

REFLECTOR

VOL. 55, No. 3

“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

March 2009

A clear insight in 1915

One of the oldest volumes in my personal library is entitled **The Christian Minister’s Encyclopaedia and Pulpit Companion Volume II**. It was given to me in 1956, my junior year in college. It was published in 1915 by D. Appleton and Company for Sears-Roebuck and Company from the Sixth English Edition which means that the initial publication was in the late 1800’s. It contains five hundred sketches and skeletons of sermons suited for all occasions along with nearly one hundred on types and metaphors. It is a virtual gold mine with inexhaustible nuggets of insight. I was blessed by Skeleton XVI (pages 38-39) and want to share with our readers.

PRAYER

“Lord, teach us to pray.” Luke 11:1

PRAYER is the duty of dependent creatures. Those who are self-sufficient do not need it. It is one of those signs which have ever distinguished the people of God. How desirable that we so understand it, as to excel in its holy and happy exercises. Its true spirit is from above; we cannot acquire it from men, or by mental research and skill. [One disciple], convinced of this, said to Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

I. *What is Prayer?*

It is the presenting of our requests to God, either verbally or by lifting up our hearts to Him, and breathing out our desires before Him. In pray,

1. The heart must be the agent. Without this, lip service will be an abomination to the Lord. Sincerity and earnestness must distinguish all our approaches to the throne of grace. **Proverbs 28:9; 15:8.**
2. God is the object of prayer. None else is possessed of those attributes which the Being whom we worship should possess: infinite knowledge almighty power unbounded goodness omnipresence, and such (**Psalm 65:2**).
3. Jesus Christ is the only medium of prayer. He is the way to the Father; by Him we have access; we must ask all things in His name, and expect all through His merits. He is the mediator between God and us.
4. Prayer must be our constant exercise. We ever stand in need God is ever ready to bless prayer is the appointed medium of communication (**Ephesians 6:18**).

II. *Why should we desire to be taught how to pray?*

1. Because of the importance of prayer. Prayer moves the hand that moves all things. To be distinguished for prayer is the highest distinction we can receive. To be thus exercised is the safest, happiest, and most profitable of all employments.

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Perspectives



**Banner at Montezuma (GA)
United Methodist Church Seminar**

The theme of the prayer seminar ministry has always been “A Day in God’s Courts” (**Psalm 84:10**). In contemporary America, few Christians can say that they have spent a day in God’s courts. Neither can they say that anyone has ever asked them to do so. The world is too much with us to take time to be holy.

You remember the story. After celebrating the Passover with His disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, Jesus instituted the Memorial Supper (the bread and the cup) to be observed by His followers until His return from Heaven. The bread and wine of the Passover commemorated deliverance from Egypt. Jesus’ body (**Matthew 26:26**) and blood (v 28) are now identified as the true Passover sacrifice of the **new covenant** (v 28) that brings deliverance from sins.

In His **Upper Room Discourse** (**John 13-16**), Jesus then gave His final instructions before He went to the cross. He taught them about the Holy Spirit and He taught them about prayer. Then He led them across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the side of the Mount of Olives. As He entered into the garden, He asked His disciples to “Sit here while I go and pray over there” (**Matthew 26:36**). He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Three prayers are recorded. After the first prayer, He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. Addressing His remarks to Peter, He said, “What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?” (v 40).

One hour! How can we come to the point that we can watch with Jesus in prayer one hour? That is the issue Joshua understood when he said to the children of Israel, “Choose you this day whom you will serve ...” (**Joshua 24:14**). The prophet Joel talked about “multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (**Joel 3:14**). We must realize that there is a Valley of Decision for us, not only as we consider salvation, but as we consider following Jesus. Decisions determine destiny. **The beginning point of spending an hour in prayer is deciding to do so.** This is a decision that no other person can make for us.

When I was president of Northeastern Bible College, a student approached me in a hallway. His countenance was such that it was easy to see that he was full of joy. He shared that for the first time in his Christian life, he had spent an hour in prayer. Could you not spend one hour in prayer?

