed about sharing the Trinidad and Tobago need in August, I did a five-year analysis of the financial support and found an amazing supply for our work in other nations. Beginning in 2003 through June 2007, we needed \$71,730 to meet the international budget. Our partners gave \$76,004.36, which enabled us to do even more than we had planned. Truly there has been an amazing supply as God has touched hearts to give. What can I say but “thank you!”

Multiplied thousands have benefited from prayer seminars, including scores of pastors. Being able to provide prayer seminar workbooks in the language of the people has strengthened the teaching-learning process. The workbook has been a tool for many pastors around the world who continue to teach others.

Trinidad and Tobago

God is working mightily in Trinidad and Tobago. **Bob Bouchard** (KY), who has been a **Doorkeeper** since our ministry began, recently returned from this nation. Along with thirty-nine others, evangelistic services (4,411 attended) and vacation bible schools (4,625) were conducted resulting in 703 professions of faith and 381 rededications.

I am eager to share the prayer seminar in Trinidad (Arima, San Juan, Port of Spain, San Fernando) and in Tobago (Roxboro, Scarborough) **August 18—September 1**. Thank you for your prayer and financial support.

The biggest 2007 challenge

Seminars are scheduled in **South Africa**, **Kenya**, and the **Congo November 8-30**. New workbooks will be ready in Swahili and French. The cost will be enormous. **PRAY! PRAY!**

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The Bible speaks

I am the Bible. I am God's wonderful library. I make known to all, Him who is Truth. To the weary pilgrim, I am a good strong staff. To the one who sits in black gloom, I am glorious light. To those who stoop beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.

To those who have lost the way, I am a safe guide. To those who have been hurt by sin, I am the healing balm. To the discouraged, I whisper a glad message of hope. To those who are distressed by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast. To those who suffer in lonely solitude, I am as a cool, soft hand resting on a fevered brow.

Oh, child of man, to best defend me, just use me.

I F-L-E-W!

One of our early **Doorkeepers**, **Alyce Rose** (Cape Coral FL), wrote describing the life changes she had experienced through incorporating what she had learned in the prayer seminar in her walk with the Lord. It was beautiful to sense what was happening in her life. She concluded the letter with these words:

HE called me to the edge.
I answered, "No! I'm afraid."
HE called me to the edge.
I answered, "No! I might fall."
HE called me to the edge.
And I went.
HE PUSHED ME!
And - - I - - F - - L - - E - - W!

FAITH BIDS ME TRUST, AND NOT WORRY, WAIT AND NOT HURRY. FAITH BIDS ME PRAY AND NOT FAINT, TO WORK WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

FAITH BIDS ME GIVE AND NOT WITHHOLD AND SHARE HIS LOVE UNTOLD. FAITH BIDS ME HOPE AND NOT RELENT, SERVE UNTIL LIFE IS SPENT.

Mrs. Harmon Eggleston



DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARIES DAILY. CLIFF, MARCIA & REBECCA VINCENT (ZAMBIA) RECENTLY SPENT A WEEK WITH THE HENRYS. L-R REBECCA, MARCIA, CLIFF, SUE