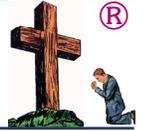




PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayergram



Challenging Christians to Pray — March-April 2015

AMERICA, DON'T BLOW UP THE BOILER!

It's inconceivable that America, a nation so blessed of God, now looks for ways and means to displease Him. The Word of God tells us, **"...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..."** (Luke 12:48). When a nation (individual) forgets God, there will be unavoidable consequences and only by His grace and mercy, can we reverse the moral and spiritual sliding. Prosperity can be a blessing as well as a curse to some. In times of prosperity, many tend to forget God and become careless in their walk with the Lord. Dr. Charles Conn comments on the subject:



Matthew Skariah

"Prosperity, then, is a trial to men fully as much as poverty. Success has defeated many a person who has been victorious over defeat. One can well understand the concern of the Church member who requested prayer for a friend because he is going through a trial of prosperity."

The Bible tells us, **"The prosperity of fools shall destroy them"** (Proverbs 1:32). Has any nation of the world ever withstood prosperity? The more affluence we enjoy, the less need for God in our daily life. We have become too self-sufficient and have failed to give thanks unto the gracious God who puts bread on our table. It is like taking a Turkish bath and balmily relaxing all over and forgetting God altogether. The incorrigible desires for worldliness, the inexplicable prosperity crave, the mercurial style of Christian living, and the "metaphysical therapeutic deism" (God just wants us to be happy and nice to other people) of the modern evangelicals, are inimical to the growth of the spiritual man. In the *Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis calls for a time of prosperity 'excellent campaign weather' for the devil. **"Prosperity knits a man close to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding**

its place in him. His increasing reputation, his wider circle of acquaintances, his sense of importance, the growing pressure of absorbing and agreeable work, build up in him a sense of being really at home on earth." We have many elitist in this country that enjoys the fruit of free enterprise while embracing communism and secularism. For a thinking person, it is nothing but a contradiction in its highest order. What America is doing is what C. S. Lewis calls,

"cutting away the branch on which she is sitting in an attempt to make it palatable to modern people." Believe me, the result will be disastrous. The degradation of our morals begins in the mind; wrong ideas about God corrupt one's mind.

I want this article to be a positive trumpet call. I hear the lamenting of my fellow citizens quite often, *"the world is in a mess and everything is going wrong, has gone wrong and it doesn't really matter what happens now."* The premise of their argument seems to be winning at the moment and frustration rules the day. There is such an instability that unsettles us like Jeremy Taylor's picture of a man **"clapping his shoulder to the ground to stop an earthquake."** It seems trying to solve the problems of the world without Divine help is like spitting in the ocean to raise the level of the water. The worst thing that can happen to a person is not losing some material things, but losing faith and hope and nothing can replace the absence of faith in the human heart. That seems to be the tragedy of the moment. The immortal words of R. L. Dabney come to mind, **"If our confidence in God's truth were undermined, the**

effect would be universally ruinous." Without God life would become what Gamaliel Bradford once called **"a wilderness of barren horror."**

But before we embrace such glum surveys and

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gloomy statistics, let me direct your attention to God's never-failing promises about "safety and security" for His people no matter what we face in life as He hath said, "... **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee**" (Hebrews 13:5). It is

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no exaggeration to say that the world places Christians always on the defensive whether we like it or not, and no wonder we are in a struggle to vindicate ourselves from the tyranny of our predicament. As St. Augustine prayed, "**O Lord, deliver me from the lust of always vindicating myself.**"

The splendor of God is that His willingness to dwell in our brokenness as He embraces us in our pain and weaknesses. To be perfectly honest most of us live in a "negative zone," constantly bemoaning and complaining and groping over our existence. We need to celebrate life more often; in fact, every day. How often do we celebrate what is good and wholesome in this great country of ours? Yes, there is a lot of undesirable things in us, and all around us, and believe me, we can find them

if we plough deep enough without prejudice. As we all know, America is a special place with a lot of special people, loving and praying for this great nation without any fanfare.

Our puritan forefathers came to America, seeking for a place to worship their God according to the dictate of their conscience. They were not rabble-rousers; but God seekers who placed their all on the altar of God, holding nothing back, and the Word of God was their guiding light. "**Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God**" (Psalms 90:1, 2).

