

REFLECTOR

VOL. 55, No. 2

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

February 2009

HAVE FAITH IN GOD, HE'S ON HIS THRONE.

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom ... the flock be cut off from the fold ... yet I will rejoice" (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

Faith will not purchase for the Christian immunity from the sorrows and tragedies of life. It will, however, empower him to triumph in them. Scripture and experience teach that tragedy [trouble] strikes in the lives of just and unjust alike. There is no respect of persons. How else do we explain the tragedy of the cross? Here was the ultimate in tragedy, yet it was utterly powerless to shake the faith of **the Son of God** in His Father's love. In the darkness of Golgotha two momentous utterances affirmed His unwavering trust. "My God, my God, why didst Thou forsake Me?" and "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Even in the hour of dereliction He claimed God as His Father. Knowledge had begotten trust.

In the dawn of human history, the most upright man of his day was beset by tragedy upon tragedy. **Job** was denuded of flocks and herds, sons and daughters, servants and wealth. He lost his health and even the supporting confidence of his wife. And his reaction? "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him" (**Job 13:15**).

Stationed on his watchtower, the prophet **Habakkuk** was perplexed by unanswered prayer and an apparently inactive Providence. The affliction of the righteous and the prosperity of the evil-doer confused him until he receive a word from the Lord. "The righteous shall live by his faith" (**2:4**). With this assurance, he met stark tragedy—no blossoms on the fig tree, no fruit on the vine; barren olive trees and parched fields; folds without flocks and stalls without herds. The whole economy of the nation foundered. And the answer of faith? Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation (**3:17-18**). Since he had God, he had all and could survive tragedy and heartbreak.

—J. Oswald Sanders

CHECK-UP

"If I knew I had to face my God and Judge tomorrow and give account of my life, I would spend my time today_____."

THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME.

PERSPECTIVES

For the past twenty-eight years, the theme of many issues of the **Reflector** has been Bible study and prayer—two primary disciplines in a successful Christian life. During 2009, it is my desire to again deal with these two issues. The January **Reflector** was a clarion call reminding the readers that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. Attention was given to the five emphases practiced by the early believers and the Jerusalem church: (1) the doctrine (the Word of God), (2) Spirit-filled living, (3) prayer, (4) witnessing, and (5) stewardship.

In talking to Christians around the world, I have discovered that their greatest desire is to know how to pray. When a survey was conducted on “Sermons Americans Want to Hear,” it was discovered that the people’s first choice was “How can I make prayer effective?” Christians want to pray, but don’t seem to know how. Subsequently, our spiritual lives are often at a low ebb.

Hard work

Why is it so difficult to pray? Satan does not want you to pray. In fact, he would rather you do anything than pray because prayer is the point where he is defeated. His favorite word seems to be tomorrow. He is always trying to keep us from praying today. In fact, that must be one of his main jobs—to keep all Christians off their knees. He knows we already belong to God and there is nothing he can do about that. But he can do everything in his power to keep us from becoming effective, believing, praying Christians. He knows the power God has made available to us through prayer, and he does everything he can to keep it from us. He is always saying, “You can pray tomorrow. You’re so busy today.” And when tomorrow comes, it is the same old story, “Pray tomorrow.” It’s always “tomorrow” with the devil. Tomorrow—and the next day—and the one following, until we reach the end of our lives and find we have missed much that God had waiting to give us.

The flesh (the influence of the old man who was crucified with Christ when you trusted Christ as your Savior and Lord) does not want you to pray. The flesh says that you are too tired to pray. You need a break from your heavy duties of the day. You deserve a break. And so it goes. The flesh wars against the Holy Spirit continually. Maintaining a daily, consistent prayer life is **HARD WORK**.

Understanding prayer

What exactly is prayer? Is it really so complicated that Christians must spend a life time searching for an answer? Or are we making something confusing out of what God intended to be beautiful in simplicity?

In basic terms, you can think of prayer as the talking part of relationship. It is a conversation between two friends who love each other—a friend talking to a friend (**John 15:15**). Another way is to think of prayer as a servant talking to his master (**Colossians 3:24**). Further, prayer can be seen as a bride talking to the bridegroom (**Romans 7:4**)—and that’s lovers’ talk full of intimacy. It is through prayer that we see God’s love and power at work in our lives and in the lives of people for whom we are praying. As a result, prayer makes us come alive spiritually. Everyone knows that verbal communication is necessary to develop positive relationships, so therefore, when you are praying you are developing your relationship with the Lord. You will never know God if you don’t spend time in His presence.

