

REFLECTOR

VOL. 55, No. 12

“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

December 2009

SEASON’S GREETINGS

From our house to your house



Dr. Henry & Sue

Great-Granddaughters

Willow (4 months) & Maggie (3 years 8 months)

TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS!

**Tell me the story of Jesus, Write on my heart every word,
Tell me the story most precious, Sweetest that ever was heard,
Tell how the angels in chorus, Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good tidings to earth!”**

Fanny J. Crosby, 1880

Perspectives

“God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus”

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS is encapsulated in familiar words written by **Bill & Gloria Gaither** in *Because He Lives*: “God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus.” The Father has only one Son and He allowed Him to leave His home in Heaven and come to earth as the key element in His redemptive plan for mankind..

The story of Jesus never grows old and we who know it best cry out with **Fanny Crosby**: “Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word.” Once we know the story we need to ponder every aspect in our hearts as did **Mary**, the mother of Jesus, as she considered what she was experiencing with her firstborn Son (**Luke 2:19**).

John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (**John 1:14**). This is the **incarnation — God in human form**.

There are lessons to learn from the simple narratives recorded in the Gospels of the events surrounding the coming of the Messiah. But the lessons must not end with His birth and focus on the baby Jesus.

“He came to love, heal and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon.”

Lessons begin when the young woman, Mary, a virgin, conceived and then birthed a Son. Details are recorded in the written Word of God as the Holy Spirit continued His work inspiring the Gospel writers to write the inspiring words. Without this **revelation**, we would have no clue as to what happened and its meaning.

Consider the awe of **Mary** as she learned what was going to transpire as she would be a mother, and the months of waiting that

followed. With a submissive spirit, Mary said: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your word” (**Luke 1:38**). Even though she did not understand, her heart sang the beautiful Magnificat: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth, all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name” (**vv 46-49**).

Consider the thoughts of **Joseph**, a just man, who learned that the woman he had chosen to be his wife was with child. He was troubled and did not want to embarrass the one he had chosen to be his wife (**Matthew 1:19**).

Consider how God controlled the events of history to place this couple in **Bethlehem**, where it had been established that the Messiah would be born. A decree came from Caesar Augustus that everyone had to register in their original city to be taxed. Joseph came from the city of David, called **Bethlehem**, where it had been foretold some eight hundred years earlier would be the birthplace of the Messiah (**Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1**).

Consider the challenge of a long journey from **Nazareth** in Galilee to **Bethlehem** in Judea (**Luke 2:4-5**). Consider that there was **no room in the inn**. Consider the provision of a stable (possibly a hillside cave). “And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn” (v 7). Consider His birth and the reception that was given in the heavens, as angels celebrated, and on earth, as shepherds hastened to see the new baby. Feel their hearts beat with joy and listen to their voices “glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them” (**vv 8-20**).

There is the story of the Star in the East that led the wise men from their homes in the East to visit the young child. When they arrived, they “fell down and worshiped Him”

and brought Him gifts worthy of a king (**Matthew 2:11**).

Tell me the story of Jesus — every word. But there is more than a birth account. He lived on earth for thirty-three years. In the early years, He grew in favor with God and man spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially (**Luke 2:52**). For three years, He had a ministry. During the first thirty years, known as the “silent years,” we ponder the account of His visit to the temple in Jerusalem when he was twelve astonishing the leaders with His words. He returned home “subject to his parents” (v 51).

When He was thirty, Jesus began His ministry appearing at the River Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist.

“He came to love, heal and forgive”

Jesus’ words and His works are thrilling to behold as He touched lives calling disciples, teaching them, and preparing them to carry on His work after He returned to His Father in Heaven. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him with anointing to preach good tidings to the poor. He healed the brokenhearted and proclaimed liberty to the captives. He opened the prison of those who were bound and proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord just as the prophet predicted in **Isaiah 61:1-2**. He was the Lord, the Messiah, the Anointed One. He went about teaching in the synagogues, preaching good news, and healing those who came. His words were spoken with authority. Those who heard His gracious words reported that “no man speaks as this Man” (**John 7:46**). From Heaven, the Father observed the obedience of His Son in all things and spoke “This is My Son and I am pleased with Him” **Matthew 3:17**).

“TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS, WRITE ON MY HEART EVERY WORD. Fasting alone in the desert, Tell of the days that are past, How for our sins He was tempted, Yet was triumphant at last. Tell of the years of His labor, Tell of the sorrow He bore, He was despised and afflicted,

Homeless, rejected, and poor.”

