

REFLECTOR

VOL . 58, No. 12

"Set thee up waymarks" Jeremiah 31:21

December 2012

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH



...and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)
full of grace and truth. John 1:14

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT A BABY

J.Vernon McGee(1904-1988)



As a student pastor, Dr. J. Vernon McGee's first church was located on a red clay hill in Midway, Georgia. It was there that he received his greatest compliment: "It was from a country boy wearing high buttoned, yellow shoes. After a morning service he came to speak to me. He groped for words, then blurted out, 'I never knew Jesus was so wonderful!' He started to say more but choked up and hurried out of the church. As I watched him stride across the field, I prayed, 'Oh, God, help me to always preach so that it can be said, I never knew Jesus was so wonderful.'"

Around the world, many believers still look forward to sitting under the teaching of the message of this great teacher. Dr. McGee and the Board of Directors of Thru the Bible planned in advance how the radio program would continue in the event of his homegoing. The message would remain the same and the "voice" of Thru the Bible Radio would continue to be Dr. McGee through the use of the taped 5-year program, except for those foreign language broadcasts, where the producers use the printed 5-volume Bible study to translate and produce the program. In 1985, Sue and I were honored to share the prayer seminar in Jaipur, Rajasthan State, India at a Bible college. Much to our delight, the principal was the Hindi voice of Dr. J. Vernon McGee. We were blessed to be in his presence.

Dr. McGee prepared the copy for the 1988 December issue of his monthly letter in August. His subject was "Christmas is all about a baby." I have a copy in my Christmas file and re-read it every year. Since the years are swiftly passing and I have no idea when I will prepare the last Christmas issue of the **Reflector**, I want to share the article with our readers. Be blessed.

God the Father

As Jesus came to the close of His earthly ministry, He told His disciples that He had come to reveal the Father. In the Old Testament, the title "Father" was used just 15 times and usually in the formal sense of the "Father of the Hebrew people." In the New Testament, however, everything changes. God is addressed as Father no less than 245 times!

Jesus referred to God as "Father" throughout His ministry 14 times in the Sermon on the Mount alone! In fact, every time we pray, "Our Father who are in Heaven," we follow His example and obey His command. It is only because of Christ that we have this great privilege. As Jesus Himself declared "no one comes to the Father but through Me" (**John 14:6**).

Because Christ paid the penalty for our sins, we are able to enter into a personal relationship with the Almighty. We have the right, totally unearned, and only by His grace, to call Him Father and what an awesome privilege it is. Often Jesus used "Abba" in talking to His Father. "Abba" is an Aramaic term of endearment for "father," The combined use of the Aramaic and Greek means something like "dear Father" or even "Papa," an intimate term. It was actually the word used by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (**Mark 14:35-36**).

Unlike most of his other epistles, Galatians includes no prayer requests from Paul nor any commendations of the churches or their ministers. However, Paul

Dr. McGee's Message:

"It is very difficult to write a Christmas editorial two months before December 25. Especially is this true today here in Southern California where the temperature is 90 degrees. There are two men on my roof, but neither one is Santa. They are putting down a new roof before the winter rains begin. How can you have the so-called Christmas spirit under circumstances like this?

These circumstances reveal that Christmas has nothing to do with Santa, sleigh bells, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, trees, wreaths, bunting, and a white Christmas. I'm not dreaming of a white Christmas. My orange trees wouldn't like a white Christmas, either. Roses are still blooming, and my camellias are just beginning to bloom. They don't go for the white stuff, either.

Christmas has nothing to do with these accouterments of Christmas. They are nice, but that is not what Christmas is all about.

Christmas is "God with us." They called Him *Jesus* because He would save His people from their sins. Sure, Christmas is about a baby — *this* BABY. A tax bill, a donkey, a star, an inn with a *no vacancy* sign hanging out, a stable, shepherds, and angels are the trappings connected with this Baby.

