



**“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God”  
Psalm 42:1**

### **Drawing near**

The writer of Hebrews wanted his readers to know that **through Jesus** they had a “better hope by which we draw near to God” (**Hebrews 7:19**). He was writing to believers who were still following the “old covenant” law. He wrote to show them how things had changed to their benefit. In Old Testament times only the high priest could “draw near” to God, and that only once a year when he entered the curtained-off Most Holy Place in the Temple. Then he pointed out that Jesus entered that inner room on our behalf (**6:20**). When He died, the curtain was ripped in two (torn from “the top to the bottom” signifying that God did the removal). Now any of us can draw near.

When God’s children begin to sing “Draw me nearer,” one can often sense a deep longing being expressed for a closer

walk with God. Who of us has not been deeply moved as the church sang “Nearer my God to Thee.” When a Christian hears “Just a Closer Walk with Thee,” a Southern Gospel classic, he is stirred longing for that closer walk. Many, however, settle for the “second best,” as the late C. A. “Uncle Banty” Bantham, one of my early mentors, expressed it.

Since we have this treasure in earthen vessels and are “prone to wander,” is a closer walk possible? We don’t have to wonder. The answer is found in **James 4:8**: “Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.” This would not be a possibility but for one great reason “Our Sovereign (one with final say) Lord has ordained it to be possible. The imagery is vivid, indeed a closer walk with God is possible. God is waiting.

# **REFLECTOR**

**VOL. 58, No. 1    “Set thee up waymarks” Jeremiah 31:21    January 2012**

In pressing an invitation during evangelistic services, I often reminded the people, “Take one step toward God and He will do the rest. Take one step toward God and He will take two steps toward you.” Remember the Father welcoming his prodigal son back into the fellowship of home. A closer walk is possible because that is what the Father desires. But you and I must take the initiative.

**The Starting point.** The psalm expressed his personal longing when he said, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (**Psalms 42:1**). When this becomes your desire, that is the starting point in drawing near.

## THEME FOR 2012: TOUCHING LIVES FOR JESUS

### *Perspectives*

#### SEVENTEEN MEDITATIONS TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR

We are instructed to guard our thoughts and direct them to truths that will build us up. Paul’s exhortation speaks much clearer than my words would speak, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things” (**Philippians 4:8**). The meditations that follow will make a difference regardless of your circumstance.

**1 Spiritual blessings.** God is concerned about your well-being, both physically and spiritually. He wants you to prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (**3 John v2**). Above all, He wants you to be a spiritually healthy person. **Spiritual blessings are the greatest blessings you can receive.** The Bible tells us that every spiritual blessing is ours in Christ. He is the Source of our blessings: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (**Ephesians 1:3**). Jesus is not only the Source of our spiritual blessings, but He is the spiritual blessing that we hunger for in our lives. In Jesus Christ, everything you receive will

bring you spiritual health. You can freely receive and enjoy every good and perfect gift that is in His heart to give you.

He wants to bless you. You can receive **PEACE** for He is the Prince of Peace; **WISDOM** for He is the Counselor; **HOPE** for He is the Alpha and Omega; **REST** for He is the Good Shepherd; **TRUTH** for He is the Word of God; **COURAGE** for He is the Mighty God; **CLEANSING** for He is the Lamb of God; **RIGHTEOUSNESS** for He is the Righteous One. There is so much that He wants to bless you with today.

**2 An abundance of blessings.** One of the most meaningful blessings is an Old Testament blessing: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace” **Numbers 6:24-26**. The source of the blessing is God alone. Everything in this blessing is God’s perfect will for you. It comes directly from His heart to touch your life. It is a blessing that is right for you, needful for you, and best for you. It is God giving you the highest, the richest, and the fullest measure of His goodness. It is a blessing that He wants to pour upon you in abundance so that you

will never lack His supply. It is a blessing that keeps you under His protective care and covering; that causes His favor to rest upon you; that gives you, moment-by-moment, every grace you need to do His will and fulfill His purpose for you. God's blessing brings His smile over your life as He cares for you, provides for you, and encourages you with His presence. He touches the deepest part of your spirit with a peace that calms every storm, heals every wound, and comforts you in every trial.

