

REFLECTOR

VOL. 56, No. 7

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

July 2010

What July 4th Means to Me Ronald Reagan

Note: When he was president of the United States, **Ronald Reagan** wrote the following article for **Independence Day** in 1981. Aide **Michael Deaver** wrote: "This 4th of July message is the President's own words written initially in his own hand."

For one who was born and grew up in the small towns of the Midwest, there is a special kind of nostalgia about the Fourth of July. I remember it as a day almost as long-anticipated as Christmas. This was helped along by the appearance in store windows of all kinds of fireworks and colorful posters advertising them with vivid pictures.

No later than the third of July, sometimes earlier, Dad would bring home what he felt he could afford to see go up in smoke and flame. We'd count and recout the number of firecrackers, display pieces and other things and go to bed determined to be up with the sun so as to offer the first, thunderous notice of the Fourth of July.

I'm afraid we didn't give too much thought to the meaning of the day. And, yes, there were tragic accidents to mar it, resulting from careless handling of the fireworks. I'm sure

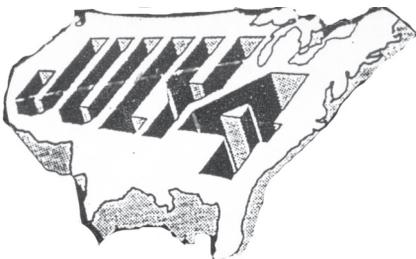
we're better off today with fireworks handled by professionals. Yet there was a thrill never to be forgotten in seeing a tin can blown thirty feet in the air by a giant "cracker," giant meaning it was about four inches long. But enough of nostalgia.

Somewhere in our growing up, we began to be aware of the meaning of days and with awareness came the birth of patriotism. July 4th is the birthday of our nation. I believed as a boy, and believe even more today, that it is the birthday of the greatest nation on earth.

There is a legend about the day of our nation's birth in Philadelphia, a day on which debate had raged for hours. The men gathered there were honorable men hard-pressed by a king who had flouted the very laws they were willing to obey. Even so, to sign the **Declaration of Independence** was such an irretrievable act that the walls resounded with the words, "treason, the gallows, the headsman's axe," and the issue remained in doubt.

The legend says that at that point a man rose and spoke. He is described as not a young man, but one who had to summon all his energy for an impassioned plea. He cited the grievances that had brought them to this moment and finally, his voice falling, he said, "They may turn every tree into a gallows, every hole into a grave, and yet the words of that parchment can never die. To the mechanic in the workshop, they speak hope; to the slave in the mines, freedom. Sign that parchment. Sign if the next moment the

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Perspectives

As we watch things unfold, we feel in our souls that we need revival. However, that this world desperately needs a revival of Christianity is not the question of the hour. The burning question for us all to consider is: “What will happen to civilization within the next decade if we do not have a genuine spiritual awakening?” This question not only involves preachers and churches, it is the major question that confronts every official in the United States from President Obama down to every leader and decision-maker in our government, every leader in our armed forces, every business executive, every labor leader, every home and individual in the whole world without regard to race or creed. Frankly, we have reached a critical, crisis point. This is our human predicament.

What the Bible says. As never before, it is important for us to keep things in a biblical perspective. As I pray for America, the Holy Spirit calls me back to the Word of God. What does the Word of God say? What light does the Scripture shed on our human predicament? My commitment to the *Reflector* readers is to seek God’s message in the Bible and then share what He puts on my heart. I believe that God has a Word for His church that has been set forth already in the Bible. It may not be the word that we want, but it needs to be set before us anyway. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (**John 8:32**) **provided that we bring our lives and thoughts into conformity and harmony with that truth.**

You will remember that King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, during very desperate times brought Jeremiah out of the prison into a private room and implored Jeremiah: “Is there any Word from the Lord?” (**Jeremiah 37:17**). There was a word, but it was not one that comforted King Zedekiah.

