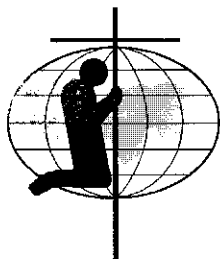


REFLECTOR

VOL. 53, No. 9

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

September 2007



MISSION UNCHANGED

Precious memories

It is natural to reminisce at certain mileposts. One, for me, is the month of September. I have often said that September is my month since it is the month of both my physical and spiritual births—the thirtieth and the twenty-fourth respectively. It is a time to look back over seven-plus decades of life and over five-plus decades of ministry—72 and 54 to be exact. For twenty-seven years, I was a local church pastor; for another twenty-seven years, my ministry has been conducting prayer seminars. For much of my adult life, I worked as an educator, as well. For me, education and ministry have been a good combination to touch lives.

This year, I have chosen to walk down the reminiscent trail remembering men of kindred spirit who became valued friends and mentors. In my early years, I gained inspiration from three men who were truly spiritually-minded in their lifestyles: **H. B. Harris, O. B. Mylam, and C. A. Bantam**. My heart burns within me as I think of their influence. In other years, I cherish the friendship of men I regard as true spiritual giants, including **Armin Gesswein**,

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

The Bridge Builder

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

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

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

Selected

Note: As I enter a new year of life, this poem, expresses my desire--to continue to build bridges for God's children through the prayer seminar ministry. Pray for open doors. "I have shown you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

Perspectives

In his prayer recorded in **Psalm 90**, Moses, the man of God, declared “from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God” (v 2). What was he saying? From vanishing point to vanishing point, God is there. Let your mind go back into the unending recesses of time’s beginning; God is there. Go into the future as far as your finite mind will take you; there is God. The vastness of this subject overwhelms our minds. How are we to know an eternal, omniscient, omnipotent God? He has revealed Himself in His Word.

Three words are basic in understanding God—**revelation**, **inspiration**, and **illumination**. These words provide information about the steps in the development and transmission of the Scriptures. What is the Bible? It is God’s revelation of Himself and His will for man. It is the only Book He wrote. The Bible does not **contain** the Word of God, it **is** the Word of God. Since God is the Author, the Bible is authoritative in every respect. It is the final, absolute authority for human thought and behavior. The Bible is God’s truth (**John 17:17**). God speaks through His written revelation. Since the Bible reveals His will, nothing is more important than understanding it. Since the Bible is given to reveal the truth, not hide it, God must intend that we understand it. Someone has said that there are over 7,000 promises in the Word of God—which we would never have known if He had not revealed them in His Word. The Bible is the only book that tells us where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going after this life is over!

1. **Revelation.** The first step occurred when God spoke a message to the authors. God gave us the Bible through people. “*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spake from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*” (**2 Peter 1:21 NIV**). **Revelation** may be defined as that process by which God imparted to man truths that he otherwise could not know. The details of creation in **Genesis 1-2** are an example of revelation. Since man was not created until the sixth day, it was necessary for God to give

the facts to Moses. Until then, it was not possible to know the events. Revelation means that God Himself is the source of the Bible. In revelation, God spoke to man’s ear.

God revealed His Person and plan to certain believers, who wrote down His message for His people. Over forty different human authors were used—from myriad positions and backgrounds. Some were highly educated (like Moses, Isaiah, Luke, and Paul); others were not (such as Amos and Peter). Other writers were Joshua, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Solomon, and David in the Old Testament. Matthew, Mark, John, and Jude were some of the other writers in the New Testament.

These human authors confessed, however, that their words came from God; they were guided by the Spirit of God even as they wrote them. On his deathbed, David stated, “*The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His Word was on my tongue*” (**2 Samuel 23:2 NKJV**). Peter declared, “*For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (**2 Peter 1:21 NKJV**). He pointed out, also, that Paul’s writings were inspired by God (**2 Peter 3:15-16**). Paul insisted, “*These things we also speak, not in words which human wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches....*” (**1 Corinthians 2:13**).