“He lived and died to buy my pardon”

Watching the opposition begin and build to the point until some wanted to kill Him causes us sadness. John, under the **inspiration** of the Holy Spirit, wrote “He came to His own and His own received Him not” (**John 1:12**). We see Him going to the cross. “Up Calvary’s mountain, one dreadful morn, Walked Christ my Savior, weary and worn; Facing for sinners death on the cross, That He might save them from endless loss” (**Avis Christiansen-1922**) We join those who loved Him standing at the foot of the cross and weep with broken hearts. We hear Him say, “Father, forgive them!” (**Luke 23:34**)... “Even while His life-blood flowed fast away; Praying for sinners while in such woe No one but Jesus ever loved so.” He died holding in His body nail-pierced hands and feet. Loving hands prepared His body and laid it in a borrowed tomb. “For [the Father] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). A young lad exegeted this verse simply: “He traded places with us.” So He did **“TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS, WRITE ON MY HEART EVERY WORD.** Tell of the cross where they nailed Him, Writhing in anguish and pain; Tell of the grave where they laid Him, Tell how He liveth again.”

“An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives”

Wonder of wonders! My Savior lives. On the third day, the tomb in which Jesus’ body was laid was empty. He lives! “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.” Not only do we celebrate His birth, we celebrate His life, His death, His burial, and His resurrection knowing because He lives, we will live also. All fear is

gone. **TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS, WRITE ON MY HEART EVERY WORD.**

Love in that story so tender, Clearer than ever I see; Stay, let me weep while you whisper, Love paid the ransom for me.”

MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS

No room for Jesus? No room for the King of kings? That was the reality on that long-ago night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.. There was no room for Jesus in the world that He had made imagine! But what about today? Have you any room for Jesus? This is the issue.

Things have not really changed. Jesus came to manifest the Father. He wanted the world to know about God. But God is still on the fringes most of the days of our lives. We fit Him in when it is convenient for us, but we become irritated when He makes demands of us. Our lives are so full. Even during the time when we celebrate His coming into the world, we are in danger of excluding Him from our hearts and lives. Think this through in your life and say with gusto and meaning: “Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus; **there is room in my heart for You.**” This will make Christmas more meaningful and will prepare you for a new beginning making room for Jesus.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

Words of wisdom

“He is the richest man in the esteem of the world who has gotten most. He is the richest man in the esteem of heaven who has given most.”

F. B. Meyer

Eternity

A man may go to Heaven

- without health
- without wealth
- without fame
- without a great nature
- without learning
- without big earning
- without culture
- without beauty
- without friends
- without ten thousand other things,

BUT he never can go to Heaven without Christ. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**). “And [Mary] will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins” (**Matthew 1:21**). **Jesus** said it succinctly and concisely: “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by Me” (**John 14:6**).

Inside

Someone wrote about the time a small boy asked the question, “Why is it that when I open a marigold, it dies, but if God does it, it’s beautiful?” He said that while the fumbling fingers of his mind were still searching for an answer. The youngster replied to his own question: “I know! It’s because God always works from the inside.” Tall wisdom from a small boy!

King David, a man after God’s own heart—the sweet singer of Israel, let sin come into his life and lost the joy of God’s salvation. He knew he would never “teach transgressors God’s ways” until he had the joy back (**Psalms 51:12-13**) He prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart, Try me and know my thoughts, And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (**Psalms 139:23-24**). This is the starting point for a new beginning. Let him work inside!

A Christmas Prayer

Oh God our Father, we are so busy this Christmas that unless we are careful we will overlook Thy Gift. We are so rich that, unless we give heed, we will disdain Thy Gift. We are so self-centered that unless we dethrone self, we will belittle Thy Gift.

Thou didst, in the long ago, hide Thy Gift in Bethlehem. Only those who were humble, sought; only those who were seeking, found; only those who were unhurried, saw.

Grant that we may rediscover Thy Gift this Christmas. That is, may we find Him, and He be found in us. May we praise Him,, and His loveliness be mirrored in us. May we serve Him and reveal His compassion.

And if in Thy mercy Thou dost choose to grant our wish, every day shall be Christmas, every star an ornament, and every breath a paean of praise of Thee. [In Jesus' name.] Amen.

-Robert J. Hastings



YEAR END GIFTS

As you plan your own December giving

What are you giving Jesus for His birthday this year? What is under the tree for Him? Is Jesus first on your shopping list?

