

# REFLECTOR

VOL. 54, No. 8

“*Holding Forth the Word of Life*”

August 2008

## A Beautiful Tribute to the Bible

**This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its history is true, and its decisions are immutable.**

**Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Christ is its subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.**

**It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given to you in life, will be open in the Judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy precepts. It tells of grace and mercy for the believer and justice and wrath for those who will not believe.**

As a young Christian, I wrote this beautiful tribute to the Bible in one of the first Bibles I ever owned. Often I read and meditated upon this powerful statement. When **Sir Walter Raleigh** was on his deathbed, he asked his son-in-law, **Lockhart**, to bring him “the book.” When Lockhart asked which of the large number of books in his library he wanted, the answer was, “There is but one Book!” The Bible has the answer.

The theme of the August *Reflector* is the Bible and its strategic place in the Christian life. The goal is to remind believers of the role of Scripture in their growth toward spiritual maturity and toward a life of service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone said that the Bible was written, not to inform, but to transform. The truth is that no believer will ever become a prayer warrior who is not in the Word of God for himself.

**F. B. Meyer** maintained that “the greatest work that any of us can do for one another, whether young or old, is to teach the soul to draw its water from the wells of God.” When I first read that statement, my heart resonated with the wisdom contained therein. As a pastor, and later as a teacher, I resolved to do my best to encourage those who sit under my ministry to determine to let God speak to them through the Word of God. One applicable axiom is to “let the Word explain the Word.” The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!

## Perspective

*“I have treasured His Words more than my necessary food”*

**Job 23:12**

Do you have goals to guide your Christian life? You should. Let me share one that applies to all believers wishing to move toward spiritual maturity. ***The bottom line in Christian living is obedience.*** A major goal for each of us must be to live our lives in harmony with the timeless truths revealed in the Bible. To do less is failing to appropriate one of God’s major provisions for His children. Further, it is disobedience. **Disobedience is sin and rebellion!** There are examples of both obedience and disobedience in the Word of God. Not only is it helpful to be mindful of the consequences of disobedience, it is crucial that we see clearly the result of obedience. *“Noah according to all that the Lord commanded him, so he did” (Genesis 6:22)* is reflective of the obedience that should characterize the life of every believer.

**John Wesley** observed that *“God gave His Word, not to mend, but to mind.”* In looking back over my own spiritual pilgrimage, which began on September 24, 1948 when I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I am amazed at the intensity which I felt toward the Bible and a desire to learn as much as I could from it. Most every day in high school, I carried a copy of the Bible with me and often read from its pages. One of the first statements that I wrote in my Bible as a new Christian in 1948 was *“This Book will keep you from sin; sin will keep you from this Book.”* I had absolutely no doubt about the truthfulness of that statement.

Although I was not aware that a person should *“be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15)*, much of my Bible study during my high school days was seeking to understand the faith that the Lord had given me — in the light

of the various denominations that were active in my community. Since I became a Baptist, such doctrines as eternal security, water baptism by immersion, and local church autonomy (congregational government) were topics I explored and “debated” with others. The Bible meant much to me. Every Wednesday night in prayer meeting, each person attending was asked to “quote a verse from memory” and tell its location. That activity was enriching beyond words. Within the first month of my conversion, I was asked to lead the Bible study at the mid-week service. It was common in the Sunday school for a Bible question to be raised and folks were to find the answer by the next Sunday. Bible drills were common! My pastor preached the Bible plainly and with great authority!

When high school graduation night came in May 1953, many academic honors and service awards were given to me related to my four years in high school. Each was meaningful to me. The one that meant more than any other, however, was a New Testament with notes given to me by a lay preacher, **J. C. Biddle**, who had studied at Moody Bible Institute and who was kind enough to come by my home on some Sunday afternoons and take me with him to conduct services at what was called the “poor folks” home in Dandridge, Tennessee. On the fly leaf, my friend wrote: *Let this Book be your guide. Put Christ first, and He will supply all your needs. Matthew 6:33.* It was my intention, as I left my home in East Tennessee in a few days to go to Berea College in Kentucky to follow his advice.