It is unbelievable that many in the church, who are numbered among the believers, no

longer accept the authority of the Bible. Nevertheless, the Bible remains true. When the Bible says it, that settles it, whether any one of us believes it or not. Secular humanism has beguiled many in the present generation into thinking that there are no absolute truths, that truth is always relative. Untrue! What insights do the Scriptures provide to guide us in these troubled times? Simply, the world is heading for a final battle between God and the forces of evil. Many Christians, however, are ignorant of the Word of God because they have turned to human wisdom and the traditions of men (**Mark 7:13**). Churches are full of people who are ignorant of what God has revealed about things to come.

The Day of the Lord. On the home front, the forces of evil are moving forward with openness and seeming confidence that their views will prevail in America. In earlier years of my fifty-seven year ministry, the devil’s approaches were subtle. Now they are brazenly open. What my beloved friend, the late **Dr. Henry Morris**, has termed **The Long War Against God** seems to be coming to a climax. Look at the lifestyles that prevail in America. It’s really amazing how materialistic that we have become as God has poured out His bountiful blessings upon our nation. Our obsession with larger houses, bigger screen TVs, sportier cars, the latest gadgets, and faster boats is truly something to behold, especially, since one morning we’re going to wake up, everything we have is gone up in smoke. That is going to happen!

That’s the point Peter wanted to make in his epistle. He wants us to know that when “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the [very] elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in will be burned up” (**2 Peter 3:10**). Those material things that we have come to love so much will all be gone. Of course, once we understand

this, Peter wants us to act appropriately. **“Therefore**, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat (**vv 11-12**)?” He asks: “What kind of people ought we to be?” And he answers, “you ought to live holy and godly lives” as you “look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness (**v 13**).” A holy and godly life, marked by growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, is what is needed in our day.

On the international front, the forces of evil are moving forward with openness and seeming confidence that their views will prevail in the world. The problem of the Middle East can only be properly understood in theological terms. Israel lies at the very heart of a violent confrontation between the spiritual powers of Islam and the Word of God (**Daniel 10:13, Ephesians 6:12**). Islam is confident that it has the final revelation of the Word of God and that it represents the fulfillment of the work of God among the nations of the world. Their attack is subtle and insidious.

Is it too late for revival to come? Has our nation gone too far? Every true Christian knows that there are a few fundamental things that must take place before a revival will be sent from God. Time and time again, I have given attention to the need to confess and forsake known sin. This is a basic requirement. As long as there is sin in the lives of God’s children, there is sin in the church.

Sin in the church blocks revival and hampers soul-winning efforts. The Word of God is plain to the individual Christian: “[When] I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord won’t hear me” (**Psalm 66:18**). The Word of God is plain to the church: “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot

hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hid His face from you, so that He will not hear” (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). When there is known and unconfessed sin, God will neither hear nor answer prayers.

Praying down a revival. Revival in our churches is as near as our prayer meetings. Not only Scripture, but church history itself, shows that no revival or spiritual awakening has ever come any other way. Do we really want a revival in our day as we often profess? If we do, we must repent and establish biblical priorities for our work. We must lay aside our procrastination and begin to build up the prayer life of our churches in every way — personal prayer lives, prayer partner praying, family altars, cottage prayer meetings, church prayer meetings. A revival must be prayed down.

Do you want a revival? You must have an encounter with God. Someone has said that the beginning point can be simply delineated. Draw a circle. Kneel down in the circle. Pray for revival to begin in the circle. Pray that revival will begin with you. The gospel song has the right focus: “not my brother, nor my sister, but it is me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.” Ask the Holy Spirit to turn His spotlight on your heart. See yourself as God sees you. Follow David’s example and ask God to show you any sin that is in your heart (**Psalm 139:23-24**). Others may not know your sins, but God does. Once He brings conviction, repent and confess. Then you will have forgiveness and cleansing (**1 John 1:9**). It is then that you will be on praying ground. You will then be in a position to participate in a church prayer meeting.

