

REFLECTOR

VOL.65, No.11 "Holding Forth the Word of Life" November 2019



The Prayer Element Labeled Thanksgiving in Daily Praying

As we study prayer, we know without any doubt that God wants us to pray and make request of Him. It is equally obvious that He expects us to come to Him with a thankful spirit. Satan does not want us to pray, but he will never object to our going through the motions of praying as long as we are unthankful. He knows that without a thankful heart, we simply strike out in our effort to pray and prayers stay earthbound. Thanksgiving is an essential ingredient to effective praying.

The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. We have this illustrated when we are instructed that prayer does make a difference. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much is the word from **James 5:16**. Would it not be helpful to reinforce this truth by providing a life example? Of course it would. The following two verses, **17 and 18**, provide the example. One man was cited whose life experiences proved that prayer does make a difference. The man was **Elijah**, the prophet, from the Old Testament. He prayed that there be no rain and there was no rain for three and one-half years. He prayed again, and the rain came. Further, this one man stood against 450 false prophets of Baal in an incident on Mt. Carmel. The victory was affected through prayer. The lesson to be learned is to let the Word explain the Word, the most powerful teaching-learning approach in studying the Bible.

The Bible is full of prayers that express believers' gratitude to God. Let's look at a few of them from the Old Testament. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits (**Psalm 103:2**), O give thanks to the Lord for He is good (**Psalm 118:1**). His mercies are new every morning (**Lamentations**

Gleanings from Letter-Writing Month

The front cover is a painting from Warner Sallman from a card sent by Sara Underwood (one of my White Pine (TN) High School classmates and a very faithful **Doorkeeper**). Her message is precious: "Wishing you treasured moments spent with our Savior ... a lifetime blessed with His love." Included was the following poem written by **Phyllis Robins**:

Strength for today is all you need,
Not strength for today and tomorrow;

Tomorrow's dawn will always bring
A fresh supply to borrow;
Use every bit of strength God sends;

He gives beyond all measure,.
Giving mercy day by day
Is our loving Father's pleasure.

Sara wrote: "God is so good! Hope you two [Sue and Jim] have many years together." On my eight-fourth birthday on September 30, I set aside time to read the greetings from around the world and draw strength from the love of Christ that the many expressions represented. I am so blessed by the friendships that God has given Sue and me through the prayer seminar ministry. Thank you, my brothers and sisters. I cherish every expression knowing that many of you pray daily for us and the prayer seminar ministry. We need the prayers of those we love!

3:22-23). Do these passages sound familiar? They should if you have been in a prayer seminar, since these are the basic support Scriptures that we give to introduce our study of thanksgiving in prayer. Bless implies to adore God for His goodness and return thanks. In the OT era, a special group of priests were appointed to do nothing but praise and thank the Lord (**2 Chronicles 31:2**). In the October study, we used OT Scriptures in the lead article on thanksgiving.

The **New Testament** places focus on thanksgiving as well. During the three years of His ministry prior to His death, burial, and resurrection, **Jesus** set a proper example for us as God's children. He was careful to give thanks. He lived with an attitude of thanksgiving. When He fed 4,000, He gave thanks (**Matthew 15:3**) before the people. In private He gave thanks when He met with the disciples at their parting meeting (**Matthew 26:27**). At the grave of Lazarus in Bethany, He gave thanks (**John 11:41**). When He instituted the Lord's Supper, He gave thanks for the bitter cup He was to drink (**Luke 22:19**).

Without doubt, a believer can gain much insight by reflecting on words that the Holy Spirit led **Paul** to share with those to whom he wrote epistles. Fortunately for us, these words are a part of the Word of God that you and I have and can speak to our hearts as well. He admonished the believers in the different churches, **Be thankful** ... and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God through Him** (**Colossians**

3:15, 17). We are instructed to **give thanks always** for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 5:20**).

Paul seldom omitted the note of thanksgiving in prayer. In looking up the references listed in the Concordance, it is striking that in four verses, he said **I thank my God**. First, **I thank my God** through Jesus Christ for you all (**Romans 1:8**). **I thank my God** always on your behalf (**1 Corinthians 1:4**). **I thank my God** upon ever remembrance of you (**Philippians 1:3**). **I thank my God** whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day (**2 Timothy 1:1-3**). My reaction was simply to check to see when the last time was when I said in my prayers **I thank my God** followed by specifically naming for what I am thanking Him.

Paul made other references to thanksgiving in prayer. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, **cease not to give thanks for you**, making mention of you in my prayers (**Ephesians 1:15-16**). **Giving thanks always** for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 5:20**). We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you (**Colossians 1:3**). **We give thanks to God always** for you, making mention of you in our prayers (**1 Thessalonians 1:2**). For what **thanks** can we render to God again for you (**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**). We are bound to **thank God always for you**, brethren (**2 Thessalonians 1:3**). But **we are bound to give thanks to**

God for you (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

Paul felt that it was his duty to give thanks to God always for the believers in Thessalonica (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**). Are there other examples of subjects for thanksgiving in the Scriptures? Thanksgiving is expressed for wisdom (**Daniel 2:23**), food (**John 6:11, 23**), answered prayer (**John 11:41**), for the Lord's Supper (**1 Corinthians 22:24**), victory (**1 Corinthians 15:57**), salvation (**2 Corinthians 9:15**), converts (**1 Thessalonians 1:2**), and changed lives (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**).