**3 The blessing of "Shalom."** "Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it **Jehovah-shalom**" (**Judges 6:24**). When we greet someone we usually say "hello," and when we leave we usually say "goodbye." It is a nice social greeting, but it has no deep or profound meaning behind it. In Israel, however, when you greet someone or say goodbye, the word that is used is "Shalom." "Shalom" is much more than a casual social greeting it is a prayer, a blessing, a desire, and a benediction. It is a word that is packed with the full benefits of God's favor.

In Hebrew the word "shalom" has many significant meanings throughout the Scriptures. The following blessing is a compilation of those means:

*May you be whole in body, soul, and spiritually as a result of being in harmony with God's will and purpose for your life. May His peace be your covering, your heart know His fullness, and by His mighty power may you know victory over every enemy. May He bring to pass the desires of your heart. May you know the healing power of His presence, and the restoration of every broken relationship. Through His sufficiency, may His limitless resources meet every need that you face. May His covenant promises be fulfilled in your life and in your*

*family. May He bring you the greatest measure of contentment and the deepest satisfaction that your heart can possibly know.*

*"LORD, You establish peace for us, all that we have accomplished You have done for us" (Isaiah 26:12).*

**4 Be a blessing to others.** One of the reasons God has blessed your life is because He wants you to be a blessing to others. The rivers of living water that flow into your heart are meant to flow out to others. His forgiveness in your life releases you to forgive others. His mercies in your life enable you to extend mercy to others. It is His kindness that makes you kind, His grace that makes you gracious, and His generosity that makes you generous. *"I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).*

**5 A harvest of blessings.** The harvest of good things that He has produced in you also provides the seeds that allow you to sow into the lives of others. *"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your share of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).* *"My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up" (Psalm 5:3)*

**6 The Lord is always near you.** What could be sweeter or dearer than to know that no one is nearer to your heart, your soul, or your deepest desires than the Lord. His caring eyes are upon you. His loving heart responds to you. You can come to Him in quietness and confidence, in faith, in hope in trust, in thanks, in worship, in praise, and in prayer.

**7 You are in good hands.** He will give to you over and over again. Because His supply is abundant you will never be without ... because His heart is full you will never be empty ... because His resources are endless there will never be a time when He cannot meet your needs. Your life couldn't be in better hands. As you come to Him in prayer remember how much He desires to bless you. The quiet places God brings you to are rich with life and nourishment, cool with delight and refreshing, pleasant with freedom and beauty. They are places of rest to quiet your heart, places of hope to renew your spirit and places of joy to delight your soul. You are so blessed to be able to share the Lord's quiet company. It pleases His heart to hear your heart speak words of praise and thanks to Him.

**8 He will bring you rest.** In your quiet times or busy times, God has a quiet place for you to rest-- a place of still waters. His waters are present to wash you, delight you, and refresh you. He will bring you rest from all your fears, worries, cares, and anxieties. In His quiet place there is no weight upon you, no confusion around you, and no clouds over you. It is the place where you can peacefully open your heart to Him.

**9 Come before the Lord.** It is delightful to come before the Lord in quietness, in adoration, and in prayer. As you kneel at His feet and gaze upon His face, renewal gently comes. In your weariness you will be refreshed, in your weakness your strength will be renewed, in your heaviness your heart will sing a new song. His wings will be your covering, His faithfulness will be your shield, His lovingkindness will be your sweet reward. Beautiful are His ways with you.

**10 The paths of prayer.** As you walk the paths of prayer you will be guided into everything that is true and right ...into all that is best for you and others ...into all that will take you to the highest expressions of His love. He will lead you by His way, by His words, and by His will. He will guide you down the paths that lead you straight to His heart. Each prayer He answers will be for your good and for His glory.

**11 God is great.** The greatest thing your heart can experience when you are alone with God is His presence. He is greater than any of His gifts. What He is to you is greater than anything He can do for you. His lovingkindness is better than life ... in His presence is fullness of joy — at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. When God gives Himself to you there is nothing higher that He can give.

**12 Safe within God's care.** Comfort in prayer comes by knowing that the One you look to is always looking out for you. He is not only with you, but He is actively doing everything that is necessary to keep you safe within His care. You can be assured that above you are His tender mercies, around you is His unfailing love, and underneath you are His everlasting arms.

