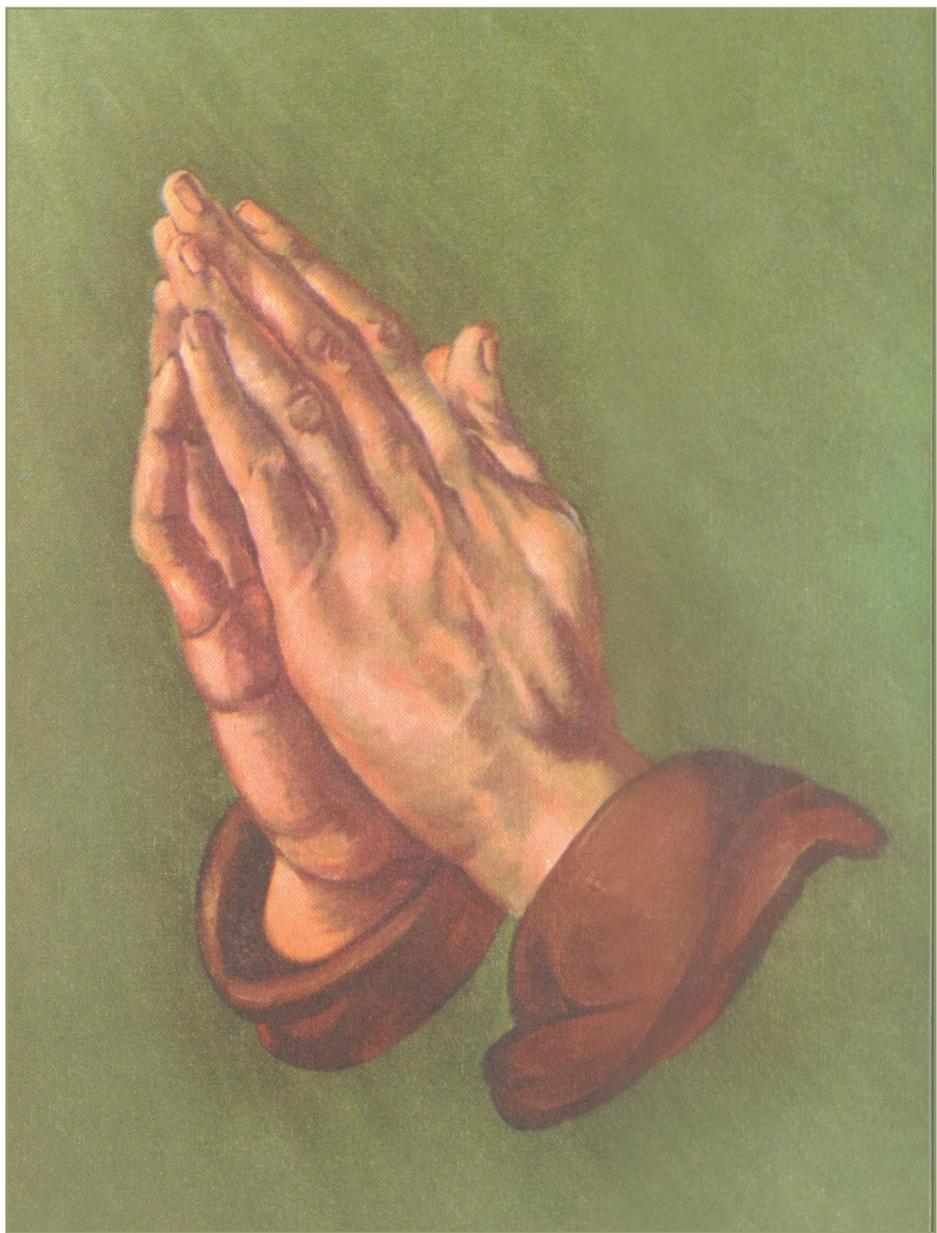


REFLECTOR

VOL. 57, No. 9 *"Set thee up waymarks" Jeremiah 31:21* September 2011



Perspectives

“Lord, teach us to pray . . .”

Luke 11:1

Christians do well to personalize the disciple’s request, “Lord, teach [me] to pray.” Prayer is a vital part of our spiritual life, coupled with the Word of God. Isn’t that pretty much what Jesus said in **John 15:7**? He said, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you [that’s the Word of God Bible reading], you will ask what you desire [that’s prayer], and it shall be done for you [and that’s a promise].”