Thanksgiving for His work in Creation and His Work in Redemption. The Bible identifies two main things to thank God for are His work in creation and His work in redemption. David highlights creation in **Psalms 100**. In eternity, John reported the words of a **song of praise** being offered around God's Throne. Let's listen in: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You have created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created (**Revelation 4:11**). Another Song of Heaven featured thanksgiving for His work in redemption—And they sang a new song, saying, 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood' (**Revelation 5:9**).

Go back to the introduction of our study on thanksgiving in the September **Reflector**. The lead verse is **Philippians 4:6**. In the Living Bible the verse says Don't worry about anything. Instead pray about everything. Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for the answers. Remember the **Living Bible** is not a translation; rather it is a

paraphrase of an English translation. In the King James Version (KJV) the truth is beautifully crafted: Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

A ten-year old girl tried to quote this verse and began, Be thankful for nothing and anxious for everything. She stopped abruptly and said, That doesn't sound right. I'd better start again. It may be that her mistake illustrates a problem many Christians have in our communication with our Heavenly Father—attempting to pray while thankful for nothing. One reason why praying never reaches God and our words go no higher than the ceiling or into empty space is **ingratitude**. Ingratitude is a hindrance to prayer because thanksgiving opens the gate into God's presence. That is made clear in a passage familiar to most believers: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise be thankful to Him, and bless His name (**Psalms 100:4**).

Thanksgiving and praise are essential to prayer. When we remember God's goodness and thank Him for what He has done for us in the past, we open the gate and step into His court. We come into His presence. When our hearts do not contain thankfulness and praise, the gate remains closed! The dominating theme in **Psalms 100** is the necessity to approach God with thanksgiving and praise.

Someone has pointed out that when we reach Heaven and are in our Father's immediate presence

forever, all other elements of prayer will cease because there will be no need for them—but thanksgiving and praise will continue throughout eternity. Well said!

As we close the period that Nigerians call EBER, which means September, October, November, December believing more prosperity is on the way with better days ahead, we will use thanksgiving in December to focus on practical ideas we can use to keep our thanksgiving fresh and vibrant. Isn't it good to take the time and put forth the effort to study the five elements of prayer in-depth? As we understand and use the Five A-C-T-S Elements: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Seeking for self (PETITION) and Seeking for others (INTERCESSION) our praying will be enriched and more satisfying. That has been the testimony through the years as believers learn and implement this approach. My prayer is that you are gaining knowledge and understanding that will not only provide a Biblical foundation, but useable information as well. I hope that these "EBER" studies will remind us to practice thanksgiving as we daily approach the Throne.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

**IS YOUR CHURCH A
PRAYING CHURCH?
A PRAYER SEMINAR
MIGHT HELP. SEND US
THREE POSSIBLE DATES.
WE WILL RESPOND.**

Thanksgiving in Prayer

Dr. Robert Gee Witty (10/6/1906—6/20/2007) was known as "the Father of Theological Distance Education" in America. Thousands upon thousands still profit from the unique and widely accepted type of delivery system that he pioneered. His contribution to Christian ministry spanned 87 of his 100 years. The founder of **Luther Rice Seminary** and author of many books, he was one of the founders of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), actually the one who suggested its name.

Dr. Witty was a special friend of the prayer seminar ministry. He was co-author with Dr. Henry of **The Enabler**, a book on the Holy Spirit. He chose the title for the book. When he was 95, Dr. Witty shared the following thoughts for **The Doorkeeper Report**:

"Now that I am 95, I speak with some authority. There's nothing like God's amazing grace, to know He has prepared MY place. God has been good to me. I thank Him for breath, heart beat, ability to see, hear, feel, touch, taste, walk, talk, and even think. To love and to be loved. I thank Him to be able to sleep good and have little pain, to be used of God and to know His salvation, to go to church and Sunday school, to be able to eat and drink and have some food, to drive a car and to have a car to drive, to be able to give a little and get a lot, to sing even if it is off key, to laugh and to cry, to live and to be ready to die or, praise God, to receive His coming."

This is a marvelous example of thanksgiving in prayer for us to develop our mindset to do the same.

THE JGHM SERVICE OF COMMITMENT

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Beulah Baptist Church

528 Leesville Road

Lynchburg, Virginia

6:15-7:05 p.m.

J. Gordon Henry Ministries

Founders: J. Gordon and Sue T. Henry



6:15-6:35 p.m. Mini-piano concert

Selections: Beethoven/Hymn Arrangement

Mona Henry Thomas, Pianist

6:35 p.m. The Henry Singers

Duet: **Mona and Jeanne Ware Pribble**

"Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior"

Four Generation Quartet: Grandfather,
Daughter (Mona), Granddaughter (Jeanne),
Great-Granddaughter (**Maggie Pribble**)

"Down on My Knees" and

"Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All"

6:45 p.m. Commitment - Ministry Plans.

October 1, 2019--December 31, 2020

6:55 p.m. PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Zane Abbott. (wife Burma, faithful

Doorkeepers and retired missionaries to
Canada and Japan).

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR
FORTY YEARS of PRAYER SEMINARS**

REFLECTOR

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

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Note 5031. "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." Saint Augustine (4th Century),

Note 5032. Patience carries a lot of wait.

Note 5033. Changing times do not change God.

Note 5034. In rearing children, be firm, be fair, be fun.

Note 5035. God delights in the faith of those who cling tenaciously to His promises and claims them in prevailing prayer.

Praise God by offering thanksgiving for anything that drives you to your knees! In eternity you will be glad He kept you dependent on Him!

