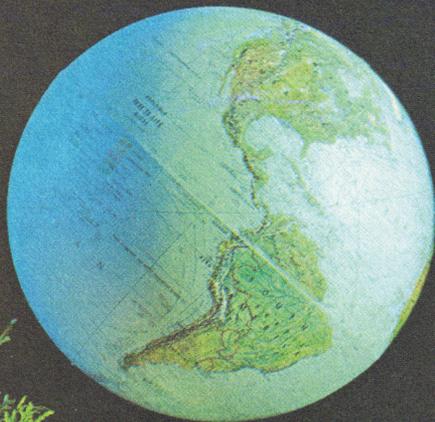


REFLECTOR

VOL . 57, No. 12 *“Set thee up waymarks” Jeremiah 31:21* December 2011

GOD SENT . . . HIS SON
... THAT THE WORLD
THROUGH HIM MIGHT
BE SAVED. JOHN 3:17



Perspectives

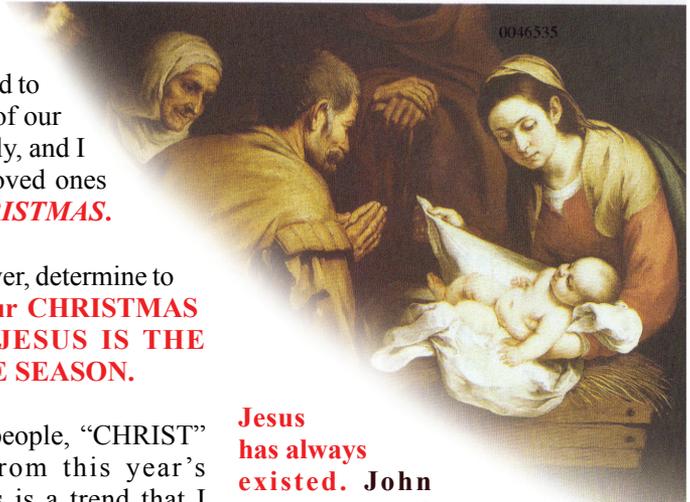
As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Sue, our family, and I wish you and your loved ones a truly **MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

Let's, more than ever, determine to **keep CHRIST in our CHRISTMAS** remembering that **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.**

Sadly, for many people, "CHRIST" will be missing from this year's "CHRISTmas." This is a trend that I find very alarming and disconcerting. Have you noticed? Manger scenes are disappearing from public places. Christmas carols are expelled from our schools, and our shopping malls and office hallways ring with "Happy Holidays!" but no longer "Merry Christmas."

One of the most beautiful scenes anywhere in the world are the Christmas lights at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. A few years ago **Sue and Joyce Warpoole**, one of our best friends (a board member and **Doorkeeper**), came back from a visit to Opryland and reported that it is politically incorrect to mention anything related to Jesus. When they questioned this omission, the answer was that they could not offend those who had other beliefs. There was no concern about the large number of Christians who were offended by their removing Christ from Christmas.

The more we understand the person and nature of Jesus, the less willing we will be to compromise on Christ being the reason for the season. Let's take a moment to think about what we know about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Jesus has always existed. John

1:1 declares, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God." Before the foundation of the world, Jesus was with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit as a member of the Godhead. **Micah**, writing 700 years before Christ, prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; at the same time, the prophet spoke of His existence long before birth when he said "from long ago, from the days of eternity" (**Micah 5:2**). Jesus, the eternal Son of God, had no beginning but was with the Father since eternity past and will be Lord throughout eternity future.

The Bible says that Jesus is God.

John 1:3 teaches that Jesus created everything that exists. It is very important to understand that Jesus did not *become* God, but rather, has always been God. We know that at the **Incarnation**, He became man (**Philippians 2:6-8**). He came to Earth and took on human flesh in order to live among us, reveal the Father, and offer His perfect life as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus Himself claimed to be God.

Jesus made many clear statements in the **Gospels** about His divine identity (**Luke**

22:70; John 8:58, 10:30, 14:7; 17:24). What we must consider is whether these statements are true or false. The fact is, Jesus left so much solid evidence of His **deity** that we should believe everything He said including statements like these that follow:

- “My sheep hear My voice ... I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand” (**John 10:27-28**).
- “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (**Matthew 28:18**).
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (**John 14:6**).
- “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (**John 14:9**).

