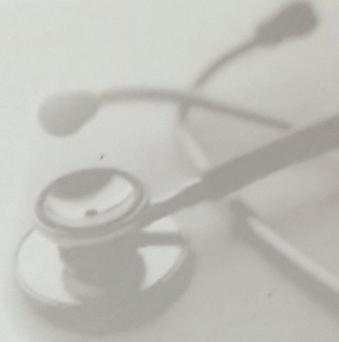


"The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also."

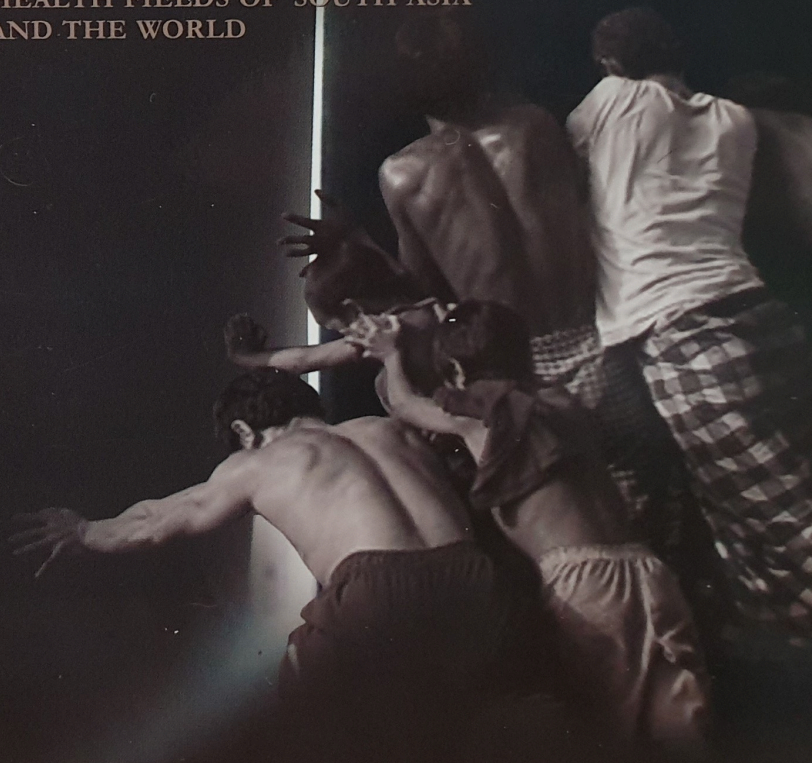


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HEALTHCARE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL (SOUTH ASIA) MONOGRAPHS

Call to Prayer

A CALL TO SEVEN YEARS OF PRAYER
FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN THE
HEALTH FIELDS OF SOUTH ASIA
AND THE WORLD



Healthcare Christian Fellowship, South Asia

Call to Prayer

*A call to 7 years of PRAYER
for SPIRITUAL AWAKENING
in the health fields of South Asia
and the world.*

Arul Anketell

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Healthcare Christian Fellowship International—South Asia

7 College Avenue, Mount Lavinia 10370, Sri Lanka

“Call to Prayer”

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INTRODUCTION

RESTORE! O LORD!

***A call to 7 years of Prayer
for Spiritual awakening
in the Health Fields of South Asia
and the world.***

April 25th Sunday 2010 at
“Let my people go that they may worship me”
HCF South Asia Conference

Our beloved friends and colleagues,

“So He answered and said to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit; Says the LORD of Hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel and you shall become a plain! And He shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace. Grace to it!” (Zechariah 4: 6-7)

Shalom! Greetings in Jesus’ Name!

We are convinced that the majority of Christian health workers are living on a plane far below what the Master has planned for us both individually and collectively. Only very few of us are “Possessing our possessions”.

At the turn of the 20th Century, there were some remarkable revivals in Wales, Sialkot, Pune, China and other places. Prayer played a very key role in all of them. Also, we are reminded

of the awesome “Moravian Pentecost” on August 10th 1727. Four months of prayer preceded the event and one hundred years of prayer proceeded from this revival. Another factor in most of these awakenings was a “Back to the Bible” movement where God’s Word was exalted and honoured, received, and obeyed. Oh! For receptive hearts! And whenever we go back to the Bible, we have to face the issue of sin in any one of its overt and covert forms. As someone said, “This book (the Bible) will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book.”

Lastly in all the spiritual awakenings, Jesus Christ was always exalted in the hearts of the people and in their preaching as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Holy Spirit is the author of true spiritual awakening. And He always exalts the Father and the Son. Also, He is described in Isaiah 11 as a seven-fold Holy Spirit.

Spirit of the Lord

Spirit of wisdom

Spirit of understanding

Spirit of counsel

Spirit of might

Spirit of knowledge

Spirit of the fear of the Lord

May these qualities abound in us. So shall we give ourselves to concerted, united, persevering prayer, and putting away of sin and exalting Christ as Lord, until the Spirit is poured out on us.

“Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field” (Isaiah 32:15-16)

We note that with true awakening will also come **righteousness** and **justice**. There is so much of injustice and unrighteousness in our lives, our fellowships and the health fields. A true awakening will certainly touch all these areas. Can we say to each other what Nehemiah said to the Jews in Jerusalem.