We are in the process of reviewing some practical ideas related to each of the five elements of prayer. Since the simple **A-C-T-S is easily understood, that is the approach for the studies.** “A” is adoration and we have given attention to that element of prayer the past two months. Certainly, some prayer time needs to be devoted to worship during our quiet time and many times throughout the day. The psalmist proclaimed, “Seven times a day, I will praise the Lord” **Psalm 119:164**). Adoration is looking at God and loving Him for who He is. The key to doing this is **knowing God**. How do we do we arrive at that point? He has revealed Himself in the Word. The key is to get into the Word and learn who He is and then worship Him. What difference does this make? Daniel stated it succinctly: “But the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits” (**Daniel 11:32**).

“C” stands for **confession**. This is an important element and the October study will be devoted to it. Most believers have no idea how to implement biblical confession in their prayer time. Unless a person is clean before God, he is not in a position to be a praying person.

Before we continue studying the remaining elements of prayer--**“C” Confession, “T” Thanksgiving,**

“S” Seeking for self (petition) and seeking for others (intercession). I believe it will be helpful to review what Jesus Himself taught in response to a request by one of the disciples “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” It is always helpful to know His perspective.

Luke emphasized both Jesus’ personal prayer life and His teaching on how you and I should pray. In **Luke 11:2-4**, we have what is generally called “**The Lord’s Prayer.**” It is wise to understand, however, that the prayer that Jesus taught is not so much a prayer to pray as a prayer to teach you how to organize the content of your prayer. Hence, many Bible scholars refer to it as “**the Model Prayer.**” Anyone who plans to build a house would be wise to look at the blueprint first. In the same sense, anyone who seeks to develop his relationship with the Father would be wise to study the **Model Prayer** carefully as to how you and I are to come to God in prayer. When you take a broad look at the prayer by looking at the pronouns in His model, you will gain insight.

To begin with “**Our Father**” reminds us that we are never alone, but when we trust Jesus as Savior and Lord, we have a family brothers and sisters. Beyond this, the body of the **Model Prayer** actually falls under two categories that can be categorized “God-ward” (“Your” /or “Thy” in the King James’s translation) and “man-ward.” (“us” and “our”). Our tendency when we begin to pray is usually to ignore the first half and spend all our time in the second half. We can change this with a bit of discipline. When we properly order our praying following the pattern that Jesus gave, we will spend time in worship and in dealing with God’s interests.

Our Father in heaven. In the **Sermon on the Mount**, God is identified as “your Father” or “our Father” ten times. The Old

Testament speaks of God as Father, but in the sense of founder of Israel and Israel's religion (**Deuteronomy 32:6**). God cared for His people "as a father" (**Deuteronomy 1:31; Psalm 103:13**), but this term stops short of an actual father/child relationship between God and believers. Here Christ introduced a new and stunning view of relationship with God. God is the Father of those who come to Him by Jesus Christ. Jesus taught that prayer is coming to the Father.

You will remember that during His last hours with His disciples, whom He loved dearly, Jesus explained that He had come to earth to manifest the Father. This valuable information is in the **Upper Room Discourse (John 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17)**. Remember that the Father is seated on His throne in Heaven (**Revelation 4**). We are instructed to come boldly to His throne of grace when we need mercy and grace to help in time of need (**Hebrew 4:16**). This is termed the "Holiest" place and we are to go there boldly, made possible by the blood of Jesus (**Hebrews 10:19**).

God is the ideal Father, whose every act is motivated by love. We can trust God as Father to fully understand our needs (**Matthew 6:8, 32**, to forgive our sins and failures (**v 14**), and to give us good gifts when we ask Him (**Matthew 7:11**).

God-ward: God's interests.

Hallowed by Your name. The first half of the Model Prayer looks toward the Father Himself in a spirit of worship, ascribing praise and honor to Him who alone is worthy of it. We acknowledge God as He has revealed Himself. We express our respect for God, knowing Him to be living and active, sure that He is able to act in our lives.