Given the reality that Jesus is God, isn't it amazing that it has become politically correct to remove Him from Christmas? Think of it. Many want to eliminate from society the One who gives them their every breath, who keeps their heart beating, and who created the world in which they live.

They reject Him because He represents everything they despise morality, holiness, decency, and authority. They miss the joy and peace that could be theirs, and choose instead to rebel against the God who loves them. How blind this world is!

While I am not opposed to shopping, Christmas is not about shopping. It is not about decorations. It is not about enjoying a nice meal. **Christmas is the celebration of a Person a living Person who loves you, Who died for you so that you might have eternal life.**

Christmas is Jesus. Never forget it. Never back away from it. In fact, the

next time someone greets you with “Happy Holidays,” it is my prayer you will answer with joy in your heart and a smile on your face, “Merry Christmas!”

In my tribute to my friend and mentor, **Jack Bruce** (pages 10-11), I compared the content of his messages to the first evangelistic sermon preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost. Crowds had gathered. Peter preached--(1) **Jesus is the Christ**, which is **the message of Christmas** and we must remember that **only Jesus is the reason for the season**; (2) He died as the Scriptures predicted; (3) He was raised from the dead; (4) turn to Him for forgiveness. **Jack preached** (and lived) **the Word** (**2 Timothy 4:2**) and **did the work of an evangelist** (**v 5**). During the many revival meetings that we shared, Jack and I spent hours going from house to house witnessing and doing the work of evangelism.

Is the age of evangelism over? Many pastors and church leaders seem to think so. Anyone who wants to be an effective witness need not worry about finding a new way to communicate. Just tell the “old, old story of Jesus and His love.” What better time to begin than during the season when we celebrate His coming into the world!

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

**OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH
LOVE AND GRATITUDE
FOR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS
LIKE YOU.**

Thanks for your friendship and partnership throughout this year and past years. May your life overflow with joy in celebration of our Savior's birth. Merry Christmas from our house to your house.

Jim and Sue Henry

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Cis for the **CHRIST-CHILD** who was born over 2,000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem.

“And, behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.” Luke 1:31

His for the **HOPE** that Jesus brings to all who believe in Him and trust Him with their salvation.

“Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:2

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

Ris for **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was both man and God, died on the cross for all of our sins, and then was raised from the dead (resurrected) and is now sitting at the right hand of God in heaven.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

Is for **ISRAEL** whom God chose to bring forth the promised Savior of the world.

“From this man’s seed, according to [His] promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior, Jesus” Acts 13:23

Sis for the **SALVATION** that Jesus offers to all who are willing to confess their sin, believe in Him, and confess their belief in Jesus with their mouth.

“For God so loved [the people of] the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Tis for the empty **TOMB** on Easter morning.

“He is not here: for He is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and, behold, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” Matthew 28:6-7

Mis for the **MERCY** God has shown the world by sending His only Son to suffer for our sins and bridge the gap between man and God.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

Ais for our **AWESOME GOD** who loves us all unconditionally. “Greater love has no man than this than to lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

Sis for the **SHINING LIGHT** that Jesus brought to the world!

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world: he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” John 8:12

A critical Christmas issue

We read the Bible to gain insight into truth to guide our lives. There is an interesting encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees who were challenging Him recorded in **John 8:13-30**. The challenge was on a technical point of Old Testament Law. The Law required two witnesses to establish a fact in court (**Deuteronomy 17:6**). The Pharisees' point was that they did not have to believe anything Jesus said about Himself, because there was no one else to corroborate His claims.

They were wrong! Standing beside and in Jesus Christ was God the Father Himself. As One sent by the Father (emphasized four times in this chapter: **John 8:16, 18, 26, 29**), Jesus spoke with the Father's voice, and the Father spoke through Him.

Several things follow from this truth. A person who was truly in touch with God would have recognized Jesus (**v 19**). Failure to recognize Jesus for Who He is meant that Israel's spiritual leaders did not know the God they claimed to represent, and that they surely would die in their sins.