Little did I know that God would open a door for me a few months later to become a pastor before my 18th birthday. But He did. From that time onward, my time in the Word was really to get a message to preach — not for my own food. Although I loved God’s Word, my reading was anything but systematic and organized. Since my sermons were topical, I used Scriptures that I knew and which I could locate through a concordance as I prepared sermons. Anyone who attended a service

where I brought the message would testify that I preached the Bible! Not only did I preach twice on Sunday, our church sponsored a radio program. In addition, there were few years that I did not have an extended ministry in other churches preaching what Southern Baptists called “revival meetings”—which were combination renewal and evangelistic services. One pressing need that I had as a very young man serving as a local church pastor was to be able to give Bible support for every aspect of the ministry. For example, we stressed stewardship (tithing, time, talent), house-to-house visitation in soul-winning efforts, and supporting missions worldwide. I remember vividly being confronted by a revered, elderly minister from what is known as Hard-shell Baptists on the subjects of having a Sunday school, tithing, supporting missions, and having musical instruments in the church! Such incidences caused me to dig more deeply into the Word! There were weddings to conduct, and funerals to be preached. As one of my professors at Berea College said, “God calls the preacher to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted!”

For the next twenty-four years, my pattern of Bible study reflected sermon preparation as the primary motivation. Naturally, I learned many truths. Without exception, I also taught an adult Sunday school class following the International Uniform Lesson Series—and I applied myself diligently to being ready to teach. Often I taught a book to adults during our annual Vacation Bible School (such as Proverbs, Job, Revelation). But I was only in the Word of God for to get a message to preach—not for my own food!

In 1977, the year of my life change came! Not only did it become necessary (an inner compulsion) to learn about the Holy Spirit and prayer, the Lord directed me to begin to read the Bible systematically, Book-by-Book for my own food—not just for a message to preach. Previously, I did not see the value in this approach which requires prioritizing and discipline. To prioritize is to order according to

importance. If a person has ten things to do and makes a list, he will put the most important item number one and the least important number ten.

No one can fill his place in God’s plan without discipline. Lack of self-discipline has probably ruined more believers than any other cause. It is important to remember that God’s children have all the time that is needed to accomplish all that God intends for them to do each day.

As you spend time in the *Reflector* thinking about the Scriptural basis for having a daily time in the Word of God and the practical suggestions, let the Holy Spirit turn the spotlight of Heaven on you. As He speaks to your heart, listen carefully and do whatever He guides you to do.

Yours in Calvary love,

*J. Gordon Henry*

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## Right orders

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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!

Ask the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher as you look into the Word of God. He will bring the Word alive to the level of understanding. Determine, when He does speak, to incorporate the truths into your life. You will be glad!

## Two truths

There are two truths to consider. First, you and I are not pleasing God if we are not in the Word of God. It doesn't matter if we are preachers, elders, pastors, or teachers — if we are not in the Word of God, we are not pleasing God. Second, you and I will never become a prayer warrior apart from the Word of God! Since few are in the Word of God, there are few prayer warriors. If each of us will let God deal with us and stay in the Word of God ourselves on a daily basis, it will manifest itself in strengthened praying. *“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you ... ask what ye will, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).*

## Essential

Christians cannot do what God requires when they do not know the Word of God. It is simple as that! Perhaps the single greatest threat to the Church in America today is the neglect of the Word of God. Other books have been written for our information; the Bible was written for our transformation. **Woodrow Wilson**, President of the United States, observed that *“A man has deprived himself of the best there is in all the world, who has deprived himself of this — a knowledge of the Bible.”* **R. A. Torrey**, great evangelist and president of Moody Bible Institute from 1889-1904, said, *“I learned years ago, to go to one place for the deepest lessons of life. That one place is the Bible.”* So it is!

## Warning

What happens when believers do not have the proper attitude toward the Word of God? The book of **Hebrews** provides the answer. This book was written to believers who were in danger of lapsing back into a carnal state of spiritual immaturity because of their attitude toward God's Word. Five warnings are given based on one's attitude toward God's Word. The progression of spiritual deterioration is

**drifting** from the Word through neglect (**Hebrews 2:1-4**), **doubting** the Word through hardness of heart (**3:7-4:14**), **dullness** toward the Word through sluggishness (**5:11-6:20**), **despising** the Word through willfulness (**10:26-39**), and finally, **disobeying** the Word by refusing to hear (**12:14-29**). Be warned! Stay in the Word!

