



Challenging Christians to Pray

Prayergram[®]

July 2012



Crisis in the Home and Nation (Part 1)



Matthew Skariah

Our social and moral conscience is being decapitated from the heart of our nation by secularists/politicians who wallow in their naive self puffery and enjoy whitewashing our nation's morality and venerable traditions. It seems that our leaders are inebr-

ated by political expediency and don't realize the structural damage that they are inflicting on the nation. The voracious appetite for power has blinded them to the extent that they place every shred of decency on the auction block for the highest bidder. Statesmanship has become a thing of the past, and now our country is being run by pandering politicians who lack moral courage and spiritual backbone. The immortal words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer are worth remembering, "The fool is capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil." Whatever has happened to the word 'Shame'? Satan, the corrupter of humanity ransacks and ravages our lives and homes far more than we are aware of it. Godliness is an essential! It provides much needed spiritual power in the intense battle waged for the hearts of people who need the touch of God in their lives.

In my view, television has done more to damage the moral fabric of our home more than anything else we can imagine. Neil Postman of New York University says,

In my view, television has done more to damage the moral fabric of our home more than anything else we can imagine. Neil Postman of New York University says, "What television does is to bring the whole culture out of the closet, because programs need a constant supply of new and exciting stimulation. In its quest for new and sensational ventures to hold its audience, TV must delve into every existing taboo and destroy every moral standard in our culture: Homosexuality, incest, divorce, fornication, corruption, adultery, occultism, Satanism, and terrible displays of violence and sadism."

"What television does is to bring the whole culture out of the closet, because programs need a constant supply of new and exciting stimulation. In its quest for new and sensational ventures to hold its audience, TV must delve into every existing taboo and destroy every moral standard in our culture: Homosexuality, incest, divorce, fornication, corruption, adultery, occultism,

Satanism, and terrible displays of violence

and sadism." How true and prophetic indeed! We cannot take television seriously; everything is scripted. Life is not scripted. The Lord directs our steps and helps us in our trials as we go through various facets of life.

There is a total break down in the moral fabric of our nation's home. Billy Graham has spoken to this point. His first statement was made in 1958: "I think television has brought the night club into the home, along with violence and sex, things that Christians looked upon ten years ago with abhorrence. They have gradually become **desensitized** and I can cite case after case in which Christians now watch television without feeling any twinge of conscience." Four years later, 1962, he said: "Let us face it right now. Let us confess it. I want to stand with you in the confession. Television has brought into our homes that which we would not have dreamed of looking at fifteen years ago. When we first saw it we were shocked. The shock is now gone.

We can watch these things now and it doesn't bother us... Our thinking is worldly; our speech is

worldly; our attitude is worldly, and many times our motives are worldly.”

We need discipline and spiritual leadership in the home and nation at this sad juncture of moral collapse and social disintegration. How many of us Christians have the discipline that the Wesleys had in their holy club at Oxford? The word “holiness” has disappeared from our preaching vocabulary, and now we’re told that biblical precepts are evolving. Strange, isn’t it? The Word of God does not evolve; God will not change the data of His dictionary or the language of His encyclopedia to sugarcoat sin or lower biblical standards. He will not hang the hypocritical mask of political correctness on the putrid face of corruption. God calls sin, **sin**; carnality, **carnality**; backsliding, **backsliding**; hell, **hell**. God never has and He never will compromise with sinful men to pamper or massage his ego. Let me make it clear, God never pays any attention to European or American social/ moral engineering, when it comes to His irrevocable laws. If we’re honest with God and ourselves, we need to admit that we need and want the cleansing merit of His shed blood.

Without morals and social grace, society will crumble the bottom up. When man begins to doubt his origin, he lost his way; he lost his address. God honors those who build their homes on the precepts of God! In our ego-centric culture we do not fear and tremble at His Word. For example, in Ezra’s day there was such an awesome move of God among the people that many “trembled at the words of the God of Israel” (Ezra 9:4). Today, we read His Word but do not reverence His holy name. No wonder Charles Finney said: “It’s sinful to teach the Bible without moral application.” A prayer-saturated home is a fortress within a fortress; a fountain within a fountain; a sanctuary within a sanctuary; and a castle within a castle and a nation within a nation where God’s love rules and governs.