During 1976, I felt dissonance in my spirit. It was a year of significant progress at Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, Virginia, where I was serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs. It was a year of unprecedented blessings at Pleasant View Baptist Church, where I was serving as pastor. The dissonance was the realization that, although I was in “full-time Christian service” actually working for the Lord seven days a week I did not know God very well. In doing some serious introspection, I began to realize that I was only in the Bible to get a message to preach, not to know God. The Holy Spirit guided me to see that this was the root of my problem. Even my praying reflected a superficial understanding of the Word of God. Sadly, my praying was telling God what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. I did not understand that there are five elements of prayer adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession.

One Sunday morning, our soloist, **Dick Elmer**, sang “Teach Me to Pray” and the message penetrated. I began to pray, “Dear Father, will you teach me to pray, to really pray?” Clearly, this became a moment of

decision for me. Since that day, everything that I have been involved in (both as a minister & educator) has included the area of prayer. What He has done for me, He will do for anyone who will let Him.

Once I began to understand the purpose and power of prayer, I bought every book I could find on the subject and began to read them studiously. They contained many excellent ideas on prayer that I incorporated in my personal praying. But I went a step farther. As I read the Word diligently, I asked Him to teach me to pray the way He wanted me to pray. I began to be alert to any Bible example of prayer that I read about in the Bible. Soon I had a long list of references for prayer experiences recorded in the Bible. I discovered that there are 650 recorded prayers excluding the huge number in the Psalms. 450 have recorded answers.

Now when I go back to some of the books, I find them even more helpful. One thing that I observed was that there are common principles running through the books, even though they are couched in difference expressions. I began to form my own expressions to incorporate into my teaching and preaching that I felt would communicate to the average Christian.

There came a point when I saw that I needed to make an effort to teach formally what I had learned. The culmination was a decision to prepare lessons as preparation for a twenty-four prayer chapel ministry. The basic concept was to mobilize 168 people, each willing to pray one hour a week in the chapel. Week by week, I wrote a lesson that I taught to our people on Sunday nights during the Church Training hour. This material was organized into a prayer seminar workbook in 1980 and is now available in many languages. Thousands upon thousands have had an opportunity to profit from what the Lord taught me over thirty years ago and what He continues to teach me. Although I have myself taught thousands, the Holy Spirit has called forth a number of teachers in many countries to teach this material.

A basic question often asked is, “**What is prayer?**” Prayer can be defined as **TALKING WITH AND TO GOD**. In that sense, it is a

two-way conversation between two people who love each other. It can be spoken or unspoken. It can happen when you are on your knees, walking about, or lying in your bed.

During this time, you can talk to God in a close, intimate way as you would your dearest friend. You don’t need to use pious sounding words or phrases, but you can talk to Him in your natural way. When you visit your earthly parents, you do not converse in a stiff and formal way, you talk in a friendly, personal manner. When you come to God in prayer, you can converse with Him as a friend to friend, relaxing and enjoying your time with Him. Actually, you do not even have to change the tone of your voice when you pray. Although we should be careful not to approach God casually for He is God you and I can come with childlike simplicity. After all, He is our Heavenly Father.

My friend, **Jack Taylor**, shared with me seven points, each very thought-provoking and challenging (**Prayer Seminar Workbook, p 10**). The last one encapsulates the essence of developing this Christian discipline: “**The only way to learn to pray is to pray.**” Well said! I concur wholeheartedly, but I believe that it is useful to have some guidance as one begins to work toward spending one hour in prayer from time to time.

I would like to go back to the question that Jesus posed to Simon Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Could you not watch with Me one hour?” When we were mobilizing believers to pray one hour in the prayer chapel ministry, many sincere Christians wondered if they could actually pray one hour? Some shared that they had little success the times that they attempted to do so. One said that he had set a timer intending to pray sixty minutes. After he had prayed everything that came to his mind and checked the time, he discovered that he had prayed less than ten minutes. Surprisingly, once the people began to pray kneeling at the altar in the prayer chapel following the established guidelines, their reaction often was “where did the hour go?”

Although it is my intention to spend considerable time in future articles on “how to spend one hour in prayer” and then “how to spend a day in prayer,” I believe it will be helpful to share some thoughts from the sheet of instructions that I prepared for those praying in the prayer chapel. This material was included in the first prayer seminar workbook (p 79) that I prepared to use in the prayer seminars. It is seventy-nine pages and is still available through our office. I have slightly modified it for greater clarity.

