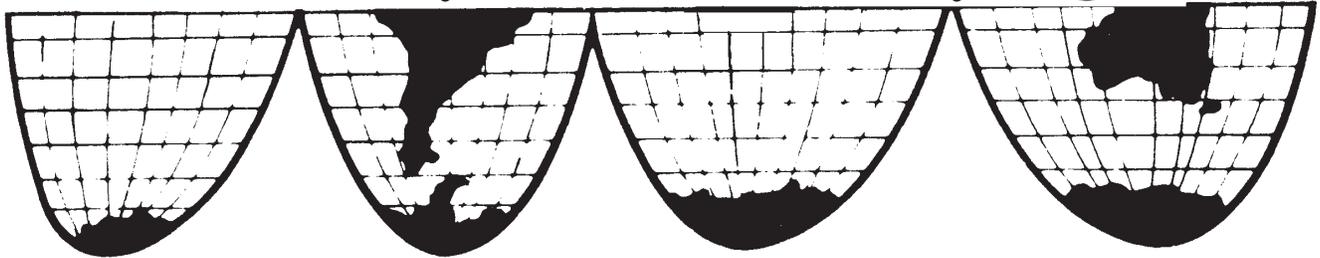


PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



# World Prayer Band Prayergram®



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Challenging Christians to Pray — January 2009

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## The WPB Ministries

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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**

## Echo the Call, Blow the Trumpet

The power of prayer holds such a potential spiritual force. And yet for some, it remains out of reach. Prayer is powerful, yet too elusive. So the question is: Do we practice the “power of prayer” 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 prayer. It sounds very Christian to say that we pray, we read books on prayer and attend seminars and conferences for self-enrichment.

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 prayer can overtake the forces of evil, defy satanic inquisition, transforms 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 reformation, why not pray with real apostolic power and passion? 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 benefits that prayer 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! It seems that we do not press into God with tears of agony. I am afraid that we have become too worldly, status conscious, dogmatic and, materialistic. We've worship leaders and business managers in our churches, but where are the ‘prayer leaders’ who can lead the body of Christ to a “prayer chamber” like our master did? Ravenhill was profound when he said, “No man is greater than his prayer life.” A praying person can never be a powerless person. Prayer entralls us into the very throne of God where we see Him in all His glory and majesty.

Surprisingly there is an alarming number of Christians who are not interested in prayer 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, satellite services and motivational diatribes 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. We should not bend the Word of God for our personal comforts and conveniences. 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 we need God in an hour such as this! 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. The healing power of prayer is immeasurable. People of God, don't panic but pray. Let's rise to higher heights than

*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 and judiciously. The Lord waits for us at His throne. Now is the time to kneel in triumph!*

we have known before. Prayer is inestimable. So keep on praying, incessantly. Let's live prayerfully, not fearfully. Let's cry out to our Father and we will be heard. Suffice it to say, there is a loving and caring Father who waits to hear from his children. Oh, Lord, build the "fires of passion," in our hearts and set our lives ablaze with your majestic presence as we wait upon you in our prayer closet.

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 revival is needed, God's intercessors step up to the plate. We are in mortal combat with Satan, our adversary, and prayer 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—prayer. So potent, it stifles religious meandering and 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 religious popularity admiring our beautiful facilities by passing compliments to each other, but rather we use *the weapon of the power of prayer* and get the ball rolling. Beloved, the enemy is upon us 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.

Intercession is not fluff and bluff. It is not pabulum, or overcooked, predigested and filtered religious fast food, dished out to provide minimum satisfaction to maximum number of bargain hunting customers. Prayer is always satisfying and uplifting. What's the secret of prayer? Perseverance and passion, of course!

## CULTURE WATCH

## FEAR NOT, GOD IS ON HIS THRONE

God is on His throne in spite of the repertoire of human frustration, admixture of doubt, awful reality of the seductive culture, insatiable hunger for the unholy elements of greed, covetousness, and an uncontrollable and prurient lust for power and position. Yes, God is on His throne whether we like it or not. No power on earth can deprive us from praising our Savior's name. No cloudy day shall darken the sunshine in our soul. God's people are visionaries, and they always look ahead, never behind. Prospect is the word for them, and they are demonstrators of God's glory wherever they go.