Prayer is the key that opens the door to a whole new world—a world lived in active, conscious pursuit of the living God. It becomes the foundation of everything we do. We are to order our lives around prayer and pray about everything. When we pray, we see great things happen for good; when we don’t pray, we don’t see much happen.

The sin of prayerlessness

Many Christians acknowledge that they should pray more, but say they are simply neglecting it. God’s position, however, is that

prayerlessness is a sin (**1 Samuel 12:23**). Prayerlessness characterizes the life of many believers. It is that state in which one prays less than he ought, less than the Father desires, and less than one himself knows that he should. Some studies have indicated that many Christians pray less than four minutes a day, if at all.

Did you ever think of not praying as a sin? We all know we should pray and yet so few of us do. The Bible plainly says that when we know to do right and fail to do it that the failure is a sin (**James 4:17**). A Christian living a prayerless life is robbed of all the power God intends for him to have. So, you see prayerlessness is more than an area of neglect. It is a sin. If I don't talk to God, then it is an indication that He is really playing a secondary role in my life and as a result of this, I will never be the person that God wants me to be.

Prayerlessness is costly. It costs the individual who isn't praying because prayer is what God has provided to help us grow, along with the Word of God. Through the Word of God, God speaks to us; through prayer, we speak to God. Prayerlessness also costs God because this is His ordained way to get His work done. Finally, prayer costs others who do not benefit from prayers that are not prayed.

God's plan

God has chosen to limit Himself to working through us. He has made us His partners and has even entrusted the lost into our care. Apart from us, He has no body in the world — no hands and feet or heart and voice to bring His message to a dying world. God wants to save the whole world, but He will only accomplish that goal through His children. God wants to answer prayer, but He doesn't unless we pray. All God wants to do in this world through His children, including you, can only be done through prayer. This is the one, unchanging condition that must be met if we want to see God move. Everyone agrees that God is able and willing. We must add "waiting" to the list.

He is waiting for us to call upon Him (**Jeremiah 33:3, James 4:2b, Luke 18:1**).

Why should we pray? Because God answers prayer! Do we really believe that? Do we live as though we believe it? If we did, I think we would be spending more time on our knees in prayer. Our time with God would be the most important thing we did all day. Unfortunately, most of us do not live that way. Year after year we pray only little prayers and get little answers.

The first step

Why do we pray so little? It isn't because we don't want to pray, because I believe most of us do. One reason is that we try to fit God in our schedule between other activities. We try to fit Him into our schedule rather than fitting our schedule around Him.

The first step on the learning-to-pray ladder is simple: we must make time to pray. Don't expect to awaken one morning and say, "Oh, great! I have time to pray today." It just doesn't happen that way. Our lives are so full of activities (many of them good), there just doesn't seem to be any time left over to pray. That's the first problem that must be overcome.

No one has any more time than anyone else. You and I have all the time there is. We must decide how to use our time. It boils down to deciding what is essential in your life. The reality is that we manage, always, to do the things we really want to do. We do what we think is important. A helpful exercise is to do a time study to see how we are using our time. Without fail, people who are willing to do this are surprised at how much time is spent on minor pursuits. Include attending to basic needs of grooming, eating, sleeping, working, but don't forget to include talking on the telephone, watching television, and such.

A study of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ during the three years of His active ministry will establish that He made prayer top priority in His life. To prioritize is to order according to importance. That is what we must do. To pray

well, we must make time to pray. We must set aside a time for prayer each day. We should try to make it as regular as possible because we all work better and are more efficient when we are on some sort of schedule. Our physical bodies work best when we eat at a regular time each day and when we go to bed at a regular hour. Our spiritual lives work best when we have a regular time to be alone with God each day, reading His Word and praying.

