

# REFLECTOR

VOL. 54, No. 4

*“Holding Forth the Word of Life”*

April 2008

## PREPARATION FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

There are two aspects of sin for a Christian. First, God says, “There are some things I do not want in the lives of My children.” Second, God says, “There are some things that I want in the lives of all my children.” What am I doing that God does not want me to do? What am I not doing that God wants me to do?

A practical suggestion is to get off by yourself with pen and paper. Ask God to show you any sins in your life. List them in order to deal with them through repentance and confession one by one. Begin by praying a prayer like David’s prayer as he sought cleansing long ago: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (**Psalm 139:23-24**). Until you confess and forsake known sin, you cannot have a prayer life: “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (**Psalm 66:18**); “Behold, God’s hand is not shortened that He cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He cannot hear” (**Isaiah 59:1-2**).

### **The Word of God is a mirror**

Conviction is the starting place of getting clean before God. Conviction simply means being conscious or aware of sin. Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit (**John 16:8-11**). He uses the Word of God to bring conviction. One explanation for the lack of conviction in the lives of many Christians is that they are not in the Word of God. When a Christian is seeking God through the Word, the Holy Spirit often shows him how God sees Him.

A few years ago, my wife, Sue, and I were conducting a series of prayer seminars in several Latin American countries (Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico). We were having lunch in San Jose, Costa Rica. She said to me, “You have a piece of butter on your right check”—which I did not know. I said, “thank you,” took my napkin, and wiped off the butter. Often, as we read His Word, the Holy Spirit says, “You’ve got a piece of butter on your right cheek” or WHATEVER. It is then that we can take care of the problem through repentance and confession.

### **The Check List**

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, this Check List can be a tremendous help in identifying and confessing sins that often hinder genuine revival. Read the selected Scriptures that follow. Go through the questions one by one. Answer truthfully each question in the light of your life at this time. Every “yes” means a sin in your life. In reading these questions, as you are convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, put the sin on your sin list. Once the list is completed, consider each sin one by one with a willingness to make things right. Think in terms of repenting (changing your mind) and confessing (agreeing with God, owning up to the sin and saying the same thing about it—one by one—that He says). Once you have confessed the sin, you can accept forgiveness

and cleansing because that is what God will give you. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Be sure to NAME YOUR SIN to God since that is what is required by the word “confess.” Be specific. For example, you might need to say, “Lord, I have not put You first in my plans” or “I have neglected Your Word and prayer.” Further, do not make even the least excuse for sin of any kind in your life. Remember “he that covereth his sin shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

No matter what others do, or do not do, leave nothing undone on your part. God wants to work through you to bring about a great spiritual awakening and a revival in your church. You can begin by fulfilling, with the help of the Holy Spirit, every requirement laid out by the Lord in His Word.

**1. Matthew 6:12,14-15.** *“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

- 1) Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?
- 2) Is there anyone whom you have not forgiven?
- 3) Is there anyone you hate?
- 4) Is there anyone whom you do not love?
- 5) Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forgive and forget?
- 6) Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment or jealousy?
- 7) Is there anyone you dislike to hear well spoken of or praised?
- 8) Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?

**2. Matthew 6:33.** *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

- 1) Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?
- 2) Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires, rather than seeking and following God’s will?
- 3) Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desires for recognition, money, your own plans?

**3. Mark 16:15.** *“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

- 1) Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?
- 2) Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ?
- 3) Has your life not shown to the lost the Lord Jesus Christ?

