



Challenging Christians to Pray

# Prayergram<sup>®</sup>

April 2011

## Intercession, Love It or Leave It

*“I’ve set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth” (Isaiah 62:6-7).*

America is in a moral and spiritual quandary and we need more than a National Day of Prayer; we need a National Day of Repentance. We’ve broken the heart of God, Who never breaks our heart. As the prophet Jeremiah said, *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water”* (Jeremiah 2:13). Unless God intervenes, we will soon find ourselves groping in darkness. We are in the midst of a war—a spiritual war that needs a spiritual solution and strategy. We are not going to win this war by using conventional weapons, such as religious programs, technology, or techniques. Our weapons are spiritual, not carnal; they are mighty, through the pulling down of the strong holds of Satan and his legions.

Today, where are God’s courageous, Spirit-anointed, evangelical prophets who can call His people back to an altar of prayer? Shallow evangelism and showmanship will not save America and the world—a *Holy Ghost empowered Church will!* It is time that every gospel preacher *“weep between the porch and the altar,”* crying, *“Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?”* (Joel 2:17).

Dear praying saints and blood-washed people of God, let’s give ourselves to prayer. It’s now or never; it is time to enlist ourselves in God’s praying army. Either we pray with passion for an

ego-slashing revival, or we forever hang our harps on the willows, in utter helplessness and shame.

Lost souls are eagerly waiting for our next move. If you are a man or woman of prayer, you are one of the most dangerous people on the planet. The world no longer rules your heart. You are no longer seduced by the world; you live as a pilgrim, unattached to the cares of this world; you are not afraid to risk your life for the cause of Christ; you even dare to believe you may be given the precious privilege of martyrdom, by spreading His name on the earth. The Father’s passion becomes your passion; you find your satisfaction and worth in Him; you believe He is with you until the end of the world. You are sold out to God, and you live for the Lamb. Satan fears you, and the angels applaud you.

How many of us have ever given any thought to the ministry of intercession? What does it mean to be a watchman on the wall? Do we accept God’s clarion call to weep over a lost world? How can we read the probing words of the prophet, without turning the searchlight on ourselves and being convicted of our paltry prayer life? I’ve said it many times, but I’ll say it again; the ministry of intercession is not one of the most desirable or sought after ministries within the body of Christ. It has no glamour or clout that one desires. As a result, many give much credence to various ministries, such as being a pastor, evangelist, conference speaker, Christian broadcaster, Bible scholar, seminar leader, or financial management guru. Ah, but intercession, the ministry of the



Matthew Skariah

## Intercession, Love It or Leave It (Continued)

interior, is unheard of, to most. Intercessors willingly fulfill the ministry of the furnace or the interior. When it comes to intercession, there is no pretense, facade, danger of being prideful, arrogant, or conceited; it is a silent and unrecognized, yet powerful ministry that propels one into the very throne of God; it should not be treated as an oddity. Remember, those who discount the power of intercession do so at their own peril. Whenever we speak about intercession or intercessors, we always speak in terms of the past; we use examples such as Muller, Brainerd, Bounds, Taylor, Hyde, and many others that God used mightily in the past. Believe me, no one has greater respect and admiration for the past than I have, but we cannot always live in the past;

we need to step up to the plate now, by paving the road for the next generation. True intercessors are not Christian pessimists, but wounded warriors who put the interest of others above their own personal comforts and vantage. Those who are not warriors of the cross need not apply for the ministry of being an intercessor,

Beloved, I plead with you to pray for the world before it is too late! If Christians cease to pray, 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! When national revival is needed, God's praying people step up to the plate. We're in mortal combat with Satan, our adversary. Prayer is the divine 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. It is so potent that it blasts away unbelief and spiritual laziness.

Are you satisfied with your prayer life? Are you enjoying God's inimitable presence daily? Are you happy with the progress that you are making in your spiritual journey? Do you ever feel like 'holding your heart in your hand,' because you fear that the next moment something awful is going to happen, both to you and to the world?