The ideal time is the early morning. A principle is simply to start your day with God. Don't wait until you have messed up your day and then bring the pieces to God to put back together. Jesus Himself followed early morning praying arising long before day for prayer (**Mark 1:35**). His teachings in the Model Prayer include praying for daily bread and to not be led into temptation. In His day, folks did not have refrigeration. Rather, the custom was to go to the market and get enough food for the day. When a person waits until night to pray, he could have gone hungry all day. Temptation does not come when we go to bed to sleep. Temptation comes when we are in the world. Look through your daily schedule and find the best time for you to pray. Then make any appointment to meet God; keep the appointment.

Being with Him

Remember this: Our highest calling in life, when all is said and done, is not in serving Jesus, but in being *with Him*. Our effective service and love for others can only come from being alone with God in prayer and in fellowship and in the reading of His Word. Isn't this what Jesus told Martha in **Luke 18:38-42**? Martha was busy rushing around the kitchen, trying to get things ready. Mary was simply sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha couldn't understand this and went into the living room to complain. "Do you think it is fair for Mary to be sitting there with You when there is so much work to be done?" And Jesus said to her gently, "Martha, Martha—there is really only one thing worth being concerned about, and Mary has

discovered it." Have you learned, as Mary did, what is really of lasting value in your life?

No matter how busy and full your day may be, the most worthwhile thing you can do is to sit alone at the feet of Jesus. Sitting means taking time to be relaxed. Prepare your mind. Think. This is the most important part of your day. Don't rush. Determine to "wait upon the Lord" (**Isaiah 40:31**), to "be still and know He is God" (**Psalms 46:10-11**), to take the initiative to "draw nigh to God" knowing that when you do He will "draw nigh to you" (**James 4:8**).

Spiritual discipline

We have become a generation of soft, weak, undisciplined, prayerless Christians. Spiritual discipline is the key to growth in the spiritual life. It is the only key that will open the door to a full and joyous life with Christ. Why are there so many weak, frail, stumbling Christians today? Because we have ignored the only Source of our strength and power—the Lord Jesus Christ—and the importance of being with Him, loving Him, and sharing our lives with Him in prayer. God being our Helper, we want to do something about this matter.

Future studies

It would be unfair for me to urge you to set aside time for daily prayer, without sharing some practical things you can do to make it so. For many years, I preached the Word of God telling people what to do, never sharing how they could do it. I simply sent them away on a guilt trip. Now I know better. In the next few issues, I am going to follow an outline developed by **Matthew Henry** in a series of lectures delivered in the year 1712. In March, the theme will be "How to Begin the Day with God;" in April, "How to Spend the Day with God;" and in May, "How to Close the Day with God." My prayer is that the 2009 perspectives will make a tremendous difference to many people.

Yours in Calvary love

J. Gordon Henry

Prayer Unlocks Hidden Treasures

In the days of the old prospectors, there was one who was well known in the little town where he prospected. He would come in for groceries once a week and then go back to his ram-shackled cabin out on a mountainside. From that cabin, he would go out daily to follow his dream of finding some precious metal.

The years went on and he didn't get any richer. He got poorer and began to run out of money even money for food.

One week he didn't come to town on his regular day and some people went out to his old cabin. There they found the old prospector on the floor dead of starvation. The old prospector had expressed years before, "When I die will you bury me under my cabin?" They started to tear up the floor boards of the old prospector's cabin, and doing so they found some silver dust. They began to dig and underneath his cabin discovered the historic Comstock Lode, the greatest silver find in the history of the world. The man lived and died in unnecessary poverty; sitting on a silver mine, living in poverty.

That's where a lot of Christians are living because they have never discovered the Comstock Lode called prayer. Prayer unlocks all the riches. It's the key to a relationship with God. Of all the things we as Christians are asked to do (read our Bible, witness, go to church,) prayer is the most personal ingredient in our relationship with God.

"The promises of the Bible are very large. You can lie down and stretch out on them and you can't kick the headboard, nor touch the railing on either side."

Evangelist Bud Robinson

**FOR NO OTHER FOUNDATION
CAN ANYONE LAY THAN THAT WHICH
IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:11**

Praise

"Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the Lord." **Psalms 150:6**

The prophet Isaiah, in one of his great messianic passages, proclaimed that one of the gifts of the Messiah will be the "garment of praise" which we will receive for the "spirit of heaviness."

