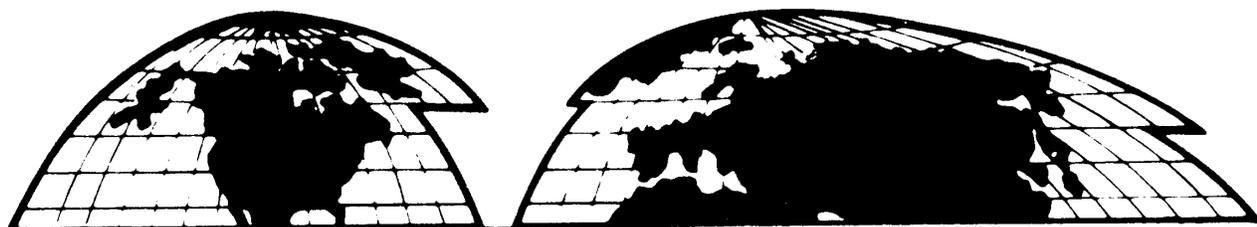
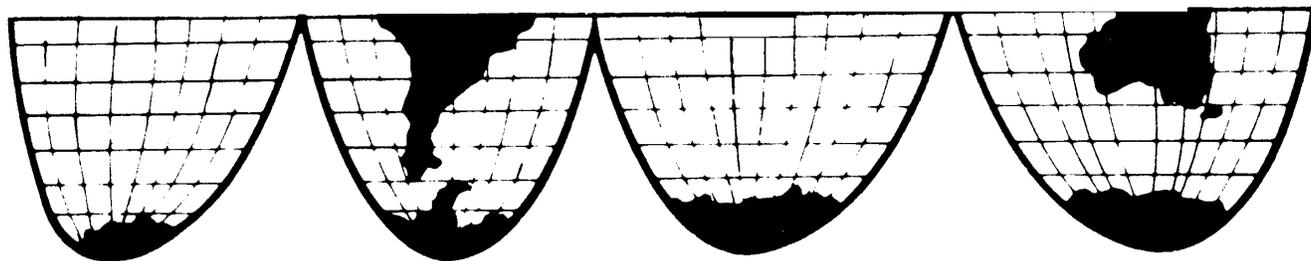


PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



# World Prayer Band Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — November 2006

## The WPB Ministries

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you find them one at a time.”*

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Matthew Skariah

## Call to Intercession

**T**he power of intercession holds such a potential spiritual force. And yet for some, it remains out of reach. Intercession is powerful, yet too elusive. So the question is: *Do we practice the “power of intercession” or just talk about the declining morals in our culture?* The reason why many of us pay lip service to the power of prayer is perhaps we have only sentimental interest in intercession. It



Talk Less, Pray More

sounds very Christian to say that we pray; we read books on prayer and attend seminars and conferences for self-edification.

Tired of a prayerless existence? Dissatisfied with the prayer meetings without the prayer? Are we being corralled to pray symbolically for the nation once a year and then ignore the precious privilege of prayer the rest of the time? We don't need to wait for a proclamation from the White House to light up the 'prayer furnace' in our homes and churches. God wants us to echo the call, and sound the trumpet like the prophets of old.

The resilient intercession has given birth to a mighty awakening. The sleepless nights have produced great joy in the city and inflexible resolve in the human heart. Importunate intercession can overtake the forces of evil, defy Satanic inquisition, transform defeat into victory and cause triumph over the gloomy despair of hopelessness. Remember, it is believing prayer that keeps us above the water so we don't get pounded and sucked under. If Christians intercede with desperate resolve, and “faint not,” as Jesus commanded, we shall truly experience a second Reformation. But heartless, passionless, feeble and doubting prayers will get only feeble answers.

Why not get desperate for renewal, why not intercede with real apostolic power and purity? The sleeping saints must awake from their ubiquitous slumber. God's intercessors never slumber!

An army of praying Christians shall conquer the world. What would Christian life be without daily communion with God? Fancy talking people say

that they can micro-manage their affairs; they are infatuated with the power and the affluence that Christianity provides, but refuse to submit themselves to the ongoing agony of Gethsemane. Oh, the vacuity of a Christian who refuses to enjoy the inimitable presence of Jesus in vital intercession, the greatest of all spiritual exercises!

Surprisingly there is an alarming number of Christians who are not interested in intercession at all. That's regrettable. They should be. In the past, God's people had an insatiable hunger for soul-travail. Not anymore. Today, we're engaged in a plethora of Bible studies, seminars and conferences to see how many blessings we can extract from God by probing into His promises while living a life of self-indulgence and secret sympathy with the world. Oh, how few find pleasure in true intercession! Let's travail until we prevail! The moral

climate of America needs the selfless service of God's true intercessors. When we intercede, God interposes. So let intercession resonate!

Our world is in a moral and spiritual quandary and make no mistake about it. We are in the midst of a war, a spiritual war. We are not going to win this war by the infusion of more sensational programs and carnal entertainments, or empty formalism, dry-as-dust ecclesiastical conventionality, but by a praying minority committed in holy desperation—a consecrated few willing to invade and infiltrate the camp of the enemy in the mighty name of our ascended Lord.

*How many  
“intercessors”  
does it take  
to change  
the course of a  
church, community,  
state, nation  
and the world?*

**JUST ONE.**

Beloved, I plead with you to intercede for the world before it is too late! If Christians cease to intercede, Christians cease to be victorious. Let us cry out to God in the name of our ascended Lord that He would send demonstrations of His power today to expose the “false gods” of this world and reveal the real God of heaven. Arise, brothers and sisters, arise! Not only our nation but the whole world is fast ripening for judgment. It could, however, soon be ready for revival if we would seek the face of God in true humility. When national sanctity is needed, God’s intercessors step up to the plate. We are in mortal combat with Satan, our adversary, and intercession is the sword that slays the enemy. When situations are at their worst, we’ll find intercessors at their best. Let’s arm ourselves with the most potent weapon ever—intercession. So potent, it blasts away religious inertia.