2. **Inspiration.** The second step deals with the process whereby God guided the authors in correctly writing His message. **Inspiration**, a word found only once in the New Testament, may be defined as that process through which the Holy Spirit guided the pen of the writers to ensure that the imparted message (the revelation) was clearly written down. “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in righteousness*” (**2 Timothy 3:16**). The five words, “*given by inspiration of God*,” are the translation of one Greek word, *theopneustos*, which literally means “*God-breathed*.” The Scripture thus has been breathed out by God. It did not come from the creative work of the authors as their own invention or interpretation. What is written is

just as much the Word of God as what God would speak orally. Jesus Himself said that the very letters of the words were chosen by God (**Matthew 5:18**). He once told the devil that the Christian is to live by each of these inspired words (**Matthew 4:4**).

3. **Illumination.** The Bible is **inerrant** (free from error) and is **infallible** (incapable of error) in all matters that it addresses. The Bible is inspired truth, not only in issues of doctrinal faith and moral living, but also in areas of history, geography, and science. However, within himself, man is not capable of hearing from God as he reads the Bible. The third step is vital. **Illumination is the divine process whereby God causes the written revelation to be understood by the reader and the hearer as revealed and inspired truth.** It is necessary to assimilate the truths God has provided. It is helpful to let the Word explain the Word!

The God of the Bible is eternal (**Deuteronomy 33:27**) and never-changing (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:10-12**). Thus, "*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever*" (**Isaiah 40:8 NKJV**). Illumination is needed because unsaved man is blinded both by his fallen fleshly nature (**1 Corinthians 2:14**) and by Satan himself (**2 Corinthians 4:3,4**).

The Holy Spirit is the Person behind this illumination. As He gave final instructions to His disciples just hours before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit who would illuminate both unsaved people (**John 16:8-11**) and Christians (**John 14:26; 16:13-14**). A vivid example of the work of the Holy Spirit in using God's Word to illuminate sinners is seen at Pentecost, where three thousand were saved after hearing Peter preach about Christ, the Cross, and the Resurrection (**Acts 2:36-41**). But Christians also need this illumination to help them fully grasp the marvelous truths in God's Word. Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit will show these tremendous truths to us as we read the Scriptures (**2 Corinthians 4:6**).

How to pray when reading the Bible

This is the second of a series of studies in **Psalm 119**, the longest psalm. In this study

we will examine the prayer of David: "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law" (**Psalm 119:18**). This is the prayer that should arise from our hearts every time we read God's Word. Our object will be to see exactly what the text tells us and to suggest ways in which we can pray this prayer profitably.

This petition embodies five basic and important truths:

1. The Bible is a unique Book. In this section of **Psalm 119**, there are several expressions related to the Word of God. It is described as "Thy Word" (**v 17**); "Thy Law" (**v 18**); "Thy commandments" (**v 19**); "Thy judgments" (**v 20**); "Thy testimonies" (**vv 22,24**); and "Thy statutes" (**v 23**). The emphasis in each case is upon the word "Thy." The Bible is unique because it is God's Book. He is the Author. David's Bible was much smaller than ours, but now we have in the completed canon of Scripture sixty-six books, all of which are inspired. Look up **2 Timothy 3:16** and **2 Peter 1:21**.

2. The Bible contains wondrous things. David says this in his prayer, and when we think of the contents of the Bible—its histories, types, poetry, doctrines, and prophecies—we at once begin to realize how wonderful the Bible is. It tells us about God, man, sin, death, Heaven, Hell, and eternity, and above all about the wondrous salvation that is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Look up **2 Timothy 3:15**.

3. Before we can see the wondrous things in God's Word, our eyes must be opened. It was this that David prayed for—that he might "behold" the wonderful things hidden in God's Word. We are like the two on the Emmaus road. Look up **Luke 24:13-35**. When we come to the Bible our eyes are "holden" or "restrained" (**v 16**), but as we pray the prayer of **Psalm 119:19** the Lord Himself draws near. He reveals Himself to us through His Word and our eyes are opened, our heart burns within us and our lips are filled with testimony.

4. Only God can open our eyes to see wondrous things in His Word. We need spiritual illumination. This is what was given

to Peter. Look up **Matthew 16:13-18** and compare **Matthew 11:25**.

5. To gain this needed illumination we must pray the prayer of David—not once, but each time we come to the Word of God. Look up **1 Corinthians 2:9-14** and compare **Psalms 16:11**. For an illustration of opened eyes in answer to prayer see **2 Kings 6:17, 20**.

