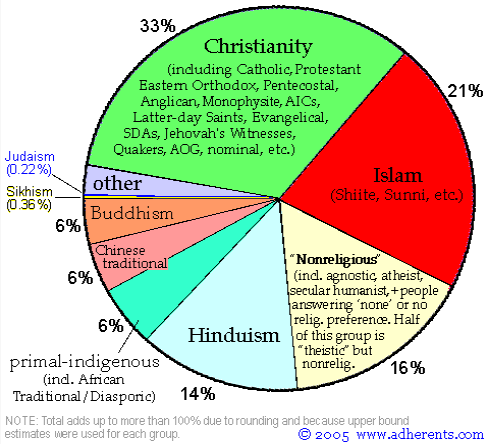


OUR WORLD IN 2011



While I was in India this last time (January 25 – March 11) I was told of a local man who was a Muslim, who said, “I hate it,” that is the system, and “I would leave it if I could, but if I did my family would kill me.” Will those enslaved by the sword and ruled through the dictatorship of the state ever be able to breathe free air in which they may open their ears to salvation in Christ?

There is unprecedented rebellion in the Islamic world in such places as Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen for freedom from Muslim dictators. Some are convinced that these events are being instigated by Al Queda or a similar group, yet should we not pray that through God’s oversight of the earth that instead of Al Queda’s shiria law the masses of North Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan and other places may be set free that they might open their ears to the gospel. There are 6.8 billion souls in our world; of these 2.1 billion profess some kind of “Christianity;” 1.5 billion profess Islam; 1.1 billion avows they are unbelievers, i.e., infidels, atheists, etc.; 900 million profess Hinduism with various other groups making up the balance.

When our Savior commanded that we make disciples of the nations He affirmed that He would be with us until the end of the age, even the end of the world (Matt. 28:18-20). Mark tells us that He gave the order to preach the gospel to every creature. Yet, in these modern times we have made a very feeble, not to say pathetic, effort to fulfill the great commission. We need to awake out of our lethargy and rededicate our energies to the restoration of the one original church of Christ in all the earth. When we think of the enormity of the task we would do well to consider that men of faith like Nehemiah were able to accomplish feats that would appear to be humanly impossible, yet God used him to rebuild the massive walls of Jerusalem (Neh.1-6).

In the story of Nehemiah we do not read of miracles, wonders, signs, prophecies or even prophets; but Nehemiah had strong faith, great confidence that God would hear his prayers and he had a mind to work. Note what the record says,

“So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven” (Neh. 1:4).

Beloved, Islam is not just threatening the destruction of Western Civilization, but as a tool of Satan its aim is to eradicate the name of Jesus and to destroy the church of Christ from the earth. Is it not time that we woke up to the fact that we should manifest the faith of our spiritual forbears, like Abraham, Paul and Nehemiah? With the not so stealth efforts of Islam to invade our land by putting a mosque at ground zero in New York City, and the political correctness that paved the way for the Fort Hood massacre, is it not time that we did some serious praying and fasting. Jesus did not command fasting, but he did say, *“Moreover when you fast”* (Matt. 6:16).

It is not high time for us to do some serious praying; instead of such trite phrases as “Lord, bless all whom it is our duty to pray for Bring us back at the next appointed time... bless the preacher with a ready recollection...” When we pray and fast in such a manner, then we ought to get up and say we will preach the gospel to every creature in our generation. Consider the model prayer of our Savior,

THE MODEL PRAYER

Jesus gave a model prayer to His disciples. He said, "*In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*" (Matt. 6:9-13).

I. General Observations:

1. This prayer was a model for His followers. Matthew tells us the Lord said, "*In this manner, therefore pray.*" The Savior was not giving a prayer for continuous recitation, but a model, but few ever follow Jesus' outline.

2. Please notice also, the prayer was given before Pentecost (See Acts 2), thus they were told to pray for the kingdom to come. Later when the kingdom was founded in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection with 3000 on the first day (Acts 2:33-41), the time had come to pray for kingdom to spread all over the earth. How long has it been since you heard a prayer which said, Lord, God bless the spread of your kingdom among the Hindus, the Muslims, the Catholics and the masses of others with whom we share this planet?

3. Again, the Lord closed the prayer in Matthew with "amen", being with them personally. Later as He spoke of the time He would be back in heaven with the Father He said to His disciples, "*In that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you*" (John 16:23); and again, "*in that day you will ask in My name...*" (John 16:26). Thus, now we send up our prayers and petitions to the Father in His name for He is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

II. TEN POINT OUTLINE

1. Address the Father. 2. Honor His name. 3. Pray for the kingdom. 4. Pray for God's will to be done. 5. Pray "give us this day our daily bread". 6. Pray for forgiveness. 7. Pray for deliverance from the evil one. 8. Acknowledge God's sovereignty and glory. 9. Pray in Jesus' name. 10. Say, "Amen".