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PLEASE READ THIS FIRST
“Preparing to Pray”

1. ENTER THE PRAYER CHAPEL PRAYERFULLY. Sign in on the Check-In Sheet. Note that there is a passage of Scripture. Please read it before entering into your prayer posture. **WAIT ON THE LORD.** “For since the world began no one has seen or heard of such a God as ours, *WHO WORKS FOR THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM*” (Isaiah 64:5 Living Bible).

Affirm His presence, become aware of His presence as you approach your prayer time. Thank Him for being here in the Prayer Chapel and thank Him for allowing you to go kneel before Him on His throne in the Throne Room in Heaven.

2. READ THE WORD. Read these passages thoughtfully, prayerfully, carefully, and expectantly: **John 15:1-7; Psalm 138:23-24; Matthew 5-7.**

3. PRAISE THE LORD AND THANK HIM. We praise Him for who He is; we thank Him for what He does.

4. Begin by praying for yourself. There must be **CONFESSION OF SINS.**

1) Ask God to show you your sins. Make your sin list write them down on paper as the Holy Spirit makes them known to you. Think about your sins and list them!

2) After you have written down all you can think of, pray through **Psalm 139:23-24**, asking God to reveal anything that you have overlooked.

3) After you have written down all you can think of and all that God reveals to you, **CONFESS THEM TO GOD ONE BY ONE.**

4) After you have sincerely confessed every known sin and received His forgiveness and cleansing, **THANK HIM FOR HIS FORGIVENESS.**

5. NOW YOU'RE READY TO PRAY! Now turn to the double Rolodex on the altar. On the left side, you will find cards for the members of our church. You will note a paper clip is placed on a card. That is where the last person finished praying. Plan to pray at least fifteen minutes for the members by name. Although the Holy Spirit will often impress specific things on your mind as you look at a name, consider praying the Scripture that is on the check-in sheet which you read when you first entered the prayer chapel. Focus the power of God on each person. That is what intercession is. This process is to be followed continually so that every hour will see someone praying for the church members.

You will see a stack of “We’re concerned cards” on the altar containing special prayer requests that have come into the chapel. These cards will include prospects both unsaved and saved who need our prayers. Many are prospective members of our church. Other cards will have specific prayer needs that have been called into the prayer room.

6. PRAISE THE LORD FOR HEARING YOU!”

Some of the prayer warriors reported that during their first hour in the prayer chapel that they could do nothing but weep. Surely, the presence of the Lord was with them. The power of God was evidenced on the first Sunday after we had prayed one week in the chapel. There were nineteen people saved.

Yours in Calvary love,
J. Gordon Henry

Don't touch the glory!

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

For over twenty years, it has been my custom to choose a verse for the year to guide my thoughts and actions. My 2009 verse is contained in the Sermon on the Mount. I have often thought it would be appropriate to use as a header on a daily “to-do list.” It is the reminder that I need to keep me focused day in and day out. One commentator said that it means “to desire God’s righteous rule on earth.” For me, it has an element of prioritizing and then seeking for holiness in daily living. It calls of making the things of God our paramount concern. There is no need to become overly concerned for the things of life; we need only to trust Him and follow His way of living.

Certainly, the beginning of a new year is the time to look back over the old year and count blessings. For 2008, it would be impossible to count all the blessings God has bestowed upon our ministry. He has opened doors and given the strength for each seminar. His provision has been more than ample; it has been abundant. JGHM has been blessed to touch many lives with the Word of God. But there is something that we must remember.

You may have followed the celebration of **Billy Graham**’s ninetieth birthday in December. One thing transpired that spoke to my own heart in a powerful way. At a dinner a few days after his birthday, in the presence of family and many longtime friends, he was presented 120,000 e-mails

and letters expressing love and best wishes from people around the world. Many contained personal stories of the impact the Billy Graham ministry had on their lives. To help him get started, a sampling was presented to him in bound volumes. Because of macular degeneration, reading is a challenge, but his secretary and others will read aloud to him.

Indeed, this was a joyous occasion. During the celebration, **Cliff Barrows** and **George Beverly Shea** (now 100) led the guest in enthusiastic rendition of “Happy Birthday.” Reminiscing at the dinner about decades of ministry together, Cliff recalled that when a Crusade or other event seemed especially successful, when the response was high, Billy would gather the Team and remind them, **“Don’t touch the glory. It’s not ours; the glory is God’s alone.”** The Holy Spirit spoke to my own heart as I read this story. This is an example that anyone who has a ministry should remember.