How and for what should we pray? There are three special ways in which we should pray every time we read God's Word:

1. "**Open Thou mine eyes that I may ...**" see myself and the sinfulness of sin. We should begin here when we pray, for we were born in sin. Look up **Psalms 51:5**. We have committed sin. Look up **Isaiah 53:6**. Actually, we only see ourselves and our sin as we look into God's Word and He opens our eyes. In these days we are apt to think that because of the educational advantages that some have had, and because of our modern civilization, our hearts are not so bad, but God's Word says that this is not so. Turn to the following references and ask God to open your eyes to see the sinfulness of the natural heart, your heart, apart from His grace: **Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 1:5-6; Isaiah 64:6-7; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19; Ephesians 2:1**. Now read about Lot's backsliding in **Genesis 19:1-38**; Achan's deceitfulness in **Joshua 7:19-23**; David's impurity in **2 Samuel 11:1-27**; Peter's denial in **Luke 22:54-62**; and Diotrophes' pride in **3 John 9**. Are we any better by nature? When God shows us ourselves the revelation He gives us is very humbling. It was for Job (look up **Job 40:4**); for David (look up **Psalms 22:6**); for the Prodigal Son (look up **Luke 15:21**); and for Paul (look up **Romans 7:14**).

2. "**Open Thou mine eyes that I may ...**" see the love of God and His infinite mercy and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. We know the story of the grace of God so well. It is wonderfully declared in **John 3:16**. How great, far-reaching and all-embracing is the love of God. Read again **Luke 15:11-24** and revel in **verses 20-24**. The great proof of God's love is seen at Calvary, and when my eyes are opened to see the Lord

Jesus dying there for me, I cry out—"The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me." Look up **Galatians 2:20**, and humbly say, "My Lord and my God!" Look up **John 20:28**. Have you had this blessed view of Christ crucified for you, and Christ risen and exalted as your Savior at the right hand of God? Read **Philippians 2:5-11**, and then say to yourself—"And all this was for me—a sinner!"

Oh, make me understand it, help me to take it in, What it means to Thee, the Holy One, to bear away my sin.

3. "**Open Thou mine eyes that I may ...**" see the kind of Christian that God wants me to be. If you will open your Bible to **Psalms 1:1-3** you see the kind of Christian that God wants you to be. You will see the same thing in **Romans 6:12-14; Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 4:31-32** and **2 Timothy 4:18**. God desires every one of His children to be victorious in Christian living and fruitful in Christian service, and He has made every provision for us to live for Him and to serve Him in this way. The Lord Jesus Christ died and has risen to give us His own victorious life, and this life is imparted to us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

These, then, are the three special prayers that we should always pray when we read our Bible. Many other things will be revealed to us, such as the glory and the majesty of God, the mystery of His providence, the extent of His redeeming work, the loveliness of Christ, the activity of the Holy Spirit, the nature and function of the Church, God's purposes for the Jews and the Church in the world. So let us pray this prayer and cultivate the habit of so doing, remembering that the Holy Spirit is with us and in us and that He is waiting to answer our prayer and to give the illumination we need.

Study three

In the October study from **Psalms 119**, we will deal with the immense benefits of meditation. Why not spend some time studying **Psalms 119** before next month?

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

No nailprints

An old saint lay dying. For over eighty years she had been on pilgrimage to Zion, until her face had grown bright with Heaven's approaching glory. A Catholic priest, under the misapprehension that none in his parish could find access to the City unless he unlocked the gate, called to see her.

"Madam," he said, "I have come to grant you absolution." And she, in her simplicity, not knowing the meaning inquired: "What is that?" "I have come to forgive your sins," was the reply.

"May I look into your hand?" she answered. Gazing for a moment at the hand of the priest, she said, "Sir, you are an impostor." "Impostor!" the scandalized cleric protested. "Yes sir, an impostor. The Man who forgives my sin has a nailprint in His palm."

-R. Mufatt Goutrey

Revive us, O Lord!

William MacDonald

"Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" Psalm 85:6

A backslidden condition is often like cancer; we don't know we have it. We can grow spiritually cold so gradually that we don't realize how carnal we have actually become. Sometimes it takes a tragedy, a crisis, or the voice of some prophet of God to awaken us to our desperate need. Only then can we claim God's promise, "I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground" (Isaiah 44:3).