Your kingdom come. We acknowledge God as rightful King over all, and take our

place as His subjects. We make a conscious choice to live as citizens of His kingdom, inviting it to come fully into our lives as well as into the world at large. As a part of worship, we should indicate that we want to see the advancement of God's cause, putting His interests first. Specifically, we should pray for the day when the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior-God, will set up His kingdom on earth and reign in righteousness.

Your will be done. We submit to God, choosing to obey His revealed Word, yet aware that we must also be sensitive to any personal guidance He may give us through the Holy Spirit. Our Father is God who knows what is best and we surrender our will to His. It expresses a longing to see His will acknowledge by all mankind throughout the world.

On earth as it is in heaven. We expect God's will for us to have an impact on what we do here on earth. We do not compartmentalize the "sacred" and "secular," but constantly look for ways to honor God in our work, our play, and our every day relationships. Actually this phrase modifies all three preceding petitions. The worship of God, the sovereign rule by God, and the performance of His will are all a reality in heaven. The prayer is that these conditions might exist on earth as they do in Heaven.

Man-ward: our needs. Give us this day our daily bread. We trust God so much that we are secure in what He gives us each day, without being driven to pile up treasures on earth against tomorrow. We see each new day as an opportunity for some fresh experience of God's goodness to us. After putting God's interests first, we are permitted to present our own needs. This petition acknowledges our

dependence on God for daily food, both spiritual and physical.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. We humble ourselves before God. We are deeply aware of our faults and failings, yet we rejoice that we are loved anyway. Further humbled by God's forgiving love, we have compassion on those who hurt or harm us. We take such hurts as an opportunity to demonstrate the reality of God's mercy by freely forgiving others. This does not refer to judicial forgiveness from the penalty of sin (that forgiveness is obtained by faith in the Son of God). Rather, this refers to the parental forgiveness that is necessary if fellowship with our Father is to be maintained. When unbelievers are unwilling to forgive those who wrong them, how can they expect to be in fellowship with their Father who has freely forgiven them for their wrongdoings? See **Ephesians 4:32**.

And do not lead us into temptation. We rest in God. This request may appear to contradict **James 1:13**, which states that God would never tempt anyone. However, God does allow His people to be tested and tried. This petition expresses a healthy distrust of one's own ability to resist temptations or to stand up under trial. It acknowledges complete dependence on the Lord for preservation. We know, that should tests come, His grace is sufficient.

But deliver us from the evil one. This is the prayer of all who desperately desire to be kept from sin by the power of God. It is the heart cry for daily salvation (deliverance) from the power of sin and Satan in one's life.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. This doxology is the perfect ending to the

prayer and is in the majority of the ancient manuscripts. It should, as **John Calvin** wrote, "not only warm our hearts to press toward the glory of God . . . but also to tell us that all our prayers . . . have no other foundation than God alone." **Amen.** Prayer is to be closed with an affirmation, "so let it be." *Amen confesses assurance of God's faithfulness* that He does hear and will respond as He sees fit. The little word "for" leads to the proper conclusion of our praying. We pray because God is God with all **sovereignty** all **authority**, and all **majesty** to certify His complete trustworthiness.

Although not a part of the prayer, we would do well to keep **Matthew 6:14-15** in mind, since what is said here serves as an explanatory footnote to **verse 12**. It is obviously added to emphasize that the parental forgiveness mentioned in **verse 12** is conditional.

The **Model Prayer** encapsulates the essence of prayer directly from Jesus' perspective. A few years ago, I spent several months studying the prayer, a study that culminated in a book that I entitled **The Model Prayer**. As are most of my books, the content is arranged in twelve studies to facilitate using the book in small group Bible studies or in a Sunday school class (young people and adults). A single copy (or quantities good for gifts to friends and family members) can be ordered from our office. In preparation to write this study, I reviewed the book. I believe that it will not only be instructive, but that you will be greatly blessed by reading.