DOORKEEPER REPORT

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2

September 21-October 17, 2019

Regular 65 \$5,526.00

SOWING...THEN COMES HARVEST!



PRAYER CALENDAR

November 2019

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Acts 1-4 (Thailand 68.4M)

Mae Adams (NC)
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
Norma Ailes (FL)
H. L. & Janie Allen (SC)
David & Eunjoo Andersen (VA)
Marvin/Donna Anderson (VA)
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
Eldon & Gayle Armstrong (SC)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Mike & Joyce Baker (VA)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Acts 5-7 (Trinidad 1.2M)

Marcia Barna (PA)
Linda Beattie (PA)
Tim Bash-GCCC (NJ)
Emily Baskin (TN)
Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Beulah Baptist Church (VA)
Dr/ Dennis Hollandsworth

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Beverly Blankenship (TN)
Loretta Bolen (VA)
William/Debbie Bowden (NC)
Kathleen Boyce (PA)
David & Marna Boyd (OR)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Ed & Jean Bradshaw (VA)
Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Lurlene Braud (VA)
Michael Breed (WI)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Acts 8-9 (Tobago)

Nancy Bretz (PA)
Judy Britt (GA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Freddie/Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Anne Campbell (VA)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Cliff/Laura Cannon (FL))

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Acts 10-12 (Uganda 39.6M)

Robin & Teresa Carlson (NJ)
Robert & Anne Carroll (VA)
Vernia Coleman (MD)

Mary Columbus (VA)
Kathie Connolly (VA)
Philip & Jennifer Cooke (VA)
Larry & Sue Cooper (DE)
Foster/Georgia Covington (VA)
Barry & Melanie Cox (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Acts 13-15 (Ukraine 44M)

Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene/Peggy Cummings (NC)
Barbara Custalow (VA)
Tina Darden (MD)
Bobby & Deborah Davis (VA)
John Davis (VA)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Robert & Janice DeLong (VA)
Carolyn Dodd (VA)
Jo Ann Dudley (VA)
Micheal & Diane Eagle (VA)
Kathryn Eaton (ME)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Acts 16-18 (Uruguay 3.4M)

Lynn Elkins (TN)
Jeff & Leeann Englert (KY)
Don & Mary Enoch (FL)
Duane Eriean (WI)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
John & Susan Finnessy (MD)
James & Ruth Flanagan (GA)
Nancy Fowser (NJ)
Claire/MaryAnn Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Acts 19-20 (United States 327M)

James Fugate (CA)
Emilee & Emma Fulcher (VA)
John & Kim Gaines (DE)
Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Gloucester Co. Community Ch (NJ)
Bruce Sofia, Pastor
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Chad & Wendy Goodner (OK)
Steve & Sue Gordon (VA)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Acts 21-23 (Venezuela 31.3M)

Sam/Miche/Venezuel;a le
Graisbery (NJ)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)
Linda Gregory (UT)
Mike Hall (IN)
Bruce & Vivian Harris (TN)
Sadie Harris (VA)
Hazel Hartless (VA)
William & Sara Hefner (PA)
Mary Pat Hendrick (VA)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Jim Hengoed (CT)
Gina Henry (VA)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jack Henry (TN)
James & Kathryn Henry (MS)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger & Sara Henry (OH)
Sean & Bethany Henry (VA)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Acts 24-26 (Zambia 20M)

Steve & Donna Hensel (MN)
Frank & Pat Hitchings (ME)
Jeff Hodge (VA)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Bill Hogan (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA))
Anita Horton (VA)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Acts 27-28(Pakistan 204.9M)

Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert/Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Jide & Bunmi Iware (MD)
Gene Jeffries (AR)
Mark & Debbie Jenifer (MD)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Jonathan & Julie Jobe (SC)
Millicent John (NY)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Romans 1-3 (Pakistan 204.9M)

Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Ben & Gwen Jones (MD)
Gwen Johnson (AZ)
Aaron & Iris Johnson (MD)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Rick & Betsy Johnson (TN)
Vicky Johnson (MD)
Dave & Debbie Jones)
James Jones (FL)
Paul Jones (KY)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Romans 4-5 (Panama 3.8M)

Theo/Sherry Jones (MD)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Suzie Kauffmann (NC)
Harper/Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Kerby Knob Baptist Church (KY)
Darren Hisel, Pastor

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Romans 6-8 (Paraguay 7M)

Harriet Kennedy (VA)
Louis & Jane Kiger (VA)

Louis & Jane Kiger (VA)
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
 Ken & Bonnie Kirby (PA)
 Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (ID)
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Romans 9-11 (Peru 31M)

Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)
 Phil & Edra Landers (OK)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Aaron & Wanda Lewis (MD)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell Jr., President
 Delores Lieli (MD)
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent/Mary Lobisco (MI)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Don & Betty Lowry (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bruce & Vickie Tribbett

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Romans 12-16 (Nigeria 190.6M)

Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Nick & Pat Markham (VA)
 Reg & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Beau Ware Masonry (V)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray/Loretta Mathis (TN)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

1 Cor 1-5 (Nigeria 190.6M)

R. O. & June McHaney (VA)
 Nancy McPherson (ME)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)
 Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Roger & Nancy Minney (VA))
 Bill & Sharon Moody (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