“Then I said to them, “You see the distress we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the walls of Jerusalem that we no longer be a reproach.” (Nehemiah 2:17)

Let us give ourselves initially to seven years of prayer and practical building of God’s Kingdom in the health fields from April 25th Sunday 2010.

Your Co-workers in Christ

HCF South Asia

7 College Avenue

Mount Lavinia

10370

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2718503

Email: hcfasia@gmail.com

CHAPTER ONE

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

In the eighteenth century, Jonathan Edwards called for seven years of prayer worldwide for spiritual awakening. He was responding to a call that initially went forth from Scotland. The leaders of the Church of Scotland had called for a week of prayer worldwide and Jonathan Edwards was strongly moved by this appeal.

God heard those prayers resulting in mighty spiritual awakenings. May God do it again in HCF, our fellow Christian fellowships in healthcare and in the health fields of South Asia and the world.

Zechariah 8: 18 - 23

*“Then the word of the Lord of Hosts came to me, saying, “ Thus says the Lord of Hosts: The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, the fast of the tenth, shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah. Therefore, love truth and peace”. Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “People shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another saying, **“Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord and seek the Lord of Hosts. I myself will go also.** Yes, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of Hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of*

a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” Zechariah. 8: 18 - 23

Jonathan Edwards used the above portion of scripture for the basis of the call for seven years of prayer. More recently, David Bryant also wrote a powerful book, using Zechariah 8:18-23 as the basis for a call to concerted prayer for spiritual awakening... We give below a short outline that we trust will be useful and a source of strength as we give ourselves to this long season of prayer. The headings of this outline are found in David Bryant’s book on concerts of prayer. Zechariah and Haggai prophesied to the Jewish exiles who had returned from Persia to rebuild the temple and later the walls of Jerusalem. The temple building was stalled due to opposition and apathy. But after fifteen years, under the anointed prophetic preaching of Haggai and Zechariah, the ‘sleeping giant’, the remnant of forty thousand people rose up and completed the task.

Zechariah 8:18-23 can be summarised as an **ANATOMY OF A CONCERT OF PRAYER**.

A CONCERT OF PRAYER refers to a united prayer, in agreement, and with perseverance.

1.THE ATTITUDE

“Then the word of the Lord of Hosts came to me, saying, “ Thus says the Lord of Hosts: The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, the fast of the tenth, shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.” (Zechariah 8:18-19)

EXPECTATION

The people were asking, “Should we continue our fasting which we did in exile?” God’s answer was, “Yes you may fast, but your fasts are now to be **feasts**” In other words, pray but pray with **expectation**. This is the attitude we need to have. Elijah had this as he prayed on top of Mount Carmel for rain. Each time he told his servant to check if there was any change in the sky. He was expecting rain. The seventh time he saw a cloud, the size of a man’s hand. That was enough. He declared, “The rain is coming”.

URGENCY

The second attitude we need to have is **URGENCY**.

“And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another and say, “Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.” Zechariah 8:21 (NIV)

Let us go at once! There is no time to lose; we cannot put this matter off. The powers of darkness are making their “last ditch” stand and Satan knowing his time is near has gone forth with great fury and fervour than ever before. **Let us go at once!** We are reminded of Moses, urging Aaron to run into the plague with fire from the altar and **stop the plague**.

“So Moses told Aaron, “Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation ; already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.” Num. 16:46-48

There are many plagues and problems in the health fields. God is calling us to intercede and to enable Him to intervene.

So we ask for an attitude of expectation and urgency.

2.THE AGENDA

What is the main agenda of this prayer movement?

“Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord and seek the Lord of Hosts. I myself will go also.” Zechariah 8:21b-22. To “seek the LORD of Hosts” means to seek His face.

Seek the face of the Lord! This is a desire for true, authentic, spiritual awakening. Seeking God and seeking His face means, “His Face turned towards us”. This means we pray for the things on His heart. This would include,

- ✠ **FOCUS** – Exaltation of Christ as Lord of Healing, Wholeness and Healthcare. Asking that He reveal Himself in the health fields.
- ✠ **FULLNESS** – True Spiritual growth, maturity and revival among Christians in the health field.
- ✠ **FULFILMENT** – The Kingdom extending in the health field i.e.,

Salvation of patients and staff

God’s Kingdom extending into all areas of Health care bringing change and transformation.

The Salt and light of God's people having a beneficial affect on Healthcare as a whole.

One wonderful God given prayer to pray over the health fields is the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven – Hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses - As we forgive them that trespass against us

Lead us not into temptation - But deliver us from evil,

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory

For ever and ever. Amen.

3.THE IGNITION

How will such a prayer movement get going and be sustained?

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with His groaning which cannot be uttered” Rom. 8 v. 26 It must be something from the Spirit of God, Himself. He is the author of prayer.

“The inhabitants of one city shall go to another saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord and seek the Lord of Hosts. I myself will go also.” (Zechariah 8:21)

Ordinary people like you and me setting the pace and getting others to join. **PACE SETTERS** leading the way, not prayer warriors telling us, “Come, I will teach you how to pray.” **NO! PACE SETTERS**, saying, Come let’s go together to seek the Lord and by the way, whether you come or not, “I myself am going”. May God raise many such pace setters in the health fields.

