

REFLECTOR

VOL. 57, No. 2

“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

February 2011

Victorious Christian life THE SECRET

The real secret of an abundant, victorious fruitful Christian life is no secret at all! Just as one begins his physical life as a babe and then grows to maturity and usefulness through proper sustenance and training, so it is with his spiritual life. One must simply “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (**2 Peter 3:18**).

The sustenance for spiritual growth is the Word of God. There is absolutely no short-cut and no substitute for systematic, life-long study of the Holy Scriptures. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (**1 Peter 2:2**). Of course, one must not only study the Bible, but also believe and obey it, or else he will remain a spiritual babe. “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (**James 1:22**).

Through prayerful, obedient study of God’s Word, not only do we grow in the “knowledge” of Christ (and it is only there, of course, such knowledge is found), but the Holy Spirit also is able to fill our lives increasingly with His grace.

Henry M. Morris

Henry Madison Morris

October 6, 1918 — February 25, 2006

The Holy Spirit inspired **James** to speak of the impact of effectual, fervent praying answering the question “Does prayer really make a difference?” (**James 5:16-18**). Keep in mind as you review this passage that the best teaching/preaching is when the presenter uses the Word to explain the Word. **The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.**

One person who mastered this principle both in his writings and his speeches was the late **Dr. Henry Morris**. The fifth anniversary of his death is February 25. One need only read a few of his notes in **The New Defender’s Study Bible** to see this approach illustrated. His ability to write clearly and concisely comes through.

His use of Scripture to explain Scripture

is as good as any commentaries I have read. Copies of the **New Defender’s Study Bible** are available through **JGHM**. **Dr. Tim LaHaye** recommends his notes as invaluable for serious Bible study. My own biblical education has been enhanced by **Dr. Morris’** notes/insights.

Because of the impact two men made on my Christian life and ministry, I have promised to be sure that they are not forgotten. One is **Dr. Morris** and the other is **Dr. Armin Gesswein** who died March 10, 2001. May **Dr. Morris’** thoughts help you have a victorious Christian life. I will share articles by **Armin** in the March **Reflector** in his memory. We must not forget these fallen soldiers of the cross.

PERSPECTIVES

Did you ever wish that there were more than one of you? Often, as the years go by I find myself in that mode of thinking. I am not saying that in younger years that I did not have these thoughts. Being bi-vocational --combining a ministry and a job (educator)--required constantly throwing up many balls in the air at one time. Fortunately, there were colleagues that provided the extra hands when I needed them.

A serious question. When we relocated to **Tennessee** after our time in **New Jersey**, **Dr. Tom Madden**, the executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention invited me to be his luncheon guest at the **Tennessee Baptist Building** in **Brentwood**. His son, **Tommy**, was a member of **Madison Baptist Church, Madison, New Jersey**, where Sue and I were members during our **Northeastern Bible College** years. Since I often filled the pulpit, he reported to his dad that he was profiting from my messages. During the conversation, **Dr. Madden** and I discussed the doors being opened for the prayer seminar ministry in myriad denominations and independent groups of believers. He remarked: **“Don’t you get enough invitations from Southern Baptist churches to keep you busy?”** I understood the implications of his question and thought of my own close-minded outlook during the first two decades-plus of my ministry.

A serious answer. My answer was simple, but direct. **“Dr. Madden**, have you ever wished that there were more than one of you?” Looking back over my experiences, I then shared if there were more than one of me, one would be a social science teacher (American history, American government, and such). Another one would be the academic dean of a Christian college. Another would be pastor of a local church. Certainly, the “main work” would be conducting prayer seminars around the world. Just for fun, I expanded and said, **“AND ONE**

OF ME WOULD DO SEMINARS FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS.” He got the point and encouraged me to attend the next meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention when he would introduce me and the prayer seminar ministry to Tennessee Baptists.