1 Cor 6-10 (Nigeria 190.6M)

Doris Moos (NJ)
 Elaine Moser (MN)
 Drever/Roberta Morton (VA)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Betty Nichols (WA)
 NE Baptist College (VT)
 Mark Ballard, President
 Oconto Gospel Chapel (WI)
 Peter Dorn, Pastor

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

1 Cor 11-14 (Romania 21.5M)

Zach & Jackie Olcott (VA)
 Cliff & Mary Pavalonis (VA)
 Pecks Baptist Church (VA)
 Bryan Sheehan, Pastor
 Sandy Pederson (MN)
 Jack & Carolyn Peerman (VA)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

1 Cor 15-16 (Russia 142.3M)

Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
 Jeanne & Maggie Pribble (VA)
 Marjorie Randall (TX)
 Dave Ricker (ME)
 Joyce Riley (KY)
 Calvin & Valerie Ritchey (VA)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 John & Sandra Roberts (NC)
 Dorlos & Betty Robinson (MS)
 Isabel Robotham (NY)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

2 Cor 1-5 (Nigeria 190.6M)

James & Shelly Rode (FL)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred & Wanda Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don/Marie Satterwhite (MO)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Phil/Wendy/Steve Schrank (WI)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis/Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Bapt Ch (VA)
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

2 Cor 6-9 (Nigeria 190.6M)

Ron & Bonnie Smith (VA)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 John & Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Carol Snow Stewart (CT)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (AR)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

2 Cor 10-13 (Nigeria 190.6M)

William Suttles (NC)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Brian/Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Billy & Sharon Taylor (PA)
 Ron Taylor (VA)

Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Jimmy & Mary Thomas (VA)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 W. D./Jackie Thomason (TN)
 Montez Thompson (WI)
 Cathy Tilton (VA)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Galatians (Scotland 5.3M)

Paula Tipton (TN)
 William & Katie Toney (NC)
 Virginia Trask (VA)
 Carrol/Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Diane Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Joe & Benita Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall/Mary Troutman (KY)
 Frances Turpin (VA)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Ephesians (Nigeria 190.6M)

Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick/Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George/Jeanette Vernachik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Mary Ann Voss (DE)
 Michael/Sandra Ward (IN)

Beau/Ashley/Willow/Will Ware (VA)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Philippians (Nigeria 190.6M)

Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Holland & Mary Warren (VA)
 Rodger Watts (WI)
 Frank & Nell Weer (KY)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Reg/Mary Ann Wilburn (VA)
 Jeff Williamson (FL)
 Ken & Carol Willis (VA)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Colossians (Nigeria 190.6M)

Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Amos & Celia Wipf (GA)
 Jon & Selena Wood (PA)
 Layden Wood (VA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 David & Lili Wykle (VA)
 Yeshua Ministries (TN)
 Dr. Frank Bell, Pres.
 Fred & Susan Zeller (VA)

DAILY INTERCESSION:

J. GORDON & SUE HENRY
ADAM & DIANNA NATHANSON

HEALTH

Zane & Burma Abbott (VA)
Ron Gavette [Kay] (VA)
Joy Harper (VA)
Bruce Kirby [Wanda] (KY)
Edra Landers [Phil] (OKO)
Aija Ozolins [John] (Latvia)
Bobby Smith [Cindy] (VA)
Jean Smith [Jim] (KY)
Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
Sara Underwood (TN)
Holland & Mary Warren (VA)



INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Ben & Judy Armacost (Europe)
James & Elizabeth Dean (Pakistan)
Digmar & Lisbeysi Garcia (Cuba)
Shem & Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)
Mulumba Placide Kituta (Burundi)
Nuhu & Mercy Leo (Nigeria)
Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)
Enock & Patience Mulomba (Botswana)
Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)
Andrew & Celestine Sakari (Kenya)
Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)
Cliff & Marcia Vincent (China)
Robert & Joana Waisam (Brazil)
Othnel Wakili (Nigeria)
Silas & Comfort Yashim (Nigeria)

Asking and Receiving

"You have not because you ask
not ... You ask and receive not
because you ask amiss."

James 4:2b,3a

In two brief, concise and clear declarations, James, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has provided remarkably valuable insight into prayer. Due to the vital importance of understanding these two statements in gaining a proper perspective of prayer, there are two times in the prayer seminar that attention focuses on them. Repetition is often the mother of learning.

Charles Spurgeon reminds us that asking is the rule of the Kingdom and God did not change the rule for His own son!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

You never have to bear your burden alone. We are eager to pray with you and then supply needed prayer support daily. Keep us updated.

Call or text: 434-239-8837 (JGH)

E-mail: jghm84@aol.com

Address: 1127 Lakeview Drive,
Lynchburg VA 24502.

Before December 31, 2019
schedule seminars through JGHM.
For 2020, contact John Finnessy
at (443) 889-2828.

Pray Daily

The Greatest Blessing

As Jesus died, He cried out,
*"My God, My God, why have You
 forsaken Me?"* (Mark 15:34)

These words are undoubtedly the most mysterious in Scripture. It's not that we can't grasp what they mean. Some, of course, say the words reflect the pained surprise of a God-intoxicated man, who finally realized that God would not lift Him from the cross. But the New Testament gives us a better explanation. Paul said that Jesus was made "sin for us" (2 **Corinthians 5:21**). In a moment of time, the dammed up flood of human sin was released, and cascaded with awful force into the Son of God.

In that moment, when the Son of God became sin for us, the Father looked away. For the first and only time in all eternity, within the matrix of the One God, Father and Son were brutally torn apart.