We can understand why the Pharisees were so upset. No one likes to hear that their religion is meaningless, and that unless they turn to Jesus they are doomed. No one likes to hear it. But it's true! And it is a valid approach to evangelism. The Bible says that many who heard these blunt claims of Jesus put their faith in Him, even as He spoke (**v 30**).

The most important thing anyone faces during this Christmas season can be simply stated. Do we belong to God or not? Are we members of God's family, or not? Will we spend eternity with God, or not? These questions demand a clear-cut "yes" or "no." A person is either a member of God's family through personal faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, or he or she is right there in the devil's camp, with the

folks who rejected and murdered our Lord.

I know it's not popular to say such things. It's not polite. It doesn't sound open-minded enough. It makes people angry when they hear us say it. I suspect many Christians fear it will "turn people off" if they're told we don't think of them as children of God.

But it is very foolish to suggest that those who do not know Jesus can have a relationship with God, the Father. And it's not right to let people think that they're all right when in fact they are lost.

A few years ago, our alma mater, **Berea College** in Kentucky, presented me with an Outstanding Educator award. We were invited to campus where I spoke in a symposium for leaders in higher education in Kentucky. Sue received an award, as well since no person is successful without his wife's support. Berea College was founded in 1855 as a Christian institution. Many of their leaders sincerely believe in the Fatherhood of God, which simply means that everyone is God's child. The emcee at the banquet boldly said that some did not believe this due to ignorance. When I made my remarks as the honoree, I carefully chose words to let the guests know that I was one of the "ignorant ones" who believed that no one is a child of God who has not trusted His Son as Savior and Lord.

A person can believe many things "about" God and still come short of salvation. Salvation comes when we trust God's promise of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. You hear the story of Jesus; the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection for our sins. You go beyond intellectual belief and trust Him as your Savior. I encourage you who have yet to "make your peace with God" to do so today; tomorrow may be too late and the door shut. There's a great day of judgment coming; are you ready for the Judgment Day?

He's There for Us, You Know.

When you are down and low,
He's there for us you know.

When life makes you frown
And gets you down,
He's there for us you know.

The One who lifts you up
Won't ever let you down.
Christ Jesus never fails,
You know.

—**Doorkeeper Walt Sommers**
Lynchburg, Virginia
11-4-2011

Kenya/South Africa. Martin Shikuku feels it is imperative that we conduct prayer seminar in the areas that were devastated following the post-election violence. One church building was burned with a large number of people inside as a part of tribal conflicts over the election. **Leslie Motsalane, director, JGHM South Africa Branch,** needs our help as he moves the prayer ministry forward. At this point, those seminars will be scheduled in June to coincide with the Kenyan elections.

Australia/Tasmania. A series of seminars are being planned in November for eastern Australia and Tanzania (an island off the coast of Australia), working with a Southern Baptist missionary, **Ben Armacost,** and his team. We will provide full details as we move through 2012.

REMEMBER THAT END-OF-
THE-YEAR GIVING MUST
BE POSTMARKED BY MID-
NIGHT ON DECEMBER 31.

December Itinerary
17 Elk Rapids Michigan Area-wide
Prayer Seminar
18 Evangelism Clinic/Preaching
Elk Rapids Baptist Church

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 2061. He that made man was made man.

Note 2062. To ponder properly the meaning of Christmas, go back to the first one when GOD LOVED AND GAVE THE WORLD'S GREATEST GIFT..

Note 2063. Amazing **GRACE: G**-od's **R**-iches **A**-t **C**-hrist's **E**-xpense.

Note 2064. Our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent a Savior who came to earth on the first Christmas.

Note 2065. Give yourself with your gift; then he who receives it will always treasure it.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

October 20--November 12, 2011

Regular	25	\$1,780.00
Cuba	62	4,008.50
Total	87	\$5,788.50



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

AS WE ENTER THE LAST MONTH
OF 2011, WE ARE GRATEFUL
FOR THOSE WHO PRAY, GIVE,
AND TELL OTHERS.

