

REFLECTOR

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

August 2006

**"TEND TO THE PRAYING--
GOD WILL TEND TO THE REST!"**

Bertha Smith

Witnessing

When Peter and John experienced imprisonment and were threatened by the Roman authorities, their answer was, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (**Acts 4:20**).

For these and other early Christians the life-changing experience in Christ *made* them witnesses! They were not primarily teaching *about* something—they were testifying *to* something that had happened to them. They were transformed by the power of Christ and were living in fellowship with God. Those experiences made a difference in the community and the world in which the early Christians lived.

Unquestionably it was an electrifying first-century experience to see changed persons living a new life and joyfully telling of the One who had made life different for them. The difference was obvious—their personal testimony simply identified the Lord Jesus Christ who made the difference. It was this spontaneous witnessing on the part of the early Christians that caused Christianity to spread like wildfire throughout the civilized world during the first century.

Keep on course

For forty-two years, **Bertha Smith** (1888-1988) served as a missionary in China and Formosa. She saw the Japanese invade China prior to World War II and was interned by them in 1941. Repatriated in 1942, she returned to China after the war and worked until 1948 when she was forced out by the communists. She then moved to Formosa to help establish Southern Baptist work there, where she served until her forced retirement in 1961. Until her death in 1988, she ministered in the United States, especially to pastors, conducting prayer seminars and Christian Life Conferences. Her influence in calling pastors to a deeper spiritual life was profound. Many lives and churches were transformed.

As a young pastor, **Dr. Jim Britt** sought Miss Bertha's counsel on how to build a church. Her response was simply, "**Tend to the praying—God will tend to the rest.**" Why is it that so many pastors and church leaders have forgotten this fact? Could it be that Satan, our archenemy, knows the power of prayer and makes it a goal to keep us from praying? Isn't it time that we reverse this neglect? Through the prayer seminars, many individuals have come to an understanding of the purpose and power of prayer.

THE PRINCIPLE OF ABIDING

"IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU [THAT'S BIBLE READING], YOU WILL ASK WHAT YOU DESIRE [THAT'S PRAYER], AND IT SHALL DONE FOR YOU [THAT'S A PROMISE]."

John 15:8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Today it continues to be an electrifying experience to hear a simple, earnest testimony to the work of God's grace in one's life. Such testimony cannot be refuted, nor can it be questioned. The work of grace is self-evident. In the July issue of the **Reflector**, we provided thoughts related to developing your personal testimony as one way to share Christ.

Christians Must Witness

Jesus had much to say to the disciples in the Upper Room, just prior to His going to the cross, about the Christian's relationship to the world. After explaining that the world would hate them (**John 15:18-25**), Jesus then explained that we are to be witnesses to that world. This passage concludes with a "but." Whenever we hit a "but" in the Bible we are turning a corner. "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning" (**vv 26-27**).

The last command given by the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples prior to His ascension was "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**). This is still His command and expectation. Christians must witness.

Using a passage of scripture to bring someone to Christ

Every believer needs, in addition, to having a prepared personal testimony to share, to know how to use a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Christ. I want to teach you how to use **Romans 10:1-3** and **8-13**—one of the plainest presentations of the plan of salvation.

It is wise to sit down with the person whom you are seeking to win to the Lord with a Bible in hand. If you can, use a Bible belonging to the person to whom you are witnessing. A person believes his own Bible more quickly than one someone carries into his house.

Turn to **Romans 10:1-3** and let the person read with you, rather than your reading to him. Let him fix his eyes on the text. Begin with the burden Paul expressed in verse one: "*my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.*" He had earlier expressed the deep burden he was carrying for his own people when he wrote in the previous chapter: "*I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh*" (**Romans 9:1-3**). Based on how his own people treated Paul, including using extreme physical abuse, one could question his veracity because what he was saying sounded like a lie. So he pointed out that the Holy Spirit knew he was telling the truth! Paul wanted his own people saved.