**AMERICA, AMERICA
ONE NATION UNDER GOD
INDIVISIBLE.
GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE.**

An admission. For over three decades, I have had a burning burden to help God's children get a concept of the purpose and power of prayer teaching basic truths related to praying. God has opened doors around the world for me to do so. The emphasis of the prayer seminar ministry, however, has been on individual, not corporate, praying. My regret is that I did not discern that there is a "next step" needed after the individual learns to pray. The individual needs to become part of a church prayer meeting. As I teach, I am now making an effort to bridge the gap between individual praying and church praying. Once this is accomplished, I firmly believe that we will be on the road to the revival we need.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

Continued from page one

noose is around your neck, for that parchment will be the textbook of freedom, the Bible of the rights of man forever."

He fell back exhausted. The fifty-six delegates, swept up by his eloquence, rushed forward and signed that document destined to be as immortal as a work of man can be. When they turned to thank him for his timely oratory, he was not to be found, nor could any be found who knew who he was or how he had come in or gone out through the locked and guarded doors.

Well, that is legend. But we do know for certain that fifty-six men, a little band so unique we have never seen their like since, had pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Some gave their lives in the war that followed, most gave their fortunes, and all preserved their sacred honor.

What manner of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists, eleven were merchants and tradesmen, and nine were farmers. They were soft-spoken men

of means and education; they were not unwashed rabble. They had achieved security, but valued freedom more. Their stories have not been told nearly enough.

John Hart was driven from the side of his desperately ill wife. For more than a year, he lived in the forest and in caves before he returned to find his wife dead, his children vanished, his property destroyed. He died of exhaustion and a broken heart.

Carter Braxton of Virginia lost all his ships, sold his home to pay his debts, and died in rags. And so it was with Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Rutledge, Morris, Livingston and Middleton. Nelson personally urged Washington to fire on his home and destroy it when it became the headquarters for General Cornwallis. Nelson died bankrupt.

But they sired a nation that grew from sea to shining sea. Five million farms, quiet villages, cities that never sleep, 3 million square miles of forest, field, mountain and desert, 227 million people with a pedigree that includes the bloodlines of the world. In recent years, however, I've come to think of that day as more than just the birthday of a nation.

It also commemorates the only true philosophical revolution in all history. Oh, there have been revolutions before and since ours. But those revolutions simply exchanged one set of rules for another. Ours was a revolution that changed the very concept of government.

Let the Fourth of July always be a reminder that here in this land, for the first time, it was decided that man is born with certain God-given rights; that government is only a convenience created and managed by the people, with no powers of its own except those voluntarily granted to it by the people. We sometimes forget that great truth, and we never should.

Happy Fourth of July.

Ronald Reagan
President, United States

Sin in the camp

The picture drawn in an incident at Ai, as the children of Israel moved into the Promised Land is haunting, indeed. After the destruction of Jericho is recounted, a striking statement is given: “So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country” (**Joshua 6:27**). God had promised Israel a land flowing with milk and honey as their inheritance. After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, it was time for them to enter in to claim His promises. The account of their defeat at Ai is given. The advice had been that Israel need not send a large contingency into battle, “Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few” (**7:3**). Consequently, about three thousand men went up. Amazingly enough, they were routed by the men of Ai: “And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people [of Israel] melted like water” (**7:5**).

One thing that Joshua had learned serving as Moses’ second-in-command was what to do when trouble comes take your burdens to the Lord in prayer. That is exactly what he did: “Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their

heads. And Joshua said, ‘Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?’” (**7:6-9**).

God heard the cry of Joshua and His answer was blunt and direct. “So the Lord said to Joshua: ‘Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have been doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you any more, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. Get up, sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you’” (**7:10-13**). There was sin in the camp that had to be dwelt with before God’s hand of blessing could rest His hand upon His children.

Every true Christian knows that before a revival will be sent by God, there must be prayer. It is common knowledge to every follower of Christ that no one need expect a revival to come to the people of God until we pray. That fact needs no debating. “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). Then, why wait? Why not obey and pray now? God is able, willing, and WAITING!