The Body of Christ. The list of churches and particular persuasions that have hosted prayer seminars is long and varied. Seminars have been conducted with Baptists (various groups, including churches in the American Baptist Convention, Association of Conservative Baptists, General Baptists, Free Will Baptists, General Association of Regular Baptists, Southern Baptists, and independent Baptists), Christian and Missionary Alliance, Brethren, Free Brethren, Grace Brethren, Free Methodist, Southern Methodist, United Methodist, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Mennonite, Apostolic, Assembly of God, Church of God, Conservative Congregational, Christian, Pentecostal, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Pentecostal Free Will Baptists, Reformed, Christian Reformed, Quakers (Friends), Salvation Army, and independent Bible churches. In addition, there have been seminars in Bible colleges and liberal arts colleges/universities. Prayer seminars have been conducted for statewide men’s retreats, summer camp meetings and/or retreats for special groups, such as pastors. Seminars have been conducted on military bases around the world and in prisons.

A confession. Actually, for the first twenty-three years of my pastoral ministry, I felt like **Dr. Madden**. I simply would not fellowship with non-Southern Baptists because I thought we had the truth (both substance and methods). One day I came to realize that God did have other children — the other Baptists. Then the day came when I realized that God had children who were not even called Baptists. Since then, I have pointed out quite often that **folks need not look for a subdivision of heaven set aside for their group of believers**. There will be no such thing. There is only one body. To

be able to minister to that body via a para-church organization (**JGHM**) is indeed a blessing that I will forever cherish.

Prayer seminars' impact. Not only have individual congregations been touched through the prayer seminar ministry, several denominations have as well. One is the **Evangelical Free Church** and another is the **Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA)**. Following a seminar in his church, one of the Free church leaders, who served on a strategic planning board for his denomination, told me that he was going to recommend that they set aside one year as a year of prayer. If I understand correctly, this emphasis brought revival and renewal to this group. Over one thousand new churches were established the year following the prayer emphasis.

The **CMA** leaders asked me to come to **Colorado Springs** and put four hours of the seminar on video tape to be used during in-service for their pastors. The report was that many of the pastors and churches made prayer a major focus following the in-service across the nation bringing revival.

While I am a Baptist, my joy is to come along side all groups of believers and teach the importance and power of prayer. As long as I have breath, I hope to be conducting prayer seminars. Continue to pray for open doors and that revival will come across our land.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

Consider Jesus

The **Lord Jesus Christ** is the expression of God (**Hebrews 1:1-3**). Consider Him in His **purification**. The purpose for which the Father sent the Son into the world was the “purging” of our sins (**Hebrews 9:28, Titus 2:14**). This was accomplished by His death on the cross and bodily resurrection.

Seminar feedback

Dear Dr. Henry,

I can't begin to say how I thank God for what your ministry has done for me personally and for my church as a whole.

I now know where the battle is! Of all the information given in the seminar, that has had the greatest impact. Before I was a soldier all dressed and ready for battle without knowing where the battle was. Now by God's grace and in His strength, this “Christian soldier” is marching off to war!

Our church is in the process of setting up a program to pray for one another. We have placed circles on a poster and have asked five people to put their names in and pray for one another. Each person will pray regularly for each other person in his circle. We are excited and expectant to see what God will do.

God used the seminar to be a real blessing to our nine-year old son. Since that time he is spending much more time in the Word and works in his prayer seminar workbook.

“One as excited as I”

While there are many teaching the prayer seminar around the world, **Martin Shikuku** (Eldoret, Kenya) is *as excited as I* about teaching believers the purpose and power of prayer how to pray, how not to pray. His area is **East and Central Africa** (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and D. R. Congo). To carry out his mission, he needs “wheels,” which he had never had until relatively recently. Now you and I have provided him with a van. BUT, we need \$2,900 to finishing paying for it. We have tagged the enclosed envelopes for gifts to take care of this need. As the Lord leads, please give for His glory.



Learning from Paul

Paul's words to the **Thessalonians**, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**). He said, "We give thanks ... remembering ..."

Let me encourage you to **give thanks** and **remember** your blessings. Hasn't God been good to you? Hasn't He brought you through victoriously? **When life seems a little uncertain as you look to the future, try looking back giving thanks..** The old adage, "We know not what the future holds, but we know who holds the future," is still true, isn't it? He holds the future and He holds us. We can all recount times when He helped us and saw us through challenges and gave us reason to be thankful.

