

REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

October 2023

C. T. Studd

(1860-1931)

English Missionary to China, India, and Africa

Only One Life, ‘Twill Soon Be Past

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling down life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in “that day” my Lord to meet,
And stand before His judgment seat;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God’s holy will to cleave;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes and fears;
Each with its clays I must fulfill,
Living for self or in His will;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

When this bright world would tempt me sore,

When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e’er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

O let my love with fervor burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, “Thy will be done;”
And when at last I’ll hear the call,
I know I will say, “’Twas worth it all;”

**Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

PERSPECTIVE

Why a Prayer Seminar?

“Men ought to always pray and not faint” Luke 18:1



For the first twenty-five years of preaching, I often sent my people away on a guilt trip. My approach was to tell the people what God expected of them and the bar was high indeed. One day the Holy Spirit convicted my heart that my approach needed to change. I continued to share God’s expectations, but I began to include a “how to” component. “How to” read the Bible; “How to” be Spirit-Filled; “How to” pray; “How to” witness; “How to” gain financial freedom. The response was “I’m getting more out of church than ever before.” When I started to develop what is now **The Prayer Seminar Workbook**, lesson development flowed easily as I reduced to writing what I had been teaching my people. One of the favorite responses was from Mrs. Cathryn Hensley, a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church, Lynchburg VA: “I can hardly wait until Sunday.” I wrote a number of books to flesh out what I was teaching. Also each book could be the textbook in Sunday school for one quarter. Many churches have used one or more of the books in Sunday school.

A full prayer seminar requires six hours of teaching not including breaks. For my active years leading the **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools** (TRACS) most of the seminars were all-day Sunday. The theme was “A Day in God’s Courts.”

Why a prayer seminar in your church? Most Christians are carnal Christians living with “self” in control, not the Holy Spirit. They seldom read the Bible devotionally for their spiritual food and have no meaningful prayer life. Most were like I was the first twenty-five years of ministry. Praying was telling God what to do and when to do it.

One day, I sat down at my desk at Liberty Baptist College and began going through the stack of mail. There was **Armin Gesswein’s “Seven Wonders of Prayer.”** I began to read the first wonder. “Prayer is not bringing God down to earth, prayer is going into His presence in the Throne Room of Heaven.” As I sat there, conviction swept over me and I began repenting and confessing my sin. I was on the way to a metamorphosis in my spiritual life. **THE SEED WAS SOWN.** God had a plan for my life, quite different than I ever imagined—a worldwide prayer seminar ministry that has encompassed almost three million miles traveling. To use **Howard Goodman’s** words, “I don’t regret a mile that I traveled for the Lord.”

Let it be burned upon our hearts by the Spirit of God that the mighty movement that “turned the world upside down” was not only born out of prayer, but was brought forth by prayer and maintained by prayer. Such praying, costly but indispensable, has ever characterized great revivals of the past.

Being eighty-eight and caregiver of the one who has stood by my side for sixty-six years, means that I continue to teach the prayer seminar via YouTube (you can download a workbook) with an occasional live seminar. If your church/pastor does not schedule a prayer seminar, go to the internet!

Adam Nathanson now leads the prayer seminar ministry. He is a skilled communicator and teaches the prayer seminar effectively. Over the years, Adam has interpreted hundreds of prayer seminars. Over time, he has embraced the content of the prayer seminar. I am not sure that he does what I have often done—awakened from sleep finding myself teaching a prayer seminar. If he hasn’t yet, he will. More than once someone has said, “The one-day prayer seminar is more effective than a two-week revival meeting. Some great men and women of God have urged churches to schedule the prayer seminar. Many churches have sponsored multiple seminars testifying that they get more out of the successive seminars than in the earlier seminars. **Reidsville Baptist Church (Dr. Jerry Hopkins, pastor)** in the **Paducah, Kentucky** area sponsored three all-day Sunday seminars over the years.. On the third seminar day,

there was no chancel choir selection in the service—a first in the long history of this great church. The decision was that we need the prayer seminar more than we need to hear the choir.

Have you ever said, “I want my church to be a praying church?” Do you need a **FAITH LIFT**? Then, why not contact Adam? Those who have been in a prayer seminar with me wrote three things at the very top of page one in the workbook. **GOD IS ABLE! GOD IS WILLING! GOD IS WAITING!** He is waiting for us to order our lives around prayer and the Word, So is ADAM. Why not contact him? **TIME IS SWIFTLY PASSING. SHOULD YOU SHARE THIS REFLECTOR WITH YOUR PASTOR? TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PRAYER SEMINAR MINISTRY.**

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

The Bridge Builder

Will Allen Dromgoole (1860-1934)
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim, near,
“You are wasting your strength building here;
Your journey will end with the closing day,
You will never again pass this way.
You have crossed this chasm deep and wide,
Why build you a bridge at even-tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head:
“Good friend, in the path I’ve come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fairhaired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must come in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building a bridge for him.”

There are many job descriptions for Christians recorded in the Bible. We are to be salt in a decaying world, light in the midst of darkness, and a priest bringing people back to God (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9). As time passed and moved me to the “octogenarian” stage, **The Bridge Builder** became a favorite inclusion in my personal job description. Read it and you will see why these words written by a fellow Tennessean speaks to my heart. As I think of my nuclear and extended family, friends, participants in prayer seminars, etc., I want to be a bridge builder, building a bridge between lost sinners and our loving God, to bring Christians to a point of greater usefulness in God’s work (by their speech, conduct, and genuine concern about the people of the world). Yes, **bridge building is time-consuming and costly—AND worth it. “I have showed you all things, how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35**



“No one builds bridges for himself. Bridges are for those who follow after.”
Jamie Buckingham

THANKS! SEPTEMBER 2023
LETTER-WRITING MONTH

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” (Philippians 1:3)

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phiippians 1:2-6).

As we near the close of the **Reflector** ministry—two more issues—it is time to praise and honor our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ who have given **grace and peace** for the past sixty-nine years enabling us to have this print ministry. We have experienced **His love, His mercy, His provision** and **His anointing** without fail. From the first issue in 1953, it has been a joy preparing copy for each issue.

Yes, it is time to thank and praise God, the Lord Jesus Christ AND faithful Doorkeepers who have provided both prayer and financial support. There has never been a subscription cost to receive the Reflector. There have been years when **Reflectors** went out to most of the fifty states. Back issues are archived in the **JGHM Museum, 1127 Lakeview Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502.**

Dear Dr. Henry and Sue,

We have tried to remember the date that you came to Reidsville, North Carolina to present the prayer seminar at our church! We believe it was approximately 15 years ago. How God blessed us to attend. To this day, we use different components of your seminar in our times of prayer. What a blessing that the Lord brought you to Reidsville. We wish you a very happy birthday on the 30th and pray that both of you are richly blessed in the year ahead.

Yours in Calvary love,
Jonathan & Julie Jobe

Prayer Seminar in Philadelphia

187 people attended Adam’s recent **Philadelphia** prayer seminar. Think of the number of **Lighthouses of Prayer** now burning brightly in a one of America’s historic cities. We are excited! **Mitch Webb, Director, Huntington WV City Mission** will be teaching prayer seminars in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. More details will be forthcoming.

Look carefully at the faces and the prayer seminar workbooks in hand,. Could this scene be replicated with your church family? Remember prayer produces the “greater works” {See **John 14:12-14 for Jesus’ “Greater Works Passage”—asking in Jesus’ Name. PRAYER IS THE WORK THAT MUST COME BEFORE ALL OTHER WORK.**}



Notes from My Bible
Dr. J. Gordon Henry’s Sayings

- Note 6094.** “My life did not change until I got into the Word of God for my food, not just for a message to preach. I was forty-two years old, already a Baptist pastor for twenty-five years, and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Liberty College (now Liberty University).”
- Note 6095.** “Most Christians today are carnal Christians, self in control, not the Holy Spirit.”
- Note 6096.** “Show me one hundred Christians and I will show you ninety-five or more, carnal Christians.”

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THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[Founded as J. Gordon Henry Ministries in 1984]

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