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## THE POWER OF ACCUMULATIVE PRAYER

BY A.B. SIMPSON

A.B. Simpson gives a wonderful example of the power of accumulative prayer in the *Alliance Weekly*.

The writer saw a very striking illustration of this in the city of Rangoon, where the largest and finest bell in the East is the particular pride of the great Buddhist temple, Shwee-da-gone.

This bell had been sunk in the river during one of the Anglo Burman wars, and unavailing efforts had been made by various engineers to raise it. At last a clever priest asked permission to make the attempt on condition that the bell be given to his temple. He then had his assistants gather an immense number of bamboo rods. These hollow, light, buoyant rods can scarcely be kept from floating on the water. These bamboo rods were taken down one by one by divers and fastened to the bell at the bottom of the river.

After many thousands of them had been securely fastened, it was noticed that the bell began to move; and when the last bamboo rod had been added, the buoyancy of the accumulated rods was so great that they actually lifted the enormous mass of bronze from the soot and mire of the river bottom, and bore it to the surface of the river.

So faith filled prayer can lift the heaviest burdens and the highest of mountains. Every whisper of believing prayer is like one of the little bamboo rods. For a time they seem to be in vain, but there comes a last breath of believing supplication, and lo, the walls of Jericho fall, the mountain becomes a plain, the host of Amalek is defeated. It is the hand upon the throne. (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-5)

—A.B. Simpson, founder of what grew into the Christian Missionary Alliance, was born on Prince Edward Island, Canada to parents of Scottish descent. One of eight children raised in a home of strong biblical commitment, he studied for the ministry, accepted church charges and favored pastoral visitation and evangelism. He then addressed conventions and authored some seventy books. His teachings emphasized the sanctified life, missions and confidence in divine healing.



CHURCH PRAY! is a monthly corporate prayer help to local churches published since 1991. This bulletin is posted for free download at "Resources" on our Web site or available as a one-sheet master for use on a copy machine or for quick print services. A monthly First Friday Prayer Letter and mid-week Alert are also available upon request. To subscribe to Church Pray! or inquire about other services, contact: INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA, PO Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134. Tel 540-317-2070; E-mail [ifa@ifapray.org](mailto:ifa@ifapray.org) Web sites: [www.IFAPray.org](http://www.IFAPray.org) [www.GetAmericaPraying.com](http://www.GetAmericaPraying.com)

## INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

# CHURCH PRAY!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER UNFOLDED

BY E. STANLEY JONES

The word "Our" is a key word. Leave it out, and the prayer won't open for the prayer would then read, "Give me, forgive me, lead me, deliver me." The very nature of the prayer would be changed from social to solitary. The whole development of true religion is the development of the word "Our." It takes in everybody of every race and color, including enemies. The high priest, when he went into the Holy of Holies, wore upon his breast the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. When we go into the presence of the Father, we wear a simple word, a word that goes beyond the tribal relationship, the word "Our." So when we say "Our Father," in those two words are the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Two worlds revealed in two words.

We come now to the second step: "Thy Name." The word "Name" stands for the character in Scripture. To pray "In Jesus' name" means to pray "in Jesus' character." In other words, we pray a prayer consistent with the character of Jesus, the kind of prayer Jesus would pray. This is the thing that determines whether the prayer is Christian.

"Hallowed be thy name." ("Thy name be revered"—Mof-fatt.) In other words, "Thy character be revered" is my first consideration. Jesus put first the determining thing—God's character—while we put the determining thing—Jesus' character, "in Jesus' name"—last. Perhaps it would be better if we started our prayers by saying, "Father, I'm praying this prayer in Jesus' character. He would approve it. It squares with His character." That would cause many prayers to die on lips unuttered. Like the Muslim who washes his feet before going into the mosque, this would wash our mouths, our hearts, our motives. "Thy character be revered first, before my desires, my petitions." That puts God's character first and my claims second—puts us both in the right place.

—"The Lord's Prayer Unfolded" by E. Stanley Jones was excerpted from his book, *The Way*, © 1946 by Stone & Pierce, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press (currently out of print).

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*"...bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."*

—Rev 5:8

## FEBRUARY 2012 PRAYER FOCUS

**Sunday, February 5, 2012**

**RECONCILIATION / UNITY** – Agree with the high priestly prayer of Jesus that all true believers might reconcile, and be "one." (Jn 17:20-23) Pray that you and many more Christians would be "ministers of reconciliation" in word and deed. (2 Cor 18-20)

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

**STREET AND DRUG GANGS** – Pray for all law enforcement and public officials wrestling with the growing threat from U.S. gangs. Pray that the Father "send workers" and draw, reveal Jesus, redeem, deliver, and disciple key gang leaders across the nation. (Is 61:1-3; Mt 9:38; 1 Cor 6:11)

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

**TERRORISM** – Offer thanksgiving for increased surveillance, and tightened security measures to help uncover terrorist plots, both in our nation, and around the world. Pray that the Lord grant grace and protection to all working to expose terrorist attempts.

**Sunday, February 26, 2012**

**U.S. TERRITORIES** – "My salvation has gone forth ... the coastlands [islands] will wait upon Me, and on My arm they will trust." (Is. 51:5) Pray for revival and a fresh revelation of Christ and His Kingdom purposes among the believers of these inhabited U.S. Territories and Districts: District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Midway Islands, Palau, Wake Island, Federated States of Micronesia, U.S. Virgin Islands.