By the way, it is interesting what **Paul** remembered and what it was that made him thankful. He said, "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (**1 Thess 1:3**). What beautiful words. Work of faith (or faith that works), your labor of love (or labor motivated by love), and patience of hope. Paul remembered three words **faith**, **hope**, and **love** and we should, too. Someone has written "Faith softens and broadens the heart. Or, to put it another way, faith overcomes the world, love ministers to the world, and hope renounces the world. Faith deals with the past, love deals with the present, and hope deals with the future." Look at your "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope."

Later in the chapter, Paul says almost the very same thing except he uses a few different words. "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols [that's their work of faith] to serve the living and true God [that's their labor of love], and

to wait for His Son from heaven [that's their patience of hope], whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come" (**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**).

How wonderful to remember 2010 turning to God from idols. Note against that it was not turning from idols to God. When someone turns to God with real conversion, he will turn from idols. Regardless of when this happened to you, this past year or some other year, you should thank God. Remember what Paul said, "to serve the living and true God." What better goal could one have for 2011 than to serve the true, genuine God.

Verse 10 says, "And to wait for His Son from heaven ...". No doubt we spent some time in 2010 hoping that He would come. He could have because nothing more has to be fulfilled in order from Him to come. But, here we are entering a new year and He hasn't come yet. He may come before the day is over, or He may come in 2011. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Faith, hope and love were all characteristics of 2010, and I hope they will continue throughout 2011.

Forgiving others

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you" (**Ephesians 4:32**)

God's full and free forgiveness should control our behavior in our relationships with our fellowmen. Forgiving determines failure or success in prayer. God forgave us without any merit on our part; therefore, we must forgive others, whether or not we think they merit it or not. Forgiving others frees us.

—JGH's Personal Study Notes
December 11, 1982

*Here am I, Lord send me,
make my life useful for Thee.*

Itinerary

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

2 Thessalonians 3:1

February

- 10-12 Video Prayer Seminar
Christian Family Worship Center
Mansura LA
- 19 Board of Directors
Murfreesboro TN

March

- 6-9 Prayer Revival
Northeast U Methodist Church
Columbia SC
- 26 Prayer Seminar
Faith Community Church
Davis IL
- 27 Evangelism Clinic/Preaching
Faith Community Church
Davis IL

April

- 7-9 Video Prayer Seminar
Family Worship Center
East Point GA
- 6-20 Prayer Seminars
Eastern Venezuela
- ✓ Ciudad Bolivar (150)
- ✓ Anaco (150)
- ✓ Puerto Piritu (200)
- ✓ Barcelona (200)
- ✓ Caripe-Congress of Prayer (300)

**TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE PRAYER
SEMINAR MINISTRY.**

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Praise Him

Praise Him when the sun is shining,
When the winds of trouble blow,
When you see no silver living
On the clouds that hang so low.

Praise illuminates clouds of sorrow,
Turns the gray skies into gold
Giving promise of a morrow
Bright with blessings manifold.

Praise Him when your load is heavy
And the day no comfort brings,
Then your burden God will carry,
Bear you as on eagle's wings.

God delights to have us praise Him,
And believe His holy Word;
And He knows them that trust Him
For they always praise the Lord.

Selected

Venezuela—*Do it again, Lord!*

We praise God for the opportunity to work with the **Venezuela Baptist Convention** in 2010. The overlying result was seeing 6,010 come to Christ in four western states in the Andes. There were three phases: (1) providing ten prayer seminars in major western cities along a 1,000 mile arch; (2) teaching pastors and leaders in August to prepare for evangelism in the four states; (3) then sending out the laborers to bring in the harvest.

In April 2011, **Adam Nathanson and I** will replicate the work in **Eastern Venezuela**. It is not too early to begin to pray for God's anointing on this effort. Pray especially for the coordinator, **David Silva**, as he completes the plans for **Ciudad Bolivar, Anaxo, Puerto Pirta, Barcelona, and Caripe** (a Congress of Prayer planned for 3000). **DO IT AGAIN, LORD** is our prayer.