There are many ways to remind us that the very best and most expensive gift that we give should be to honor the Lord Jesus Christ since Christmas is essentially based on giving. God GAVE His only Son to pay for our sins. Every gift we buy can be a reminder of His Gift if we are thoughtful.

In addition, December is a time to catch up on making gifts you planned to make earlier in the year. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions such as home mortgage interest and medical expenses, may deduct charitable gifts. A larger-than-usual gift may boost your deductions above the standard deduction, allowing you to enjoy more tax savings. Gifts postmarked by December 31 are deductible this year.

It very well may be that as you pray about your December giving that you will want to make your gift in honor of the Lord Jesus Christ through the prayer seminar ministry. If so, we will be grateful. Again, thanks for **your partnership in making the prayer seminar ministry possible**. Your giving to support world missions through the prayer seminar is an investment in eternity.

We read of preaching the Word out of season, but we do not read of praying out of season, for that is never out of season.

--Matthew Henry

Itinerary

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

2 Thessalonians 3:1

December

3-22 Nigeria Prayer Seminars

January

14 Area-wide--Melbourne
Prayer Seminar
Prince of Peach Anglican Church
Melbourne FL

26-28 Prayer Seminar
Northside Baptist Church
Greensboro NC

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Be ready for 2010



In a few days, we will say GOODBYE to 2009 and HELLO to 2010. Will you be ready for spiritual growth? In many ways, that will be up to you. Unless you plan to grow and then take the steps to implement your plan, growth will not happen. One of the most important decisions in my lifetime (in 1976) was to get into the Word of God for my food, not just to find a message to preach.

What a privilege for us to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God. The relationship, however, must be on His terms and not ours. Some profess this relationship but know little of what Christ taught, less of what He promised, and less of what He requires.

The Bible is the place where we get information on what to do after we begin the Christian life. If you have not been studying the Bible, may I make a suggestion? In the **Reflector's Prayer Calendar**, I include a through-the-Bible reading plan. Join me on January 1 and read the Bible through in 2010. If you stick with it, you will be both enriched and challenged by its message. You will be motivated to be a more mature, spiritual Christian. Remember the Bible is the window through which we see eternity and what is ahead.

Approach your Bible reading with reverent anticipation that God will speak as you read. Ask the Holy Spirit, the One who inspired the writing of the Word, to **illuminate** your mind as you read. It is then you will understand and begin to see things from God's point of view. Act on the Word once you understand it. Then, you will be equipped for the tasks God gives you in your daily circumstances.

A key passage is **1 Timothy 3:15-17**. Note the "how" of the equipping in **Verse 15**: through **teaching** (tells you what to do); **reproof** (tells you what not to do) and through **correction** (tells you what to do when you have done what you were told not to do). Note that this covers about everything! **So, plan to join us in a journey of spiritual growth in 2010.**



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1141.
Because God is the living God,

He can hear; because He is a loving God, He will hear; because He is our covenant God, He has bound Himself to hear. --**Charles Spurgeon**

Note 1142. Prayers not felt by us are seldom heard by God. --**Philip Henry**

Note 1143. He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and a happy life.

Note 1144. The devil enjoys hearing a prayer that is addressed to an audience.

Note 1145. Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the kingdom. --**Charles Spurgeon**

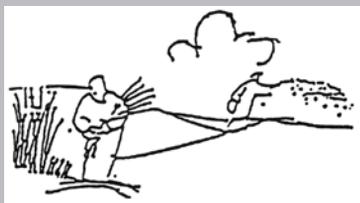
DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

October 16--November 18

| | | |
|--------------|----|-----------------|
| Regular | 47 | \$2,710.52 |
| Martin's van | 1 | 100.00 |
| Nigeria | 45 | <u>8,120.00</u> |
| Total | 93 | \$10,930.52 |



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Welcome! New Doorkeepers!

Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)

Robert & Rose Klaus (VA)

Alice Riddick (NC)

Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)

PRAYER CALENDAR**DECEMBER 2009**

“I will give myself to prayer...”