**4. John 13:35.** *“By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

- 1) Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another?
- 2) Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another?
- 3) Are you guilty of any contention or strife?
- 4) Do you quarrel, argue, or engage in “heated” discussions?
- 5) Are you a partaker in any divisions, or party spirit?
- 6) Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

5. **Acts 20:35.** *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*
- 1) Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, or money?
  - 2) Have you given less than a tenth of your income for God’s work?
  - 3) Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or in offering?
6. **1 Corinthians 4:2.** *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*
- 1) Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted in the Lord’s work with responsibilities?
  - 2) Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord, then doing nothing about it?
7. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20.** *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*
- 1) Are you in any way careless with your body?
  - 2) Do you fail to care for your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
  - 3) Are you guilty of intemperance in eating and drinking?
  - 4) Do you have habits that are defiling your body?
8. **1 Corinthians 10:31.** *“Whether ye eat, or drink, of WHATSOEVER YE DO, do all to the glory of God.”*
- 1) Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than give all to the glory of God?
  - 2) Do you talk of what you have done rather than what Christ has done?
  - 3) Are your statements mostly about “I”?
  - 4) Are your feelings easily hurt?
  - 5) Have you made a pretense of being something you are not?
9. **Ephesians 3:20.** *“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*
- 1) Are you SELF-CONSCIOUS rather than GOD-CONSCIOUS?
  - 2) Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should for God?
10. **Ephesians 4:28.** *“Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”*
- 1) Do you underpay?
  - 2) Do you do very little in your work?
  - 3) Have you been careless in the payment of your debts?
  - 4) Do you waste time for yourself and for others?
11. **Ephesians 4:31.** *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”*
- 1) Do you complain?
  - 2) Do you find fault?
  - 3) Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or thing?
  - 4) Are you irritable or cranky?
  - 5) Do you ever carry hidden anger?

- 6) Do you get angry?
- 7) Do you become impatient with others?
- 8) Are you ever harsh or unkind?

**12. Ephesians 5:16.** *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

- 1) Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs?
- 2) Do you read unworthy magazines?
- 3) Do you partake in worldly amusements?
- 4) Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?
- 5) Are you doing certain things that show you are not satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ?

**13. Ephesians 5:20.** *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- 1) Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, bad and good?
- 2) Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word?
- 3) Do you worry?
- 4) Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God’s Word?

**14. Philippians 1:21.** *“For me to live is Christ [to live all over again], and to die is gain.”*

- 1) Are you taken up with the cares of this life?
- 2) Is your conversation or heart joy over “things” rather than the Lord and His Word?
- 3) Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?

**15. Philippians 2:14.** *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings.”*

- 1) Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone?
- 2) Do you gossip?
- 3) Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?
- 4) Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of some different group than yours, or because they do not see everything exactly like you?

**16. Philippians 4:4.** *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

- 1) Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things?
- 2) Do you carry any bitterness toward God?
- 3) Have you complained against Him in any way?
- 4) Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you?
- 5) Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will?
- 6) Have you disobeyed some direct leading from Him?

**17. Colossians 3:9.** *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.”*

- 1) Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation?
- 2) Do you ever lie?
- 3) Do you ever exaggerate?
- 4) Do you ever cheat?
- 5) Do you ever steal?
- 6) Carefully consider: Do you overcharge?

**18. 2 Timothy 2:22.** *“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*

- 1) Do you have personal habits that are not pure?
- 2) Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind?
- 3) Do you read that which is impure or suggests unholy thoughts?
- 4) Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment?
- 5) Are you guilty of the lustful look?

**19. Hebrews 10:25.** *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and much more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

- 1) Do you stay away from meetings of preaching the gospel?
- 2) Do you whisper or think about other things while God’s Word is being read or preached?
- 3) Are you irregular in attendance at services?
- 4) Do you neglect to attend and to participate in prayer meetings?
- 5) Have you neglected/slighted daily private prayer?
- 6) Have you neglected thanksgiving at meals?
- 7) Have you neglected family devotions?

**20. Hebrews 13:7.** *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”*

- 1) Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere?
- 2) Are you lazy?
- 3) Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the gospel?
- 4) Do you have in any way a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

**21. James 1:27.** *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*

- 1) Have you allowed yourself to become “spotted” by the world?
- 2) Is your manner of dress pleasing to God?
- 3) Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything?
- 4) Do you neglect to pray about the things you buy?