As Christian soldiers, we don’t shift into neutral when opposition comes, but stand tall and face

every challenge in the power of the risen Lord. When the world is in turmoil, we don’t sit on our laurels admiring our beautiful facilities and passing compliments, but rather we use the weapon of the “power of intercession” and get the ball rolling. Beloved, the enemy is upon us. The storm is gathering and is about to break loose. Nothing but the prayers of God’s humble remnant in the power of the Holy Spirit can stem the tide.

How many “intercessors” does it take to change the course of a church, community, state, nation and the world? JUST ONE. The one who knows how to extract the heavenly chemistry on his/her knees. The one who refuses to listen to the ponderous chatter of religious experts; the one who pleads with God day and night; and the one who does not swim in the ocean of doubt and fear, but breezes through the turbulent waters of a raging sea with indomitable courage and undeniable faith in his master and Lord.

*God is not satisfied with our anemic prayer efforts. He longs for our abiding supplication, compassionate pleading, and heart wrenching soul-travail. For us to pretend otherwise is to deceive ourselves. So let’s intercede NOW fervently! The Lord waits for us at His throne. Now is the time to act.*

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## Culture Watch — Gambling

When we gamble and buy a lottery ticket, we’re actually going outside the provision of God to get rich. I know it is a sticky issue even with many Christians. Some say: *“If I win big—I can give the tithe to my church and support mission work around the world.”* Justification of sin is not the same as justification of the sinner. Jesus came to save His people from their sin, not in their sin.

A few years ago at the time of a gambling referendum in one of our states, an official of the church said, “What is so evil about gambling if it benefits the church?” A man told his friend in all earnestness, *“I will join the church if you will install slot machines in the basement.”* That is situation ethics in its finest. The end justifies the means. William Penn, the Quaker Statesman was profound when he

said, *“Right is right even if everyone is against it and wrong is wrong even if everyone is in favor of it.”*

“No possible re-arrangement of a bad egg can ever make a good omelet.” In gambling—someone has to lose so that others can profit from it. No one can prosper on stolen money. The three growing industries in America are: Casinos, Theme Parks and Prison Construction. That says a lot about our society, doesn’t it? Our lives are not guided by luck or chance, but by the sovereign hand of God. That is living the God-filled life.

PRAYER: Lord, I do not want wealth accumulated through shady deals, gambling proceeds, cooking the books, false pretense or using the poor of the world as “mission merchandise.” I do not want the “spoil of the poor in my house.” (Isaiah 3:14)

—Matthew Skariah

In this self-obsessed, therapy-saturated, success-oriented culture, if we live a godly life, with old-fashioned values, the so-called enlightened people of the day might caricature us as impossible fuddy-duddies.

Thomas Carlyle, the Scottish essayist was profound when he said, "Holy living is the best argument that tells for God in an age of fact." Dean Inge, the famous British historian once said, "Religion is caught, not taught." Christians must earn the reputation of being godly in an ungodly world.

Something is everlastingly lost when

godliness is pushed aside. When we walk with God in daily consecration, the blessings will be absolutely astonishing. "The serene beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the power of God," wrote Blaise Pascal, the French philosopher.

Instead of dismissing godly values as outmoded—take a good look at them, cherish them, practice them, and the Lord will see to it that we'll be blessed. Let's keep in mind that we've a charge to keep and a God to glorify! "The saints are the sinners who keep on trying." (Robert Louis Stevenson)

## On Being Godly

*Don't surrender your godly values but be true to them!*

*—Matthew Skariah*

## Just a Thought...

Imagine, George Muller, God's chosen servant, urging believers of this day to use their credit cards or asking permission to draw a certain sum each month from their checking account to support the work of the orphanage that was entrusted to his care.

Evangelical Christianity has fallen on hard times. Let's not attempt to supplement God's providence by our provisions. The life of Jesus is not a life of begging, shrewdness, marketing and psychological trickery but a life of faith, passion, devotion, power and purity. Let's trust God without the smallest admixture of doubt!

## You Make The Call by Matthew Skariah

## What's a Heathen?

In the dictionary, the word heathen means, "an unconverted individual of a people that do not acknowledge the God of the Bible; an unenlightened or irreligious person." Any person who does not submit himself/herself to the absolute sovereignty of the true and living God can be described as a heathen. Those who live outside of Christ are lost whether they live in America, England, France, Germany, Africa, China, Russia, or India. Salvation is not conducive to wealth, affluence, education, or nationality.

Some people still retain such a primitive concept that a heathen is someone who lives in a far away land. That is why I never sing that unscriptural song, "Heathens are dying in a foreign land." Believe me, heathens are found in every corner of the world and only the blood of Jesus Christ can cure the malady of heathenism.

*A heathen is someone who lives without God.*

## Voice From The Past

Put thyself always in the lowest place, and the highest shall be given thee; for the highest standeth not without the lowest. The Saints that are the highest in the sight of God are the least in their own eyes; and the more glorious they are, the more humble are they in themselves. Full of truth and heavenly glory, they are not covetous of vain glory. Being grounded and established in God, they can by no means be proud. For all that is high is not holy; nor is every pleasant thing good; nor every desire pure; nor is everything that is dear to us pleasing to God.

Thomas A. Kempis—14th Century Flemish Monk