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PRAYER FOR AMERICA

GOD BLESS AMERICA,
LAND THAT I LOVE,
STAND BESIDE HER,
AND GUIDE HER
THROUGH THE NIGHT
WITH A LIGHT FROM ABOVE,
FROM THE MOUNTAINS,
TO THE PRAIRIES,
TO THE OCEANS
WITH WITH FOAM.
GOD BLESS AMERICA,
MY HOME, SWEET HOME.

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Living a Fruitful Life

Corrie Ten Boom

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control”

Galatians 5:22-23

Love is the love of Christ that passes knowledge. **Joy** is the joy unspeakable and full of glory. **Peace** is the peace that passes all understanding that Jesus promised when He said, “My peace I give unto you.” **Longsuffering** is forgiving even your enemies, just as Jesus forgave His enemies when He was on the cross. **Gentleness** is the reproduction of the gentleness of Jesus. **Goodness** is Christ-likeness; a kindly disposition. **Faithfulness**: The disciples were not always faithful. At the betrayal of Jesus in the garden they all forsook Him and fled. But when the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost they all became faithful unto death. **Meekness** is not the same as weakness. Nor is it a native fruit of the human heart. It is an exotic fruit of heaven. **Self-control** is mastering the appetites and passions, particularly the sensual. **All this fruit can be seen in you, but only when you are in contact with the Vine.**

Itinerary

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

2 Thessalonians 3:1

July

- 15 Board of Directors
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 24-25 Prayer Seminar
Seminary United Methodist Church
Seminary, Mississippi
- 31 LV for Venezuela

August

- 1 - 6 Venezuela Baptist Convention
Pastor's Retreat
Baptist Retreat Center
- 7 Greater Grace Church
Caracus, Venezuela

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1176.
Let Scripture speak. Paul

appealed to the Scriptures, even though the people who listened did not believe.

Note 1177. Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

Note 1178. What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, is prayer to the soul.

Note 1179. We can't solve problems for others, but we can introduce them to Jesus.

Note 1180. What have you done today that only a Christian would have done?

These notes come from the writings of **Corrie Ten Boom** who protected Jewish refugees during World War II and was subsequently imprisoned by the Nazis.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

May 24--June 16, 2010

Regular 42 \$2,915



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Welcome! New Doorkeepers!

Soma Kovoov (TX)
Ellen Paulson (MN)
Derrick Williams (TX)

PRAYER CALENDAR**July 2010**

“I will give myself to prayer...”

Psalm 109:4b**THURSDAY, JULY 1****PROV 1-4 (Comoros 731,775)**

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

FRIDAY, JULY 2**PROV 5-9 (Congo, D.R. 66.6M)**

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

SATURDAY, JULY 3**PROV 10-13 (Congo Rep. 3.9M)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
 Jean Beasley (TN)
 Frank Bell (TN)
 Tommy & Sue 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)

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
 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)

MONDAY, JULY 5**PROV14-17 (Cook Isl 12,271)**

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
 Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)
 Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
 Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
 Janice Bugg (TN)
 Ruby Burger (TN)
 Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
 Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
 Mary Campbell (ID)
 Pat & Cindy Caporossi (MI)
 John & Patricia Carter (FL)

TUESDAY, JULY 6**PROV 18-21 (Costa Rica 4.2M)**

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7**PROV 22-24 (Iv Coast 20.2M)**

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
 Dufrene 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)

THURSDAY, JULY 8**PROV 25-29 (Croatia 4.5M)**

Delmarva Evangelistic Ch (MD)
 Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
 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)

FRIDAY, JULY 9**PROV 30-31 (Cuba 11.4M)**

June Fisher (TN)
 Makeva Flowers (VA)
 Claire/Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
 Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
 Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
 Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
 Frank Geiger (HI)

Robert & Sara George (GA)

