

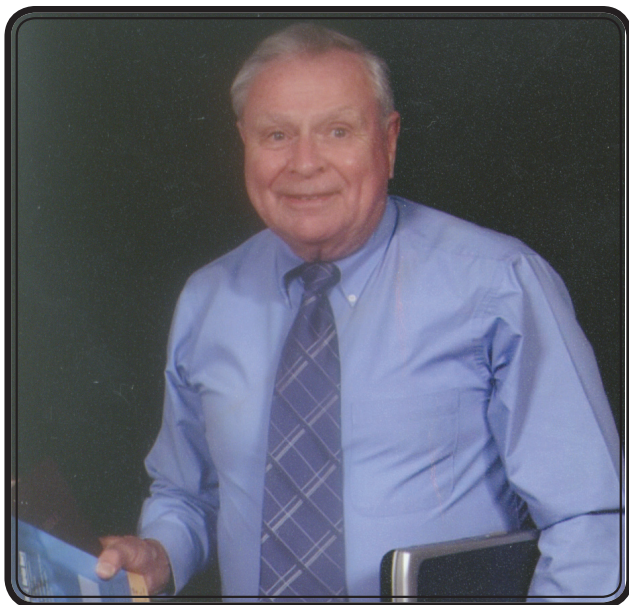
REFLECTOR

VOL. 56, No. 3

“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

March 2010

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Celebrating Thirty Years

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us”

1 Samuel 7:12

1980—2010

TESTIMONIES: “This seminar brought me back to my first love and desire to be working for the Lord. The material is excellent and the speaker kept my attention.” “This seminar was the most beautiful experience I have ever been involved in spiritually. It has truly touched my life. The Scripture passages were wonderful. The Holy Spirit was the Teacher here as He brought the Scriptures alive.” An introductory packet, including a planning guide and a copy of the Prayer Seminar Workbook, is available for those interested in scheduling a seminar. Contact us.

Perspectives

The last two years that I served as a pastor, I had the privilege of baptizing over one hundred people each year. Although I had the joy and privilege of baptizing some folks the previous twenty-five years of my pastoral ministry, there was no comparison with these two years. An analysis of what we did differently to produce such a harvest of souls revealed the difference. We deliberately did two things first, we did prayer work; second, we magnified Jesus in our singing, our teaching, and our preaching. I am firmly convinced that these two things made the difference. Almost four decades ago, the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention published a tract that caught my immediate attention and has been precious to me over the years. I believe this is an appropriate time to share it with our **Reflector** readers.

I'd like you to meet my Friend

He is strong and manly, friendly and sociable, attractive and magnetic. He stands out in any crowd. He is fearless and firm, but little children and strong men are drawn to Him.

He is a perfect example of gentleness and kindness, of humility and courtesy; but His whole being reacts with severity against injustice, hypocrisy, and irreverence.

He seems to understand people and is especially considerate of the poor, the lonely, the sick, the forgotten even the ugly and disreputable. In fact, He seems to see some good in everyone.

He shuns no one, looks down on no one, seems to believe that every person in all the world has infinite worth in the sight of God. And somehow the least and the worst feel this way, too, when they look into His face.

You always feel safe with this friend of mine, sufficient for whatever comes. You feel

that He understands, that He believes in you. You'd rather have His friendship than anything on earth. You desire His approval more than anything the world can give.

THIS FRIEND of mine has come to mean a lot to me. He has promised that He will never leave me. There have been many times when I failed to be loyal to Him, but His faith in me has never weakened. He has been marvelously forgiving. This has always inspired me to strive harder to measure up to His expectation.

The wonder and power of His love have been a purifying force in my soul. Somehow I've felt His goodness and strength poured into my being. His very life has become my life. Since I came to know Him, I have been different.

I learned about God the Father from Him. He knows Him in the most intimate sort of way, like a son knows his father when the two have one common purpose. He made God real and near. In fact, God is so much a part of Him that I became a friend of God, and more a true son of God. When I talk to my friend, I feel like I'm talking to God.