Every child of God has a "garment of praise" in the closet. How unfortunate it is that so many of us push the flattering and eye-catching garment to the back and refuse to wear it. Praising the Lord is our responsibility and privilege. It is a task that is not confined to the elite or to the intelligentsia or even to the spiritually mature. In fact, the psalmist says that every breathing soul is to praise the LORD.

Many years ago, there was a poem written by Ida A Guirey in the **Sunday School Times** that encapsulates the extent of praise:

Praise Him when the sun is shining,
When the winds of trouble blow,
When you see no silver lining
On the clouds that hang so low.

Praise illuminates the clouds of sorrow,
Turns the gray skies into gold
Giving promise of a morrow
Bright with blessings manifold.

Praise Him when your load is heavy
And the day no comfort brings,
Then your burden God will carry,
Bear you as on eagles' wings.

God delights to have us praise Him,
And believe His holy word;
And He knows them that trust Him,
For they always praise the Lord.

Your praise will not change God. As **Matthew Henry** noted long ago, "God will never be any greater than He already is." Praise changes us and causes us to love and trust Him more and more.

The worth of the wind

Botanists report that the trees need the winds of March to flex their branches and trunks. The sap is drawn up because of the bluster of the wind, and the budding leaves are nourished.

You and I are like the trees. We need the storms to strengthen us. A blustery period in our lives is very often a prelude to a spring of fruit bearing and fortune.

Think of Joseph. Had he not been a prisoner first, he would not have become a prime minister.

Are you going through a storm? Trust God. He'll enable you to turn your trials into triumphs, your setbacks into successes, and the bluster into blessings. Thank God for anything that drives you to your knees in dependence upon Him alone.

"In everything give thanks!" is the instruction of Paul to the church at Thessalonica (**1 Thess 5:18**). Thanksgiving will not change God, but it changes us. Good advice is to **TRY THANKSGIVING** in your problems.



**A Blessed Day
Democratic Republic of the Congo--2007**

Missionaries are never beggars. They are ambassadors who give us an opportunity to become partners by giving our dollars while they give their lives.

Dr. Harry A. Ironsides

**WE NEED PRAYER AND FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRY. PRAY DAILY!**

Trusting Him Who Knows

I do not know, I cannot see,
What God's kind hand prepares for me,
Nor can my glance pierce through the haze
Which covers all my future ways;
But yet I know that o'er it all
Rules He who notes the sparrow's fall.

I know the hand that hath me fed,
And through the year my feet hath led;
I know the everlasting arm
That hath upheld and kept from harm.
I trust Him as my God and Guide,
And know that He will still provide.

So, at the opening of the year,
I banish care and doubt and fear,
And, clasping His kind hand, essay
To walk with God from day to day,
Trusting in Him who hath me fed,
Walking with Him who hath me led.

I know not where His hand shall lead,
Through darkest wastes, o'er flowery mead;
Mid tangled thicket set with thorn,
Mid gloom of night or glow of morn;
But still I know my Father's hand
Will bring me to His goodly land.

A MOMENT WITH HIM



**We mutter and sputter,
We fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt.
We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim,
WHEN ALL WE NEED IS
A MOMENT WITH HIM!**

PRAYER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2009

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)
Burnace Abrams (OH)
Marie Adams (VA)
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)
Norma Ailes (FL)
Clyde & Kathryn Allen (VA)
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
Milcie Arnold (VA)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

LEVITICUS 1-3 (Malaysia 27.8M)

Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
Carolyn Barkley (NY)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)
Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LEVITICUS 4-7 (Mexico 106.7M)

Charles & Andrea Black (VA)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)
Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

LEV 8-10 (Mozambique 21.4M)

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Shirley Brown (VA)
Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Ruby Burger (TN)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)

Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)
Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
LEVITICUS 11-15 (Namibia 2.1M)

Joreatha Capers (FL)
David & Martha Cecil (VA)
Mary Clarke (VA)
Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
Margarie Coffee (VA)
Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
Joe & Carol Coulter (VA)
Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene Cummings (NC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

LEV 16-17 (New Zealand 4.3M)

Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
Ida J. Davis (GA)
John & Margaret Davis (VA)
Mark & Charmaine Davis (VA)
Lelia Dean (FL)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)
Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)
Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Walt Edwards (NC)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

