

REFLECTOR

VOL. 55, No. 6

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

June 2009

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

Mona Henry Thomas

1. Come, Let's have an en-coun-ter! En - coun - ter Christ as Lord.
2. If you'd have an en-coun-ter, Turn to Christ the Lord.
3. Won't you have an en-coun-ter? En - coun - ter Christ the Lord.

Yield Him con-trol to guide & make whole. En-coun-ter Christ as Lord.
Put self a - way Be yield - ed to - day. All to Christ the Lord.
New life is here A gift, ne - ver fear! From Je-sus Christ the Lord.

For a number of years in my pastoral ministry, I was blessed to have our daughter, **Mona**, work with me in the music area as pianist, organist, or music director. She began playing for our church services at the age of eight. Many of our readers will remember our singing "I Need No Mansion Here Below" as a duet. In 1979, she wrote "Encounter With Christ" as a theme song for our revival meetings. Read the words carefully and remember that God is ready for us to have an encounter with Him daily: "[You] draw near to God and He will draw near to you (**James 4:8**). Wise is the believer who makes a daily appointment with Him and keeps the appointment. Begin your day with God. Don't wait until you have messed up your day and then have to bring the pieces to Him to put back together. An encounter with Christ will make a great difference in your day.

Perspectives

Learning to occupy our minds with thoughts of God is the desire of many believers. The prophet **Isaiah** reminded us of the value of doing this when he said, “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (**Isaiah 26:3**). Perfect peace comes from God and can only come to minds guarded by God.

I remember it as though it were yesterday. I was conducting a prayer seminar on February 5, 1984, at **Calvary Baptist Church, Windsor Locks, Connecticut**, near the Hartford airport. Back in those days, due to my obligation to my work as Executive-Director for Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), most seminars were all-day Sunday. During a break period, a man came to me and said, “When I come back from lunch, I am going to bring you a gift.” His gift was a copy of the eighth edition of **Matthew Henry’s** book entitled **Method for Prayer with Scripture Expressions** published in London in 1737, written in Old English. When I looked at what he had placed into my hands, I said, “You don’t want to give me something so precious and special.” His response was, “You are the very one who should have this book.” I have treasured that book since that day.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714) is often described as one of the greatest Bible commentators of all time. His single volume commentary was my first commentary and has been a favorite for over fifty years. Henry, a Presbyterian English pastor, wrote his commentary to guide his flock. The strong devotional aspect of his commentary caused **Charles Spurgeon** to say, “*Every minister ought to read Matthew Henry entirely and carefully through once at least*” from a devotional aspect. **George Whitefield** read the

Commentary through four times read it literally on his knees and spoke always of “*the great Matthew Henry*” to whom he owed so much.

Henry described his work as “*methodized and practical expositions . . . in plain and homely dress.*” Its purpose, he said, was “*to promote knowledge of the Scriptures, in order to the reforming of men’s hearts and lives.*” He wrote with confidence and authority on basic principles of conduct and belief, but with a modesty that commands respect. “*I have no sufficiency of my own,*” he said, “*but by the grace of God I am what I am, and that grace will, I trust, be sufficient for me.*” As he set himself to his tremendous task, while fulfilling a busy pastoral ministry, he asked friends to pray that he “*might be given understanding . . . and be found the faithful servant of the Lord Jesus, whom am less than the least of all that call Him Master.*”

The direct influence of his writing on 18th century religious leaders such as hymn writers **William Cowper** and **Charles Wesley** was strong. Cowper even used the phrasing of Matthew Henry in the poignant prayer “*O for a Closer walk with God*” and in the statement “*God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.*” Matthew Henry’s commentary on **Leviticus 8:35** contains words used in Wesley’s great hymn, “*A Charge to Keep I Have.*” This is part of Henry’s actual comment: “*They intended to keep the charge of the Lord: we have every one of us a charge to keep, an eternal God to glorify, an immortal soul to provide for; needful duty to be done, our generation to serve; and it must be our daily care to keep this charge, for it is the charge of the Lord our Master.*” Don’t you like that?

1712 lectures

In three morning lectures in 1712, two years before his death, **Henry** encouraged his

listeners to develop their daily communion with God. The first message dealt with **how to begin the day with God**, The second was **how to spend the day with God** and the third, **how to end the day with God**. In this *Perspectives* and the one in July, I will summarize some of his thoughts from the first lecture in this series.