Certainly, JGHM has been used of the Lord to share God’s Word with many people around the world. I have often said that I wish that all our **Doorkeepers** could accompany me on one trip so that they could see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts what God is doing. When a year is ended, our tradition is to review the events of the twelve months just past. I am glad to report that 2008 has been a blessed year. As we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we can be sure that we are on the right path—the path of His blessings.

Note: The above article was used for spiritual preparation for the 101st meeting of the JGHM Board of Directors on February 14, 2009, in Murfreesboro Tennessee.

A CLEAR INSIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

We should desire to learn how to pray

2. Because of our natural ignorance of this duty. We know not how to pray, or what to pray for as we ought (**Romans 8:26**).
3. Because God desires us to be proficient in this duty. “Open your mouths wide.” If ye have not, it is because ye ask not, or because ye ask amiss (**James 4:2b-3**).

III. *Why should we desire the Lord to “Teach us how to pray”?*

1. Because He was distinguished for this His holy exercise. He prayed in public and in private when He preached or wrought miracles, when He was baptized, tempted, and transfigured; and His dying breath was employed in prayer. Who then so fit to teach us how to pray?
2. Because He is our Master, and in all things we ought to hear Him. He has taught us how to act in times of trouble, persecution, and adversity; how to act towards our friends and enemies. And He has taught us, likewise, how to pray: “When ye pray, say after this manner . . .” **Luke 11:2-5**.
3. Because with Him is the Spirit of prayer. That Spirit that He promised to send as a Comforter is the Spirit of prayer: “For the Spirit Himself maketh intercession” **Romans 8:26; Zechariah 12:10**.
4. Because He is our great High Priest. “He ever liveth to make intercession for us” (**Heb. 7:25**). He presents our prayers removes their imperfections He offers them with the fragrant incenses of His own merits and thus renders them effectual. **Rev. 8:3**.

APPLICATION

(1) Let us cultivate the gift of prayer; (2) covet the true spirit of prayer (**1 Corinthians 7:5**); (3) commence and conduct all our affairs in connection with prayer (**Philippians 4:6**); (4) Continue instant in prayer (**Luke 18:1**); and (5) In the exercise of faith look for the returns of prayer.

In Loving Memory

“absent from the body, present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Doorkeeper

Nina Mae Kenly Porter (Mrs. Ayers)

6-13-1918//1-16-2009

Morristown, Tennessee

When I was licensed to preach in September 1953 by my home church, White Oak Baptist Church, Valley Home, Tennessee, **Ayers Porter**, as moderator of the church, signed my license. Since that day, **Ayers and Nina Porter** have been among my best friends. They have faithfully supported the prayer seminar ministry both at home and abroad. Truly, Ayers is “Mr. Encourager” to our work. After seventy-one years of marriage, Nina has now journeyed to Heaven to join many loved ones and mutual friends, including other **Doorkeepers**. Please pray for **Ayers** in a very special way as he continues to labor for the Master. Thank God for old friends!

‘We are going down the valley one by one, with our faces toward the setting of the sun...’

PRAYER CALENDAR

MARCH 2009

“I will give myself to prayer...”

Psalm 109:4b



SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)
Burnace Abrams (OH)
Marie Adams (VA)
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)
Norma Ailes (FL)
Clyde & Kathryn Allen (VA)
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
Milcie Arnold (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 2

JOSHUA 1-5 (Afghanistan 32.7M)

Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
Carolyn Barkley (NY)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)
Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

JOSHUA 6-8 (Albania 33.8M)

Charles & Andrea Black (VA)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)
Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

JOSHUA 9-12 (Samoa-US 57,496)

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Shirley Brown (VA)
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)
Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)
Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
THURSDAY, MARCH 5

JOSHUA 13-17 (Andorra 72,423)

Joreatha Capers (FL)
David & Martha Cecil (VA)
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)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene Cummings (NC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

JOSHUA 18-21 (Kenya 38M)

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)
Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)
Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Walt Edwards (NC)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

JOSHUA 22-24 (Anquilla 72,413)

Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Grace Eldridge (NJ)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Evalena Enoch (VA)
Lynne Farrow (NJ)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
June Fisher (TN)
Josephine Fitzgerald (AL)

