

REFLECTOR

VOL. 57, No. 5

“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

May 2011

Spiritual decisions in Venezuela

April 3-25, 2011

**“Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things
which concern the Lord Jesus Christ” Acts 28:31**

Once again, **Adam Nathanson** (missionary to Venezuela and pastor Grace Community Church, Caracas) and I teamed up to teach and preach the things that pertain to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom in **Venezuela**. There were thirteen prayer seminars, two sermons, and one leadership session.

The seminars were in three areas: four in **Caracas** (capital city with five million people), two in western Venezuela (**San Felipe** and **Tumero**), six in eastern Venezuela (**Boca de Urichae**, **Clarines**, **Cumana**, **Caripe**, **Anaco**, and **Barcelona**). Each seminar was open to pastors in the respective areas and a large number participated. The people came--eager to learn, willing to be taught.

All 2,000 Spanish prayer seminar workbooks were used and we needed more. In each session, interest was intense and the response was strong. At least two hundred fifty trusted Christ as personal Savior following a thorough presentation of the plan of salvation. When the seed of the Word of God is sown, the result is spiritual children. Also, hundreds indicated that they had made decisions about their spiritual lives. Miles traveled totaled 7,113 (Air international and domestic 5,388, Ground 1,725) and twenty-three days on the road.

All in all, the unction of the Holy Spirit rested upon each seminar, each teaching opportunity, and each message delivered. There is an invitation to return in 2012 to conduct prayer seminars in February in the area where we were in 1992 (where new churches are mushrooming with many converts) and in April-May at the retreat center in **Caripe**.

On behalf of each person touched, we express thanks to the **Doorkeepers** who provided funds for this work. Eighty-seven contributed significantly over-subscribing the budget. “The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge” (**Ruth 2:12**).



Perspectives

The theme of the prayer seminar ministry has always been “A Day in God’s Courts” (**Psalm 84:10**). In contemporary America, few Christians can say that they have spent a day in God’s courts at any time. Neither can they say that anyone has ever asked them to do so. The world is too much with us to take time to be holy. That is our problem.

You remember the story. After celebrating the Passover with His disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, Jesus instituted the Memorial Supper (the bread and the cup) to be observed by His followers until His return from Heaven. The bread and wine of the Passover commemorated deliverance from Egypt. Jesus’ body (**Matthew 26:26**) and blood (v 28) are now identified as the true Passover sacrifice of the **new covenant** (v 28) that brings deliverance from sins.

In His Upper Room Discourse (**John 13-16**), Jesus then gave His final instructions before He went to the cross. He taught them about the Holy Spirit and He taught them about prayer. Then He led them across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the side of the Mount of Olives. As He entered into the garden, He asked His disciples to “Sit here while I go and pray over there” (**Matthew 26:36**). He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Three prayers are recorded. After the first prayer, He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. Addressing His remarks to Peter, He said, “What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?” (v 40).

One hour! How can we come to the point that we can watch with Jesus in prayer one hour? That is the question. Joshua understood when he said to the children of Israel, “Choose you this day whom you will serve ...” (**Joshua 24:15**). The prophet Joel talked about “multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (**Joel 3:14**). We must realize that there is a Valley of Decision for

us, not only as we consider salvation, but as we consider following Jesus. Decisions determine destiny. **The beginning point of spending an hour in prayer is deciding to do so.** This is a decision that no other person can make for us.

When I was president of Northeastern Bible College, a student approached me in a hallway. His countenance was such that it was easy to see that he was full of joy. He shared that for the first time in his Christian life, he had spent an hour in prayer. Could you not spend one hour in prayer?

During 1976, I felt dissonance in my spirit. It was a year of significant progress at Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, Virginia, where I was serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs. It was a year of unprecedented blessings at Pleasant View Baptist Church, where I was serving as pastor. The dissonance was the realization that, although I was in “full-time Christian service,” actually working for the Lord seven days a week, I did not know God very well. In doing some serious introspection, I began to realize that I was only in the Bible to get a message to preach, not to know God. The Holy Spirit guided me to see that this was the root of my problem. Even my praying reflected a superficial understanding of the Word of God. Sadly, my praying was telling God what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. I did not understand that there are five elements of prayer — adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession.