**13 Your future is secure.** Now you are a pilgrim with needs to be met and people to minister to along the way. One day you will be in your Father's house, the need for asking will have passed away and only praise will remain. In Jesus your future is secure and your destiny certain. Today is the time to bring before Him all those who, like you, are in need of hope and encouragement on their journey home. "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" **2 Peter 1:3-4**. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful **Hebrews 10:23**.

**14 God keeps His promises.** When people make promises and break them, it can be for various reasons. One is that they never intended to keep the promise in the first place. Another reason is that they promised more than they were able to do. Another is that they had good intentions, but forgot the promise they made. Another is that they hadn't forgotten, but on the way to fulfilling the promise they got distracted and gave their attention to something else. When God makes a promise to you, He has every intention of fulfilling it, has the resources to fulfill it, will not forget and He will not get distracted from fulfilling it. Every promise that God has made to you in Christ is a "yes" **2 Corinthians 1:20**.

**15 An expression of His love.** Every promise of God is an expression of His will. His faithfulness to His promises is a reflection of His character. The fulfillment of His promises is an expression of His love. If God were to break His promises, He would have to denounce His word, defame His character, deny His love, destroy His covenants, and discredit the work of His Son. Such a thing is not only unthinkable but it is also impossible because God cannot lie. **Hebrews 6:16-18**

**16 You in Him, He in you.** Jesus has promised to be with you always. How close is He? His Spirit is joined to

your spirit. He is closer than any person could ever be. He is in complete union with you you are in Him and He is in you. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places; nothing is higher than that. He loves you; nothing is deeper than that. He communes with you; nothing is sweeter than that. He is with you; nothing is nearer than that. He is in you; nothing is closer than that. He has given you His promises; nothing is surer than that. **Psalm 91:1**

**GOD'S PROMISES ARE AMAZING.  
EXPECT THE AMAZING  
BECAUSE GOD DOES AMAZING  
THINGS.**

**17 Standing on God's promises.** Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. R. Kelso Carter

**For the need you face there is a promise God has spoken. And with every promise God has spoken there is a provision that has been made to meet that need.**

***"For the Lord your God will bless you just as He promised you" Deuteronomy 15:6***

**Yours in Calvary love,  
J. Gordon Henry**

**Advice from Paul  
to enter a New Year**

**"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord [by faith], continue to live in Him, strengthened and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:6-7).**



## Reflector

With this issue, the **Reflector** enters its 58<sup>th</sup> year of publication. During the early years, it was a contact tool for people in the churches/areas where I was pastor. Being bi-vocational, visits by mail made it possible to keep folks informed and encouraged. Although, much to my regret, we do not have a copy of each issue, the earliest issues are from the 50's..

Paul spoke to the Thessalonians about a "labor of love" for the Lord. Without a doubt, preparing **Reflector** copy each month is a "labor of love" for me. Thanks to **Doorkeeper** financial support, anyone can receive the paper. My dream is to go through 2014--sixty years of publication.

## **Lelia Dean—Octogenarian**



Although we have several **Doorkeepers** in their nineties, one is 100. **Lelia Dean** became a precious friend when she and her husband, **Sanford** (a retired Baptist pastor), placed their membership in **Pleasant View Baptist Church**, Lynchburg in 1974. Not only did I have the pleasure of being their pastor, upon her retirement as a legal secretary, she became the secretary for the church. He is now in Heaven and she lives in Port Richey, Florida. From the beginning of our ministry, she has been a faithful **Doorkeeper**. She loves us and we love her. We rejoice in her good health at 100. Happy Birthday!



## **NOTES from my BIBLE**

**Note 2066.** Let God's love shine through everything you do and say.

**Note 2067.** Men may not read the Gospel in seal-skin, or the Gospel in morocco, or the Gospel in cloth covers, but they can't get away from the Gospel in shoe leather.  
--**Donald Grey Barnhouse**

**Note 2068.** Prayer is work; prayer works; the bottom line is that prayer is the work that must come before all other work

**Note 2069.** Love is the stuff that God uses to glue families together.

**Note 2070.** Let Christ show Himself to the world through your life.

## **DOORKEEPER REPORT**

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

November 13--December 19, 2011

**Regular**      **65**      **\$4,915.00**



**THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!**

**AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR--  
2012, WE REJOICE IN PARTNERS  
WHO PRAY, GIVE, AND  
TELL OTHERS.**

## PRAYER CALENDAR

**January 2012**

"I will give myself to prayer..."