4.THE IMPACT

Peoples, many cities, strong nations will come to seek the Lord in Jerusalem. So, the promise came through the lips of Zechariah. This speaks of a wide, **global impact**. An influence far wider than could have been imagined when the prayer movement began. But prayer is the *“Slender nerve that moves the mighty muscles of omnipotence”*. At the end of this prayer is the glorious promise.

“In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” Zech. 8:23

Not only a Global Impact but a **ten-fold multiplication**. The presence of God among His people, made manifest through their praise and prayer will draw multitudes out of darkness to light. We remind ourselves again of God’s promise. *“So He answered and said to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit; says the LORD of Hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6).* We remind ourselves that He who gave this word is the Lord of Hosts, **IAHWEH SABAOTH**.

This God has four armies at His disposal.

- The angelic world - 2/3 of all the angels
- Creation – nature
- National Israel – They turned away from God’s purpose but He is restoring Israel and National Israel still has a vital role to play in the end times.
- The Church - we are a vital part of God’s army.

This army does not kill those who oppose it. Rather, like their Captain, Jesus, they lay down their lives for their enemies. Their attitudes are diametrically opposite to the attitudes of the world. And so, we need these attitudes as we launch this prayer movement.

The Blessed attitudes:

- ✠ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*
- ✠ *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- ✠ *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- ✠ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*
- ✠ *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*
- ✠ *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
- ✠ *Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the Sons of God.*
- ✠ *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly*

glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt 5:3-12)

One meaning of the word blessed is, “receiving the applause of heaven”. So, we are blessed in the sense that we have His approval. So shall we join hands and seek His face for spiritual awakening in the health fields of the world.

5. EVANGELISM and the GLORY OF GOD

We must note that one of the primary reasons we are praying is that more people will be brought out of darkness into His marvellous light. It is not the will of God that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So, for God’s glory in the saving of lost men and women, let us give ourselves to prayer.

There’s a hush of expectation

And a quiet in the air

And the breath of God is moving

In the fervent breath of prayer

For the suffering dying Jesus

Is the Christ upon the throne

And the travail of our spirit is

The travail of His own

Hark we hear a distant music

And it comes with fuller swell

'Tis the triumph song of Jesus

Of our King Immanuel

Zion Go ye forth to meet Him

And my soul, be swift to bring

All Thy sweetest and thy dearest

For the triumph of your King. Amen!

CHAPTER TWO

A CALL TO PERSEVERE & PREVAIL IN PRAYER

DON'T QUIT PRAYER

“PERSEVERING & PREVAILING IN PRAYER”

PERSEVERING PRAYER

Once the former Prime Minister of U.K. Mr. Winston Churchill was asked to give a special address at the passing out parade of a new batch of trained cadets. He was old and was revered by his countrymen. He stood up and gave a ten-word sermon.

“Never, never, never, never, never, never, never, never, give up!” And then he sat down. No one would ever forget that.

So, we are called to NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, give up! Especially when we are seeking and asking for things that are on God’s heart and in accordance with His will, we need never lose heart.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1 John 5:14-15

We are launching afresh, “Seven years of prayer for spiritual; awakening in the health fields”. May God give us that attitude of tenacity and pursuit of the goal. To reinforce this truth, we will look at a few scriptures which are encouraging.

1. Jesus’ parable about the persistent friend - Luke 11:5-13

In the parable we read of three friends;

- ♦ A needy friend
- ♦ A caring friend
- ♦ A rich friend

In the parable the rich friend is God. The needy friends are the people who come to us. We, the church, the Healthcare Fellowship in the field are the caring friends. At midnight the caring friend has taken a needy friend into his home. He has the concern but no resources. So, he sacrifices his comfort and also his good standing with his rich friend and goes to him at midnight. The rich friend is initially hesitant to get up and help. His door is shut; his children are in bed.

But then Jesus adds,

“I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.”
Luke 11:8

He said it was not the friendship that made him to change his

mind, it was his persistence or importunity, audacity or brazenness. And he will give him as much as he needs; in this case three big loaves. Jesus is teaching us here the importance of both perseverance and brazenness. Jack Hayford in his book, ‘Prayer, invading the impossible’ gives us a brilliant exposition of this text. He explains, that the Greek word translated “persistence” in most English Bibles actually means, shameless boldness or brassiness or impudence”. The word is “anaideia” Can I quote his words.

“But Jesus’ use of the word in this parable is in its negated form – anaideia. The “alpha privative” of the Greek language has the same force as English prefixes like “im” or “un” Negated, “possible” becomes “impossible”; “likely” becomes “un-likely.”

And Jesus said the reason the midnight seeker gets what he needs is because of his anaideia – not his reverence, not his modest sensitivity to the hour, not his caution, nor his respect for propriety, but his bold unashamedness – indeed, his brassiness.

It isn’t the brassiness of a smart aleck making demands, but the forwardness of a person who is so taken with an awareness of need that he abandons normal protocol.”

What Jesus is saying is that our first barrier is not God. It’s really our own hesitance to ask boldly and freely. And later Jesus asks us to:

Ask and keep on asking

Seek and keep on seeking

Knock and keep on knocking.

