

REFLECTOR

VOL. 52, No. 7

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

July 2006

**SUCCESS IN WITNESSING IS SHARING
THE GOSPEL IN THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND LEAVING THE
RESULTS UP TO GOD.**

Speaking in His Name

If someone offered you \$5,000 for a month's work or a penny doubled each day for a month, which would you take? Our first urge would be to take the \$5,000 obviously. But the penny doubled each day would come to \$10,737,418.24. Incredible! That is the power of multiplication.

If we won to Christ only one person per year and discipled that person to win others, it would take only a few years to win the 6.7 billion people on this earth to Christ.

God wants an individual saved, but Satan does not. After a person is saved, Satan knows it is too late to do anything about that person's eternity; however, he then wants the person to lose his influence and his witness. That is the insight we gain from **1 Peter 5:8**: "*The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.*" The word translated *devour* is translated in **Hebrews 11:29** as *drown*. The devil wants to drown our influence. He wants us to be silent Christians—and he has been quite successful in many lives.

The great sin of most contemporary Christians is that we shut Christ in our lives, not out of our lives. But there is something

The Bridge

Around us is a world lost in sin, above us is a God willing and able to save; it is ours to build the bridge that links heaven and earth, and prayer is the mighty instrument that does the work. If we will do our part, God will do His.

E. M. Bounds

Intimacy

God is always within call, it is true; His ear is ever attentive to the cry of His child, but we can never get to know Him if we use the vehicle of prayer as we use a telephone—for a few words of hurried conversation. Intimacy requires development. We can never know God as it is our privilege to know Him, by brief repetitions that are requests for personal favors and nothing more. That is not the way in which we can come into communication with heaven's King.

E. M. Bounds

**Praise God for anything
that drives you to your knees!**

SPEAKING IN HIS NAME

**"For whether it is right to listen to you more than God,
you judge, for we cannot but speak the things that
we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20**

that we can do to reverse immediately this situation and begin multiplying believers for the kingdom of God in our day—and that is to follow the example of the early believers in Jerusalem. The purpose of our studies is to encourage believers to rise up and begin **SPEAKING IN HIS NAME!**

The message background

During the first years following the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, the early church grew rapidly. By **Acts 4**, there were five thousand men in the church. Not only were people added to the church daily, the addition became multiplication. Nine plus nine equals eighteen—that is addition. Soon, the text states, they multiplied which brings different results from addition. Nine times nine equals eighty-one. The early church multiplied.

As background, study **Acts 3 and 4**. The religious leaders became agitated and threatened by the rapid growth of Christianity. The opportunity came when a lame man was healed. The decision was made to arrest the leaders of this new movement. Peter and John were imprisoned and beaten. The text is from the final show-down during which the religious leaders demanded that there be no further effort to win people to Christ.

Peter and John simply replied: *"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him does this man stand here before you whole . . . Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby ye must be saved . . . Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard"* (**Acts 4:10, 12, 19-20**).

As we continue our study on witnessing, **SPEAKING IN HIS NAME** is our focus. Most Christians have not yet found a natural and satisfying way of sharing their faith in Jesus Christ. A dilemma develops between the sense of **OUGHTNESS** about personal evangelism

and the sense of **FRUSTRATION** in not having a natural and effective way to witness.

Two ways

There are two ways to **SPEAK IN HIS NAME**: first, through developing and sharing your personal testimony and second, through learning to use a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Christ.

Developing Your Personal Testimony

One of the most effective tools each Christian has is his own personal testimony. You may have never thought much about your own story. Take some time and think in specifics about what Jesus Christ means to you right now. It will be helpful to understand a way to develop your personal testimony so that you can share it briefly, say in ninety seconds standing at a water cooler if that is the opportunity you have.

A model. Our model is Paul's personal testimony recorded in **Acts 22:1-6** and **26:9-18**. By studying this model, each believer can get some pointers about how to develop his/her personal testimony. My suggestion is to get pencil and paper and develop your personal testimony in writing.

Notice the apostle Paul's attention to precise detail in the telling of his story. He told his nationality, the town and state where he was born, where he was reared, who his teacher was, what he grew up believing, the precise details of his persecution of Christians, the exact wording in his confrontation with Christ, the role Ananias played, and all that had happened afterward. Biography needs details if it is to be believable.

Four basic points are included in Paul's testimony that should be included in an effective personal testimony.