Revival needed

I am in need of revival when I have lost my enthusiastic zest for the Word of God, when my prayer life has lapsed into a dull routine (or lapsed altogether), when I have left my first love. I need a fresh touch from God when I am more interested in TV programs than in the meeting of the local fellowship, when I am punctual for work but late for meetings, when

I am regular at my job but spasmodic in the assembly. I need reviving when I am willing to do for dollars what I am unwilling to do for the Savior, when I spend more money on self-indulgence than I do in the work of the Lord.

We need revival when we harbor grudges, resentments, bitter feelings. When we are guilty of gossiping and backbiting. When we are unwilling to confess wrongs we have committed or to forgive others when they confess their faults to us. We need reviving when we fight like cats at home, then appear in the assembly as if all were sweetness and light. We need to be revived when we have become conformed to the world in our talk, our walk, our whole lifestyle. How great is our need when we are guilty of the sins of Sodom—pride, fullness of bread, and prosperous ease (Ezekiel 16:49).

Conviction

As soon as we realize our coldness and barrenness, we can claim the promise of 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."

Confession

Confession is the road to revival!

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee;
Send a revival—start the work in me.
Thy Word declared Thou will supply our need;
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

J. Edwin Orr

Morning praying

"In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee" (Psalm 5:3).

Tomorrow I plan to work, work, from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.

Martin Luther

DOORKEEPER PRAYER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2007

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

HOSEA 1-3 (Trinidad 1.1M)

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

HOSEA 4-6 (Latvia 2.3M)

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Bethesda Ministries

Jerry & Joan Crain (SC)
Dorothy Spickard Biddle (TN)
Stephen & Joyce Bishop (VA)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

HOSEA 7-8 (Lebanon 3.9M)

Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Gordon & Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Von M. Bridges (TX)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Shirley Brown (VA)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

HOSEA 9-11 (Lesotho 2M)

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Janice Bugg (TN)

Alvin & Berthena Bullard (FL)
Ruby Burger (TN)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)
Joreatha Capers (FL)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

HOSEA 12-14 (Liberia 3M)

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

JOEL 1-3 (Libya 5.9M)

Joel & Paul Critz (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)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

AMOS 1-2 (Liechtenstein 33,987)

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

AMOS 3-5 (Lithuania 3.6M)

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/Thailand)

Sue Hamm (KY)

Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)

Jim & Joyce Hengood (FL/CT)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

AMOS 6-7 (Luzembourg 474,415)

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)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AMOS 8-9 (Macau 453,125)
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)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

OBADIAH (Macedonia 2M)

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JONAH 1-4 (Madagascar 18.6M)

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

Alice Kern (NJ)

Archie & Mary King (TN)

Kenneth & Bonnie Kirby (PA)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

MICAH 1-2 (Malawi 13M)
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)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
 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)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

MICAH 3-5 (Malaysia 24.4M)
 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)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

MICAH 6-7 (Maldives 359,008)
 Garry & Anna McElwain (KY)
 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)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

NAHUM 1-3 (Mail 11.7M)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

HABAKKUK 1-3 (Malta 400,214)
 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)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ZEPHANIAH (Marshall Is 60,422)
 Phyllis Reed (NH)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Windi & Caleb Roach (OK)
 John & Sandra Roberts (FL)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)

David & Cathie Rocke (IA)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
HAGGAI 1-2 (Martinique 436,131)

Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (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)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)
 Paul & Mary Smith (TX)

Doris Snyder (FL/OH)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

ZECARIAH 1-2 (Mauritius 1.2M)
 LeRoy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
 Marion J. Stansell (TX)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Gordon & Carol Stewart (AZ)
 Gary/Leta Fern Stillwagon (GA)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

ZECARIAH 3-4 (Mayotte 201,234)
 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)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ZECARIAH 5-6 (Mexico 107.5M)
 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)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
ZECH 9-11 (Micronesia 108T)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)

Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Tommy Waddell (TN)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau Ware (VA)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
ZECH 12-14 (Moldova 4.5M)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoolc (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)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

MALACHI 1-4 (Monaco 32,543)
 Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
 Stephen Latong (Nigeria)
 Leslie & Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)
 Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)

Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Zambia)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

DANIEL 7-9 (Trinidad 1.1M)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Dot Winfield (MD)
 Amos Wipf (GA)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacher, Pastor
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 Todd & Stephanie Wright (KY)
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Robin & Deborah Yohee (PA)

Have you said, I want my church to be a praying church? Then why not schedule a prayer seminar in 2008?

