



# Prayergram

Challenging Christians to Pray

August 2011



## Let the Tears Flow



**Matthew Skariah**

goes forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalms 126:5-6). But today tears are frowned upon in many circles. A tearful prayer is a loud cry in the ears of the Father, and His ears are always open to the cries of His children. Suffice it to say, there is a loving God who waits eagerly to receive our petitions.

When the spirit of carnality prevails within the body of Christ, “hearing ears” turn to “itching ears;” tearful Christians become tearless Christians; closet ministries give way to flamboyant ministries. In today’s ‘free for all’ religious community, many Christians reject the doctrine of ‘brokenness’, because it unmasks everything that is carnal and unholy. David said in Psalms 51:17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou will not despise.” We look upon broken things with disdain

The Puritans used to pray for the “gift of tears.” The early Christians were vicariously sustained by tears and the faithful ministry of the Word of God.

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who

and even disgust, but God sees the condition of the “broken heart” as an opportunity to showcase His skill and power at restoring lives.

No Christian can afford to take tears lightly.

Some substitute tears with hype. Rely

more on tears when it comes to building God’s kingdom. Ravenhill

was profound when he said, “Tithes may build a church but tears give life.” The modern church has plenty

of organizers, but only few agonizers. Revival praying is importunate praying,

and in times of spiritual apathy and moral disintegration, we do not plunge

into deep theological discussion on the subject of prayer; we cry out in

anguish and agony. Prayer practiced is better than prayer lectured. Let us

not exchange obedience for lip service! Our compassion requires an outlet; it

is oxygenated in our tears. The price of revival is ever the same—tears. We

are the salt of the earth and salt makes people thirsty. Let’s scatter the salt in

order to preserve and protect the decay of the world. Many Christians long for

the millennial reign (a thousand year reign of Christ on earth), and yet they

refuse to spend an hour with Jesus in the upper room now! Strange, isn’t it?

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are laughing at our powerless living, puny little programs and promotional gimmicks. If we are honest enough to listen we could hear the old challenge, Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?

When saintly Finney preached, heaven rejoiced, and when he prayed, hell trembled. The sin of the city, the state, the nation and the world should drive every Christian on his/her knees with the cry, "Lord, have mercy on me." Do we agonize with our suffering Lord? Jesus asks, "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? Will you spend a night with me in ceaseless intercession? Will you weep with me an hour and feel what I feel for the world?" Only the power of tears can lift the shroud of anguish, despair and fatalism from His wounded church. Soul-travail is the missing ingredient in today's organized prayer meetings.

Today, within the body of Christ, there is not enough revulsion against spiritual apathy, not enough hunger and thirst for righteousness, not enough heart-break over the lost, and not enough cohesive longing for heaven. It seems we are so snugly tied down to this world, and the thought of heaven no longer beckons us. This satisfied state of the church, trust in man and technology, self-satisfaction and self congratulation, and don't-bother-me state of mind, is most inimical to the growth and nurture of our spiritual man.

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*Beloved, it is in prayer that a Christian comes in direct confrontation with the issues of life that propels him to a life of unconditional surrender to God. It was in private prayer that Robert Murray McCheyene, the famous preacher of Dundee, Scotland came to know Christ better than any of his earthly friends. Dear friend, do we know Christ in that realm? If not, why not? We need to lay all our stupendous theologizing and systematizing at the feet of Jesus like Thomas Aquinas did.*

Scotland came to know Christ better than any of his earthly friends. Dear friend, do we know Christ in that realm? If not, why not?

We need to lay all our stupendous theologizing and systematizing at the feet of Jesus like Thomas Aquinas did. We need to be on our knees always acknowledging our spiritual poverty and inveterate pride. Don't be bewitched and beguiled by the glitter we see on today's television programs religious or otherwise; we can be too preoccupied and dependent on what others say about Christ rather than finding it out for ourselves on our knees with a spirit of true brokenness and genuine contrition.

When we pray, we do not press into God with tears of compassion. I am afraid that we have become too self-centered, status seeking, dogmatic and materialistic Prayer entralls us into the very throne of God where we see Him in all His glory and majesty.

In our jumpy and jittery society, many see our sovereign God as a 'cosmic fixer-upper' who runs errands for us. Tears help us

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overcome our ceaseless nerve-racking redundancy and unrelenting carnal activities. Let's not allow religious activities dull our spiritual sensitivity.

Let God be God! There is no substitute for tears! Our rainbows are made with our translucent tears. When tears are absent from our pulpits and pews, the church become a monolithic tomb of the spiritually dead. A passionless, tearless, prayerless, worried and defeated Christian is an anomaly, a contradiction, and a negation of the spirit of true Christianity.

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*The blessings of tomorrow are deposited in the tears of today. Tears are an expression of a wide range of human emotions. We cry when we are happy, sad, penitent, and sorrowful. Tears are like a refreshing rain that rejuvenates the landscape with new freshness. "A man is what he is on his knees before God, and nothing more."*  
*(Robert Murray McCheyene)*

## Culture Watch

by  
Matthew Skariah

### The Misguided Person

Christians don't have an option when it comes to the Cross of Christ that towers above every symbol on earth. Where can we be as secure as under the wings of our beloved Savior? Let's exalt and worship Him!