We need God in an hour such as this! Problematic as these trying years may seem, God will lead us into the light of His glory.

*Prayerless Christians are powerless Christians.* On the other hand, the praying people will remain as a powerful force in the world. Prayer is about spiritual hunger. To pray with passion and faith, we have to believe in the ultimate victory of God over sin and death. Once we are led into the glory of His presence, prayer becomes breath-taking, exhilarating, and life-affirming. Prayer is addictive. Those who pray with passion for souls just don't create a spiritually conducive environment; they are given the opportunity to hoist the world into a spiritual consciousness.

The prayer that cements our daily walk with God is lost in carnal activities. God does not force His favors on us; He longs for us to ask, and then he is right there, with all the resources of Heaven at His command. We need to search for men and women with strong faith and undying hope in the resurrected Lord and for those sensitive Christians, who steadfastly refuse to go along with the norm. We can no longer be the timid little sheep, who blindly accept the fondest notion of those who reject our Lord. If we are the kind of Christians who like to stand up for righteousness, and long for the restoration of the pristine honor and glory of God, then we should be eager to engineer a spiritual revolution through prayer.

George Muller once said, "Be assured, if you walk with Him and look to Him and expect help from Him, He will never fail you." Let's reduce our Inter-

net time and get down on our knees, until we hear from heaven. The healing power of prayer is immeasurable. So, keep on praying, incessantly. When God speaks what's on His mind, it's important that we listen. When the world is in chaos and out of control, let the praying saints stand at total peace and tranquility, ready to plead with our Rock, the blessed Lord Jesus. Prayer transcends race, nationality, age, gender, and denomination. One blessed thing about prayer is that it has no need of human manipulations; it holds its unique power and greatness within itself. For me,

*Intercession is touching the heart that touches the world in love. Let's intercede NOW fervently! Remember, the Lord waits for us at His throne! Now is the time to act judiciously and concisely. Intercession is powerful, wouldn't you say?*

## Intercession, Love It or Leave It (Continued)

prayer isn't just a religious ritual—it's transcendent worship.

As Christian soldiers, we don't shift into neutral when trials come, but stand tall and face every trial, in the power of the risen Lord. When the world is burning, we don't sit on our laurels, admiring our beautiful facilities, but rather, we use the weapon of prayer to 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 faithful remnant in the power of the Holy Spirit, can stem the tide.

Intercession is not fluff. It is not spiritual pabulum, or over-cooked, pre-digested, filtered religious fast food, dished out to provide minimum satisfaction to the maximum number of religious customers. Intercession is always satisfying and up lifting. What's the secret of intercession? Perseverance and passion, of course! We're long on sermons and seminars, but short on intercession. One should never approach intercession on the basis of easy emotionalism, fuzzy feelings, or cheap sentimentality. *"The men and women who have done the most for God in this world have been early upon their knees."*

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The ancient prophet said, *"The way of the ungodly shall perish."* Injustice and immorality will wreck a nation. Evil will topple any people. 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."* Christians certainly can make a difference in government. But we are naive and unwise if we pin our hopes on the false gods of politics. Politics and world affairs belong mainly to politicians; salvation and the ultimate cares of the soul belong to the Church. As people of God, we rely not on the promises of fallible men, but on the eternal and unfailing promises of God in whom there is no failure. *"Either your God will be your king, or your earthly king will be your god!"*

### Culture Watch

by  
Matthew Skariah

### Our Crumbling Civilization

*"We cannot redeem  
this society  
materially unless  
we redeem it  
spiritually."  
Woodrow Wilson,  
our twenty-eighth  
President*

Secular people expect us to bow down to them, and accept whatever they say as the gospel. They feel they are intellectually and culturally superior to us. Too many people arrogate to themselves what does not properly fall within their competence and jurisdiction. Remember friend, our mortal life is far too short and eternity is far too vast. Let us not follow human sophistries, and if we do, we'll end up losing our soul. It's unwise to get tangled up in fabled falsities and allegorical and cultural trends. God's people do not cave in when faced with trials and persecutions. Our source is, God, not the government or the secular institutions.