One striking difference between Christians today and in the early days of my pastoral ministry relates to a burden for the lost to be saved. When I started in 1953 as a seventeen-year old preacher, folks had a deep burden for unsaved loved ones and often wept for them. That burden is missing today, yet the Word says: "*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy; he that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall return rejoicing, bringing the sheaves with him*" (**Psalms 126:5-6**). Television and prosperity have united to take away our burden. We need the burden back—otherwise we will not go out and sow the seed. Paul had a burden for his people in the flesh, the Jews, even to the point that he would be willing to be lost if they would be saved.

As you witness to an unsaved person, briefly note how important it is for each person to be saved and not lost. Point out that a person is either saved or lost. There is no third category.

As he continued to reflect on the situation, Paul said, "*I give my people credit. They have a zeal for God, but it is not according to knowledge. Instead of coming God's way, they are seeking to come their own way depending on their own righteousness*" (**vv 2-3**). Paul concluded that their efforts reveal an ignorance

of God's way. Simply, the Jews were practicing works to establish their own righteousness—which always leaves a person short!

Having a zeal for God is not enough. Many today are zealous, but what they are doing is not according to God's Word. If you travel into New York City from New Jersey today, you will be greeted at the entrance of the Lincoln Tunnel or Holland Tunnel by individuals selling beautiful flowers. They are there in all types of weather—sunshine or rain; sleet or snow. These persons are Moonies who believe a part of their salvation is zealously performing these duties—but these acts are but zeal without knowledge.

But what is the true way to come to God? What does the Word say? Let the person to whom you are witnessing turn with you to **verse eight** and read: *"But what does the Word say? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy heart and mouth, that is the word of faith which we preach."*

Salvation is near

Point out, as the person reads with you **verse eight**, that a person does not have to take a long trip to be saved since the Word is near him. Isn't this good news? Note that the "heart" here does not refer to the blood pump in the body; rather "heart" is the word for inner man—the part of a person that thinks, loves, feels, and makes decisions. Through the mouth, a person expresses what has happened to him inside.

Two requirements

What does one do to be saved? Ask the person to read **verse nine** himself and tell you the two requirements stated to be saved. Give him time to answer. Many think ten minutes have passed after we ask for an unsaved person's response when only ten seconds have passed. Let the person think this through. Wait for his answer. A person must confess with his mouth that Jesus is Lord, rather than Caesar, and must believe in his heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

When he tells you the two things needed for salvation, ask him to read **verse ten** and tell you the proper order—one must believe first, and then confess that Jesus is his Lord. Continue reading **verses eleven and twelve**, which speak for themselves.

Prayer completes the transaction

Conclude sharing the Scripture with **verse thirteen**, which tells how to implement and complete the transaction. To bring the person to a point of decision either to accept or reject Jesus Christ as Savior—and there are no other alternatives, ask two basic questions related to "calling upon the name of the Lord"—first, what does it mean to "call upon the name of the Lord" and second, what is His name?

To "call on the Lord" is to pray. The name Jesus means "He who saves." It is quite easy to understand that a lost person needs to pray asking Jesus to save him. No one will ever be saved without asking for salvation.

Ask for a decision

At this point, many witnesses fail to "draw the net" by asking for a decision now. Bring the matter to conclusion by asking the person to pray with you and invite Jesus to become His Savior now. Many will gladly do this as the Holy Spirit moves, and the person is born anew into God's family. When the person accepts Jesus, let him either write what he has done in his Bible and date the statement or tell someone in the house what he has done. I have found that it is helpful for him to call someone on the phone and share his decision.

A word of caution

Some believe developing a strategy to use in witnessing is too simplistic and too mechanical. This is true only when a person makes the "right sounds" and goes through the "right motions" without relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Keep in mind that you, personally, can never convert anyone, but the Holy Spirit has promised to be the power needed to share Christ and His Word to bring forth fruit (**Acts 1:8**).

I believe it is imperative that every believer develop skill in using a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Jesus and be ready to share a personal testimony. God will honor your preparation by giving you opportunities to use the Scriptures and to see folks saved. With this background, are you ready to get started?