Makeva Flowers (VA)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Frank Geiger (HI)
Robert & Sara George (GA)
Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church

Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (NJ)
Charles M. Hale (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

JUDGES 1-5 (Antigua 69,842)

Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)
Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Sean Henry (VA/Iraq)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

JUDGES 6-8 (Argentina 40.7M)

Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)
Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Bonnie Houston (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

JUDGES 9-12 (Armenia 3M)

Wilbert & Almarretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)
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)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

JUDGES 13-16 (Kenya 38M)

Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Joyce Kelley (OR)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
Bruce Kirby, Pastor

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

JUDGES 17-21 (Kenya 38M)

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
Korean Branch:
Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
Joel & Jackie Kramer (VA)
David & Cathy Laing (FL)
Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

RUTH 1-6 (Kenya 38M)

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
Bob Lawrence (MD)

Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Brian & Stacey Loomis (VA)
SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Matthew 28:19-20 (Kenya 38M)

Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Bill & Mirle Matheny (VA)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
MONDAY, MARCH 16

1 SAMUEL 1-3 (Kenya 38M)

Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
TUESDAY, MARCH 17

1 SAMUEL 4-8 (Kenya 38M)

Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)
 Ann Palumbo (NJ)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)
 Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

1 SAMUEL 9-12 (Kenya 38M)

Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)
 Paul & Donna Quetsch (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
THURSDAY, MARCH 19

1 SAMUEL 13-15 (Uganda 31.4M)

Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)

John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
FRIDAY, MARCH 20

1 SAMUEL 16-19 (Uganda 31.4M)

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Mary Siegner (VA)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)
 Lori Siri, Pastor
 Mary Skiles (KS)
SATURDAY, MARCH 21

1 SAMUEL 20-23 (Rwanda 10.2M)

Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
 Marion J. Stansell (TX)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Acts 1:8 (Rwanda 10.2M)

Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Clarence & Roselin Stringfield (VA)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
MONDAY, MARCH 23

1 SAMUEL 24-27 (Rwanda 10.2M)

Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church (TN)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Temple of Praise (TX)
 Gilbert Perez, Pastor
 Earlene Thigpen (TN)
TUESDAY, MARCH 24

1 SAMUEL 28-31 (Burundi 5.7M)

Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 Mildred V. Thompson (GA)
 Paula Tipton (TN)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

2 SAMUEL 1-4 (Burundi 5.7M)
 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, MARCH 26

2 SAMUEL 5-7 (Burundi 5.7M)
 Tommy Waddell (TN)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)

Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
FRIDAY, MARCH 27

2 SAM 8-10 (D.R. Congo 66.5M)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 M/M Herbert Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
SATURDAY, MARCH 28

2 SAM 11-14 (D.R. Congo 66.5M)
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
 Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
 Stephen Latong (Nigeria)
 John & Egberta McSwane (Trinidad)
 Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S. Africa)
SUNDAY, MARCH 29

2 SAMUEL 15-18 (Burundi 5.7M)
 Adam/Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)
 Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
MONDAY, MARCH 30

2 SAM 19-20 (South Africa 43.8M)
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Dot Winfield (MD)
TUESDAY, MARCH 31

2 SAMUEL 21-24 (USA 304M)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacher, Pastor
 Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Robin & Deborah Yohee (PA)

**“Let us continue to go and
 pray before the Lord, and
 seek the Lord of hosts. I
 myself will go also.”**

Zechariah 8:21b

**PLEASE
 PRAY FOR OPEN
 DOORS FOR THE
 PRAYER SEMINAR
 MINISTRY.
 TELL OTHERS!**

Cancelled debts

In my early ministry, Sue and I had the privilege to meet one of the greatest preachers who ever lived, **Dr. Robert G. Lee**, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. We had gone to hear him in Lexington, Kentucky. That year our church had one of the highest baptismal ratios to membership in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It was in that context that we were introduced to Dr. Lee. He showed great interest in us. Then we went on our way.

Years later, we again went to hear Dr. Lee preach. This time it was in Virginia. When we went by to shake his hand, Sue and I were amazed that he called us by our first names. His command of the English language was the most profound that I have ever experienced. Even today, I sometimes listen to one of his sermons on tape, especially "Pay Day Someday."