LEVITICUS 18-20 (Nigeria 148M)

Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Grace Eldridge (NJ)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Evalena Enoch (VA)
Lynne Farrow (NJ)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
June Fisher (TN)
Josephine Fitzgerald (AL)
Makeva Flowers (VA)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Frank Geiger (HI)
Robert & Sara George (GA)
Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (NJ)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

LEV 21-23 (N. Ireland 1.8M)

Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)
Bruce & Gina Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)

Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Sean Henry (KS)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
LEV 24-27 (Okinawa 1.4M)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)
Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Bonnie Houston (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

NUMBERS 1-4 (Pakistan 165.4M)

Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)
Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Peter & Millicent John (NY)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

NUMBERS 5-8 (Peru 28.8M)

Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Joyce Kelley (OR)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)

Bruce Kirby, Pastor
Archie & Mary King (TN)
Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
Sherry Klutz (WA)
Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NUM 9-12 (Philippinwa 90.5M)

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk

Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
David & Cathy Laing (FL)
Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

NUMBERS 13-16 (Puerto Rico 4M)

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
Bob Lawrence (MD)
Raymond & Janet LeMay (VT)
Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
Brian & Stacey Loomis (VA)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Bill & Mirle Matheny (VA)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**NUMBERS 17-20 (Romania 21.5M)**

Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**NUMBERS 21-25 (Russia 141.8M)**

Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)
 Ann Palumbo (NJ)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)
 Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers & Nina Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**NUMBERS 26-30 (Scotland 5.1M)**

Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**NUMBERS 31-33 (Singapore 4.8M)**

Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)

Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**NUM 34-36 (South Africa 47.9M)**

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Mary Siegner (VA)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)

Lori Siri, Pastor

Mary Skiles (KS)

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)

Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

Charles Stinson (VA)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**DEUT. 1-4 (Swaziland 1.1M)**

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Clarence & Roselin Stringfield (VA)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)

William Stroman, Pastor

Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church (TN)

Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)

Stephanie Taylor (GA)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Temple of Praise (TX)

Gilbert Perez, Pastor

Earlene Thigpen (TN)

Mona Henry Thomas (VA)

Mildred V. Thompson (GA)

Paula Tipton (TN)

Virginia Trask (VA)

Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY)

Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)

Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**DEUT. 8-11 (Switzerland 7.7M)**

Malcom Troutman (KY)

Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)

Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)

Sara Underwood (TN)

Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)

Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**DEUT. 12-16 (Thailand 63M)**

Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Verrall
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau Ware (VA)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**DEUT. 17-20 (Trinidad/Tobago 1.4M)**

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)

Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)

Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)

George & Virginia Whitner (FL)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**DEUT. 21-26 (Ukraine 46.2M)**

M/M Herbert Wice (TN)

Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)

Edward Williams (NC)

Elijah Williams (NJ)

Julie L. Wilson (PA)

Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)

Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)

Stephen Latong (Nigeria)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27**DEUT. 27-30 (Venezuela 28M)**

John & Egberta McSween (Trinidad)

Leslie & Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)

Adam & Dianna Nathanson

(Venezuela)

Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)

Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)

Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)

Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28**DEUT. 31-34 (Zambia 11.9M)**

Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)

Dot Winfield (MD)

The Word Church (NJ)

Buz Offenbacker, Pastor

Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)

Greg & Lori Worley (GA)

Lili Wykle (VA)

Robin & Deborah Yohee (PA)

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT THE NATIONS

Thanks for praying for each other each day. Many have indicated that this means much in their lives. Thanks for praying for the nations. This month each nation listed has hosted prayer seminars. Remember the alumni in the nation as you pray. God knows the names and addresses.

MAILING LIST RENEWAL:

When you move, please let us know by mail, E-mail, or phone. To dis-continue receiving the REFLECTOR, please write a note in the address box and return it to us.

Thank you!