One Sunday morning, our soloist, **Dick Elmer**, sang “Teach Me to Pray” and the message penetrated. I began to pray, “Dear Father, will you teach me to pray, to really pray?” Clearly, this became a moment of decision for me. Since that day, everything that I have been involved in has included the area of prayer. What He has done for me, He will do for anyone who will let Him. The way to begin is to make a decision to do so.

Once I began to understand the purpose and power of prayer, I bought every book

I could find on the subject and began to read them studiously. They contained many excellent ideas on prayer that I incorporated in my personal praying. But I went a step farther. As I read the Word diligently, I asked Him to teach me to pray the way He wanted me to pray. I began to be alert to any Bible example of prayer that I read about in the Bible. Soon I had a long list of references for prayer experiences recorded in the Bible. I discovered that there are 650 recorded prayers excluding the huge number in the psalms. 450 have recorded answers.

Now when I go back to some of the books, I find them even more helpful. One thing that I observed was that there are common principles running through the books, even though they are couched in difference expressions. I began to form my own expressions to incorporate into my teaching and preaching that I felt would communicate to the average Christian.

There came a point when I saw that I needed to make an effort to teach formally what I had learned. The culmination was a decision to prepare lessons as preparation for a twenty-four prayer chapel ministry. The basic concept was to mobilize 168 people, each willing to pray one hour a week in the chapel. Week by week, I wrote a lesson that I taught to our people on Sunday nights during the Church Training hour. This material was organized into a prayer seminar workbook in 1980 and is now available in many languages. Thousands upon thousands have had an opportunity to profit from what the Lord taught me over thirty years ago and what He continues to teach me. Although I have taught thousands, the Holy Spirit has called forth a number of teachers in many countries to teach this material. Praise the Lord!

Yours in Calvary love

J. Gordon Henry

From the lips of a child

A teacher told her children that dads sometimes allow them to take the wheel of a car, but they always place their hands over their little hands to be sure that there were no mistakes. Later, one of the children who was eight years old, was asked if he would like to lead in prayer. He said, "Dear Lord, will you please put your hands over the hands of our President, so he will know how to turn the wheel for our country." As you observe the National Day of Prayer, this is perhaps the simplest, yet most profound thing, that you could pray for **President Obama**.



GLIMPSES OF VENEZUELA - 2011

**A PRAYER SEMINAR
COULD HELP YOUR CHURCH
BECOME A PRAYING CHURCH!
PRAYER SEMINARS ARE
AVAILABLE. CONTACT JGHM
FOR SCHEDULING
INFORMATION.**

Lines from Lincoln

As we focus on prayer as our nation observes a National Day of Prayer, which first he declared, we would do well to think on President Abraham Lincoln's own *Statement of Belief*.

I believe in national humiliation, fasting, and prayer, in keeping a day holy to the Lord, devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to such a solemn occasion.

I believe in the people of the United States, to the forms approved by their own consciences, should render the homage due to the divine majesty for the wonderful things He has done in the nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of the Holy Spirit to subdue anger.

I believe in the eternal truth and His eternal justice. I believe the will of God prevails, without Him all human reliance is in vain, without the assistance of that Diving Being, I cannot succeed; with that assistance, I cannot fail.

I believe in Him in whom whose will, not mine, should be done.

I believe I am a humble instrument in the hands of our heavenly Father (the battle is the Lord. I am but an instrument.). I desire that all my works may be according to His will, and if that is not so, I give thanks to the Almighty and seek His aid.

I believe in praise to the Almighty God the Beneficent Creator and Ruler of the universe. Amen.

May we pray with you?

When there is some request that Sue and I can share, please let us know. You can call (434) 239-8837 or 239-8836? You can e-mail either of us: jghm84@aol.com or suethenry@aol.com. You do not have to be alone in what you are facing.

A dangerous omission

The closing part of President **Abraham Lincoln's** famous **Gettysburg address**, reading, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth" is a wonderful ideal, but are we not in danger of omitting those two vital words, "under God?" "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people: may be little more than a form of tyranny, but government *of* the people for the people *under God* is a form of government that honors God, that submits to His righteous rule, and that is exalted thereby.