This is not that we are to engage in vain repetition. No, rather

that we can ask and ask and ask on any number of subjects. Heaven is open to the prayers of God's people.

So shall we together, stand at the threshold and push and push and push, UNTIL the door of spiritual awakening opens in the Healthfields of South Asia and the world. And in the following verses he tells us to ask for the Holy Spirit. So shall we ask and ask and ask for an authentic Spirit breathed revival amongst us at the Conference and in the coming seven years.

2.Jesus' parable about the widow and the unjust judge

Luke 18: 1 – 8

Here Jesus definitely tells us the reason for the parable

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart” - Luke 18:1

Two characters are portrayed.

- ⇒ A helpless widow who needed justice from an oppressive adversary
- ⇒ An unjust judge who did not fear God, nor regard man.

She came to him and said, “Get justice for me against my adversary.” Initially he did not respond. But then he said within himself **“Though I do not fear God, nor regard man,** yet because this widow troubles me. I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming, she weary me.”

Jesus then concludes the parable with these words

Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:6-8

What a powerful parable and encouragement to us to persist in prayer.

In this parable, Jesus is contrasting the widow to us believers, the church. And the unjust judge as a contrast to God the Father.

Consider the advantages we have over this widow. She so harassed the wicked judge that he finally gave in. The word "troubles me" could mean "hitting under the eye". She really harassed him even at his home, in the marketplace, everywhere. And she got her request. How much more, we God's children will receive our requests when we go to God our Father, especially when we pray in accordance to His will.

So let us consider the contrasts between her and us:

- ◆ She was going to a wicked judge. We go to our Heavenly Father.
- ◆ She had no relationship with him. We are His sons and daughters.
- ◆ She had no promises. We have hundreds of promises from our Father.
- ◆ The judge was not concerned about her case. When we bring our requests in line with God's will, He is intimately

interested.

- ◆ She had no advocate. We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One.
- ◆ She had official access to him only when her case was called. We have direct access to Him, our Father, at any time.
- ◆ She asked alone. We have many asking together.

And yet! She got her request. And Jesus said, “will not God avenge his elect who cry out to Him day and night?”

He expects us to cry out to Him day and night. And when we do, He will answer. And especially when we ask for things on His heart, His agenda, His purpose. Jesus concludes this parable on a sad note. He asks whether there will be “faith filled” people when He returns. He knows how fickle and faithless we are.

Beloved friends in Healthcare, can we jump up and say,

“LORD, in us, you will find faith!”

One way to demonstrate that faith is persevering in prayer for spiritual awakening in the Health fields of South Asia, for genuine revival and redemption and restoration.

3. Anna the Prophetess

Anna the prophetess is an outstanding example to us of persevering prayer.

“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem” Luke 2:36-38

She became a widow just seven years after marriage. Then for over 50 years, until she was 84 years old she gave herself to the LORD and to prayer. She served God with fastings and prayers. What could she have been praying for? Day and night? For over 50 years?

She sacrificed sleep.

She sacrificed food.

She sacrificed another marriage.

She sacrificed fellowship with family and friends

She sacrificed social communication.

She was earnestly interceding for the Messiah, Jesus to come! Behind the scenes was a battle to bring forth the Messiah at the right time. She carried God's heart beat and burden. She longed for Him to come. Should we not hunger even more for His coming?

His coming in spiritual awakenings

His final second coming

Should not we also pray: “Hasten thy coming O LORD” ?

What if she gave up? After 10,20,30,40,50 years of prayer she saw nothing. In fact the political and religious situation got only worse. She persisted UNTIL she saw the very person she had prayed for. The Bible, with characteristic brevity says, “She gave thanks to the LORD”. I think she fell down with tears in her eyes and just poured her heart out in praise and thanksgiving. After 50 years of prayer one can imagine her great joy and gratitude. And then she spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. For fifty years she spoke to Him. Now, just once she spoke of Him. And one can imagine with what conviction, clarity and emotion she spoke.

Dear friends can we do less?

4.Daniel

Daniel was a man of prayer and yet fully engaged in secular work. A great model for all Christians in professional jobs. Daniel 10:1 - 19. Daniel mourned and fasted and prayed for 21 days. It was a partial fast.

At the end of that period he had an angelic visitor with a message.

*“Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, **for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard;** and I have come because of your words. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;** and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia” - Dan 10:12-13*

His prayer was heard from the very first day. But there was a delay in the answer due to warfare in the heavenlies. The evil demonic prince of Persia withstood the messenger and prevented the answer from reaching Daniel. But then as Daniel persevered, God sent the Archangel Michael to assist in the battle and the message got through. Angels are released into the arena in answer to the prayers of God's people. We see this also in Acts Chapter 12 and in the garden of Gethsemane. Someone has said, "angels are unemployed until the church prays!"

So sometimes it is necessary to persevere in prayer and break every resistance of the evil one. Thank God that Daniel also persevered until he received the answer.

So let us press on for a long season of prayer until God moves mightily in spiritual awakening in the Healthfields of South Asia and the world.

There are many more examples of this in scripture that we could excitedly explore.

Prevailing prayer

Wesley L. Duewell in his excellent book, "Touch the world through prayer" speaks about "prevailing prayer" Prevailing prayer is very similar to persistence in prayer with perhaps the element of intensity added.