In his book, **Choice Pickings** (Zondervan 1961, p33), a book of sermon illustrations, he shared one that was simply called "Summer's Statement." **Dr. Robert L. Sumner**, who lives in Lynchburg, is editor of **The Biblical Evangelist**, one of my favorite periodicals. I regard him as one of the great evangelists of all time. Here is the illustration:

The spiritually-minded and spiritually-aflame evangelist, **Robert L. Sumner**, makes this joyful statement about cancelled debts. He tells of a doctor who died in Chicago and left a will behind which completely wiped out all the unpaid medical fees owed by his patients. **Dr. William V. Gooder** wrote: "Having practiced medicine and surgery for forty-five years in Marengo, I hereby cancel and forgive all unpaid medical fees owed me by any and all former patients."

The attorney who filed the doctor's will estimated that the unpaid bills totaled around \$25,000. The doctor, who died at 79, left an estimated \$100,000 estate.

As Sumner states, the good doctor's actions completely and finally cancelled every one of the debts. No heir can ever in the future

collect a single dime of the \$25,000 total. The once-indebted ones are forever free from the obligations.

Sumner says: "In a much grander and nobler sense, of course, that is part of what happened on the Cross of Calvary. There our staggering debt of sin was cancelled once and for all in behalf of each individual willing to accept it." "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (**Colossians 2:14**). That is the way Paul expresses it.

What a thrill to know that the payment accepted for sins need never be made again. Sin once forgiven is sin forever forgiven. And God never *has*, never *can*, never *will* demand two payments for one debt. And it makes us to say, in gratitude, what the Psalmist said: "My lips shall praise thee" (**Psalm 63:3**).

Home with the Lord

We recently received word of the Homegoing of **Phyllis Reed** (Derry NH). She became a **Doorkeeper** during a Bible conference that I led August 1-5, 1983, at the **Rumney Bible Conference** in New Hampshire. That week was sponsored by Conservative Baptists, with many pastors and their families present. When I was informed of Phyllis' death, my mind went back to that wonderful week and the day that I met **Phyllis** and discerned that she was a precious child of God. Over the years, until her health began to fail, a letter and a contribution came from **Phyllis** almost every month. From time to time, she telephoned us. As we journeyed to other nations, we could always count on her financial and prayer support. We will miss her, but rejoice that she is now in her Heavenly Home with her heavenly Father and her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

During that week twenty-five years ago, God gave us two more **Doorkeeper** families who have been among the most faithful partners we have had: **Willis & Carol Snow** and **Nellie Shepard**. **Willis** is now in heaven. **Carol** and **Nellie** remain faithful **doorkeepers** one quarter of a century later.

Each Day: God's Gift

*"This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

He has given us morning,
Brightness and sun,
Laughter to share,
And work to be done.

He has given us rainbows,
Flowers and song,
And the hands of our dear ones
To help us along.

He has given us prayer,
With its wonderful power
To lighten our hearts
In a troublesome hour.

He has given us blessings
To brighten our way,
And always
THE GIFT OF ANOTHER NEW DAY.

W. Langhorst

Consider . . .

**"Whether we like it or not, asking is
the rule of the Kingdom."**

Charles H. Spurgeon

God's way to get His work done . . .

**"We will give ourselves continually to
prayer" (Acts 6:4). "In the morning will
I direct my prayer unto Thee" (Psalm
5:3).**

**Today is the tomorrow that you worried
about yesterday. Trust God. Believe His
promise. God was there yesterday, is here
today, and will be there tomorrow. "Let
not your heart be troubled; neither let it
be afraid," said Jesus. "You believe in God,
believe also in Me" (John 14:1). Pray the
promises; He is listening.**



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1196. Your life is God's gift to you; what you do with your life is your gift back to Him.

Note 1197. He who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it.

Note 1198. We should use each day as carefully as we would use our last match.

Note 1199. Love is like the moon; when it does not increase, it decreases.

Note 1200. Anyone can **act** like a Christian, but it takes a true Christian to **react** like one.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

January 18--February 23, 2009

Regular	50	\$2,230.00
Africa	48	5,667.00
Total	98	\$7,987.00



THANK YOU, DOORKEEPERS!

**THE PRAYER SEMINAR MINISTRY IS
SUPPORTED BY THE GIFTS OF OUR
PARTNERS & FRIENDS.**

Welcome, New Doorkeepers!