## An amazing couple



“Do you know **Don Miller**?” is a question frequently asked for a number of years. Now, Sue and I can answer, “Yes!” He and his wife, **Libby**, are our new friends. For the past forty years, Don has led hundreds of prayer conferences in forty-eight states. He and Libby have traveled over two million miles sharing this ministry and are still going strong at the ages of eighty-six and eighty-seven respectively.

Our ministries parallel, without question. Many of the same passages that I use, Don uses. From the time he begins to teach, his words are saturated with the Word of God. He has identified 750 passages of Scripture that relate to prayer, evangelism, and church growth. His conferences are usually four days and last nine hours. “When people see these verses laid out, their eyes are opened,” he said. “It transforms their lives. The Scriptures teach that prayer is not talking about God, but talking with him.”

Don's style of teaching is very effective. I gained many new insights sitting under his ministry. I thank God for Don and Libby Miller who live in Fort Worth, Texas. If you want a blessing beyond expression, invite the Millers for a prayer conference in your church.

## **Satan and the Word**

Since Satan does not want a believer in the Word and in prayer, he will do everything he can do to discourage a believer from reading the Bible and praying. It is important, by the way, to remember that the devil has no place to stand unless we give him a place!

JGHM has given away hundreds and hundreds of George Mueller's *Soul Nourishment First*. In the pamphlet, Mueller, who took care of orphan children in Bristol, England in the first half of the 1800's, wrote: "It has pleased the Lord to teach me a truth . . . that the first and primary business to which I ought to attend every day is . . . how I might get my soul into a happy state . . . by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experiential communion with the Lord . . . that I might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reprov'd, instructed . . . and my soul led to confession or to intercession or to supplication. I speak to my Father and to my Friend about things that He has brought before me in His precious Word." The best praying is that which comes out of the Word of God.

A major emphasis of the prayer seminar is coupling the Word of God and prayer. For years, I have used the *Reflector* to call attention to our readers the importance of daily Bible reading and have provided practical suggestions to guide you. Many carry a copy of the Bible to Sunday school and church weekly who do not consult it for guidance in living. One reason is that Satan does not want us to see life from God's point of view. Certainly, he does not want us to know the provisions God has made to help us be victorious and walk in the Spirit. He does not want us to use the Word of God in our battle against his wiles and devices as the Lord Jesus Christ did during the temptation period in the wilderness. Since the devil's misuse of Scripture is a major ploy to defeat us when we do not know the Word of God well, it is to his advantage in spiritual warfare to keep believer's ignorant.

What are some of the techniques Satan is using to achieve his goals? One is to let books replace the Bible. Many revere the Bible more than they read it. We somehow have concluded that it is more expedient to digest the thoughts of others about Scriptures than to digest the Scriptures themselves. Such practice is a mistake! Instead of taking time in His Word, many contemporary Christians have developed the habit of following daily devotional guides that require only a few minutes in "spiritual exercise." The daily devotion usually consists of one verse and some thoughts. Sometimes there is a poem and a prayer which can be read in a moment.

I used to think that this kind of devotional life was better than none at all, but I've changed my mind. Our spiritual needs are too great and the task is too large to settle for anything less than a solid time in the Word. For the past few years, JGHM has been blessed by letters from many believers in developing nations asking for books and study materials. Some include a long book list. In my reply, I point out that it is vital to spend time daily in the Bible itself — not in books about the Bible. I always remind them to "stay in the Word until you know God has spoken to you from the Scriptures. You will then be in a position to have a meaningful prayer time — built on an attitude of dependence and faith which comes from the reading of His Word." I firmly believe this is the way to go.

Anything that is a substitute for God's Word, including the *Prayer Seminar Workbook*, is bound to result in retarded spiritual growth. I'm not suggesting that devotional guides and books about the Bible are wrong. I have some guides and books that have been tremendously helpful and encouraging to me and often spend time with them to great profit. But these must be supplements to God's Word, not substitutes for God's Word. There are times when picking up a devotional guide or Bible study book is appropriate, but it should always be after you have spent time in the Word and prayer.