Before I share some of Henry's thoughts, you will be blessed in knowing more about his own life approach from a biographical sketch written by **James Hamilton**, London.

The great business of Mr. Henry's life was the cultivation of piety in himself and others. His religion was not the less profound that it was mild and lowly; nor is the less fitting for imitation that is adorned and cheered a life of tranquil tenor. His own practice was a constant effort to "begin and spend and conclude each day with God." Besides the full and deliberate worship of God in his family, he abounded in secret prayer. It was his recourse in every undertaking. His sermons were begun, his books were published, his journeys were commenced, and the important steps of his history were taken with prayer.

"What incomes of grace," he wrote, "yea, and outward good things, as far as they are indeed good for us, have we by an access to God in Christ! Such have a companion ready in all their solitudes, a counselor in all their doubts, a comforter in all their sorrow, a supply in all their [needs], a support under all their burdens, a shelter in all their dangers, strength for all their performances, and salvation insured by a sweet, undeceiving earnest. What is heaven but an everlasting access to God? And present access a pledge of it."

In a prominent degree, Mr. Henry possessed a spiritual mind. In order to "fix his heart" and help his memory, he kept a journal that affords an intimate view of the character of this great man of God.

David's words

King David set an example in his own life of the proper method of **entering each day with God**. "For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up" (**Psalms 5:3**). The NIV has this translation: "In the morning, I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation."

It is imperative for us to have faith that God is a prayer-hearing God. Whatever we ask of Him as Father, coming in the name of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and praying according to the will of God revealed in the Scriptures, will be granted to us. In the New Testament, we are told "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (**Hebrews 11:6**).

The substance of prayer consists in the lifting up of the soul to God (**Psalms 25:1**) and pouring out the sentiments of the heart before Him. David declared that every morning God should hear his "voice" in prayer. Although God does not need any verbal utterances from us to understand the desires of our hearts, praying aloud greatly aids us in keeping our focus.

God speaks to us from His Word. The primary reason for beginning your Quiet Hour in the Word is to let Him speak. Once we hear Him speak, we can respond. He reminds us of His role and rightful authority in our lives. Above all, prayer is a time to acknowledge our dependence upon Him.

We ought to have something to say to God to begin every day. Often what we say will be anchored in the Word itself. Sometime, it is through circumstances (His providences) that we can hear Him speaking. God has something to say to us. He is our Father speaking. He calls us. Keeping our minds “stayed on” Him is evidence that we, indeed, are trusting God.

Helpful examples

When God says to us, “Seek Me,” our hearts should surely answer as to one we love, “We will seek You.” When He says, “Return, My backsliding children,” we should say to Him, “We’re coming, for you are the Lord our God.” When He speaks to us in the way of reproof, and charges us with our sins, should we not answer by a penitent confession of them? When He speaks in the language of comfort and of encouragement, should we not reply in the language of grateful praise?

Talking to a Friend & a Master

We talk to a Friend whom we love and a Master whom we serve. As we have daily work to do for God and for our own souls, we must beg Him to show us what He would have us to do, to direct us, and to strengthen us. Besides, we are in continual danger. We are surrounded with diseases and deaths, and have occasion to put ourselves daily under the protection of God’s providence. Our souls also are in danger, from Satan and from temptation, and we need to request the aid of God’s Holy Spirit, and of His providence, that we may not be surprised into sin and overcome by strong temptations.

Again, we are drawing near to the period when our everlasting destiny shall be fixed, and have we not something to say to God in respect to our preparation for eternity?

Moreover, as members of the body of Christ, are we not bound to be living, active,

useful members? Have we not business with God, to entreat Him to make us such, and to offer intercession for the church, for its extension over the whole earth, its prosperity, its purity? Have we not also business with Him, as the God of our national well-being, to pray for our beloved land, for its rulers, and for its people? Further, have we nothing to say to God on behalf of our families, our relations, our friends, our community?

Give attention to His Word

It should be borne in mind, however, that if we expect God to hear us and to give us a favorable answer when we speak to Him, we must give attention to Him when He speaks to us, as He does daily in His Word, in His providence, and in our own consciences.

Henry concludes the first lecture with an emphasis on “in the morning,” which we will share in the July **Reflector**.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

A prayer for self

In Jesus’ Name,
help me today to ...