Was it December 25? Perhaps it wasn't. What date was it? We don't know. Please, let's not argue about the date. Remember the Baby. Don't wake the Baby. The *Baby is important*, not Caesar Augustus.

Come back in 33 years, and you will find out why He came. "*Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28).

The stable and manger are empty now. So is the tomb. He has gone back home. He is coming again, but we are going to meet Him, not in this world. In space the moon? Jupiter? Saturn? Beyond our solar system? Could be. "*Then we which*

are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Wouldn't it be nice to go home with Him for Christmas!"

We repeat the words of Dr. McGee, "**Wouldn't it be nice to go home with Him for Christmas?"** On the morning of December 1, 1988, a few minutes after a visit with the then Associate Director of Thru the Bible, alert and in conversation centered around his concern for the continuance of the radio ministry, Dr. McGee fell asleep in his chair and quietly passed into the presence of His Savior. How remarkable that the December issue was resting in the homes of countless thousands including our home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Yours in Calvary love,

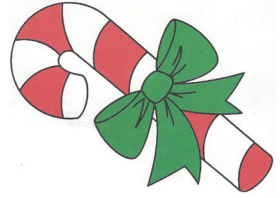
J. Gordon Henry

said "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying "Abba, Father." The cry of the Spirit in our hearts is thus, "Abba, Father," using both an intimate name and a respectful name for one's father.

As we once again see the enormity of what God did for us, let us remember what Jesus taught His disciples. We can do something that was not possible before Jesus returned to His Father. We can come to the Father through His name and call Him "Abba Father." We must cherish the **amazing privilege** of experiencing God as a loving Father. During this Christmas season, keep your eyes on the Father and see the long-term difference this makes in your outlook and in your praying.



The Story of the Candy Cane



This little story simply brings our Lord Jesus Christ into a candy cane that is an important part of the Christmas to many people. After seeing how it ties in with Christ, it is with hope that each time you see a candy cane you will think of Him, and it will mean something special.

There were once two villages in a far off land. One was in a valley and one was on a mountain top. The folks in the mountain village wanted to give each person in the valley village a gift of love at Christmas. The people in the valley were having a difficult time, but those in the mountain village were doing well. (Sometimes when we are on a mountain top we can help those who are going through a valley in their lives too.) That is what these mountain folks wanted to do also.

So a committee was formed of town people to see if someone would be able to think of something special. Money was limited, and each gift had to be of equal value to each person. After much time, discussion, and consideration, a decision was made. An elderly gentleman, who had loved Jesus for many years, and who was well respected and loved, came up with the idea of a candy cane. Now, you are thinking what is so special about a candy cane and how it can be tied in with Christmas. Here is how and why:

1. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff. Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His flock. A sheep follows his own shepherd, knows his voice, trusts him and

knows he is totally safe with him. A sheep will follow no other shepherd but his own. This is how we are to be with Jesus if we truly follow Him. See **John 10:11; Psalm 23:1; Isaiah 40:11.**

2. Upside down the candy cane is a "J," the first letter of Jesus' name. See **Luke 1:31.**

3. The wide red stripe represents the blood He shed on the cross for each one of us so we can have eternal life through Him. He redeems us and cleanses us with His shed blood, which is the only thing that can wash our sins away. **Ephesians 1:7; Luke 22:20.**

4. The white stripes represent the sinlessness and purity of our Lord. He is the only human being who ever lived on this earth who never committed one single sin. Even though He was tempted just as we are, He never sinned. **1 Peter 2:22.**

5. The narrow red stripes represent His stripes or wounds by which we are healed. Before the crucifixion Jesus was beaten, the crown of thorns was placed on His head, His back was raw from the whip. We are healed by those wounds. "He bore our sorrows and by His stripes we are healed." **1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5.**

6. The flavoring in the candy cane is peppermint which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is in the mint family and was used in the Old Testament for purification and sacrifice. **John 19:20; Psalm 51:7.**