Yours in Calvary love,


Cannots

- Lord, I cannot say “**Our**” . . .
 If my religion has no room for
 Other people and their needs.’
- Lord, I cannot say **Father** . . .
 If I fail to resemble You in the way
 I live my daily life.
- Lord, I cannot say “**Who art in Heaven**”
 . . . If my attention is only
 Focused on earthly things.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Hallowed be Thy name**” . . .
 If I who am called by Your name
 Am not holy.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Thy Kingdom come**..”
 If I fail to acknowledge Your
 Sovereignty in my life.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**On earth as it is in Heaven**” . . .
 Unless I am truly ready to serve You
 Here and now.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Give us this day our daily bread**” . . .
 Without doing an honest day’s work,
 and without
 Considering the needs of the less
 fortunate.
- Lord, I cannot say “**Forgive us our debts As we forgive our debtors**” . . .
 If I harbor a grudge against my brother
 or sister.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Lead us not into temptation**” . . .
 If I deliberately choose to remain in a
 situation
 Where I am likely to be tempted.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Deliver us from evil**” .
 If I am not prepared to take a stand
 Against injustice in my society.
- Lord, I cannot say, “**Thine is the Kingdom, The Power, and the Glory**” . . .
- Lord, I cannot say “**Amen**” . . .
 Unless I can honestly say, “Come what
 may, this is my prayer.”

Praying the Model Prayer

Can you pray the **Model Prayer** for yourself?” Use the following thoughts to help you gain a perspective of your own spiritual condition.

I cannot pray “**Our**” if I live in a watertight spiritual compartment. I cannot say “**Father**” if I do not demonstrate the relationship in daily life.

I cannot pray “*which art in Heaven*” if I am so occupied with the earth that I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot pray “*Hallowed by Thy name*” if I, who am called by His name, am not holy.

I cannot pray “*Thy Kingdom come*” if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming.

I cannot pray “*Thy will be done*” if I am questioning, resentful of, or disobedient to His will for me.

I cannot pray “**on earth as it is in Heaven**” if I am not prepared to devote my life here to His service.

I cannot pray “*give us this day our daily bread*” if I am living on past experience.

I cannot pray “*forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that transgress against us*” if I harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray “*lead us not into temptation*” if I deliberately place myself into a position to be tempted.

I cannot pray “*deliver us from evil*” if I am not prepared to fight it in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot pray “*Thine is the power*” if I fear what men may do or what my neighbors may think.

I cannot pray “*Thine is the glory*” if I am seeking glory for myself.

I cannot pray “*forever and ever*” if my horizon is bounded by things of time.

Selected

News

Ken and Betsy Miedema (Grandville Michigan) have been faithful **Doorkeepers** since March 4, 1992. Each month, Ken sends a personal note of encouragement. For several years, Ken has struggled with Parkinson's disease, which has grown progressively worse. He is a special brother whose faith is firmly fixed on the Lord. Pray for healing. Pray for "grace to help in [Ken's] time of need" (**Hebrews 4:16**).

For a number of years **Dr. H. J. & Paula Hutchins** (Mississippi) were **Door-keepers**. I only learned this week of the Home-going of Paula. Pray for Dr. Hutchins who is relocating to Monroe, Louisiana.

Thanks for your prayers for **Sue Henry** and the team that recently had great success in **Thailand** distributing Bibles, the Jesus DVD, and other materials to Chinese tourists.

Pray for the September 17th prayer seminar in Harmony Baptist Church, Elgin, South Carolina, and the Evangelism Clinic/ Preaching on September 18th

REPRESENTATIVE MISSIONARIES/NATIVE WORKERS

There are thousands upon thousands serving as missionaries around the world. As you pray for selected missionaries, let it remind you to pray for all who are serving wherever they serve.

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
Shem & Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)
Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
Nuhu & Mercy Leo (Nigeria)
John & Elberta McSween (Trinidad)
Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)
Enoch & Patience Mulomba (Botswana)
Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)
Isaias Rojas (Venezuela)
Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)
Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 2046. The Word of God acts as a cleanser for your mind.

Note 2047. You have to will to do the will of God to know the will of God.

Note 2048. There's no greater feeling than to approach a new day with a clear conscience.