SATURDAY, JULY 10**ECCLES 1-6 (Cyprus 792,604)**

Frances Glass (AL)
 Gloucester Co. Community Ch
 Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
 Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
 Odetha Gray (GA)
 Linda Gregory (UT)
 Charles Hale (VA)
 Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
 Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

SUNDAY, JULY 11

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)
 Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
 Joanna Holland (VA)
 John & Glenda Holland (VA)
 Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

MONDAY, JULY 12**ECCLES 7-12 (Czech R 10.3M)**

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)

TUESDAY, JULY 13**SOLOMON (Denmark 5.5M)**

Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
 Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
 Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
 Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
 Peter & Millicent John (NY)
 Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
 Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
 John & Judy Johnson (FL)
 Wilbur & Gwen Johnson (AZ)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14**ISAIAH 1-4 (Djibouti 506,221)**

James & Geneieve Johes (FL)
 Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
 W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
 Jean Jonte (SC)
 Mohan Katta (IL)
 Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
 Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Larry & Janet King (NC)

Robert & Rose Klaus (VA)

THURSDAY, JULY 15

ISAIAH 5-7 (Dominica 72,514)

Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)

Sherry Klutz (WA)

Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)

Thomas Knight Jr (SC)

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)

Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)

Soma Kovoor (TX)

Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk

Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)

David & Cathy Laing (FL)

Phil Landers (OK)

FRIDAY, JULY 16

ISA 8-12 (Dominican Rep 9.5M)

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)

Brian & Stacey Loomis (VA)

SATURDAY, JULY 17

ISA 13-16 (Ecuador 13.9M)

Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC)

Manship Chapel (DE)

Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)

Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)

Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)

Larry & Sue Mason (VA)

Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Dan & Fay McConville (VA)

Leonard & Martha Meador (WV)

Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)

Memorial Christian Church (VA)

Virgil & Sue Knipp, Ministers

Mona Merry (SC)

Brenda Merritt (SC)

MONDAY, JULY 19

ISA 17-20 (Egypt 81.7M)

Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)

Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)

Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)

Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)

TUESDAY, JULY 20

ISA 21-23 (El Salvador 7.1M)

Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)

French & Laura Moore (VA)

Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)

Katherine Morgan (VA)

Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)

Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)

Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

ISA 24-27 (Eq Guinea 616,459)

Ann Palumbo (NJ)

Ellen Paulson (MN)

Roger & Kay Pede(VA)

Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)

Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)

Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)

Ben Poplin (VA)

Ayers Porter (TN)

Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)

Brandon, Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)

THURSDAY, JULY 22

ISAIAH 28-30 (Eritrea 5.5M)

James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)

Alice Riddick (NC)

Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)

Cynthia Roach (VA)

Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)

Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

FRIDAY, JULY 23

ISAIAH 31-35 (Estonia 1.3M)

Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)

Bob Rose (MI)

David & Amy Ross (KY)

Sandra Rumore (VA)

Denise Russell (OR)

John Saint (PA)

Don & Marie Satterwhite (CT)

Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)

Gary & Sandy Schmittjer (PA)

Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

SATURDAY, JULY 24

ISA36-39 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)

John & Peggy Seibert (AL)

Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)

Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)

Eric Farel, Pastor

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)

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)

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Marion J. Stansell (TX)

Tim & Pam Steger (ID)

Carol Snow Stewart (CT)

Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)

Clarence/Roselin Stringfield (VA)

Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)

MONDAY, JULY 26

ISAIAH 40-43 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)

William Stroman, Pastor

Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)

Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)

Stephanie Taylor (GA)

Temple of Praise (TX)

Gilbert Perez, Pastor

Earleen Thigpen (TN)

Mona Henry Thomas (VA)

TUESDAY, JULY 27

ISAIAH 44-48 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Montez Thompson (CO)

Mildred V. Thompson (GA)

Paula Tipton (TN)

Virginia Trask (VA)

Carol & Ouida Troutman (KY)

Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)

Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)

Malcom Troutman (KY)

Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

ISA 49-51 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)

Sara Underwood (TN)

Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)

Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)

George/Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)

Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)

Doris Snyder Verrall (FL)