7. When we break our candy cane, it reminds us that Jesus body was broken for us. When we have communion, we are reminded of what He did for us. **1 Corinthians 11:24.**

8. If we share our candy cane, and give

some to someone else in love, because we want to, it represents that same love of Jesus because He is to be shared with love to one another. **1 John 4:7-8.**

God gave Himself to us when He sent Jesus. He loves us so much He wants us to spend eternal life with Him, which we will do if we accept Jesus in our hearts as Savior and Lord. **John 1:12; John 3:3; John 14:6.**

NOTE: This article was shared many years ago by precious **Doorkeepers** Mac and Dot Winfred. Both are now in Heaven. In her note, Dot said, "Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas."



INTERNATIONAL. Plans are to reschedule the November 15-30 Cuban seminars in early 2013. Adam Nathanson is working with Pastor Ernesto to determine the best dates.

The JGHM Board recently approved establishing the JGHM--East/Central Africa Branch with **Martin Shikuku** as director. We will focus our resources on this area for the next few years based on the exemplary work being done by Martin and his team. Dr. Henry is scheduled to return to Uganda in May 2013.

DOMESTIC. There will be a prayer seminar at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Washington DC on January 26-27. **PRAY FOR THE 2013 SCHEDULING.**

YEAR-END GIFTS--PLANNING DECEMBER GIVINGI

What are you giving Jesus for His birthday this year? What is under the tree for Him? Is Jesus first on your shopping list?

Christmas is essentially based on giving. God GAVE His only Son to pay for our sins. Every gift we buy can be a reminder if we are thoughtful. Our best gift should honor Jesus; after all, Christmas is His birthday.

In addition, December is a time to catch up on making gifts you planned to make earlier in the year. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions such as home mortgage interest and medical expenses, may deduct charitable gifts. A larger-than-usual gift may boost your deductions above the standard deduction, allowing you to enjoy more tax savings. Gifts postmarked by December 31 are deductible this year.

It very well may be that as you pray about your December giving that you will want to make your gift in honor of the Lord Jesus Christ through the prayer seminar ministry. If so, we will be grateful.

Again, thanks for your partnership in making the prayer seminar ministry possible. Your giving to support world missions through the prayer seminar is an investment in eternity.

**WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY
FAITH LEANING ON THE
LORD. JGHM IS A FAITH
MINISTRY DEPENDING
ON OUR FAITHFUL GOD
TO STIR HEARTS TO
GIVE AND HE HAS NEVER
FAILED US.**



HAVE YOU TOLD?

Have you shared the Christmas story?
Have you told its message true?
There are others who would gladly
Hear the word of Life from you.

Have you told them how the angels
To the humble shepherds came?
Have you given them the tidings
That the herald did proclaim?

Have you told them how the radiance
From the Christmas star did guide
The band of seeking Magi
To the little Christ-child's side?

Have you told them how this Jesus
Was the Savior long-foretold
And to Him they brought rich tribute
Of myrrh, frankincense and gold?

Have you told them He's the Savior
Who alone redeems from sin?
Have you told them He can give them
Peace and joy and love within?

If you have, then you will surely
Know the bliss of love sublime,
And, if not, oh, haste to share it
While the bells of Christmas chime.

Author Unknown



Rejoice in the Lord!

**NOTES
from my
BIBLE**

Note 2121. Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.

Note 2122. Heaven's choir came down to sing when Heaven's King came down to save.

Note 2123. God wants our heart's desire to be His heart's desire.

Note 2124. God is the author of all history even if He does not sign His name at the bottom of every page.

Note 2125. "Behind the dim unknown standeth God, within the shadows, keeping watch over His own."