## **Retarded Christian growth**

Neglect of the Bible is a main cause for retarded spiritual growth. In fact, many believers have grown little since becoming Christians. When the Word is left out of our lives we tend to yield to temptations, fail to witness, and do not live holy.

There is no short-cut to spirituality. **Getting the Word of God and prayer into our lives requires time and effort.** Make up your mind to read the Bible. Many Christians who love the Lord are up and down in their Christian experience because they have no definite time with God. Beware of the barrenness of an overactive life. Nothing should interfere with your time with God — in His Word and in prayer — because nothing is more important.

Searching the Scriptures daily, as did the Bereans (**Acts 17:11**), requires time and work for great truths are not gathered by a careless, hurried reader. A gold miner searches for gold and digs deep. The psalmist said, *“I love Thy commandments above gold”* (**Psalms 119:127**). We must search like a hungry man does for food. Jeremiah said, *“Thy Words were found, and I did eat them”* (**Jeremiah 15:16**). Job said, *“I have esteemed the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food”* (**Job 23:12**). Think of that!

**Martin Luther** studied the Bible as one would gather apples: *“First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I climb the tree and shake each limb, and then each branch and twig, and then I look under each leaf.”*

In reading a novel or biography, we begin at the beginning. To start a book in the middle results in confusion. The same holds true for the Bible. Begin at the beginning where God began, **Genesis 1:1** and go through to **Revelation 22:21**. Too often we become so attached to certain favorite portions that we neglect the remainder of the Bible. Remember that if you read three chapters a day and five

on Sunday, you can go through the Bible in a year.

All of us in reading some book have wished the author were present to answer and explain something, but that is seldom possible. But we can speak directly to the Author of the Bible. The same Holy Spirit, who led these men to write, longs to lead us to understand. Always begin Bible reading with prayer for divine guidance. If you don't understand something, remember *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God”* (**James 1:5**). God enjoys giving us wisdom and understanding, especially with regard to His Word.

**John Newton**, saved slave trader who wrote *Amazing Grace* said: “By one hour's intimate access to the throne of grace, where the Lord causes His glory to pass before the soul that seeks Him, you may acquire more true spiritual knowledge and comfort than by a day's or a week's converse with the best of men, or the most studious perusal of many folios.” Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Teacher, we read the Scriptures in vain.

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## **Doers of the Word, NOT HEARERS ONLY**

Read with the intention of obeying the Word. An unbeliever chided a woman of deep faith concerning her implicit obedience to the Word of God. *“I suppose if you thought the Lord was telling you to jump through a stone wall, you would jump.”* Her reply was simply, *“If the Lord told me to jump through a stone wall, it would be my business to jump, and it would be His business to make the hole.”* “But be you doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (**James 1:22**). Remember, the bottom line of Christianity is OBEDIENCE.

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**Pray for Doorkeepers Ken & Betsy Miedema, Grand Rapids MI. Ken wrote: “I also covet and ask for your prayers as I deal with Parkinson's disease. The symptoms are increasing almost daily.”**

**PRAYERCALENDAR****AUGUST 2008**

"I will give myself to prayer..."

**Psalms 109:4b****FRIDAY, AUGUST 1****JEREMIAH 1-6 (Vatican City 821)**

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)  
Burnace Abrams (OH)  
Marie Adams (VA)  
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)  
Rosalee Adams (VA)

Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)  
Norma Ailes (FL)

Clyde & Kathryn Allen (VA)  
Lon & Denise Anderkin (FL)  
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2****JEREMIAH 7-10 (Honduras 7.5M)**

Milcie Arnold (VA)  
Solomon & Kriskna Arrington (MD)  
Leonor Avila (MD)  
Carolyn Barkley (NY)  
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)  
John & Joan Bateman (PA)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**

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 (NC)  
Stephen & Joyce Bishop (VA)  
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)  
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4****PROV 11-15 (Hong Kong 7M)**

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)  
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)  
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)  
Shirley Brown (VA)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5****JEREMIAH 16-20 (Hungary 10M)**

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)  
Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)  
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)  
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)  
Janice Bugg (TN)  
Ruby Burger (TN)  
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)  
Neal & Mary Ann Cabannis (VA)  
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)  
Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)  
Ron & Julia Carlin (AL)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6****JER 21-25 (Iceland 301,931)**