Here is how he describes it,

“To prevail is “to be successful in the face of difficulty, to completely dominate, to overcome and triumph” Prevailing prayer is prayer that pushes right through all difficulties and obstacles, drives back all the opposing forces of Satan, and secures the will of God. Its purpose is to accomplish God’s will on earth. Prevailing prayer is prayer that not only takes the initiative but continues on the offensive for God until spiritual victory is won.”

This kind of prayer can sometimes be short but with great intensity.

1. Jacob

Genesis 32: 22 – 32

Jacob resisted God for 20 years. Then when he was all alone a MAN (Jesus) wrestled with him. The MAN dislocated his hip and now a weakened Jacob clung to the Divine wrestler and said “Except you bless me, I will not let thee go”

His prayer prevailed. That day, early in the morning he left Peniel, limping for life but now a “Prince with God” who had obtained the Abrahamic blessing.

2. Jabez

1 Chronicles 4: 9 & 10

“Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in

pain." 10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested" 1 Chron 4:9-10

Jabez was born in pain. Yet he prevailed on God and asked for five things

- Oh, that you would bless me
- Enlarge my sphere of influence, territory
- Let your hand be with me
- Keep me from evil
- Let me not cause pain to others

God granted him all 5 requests.

3. Samson

Samson had sinned and was brought into a pitiful state. His eyes were removed and he was a prisoner of the Philistines. At a great celebration to their god Dagon, they wanted to have some fun with Samson and make sport of him.

At this point of desperation, the repentant Samson prayed a desperate, intense prayer.

*Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "**O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once,***

O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" 29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. 30 Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life". Judges 16:28-30

It was a short, desperate prayer. Just this once O LORD!

God heard his prayer in a dramatic way and caused a great reversal. He accomplished more by this final act of prevailing prayer than he did all his life.

Dear friends, shall we also cry out. "LORD, just this once more, just one more time O LORD. We've waited so long O LORD, O LORD, shake the Healthfields of South Asia and the world. Let your name be glorified."

4. Acts Chapter 12 – Release of Peter

The chapter begins and ends in a dramatic fashion. This is how the chapter begins:

- ⇒ James, the head of the church, dead, executed by Herod
- ⇒ Peter in high security prison, guarded by 16 soldiers.
- ⇒ Herod on the throne.
- ⇒ The church under threat
- ⇒ The work of God stifled

Verse five is the pivotal verse in this chapter.

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church” - Acts 12:5

The Greek work for earnest prayer is “ektenos”. This means “full stretch” prayer. So on the night before Peter was to be executed, the church persevered and prevailed in all night, desperate prayer in the upper room. The situation was humanly speaking irreversible.

Yet, the church prevailed in prayer. God heard them and intervened. An angel was sent to release Peter in a most startling fashion.

And how did the Chapter end?

- ◆ Peter free
- ◆ The church bold and pressing forward
- ◆ Herod dead
- ◆ The word of God growing and multiplying

Hallelujah!

There are many choice Christian Healthworkers, “Peters”, who are bound by the “Herods” in the Health field. Shall we prevail until they are released to do mighty exploits for God.

“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” - Dan 11:32

Many other examples are there for us to explore in the scrip-

tures and in church history.

5. Revelation

We close this chapter with that awesome opening to Chapter 8 of **the Book of Revelation**

*“When He opened the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.** 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the **prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar** which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.” Rev 8:1-4*

The Book of Revelation is full of loud noises, praises and trumpets. But suddenly, just prior to the blowing of the 7 trumpets, there was 30 minutes silence. What was the reason for this sudden silence? We are told that the prayers of God's people together with the incense from the Heavenly golden altar ascended to God from the angels band. And straightaway, mighty power emanated from the throne.

Noises

Thunderings

Lightnings

Earthquake

And then the 7 trumpets.

The prayers of God's people released the final end time purpos-

es of God. We should never underestimate the power and efficacy of prayer.

Here are some quotes on prayer by great saints of God.

- ✝ God has chosen, in His sovereignty to carry out His will on earth through the prayers of His people. So we are taught to pray, “Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done! On earth as it is in heaven”
- ✝ Prayer is the capital stock by which God carries out His purposes on earth.
- ✝ Prayer is rebellion against the status quo!
- ✝ Prayer is the slender nerve by which we move the mighty muscles of omnipotence.
- ✝ Prayer is not primarily a domestic intercom for us to increase our comforts at home. Prayer is primarily given as a war time walkie talkie for front line soldiers to communicate with headquarters in the thick of the battle.
- ✝ Without God man cannot! Without man God will not!

**May God help us to persevere in prevailing,
desperate, full stretch, importunate prayer
for spiritual awakening
in the Health Fields of South Asia**

CHAPTER THREE

“A CALL TO MARRY THE LAND”

“THE WATCHMAN ANOINTING”

As we contemplate launching into seven years of persevering prayer, we are revitalized and renewed by Isaiah chapter 62. We've given a strange title to this chapter. A few years ago while I was out of Sri Lanka, my wife Ranji received a challenging book from my sister and brother in law. It was the story of a spiritual awakening and transformation taking place in a city in USA. One chapter in that book had the title, “Married to the land.” She was blessed.