PRAYER CALENDAR**December 2011***"I will give myself to prayer..."***Psalm 109:4b****THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1****1 Thess 1-6 (Australia 21.8M)**

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**2 Thessalonians (Cuba 11.1M)**

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, DECEMBER 3**1 Timothy 1-3 (Kenya 41.1M)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
 Jean Beasley (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, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 5**1 Tim 4-6 (Philippines 101.8M)**

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, DECEMBER 6**2 Tim 1-3 (South Africa 49M)**

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, DECEMBER 7**Titus (Venezuela 27.6M)**

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, DECEMBER 8**Philemon (Australia 21.8M)**

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, DECEMBER 9**Hebrews 1-2 (Kenya 41.1M)**

June Fisher (TN)
 Claire/Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
 Estelle Gabbard (KY)
 Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
 Frank Geiger (HI)
 Robert & Sara George (GA)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**Heb 3-4 (Philippines 101.8M)**

Gloucester Co. Community Church
 Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
 Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
 Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
 Chad & Windy Goodner (OK)
 Odether Gray (GA)
 Linda Gregory (UT)

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
 Charles Hale (VA)
 George & Joy Harper (VA)
 Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
 Jim & Joyce Hengoed (FL/CT)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 12**Hebrews 5-7 (Venezuela 27.6M)**

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, DECEMBER 13**Heb 8-10 (Australia 21.8M)**

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 & GwenJohnson (AZ)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**Hebrews 11-13 (Cuba 11.1M)**

James/ Geneieve Jones (FL)
 Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
 M/M Robert David Jones (VA)
 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 Baptist Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
 Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Robert & Rose Klous (VA)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**James 1-5 (Kenya 41.1M)**

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Soma Kovoov (TX)
 Korean Branch: Dr. ShinKwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Phil Landers (OK)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**1 Peter (Philippines 101.8M)**

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Maurice & Von Laws (TX)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
 Nuhu & Mercy Leo (Nigeria)
 Karl & Rebecca Leonard (NC)
 Gaylen & Linda Leverett (VA)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell, Jr., President
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**2 Peter 1-3 (South Africa 49M)**

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, DECEMBER 18

Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**1 John (Australia 21.8M)**

Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**2 John (Cuba 11.1M)**

French and Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**3 John (Kenya 41.1M)**

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, DECEMBER 22**Jude (Philippines 101.8M)**

David & Marilyn Rainey (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 John Reed (NH)
 Dave Ricker (ME)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23**Rev 1-3 (South Africa 49M)**

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, DECEMBER 24**Rev 4-5 (Venezuela 27.6M)**

Philip/Wendy/Steve 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)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**LUKE 2 (The world 7b)**

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, DECEMBER 26**Rev 6-8 (Australia 21.8M)**

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)

Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**Revelation 9-13 (Cuba 11.1M)**

Earline Thigpen (TN)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 W. D. & Jackie Thomason (TN)
 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 DECEMBER 28**Rev 14-16 (Kenya 41.1M)**

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, DECEMBER 29**Rev 17-19 (Philippines 101.8M)**

George/Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Vernnall (FL)
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau/Ashley/Willow Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30**Rev 20 (South Africa 49M)**

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**Rev 22-22 (Venezuela 27.6M)**

Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacher, Pastor
 David & Lili Wykle (VA)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

**MERRY
 CHRISTMAS**

PETITION PRAYING

The acronym that we have been following in our review of the elements of prayer is **A-C-T-S**. Since June, our focus has been on the review. In earlier studies, we have dealt with **A-doration**, **C-onfession**, and **T-hanksgiving**. This month our attention turns to **S-eeeking**. Two of the five elements are represented by “S” **S-eeeking for self (petition)** and **S-eeeking for others (intercession)**. Another word for “S” is supplication.

Actually the word petition comes from a Greek word that means asking someone to do something for you. The same word that applies to a family member, a friend, or a stranger asking for help also applies to asking God for help. During a prayer seminar, I begin with **S-eeeking for self (petition)** before teaching **S-eeeking for others (intercession)**.

The parameter set for thanksgiving is simply stated “in everything give thanks” (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). In a sense, that is a good rule to follow related to petition praying. Pray about everything. A major sin for most Christians is the sin of prayerlessness. Interestingly enough, prayerlessness does not mean that the Christian never prays. It means that he is not praying like he ought to be praying.