Here's how . . .

- 1. Send three possible dates.**
- 2. Schedule six hours of teaching time.**
- 3. Mobilize your people.**

If you have been blessed by a prayer seminar, tell others about the ministry.

Why revival tarries

Henry Blackaby

Ezekiel 18:31b-32 is the heart cry of God to His covenant people, Israel: "...why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore, turn and live!" God had just reminded His people that if "a righteous man turns away from his righteousness ... and dies ... it is because of the iniquity that he has done that he dies" (vv 24-26).

Like the "house of Israel," God's people continue to sin against God in our day and live without any awareness of the consequences. We seem to be totally indifferent to any judgment whatsoever, as if that only happened in the Old Testament. But, of course, that's just not true. It was to the people of God in Rome that Paul wrote: "...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." For anyone who sins and continues to sin without repentance—especially God's people—it leads to "death."

And did Jesus not warn God's people that they must repent or perish? Read the accounts in **Matthew 4:17**, **Luke 13:1-9**, and **Luke 17:20-36**. Repentance among God's people requires an immediate turning that changes our heart, will, and actions. Repentance requires a changed lifestyle. Therefore, we must heed Christ's warning for our own generation. We must possess a wholehearted desire to return to God.

Many of us today are aware that America is in desperate need for revival, but we haven't made the connection. While we see the spiritual darkness around us, we do not recognize that the greater problem is with the light! Light dispels darkness! Jesus said that His disciples are the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**). When the light of Christ is dimmed by our sin, the darkness flourishes. But when we repent, His light shines in us and through us to a watching world; people "see" and God is glorified!

For now, however, America continues to move steadily closer to God's judgment. And

there remains a prevailing carelessness among God's people concerning this activity of God.

Revival tarries because God's people will not repent, and we see no reason to do so. So, even if we recognize that the times are urgent and the spiritual climate is dark, and even if we cry unto God for a mighty revival, without our repentance He will refuse to hear us because we keep iniquity in our hearts.

We must, therefore, heed His call: "...Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts" (**Malachi 3:7b**). We must repent and return to Him in holiness, love, and obedience, or the nation will surely perish under the judgment of our sin! (**2 Peter 3:9**).

Itinerary

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course" (2 Thes 3:1)

September

6-7 Beacon University--IOM

(1) Madison MS

(2) Nassau, Bahamas

**15-16 Hamilton United Methodist 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

October

8 Board of Directors, Murfreesboro TN

13 Prayer Seminar

Holy Trinity Worship Center, DC

Contact: Rose Lewis (240) 601-20017

20-21 Prayer Seminar

Philadelphia U. M. Church

Red Springs NC

Contact: George Locklear (910) 733-1116

November

8-17 South Africa

18-24 Kenya

25-30 Congo

December

2 Prayer Seminar

First Baptist Church, Mifflintown PA

Contact: Ron Shupe (717) 436-2221

Try Prayer

The snow-coated crown of the mountain crest
Rose majestically into the sky;
It seemed it could stand there forever,
With time passing endlessly by.
And I thought there was nothing more stable,
Stubbornly resisting erosion and wear.
Then a still, small voice spoke to my heart:
“Have you ever relied upon prayer?”

The warmth and glow of an autumn day
Filled the earth with a beauty rare;
As the caw of a crow on a cornfield raid
Joining the honking of geese in the air.
Now my senses were soothed in an uncommon
way;
I had found comfort, sweet and most rare.
Then the voice again whispered in my ear:
“You’ll find more comfort in prayer.”

The ocean roared like an untamed beast,
With a fury that could not be restrained.
And I shuddered at the vast power it possessed,
Whose source could not be explained.
As I watched the waves breaking high and wild,
To confront it I never would dare.
Once more I heard that mysterious voice:
“Have you experienced the power of prayer?”