SEASON'S GREETINGS

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Regular	53	\$4,944.00
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THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Partners with God 1 Corinthians 3:9

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!
BRIGHTEN THE CORNER
WHERE YOU ARE!**

PRAYER CALENDAR**DECEMBER 2012****"I will give myself to prayer..."****Psalm 109:4b****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1****1 THES (Sudan 43M)**

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
 Milcie Arnold (VA)
 Leonor Avila (MD)
 Bill & Karen Baker (OK)
 Consuela Baker (NC)
 Mike & Joyce Baker (VA)
 Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)
 Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**2 THES (Suriname 590,157)**

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
 Jean Beasley (TN)
 Tommy Bell (TN)
 Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
 Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
 Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
 Beverly Blankenship (TN)
 Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4**1 TIM 1-3 (Svalbard 1,970)**

Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)
 Bob Bouchard (KY)
 William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
 David & Marna Boyd (OR)
 Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
 Ed & Jean Bradshaw (VA)
 Emilee & Kim Bradshaw (VA)
 Nancy Bretz (PA)
 Jim & Judy Britt (GA)
 Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5**1 TIM 4-6 (Swaziland 1.4M)**

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
 Mary Ann Brown (CA)
 Thomas & Norma Brown (NC)
 Arretta Bruce (TN)
 Joe & Martha Bruno (CO)
 Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
 Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
 George & Carol Buck (NJ)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6**2 TIM (Syria 22.5M)**

Janice Bugg (TN/Chin)
 James Burk (IL)
 Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
 Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
 Mary Campbell (ID)
 Laura Cannon (FL)
 Joeretha Capers (FL)
 Bob & Evelyn Casey (FL)
 David & Martha Cecil (VA)
 Manship Chapel (DE)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**TITUS (Taiwan 23.1M)**

Gus & Janice Christofield (VA)
 Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
 Margarie Coffee (VA)
 Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
 Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
 Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
 Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
 Dufrene/Peggy Cummings (NC)
 Beverly Curtis (PA)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**PHILEMON (Tajikistan 7.8M)**

Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
 Ida J. Davis (GA)
 John & Margaret Davis (VA)
 Lelia Dean (FL)
 Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
 Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
 Mary J. Dugans (LA)
 Ivy Early (NC)
 Walt Edwards (NC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
 Lynn Elkins (TN)
 Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
 Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
 Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
 Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
 Estelle Gabbard (KY)
 Mike & Lerlyne Garcia (VA)
 Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
 Frank Geiger (HI)
 Robert & Sara George (GA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**HEB 1-2 (Tanzania 43M)**

Gloucester Co. Community Church, Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
 Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
 Chad & Wendy Goodner (OK)
 Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
 Sam & Michele Graisbury (NJ)
 Odether Gray (GA)
 Linda Gregory (UT)
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Taiwan)

Charles Hale (VA)

George & Joy Harper (VA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**HEB 3-4 (Thailand 67.1M)**

Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
 Jim & Joyce Hengoeo (FL/CT)
 Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)
 J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
 Jacqueline Henry (VA)
 Jamey Henry (MS)
 Mark Henry (TN)
 Melody Henry (VA)
 Roger & Sara Henry (OH)
 Sean & Bethany Henry (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12**HEB 5-7 (Timor-Leste 1.2M)**

Steve & Donna Hensel (MN)
 Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
 Joanna Holland (VA)
 John & Glenda Holland (VA)
 Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
 Anita Horton (VA)
 Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
 Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
 Coy Hunsucker (NC)
 Joyce Hunt (TN)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13**HEB 8-10 (Toga 7M)**

Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
 Ed Hurlow (IN)
 H. J. Hutchins (LA)
 Jide & Bunmi Iware (MD)
 Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
 Gene & Rose Marie Jeffries (AR)
 Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
 Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
 Millicent John (NY)
 Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14**HEB 11-13 (Tokelau 1,368)**

Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
 Gwen Johnson (AZ)
 Richard & Betsy Johnson (TN)
 Robert/Rhonda Johnson (FL)
 Dave & Debbie Jones (VA)
 James & Genevieve Jones (FL)
 Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
 W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
 Jean Jonte (SC)
 Shem/Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**JAMES (Tonga 106,146)**

Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Mohan Katta (IL)
 Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
 Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)

Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
 Robert & Rose Klous (VA)
 Sherry Klutz (WA)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)
 Phil & Edra Landers (OK)
 Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT)
 Gaylen & Linda Leverett (VA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

1 PETER (Trinidad 1.2M)

Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell Jr., President
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Don & Betty Lowry (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

2 PETER (Tunisia 10;7M)

Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 R. O. & June McHaney (VA)
 Egberta McSween (Canada)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

1 JOHN (Turkey 79.7M)

Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

2 JOHN (Turkmenistan 5.1M)

Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Elaine Moser (MN)
 Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

3 JOHN (Turks/Caicos 46,336)

Adam/Diana Nathanson (Venezuela)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)

Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Roger & Kay Pede (VA)
 Sandy Pederson (MN)
 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)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

JUDE (Tuvalu 10,619)

Dave & Marilyn Rainey (VA)
 John Reed (NH)
 Dave Ricker (ME)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 Andrew/Celestine Sakari (Kenya)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (FL)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

REV 1-3 (Uganda 35.7M)

Phil/Wendy/Steve Schrank (WI)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Richard/Margaret Seigfield (SC)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Wonsub/Young Mi Sheen (Korea)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)

Eric Farel, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

REV 4-5 (Ukraine 44.9M)

Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)
 Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Carol Snow Stewart (CT)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

REV 6-8 United Arab Em 5.3M)

Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
 William Suttles (NC)

Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
 Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Earleen Thigpen (TN)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

REV 9-13 (United Kingdom 63M)

Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 W. D & Jackie Thomason (TN)
 Montez Thompson (CO)
 Paula Tipton (Thailand)
 William & Katie Toney (NC)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Bruce & Vickie Tribbett (DE)
 Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

REV 14-16 (USA 313.9 M)

Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)
 Willie & Diane Troutman (KY)
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Keith/Doris Snyder Verrell (FL)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

REV 17-19 (Uruguay 3.3M)

Cliff & Marcia Vinson (Brazil)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau & Ashley Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Ken & Carol Willis (VA)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

REV 20-22 (Uzbekistan 28.4M)

Amos & Celia Wipf (GA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 David & Lili Wykle (VA)
 Silas Yashim (Nigeria)
 Fred & Susan Zeller (MD)
 Norm & Mary Zink (MI)

AMERICA NOW WITHOUT EXCUSE

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Several years ago, a pastor in Pennsylvania wrote a letter encouraging other pastors to schedule a prayer seminar in their churches. He said that they would sit there and say, "I've said that" and "I've said that, too." This is another way of saying that much of what is taught during the six-hour prayer seminar is not new. The same is true of the content of the articles in a **Reflector**; it is true of this article.

When I heard that 40% of evangelical Christians (6 million voters) voted for a position that espouses abortion (the murdering of the unborn), same-sex marriages, and the like, my heart was broken. "What shall we say to these things that dishonor God" becomes the question. We must stand firm and continue to issue warnings based on what God has said.

Warnings have been sounded time and time again. Ears seem to be deaf to truths that are clearly stated in the Bible, the Word of God. Hearts seem too insensitive. Why should we continue to extend the warning? From the Old Testament, the responsibility to keep on warning was sounded by the prophet, Ezekiel: "But if the watchman

sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand" (**Ezekiel 33:6**). From the New Testament from the words of Paul, "Knowing the terror of God, we persuade men" (**2 Corinthians 5:11**).

In early October 1959, I was preaching a revival in Garrard County, Kentucky. Two things I remember from this precious time with Pastor Audrey Eckenroth and his people. Sue and I were expecting our second child. I promised that if he arrived during the revival, we would do our best to bring him to a service. Sure enough, Mark arrived and attended his first service ever in that church. The second thing was the pastor extending the invitation each evening calling for decisions while weeping. Each night, he explained his burden: "Knowing the terror of God, we persuade men."