Note 2049. "Some want to live within the sound of the church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." --**C. T. Studd**

Note 2050. A successful witness is one who shares Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaves the results up to God.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

June 24-August 5, 2011

Regular	5	\$410.00
South Africa	<u>21</u>	<u>1,606.00</u>
Total	26	2,016.00



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

**WELCOME,
NEW DOORKEEPER!**

Gus & Janice Christofield (VA)

PRAYER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

HOSEA 1-3 (Ireland 4.2M)

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

HOSEA 4-6 (Isle Man 76,512)

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

HOSEA 7-8 (Israel 7.4M)

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Frank Bell (TN)
Tommy 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, SEPTEMBER 4

Bob Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (NC)
Gordon/Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
David & Marna Boyd (CA)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kim Bradshaw (VA)

Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Mary Ann Brown (GA)
Thomas & Norma Brown (NC)
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
HOSEA 9-11 (Jamaica 2.8M)
Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Joe & Martha Bruno (CO)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
George & Carol Buck (NJ)
Janice Bugg (TN/CHINA)
James L. Burke (IL)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Mary Campbell (ID)

Laura Cannon (FL)

Pat & Cindy Caparossi (MI)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

HOSEA 12-13 (Japan 127M)

David & Martha Cecil (VA)
Gus & Janice Christofield (VA)
Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
Margarie Coffee (VA)
Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

JOEL 1-3 (Jersey 91,626)

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Duffrene/Peggy 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)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

AMOS 1-3 (Jordan 6.3M)

Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Jamie Dugan (IL)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Ivy Early (NC)
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, SEPTEMBER 9

AMOS 3-5 (Kazakhstan 16.4M)

June Fisher (TN)
Claire/Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)

Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Frank & Doris Geiger (HI)
Robert & Sara George (GA)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
AMOS 6-7 (Kenya 39M)
Gloucester Co Community Ch
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Chad, Windy, Caleb Goodner (OK)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (UT)
Charles Hale (VA)
George & Joy Harper (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Bruce/Gina/Sean Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Jamey Henry (MS)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Susan Henry (TN)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AMOS 8-9 (Kiribata 112,850)
Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)
H. J. Hutchins (LA)
Jide & Bunmi Iwarere (MD)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

OBADIAH (N. Korea 22.7M)

Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Gene & Rose Marie Jeffries (AR)
Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Millicent John (NY)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Wilbur & Gwen Johnson (AZ)
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 14
Jonah (S. Korea 48.5M)
James/ Genevieve Jones (FL)
Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)

W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
 Jean Jonte (SC)
 Shem/Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)
 Mohan Katta (IL)
 Howard/Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
 Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Kerby Knob Bapt Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
 Robert/Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Robert & Rose Klous (VA)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
MICAH 1-2 (Kosovo 1.8M)
 Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Soma Kovoov (TX)
 Korean Branch: Dr. Shin
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Phil Landers (OK)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
MICAH 3-5 (Kuwait 2.7M)
 Charles/Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Maurice & Von Laws (TX)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
 Karl & Rebecca Leonard (NC)
 Gaylen & Linda Leverett (VA)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell, Jr., President
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent/ Mary Lobisco (MI)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
MICAH 6-7 (Kyrgyzstan 6.4M)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Dan Martin (VA)
 Reginald/Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard/Martha Meador (VA)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Ch (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
NAHUM (Laos 2.2M)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
HABAKKUK (Latvia 2.2M)
 French and Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (VA)
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 21
ZEPH 1-3 (Lebanon 4M)
 Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Ellen Paulson (MN)
 Roger & Kay Pede (VA)
 Sandy Pederson (MI)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Mildred Pittman (NC)
 Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
 Jeanne & Maggie Pribble (VA)
THURSDAY, SEPT 22
HAGGAI (Lesotho 2.1M)
 David & Marilyn Rainey (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 John Reed (NH)
 Dave Ricker (ME)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)
 Dudley/Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
ZEPH 1-2 (Liberia 3.4M)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (FL)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)
SATURDAY, SEPT 24
ZEPH 3-4 (Libya 6.3M)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI)
 Richard/Margaret Seigfield (SC)
 Dennis/Monica Shannon (OH)
 Wonsub.YoungMi Sheen (Korea)
 Shenandoah Valley Bapt Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
 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)
 Carol Snow Stewart (AZ)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
ZECH 5-6 (Liechten 34,761)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Brian/Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
ZECH 7-8 (Lithuania 3.6M)
 Earline Thigpen (TN)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 Mildred V. Thompson (GA)
 Montez Thompson (CO)
 Paula Tipton (TN)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Carrol/Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 28
ZECH 9-11(Macau 559,646)
 Marshall/Mary Troutman (KY)
 Willie/Diane Troutman (KY)
 Tommy/Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris/Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
THURSDAY, SEPT 29
ZECH 12-14 (Macedonia 2.1M)
 George/Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Vernall (FL)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau/Ashley/Willow Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmedam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
MAL (Madagascar 20.7M)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 George/Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacher, Pastor
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Silas/Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

A Different Look at the Lord's Prayer

"Our Father which art in heaven" † "Yes?"

