

REFLECTOR

VOL. 57, No. 6

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

June 2011

Four Decades of Academic Leadership Liberty University Lynchburg, Virginia



On Thursday, April 28, **Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr.** hosted an appreciation luncheon to honor **Dr. Boyd Rist** for his service to Liberty University as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. For the first time ever, the individuals who have provided the academic leadership for the past forty years were together. The first Vice President for Academic Affairs was **Dr. J. Gordon Henry** (fourth from left). The next chief academic officer was **Dr. Russell Fitzgerald** (second from left). **Dr. Earl Mills** (far left) played a significant role as the provost. **Dr. Boyd Rist** (third from left) followed Dr. Mills. **Dr. Ron Godwin** (second from right) is the current Provost and, in that position, has oversight of the academic program. **Dr. Jerry Falwell, Jr.** (far right) is the Chancellor of the University.

A highlight of my tenure was to guide the institution to gain approval from the Commonwealth of Virginia to grant degrees, approval for teacher certification and initial accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Each of the successors led the institution to further achievements. To mark the 40th anniversary, thousands packed Williams Stadium on May 14 to honor 10,930 graduates from Liberty's residential and online programs.

You will notice that Liberty University and chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. are on our **Doorkeeper Prayer Calendar**. Sue and I are grateful for the prayer covering that you provide for Liberty, the world's largest evangelical Christian university, knowing that Satan would like to destroy the spiritual foundation upon which it has been built.

Perspective

A simple beginning

It is important to set goals for the church. Jesus said that His church should be known as a house of prayer for all nations (**Matthew 21:13**). When God looked down in Isaiah's day, He wondered where the "intercessors" were (**Isaiah 59:16**). What about today? Are there intercessors in your church? The fact is that there are few praying churches to be found. Consequently, few Christians, even those active in a local church, are seldom prayed for by anyone. This phenomenon can be changed, but there must be a desire on the part of church leadership to see this happen. **A simple beginning would be to develop a plan to assign two people to pray for each other daily for a month.** Next month, make new assignments. It will not be long until a praying atmosphere prevails in the church. Until the members begin to develop a personal prayer lives and, then, begin to pray for one another, there will not be a praying church.

Once this idea is implemented, the next step will be to provide some basic training on "how to" and "how not to" pray, what is appropriate in praying for one another. Keep this simple and use practical suggestions.

For over thirty years, I have been using the **A-C-T-S** method to teach the elements of prayer that need to be incorporated into one's prayer life. This is an acrostic that is easy to teach and to remember. Within minutes, a believer can grasp this approach. It is a model that allows us to offer our adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. For supplication, I use a common active word, *seeking*, that more clearly lays out asking God to help.

Make it a point to learn the five elements: **A-doration, C-onfession, T-hanksiving, S-eeking for self (petition), for others (intercession).** Although you may not always use this order, you should determine to incorporate each one in your prayer time.

A-C-T-S praying does not require any great knowledge of prayer, but praying in this way is personal, effective, and powerful. Actually, the only way to learn to pray is to pray (not requiring extensive study).

A**DORATION.** The first element is adoration. God is the One to be praised. When Jesus gave His disciples a model prayer (commonly termed "the Lord's Prayer"), He taught that prayer is coming to the Father. The prayer can be divided into two halves. The first half is Godward, centering on the Father (note the use of the pronoun "Thy"). The second half is manward (pronouns "us" and "our"). Sadly, most Christians do not follow the pattern and begin immediately asking things for self and for others. Praise is glorifying God for who and what He is and how this affects you. It is the most appropriate way to enter His presence. He is deserving of our praise. "Therefore through Him, then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, that gives thanks to His name ... for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (**Hebrews 13:15-16**). "Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee. Thus I will bless Thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name" (**Psalms 63:3-4**). "All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless you" (**Psalms 145:10**). Praise centers on the excellencies, perfections, glories of His nature who He is His character, His attributes, His essence and His role in human affairs. "Ascribe greatness to our God" (**Deuteronomy 32:3**). Adoration is looking at God and praising Him for who He is, loving Him.