Christian Herald

Praying for our nation

To Daniel, discovering the promises of God was not an alternative to praying. Rather finding God's promises from Jeremiah's writings motivated him to prayer. As Daniel considered the promise in Jeremiah concerning the duration of the captivity, he responded to God in prayer (**Daniel 9:3-19**). Why should Daniel pray when God had already promised?

Daniel recognized that the captivity period had not accomplished its purpose. The people had continued in sin and spiritual indifference. In the spirit of humility and worship, Daniel confessed sin. Though blameless himself, the prophet identified with the nation's sins. He acknowledged the consequences of their sin the dispersion and God's curse (**vv 7-11**). After reflecting on God's past deliverance and mercies (**v 15**), he then based his petition on God's own character (**v 16**).

Wherever I go in the United States, I find people expressing concern about our nation. Let's pray as Daniel prayed.

PLAIN TEACHING

The **world** says: A rich man's wealth is his security; the **Word** says: He who takes refuge in God has security (**Isaiah 57:10**). The **world** says: Be sure to get all that's coming to you; the **Word** says: Life doesn't consist in what you possess (**Luke 12:15**). The **world** says: I'll be satisfied when I have more; the **Word** says, He who loves money will not be satisfied with money (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**). The **world** says: Spend and accumulate goods; the **Word** says: Give and you will develop character (**Philippians 4:17**). The **world** says: You can have a richer life with credit cards; the **Word** says: You will have a richer life through great generosity (**2 Corinthians 9:11**). The **world** says: Lend to those who can repay you; the **Word** says, Open your hand wide, for God will bless you (**Deuteronomy 15:8**). The **world** says: You deserve the best; the **Word** says: The Lord of hosts deserves the best (**Malachi 1**).

Jesus said: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt **6:19-10**. I call this **PLAIN TEACHING!**

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE PRAYER
SEMINAR MINISTRY.

E-mail: jghm84@aol.com.
www.jgordonhenryministries.org
Skype: Dr. J. Gordon Henry

REFLECTOR
ISSN 0885-8538
J. Gordon Henry Ministries
1127 Lakeview Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
(434) 239-8837

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a time when we traditionally honor the memory of departed loved ones, and especially those who have given their lives for our country in a time of war. I suppose that nearly everyone of us anticipates the glory and wonder of heaven because of loved ones who have gone on to be with Christ. Of course, "we want to see our Savior first of all" for it is He who "opened the gates of heaven to let us in" through His sacrifice on the cross. But heaven will also be a wonderful place of reunion with the saints of all ages. As we look back through memory's eye during the Memorial Day weekend, we can also look forward with the eye of hope to seeing our loved ones in Christ again.

On this Memorial Day, we dare not forget the price that thousands and thousands of men and families have paid for our national freedoms. These liberties seem to be taken for granted in our day. The careless and selfish thinking of the average American citizen is deplorable. It is said that it usually takes a war to awaken a lethargic citizenry to the period of tyranny and totalitarianism. Let us pray that we may retain our liberties and use them for the glory of God and the advance of the Gospel. And let us pray that we will be awakened to the preciousness of the blessings God has bestowed so abundantly on us all.

Which "form"?

And **God** said: "Let us *form* man in our image." The **world** says: "We must *conform* man to our image" The **Devil** says, "I will *deform* man by sin." **Education** says: "Let us *inform* man by knowledge." **Society** says: "We will *reform* man by culture." Only **Christ** says, "I will *transform* man by love."

The Sword of the Lord

Through Jesus alone

On September 25, 1982, I was driving from the Northeastern Bible College campus in Essex Fells, New Jersey, to speak at a missionary conference in Mahopac Falls, New York. While crossing over the Hudson River on the Tappan Zee Bridge, I observed a bumper sticker on an automobile that defines a major problem for many of us as we approach the Word of God.