"Don't interrupt me. I'm praying." † "***But you called Me.***"

Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father which art in heaven..."

"There, you did it again."

"Did what?" "***Called Me. You said, 'Our Father which are in heaven.' Here I am. What's on your mind?***"

"But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done."

"All right. Go on."

"Hallowed be Thy name ..." —

"Hold it. What do you mean by that?" "By what?" — **"By 'hallowed be Thy name'."**

"It means ... it means Good grief. I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?" † **"It means 'honored, holy, wonderful'."**

"Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

"Do you really mean that?"

"Sure, why not?" **"What are you doing about it?"**

"Doing? Nothing I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there." — **"Have I got control of you?"**

"Well, I go to church." **"That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?"**

"Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at the church." — **"Excuse me. I thought you**

were praying for My will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example."

"Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others." — **"So could I."**

"I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free." — **"Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you."**

"Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. 'Give us this day, our daily bread.'" — **"You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is."**

"Hey, wait a minute! What is this, 'Criticize- Me Day?' Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups." — **"Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called Me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer. [pause] Well, go on."**

"I'm scared to." — **"Scared? Of what?"**
"I know what you'll say." — **"Try Me and see."**

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." — **"What about Ann?"**

"See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!" — **"But your prayer? What about your prayer?"**

"I didn't mean it." — **"Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is**

it?.”

“No, but I’ll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor. She’ll wish she had never moved into this neighborhood.” — ***“You won’t feel any better. You’ll feel worse. Revenge isn’t sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.”***

“You can? How?” — ***“Forgive Ann. Then I’ll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann’s problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.”***

“Oh, you’re right. You always are. And more than I want to revenge Ann, I want to be right with you. Ann, I want to be right with you. [pause] {sigh}. All right. All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She’s bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be out of it. Some way, some how, show her the right way.” — ***“There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?”***

“Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don’t think I’ll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe, I won’t be so tired from now on because I’m not getting enough rest.” — ***“You’re not through with your prayer. Go on.”***

“Oh, all right. ‘And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’” — ***“Good! Good! I’ll do that. Just don’t put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.”***

“What do you mean by that?” — ***“Don’t turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about the time you spend coffee-time with your friends, if you can’t influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should re-think the value of those friendships. Another thing, your neighbors and friends***

BULLETIN

Thanks for your prayer and financial support for the work in South Africa. God blessed the twelve seminars. A full report will be given in the October Reflector.

On August 19, Prayer Seminar #1,500 was conducted in Ficksburg - a very special landmark. LET’S JUST PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE GOD THE GLORY.

shouldn’t be your standard for ‘keep up.’ And please don’t use me for an escape hatch.

“I don’t understand that last part.” — ***“Sure you do. You’ve done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me. ‘Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I’ll never do it again.’ You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?”***

“Yes, and I’m ashamed, Lord. I really am.” — ***“Which bargain are you remembering?”***

“Well, there was the night that Bill was gone and the children and I were home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, ‘Oh God, if you spare us, I’ll never skip my devotions again.’” — ***“I protected you, but you didn’t keep your promises, did you?”***

“I’m sorry, Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord’s Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn’t expect anything to happen like it did.” — ***“Go ahead and finish your prayer.”***

—SHARED BY JOSEPHINE FITZGERALD

September musings

“Here we go again!” It seems only yesterday that my attention was turned to the month of **September**, which I have termed “my month.” It is the month of both my physical birth (September 30, 1935) and my spiritual birth (September 24, 1948) both in Jefferson County, Tennessee, in the foothills of the Smokes. Other significant happenings include the launching of the prayer seminar ministry.