I owe everything to Him. He showed me the meaning of life. He made me want to do good. He fired my soul with high purpose. He gives me strength to overcome evil. He has taught me that, no matter what comes, I can depend on God as my Heavenly Father.

This friend has shown me that love never fails. His friendship is the explanation of every good thing in my life.

MY FRIEND has unlimited capacity for friendship. He is the friend of many, many people who feel toward Him as I do. Their lives have been changed by His friendship. His friends are the best friends I have. They

can be depended on. They are the best people in the world. It must be that they have caught the dynamic of His personality, that they have been mastered by His purpose of love for all mankind.

Some of them are changing the world's history. They are creative forces in building a worldwide fellowship of love. They have gone literally around the world to tell people of all races and nations that this friend can help them find God. They have shed blood, sweat, and tears in order to do this. Some have been imprisoned, some banished, some killed because they dared to do His will.

This FRIEND OF MINE, you see, is both loved and hated. Millions of people refuse His friendship. I wonder why. Can it be that they don't really understand who He is? That, surely, is why men killed Him. He had done no wrong. His only offense was to be incarnate truth, purity, and love. But they put Him to death.

There was something in Him, however, that overcame the power of death. The grave could not hold Him. He lives, having conquered death. Because He conquered death, He is able to conquer evil. And because He is able to overcome evil, the world will someday be a better, happier place.

There is a book that tells about this **FRIEND OF MINE**. I like to read it more than any other book. Every time I read it, I learn more and more about Him. The book radiates His presence. You feel His heartbeat in it. It tells of His magnetic power to draw all men into His circle of friendship and of His purpose to make peace reign on the earth.

This FRIEND OF MINE would change the world if only men would follow His way of truth and love. When I think of this FRIEND, I wish that every person on earth could know Him.

I believe, if I could help you to know Him, that you, too, would want His friendship above everything else, and count it life's highest joy to serve Him. He will not force His friendship on you. But if you will accept Him as your dearest friend in wholehearted

committal, He will go with you to the end of life's way. He will make your life a spiritual adventure and a transforming companionship. He will make you happy, daring, triumphant. His friendship will provide the resources for noble and victorious living.

He will turn emptiness into fullness, fear into courage, weakness into strength, heartache into joy, turmoil into peace, dullness into radiance, and death into life.

I'd like so much for you to meet my Friend. His name is JESUS.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

What I gave up

Many people dwell on the things they gave up when they became a Christian. It seems to me that this is what stands in the way of many people coming to Christ for salvation.

Yes, there are many things that I gave up when I came to Christ. Here are some of them: I gave up sin, to get salvation. I gave up self to get the Lord, Satan to get Christ, death to get life, Hell to get Heaven; distress to get rest; confusion to get peace; fear to get joy; bad habits to get abundant life; guilt to get pardon; bondage to get freedom; and judgment to get forgiveness! ***What I have gained is wonderful beyond words!***

Selected

**THE PRAYER SEMINAR
MINISTRY IS SUPPORTED
BY THE GIFTS OF OUR FRIENDS.**

Flying by instrument

The things which shall be hereafter . . .

Revelation 1:19

When all is said and done, there is absolutely only one authority on the life to come. Surmisings of pagans and speculations of philosophers mean nothing. It is the Bible or else. It may have its difficult passages, may leave questions unanswered, but all we know about the next world is told between the covers of this old Book.

Sometimes the airplane pilot can see nothing and must fly by instrument. The Christian must often do the same and that instrument is the Word of God [the Bible]. It guarantees a safe landing!

--Vance Havner

Forward for Christ

If the lost are to be reached by the gospel of the Son of God, Christianity must become more aggressive than it has been in the past. We have been on the defensive long enough. The time has come for us to enter on a war of aggression. When we as children of God wake up and go to work in the vineyard, then those who are living in wickedness all about us will be reached, but not in any other way. You may go to mass meetings and discuss the question, "How to reach the masses," but when you have done with discussion you have to go back to personal effort. Every man and woman who loves the Lord Jesus Christ must wake up to the fact that he or she has a mission in the world, in this work of reaching the lost.

