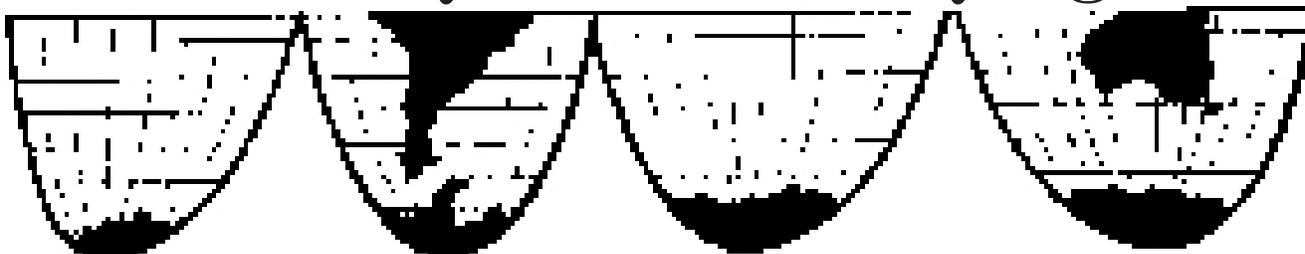


PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



# World Prayer Band Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — June 2008

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*“Intercessors are like eagles, they don’t flock, you find them one at a time.”*



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## **Matthew Skariah On Societal Evolution**

**I**n this politically-correct society, have you noticed how touchy people are when it comes to the mere mentioning of God and the principles of His Word? But on the other hand, one can promote homosexuality, distribute condoms, and accept pagan rituals and beliefs—they are all carried out in the name of tolerance. In America today, one can speak about the ‘great unknown,’ pervading all things, a Unitarian mind of which we are all parts, a pool of generalize spirituality to which we can all flow, you’ll command great admiration and friendly interest.

One can speak about the nature, the environment, humanitarianism, the goodness of man—but the moment you speak about God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, the creator of all things—the temperature drops immediately. When we speak about God and His miracles, people become embarrassed or angry. The very invocation of God seems primitive, crude and even insipid and irrelevant. As C. S. Lewis once said, *“The popular religion excludes miracles because it excludes the ‘living God’ of Christianity and believes in a ‘pantheistic god’ who is removed.”*

Jehovah God does not tolerate sin. If He does tolerate sin, He is not holy. If God does not condemn sin, He is not righteous. If God does not punish sin, He is not just. God is holy. God is righteous. God is just. I don’t find the present-day moral debacle of America as very charming and amusing. We live in such spiritually bankrupt times where moral and ethical decay and godliness threaten the very fabric of our society. However, I take great comfort in knowing that the final word belongs to God and nothing escapes Him. *“As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trusts in Him”* (Psalms 18:30). When the Bible morality went out of our schools and public life, the vacuum was filled with sin, profanity, sexual abuse and violence. One writer pointed out in a 1995 edition of *Ethics Magazines*, *“We rely on manners and civility for the upkeep of a decent society.”* It seems we have lost the capacity to distinguish the profane from the profound.

Unbelievers get rousing cheers when they reinforce preconceived notions about Christians. They appear as pedantic and tedious whose politically-correct ideology seems to have two levels—witless tirades that demonize Christians, and vapid, banal, boring taboos. Post-modern America tolerates and embraces every philosophy, concept and lifestyle—except godly virtues and puritan ethics. There are two forces at work. Sooner or later a man has to yield himself to God or the devil. When the Christian speaks he ought to affirm what is taught in the Holy Scripture. Conformity to the Bible should be expected from the Christian. Where this is not the norm, the Christian speaks with a forked tongue. And when he speaks, he ought to speak prophetically by helping those who are oppressed by evil. A Christian who is captive to his culture, who trumpets the lies and slogans of special interests and corrupt and immoral leaders, plays Judas to his Christ. The world is not a friend to Christ, and a Christian who cannot distinguish himself from the ways of the world is a traitor to God’s Kingdom. When we speak, let the message be clear and unmistakable. Let’s proclaim without blinking that all human ideas which contradicts Scripture is false, hatched out of fallen man’s brain. Believe me—the world will never triumph over the Christian as long as he lives like a Christian.