C**ONFESSON.** The second element is confession. Sin for the Christian has two aspects. First, God says that there are some things He does not want in the lives of His children; Then He says that there are some things that He wants in the lives of all His children. The issue then is twofold: what am I doing that He does not want me to do? What am I not doing that He wants me to do?

Ask God to show you your sins. There is no better model to follow than David's prayer in **Psalm 139:23-24**: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." There can be no prayer life when there is unconfessed and unforsaken sin. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (**Psalm 66:18**). "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear; but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face that He cannot hear" (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). The Holy Spirit will bring these sins to mind and press upon you the need to deal with them. Our sin(s) is what separates us from God. Confessing our sins in prayer before God clears the way for a deeper relationship with God. He already knows our sins, By confessing them, any barriers are removed. Be specific. We don't have to elaborate, just truthful and to the point. A consciousness of sin is called "conviction." Confess these sins one by one and you will receive forgiveness and cleansing immediately (**1 John 1:9**). You will then be in a position to "come boldly to the throne of grace" to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (**Hebrews 4:16**).

T**HANKSGIVING.** The next element is thanksgiving. It is thanking God for what He has done and for what He is going to do. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (**James 1:17**). "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (**Philippians 4:6**). "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). We are instructed to "praise the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits" (**Psalm 68:19**). "Daily" does not mean "every now and then;" "loadeth" does not mean a "little," but it means a "lot."

Name one blessing from each of the major categories of life — Physical (eyes, mind, mouth, etc.), Material (house, car, shoes, etc.), Spiritual (a heart for God, forgiveness, joy, peace, prayer), People (one each time you pray). Then tell Him why you are thankful for each item. Thanksgiving will not change God, but it will change you and produce a desire to walk with Him and trust Him.

S**Eeking.** Two of the five elements fall under the "S" — **Seeking for self petition; seeking for others intercession.** Not only are we to seek His face for worship, we are to seek His hand to experience His working in our lives. For one reason or another, many Christians seem reluctant to pray for themselves. Yet praying for yourself is obviously the starting point in all prayer. Until you pray for yourself, you are not ready to pray for others. It is important that you confess your sins and get on praying ground. It is important to express your dependence upon God knowing that your strength and wisdom are not enough; we need God. We are to plead earnestly and humbly as we bring our requests for ourselves. Be specific. "Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (**John 16:24**). "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (**Matthew 21:22**).

The great need is **Seeking for others** — intercessory praying. God is able! God is willing! God is waiting! The sovereign God has ordained prayer as the tool to accomplish His work. As John Wesley said, "God works only in concert with the praying of His people." George Mueller left a lifelong record of his prayers and their answers — more than twenty-five thousand of them. On one occasion, when asked by a friend to explain his secret, Mr. Mueller replied, "Have faith in God." You can be sure that his emphasis was not upon *faith*, but on the word *God*. George Mueller knew God, so his faith was not in his own boldness and daring, but in the living God. Having God as the object of our prayers is what makes the difference. As far

as faith is concerned, the only faith required is to turn to Him. The faith that is essential to pray is always faith in God. When we pray, we do not need confidence in ourselves nor in our prayers, but in God. A remarkable passage on faith and prayer is **1 John 5:14-15**: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him." "This is the confidence that we have in Him." There is no point in coming to God in prayer if we do not have confidence in Him. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (**Hebrews 11:6**). Faith is here declared to involve belief in a Person. Show me the Christian who believes God, and you have shown me a man of prayer. Faith takes the promise of God and says, "I am confident that it will be exactly as God said it will be, because I have confidence in God." James wrote: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he who wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord" (**James 1:5-7**). To waver, simply, is to doubt God.