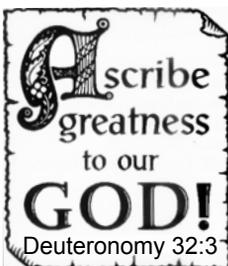
Reflector feedback

One of our Virginia **Doorkeepers**, **Milcie Arnold**. (Mrs. Carroll), was one of several who shared with **Sue** appreciation for the **Reflector**. She said that it was her custom to read it from cover to cover upon its arrival. She then keeps it nearby to read and re-read. She shared that she gains strength, solace, and encouragement. Since the paper was launched fifty-seven years ago, we have prayed that not only each issue, but each article, would provide such help for our readers. We want to encourage, not discourage; to build up our readers, not tear them down; and to be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. We give glory to God for answering this prayer over and over and then bringing in the feedback.

Some years ago, a leading pastor in the Northeast wrote a thank-you note for an article that ministered to him at a very low point in his ministry. Although his was one of the largest congregations with a tremendous influence over a wide area, some cutting remarks were made by a few leaders in his church. Sadly, a critical spirit soon becomes a stronghold that rears its head time and time again. Satan thrives on such and works havoc in lives especially in godly pastors.

At the same time, there had been some serious health issues in the pastor's family that brought added pressure. He said he was seriously considering resigning and leaving the ministry. The morning mail brought the **Reflector**. As he read, the Holy Spirit used one of the articles to get him back on track and allowed him to understand what was happening. I could cite many other examples from across the nation.

As you know, **JGHM** considers the **Reflector** (as well as my books and tapes) extensions of our teaching ministry. When you read the **Reflector**, you honor us and we honor the Lord for making it possible. Don't forget to read the full scripture references from your Bible.



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 2011. If we are too busy to pray, we are too busy.

Note 2012. We will have to make time to pray; we won't find time.

Note 2013. Bible reading prepares our hearts for prayer time with God; after God was spoken to you, you are ready to speak to Him.

Note 2014. The listening side of our prayer time is as important as the speaking part.

Note 2015. **Abraham Lincoln**, sixteenth President of the United States (known to be a man of prayer) once said, "I have often been drawn to my knees by the conviction that I had no other place to go." True!

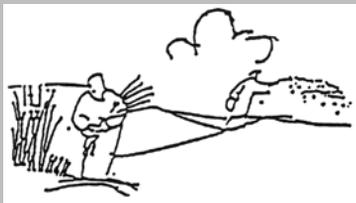
DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

December 19--January 18

Regular	56	\$10,791.00
Martin's van	5	<u>375.00</u>
Total	61	\$11,166.00



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Welcome!
New Doorkeepers!

David & Marna Boyd (CA)

PRAYER CALENDAR**February 2011**

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1****LEV 1-3 (Russia 140M)**

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2**LEV 4-7 (Rwanda 19.8M)**

Milcie Arnold (VA)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
Consuela Baker (NC)
Carolyn Barkley (NY)
Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3**LEV 8-10 (St. Helena 7,537)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Frank Bell (TN)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Bob & Beverly Blankenship (TN)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4**LEV 11-15 (St Kitts 40,131)**

Bob Bouchard (KY)
David & Marna Boyd (CA)
Gordon/Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Em & Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)

Mary Ann Brown (GA)
Thomas & Norma Brown (NC)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5
LEV 16-20 (St Lucia 160,287)
Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Janice Bugg (TN)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Mary Campbell (ID)
Laura Cannon (FL)
Pat & Cindy Caporossi (MI)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

LEV 21-23 (St Pierre 7,063)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene/Peggy Cummings (NC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
Ida J. Davis (GA)

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

Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**LEV 24-27 (St Vincent 104,574)**

Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Emogene Dorsett (TX)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Walt Edwards (NC)
Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Grace Eldridge (NJ)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Evalena Enoch (VA)
Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
Lynne Farrow (NJ)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**NUM 1-4 (Samoa 219,998)**

June Fisher (TN)
Claire/Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Sam & Michele Graisbury (NJ)
Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Frank Geiger (HI)
Robert & Sara George (GA)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10**NUM 5-8 (San Marino 30,167)**

Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester County Com Ch
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (UT)
Charles Hale (VA)
George & Joy Harper (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoeid (FL/CT)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11
NUMBERS 9-12 (Sao Tome 212,879)

Bruce, Gina, Sean Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)
Steve & Donna Hensel (MN)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**NUM 13-16 (Saudi Arabia 28.7M)**

Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Bonnie Houston (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Millicent John (NY)

Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Wilbur & Gwen Johnson (AZ)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14**NUM 17-20 (Senegal 13.7M)**

