

# REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

May 2023



## THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[FOUNDED AS J. GORDON HENRY MINISTRIES IN 1984  
39<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, MAY 29, 2023

**We've come this far by faith, trusting in the LORD.  
Then Samuel took a stone and set it before Mizpah and Shen,  
and called its name EBENEZER saying, "Thus far has the  
LORD helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).**

**THANKS! ROPEHOLDER DOORKEEPERS!**

## Prayer Seminar on YouTube

**Get started: Download and Print a copy of the Prayer  
Seminar Workbook**

Thanks to the generosity of Pastor Bruce Sofia and his congregation at the Gloucester County Community Church, Washington Township, New Jersey, the prayer seminar is now available on YouTube. GCCC became a faithful Doorkeeper church in 1985 and now provided funds for a professional production. Become one of my students. Then tell others about the availability. Begin by going to [www.theprayerseminar.com](http://www.theprayerseminar.com).

**The Prayer Seminar Workbook.** Adam Nathanson, the new president of The Prayer Seminar [Founded as J Gordon Henry Ministries in 1984], recently shared that many pastors and leaders lauded the workbook as the most helpful tool that they have seen. I recently reviewed the workbook that is included in the recently bound copy of 2022-2023 BOARD MINUTES (likely the last one under my tenure). It was written to prepare Immanuel Baptist Church, Newport News, Virginia to launch a 24/7 prayer chapel ministry. A prayer warrior was in the chapel praying every hour around the clock in this ministry. After one week of praying, nineteen people were saved on the first Sunday morning and the power of God hovered over this congregation. God was waiting to pour down His blessings. Over 100 were baptized each of the next two years after the launching of the prayer chapel ministry.

**As I reviewed the prayer seminar workbook, my praise went out to God for the content. Only by the unction of the Holy Spirit could these words and their placement become a reality. As I read, my thought was that if I were writing today, I would not change any word.** It was the under the clear help and direction of the Holy Spirit that these words and the order they are placed in the *Prayer Seminar Workbook* came about. The hour is late. Time is swiftly passing. The days are dark and ominous. An extraordinary moving of God is desperately needed. How did America get to where we are? Behind everything that has happened so rapidly the past few years is clearly the work of Satan. While churches slept, he has worked unhindered. As I peruse reports from many sources both secular and non-secular, my conviction remains, the hope for a reversal is provided in 2 Chronicles 7:14, a clear mandate for God's people on earth. CHRISTIANS, humble yourselves, PRAY, seek God's face, turn from sin. The result? He will heal our land. Will we or will we not? **PRAYER IS THE WORK THAT MUST COME BEFORE ALL OTHER WORK.**

## PERSPECTIVE

### “Redefining Marriage” Debate



On Sunday, February 29, 2004, our beloved pastor at Forest Baptist Church, Forest, Virginia, Jack Barrett, preached a masterful sermon that clearly warned us what was happening in our society and where we were headed if we did not stand up for the *canon* (a word used to describe the sixty-six books/Scriptures recognized as inspired of God). Literally, **canon is a rule or measure of testing straightness.** He sounded the alarm of what was transpiring “*right before our eyes and in our presence.*” The title of his message was “*Redefining Marriage.*” He reminded us that individual believers are expected to be “salt and light” for the peoples of the world as we obey the Scriptures. He defined “the canon” we are to use to define marriage. **The Biblical standard for marriage is to be between a man and a woman.** What is Satan using to redefine marriage? 1. **The courts are redefining marriage.** 2. **The culture is redefining marriage.** 3. **The church is redefining marriage.** Again “*all this is happening right before our eyes and in our presence.*” Pastor Jack left no stone unturned in relating current events to the Scriptures.

## TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE



L-R REG MARTIN, JOYCE SHEFFIELD, JIM & SUE, H. B. HARRIS  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, SOMERSET, KENTUCKY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1957

**The courts have redefined marriage.** The message began with the action of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 2004 mandating same-sex marriages as a civil right stating that the state legislature must make it legal in 180 days. Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOM) into law on September 21, 1996 that defined marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman and allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. Afterward around forty states enacted special bans on same-sex marriage. [Fast forward to June 2015, when the Supreme Court of the United States made same-sex marriage the law of the land when conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy sided with Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan in a 5-4 decision. Now the transgender movement has further eroded traditional marriage and the home/family union.] **The culture has redefined marriage** by vilifying the Biblical teaching with many cohabiting without a sacred marriage ceremony. **The church itself has redefined marriage** by going along with the courts and culture. Pastor Jack used statistics to picture the 2004 scenario to validate his assessment. Back to today. Those of us who heard the message in 2004 are visibly living in another world. A recent visitor in our home defined the times here in the United States as “Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Pastor Jack emphasized the need to return to the canon of Scripture on marriage. The question is do we want to return to the Biblical standards? “*One man and one woman for life*” encapsulates the teaching. For the truth, turn to God's Word, the measuring rod for Truth. Read for yourself some of the Canon Scriptures concerning marriage and same-sex behavior: **Genesis 1:21-28; Genesis 2:18, 21-4; Leviticus 20:13; Matthew 19:3-15 (Jesus' view of marriage vv 4-6); Mark 10:2-12; Romans 1:26-27; Romans 7:6; 2 Corinthians 7:1-9 to review the matter of marriage and same-sex marriage. Let the canon of Scripture define the lifestyle expected of a Christian.**

Courts, culture, and churches cannot redefine marriage. Prayer and the Word must meet and free God's truth to be understood and followed by Christians. Remember, we are mandated to be salt and light. Today believers must do prayer work

and focus on people and circumstances. Prayer is **WORK to be done**. Remember, prayer touches three worlds: **Heaven**—Looking Toward God—Worship; **Earth**—Looking Toward people and circumstances—Work; **Hell**—Looking Toward Satan and his cohorts—(Spiritual) **Warfare**. (*Prayer Seminar Workbook* from Session One *WHAT IS PRAYER?*, pages 7, 8, 9).

