

REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

February 2023

THE BEGINNING



During a very fruitful trip to Argentina-Brazil in 2017, Sue and I communicated often, thanks to the internet. It became apparent that she needed me at home, instead of miles away in another country. I was shaken. Once I was home, a letter awaited me from a dear friend, **Dr. Harris Verkaik (1933-2018)**, one of our most ardent **DOORKEEPERS**, that provided clearer insight. This great man of God had come to the end of his preaching ministry. A leading Michigan pastor, he and Jane had “retired” to Bradenton, Florida several years before. He seldom missed a week preaching during these years. He was kept busy preaching and ministering..

In his letter Dr. Verkaik shared that God had given him a “new ministry” to which he would devote himself the rest of his life—a **ministry of prayer**. As Sue and I sat at our dining room table, I began to sob. She came around the table to embrace me, “Tell me what is wrong.” My heart was broken at the realization that I must curtail a traveling ministry that had carried me almost three million miles with many days on the road and many nights away from home. **This was the beginning of a new ministry. I now see my ministry as a prayer ministry and desire to use the remainder of my days praying.** I echo Dr. Verkaik’s sentiments. My primary ministry is not to be “on the road again,” but home, my prayer closet. Let me go farther.

A card from **Sonja Hosick** (Mrs. Mike), Loudon, Tennessee, carried a message, “I’m praying for you and Miss Sue. **It is a privilege to pray for you.**” For over forty years my message has centered around the purpose and power of prayer, calling believers to make prayer a priority, not a peripheral one. The message on the front of the card reminded me that prayer is the work that must come before all other work. “No **OCEAN** can hold it back. No **RIVER** can overtake it. No whirlwind can go **FASTER**. No army can defeat it. No law can stop it. No **DISTANCE** can slow it. No disease can cripple it. No force on **EARTH** is more powerful or effective than the power of **PRAYER**.”

It will be a privilege to pray for you. Share your need. Sue and I will take it to the Lord in prayer. Sonya’s message is now ours” “Please do call on me if I can help in any way.” The Prayer Seminar is in good hands with **Adam Nathanson** and his team and I plan to continue to go to the nations **ON MY KNEES** remembering that God doesn’t need a visa. **Prayer is my ministry in 2023 and beyond**. God is able! God is willing! God is waiting! Here is a great reminder from the Lord Himself: “Call to Me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.” **Jeremiah 33:3 The Message**

DR. VERKAIK’S INITIAL RESPONSE

Thank you, thank you, thank you—for the prayer seminar. Can people sit for over six hours to be instructed in the work of prayer? They can! Time speeds, interest grows, and conviction comes by the Holy Spirit. Growth and change come out of the Holy Spirit’s work as your prayer seminar proceeds. I have heard only positive, and grateful, expressions of appreciation for the changes God has produced. I can say without hesitation that I learned more about prayer in the seminar than I learned in seminary and in over thirty years of pastoral ministry. Your humble help was felt by so many people here. I will pray for you as long as I live, and for your ministry.

Dr. Harris J. Verkaik, Pastor
Calvary Reformed Church
South Holland IL

PERSPECIVES

“I’ve learned that my effort is required and its not unscriptural to work at prayer.”

S.C., Staten Island, NY (1984 Prayer Seminar)



It’s surprising how many Christians fail to understand that **EFFORT, DISCIPLINE, AND WORK** are essential in developing a meaningful prayer life. Somehow we’ve concluded that when God wants to do something in our lives, He will do it regardless of our response. Not so! *Spiritual growth is one long exercise in cultivation.* A major reason many believers are dwarfs spiritually is that they have simply failed

to work at it. How about you? Only you can answer the question? Are you growing spiritually? How much progress did you make in 2022, the year that has just past? If you are not growing, don’t waste time in regret. There is no better time than today to get started.

Gateway Cathedral, one of the largest evangelical churches on Staten Island, has hosted three prayer seminars. The Holy Spirit worked mightily in all three. Not only did many make major decisions about their spiritual lives, many were saved. There were three Sunday morning services and in each folks came to Christ.

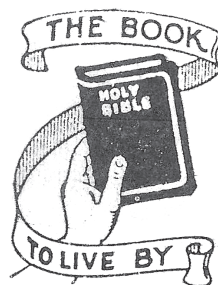
Time was dedicated in each prayer seminar for participants to share what God had taught them and what their next step would be. We literally have thousands of testimonies worldwide to affirm that God’s hand is on the seminar. A comment from Gateway Cathedral’s S.C. is the lead for this article. As we move into the 69th year of the **Reflector**, **we want to encourage each reader to have a daily time with God in 2023 and for each church to become a praying church.** The need is great and the hour is late. Decisions determine destiny. Prayer is the work that must come before all other work.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

THE NATION’S BEST HOPE

CHRISTIANS ARE SALT AND LIGHT. THE CHRISTIANS OF AMERICA ARE THE NATION’S BEST HOPE. WHEN WE ARE WEAK, THE NATION WILL BE WEAK; WHEN WE ARE STRONG, THE NATION WILL BE STRONG. IF WE ARE STRONG, THE NATION WILL PROSPER. “RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH [i.e., a shame or a disgrace] TO ANY PEOPLE” (Proverbs 14:34). God is still able to control the activities of men, even evil ones who seek to disrupt His work and move His very presence from the affairs of the nation.



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 6052. “If you would humble me, ask me about my prayers.” Charles Spurgeon

Note 6053. If you only talk to God when you are in trouble, you are in trouble.