James & Geneieve Jones (FL)
Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Jean Jonte (SC)
Shem/Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)

Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
NUMBERS 21-25 (Serbia 7.3M)
 Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Robert & Rose Klous (VA)
 Sherry Klutz (VA)
 Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Soma Kovoor (TX)
 Korean Branch:
 Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 David & Cathy Laing (FL)
 Phil Landers (OK)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
NUM 26-30 (Seychelles 87,478)
 Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
 Karl & Rebecca Leonard (NC)
 Gaylen & Linda Leverett (VA)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell, Jr., Chancellor
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17
NUM 31-33 (Sierre Leone 5.1M)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18
NUM 34-36 (Singapore 4.6M)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (WV)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Ministers
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
DEUT 1-4 (Slovakia 2M)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)

Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
DEUT 5-7 (Solomon Is 595,813)
 Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Ellen Paulson (MN)
 Roger & Kay Pede (VA)
 Sandy Pederson (MI)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Mildred Pittman (NC)
 Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)
 Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
 Jeanne & Maggie Pribble (VA)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
DEUT 8-11 (Somalia 9.8)
 Dave & Marilyn Rainey (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 John Reed (NH)
 Alice Riddick (NC)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
DEUT 12-16 (South Africa 49M)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI/AZ)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (CT)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24
DEUT 17-20 (Spain 40.2M)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Richard/Margaret Seigfield (SC)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25
DEUT 21-26 (Sri Lanka 21.3M)
 Wonsub/Young-Mi Sheen (S. Korea)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Martin/Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)
 Lori Siri, Pastor
 Mary Skiles (KS)
 Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)

Marion J. Stansell (TX)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
DEUT 27-30 (Sudan 41M) Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Carol Snow Stewart (CT)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
 Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
DEUT 27-30 (Sudan 41M)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Earline Thigpen (TN)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 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)
 Willie & Diane Troutman (KY)
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George/ Jeannette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Vernall (FL)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DEUT 31-34 (Surinam 481,287)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Jeff & Terri Williamson (FL)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacher, Pastor
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

God's love letter

The Bible is God's love letter to us. As you reflect on the meaning of love on Valentine's Day, why not contemplate on His letter? When I wrote *A Christian's Necessary Food*, I used these words (pages 16-17) to highlight this aspect of God's Word:

So, what kind of Book do you hold in your hands? While it is the **Word of God to MEN**, it is the **Word of God to ME!** Compare the Scriptures to a personal letter from your best friend. The Bible is not a "Dear Sir" business letter, but a personal letter from God's heart to your heart.

When God brought **Sue Troutman**, my wife, into my life in 1955, I had no doubt that she was a very special person. My first contact with her was processing her application in the Office of Guidance at **Berea College**. One of the work assignments that I had was to review the applications of each accepted student and extract basic information that would enable **Berea College** to meet their personal needs. As I read her personal comments, she indicated what God meant in her life and how she wanted to use her life for the Lord Jesus Christ. Since I felt the same way, I was impressed. She had chosen the School of Nursing. Through her roommate, **Nola White** (who attended the church where I was pastor along with a large number of other students from the college), I met Sue and was impressed even more with her keen mind and her ability to communicate. Soon she began attending **Liberty Avenue Baptist Church** and we began dating. Coming from a Western Kentucky family of thirteen children, she was very homesick during her first summer at **Berea College**. Few **Berea College** students were permitted to have automobiles on campus. Since I was pastor, I was one of the few but could only use the car for pastoral duties. Since the Dean of Women was a personal friend who knew how homesick Sue was, she gave permission

for Sue to accompany me on pastoral visits.

It was a sad day in my heart when Sue's nursing program required her to live in **Cincinnati, Ohio** to gain experience in a metropolitan hospital. The void was filled with love letters. She wrote to me every single day and I wrote to her every single day. When a letter came, I gave it devoted attention. I would first read it standing in the college post office. Then I re-read it many times weighing every word, studying every sentence. I read between the lines to see her point of view and to determine how the one I loved felt. I did not ask someone else to read the letters and write a commentary on them. The Bible is a love letter from God's heart to our hearts!