1. *"I've not always been a Christian."* Most unsaved people somehow think that a Christian has always been a Christian. The average non-Christian thinks Christians are from some other planet. Consequently, a lost person doesn't relate very well to the

Christian. Simply pointing out that you have not always been a Christian provides a point of reference for the lost person. Describe your life before Christ (B.C.). Use twelve to eighteen key words or short phrases that describe your life "B.C." such as *hateful, selfish, lustful*, or whatever. Put these thoughts into a couple of sentences once you have them in mind.

2. "*Here is how God got my attention.*" State briefly how you realized your need to trust Christ as your Savior. Begin with sharing where you were when you made the decision to exercise faith and come to Him. God uses different methods to get our attention. Sometimes He uses a song, a sermon, or a sorrow. Share how God got your attention.
3. "*Here's what I did when God got my attention.*" Relate how you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by trusting Him through an act of faith. You asked Him to forgive you for your sins and to save you. Tell how you committed your life to Jesus and confessed Him before others.
4. "*Here's how my life changed.*" When we talk to people about our conversion, they have a right to know how things have worked out. Tell how Jesus makes your life full and meaningful in concrete terms. Tell about the joy and peace you have. Highlight basic changes in your life. Tell how God guides you with His Word and His Spirit, how He helps you love people you would not have loved before, and how He has given you friends in the church who love you and care for you in all circumstances. He has given meaning to your life beyond yourself. You have the hope of everlasting life after this life on earth is over.

Spirit-led preparation. Note the approach of using key words. Jot down key words. Use short phrases if that is more helpful in getting your thoughts together and organized.

PRAY AS YOU WORK. Start the work of building your own personal testimony, work for a brief time, go do something else and come back to it again. Give the Holy Spirit time to speak to your heart as you prepare. Then take all you have and condense it to a statement of 125 words which would take between sixty and ninety seconds to share.

Since you have prepared yourself and are seeking the Holy Spirit's help, you can expect to have opportunities to share your personal testimony. God honors preparation.

Keep your testimony simple and brief. Keep to the point. Keep positive. Avoid bragging, unless it is about Jesus. Negative comments and remarks lead to negative discussions. Keep language understandable. Remember that the "language of Zion"—so commonly used in church services—is sometimes difficult to understand by those who are unsaved.

Since you really want to be used by God, discipline yourself to prepare a basic personal testimony. You will find this approach will provide a natural, effective, and satisfying way to share your faith—which is mandated by the Scriptures.

Examples in shoe leather

Since it is always helpful to have personal application of how truth has worked in shoe leather, let me introduce Inga Marcussen, now home with the Lord. Inga, a native of one of the Scandinavian countries, lived in Connecticut before retiring to Boca Raton, Florida. When she heard me share how to prepare your personal testimony, she said, "*I can do that!*" She prepared her testimony, went out to a nearby park bench, and asked God to bring to the bench whomever He wished to hear her testimony. In her broken English, she shared with many what Christ had done in her life and encouraged them to turn their lives over to the Lord Jesus Christ as well. Success in witnessing is sharing the Gospel and leaving the results up to God.

During a Bible conference I lead on personal evangelism at the Old First Church, Cedar Grove, New Jersey June 7-10, 1982, I

shared this message and urged those present to put into practice the truths taught by the Holy Spirit. I remember it as though it were yesterday. One of the leaders of the church, Bill Wang, came late the next evening with a radiance that caused me to ask for his story. He shared that the Holy Spirit told him to share his personal testimony, using the outline he had learned, with his elderly sister in her hospital room at Mountainside Hospital. Previously, he had found it difficult to express what was on his heart. Having his personal testimony developed gave him confidence to share with one he loved dearly. That night, his sister received Jesus Christ as her own personal Savior. Bill rejoiced even as those in the presence of God in heaven rejoiced.

You, too, can use your personal testimony to bring someone to Jesus. Simply share what you know—that is your testimony. God will use it to gain a beachhead in a pagan world by making the one with whom you share think about his own life.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! CELEBRATING 230 YEARS OF FREEDOM

United States of America
1776--2006



In 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation of a "Day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer." In the proclamation, he rightly stated: "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the over-ruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proved by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord . . ."

Dear Dr. Henry,

Praise the Lord for sending you our way. I had regular prayer before the seminar, but my attitude was not right and my effort wasn't one of concentration.

Now, as a result of the prayer seminar, my prayer life is one of victory. My Lord has filled me with the Spirit's power and given me a victorious Christian life.

