

# REFLECTOR

VOL.68, No.12 "Holding Forth the Word of Life" December 2022

## Christmas Greetings from Virginia

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE



*"The LORD BLESS thee and KEEP thee;  
the LORD make His face SHINE on thee  
and be GRACIOUS unto thee;  
the LORD lift up His countenance upon thee  
and give thee PEACE."*

NUMBERS 6:24-26

### A Message for Christmas Family Gatherings "A Right Christmas"

[Suggestion: Read Aloud With Adults, Young People and Children Participating]

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Christmas means many things to many people according to their backgrounds, ages, and interests: profits, presents, trees, toys, lights, wrapping presents, decorating homes, paying bills, working extra hours. **What does Christmas mean to you?** Are you ready to have a right Christmas?

For the born-again believers, Christmas means everything! It means that there is a Father Who loves Him, a brother Savior Who shed His blood on the Cross to pay for his sins and make a way to be reconciled to the Father, and a Holy Spirit who is our Helper in every aspect of life. God regarded our lost condition and did something about it by giving the best Gift ever! Our Savior was born. That is the meaning of Christmas. Note how sharp is Dr. Luke's diagnosis! "Unto You"--that is personal; "This Day"--that is present; "A Savior"--that is precious!

Actually, three symbols show the real meaning of Christmas: a cradle (1 Timothy 3:16), a cross (John 18:37), and a crown (Isaiah 9:6). Incarnation--Jesus, God of very God in human flesh--was laid in a manger for His cradle (John 1:1, Galatians 4:4-5, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19). He came to die on our behalf on the cross (John 12:32). One day He will return and will be crowned King of kings with every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that He is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11).

#### Ingredients of a right Christmas

It is important for a Christian to have **A RIGHT CHRISTMAS!** Here are some ingredients to include in your celebration.

#### 1. A Right Christmas Includes Making Room for Jesus.

The innkeeper is a symbol of those who have no room for Jesus. Be sure your heart is not so full of other things that there is no room for Him this Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season!

#### 2. A Right Christmas Includes Worship and the Grace of Giving.

Adoration is simply looking at Jesus and loving Him. Take time for special worship as did the shepherds and wise men. Since it is His birthday, shouldn't your most expensive gift be given to honor Jesus? The wise men "...fell down, and worshiped Him ... and ...presented

unto Him gifts" (Luke 2:11). Can we do any less? By the way, what is under your Christmas tree for Jesus and His Gospel in 2022?

**3. A Right Christmas Includes Telling Others.** The shepherds "made known abroad" what they had seen and heard (Luke 2:17-20). The need is great and the hour is late. How many on your street or in your neighborhood are waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus? We are not called to be lawyers, but witnesses. What an opportune time we have at Christmas to tell others its real meaning!

#### Peace on earth

Were the angels wrong when they talked about peace on earth and goodwill to men (Luke 2:14) since we have so much hurt today? No, the peace God offers is for those who will trust His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord. The best present you could give to Him would be yourself this Christmas Day. If you have not, do so now. If you have, reaffirm your dependence upon Him! Then make this a daily commitment in your praying. Remember, few become Christians without someone praying for them. Few become prayer warriors (intercessors) without an active prayer list. Be sure that each family member is on that list. If you are not praying for members of your family, it is unlikely that anyone else is.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

James Gordon & Sue Troutman Henry

## NEWSPAPER HEADING AND PHOTO

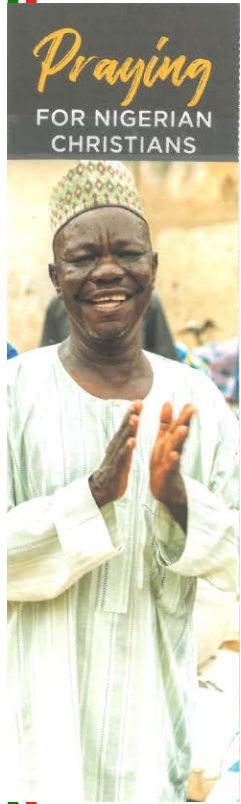
### Crowd sings 'Amazing Grace' at vigil for 3 students killed in Charlottesville shooting

"University of Virginia students and others sang "Amazing Grace" during a vigil for three students killed in a campus shooting. The UVa community packed the lawn on Monday night for the vigil that began in silence before the singing of "Amazing Grace"...