The bumper sticker said: **“THE BIBLE SAYS IT. I BELIEVE IT. THAT SETTLES IT!”**

Had I had opportunity to speak personally with those in the car, I would have told them that the message on their sticker was wrong. To be correct, it should have read: **“THE BIBLE SAYS IT. THAT SETTLES IT!”**

How very humanistic we have become. Whether “I believe it!” or not has nothing to do with the truth of God’s revealed Truth. It does not matter what you believe, I believe, or anyone else believes. God’s Word related to prayer is that we are to pray in Jesus/ name. Jesus Himself could not have been plainer when He declared “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh to the Father, but by Me” (**John 14:6**).

There is only one access to God the Father. You cannot come into the presence of God apart from Christ Himself. A person comes into the presence of God only if and when he breathes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, a basic and essential prerequisite for effective prayer is for our spirit to reflect that we are coming through Jesus Christ, the Son. Perhaps, we can say something like this: “Thank You for Jesus Christ and in Him, in His name, I approach You, Father.” Access to the Father is through Jesus alone.

Check out these Scriptures: **John 10:7, 10:9, 14:13-14, John 16:23-24-26; Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:13, 3:12; Hebrews 7:9, 7:25; 10:19; 1 Peter 3:18.**

NOTES from my BIBLE



Note 2026.

There is something better than getting an answer to

prayer; it is becoming an answer to prayer.

Note 2027. Is today going to be a pleasant memory in your Book of Memories?

Note 2028. Worship refers to the supreme honor or veneration given either in thought or deed to a person or thing.

Note 2029. The Bible teaches that God alone is worthy of worship.

Note 2030. Worship includes praise and thanksgiving, which may be expressed privately or publicly, either by grateful declarations (**Hebrews 13:15**) or by joyful singing (**Psalms 100:2; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**).

“Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” Psalm 95:6

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

March 22--April 25

| | | |
|-----------|----|------------|
| Regular | 39 | \$3,427.00 |
| Venezuela | 43 | 3,670.00 |
| Total | 61 | \$7,097.00 |



The Nathansons in Caracas.

PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2011

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalms 109:4b



SUNDAY, MAY 1

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

MONDAY, MAY 2

EZRA 1-3 (Bahamas 305,655)
Milcie Arnold (VA)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (VA)
Consuela Baker (NC)
Walter & Marilyn Barry (VA)
Jason & Wendy Barthel (IL)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)

TUESDAY, MAY 3

EZRA 4-6 (Bahrain 708,573)
Carter Mylam Baynes (NC)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Frank Bell (TN)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny & Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)
Bob & Beverly Blankenship (TN)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

EZRA 7-8 (Azerbaijan 8.1M)
Bob Bouchard (KY)
William & Debbie Bowden (MD)
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)

THURSDAY, MAY 5

EZRA 9-10 (Bangladesh 150.4M)
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)

FRIDAY, MAY 6

NEH 1-2 (Barbados 280,946)
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)

SATURDAY, MAY 7

NEHEMIAH 3-4 (Belarus 9.7M)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Bill & Beverly Curtis (PA)
Lin & Barbara Custalow (VA)
Ida J. Davis (GA)
John & Margaret Davis (VA)
Mark & Charmaine Davis (VA)
Lelia Dean (FL)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)

SUNDAY, MAY 8

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)

MONDAY, MAY 9

NEHEMIAH 5-7 (Belize 294,385)
June Fisher (TN)
Claire & Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Raymond & Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Frank & Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Carole B. Garvin (PA)
Frank & Doris Geiger (HI)
Robert & Sara George (GA)

TUESDAY, MAY 10

NEHEMIAH 8-10 (Benin 8.1M)
Frances Glass (AL)
Gloucester Co. Community Church
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (CO)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)

Linda Gregory (UT)
George & Joy Harper (VA)
Uel & Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim & Joyce Hengoe (FL/CT)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

NEHEMIAH 11-13 (Benin 8.1M)
Bruce, Gina, Sean Henry (VA)
Doug Henry (TN)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (GA)
Roger Henry (OH)
Susan & Jamey Henry (TN)
Jerry & Sandra Hodges (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)

THURSDAY, MAY 12

ESTHER 1-2 (Bermuda 66,163)
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)

FRIDAY, MAY 13

ESTHER 3-4 (Bhutan 2.3M)
Oliver & Janie Jackson (NY)
Gene/Rose Marie Jeffries (AR)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Millicent John (NY)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Wilbur & Gwendolyn Johnson (AZ)