Now I don't serve the Lord alone. Rather, He is working through me. By the way, when Satan attacks, I just tell him to see my "Lawyer!"

B.K., Wilmington DE

Note: The idea of telling the Accuser to see your attorney is based on **1 John 2:1**. You don't have to defend yourself, you have an Advocate (defense attorney) who will defend you.

SHOULD YOUR CHURCH SCHEDULE A PRAYER SEMINAR? SEND US THREE POSSIBLE DATES AND WE WILL RESPOND.



IN MEMORY OF
DOORKEEPER
MARGE SCHMALTZ
(Mrs. Dwayne)
6-15-06

*"Absent from the
body...present with
the Lord" (2 Cor 5:1,8)*

"... all this evil is come upon us; yet made we not our prayer" (**Daniel 9:13**). Things were bad for Israel. Their thoughts were on iniquity continually. There was violence, oppression, and no justice. People were uttering from their hearts words of falsehood. Evil had come upon them and yet they did not pray.

Again, "The whole land is made desolate, because no one takes it to heart" (**Jeremiah 12:11**). The most needed work today is intercessory praying when we stand between God and our nation. **The only hope for America is prayer!**

DO YOU HAVE THE WORLD ON YOUR HEART YET? YOU WILL NEVER MEET A PERSON WHOM GOD DOES NOT LOVE.

Lead Me to Some Soul Today

In memory of D. L. Moody, who said: "I must speak to one soul each day about Christ"

WILL H. HOUGHTON

WENDELL P. LOVELESS

Lead me to some soul to - day, O teach me, Lord, just what to say;

Friends of mine are lost in sin, And can - not find their way.

Few there are who seem to care, And few there are who pray;
who pray;

Melt my heart and fill my life. Give me one soul to - day.

As God's children gather in public services, we should be eager to hear from God. When He speaks, lives change. Sometimes He speaks through the Scripture; other times He speaks through the sermon; often He speaks through a song. As far as a call to soul winning, no song has spoken to me more than Will Houghton's *Lead Me to Some Soul Today*. Many have been challenged by this and other songs.

Our daughter, Mona, shared a Broadman hymnal with me recently, which is the first hymn book I became familiar with when I became a Christian. Some of the titles God used to mold my thoughts were *Bring Them In*, *Jesus Saves*, *Must I Go and Empty-Handed?*, *Rescue the Perishing*, and *Throw Out the Life-line*, all calling for reaching the unsaved. Why do churches choose to no longer use these songs? What would happen if God's children were exposed to these thoughts on a regular basis?

When our son, Mark, was quite young, we were at Kerby Knob Baptist Church in the mountains of Kentucky. Often Flemon Kirby, our song leader, would ask for favorites. One day Mark raised his hand and asked that we sing *Bringing in the Sheep* instead of *Bringing in the Sheaves*. Perhaps it is time that we ask our people to sing once again *Bringing in the Sheep*.

Careful!

A wise teacher advised his students. "If you had a striking experience with God, write it down and reread it occasionally. Otherwise the story is apt to grow on you." He was trying to underline the absolute importance of honesty in witnessing. A witness is to state only what he knows without embellishment in any fashion.

Continuous waiting

The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight. "In Thy presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11).

E. M. Bounds

An August anniversary

With a degree of excitement, the son of the tribal chief reminded Ted Cooper that a celebration was planned in August to celebrate the first anniversary of their hearing the gospel for the first time. The transforming power of the gospel was easily seen in the joy in their faces as they gathered around to welcome us.



TED COOPER & DR. HENRY WITH
THE CHIEF AND HIS FAMILY IN
ONE OF THE SIX TRIBES ALONG AMAZON



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1026. You can do better than you think; you can do better if you think;

you can do better, don't you think?

Note 1027. It is good to be wise; it is wise to be good.

Note 1028. A wise man thinks what he says; a foolish man says what he thinks.

Note 1029. He is a wise man who knows what not to say.

Note 1030. God is for us; that is good; God is with us, that is better; God is in us, that is best.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

May 21--June 22, 2006

	# Gifts	Amount
Regular	45	\$3,150
Peru	1	200
Total	46	\$3,350



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

**JGHM IS A FAITH MINISTRY
SUPPORTED SOLELY BY
GIFTS FROM OUR FRIENDS.**

A SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Sue Henry and Joyce Warpoole (Board member & Doorkeeper) will be ministering in Hiroshima, Japan, July 4-12. Pray that the team will be an encouragement to Matt & Misty Sargent (Liberty graduates and Baptist missionaries). Pray for safety and spiritual power.