**LIVES OF
GREAT MEN ALL
REMINDE US WE
CAN MAKE OUR
LIVES SUBLIME
READING PART OF
GOD'S WORD DAILY
HELPS US
IN OUR UPWARD
CLIMB!**

**Do you? If not,
why not?**

Itinerary

*"Strive together in your prayers to God for me—
that I may come to you with joy by the will of
God and may be refreshed together with you..."*

Romans 15:30, 32

February

- 19-21 Area-wide Monongalela PA
First Baptist Church
Monongalela PA
22 Preaching in churches
23 Mini-Seminar for Pastors

March

- 5-7 Beacon Institute of Ministry
AGM
Collierville TN*
12-31 Prayer Seminars:
Kenya
Uganda
Rwanda
Burundi
D. R. of Congo

* Ten hour video

*Please pray specifically that God will prepare
the hearts of all participants and for traveling
grace. Pray, also, that seeds of renewal and
revival will be planted and the nations set
aflame with spiritual awakening! **SHOULD
YOUR CHURCH OR GROUP SCHEDULE
A SEMINAR IN 2009 or 2010? CALL FOR
SCHEDULING INFORMATION.***

What God Expects of a Christian

The important thing is not what the church or the minister expects of a Christian—but what God expects. Here are some expectations that come straight from the Bible.

1. He expects us to **grow** (1 Thess 1:3).
2. He expects us to **go** (Mark 5:19).
3. He expects us to **glow** (Luke 8:16).
4. He expects us to **sow** (Mark 4:1-20).
5. He expects us to **show** (Psalm 92:1-2).
6. He expects us to **know** (2 Cor 5:1).

GROW GO GLOW SOW SHOW KNOW

The Holy Scriptures

Lord, Thy Word abideth,
And our footsteps guideth;
Who its truth believeth
Light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,
Then Thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
Message of salvation.

**THE
PRAYER
SEMINAR
MINISTRY
IS
SUPPORTED
BY THE
GIFT OF
ITS
FRIENDS.**

God's ways

Through sorrow and suffering God teaches us lessons we would not or could not learn any other way, "A ear without a tear will seldom hear."



KENYA--2007

Heaven's Sunshine

The sweetest flower needs heaven's sunshine and dew to perfect its beauty and sustain its life. So does the holiest human life need God. A picture without sky is incomplete. A day on earth, without a glimpse of heaven to brighten it, dies without a blessing. We rob our own nature and impoverish our life if we do not avail ourselves of the help and renewal which we may get through prayer.

Prayer lifts us into the very presence of God. It brings down upon us the power of Christ, according to the measure of our need and the measure of our faith. He who lives without prayer lives without God. He who lives a life of prayer walks with God by day and by night. The more we have to do, and the more care we have, the more do we need to begin our days with prayer.

J. R. Miller (1895)

TESTIMONIES

"This seminar has put things in black and white taken away the mystery about praying." **M.M., Colorado**

"Remotivated me to place my quiet time with God as my #1 priority. I was letting this part of my life slide and have known that I need to get back to an active prayer life. There was a strong emphasis on the Word." **P. A., Kansas**

"Cleared my mind on so many things about prayer. Made me want to work on my prayer life and make it mean what it should." **S. P., Tennessee**

"The Lord has helped me to **openly acknowledge** areas of failure and defeat in my prayer life. Activity apart from anointing is exactly what Satan wanted, but no more! **Pastor R. F., Tennessee**



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1191. There is no such thing as faith without trust; the object of our faith is God Himself.

Note 1192. Faith grows by being occupied with who God is and what He has said.

Note 1193. The faith that pleases God is an obedient faith.

Note 1194. Christ is in the tomorrows that we will have to journey through on our pilgrimage from earth to Heaven.

Note 1195. Never fear tomorrow; God is already there.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2
December 17-January 17

Regular	57	\$5,391.00
Kenya--2009	1	300.00
Total	58	\$5,691.00



THANK YOU, DOORKEEPERS!
**THE PRAYER SEMINAR MINISTRY IS
SUPPORTED BY THE GIFTS OF OUR
PARTNERS & FRIENDS.**

Welcome, New Doorkeepers!

Makeva Flowers (VA)
James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
Mary Siegner (VA)
Charles Stinson (VA)
Clarence & Roselin Stringfield (VA)

"Laborers together with God"
1 Corinthians 3:9

A VENTURE OF FAITH: Five African nations

March 12-31

One year ago, we were on our knees often praying for **Martin Shikuku**, his family, his congregation, and his colleagues who were suffering greatly from the post-election violence in Kenya. His community had been devastated. Houses were burned. His house and church had been looted with nothing left. He, his wife, and children were sleeping outside the police station in Eldoret where they had fled for safety. Once our **Doorkeepers** knew the “little elephants” were in trouble, contributions poured in to provide resources for Martin to reestablish his ministry.