David & Martha Cecil (VA)  
Merry J Chandler (MD)  
Mary Clarke (VA)  
Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)  
Margarie Coffee (VA)  
Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)  
Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)  
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)  
Joel & Paula Criz (HI)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7****JEREMIAH 26-29 (India 1.1B)**

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)  
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)  
Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)  
Ida J. Davis (GA)

John & Margaret Davis (VA)  
Lelia Dean (FL)

Robert & Virginia DeBoer (NE)  
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)  
Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 8****JEREMIAH 30-33 (234.7M)**

Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)  
Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor  
Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)  
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)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9****JEREMIAH 34-36 (Indonesia 65.4M)**

June 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)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**

Frances Glass (AL)  
Gloucester Co. Community Church

Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)  
Ronald & Maryann Gold (CO)

Odether Gray (GA)  
Linda Gregory (NJ)  
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)  
Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11****JEREMIAH 37-39 (Iran 65.4M)**

Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)  
Doug Henry (TN)  
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)  
Jacqueline Henry (VA)  
Mark Henry (TN)  
Melody Henry (VA)

Roger Henry (OH)  
Sean Henry (KS)

Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)  
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)

Joanna Holland (VA)  
John & Glenda Holland (VA)

Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12****JEREMIAH 40-43 (Iraq 27.5M)**

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)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13****JEREMIAH 44-48 (Ireland 4.1M)**

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)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14****LAM 1-5 (Isle of Man 75,831)**

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)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15****EZEKIEL 1-6 (Israel 6.4M)**

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  
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)  
 David & Cathy Laing (FL)  
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)  
 Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**  
**EZEKIEL 7-11 (Italy 58.1M)**  
 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)  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**  
 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)  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 18**  
**EZEKIEL 12-15 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)  
 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)  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19**  
**EZEKIEL 16-19 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)  
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)  
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)  
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)  
 Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20**  
**EZEKIEL 20-24 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)  
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)  
 Katherine Morgan (VA)  
 New Harvest Christian Min (MD)  
 Marcus Johnson, Pastor  
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)  
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**  
**EZEKIEL 25-28 (Brazil 190M)**  
 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)  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22**  
**EZEKIEL 29-32 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)  
 Cynthia Roach (VA)  
 Windi & Caleb Roach (OK)  
 John & Sandra Roberts (FL)  
 Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)  
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)  
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23**  
**EZEKIEL 33-36 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)  
 Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)  
 David & Amy Ross (KY)  
 Sandra Rumore (VA)  
 Curtis & Trudy Russell (VA)  
 John Saint (PA)  
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (MD)  
 David & Betty Schaum (NY)  
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)  
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)  
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**  
 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)  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 25**  
**EZEKIEL 37-39 (Brazil 190M)**  
 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)  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26**  
**EZEKIEL 40-43 (Brazil 190M)**  
 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)  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27**  
**EZEKIEL 44-48 (Brazil 190M)**

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)  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 28**  
**DANIEL 1-6 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Malcom Troutman (KY)  
 Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)  
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)  
 Sara Underwood (TN)  
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)  
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)  
 George & Jeanette Vernachik (NY)  
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29**  
**DANIEL 7-9 (Brazil 190M)**  
 Tommy Waddell (TN)  
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)  
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)  
 Beau Ware (VA)  
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)  
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)  
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)  
 Gale & Nancy Wetzell (KY)  
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30**  
**DANIEL 10-12 (Brazil 190M)**  
 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 (S Africa)  
 Adam/Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)  
 Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)  
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**  
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)  
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)  
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)  
 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 Yoehe (PA)



## Plan and perform

Plan to study the Scriptures daily — by reading three chapters daily and five on Sunday, a person can easily go through the Bible in one year. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you a personal message for the day. Read with a pen or pencil in hand to enable you to make notes, mark a word, a phrase, or a passage which has spoken to you. Determine to apply what you learn. Solutions to life's problems are found in Scripture.