Psalm 109:4b**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1****1 Thess 1-6 (Nigeria 146.3M)**

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)
 Burnace Abrams (OH)
 Marie Adams (VA)
 Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
 Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)
 Norma Ailes (NJ)
 Clyde & Kathryn Allen (VA)
 H. L. & Janie Allen (SC)
 Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
 Milcie Arnold (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2**2 Thess 1-3 (Nigeria 146.3M)**

Leonor Avila (MD)
 Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
 Carolyn Barkley (NY)
 Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)
 Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)
 Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
 Jean Beasley (TN)
 Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
 Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
 Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
 Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**1 Tim 1-3 (Nigeria 146.3M)**

Charles & Andrea Black (VA)
 Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
 Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)
 Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
 William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
 Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
 Emilee/Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
 Nancy Bretz (PA)
 Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4**1 Tim 4-6 (Nigeria 146.3M)**

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
 Mary Ann Brown (GA)
 Shirley Brown (VA)
 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)
 Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
 Mary Campbell (ID)
 Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
2 Tim 1-3 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Joreatha Capers (FL)
 David & Martha Cecil (VA)
 Mary Clarke (VA)
 Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
 Margarie Coffee (VA)
 Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
 Joe & Carol Coulter (VA)
 Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
 Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
 Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
 Dufrene Cummings (NC)
 Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
 Lin & Barbara Custalov (VA)
 Ida J. Davis (GA)
 John & Margaret Davis (VA)
 Mark & Charmaine Davis (VA)
 Lelia Dean (FL)
 Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
 Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)
 Delmarva Evangelistic Ch (MD)
 Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
 Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
 Mary J. Dugans (LA)
 Walt Edwards (NC)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
Titus 1-3 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
 Grace Eldridge (NJ)
 Lynn Elkins (TN)
 Evalena Enoch (VA)
 Lynne Farrow (NJ)
 Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
 June Fisher (TN)
 Makeva Flowers (VA)
 Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
 Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
 Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
Philemon (Nigeria 138.3M)
 Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
 Frank Geiger (HI)
 Robert & Sara George (GA)
 Frances Glass (AL)
 Gloucester Co. Community Church
 Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
 Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
 Odether Gray (GA)
 Linda Gregory (UT)

Charles M. Hale (VA)
 Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
Heb 1-2 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)
 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)
 Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
Heb 3-4 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
 Joanna Holland (VA)
 John & Glenda Holland (VA)
 Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)
 Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
 Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
 Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
 Bonnie Houston (TN)
 Coy Hunsucker (NC)
 Joyce Hunt (TN)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
Heb 5-7 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
 Ed Hurlow (IN)
 Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
 Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
 Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
 Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
 Peter & Millicent John (NY)
 Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
 Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)
 Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
Heb 8-10 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
 WI & Eloise Jones (SC)
 Jean Jonte (SC)
 Mohan Katta (IL)
 Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
 Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Joyce Kelley (OR)
 Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Robert & Rose Klaus (VA)
 Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Sherry Klutz (WA)
 Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
 Thomas Knight, Jr (SC)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Korean Branch:
 Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)

David & Cathy Laing (FL)
 Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
Heb 11-13 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Brian & Stacey Loomis (VA)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
James 1-5 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Bill & Mirle Matheny (VA)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (WV)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
1 Peter 1-5 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Mona Merry (SC)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Brenda K. Merritt (SC)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
2 Peter 1-3 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)
 Ann Palumbo (NJ)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)
 Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
1 John 1-5 (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble
 (VA)
 Paul & Donna Quetsch (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 Alice Riddick (NC)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)

Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
2 John (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Mary Siegner (VA)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)
 Lori Siri, Pastor
 Mary Skiles (KS)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
3 John (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
 Marion J. Stansell (TX)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22
Jude (Nigeria 146.3M)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Clarence/Roselin Stringfield (VA)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23
Revelation 1-2 (Qatar 824,789)
 Taylor's Chapel Baptist Ch (TN)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Temple of Praise (TX)
 Gilbert Perez, Pastor
 Earlene Thigpen (TN)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
Rev 4-6 (Romania 22.2M)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 David & Montez Thompson (CO)
 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)

Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
Rev 7-9 (Russia 140.7M)
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell Jr, Chancellor
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Verrall (FL)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
Rev 10-13 (Rwanda 10.2M)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
Rev 14-16 (Rwanda 10.2M)
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
 Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
 Stephen Latong (Nigeria)
 John/Egberta McSween (Trinidad)
 Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
Rev 17-19 (St Helena 7,601)
 Adam/Dianna Nathanson (Venezu)
 Andrew J.Sakari (Kenya)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
Rev 20 (St. Kitts/Nevis 39,619)
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Dot Winfield (MD)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
Rev 21-22 (USA 303.8M)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacker, Pastor
 Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Robin & Deborah Yoheo (PA)

Cultivative evangelism

If a farmer expects good results from scattering his seed, he will be careful to prepare the soil. He will do everything he possibly can to make the soil receptive to the good seed he will plant. If we expect good results from our witnessing, then we need to prepare the soil to help make it receptive to God's Word. How? Paul tells us a practical way to open them to the Gospel: "So, then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men" (**Galatians 6:10**). Definite expressions of love actions, not just words will open the way for the Gospel. It's not enough just to talk and expect to be heard. We must earn the right to be heard.