THURSDAY, JULY 29

ISA 52-57 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Horace & Becky Ward (NC)

Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)

Beau Ware (VA)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

FRIDAY, JULY 30

ISA 58-62 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)

Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)

Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)

George & Virginia Whitner (FL)

SATURDAY, JULY 31

ISA 63-66 (Venezuela 26.4M)

Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)

Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)

Derrick Williams (TX)

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 Offenbacker, Pastor

Lili Wykle (VA)

No substitute for prayer

There are some very good reasons why we are not praying more for revival. We find them clearly revealed in **Genesis 32** in the story of **Jacob** when he was compelled to face his adversary, his own brother, **Esau**, who had murder in his heart. First, **Jacob** tried to substitute knowledge for prayer. He was far smarter than his brother and out-smarted every person with whom he dealt. He was the shrewdest Jew in history, but his vast store of knowledge and success was no substitute for prayer. Second, he tried to substitute riches for prayer. He sent alluring gifts to his brother. Never were our churches, our institutions, and our boards so prosperous. But money is no substitute for prayer. Third, **Jacob** tried to substitute organization for prayer. As you read the story, you will find that **Jacob** divided his people who were traveling with him and the herds and flocks and camels into two bands in order to escape **Esau**. But his organization failed. We are super-organizers today in our religious activities as well as in secular life. But organization, good as it is, is no substitute for prayer. Fourth, he tried to substitute numbers for prayer. He could have sent his gifts to **Esau** by the hand of one or two men, but he sent numbers to make a great display of might. In this, he sadly failed for **Esau** had numbers, too. He had 400 armed men with him. Remember, the devil has more people here on earth than God has. Numbers are no substitute for prayer. Fifth, he tried to substitute a program for prayer. He had concocted the best variety of maneuverings to be found in any such story in the Bible. These were well planned programs and skillfully carried out, but they did not work. We have plans, methods, and programs, which we believe are of necessity and are God given, but they are no substitute for prayer.

God our only help. Finally, **Jacob** came to the end of the row. His arm of flesh had

failed him. He had but one alternative if he would escape death at the hands of **Esau**. That alternative was to pray to God for divine help, "Then **Jacob** said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, "Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will deal well with you;" I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray from the hand of my brother, from the hand of **Esau**; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude'" (**Genesis 32:9-12**).

Prayer was **Jacob's** alternative, and it is our alternative if we would see revival. Prayer is the mightiest weapon that God has ever placed in the hands of man. Prayer sets the power of God in motion. Prayer obtains that power that spoke the worlds into existence, the power of God. Isaiah, the prophet, said of Him: "He spans the heavens with His hands, He weighs the mountain on His scales. He measures the seas in the palm of His hands" (**Isaiah 40:12**). That is our God. He is the one who commanded, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (**Jeremiah 33:3**).

We, too, have an adversary. The adversary we face is a common foe, mightier than **Esau**, and a murderer from the beginning. He is seeking to destroy civilization and is making tremendous headway. He is so powerful that armies and navies, including the atom or nuclear bomb, cannot hurt him. He has the power to deceive the whole world. He is Satan. But he is afraid of a Christian on his knees. In fact, he trembles when he sees the weakest Christian begin to pray. He fears a church on its knees. He cannot stand the force of prayer.

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Prayer subdued **Esau**. “Now **Jacob** lifted his eyes and looked, and there, **Esau** was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last. Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. But **Esau** ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept (**Genesis 33:1-4**).

The record is complete. Prayer has always prevailed with God for His people. Prayer is not new. It has always been God’s way. From the beginning of prayer history recorded in **Genesis 4:26b**, men have been calling on the name of the Lord. The cries of Israel saved them from Egyptian bondage. Three days of fasting and prayer at the command of Esther saved all the Jews from destruction. Prayer on Mount Carmel by one man, Elijah, won the victory over four hundred fifty false prophets of Baal.