You can be sure God is going to speak to you as you read. A prayer I have learned to pray prior to beginning to read is “*Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law*” (**Psalm 119:18**). As I read **Numbers 1-4**, I wrote these thoughts. “When the Tabernacle was set up in the wilderness, God directed that it be located in the exact center of the tribes and that the tribes ‘*shall encamp round about the tabernacle*’” (**Numbers 1:50**). --a vivid reminder that the Lord Jesus Christ must be the center of every believer's life. Our lives need to reflect God in the center!”

God has a plan, a purpose, a mission, a work for each of His children. This spiritual principle is illustrated by the three sons of Levi — Gershon, Kohath, and Merari (**Numbers 4:19**). This Scripture reminded me that every believer receives some spiritual gift when he is saved, a God-given ability for service and ministry for the purpose of building up the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:7,11**). Each one is do what He has gifted us to do.

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 on a given 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 opening the Word.

## No Morbid Introspection

No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word and there is no substitute for a diet of the milk and meat of the Scripture. Are you encouraged to put the Word of God in the right place in their lives? It is important not to spend time in morbid introspection if you have not in the past. There is no way that we can undo yesterday and we need not dwell there.

Think about the immediate steps you need to make to implement a daily time in the Word or to strengthen your Bible reading? Dedicate a specific time for an appointment with God in the Word; keep the appointment. Decide the approach you need to follow. If you have yet to read the Bible, my suggestion is to begin now and read systematically. If you have read through the Bible several times, you might want to follow one of the approaches in this study.

Since the mind is not born again, it is important to renew your mind (**Romans 12:2**) by putting the Word of God in faithfully and consistently. The Holy Spirit will bring the Word alive to enable you to see life from God's point of view in all circumstances and situations.

Don't forget, when you set out to read the Bible, always be sure you are really reading it. Get your brain in gear. Alert your eyes to see (**reading**). Stir up your mind to consider (**reflection**). Write down your observations (**recording**). Practice what you read (**response**).

## Itinerary

*Brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course."*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

### August

- 2 Board of Directors (TN)  
8-10 Beacon University-IOM  
Salisbury NC  
20-31 Prayer Seminars--Brazil

### September

- 1-4 Prayer Seminars--Brazil  
18-20 Beacon University--IOM  
Brunswick, GA  
28 Prayer Seminar  
Brown's United Methodist Church  
McAllister PA

Coordinator: Barbara Inch (717) 363-6734

## Application

It is important to remember that we must translate into action what God has given to us in the Word. To that end, Paul reminded the Colossian Christians to "*Let the Word of God dwell in you richly with all wisdom*" (**Colossians 3:16**). Bible knowledge itself is not spiritual nutrition. Knowledge is the beginning point, but it is necessary to go beyond learning facts. It is important to meet God daily. The primary approach is to see Him in the Word.

I often ask myself to state to myself what I have learned in my daily reading (which for me is systematically going through the Bible chapter by chapter and taking a page of notes from my reading each day). It is helpful to take a devotional approach to Bible study and focus on spiritual essentials, rather than trying to figure everything out. There may be things that you wish to explore more deeply at a later time, but not during the daily time set aside to hear from Him for the day. Someone said that it is not how many times a person has been through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has been through the person. **Will Rogers** said that it was not the parts of the Bible that he did not understand that bothered him; rather, it was the part that He did understand. Well spoken!

## NOTES from my BIBLE

*Note 1161.* He who does not forgive others destroys the bridge over which he himself must cross.

*Note 1162.* The best way to keep happiness is to share it with others.

*Note 1163.* The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.

*Note 1164.* Nothing is opened by mistake than the mouth.

*Note 1165.* Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

**BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.**

## DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

June 22--July 21, 2008

Regular	36	\$2,548.00
Brazil	52	4,160.00
Total	85	\$6,708.00



**What time is it? Time to do well, time to live better, Give up that grudge, Answer that letter, Speak the kind word to sweeten the sorrow, Do the kind deed you would leave 'til tomorrow.**

**Welcome, New Doorkeepers!**  
Charles & Andrea Black (VA)  
Dan & Fay McConville (VA)  
Curtis & Trudy Russell (VA)

**"Laborers together with God"**  
1 Corinthians 3:9

## **A Christian's Necessary Food**

Early in the prayer seminar ministry, I was asked often whether I had written any books to expand on the topics covered in the prayer seminar. I had not, but I realized as the years passed that I had learned many things that would make each topic more meaningful. One of the first books that I wrote was **A Christian's Necessary Food**.