Even young children with a limited vocabulary can be taught this message. Both those who are inexperienced at prayer and those who are seasoned pray-ers have found **A-C-T-S** helpful in guiding their prayer time. It is a good guide to use as we prepare to pray. It helps us remember what we want to say to God. There are times when our **A-C-T-S** prayers will be detailed, lengthy, and intense; there will be times when the **A-C-T-S** prayers will be very simple, and to the point. What is more important than the model or technique we use is simply praying. **Jack Taylor** sums it up succinctly when he says, "The only way to learn to pray is to pray."

My plans are to flesh out the points made in this article in the next five **Reflectors** as follows: July **Adoration**; August **Confession**; September **Thanksgiving**; October **Petition**; and November **Intercession**

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

THANKS!

The Prayer Seminar ministry is supported by gifts from friends.

Consider

**Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.**

**We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message
Given in word and deed.**

**What if the line is crooked?
What if the type is blurred?
What if our hands are busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
And hasten His return?**

Annie Johnson Flint

Speaking of Heaven

Charles E. Fuller once announced that he would be speaking the following Sunday on "Heaven." During that week a beautiful letter was received from an elderly man who was very ill. The following is part of his letter:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-three years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the Donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot.

"For more than half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest Architect, and Builder of the Universe has been building a home for me which will never need to be remodeled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old.

"Termites can never undermine its foundation for they rest on the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can never enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being evicted.

"There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in that City of God without passing through this dark valley of shadows. But I am not afraid because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin, since we first became acquainted fifty-three years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form, never to forsake me or leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

"I hope to hear your sermon on Heaven next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, California, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to Heaven has no date marked for the journey, no return coupon and no permit for luggage. Yes, I am all ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday evening, but I shall meet you there some day."

In Loving Memory
DOORKEEPER
Meribeth Martin (Mrs. Dan)
June 22, 1957- May 10, 2011
Lynchburg, Virginia

What God has promised

God hath not promised
 Skies always blue
 Flower-strew pathways
 All our lives through;
 God hath not promised
 Sun without rain,
 Joy without sorrow,
 Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
 Strength for the day,
 Rest for the labor,
 Light for the way,
 Grace for the trials,
 Help from above,
 Unfailing sympathy,
 Undying love.

Annie Johnson Flint

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In Loving Memory
Raymond Lee Gabbard
 1/18/1922--5/1/2011
 Richmond, Kentucky

**“absent from the body,
 present with the Lord”**
2 Corinthians 5:1, 8

Fifty-four years ago, **Raymond & Estelle Gabbard** became our friends and have been with us as long as any other partners in our ministry. Their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and one another has been one of the most beautiful things that I have ever seen. Now, **Raymond** is among the great cloud of witnesses that we read about in **Hebrews 12**. We will pray faithfully for **Estelle** as she makes this transition. Farewell, my dear friend, UNTIL THEN. We shall meet again at Jesus' feet.

A lesson from Billy Graham

The renowned evangelist, **Billy Graham**, granted his first interview in several years to Fox News' **Greta Van Susteren** on December 20. If he had his life to live over, the ninety-two year old preacher said, there are things he would do differently. "I would study more. I would pray more, travel less, take fewer speaking engagements. I took too many of them in too many places around the world," he said. "If I had it to do over again, I'd spend more time in meditation and praying and just telling the Lord how much I love Him and adore Him and [am] looking forward to the time we're going to spend together in eternity." This is an amazing insight.

A few years ago, I visited **Dr. Warren Wiersbe**, one of the world's greatest Bible teachers, who told me basically the same thing that Billy Graham feels. What about you?



NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 2031. The source of the untroubled heart is God.

Note 2032. The eagle that soars in the upper air does not worry about how it will cross the rivers.

Note 2033. Anxiety and worry are the parents of temper and disease.

Note 2034. Don't worry when the tide goes out--it always comes back again.