Note 6054. *I accept God’s will for my life, whatever it is, whenever it is revealed, wherever it takes me, once and for all.*

Note 6055. *The will of God is one’s greatest security. Find this will, then do it as the first priority of your Christian walk and talk.*

Note 36056. *God hears prayers, not advice.*

Note 6057. *If the people you trust do not trust the Lord, their judgment may become your judgment. Be careful! It is wise to measure twice -- cut once!*

~ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ~

All contributions are to be directed to THE PRAYER SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 42038, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21258-2038. Beginning on January 1, 2023, Adam and his team will be responsible for financial affairs

A VERY SPECIAL TIME AND PLACE

There should be a time in each day when you enter the Throne Room (conscious of where you are) bringing spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23) exclusively before God—clothed in His Majesty—focusing on Him, the Object of your affection.

Never allow divided attention. When you allow your eyes, mind, and heart to become distracted by either things around you or thoughts within you, you will lose your concentration. When concentration fades, performance suffers as a result.

A study of Scripture will reveal that the physical posture of worship is often stressed. In your designated closet (a set, shut, secluded place where there are as few interruptions), kneel with your hands folded in prayer, eyes closed, and heart/mind attuned to God. Focus your entire being upon the One who is worthy of your fullest concentration and devotion. Draw strength from being in His presence. “[You] draw nigh to God and He will nigh to you” (James 4:7).

An uninterrupted fifteen minutes to begin your day reflecting on God’s Word and listening for God’s voice is not easy to experience—BUT IT’S WORTH IT!



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.”

“I shall try to correct errors where shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views.”

HAVE YOU?

In ancient times a king captured in battle would cast his crown at the feet of the victor as if to say, “I surrender completely to you.” In Revelation 4:10, the twenty-four elders cast their crowns before God’s throne showing submission and surrender.

Have you made your personal surrender to the King of kings? If not, do it today! Do it now! Decisions determine destiny.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT A REVIVAL IN YOUR CHURCH? HAVE YOU EVER SAID, “I WANT MY CHURCH TO BE A PRAYING CHURCH? BELIEVERS ARE REVIVED WHEN THEY BECOME PRAYER WARRIORS. WHY NOT SCHEDULE A DAY IN GOD’S COURTS (SIX HOURS FOR THE SEMINAR) IN YOUR CHURCH? HUNDREDS HAVE AND REVIVAL HAS COME. SEND THREE POSSIBLE DATES TO THE BALTIMORE OFFICE AND ADAM’S TEAM WILL RESPOND QUICKLY.

ROPEHOLDER/DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

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THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[Founded as J. Gordon Henry Ministries in 1984]

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PRAYER SEMINAR ONLINE

Download Prayer Seminar Workbook

For YouTube Information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.theprayerseminar.com

SUMMARY/REVIEW

From 1980 until 2004, each participant in a seminar was provided a copy of the 79-page Prayer Seminar Workbook. Thousands were distributed, but only in English speaking nations. For non-English people there was a thirty-page workbook translated into the language of the nation hosting prayer seminars. The only language people group who choose to translate the 79-page workbook was Russians. The coordinator for seminars in Kiev, Ukraine, and Asbest (in the Ural Mountains) eagerly provided oversight for this monumental task. God knew what he wanted because a number of prayer seminars in the United States used the Russian translation. That is a great resource but expensive to print and transport. Actually only about 25% of that workbook was taught with the remainder designated “homework.”

The following summary begins on page 56 of the original **PRAYER SEMINAR WORKBOOK**, Suggestion for anyone having this edition: REVIEW SESSION VII: PERSONAL PRAYING.

1. Have a specific time and place to meet the Lord in prayer and Bible study. Your day will be different when you meet Christ first! A matter of DISCIPLINE is required to do this, but it is worth it!

2. Be consistent. Hit-and-miss pattern is an indication you are not as serious as you need to be about growing as a Christian. Program yourself with right information from the Word of God.

3. Begin with Bible reading. As you begin, pray: “Father, I’m coming in Christ’s name and I open my mind to you. You have the right to teach, to discipline and to direct as I study.” Be sure to tell Him you love Him and pause to let Him tell you that He loves you, too. Have a pen ready to make notes as God speaks.

4. After Bible reading, spend time talking with Him. Remember that prayer is the talking part of a relationship. Verbal communication is necessary for healthy relationships.

Affirm God’s presence
dore Him
Confession
Thanksgiving
Seeking for self – petition
eeking for others – intercession



We do what is really important to us. MAKE THIS DAILY TIME WITH GOD HIGH PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE.

It is important that every Christian understand the benefits of a Christ-honoring prayer life as part of his total Christian experience. Few do. The basic design of the Prayer Seminar is to provide very practical suggestions that answer “how to” and “how not to” questions—the same pattern Jesus Himself followed in His Sermon on the Mount. **How to** establish prayer as a daily priority of highest importance is covered. **How to** organize your praying following a Biblical pattern is explained. This includes **How to** worship, praise, and thank the Lord. This includes **How to pray** for oneself (petition) as well ss for others (intercession). In order for a church to become a praying church, individuals must develop a meaningful, sustained prayer life.

TESTIMONIES

“The seminar has put things in black and white—taken away the mystery about praying.” **M.M., Colorado**

“Remotivated me to place my quiet time with God as my #1 priority. I was letting this part of my life slide and have known that I need to get back to an active prayer life. There was a strong emphasis on the Word.” **P. A. Kansas**

“Cleared my mind on so many things about prayer, Makes me want to work on my prayer life and make it mean what it should.” **S.P., Tennessee**

“The Lord has helped me to **openly acknowledge** aras of failure and defeat in my prayer life. Activity apart from anointing is exactly what Satan wants, but no more.” Pastor R.F., Tennessee

INFORMATION/SCHEDULING

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