God the Father expects us to call on Him (**Jeremiah 33:3**); **Jesus** exhorts us over and over to come to the Father in His name (**John 14:12-14**; **Romans 8:34**; **Hebrews 7:25, 9:24**); the **Holy Spirit** explains that the reason we don’t receive is that we don’t ask (**James 4:2b**) and that there are times when we do ask, but there is no answer because we “ask amiss” which means our motive is wrong (**James 4:3**). The right motive, by the way, is that God will get glory out of the answer.

Simply stated, it is right to pray for yourself. It is right to pray about everything

in the sense of complete dependence upon God and a desire that God will get glory in the answer He chooses what is best for us (“yes,” “no,” or “not now.”). Often He surprises us by the answer He gives. He knows the end from the beginning!

Thirty-two years ago, when I was writing the study materials that are now the **Prayer Seminar Workbook**, I wanted to include a study of Bible examples of prayer to encourage those who were going to become prayer warriors in the 24/7 prayer chapel ministry. It seemed reasonable to identify one example in the **Old Testament** and I chose **Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10)** and from the **New Testament, Jesus**. In introducing **Jabez**, I pointed out that he was a man almost nobody knows. A few years later **Bruce Wilkinson**, a graduate of the college where I served as president in northern New Jersey and the founder of **Walk Thru the Bible**, wrote a book entitled **The Prayer of Jabez**. Now millions know about **Jabez**!

Due to limited space, I simply want to point out the four things **Jabez** prayed for himself. First, he wanted a big blessing from God “bless me indeed!”; (2) he wanted more responsibility for God “enlarge my territory,” (3) he wanted God’s hand upon his life; and, (4) he wanted God to keep him from evil that he would not be grieved. Each of the four petitions was for self. Is it all right to pray for your self? Yes. We know the answer because the text says that God gave **Jabez** what he requested. Don’t be reluctant to pray for yourself. We will continue the study of the fourth element of prayer next month. In the meantime, order your life around prayer. Pray about everything.

We are told to come boldly to the throne of grace to find mercy and grace to help in the time of trouble (**Hebrews 4:16**). You and I don’t have to walk alone, but we must ask; **asking is the rule of the Kingdom.**

**“Well done, good and faithful servants;
enter into the joys of the Lord . . .”**
“absent from the body . . . present with the Lord”

In Loving Memory



Doorkeeper
Mildred Virginia Thompson
6/5/1921-10/24/2011
Rossville, Georgia

Several years ago, Mildred began using my books to teach on prayer in her community and became a **Doorkeeper**. She taught Sunday school in her local church for over fifty years--a delightful sister. I will miss her notes of encouragement.

Doorkeeper
Rev. Jack Bruce
7/3/1923-11/1/2011
Mount Vernon, Kentucky



For a number of days, I knew that a man of God lovingly called “Brother Jack” was quite ill in his home in Mount Vernon, Kentucky. Many have known him as a pastor or evangelist, and he was both. Others knew him as the Director of Missions in their local Baptist association

of churches. For well over fifty years I knew him as a friend, mentor, and an exemplar of a preacher of the Gospel. The friendship started during my days as a student at Berea College (KY).

Around 7 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1, surrounded by family and friends, Jack Bruce left his body and made the journey to Heaven escorted by the angels. As I have mulled over in my mind why he was so effective in the pulpit and caused people to want to hear him preach, my conclusion was that he spoke with authority and boldness clothed in a deep sense of humility that God had called him to the ministry.

During my twenty-seven years as a local church pastor, it was the tradition of the churches to schedule two two-week revival meetings each year one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Jack was often my evangelist of choice. Many times we worked together in my church; other times I served as evangelist in his church. He won the hearts of our congregation because

**THANKS,
DOORKEEPERS!**



**PRESENT WITH
THE LORD**

he was anointed as he preached. With his Bible spread before him, on his knees, he received a message from God and delivered it boldly without change.

The theme of Brother Jack's messages was the Gospel, the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins. As I relived many of his messages in my own mind, my thoughts went back to the first evangelistic sermon recorded in the New Testament Peter's message on the day of Pentecost that resulted in around 3,000 trusting Christ as their Savior. Eighty-eight years old. Serving actively until rather recently. Enjoying life to the fullest (remember his chuckles?) with **Arretta**, his beautiful wife. That was Jack Bruce who now has an address change from **97 Eddie Drive, Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456** to **Hallelujah Boulevard, Heaven** where he is at home awaiting our coming.