Peru Report—2006

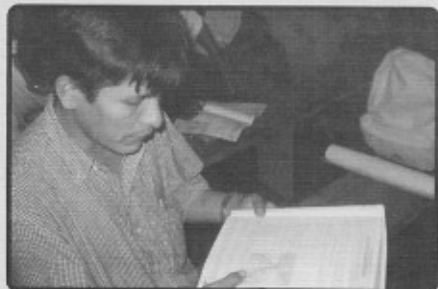
➤ Prayer Seminars	4
➤ Evangelism Clinics	3
➤ Sermons (jungle tribes)	6
➤ Professions of faith	200+



EXCELLENT NOTE TAKERS

You cared! You gave! You prayed! God gave the increase! From the time I left Lynchburg on May 31, until I arrived home on June 16, the presence of the Lord was evident step by step. The response of the Peruvians paralleled the interest that we have experienced in other Latin American countries. Included in those attending were many pastors who were eager to understand the truths taught with the intention of teaching them to their own people.

According to team leader, **Ted Cooper**, Seneca, SC, this was the first venue devoted exclusively to teaching the Word of God. He repeatedly commented on the intense listening and note-taking among those attending. Some were writing all the time. Conversely, he felt that the greatest need among believers in Peru is to experience the type of learning experience afforded through the prayer seminars.



SPANISH WORKBOOK A BLESSING

Peru is a very large country. In order to conserve time, we flew as much as possible.



ADAM NATHANSON CAME FROM VENEZUELA TO INTERPRET AND ENGAGE IN SOUL-WINNING

We were able to conduct prayer seminars in four areas: Piura (in the north in a desert area), Lima (on the Pacific Ocean), Tingo Mario (in the mountains), and Iquitos (on the Amazon River). From Iquitos, we traveled by boat to visit six tribes along the river. Miles traveled totaled 10,944 (air – 10,484, ground – 360, boat – 80).

Not only was there an opportunity to conduct four prayer seminars, I taught the evangelism clinic in three of the locations and spoke several times. We used, for the very first time, a new edition of the Spanish prayer seminar workbook with a different format, the best we have ever seen in any of the prayer seminar workbooks. We used 2,000 workbooks.



ADAM SHARING THE PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ONE OF THE AMAZON TRIBES

Thanks, **Doorkeepers**, for caring, giving, and praying for Kenya (#46) and Peru (#47). Ninety-six contributed \$8,904 toward the \$9,092 budget. Expenses totaled \$8,567.24. We will send the balance, \$336.76, to West Kenya and The Congo, to print additional prayer seminar workbooks.

Plans are to return in June 2007 to conduct prayer seminars in southern Peru and in Ecuador.

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PERU-NATION FORTY-SEVEN!
A LARGE NUMBER INDICATED THAT
THEY WILL TEACH OTHERS WHAT
THEY'VE LEARNED.



God's plan is for His children to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). When I am asked to describe the changes in carrying out this mandate in my lifetime, it is easy to do.

When I became a pastor in 1953, Christians were burdened for unsaved relatives and friends. Often, at the end of a service, many would come weeping to shake hands requesting special prayer for their salvation. It has been years since anyone has come to me at the end of a service weeping over the lost. We no longer have a burden. It is impossible to have a soul-winning church with a dry-eyed congregation.

Further, attention was given during church services to mobilize Christians to witness to the unsaved. I cannot remember the last church service I attended when the same level of emphasis was given. There is more to be gained from public services than worship. We need to return to the task we were given.

Please read carefully and prayerfully **Speaking in His Name**. Your personal testimony could be the difference in Heaven or Hell for your family members, friends, and others. Next month, I will teach how to use a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Jesus.

Check out our web site!

www.jgordonhenryministries.org

Here's what you will find:

- ◆ A Day in God's Courts Prayer Seminar
- ◆ A Personal Invitation
- ◆ Seminar Information & testimonies
- ◆ Sermon of the Month
- ◆ Favorites from the Archives
- ◆ How to Go to Heaven
- ◆ Notes from My Bible
- ◆ Special message on Islam

Then, let us know what you think. Share your suggestions as to how to make the site more attractive, meaningful, and useful?

Please tell others about the prayer seminar ministry and about what is on our web site!