There is no better time than the Christmas season to plan expressions of love using as many means as possible. As you plan your contact, it is important to pray for the person. If you have not assimilated **1 John 5:14-15** in your mind and spirit, this would be a good time to do so. Particularly, list the key words. "Pray," "will of God," "confidence," "God hears you," and "will do what you ask." The passage is as follows: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we ask of Him." What a wonderful promise to claim. Once you believe God's promise revealed in this passage, you are ready to begin praying for the unsaved person by name. There are five thoughts that will guide you as you pray for the lost individual you are seeking to reach. Pray for the person by name. Remember **intercession is praying that focuses the power of God on a person or a circumstance**.

1. **Will of God.** Without doubt, it is the will of God that the person be saved. One need only read **2 Peter 3:9** and **1 John 2:3-4** to

know that this is true. The blood of Jesus has been shed for each person.

2. **Ask God to bind Satan.** I firmly believe that there is one specific prayer that is needed. It is to ask God, in the name of Jesus, to bind Satan. You see the Word of God teaches that Satan has blinded the mind of the person who is lost (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). You might as well invite a glass of water to trust Christ as an unsaved person whose mind is blind. He does not understand your invitation to trust Christ.

3. **Pray** the person will come under **conviction** and develop an awareness that he needs to be saved. This, of course, will be the work of the Holy Spirit whose assignment is to "convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come" (**John 16:8-11**).

4. **Pray for a laborer** to share the simple Gospel that includes a decision to trust Christ as Savior. Jesus knew that it is important to His program to have individuals who work in His vineyard and instructed His disciples to pray for laborers (**Matthew 9:35-38, Luke 10:2, John 4:35**). The fields are white ready to harvest now, not four months from now. There are many believers who can explain the way to come to Christ. Pray that one who can do this will come along side. You might be that person. Remember that "faith" does not save a person; rather, it gets him/her to Christ. Basically the word means "trust" through an act of the will.

5. **Pray that the decision will be made now** because tomorrow might be too late (**2 Corinthians 6:2**).

Without doubt, the most valuable gift that any unsaved person could receive this Christmas is a Savior. That is exactly what God provided in giving His Son. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your selection of individuals who can be reached through personal, cultivative evangelism. Then prepare yourself to begin this outreach.

"It is through Christ's atoning death that the penalty of our sins may be forgiven; it is through the indwelling Spirit that the power of our sins may be broken." John J. W. Stott

An explanation

Sometimes someone asks me to explain my strong interest in prayer and other elements of the Spirit-filled life. In 1976, my work as pastor of **Pleasant View Baptist Church** and Vice President for Academic Affairs at **Liberty Baptist College** (Liberty University) kept me busy. Both the church and the college were doing well. Attendance at the church was increasing and souls were being saved. The church was growing and involved in a building program. As is true in any new college, there were myriad duties that demanded my time and attention developing programs, policies and procedure, hiring faculty, serving the students.

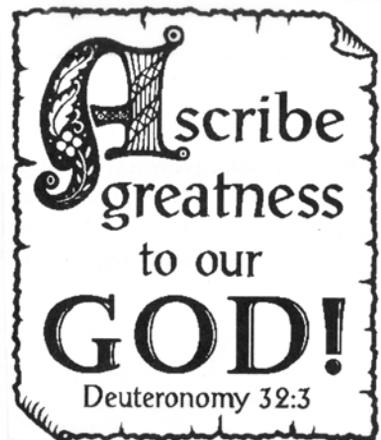
The time came for our daughter, **Mona**, who served as organist at Pleasant View, to go away to Converse College (SC). I asked **Richard and Ruth Elmer** to come help us. Richard, the Director of Library Services at Liberty, was an outstanding soloist and she was an accomplished organist. As they settled into their ministry at PVBC, they discerned that my understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work was minimal. Instead of talking with me about this, they made it a matter of prayer. Soon I became conscious of the Holy Spirit and began to prepare messages related to the Holy Spirit. Since I preached from extensive notes and recorded the date for each message, I can trace my pilgrimage. Once I realized that "Spirit-filled" did not mean "more" of the Holy Spirit, but "controlled" by the Holy Spirit, my perspective changed. My desire was to allow Him to control my life in the sense of what I later understood as the 'deeper Christian life' movement.