So we do know what the words mean. What we can never understand is what the experience they represent meant to Father and to Son. We can never plumb the depths of Jesus' anguish or sense the waves of pain that echoed out through all eternity. We can never envision the corrosive scars that sin engraved on His sinlessness.

All we can do is stand at the foot of the cross, hear that cry, and realize that what Jesus did for us cost Him more than we can begin to imagine. And say, "Thank You, Lord."

—Larry Richards

I am His and He is mine

Loved with everlasting love,
 Led by grace that love to know—
 Spirit, breathing from above,
 Thou has taught me it is so!
 O this full and perfect peace,
 O this transport all divine—
 In a love which cannot cease,
 I am His and He is mine.

Heav'n above is softer blue,
 Earth around is sweeter green;
 Something lives in every hue
 Christless eyes have never seen!
 Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
 Flow'rs with deeper beauties shine,
 Since I know, as now I know,
 I am His and He is mine.

Things that once were wild alarms
 Cannot now disturb my rest;
 Closed in everlasting arms,
 Pillowed on the loving breast!
 O to lie forever here,
 Doubt and care and self resign,
 While He whispers in my ear—
 I am His and He is mine.

His forever, only His—
 Who the Lord and me shall part?
 Aha, with what a rest of bliss
 Christ can fill the loving heart!
 Heav'n and earth may fade and flee,
 Firstborn light in gloom decline,
 But while God and I shall be,
 I am His and He is mine.

—Wade Robinson

Who will Go for Me? Lord, Send Us!

Send us around the world with the news of Your saving power and Your eternal plan for all mankind. How everyone throughout the earth will praise the Lord ... And people from remotest lands will worship You.

Psalm 67:2-3, 7b Living Bible

Praying with Thanksgiving

R. A. Torrey

There are two words often overlooked in the lesson about prayer which Paul gives us in **Philippians 4:6-7**: "In nothing be anxious; **with thanksgiving** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus" (R.V.). The two important words often overlooked are, "**WITH THANKSGIVING.**"

Doubtless one reason why so many of our prayers lack power is because we have neglected to return thanks for blessings already received. If any one were to constantly come to us asking help from us, and should never say, "Thank you" for the help thus given, we would soon tire of helping one so ungrateful. Doubtless our heavenly Father, out of a wise regard for our highest welfare, oftentimes refuses to answer petitions that we send up to Him in order that we may be brought to a sense of our ingratitude and taught to be thankful.

God is deeply grieved by the thanklessness and ingratitude, of which so many of us are guilty. When Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one came back to give Him thanks, in wonderment and pain He exclaimed, "Where there not the ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" (**Luke 17:17** R.V.).

How often must He look down upon us in sadness at our forgetfulness of His repeated blessings, and His frequent answer to our prayers.

Returning thanks for blessings

already received increases our faith and enables us to approach God with new boldness and new assurance. As we reflect upon the wondrous goodness of God toward us on the one hand, and on the other hand upon the little thought and strength and time that we ever put into thanksgiving, we may well humble ourselves before God and confess our sin.

The mighty men of prayer in the Bible and the mighty men of prayer throughout the ages of the church's history have been men who were much given to thanksgiving and praise. David was a mighty man of prayer, and how often in his epistles he bursts out in definite thanksgiving to God for definite blessings and definite answers to prayers. Jesus is our model in prayer as in everything else. We find in the study of His life that His manner of returning thanks at the simplest meal was so noticeable that two of His disciples recognized Him by this after His resurrection.

Thanksgiving is one of the inevitable results of being filled with the Holy Spirit and one who does not learn "in everything to give thanks" cannot continue to pray in the Spirit. If we would learn to pray with power we would do well to let these two words sink deep into our hearts: "**WITH THANKSGIVING.**"

Reuben Archer Torrey (1856-1908) was an American evangelist, pastor, educator, and writer. A graduate of Yale College and Seminary, he had a long association with D. L. Moody and was the first superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute (1889-1908).

International Ministries "Before I Forget"



Looking back, it is easy to see that God has guided the development of the international phase of the prayer seminar ministry. When an invitation to conduct prayer seminars in **India** came from **B. A. Prabhakar**, president of **Asia for Christ** headquartered in Secunderabad. I hesitated to accept his kind invitation. How could a fledgling ministry undertake such an effort knowing the time and resources that would be required? With fear and trembling, after much prayer for wisdom, we were on our way to **India**.

Soon it was to **Nigeria** working with Southern Baptists.



Then it was **South Korea** and **Japan**. Paul had his Macedonian call and we have had our calls to the

nations. The Holy Spirit established some parameters that took Paul and his entourage into Europe instead of Asia. The Holy Spirit has guided me to have safe travels over 2.8 million miles to do the work that He has entrusted to me.

Dr. Henry Morris, my colleague during my eleven-year tenure as Executive Director for the **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)**, often expressed amazement when doors began to open in many nations. "How do you get invitations?" was his question multiple times. Sue and I were **ready to go** whenever and wherever He led. God "stirred up" the hearts of men and women to become **Doorkeepers** holding the ropes while we went. The list of nations is long; thrilling stories abound that were carefully recorded in the reports of each journey.