Note 2035. Leave tomorrow's trouble to tomorrow's strength; tomorrow's work to tomorrow's time; tomorrow's trial to

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

April 26--May 25

Regular	35	\$3,297.00
Martin-Kenya	1	<u>50.00</u>
Total	36	\$3,347.00



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

**TO SCHEDULE A PRAYER
 SEMINAR IN YOUR CHURCH/
 AREA, SEND US THREE
 PREFERRED DATES.**

PRAYER CALENDAR

June 2011

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalms 109:4b



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

PSALMS 1-6 (Chad 10.3M)

Wayne & Edie Aardsma (IL)
Zane & Burma Abbott (VA)
Burnace Abrams (OH)
Marie Adams (VA)
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
Wayne & Jennie Agee (VA)
Norma Ailes (NJ)
H. L. & Janie Allen (SC)
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

PSALMS 7-12 (Chile 16.6M)

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)

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

PSALMS 13-18 (China 1.4B)

Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Bob & Beverly Blankenship (TN)
Everett & Deborah Boston (MD)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

PS 19-24 (Christmas Isl 1,402)

Bob Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Gordon/Chloe Ann Bowyer (VA)
David & Marna Boyd (CA)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Von M. Bridges (TX)

Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Mary Ann Brown (GA)
Thomas & Norma Brown (NC))

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Jack & Arretta Bruce (KY)
Joe & Martha Bruno (AL)
Freddie & Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
George & Carol Buck (NJ)
Janice Bugg (TN)
James L. Burke (IL)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Mary Campbell (ID)
Laura Cannon (FL)
Pat & Cindy Caparossi (MI)

MONDAY, JUNE 6

PSALMS 25-30 (Cocos Isl 596)

David & Martha Cecil (VA)
Mary Clarke (VA)
Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
Margarie Coffee (VA)
Jim & Kathy Connolly (VA)
Foster & Georgia Covington (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

PS 31-36 (Colombia 43.7M)

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)
Robert & Virginia DeBoer (NE)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

PS 37-44 (Comoros 752,438)

Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)
Jamie Dugan (IL)
Mary J. Dugans (LA)
Ivy Early (NC)
Walt Edwards (NC)
Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Evalena Enoch (VA)
Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

PS 45-49 (D.R. Congo 68.7M)

June Fisher (TN)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Carole B. Garvin (PA)
Frank & Doris Geiger (HI)

Robert & Sara George (GA)

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

PS 50-54 (Rep Congo 4M)

Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Chad, Windy, Caleb Goodner (OK)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (NJ)
George & Joy Harper (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

PS 55-59 (Cook Isl 11,870)

Bruce/Gina/Sean Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Jerry & Sandra Hodges (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

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)
Jide & Bunmi Iwarere (MD)

MONDAY, JUNE 13

PS 60-66 (Costa Rica 4.3M)

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 & Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

PS 67-72 (Ivory Coast 20.6M)

James & Genevieve Jones (FL)
Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
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 & Rose Klous (VA)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

PSALMS 73-77 (Croatia 4.5M)

Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Soma Kovoor (TX)
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Phil Landers (OK)

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

PSALMS 78-83 (Cuba 11.5M)

Charles & Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT)
 Karl & Rebecca Leonard (NC)
 Gaylen & Linda Leverett (VA)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell, Jr., President
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

PS 84-89 (Cyprus 1.1M)

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)
 Bill & Shirley Maybin (SC)

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

PS 90-97 (Czech Republic 10.2M)

Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (VA)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)
 Roger & Carolyn Minney (VA)

MONDAY, JUNE 20

PS 98-103 (Denmark 5.9M)

French and Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (VA)

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

PS 104-106 (Djibouti 734,622)

Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Ellen Paulson (MN)

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)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

PS 107-110 (Dominica 72,660)

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

PS 111-118 (Dom Rep 9.7M)

Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 Denise Russell (Or)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (CT)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

PSALM 119 (Ecuador 14.6M)

Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Richard/Margaret Seigfield (SC)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Wonsub.YoungMi Sheen (Korea)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)

Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

PS 120-127 (Egypt 78.7M)

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)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)

Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)

MONDAY, JUNE 27

PS 128-134 (El Salvador 7.2M)

Earline Thigpen (TN)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 Mildred V. Thompson (GA)
 Montez Thompson (CO)
 Paula Tipton (TN)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Carol & Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

PS 135-139 (Eq Guinea 622,443)

Marshall & Mary Troutman (KY)
 Willie & Diane Troutman (KY)
 Tommy & Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Shawn & Denise Untersee (IL)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris & Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George & Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Doris Snyder Vernnall (FL)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau/Ashley/Willow Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)

Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

PS 140-145 (Eritrea 5.6M)

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 George & Virginia Whitner (FL)
 Herbert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Jeff & Terri Williamson (FL)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

PSALMS 146-150 (Estonia 1.3M)

Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 The Word Church (NJ)
 Buz Offenbacker, Pastor
 Lili Wykle (VA)
 Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

Biblical literacy

Each week, I read carefully the **REFLECTIONS** column written by Lonnie Wilkey, the editor of the **Tennessee Baptist and Reflector**. Probably it is because his views often parallel my own. Incidentally, the idea for the name I chose fifty-seven years ago for my paper, The **Reflector**, came from the Tennessee Baptist state paper. His comments in the April 27, 2011 issue need to be heeded.

We hear all the moaning about how ineffective the church has become. Baptisms are down, giving is down, people won't get involved in Bible study or discipleship classes. The list goes on.

According to Union University (TN) professor George Guthrie, only 16 percent of church-goers read the Bible daily. He cites statistics that indicate 25 percent of the people who go to church regularly DO NOT READ their Bible at all.

How can this be? The Bible is our guide for daily living. It is the divine instruction book. The Bible is where we find God's answers for life's problems. I never fail to find a "new" truth when I seriously study His Word.

Maybe the reason we think the church is not effective today is because 25 percent of Christians never pick up their Bibles and read them and then apply His Word to their lives.

Maybe the Baptisms in our churches would increase if our people were more serious about reading God's Word and then doing what it teaches. Maybe we wouldn't have to worry about not having enough money to do ministry if people took God's Word to heart and gave freely of the resources God has given them.

David Platt provided a good definition of biblical literacy at the Union event, "You can have all the Bible knowledge in the world and still miss the point," he said.

"What we're after is not information that's not what biblical literacy is about. Biblical literacy is about transformation, where people are obeying Christ."

Amen! Biblical literacy is more than just reading your Bible and that is important and necessary. Bible literacy is about obedience doing what God has called us to do. Read your Bible and then apply its principles to your daily life. Our churches and convention will be effective for Christ if we are biblically literate.

Let's read Psalms together

(See Prayer Calendar, pages 7-8)

"The Christian can learn to pray in the psalter for here he can hear the saints talk with God. The number of moods which are expressed here, joy and suffering, hope and care, make it possible for every Christian to find himself in it, and to pray with the psalms!"

Martin Luther

Doubt and faith

Doubt sees the obstacles . . .

Faith sees the way!

Doubt sees the darkest night . . .

Faith sees the day!

Doubt dreads to take a step . . .

Faith soars on high!

Doubt questions, "Who believes?"

Faith answers, "I."

HAVE FAITH IN GOD.

HE'S ON HIS THRONE.

Faith is believing God. It is believing God will do what He says He will do. Living without faith is like driving in the fog.

A word from 1923

In August 1971, the family of the late **Dr. George Ragland** (pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky and Greek professor at the University of Kentucky) gave me first choice pickings of his personal library. I cherish those books. Recently, I picked up one entitled **God's Plan With Men**, written by T. T. Martin in 1912. What intrigued me was an inscription from L. A. Byrd on the flyleaf of the book: "Presented to Dr. George Ragland. May this little book be a help to you in giving to the world the gospel message 'how that Christ died for our sins' (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**) is my prayer. L. A. Byrd, Psalm 118:5-9. 11-3-1923)."