BODY

I. **ADDRESS THE FATHER:** "*Our Father in heaven*". He is our God and Lord and we may so address Him (Acts 4:24); but He is more to the Christian. He is our heavenly Father. We all have fleshly fathers and we have given them respect by calling them father in the physical sense (Hebrews 4:9), but only the true and living God is our spiritual Father. It is sinful and ungodly for men to exalt to themselves the title of father in a spiritual sense for it is written, "*Do not call anyone on earth your Father; for one is your Father, He who is in heaven*" (Matt. 23:9).

II. **HONOR THE FATHER'S NAME:** "*Hallowed is your name.*" This word means to treat as holy. The seraphim (special angels) around God's throne say, "*holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,*" day and night (Revelation 4:8; cf., Isaiah 6:3).

III. **PRAY FOR THE KINGDOM:** As noted above Christ's kingdom has come as He promised in Mark 9:1 and fulfilled according to Acts 2:33-41. The Holy Spirit confirmed its existence in the first century in Colossians 1:13. We must now pray

for the kingdom to fill the earth for it is written, *"since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear"* (Hebrews 12:28).

1. As we pray for the kingdom we must send up *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and ... thanks"* (1 Timothy 2:1) on behalf of all men. There is a special need for such in our time for the 6.8 billion people on our planet who need to know Jesus. Let us pray that the good news of God's kingdom may cover the earth in our generation. All men need to know the pure and unpervverted gospel of our Lord (See Galatians 1:6-9). And pray for the unity of our brotherhood, because divisions among us greatly hinders the spread of the gospel (John 17:20-21).

2. As Jesus commanded, *"pray the Lord of harvest to send laborers into the harvest"* of souls (Matthew 9:37-38). For God *"desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4).

IV. **PRAY FOR GOD'S WILL TO BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN:** We must pray for kings, presidents and prime ministers to do God's will, so, *"that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence"* (1 Timothy 2:2; Rom. 13:1-7).

V. **PRAY "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD":** We should not pray for riches, but for our needs as did the wise man: who said, *"give me neither poverty nor riches lest I be full and deny You, and say, who is the Lord or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God"* (Proverbs 30:8-9). For *"Godliness with contentment is great gain ... but those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition"* (1 Timothy 6:6-9). Making a profit is not wrong as the socialists and communists claim, but we must say if God wills we shall do this or that (James 4:13-15). We must *"visit orphans, and the widows in their trouble"* (James 1:27). Let us pray for the sick and suffering (James 5:13).

VI. **PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS:** In doing this we must hold up a forgiving heart before the Lord. Jesus said, *"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14-15).

VII. **PRAY FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE EVIL ONE:** God loves and protects His people, but He allows them to be tested. As it is written, *"my son do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives"* (Hebrews 12:5-6). Remember Abraham (Genesis 22:1-19) and Job, (James 5:11).

VIII. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOVEREIGNTY AND GLORY OF THE FATHER:** Jesus said to the Father, *"for Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever"* (Matthew 6:13). Again it is written, *"to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end"* (Ephesians 3:21).

- IX. PRAY IN JESUS' NAME:** As noted above prayers are to be lifted to the Father through our high priest, Jesus. As it is written: "*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ... Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*" (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- X. SAY: "AMEN":** This word is from the Hebrew with a root meaning of "confirm." It means to confirm the truth or assent to it. The general sense being "so let it be", "truly" or "indeed". In the New Testament the apostle Paul shows an expectation of the congregation saying "amen" at the public giving of thanks (I Corinthians 14:16).

THE MISSION EFFORT

By God's grace on April 22-24, 1,509 evangelists in Tamil Nadu will be on bicycles conducting a three day campaign for Christ and His church. These brothers have been trained over the last 20 years in schools of preaching according to the Spirit's command through Paul (2 Tim. 2:2). They were not trained simply to preach, but as Paul was they were trained to be "tent making preachers" (Acts 18:3; 20:34-35) and more than 95 percent of them are. They have been given bicycles and they know how to use them for the Master. We are assisting them with a wage of \$10.00 for the three days or a total cost of \$15,090. Please pray for this work and help as you can. I will return to India April 13.

I Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron,

P. S. Food prices are shy rocketing the world over, I intend to encourage the Christians in India to have a garden, in fact that is a good thing for us here in the U.S. If you have questions consult your county extension office. We did and they tell us the last part of April and the month of May is the best time for most vegetables here in Tennessee.