In preparation for preparing copy for this **Reflector**, I reviewed the content of the book and was somewhat surprised at the insights that the Lord had given me when I wrote it. The review was a very good experience; I found that on every page there was something helpful. Let me share examples from two pages:

### **God's plan for mankind**

God has revealed Himself and His program for mankind in His Book. He has done it in a manner that makes it possible for a believer to study and learn more and more of Him and what He is doing in the world. It is an inexhaustible well from which to drink cool water. "Second-hand" Bible truth does not satisfy like "first-hand" study does. Study not only to **know** the Word of God, but also to **love** the Word of God and the God of the Word. The Bible is written for the heart as well as for the mind and the will. This means we must allow it to speak personally as the Holy Spirit teaches us God's truths and insights for living (**John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15**). As we read, we should focus on spiritual essentials, not merely the historical or geographical.—**A Christian's Necessary Food**, (p 18)

### **Basic Suggestions**

**4. Pray the truth into your inner being.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you obey the Word and put into practice the truths that you have learned. Don't let any other book take the place of THE Book in molding and guiding your life. The result of properly assimilating true Bible knowledge will be a "burning heart" that wants to obey (**Luke 24:32**). Be doers of the Word and not hearers only (**James 1:22-25**).

The result of learning is application. Knowing what to do must be translated into doing what you know. It is no good to know more unless you first do more with what you already know.

The Bible was sent from God—the Old, as well as the New. The Bible is true. God has written only one Book. It is a book for everyone. The Bible was meant to be read. Build a program of personal Bible study. Tie it in with prayer. You will be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (**Ephesians 6:10**).—**A Christian's Necessary Food**, (p 22)

### **Book available**

Our policy has never been to sell materials or to make a charge for our ministry. Rather, we depend on contributions. The suggested contribution for **A Christian's Necessary Food** is \$8. Let us know if you would like a copy for your library. I believe you will be blessed and that you will want to share the book with others. Over the years, Sunday school classes or Bible study groups have chosen one of my books to study—usually over a three-month period. Each book lends itself to both individual and group study.

I am eager to share the prayer seminar as widely and as often as possible. On the same level, I would like to distribute the books to as many as possible because each one is based 100% on the Word of God. That fact makes the books worthwhile.

### **"With the Lord"**

**2 Corinthians 5:1, 8**

For the past twelve years, **Kenneth Banks**, an attorney in Fayetteville, North Carolina, has been one of our most faithful **Doorkeepers**. He shared many times how a 1996 prayer seminar had given him the direction he had longed to have in his Christian life. Ken is now at home in Heaven "with the Lord." We dedicate this issue of the **Reflector** to the memory of our dear friend and partner—**Kenneth Edward Banks** (1943—2008).

**PRAY FOR BRAZIL SEMINARS**  
**August 20--September 4**

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PRAY FOR A MIGHTY MOVING OF GOD  
DURING THE PRAYER SEMINARS  
IN BRAZIL AS HE DID IN 1997 & 1999.  
PRAY THAT GOD WILL GET GLORY!

## Daily renewal

Renewal spiritually is a daily thing. The renewal I experienced yesterday is not good enough for today. I need to be renewed again today. The renewal I experience today will not be good enough for tomorrow. I need to be renewed in my inner being every single day. By understanding this fact of life, you will be in a position to make the key decision that will put you into a position for daily renewal.

It is logical to ask the question, “How can I be renewed every day?” We are renewed through reading God’s Word and letting Him speak a personal word. It is at that point that we move into a position to talk with Him and accelerate the renewal through praying. We are renewed when we respond to His grace and mercy as we walk through a day. **Revive your mind through Bible reading. Revive your spirit through prayer.**

## God’s Truth

What is the Bible? It is God’s revelation of Himself and His will for man. In fact, it is the only Book He wrote. 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 is God’s Word, revealing 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. To hear God’s message, each of us needs to get into the Word for ourselves. There is no substitute.

**REMEMBER BRAZIL**  
**AUGUST 20--SEPTEMBER 4**  
**Belo Horizonte**  
**Montes Claros**