There has never been a great spiritual awakening that did not begin in prayer. So many congregations are playing church in America and the society is reaping the consequences. Many churches display proudly a state-of-the art **Supper Room** but few have an **Upper Room**. My friend and mentor, **Armin Gesswein** (1907-2001), whose booklet, **The Seven Wonders of Prayer**, was one of the forces that led me to see the importance and power of Prayer and the Word in 1976—a key moment in my own spiritual metamorphosis—often said that *as a hospital needs an ER (emergency room) the church needs an UR (upper room) following the pattern of Jesus and the early church*.

Recently **Dr. David Andersen** and his beautiful wife, **Eunjoo**, visited Sue and me in Lynchburg. He is the leader who ministers to state legislators in the **Commonwealth of Virginia**, a very important role. He presented me with a copy of the latest edition of his book, **CHRIST’S KINGDOM COMMISSION—THE GREAT INTERCESSION FOR ALL IN AUTHORITY**. This is a masterful reminder that intercession for our nation is vitally important, both privately and publicly. David has earned the right to be heard since his passion is to make a difference in the legislative halls not only in the United States, but around the world. He has included segments of his doctoral dissertation from Master’s Seminary (CA).

Here’s a final thought to ponder. Dr. Anderson quotes one of my heroes, **Dr. J Oswald Sanders** (1902-1992): “**Charles H. Spurgeon** (1929-2019) once said that he had not known a half-hour for years in which He had not consciously prayed.” Perhaps this statement tells us all we need to do to bring about a reversal of the moral decline of our great nation.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

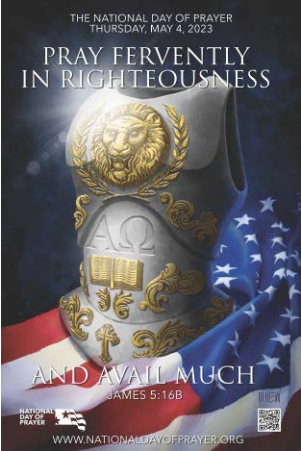
**PROGRESS REPORT. THANKS.**

We continue grateful to **Sunday Congo** and his team in **Nigeria**. April has been an important month. There is in place a prayer coordinator in the 89 provinces, trained and ready to teach the prayer seminar. April 26-29 an additional one thousand leaders were trained how to teach a prayer seminar. **Sunday Bwanhot**: “I will do the main training using the *Prayer Seminar Workbook* and my book *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* (a contextualization of the prayer seminar).” Goal: Every Church in Nigeria a Praying Church. **Adam Nathanson**: **First Quarter**: Six states: Florida, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, West Virginia; Two nations: Cuba, Venezuela. Traveled 9,537 miles (6,190 air and 3,346 ground). April-May: Spain (April 23-May 7); Switzerland (May 8-13) Venezuela (May 21-30). “Teaching and Preaching the things pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ” (**Acts 28**: Pray. Continue to pray earnestly for Adam and his team and leaders in other nations). The Prayer Seminar is a faith ministry depending on the Lord and the gifts from God’s children, especially **Doorkeepers** and **Ropeholders**.

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.”  
1 Thessalonians 1:2

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYER  
AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023**



“Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). “Let us arise, then, at last, for the Scripture stirs us up, Saying, ‘Now is the hour for us to rise from sleep’” (ROMANS 13:10).

**TAKE 5 AT 12 NOON**

Join thousands of others across America at 12 noon on Thursday, May 4, 2023 for at least five minutes of united prayer.

- Acknowledge our dependence upon God.
- Give thanks for the many blessings He has given us.
- Confess specific sins in our nation and ask for God’s mercy upon us.
- Ask for a spirit of repentance among God’s children.
- Ask God to guide our leaders and to bring healing and spiritual wholeness to our nation and all our people.



**Notes from My Bible**

- Note 6069.** The believer who takes time out for prayer usually finds ample time for all the other things needing his attention.
- Note 6070.** What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship is prayer to the soul. **Corrie ten Boom**
- Note 6071.** Prayer and meditation on the Word are sure cures for a run-down spiritual battery.
- Note 6072.** The more we love the Word of God the more we will love the God of the Word.
- Note 6073.** Adoration is a time of meditation on the majesty, the holiness, the grace, the goodness, and the power to just name a few areas (**1 Chronicles 9:11**).

**A REVIEW FOR ROPEHOLDER  
DOORKEEPERS**

**A Key Passage to Master**  
(*Prayer Seminar Workbook*, page 4)  
Essentials for Becoming a Prayer Warrior  
John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Upper Room Discourse

1. **Hear, Read, Study, Memorize, and Meditate.** Remember the Hand Illustration on the Word of God. Get into the Word]. **Apply the Word of God.**
2. Be Spirit-filled, which means Spirit-controlled! Self replaced on the driver’s seat by the Holy Spirit.
3. Establish a time and place to meet the Lord each day. Make an appointment and keep the appointment
4. Use the **A-C-T-S acronym approach** to organize your praying.

**STOP! THINK! When you enter your prayer closet** (a set place, a shut place, a secluded place as free from interruptions as possible), **remember that this time is the most important time this day will hold**—your time in the presence of God. His presence is everywhere, but He invites you to enter the holiest [His Throne Room in Heaven] through the blood of Jesus (**Hebrews 10:19**). Prayer is coming to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. A PRAYER SEMINAR COULD HELP YOU AND YOUR CHURCH GET STARTED. Mail in the card from the enclosed Prayer Seminar Brochure to get started,

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