**Psalm 109:4b**

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

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)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 2

**Genesis 1-2 (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)  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**  
**Genesis 3-5 (Kenya 41.1M)**  
Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)  
Jean Beasley (TN)  
Tommy Bell (TN)  
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)  
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)  
Ron & Teri Bernard (IL)  
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)  
Bob & Beverly Blankenship (TN)  
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

**Genesis 3-5 (Kenya 41.1M)**

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))

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

**Gen 10-11 (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)

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

**Gen 12-14 (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)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

**Gen 15-17 (Venezuela 27.6M)**

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)  
Dufrene/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)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 9

**Genesis 18-20 (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)  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**  
**Gen 21-24 (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)  
Sam & Michele Graisbury (NJ)

Charles Hale (VA)  
George & Joy Harper (VA)  
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)  
Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

**Genesis 25-26 (Kenya 41.1M)**

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)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

**Gen 27-31 (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)

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

**Gen 33-36 (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 & Gwen Johnson (AZ)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**Genesis 37-40 (Cuba 11.1M)**

James/ Genevieve Jones (FL)  
Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)  
David & Debbie 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)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)

Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)  
Soma Kovoov (TX)  
KoreanBranch:Dr.ShinKwang Suk  
Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)  
Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)  
Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)  
Phil Landers (OK)

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 16**

**Gen 41-44 (Philippines 01.8M)**  
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)  
Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 17**

**Gen 45-47 (S 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)

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**

**Gen 48-50 (Kenya 41.1M)**  
Dan & Fay McConville (VA)  
Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)  
Memorial Christian Ch (VA)

Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**

**Exs 1-2 (Australia 21.8M)**  
Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)  
Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)  
Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)  
Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)  
Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**

**Exodus 3-6 (Cuba 11.1M)**  
French and Laura Moore (VA)  
Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)  
Katherine Morgan (VA)  
Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S. Afr)  
Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)  
Chet & Betty Nichols (VA)

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

**Exodus 7-10 (Kenya 41.1M)**  
Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)  
Ann Palumbo (PA)  
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)

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**

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

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 23**

**Ex 11-12 (S 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)

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 24**

**Ex 13-15 (Venezuela 27.6M)**  
Philip/Wendy/Steve Schrank(WI)  
Richard/MargaretSeigfield (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)

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

**Ex 16-18 (The world 7b)**  
Paul & Mary Smith (TX)  
Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)  
John & Helen Sourlis (MD)  
Leroy/Suk Hi Standifer (WA)  
Tim & Pam Steger (ID)  
Carol Snow Stewart (AZ)  
Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)  
Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 26**

**Ex 19-20 (Australia 21.8M)**  
Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)  
Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)  
Brian/Janice Tarraferro (TX)  
Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)  
Stephanie Taylor (GA)

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

**Exodus 21-24 (Cuba 11.1M)**  
Earline Thigpen (TN)  
Mona Henry Thomas (VA)  
W. D/Jackie Thomason (TN)  
Montez Thompson (CO)  
Paula Tipton (TN)  
Virginia Trask (VA)  
Carrol/Ouida Troutman (KY)  
Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)  
Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)  
Malcom Troutman (KY)

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

**Exodus 25-27 (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)

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

**Ex 28-31 (Philippines 101.8M)**  
George/Jeanette Vernachik (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)

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 30**

**Ex32-34 (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)

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**

**Ex 35-40 (Venezuela 27.6M)**  
Julie L. Wilson (PA)  
Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)  
Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)  
The Word Church (NJ)  
Buz Offenbacker, Pastor  
David & Lili Wykle (VA)  
Sila/Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

**2012  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**



## Shepherd

—one who cares for the sheep



The images of sheep and shepherds are some of the most powerful in Scriptures and teach truths that believers do well to understand.

David's **Psalm 23** picks up the warm and comforting image of the believer as a sheep in the personal care of God. Because "the Lord is my shepherd" the psalmist is secure. He is convinced, "I shall lack nothing," for God Himself wields the staff of protection and leads him to green pastures and beside still waters.

In the Prophets, the shepherd is also a common image. There it stands for spiritual leaders: first describing rapacious spiritual leaders who profit from exploiting God's sheep (**Jeremiah 25, Ezekiel 34**), and then by promising the appearance of a descendant of David who will shepherd God's sheep in His name (**Isaiah 44:28; Ezekiel 34:23-24**).

The relationship of an Eastern shepherd with his sheep was personal. The shepherd knew each sheep by name as an individual. He led, rather than herded, the sheep. The sheep, also, recognized their protector, and responded to his voice. Their hearing was acute enough that if another tried to mimic their shepherd's voice, they became frightened.

At night typically four or five herds of sheep were protected in the **sheepfold**. The "fold" was sometimes an enclosure of stones or briars, or at times a cave. This sheepfold had only one opening, and at night a shepherd slept in it. No wild animals or robber could get to the sheep because the shepherd himself was at the gate. The sheep were safe. In the morning, when a shepherd called, his sheep responded to his voice and separated

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## 2012

### Hold Thou my hand

Dear Lord,  
Hold Thou my hand.  
The way is dark  
Unless You guide me;  
The path is rough  
Unless You walk beside me.

Hold Thou my hand.  
I do not see the light  
That shines above me,  
Unless I look into Your face  
And know that You love me.

And looking up,  
I do not mind the stones  
That bruise my feet,  
The thorns along the path,  
Or noontide heat;  
For it is enough to know  
That You, my Savior,  
Trode this thorny pathway  
long ago.

And knowing this,  
I'll have no fear  
When walking through the  
darkness  
With You near;  
For I can look into You face  
divine.  
And forward go with my hand  
in Thine.

Author Unknown

Note: There is abundant evidence in God's book that we should seek His hand, as well as His face.

## Hide God's Word in Your Heart Daily

God's Word was written to be studied, understood, and applied. If you want to follow Him more closely, you must know what He expects and what He has said. The more we know of the whole scope of God's Word, the more resources we will have to guide us in life's daily decisions.

Long-time friends, **Dr. John and Letha Hash**, founded **Bible Pathway** to encourage Bible reading. Their passion was to encourage believers to get into the Word of God; sadly, few are. To encourage our readers and the participants in the prayer seminar ministry to read through the Bible, JGHM provides a bookmark, ***I'm Reading the Bible Through***, to guide and monitor daily Bible reading. There is a daily Bible reading program provided in the monthly **Doorkeeper Prayer Calendar** (included in the **Reflector**), that I follow, which takes me through the Bible each year. It is wise to read systematically. It is surprising what one finds when he begins to mine the Scriptures.

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### CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

themselves from the herd. It was response to the shepherd's voice that identified his sheep from hundreds of other sheep who might have looked just like them to the casual observer.

Jesus revealed that He is **the True Shepherd** of God's sheep (**John 10:1-6**). As the "gate for the sheep," Jesus brings His sheep abundant life (**vv 7-10**). As "**Good Shepherd**," He lays down His life for His sheep (**vv 11-13**) and is recognized by them (**vv 14-21**). As the gate, Jesus presented Himself as the only means of entrance to His flock, and at the same time the avenue through which the flock within would pass to find pasture. No wonder Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it in the full (**v 10**)

One of our faithful **Doorkeepers** is **Eva Winebarger**, who has been a great friend and helper. She helps us in any way we need her assistance including labeling and preparing the **Reflectors** for mailing each month a monumental task. You will be blessed by a recent note from **Eva**.



**Eva and Sue Preparing Reflector mailing**

Dear Dr. Henry and Sue, A note to thank you for the bookmark you include with the January issue of the Reflector when you ask me to read through the Bible in a year. For at least the last ten years, I've done this. Now I cannot imagine stopping. There have been times when I say I read this before; maybe, I'll skip this time. That is the very moment that the Holy Spirit shows me something new, something I missed in all previous readings. This is the one thing I do solely for myself and no one else. Thank you for letting be have a small part in the prayer ministry. I love to say as did **John Wesley**, "Homo unis LIBRA." "I am a woman of one Book!" I pray God will continue to bless the prayer seminars. **Eva Winebarger."**

Enclosed are two bookmarks. Remember you may ask for a quantity if you need them for your family or Bible study group. No person will ever become a prayer warrior apart from the Word of God.