Daily Gems

Investment

The most valuable possession which Christianity holds for me is this conviction: that the task is unfinished, that the conflict is on, and that it is my business to invest my life in such a way as to make true the dream of the Son of Man.

Edward Steiner

My Life

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me;
I may not choose the colors,
He knows that they should be
For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While I can see it only
On this the under side.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow,
That seemeth strange to me;
But I will trust His judgment,
And work on faithfully;
'Tis He who fills the shuttle,
He knows just what is best,
So I shall weave in earnest
And leave with Him the rest.

At last when life is ended,
With Him I shall abide,
Then I may view the pattern
Upon the upper side
Then I shall know the reason
Why pain, with joy entwined,
Was woven in the fabric
Of life that God designed.
Selected

Itinerary

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course."

2 Thessalonians 3:1

February

28 Leave for South America

March

1-14 Prayer Seminars, Venezuela

14-21 Prayer Seminars, Paraguay

21-26 Prayer Seminars, Uruguay

**"The Lord has done great things
for us, and we are glad."
Psalm 126:3**

Let Us Draw Near

By the grace of God, every honest-hearted child of God can enjoy an ever-increasing relationship with Him.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Hebrews 10:19).

Having boldness to enter, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:22).

Having boldness to enter, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: for He who promised is faithful. (v 23).

Having boldness to enter, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (v 24).

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” James 4:8a.

“Lord, here am I, ready to be led by Thee in the new and living way of death to my will, to a life in God’s wil alone. I am willing to give up all to Thee.” (Andrew Murray).

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray and cry aloud; and He shall hear My voice.”

Psalms 55:17

Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
Nuhu and Mercy Leo (Nigeria)
John/Elberta McSween (Trinidad)
Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)
Adam/Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)
Andrew J.Sakari (Kenya)
Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
Onesimus Sule (Nigeria)
Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil)
Silas & Alice Yashim (Nigeria)

Stand still and wait

“And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid, Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord . . .”
Exodus 14:13

Stand still and wait! Is this thy Lord’s command,
When all thy being cries out to advance?
Hath Christ, thy Lord, raised His forbidding hand
Across the path that doth thy soul enhance?

Stand still and wait! Oh, why must this delay
Thwart all thy hopes and plans for service blast,
While others pass thee by along life’s way,
A busy throng, alive with zeal and zest?

Stand still and wait! But waiting is so hard,
When fields of service beckon thee to come,
Thy longing eyes the waving sheaves regard,
And eagerly thy heart cries to go on.

Stand still and wait! It is thy Father’s voice,
That bids thee lay thy gleaning sickle down.
Canst thou not in His holy will rejoice?
Thy waiting hours with blessing He will crown.

Stand still and wait! Yes, wait upon thy Lord;
He would commune with thee along the way,
Look unto Him, wait for His precious Word;
Rest in His holy will, rest and obey.

Stand still and wait! Nor count the waiting vain
If thou hast caught a glimpse of His dear face,
Thy waiting hours will bring far greater gain
If thou has learned the wonders of His grace.

Avis Burgeson Christiansen

Intercessory Prayer

- ❖ Penetrates hearts we cannot open,
- ❖ Shields those we cannot guard,
- ❖ Teaches where we cannot speak,
- ❖ Comforts where our hearts have no power to soothe,
- ❖ Follows our best beloved through the trials and perplexities of the day.

Alfred Price

Too busy

"So teach us to number our days, that we
may apply our hearts unto wisdom"
(Psalm 90:12).

Too busy to read the Bible,
Too busy to wait and pray!
Too busy to speak out kindly
To some one by the way!

Too busy with care and struggle,
To think of the life to come!
Too busy building mansions,
To plan for the Heavenly Home.

Too busy to help a brother
Who faces the wintry blast!
Too busy to share his burden
When self in the balance is cast.

Too busy for all that is holy
On earth beneath the sky;
Too busy to serve the Master,
BUT not too busy to die.

What can it mean to **BE LIKE HIM**?
I, to be like my dear Lord?
I could not believe it, had I not
The promise of His precious Word.

I, with follies and failures,
I, with my weakness and sin,
To be like the Lord in His beauty,
Perfect without and within?