**22. James 4:6.** *“But He giveth more grace, Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth more grace unto the humble.”*

- 1) Do you feel that you have done quite well as a Christian?
- 2) Do you feel that you are not so bad?
- 3) Do you feel that you are good enough?
- 4) Are you stubborn?
- 5) Do you insist on having your own way?
- 6) Do you insist on your own “rights”?

**23. James 3:11.** *“Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?”*

- 1) Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing His servants?
- 2) Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor and other spiritual leaders?
- 3) Do you find it hard to be corrected?
- 4) Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you?

- 5) Are you more concerned about what people will think than what will be pleasing to God?

### Conclusion

When you have been honest and truthful in the matter of admitting your sins (commission and omission) and have repented (changed your mind), then you are ready for cleansing. Sins that are admitted are sins that are confessed. “*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults*” (**Psalm 19:12**).

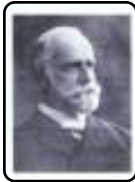
Remember three things: (1) When the sin is against God, confess it to God, and make things right with God; (2) When the sin is against another person, confess it to God, and make things right with the other one; and (3) When the sin is against a group (including the church), confess it to God, and make it right with the group (church).

When there is FULL CONFESSION, there will be FULL CLEANSING. Then the joy of the Lord will follow. Then there can be testimony and prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Check List will help Christians obey the command in **Ephesians 5:18**: BE SPIRIT-FILLED, which literally means SPIRIT-CONTROLLED. When our known sins are confessed [agreed to] and forsaken, the Holy Spirit can control our lives and use us to touch lives for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### A message in seven words

**R. A. Torrey (1856-1928)**

I bring you a message from God contained in seven short words. Six of the seven words are monosyllables, and the remaining word has but two syllables and is one of the most familiar and most easily understood words in the English language. Yet there is so much in these seven short, simple words that they have transformed many a life and brought many an inefficient worker into a place of great power.



You will find these seven words in **James 4:2**, the seven closing words of the verse, “Ye have not because ye ask not.”

**Secret of Christians Powerlessness.** These seven words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian, of the average minister, and of the average church. “Why is it,” many a Christian is asking, “that I make such poor progress in my Christian life? Why do I have so little victory over sin? Why do I win so few souls to Christ? Why do I grow so slowly into the likeness of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?” And God answers in the words of the text, “Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not.”

“Why is it,” both ministers and churches are asking, “that the church of Jesus Christ is making such slow progress in the world today? Why does it make so little headway against sin, against unbelief, against error in all its forms? Why does it have so little victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil? Why is the average church member living on such a low plane of Christian living? Why does the Lord Jesus Christ get so little honor from the state of the church today?” And, again, God replies, “Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not.”

**The Early Church’s Victory.** When we read the only inspired church history that was ever written, the history of the church in the days of the apostles as it is recorded by Luke (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) in the Acts of the Apostles, what do we find? We find a story of constant victory, a story of perpetual progress. We read, for example, such statements as **Acts 2:47**, “The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” and **Acts 4:4**: “Many of them which heard the Word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.” Chapter after chapter, we find the same note of victory. Why was this true? The answer is “they gave themselves to prayer” (**Acts 2:42; Acts 6:4**)--a praying church and a praying ministry can achieve anything that ought to be achieved.

**PRAYER CALENDAR****APRIL 2008**

"I will give myself to prayer..."