How easy it is in these rapidly changing days to subscribe to the elusion that the world is like an automobile hurtling over the side of a mountain, driverless and out of control. Make no mistake that this world has a driver whose name is Jehovah God and He holds infinity in the palm of His hand. In this life, we celebrate our success and bemoan our failures, but as Christians we always celebrate our life in Christ with undying thanks and gratitude. Furthermore, the sovereignty of God is not based on whether we win or lose. God's plan for our life is undefeatable, so let's go on singing, not sighing!

The passage of time doesn't change God. His name shall endure forever. The tide of time shall never alter His covenant. The ancient prophets said: "The way

of the ungodly shall perish." Injustice will wreck a nation. Evil will topple any people. "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm and the clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nahum 1:3).

The prophet of old puts it so simply: "He is the King, maker and ruler..." God is supreme: the originator of all; the wheel in which all things move. Oliver Wendell Holmes expressed it: "Lord of all being, enthroned afar." God's people do not crumble at the presence of evil. Evil does not have the final word, it belongs to our sovereign God.

Robert Browning once said, "Tis looking downward that makes one dizzy." So why look down when you can look up and see the Man in glory. Look up and say with the hymn-writer of old: "This is my father's world! Oh let me never forget, that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God, God is the ruler yet." Relax, God is sovereign and He has everything under control. So with our lips and our lives, let's declare it to the whole world every minute we live this week: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns." Thomas A Kempis was profound when he wrote in

the 14th century: "God exists: that suffices to console the true Christian in all his disappointments; because he loves God more for His infinite perfections than for the favors he receives from Him."

*Only God is infinite and great in the superlative sense, and men are useful only in their relation to Him.*

## You Make The Call Christian Perspective

The moment we acknowledge the sovereign presence of God in our lives, we step out of the world's parade and ignore its ever fleeting glamour and applause. We shall acquire a new viewpoint; a new perspective will be established within us; a new power takes over our lives in such a magnificent fashion. The world of egotistical men does not honor God. In fact, millions pay lip service to God, but a simple test of loyalty will show how little they honor God with their lives.

Men do not come under the Lordship of Christ legalistically but delightfully. The Christian walk is a voluntary walk; one that is sweetened by the will of God and saturated by the presence of God, and modulated by the spirit of God. The gentle and meek spirit of a Christian touches us all—it is so refreshing, so steadfast and so enervating. Let the man of consecration reach a place where life and lips join to say humbly, *"Be thou exalted,"* and a thousand pestering difficulties and problems will be resolved at the sound of His voice.

When we're tempted, insulted, rejected, shamed, frustrated, we need to climb the hill of Golgotha with a genuine spirit of humility, and once we reach there, we shall hear the majestic voice of love, compassion and forgiveness, and that's the Christian perspective.

*Master, let's crown thee, even if we sink into obscurity and our very existence be forgotten as a dream.*

*David said, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him" (Psalms 62:5).*

*O Lord, grant unto us the strength to endure, the courage to go forward, grace to overcome, and mercy to forgive!*

## A Point to Ponder

David Hume, the celebrated British atheist who once went to hear the famous evangelist Dr. George Whitefield. In the audience, someone spotted Mr. Hume and asked why he was there since he did not believe in God. He replied, "I don't but he does."

**Conviction  
or  
Convenience**

Conviction is a gift from God and when we preach with 'conviction and certitude' even the unsaved will take note of it. Lord, help us preach thy Word with courage and conviction and please don't let us deviate from the centrality of the cross!

## Prayer and Renewal Conference February 22-27

*Lakeside Baptist Church*

Mannford, Oklahoma • Jason Langley, Pastor

## 2009 Nigerian Crusades & Conferences

**With Matthew Skariah  
March 7-22**

**Asaba Prayer Summit  
March 8-9**

Victory Baptist Church – Asaba, Delta State  
Host Pastor: McDonald B.O Ejera

**City-wide Crusade  
March 10-12**

Place: Asaba, Delta State

**Onitsha Prayer Summit  
March 14-16**

Redemption Baptist Church – Onitsha, Anambra State  
Host Pastor: Matthew A. Nnadi

**Prayer Conference  
March 18-19**

Restoration Church – Isuikwuato, Abia State  
Host Pastor: Edwin C. Nwaoha

**God-Seekers Conference  
March 21-22**

Ambassadors of Grace Ministries  
# 27 Bende Street, Rumuomasi  
Port Harcourt, Rivers State  
Host Pastor: Jonathan Erondu