SATURDAY, MAY 14

ESTHER 5-7 (Bolivia 9.1M)
James & Geneieve 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)

SUNDAY, MAY 15

ESTHER 8-10 (Bosnia 4.6M)
Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
Sherry Klutz (WA)
Quentin & Mary Knauer (OH)
Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)
Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
Sona Kovoor (TX)

Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
David & Cathy Laing (FL_

Phil Landers (OK)

MONDAY, MAY 16**ESTHER 8-10 (Botswana 1.8M)**

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)

TUESDAY, MAY 17**JOB 1-2 (Brazil 190M)**

Manship Chapel (DE)
Bud & Wilma Marcum (KY)
Dan & Meribeth Martin (VA)
Reginald & Gloria Martin (OH)
Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
Deborah Mathias (NY)
Murray & Loretta Mathis (TN)
Bill & Shirley Maybin (SC)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**JOB 3-4 (Brazil 190M)**

Dab & Fay McConville (VA)
Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
Memorial Christian Church (VA)
Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors

THURSDAY, MAY 19**JOB 5-7 (Br Virgin Is 23,552)**

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

FRIDAY, MAY 20**JOB 8-10 (Brunei 374,577)**

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

SATURDAY, MAY 21**JOB 11-14 (Bulgaria 7.3M)**

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)

SUNDAY, MAY 22

David & Marilyn Rainey (VA)
James & Jeannette Ralph (VA)
John Reed (NH)

Mike & Joyce Riley (KY)
Cindy Roach (VA)
Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)
Dudley & Isabel Robotham (NY)
Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

MONDAY, MAY 23**JOB 15-17 (Burkina Faso 14.3M)**

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)

TUESDAY, MAY 24**JOB 18-19 (Burundi 8.4M)**

Philip & Wendy Schrank (WI)
John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
Richard/Margaret Seigfield (SC)
Dennis & Monica Shannon (OH)
Wonsub/YoungMiSheen (Korea)
Shenandoah Valley Bapt Ch (VA)
Eric Farel, Pastor

Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
Sam & Lola Simpson (NY)
Mary Skiles (KS)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**JOB 20-21 (Burundi 8.4M)**

Paul & Mary Smith (TX)
Doris Snyder (FL/OH)
Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
Leroy & Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
Marion J. Stansell (TX)
Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
Carol Snow Stewart (AZ)
Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
Charles & Irene Stinson (VA)

THURSDAY, MAY 26**JOB 22-24 (Cambodia 14M)**

Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)
Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
Tabernacle Baptist Church (DC)
William Stroman, Pastor
Brian & Janice Tarraferro (TX)
Ron & Mazie Taylor (VA)
Stephanie Taylor (GA)

FRIDAY, MAY 27**JOB 25-28 (Cameron 14M)**

Earline Thigpen (TN)
Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
Mildred V. Thompson (AZ)
Montez Thompson (AZ)
Paula Tipton (TN)
Virginia Trask (VA)

Carrol & Ouida Troutman (KY)
Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
Malcom Troutman (KY)

SATURDAY, MAY 28**JOB 29-31 (Canada 33.4M)**

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)

SUNDAY, MAY 29**JOB 32-34 (Cape Verde 423,613)**

Rodger & Jean Watts (WI) Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)
Beau/Ashley/Willow Ware (VA)
Kay Warmerdam (TX)
Don & Joyce Warpoole (TN)
Rodger & Jean Watts (WI)

MONDAY, MAY 30**JOB 35-39 (Cayman Isle 46,600)**

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)

TUESDAY, MAY 31**JOB 40-42 (Cen Af Repu 4.4M)**

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

**PRAY FOR
SCHEDULING FOR
2011-12**

Thunder and lightning

An aged preacher had it pretty well figured out! He shared: “When I was young, I used to think it was the thunder that killed people; but when I grew older, I learned it was the lightning. When I first began to preach, I thought the finest sermon would have the best effect, but I found the simple, plain and pointed statements did more. So I determined, through God’s help, to have less thunder and more lightning in my preaching.”