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, WHERE  
COULD WE GO, BUT TO THE LORD?

REMINDER: END-OF-THE YEAR  
CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED  
BY MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31 TO BE  
INCLUDED IN 2022.

**WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, WHERE  
COULD WE GO, BUT TO THE LORD?**



Dear Sir,

Just wanted to update you on Prayer Ministry in Nigeria. Rev. Sunday Congo is doing great work. The Prayer manuals in English and Hausa and the book, Lord Teach Us to Pray have all been printed both in English and Hausa. ECWA appointed Prayer Coordinators from all our District Church Councils. About 70 of these Coordinator recently gathered in Jos for a week of intensive training. Rev. Congo and Rev. Stephen P. Baba, the ECWA President, were involved in the Training. I joined them via Zoom Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and did the main training for the Prayer Coordinators. Rev. Sule and I prayed 30 years ago for ECWA to engage Prayer Coordinators at the District Church level and it never happened. God's timing is perfect. On Tuesday, I shared about the Prayer Ministry, how it came about and how the Lord has been leading since then till today. Wednesday and Thursday, I took them through all the sessions of the Prayer Seminar and trained them on how to live their Prayer lives and also teach the

Prayer Seminar. This was very fulfilling and I thank God for the opportunity to do that and the technology that made it possible.

In February 2023, I will be in Liberia West Africa to teach the Prayer Seminar as a class to Seminary students. I will also have the opportunity to teach the seminar in a church and the community.

Grace says hi. Regards to Sue. We pray for you and for her health regularly.

Sunday Bwanhot  
Chicago, Illinois

**SUZANNE PAGE JENNINGS (Mrs. Paul)**  
September 19, 1941-  
March 14, 2022  
Christiana, Tennessee



**LT. COL. USAF TERRANCE (TERRY) CRAIG**  
May 19, 1935-  
July 10, 2022  
Mosheim, Tennessee



**DR. F. MURRAY MATHIS**  
October 12, 1939-  
November 17, 2022  
Murfreesboro/Columbia, Tennessee



IN LOVING MEMORY

**"Better by far"**

"I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is *better by far*; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body"  
(Philippians 1:23-24).

*Prayers & Promises when facing a life-threatening illness* (Zondervan, 2007) was a book written by Dr. Ed Dobson, my friend and long-time professional colleague during our years at Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University). He was Dean of Students; I was Academic Dean. To me he will always be "Dean Dobson."

During the last years of his life, his body was attacked by ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), which progressively worsened. I cherish every paragraph, every sentence, and every word expressed by this man of God who left an invaluable legacy for his family, his flock at Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, his friends, and the world at large by opening his heart and describing his thoughts as he journeyed toward Heaven.

"Dean Dobson" wrote about what he called "the most compelling question, what is heaven like" and shared his father's favorite description of heaven found in three words in Philippians 1:23-24 "*better by far.*" What is heaven like? Heaven is "*better by far*" than the best of what earth has to offer. When Dean Dobson's mother died, his father, Calvin, had these three words inscribed on her gravestone: "*Eileen McKnight Dobson—Better by Far.*"

It was my privilege to conduct a prayer seminar at North Argyle Community Church, North Argyle, New York on November 24, 1982 and experience the wonderful hospitality of Pastor Calvin & Eileen Dobson whose memories were much alive when I read their son's book. After the death of his mother, his father joined him on the Calvary's staff as Prayer Pastor. Literally thousands were saved through "Dean Dobson's" life and ministry.

The word "death" means separation. We know from New Testament teaching that a believer (spirit-soul) departs to be with Christ at the time of death while his body goes into the grave (2 Corinthians 5:8b; Philippians 1:23) to await the Resurrection. The believer himself is in the conscious presence of the Lord, worshipping Him in a way he never could on earth.

Three of our most faithful Doorkeepers have joined "the great cloud of witnesses" and we wish to memorialize their passing as 2022 comes to a close.

**Notes from My Bible**

**Note 6048.** Any church without a well-organized and systematic prayer program [ministry] is simply operating a religious treadmill. Paul Billheimer, *Destined for the Throne*

**ROPEHOLDER/DOORKEEPER REPORT**

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

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THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[Founded as J. Gordon Henry Ministries in 1984]

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**TELL A FRIEND!**