Our world is never outside of God’s reach, never removed from His sphere of influence. Don’t be bamboozled by the so called politically-correct thinkers who attempt to dazzle you with their twisted and giddy answers. Remember, God always wins—not according to our timing or methodology, but in the end He wins. The Bible has endured centuries of criticism but at the end of the journey, during the last few breaths man is given, he can only be comforted by realizing it is Jesus Christ who died on the cross for his sins. Every doctrine, every teaching that is not imbedded in the Cross of Jesus will lead men astray. We must talk about the ‘Power of Redemption.’ But doubters still abound. There will always be those who cannot accept the Bible as God’s Word. *“For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true, but every man a liar..”* (Romans 3:3-4). Some folks think they need to force their agenda on God so they can feel good about themselves. We simply need to flow in the Lord, naturally, spontaneously and gently. The strength of a person is his reverential attitude toward God and how he responds to his creator. But on the other hand, unbelievers are full of self and willing to disregard everything that is good and holy and pure. How can we achieve greatness when we lack humility?

People who exercise simple faith in God aren’t deterred by opposing school of thought. To live without God is torture. Everyone worships someone or something, even the atheist. Never mind the skeptics and their ever-annoying flummeries and flapdoodles. The passage of time doesn’t change God. *“Forever lives the Savior!”* When we do His will and work in the power of the spirit,

the mouths of heretics, the legions of demons—for they will attack but will not prevail. They take up arms but they will not conquer. God is winning, not the atheists. Belief is not an intellectual act; belief is a moral act whereby we deliberately commit ourselves to God. The Christian life is made possible by the life of God. Let's live on the revelation which God imparts, not what others say about Him! I applaud to your intellect not to make a rash judgment on Christianity or Christians on the basis of some failed preachers or ministries. People who look for such argument against Christianity are afraid of the truth and the truth cuts them through by exposing their hidden agenda. No man can stand upon the threshold of Eternity unshaken.

As for me, I want to see a tomorrow built upon faith, hope, love and plain decency. We need to cease looking to ourselves; we need to look to God; True faith is not based on unwarranted optimism or wishful thinking. Our sugar-coated optimism will collapse. It deserves to be collapsed. It does not pay any attention to human sin and stupidity. It is based on fallacies, utopias, and flimsy

ideas. It is inherently and intrinsically wrong to go up against God's Word. Too many people get the idea that they can charm their way into the heart of God without the acceptance of the shed blood of Christ. If a man lives in faith and decency when evil comes it will not conquer him. The stars above us belong to God. We are not the Light of the world but only the reflection of that Light. What a comforting thought!

The people of God are not starry-eyed dreamers or ecstatic dervishes as the world portrays us. We know a mirage when we see it. Make no mistake that God's glory will be shown to be higher and deeper than the present day politically-correct thinking and material preferences that tickle our fancy most of the time. His presence is the deepest, highest, broadest realities of the human soul. Don't let societal evolution stop you from running by the side of His triumphant chariot. We have to continue looking upward, trusting in God without doubt or trepidation, and the answers are clearly in Him and Him alone. Doesn't that make you feel excited?—*Of course it does!*

## YOU MAKE THE CALL by Matthew Skariah

## For All Those Who Are Cynical . . .

You say that you are cynical about everything but let me ask you a simple question: *"What has cynicism done for the world? What has unbelief done for you?"* In recent years, there have been several religious books published in North America, predicting the collapse of the U.S. economy, and consequently, an insidious paranoia is taking deep root in many lives, not realizing that God is the blessed controller of every situation. Ambiguous and unfocused predictions of the future events always produce a hysteria which debilitates our ability to function as God's positive people in today's confused world.

Religious leaders can play on peoples fears, and in the process, they accumulate a great deal of personal wealth. As preachers, our job is to prepare people for eternity, not for Wall Street jitters. One preacher uses his electronic pulpit warning people about the collapse of the stock market and the U.S. economy after the November election, yet he himself plans to reap an estimated \$96 million in stock options. (*U.S. News & World Report*, April 27, 1992) What a strange paradox!