The lake was tranquil at the close of day;
Not a ripple disturbed its bright face,
Dyed a fiery red by a fast-setting sun,
While a frog was tuning his nocturnal bass,
And all life seemed to be holding its breath.
Surely no greater peace could exist anywhere.
But the voice corrected my thoughts:
“You’ll find greater peace in prayer.”

Sunrise! How glorious was the dawn,
O’er all the earth and by the shining sea;
Waking the little folds of field and forest;
Calling to his daily labor man and bee.
It spoke of promise for the future,
And also hope, to me by far most fair.
“My friend,” the voice spoke so gently to me:
“You’ll find the source of hope is really prayer.”

Having experienced all these earthly glories,
One thing more I craved—to draw apart
And have communion with my Heavenly
Father;

To meet Him in the temple of my heart
And worship Him with purest adoration.
With this no other thing could e’er compare.
The voice now sounded sweet and holy:
“You can meet Him any time in sincere prayer.”

Willis James Snow
Waterford, Connecticut

Note: Willis shared this poem with us when he was eighty-eight years old, a few months before his death on September 16, 1991 just prior to his ninetieth birthday. He and his wife, Carol, became **Doorkeepers** in August 1983. For many years, he ministered to me through correspondence.

Willis was an encourager in each letter and always included at least one page of humor. What an amazing intellect! What a tremendous facility to put thoughts into words. In all my work in higher education with many excellent students sitting in my classes, none was in Willis’ category. He was a literary genius.

In a letter dated March 28, 1987, Willis shared: “Just as a matter of curiosity, I took a census. I enumerated the people for whom I pray every day and it totaled 217. In addition to these, there are invariably five to a dozen each day which are acute cases and need immediate intercession. This would include people undergoing surgery, a bereavement, an accident, or things of this nature which are usually not on-going situations. I bring each one individually to the throne of grace and do not present them in platoons. Does all praying require time? It sure does, but time can never be spent more profitably.” The prayer seminar ministry was on that list.

To say I miss Willis Snow would be an understatement. Knowing he is as interested in our work in Heaven as he was on earth certainly motivates me to give my best.

Growing your prayer life

Sunday Bwanhot
Fifth in a series.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO GROWING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

5. Put "Time with God" on your to-do list.

In the busy world that we live in, appointments are important. Appointments are needed to see the doctor. Then appointments are needed to see those in office who, not so long ago, came knocking at our doors begging us for our votes with promises to serve us. And appointments are needed to see some pastors. Appointments are needed to ensure you have quality time with your spouse or children.

Whatever is important has to be scheduled or else it will never be done. God has made Himself available to us 24/7 and all that remains is for you to choose the time(s) that you want to meet with Him formally during the day. As we stated in last month's study, all great men and women of prayer had prayer closets and they maintained a regular schedule of meeting with God. Two reasons why you should have an appointment with God:

1. You show that prayer/fellowship with God is your number one priority over other things.
2. You look forward with excitement to your appointment with God. That is heart preparation.

Any time can be scheduled to meet with God; however, it is more beneficial if one starts the day with God before he/she is confronted by the challenges of the day.

Examine your life. What time(s) do you meet with God daily? Are you really doing okay without scheduling your time with God? Do you want to change? It is simple. Put down "Time with God" on your daily-to-do list. Schedule an appointment and keep the appointment.

A thought to guide

GOOD, BETTER, BEST. NEVER LET IT REST UNTIL YOUR GOOD IS BETTER AND YOUR BETTER BEST.

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1106. Guard your thoughts; you are what you think more than what you think. See **Philippians 4:8** for guidance.

Note 1107. Learn to do each day's work with eternity's values in view.

Note 1108. When the skies seem brass to your prayers, try praise; praise does not change God, it changes you.

Note 1109. By reading your Bible daily, you can prevent truth decay.

Note 1110. Attempt something so impossible that unless God is in it, it is doomed for failure.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

July 21-August 8, 2007

Regular	27	\$1,280.00
Trinidad	38	2,459.00
Total	65	\$3,739.00



Welcome, New Doorkeepers!

Garry & Anna McElwain (KY)
Paul & Mary Smith (TX)

"Laborers together with God"
1 Corinthians 3:9

"The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad (Psalm 126:3).

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OF OUR FRIENDS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

men were mighty in Scripture and served as exemplars for my life and ministry and provoke precious memories, indeed.