Each September is a special time of consideration and reflection. Sitting in the mid-week service in our church a few weeks ago, I was listening, but skimming Scripture. I think this is what **John Holland**, one of our special friends and honorary board member, calls “multi-tasking.” A Scripture struck my eye and my spirit said, “Oh, God, have mercy on me.” Tears filled my eyes. Speaking of Babylon, God declared: “You said, I will continue forever the eternal queen! But you did not **consider** these things or **reflect** on what might happen” (**Isaiah 47:7**). The two words that grabbed my attention were “**consider**” and “**reflect**.” Many times since, I have been on my knees in my spirit kneeling before God just to “consider” and “reflect” on what it means to be His child and a soldier in His army. My intention is to keep these two words in my conscious mind frequently in days ahead.



In September 1989, actually on my fifty-four birthday on September 30, I drew a simple figure on my Bible study sheet and labeled it “HOW LONG?” I let each box represent ten years and colored in five and almost one half of the boxes. I remember reading an article on the length

of life, which caused me to reflect on how long I would have to live on earth and the opportunities I would have. Then I wrote, “**I know Who holds tomorrow!**”

Now, I have, through God’s grace filled in an additional twenty-two years. I look at the model and continue to say, “HOW LONG?” I “consider” and “reflect” on the prayer seminar ministry that God assigned to me over thirty years ago. How long will it be before I make my last move? Will my legacy mean anything to my family and those who have sat under my ministry?

In 1957, God brought a person into our lives who became a best friend. We, along with many others, called him “Uncle Banty.” His name was **C. A. Bantam**, who had once led singing for **Billy Sunday**. In our early married life, Sue and I were never surprised when he showed up at supper-time and enjoyed Sue’s cooking. We encouraged him in every way. His Music Schools enhanced the singing in many churches. He was our song leader for our revival meetings always. But in any meeting he attended, the congregation asked him to sing a solo entitled “When I Make My Last Move.” Nothing was comparable to the effect that he had. A few years later, on a Sunday afternoon, he made his last move!

I’ve been traveling for Jesus so much of my life,
I’ve been traveling on land and on sea;
But I’m counting on taking a trip to the sky,
That will be the last move for me.

Chorus:

When I move to the sky, up to heaven on high,
What a wonderful trip that will be!
I’m all ready to go, washed in Calvary’s flow,
That will be the last move for me.

Here I’m bothered with packing each time that
I move, And I carry a load in each hand;
But I’ll not need one thing I have used in this
world, When I move to that heavenly land.

September Letter-Writing Month

Friendship means identity in thought, heart, and spirit. Communicating with one another helps friendships grow. I am thankful to call you “friend.” Paul told the Philippian believers that he had them in his mind, heart, and prayers (**Philippians 1**).

September Letter-Writing Month is a special time to catch up. Often we hear from someone who was blessed by an article in the **Reflector** or by a prayer seminar. Usually, that has been by “snail mail” (postal service), but more and more it is by “e-mail” (internet). Last month, there was an e-mail from a reader in Minnesota expressing appreciation for the July issue emphasis on worship in prayer. E-mails came from Hawaii and Nigeria thanking me for remembering **Dorothy Spickard Biddle**, my teacher, mentor, and friend. Each communication (anytime) encourages, humbles, and blesses.

For your convenience, a response form is attached. Your message need not be long, but it will encourage our hearts. We have had as many as one hundred **Doorkeepers** write. Perhaps this year, we could have 116, two for each year of my ministry.

“**A FAVOR, PLEASE!**” Last month, I asked readers to think about what you want to say during the **September Letter-Writing Month** and get a photo ready to send. I hope so.. I will look forward to hearing from you. Anyone not wishing to receive

the **Reflector**, let us know. While it is my joy to share thoughts the Lord has put on my heart, inspirational articles from many writers, and information about the prayer seminar ministry, I never want to “intrude” where a visit is not wanted. The only way I know is for you to tell me. The guidelines established for a prayer seminar in the early 1980s are the same for our written ministry.

1. My purpose is to encourage, not discourage.
2. My purpose is to build you and your church up, not tear you down.
3. My purpose is to be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block.

Help make the **2011 September Letter-Writing Month** (via ground mail or e-mail) the best ever. **Thanks** for using either means to visit us. I know how much some of you have sacrificed to make it possible for me to travel the world conducting prayer seminars. I am humbled by your faith in our work, and I can’t thank you enough! Following the **Doorkeeper Prayer Calendar** and calling your name in prayer is one of the joys each day brings.

STILL TRUE

“**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**”

Psalm 119:105



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