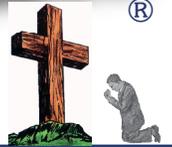




# Prayergram

August/September 2013



## Blow the Trumpet



**BLOW** ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand" (Joel 2:1). "**CRY** aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). "O, watchmen, what of the night?" Watchmen are God's appointed men and women who cry out to Him day and night for the restoration of His pristine honor and glory. America is spiritually adrift and we Christians have no one to blame but ourselves. We have not prayed for our beloved land as we are instructed in the Scriptures. The power of prayer is such a potent spiritual force, and yet for some, it remains out of reach. Prayer is powerful, yet too elusive. So the question is: Do we exercise the "**privilege of prayer**" or just complain about the declining morals and spiritual

debacle 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 use flowery words to describe the intricacies of prayer without actually being in His holy presence. **Let's make sure our prayer life will tally with what we 'preach and teach' on prayer!** Tired of a prayerless existence? 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? Let's not fall into the torpid state in which our prayer life becomes stale and incongruous! Christians are so divided and they find it very difficult to come together in the spirit of heartfelt prayer for the nation and the world in general. God's people are scattered throughout the battlefield, frustrated and bewildered, fighting their own individual battles while the forces of evil are well funded and mobilized. As believers, we need no invitation from God to light up the 'prayer furnace' in our homes and



**Matthew Skariah**

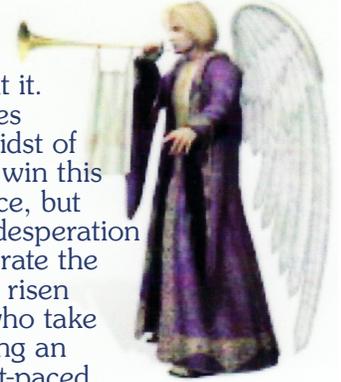
churches. God wants us to echo the call, and sound the trumpet like the prophets of old who thundered the voice of God with a sense of divine urgency. John the Baptist was a prophet sent from God with a message of repentance. Leonard Ravenhill was profound when he said, "**John the Baptist was trained in God's university of silence, sun-scorched, fire-baptized, and desert-bred prophet.**" Today, we have plenty of preaching on prophecy, but not much prophetic preaching. We desperately need a prophet in America like John the Baptist who can strike at the very conscience of this wanton nation. Our conscience has gone into deep sleep. Can you imagine, a prophet of God keeping silence when our nation's morals are being decapitated

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*We have internet, but no inner peace; cell phones but no celestial communication. Much of today's conversation centers on nothing. We listen very little and say too much without saying anything. Shakespeare was profound when he said, "Brevity is the soul of wit." We invent our own trauma. It is all about us. We have much time on our hand. We are in love with ourselves. Much of what we say is carnal, thoughtless, or even hurtful. Our society thrives on innuendos, juicy tid-bits, gossip and injurious remarks. Beloved, if you spend more time on the Internet and Facebook, than spending time in the presence of Jehovah God, you're losing intimacy with Him. You can have thousands of 'social media' friends, but in your hour of need, you need Jesus to hold your hand and speak words of comfort to sooth your already wounded soul.*

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It is obvious that America is in a moral and spiritual quandary and makes no mistake about it. Unless God intervenes, soon we'll find ourselves compromising with the enemy. We're in the midst of a cultural and spiritual war; we're not going to win this war by editing God's Word for social acceptance, but only 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 risen Lord. We need a generation of men/women who take their spiritual leadership in the home by creating an atmosphere of 'faith and prayer.' In today's fast-paced society, we seldom see Christians on their knees weeping before the Lord in a manner that pleases Him. A home without the presence of true praying men/women will atrophy and die. **It seems that the baby-boomer generation did not take 'faith and prayer' seriously, and consequently, we've lost an entire generation.** To some degree, the young people of today are irreligious because their parents, elders and teachers have been either reluctant or unwilling or unable to transmit faith to them. If adults are not praying and walking with God, then how can we expect young people to pray and walk with God? **Rebellion breeds rebellion.**



Let's look at the world today and see where we're at in this sad juncture of moral collapse and social disintegration. We've forsaken the man—Christ Jesus, and are searching for self-help experts, gurus, yogis, health/wealth preachers, media pundits and pandering politicians, seeking answers to fill our empty soul. **We have the internet, but no inner peace; cell phones but no celestial communication.** Much of today's conversation centers on nothing. We listen very little and say too much without saying anything. Shakespeare was profound when he said, "**Brevity is the soul of wit.**" We invent our own trauma. It is all about us. We have much time on our hand.

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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, tearless, passionless, feeble and doubting prayers will get only feeble answers. We serve a risen Savior, not a defeated Savior. Has Calvary failed? Of course not!

Why not get desperate for Reformation, why not pray with real apostolic passion and power? God's intercessors never slumber nor sleep! They are the appointed watchmen on the wall. An army of praying Christians can conquer the world. But on the other hand, imagine the vacuity of a Christian who refuses to enjoy the inimitable

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presence of Jesus in vital soul-travail, the greatest of all spiritual exercises! It seems that we do not press into God with tears of agony and urgency. I am afraid that we have become too worldly, casual, status conscious, dogmatic and materialistic. **A praying person can never be a defeated person.** Prayer enthalls us into the very throne of God where we see Him in all His glory and majesty. Ravenhill was concise when he said, **“No man is greater than his prayer life.”**

Surprisingly, there are an alarming number of people who are not interested in prayer no matter what they see or hear. They could care less about America’s moral and social debacle as long as they have the latest electronic toys. That’s regrettable and suicidal. 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 diatribe 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 personal comforts and conveniences. Oh, how few find pleasure in true communion with God! **The moral climate of America needs the selfless service of God’s true intercessors.** When we intercede, God interposes. So let intercession resonate!

