

Dear Prayer Supporter,

As explained in the accompanying article, *“Prayer in Perilous Times,”* radical repentance is the vital prerequisite of prevailing prayer. Accordingly, Dorothy and I urge you to join us in supplicatory prayer for our ever expanding missionary outreach to spiritually dark and perilous regions. Thank you also for your vital gifts to make this possible.

After much heartache and spiritual warfare, we rejoice to announce that the translation and printing

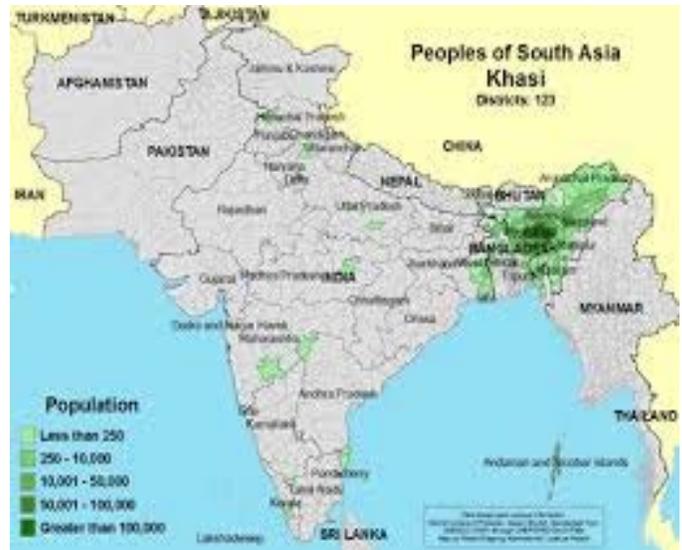
of *“Your Quest for God”* in **Khasi** is now complete. This will be a vital adjunct to spreading the Gospel in Northeast India. As you prayerfully study the map, let us trust the Lord to deliver many lives from Satan’s clutches by the power of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

In His Victory,

## Please pray for our **newly** translated and printed **Khasi** “Your Quest for God”

We rejoice to share that, after much prayer and setbacks, *“Your Quest for God”* has now been printed in the **Khasi** language. May many Khasi people be saved! The Khasi are an indigenous or tribal people, the majority of whom live in north east **India**, with small populations in neighboring **Assam**, and in parts of **Bangladesh**.

Our PANI broadcasts of *“Your Quest for God”* in the **Punjabi** language still reach **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Northern India**. CCIM Indian literature continues to be distributed in: **Gujarathi, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil & Telugu**.



# Prayer in Perilous Times

by Richard A. Bennett

“In the last days perilous times shall come . . . men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God”<sup>2</sup> Timothy 3:1,4

It was the summer of 1939. There were alarming signs of impending war. Dorothy would soon be 10, and I had just turned 12. In that happy carefree summer, indelibly etched upon our minds were the occasional news flashes of Adolph Hitler’s war preparations. But our family together with millions of other British people were enjoying the relaxation of summer days, seaside holidays, listening to the cricket matches between England and Australia, cycle rides and picnics in the country. All these contributed to anesthetizing our thoughts away from impending danger.

As Hitler’s armies were positioned to rampage across Europe, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain sought to calm our fears when he carried his ubiquitous umbrella back and forth to Berlin there to engage in shuttle-diplomacy and détente. Détente is a French word which means “to slacken the bow in the face of danger.” Thankfully, Neville Chamberlain was moved out of the Prime Minister’s home on Downing Street and Winston Churchill moved in!

Then on September 3, 1939, at 11:15am, air raid sirens wailed across England. Dorothy was with her family in church in Manchester, and I was with my family in church in Kings Lynn. In both churches, at the sound of the sirens, we were immediately dismissed, and our families walked home in solemn silence. England was at war!

At home, we were ordered to black out all windows to preclude light from being visible to enemy planes. We were issued National Identity Cards and gas masks with the demand that we should carry them at all times. Dorothy’s class at school was issued knitting needles and wool to knit gloves, scarves, and hats for the hastily conscripted army. Dorothy’s city of Manchester was ablaze for three days and three nights as wave after wave of bombers delivered their weapons of destruction.