But today it’s quite the contrary! We have internet, but no inner-peace; we’ve cell-phones, but no celestial conversation; we’ve material affluence, but no moral influence. Let’s remember the immortal words of General Omar Bradley, one of America’s five star generals, “We’ve become a nation of nuclear giants and moral infants.” Biblical morality goes against the grain of our present-day culture of death. How can we exhibit character when we’ve no character to speak of?

It is no exaggeration to say that we live in a culture of absurdity which is the inability to hear and obey God. Adam and Eve were the first deconstructionist because they had a good professor—Satan. Man is not governed by his senses—but by the living truth of God’s Word. When people become conscious of God, they become conscious of their environments and how they conduct themselves as they go about in their daily task. The words of General William Booth are worth remembering, “The greatness of a man’s power is the measure of his surrender.” It seems our homes have become one wild jungle where people run around and do their thing without social or moral coherence. The present generation is afraid to look back with wisdom. We madly rush forward and call it progress; we speak with a slang that does not honor God, and we are becoming more and more like electronic robots. Our homes are becoming “social ghettos,” and our culture is badly wounded. We must rebuild it for the sake of the next generation. Don’t hold back the biblical precepts when it comes to morality. C.S. Lewis was wise when

he 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.”

When we speak about our homes, we speak mainly about our mothers. Someone has said that godly wives and mothers are the real uncrowned queens of the earth! God created women to be something special; but if they seek something

The word “holiness” has disappeared from our preaching vocabulary, and now we’re told that biblical precepts are evolving. Strange, isn’t it? The Word of God does not evolve; God will not change the data of His dictionary or the language of His encyclopedia to sugarcoat sin or lower biblical standards. He will not hang the hypocritical mask of political correctness on the putrid face of corruption. God calls sin, SIN; carnality, CARNALITY; backsliding, BACKSLIDING; hell, HELL. God never has and He never will compromise with sinful men to pamper or massage his ego. Let me make it clear, God never pays any attention to European or American social/ moral engineering, when it comes to His irrevocable laws. If we’re honest with God and ourselves, we need to admit that we need and want the cleansing merit of His shed blood.

other than what God intended them to be, then moral and social peril is inevitable. Women are more practical, their scope is wider, not narrow; they introduce children to the world, and most cases to God. They are the natural rulers of the house. Mothers are the center of the family. “*Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come*” (Proverbs 31:25). In our culture of absurdity, we’ve lost the primacy of the home in a ridiculous proportion. Truth is the basic foundation of education; when we undermine the truth, how can we educate them? There are no uneducated people; most people are educated badly or wrongly. Today we are not teaching history but hygiene; not truth but trifle; not decency but indecency; not respect but rudeness. Crisis begins in the home, and then reaches into the schools, and workplace and society in general. Christian ideals are the bedrock of a civilized society. God’s plan for the home is unchangeable; it has no expiration date. Don’t trivialize the importance of a Christ-centered home where the father is the spiritual leader and mother is the comforter and helpmate in matters of spiritual training.

The Bible says, “*The meek (yielded one) shall inherit the earth.*” So yield, so live, so conquer, and rest in God. The work of righteousness is peace; the effect of righteousness is quietness and assurance for ever. The peace we so long in the home are the work of righteousness—living the Christ life and when we live with God, quietness and assurance will follow. Assurance is the calm born of a deep and abiding faith in God, in His promises, in His power to help us establish a home where Jesus is present and abiding. Each of us needs to make spiritual deposits in life. But

The decadent manner in which we behave in the home causes me to believe we have fallen on hard times. No man has ever risen above his conception of God. A correct conception of God is essential not only to build a godly home but also relevant to proper behavior and godly living as well.

as a rule, most people make more withdrawals than deposits. The decadent manner in which we behave in the home causes me to believe we have fallen on hard times. No man has ever risen above his conception of God. A correct conception of God is essential not only to build a godly home but also relevant to proper behavior and godly living as well. Most people cannot stand unpopular opinions about themselves; they want the world to say nice things about them, and consequently they take short-cuts to appease the world in the name of tolerance and cultural cleavage, forgetting the admonition of the Lord, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength*” (Mark 12:30).