I am often reminded by friends that it would be worthwhile to compile these stories and venture accounts for posterity. Sometime ago, the Holy Spirit impressed upon my mind that should I have the opportunity to write memoirs that the book should be entitled "**Before I Forget**." It could be organized chronological. It could be organized under "Continents." Individual seminars could be highlighted. Individual events could be shared. One section could deal with national coordinators (a key element in having a successful experience) or interpreters (vital since I do not speak other languages but found it easy to speak thorough

an interpreter). Certainly, there are many approaches that could be taken. There could be photos. Remember, "a picture is worth a thousand words." From the early days we used a Polaroid camera with the goal of bringing home one hundred photos from each nation hosting prayer seminars. Then came the digital camera that made Polaroid cameras obsolete! Thousands of photos are in the **JGHM Archives**.

For most of the years of international ministry, I set aside a block of time at the conclusion of the six-hours providing a card that had three sections: (1) List the most important things God has taught you during the prayer seminar; (2) What are the specific steps you plan to take to implement what He has taught you; (3) List any specific prayer need you have at this time. This phase was concluded with a public commitment time when believers who were touched by the Holy Spirit to make specific decisions were asked to join me, along with the pastor/coordinator(s) for prayers of dedication to the task ahead. We have thousands of beautiful testimonies that could become one section of **"Before I Forget."**

As the years passed, I often explained that I ran the prayer seminar, with the help of **Sue Bell** (my administrative assistant/secretary/right hand for nineteen years), out of my back pocket. This was necessary because I had major responsibilities in my work as an educator that required 110%. I believe that you call that "bi-vocational" although some of my time was "tri-vocational." One of my goals during the tenure with **TRACS** was to bring the organization

to a point that I could pass the mantle to someone else and devote more time to the prayer seminar ministry. A key component was vital, recognition by the United States Department of Education as an approved accrediting agency. Since 1995, my major focus has been the prayer seminar ministry. I learned to "multi-task," a skill I developed at **Berea College (KY)** in my student labor assignment working in the **Office of Guidance and Testing** under the tutelage of **Dean Charles Shutt**. **Miss Marge Sloan**, my office supervisor, sat me down in the early days of that work and explained the "secret" for efficiency in that very busy office. It was simple. "You will often be interrupted by a telephone call, a colleague asking a question, a more pressing assignment or an office visitor. Take care of those intrusions, but quickly get back to the task in which you were engaged. Remember you only have a few hours in the office each day. Make your time and presence count." Wasn't that helpful advice?



God has led us to plant beachheads in many nations. We have focused on the indigenous churches. Evidence abounds that this has been a fruitful approach as there are active prayer

seminar ministries in at least sixty nations. What can I say with fourteen months left in active ministry as far as **JGHM** is involved but only Heaven itself will reveal the full benefits of the prayer seminar ministry.



Earlier I mentioned **Sue Bell**, but there was **Sue Henry**, my wife of sixty-two years, my companion, my inspiration, my best friend, the mother of our three children, Mona, Mark and Melody and "Nana" for six grandchildren (Beau, Jeanne, Emilee, Kimberlee, James, and Wendy) and seven great-grandchildren (Caleb, Maggie, Willow, Stone, Lilli, Emma, and Ellie). Words are inadequate to describe the support she has given to me personally, to our family life, and to my career. She had a distinguished career in nursing and has been a leader in the churches in which we were involved. Without her support and hard work, much of what has happened in our ministries would have never happened. Thank You, LORD!



Sunday and Grace Bwanhot
See article on page sixteen





Nigeria impact

From a human standpoint, it appears that the greatest impact of the prayer seminar ministry has been in Nigeria, Africa's largest nation with 149 million people. Following a series of prayer seminars in the Bible colleges and seminaries established by **SIM** (then Sudan Interior Missions, now Servants in Mission), **Onesimus Sule** answered the call of God to resign his positions with **ECWA** (the Evangelical Church of West Africa) and establish a prayer ministry using our materials. Soon **Sunday Bwanhot** joined him. By the way, Sunday's testimony of how God called him to this ministry is thrilling. Perhaps in the future, we will ask him to tell his story. The president of ECWA, **Panya Baba**, soon reported that a spiritual awakening was sweeping Nigeria.

Years have passed. The goal of the prayer ministry has been to establish a strong prayer ministry in each church (there are now over 5,000 churches). There have been hundreds upon hundreds prayer seminars. At the beginning ECWA reported 2.2 million members; now they report are over six million members. Prayer works.

The present leader of the Nigerian prayer ministry is **Othniel Wakili**. He recently reported that there have

been twenty prayer seminars in local churches with an average attendance of 100. A one-day prayer and fasting program has been established in the District Church Councils throughout the nation with a "response [that] has been encouraging." In one of his reports he said, "Last weekend, we had an intercessors' retreat with many local churches represented. Prayer is the work that must be done; prayer works."

The initial agreement with Onesimus Sule (now in Heaven) was to return to Nigeria only when he felt that I was needed. Based on his competent leadership and the deep respect in which he was held, my own time was directed to other nations. Often I used the Nigerian story to challenge other nations to set as a goal to have every church a praying church.

The leadership of the prayer ministry has been strong. In fact several of the leaders went on to higher positions in ECWA, even the presidency.

It is commonly known that Nigeria is divided between Muslims, who are dominant in the northern part, and Christians in the southern part. With sadness and vexation of spirit we have watched the effort to spread the influence of Islam southward. Even Jos, Plateau State--the headquarters

for many evangelical ministries--has been under attack. Churches have been burned, Christians have been martyred. Chaos has been perpetrated widely.

Actually, there is much more that could be said to describe the current climate in this beautiful African nation, more than can be provided in this issue of the **Reflector**. Hopefully, many of you have been following the happenings for yourselves. Nigeria is in crisis and the spiritual warfare is intense.