The world is at its darkest again. We have tried everything else without success. Let us try prayer. A praying church will be a revived church. The church will never become a praying church until the importance of prayer is recognized and plans are made to bring prayer to a place of prominence in the life of the church.



Pastors--March 2010

Front Row, first person on the right
is Isaiah Rajas, the
coordinator for the August Pastors Conference
Venezuela Baptist Convention Leader
PRAY FOR THE PREPARATION.

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It would be worthwhile for any person interested in a revived church to read through the Book of **Acts** and see how Jesus planted His church. The message that is written all though the book emphasizes the importance of a praying church. Yet somehow, the modern church has missed the message. Consequently, we miss revival and the powerful working of the Holy Spirit. Frankly, when the Spirit of prayer departs from our churches, the glory of the Lord departs with it. The result is that the world gets into our churches and we begin to see things from man’s point of view, instead of God’s point of view. The wheels of Zion bog down.

It is important to make the distinction between praying for a general, widespread spiritual awakening in the land and a specific local revival in a congregation. If you want to see revival in the land, start praying for revival in your church. Yes, the reality is that the only thing that Jesus left on earth, when He ascended to His position of glory and authority in Heaven at the right hand of His Father was a praying church with only a small number in attendance. Look at the book of Acts to see the accomplishments of the prayer meetings. Then, let’s pray!

P R A Y E R L I S T

INTERNATIONAL

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
Shem & Merry Kamla (Nigeria)
Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
Nuhu & Merry Leo (Nigeria)
John & Elberta McSween (Trinidad)
Leslie & Tabitha Motalane (South Africa)
Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)
Eduardo Otero (Cuba)
Isaias Rojas (Venezuela)
Andrew J.Sakari (Kenya)
Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

A praying church

The Lord Jesus Christ expects His church to be a praying church. Beyond His direct words on the matter, the one thing He left behind when He returned to His position of glorification at the right hand of the Father in Heaven was a praying church. A study of the Scriptures confirms the role of the church in the plan of God. Further, there is clearly an expectation set forth for corporate praying. My good friend, the late **Armin Gesswein**, spent years reminding us that what appears consistently in the New Testament, our Guidebook, is an emphasis on the church as a local congregation. The church began this way in Jerusalem on the Day on Pentecost and then continued to mother other churches after its model. The local church is the basic unit for the major working of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Thus, we read of the “church at Antioch,” “the church at Corinth,” “the church at Ephesus,” “the churches of Galatia” and on and on. Finally, we read in **Revelation** seven times, “he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” The role of the church is plain. One would think we would wake up and get the message. No instruction from God is plainer than that which calls individual churches to repentance and renewal.

A church is a composite of baptized believers who have banded themselves together, as a local assembly, to function as the body of Christ. Sometimes we forget this basic truth. If there are to be changes in the church, the changes must be in individuals.

One of the most important commands given to the church is contained in an expression that the Lord Jesus Christ gave to His followers just prior to His ascension. He told His disciples that they were to be witnesses to everyone everywhere. Think of the enormity of that mandate. How can this be possible? Jesus quickly answered that query. He told them to be witnesses, but not even to think about it until they received supernatural

power. “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**). They waited in Jerusalem, praying together in one accord, for ten days. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came. The power needed was now available. The early believers began witnessing and sharing the Gospel, the “good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for our sins (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**) and on that one day about three thousand were saved.

Why is power absent today in so many churches? One reason is that there are no longer viable church prayer meetings. God’s call is not only to revival, it is a call to the praying that brings revival to our churches. God works in answer to prayer. **John Wesley** knew this and declared: “God works only in concert with the praying of His people.”

You will remember Elijah’s Mt. Carmel confrontation of the evil in his time that was personified in the false prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18**). Before he began his work (which was prayer), he took time to rebuild the altar. God’s fire is, and has always been, **altar fire**. We must again build up the altars of prayer that are broken down. Only God Himself can send revival, but He has made ample provision for the kind of praying that brings revival. The failure to make prayer the work that comes before all other work explains why we do not have genuine revivals in our churches.

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