Pray humbly (**2 Chronicles 7:14**),
Pray compassionately (**Matthew 5:43-48**),
Pray expectantly (**Matthew 21:21-22**),
Pray earnestly (**Matthew 9:38**),
Pray devotedly (**Acts 1:14**),
Pray passionately (**Romans 8:26**),
Pray persistently (**Romans 12:12**),
Pray thankfully (**Philippians 4:6**),

You need to pray for yourself. Make it a practice to pray about everything. A guideline is simple: what is it that I need to help me **BE** what God wants me to **BE and DO** what God wants me to **DO? Pray about it.**

The Model Prayer and America

Dr. Kevin Meador

The Lord Jesus has given us the Model Prayer to teach us how to seek God. This model guides us in how to pray. It can also serve as a tool to help you intercede for the nation. You can take each phrase of the Model Prayer and use it in your praying for our country. You can even develop a daily prayer model from these seven petitions.

Monday: *Our Father who art in heaven.*

- Pray that Americans will come to know God as their personal Father through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Ask that believers in the nation will draw near to God in all holy reverence and confidence.
- Plead that America will seek God for His help and protection.

Tuesday: *Hallowed be Thy name.*

- Ask that Americans will seek to glorify God.
- Pray that Americans will strive to obey the Word of God.
- Plead that God will accomplish all of His will for our nation.

Wednesday: *Thy kingdom come.*

- Plead that the kingdom of God will advance throughout our nation.
- Pray that the Spirit and the Word will dismantle Satan's kingdom in our nation.
- Ask that believers will faithfully pray for and share the gospel with those who are lost.

Thursday: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

- Pray that America will have a heart for God and His Word.
- Ask that God will empower America to know, obey, and submit to His will.
- Pray for the removal of those things that hinder people from knowing and doing God's will in our nation.

Friday: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

- Pray that America will acknowledge that God is our Provider.
- Ask God to deliver America from greed and covetousness.
- Plead that America will depend on God for all its needs.

Saturday: *And forgive us our transgressions, as we also forgive those who transgress against us.*

- Pray that Americans will repent and seek God's forgiveness.
- Ask that Americans will learn to forgive from the heart.
- Plead for the destruction of prejudice in our nation.

Sunday: *And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

- Pray that Satan's grip on this nation will be shattered.
- Ask that Americans will love and seek for what is holy and pleasing to God.
- Plead that Americans will hate sin and will turn from that which is abominable in God's sight.

Every Day of The week: *For Thine is the kingdom & the power & the glory forever.*

- Plead that America will bless God that this nation will adore and honor God as the holy and almighty God.
- Ask that this nation will see the reality and the beauty of the Lord God.
- Adore God for all His blessings on this nation.

A story that never grows old

There is one story that I never tire of hearing. A few hours before entering the "Homeland," **Dwight L. Moody** caught a glimpse of Heaven and the glory awaiting him. Awakening from a deep sleep, he said, "Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go!" His son, who was standing by his bedside said, "No, no father, you are dreaming."

"No," said Mr. Moody, "I am not dreaming. I have been within the gates. I have seen the children's faces." A short time elapsed and then, following what seemed to the family to be the death struggle, he spoke again, "This is my triumph; this my coronation day! It is glorious!"

—G. W. Ridout

KEEP LOOKING UP!

"But as it is written 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"

1 Corinthians 2:9

THINGS YOU CANNOT DO

1. You cannot live wrong and die right.
2. You cannot do the devil's work and draw God's pay.
3. You cannot sow to the flesh and reap spiritual things.
4. You cannot fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness and expect to maintain fellowship with God.
5. You cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time.
6. You cannot think wrong and live right.

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1111. "Our Father" means prayer is not based on friendship, but on sonship.

Note 1112. God accepts **only** a person who accepts His Son--a settled, unchanging truth.

Note 1113. A good example is always the best sermon; actions speak louder than words.

Note 1114. Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him.

Note 1115. It is unwise to put a question mark where God puts a period; let faith step in when darkness seems to hide His face.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

April 20-May 20, 2009

Regular	46	\$3,485.11
Martin	5	<u>500.00</u>
Total	51	\$3,985.11



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Only believe

All things are possible to him who believes; they are less difficult to him who hopes; they are more easy to him who loves, and still more easy to him who perseveres in the practice of these three virtues.