Although most of you can pretty well quote much of Paul's words in **Romans 1:18-32**, it is pressing upon me to provide them. **THROUGH THIS PASSAGE GOD IS WARNING AMERICA. LET GOD BE TRUE. BASE YOUR BELIEFS AND LIFE ON HIS WORD.**

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason, **God gave them up** to vile passion. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

For even as they did not like to retain God in their

knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful, who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

Note: The Wrath of God is being revealed. God's wrath is His righteous and necessary response to sinners, expressed in His condemnation of their sins. Here the emphasis is on moral corruption in society as the operation of a present divine wrath on sin.

One need look no further than today's television programs, movies, and newspapers to see what Paul meant. Folks not only continue to practice sexual immorality, they approve of those who practice such.

Paul devotes two of the eight verses describing moral corruption to homosexuality. Our society's drive to validate homosexual behavior as an acceptable "alternate lifestyle" places modern America squarely in **Romans 1:32**. Christians must be careful not to accept the world's moral judgments but to be guided by God's Word. **BE WARNED!**

Praise the Lord! Cancer Free!

We are grateful for the prayer support provided for our daughter, Melody, during her recent surgery. The six-hour surgery was performed by two surgeons on Wednesday, October 31. Once she was in her room, there was a message on the patient care board: "Praise the Lord! Cancer Free!" Early on the second day, Melody and I took a walk down a long corridor at Virginia Baptist Hospital. Before the day was over, she had made five trips. Being a neurological intensive care nurse for a quarter of a century, she mapped out her recovery steps. Her doctors and nurses honored her plan.

My niece, Penny, and her husband, Jim, came from Versailles, Kentucky for the weekend. In making decisions about Sunday morning, Sue said to be sure to schedule the 8:30 a.m. service at Forest Baptist Church because someone wanted to greet me during the service. So we scheduled worship at 8:30, followed by Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship in Memorial Christian Church, where our daughter Mona is Minister of Music, at 11. The person who wanted to greet me at the 8:30 service was Melody! Unbelievable! God was good to let us worship together with thankful hearts. The next Sunday, I accompanied Melody to her church.

Once word got out, expressions of support and prayer came from brothers and sisters in our church and from Doorkeepers from around the nation. Thank you for your concern.

Thank you for your calls, e-mails, cards, and memorial gifts for Doug.

God Answers Prayer



HAPPY WARRIORS!
Melody, Dad, Mona

When word came that Melody had two lumps in a breast (determined to be two different forms of cancer) and that my brother, Doug, had died, I quickly followed the instructions given in Hebrews 4:16. Our family needed both "mercy and grace to help in time of need." I asked God's hand to move on our behalf (James 4:2b) and prayed that God would do whatever would bring glory to His name (James 4:3). Specifically, I asked that these circumstances would draw each member of our family closer to Him and closer to one another. God answered my prayer. Although my heart is broken as I pen these words, the time spent in the Word during the early morning hours has brought a peace and a firm conviction that whatever happens, I know He is trustworthy. The cancerous lumps are gone; there are no cancer cells in Melody's lymph nodes. Praise the Lord!

**"THE LORD HAS DONE
GREAT THINGS FOR US,
AND WE ARE GLAD!"**
PSALM 126:3



GOD HAS A CHRISTMAS TREE. IT IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST. IN FACT, THE PROPER NAME FOR THE CROSS IS TREE. REMEMBER THE EARLY CHURCH SPOKE OF IT THIS WAY.

REFLECTOR

ISSN 0885-8538

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

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IN ONE OF THE FIRST SERMONS EVER WE FIND "THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS RAISE UP JESUS, WHOM YE SLEW AND HANGED ON A TREE" (ACTS 5:30). PETER WROTE: "WHO HIS OWN SELF BORE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE ..." (1 PETER 2:24). GIFTS THAT COME TO US BY FAITH ARE PEACE, ACCESS, HOPE, TRIUMPH IN TROUBLE, LOVE, AND JOY.