Although I had thumbed through the book a number of times, this time I found a very thin sheet of paper that I had missed. It was dated 11/3/23, written on Lafayette Hotel stationery. "Past experiences impress me that this little book, more than any others which I have read, contains the best of the gospel message, "how that Christ died for our sins," and my prayer is that it may be at least some help to you in giving this message to the world, the one message above all others that man needs and wants and the one he so seldom gets from the average pulpit. No message of ethics, or culture, or whatnot (and these all have a function) can ever take its place. Your true friend, L.A. Byrd, 11-3, 1923.

Certainly, this is a good reminder for contemporary preachers. We must be careful to never water down the message of the cross.

A word for 2011

Recently, it was announced that our youth pastor, Jamie McClanahan had accepted the call of the Greenville (VA) Baptist Church to assume the role of senior pastor. The following appeared in the "**a word from the pastor**" insert in the Forest Baptist Church Sunday bulletin written by Tyler Scarlett, our pastor:



Jamie, Dr. Henry, Tyler

To mark the occasion [of your last full Sunday with us], I wanted to share some advice from one pastor to another. Looking to 1 and 2 Timothy as a kind of pastor's primer, I jotted down these challenges and encouragements to you. Paul thought that these words were good advice for a new senior pastor. I concur with Paul. Please know that, not only I, but the Forest congregation, will be praying for you and your family as you move to this new assignment. I count it a real blessing to have served alongside here at Forest. May God bless you richly as you are obedient to Him.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tyler

Keep your tenure as long as possible. (Be a "through thick-and-thin" pastor.) "As I urged you ... remain at Ephesus" (**1 Timothy 1:3**). **Keep your fists ready for battle. (Be a truth-defending pastor.)** "This I command you ... fight the good fight, keeping [the] faith" (**1 Timothy 1:18-19**). **Keep your knees on the ground. (Be a praying pastor.)** "I urge you that entreaties and prayers ... be made on behalf of all men" (**1 Timothy 2:1**).

Keep your gospel no wider than the cross. (Be a "Jesus is the only way" pastor.) "For there is... one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (**1 Timothy 2:5**). **Keep your heart as pure as snow. (Be a sanctified pastor.)** "A pastor must be ... above reproach ...temperate, prudent, respectable." (**1 Timothy 3:2**). **Keep your arms around your wife. (Be a one-woman pastor.)** "A pastor must be ... the husband

of one wife” (1 Timothy 3:2). **Keep your wallet open wide. (Be a generous pastor.)** “A pastor must be ... free from the love of money.” (1 Timothy 3:3). **Keep your mind focused (Be an undistracted pastor.)** “But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women” (1 Timothy 4:7a).

Keep yourself disciplined. (Be a Jamie-monitoring pastor.) “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching” (1 Timothy 4:16). **Keep your words gracious to the senior saints. (Be a respectful pastor.)** “Do not simply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father” (1 Timothy 5:1). **Keep your opinion of widows high. (Be a widow-revering pastor.)** “Honor widows” (1 Timothy 5:3).

Keep your ordination process rigorous. (Be a “slow-to-ordain” pastor.) “Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily” (1 Timothy 5:22). **Keep your materialism restrained. (Be a contented pastor.)** “If we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:8). **Keep your tears near the surface. (Be a compassionate pastor.)** “I thank God ... as I remember your tears” (2 Timothy 1:3-4). **Keep your hands on the plow. (Be a hard-working pastor.)** “The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share...” (2 Timothy 2:6). **Keep your path free from imprudent sins. (Be a virtuous pastor.)** “Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness” (2 Timothy 2:22).