In my town a census was taken to ascertain the number of rooms in each house and compared to the number of household residents. Extra rooms were enlisted to house evacuees from London. My school hours changed to very early in the morning until noon. This made way for schoolboys who were evacuated from London and who took over the school premises for the remainder of the day. The irony was that my school was bombed while the school from which the evacuees came remained intact!

England stood alone against the Nazi war machine. Living in a coastal town, my family became aware of wooden anti-aircraft guns, which were placed on cliff tops. These gave reconnaissance planes the impression that we were well-equipped to resist Hitler’s “Operation Sea Lion” in his intended purpose to invade England.

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As German tanks reached the Channel Coast; the Maginot Line, upon which the French had staked their hopes, was now out-flanked. Nine Panzer divisions were on the march. The British Expeditionary Force was cut off from the rest of France. This army, together with retreating French and Belgian armies, numbered 338,226 men, were like sitting ducks waiting to be killed on the beaches of Dunkirk.

In that critical hour, Churchill called for a day of National Prayer. That day, churches were packed with people and in some instances, they lined the streets being unable to get into the overflowing churches. Never before or since have the English churches been filled in this way.

In a later *UK Telegraph* editorial, we read: “I remember a Channel crossing on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dunkirk as the ferry boat was battered by a thunderstorm gale. The journey actually took twice as long as scheduled and practically every one of us was seasick. It was estimated that the waves were 7 to 11 feet high. [Such stormy weather is typical of weather patterns in the early part of June.] This was in vivid contrast to the miraculous weather on that fatal week in 1940.

“Later meteorological records revealed that on the days of the evacuation of Dunkirk the weather was ‘fair.’ A new large ‘high’ covered England and Wales and the weather became very benign.”

It was God Himself, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, who intervened on that day. The Bible tells us that “*fire, and hail, snow and vapors, stormy wind fulfilling His Word*” *Psalms* 148:8. Yes, the English Channel was as calm as a millpond enabling a volunteer armada of thousands of small unseaworthy vessels to evacuate the soldiers from the besieged French shores.

After the National Day of Prayer, Churchill himself said, “It was a miracle of God’s deliverance.” Though it was originally estimated that only 40,000 men could be evacuated from the shores of Dunkirk, all 338,226 men were rescued from France to the British shores. We often wonder why an impossible and dangerous situation has to be upon us before we resort to prevailing prayer.

Following the deliverance of the British Expeditionary Force, with grim determination, the stirring voice of Winston Churchill addressed the nation. “We will fight on the beaches, we will fight in the villages, we will fight in the factories, but we will never yield to this onslaught of evil.” Subsequently in a biography of Winston Churchill, I read that when the BBC microphones were turned off, in desolate tones, he said, “Yes, we will fight, but God alone knows what with. I suppose it will have to be beer bottles. Everything else was left on the beaches of Dunkirk!”

It was in that hour of national crisis that iron railings around gardens were confiscated to manufacture tanks. Aluminum pots and pans were collected from households to provide material for airplanes. As a 12-year old lad, together with my friend, we responded to the slogan, “Dig for victory,” and accordingly hand spaded a large, vacant overgrown plot of land to grow potatoes and Brussel sprouts for our families.

As Dorothy and I reflect on these vivid memories, it appears that in our present day we are witnessing the rerun of an old movie. Today, as the geopolitical scene is lining up for catastrophic events as in England before World War II, many believers ignoring the imminent danger of the gathering storms on the horizon still major in self-centered priorities and pleasures.

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In such perilous days as these, the beer bottles of fleshly resistance, whether it be political, military or economic, or the wooden guns of ‘make-believe’ security are no weapons to wield against the accelerating onslaught of satanic anger. *“Although we walk in the flesh, we do not walk after the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds), casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.

In his day, Hezekiah, when facing national crisis as 185,000 Assyrians were ready to invade Jerusalem, *“prayed before the Lord”* 2 Kings 19:15 and . . . *the Angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand; and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses”* 2 Kings 19:35.