The matter of love

Our Christ-like love will show we are His disciples. People will know we are Jesus' followers by our love for one another (**John 13: 34-35**). To love others was not a new commandment (**Leviticus 19:18**), but to love others as much as Jesus loved others was revolutionary. We are to love others based on Christ's sacrificial love for us. Such love will bring unbelievers to Christ and will keep them strong and united in a hostile world. Those who observe our love for others will be led to turn to Him as their personal Savior and Lord. Love is the badge of a Christian. It is strategic for disciples to love each other since this is Christ's method of evangelizing the world (**15:8**).

What is this love Jesus commanded? It is more than simply warm feelings. Rather, love is an attitude that reveals itself in action. We can demonstrate that love by loving others when it is not convenient to do so, by giving when it is difficult to give, by devoting energy to the welfare of others, rather than our own, by absorbing hurts imposed on us by others without complaining or fighting back.

--Upper Room Discourse (p 190)

Praying in the Name of Christ

Thomas Boston

To pray in the Name of Christ is not a bare faithfulness mentioning of His name in our prayers. The saints may say, “through Jesus Christ our Lord,” but often is that scabbard produced while the sword of the Spirit is not in it. The words are said, but the faith is not exercised.

To pray in the Name of Christ is to go to God by His order, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you shall receive” (**John 16:24**). This implies the soul’s having come to Christ in the first place. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (**John 15:7**).

It also implies the soul’s taking its encouragement to pray from Jesus Christ. “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (**Hebrews 4:14-16**).

The way to the throne is blocked up by our sins. Sinners have no confidence to seek the Lord. Jesus Christ who came down from heaven, died for the criminals, and gathers them to Himself by effectual calling. He bids them go to His Father in His name, and ask what they need, assuring them of acceptance.

Praying in Christ’s name is depending wholly on His merit and intercession. “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him” (**Ephesians 3:12**). There is no other access to God. “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**John 14:6**). It is depending on Him for a gracious answer. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” **1 John**

5:14). No prayers are heard and answered but for the Mediator’s sake; and whatever petitions agreeable to God’s will are put up to God, in this dependence, are heard.

Why must we pray in the Name of Christ? Sin has set us at a distance from God, and has bolted the door of our access to Him. His justice rejects the criminal, His holiness the unclean creature, unless there be an acceptable person to go between Him and us.

There is none appointed nor fit for that work but Christ. “For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (**1 Timothy 2:5**). “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (**1 John 2:1**).

The sweet savor of His merit alone is capable to procure acceptance to our prayers, in themselves unworthy.

Note: **Thomas Boston** (1676-1732) was a Scottish church leader. He was heavily influenced by the famous Marrow of Modern Divinity, a compendium of the opinions of leading Reformers on the doctrine of grace and the offer of the Gospel. The book became the standard of a far-reaching movement in Scottish Presbyterianism. The Marrow men were marked by the zeal of their service and the effectness of their preaching.

Further information about the meaning of what it means to pray in the Name of Jesus is provided in the **Prayer Seminar Workbook** on pages 14-15. Copies are available through our office (434-239-8837 or e-mail us at jghm84@aol.com).

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
R **Shem & Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)**
E **Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)**
M **Nuhu & Mercy Leo (Nigeria)**
E **John & Elberta McSween (Trinidad)**
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E **Andrew J.Sakari (Kenya)**
R **Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)**
E **Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)**
R **Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)**
Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

Singing

My contention is that there is no substitute for the hymns and gospel songs that have characterized church music during my life. Through this type of music, lessons are learned and biblical truths reinforced. Above all, I believe God is honored.

Sue, the 3Ms (Mona, Mark, and Melody) and I were privilege to spend seven years working with **Kerby Knob Baptist Church**. God chose to bless that work in a very special way and the fruits continue today. The building site is on one of the highest cleared hills in **Jackson County, Kentucky**. The sunset behind the church was so awesome that people came from a distance to be blessed by it.



The Kerby Knob Church house

Singing was a highlight in each service (Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night), Often the content of the songs reflected Heaven, our eternal home. People of faith were singing songs of faith.

On a recent flight to **San Jose, California** for a prayer seminar at the **Foxworthy Baptist Church** (37,000 feet above the earth), I thought of the many loved ones who blessed our lives who are now among the great cloud of witnesses (**Romans 12:1**), rejoicing around God's throne in Heaven. Many of them were **Doorkeepers** (some for many years) in the prayer seminar ministry.