Beloved, if the secular world is to leave you unchallenged, you must be worldly and compromising and comfortable with its standards. If the world persecutes you, mocks you, malign you, if trials press sore, it is because you belong to Jesus, and, as His friend exposed to the works of evil. Christians should not dither. We should love and worship our God and focus on His glorious kingdom, and refuse to dilute the message of the Cross for earthly fame and securities. Many Christians remain neutral in order to avoid criticism. To escape the world’s criticism, say nothing, do nothing and be nothing. Some Christians refuse to construct an “altar of prayer” in the home because they are unable to forge an intimate union with God. Let us seek the sound of God’s applause; let’s work to please our Master rather than satisfy other mortals, we must humbly say and do what we know is right in God’s sight, regardless of what other people may think or do.

(Watch for the next issue for Part 2)

Voice
From
The
Past

Only let it be trust in God, not in man, not in circumstances, not in any of your own exertions, but real trust in God and you will be helped in your various necessities. Not in circumstances, not in natural prospects, not in former donors, but solely in God. This is just that which brings the blessings. If we say that we trust in Him, but in reality do not, then God, taking us at our own word, lets us see that we do not really confide in Him; and hence failure arises. On the other hand, if our trust in the Lord is real, help will surely come. “*According unto thy faith be it unto thee.*”

George Muller, (1805-1898), *Founder, Ashley Down Orphanage, Remarkable man of Faith and Prayer*

**SPEAKING
CANDIDLY**

*Matthew
Skariah*

CAN GOD?

We're told that history repeats itself, and it would be wise on our part to look back to history with wisdom. Every time, the Israelites were confronted with a need they said, "Can God?" They tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust; they spoke against God and His servant Moses, and he (Moses) became their complaint box. They repeatedly said, "Can He prepare a table in the wilderness?" (Psalms 78:18-19). It is inherently and intrinsically wrong to question the wisdom of God.

They saw more miracles than anyone else; yet unbelief was their daily diet and they constantly murmured and complained against the holy one of Israel. Do we see a connection here as we look at ourselves and how we behave when confronted with difficulties? We complain because we lose the

sight of the One who promised to be our guide and strength at all times. We need to cease looking to ourselves; we need to look to the sovereign God who holds infinity in the palm of His hand. It is no exaggeration to say that we find in ourselves what God found in the Hebrews.

God Almighty delivered and brought the Israelites out of Egypt; He made a way for them through the Red Sea. He caused water to flow from the rock to quench their thirst. Yet, when they were faced with a need they said, "Can He prepare a table in the wilderness?" We need to ask ourselves the same question, "Can God?" I trust your answer will be a resounding Yes, in the most affirmative sense of the word. We must love and serve our Lord because He is God, not because He gives us blessings. Let's approach Him with an attitude of obedience and gratitude!

We want God to walk with us, and when He does we often complain that He walks very slowly! Sound familiar, yes, it does?

Tribute

To George Muller

Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the life of thy humble servant, George Muller, a role-model to believers everywhere!

As a young man, growing up in India, I was deeply challenged and inspired as I read of the blessed life of George Muller of Bristol, England. Oh, how I praise my Savior for steering my life in the direction of such a godly influence at an early age!

If integrity and godliness, faith and prayer are requisites to passage through the corridors of

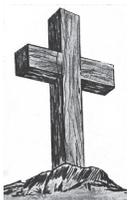
heaven, Mr. Muller will be among the saints.

Although millions of dollars had passed through his hands for service to others, Muller left only a few simple articles of furniture and the clothes

he was wearing. Before his death, Muller testified, "God, God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him. I wanted nothing else." That's Christian integrity in a nutshell!

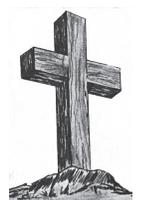
Few men have triumphed in their personal "faith and prayer" as Muller did without any fanfare. He was one of the rarest and best, one of the wisest, the most unarrogantly trustworthy, and the most Christ-like men of his day.

Personally, it is my utmost delight and honor to draw from the inexhaustible treasury of my heavenly Father Who is always on time with manna from on high. I shall continue to draw from his treasury until I receive my final summon to come home to be with my Lord forever. I want all to know that I am the most blessed man alive on God's green earth because I have been given an awesome privilege to depend on Him for everything. Isn't God grand?—*I know so.*
—Matthew Skariah



The WPB Ministries

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14



- ◆ Intercession ◆ Prayer Conferences ◆ Revivals
◆ One to One Outreach ◆ Publications ◆ Overseas Crusades

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