Today many in our society are offended at the mere mentioning of the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. The name of Christ alienates the world, because the world prefers to be alienated from God. As followers of Christ, we must take the offense of the Cross in stride: it should never frighten us or weaken our faith, but it should rouse us to overcome whatever life may throw at us. The very presence of Christ pierces our heart, convicts our soul, exposes our motives, reveals our character, analyzes our hidden agenda, and brings us up against a brick wall where we have to make a decision either to follow Him, or not follow Him. Chances are, people who oppose Christianity are ridden with guilt, and it is the very reason why Christ came to free us from guilt and shame. *"Only the cross which shocked and condemned the world can reconcile it."* The offense of the Cross continues and so our love and devotion for the Cross must continue. It is unthinkable, but true, that supposedly in Christian America, when we invoke the name of Christ, many are quiescent and squeamish.

But on the other hand, we can speak about the great spirit, the mystical universe, pervading all things, a unified and unknown force of which we are all part of a conglomeration, a pool of generalized pantheistic spirituality to which we can all flow into a higher consciousness of 'nirvana,' you will command great admiration and mutual pleasantry and respect. For example, I am an East Indian by birth and very familiar with Hinduism. I can gather a bunch of misguided and unhappy people and talk to them about the glory of Eastern religions, I am absolutely certain that I will be caricatured as a well-informed and open minded individual who has a keen and perceptive understanding of the world in which I live.

One can speak about the nature, global warming, the environment, humanitarianism, the goodness of man, the cultural diversity, the celebration of man's ingenuity, vegetarianism, the collage of human wisdom, great religions of the world—but the moment when you speak about Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, the Savior of the world who alone can save the world—immediately the temperature drops and you become a social outcast and a hick. When we speak about God and His miracles, people become embarrassed or angry and the very invocation of Christ name seems primitive, crude and even irrelevant.

As C. S. Lewis put it succinctly, *"The popular 'religion' excludes miracles because it excludes the 'living God' of Christianity and believes in a 'pantheistic god' who is removed and remote."*

### Focus on Prayer and Revival

August 19-21

#### Calvary Bible Church

Centre Hall, PA

Sponsored by:

Palmer Revival Ministries of Spring Mills, PA

Tom Palmer, President

### Bible Conference

September 11-16

#### Grace Baptist Church

Durant, Oklahoma

Anthony Williams, Pastor

## What Does Life Mean To You?

The Scripture tells that it is appointed unto man once to die. It's true that we have to leave this world whether we like it or not. Everything we see in this world is transitory. Tell me, what do we have in this life that won't pass away?

Deep down in every person's heart he knows that the transitory nature of human life and how life goes on in its seemingly endless round of empty rapacious cycle. Such an honest and realistic contemplation of life will lead one to despair, like the French existentialist and playwright, Jean Paul Sartre, who says there is No Exist from this meaningless existence, or it will lead one to the 'leap of faith,' like the Danish theologian, Soren Kierkegaard. Such self-examination either leads you to dissolution or a

Speaking  
Profoundly

vibrant and living faith in Christ, our Lord. I hope the later is true with you. T. S. Elliot was precise when he said, "As we grow older the earth seems strange. In my end is my beginning." Jesus, our Lord said, "I am come that you might have life and life more abundantly." Could there be any place more safer than the center of God's will?

Remember beloved, there is a place where the enemy cannot touch you, "the secret place of the Most High."

Man says, "Let live and die," but God wants you to live now and live forever. As one elderly Quaker said at age eighty-five, "I am going to live until I die, and then I am going to live forever." Glory is ahead of us!

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## The Way We Treat God

Often we allow human logic creep into our faith. We talk about faith, but do not walk in faith. Since things are changing in life, we assume that God changes with the time, not realizing that He is the unchangeable God. We depend on man rather than depend on God. We call Him Lord, but treat Him like a servant. We respect His name, but do not obey His Word. We give Him an 'honorary title,' but treat Him like an assembly worker.

We see our heavenly Father as a Friday paycheck, rather than sons and daughters loving Him for what he really is. At times, man's ideas seem to be more palatable than God's Word; man's words seem to be more intellectual than the Word of God. No person should ever be a Christian just for the miracles only. Love Him. Honor Him. Cherish Him. Depend on Him, and worship

Speaking  
Candidly

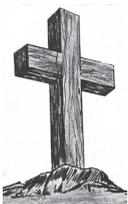
*"We talk cream, but live skim milk."*

Him. True spirituality is not a corporate thing or a denominational doctrine, but a private, personal hunger which is expressed or manifested daily in the life of every believer. Remember, in acceptance of 'God's will' lies blessed peace of mind.

The Christian is always thankful to God for His goodness, mercy and loving kindness. He remains faithful to Jesus Christ in good times as well as difficult times.

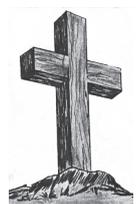
The circumstances of our lives should never determine the degree of thankfulness in our hearts. In my view, many today have lost sight of the fundamental importance of a thankful heart. That is, due in part, of the fact that we've forgotten once again where the blessings come from.

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# The WPB Ministries

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14



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