My purpose in focusing on Nigeria is the decision of leaders in the prayer seminar ministry to travel into the mountains in northeast Nigeria and mobilize believers to become Lighthouses of Prayer for their people.

Sometimes we talk about going into the lions' den, into harm's way, or the hornets' nest. God has called his servants, **Shem Kamla** and **Othniel Wakili**, to go into the mountainous section of Northeast Kenya November 18-28 to present the Gospel and teach believers how to pray more effectively.

Perhaps the Holy Spirit will stir your hearts to intercede for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. Let's accompany with our prayers and thoughts.

Love Sums it All **Sunday Bwanhot**

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." **Mark 12:30-31.**

When we love God, we fulfill the first four of the Ten Commandments and when we love our neighbors, we fulfill the remaining six (**Exodus 20: 3-17**). To love God is to obey Him (**John 14:15, 21, 23, 24**). When we obey God in everything He says, we demonstrate that we love Him. We will then experience His love fully in our lives, the overflow of which will enable us to love our neighbors. We cannot genuinely love our neighbors if we do not love God (**1 John 4:7, 5:2**). Conversely, we cannot claim that we love God if we do not love our neighbors (**1 John 4:12**). To love my neighbor this is what it will

take: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"* (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**). So how do we measure up in our love for God and our neighbors? Christ has to be in us and live His life through us so we can love God and our neighbors. We could never do it on our own. **Thank God for His enabling grace to love.**

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot have been a part of the prayer seminar ministry since 1988. They currently serve as SIM missionaries in Chicago representing **ECWA** (formerly known as the Evangelical Church of West Africa). Plans are to include an article from Sunday in future editions of the **Reflector**. His wisdom and skills of communication will bless you as you read and "reflect" on his messages. See photo on page fourteen.

Prayer Warrior Ministry—Nigeria

Although it was thirty years ago, I remember it as though it were yesterday. My friend, **Dr. Ian Hay**, international director for **Sudan Interior Ministries** (SIM--now Serving In Missions) the founding agency for the **Evangelical Churches of West Africa (ECWA)**, asked me to schedule a series of prayer seminars in their Bible colleges and seminaries in Nigeria. I will never forget the seminar in **Billiri Bible College** in **Gombe State**. With eagerness the students received their prayer seminar workbooks and gave themselves attentively to learn the purpose and power of prayer. It was in this seminar that, for the very first time, I heard anyone singing *What a mighty God we serve*—in perfect harmony and in agreement. During the seminar, I asked them to sing it again several times.



When I shared about the 24/7 prayer chapel ministry we had established in Virginia, the administration, faculty, and students seemed intrigued. A decision was made to do the same on their campus under the charge of the students. The student leader was **Shem Kamla Ladan** who organized the prayer ministry and kept us informed step-by-step. Thirty years later, that ministry continues although the college has more than tripled in students. People come from all over Nigeria to have the students pray for them. Some miraculous answers to prayer have been recorded. In looking back, Shem writes: I never knew that Christian life is prayer life throughout my Christian life until the Lord opened my eyes through the **J. Gordon Henry Ministries**. Upon his graduation, **Shem** established the **Prayer Warrior Ministry**, using the materials from the prayer seminar ministry, in **Gombe State**, the stronghold of the Muslims. He answered the call of God to work in what we would term as difficult and dangerous area. For many years, he has faithfully moved traveled over the area teaching the things pertaining to prayer and the Christian life. Reading his periodic reports has been like reading another chapter of **Acts**. He and his wife **Deborah** are determined to make a difference in their nation, depending on the Lord for their protection.

During my first visit to Nigeria's Imo State (Owerri) working with the **Ibo tribe**, it became obvious that Islam is not a peaceful religion in that nation. Even in the late 1980s, the reports were rampant of Christians being killed by Muslims in the northern part of Nigeria. Shem's ministry has been in **northeast Nigeria** for the last thirty years. God has protected and sustained Shem, his family, and his ministry.

It was in the late 80s that I became acquainted with the **Islamist Fulani herdsmen**, a nomadic tribe that is spread across West Africa. At that time I was an avid jogger. One morning, after my devotions, I jogged in the area around the compound where I was staying. As I ran out in an open area, I sensed that I was not running along. When I looked around, there were a group of boys and girls running behind me. These were the children of the Fulani tribe living in their tents in that area. I made it a point to interact with them with smiles



Militant Islamic factions among ethnic Fulani herdsmen carry out attacks on Christian villages, serving as foot soldiers for extremist groups like Boko Haram and al-Qaida.

and kind words. Every morning while I was there, this scenario was repeated. During those days of expansion of the prayer seminar ministry, I never dreamed what was coming. Our return visits were blessed beyond words. When Sue and I were there in 2001, we provided 20,000 prayer seminar workbooks (10,000 in English and 10,000 in Hausa), At least 13,000 participated in the prayer seminars which were offered throughout the nation.

Then trouble came. In northern Nigeria, attacks by Boko Haram terrorists and Fulani militants have now become common. More than 35,000 Nigerians have been killed since 2011. The conflicts have widowed an estimated 10,000 Christian women in northern Nigeria. Entire Christian villages have been burned. Church buildings have been destroyed. Many are traumatized. Nigerian Christians have lost family members, homes, and land. It is reported by **Voice of the Martyrs** that there are few Christian homes in northern Nigeria that have not had a loved one killed. This is heartbreaking!

