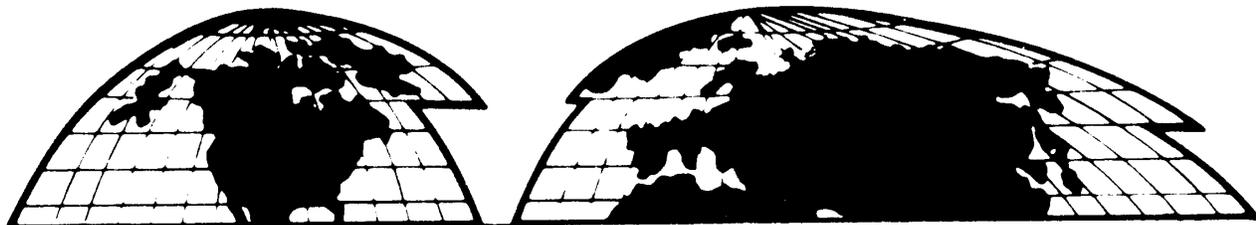
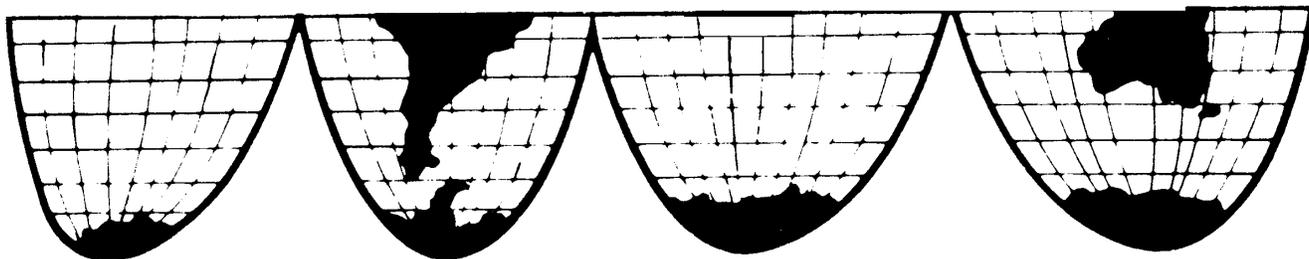


PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



# World Prayer Band Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — March 2007

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Matthew Skariah

## Our Seductive Culture

It is no exaggeration to say that there is a conspiracy set out to destroy and dismantle America's Christian heritage, carried out by a willing media and the politicians who use rigged polls to achieve their pernicious goals. Sacred biblical principles are under attack and Christians are in a desperate

fight for the souls of men, and Satan will stop at nothing to defeat us. Our culture is in trouble because it is trying to go around God's will and purpose. As the prophet Jeremiah said, *"My people are foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have no understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge"* (Jeremiah 4:22).

Today's populous, affected by political correctness and mesmerized by a 'feel good' culture, cowed by pompous elite of the intellectual community, we, the befuddled citizens of America and the world have been taken in by the speeches and slogans of the irreligious and we couldn't see the dirt under our nose. The twentieth century had been the ideal playground for secular humanism. The secularist wants to be a gentleman and he choreographs every move he makes so he can maintain a high profile in his social circle. He writes marvelous legal briefs and pontificates philosophical and social jargons that command great admiration and accolades from the general public. You see him on television night after night laughing at sacred biblical principles. He treats the Word of God as sentimental stories but not as man's encounter with the divine. Our culture is in a moral quandary because it does not seek the mind of Christ. Lawyers and judges are no longer interested in preserving justice, but frantically searching for legal loop-holes to push their own agendas. Mothers are being persuaded to kill their unborn babies in the womb by feminists and profit-minded medical professionals. Is it any wonder we

are in the midst of a motherless and fatherless society?

Our culture is influenced more or less by paganism. Pagans do not believe in morality. The struggle between good and evil is not just between the church and the world; it's being waged inside the beautiful temples, where the voices of so-called international brotherhood and harmony have found a booming echo. Those voices speak cunningly of tolerance and diversity: **Impure sexual behavior?** *"Why, people are people and they can't help it"* **Abortion?** *"Women must be free to choose, after all, this is America, the cradle of freedom."* **Homosexuality?** *"Different behavior for different folks."* **Porn?** *"Lighten up, this is the 21st century, don't be a prude."* **Adultery?** *"Be open-minded, this is not the Puritan era."* **Assisted suicide?** *"You are performing a compassionate act, after all, certain people are a burden to society and not fit to live."* **Lottery, gambling and money-changers in the Temple?** *"Hey, people need to make a living and what's wrong with gambling profit if one pays his/her tithe and help educate our kids."* Unfortunately, the 'god' of this world is hard at work turning hearts and minds from the truth.

But the forces of seducing our culture don't just want to be tolerated; they are now demanding and getting approval. If you don't go along with the tolerance industry, you are a prudish Biblicalist and you'll be caricatured as an impossible "fuddy-duddy"—ostracized and treated like an outcast with no redeeming quality. I am not being melodramatic when I say this. The enemy forces—secular humanist, the haters of God, the know-it-all crowds, and others—are aware of the stakes.

Satan goes on a tirade by discharging his poisonous venom on God's people. No nation can survive when there is a moral and social breakdown. What an opportunity for God's people to put the wheels of prayer in motion! We need to seize the initiative and put our prayers to work at this sad juncture of moral and spiritual collapse. We must vigorously claim our values, demonstrating without apology that this is the only path to our proper place in God's scheme of things.

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Christians need to pray aggressively to prevent the moral breakdown of society—asserting the principle of God’s Word over politically-correct taboos of social engineering.