With the passing of Jack, the last of those whom I termed "great" preachers and evangelists and with whom I had a special relationship are gone--**H. B. Harris, C. A. Bantham, O. B. Mylum**, and now **Jack Bruce**. Brother Harris, my "dad" in the ministry--killed in an automobile accident in 1961, always said, "As long as you are preaching, I will be preaching." I have tried to do my best with this mandate in mind.



JACK BRUCE & DR. HENRY
May 1962

The first evangelistic sermons

Acts 2:14:21-44; 3:22-39

Modern preachers could learn much from Peter's sermons that were designed to unveil the true nature of Jesus {God's servant (**Acts 3:13, 26**), the Holy and Righteous One (**v 14**), the Christ/Messiah (**v 18**), and the foretold "prophet like Moses" (**v 22**)} so that his listeners, who had hesitated to accept Christ's claims while He lived among them, would change their minds about Jesus. Anyone who thinks of Jesus as anything less than God, and the Savior of mankind, must change his or her mind about Jesus to be saved.

The first evangelistic sermon was preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost. Crowds had gathered. Peter preached. His message contains the basic elements of the Gospel and the messages of Jack Bruce included them.

- (1) Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead (**Acts 2:26**);
- (2) Jesus' death was predicted and explained in the Bible;
- (3) He is Lord and Savior (**v 36**);
- (4) Repent and show your faith in Him (**v 38a**);
- (5) Your sins will be forgiven, and God will give you His Holy Spirit (**vv 38b-39**).

Sadly, some are turning from the old paths. They say, "This is a new way, a more relevant way. We need a new way to express the Christian message."

There is no "new way" to express the Gospel, for the Gospel of Jesus remains the same Good News it was when first preached by Peter and believed on by around 3,000 Jews in Jerusalem. **Jack Bruce** knew this and preached accordingly. We can all learn from Peter's first evangelistic sermons remembering both were incorporated into Jack's sermons.

INCARNATION

“The word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a)

In the rush of this happy and busy season, let's not lose sight of the purpose behind the celebration. We want Jesus Christ to be exalted as we commemorate the fact that the “Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” As did those early disciples, let's take time to behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (**John 1:14b**).

Ponder, as did (**Luke 2:19**) in your innermost being, the things that surrounded the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. **Charles Spurgeon** encapsulated the essence of His advent when he noted: “Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, and yet born of a woman. Almighty, and yet hanging on a woman's breast. Supporting a universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms.

King of angels, and yet the reputed son of Joseph. Heir of all things, and yet the carpenter's despised Son.”

Wonder of wonders, that it is, but only for those who take time to think and to listen again to the song of the angels who declared, “peace on earth and good will to men” a message we need to consider in order not to miss **the meaning of the Christmas celebration.**

International news

Cuba Update. Several (even some of our international friends) have counseled me not to fret over the change of plans for Cuba. Although I was saddened and somewhat shocked, I have long ago trusted the Lord for scheduling. Seldom has a scheduled seminar been canceled, but circumstances change. **Digmar Garcia** (formerly pastor of **First Baptist, Placetas**, where I led a crusade in January, 1960) has worked to transpose the November venue into January. The cities/towns remain the same and I will include the new schedule in the January **Reflector**. The new dates are January 6-23. Mark your calendar. **The \$6,168 budget has been met.**

Venezuela. The wonderful thing about our return to **Venezuela** is that the seminars are scheduled in the section where we were in 1992. The dates are **February 24-March 12**. The schedule is pretty well established. We will be developing a budget in early January. Mark your calendar. Working with the **Venezuela Baptist Convention** and the **Caracas Ministerial Association**, we have been able to impact much of the nation with many souls saved and many churches/individual believers revived.

REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

J. Gordon Henry Ministries,

1127 Lakeview Drive Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Office: (434) 239-8837 Mobile: (434) 851-4721

E-mail: jghm84@aol.com

www.jgordonhenryministries.org

SKYPE: Dr. J. Gordon Henry