Western civilization is crumbling morally and spiritually because of its blatant disregard to the Word of God. Europe has slipped morally and spiritually, and now America stands alone as the last bastion of Christian influences in the world, and please don't allow our precious heritage slip from our grasp.

Men always misjudge God's power—it was true during the ministry of our Lord and it is true today. There is a power in the world that so many people could not grasp and what man cannot grasp he rejects. If Satan can undermine our faith, weaken our spiritual muscle then he has derailed a life, blackmailed a soul, and confused the would-be believers.

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"He that delighteth not in holiness, hateth not iniquity, loveth not the unity and purity of the Church, and abhorreth not discord and divisions, and taketh no pleasure in the communion of saints and the public worship of God with his people, is not fit to be a pastor of a church."

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)  
Powerful Bible Expositor

Voice  
from  
the  
Past

Speaking  
Candidly

## Are You Stuck in the Mud?

The world is waiting for a message from the church that offers spiritual solutions, rather than demagoguing the true message of the gospel of power and purity. The social, political, economical problems of the world are out of control and beyond our grasp. Most solutions are being offered at the moment are intellectual, not spiritual. Someone has said that technology has become the world's newest religion, and no wonder that many are worshipping at the altar of technology. It seems to me that the car is stuck in the mud, the wheels are spinning and turning at a higher rate of speed, but cannot pull the car out.

In our whacky culture—it is wrong to be right and right to be wrong. It seems to be that common sense is uncommon today, and rational people are not readily found. When we see the world is in turmoil and chaos, and out of control, the people of God at once step up to the plate to plead with God for His divine intervention. Christianity is not a religion, not in the most profound sense. The world is full of religions and one more religion wouldn't make that much difference at all. Jesus offers relationship and He transforms lives. God did not become a cow, tree or a mountain. He became a man in order to call mankind back to God. He calls us like a father calls his children; He seeks us like a shepherd seeks a lost sheep. Caesar used to reform men by changing society; Jesus changes society by transforming men. Won't you please let Jesus transform you? When you are stuck in the mind, spinning your wheels, and unable to extricate yourself, then call on Jesus and let Him pull you out of the mud and establish your feet on Him, the solid Rock.

As C. S. Lewis, once remarked, *"We are like children enjoy making mud pies in a slum."* He went on to say, *"Lust and greed, pride and selfishness are but poor substitutes for the far greater pleasures God lays before us."* Pascal, the French philosopher addressed the problem of seeking happiness and fulfillment from things that can never satisfy when he wrote in *Pensées*, *"But these are all inadequate because the infinite abyss can only be fulfilled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself."*

God is the center of all things; He must be recognized as the sovereign God of the universe, not when we are at our wit's end; it is logical and sensible to love and worship God at all times with a gracious heart of 'thanksgiving and fidelity.'

### Men's Prayer Advance

April 14-16

#### Christ Life Ministries

Camp Pine Creek • Gore, Virginia  
Pastor/Moderator: Harold Vaughen

### Matthew Preaching

April 17

#### Community Baptist Church

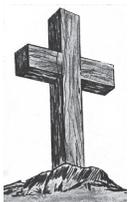
Washington DC  
Pastor/Mike Aylestock

### Prayer/Missions Conference

May 11-15

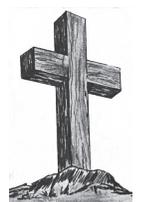
#### Bayou Drive Baptist Church

Alvin, Texas  
Shawn Nichols, Pastor



# The WPB Ministries

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14



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World Prayer Band • P. O. Box 686 • Roswell New Mexico 88202-0686 • U.S.A.  
(575) 623-6925 • E-mail: [mwpbs@yahoo.com](mailto:mwpbs@yahoo.com) • Website: [www.worldprayerband.com](http://www.worldprayerband.com)