

REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

December 2023

FINAL ISSUE

FOUNDED IN 1954

Sixty-nine Years for the Reflector

Only eternity will reveal the fruits of this labor of love. In God's goodness He has used thoughts shared to stir hearts; there have been many written expressions of appreciation. One of the two goals that have guided the content is to keep believers updated (for forty years with the focus on the worldwide prayer seminar ministry). The second, which is obviously more important, has been to encourage our readers. As Paul said, “these things have not been done in a corner” (**Acts 26:26**) but it is good for me to share that the overall concern has been speaking the truth in love while *Holding Forth the Word of life*.

A clergyman in England asked a dying Christian woman where she found the Savior; and she gave him a piece of paper torn from an American journal containing part of one of **C. H. Spurgeon's** sermons. The script had been wrapped around a package that came to her from Australia. The words of Spurgeon were read by her and were the means of leading her to Christ.

Commenting on this incident, a writer said, “Think of it; a sermon preached in England, printed in America, in some way coming to Australia, a part of it used as wrapping paper there, coming back to England, and being the means of converting this woman.” An attestation of the power of the printer's ink! I could talk for hours about the feedback from the **Reflector** and the print ministry of **JGHM**. Need I say more?

Keeping Connected

Many of our readers feel more like family than friends. Certainly, Sue and I would like to stay connected. We invite you to figure out a way to check periodically with Dr. Henry and Sue's Blog using www.theprayerseminar.com. You can text/call us at (434) 239-8837. Since the 16th Century goodbye has been used when parting as a contraction of *GOD BE WITH YOU* and express good wishes. After sixty-nine years, we say a hearty *GOODBYE* until we meet again.



THE JGHM LOGO

Notes from My Bible

Note 6099. The road to God really is marked with “ONE WAY” signs and Jesus Himself is the only way.

Note 6100. God's battles cannot be won with man's weapons.

Note 6101. Prayer is the work that must come before all other work.

Note 6102. To pray in Jesus' Name is to make requests that are in fullest harmony with Christ's character and His purposes.

Note 6103. Our responsibility is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and follow Him closely.

PERSPECTIVE A FINAL WORD

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” Psalm 118:8



The shortest chapter in the Bible is **Psalm 117** (two verses), the longest **Psalm 119** (one-hundred seventy-six verses). The short psalm is about a big subject: helping all the nations to praise the Lord God of Israel whose mercy is great and truth enduring. What He does is merciful and what He says is dependable. The theme of the long psalm is the Word of God. Every verse except five (84, 80, 121, 122, 132) refers to God's Word -- what it is and what it will do in lives. Most of the verses are either prayers for God's help or affirmations of the writer's faith in God's truth despite the difficulties and obstacles he was facing. Meditating on this psalm ought to make a believer love and treasure the Word of God more and obey it willingly.

Nestled between the shortest and longest chapters is the middle verse in the Bible which states that “*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man*” (**Psalm 118:8**). The New International Version is that “*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.*”

It seems to me that the key words are trust, confidence, and refuge in the light of the object and direction of each. The centrality of the verse in the Bible accents the truth as another one of those anchors of the soul. Trust God to guide and provide. Beware of placing confidence in human power because one day it will fade no matter how strong it appears at the moment. This is a good reminder, isn't it?

As one grows older in the Lord, he experiences the mercies of God which are new every morning (**Lamentations 3:22-23**) as God's faithfulness is demonstrated. As answers to his prayers mount, the believer becomes stronger in faith, no longer fearful when trials and adversaries come. After seeing God often turn defeat into victory and darkness into light, he is increasingly confident that “*the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever*” (**Psalm 125:2**). He can affirm with strong assurance and confidence that “*we know that all things work together for good to them that love God who have been called according to His purpose*” (**Romans 8:28**).

God works in “all things” -- not just isolated instances -- for our good. This does not mean that all that happens to us is good. Christians are not immune from the evil which pervades our fallen world. But God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long-range good. Note that God is not working to make us comfortable or happy; He is working to fulfill His purpose in the lives of those “called” by the Holy Spirit who convicts and enables them to receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

Such people have a new perspective, a new mind-set and world-view. They trust in God, not life's treasures; they look for their security in Heaven, not on earth. Although there are friends and loved ones who care, human strength and wisdom is not enough. We should again say it: beware of placing confidence in human power because one day it will fade no matter how strong it appears now.

A young lad was sitting calmly in his seat in a plane that had run into turbulence that had all the grown-ups frightened and concerned -- far beyond what even the seasoned travelers had experienced. Some were praying who had not prayed for a long time. Finally someone asked the boy why he was not afraid. He said quickly and confidently, “The pilot is my dad. He will bring us safely through.”

It is a mistake to trust anyone or anything more than God! Why? Because we are all human and do not have the power needed. He does! Let's take refuge in Him, trust Him, and have confidence in Him. He cares! He has demonstrated His love to us that when we were yet sinners, He gave His Son to die for us. There is no greater love.