No other nation in the history of the world has such rich spiritual heritage than America. It pains me when I see the lack of interest in preserving America's rich spiritual heritage, especially among those who were privileged to have been born in this country. As you

know, I am a naturalized citizen of this great nation and I love my adopted country and am deeply committed to her spiritual welfare and her place in history. America is unique in her Christian heritage and the "way of life" ever since the Mayflower landed in 1620. We ask ourselves, how can a nation with such great spiritual history and material accomplishment deteriorate into the current moral and social abyss? The answer is that we have become casualties of our own success, and allowed the worship of neopaganism over the worship of the true and living God. But it is never too late to come back to God with a true spirit of brokenness and repentance as we are instructed in the Holy Scriptures.

There have been four (4) major spiritual revivals in our nation's history; each one served to lift the nation from moral and social disintegration. It would be proper for us to ask ourselves, "*Can He do it again? Yes, of course, if His people would repent and return to the God of our forefathers.*" When things were at their worst, God always found a 'holy remnant' that were willing to pray, and as they prayed, God interposed miraculously and the nation was spared. Most recently, when the tragedy of September 11, occurred, many were asking, "*Where was God?*" He was where He has always been. Perhaps, we should be asking, "*where was the United States on September 11, 2001?*"

For years before the 9-11 tragedy we were telling that He was not welcome in our schools and our institutions of government. As a nation, we have been promoting secularism, that is, "God, if He exists, is of so little importance that we can profitably ignore Him as we search for human legitimacy." Knowing God brings with it the requisite of faith. **The Puritans believed that life came as a sacred gift from God and should be cherished as such. But that concept was changed when the Supreme Court of the United States sanctioned legalized abortion as a matter of choice; from that point on we begin to slide morally and spiritually as a nation.**

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In a society increasingly pluralistic and secular in its **WORLD VIEW (such as all religions are about the same and Jesus is not the only path to salvation)**, our

culture of diversity and technological advancement, many are losing their Christian **world view** for the sake of appeasement and political correctness. In addition to the secular world view, there is a more popular form of modern Christian view which is being paraded on “religious television” by some whose charisma and personalities are promoted more so than the presence of the living God. The gospel of happiness is being preached to supplant a gospel of holiness, and that seems to be the present-day evangelical dilemma. Christians are admonished to live by biblical standard rather than by the standard that is being forced upon us by various cultural shift and changes. Doing the right thing has nothing to do with one’s world view, but it has everything to do with God’s point of view.

Beloved, the Lord has a controversy with us because we have forsaken the God of glory as the prophet Jeremiah said, **“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water”** (Jeremiah 2:13). We have clearly and irretrievably lost our “moral compass” as a nation. Is it any wonder that we are on the verge of a moral collapse?

As people of God, we can no longer keep silent when every sacred institution in America is under attack by those who want to silence Christians from the arena of public discourse. It is very obvious that an “elitist minority” tries to overrun an “apathetical Christian majority.” The early Christians were commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus but they did it anyway without fear or trembling. Lord, give us the courage and tenacity to proliferate the message of the Cross with unmistakable clarity and indomitable passion and courage!

If we stand with Jesus and take His point of view, men will hate us as they hated our Lord. When the world persecutes Christians, we do not run to the government for help, we go to the cross—that is our home and resting place. Remember, Antipas of Pergamos, (Revelation 2:13), God’s faithful martyr (witness) who never denied his faith, but kept His name holy. We are to keep His name holy. But today, it is quite the contrary; many professing Christians treat holiness lifestyle with disdain and consider it as foolish old-fashioned taboos. They say, *“Forget that corny stuff, and get with the program and win the world by being worldly.”* **God, have mercy on us!**

As a Christian and naturalized citizen of the United States of America, I urge all my fellow Christians to uphold this great nation in prayer so that America will remain as a strong Bastion of Christian faith, freedom and liberty that will continue to provide a “spiritual beachhead” for God-honoring people everywhere!