Success is sharing

Think this through! Make your preparation to share your faith by developing your own personal testimony and by learning how to use a passage of Scripture to bring someone to Jesus. Prepare yourself.

Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. Remember you are a success in God's eyes when you share His Word regardless of the response. Be assured that the Lord would never have instructed us to spread His Word if He did not intend for us to obey Him. Where God guides, He provides. This is our task and our opportunity.

The remainder of **Romans 10** reminds us that people can never believe on someone that they do not know about. Someone must tell the story of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel—which is defined as His death, burial, and resurrection for our sins (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**). You and I can do it! Let's obey totally.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

DECISIONS DETERMINE DESTINY



"I will give myself to prayer"

Psalm 109:4b

The New Defenders Study Bible

Are you ready for a new study Bible? If so, I recommend the **New Defenders Study Bible**, which features over 9,000 explanatory footnotes written by the late Dr. Henry Morris, one of our faithful Doorkeepers. In 1995, Dr. Morris released **The Defender's Study Bible**, a study Bible "defending" all Scripture passages that had come under attack, and presenting creation and inerrancy as foundational doctrines of Christianity. Prior to publication, I had the wonderful privilege of serving as a reader for the notes. My life was greatly enriched by the insights of this man of God.

The New Defenders Study Bible is the only study Bible stressing the defense of the Biblical Christian faith from the perspective of literal creationism and absolute biblical inerrant authority. Dr. Tim LaHaye calls it "The most valuable Bible resource between two covers." Dr. Herman Austel, Dean, Northwest Baptist Seminary (WA), points out that it contains "a wealth of information in historical and scientific matters as well as in prophetic interpretation and spiritual application."

Others have commented on the profound content of the notes. They stem from decades of scholarship on the part of Dr. Morris, but especially an unswerving faith in Scripture and the Author of Scripture. His testimony was simple; the Bible can be believed just like it's written. That's the message of this study Bible.

There are twenty appendices that aid the reader in understanding even difficult passages, especially those dealing with the vital doctrine of creation. There is a comprehensive index for the notes, a concordance, center-column references, and maps.

JGHM has **The Defenders Study Bible** (burgundy in bonded leather) available for a \$50 gift to the prayer seminar ministry. The suggested contribution includes shipping and handling. You may order by mail, by telephone, or by E-mail.

Pakistan: Update from James Dean



DR. HENRY & JAMES DEAN
REVIEWING URDU WORKBOOK

Dear Dr. Henry and Sue:

We just had another prayer seminar and our supply of workbooks has all been used. About 185 came and we had an awesome time. I was even able to share your personal illustrations and experiences. People were greatly blessed and recharged for prayer work. Thank you for giving us such a wonderful teaching and materials to share effectively.

Comments:

"Thank you for the workbooks. We are very thankful to you."

"This seminar has changed the whole course of my life. Now I have a prayerful life."

"This seminar has given me discipline in my prayer life. I feel more strong in prayer now."

"We did not have a solid prayer fellowship in my church, but after this prayer seminar my people are charged and touched by this teaching. Thank you for strengthening my church."

We have developed Harvest Translators & Publishers and ask permission to translate and print two of your important books into the Urdu language: **A Christian's Necessary Food** and **Upper Room Discourse**. These books will be a great resource to believers in Pakistan, as well as a wonderful follow-up of the seed sown in Pakistan through the prayer seminars. These books will bring great revival, refreshment, and renewal for the church in Pakistan (churches, individuals, and families).

Blessings and love to you and Sue.

James Dean
5-8-06

Observation:

There is no doubt about it; the influence of the prayer seminar ministry upon Christians in a country where 97% are Muslims has been profound. Over twenty-six hundred attended seminars in 2004 and 2005. Many who attended have been teaching the material. The Urdu translation of the prayer seminar workbook continues to be a vital tool to equip the saints in their daily Christian lives. Having two of my books available in Urdu is a great privilege to extend the influence of the prayer seminar ministry.