About the same time, **Armin Gesswein's** booklet, **The Seven Wonders of Prayer**, crossed my desk. It was through his writings that I came to understand that prayer is not bringing God down to earth; rather, prayer is going into His presence in the Throne Room. I became consumed with the subject of prayer. I began to realize that few Christians

are prayed for regularly once they become saved and that prayer is the work that must come before all other work in the Church. This led to a 24/7 prayer ministry with someone praying in the Prayer Chapel every hour around the clock. To prepare the prayer warriors, I wrote lessons week by week and taught them on Sunday nights.

My interest continued when I became president of **Northeastern Bible College**, across the river from New York City. The first "prayer seminar" was conducted at Madison Baptist Church, Madison, New Jersey, in September 1980. The subject of prayer consumed me to the point that I perceived the greatest contribution that I could make to the cause of Christ was to teach people the purpose and power of prayer. During the week days, I was at my desk at Northeastern, but most weekends I was somewhere conducting a prayer seminar. When I accepted the position of Executive Director for the **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools** (TRACS), it was with the understanding that the prayer seminar ministry would be my priority. It is my judgment that the successes that came for TRACS and the mountain of work that was done to gain recognition from the U. S. Department of Education were special blessings based on keeping the prayer ministry strong and central.

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I remember it as though it were yesterday the closing of the prayer seminar at **Owerri Baptist College in Nigeria** (Seminar #225, January 28-30, 1987). The unction of the Holy Spirit was all around. Spiritual decisions were being made. The students fell on their knees and talked to God about what He wanted in their lives. The image of students on their knees touched my heart beyond words. It was this day that I realized how special the prayer seminars were going to be in Nigeria. After twenty-three years, my impression has been confirmed.

Thank you for giving to the Lord to make the December 3-22 seminars possible. Every need has been met. **Sunday Bwanhot** and I travel to Nigeria on Thursday, December 3. There will be prayer seminars, a training session for prayer ministry associates who will teach seminars, and a nation-wide prayer meeting.

- Abuja (December 4-6)
- Kagoro (December 7-9)
- Kaduna (December 10-11)
- Lagos (December 12-13)
- Gombe (December 16-17)
- Jos (December 18-20)

Now we need your prayer covering. Pray for health and physical stamina to be equal to the task before us. Pray for receptive hearts. Pray that not one word will be wasted. Pray that God will get great glory out of each seminar, training session, and the nation-wide prayer meeting. Few nations experience the intensity of the spiritual warfare that has long characterized Nigeria. Pray for our protection as we work in the vineyard.

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The **Doorkeeper Program** was born in the early morning hours on July 17, 1980 as I read **1 Chronicles 9:22(LB)**: *“There were 212 Doorkeepers in those days ... chosen on the basis of their genealogies ... and appointed because of their reliability.”* **Doorkeepers, through their prayer and financial support, have enabled me to have this ministry.** To represent the **Doorkeeper Program**, we use a door design from Colonial America that is still commonly used today. The top panel uses the symbol of the Cross and the bottom panel is an open Bible. This door is a reminder of Christ, the Living Word, and the Bible, the written Word. Praying is build on Christ and His Word



A commitment

My commitment. In a few weeks, we will move into the thirtieth year of the prayer seminar ministry. One reality is that I am thirty years older than when the first seminar was conducted. As I look back, I ask, “Have I done my best? Have I been faithful?” My commitment to you who have made the prayer seminars possible through your financial and prayer support is simple. As long as God gives me health and opens the doors, I will share as often and as widely as possible.

PRAY FOR US



Maggie Pribble & Selena Cao enjoying the fall leaves

In your hands

When a boy or girl thrusts his/her small hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream, or grimy from petting a dog, and that may be a wart under the right thumb or a bandage around the little finger.

But the most important thing about his/her hands is that they are the hands of the future. These are hands that someday may hold a Bible or a Colt revolver; play the church piano or spin a gambling wheel; gently dress a leper's wound, or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by a drug-addicted mind.

Right now that hand is **yours**. It asks for help and guidance. It represents a full-fledged personality in miniature to be respected as a separate individual whose day to day growth into Christian adulthood is your responsibility.

Moody Monthly

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*May the spirit of
the
Season
be with you,
now and always.*



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A SPECIAL YEAR 2010

Marks the 30th Year for the prayer seminar ministry.

A time to ...

- Pause for celebration
- Look back with thanksgiving

A time to ...

- Reflect on the future
- Look forward with rededication