## “What shall we say to these things?”

For over a quarter century, God has opened doors in nation after nation and continent after continent for the prayer seminar ministry. Few times have we had to schedule or reschedule once the venue has been established. The prayer and financial support has been an amazing thing to observe.

**THE CUBA STORY.** Most of you know that my first overseas ministry was January 1960 when, as a twenty-four year old pastor, I was invited to lead an evangelistic crusade in **First Baptist Church, Placetas**, a city in **Santa Clara Province**, about four hours east of Havana. Seventy came to Christ. Although we answered **the Cuban Call** to conduct prayer seminars in Cuba in 2000, 2003, 2004, and 2010, I did not return to First Baptist Church until September 2010, fifty years later. Amazingly, nine of the seventy were present.

An invitation was issued to return in November 2011 for a series of prayer seminars in **Santa Clara Province, Holguin, and Havana**. The word came, however, that religious visas had been withdrawn for November. Verbal assurance was given that we would be able to follow the same schedule in January 2012. Recently, we were informed that the religious visa had not been granted for the seminars. The only permission would be to speak to a group for thirty minutes, no longer. Of course, the seminar is for six hours.

Since we are unsure of the specifics and ramifications of the action on the religious visa applications, **Adam Nathanson**, my colleague and interpreter, plans to travel to Cuba in January on a tourist visa for clarification. The Cuban coordinator ask that we reschedule for April or May. We are reluctant to do that until we know more

details of why the religious visas were not granted. Use the bookmark as a prayer reminder for Adam's exploratory visit.

**THE KENYA STORY.** Now we are in a dilemma. **Martin Shikuku**, our Kenya coordinator, has urged us to schedule a series of seminars in West Kenya (where the 2007 post-election violence killed and wounded hundreds and displaced 300,000) prior to the soon-coming national elections. We see the value of this and have agreed to do so. We had thought in terms of returning to Kenya in May 2012. Although Martin, who has been conducting seminars throughout Kenya on a regular basis, is willing to move to the Cuba dates, January 5-23, in my spirit I am concerned that a “rush mode” might be the devil's trick to lessen the impact of the prayer seminars. While I am writing this copy, I am praying for wisdom and have asked other friends to pray with me. Certainly, I am “ready,” but must not establish my own schedule. It is necessary to follow His schedule.

**THE VENEZUELA STORY.** 2009 and 2010 were in a sense “the Venezuela years.” Working in the land where God has placed the **Nathansons (Adam, Dianna, Daniel, and David)**, there have been seminars throughout the nation, including a number in **Caracas**. Working with the **Venezuela Baptist Convention**, major cities in both the western and eastern states have been impacted, including the Andes Mountain region. Thousands have attended the seminars and over 6,000 came to Christ in an evangelistic effort that followed the seminars. Now we are scheduled for February 24-March 12 and in the **Ciudad** area of **Bolivar State** (where Sue and I conducted prayer seminars in 1992). I am excited!

## A PROMISING NEW YEAR

Twelve promises for the Christian in 2012.

Clip and put a copy in your study Bible.

Claim one verse each month.

Make 2012 a Promising New Year.

**January**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

**God's presence**

**God's protection**

**God's power**

**God's provision**

**God's leading**

**God's purposes**

**God's rest**

**God's cleansing**

**God's goodness**

**God's guidance**

**God's faithfulness**

**God's Wise Plan**

**Hebrews 13:5**

**Genesis 15:1**

**Isaiah 41:10**

**Isaiah 41:10**

**John 10:4**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**Matthew 11:28**

**1 John 1:9**

**Psalms 84:11**

**Psalms 25:9**

**1 Samuel 12:22**

**Romans 8:28**

## A New Year Reminder

In speaking of the brevity of life, James reminds us: "What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Job said that "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Even the oldest among us will attest to the rapidity of life. So what should we pray as we move into a new year? In Psalm 90, Moses long ago had the answer. He speaks of man's days on earth as being three score and ten, and sometimes four score, but notes "it is soon cut off and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). Reflecting on this - Moses prayed: "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (v 12) - a good New Year Reminder.

## REFLECTOR

ISSN 0885-8538

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

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