What is true of preaching is true also of teaching and of every other kind of work we might seek to do for the Lord. It is through the Holy Spirit and not merely the human spirit, that worthwhile work is done for God. Workers for the Lord would do well to remember, and profit, from the old preacher’s observation.

Words well spoken

When we rely on organization, we get what organization can do. When we rely on education, we get what education can do. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we get what God can do.

A. C. Dixon

Words

If I am tempted to reveal
A tale someone to me has told
About another, let it pass
Before I speak, three gates of gold.

Three narrow gates: First, **is it true?**
Then, **is it needful?** In my mind
Give truthful answer, and the next
Is last and narrowest, **is it kind?**

And if, to reach my lips at last,
It passes through these gateways three,
Then I may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

The peace of God

How many thousands of lips have lingered lovingly over those sweet, strong words: “The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus” (**Philippians 4:7**). It is God’s peace. It acts as an armed guard drawn up around heart and thoughts to keep unrest out. It is too subtle for intellectual analysis, but it steals into and steadies the heart. You cannot understand it, but you can feel it. You cannot get hold of it with your head, but you can with your heart. You do not get it. It gets you. *You need not understand in order to experience. Blessed are those that have not understood and yet have yielded and experienced.*

S. D. Gordon

Recommendation

Dr. J. Gordon Henry came to our District Pastors/Wives Retreat for a prayer seminar. He was introduced as “the mountain preacher from Tennessee,” but don’t let that fool you! Very quickly, you recognize the mature gift of teaching and the broad background of this man of God. The material is excellent and well planned. Every possible learning technique is used so effectively. You remember what he teaches.

But, most of all you are impressed by Dr. Henry’s sincere desire to help people pray. He really believes “everything by prayer.” In simple dependence upon God, he stands in front of the group and gives one practical truth after another on the subject of prayer. It is so fresh even though you have heard it before. When the Seminar is finished, Dr. Henry steps out of the picture. All you see is God on His throne waiting for you to ask according to His will and He will give to you.

If you have Dr. Henry come to your group for a prayer seminar, you’ll be glad he came.

John W. Fogal, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Western Great Lakes District Appleton, Wisconsin

Kept in perfect peace

“Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace
Whose mind is stayed on Thee.”

I read the dear old promise o’er,
And ask, “Is this for me?”

When troubles throng without surcease,
Can God keep me in perfect peace?

“In perfect peace,” when seas run high,
When loud the cutting blast?

When laid upon a bed of pain?
When tears are falling fast?

If Satan all his pow’r release,
Can God keep me in perfect peace?

Yet, I recall that far-off night,

Upon a storm-swept sea,
When urgent cries for succor came
From men in jeopardy
How, instantly, the waves were still
In swift obedience to His will.

O mighty Master of the sea,

Thou art my Master, too!
And Thou, all things, unto Thyself
Art able to subdue
Thou biddest inner tumult cease;
Thou keepest me “in perfect peace.”

T. O. Chisholm

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Tim & Merry Gregory (Thailand)
Shem & Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)
Mulamba Placide Kituta (Congo)
Nuhu & 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)

**COULD IT BE THAT TODAY IS THE
TOMORROW YOU WORRIED ABOUT
YESTERDAY? TRUST THE LORD FOR
EACH DAY.**

Perfect peace

I look not back God knows the fruitless
efforts.

The wasted hours, the sinning and regrets;
I leave them all with Him that blots the
record,
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

I look not forward God sees all the future,
The road that’s short or long, will lead me
home;
And He will face with me its every trial,
And bear for me the burden that may come.

I look not around me then would fears
assail me,
So wild the tumult of life’s restless sea;
So dark the world, so filled with war and
evil,
So vain the home of comfort and of ease.

I look not inward that would make me
wretched,
For I have naught on which to stay my
trust;
Nothing I see but failures and
shortcomings,
And weak endeavors crumbling into dust.

But *I look up* up into the face of Jesus!
For there my heart can rest, my fears are
stilled;
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled,
And there is joy, and love, and light.

Selected.

Labor not in vain

“Know that your labor in the Lord is not
in vain” (**1 Corinthians 15:58**). Each day,
keep using the “faith” oar and the “work” oar.
Keep working in His vineyard while it is day,
before the night comes. It will not be in vain.