He, whom the angels, adoring,
Veil from His glory their eyes,
He, who one glad day will take me
To dwell in His home in the skies?

O, I am weary with waiting,
Sick of this old self of mine!
Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come quickly,
And give me a spirit like Thine!

Martha Snell Nicholson

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 1156.
God does not
require a man
to have one
talent, three

talents, or five talents. He only requires
that a man be faithful with whatever he has.

Note 1157. Great opportunities come to
those who make the most of small ones.

Note 1158. If criticizing gives you pain,
then do it; if it gives you the slightest
pleasure, keep your mouth shut.

Note 1159. Swallowing your pride seldom
leads to indigestion.

Note 1160. You are not fully dressed until
you put on a smile. Smile awhile and give
your frown a rest.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

January 21–February 22

Regular	xx	\$xxxx.xx
Ven, Para, Urn	45	8,120.00
Total	63	\$10,930.52



THANKS, DOORKEEPERS!

Welcome! Doorkeepers!

Bob & Beverly Blankenship (TN)

Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)

James & Geneieve Jones (FL)

PRAYER CALENDAR

January 2010

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b



MONDAY, MARCH 1

JOSHUA 1-5 (Venezuela 28M)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

JOSHUA 6-8 (Venezuela 28M)

Milcie Arnold (VA)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
Carolyn Barkley (NY)
Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

JOSHUA 9-12 (Venezuela 28M)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

JOSHUA 13-17 (Venezuela 28M)

Bob & Jewel Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Emilee & Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)

Mary Ann Brown (GA)

Shirley Brown (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

JOSHUA 18-21 (Venezuela 28M)

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)
Mary Campbell (ID)
Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
Joreatha Capers (FL)
John & Patricia Carter (FL)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

JOSHUA 22-24 (Venezuela 28M)

David & Martha Cecil (VA)
Merry J Chandler (MD)
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)
Joel & Paula Criz (HI)

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene Cummings (NC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
Ida J. Davis (GA)
John & Margaret Davis (VA)
Mark & Charmaine Davis (VA)
Lelia Dean (FL)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Nick & Wilma DeGroot (IL)

MONDAY, MARCH 8

JUDGES 1-5 (Venezuela 28M)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

JUDGES 6-8 (Venezuela 28M)

June Fisher (TN)
Makeva Flowers (VA)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)

Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)

Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)

Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)

Frank Geiger (HI)

Robert & Sara George (GA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

JUDGES 9-12 (Venezuela 28M)

Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (UT)
Charles Hale (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

JUDGES 13-16 (Venezuela 28M)

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)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Wendy Henry & Caleb (OK)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Jayson & Marylynn Hooker (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

JUDGES 17-21 (Venezuela 28M)

Russ & Dorothy Hornbaker (MI)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Sam & Linda Hough (VA)
Bonnie Houston (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

1 Samuel 1-3 (Venezuela 28M)

Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Louis & May Jenkins (DC)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Peter & Millicent John (NY)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
John & Judy Johnson (FL)
Wilbur & Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Paul & Deanna Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Jean Jonte (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Howard & Suzie Kauffmann (GA)

Harper & Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
 Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
 Bruce Kirby, Pastor
 Robert & Rose Klaus (WA)

MONDAY, MARCH 15

1 Samuel 4-8 (Venezuela 28M)
 Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Sherry Klutz (WA)
 Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)
 Thomas Knight Jr (SC)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Korean Branch:
 Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 David & Cathy Laing (FL)
 Phil Landers (OK)

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

1 SAMUEL 9-12 (Paraguay 7M)
 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., Chancellor
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent & Mary Lobisco (MI/FL)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Brian & Stacey Loomis (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

1 SAMUEL 13-15 (Paraguay 7M)
 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)
 Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

1 SAMUEL 16-19 (Paraguay 7M)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 Leonard & Martha Meador (WV)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Church (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Ministers
 Mona Merry (SC)
 Brenda Merritt (SC)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

1 SAMUEL 20-23 (Paraguay 7M)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Ken & Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Lewis & Martha Miller (IN)
 Lowry & Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Mike & Cherylan Miller (CO)