**Charles M. Hale (VA)
French & Laura Moore (VA)
Paul & Donna Quetsch (VA)
Charles Stinson (VA)**

**"WE SHALL COME REJOICING,
BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES!"**

So Send I You

“As the Father hath sent Me,
so send I you.”

This commission in **John 20:21** is only one of several versions of the Great Commission (see also **Matthew 28:18-20**; **Mark 16:15-16**; **Luke 24:47-49**; **Acts 1:8**). Since Jesus repeated His basic message of *so send I you* so often in His last words, we must conclude that this mission is very close to the Lord’s heart. He sent out the first believers. He continues to send out believers in every generation to bear witness for Him to all people. Share the Good News. Tell the people of the world. Jesus lives. Jesus saves.

An incredible journey

Since 1985, Sue and I have had the matchless opportunity to go to the nations and tell them “Our Lord reigns” and “Jesus loves you.” What a wonderful privilege we have had to be “ambassadors for Christ” (**2 Corinthians 5:20**). Although ours is a teaching ministry, the Holy Spirit brings the Word of God, as it is presented, alive to bring conviction to the unsaved as well. The result is seeing many come to Christ. He has sent us to fifty nations beyond the United States. In March, we add three more nations **Burundi, Rwandi,** and **Uganda in our 2009 VENTURE OF FAITH to East and Central Africa.** We will include **Kenya** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** as well.

“So send I you...”

So send I you, to take to souls in bondage

The word of truth that sets the captive free,

To break the bonds of sin, to loose death’s fetters,

So send I you, to bring the lost to Me.

E. Margaret Carlson

East and Central Africa

The venues are set with twelve seminars scheduled in **Kenya** (Eldoret, Lumakanda, Kitale, Misikhu); **Uganda** (Tororo, Bugrue); **Rwanda** (Gatware, Ruhaha); **Burundi** (Bujumbura); **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (Makoboal, Uvira).



“Behold, I am with thee,
And will keep thee in all places
Whither thou goest.”

Our team

The coordinator is **Martin Shukuku**, assisted by **Andrew Sakari**, and **Mulamba Placide Kituta**. Pray for them as they complete the arrangements and for me as I travel to these nations.

Five nations waiting

Since five nations are included in this **VENTURE OF FAITH**, the financial need is extraordinary, as far as our trips abroad are concerned. We are grateful that forty-nine have become partners with us giving \$5,967. While it is true that we need financial support, above all we need prayer support even more so as we grow older. We have discovered from experience that whenever 100 join with us, all needs are met. Even if you have never given before, it may be that the Holy Spirit will impress you that **NOW** is the time to join in sending us to teach and providing a prayer seminar workbook for each participant. Thank you.

Touching the world

Through prayer, you can have an important part in changing the world for God. You may not be able to travel physically to other countries, but You can travel around the world on your knees and enter every nation. God is able, willing, and waiting for us to call on Him. When we obey Him, we can be assured that He will do great and marvelous things. God does not have to have a visa; but He is waiting for us to pray.

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THE TIME HAS COME
A VENTURE OF FAITH
FIVE NATIONS March 12-April 2
KENYA, UGANDA, RWANDA
BURUNDI, D.R. CONGO

Tapping the source

Many years ago in the mountains of New York, I dug a well. Digging through rocky soil, I first came to some muddy surface water and I knew I had to dig deeper. At last I experienced the thrill of watching clean, fresh water gush from a spring beneath a rock. I lined the well with tile, put in clean sand as a filter and we had pure, sweet-tasting water. The water had always been there. All I needed to do was tap its source.

Now in **prayer** we do just that. We tap the unfailing **resources of God**. He is **always** there. He **knows** our every need and is **ready and able to help**. That is why Jesus taught us to pray.

“O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.”

Dr. Theodore F. Adams

Let us pray for you

As a member of our **Reflector** family, your needs are important to us. You may have some burden or some need you would like to share with a friend. We'd like you to share with us.

Just let us know (by phone, by E-mail, by letter) and we'll pray for you every day. We will keep the request confidential.

God is not far off. He is very near and He loves you. Let's look to Him together for the answer. You may want to begin by sharing your most pressing prayer request. Give us specific prayer needs. Don't forget to remember that you are not alone when you need prayer.

You can listen to some of my favorite songs and read some of my favorite sermons on our website. Check it out.

<www.jgordonhenryministries.org>