The people of ‘faith and prayer’ can put the enemy forces to flight and show that they are pinning away their already weakened muscles, forcing their immoral agenda on a Christian nation. History is full of examples how God’s praying people held the tides of immorality and debauchery, and we can make it happen again, as

often as necessary. Prayer can break through the barriers of unbelief and pseudo-intellectualism. As a believer, I urge you to join in the fight by becoming a member of God’s prayer team, the unbowed and unmoved. I do not know if you are in the habit of praying for our beloved nation and the world on a regular basis. If you are, I implore you to redouble your prayer effort while you have the opportunity to do so. I hope I’ve convinced you the importance of praying for the nation and the world.

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*We’re in the midst of a culture that dabbles in public paganism, organized atheism and hatred for Christianity. But be encouraged that “the Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked; the Lord has his way in the whirlwind and in the storms, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.” (Nahum 1:3)*

**A**s we go through life, we tend to develop ideas, concepts as to how a Christian should handle himself in a world that is constantly evolving socially and morally. So it’s obvious that man has developed a set of goals which are alterable as he travels through life. But in Christian life our aim is the same from start to finish. We begin with Christ and end with Christ in His glory.

Recently we have been hearing a great deal about setting goals and pursuing them at all cost. At the offset it sounds very spiritual but underneath lies a concept that puts self on the throne, not God. God’s purpose for our lives may not be in conjunction with someone else’s purpose. Why pursue another man’s life and ministry? It is always easy to jump on the band-wagon of popular Christian themes and books and believe me, there is always a new one on the horizon every six months.

Do not look at another preacher or some mega-church concept and say, “Well, if they can have such success and popularity with their programs, why can’t we? God calls us individually and it’s up to us to respect and love the one who calls us to His service. The call of God is not based on our twisted

**You Make  
The Call**  
by Matthew Skariah

**Why Pursue  
Another Man’s  
Ministry?**

ideas or the fuddy-duddy goals we set in life. It is based on our intimacy with God and our desire to follow Him without consulting with “flesh and blood.” Our ambitions are our own, not necessarily God’s. Let’s bow before Him and say, “Speak, Lord,” and life becomes a pleasure, not a drudgery.

Listen to some of our leaders today and see how they are so eager to push other peoples programs and agendas because they themselves have no word from the Lord. The majority of us are not in tune with the voice of God and content to seek only those voices that demand less godliness on our part. “*Thus saith the Lord,*” is no longer a criteria in which we move the congregation. When we depend on God for everything—we will not boast about anything—but will always be grateful to His infinite grace, mercy and wisdom.

For the human spirit to soar, it must have a nurturing, reassuring and loving connection with God. Only God could give us such intimacy by bringing us into the zone with Him who is our life. Be still, relax and listen to God’s voice. He will give you a word that your congregation wants and needs.

*Our purpose on earth is unmistakably clear—it is to love, obey and glorify God in all that we do. That is a God-driven, God-filled life, not a goal-driven one.*

## Culture Watch – Can You Conquer Christ?

by MATTHEW SKARIAH

One day Voltaire said to a friend, *“It took twelve ignorant fisherman to establish Christianity; I will show the world how one Frenchman can destroy it.”*

If Christianity could have been destroyed, Voltaire was the man to do so. He was the pride of his nation. The theaters of Paris and the literary circles throughout the empire resounded with his praises. His writings were digested by millions. He was possessed with a photographic memory. His command of language was almost perfect. His powers of sarcasm and wit were unrivaled. To put it mildly, everything was going his way and he was at the top of his game. He summoned all his powers for the total annihilation of Christianity.

Today, the war against Christianity continues. Remember, Christians grow in trials and persecutions. Tertullian, a Roman converted to Christianity, wrote: *“The blood of the martyr is the seed of the church.”* In writing about the early Church, historian Will Durant said, *“Christ met Caesar in the arena and Christ won.”* He is still with us today. Fellow servants of God, let’s not dance around the truth but proclaim it with indomitable courage and unmistakable forthrightness. Truth never depends upon consensus, polls and popularity and the preacher of truth is never deterred by the fact that he is in the minority. Let truth resonate!

*Voltaire is dead—Jesus Christ is alive and changing lives the world over.  
King Jesus lives forever!*

### Voice From The Past

No amount of money, genius, or culture can move things for God. Holiness energizing the soul, the whole man aflame with love, with desire for more faith, more prayer, more zeal, more consecration—this is the secret of power. God’s advance has been stayed, His cause crippled, His name dishonored for their lack. Genius, education, position, dignity, place, honored names, cannot move this chariot of our God. It is a fiery one, and fiery forces only can move it.

The genius of Milton fails. The imperial strength of a Leo fails. David Brainerd’s spirit can move it. Brainerd’s spirit was on fire for God, on fire for souls. Nothing earthly, worldly, selfish came in to abate in the least the intensity of this all-impelling and all-consuming force and flame.

Man is looking for better methods, God is looking for better men. Man is God’s method.

Edward McKendree Bounds (1835-1913)  
*Lawyer, Pastor, Intercessor and Author*

If prayer is an important part of your life, or if you want it to be, then get with a few believing Christians at least once or twice a week to pray. Most people struggle with prayer; they don’t want to admit it but they do. When I converse with God I receive a part of Him, His desire, His love and His compassion.

Prayer helps establish a spiritual church, one that is able to produce mature believers. Mature Christians are those who judge themselves critically before they attempt to judge someone else. God’s power manifests in praying people. Prayer is not an escape mechanism—

but a means to enjoy God’s inimitable presence. Actions of the heart is better than flipping of the lip. In prayer, there are blessings—untold blessings.