Beloved, I plead with you to pray for America and the world before it’s too late! When Christians cease to pray, Christians cease to be victorious. Let’s cry out to God in the name of our ascended Lord that He would send demonstrations of His power and might today to expose the “false gods” of this world and reveal the **“true God”** of heaven. Arise, brothers and sisters, arise! Not only our nation but the entire world is past 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 praying minority step up to the plate. We’re in a mortal combat with Satan, our adversary, and prayer is the divine sword that slays the enemy. When situations are at their worst, we’ll find God’s praying remnant at their best. **Let’s arm ourselves with the most potent weapon ever—prayer.** So potent, it blasts away unbelief, lethargy and stagnation. Prayer is not only a calling upon God exercise, but also a conflict with Satan.

As Christian soldiers, we don’t shift into neutral when duty calls, but stand tall and face every trial in the power of the risen Lord. When the world is in turmoil, we don’t sit on our laurels admiring our beautiful facilities, but rather we use the weapon of the **“power of prayer”** and get the ball rolling. Beloved, the enemy is upon us. The storm is gathering and is about to break lose. Persecution of Christians is here in America, and nothing but the prayers of God’s humble remnant in the power of the Holy Spirit can stem the tide. **Let’s put the “power of prayer” in motion as we plead with God for our beloved land.**

Many are troubled and miffed at what’s happening in our country morally and socially and yet they are not willing to seek the face of God for His divine intervention. Someone has wisely pointed out, **“Trying to solve the world’s problem without divine intervention is like spitting in the ocean to raise the level of water.”** We need God in an hour such as this! When we see something wrong in our nation or our actions are not what they are supposed to be at that precise moment we put the wheels of

prayer in motion as children of God. As a praying person, you’ve enormous spiritual power deposited in you. The world may never see the mighty work you do, but God sees it, evil sees it. Oh, it is a blessed life, the life of the one who intercedes. Yes, Satan is a believer in the power of prayer, not because he practices it but because he suffers from it. Satan hates prayer and chokes it and does everything to sabotage the ministry of prayer. Praying people are quintessential to the survival of the modern church. They may never preach a sermon on television or radio, and yet they are destined to become the most powerful force for good in our country, and in the world.

Where are God’s courageous saints, prayer-hungry servants of God, today, to call His people back to a disciplined life of prayer? Secularism can never invade the mind that is wholly devoted to God! Atomic missiles without a praying citizenry cannot save America and the world. It is time that every blood-bought child of God should **“weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them...”** (Joel 2:17). When God intends great mercy for His people, says Matthew Henry, **“the first thing He does is to set them praying.”**

Let me make it clear that people who experience the power of prayer daily aren’t deterred by opposition, loneliness, or trials but are optimized and energized by it. When we do His will and walk in the power of the spirit, the mouths of critics, the legions of demons—for they will attack—will not prevail. They will take up arms but they’ll not conquer because Jehovah God rules and governs in the affairs of men. We, the people of God do not crumble at the presence of evil. Evil does not have the final word; it belongs to our sovereign God who alone inhabits eternity. **Beloved,**

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let's use the weapon of the 'power of prayer' NOW judiciously! Remember, the Lord waits for us at His throne! Now is the time to act! An African proverb says it well: "Time waits for no man." Believe me, the praying people will conquer. The conquering spirit of the Christian is alive and well. Let's face all our difficulties in the spirit of prayer!

Let's initiate a prayer revolution in America before it's too late! It's very hard for the devil to defeat a prayerful Christian because where there is prayer there is power. Now is the time to reclaim America's tattered spiritual tapestry through the power of "knee bending!" Remember, we have not torn any fabric that cannot be mended. Beloved, let's not fill our hearts with inferior things—but only the loveliest, grandest, and most precious things of God! Oh, Lord, please deliver us from idle-chit-chat and excessive speaking! Grant unto us a holy compunction! "A calm hour with God is worth a whole lifetime with man." (Madame Guyon)

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Yours for a mighty prayer revolution in America  
—Matthew Skariah

**POINT TO PONDER**  
by Matthew Skariah

## The Greatest Rummage Sale

The rummage sale is a sad occasion where people attempt to get rid of items they no longer need or use. Every item is a part of someone or something. After the crucifixion of Christ, the soldiers held a garage sale at the foot of the cross. Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw the auctioneer auctioning her son's earthly belongings. It wasn't much. All He had was a seamless robe and a pair of sandals. Mary made his seamless robe by hand and every stitch was made with love and care.

The soldiers cast lot for his seamless robe and it was given away as a reward of recompense for putting her son on the cross. The world is indifferent to the suffering of Christ. Jesus was not allowed to live a full life; they cut him down in the prime of his life. Man makes his puny fist at God and raises his husky voice against the Son of God—but He is not affected

by such contempt. Many who watched the crucifixion scene could have had an encounter with the cross, but unfortunately they did not desire such experience because they ran away from the scene of suffering and agony. The best wisdom in the world is recognizing the power of the cross of Christ as the insuperable love of God for all those who come to Him in true faith and humility.

When you turn your back on God, you come face to face with Him. No matter how we attempt to fend Him off; He keeps coming into our lives, doesn't He? He wants to win you back to God. He is the insistent lover of your soul, and nothing can change that! And we cannot alter such love with all our arguments, our petty differences, and rebellious attitudes. Beloved, Christ will never give you up! Nothing can replace the need for God in your life!

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