The future

As wonderful as the past years have been, I am concerned with the future more than the past. Whatever years remain, I want to devote each one to sharing God's Word. Not only do I want to continue teaching the prayer seminar, but I want to encourage those around the world who are teaching the seminar. I would gladly go another fifty-four years, but know that is an impossible dream.

H. B. Harris was my pastor when I entered the ministry. He shared often that as long as his "preacher boys" were preaching that he would be preaching. As long as others are teaching the prayer seminar, I will be teaching. Pray that the year ahead will be fruitful and that we will be able to teach many believers to observe the things that the Lord has mandated.

International ministries



2 Timothy 2:2

Pakistan. Word has been received that there is intense persecution of many Christians in Pakistan. Many have attended prayer seminars. Pray for their protection.

Trinidad & Tobago. There will be a full report on the August 18--September 1 seminars in the October **Reflector**. Thanks for providing the financial and prayer support.

South Africa, Kenya, Congo. Pray for our coordinators who are arranging our venues for November 8--30. We are in the process of developing the budget. The prayer seminar workbook has been translated into Swahili and French. Pray that the financial need will be met to enable us to provide for these nations. Many pastors are teaching the prayer seminar already.

September

Letter-Writing Month

Friendship means identity in thought, heart, and spirit. Communicating with one another helps friendships grow. I am thankful to call you "friend" and thank you for allowing me to come into your life each month through the **Reflector**. As Paul said to the church at Philippi, you are in my mind, my heart, and often in my prayers.

Each September, we encourage our readers, especially our **Doorkeepers**, to write to us. Give us an update about your life, your family, your church, and your spiritual pilgrimage.

For many years, we enclosed a response form. Due to the present **Reflector** format, we will not include a response form. Your message need not be long, but it will encourage our hearts. We have had as many as one hundred **Doorkeepers** to write to us. Perhaps this year, we could have 108, two for each year of our ministry. A number use E-mail to participate in letter-writing month: jghm84@aol.com.

Doorkeeper letters

Richard and Joy Baugh, Bradenton FL, were **Doorkeepers** for many years. They now reside in Heaven, as do many who were faithful **Doorkeepers**. Almost every week, there was a letter of encouragement from the Baughs. One included an eight-sided card with a poem that included this phrase: "This morning when I awakened and saw the sun above, I thought of you and said a little prayer." In one letter, Joy said, "We feel you belong to us."

Often a **Doorkeeper** will write a note mentioning his daily prayer support for both the ministry and me—which is both humbling and encouraging.

Josephine Fitzgerald, our **Doorkeeper** who is now 98 and doing well, has always included a verse of Scripture in her letters--that came regularly. One day, she wrote: "I pray for you all every day. While I have never mentioned it, I want to let you know that since the prayer seminar you held in our church [in 1986], my prayer life has increased significantly." She continues active serving the Lord.

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Reflector

ISSN 0885-8538

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Adequate Preparation

The apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, spoke of those who were "storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come" (**1 Timothy 6:19**). What preparations are you making now for what may be ahead of you? A solid spiritual foundation will help you stand against any storm that may come into your life. Little do we know what is in the future from day to day. The Word of God says it quite simply. No one knows what a day will bring forth.

A good idea is to follow the words of the song, "Be very sure your anchor holds, and grips the Solid Rock." Have you been building on the rock or on the sand? Storms come that test the foundation. Deep waters, troubled nights, fierce persecution, illnesses, satanic wrath—all these cannot and will not disturb the child of God who has laid up in store a good foundation against the time to come. If you have not given thought to your foundation, decide to do so today. **Decisions determine destiny.** David said, "I thought about my ways and turned my feet to your testimonies" (**Psalm 119:59**).

"In Thy presence is fullness of joy"

Psalm 16:11

The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight.

E. M. Bounds

Prayer is entering into God's Throne Room any hour of the day or night. You don't have to have prior appointment since God is always there. He doesn't keep office hours. He not only wants you to come, you can stay as long as you want to stay. There is no time limit.



A TREMENDOUS UNDERTAKING

NOVEMBER 8-30, 2007

SOUTH AFRICA, KENYA, CONGO

PLACE ON YOUR PRAYER CALENDAR