



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNGING EDITOR

“Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day”

A Biblical Perspective of Missions and the Pandemic

By Rev. Tom Gibbons

Executive Director of Gospel Mission to South America

Preached at Grace Bible Church March 6, 2022

Through 2 years of Covid-19 the GMSA team has weathered many changes in their ministries and lives.

- Plans changed, sometimes repeatedly. Ministries were cancelled. Travel was cancelled.
- Everyday ministry routines were turned upside down.
- Things taken for granted like meeting physically, greeting in church, and visiting, were banished.
- Masks erased people’s faces from public view.
- There were long weeks in lockdown with limited freedom to move about.
- Ministry was carried out by means of technology – not ideal.
- *Some were as long as 16 months unable to attend an in-person church service.*
- They have had to navigate restrictions and requirements that continue to be ambiguous, volatile, and inconsistent.
- Some endured criticism, even anger for their handling of the pandemic in the church.
- Some were seeking permanent residency which the re-

strictions and mandates only exacerbated.

- This caused some to miss major family events or much needed furloughs.

We refuse to minimize the grace of God, work of Christ, and abundant blessing over these two years.

Ministries have continued, people have been saved and baptized, and projects have been advanced. But we also recognize that it has not been easy. *There has been weariness, frustration, and disappointment.*

When Paul wrote 2 Cor., he was under constant attack by false apostles who sought to discredit his ministry. What we have faced is different from what Paul faced, but **the same God who carried Paul through heart wrenching trial will do the same for us!**

In 3:5,6 he said...*our sufficiency is of God, who also hath made us able ministers...* “God made us sufficient for the task.” **He does not put us in ministries that match**

our abilities, He makes us able for the ministries He puts us in.

He made us able for ministry before the pandemic, He has done it during, and He will do it regardless of the future.

In 4:1, “...seeing we have this **ministry**, as we have received mercy (not deserved), **we faint not** (we don’t lose heart, give in to cowardice, or become desperate).”

V6-7, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, (why?) to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (gospel). But we have this treasure (the gospel) in earthen (delicate) vessels, (why?) **that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**”...that it be clear that He makes us able.

H. Taylor, “God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.” (see page 3)

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Editor's Desk by Pastor Tod Brainard

America: A Third World Country?

I have told my congregation on many occasions that I have yet to find the United States of America in Bible prophecy. If so, where is it located? I think it is fair to assume that in these last days something will take place that will either reduce this nation to rubble or reduce it to third world nation status with little influence on a global scale. Asia, Europe, and the Middle East all figure prominently in future prophecy. There is little or no hint as to the role or future of the United States of America in prophecy.

It seems to me that we have entered an unprecedented period of decline. I just paid \$75 for 17 gallons of gasoline. The price of groceries and staples has gone through the roof. The Federal Reserve is talking of the possibility of a serious recession.

We are witnessing the decline of morality and rational, thoughtful understanding everywhere. Boys and girls, we are being told, are not really boys and girls anymore but gender fluid. School shootings, gang and drug related killings, and violence in our major cities are rising. Drug overdoses due to fentanyl coming across our open borders is up dramatically in urban and especially rural areas of our nation. Critical race theory and gender theory has become a focal point of public education in the United States, which undermines the direct revelation of the Scriptures. Our society is losing on all fronts.

Christopher F. Rufo, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, said recently, *"The lesson I've drawn from reporting on institutions that promote ideologies such as critical race theory and radical gender theory is that they have been captured at the structural level and cannot be reformed from within. So, the solution, is not a long countermarch through the institutions. You cannot replace bad directors of diversity, equity, and inclusion with good ones. The ideology is baked in..."* (*Laying Siege to the Institutions*, Christopher Rufo, April/May *Imprimis*, Volume 51, Number 4/5, page 4). Wow, he gets it.

He does go on to supply his remedy to the problem which in my opinion will not work due to the wicked nature of the human heart; however, he does make a valid point in this paragraph. The systemic nature of corrupt ideology and philosophy *"is baked into"* the culture.

I have read some Bible teachers and preachers who have said that America is in the "judges cycle." In other words, we have been on the upside of the cycle of God's favor, but are now on the downside of the cycle of sin similar to that of the book of Judges concerning the Nation of Israel. Is this true? Are we just in another cycle? Are we about to come out of the cycle of disobedience to enter a refreshing period of obedience?

Everything that is happening around us is a direct result of the rejection of God's commandments over a very long period of time. As we have rebelled and walked away from God's creation design for the nations of the earth, chaos and calamity has always come. Active rebellion against God's design has serious consequences. Are we entitled to assume that history will simply repeat itself and we will come out in good shape as a nation? I have no assurance from the Scriptures that this will be case and neither does anyone else.

Our hope for ourselves and for this nation will only be found in a radical, spiritual awakening. There must be an awakening of the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word, a massive, transformational repentance from sin, and unreserved belief in Jesus Christ. There is no other way. Unless the light is brightly shown into the corrupt darkness and there is a positive response by humanity to that light, there will be no recovery. There is no simple quick fix for the horrendous sins of our nation. There is, however, a long overdue judgment awaiting from Almighty God. We pray for mercy! (Continued on Page 8)

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The PROJECTOR

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Now: 1) He makes us able ministers; 2) we have this Christ-centered gospel ministry by His mercy; 3) we are His treasure-bearers; 4) 5:20 “*we are ambassadors for Christ.*”

BUT this does not mean ministry is easy. That is why 4:1 says we faint not; 4:7 reminds us, we are earthen vessels; 4:10 says we carry “in the body the death of Jesus...”; 4:17 speaks of “this light momentary affliction...”

Point: ministry is hard. If it wasn't, why mention fainting, our fragility, or “this momentary affliction?”

George Black, “*It’s not easy. It never was easy. It never will be easy. But it’s glorious.*”

It is not easy, but here is the thing (V8-9) *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.*

Every participle in vv8-9 express continuous action. Sometimes difficulties come in a steady stream.

With ongoing ***trouble, perplexity, persecution,*** and being ***cast down*** come 4 corresponding “*...but nots...*”

We can be continually afflicted by pressure, perplexity, persecution, and pounding, without being continually distressed, despaired, forsaken, or destroyed.

Is this our testimony in the face of affliction while serving Christ? Let us examine the four “**but**

nots” Paul identified that correspond to each affliction he named.

WE MAY BE PRESSURED “*Troubled on every side*” ...But we’re not distressed****

He does not name “a particular pressure” but speaks of relentless pressure from every angle.

It means to be crushed or squeezed. It is grievous affliction that brings a crushing heaviness; it makes trapped under something; you cannot push it off or crawl out from under it.

From every side they were under the constant weight of crushing pressure.

1:8-10, *For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our **trouble** which came to us in Asia, that **we were pressed** (loaded down) **out of measure** (excessively), **above strength** (beyond our ability), **inasmuch that we despaired even of life:** 9 *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us...***

He did not just buck up; He trusted God to enable him through ongoing, excessive, overpowering adversity.

With all the lockdowns around the world, do you think missionaries have wondered why? What is the point? Will it ever end? Will things ever get back to normal?

Some of our folks shared their burden for believers with no ac-

cess to or understanding of technology who ended up isolated and unfed.

Some felt crushed by the inability to physically come alongside those who needed their ministry...not by Zoom, not by WhatsApp, not by phone, but by their physical presence.

There were times when it felt like ministries were falling apart and there was no recourse.

There were long hours of inactivity during lockdowns. You read, you study, the house is tidy, the projects are done...and you are left feeling like a caged lion.

Some saw God provide a building, and then they were told they couldn’t use it...indefinitely.

Others gave up a rented building because it was too small to meet social distancing requirements.

Some felt trapped because the time legally permitted to be outside their house was insufficient to meet basic needs.

Some still face criticism and cynicism from within the body of Christ; they have been burdened by bickering among believers over masks, mandates, and vaccines.

Life events happened, and most could not be there (funerals, births, & weddings).

Covid claimed the lives of people we know and love, and we never had a chance to say goodbye. Some in our ministries, some in our families, some among friends, both here at home and on the field.

Missionaries have endured all this pressure over long periods of time.

It has felt excessive, unend-

(Continued on page 5)

Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 5:15-18, **Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.**

In the days of old each home had its own cistern or water storage container and perhaps even had its own well. Each home had its own supply of water. The family did not have to go looking for water because there was water at home. This example is used to instruct the son in where he is to satisfy his thirst. Find your refreshment at home. Be blessed from that which belongs to you. God provides you with your own water, for your own satisfaction, and you are not to drink from another's well or another's cistern.

In other words, you are to find your contentment in what is at your own home and not to look elsewhere. You are to nurture that which is at home, so your home will provide you what is needed to serve others outside the home. The phrase, **“Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets,”** is saying that his home is the fountain-spring that blesses all in the streets. Home is the place where all energy begins which flows to the outside the home and blesses others.

On this earth, home is the core, the focus, the heart of that which produces blessing to all

else. Without a strong foundation of the home that which is done outside the home will not meet success. The home is to produce the servant of God, the loyal follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, those who trust in Him. The purpose of the strong home is not to hold back the waters to the home, but to let the waters of the home bless others.

Before those outside the home can be blessed, there must be a nurturing of your own home, your children and your wife and the finding of satisfaction there. Work at pulling the weeds from your marriage, work at fertilizing your relationships, and improving your own fountains and invest your efforts in your home. Get your energy, your encouragement, your strength from your home. You are not to look elsewhere for satisfaction or sustenance for God has given you the joys of lawful love in marriage. Choose the clear clean waters that God has provided and refuse the poisoned waters from the hand of Satan.

A man that only finds pleasure and satisfaction outside the home will soon have no home and no ministry for God. A man is to find the resources in his own home in

order to be a blessing to those at home and to others outside of his home. This speaks much to what responsibility the members of the home are to have. A husband and a wife are to bless each other in order to function for God outside of the home. This is the kind of compact that will keep the home fires burning. He is to rejoice with the wife of his youth. It is to be a lifetime of rejoicing and that takes much nurturing. How this speaks of where the husband is to invest his time and energy! How this speaks of continually meeting the needs of each other. Not putting yourself first but putting the other first. It is not a fifty-fifty relationship but a zero percent for me and a 100 percent for her relationship. Each is to ensure that the weeds of life are pulled daily in order that nothing comes between them, for to have something come between, is to no more be ONE, but to be two, and that is the cessation or interruption of marriage and the giving to others. Make the home live out that old wall portrait that advertised “Home Sweet Home!”

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(Continued from page 3 -A Biblical Perspective)

ing, crushing, and even overwhelming at times.

It has been hard, but there is no reason why Paul's testimony should not be ours.

Under tremendous pressure (**troubled on every side**), he was **not distressed** – he was not pushed into a corner; he was not hemmed in; he was not restrained.

Even facing the intense ongoing pressure of fierce opposition, he did not let it be an obstacle to serving Christ and others.

Ministry did not stop because he was afflicted and crushed in spirit.

Some recognize the name Richard Wurmbrand (Voice of the Martyrs). He and his wife were Romanian Jews who were saved in 1938. He became a Lutheran pastor and preached in bomb shelters and rescued Jewish children from the ghettos during WW2. He and his wife were repeatedly arrested and beaten by the Nazis who occupied Romania. At the end of the war Romanian communists came into power and Russian soldiers filled the country. He also preached faithfully to them. In 1945 he attended a congress organized by the Romanian Communist government. After religious leaders came forward and praised communism and swore loyalty, he approached the podium and spoke to the delegates before the entire nation, exhorting his colleagues that their duty was to glorify God and Christ alone.

Both he and his wife Sabina were arrested around 1950 and spent several years in prison. Their 9-year-old son was left alone and homeless, but Christian friends risked their own freedom to care for him.

Pastor Wurmbrand wrote regarding his imprisonment, *“It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. Several of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their (the communists’) terms. It was a deal; we preached, and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us. So, everyone was happy.”*

Where there’s trouble on every side there does not have to be debilitating distress.

**WE MAY BE PRESSURED...
But we’re not distressed**

**WE MAY BE PERPLEXED...
But we’re not in despair**

When Paul felt the rejection of the Corinthians because they listened to malicious accusations made by false apostles, he was **perplexed**.

He was at a loss. It is when you cannot see a clear path through; there does not appear to be a way forward. You do not know which way to turn, and you just do not know what to do.

With the volatility of restrictions and mandates many felt perplexed and wondered how to go forward; how to make and execute ministry plans. How to in-

terpret and apply the mandates and restrictions.

How and when to draw lines and take a stand...especially as guests in a host country.

Imagine the perplexity of trying to move forward with the residency process when deadlines came and went, **and were enforced**, even though Covid made it impossible to fulfill those deadlines.

Paul was greatly perplexed by what was taking place, but he was not in **Despair** – **“despair”** is an intensified form of **“perplexed”**.

It emphasizes an end-impact with no solution; it means there is literally no way out; nothing more to be done. Game over.

Maybe Paul could not see the solution, but he did not give up and decide there was no solution.

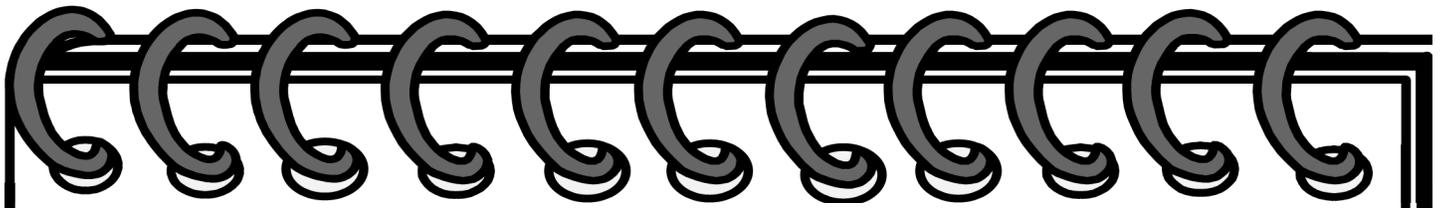
We may not see a way forward but that does not mean there is none.

He confesses that it got bad (we are perplexed)...but he did not entertain the idea quitting (we are not in despair). “We can’t see the way forward, but we’re not giving up.”

We can be perplexed but we must not despair because Jesus said, *“I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* (Mt. 16:18)

It is not our assignment to build His Church, it’s HIS.

Our work’s not done until He takes us Home or raptures His church. (Continued on Page 8)



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Taking Responsibilities Seriously

Those of us who have been entrusted with students bear a special responsibility towards all those in our classrooms. Parents must do what is right for their children and teachers must do right for their students. If a parent was lax and made threats without carrying out consequences, we would certainly judge that parent harshly. However, if we as teachers are lax and make threats (we like to call them promises!) without carrying out natural consequences, we also must be judged harshly! Our students require their teachers to be fair, consistent, and diligent in their tasks. There comes a time when parents and teachers must be willing to stand up for what is right even if their students do not “appreciate” their due diligence in giving consequences. We must faithfully do our job and see to it that our students “do right!”

- 1) Every second of your class time should be profitable for your students. This requires teachers to utilize every second of each period they teach. Do not waste any teaching time. You do not have the luxury to declare, “Let’s go outside and play” unless it is a recess or PE class. If you waste any class time, your students will not get that time or learning session back. Now, I understand that there are times when we schedule time to allow our classes to let off steam (like after a test) or we see pent up students who have a need to “chill” and taking them outside would be very appropriate, but when you hear your students beg, “Take us outside!” - Do Not Listen to them! Teach!
- 2) Lesson plans should include every moment of your class period. Don’t shortchange your students by planning short lessons. Review, study, or reading can always be included to use time wisely. Busy students are better behaved than those who have time on their hands. Remember: “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop!”
- 3) Be very cautious to allow your students to leave your class. Some students major in going to the bathroom, visiting the office for a band aid (when there’s no blood involved), needing to make an urgent call home – anything to leave during class. It’s typical for the same students to have an “emergency” during every period – fooling every teacher they can. Middle/High school students must be taught to use the breaks between classes for these “emergencies!” Deny students access to the office during your class periods. If you’ll be strong, students will know you are not a push-over and will stop trying to leave during your classes.
- 4) Keep on task – students in middle school become masters of “rabbit trails.” It’s our responsibility to take charge. We must keep our students focused on the subject matter – not last night’s basketball game. It is our responsibility to do the job God called us to do.
- 5) Be a uniform/dress code “NAZI”! When students are kept on a “short leash,” you will not need to “fuss” over big, character problems as much. If students know the rules and know that you won’t enforce them, they will not respect you as they should. Of course, be fair – always! Be watchful and vigilant that students are following the rules set by your administration. A student should not ever get away with rule breaking in your presence. Right is right/wrong is wrong.
- 6) Require your students to bring all supplies to your class every day. The idea of running out to their locker to get the things they “forgot” can go on and on and on. . . . If another student lends a piece or paper, pencil, or pen to another, they are reinforcing bad habits. Students need to learn to meet their responsibilities – just like teachers! Students need to bear the natural consequences of forgetting things in their lockers. It may seem cruel at first, but you will be laying the groundwork for the development of good habits.



Stars of the Morning

By the late "Aunt Carolyn"

RUNNING SHOES



Stevie sat on the back steps of his home. The sunset before him was beautiful, but he could not think about it for being so dejected, disappointed, stumped - in whatever state he seemed to be. He was a quick, fast runner to be sure - maybe the fastest in his class, but how could he be on the school's relay team without any running shoes? Some of the boys had good athletic shoes, some even had real track shoes, but Steve's were hardly fit to wear to school, let alone to run an important race on a cinder track! His shoes were held together by string and patching.

One day he put heavy rubber bands around his shoes to hold the soles to the tops, but when the kids pointed and laughed, he slipped the bands off and just tried to walk carefully so the floppy soles wouldn't be so noticeable. Glue worked a little while but not long. He knew mom would get him some shoes as soon as she could, but they barely had enough to eat at home. There was no money for shoes. In fact, if the owner of the bakery where mom worked had not allowed her to take home some of the unsold week-old bread, they really would have been hungry. Steve kicked at the ground before him, and his thoughts didn't extend further than "shoes" and "supper."

When mom came home, she leaned out the back door with her usual perky greeting and caring questions about Stevie's day at school. Then she said, "Come on in, son. We have some good bread and milk for supper. And would you believe the bakery had some peanut butter cookies to spare tonight, so you'll have good dessert, too! Isn't the Lord good?"

"Yes ma'am, He surely is," Stevie replied, but the tone of his voice lacked energy, which told his knowing mom that something was wrong. "Okay, my boy, what is wrong? Can you tell me about it?" "Well, I don't want to worry you. I just...I just..." "You just what, son? I can't help if you don't talk. I can't help if you don't tell me."

"Well, you know the track meet that's coming up at school. Well, they want me to run on the relay team, but my shoes won't run!" "Oh, oh! Shoes don't run, Stevie. You must run!" Mom nudged. "Yes, I am mom, but that's what I mean. I can't run in my shoes. They are worn out! The soles are peeling loose from the tops. They slow me down and might even trip me and make me fall! "Perish the thought on that asphalt track!" Mom exclaimed. "Yes, what a thought!"

Steve moaned. "I'm sorry, mom, but I just need some new shoes, especially some running shoes!" "Indeed, you do, young man. I've been noticing your shoes and have been asking the Lord about them. He always supplies our needs, but He tells us to ask, you know. Suppose we ask again right now before we go in for supper." As they bowed their heads, the back steps became a sacred place of humble, earnest prayer before the Lord.

Stevie enjoyed his supper of bread and milk, and it seemed his burden for the shoes was eased, but he still wondered about them. How in the world could the Lord supply a pair of shoes? And how could He send them quickly? Steve needed them soon! The evening passed, and in bedtime prayers they again called on the Lord in their need.

Four days before the Track Meet, Stevie continued practicing in his old shoes, but everyone knew he could run faster than that. The coach pulled for Stevie, but unless he could get better speed, he would not make the relay team. "Oh, woe is me," thought Stevie.

That evening as Steve again waited on the back steps for mom to come home, he prayed, "Oh, Lord, You said 'Ask', and now I'm asking again to please help me somehow to have some good shoes and let me run in the track meet, but may Thy will be done. And help me to be thankful for whatever Thy answer is."

As mom came home from work that evening, she was carrying a big bread sack. Steve was glad for that, because bread and whatever they could add to it would make a good supper. But this time mom held the bag high motioning Steve to come. "Come, Stevie! Come and see!"

What Steve saw when he opened the big bag almost took his breath away. The bag held no bread; it held shoes! Beautiful (if running shoes can be called beautiful) running shoes! "Oh, wow, mom! Where'd they come from? How did you get them? Are they ...my size?" Steve was too excited to wait for answers. He jerked off his old shoes and tried on the new ones! Wonder of wonders! They fit! They really fit!

"You shouldn't be so surprised, Stevie. Don't you think the Lord knows your shoe size? If He knows how many hairs are in your head, He surely knows how big your feet are! Mom said smiling. "Mr. Fredricks, the bakery owner, noticed your shoes the other day. Today he brought this sack and asked if you might wear these. They were his son's, but his boy has many pairs of shoes. He said you are welcome to these if they fit."

"Oh, they fit, all right!" exclaimed Stevie, and he fairly danced for joy up the back steps. Then with a sudden stop, he sank and sat down on the top step. "Oh, mom, let's thank the Lord right now! Thank Him for the shoes. Thank Him that I can be in the race. Thank Him for looking out for us like this!" And they did thank the Lord with hearts full of gratitude and rejoicing. After the "Amen," Mom added, "Now there is one thing more, my boy. Mr. Fredricks also said you could come work an hour after school each day. He will pay you to sweep, clean, and run errands at the bakery, so you can earn money for some of the things you need."

Well, Track Meet Day was exciting, and the results were great. Stevie's team won the relay race, and Stevie was the fastest runner on the team! His whole school raved and yelled for their team and for Stevie. They were proud of their team, they were proud of Stevie, and everyone was proud of his new shoes! No one ever made remarks about Stevie's "rubber band shoes" again!

Stevie went to great lengths to thank Mr. Fredricks for the shoes and for his new job. And he could hardly thank the Lord enough for saving him from sin, for answering his prayers, and for providing his needs; from salvation, to bread and milk, to running shoes!

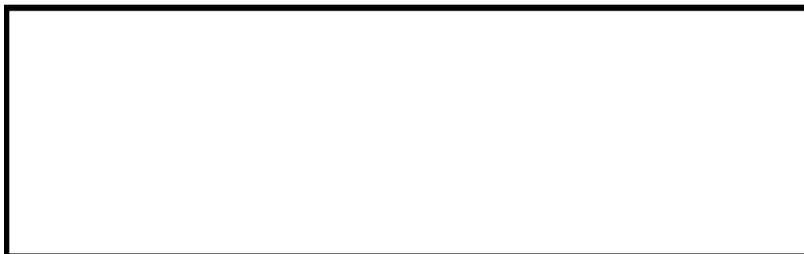


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(Running Shoes from Page 7)

He kept thinking of the Bible verse he had learned, *“My God shall supply all your need”* (Phil. 4:19). Stevie didn’t know what all it would mean, but he promised God that he would live for Christ and run the race of life for Him.

May we also *“lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”* (Heb. 12:1,2). Ω

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All past issues of *The Projector* are found there and organized by year, issue, topics and authors.

(Continued from Page 5)

GMSA missionaries Earl and Kay Hamilton sailed for Chile on August 12, 1944, with little Jerry. While anchored in Acapulco they went ashore for a few hours. They returned to the harbor to reboard but stood on shore and watched in disbelief as their ship burned and sank. All their equipment and personal belongings were lost. It must have been perplexing, but they did not despair. Instead of quitting they determined to continue to Chile and arrived in Santiago on September 2nd. Within a couple of years Jerry suffered multiple bouts of rheumatic fever and in 1948 they had to return to the U.S., his young life hanging by a thread. Perplexed perhaps, but not in despair.

They did not quit but served in Hispanic ministries in Colorado until 1956 when by God’s grace they returned to Chile, now with three children. In the next two years all of them contracted the Asian flu. When they were barely recovered, both boys and Kay fell to hepatitis and in 1958 they returned to the U.S. permanently. Kay was deathly ill, and her recovery was long.

Perplexed perhaps, but not in despair. They went on to serve the Lord in Hispanic and other ministries their entire lives.

(Continued Next Issue)

(Editor’s Desk from page 2)

We must be busy preaching the Gospel and the whole counsel of God, interceding, and supplicating for our nation, our churches, our Christian schools, our Christian homes, molding our children in Biblical truth, and living separated, holy lives in this godless world. We cannot simply curse the wickedness and darkness of our culture. We must as Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven” Matthew 5:16.

Matthew 25 verses 1-13 remind us that we need to have extra oil (a complete dependence upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within) with lamps trimmed and burning bright as we approach the coming of the LORD. Even though our nation is declining rapidly, we still have a very important task as light keepers to point the way to Christ. Look up, for our redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28)!

Ω