JGHM has sent \$1,000 to provide more workbooks and toward the translation and printing of the two books. Some of you have developed a burden for Pakistan and have provided funds. If the Holy Spirit stirs your heart to support what we are doing to see that the prayer seminar continues to be taught on and on, mark your gift **"PAKISTAN SUPPORT."** Help us **penetrate the spiritual darkness** through teaching the purpose and power of prayer to believers who are hungry to receive the Word of God. God is working; you and I can help.

Eye-openers

Europe has flagrantly abandoned Christianity. Could this be Europe/s chastisement? The following is an excerpt from a speech by Libyan leader Mr' ammar Al-Qadhafi, which aired on Al-Jazeera TV on April 10, 2006: "We have fifty million Muslims in Europe. There are signs that Allah will grant Islam victory in Europe—without swords, without guns, without conquests. The fifty million Muslims of Europe will turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades."

Yes, we are in a war, but it is a spiritual war (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**). The battlefield must be the place of prayer (**Ephesians 6:10**) because the first activity mentioned after the instruction to put on the armor God has provided (**vv 10-17**) is prayer. To pray or not to pray is your decision.

Prayer is work

All work takes time. When it becomes clear to us that prayer is a part of our daily program of work, it will also become clear to us that we must arrange our daily program in such a way that there is time also for this work, just as we set aside time for other necessary things, such as eating and dressing.

The first and the decisive battle in connection with prayer is the conflict that arises when we are to make arrangements to be alone with God every day. If the battle is lost for any length of time at this point, the enemy has already won the first skirmish. "I have called daily upon Thee" (**Psalm 88:9**).

O. Hallesby

How to read the Bible

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." **Psalm 119:105**

Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the pages as a blank check, cash it.

If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a featured arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed in all its intrinsic splendor, entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate the hemisphere of your life.

—F. B. Meyer

Prayer walking

I have resolved to pray more and pray always, to pray in all places where quietness inviteth, in the house, on the highway and on the street; and to know no street or passage in this city that may not witness that I have forgotten God.

Sir Thomas Browne



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1036. He who finds no fault in himself needs a second opinion.

Note 1037. God is the only one who knows the whole picture; trust Him when you don't.

Note 1038. "Truth is always strong, no matter how weak it looks, and falsehood is always weak, no matter how strong it looks." **Philip Brooks**

Note 1039. Anger makes your mouth work faster than your brain.

Note 1040. Good old days are often a cross between a good imagination and a bad memory.

The first one thousand notes are in my book, **Notes from my Bible**, along with tributes to our parents, and favorite poems I have used in sermons. The notes are not only thought-provoking, they are good fillers for bulletins and church newsletters. The suggested contribution is \$7, which includes handling and shipping. Call (434) 239-8837 or E-mail us at jghm84@aol.com to place an order.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

June 23--July 21

	# Gifts	Amount
Regular	46	\$2,530



WELCOME, NEW DOORKEEPERS!

Gordon & Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)

Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)

**A PRAYER SEMINAR
COULD HELP YOUR CHURCH
BECOME A PRAYING CHURCH!
FOR INFORMATION OR SCHEDULING,
CONTACT US.**

A reasonable question

Who will carry on your ministry after you can no longer do so? That is a reasonable question that I have pondered, especially during recent years. Through the partnership of our faithful, generous **Doorkeepers**, the prayer seminar has touched many parts of the world. One common response has been the desire to share with others things learned in a seminar. In some cases, this has involved teaching family members and Christian friends informally. Others, however, have been called by God to teach the material formally.

Onesimus Sule and **Sunday Bwanhot** were called by God in 1989 to develop a prayer seminar ministry in Nigeria. Although Onesimus retired a number of years ago and Sunday is a missionary to the United States working with West Africans in the Chicago area, other leaders have carried on the work. The work continues to thrive. There have been hundreds upon hundreds of prayer seminars in Nigeria using our materials.