Brother Lawrence

PRAYER CALENDAR

JUNE 2009

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b



MONDAY, JUNE 1

PSALMS 1-6 (Estonia 1.3M)

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

PSALMS 7-12 (Ethiopia 78.3M)

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)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

PS 13-18 (European Union 491M)

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)

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

PSALMS 19-24 (Falkland Is 3,140)

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Shirley Brown (VA)
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)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Lew & Mary Campbell (ID)
Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

PSALMS 25-30 (Faeroe Isl 48,868)

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)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

PSALMS 31-36 (Fiji 931,741)

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)

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

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)

MONDAY, JUNE 8

PSALMS 37-44 (Finland 5.2M)

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)
Charles M. Hale (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

PSALMS 45-49 (France 64M)

Jim & Joyce Hengoed (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 (VA/Iraq)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

PS 50-54 (Fr Polynesia 263,019)

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)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

PSALMS 55-59 (Gabon 1.5M)

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)
Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

PSALMS 60-66 (Gambia 1.5M)

Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper & Shelia Keabough (PA)
Joyce Kelley (OR)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
Bruce Kirby, Pastor
Mary King (TN)
Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
Sherry Klutz (WA)
Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

PSALMS 67-72 (Gaza 1.5M)

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)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

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)
MONDAY, JUNE 15
PSALMS 73-77 (Georgia 4.6M)
 Kenneth & Debra Magee (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
 Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Bill & Mirle Matheny (VA)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
TUESDAY, JUNE 16
PSALMS 78-83 (Germany 82.4M)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Mona Merry (SC)
 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)
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
PSALMS 84-89 (Ghana 23.4M)
 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 Porter (TN)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
THURSDAY, JUNE 18
PSALMS 90-97 (Gibraltar 28,002)
 Brandon Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)
 Paul & Donna Quetsch (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)
FRIDAY, JUNE 19
PSALMS 98-103 (Greece 107M)
 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
SATURDAY, JUNE 20
PS 104-106 (Greenland 50,326)
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Mary Siegner (VA)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)
 Lori Siri, Pastor
 Mary Skiles (KS)
SUNDAY, JUNE 21
 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)
MONDAY, JUNE 22
PS 107-110 (Grenada 90,343)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Clarence & Roselin Stringfield (VA)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
TUESDAY, JUNE 23
PSALMS 111-118 (Guam 175,877)
 Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church (TN)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Temple of Praise (TX)
 Gilbert Perez, Pastor
 Earlene Thigpen (TN)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
PSALMS 119 (Guatemala 13M)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 Mildred V. Thompson (GA)
 Paula Tipton (TN)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Carol & Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)
THURSDAY, JUNE 25
PSALMS 120-127 (Guernsey 55,726)
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NY)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Verrall (FL)
FRIDAY, JUNE 26
PSALMS 128-134 (Guinea 10.2M)
 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)
SATURDAY, JUNE 27
PS 135-139 (Guinea-Bissau 1.5M)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
SUNDAY, JUNE 28
 Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
 Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
 Stephen Latong (Nigeria)
 John & Egberta McSween (Trinidad)
 Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (S Africa)
MONDAY, JUNE 29
PSALMS 140-145 (Guyana)
 Adam & Dianna Nathanson
 (Venezuela)
 Andrew J. Sakari (Kenya)
 Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
 Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
 Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Dot Winfield (MD)
TUESDAY, JUNE 31
PSALMS 146-150 (Haiti)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacker, Pastor
 Bert & Teresa Worley (VA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Robin & Deborah Yohee (PA)

**PLEASE USE THE
 DOORKEEPER PRAYER
 CALENDAR DAILY.
 SOMEONE IS
 COUNTING
 ON
 YOUR PRAYERS.
 WHAT A PRIVILEGE
 TO INTERCEDE FOR
 THE NEEDS OF
 THE DOORKEEPER
 FAMILY.**

In Loving Memory

“absent from the body, present with the Lord”
(2 Corinthians 5:8)

JGHM Board Member/Doorkeeper

Archie Dennis King

8/17/23 5/12/2009



Archie King was one of God's great servants and excelled as a pastor/preacher/administrator. After serving as pastor of Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN for seventeen years, he became the State Brotherhood Director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention where he played a key role in the organization of the TBC's Disaster Relief Program. He became a member of our board March 6, 1996 and contributed greatly to our ministry. Forever etched into our memories were the prayers of Brother Archie during our meetings often weeping before God. He had a passion for missions and encouraged our international work. In his illness, he would often say that he hoped to be able to attend our next meeting. His wife of fifty-eight years, **Mary**, stood by his side. Please pray for her, the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren a very special family, indeed. We were greatly honored to have him as a board member and will never forget his humble spirit.