**Psalm 109:4b****TUESDAY, APRIL 1****1 KINGS 1-4 (Puerto Rico 4M)**

Wayne &amp; Edie Aardsma (IL)

Burnace Abrams (OH)

Marie Adams (VA)

Robert &amp; Susanne Adams (TN)

Rosalee Adams (VA)

Wayne &amp; Jennie Agee (VA)

Norma Ailes (FL)

Clyde &amp; Kathryn Allen (VA)

Lon &amp; Denise Anderkin (FL)

Tommy &amp; Pat Apple (NC)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2****1 KINGS 5-8 (Romania 22.2M)**

Milcie Arnold (VA)

Solomon &amp; Kriskna Arrington (MD)

Leonor Avila (MD)

Kenneth Banks (NC)

Carolyn Barkley (NY)

Stan &amp; Emily Baskin (TN)

John &amp; Joan Bateman (PA)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3****1 KINGS 9-11 (Russia 140.7M)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)

Jean Beasley (TN)

Tommy &amp; Sue Bell (TN)

Wayne &amp; Barbara Belt (TN)

Johnny &amp; Juanita Bernard (FL)

Ron &amp; Teri Bernardi (IL)

Bethesda Ministries

Jerry &amp; Joan Crain (SC)

Dorothy Spickard Biddle (NC)

Stephen &amp; Joyce Bishop (VA)

Ed &amp; Loretta Bolen (VA)

Everett &amp; Deborah Boston (MD)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4****1 KINGS 12-16 (Scotland 51M)**

Bob &amp; Jewel Bouchard (KY)

William &amp; Debbie Bowden (MD)

Gordon &amp; Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)

Curtis &amp; Carol Bradbury (NJ)

Emilee &amp; Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)

Nancy Bretz (PA)

Von M. Bridges (TX)

Clint &amp; Dorothy Brooks (VA)

Henry &amp; Ruby Brown (AZ)

Shirley Brown (VA)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5****1 KINGS 17-19 (Singapore 4.6M)**

Jack &amp; Arretta Bruce (KY)

Freddie &amp; Yvonne Brunson (DE)

Don &amp; Gayle Buchanan (KY)

Janice Bugg (TN)

Ruby Burger (TN)

Sunday &amp; Grace Bwanhot (IL)

Neal &amp; Mary Ann Cabannis (VA)

Don &amp; Lucy Campbell (VA)

Lew &amp; Mary Campbell (ID)

Ron &amp; Julia Carlin (AL)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

David &amp; Martha Cecil (VA)

Merry J Chandler (MD)

Mary Clarke (VA)

Harry &amp; Nancy Coffee (VA)

Harry &amp; Nancy Coffee (TN)

Margarie Coffee (VA)

Jim &amp; Kathy Connolly (VA)

Foster &amp; Georgia Covington (VA)

Terry &amp; Sonja Craig (TN)

Joel &amp; Paula Criz (HI)

**MONDAY, APRIL 7****1 KINGS 20-22 (South Africa 43.8M)**

Robert &amp; Charlotte Crout (SC)

Bill &amp; Beverly Curtis (PA)

Lin &amp; Barbara Custalow (VA)

Ida J. Davis (GA)

John &amp; Margaret Davis (VA)

Lelia Dean (FL)

Robert &amp; Virginia DeBoer (NE)

Harold &amp; Tama Decker (NY)

Nick &amp; Wilma DeGroot (IL)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8****2 KINGS 1-3 (Swaziland 1.1M)**

Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)

Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor

Alan &amp; Rebecca Dockrey (KY)

Mary J. Dugans (LA)

Walt Edwards (NC)

Paul &amp; Joyce Eggleston (VA)

Lynn Elkins (TN)

Evalena Enoch (VA)

Gene &amp; Shirley Farley (CA)

Lynne Farrow (NJ)

Larry &amp; Cara Fields (VA)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9****2 KINGS 4-8 (Switzerland 7.6M)**

June Fisher (TN)

Josephine Fitzgerald (AL)

Claire &amp; Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)

Ronald &amp; Brenda Fristoe (VA)

Raymond &amp; Estelle Gabbard (KY)

Frank &amp; Pauline Garrett (NJ)

Carole B. Garvin (PA)

Frank &amp; Doris Geiger (HI)

Robert &amp; Sara George (GA)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10****2 KINGS 9-12 (Thailand 65.5M)**

Frances Glass (AL)

Gloucester Co. Community Church

Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)

Ronald &amp; Maryann Gold (CO)