How was it that the prayer of Hezekiah prevailed? Previously Hezekiah led a revival in the land as he removed *“the high places, and break the images, and cut down the groves, and break in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made . . . he trusted in the Lord God of Israel . . . for he claved to the Lord, and departed not from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses”* 2 Kings 18:4-6.

Prayer is not only breathing in the Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of our new birth, it is also breathing out in godly repentance everything that quenches the release of His resurrection power.

**Radical repentance is the vital prerequisite of prevailing prayer.** Trusting the Lord and departing from the evil of self-centered living

prepares the way for us to pray effectively in these perilous days.

With moral abandon in the nation and the practice of détente in the church, we would all do well to pray the prayer of David: *“See if there be any wicked way **in me** and **lead me** in the way everlasting”* Psalm 139:24.

We have noticed, in the course of many years’ ministry in varied churches and countries, that when God visits a church in convicting power, it has not been the sinners who first respond. It is the saints who become broken hearted. As the Holy Spirit convicts of the shallowness of faith, self-centered living, and worldly compromise, godly repentance prepares the way for the unsaved to be reached for Christ.

“When God intends to do a mighty work, He first sets His people praying.” Charles Wesley

The sequence of repentance in the church is that God pours upon His people *“the Spirit of grace and supplications”* Zechariah 12:10.

Such prayer delivers me from just “saying my prayers.” Like many believers, I know how to pray in a biblical and proper way, but there is a vast difference between my correct prayer and my living communication with the eternal God. It is only through the Blood of the atonement that I am granted access to the living God in the Holy of Holies. Then, instead of hiding behind words and calling it prayer, we experience the privilege of sharing His travail for a dying world.

When Vladimir Putin publically brings up his nuclear weapons as a veiled threat to the world, and when ISIS boldly proclaims that before long it will fly its black flag on the White House, it should become evident to all that we are closing in on some very dark times.

In these perilous days, we see prophecies of God unfolding before our very eyes. God said, *“I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling to all people . . . then **all** the earth will be gathered together against it”* Zechariah 12:2,3. Daily the news media points to this coming holocaust. So, in the light of such heart-wrenching reality, where are the believers who today will engage in such supplicatory prayer?

We may ask, what is God’s purpose where today lovers of pleasure are more in number than lovers of God? In the catastrophic climax of human history as we see it unfolding, God’s answer is not found in political or military strategy. He looks for prayer warriors to fill the gap. *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places . . . praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* Ephesians 6:12, 18. How can I learn to pray like that?

Paul exhorts us, *“I will therefore that all men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 2:8. That is without disharmony, without defilement, and without doubting! Then Satan’s power is resisted: *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* James 4:7. God’s power is released: *“my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”* 1 Corinthians 2:4.

“Now, more than ever before, it is essential that you stay spiritually strong. Stay in prayer. Stay in the Word. Learn God’s promises that will supply your needs in the coming crisis. Confess all your known sin and pursue God’s will so

that you can remain in fellowship with Him and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to survive in these days and lead others to Christ”  
Hal Lindsey.

In these perilous days, please join Dorothy and me in earnestly praying the following hymn:

Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;  
This is my heart-cry day unto day;  
I long to know Thy will and Thy way;  
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Living in Thee, Lord, and Thou in me,  
Constant abiding, this is my plea;  
Grant me Thy power, boundless and free,  
Power with men and power with Thee.

-Albert S. Reitz

## *Spiritual Check-up*

1. Recognizing it is a serious offense for a soldier to leave his ranks and go AWOL, do I go AWOL in God’s call to prevailing prayer?
2. Is my prayer life daily refreshed by the energizing and enabling power of His Holy Spirit or, are my prayers familiar phrases and vain repetition?
3. Is there any unconfessed and unforsaken sin in my self-pleasing living? Psalm 66:18: *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”*
4. Do I come boldly to the Throne of Grace by the precious blood of Jesus or, do I come brazenly without awe and wonder?