A **Kerby Knob** favorite came to my mind. As I sung it to myself, I was blessed and I believe you will be, too. It is entitled *I will*

not be a Stranger and was written by **James B. Singleton** in 1956,

I will not be a stranger when I get to that city;
I'm acquainted with folks over there.
There'll be friends there to greet me,
There'll be loved ones to meet me
At the gates of that city four square.

Refrain

Through the years, through the tears, They have gone one by one.
But they'll wait at the gate
Until my race is run.
I'll not be a stranger when I get to that city
I'm acquainted with folks over there.

I'll not be a stranger when I get to that city
I've a home on the streets paved with gold.
I'll feel right at home there
In that beautiful somewhere
With the loved ones whose memory I hold.

Refrain

I'll not be a stranger when I get to that city;
There'll be no lonely days over there.
There'll be no stormy weather
But a great time together
On the streets of that city four square.

Refrain

In Memory of

- Sue Bell (Mrs. Tommy)*
- Jewell Bouchard (Mrs. Bob)*
- Aunt Ruby*
- Aunt Pansy*
- Boyd Royer*
- Jeff Troutman*

by Mona Henry Thomas

**WE SHALL MEET ON
THAT BEAUTIFUL SHORE.**

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Thinking of valentines



In answering a question about which is the greatest commandment, Jesus condensed the Ten Commandments into two: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love others as yourself (**Mark 12:30=31**). He said the love we have for one another will prove to the world that we are His followers (**John 13:35**). Once we experience God's lavish, unconditional love, the only reasonable response is to share that love with others.

Jesus also gave a command that appears illogical and impossible. We are to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us (**Luke 6:27**). Our natural tendency is to love only those who love us, which Jesus said is no credit to us. The selfless love He described can be expressed only with supernatural help from God's Spirit, but it offers the world an undeniable witness of God's transforming love and power. Maybe we should use February 14 to reach out to those who don't come to mind when we think of valentines.

Deeper insight

BLESSED CIRCLE

During a prayer seminar, there is an introduction of spiritual warfare beginning with **Daniel 10**. **Daniel** prayed; God sent the answer immediately; the answer did not reach him for twenty-one days; the answer was hindered by the **Prince of Persia** (**Prayer Seminar Workbook**, p 2). More information is provided on page nine from **Paul's** teaching to the **Ephesians** when he gave insight in what I call "the warfare passage" about the spiritual battle that each Christian faces (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). This is the key passage, but there is a key truth

embedded: "I will never win the war if I don't know where the battle is being fought" which is in the place of prayer (**v 18**). The first activity after a person puts on his armor is prayer. Our enemy is wants to defeat us.

Since it is important for the Christian to know that he does not have to be defeated even though our enemy, Satan, is formidable, I ask my students to write three Scripture references at the top of page nine: **1 John 4:4** (the Holy Spirit who is in us is greater than Satan who is in the world); **Ephesians 4:27** (the essence of this verse is that Satan does not have ground to stand on in a Christian unless the Christian gives him a place); **James 4:7** (how to get ground back by (1) submitting to God (which is dealing with sin through conviction, repentance, confession, receiving forgiveness and cleansing [**1 John 1:9**], having direction changed; then yielding to the Holy Spirit and exercising personal authority to resist the devil directly).

Recently, I read a very helpful statement from **Corrie ten Boom** that brought deeper insight. Please read it carefully and prayerfully. Then live your life in its light.

Another ministry of the Holy Spirit, I have discovered is revealing our sins to us. ... In the power of the Lord Jesus Christ we stand on victory ground. He has lifted us out of the old vicious circle of sin and death (see **Romans 8:2**). From the circle of sinning, fighting, and conquering but always sinning again, fighting, failing, and so on, Jesus has brought us inside His **blessed circle** of repentance, forgiveness, and cleansing by His blood (see **1 John 1:7,9**).

The devil is not yet on pension! He is very active, but he is no longer victorious in the "blessed circle" where Jesus Christ has placed us. Whom Jesus makes free is freed indeed, but to live the victorious life you must not leave the confession of your sins until later. The door of repentance is wide open. Hallelujah!