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

1 Samuel 24-26 (Paraguay 7M)
 Earl & Marvel Mills (VA)

French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Katherine Morgan (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Craton & Helen Noyes (KY)
SUNDAY, MARCH 21
 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)
 Brandon, Jeanne, Maggie Pribble (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 22

1 Samuel 27-31 (Paraguay 7M)
 Paul & Donna Quetscho (VA)
 James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
 Alice Riddick (NC)
 Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

2 Samuel 1-4 (Paraguay 7M)
 Fred & Jeannette Rolater (TN)
 Bob Rose (MI)
 David & Amy Ross (KY)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 Denise Russell (OR)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don & Marie Satterwhite (MD)
 Tyler & Rebecca Scarlett (VA)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

2 SAMUEL 5-7 (Paraguay 7M)
 Philip & Wendy Schrank (IL)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Mary Signer (VA)
 Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch (VA)
 Eric Farel, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
 His Highest Praise (HI)
 Lori Siri, Pastor
 Mary Skiles (KS)
 Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

2 SAMUEL 8-10 (Uruguay 3.5M)
 Marion J. Stansell (TX)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Carol Snow Stewart (CT)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
 Clarence/Roselin Stringfield (VA)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

2 SAMUEL 11-14 (Uruguay 3.5M)
 Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
 William Stroman, Pastor
 Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Temple of Praise (TX)
 Gilbert Perez, Pastor
 Earleen Thigpen (TN)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

2 SAM 15-16 (Venezuela 28M)
 Montez Thompson (CO)
 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)

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

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)

MONDAY, MARCH 29

2 SAMUEL 17-19 (Paraguay 7M)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau, Ashley, Willow Ware (VA)
 Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Allan & Judy Whitmore (VA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

2 SAM 20-22 (Uruguay 3.5M)
 George & Virginia Whitmer (FL)
 Herebert & Kay Wice (TN)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Edward Williams (NC)
 Elijah Williams (NJ)
 Jeff & Terri Williamson (FL)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

2 SAM 23-24 (Venezuela 28M)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Roy & Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Dot Winfield (MD)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 Lili Wykle (VA)

Palm tree Chrsistians

“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree”
(Psalm 92:12)



When the Lord looked for some vegetable life to describe the great mass of lost humanity, He chose grass. It comes for a season and soon withers. But when He looked for something in His beautiful creation to be a picture of righteous, He chose the palm tree. There are many reasons for this. As I write this article I am in Lagos, Nigeria, and can look out my window and see palm trees. The palm tree has a beauty of its own, and it is very useful. The Hindus claim that it can be used at least 360 ways. Unlike the grass, it produces even in its old age, and the best dates are produced when the tree is from 30 to 100 years old.

One of the most remarkable features about this tree is that it grows in the desert. It grows where wheat, barley, and corn refuse to grow. The blasts of the heat are too much for other types of plant life. Yet, in spite of the desert weather that burns and parches everything else around it, the palm tree grows and flourishes. It is unaffected by its surroundings. If you were to visit an oasis where the palm tree often grows, you would likely find water around this tree. But it is so brackish it is nearly impossible to drink. The Arabs have a saying about the palm tree, “It stands with its feet in salt water and its head in the sun.”

You might be surrounded with circumstances that would cause others to wither. The bitter waters could be too much, and they would adopt the outlook of the afflicted. But that doesn’t have to be the case. The Lord has a way of working in our inner life by His indwelling Spirit to draw from the circumstances surrounding us, changing them into something sweet that can minister to our spiritual growth and development.

There are some things, of course, that the palm tree rejects. While it grows from the sand, the sand is not its food. To apply this idea directly, we could say that a believer finds no nourishment from the world it is in. But the tap roots of the tree do find nourishment from some very unpalatable salt water below. By an inner power, the tree turns it into something sweet and desirable. Upward it grows, tall and stately, producing fruit and flourishing.

More amazing still, in all seasons the leaf of the palm is the same. In the winter, unlike other trees, the leaves do not fall. In the summer it has no special clothing of beauty it changes into when the intemperate weather comes. It is evergreen, and it knows no seasonable change. How blessed it is to find Christians who are consistent in their testimony the year round often having their feet in salt water, but their head in the sun!