I don't remember all the details, but I think while abroad, the Lord was also speaking to me from Isaiah 62. So, when I returned and read the book, it made a deep impression on my heart. Also V.O. Cherian and I were to lead a session at the International HCF Prayer Summit in South Africa. We were deeply challenged afresh by Isaiah 62 and shared this with the others.

Prevailing Prayer

Verse 1 - Isa 62:1

*“For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace,
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
And her salvation as a lamp that burns.”*

Here is a person saying that he will not rest, **until**, the righteousness of Jerusalem goes forth as brightness and as a lamp that burns. Who is this speaker?

Profound Promises

Verse 2-4 – This is a tremendous promise given to Jerusalem

*“The Gentiles shall see your righteousness,
And all kings your glory.
You shall be called by a new name,
Which the mouth of the LORD will name.
You shall also be a crown of glory
In the hand of the LORD,
And a royal diadem
In the hand of your God.
You shall no longer be termed Forsaken,
Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate;
But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah;
For the LORD delights in you,
And your land shall be married.” Isa 62:2-4*

- Gentiles will see your righteousness
- All kings will see your glory
- You will be called by a new name given by the Lord
- You shall be a crown of glory in the Hand of the Lord
- You shall be a Royal diadem in the Hand of your God.
- You will no longer be termed “forsaken”
- You will no longer be termed “desolate”
- You shall be called “Hephzibah” (The Lord delights in you)
- Your land shall be called “Beulah” (your land shall be married).

Hallelujah!

What a promise, after all the desolation of the past! Starting from Isaiah 60, God is promising restoration. Isaiah 61 is the great Jubilee chapter and speaks of rebuilding, repair, restoration, raising up, renaming, riches, renown, righteousness and rejoicing. And liberty and healing and freedom and comfort and consolation and joy and beauty.

All these are powerful promises.

Married to the land

Verse 5 - *“As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”*

In this verse we read of two people “marrying” the land.

- a) Your sons will marry you – the idea is that they will occupy and possess the land and be committed to the land.
- b) Your God, like a Bridegroom rejoicing over the Bride, will rejoice over you. Here we see the Lord also committed to the land. This metaphor of the Bridegroom and Bride, depicting Christ and His church is very clearly taught in the Bible. This truly is a beautiful picture. Here in this passage, we see God and the people, deeply committed to the land.

Day and Night Prayer

Verse 6 & 7

“I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.”

Once there is a deep commitment like in a marriage, then those who have made such a commitment take up the role of the watchmen. The result: they will never hold their peace, day and night. They will give themselves no rest.

What is their goal?

Until, He, the Lord establishes Jerusalem and makes her a praise in the earth. There is no time limit. They will pray day and night, **until** they reach the goal. Are they in doing this struggling to overcome the reluctance of the Lord. No! not at

all! Now we realize that the crying out in verse one is the Lord Himself! They are not overcoming His reluctance but laying hold of His willingness. So then, the watchmen and the Lord are in partnership. Oh! what a precious privilege. This is like the three groanings in Romans 8

- * Creation groans
- * The church groans
- * The Holy Spirit groans

.....what for? What was the purpose or longing behind these “childbirth” like groans?

“The glorious consummation of all things and the manifestation of the sons of God”.

Application to HCF

Is God calling us as watchmen for the health fields? Is He not concerned for spiritual awakening in the health fields? Does not the spiritual barrenness and brokenness break His heart and ours? Are we willing to “Marry the land”, the health fields of South Asia and the world? When we have made that deep life-long, marriage like commitment, that we must see spiritual awakening in the health fields, then we will arise as His watchmen.

“Lord please release such watchmen on the walls!” Then we cannot think of a future for ourselves outside of God doing something in the health fields?

Fruit of Prayer

Verse 8 - 12 - Here we see the after effects of the watchmen ministry.

*"The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:
"Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies,
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which
you have toiled;" Isa 62:8*

The Lord arising with an oath.

And with strength

No more **futility**

v 9 - *"But those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD,
and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my
sanctuary."*

Fruitfulness and fulfillment

v 10 - *"Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way
for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the
stones. Raise a banner for the nations."*

Fervour - zeal - Freshness

V. 11 - *The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the*

earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Saviour comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'"

Future that is glorious

v 12 - They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

Favoured people

This then is a call from the Lord, through HCF. Please let us join together with the Lord, in daily, persevering, prevailing, prayer, **until** we see an authentic, Holy Spirit breathed, spiritual awakening in the health fields.

In the year 1904 and onwards for about 10 years, the Lord poured out His Spirit in the Sialkot Convention in Punjab and all over Punjab and the rest of India, as it was then. The human instrument that God used to spark that revival was John Hyde, a missionary who was also known as Praying Hyde. At that Convention they formed what was known as the "Punjab Prayer Union". Thousands signed up to pray for 30 mts. daily for spiritual awakening. Four questions were asked and they had to agree and then sign. God sustained the revival through prevailing prayer.