God spoke to **Leslie Mostalane**. En route from Welkom in South Africa to Maseru in Lesotha, Leslie commented on the effect of the prayer seminars in the lives of believers and churches in South Africa and Botswana. Then he said, "This material needs to be taught until Jesus returns. God has called me to share in my nation." The result was the formation of J. Gordon Henry Ministries—Southern Africa Branch whose mission is to provide seminars in nine southern Africa nations.

In this issue, you will read about what is happening in Pakistan as reported by our coordinator, **James Dean**. In nation after nation, God speaks to His children to become teachers sharing the prayer seminar.

Teaching the teachers

Already pastors who were in the Kenyan prayer seminars have conducted prayer seminars and have additional seminars scheduled (in Kenya and in Congo). **Martin Shikuku** taught a seminar in **Eldoret** during the month of June (2, 9, 16, 23, 30). Sixty-nine

people were in the first session and interest grew. **Andrew Sakari** has conducted a seminar in his church in **Misikhu**. These are towns in Western Kenya.

Boniface Rukaria, pastor, Berean Baptist Church and general secretary of the **Nairobi Baptist Association** is eager to share prayer seminars. His goal is to establish sixteen new churches in northern Kenya. He has written, "you are already part of this mission because you taught me the great truths I needed to motivate me." **Pastor Ben Mutongoi** called his people at Unity Baptist Church, Nairobi, to overnight prayer, using material he had learned in the prayer seminar to guide the prayer meeting.

Mulamba Placide Kituta is pastor in **Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo**. He not only is sharing the prayer seminar with his people and other churches in the area, he has a vision to plant a branch of our ministry to provide seminars in the Congo, Burundi and Rwanda.

While I do not know what the future holds, I believe firmly that our work will continue. I have taught the teachers who are sharing with others. Pray that I will have wisdom in decision-making about the future.

Thanks to your faithful support, JGHM has sent funds to Martin, Andrew, and Mulamba Placide to print additional workbooks. Your contributions make our ministry in other nations possible. We need your support now more than ever! We are grateful for your partnership.

Refreshing reminder

Jeremiah declares that Israel will never "cease from being a nation" (**Jeremiah 31:36-37**). ...World War III will be fought over Jerusalem as Antichrist's armies seek to frustrate God's plans for her. [Jerusalem is special to God], called "the city of our God" (**Psalms 48:1,8**) and twice the "city of God" (**Psalms 46:4; 87:3**). —Dave Hunt

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM!
Psalms 122:6

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FOR OVER FORTY YEARS, CARTER MYLAM BAYNES HAS BEEN A BEST FRIEND. SHE RECENTLY TURNED NINETY. OUR GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, MAGGIE, IS ENJOYING CARTER'S TOUCH. AS SUE AND I HAVE OVER THE YEARS.

Cherish each day

"This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it" (**Psalm 118:24**).
"The Lord is good to all and His tender mercies are over all His works" (**Psalm 145:9**).

**THE LORD IS GOOD; THEN TELL OF HIM.
THE LORD IS GOOD; THEN TRY HIM.
THE LORD IS GOOD; THEN TRUST HIM.
THE LORD IS GOOD; THEN THANK HIM.**

This is a good day to tell of Christ wherever you go. Someone needs the tract you can leave behind, the smile you can give, or the word concerning Christ you can say. **DO IT.** Then you will find this day will be richer if you just drop a word for Christ along your way.

Be sure to place **Matthew 6:33** on your daily "To Do List". This will keep your eyes in the right direction as you cherish each day.

Prayer needed



As I share with the *Reflector* readers, my strong desire is to provide teaching that is both understandable and useful. From the very beginning of the prayer seminar ministry twenty-six years ago, I have been aware there are many who pray daily for me and the prayer seminar ministry—and for that I am grateful.

Pray for me as I prepare copy for the various print ministries we have. Don't forget to tell others about the availability of the prayer seminar ministry. Pray for open doors. Pray for traveling grace. Pray that each word spoken during the prayer seminars will bring glory to God. Your prayer covering is needed.

May our Lord continue to inspire us to follow Him all the days of our lives! Let's pray for one another to that end!