In this topsy-turvy world of ours, a real Christian remains faithful to Jesus Christ by not tying himself to the fate of systems and governments and stock markets and nationalities and cultures. He affirms his faith forthrightly and unapologetically in God Almighty, and refuses to listen to the ponderous chatter of reli-

gious prognosticators who are so eager to celebrate the demise of America for personal gains. Christians can get themselves overworked about the state of the world, and thus become paranoid. We should relax and trust God more knowing that nothing escapes Him. Do you think that God has actually lost His divine sense? Has He lost His direction as we have? Of course not! Then, why should we panic about the future? *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear..."* (1 John 4:18). God is not the originator of fear. Fear comes from the enemy and the enemy loves to torment people. Difficult times always provide us with greater opportunities to depend upon Jehovah God, rather than depending on the arms of the flesh.

One never knows the strength of the wind unless he goes up against it. Our strength grows by fighting. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a fighting church and when she ceases to fight she ceases to exist. Robert Browning once said: *"Tis looking downward that makes one dizzy."* So why look down when we can look up and see the Man of Calvary! God sustains His people regardless of natural or unnatural occurrences. Always remember, we're under His care and protection and don't let anyone tell you otherwise! Meanwhile, who is he that will harm us if we walk with God? Let's never forget that we stand with God Almighty! *And if He is with us, who can be against us?*

*Heaven is not built on cynicism. Paranoia is a sign of fear, not a sign of faith.  
The trouble with the world is that half of the people telling us that we are  
doomed and the other half listen and believe.*

Politicians and self-appointed leaders are what they are and don't be fooled by the anatomical myth. They are in love with themselves and eager to arouse the masses through their self-authentication and self-promotion. They say, "follow us, we're your leaders and we can give you all the freebies and make all your pains disappear, and let us lead you to the land of enchantment where you'll live happily ever after."

Let's not look to man for hope; our hope comes from God and He will fulfill that which He has promised in His Word! People try to make them bigger than what they really are and that's not healthy. There will always be promise makers and promise breakers. Man cannot live without masters. We're created equal; but each one lives as though he is different—different in style, mannerism, temperament, faith, decency and innocence, humility and virtue. There will always be tyrants and those who follow them. Some cut deals with the devil and hope no one will ever catch them in the act, but the Lord knows the heart of all men.

# CULTURE WATCH

## Political and Religious Shell Games

Jesus never talked in vague, idealistic term. When He said, "You must deny yourself," He meant it. We must go for the full treatment. The Lord never obligates us; He only invites us to love, obedience and holiness. As Christians, we

are not called upon to sanitize the culture; but to evangelize the culture. Our culture is badly wounded and we must rebuild it for the sake of the next generation. We are the salt of the earth and salt makes people thirsty. As C. S. Lewis once said, "We are like eggs at present. We must be hatched or go bad. We cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg." Don't hold back the biblical precepts when it comes to morality and biblical holiness.

I would very much like to live in a world where everything is perfect and no one has need of anything. But since it is abundantly clear that I don't live in such a world, I have to remain focused on God and make my witness for Christ, trusting in His infinite wisdom and power to carry me to safety as I journey through life. That's something I can bank on it. A promise made is a promise kept, and that's no "religious/political shell game," but sublime reality.

It was a delight to see the enlarged crowd in attendance for the revival. The revival brought visitors who were friends of Bro. Skariah from years past but there were other guests also. Several times Bro. Skariah raised the question (not just about us but about people in general)—why is there so much pessimism today? Bro. Skariah preached six (6) messages in the spring revival. The long-ranged successes will be in the hands of the Lord to be grown from seed planted during the revival. We were given a "shot in the arm" with Bro. Skariah's preaching and were challenged to be better advocates for Christ, to take advantage of opportunities to talk about Jesus.

### Revival Report

*By Pastor Don Queen*

Immanuel Baptist Church  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

inhabit will come back to mind as we gear up to reach out for Christ. In quoting recognizable leaders of the world, both spiritual and secular, Matthew revealed a mind educated in classical wisdom. Then in very down-to-earth statements of faith in a God who made man and knows all things, he put revealed truth into simple form for us. Each month a newsletter comes from the World Prayer Band. Copies of the April issue will soon appear on the welcome desk. These carry news of Bro. Skariah's ministry and reminders of his Christian outlook.

A Skariahism is a great truth expressed in a unique, mind-catching statement which will set you to do something more for God. From the home to the nation, he pointed out the task before us. We'll be looking forward to the April World Prayer Band Prayergram with more Skariahisms!

### SKARIAHisms

Some of Bro. Skariah's pungent expressions of his observations of the world we now