**No service in itself is small,
None great, though earth it fill,
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that does God’s will.
Then hold my hand, most gracious Lord,
Guide all my goings still;
And let this be my life’s one aim,
To hear and do Thy will.**

*The will of God will never
lead us where the grace of
God cannot sustain us.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWELVE

A winter wonderland

Living in the mid-south, as we have done the past twenty-five years, does not lend itself to experiencing winter's wonderland very often. This winter has been an exception. Starting in mid-December, heavy snow has fallen in Central Virginia. I have been home most of the time and have been faithful in keeping the bird feeders filled and putting out some food for the many squirrels who claim our woods as their home. Recently Sue looked out the kitchen window and counted seven deer, reminding me that I need to cut up some apples for them. The view out my office window affords me the opportunity of watching the birds. Many of them like sunflower seeds and seem to form a line of birds with one darting in for a seed followed by another one.

When I read **Pastor Joe Seese's** feature, *From the Pastors' Pen* (Newsletter, First Baptist Church, Zanesville, Ohio which has hosted prayer seminars in years past), I was blessed and want to share it with our **Reflector** family.

Winter has returned once more to the Zanesville area. Anyone who had hoped that the January temps of mid-40s and higher would remain until spring's arrival have now been reminded that the snow and cold that has reappeared will be here for a while, and it's time to keep the boots, gloves and warm winter coats at the ready.

If we look hard enough, we can see signs of God's love for us even in the frigid and icy wintry atmosphere. I was shown such a sign even last night that is definitely worth sharing.

Right before turning in for the night, Debbie called my attention to something outside on our bedroom windows. It had been snowing for most of the second

Consider Jesus

The Lord Jesus Christ is the expression of God the Father (**Hebrews 1:1-3**). Consider Him in His **power**. Not only did Christ create the universe, He "upholds" (governs, sustains, holds together) it as its cohesive power, ordering and maintaining the movements of nature (**Colossians 1:17**). As the outshining ("brightness") of the Father's glory, Christ reveals the virtues and excellence of deity in a human person. As the God-man Christ possesses the perfect character of God (**John 14:7-9**).

The folly of neglect

Too many people today completely ignore and neglect the salvation of their never-dying souls. One earnest preacher of the true Gospel has said, "Neglect is the Prime Minister of Death, the Forerunner of Destruction."

Neglect the rules of health, and end up an invalid. Neglect the garden and raise weeds. Neglect the children, and bring up a family of rebels and criminals. Neglect your need of Christ, and the new birth, and you will never either "see" nor "enter" into the kingdom of God (**James 3:3, 5, 7**).

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation" (**Hebrews 2:3**)? If the doctor puts a certain cure on the stand beside the sick person's bed, and prescribes the proper dose for the dying man, all he has to do to die is just to "neglect" to take the saving remedy. It is not necessary for him in a rage to throw the remedy out the window; all he has to do is to neglect to take the remedy.

Selected

GOD NEEDS A MAN

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land . . ."

Ezekiel 22:30a

It's simple!

Trust God and tell the people

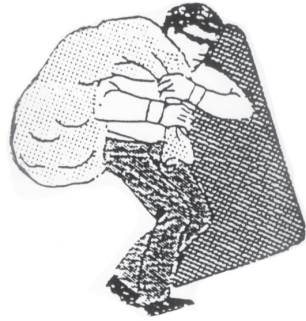
Often I have been asked how **JGHM** has been able to provide prayer seminars in so many countries for so long a time. The explanation is that our **Doorkeepers** and other partners have provided prayer and financial support. Some, who either have similar ministries or would like to establish one, have inquired, "What is your 'secret?'"

It's simple! We have trusted God and told the people. Just as Paul wanted the church at Ephesus to know how things were going, I have sat down to draft letters to our partners. For the past twenty-five years, the Lord has faithfully stirred the hearts of His people to touch thousands of lives in fifty-four nations sharing the prayer seminar (which actually covers the basics of the Christian life).