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A true intercessor walks through life with an unsurpassed determination of a humble servant. He is unassuming, broken, eternally optimistic and refreshingly simple. He does not long for the praise or applause of men. He never counts spiritual success by money raised or buildings constructed. That is not how he measures Christian life and ministry. He knows true success is the measure of God’s will that He has revealed through His Word. He is not the star but the extra; he is not the quarterback but the linemen. He is always taken for granted. *“What’s your name, again? Oh, you are the no-name lineman who protects the quarterback!”*

One of Scotland’s most devout men was John Welch, son-in-law of the great Scottish reformer, John Knox. Welch was not as well known as his famous father-in-law, but he was a very remarkable man of prayer.

**SPEAKING
PRAYERFULLY**
*Matthew
Skariah*

Dr. R. A. Torry, in his book, *The Power of Prayer*, states: **“Many people have the idea it was John Knox who prayed, ‘Give me Scotland or I die.’ It was not; it was John Welch, his son-in-law.”** Toward the close of John Welch’s life he confessed, **“that he counted the day ill-spent if he did not spend ‘seven or eight hours’ in secret prayer.”** Servants of God, here is a lesson for all of us and may we spend our time wisely, not foolishly! Blessed be the God of John Welch!

An intercessor is the one who stands in the gap and prays for his brothers and sisters the world over. He depends less on words and more on the language of the heart—a voiceless cry. He knows his God is exquisitely and immortally magnificent. What an enduring legacy!

Oh, how desperately we need the selfless service of God’s ‘unsung and forgotten saints’ at these perilous times in which we live! Don’t ever cast God’s intercessors aside! “No man stumbles when he is on his knees.”

LATEST CRAVE ON FUTURE EVENTS By Matthew Skariah

There was not much information on “future events” in the writings of the early Christians. It started with Mr. Darvey, a lawyer, an Irishman in the middle of 18th century. Now the end time predictions are very popular among Christians, and even among non-Christians. I believe it has a lot to do with the latest interest in Space, Stars, Star-gazing, Astrology and the thrilling Hollywood version of movies pertaining to future events. **“Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the star-gazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee”** (Isaiah 47:13). It is tomorrow (future) that fills men’s heart with dread or fear!

Man is tangled up in many nameless fears. Why are we so fearful? We are fearful because we do not trust God fully. The word “fear not” appears 365 times in the Bible. Peace and assurance are the calm born of a deep faith in God, in His promises, and in His power to save and sustain. The Word of God tells us, **“The meek (yielded one) shall inherit the earth.”** If we allow “future events” and all its detailed intricacies rob our peace with God, we will live a troubled and paranoid life. Who has greater interest in preserving His Word than God? The Word of God emphatically

warns us, **“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them”** (Jeremiah 10:2).

Prophecy can tempt people to concentrate on events rather than the event Maker, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will come at the appointed time and until then, let us share His love with a hurting world. God’s training is for now, not for some future date. His work is being carried out in me NOW so that I can have a secure future with my Lord.

An elderly preacher once told me, “Don’t worry about the train, and make sure you have the ticket (salvation). You can worry about the train all you want, but if you don’t have the ticket (salvation), you are not going any place.” He was absolutely right and precise to the point. Prophecy can tempt people to concentrate on events rather than the event Maker, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will come at the appointed time and until then, let us share His love with a hurting world. God’s training is for now, not for some future date. His work is being carried out in me NOW so that I can have a secure future with my Lord. God’s purpose for my life is that I walk with Him today, this very moment. Take

care of the present and the future will take care of itself. The profound words of George MacDonald come to mind, **“God begs you to leave the future to Him, and mind the present.” Our Lord did not say, “Sit around and do nothing or worry about the Rapture. In fact, He said, “Occupy till I come.” I intend to do just that!**

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The believing heart will know the delight of trusting in His promises!

Matthew will be speaking at the locations below

<p>Men’s Prayer Encounter April 9-11, 2015 State College, Pennsylvania Sponsored by Palmer Revival Ministries of Spring Mills, PA 16875 Evangelist Tom Palmer</p>	<p>Second Dubai Prayer Conference with Matthew Skariah May 1-3, 2015 Dubai, United Arab Emirates</p>	<p>May 7-9, 2015 Kumbanad, Kerala State, India</p>
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