Also we all know of the great Moravian Pentecost. After three to four months of prayer the Lord suddenly manifested His

presence at a Communion service. It was the “presence of Jesus, instantaneously given. “Following this in August, 1727, they began a 24/7 round the clock, chain prayer meeting which lasted 100 years! Just twenty-four people signed the original prayer covenant. They truly meant it. It is said, that in the twenty years following the revival, more was accomplished in World Missions than had been accomplished in the previous two hundred years.

The human instrument in this revival was Count von Zinzendorf. His motto was, “To win for the Lamb (Jesus) the fruit of the travail of His soul.” He got the divided, bickering group of people to sign a covenant of brotherly agreement. This they did and then began to seek the Lord in Prayer. Unity in Christ and prevailing prayer resulted in God breaking through. We in HCF South Asia have been profoundly touched by this Moravian revival and the revival in Punjab and the revival in Panditha Ramabai’s Girls home in Mukthi.

Oh! for a fresh HCF Pentecost! But not just a visitation, rather a visitation that results in a habitation of the Spirit among His people, leading to transformation.

During the next months, by God’s grace we hope to release more booklets on prayer.

Example:

Why Pray? And when God stops pray

Authority in Prayer

Prayer of Personal involvement

History changing prayer etc.

So can we call us to a prayer covenant?

Can we commit ourselves to daily prayer for spiritual awakening in the Health fields of South Asia and the world?

For a start, can we **give ourselves to SEVEN YEARS OF PRAYER, from Sunday 25th April 2010?**

PRAYER COVENANT

Together with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and in deep dependence on the Lord and His grace and enabling, I commit myself to seek the Lord for spiritual awakening in the Health Fields of South Asia and the world.

- ✝ I confess my need of daily cleansing by the blood of Jesus.
- ✝ I confess my need of the indwelling and the fullness of the Holy Spirit to enable me to pray effectively.
- ✝ I acknowledge the desperate need for spiritual awakening in the health fields of South Asia and the world.
- ✝ I recognize the need for all three areas in spiritual awakening.

FOCUS - Christ Jesus to be revealed to people in His fullness

FULLNESS - Christians in the health fields to grow into Christlikeness

FULFILMENT - God's Kingdom and God's will to extend into and invade the health fields.

Some results we look for under fulfilment:

- * Salvation of patients, HCF Staff and their families
- * Healing of bodies and souls
- * Righteousness and justice
- * Care of the poor
- * Marginalized people receiving good healthcare

- * Integrity & breaking down of corruption
- * Righteous policies
- * Biblical Christian Healthcare, and much more

Now by His grace, I commit to pray alone or with others on a daily basis for spiritual awakening in the health fields of South Asia and the world. I do it with fear, trembling, joy and expectation. If I fail on any day, I will by His grace, get up and keep going.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Telephone No:

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Dear Friends,

Come let us seek the face of the Lord!

*Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring
For His love and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.*

God bless you. Please share this with others and mobilize your colleagues, family and church members to join.

We have added at the end of this chapter/booklet, a prayer for the health fields, which we believe was given by the LORD, while lying on the grass in Fiji.

Also we have added an extra loose sheet in this book with the prayer covenant in duplicate. Please keep one for yourself and please hand over/post the other to an HCF Leader/Base Office. We trust that on our part we can regularly communicate with you.

HCF South Asia Team,

Healthcare Christian Fellowship South Asia.
7 College Avenue

Mount Lavinia

10370

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2718503

Email: hcfsasia@gmail.com

A PRAYER PROCLAMATION OVER THE HEALTH FIELDS

Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name! We come as one family to you, one holy race, acknowledging you as the LORD, the LORD, the gracious, generous and compassionate God, our Father.

Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest, thank you that you ever live to make intercession for us.

You are our Creator - We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You are our Redeemer - You died for us

You are our Healer and the source of Shalom and health for our lives – By your stripes we are healed.

O blessed Holy Spirit, now lead us as one body with boldness to the throne of grace.

*Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring,
For His power and love are such,
None can ever ask too much.*

Lord, we come **deliberately** and **decisively** into your presence to ask many petitions of you and to make seven proclamations with you over the health fields.

Creator and Redeemer Lord, into the darkness and deception, chaos and confusion, emptiness and futility, sadness and sorrow, pain and perplexity of the health fields of South Asia and the world, we declare by faith, ***“LET THERE BE LIGHT!”*** “O Lord, let the people who walk in darkness, see your great light.”

O Lord over the health fields of South Asia and the world, health workers, patients and their families, this valley of dry bones, we say with Ezekiel the prophet, ***“LET THERE BE LIFE!”*** ***“LIVE!”*** O Lord, Second Adam, life giving Spirit, please breathe your Breath of Life on these slain, suffering and silent ones.

“The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy, but you have come to give life and that more abundantly” Lord today we call forth Medical, Dental, Nursing and Allied healthcare students and all healthcare workers, ***“LAZARUS COME FORTH!”***

Lord we remember many of our Christian healthcare colleagues, believers in Christ, yet crippled by a spirit of infirmity, like the woman in Luke chapter 13. Lord, it may be grief or pride or lust or jealousy or envy or depression or inferiority or materialism or shame or something else. With Jesus we speak the word you spoke over her: ***“BE LOOSED IN JESUS’ NAME!”***

O Lord release us from sin, self, the world system and satan’s clutches that we may enjoy your Jubilee, true liberty in Christ, through the cross, so we can serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

Lord, over all healthcare training institutions in the health fields we remember your words, ***“YOU WILL KNOW THE***

TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE !”