Odether Gray (GA)

Linda Gregory (NJ)

Uel &amp; Hazel Hartless (VA)

Jim &amp; Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11****2 KINGS 13-17 (Trinidad/Tobago 1 M)**

Bruce &amp; Gina Henry (VA)

Doug Henry (TN)

J. Gordon &amp; Sue Henry (VA)

Jacqueline Henry (VA)

Mark Henry (TN)

Melody Henry (VA)

Roger Henry (OH)

Sean Henry (KS)

Susan &amp; Jamey Henry (TN)

Jerry &amp; Sandra Hodges (VA)

Joanna Holland (VA)

John &amp; Glenda Holland (VA)

Jayson &amp; Marylynn Hooker (VA)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12****2 KINGS 18-21 (Ukraine 46M)**

Russ &amp; Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)

Mike &amp; Sonya Hosick (VA)

Sam &amp; Linda Hough (VA)

Lamar &amp; Cindy Sue Houser (MD)

Bonnie Houston (TN)

Coy Hunsucker (NC)

Joyce Hunt (TN)

Wilbert &amp; Almaretta Hupp (PA)

Ed Hurlow (IN)

H. J. &amp; Paula Hutchins (MS)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

Oliver &amp; Janie Jackson (NY)

Louis &amp; May Jenkins (DC)

Vernelle Jenkins (MD)

Paul &amp; Suzanne Jennings (TN)

Jonathan &amp; Julie Jobe (NC)

Peter &amp; Millicent John (NY)

Dan &amp; Jayne Johnson (KY)

Jim &amp; Penny Johnson (KY)

Tara Johnson (KY)

Wilbur &amp; Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

**MONDAY, APRIL 14****2 KINGS 22-25 (Venezuela 26.4M)**

Paul &amp; Deanna Jones (KY)

W I &amp; Eloise Jones (SC)

Howard &amp; Suzie Kauffmann (GA)

Harper &amp; Shelia Keebaugh (PA)

Joyce Kelley (OR)

Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)

Bruce Kirby, Pastor

Alice Kern (NJ)

Archie &amp; Mary King (TN)

Kenneth &amp; Bonnie Kirby (PA)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15****I CHRONICLES 1-9 (Zambia 1 M)**

Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)  
 Rich & Sherry Klutz (WA)  
 Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)  
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)  
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)  
 Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk

Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)  
 David & Cathy Laing (FL)  
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)  
 Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16****I CHRON 10-16 (Afghanistan 31.9M)**

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)  
 Bob Lawrence (MD)  
 Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT)  
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)  
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)  
 George & Ginger Locklear (NC)  
 Stacy Logsdon (KY)

Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17****I CHRON 17-21 (Albania 3.6M)**

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)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18****I CHRON 22-27 (Algeria 33.3M)**

Gary & Anna McElwaine (KY)  
 Sid & Jane McLaughlin (AL)  
 Jim & Lin McLean (TN)  
 John & Egberta McSween (Trinidad)  
 Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)  
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)  
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19****I CHRON 28-29 (Am Samoa 57,663)**

Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)  
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)  
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)  
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)  
 Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)  
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)  
 Katherine Morgan (VA)  
 New Harvest Christian Ministries (MD)

Marcus Johnson, Pastor  
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)  
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)

**MONDAY, APRIL 21****2 CHRON 1-5 (Andorra 71,822)**

Ann Palumbo (NJ)

Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)  
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)  
 Pleasant Hope Baptist Church (KY)  
 Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)  
 Ben Poplin (VA)  
 Ayers & Nina Porter (TN)  
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)  
 Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22****2 CHRON 6-9 (Angola 12,3M)**

Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)  
 Cynthia Roach (VA)  
 Windi & Caleb Roach (OK)  
 John & Sandra Roberts (FL)  
 Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)  
 David & Amy Ross (KY)  
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)  
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23****2 CHRON 10-12 (Anguilla 13,677)**

Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)  
 Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)  
 David & Amy Ross (KY)  
 Sandra Rumore (VA)  
 John Saint (PA)

Don & Marie Satterwhite (MD)

David & Betty Schaum (NY)  
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)  
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)  
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24****2 CHRON 13-16 (Antigua 69,481)**

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)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25****2 CHRON 17-20 (Argentina 40.3M)**

Paul & Mary Smith (TX)  
 Doris Snyder (FL/OH)  
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)  
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)  
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)  
 Marion J. Stansell (TX)  
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)  
 Carol Snow Stewart (AZ)  
 Gary/Leta Fern Stillwagon (GA)  
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26****2 CHRON 21-25 (Armenia 3M)**

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)  
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)  
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)  
 William Stroman, Pastor  
 Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)  
 Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church (TN)

Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)

Stephanie Taylor (GA)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27**

Temple of Praise (TX)  
 Gilbert Perez, Pastor  
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)  
 Mildred V. Thompson (GA)  
 Paula Tipton (TN)  
 Virginia Trask (VA)  
 Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY)  
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)  
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)  
 Malcom Troutman (KY)

**MONDAY, APRIL 28****2 CHRON 26-28 (Aruba 100,018)**

Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)  
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)  
 Sara Underwood (TN)  
 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)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29****2 CHRON 29-32 (Australia 20.4M)**

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)  
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)  
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)  
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)  
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)  
 Edward Williams (NC)  
 Elijah Williams (NJ)  
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)  
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)  
 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)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30****2 CHRON 33-36 (Austria 8.2M)**

Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)  
 Dot Winfield (MD)  
 Amos Wipf (GA)  
 The Word Church (NJ)  
 Buz Offenbacker, Pastor  
 Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)  
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)  
 Todd & Stephanie Wright (KY)  
 Lili Wykle (VA)  
 Robin & Deborah Yohee (PA)



## **Perspective**

By studying prayers recorded in the Bible, we can not only develop a greater understanding of prayer, we can gain ideas to incorporate in our own praying. One helpful study would be the prayers of the kings of Judah as they faced crises that drove them to God. One example is **Asa** whose forces were outnumbered by a foreign enemy. He cried out to the Lord to help expressing complete trust in the Lord. “Lord, it is nothing for you to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God” (**2 Chronicles 14:11**).

Another example is godly **Jehoshaphat** who appealed to God for help when invaded by the combined forces of Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir. He asked God to act because (1) the enemy was intent on throwing Judah off the land that God gave them, (2) Judah had no power to resist, and (3) God’s people were depending on Him. (**2 Chronicles 20:5-12**). The Lord responded to this prayer by turning the allies against each other. The enemy literally destroyed each other, and all the men of Judah needed to do was collect the spoil.

Then, there is **Hezekiah**’s prayer when **Sennacherib**, king of Assyria, and his army advanced on **Jerusalem**. His representative, **Rabshakeh**, demanded the surrender of Jerusalem, ridiculing the idea that Judah’s God might save the nation. He was a good king, a reformer, and led a much-needed revival (**2 Kings 18:3-7**), but trouble came. Eleven chapters are devoted to this godly ruler who followed God more closely and sincerely than any other king of Judah or Israel. None of us knows the future. Since our nation is strong and prosperous, it is hard to conceive that we would ever face what **Hezekiah** faced during his reign. But we would do well to study his prayer when he went into the temple and spread the letter he had received before the Lord (**2 Kings 19:14**). He expressed his confidence in God, asking God to save the nation and demonstrate His power and authority. He knew that God was real and he asked Him to act to

protect His own reputation. He was anxious that God deliver his people, but the deeper concern of his heart was for the honor of Jehovah God. He cried out, “Now, therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from [Sennacherib’s] hand” (**vv 15-19**).

**The prayer.** “O Lord God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim. You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men’s hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, You alone” (**2 Kings 19:15-19**). He exalted God, the Creator. He acknowledged that God alone had the power to save them. He wanted God to have glory.