In planning for the first international prayer seminar (India 1985), the needed budget seemed monumental because we were providing seminars in a number of cities, as well as an evangelistic crusade in Hyderabad-Secuderabad. **Dr. Sam Simpson**, long-time friend and pastor of the Bronx and Wake Eden Baptist churches in New York City accompanied Sue and me. I need not have been fearful because every penny was provided. God was teaching me to trust Him.

Only one time did it appear that the need would not be met. **JGHM** agreed to provide funds for 200 pastors to attend a prayer seminar. The budget was the largest ever. **Sue Bell**, my administrative assistant/secretary, and I prepared the appeal letters, but the response was very slow and small. I asked **Doorkeepers for special prayer**. I grew increasingly concerned that the funds would not arrive in time..

Just a few days before the departure date, a telephone call came from Lewisburg, Texas. **Kay Warmerdam** said, "The money for the Borneo pastors is on its way!" She explained that when she was praying for the funds that in her side vision she sensed movement. She



saw a figure with money bags. The figure seemed startled that she had seen him. "In my spirit, I knew immediately that the figure was Satan and that the funds for the seminars were in the bag." She said that in the name of Jesus, she rebuked Satan and asked that the funds be released. He dropped the moneybag and fled. Quickly the funds arrived.

We provided for 215 pastors, but 357 pastors attended from all over Bornea--walking over the mountains, traveling down dangerous rivers, and using every means of travel to be there. The Miri Bible College chapel with a seating capacity of 500 was filled. One day, in heavy rain, a large number stood around the windows to hear. Thank God for **Kay Warmerdam's** discernment!

Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay **February 28-March 26**

2010 is the number of Spanish workbooks needed in **Venezuela**. Twelve seminars are scheduled in nine cities situated along a 1,000 mile stretch over a two-week period. From there, I travel to two new nations **Paraguay** and **Uruguay**. Our coordinators say that the interest is building. Having seminars is an entirely new concept for believers who have never had such an opportunity. Of course, six hours seems to be a long time! The budget is \$8,640 (travel, lodging, food a team of three in each country plus workbooks). On February 12, 52 have given \$4,700. **We pray for 100 contributors** (the **exact** number who gave for **Nigeria**) for each trip. Please pray for this goal.



Winter has come to 1127 Lakeview Drive, Lynchburg

half of the day, the wind had been coldly blowing from the west, and everything outside had an icy touch to it. I had just finished taking the dogs out for the final time and our exterior lights were still on. It was their illumination that allowed us the ringside seat to something amazing.

Nestled down among the branches of an arbor vitae bush was a cardinal. Its red feathers brightly contrasted with the green of the bush's branches and the white snow accumulating on them. The bird had found a hiding place inside the protective shelter of the shrub to keep the cold and snow from bothering it. Even though it was a bird, it was obvious that he was "as snug as a bug in a rug."

Seeing that cardinal reminded me of how our Heavenly Father surrounds, protects, and even hides us from the dangers of the world. There is no one better to run to when we are trying to escape these tough times in life.

The Bible points out the many times that God delivered David (a man after God's own heart) from various situations and people who jeopardized his well-

being. David never forgot those episodes of life when God delivered him from danger. In **Psalm 31**, he wrote these words of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord: "How great is the goodness You have stored up for those who fear You. You lavish on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. You hide them in the shelter of Your presence . . ." (**vv 19-20a NLT**). And in the following Psalm (**32:7 LB**), David proclaims with love and gratitude: "You are my hiding place from every storm of life; You even keep me from getting into trouble! You surround me with songs of victory."

We should all take comfort in knowing that God not only protects cardinals and [kings] from the storms of life, but each and every one of us as well! All we need to do is call out to Him in faith. We will be amazed and humbled at how He takes care of us.

I enjoyed reading Pastor Joe's comments as he ministers to his folks at First Baptist Church opening up the Word of God month after month. While many church newsletters make little, if any, use of God's Word, this pastor does. Long-time **Doorkeepers Reg and Glo Martin** are members of this congregation. Reg has been honored as Pastor-Emeritus for his many years of service at First Baptist.

REFLECTOR

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