God at work

Words seem inadequate to describe what has happened and what God has done. **Martin** summarized: “When Satan wanted to destroy our country politically in January, we stood our ground with **2 Chronicles 7:14** and the violence was cooled down by the Lord Himself.” Not only is his church flourishing, but **Martin** and his partner, **Andrew**, have formed teams to minister in other areas, including **Rwanda**. Many prayer seminars have been conducted and the enthusiasm to share this ministry in other nations has soared. I have been literally amazed to follow the moving of the Lord using these two pastors who have been Paul-like in their resilience. **Martin** has started a Bible school for pastors (who now have mattresses, pillows, and sheets thanks to some of you who provided funds) and a preschool.

A venture of faith

When **Martin** and **Andrew** returned from Rwanda, they reported that they were overwhelmed by the reception for them personally and to the Word of God that they had brought. They indicated that the believers are hungry to be taught and that we must move quickly to meet the need since other forces were on the horizon that could easily mislead



BIG ELEPHANT (DR. HENRY)-LITTLE ELEPHANT (MARTIN) them. The dream was for me to come join them as quickly as possible for a return visit. As we prayed and sought the Lord in this matter, the vision expanded to include five nations: **Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo** touching both East Africa and Central Africa.

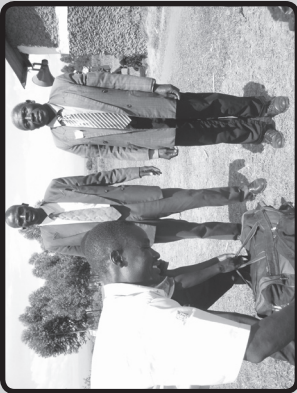
By faith, the venue has been established. Martin believes that “by the grace of God we may reach at least 3,000 pastors and church leaders in these five nations.” He went on to say that we need to print 2,940 prayer seminar workbooks (260 in English and 2,680 in Swahili).” In addition, we are working on a new translation in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda.

We are working to finalize the budget that will be required for travel, lodging, food, printing prayer seminar workbooks, and publicity (through phones, e-mail, banners, posters). Hopefully, each family receiving the **Reflector** will have had a letter with details. We don’t have a denomination behind us. We have God who has provided funds for our work in fifty nations through individuals and churches and has graced us with His provision for 2.2 million miles. Our mode of operation has been simple from the very first overseas prayer seminars in 1985. **TRUST GOD AND TELL THE PEOPLE!** That is enough! Where God guides, He provides, but **WE MUST ASK HIM (Jeremiah 33:3)**. As we come in agreement (making the same sound), He will hear and answer His children. This might be **the opportunity of a lifetime** as we pray and give to bring this venture of faith to fruition.

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RETURNING--BACK TO AFRICA
A VENTURE OF FAITH
FIVE NATIONS March 12-31:
KENYA, UGANDA, RWANDA
BURUNDI, D.R. CONGO

Your call

Do we feel poor spiritually? If so, it is our fault. For God wants to bless us with “every spiritual blessing in Christ” (**Ephesians 1:3**). If we are willing to give ourselves fully to Christ as our Savior and Lord and then take time for increasingly close fellowship with Him, we can enjoy these spiritual blessings in abundant measure. Someone has said, “You can be as spiritual as you want to be.” That is true.

Everything worthwhile in life is costly in some way. The finest things in life require mainly our time and devoted attention. Are we willing to pay that price? It is your call!

Be sure to read carefully this month’s lead article entitled “Perspectives,” which contains the second study of a series that deals with the key disciplines of a Christian’s life.

What You Say

What you say in a hurry
May cause you much worry.
So weigh your words well —
What you’d say.

Ill-chosen expressions
Oft give wrong impressions,
So think first, then speak.
It will pay.

Trust

Trust in yourself, and you will be disappointed.
Trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you.
Trust in your money, and you may have it taken from you.
Trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue will blast it.
Trust in God, and you will never be confounded.

“I prayed; and the Lord granted my petition which I asked of Him.” 1 Samuel 1:27