Worth repeating

Of the myriad subjects upon which I have written in the **Reflector** over these past five and one-half decades, the promises of God could easily top the list. A promise is an assurance given by one person to another that he will or will not do a certain thing. The validity of the promise depends on the character and resources of the one who makes it, even as the value of a check depends on the reputation and resources of the bank on which it is drawn.

Someone has said that God has made over 7,000 specific promises in the Scriptures. Because of who He is, His promises are true and dependable. “Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?” There are no circumstances in life for which there are not appropriate promises. God's promises anticipate every heart need and await only the appropriation of the believing heart.

Time cannot erase them. Neither can circumstances destroy them. You can, however, nullify them in your life if you don't claim them. Faith is claiming the promises, even those a human mind cannot encompass. Faith is the power that turns promise into performance. It is tragically possible for us to “stagger” at the promises of God through unbelief, thinking them too great and glorious for such as we. Or we may *come short* of them (**Hebrews 4:1**), toning them down to our own experience. But faith is fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is able to perform (**Hebrews 4:21**). [Abraham] staggered not at the promised of God through unbelief” (**Romans 4:20**).

You can make a practice of marking each promise that you read in the Bible. Then claim the promise. Pray the promise. Live the promise. Joy will flood your soul and peace will fill your mind. Get started now!

**PRAY FOR SCHEDULING!
YOU CAN HELP! PLEASE
TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE SEMINAR.
I AM EAGER TO SHARE AS OFTEN
AND AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.
DATES ARE AVAILABLE IN 2009.
WE ARE NOW WORKING ON 2010.**

Reflections

When the Holy Spirit impressed upon me to use a paper as a means to touch lives in our church and community, the name I chose was simply the **Liberty Avenue Baptist Reflector**. I named it after the **Baptist and Reflector**, the Tennessee Baptist paper from my home state. That paper continues to influence my life.

In a recent editorial (April 22, 2009), **Lonnie Wilkey**, editor, expressed many of my present feelings about Christianity and America. I believe that it will make sense to you, as well:

If the president is right, it is the fault of Christians

President Barak Obama made headlines in early April when, during a gathering in Turkey, he stated that America is no longer a Christian nation.

He said, "We do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values."

We cringed when we heard those words, but the sad truth is that our nation is filled with people who totally disregard Christianity.

In a sense, the president is correct in his above statement, but despite what some history revisionists would lead people to believe, those "ideals" and "set of values" he mentioned were based on Christian principles and beliefs this country was founded upon.

There are numerous examples, but here are two quotes that reveal the importance of God and Christianity to people who helped found our country.

One of **George Washington's** first acts as president was a Thanksgiving proclamation in which he said, "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of

Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly implore His protection and favor. ..."

Patrick Henry, best known for "give me liberty or give me death," also said, "It cannot be emphasized too often or too strongly that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. ... It is for this reason that people of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity and freedom of worship here."

If America is not a Christian nation today, it is not because that was what was intended. It is not a Christian nation today because Christians over the years have dropped the ball. Our nation did not become "unchristian" overnight. It has slowly evolved into what it is today a land where Christians are often ridiculed for their beliefs, a land where it is more in vogue to be "politically correct" than to have Christian values and beliefs.

If America is to reclaim its status as a Christian nation, then everyone who claims to be a Christian needs to live his or her faith without shame or fear.

Editor Wilkey has stated the truth well. We need to pray to the end that a spiritual awakening will come. We need to pray about America's influence in the world. As the last remaining super-power, America is involved in the affairs of the world. We have a responsibility to cover this in prayer. **Dr. Kenneth Meador** has given us the following prayer guide to help us pray about America and the rest of the world:

- ✓ *Pray that this nation will exercise impartiality in its dealings with other nations (Acts 10:34-35).*
- ✓ *Plead that this nation will have wisdom and discernment in its use of military power (Proverbs 2:5).*
- ✓ *Ask that this nation will manifest great compassion towards the poor and hurting in the world (Matthew 25:31-46).*

Five wonderful days in May

A few days before leaving for the prayer seminars in East/Central Africa, **Martin Shikuku**, our coordinator, said he would have a “surprise” for me when I arrived in Kenya. I was curious. The “surprise” was an invitation he had received from the Glory Baptist Church in Minnesota to speak at their annual mission conference. Martin was excited; so was I because there would be an opportunity for him to visit us in Lynchburg during his first trip to America.