Keep your convictions where they should be. (Be an orthodox pastor.) “Continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of ...” (2 Timothy 3:14). **Keep your sermons in the text. (Be a Bible-preaching pastor.)** “Preach the Word” (2 Timothy 4:2). **Keep your feet beautiful. (Be a gospel-sharing pastor. (2 Timothy 4:5).** **Keep your nose in books. (Be a reading pastor.)** “When you come, bring the books,

especially the parchments” (2 Timothy 4:13). **Keep your vengeance at bay. (Be a self-controlled pastor.)** “Alexander did me much harm; the Lord will repay him.” (2 Timothy 4:14). **Keep your smile big and warm. (Be a friendly pastor.)** “Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorous.” (2 Timothy 4:19). **Keep your eyes fixed on the Lord. (Be a Jesus-treasuring pastor.)** “The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.” (2 Timothy 4:22).

Realities

I know not, but God knows;
Oh, blessed rest from fear!
All my unfolding days
To Him are plain and clear.
Each anxious, puzzled, “Why?”
From doubt or dread that grows,
Finds answer in this thought:
I know not, but He knows.

I cannot, but God can;
Oh, balm for all my care!
The burden that I drop
His hand will lift and bear.
Though eagle pinions tire,
I walk where once I run;
This is my strength to know
I cannot, but He can.

I see not, but God sees;
Oh, all sufficient light!
My dark and hidden way
To Him is always bright.
My strained and peering eyes
May close in restful ease,
And I in peace may sleep;
I see not, but He sees.

Annie Johnson Flint

*TRUSTING JESUS,
THAT IS ALL!*

Be ready

“But sanctify [revere] the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness [gentleness] and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). Peter then goes on and says we should live lives of integrity and character so that others will be able to see the consistency in our lives of the fact that we follow Jesus. “Having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed” (v 16).

Be ready. During our time at Northeastern Bible College (NJ), I developed an Evangelism Clinic to help believers be ready to share their faith and taught it in many churches in the Northeast. Over the years, I have had numerous opportunities to share the approach with others. Usually, when there are Saturday seminars (9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.), the next day I share the Evangelism Clinic during the Sunday school hour (sixth grade and above) and preach in the morning worship service. God’s children are eager to receive the Word related to sharing their faith. The two major areas covered in the Evangelism Clinic: developing your personal testimony and using a passage of Scripture to lead a person to Christ. The clinic is available on a CD or on a cassette tape. Contact us for a copy.

Once you have prepared yourself, expect the Holy Spirit to bring people into your life who need to hear a word from you. Ask God to lead you to people and to orchestrate situations so that your witness will be effective. Be prepared to move outside your box. Often when we become Christians, we

seek only Christian friendships. We forget that the salt must come out of the salt-shaker to be effective. Allow God to bring people into your life who need to hear the Gospel. Once you prepare yourself, He will. Success in witnessing is sharing the Gospel and leaving the results up to God.

TRACS



Left to right: Mills, Fitzgerald, Rist, Henry

The **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)** was founded in 1979 to serve institutions that believe in the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, including creation, not evolution. **Dr. J. Gordon Henry** was the first full-time Executive Director serving eleven years. During his tenure, TRACS became a nationally recognized accrediting agency by the U. S. Department of Education. The accreditation process was put into place with well developed standards and evaluative criteria. **Dr. Earl Mills** followed Dr. Henry. Upon his retirement, **Dr. Russell Fitzgerald** became the Executive-Director, assisted by **Dr. Boyd Rist**, who served as the chairman of the Accreditation Commission. Recently **Dr. Paul Boatner** succeeded **Dr. Fitzgerald**, upon his retirement. Basically, the men who provided academic leadership for Liberty University’s first forty years, provided leadership for **TRACS** for over thirty years. Other key leaders were the late **Dr. Henry Morris**, who served as board chairman for many years and **Dr. James Hengoe**, who served as the chairman of the Accreditation Commission for eight years.