THOUGHTS CONCERNING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Thursday, May 5, 2011

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (**Psalm 9:17**). “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (**Proverbs 14:34**).

Occasionally, we get a glimpse behind the scenes in the Bible. For example, Satan appeared when the sons of God gathered (**Job 1**). One can only wonder what he and his cohorts have planned for America. Is there any doubt who is behind the attack on Christianity that continues to accelerate? The battle that rages is not between flesh and blood; rather, it is a spiritual battle.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:11-12

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For sometime I have been aware of an unmet need in the lives of many believers understanding spiritual warfare. It is imperative for us to be keenly aware that we are in a war, not on a holiday excursion. We have an enemy whose primary effort is to

defeat the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is Satan. From the very beginning, his target has been God’s highest creation, man. The conflict was set in place when Satan rebelled against God. (**Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-12**).

The account of the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden records his first major assault (**Genesis 3**). He has been unrelenting in his effort to devour those who become followers of Jesus (**1 Peter 5:8**). To accomplish his goal, Satan actually has stratagems (*wiles*=battle plans) to defeat us (**Ephesians 6:11**). It is necessary for believers to know his approaches and not be ignorant of his devices (**2 Corinthians 2:11**) in order to be prepared. In addition, we need to understand the provisions God has made for us. Above all, we must develop a mind set that we are going to follow fully the directives laid out in the Word of God for our defense and our protection. We must will to do His will. To do less is to beckon failure.

An effort has been made to encourage believers living in the United States to focus on our own nation. Perhaps no better model can be found than **Daniel 9**. As Daniel read the writings of **Jeremiah**, the Holy Spirit moved him to think about his nation, Israel. You can pretty well follow his thought pattern. Why are we in bondage? Specific sins came to mind. “We did not listen to the prophets. We went our own way.” As he identified with the sins (note “we” are sinning, not “they”), he confessed specifically. Then he prayed for God’s mercy. We can do the same, not only on this National Day of Prayer, but often as the Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures we read to provoke us to pray for our nation.

Waymarks

Parents have often asked my advice regarding their young children who have indicated a desire for baptism. Let me make several suggestions. A few days ago, Maggie (our great-granddaughter who will soon be five) said to me, “Granddaddy, will you do me a favor? When I am a little older, will you baptize me? I love Jesus. I am sorry for my sins.”



MAGGIE, NOW FIVE

We believe in believer’s baptism, that is, in the baptism of individuals who have trusted Christ as Savior after learning that God sent Him into the world to die on the cross to pay for our sins because He loves us so very much. It is not enough merely to “believe intellectually” that this is true, which is easy for children because of their tendency toward faith. A person must for himself trust (put faith in) Jesus by an act of the will.

Before you talk about baptism with your children, be as sure as you humanly can that they are truly saved. Sometimes baptism of children can give them a false sense of security (which Satan would like to happen).

In the local church where Sue and I are members, our pastor, **Tyler Scarlett**, handles this matter quite well. Before being baptized, a child ought to be able to give a clear statement of his faith in Christ, and should be able to explain the significance of the ordinance of baptism.

While we would never want to discourage

a child in his desire to obey the Lord, we do want to be sure for his sake that he has as thorough an understanding of these matters as he ought to have. Since children have different levels of comprehension, it is impossible to set an age that he must attain before being baptized. Whatever the age, we want this event will be the significant time that the Lord intends for it to be.

A key to a growing faith

George Mueller (1805-1898), founder of orphanages in England, was known as a man of prayer and faith. There were amazing answers to prayer during his long life. What made him such a man of faith?

During his lifetime, Mueller read through the Bible over 200 times. In more than half of the readings, he read while on his knees praying over God’s Word as he studied.

That kind of commitment leads to knowledge and confidence in the will of God. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**).

Second coming

I’m not looking for signs. We’ve had plenty of them. I’m listening for a sound. Every time you see a scoffer who says there are no signs of His coming, you’ve just seen another sign. I’m listening for a shout.

Vance Havner

Secret for peace

The Chinese have a good proverb, and it is corroborated by **James 4:1**: “When there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. When there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. When there be harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there be order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Power Magazine