So we again proclaim. “**JUBILEE**” and say by faith: “***LET THERE BE LIBERTY!***”

Also we remember the words of Colossians chapter 2 v 3: “*In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” Lord, we see how humanistic world views and deceptive philosophies have infiltrated and invaded healthcare. We have left out the Lord of Healthcare and His truths. Please forgive us. And Lord please raise “lovers of the truth” in healthcare, so that we can once again “***Bring back the Ark***” of God, **God’s presence, precepts, power, purity, principles and people** back into healthcare.

Lord you asked us to pray for **LABOURERS** for the harvest field. In so many areas of healthcare there is a need for committed Christian healthcare workers, to be salt and light. In government hospitals, mission hospitals, community health, teaching institutions, rural hospitals, general practice, situations of war and disaster, and so many other areas, there is the need for witnesses. “***O LORD RELEASE LABOURERS IN-TO THE HARVEST FIELD!***”

Lord we pray for **young healthcare workers** to rise up as a young, holy generation set apart for God like the Nazirites of old. May they help to stem the tide of spiritual decay in healthcare.

Lord we pray for those in **the mid-point of their career** and calling who are often in the valley of decision. Lord protect them from getting into a rut, from being blinded by the false values of our society, from going on with “business as usual.” Lord raise them up as champions of God whose lives are characterized by great choices for God.

Lord we remember **older retired healthcare workers**. We remember that many of the great saints of the Bible, like Daniel, Moses, John and Anna had their most significant moments in life when they were old, even over eighty years. We pray that you will use these retired years for their greatest exploits for God.

So over all these healthcare workers we speak your words, **“LOOSE HIM /HER,** and let him /her go **FREE,** for the Master has need of him /her.”

Lord though the darkness is deepening, the greatest opportunity for Christ centered healthcare is now, yet the price tag is high. Lord help your children to willingly pay the price and grab these opportunities, **for we have just one short hour before sunset to win the victories for God, but we have all eternity to celebrate them.**

So Lord, we pray that in the next decade, a pure, undiluted, unadulterated river of love will flow from the throne of God in and through us into the Health Field. Lord we echo Paul's prayer “that you together with all the saints may comprehend the height, depth, length and breadth of the love of God and be filled with all the fullness of God” So we declare **“O LORD LET THE RIVER OF LOVE FLOW!”**

Lord heal us from the disease of apathy and hard-heartedness and soften our hearts. O Lord, break our hearts with the things that break your heart.

And Lord release a hilarious spirit of generosity amongst us in these coming years. May offerings like that of Mary of Bethany be brought to your feet, offerings of even a year's wages.

Lord we pray for the restoration of the authentic healing ministry to the church. Lord, let the church and healthcare be joined again. Let that winning combination of Pastor Paul and Dr Luke be revived. For what God has put together, let no man put asunder. May your healing power be manifest once again as it was 2000 years ago.

Finally, Lord, we repent of and throw off all our idols and false gods in the health fields. Lord, we repent of the fact that we have put many things above you:

Our **Pride**

Our **Position**

Our **Pedigree**

Our **Prestige**

Our **Possessions**

Our **Praise** from men

Our **Power**

Our **Permanence** on earth

Our false **Pretenses** of healing and other similar things.

And we rise to declare ***JESUS CHRIST AS LORD OF HEALTHCARE, WHOLENESS AND HEALING, AND AS THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.***

Lord, let a crescendo of praise and a pure offering of power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing be given to **the LAMB OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST**, from us in the Health Fields.

And so, by faith we bring the sick and suffering to you, like the four men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus. O Lord, speak these two words over and over again in the health fields:

“Son/daughter your sins are forgiven you”

“Rise take up your bed and walk”

O Lord, let many sick patients meet with Jesus and experience the salvation and Shalom of God.

*“At evening when the sun was set
The sick O Lord around thee lay
O with what diverse pains they met
O with what joy they went away”*

So, Lord, we have deliberately asked you for:

LIGHT

LIFE

LOOSING

LIBERTY

LABORERS

LOVE and the

LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

You are able to do far more exceeding, abundantly above all we can ask or think.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME!

THY KINGDOM COME!

THY WILL BE DONE!

...In the health fields of South Asia and the world, in Jesus' Name!

THINE BE THE KINGDOM

AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN!

HCF South Asia



Healthcare Christian Fellowship International -

South Asia

7 College Avenue

Mount Lavinia

10370

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2718503

Email: hcfsasia@gmail.com



HCFI
South Asia

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“This booklet is a call to seven years of prayer for spiritual awakening in the Health Fields of South Asia and the world. It is based on a portion of Scripture in Zechariah 8:18-23. It is sent out with the prayer that an HCF South Asia Prayer Union will become a reality and that a large number of God's people in healthcare and the church will enlist in this effort. And we will stand at the threshold, join hands and keep pushing on the door of spiritual awakening until God breaks through in genuine spiritual awakening in the health fields of South Asia and the world.”

In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge -Colossians 2:3 (NKJV)

Then the Lord replied:

Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. -Habakkuk 2:2,3 (NIV)