**The answer.** The prophet **Isaiah** was then sent to tell **Hezekiah** that not a single enemy arrow would fly over Jerusalem’s wall (**vv 20-34**). God later sent an angel who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (**v 35**). It is when the heart is purged from selfish motives that it reaches the true place of safety. God answered because **Hezekiah** prayed.

**The lesson.** God truly is concerned for our welfare. We need to be concerned for His reputation and seek to glorify Him. Although God knows everything that we face and need, His way is for us to come to Him and confess our situation and our trust in Him. God knows the battles that you and I face, and He will give us the help we need as we spread the matter before Him in faith, and seek to glorify His name.

Yours in Calvary love,

*J. Gordon Henry*

## Explanation of the check list

For the first two decades of the prayer seminar ministry, the basic teaching tool was a seventy-nine page workbook. Although I could never teach more than 30% of the workbook during a six-hour seminar, I felt it could be an on-going resource to those who made commitments related to their prayer lives during a seminar. Due to time pressures in seminars in other countries, I condensed the material into a thirty-page workbook including every subject that I cover. Another reason, it is easier to translate thirty pages than seventy-nine pages. In 2003, it became obvious that a wise move would be to use the thirty-page workbook in all seminars both at home and abroad. It is my conclusion that this edition is far more useful as a tool for teaching-learning than the larger one.

One challenge, however, was deciding what to omit. In session six, which deals with getting ready to pray, I included a very helpful inventory check sheet to enable a person to see himself as God sees him—using the Scripture itself as the mirror. There was no room in the thirty-page workbook, although I have included it in my book, **Intercession: Prayer as Work**. For sometime I have felt that it would be helpful for believers sincerely seeking personal revival to have access to the Check List. I encourage you to study it carefully and prayerfully. If you have the **Prayer Seminar Workbook**, you might want to insert the Check List in session six. If you do not have a thirty-page workbook, and would like to have one, please request one and we will get it to you.

## From the mailbox

Dear Dr. Henry,

My kitchen table is my usual place to meet with my Lord in prayer. What glory comes down as Jesus continues to teach me about prayer. I thank God that He is using you to stir up the need of prayer in the church. I am praying for your health, protection, and open doors.

Because He lives, M. D., Tennessee



## NOTES from my BIBLE

*Note 1141.* Asking is our work; answering is God's work; "You have not because you ask not" (**James 4:2b**).

*Note 1142.* No matter what your lot is in life, build something on it.

*Note 1143.* When we do what God wants us to do, He will do what He says He will do.

*Note 1144.* Prayer turns problems into praise items.

*Note 1145.* Walking with God is best done on your knees.

## DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

February 19--March 5

Regular	22	\$1960.00
Venezuela	19	\$1615.00
Total	41	\$3575.00



## A gentle nudge

This prayer seminar has been for me a bold reminder, a gentle nudge, a convicting, realization that a "course correction" needs to be made in my spiritual navigation. I have been drifting off course. While not dramatic now, down the road, if no correction is made, I will be way off course. The most important reminder for me is the importance and primacy of God's Word.

Major Vic Toney  
U. S. Air Force Chaplain

## Some reasons why I love prayer

Armin Gesswein



Armin (93) & wife Reidun (87)  
Both now in Heaven

[Note: When my long-time friend, **Armin Gesswein**, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 10, 2001, at the age of ninety-three (in his seventieth year of ministry), I promised to keep his memory alive by using his articles in the **Reflector** from time to time. In the following article, Armin reminds us that we have received a very wonderful gift from the Lord Jesus Christ. This gift is the privilege of prayer. In a sense, prayer is like being given a credit card that can be used, in accordance to God's will, for all kinds of needs not only in your life, but in the lives you can touch through prayer. Frankly, we would do well to read his article and then ask ourselves if we, too, love prayer.]

First, I love prayer because **IF WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT PRAYER IS TRUE** (and of course it is) **I WOULD CONSIDER MYSELF A FOOL IF I DID NOT GET INTERESTED IN PRAYER!** If someone offered me a million dollars, I would get interested in money—really fast! But what is a million dollars compared with what Jesus promises to do in answer to prayer? His promises are not only very precious, but very plain as well. Promises like **John 14:14**: “If you shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it.”

Second, I love prayer because it brought revival to my life and ministry. We need to be motivated. What caused me to be motivated for prayer “in dead earnest” was when I found out it is the only way into the strong working of God. It is His way of doing things. Early, I

began to see that to seek revival is to seek God's VERY BEST. And that is what I wanted, no matter what. I soon learned that revivals do not come by weak, puny praying, but by strong prayer. Supplication. Intercession. Prayer got me into some strong revivals early in life. Since then I learned, both from Scripture and from history, that there is **NO OTHER WAY**.

Third, I love prayer because it is not only related to revivals and the powerful working of the Holy Spirit, but to **EVERYTHING**. What a new day when I saw that truth! “In everything by prayer . . .” (**Philippians 4:6,7**). Big things. Little things. **EVERYTHING!** It is so exciting to see how the Lord loves to answer prayer and loves to enter into the thousand details of life, and answer.

Fourth, I love prayer because there is no other way to enter the **LIFE OF CHRIST IN ALL ITS FULLNESS**. I can't know Him “as He is” apart from prayer. Why not? Because that's the way He is! He is a praying Christ in heaven. “He ever liveth to make intercession” (**Hebrews 7:25**).

It's the only way I **KNOW**  
It's the only way I **GROW**  
It's the only way to **GO!**

Keep on praying, “Lord, teach is to pray” (**Luke 11:1**). He loves to do it.

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### Word from Martin

**Continued from page twelve**

The main points were (1) God in Christ works inside us and for us; (2) our lives must correspond to His work of grace, and (3) we must put the gospel word into practice letting it influence our lives. I encouraged the people to receive a new heart, a new nature, and a new mentality. As believers we must step up with God from a wasted life of living.

During the altar call, nearly the whole congregation marched forward to rededicate their lives afresh to the Lord. Two came for salvation. Thank you, JGHM family, for all you have done to bring us back.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Reflector  
ISSN 0885-8538  
J. Gordon Henry Ministries  
1127 Lakeview Drive  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-8807  
(434) 239-8837 E-mail: jghm84@aol.com  
www.jgordonhenryministries.org



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL  
AND PRAYER SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELA!  
MARCH 15-30  
A FULL REPORT WILL BE GIVEN  
IN THE MAY REFLECTOR.

## Maggie—Two years old



Two years ago, God gave our family a wonderful gift—a beautiful little great-granddaughter, **Maggie Grace Pribble**. I introduced her in the June 2006 **Reflector** (p 3) and shared her picture when she was four hours old. Of course, her parents, **Brandon** and **Jeanne** (our granddaughter) were thrilled, but so was our daughter **Mona** (her first grandchild). In the August 2007 **Reflector** (p 1), “Maggie’s Study Bible” was the lead article. When she was one year old, she took one of my study Bibles from the shelf, sat down, and opened it. I took pictures of her as she was doing this.

Now, it is time to update you. When she visits Sue and me, Maggie spends time with me in the office. She has already learned some office skills such as how to talk on the telephone, turn things on and off. Another skill she is developing is how to use the computer. Her birthday is April 29—two years old. How grateful Sue and I are to have our children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

## Word from Martin Shikuku Healing process started in Kenya

Yesterday was a Sunday of rededicating our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ after the long struggles of hopelessness since December 31, 2007. The peaceful deal of our political leaders has quickly and immediately changed our minds, talks, and actions. We have experienced growth Sunday after Sunday. I preached from **Ephesians 4:1, 17-19** and **1 Peter 1:13-19** on “The change of conduct for God’s new people.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN