

REFLECTOR

VOL. 54, No. 6

“*Holding Forth the Word of Life*”

June 2008

**“Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.”
James 4:8**

God the Father wants us to draw near for fellowship. Do you want to draw near? Sometimes we sing “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” as a prayer. The amazing thing is that it is possible to have a closer walk. The sovereign God has ordained this possibility. The Holy Spirit inspired James to provide the directive to follow to bring the closer walk to reality provided we take the initiative to do so. God, Himself, is ready now. Read the verse like this: “You draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.” There is reciprocal movement, but you must take the initiative.

There are two key areas in Christian discipline that we have emphasized in our written and spoken ministry: the time you spend in the Bible listening to God speak to you and the time you spend in prayer talking to Him. Through the crucible of experience I have learned the value of daily Bible reading and daily prayer.—starting the quiet time with Bible reading. God reveals Himself in the Scriptures. When you see Him and His way, then you will be ready to pray in a spirit of dependence and trust. Further, as you develop the practice of reading Scriptures on a regular basis, helpful biblical truths will be implanted into your mind. Once the truths are there, the Holy Spirit will bring them alive to apply to any need that arises any hour of the day or night. The result will be strength for the journey.

Are you as close to God as you want to be? In a real sense, your spiritual life is in your hands. Your future is in your hands. Neglect of the Bible is a main cause for retarded spiritual growth. In fact, many believers have grown little since becoming Christians. When the Word is left out of our lives we tend to yield to temptations, fail to witness, and do not live holy. There is no short-cut to spirituality. **Getting the Word of God and prayer into our lives requires time and effort.** Make up your mind to read the Bible. Many Christians who love the Lord are up and down in their Christian experience because they have no definite time with God. Beware of the barrenness of an overactive life. Nothing should interfere with your time with God—in His Word and in prayer—because nothing is more important.

Time and a real desire to understand are all that you need to get started having daily devotions. Read with the intention of obeying God fully and without reservation.

Every spiritual awakening history has known can be traced to prayer. Prayer is vital. God’s work runs on prayer. God makes it clear that we accomplish nothing apart from prayer. No matter how successful we appear to be, “*whether we like it or not,*” said Charles Spurgeon, “*asking is the rule of the Kingdom.*” God is ready and waiting for you to draw near to Him. What is your decision?

**DECISIONS DETERMINE DESTINY!
Settle for nothing less than the closer walk!**

Perspectives

Most PRAYER PROMISES found in the Bible were made by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. If any one of us read those promises for the first time, it is likely that our response would be simply “That’s incredible! Look at what Jesus said would happen if we ask in His name!” Why is it that we can read those prayer promises and are relatively unmoved by them? The answer can be found in the story of Uzzah (**2 Samuel 6:2-8**). Do you remember Uzzah?

The Ark of the Covenant had been captured by the Philistines much to the chagrin and vexation of Israel. A day came when the ark was finally being returned to Jerusalem. The ark was being transported on a cart pulled by oxen. At one point the oxen stumbled and the cart tipped and it appeared to Uzzah that the ark was going to slide off. He reached over to touch it to steady it. Do you know what happened to Uzzah?

The very moment that his hand touched the ark, Uzzah died! Only certain people were authorized to touch the ark which was holy to the Lord, and Uzzah was not one of the persons. Why did he touch it? It is apparent that he was simply wanting to keep the ark from falling to the ground. He wanted to be helpful! David understood this and was visibly disturbed.

I believe the reason Uzzah touched the ark was that he had become overly familiar with it. For over twenty years that ark had been lodged at his father’s house and he had seen it day in and day out. **IT’S AWFULLY EASY TO BECOME OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH THE HOLY!** When this happens, a person loses his sense of awe. When he reads the Word, goes to prayer, or attends a worship service, he has no sense of excitement and expectation.

In fact, a casual observation of the faces of people during a worship service or when they come out of the meeting house after a service would cause a person to conclude that a major disaster had taken place. As a result, services

are dull and there is a lot of peeking at watches during the sermon.

One lad was sitting beside his mother in one of those dull services while the pastor was preaching. Having already colored everything there was to color in the bulletin that day, his eyes began to wander. He saw three flags on the platform and recognized two — the American flag and the Christian flag. The third was a small flag with a few stars on it. He was curious about this third flag.

Finally, the boy leaned over to his mother and asked: “What is that flag over there?” Telling him to be quiet and to pay attention to the sermon, his mother whispered, “That’s the service flag. The stars are in memory of those who have died in the Services.” He thought that over for a moment and then asked softly: “Mother, was it the morning services or the evening services?” He did not understand the context of the Armed Services and those dying in defense of our country! But the anecdote illustrates the dullness of many services today.

One of the consequences of the level of commitment and excitement that is in place in many services is what happens to a new convert. He is so excited and full of joy that I sometimes believe that he would charge hell with a water pistol — if so instructed! Look at him a few months later. How do you explain the change that has occurred? The answer is that he soon settles into the level of response which characterizes the people where he is worshipping. Since most of us don’t want to be different, we all strive to fit into the environment.

To counteract this phenomenon, church leadership constantly concerns itself with activities to keep people interested in the work of the church and to attract the world to what we have to say. Consequently, we become excited about “matters of importance” that are in the long run meaningless. These matters require our time, energy, and resources — but it won’t matter twenty-four hours later if we did them or not!

Is there some way to break out of this cycle that prevails in many churches around the world? I believe that there are basics that must constantly guide the activity of a local church ministry—things that do matter in time and eternity. Getting into the Word of God and developing a prayer life are two of the basics.

The failure of the church is the failure of prayer; the failure of the individual Christian is the failure of prayer! Defeats! Discouragements! Disheartedness! Fruitlessness! Coldness (even in services)! In fact, there are many believers so empty, cold, and worldly that they stay away from church services. Others become hypercritical and live in a negative case. A host even doubt their salvation. The result is spiritual inertia on every hand. The wheels of Zion bog down as folks PLAY CHURCH. Power has been absent so long that the Holy Spirit could remove Himself and churches would not miss Him — and still continue their BUSINESS AS USUAL. What a mire of indifference and inactivity we can get ourselves in when we don't pray.

The two primary areas have always been the Word of God and prayer. Why? God speaks through the Word; we speak to God through prayer. I am firmly convinced that **a believer must on a daily basis stay in the Word until He hears from God.** It is then that he can have a meaningful prayer life. For example, the potency of worship triggered by seeing God in His Word and then beginning to pray praising Him for Who He will bring unsurpassed joy and peace.

A Time to Pray

Encouragement has been given to the **Doorkeepers** to establish the pattern of early morning praying. Don't wait until you have messed up your day and bring the pieces to God to put back together. **Christ's example** is early morning praying as is illustrated when "a great while before day, He went out [away from others] to pray" (**Mark 1:35**). Before He met people, He met the Father in prayer. **Christ's explanation** is early morning praying. In the

Model Prayer, He indicated that we are to pray for our daily bread and ask to be kept from temptation. If a person waits until the evening to ask for bread, he could have gone hungry all day. Temptation does not come when a person is ready to sleep! There can never be early morning praying apart from making such activity a **PRIORITY** in one's thinking. He must be convinced that it is important for him to begin his day with God. Further, **DISCIPLINE** must be exercised. A person simply has to do it!

A Place to Pray

While a person needs to practice the presence of God in all of life wherever he is, it is helpful in his quiet time bringing the whole person (spirit, soul, and body exclusively) before the Lord to have a place to pray. Do you remember that Jesus talked about "closet" praying? In His day, people kept their valuables in a closet. So there was limited access to the closet. The principle of closet praying, therefore, is to choose the place where there will be the least interruptions to your quiet time. A **set, secluded, and shut** place would fit His instructions. One reason that having a place to pray makes a difference is that when you go there the principle of psychological set (readiness) will work for you. Psychologists have found that it is easier to study in a place reserved for study; the same is true in prayer!

Soul Nourishment First

Once you are in your quiet place, you need to establish a routine to follow that will serve as a guide for your time. The experience of **George Mueller**, who took care of orphan children during the second quarter of the nineteenth century through prayer, has become my model. He found before he started to bring the needs of his work before the Father that it was better to listen to Him speak from the Word. This approach has served me well for the past few years. My custom is to read the Bible through starting in **Genesis 1:1** on January 1 and reading systematically through the Bible in twelve months. This means that I always

know what I am going to read tomorrow — which is quite helpful when you awaken to begin a new day.

It is wise to **A-ffirm God's presence** even before you start to read the Word. Remember three key verses: **Isaiah 40:31** where we are told to “wait” on the Lord, **Psalms 46:10** to “be still” and to “know” that He is God, and **James 4:8** which tells us to “draw nigh to God (you and I must take the initiative) and He will draw nigh” to us (note that there is reciprocal movement)! After you have prepared your heart and mind, read the Word until you have a message from God. As you read, be alert to see God (either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) revealed in your reading. When you think about what the Word says about God, you can easily begin your praise time right out of the Word of God. How refreshing worship is when it is in response to encountering God in the Word!

Since most **Reflector** readers have been in a prayer seminar, attention should be given to reviewing the **BASICS OF PRAYER using A-C-T-S** to focus on the five elements: **A-doration, C-onfession, T-hanksgiving, S-eeking for self (petition) and others (intercession)**. We have encouraged participants to work through their prayer seminar workbooks to reinforce the truths the Holy Spirit has brought to their minds during the seminar.

During these days ahead as we move through 2008, I encourage each reader to determine if he/she, like Uzzah, has become overly familiar with the Holy. If this is true, isn't it time to do something about it! You can be sure that the Lord will help!

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

P. S. We are scheduling September-December. Please pray that doors will be opened. I want to share as often and as widely as possible.

A Mirror

“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (**Hebrews 4:12**).

The Word of God is a mirror that the Holy Spirit uses to show us ourselves as God sees us. Paul said to the Corinthian believers, “But let a man examine himself” (**1 Corinthians 11:28**). John advised his readers: “Look to yourself that you do not lose those things you have worked for and that you will receive a full reward” (**2 John 8**).

Several years ago, I was conducting a prayer seminar in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. A professor from the University of Pennsylvania attended each session. I remember two things about a personal conversation we had. He shared a statement that had clung to him over the years: “When I talk, I only repeat what I already know, but when I listen, I learn.” The second was his response to the checklist (see **Reflector, Vol. 54, No. 4, April 2008, pp 1-6**) listing scriptures and asking questions in Session Six in the **Prayer Seminar Workbook**. He said, “I thought I was a pretty good Christian until I went through the checklist. Then I saw that I have a lot of work to do in my spiritual life.”

An example of how a person can see himself in scripture is provided in the Beatitudes that are given by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5:3-10**). By asking two questions, we can see ourselves as God sees us “Am I?” or “Do I?” Jesus said the characteristics of Kingdom citizens that will make them blessed are as follows: “poor in spirit,” “mournful,” “meek,” “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” “merciful,” “pure in heart,” “peacemakers,” and “persecuted for righteousness' sake.” In the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20**) can be used in the same sense.

**JGHM IS A FAITH MINISTRY
SUPPORTED BY THE GIFTS OF
OUR FRIENDS.**

The water of the Word of God

The Word is not only spiritual food, but it provides daily cleansing “with the washing of water by the Word” (**Ephesians 5:26**). The psalmist says, “*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse His way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.*” (**Psalms 119:9**). Don’t go out to meet the world with a dirty face on your soul. Without this cleansing, impurities lurk in the mind that will lead to inconsistencies in our lives. When this happens, unsaved people see it and are drawn away from Christ. Jesus explained the cleansing quality of the Word to His disciples in the Upper Room Discourse (**John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**). It will be helpful to review this section of Scripture.

One of the pieces of furniture in the Old Testament tabernacle was the bronze laver (**Exodus 38:8**). It consisted of a huge upright bronze bowl filled with water, resting upon a pedestal. The priests would often stop at this laver and wash. The Word of God may be thought of in terms of that laver, for it too has the power to cleanse. The Old Testament laver could only remove the physical dirt from human hands, but the Scriptures possess the ability to take away our moral filth (**1 Peter 1:22**) when its truths are applied.

The church is set aside (sanctified) and cleansed (washed clean) by the water of the Word of God. You see the Word of God is likened unto water. The psalmist inquired, “*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?*” Then he answered his question, “*By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word*” (**Psalms 119:9**). Water is used in the Scripture as an emblem of cleansing. For defilement, the need is cleansing. Christ “*loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her by the washing of water by the Word of God*” (**Ephesians 5:25-26**). When an unsaved person places his faith in Jesus as the Son of God, his sins are cleansed by His blood and there is overall bathing. But the feet become defiled in pilgrimage. When the sinning saint needs cleansing, the Word of God becomes an agent for that cleansing.

Suppose I am working in my flower gardens and my hands become dirty and defiled? What do I do? I go and apply water, and after I apply the water, the uncleanness disappears. When my heart has become defiled, what do I do? I let the Lord apply the water of the Word to the defilement. The Word of God is the water that is applied to cleanse us. We do not need to be saved again because we have already had a bath. We do need to have the dust of the world washed off by the Water of the Word.

There is a great truth presented for the believer. It is not enough to have the water in a basin, the water must be applied to the person. As Jesus explained to Peter that fellowship was dependent upon his subjecting himself to the act of washing, we, too, must accept the provision provided for our cleansing—the Word of God. We appropriate the benefits of the death of Christ by personally receiving Him as Savior. We appropriate the benefits of the Word of God when we apply the truths contained therein to our lives.

Peter, who learned great lessons for his own life in the Upper Room experience, wrote: “*Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble* (**1 Peter 5:5**). “*Be clothed with humility*” and “*girded Himself*” (**John 13:4**)—the same words are used in both passages.

In his third epistle, John contrasted the generosity of godly Gaius ministering to the brethren and strangers to Diotrephes who loved to have the preeminence and who lorded it over others in his local church. It is clear Gaius had the mind of Christ; Diotrephes did not (**3 John**).

Sheep need attention and care twenty-four hours a day. From the attitude will flow the act. Jesus, our example, will forever reign supreme in teaching us to be servants. May we be diligent to follow Him as closely as possible.

**YOUR HELP NEEDED—
TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE PRAYER
SEMINAR MINISTRY.**

Satan's wiles

The word “wiles” is a military term meaning specific, tailor-made battle strategies that Satan employs to defeat each individual believer (**Ephesians 5:11**). What are some of the techniques Satan uses to achieve his goals? One is to let books replace the Bible. Many revere the Bible more than they read it. We somehow have concluded that it is more expedient to digest the thoughts of others about Scriptures than to digest the Scriptures themselves. Such practice is a mistake! Instead of taking time in His Word, contemporary Christians have developed the habit of following daily devotional guides that require only a few minutes in “spiritual exercise.” The daily devotion usually consists of one verse and some thoughts. Sometimes there is a poem and a prayer that can be read in a moment.

I used to think that this type of devotional life was better than none at all, but I've changed my mind. Our spiritual needs are too great and the task is too large to settle for anything less than a solid time in the Word. For the past few years, we have often received letters from many believers in developing nations asking for books and study materials. Some include a long book list. In my reply, I point out that it is vital to spend time daily in the Bible itself—not in books about the Bible. I always remind them to “stay in the Word until you know God has spoken to you from the Scriptures. You will then be in a position to have a meaningful prayer time—built on an attitude of dependence and faith that comes from the reading of His Word.” I firmly believe this is the way to go.

Anything that is a substitute for God's Word, including the **Prayer Seminar Workbook** or any of the books that I have written, is bound to result in retarded spiritual growth. I'm not suggesting that devotional guides and books about the Bible are wrong. I have some guides and books that have been tremendously helpful and encouraging to me and often spend time with them to great profit. But these must be supplements to God's Word, not substitutes for God's Word. There are times when picking up a devotional guide or Bible

study book is appropriate, but it should always be after you have spent time in the Word and prayer.

God gave me a good friend a few years ago—whom I came to admire and love—the late Dr. Bob Cook, a founder of Youth for Christ and the president of The King's College, Briarcliff Manor, New York. On his radio program, which reached across the nation, Dr. Cook had an uncanny way of getting the attention of his listeners. “Walk with the King today!” was an admonition that burned in the soul of the hearers. I can hear his voice in my memory even now. One thing Dr. Cook shared with me stuck in my mind and I want to share it with you.

“Years ago when Stephen Olford first came to this country [from England], we brought him over to speak at Youth for Christ rallies back in the 1940's. It was my privilege to get rather well-acquainted with this precious man of God. I sensed immediately that he walked close to His Lord and that He was fresh in the Word of God day by day. So, I asked him, ‘Brother, how do you keep your soul refreshed in the Word?’ He gave me a rather simple formula that I incorporated in the book which God has blessed around the world, **Now That I Believe**, published by Moody Press. I put the formula in there because I wanted to share it with as many as possible. Here it is:

“1. Stay with any passage of Scripture (whether it be six verses or a chapter) until it says something to you.” Olford stopped long enough to caution me—*‘Don't just make a preaching outline as preachers are wont to do, but stay until you know God has said something to you from that passage.’*

“2. Write down what God has said for if you can't write it you didn't get it.” Every teacher knows that's true. Some of us know it to our sorrow. We need to write down on a piece of paper or in some little notebook what He has said. Olford continued,

“3. After you've written it down, pray it back to God until your heart gets warm and tender with the truth God has said.” Then,

“4. Share it with someone as soon as you can that very day.” An excellent idea and one that really works.”

PRAYER CALENDAR JUNE 2008

"I will give myself to prayer..."
Psalm 109:4b



SUNDAY, JUNE 1

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

MONDAY, JUNE 2

PSALM 1-6 (Chad 9.4M)
Milcie Arnold (VA)
Solomon & Kriskna Arrington (MD)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Kenneth Banks (NC)
Carolyn Barkley (NY)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)
John & Joan Bateman (PA)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

PSALM 7-12 (Chile 16.3M)
Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy & Sue Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Bethesda Ministries

Jerry & Joan Crain (SC)
Dorothy Spickard Biddle (NC)
Stephen & Joyce Bishop (VA)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

PSALM 13-18 (China 1.3B)
Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Gordon & Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kimberlee Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)

Von M. Bridges (TX)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Shirley Brown (VA)
THURSDAY, JUNE 5

PS 19-24 (Christmas Isle 1,402)
Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Janice Bugg (TN)
Ruby Burger (TN)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Neal & Mary Ann Cabannis (VA)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Ron & Mary Campbell (ID)
Lew & Julia Carlin (AL)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

PSALM 25-30 (Cocos Isles 396)
David & Martha Cecil (VA)
Merry J Chandler (MD)
Mary Clarke (VA)
Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
Margarie Coffee (VA)
Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
Joel & Paula Criz (HI)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

PSALM 31-36 (Colombia 44.4M)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
Ida J. Davis (GA)
John & Margaret Davis (VA)
Lelia Dean (FL)
Robert & Virginia DeBoer (NE)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Delmarva Evangelistic Church (MD)
Ruth Chamberlain, Pastor
Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Walt Edwards (NC)
Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Evalena Enoch (VA)
Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
Lynne Farrow (NJ)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)

MONDAY, JUNE 9

PS 37-44 (Comoros Isles 711,417)
June Fisher (TN)
Josephine Fitzgerald (AL)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Carole B. Garvin (PA)
Frank & Doris Geiger (HI)

Robert & Sara George (GA)
TUESDAY, JUNE 10
PSALM 45-49 (Congo, D.R. 65.8M)
Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (CO)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (NJ)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoo (FL/CT)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

PSALM 50-54 (Congo, R 3.8M)
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)
Jerry & Sandra Hodges (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

PSALM 55-59 (Cook Isles 21,750)
Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Lamar & Cindy Sue Houser (MD)
Bonnie Houston (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)
H. J. & Paula Hutchins (MS)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

PSALM 60-66 (Costa Rica 4.1M)
Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Jonathan & Julie Jobe (NC)
Peter & Millicent John (NY)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Tara Johnson (KY)
Wilbur & Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

PSALM 67-72 (Cote de Ivoire 18M)
Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Joyce Kelley (OR)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
Bruce Kirby, Pastor
Alice Kern (NJ)
Archie & Mary King (TN)

Kenneth & Bonnie Kirby (PA)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)

Sherry Klutz (WA)

Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)

Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)

Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)

Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk

Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)

David & Cathy Laing (FL)

Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)

Phil & Loetta Landers (OK)

MONDAY, JUNE 16

PSALM 73-77 (Croatia 4.5M)

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)

Bob Lawrence (MD)

Raymond & Janet LeJUNE (VT)

Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)

Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)

George & Ginger Locklear (NC)

Stacy Logsdon (KY)

Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

PSALM 78-83 (Cuba 11.4M)

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)

Deborah Mathias (NY)

Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)

Bill & Shirley Maybin (SC)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

PSALM 84-89 (Cyprus 788,437)

Gary & Anna McElwaine (KY)

Sid & Jane McLaughlin (AL)

Jim & Lin McLean (TN)

John & Egberta McSween (Trinidad)

Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)

Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)

Memorial Christian Church (VA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

PSALM 90-97 (South Africa 48M)

Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)

Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)

Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)

Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)

Mike & Cherylann Miller (CO)

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

PSALM 98-103 (Czech Rep 10.2M)

Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)

Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)

Katherine Morgan (VA)

New Harvest Christian Min (MD)

Marcus Johnson, Pastor

Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)

Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

PSALM 104-106 (Denmark 5.5M)

Ann Palumbo (NJ)

Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)

Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)

Pleasant Hope Baptist Church (KY)

Luther & Leslie Poellnitz (MD)

Ben Poplin (VA)

Ayers & Nina Porter (TN)

Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)

Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)

Cynthia Roach (VA)

Windi & Caleb Roach (OK)

John & Sandra Roberts (FL)

Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)

Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)

Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

MONDAY, JUNE 23

PSALM 107-110 (Djibouti 496,374)

Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)

Bob & Shirley Rose (MI)

David & Amy Ross (KY)

Sandra Rumore (VA)

John Saint (PA)

Don & Marie Satterwhite (MD)

David & Betty Schaum (NY)

Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)

Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)

Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

PSALM 111-118 (Dominica 72,386)

Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI)

John & Peggy Seibert (AL)

Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)

Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)

Eric Farel, Pastor

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)

Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)

Mary Skiles (KS)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

PSALM 119 (Dominican Rep 9.4M)

Paul & Mary Smith (TX)

Doris Snyder (FL/OH)

Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)

John & Helen Sourlis (MD)

Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)

Marion J. Stansell (TX)

Tim & Pam Steger (ID)

Carol Snow Stewart (AZ)

Gary/Leta Fern Stillwagon (GA)

Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

PSALM 120-127 (East Timor 1M)

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)

Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)

Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)

William Stroman, Pastor

Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)

Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church (TN)

Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)

Stephanie Taylor (GA)

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

PSALM 128-134 (Ecuador 13.8M)

Temple of Praise (TX)

Gilbert Perez, Pastor

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)

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)

Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

PSALM 135-139 (Egypt 80.3M)

Tommy Waddell (TN)

Horace & Becky Ward (NC)

Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)

Beau Ware (VA)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)

Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)

Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)

George & Virginia Whitner (FL)

Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)

Edward Williams (NC)

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

PS 140-145 (El Salvador 6.9M)

Elijah Williams (NJ)

Julie L. Wilson (PA)

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)

Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)

Stephen Latong (Nigeria)

Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)

Adam/Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)

Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)

Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)

Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)

MONDAY, JUNE 30

PS 146-150 (Eq Guinea 551,201)

Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)

Dot Winfield (MD)

Amos Wipf (GA)

The Word Church (NJ)

Buz Offenbacher, Pastor

Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)

Greg & Lori Worley (GA)

Todd & Stephanie Wright (KY)

Lili Wykle (VA)

Robin & Deborah Yoehc (PA)

Make a plan

It will be helpful if you will take time to think through how to approach the Scriptures for fuller, deeper understanding, experiencing first hand what God has said in His Word, and applying the wisdom and faith of the Bible in your daily life. Make a realistic Bible study plan and stick with it! Set aside a specific time each day for Bible reading. If your attitude is “I will read my Bible today when I get around to it,” the devil will certainly see that you never “get around to it.” Allow enough time for God to speak to you out of the Word before you start speaking to Him in prayer. Choose a time that can become a regular part of your daily routine. There is no question that you should begin your day with God. Don’t wait until you have messed up your day and then bring the pieces for God to put back together. Read privately, by yourself.

Choose a quiet place to study, free from distractions such as television, radio, telephone calls. Have a cleared desk or table to work on, with references, notebook, and pen or pencil at hand. Choose a comfortable chair and have a good reading light. Determine to let nothing infringe upon your quiet time. Watch for distractions that will rob you of your concentration. Resist the devil when he brings things to mind which you need to be doing, now! God’s provision is for us to first “*submit to God*” and then “*resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (**James 4:7b**). Remember that “*Greater is He who is in you [the Holy Spirit] than he [Satan] who is in the world*” (**1 John 4:4**).

Make a month’s schedule

As you approach the matter of daily Bible reading, you should develop a method to guide your reading of the Scripture. Be flexible. Change your method from time to time to assure freshness. Be sure your method is working for you. Modify the method as needed.

You might begin by choosing a quantity of reading to be done each day. Select an amount small enough to avoid rushing. Make out a

month’s schedule at a time. The **Doorkeeper Prayer Calendar** includes the schedule of reading that I follow year by year that takes me through the Bible each year. You might want to follow it since it is seldom cumbersome and time consuming. I do not schedule systematic reading on Sundays since that is a day when one can be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as you prepare to assemble for worship (**Hebrews 10:25**). Sunday is a good day to review what you have read the week before.

Speak to the Author

All of us, in reading some book, have wished the author were present to answer and explain something; but that is seldom possible. Isn’t it amazing, however, that we can speak directly to the Author of the Bible? The same Holy Spirit, who led these men to write, longs to lead us to understand. Always begin Bible reading with prayer for divine guidance.

On the note sheets that I use each day during my Bible reading, the following verse is prominently displayed: “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law” (**Psalms 119:18**). If you don’t understand something, remember “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God” (**James 1:5**). God enjoys giving us wisdom and understanding, especially with regard to His Word.

John Newton, saved slave trader who wrote **Amazing Grace** said: “By one hour’s intimate access to the throne of grace, where the Lord causes His glory to pass before the soul that seeks Him, you may acquire more true spiritual knowledge and comfort than by a day’s or a week’s converse with the best of men, or the most studious perusal of many folios.” Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Teacher, we read the Scriptures in vain.

JGHM in twenty-fifth year

On May 29, JGHM celebrated its twenty-fourth birthday. We continue to praise God for the opportunity to serve the body of Christ around the world..

Seeing life from God's point of view

A major emphasis of the prayer seminar is coupling the Word of God and prayer. It is easy to forget the Word of God as we ask His hand to move. Praying from the Word of God makes a tremendous difference. Many carry a copy of the Bible to Sunday school and church weekly who do not consult it for guidance in living. One reason is that Satan does not want us to see life from God's point of view. Certainly, he does not want us to know the provisions God has made to help us be victorious and walk in the Spirit. He does not want us to use the Word of God in our battle against his wiles and devices as the Lord Jesus Christ did during the temptation period in the wilderness. Since the devil's misuse of Scripture is a major ploy to defeat us when we do not know the Word of God well, it is to his advantage in spiritual warfare to keep believers ignorant.

Many have found a helpful approach to the Scripture is to write down review questions to apply to each day's reading for maximum benefit using the first person singular. After all, in our devotional reading we are not looking for sermon material, but want to know what God has to say to us. Sample questions might be formed as follows: "In this passage I am meditating upon now, is there any sin for me to avoid, any promise I can claim, any blessing I can enjoy, any command I need to obey, any victory God wants me to gain, any reminder of what I know, or any new thought about God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, or about man or Satan?"

Sunday Bwanhot in Chicago

For many years, **Sunday** led prayer seminars in his native **Nigeria**. Now he and Grace, his beautiful wife, are missionaries in Chicago. He continues to teach the prayer seminar. He is currently teaching a nine-week class on prayer at Uptown Baptist Church. Pray for the **Bwanhots** as they serve the Lord here. The prayer seminars in Nigeria continue strong.



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 1151. Love for the Author of the Bible is the best preparation for the study of the Bible.

Note 1152. The deep truths of the Word are best mined with the spade of meditation.

Note 1153. We realize the strength of the Anchor when we feel the stress of the storm.

Note 1154. Obedience belongs to the Christian; results belong to God.

Note 1155. When it comes to prayer, many Christians need a "faith lift."

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

April 13--May 20, 2008

Regular	42	\$2,940.00
Martin/Kenya	1	100.00
Total	43	\$3,040.00



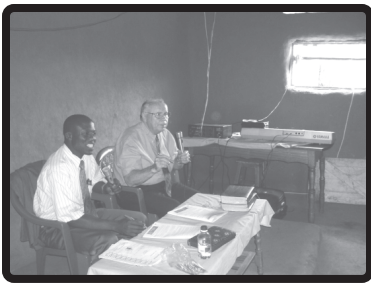
Laborers together with God

Begin at the beginning

In reading a novel or biography, we begin at the beginning. To start a book in the middle results in confusion. The same holds true for the Bible. Begin at the beginning where God began, **Genesis 1:1** and go through to **Revelation 22:21**. Too often we become so attached to certain favorite portions that we neglect the remainder of the Bible. Remember that if you read three chapters a day and five on Sunday, you can go through the Bible in a year. I challenge you to do so.

International news

Sue and I were with the Gloucester County Community Church, Washington Township, New Jersey May 18-19 for their annual missionary conference. This congregation, which has grown from around 200 when we first began working with them to several thousand, has been a **Doorkeeper** church since 1988. Since the 2007 conference one year ago, I have conducted prayer seminars in **Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, South Africa, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, and Venezuela** in addition to seminars in the United States. Sue has ministered in **Thailand**. Truly, this has been a remarkable twelve months of God's blessings. The remarkable phenomenon, however, is the number of pastors/leaders who are conducting prayer seminars on an ongoing basis. We must continue to provide prayer support for our brothers and sisters, many whom are serving under difficult circumstances.



Martin & Dr. Henry Teaching in Kenya

Kenya/Martin & Andrew. We continue grateful for all that the **Doorkeepers** and other friends did to address the post-election crisis that **Martin Shikuku** and **Andrew Sakaria** faced in Kenya. It is difficult to conceptualize the difference you made in reestablishing their ministries and homes. Although there are still challenges, both men are actively involved in leading their local churches and conducting prayer seminars as a team. For a May 2-4 seminar, the team traveled three hours "where only bicycles and walking on foot is the means of transport . . . the spirit of learning was fully in the house."

Rwanda next. Most of you will remember the genocide committed in Rwanda when over one million men, women, and children were massacred. Thousands of spiritual leaders were among those who were murdered. The sad element is that nearly 90% identified themselves as "Christians" in this nation that now has 10 million people. One can only imagine the bitterness felt. As **Martin** and **Andrew** prayed and sought the Lord's guidance for the prayer seminar ministry, both were convinced that they should take the seminars to other nations in East Africa and Central Africa. On May 29, they traveled to **Rwanda** to conduct a series of prayer seminars. **JGHM** provided funds for their travel, food, lodging, and for Swahili prayer seminar workbooks.

Brazil. My next prayer seminars overseas will be in **Belo Horizonte, Brazil** in August. It will be a joy to return to this important city for the third time. Put this on your prayer calendar. It appears that conditions are right for a large number of churches to be involved. We will need to revise the Portuguese prayer seminar workbook. Pray for **Renato & Rachel Souza** as they make preparations for the seminars.

Fresh submission

As the leader of the prayer seminar ministry, I hereby acknowledge complete dependence upon God and submit the ministry to Him afresh and anew. What a joy it is to be entrusted with the task of calling God's children to Biblical praying and to have the **Doorkeeper** partners who make it possible through their prayers and gifts to go. My prayer is that 2008 will be the best year ever in seeing believers become prayer warriors. Without God's hand on the work we are doing, it is nothing. "Lord, You be the needle and I will be the thread." Wherever You lead, I'll go! To schedule a prayer seminar in your area, send us three possible dates and we will get back to you. The prayer seminar is a faith ministry so there is no charge for a seminar. Any church can have a seminar.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LYNCHBURG VA
PERMIT #857

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Reflector
ISSN 0885-8538
J. Gordon Henry Ministries
1127 Lakeview Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-8807
(434) 239-8837 E-mail: jghm84@aol.com
www.jgordonhenryministries.org

Beginning point

The beginning point for a devotional life is making up your mind that God will work in your life through His Word and prayer. Say: "I have to talk to God and let Him talk to me before I do anything else today." Set an appointment with Him and keep the appointment. There are many excuses for snubbing God such as "I overslept" or "I'm too busy" or "I've got to get to work on time or I will be trouble with the boss." When you make such excuses you are saying to God: "I know You're important, but You're not as important as the things I've set out to do today." Very frankly, it is unlikely that anyone will become serious about a daily time with God in the Word and in prayer who is unwilling to make a conscious commitment to do so. Have you done so? If not, don't engage in morbid introspection and don't waste time in regret. Make the commitment now!

Searching the Scriptures daily, as did the Bereans (**Acts 17:11**), requires time and effort for great truths are not gathered by a careless, hurried reader. A gold miner searches for gold and digs deep. The psalmist said, "*I love Thy commandments above gold*" (**Psalms 119:127**). We must search like a hungry man does for food. Jeremiah said, "*Thy Words were found, and I did eat them*" (**Jeremiah 15:16**). Job said, "*I have esteemed the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food*" (**Job 23:12**). Think of that! You must be willing to invest both time and effort.

Bible study is important because God is revealed through the Bible. It's a message from the living God to people everywhere. He inspired its authors to communicate His plan of redemption and salvation for people of all times. "*The Scriptures ...bear witness to Me*" (**John 5:39**). Through the Bible, God reveals Himself as the Source of life and happiness.

When read with faith and understanding, the Bible serves as a **SOURCE** of personal inspiration and insight, a **GUIDE** for a loving, just, and God-honoring life, an **ANSWER** to the questions everyone asks about God and life, and a vital **CONTACT** with Christ and His personal message for each of us.



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR
PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY