

REFLECTIONS

October 1, 2006

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me..."

1 Chronicles 4:10

God's Hand

Encouraged by Bruce Wilkerson's book, *The Prayer of Jabez*, I have prayed the prayer many times over the years. I have prayed that He would enlarge my territory and keep me from harm and free of pain. I have prayed that his hand would be with me to lead me where He wants me to go. And I have prayed for the territory I wanted to grow.

Isaiah 55:8 tells us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways, so God's hand often takes us down a road that does not lead where we think it is going. That has certainly been true for me.

It was almost eleven years ago that I made a commitment to let God's hand lead me. It was a morning that I rose from my quiet time to do what I had always done. But as I arose from my chair I realized that I did not want to do those same things. The story is a long one, but that day God's hand led me to serve Him in a way that I would never have imagined on my own.

I could not see it then, but events of that day led me to begin a weekly message called *Avenues*. Delivered by faxes and emails, *Avenues* was a verse of scripture along with a one sentence prayer that offered encouragement and that served as a reminder of God's love. The messages continued for nine years, growing from the first recipient to eventually reach about fifty. Then God planted a new idea. Against all kinds of fears and doubts that I felt, God's hand led me to write *Reflections* and send it to a larger group.

That was almost two years ago. Writing *Reflections* brings me great joy. It uses a gift I didn't know I had; but more importantly, as I write them I find myself in a deeper state of being and closer to God. I feel Him pick the subject each week and I feel it when his words go onto the page. And I cannot count the number of times that He has reshaped the theme that I planned and the words that I wrote. Today is one of those.

Today God reminded me of the Jabez Prayer and the many times that I prayed it. Today He reminded me that his way is not my way. Today God reveals his answer to my Jabez Prayer, only it's not the territory I prayed about. *Reflections* has a new address. It is *Reflecting the Savior*, a new web site found at <http://www.reflectingthesavior.org>.

Now who would have ever thought of expanding my territory that way! But God's hand often takes us down a road that does not lead where we think it is going.

And I am blessed to have been led down this one.

"You are the light of the world."

Richard +

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Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. Richard may be reached at richard@reflectingthesavior.org.