Yours in Calvary love

J. Gordon Henry

Northeastern Bible College

Essex Fells, New Jersey
Where the Prayer Seminar was Incubated



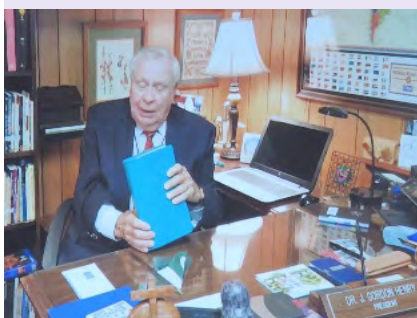
For twenty-seven years of my life, I was bi-vocational, an educator and a local church pastor. Both roles were very important to me. There was never any conflict between the two.

When the invitation came to set aside the pastorate and assume the presidency of **Northeastern Bible College**, I was somewhat conflicted. For over 1,400 Sundays I was in the pulpit for a morning and evening sermon. Beginning at seventeen, one of my hats was a pastor's hat. What would my life be if I were not a pastor?

Sue and I prayed about the invitation. She decided to drive down into North Carolina to spend time in prayer. God's answer was "Who knows whether you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this?" (**Esther 4:14b**). So off to New Jersey we trekked.

There were numerous invitations to preach all around the Northeast. When the late **Howard Kauffmann** (1923-2016) was named the honorary chair of the National Bible Society, he chaired a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City along with our pastor, **Jim Hooton**, and his wife. We discussed my interest in prayer and a 24/7 prayer ministry established in Virginia. I shared my writing the weekly studies which I taught during the Training Union hour, one hour preceding the Sunday evening worship, to prepare the 168 prayer warriors. The mimeograph stencils were accessible, ready to duplicate. Each person at the table expressed interest. None of us imagined that out of the Madison Baptist Church Prayer Conference would come a worldwide prayer seminar ministry that remains strong and vibrant under the leadership of **Adam Nathanson** and his team. In reviewing the steps that brought Sue and me to this seminal moment, we can see God's hand in opening doors and providing every need every step of the way. What can we say but "**WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!**"

Amazing Prayer Seminar in Karachi, Pakistan



For almost two decades, the prayer seminar has touched lives in Pakistan. In a recent seven-hour prayer seminar, thirty-two young men trusted Christ as Savior. The Deans wrote: "We not only used the transforming teachings of **Dr. J. Gordon Henry** from the

Urdu Prayer Seminar Workbook, we used his video teaching recorded and voiced over by **James Dean**. Thank you so much for teaching us how to pray effectively and now the Lord is blessing our nation with such Spirit-filled teachings as we carry on this amazing life-changing legacy to empower Christians in prayer. Just know you and Sue are covered always in our daily prayers."

AN INVITATION

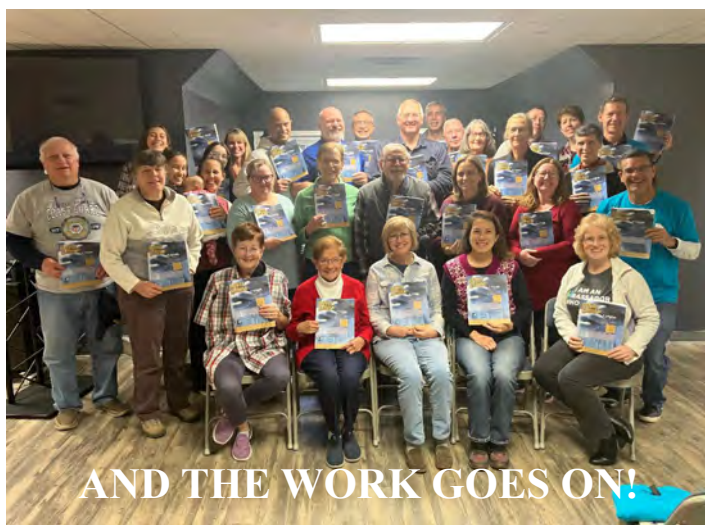
The Commonwealth of Virginia is full of history and natural beauty. There are many attractions in the Lynchburg area. One is **Liberty University** established by **Dr. Jerry Falwell** and **Thomas Road Baptist Church**. A new attraction that will bless and enlighten you is **The Jerry Falwell Museum**, scheduled to open in 2024. A plaque to remember Dr. Henry's tenure as the Academic Dean and the first Vice President for Academic Affairs will be featured. Ten minutes away from the campus at 1127 Lakeview Drive is the **JGHM MUSEUM**. Keep these sites in the back of your mind and see what develops as your plan your travels.



(1935 -)

Liberty University Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. J. Gordon (Jim) Henry served as the Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Liberty Baptist College from 1972-1978 and Special Consultant from 1978-1980. He was a vital part of the academic team that led to Liberty's full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1980.



Kingston Maryland 11-11-2023
Adam Nathanson (2nd Row, first from right)

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THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[Founded as **J. Gordon Henry Ministries** in 1984]

FOUNDER'S OFFICE

1127 Lakeview Drive

Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-2807

(434) 239-8837 (Call/Text)

Email: jghm84@aol.com

Web: www.jgordonhenryministries.org

PRAYER SEMINAR ONLINE

Download Prayer Seminar Workbook

For YouTube Information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.theprayerseminar.com

INFORMATION/SCHEDULING

Adam Nathanson, President

BALTIMORE OFFICE

P.O. Box 42038

Baltimore, Maryland 21258-2038

(443) 846-8277 (Call/Text)

Email: theprayerseminar@gmail.com

www.theprayerseminar.com

FACEBOOK: The Prayer Seminar

Instagram: The Prayer Seminar