Knowing that the time would arrive for Sue and me to place our libraries (around 5,000 volumes) for future use, we decided to give them to a new Christian college in **Kano in northern Nigeria**. ECWA missionaries from England agreed to manage the project. However, a decision was made to give the books to **Northeastern Baptist College**, a new Southern Baptist college in **Bennington, Vermont**. We felt that Satan would quickly destroy our libraries should the collection be sent to **Nigeria**..

Now the trouble has escalated southward toward the central region and there has been much violence in beautiful Jos, Plateau State, where many Christian ministries are headquartered, including **ECWA** and **SIM**, as well as our prayer seminar ministry. Christians have been under attack. Many have been killed. Church buildings and homes have been burned to the ground even in this area..

DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR SHEM KAMLA AND OTHNIEL WAKILI WHO HAVE ANSWERED GOD'S CALL TO EXPAND THE PRAYER SEMINAR INTO THE NORTHEAST NIGERIA MOUNTAINOUS AREA. THEIR FIRST VENTURE IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18-28.

A man sent from God named Onesimus Sule

When word came on February 19, 2014 of the death of **Onesimus Sule**, my mind went back to Saturday, November 28, 1988 to a prayer seminar in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, the day he and I became fast friends. There he sat, regal and open, receiving the Word of God. When there was a break, he came with questions. He was not only the pastor of the ECWA Seminary Church in Jos, he was chaplain for the seminary.

As time passed, it was obvious that God was using the prayer seminars to ignite what was termed by **Dr. Panya Baba**, president of ECWA, as a "spiritual awakening sweeping through Nigeria". His driver had driven all night from Port Harcourt so he could be at the Jos prayer seminar. With each report that we received at our offices in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, we rejoiced exceedingly at what God was doing. We knew that the Baptists in Imo State (Ibo language) were teaching the prayer seminar materials from the 1986 seminars conducted there. Now, we began to hear of a strong prayer movement coming from the 1988 seminar at Billiri Bible College in northeast Nigeria, an area that practiced cannibalism prior to the arrival of missionaries. An administrator there reported on the formation of a group known as "Prayer Warriors" and the construction of a Prayer Chapel Building to house the prayer movement. Prayer seminars were being taught in English and Hausa. But we never dreamed the depth of what God was doing and the impact it would have on a nation.

A letter from **Onesimus Sule** dated May 12, 1989, told the story. Already Onesimus had shared that the Holy Spirit had told him to resign his pastorate and his position at the seminary to "devote the rest of MY life" to mobilizing prayer warriors and establishing praying churches using our prayer seminar workbook. In seeking confirmation from the leaders of ECWA, he found there was full agreement. In the letter, he shared: "I praise God for giving me opportunities to conduct prayer seminars in several towns, in Gbaloka (Benue State) April 13-15, in Keffi (Plateau State) April 24-26, and in Kaduna May 1-7. In addition eighteen white Baptist missionaries invited me to conduct a prayer seminar at Miango (Plateau State) May 17-19. We praise God for all these seminars. The Holy Spirit visited us. More invitations are mounting up; the saints have confirmed that this is the need of the hour—for 'prayer is reporting to duty.' God is raising up prayer warriors preparing the ground for revival in our day. Keep praying for us."

During the 2002 visit, 13,000 attended the prayer seminars. We found that most of the ECWA leaders had their lives changed during the 1988 seminars at the SIM-ECWA seminaries and Bible colleges. A number brought their 1988 certificates to show us.

Onesimus not only was a leader that was well trusted, he was able to build an organization within ECWA, at their invitation, to mobilize prayer warriors, an organization that is still viable and healthy. What a marvelous legacy that Onesimus Sule left throughout Nigeria, the nation with the largest population in Africa.

And thanks for the boll weevil

In the town of **Enterprise, Alabama** in the city square at the intersection of College & Main, there is a most unusual monument. The monument was erected in honor of the Mexican Boll Weevil and the inscription on the monument reads, In profound appreciation of the Boll Weevil and what it has done as the herald of prosperity.

The question is how can anyone be thankful for the destructive boll weevil?

In the early 1900s the South was almost completely dependent upon cotton (known as King Cotton) for their income and employment. The boll weevil was first discovered in Mobile County, Alabama, on September 13, 1910. The boll weevil came in and almost completely destroyed the cotton plants. By 1918, farmers were losing whole cotton crops to the beetles.

Faced with financial loss, farmers began to diversify their crops and quickly met with amazing success. Thus corn, potatoes and peanuts became very successful and Enterprise, Alabama ultimately became known as The Peanut Capital of the World. The dreaded boll weevil, which had almost destroyed the city, was



indirectly responsible for its new and increased prosperity.

Blessings are often disguised. We can not always see God's hand in every event. In everything give thanks the **Apostle Paul** wrote (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). It must have been impossible for Paul to see the blessing of a beating, a shipwreck, a stoning or a narrow escape. So he didn't say For everything give thanks, but In everything give thanks. Nor did Paul say in **Romans 8:28**, All things are good for them that love God but All things work together for good to them that love God. Paul recognized that every experience in life must be accepted by faith. Within each there is a blessing—if not exposed, then hidden. So we sing, Thanks for roses by the way side ... (and for the boll weevil too).

Stand with Persecuted Christians THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Do you have the world on your heart yet?

Around the world, believers are persecuted for professing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some have been brutally beaten, seen homes/churches burned. Some martyred.