For five wonderful days, Tuesday through Saturday, May 5-9, Martin was with us. Every minute was a joy. Sue, who is the mother of the three “M’s” (Mona, Mark, and Melody) added another “M” Martin and became “Mum Sue.”

Since many in the Lynchburg area provided prayer and financial support for Martin after the severe upheaval to his family and ministry following the Kenya post-election violence, we decided to invite them to receptions at our house. A number were able to attend, to meet Martin personally, and hear his testimony. He said that he had come to the United States (his first time) to thank everyone who stood by him. He spoke in the mid-week service at Forest Baptist Church, as well.

Martin came with a small bag, but left with two fifty-pound bags. JGHM was able to fulfill Martin’s dream for a computer by purchasing a Toshiba lap-top with a lot of memory and up-to-date features to enable him to use the internet from his own home. He has learned to use Skype for personal communication with us. It was a blessing to see how God was working in his life with each contact and each minute he spent with us. He saw, and used, his first lawn mower. He was thrilled at seeing Liberty University and being able to have a personal tour of the Mansion that holds so much of the



MARTIN & SUE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE WELCOMING BANNER USED IN THE FIVE NATIONS

history of Liberty.

Martin left a beautiful thank you card and had a special message directed to “Mum Sue.” “The many hurts that existed in me are all healed. I go back home to serve my dear wife Anne, children, and church ministry totally a new person. Your hard work, service, hospitality, and sacrifice have left me with no one single word of expression except to utter that I LOVE YOU IN THE ETERNAL NAME OF OUR LORD AND ONLY SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. May **Philippians 4:19** become real forever in your life. I am healed. Tonight, Friday 8th May, 2009. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!”

Martin has returned to Kenya with a full schedule ahead of him, including a number of prayer seminars in Kenya and in Tanzania. JGHM could not have a better ambassador and colleague than Martin. Remember to pray for Martin, his family, his congregation, and his work in East/Central Africa. He is making a difference winning many to the Lord Jesus Christ and disciplining them as the Lord Jesus Christ directed in **Matthew 28:18-20**.

FOR YOUR PRAYER LIST

Pray for Dan Miller as he plans prayer seminars in Paraguay and Uruguay Sept 18-Oct 5 . Pray for the needed prayer and financial support to touch lives.

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J. Gordon Henry Ministries

1127 Lakeview Drive

Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-8807

(434) 239-8837 \E-mail: jghm84@aol.com

www.jgordonhenryministries.org



Pray fur daughter, Mona Thomas
Touching lives through music
at Memorial Christian Church
and Randolph College

Look at your address label

From its inception fifty-four years ago, we have used the **Reflector** for two primary purposes: to inform and to inspire. More than ever, as did Paul long ago, we want to be “helpers of your joy.” We want to encourage, not discourage; build you, your family, and your church up, not tear you down; and be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block.

Feedback from readers provides us with information that lets us know that many often profit on a personal level. For example, there have been several expressions of gratitude for the May issue and the attention given to praying for America.

We have looked upon the **Reflector** as an extension of our ministry. We have freely given never expecting anything in return.

Due to a drastic change in the non-profit postal rate that went into effect on May 11, the cost has doubled.

Please look at your address label. If either “**Doorkeeper**” or “**Honorary Doorkeeper**” is on the label, you will continue to receive the **Reflector**. If not, and you are blessed by the **Reflector** and want to keep it coming each month, please let us know. It will be our joy to keep you on the mailing list. We want to share.

How do you let us know? (1) fill in and return the enclosed form by mail; (2) send us an e-mail at jghm84@aol.com, or (3) telephone (434) 239-8837. Unless we hear from you, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the **Reflector**. We hope, however, what you will want to continue.

The **Reflector** is provided monthly on our web site at www.jgordonhenryministries.org. Just click the **Reflector** button and you can read and/or print a copy for yourself or others. Tell others about this tool.

We eagerly await your response.