

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR THE PRESENT COVID 19 CRISIS

March 24th, 2020

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Shalom in Jesus Name! This is a call to pray about the present very urgent crisis. We thank God for all those who have been crying out to God and acting responsibly and sacrificially at this time. We are adding our small part to this collective effort of the body of Christ. As a healthcare ministry we do also feel responsible to play our part in this collective action. Though we may feel small and insignificant let us remind ourselves that we are coming to a Great and Merciful God who has stopped plagues many times and whose goodness never fails. So, this call is to both Christian healthcare workers and to all church members.

HUMILITY AND BROKENNESS

As we pray, we come to the Lord as children not even knowing how to pray. Not with glib answers and theories but with humble broken hearts and asking HIM to lead us in our praying and in our collective actions. We are reminded in the scriptures that the LORD the High and Exalted One says, **“I who live forever and whose Name is Holy. I live in a High and Holy place but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit”**. Isaiah 57 v 15

We will not discuss or share information but go straight to the Throne to seek the LORD. We trust this will be a concert of prayer led by the Holy Spirit, soaked in Scripture and based on the Redemptive work of Christ and His present work at the Throne, as our Great High Priest. As we prayed a few days ago in our South Asian HCF base, we were perplexed as to how to pray in this situation. We sensed a few keys that became clear to us on that day, and we know that many of us too are being given scriptural insights as to how to pray. Let us pool all these in one great crescendo and cry to heaven.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO BUT OUR EYES ARE UPON YOU

King Jehoshaphat of Judah was faced with a severe crisis. He was totally outnumbered by a coalition of forces that were coming against Judah. The event is recorded in 2 Chronicles 20. Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all of Judah. Then from verse 6 to verse 12 he prayed a wonderful prayer for Divine intervention. He reminded God of His present greatness, His past acts, and then, asked for future deliverance. He prayed:

“O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, *who* drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?”

Along the same lines, we can pray:

Lord did you not in the past, perform mighty acts of deliverance for your people?

Lord will you not now act and deliver us?

And at the close of his prayer, he prayed, **“Lord we are powerless against this great multitude coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you!”**

The Lord wonderfully answered his prayer. What an effective way to pray! Could we not adopt this posture in prayer?

HALLOWED BE THY NAME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

A good place to begin our praying is the first petition of the Lord's prayer, "Our Father, who art in heaven, HALLOWED BE THY NAME! "

So, as we continue to pray in the midst of the agony and pain and fear of this moment can we continue by praying something like this,

“Our Father in Heaven we ask you to shatter all idols in our hearts and minds. Shatter all our preconceived ideas and bring about a Copernican like revolution in our hearts. Let every high thing that exalts itself in our minds be cast down. And dear Lord out of the rubble, erect a massive, glorious, eternal, alternate reality in our lives for your Name sake. “

Dear Friends, this prayer is the overarching, global, deeply uniting prayer that holds all prayer together. This is the first thing, the preeminent request we should make of our living God. This is the deepest passion of Jesus’ heart.

O LORD, Hallowed be Thy Name!

Glorify Thy Name! Make your Name great!

Make your Name known!

Cause your Name to be honoured globally!

This is the chief end of man: To glorify God and enjoy Him forevermore!

The verb “Hallowed” is in the passive imperative. So, we humbly, mildly, modestly, reverently, yet in a sense entreat or ask God to do something. I hesitate to write but it is almost like giving the Lord a modest imperative. O Lord do what only You can do! So, we pray, “O LORD only you can hallow your Name and now make your Name great in the world and on earth as it is in heaven. Let the whole world see what a good and gracious and merciful God you are, and yet what a Holy, Righteous God you are through what you do in this crisis.”

We could consider spending an hour of prayer even in our homes going through all the petitions of the Lord’s prayer and asking God for insight to pray through these petitions into the present crisis.

GOD STOPPED THE PLAGUE

We will now look at the four times in the Old Testament when God stopped a plague in response to the costly sacrificial intervention of an intercessor.

First, we will look at the classic example, which is found in Numbers 16 verses 41-50. The background to this incident is that earlier in the chapter the people of Israel had seen the terrible judgement that God brought on Korah, Dathan and Abiram and their families and the 250 Levites who rebelled with them against Moses and Aaron. The ground swallowed them alive, they and their children. The people saw this. And yet the very next day they gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and said, "You have killed the Lord's people". They were a stiff-necked stubborn lot! The Lord was displeased and told Moses to get away from them as He wanted to put an end to them at once. But Moses and Aaron fell face down before the Lord, a familiar posture for them, most likely pleading for mercy for them. Moses was a true shepherd of His people and could not think of a future for himself apart from his people.

Then surely instructed by the LORD, Moses instructs Aaron to take a censer, incense, fire from the altar and run into the plague and make atonement on behalf of the people. The plague had started and within minutes or maybe a few hours, had already killed 14,700 people. So, Aaron ran into the plague and stood between the living and the dead, making atonement with the incense and fire from the altar, at the risk of his life.

As He stood between the living and the dead, he was in a vulnerable position. The next to die would be him. Yet he stood as a barrier to the spread of the plague and God's presence and power stopped the plague. What a dramatic moment! This was urgent, costly, sacrificial, self-giving intercession. **AND THE PLAGUE STOPPED! AND THE PLAGUE STOPPED!** Twice we read this phrase in the narrative.

Of course, the greatest act of intercession was by our Lord Jesus when not at the risk of His life, but at the cost of His life He stopped the greatest plague, the greatest, most dangerous and deadly Spiritual virus, Sin. Sin and its consequences especially death and eternal separation from God. Also, Satan and the domination system of the world were defeated at the cross.

LORD PLEASE STOP THIS PLAGUE

Can we come in one accord to cry out to God to mercifully and **SUDDENLY** stop this plague and give the world another chance to repent? As the plague of locusts on Egypt was mercifully blown away by the Lord, we can entreat our Lord to do likewise in His mercy and long suffering. In the Book of Exodus verses 1 to 20 we read this very moving narrative. We read how the east wind blew all day and night bringing on an invasion of locusts that covered the whole land of Egypt. and totally devastated the land. But then when Pharaoh asked for a reprieve and Moses cried to the Lord, a strong west wind blew the locusts out of the land.

"And the Lord changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. **And not a locust was seen anywhere in Egypt !!**"

Just in one night! Millions and millions of them, just swept away by the LORD!

Oh Lord would you graciously stop this present COVID19 virus plague, out of your great mercy. You spared Nineveh and gave them 120 years rather than 40 days to turn when they repented. Won't you graciously grant us the church and the world a window of time to repent and return to the LORD. We as your people cry out to you in repentance and ask for your mercy and longsuffering to be manifested. Lord please don't forget the innocent children. Let them rise for you, perhaps the last generation before your soon return. **Oh LORD we long for Your suddenlies, your surprises, but all under your Sovereignty!**

LESSONS ON INTERCESSION

In the story of Aaron and the stopping of the plague and the other similar incidents in Scripture we learn a few vital lessons about intercession as we pray into this present crisis.

The other 3 incidents are:

1. Numbers 21 verses 4 to 9. LOOK AND LIVE

The plague caused by fiery serpents as a result of Israel's sin. The Lord's judgement on Israel. The people cried unto Moses to beseech the Lord's mercy and Moses did so. And the lifting up of the bronze serpent was God's means of delivering them. All they had to do was LOOK AND LIVE! Jesus used this very incident to compare it to His being lifted up on the cross. John 3 verses 14 to 16.

So, let us plant the cross in the middle of this plague by faith and pray.

2. Numbers 25 verses 1 to 16. A VIOLENT ACT OF ATONEMENT

Here the violent act of Phinehas the High Priest, done out of zeal for God's Name and reverence for His holiness, resulted in the plague being stopped. Paradoxically, the Lord assures him of HIS special covenant of peace. This exemplifies the violence of the cross and the fervent love of the LORD for us. This is seen outside the tomb of Lazarus when Jesus groaned in the spirit at the ravages of sin because of His great love for mankind and then called Lazarus out of the grave, John 11 v 33 and 38. The word "groaned" is also used for the snorting horses before charging into battle or one of indignation or rage at what sin and Satan had done to spoil His masterpiece mankind. Oh, may we receive a little of the passion of Jesus and Phinehas.

3. I Chronicles 21 verses 18 to 30. COSTLY ATONEMENT TO STOP THE PLAGUE

Here David made a costly sacrifice on Mount Moriah and after this the plague stopped over the people of God. This is a picture of the cross of Jesus also on Mount Moriah. The judgement due to us was taken by our LORD on the cross and now God can be just and still justify (declare righteous) ungodly sinners such as us. What a glorious message that this world needs so desperately.

BASIS OF OUR INTERCESSION

Aaron made his intercession at the risk of his life. But Jesus made intercession **at the cost of his life**. So, the basis of our intercession is the finished work of Christ Jesus on Calvary. The phrase “once and for all” comes 8 times in the Book of Hebrews. It is not just the cross but also the resurrection, ascension and enthronement or session of Christ that truly is the full basis on which we intercede. The book of Hebrews tells us that **He has appeared** for us to put away sin. **He now appears** for us at the right hand of the Father. **He will appear a second time** at His coming. So a second basis on which we intercede is His present work for us in heaven.

THE BOLDNESS OF OUR INTERCESSION

We read in Hebrews 4 verses 15 and 16 that “We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. “The double negative emphasizing that we surely have a merciful High Priest. We desperately need a High Priest and God has provided the most suitable High Priest for us. He ever lives to make intercession for us. We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous ONE.

Another reason for our boldness is that we are going to our Abba Father in Heaven. Also, that the Holy Spirit who is in us intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

THE BREADTH OF OUR INTERCESSION

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesian church and in reference to the armour of God writes, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit”.

So may the Lord release all kinds of prayer as we intercede in and after this crisis.

Some kinds of prayer to consider:

- Adoration
- Praise
- Repentance
- Supplication
- Confession
- Intercession
- Asking
- Tears
- Weeping
- Wrestling in prayer
- Fasting and prayer
- Using Scriptures in prayer
- Using scriptural incidents as a basis for prayer

- Claiming scripture promises
- Prophetic proclamation and reading of Scriptures
- Agreeing in prayer
- Binding and loosing
- Prophetic words (forthtelling) of truth into the present situation
- Praying with supernatural gifts, yet done in an accountable orderly manner
- Singing
- Silence
- Sighing
- Sobbing
- Snorting with Holy anger / groaning in spirit
- Proclaiming decrees and shouts of joy and faith
- Celebrating the Lord's supper and remembering His coming

May the Holy Spirit release in us His full repertoire of prayer for God's glory and the good of this lost world of people.

O LORD pull out all the stops and let the Orchestra of prayer from your people resound with every type of prayer as we storm Your throne of grace. And as the incense rises from millions of your people the blessing of the LORD and the fire of GOD will come down, both judgement and Mercy. Revelation chapter 8 v 1 to 5.

Once in a South Asia healthcare prayer summit we experienced almost all of these in the space of three full days of prayer!

THE BEAUTY OF OUR INTERCESSION

The beauty of intercession is seen in the life of Moses and above all in the life of our LORD JESUS, the GREAT INTERCESSOR.

Three times Moses was given an offer by the Lord. He would destroy the Israelites due to their stubbornness and rebellion and start a new nation with Moses. Then our God would have been known not as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but as the God of Moses! What an offer. **Lesser mortals would have grabbed the offer.** But not Moses! He was a true shepherd of His people and like Jesus would lay down his life for the sheep. So, all three times he refused. He could not think of a future for himself apart from his people. What a beautiful spirit he had. The Apostle Paul had a similar mindset about his people the Jews, even though they persecuted him.

May our Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit create such a mind set or attitude of Christlikeness in all of us.

All heaven waits with bated breath for saints on earth to pray
Majestic angels ready stand with swords of fiery blade,

Astounding power awaits a word from God's resplendent Throne,
And God awaits our prayer of faith that cries, it shall be done!

THE PROPHETIC WORD OF JOEL AS RELEVANT TO US IN THIS CRISIS.

In the last few days the Book of Joel has deeply and profoundly moved us. It seems that Joel's prophecy is so relevant today in the crisis the world is facing. Joel poetically describes a terrible locust plague that came over Judah and Jerusalem. A plague that stripped the land of all vegetation. We will just summarize it now. Please do read carefully these three profound chapters.

1. The DAY OF THE LOCUSTS and the CALL TO LAMENT
2. The DAY OF THE LORD AND THE CALL TO REPENT. The Locust plague described as a picture of the coming Day of the LORD.
3. THE DAY OF GRACE
4. THE FINAL DAY OF THE LORD
5. THE ONLY PLACE OF REFUGE - THE LORD

What Joel points out is that the locust plague is nothing compared to the final day of the LORD. And that the final Day of the Lord will be far worse than the locust plague. And we may add the final day of the LORD will be far worse, infinitely more terrible than the present Coronavirus pandemic with its global consequences. This is the reality and we must warn the nations. Every disaster, not always, but most often is, a call to the church and the world to repent. And with the repentance to return to the LORD.

CALL TO LAMENT!

And so, Joel issues to the church a call to lament first. This comes with many imperative verbs in chapter one.

Awake you drunkards!

Lament like a virgin whose betrothed has died!

Be ashamed! Wail!

Gird yourselves and lament you priests!

Wail you who minister before the altar!

Come lie down all night in sackcloth!

Consecrate a fast!

Call a sacred assembly!

Gather and cry out to the Lord!

O LORD, our joy has withered away!

May the Holy Spirit bring into our hearts this ability to lament.

CALL TO REPENT!

Then in Chapter two after the description of the locust plague merging with the day of the Lord, comes the call to repent. The Lord was calling for a deep repentance, a repentance of the heart. And it is a repenting church that will then lead to a repenting world. When they see what a Gracious Forgiving and yet Holy and Righteous God we serve, they too will return to the Lord and find true peace in Him.

So, the call comes to God's people, "Rend your heart and not your garments and return to the LORD." Dear friends can we take this time to deeply repent of all our worldliness and self-centredness and also repent of how we have turned from our Lord the fountain of living waters and hewn out cisterns for ourselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. And the Lord who sees the heart of His people then comes with His promise of Restoration.

RESTORATION AND REVERSAL!

This **restoration** is found in Joel chapter 2 verses 18 to 27. Several **precious reversals** are promised.

The Lord will have pity on the land.

The Lord will restore the vegetation and satisfy the people with plenty

The Lord will remove the locusts.

The Lord will remove the shame and fear of the people

The Lord will even restore the wasted years.

The Lord will pour out His Spirit on all flesh and this promise found its fulfilment on the day of Pentecost.

And whoever calls on the Name of the LORD will be saved.

On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, among the people of God there will be deliverance.

FINAL DAY OF THE LORD

And then again in chapter three Joel warns us through the Spirit that there is coming the final DAY of the LORD. Multitudes will be summoned to the valley of decision. They will be summoned there by God and they will attempt to war against the LORD. This valley of Jehoshaphat is the valley of judgement. And the valley of decision. No such valley existed in Israel; a valley large enough to gather all the people who ever lived on earth. The LORD was using this as a picture of that final judgement. The awesome truth is that God has both a book and a bottle. A book where all deeds are recorded, and no evil will be unrecorded. A bottle where all tears are stored and no anguish or pain in this world will be forgotten.

The valley of decision was not the place that people will make a decision whether to follow the Lord or not. It is the place where God makes a decision about us. A final decision. In Joel we are also urged to heed God's warning of the awesome and terrible day of the Lord. Joel 3. These are solemn warnings. But events such as the Corona virus epidemic are pointers to us to remember that final DAY of the LORD. And to warn the nations and offer them the

only refuge from this great and terrible DAY of the LORD. Our decision to turn to Jesus Christ now will be the basis on which God's decision will be made on that day.

THE LORD THE ONLY REFUGE FOR ALL PEOPLE!

The book of Joel ends with words of great comfort. "The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble, BUT the LORD will be a shelter for His people. The Lord dwells in Zion." Zion meaning the city of God, the people of God, the redeemed church of Jesus Christ!

These words are at the end of the book after the warning of God's final judgement day. And how comforting are the words, "BUT" the LORD will be a refuge or a shelter for His people. These "BUTS" are so comforting in the Bible. In the midst of this terrible Day of the LORD, there is a "BUT". The LORD will be a refuge, the only refuge for His people and for all people. The Book of Revelation pictures people calling on the mountains to fall on them and prevent them from seeing the wrath of the LAMB of GOD. How urgent the good news of the gospel is.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND STAFF IN THE FRONTLINE

In the present crisis we see how healthcare staff have become the frontline workers in this battle. And many have got the illness, and some have even died. As a healthcare ministry our hearts go out to all those involved in the healthcare team. From cleaners, to ambulance drivers, to support staff, technicians, allied health workers, nurses and doctors and others. Also, all others including military personnel and administrative staff who are in the frontline of the battle. We also remember those who are involved in painstaking exhausting research in order to produce a vaccine and try out different drug regimes. We hear of some success in these efforts at which we rejoice.

Can we uphold them daily? And after this crisis let us reward them and thank them. And can we pray that many of them will meet with Jesus during and after this crisis?

GOD'S CALL TO THE CHURCH -THE PEOPLE OF GOD

This crisis brings with it a call to those of us in the Body of Christ. I once read in a book many years ago (I think it is from A W Tozer) words that deeply moved me and were something like this, " What will it take to rouse a worldly, selfish, sleeping church to her call to be a blessing and a witness to the world? Would it take some cataclysmic event to shake a self-centred, worldly, inward looking church? Like Israel of old, we too have abdicated our glorious calling to bless the world and have been busy looking after ourselves. Could this Corona virus epidemic be one event that would shake us out of our complacency?

So, can we pray for all of us that we will not have an escapist mentality. Or a survival and selfish mentality. But that we as a church would engage, enlist, endure, and encourage

others. Like Jesus may hundreds and thousands of Christian health workers and others say, in the face of the temptation to avoid the cruciform way of life:

“What shall I say? Father, save me FROM this hour? NO!!! FOR THIS VERY REASON WE HAVE COME TO THIS HOUR! FATHER GLORIFY YOUR NAME!

And every such renunciation from us will bring forth an annunciation from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again through you.” May we health workers and others in the Body of Christ realize that we are not to be saved FROM but saved FOR such a time as this.

Do we dare to believe God for a massive shift in our priorities and the smashing of the idols of our hearts, that we may go forth as a mighty army to lay down our lives for Jesus and for others? Free like our Lord Jesus Christ, joyful troubadours of the King of Kings and LORD of LORDS! Oh Lord, break the chains that are holding us back and deliver us from all evil. Then we can say, “THINE is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory for ever and ever, AMEN!” The kingdom and the power and the glory are not mine.

The world is hurtling at a massive speed to destruction. This is as certain as the sun rises every morning. Jesus the most loving person who ever lived spoke and warned about this repeatedly in the gospels. I was shaken as I went through all the parables of Jesus and His other teachings and realized that Jesus the altogether Lovely One and Loving One is the One who warned and spoke most of eternal destruction and judgement. This is why He went to the cross. Lord awaken us! Lord release us! Lord send us! Can we pray for this?

Let us pray these words with burning passion into all our hearts and the hearts of all His people.
“He was not willing that any should perish,
Am I His follower and can I live?
Longer at ease with a soul going downward
Lost for the lack of the love I might give!
Perishing! Perishing! Thou wast not willing,
Master forgive and inspire us anew!
Banish our worldliness help us to ever,
Live with eternity’s values in view!”

Can we pray that the church will arise after years of “Babylonian exile”, and like that lone runner who appears in Isaiah 52, whose feet were considered beautiful by the LORD, we would come with news of the victory won by Jesus in the great cosmic and earthly conflict. So, we could give the church and the world,

Good News,
Proclaim peace,
proclaim good news of good,
Proclaim salvation through Christ even in this crisis,
And then as watchmen on the walls seeing the Lord returning;
And as watchmen on the walls eager to get the good news out,

And as watchmen on the walls we could then shout out this good news to each other and to the cities.

Then the ruins of Jerusalem and many cities, so many broken people will be revived and carry the shout of good news and salvation, cascading it out to all the world. As the COVID19 corona virus has spread so rapidly may the good news of a Saviour and of peace good will to all men spread in a rapid way globally. Hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF SICK, SUFFERING AND DYING PATIENTS

We also need to pray for all who are suffering, those who are sick and dying, and for all healthcare staff who are stretched beyond limits in caring for them. O LORD as in the days of your earthly sojourn in Israel. may the power of the Lord be present in a mighty way to heal the sick. O LORD may the deaths due to Corona virus infection be drastically reduced.

" Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless His Holy Name! Bless the Lord O my soul, who forgives all your iniquities: who heals all your diseases: who crowns your life with loving kindness that your youth may be renewed like the eagles." Psalm 103.

We must also remember millions of people whose lives have been severely disrupted by the situation. Millions are facing all kinds of difficulties. Let us specially remember the poor, the aged, the children, the crippled and all who need special help at this time. Oh Lord release millions of acts of sacrificial generosity.

The Bible predicts a time closer to the end when men's hearts fail them for fear. We are living in such a time of widespread panic and fear. Oh, may the balm of Gilead and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ calm many a troubled breast. May God use His people to be agents of peace and hope to a hopeless, fearful, restless world. The gods of this age have failed, and this is the time to turn to the true and living and gracious GOD.

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

We need to pray for all Govt leaders and Authorities. Theirs is a very difficult and unenviable task at this time. We must uphold them. It is our bounden duty to pray earnestly for them. Their decisions affect millions and they are mere mortals. So, let us uphold them too in love.

GOD'S MEGAPHONE TO THE WORLD

Finally, we must warn the world and ourselves that these troubles are nothing compared to the Day of the LORD. Pain and disaster are not always but often a call to lament and repent for the church and the world. And as we repent, the world will see what a gracious God we worship, and they will repent and return to the Lord.

Pain is God's megaphone. C. S. Lewis said, "We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our consciences, but shouts to us in our pains. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world".

This present situation is surely a wakeup call to all of us.

May there be a massive global turning to God, and may many find eternal joy, peace and rest in Jesus through this crisis. Then we can say with David, "It was good for us that you afflicted us, so we could learn your statutes O Lord."

As in the book of Joel can we dare to pray and believe that following this pandemic there will be a worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh? A transgenerational, transethnic outpouring that includes and overrules all gender, age, social, ethnic and other differences. A global Pentecost that will touch every nation and every ethnic people group on earth. A worthy gift that can be brought to the Lord on the last day.

Can we pray that we will not go back to our old ways and sadly waste our sorrows!

The haughty pride and arrogance of mankind is being exposed by a virus. O, for a great returning to the Lord whom we and the world have for the most part, ignored or rejected in our mad pursuit of independence, self-centredness, pleasure and greed.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will gain His earthly heritage
'How satisfy the needs and aspirations,
Of East and west of sinner and of sage
But this I know all flesh shall see His glory
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day, His Sun shall shine in splendour
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world is known!

The writer of this hymn said I cannot tell how this will happen. Could the COVID 19 virus epidemic be one of the means through which He will gain His earthly heritage? Could it be that this plague is not Satan's doing but is permitted by the LORD as a means of accomplishing a far more glorious and greater work of grace? The locust plague is referred to in the Book of Joel as "My army that I sent" by the LORD. As Joni Eareckson said, **"God sometimes permits the thing He hates most, in order to accomplish something wonderful that He loves most and longs to do!"**

And then the song writer concludes, and can we sing with all our hearts,

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship
When at His bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation,
When all the hearts of men with love are filled,
But this I know the skies will thrill with rapture
And myriad, myriad human voices sing
And earth to heaven and heaven to earth will answer,

At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is KING!!

Could the ceasing of this virus storm in a sudden manner be one of the causes of jubilation and turning to the LORD?

WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU, DO IT!

We also must ask God to help us in the end not to stop with prayer but to follow Mary's instructions,

" Whatever He says to you, do it! "John 2. Prayer is not a way to escape from our call to obedient, risky, costly involvement as the Lord will lead us.

We once again thank God for all God's children who are engaging in intercession and other acts of mercy in this time. **Healthcare workers in Christ can we make this darkest hour the finest hour of our lives and ministry as we give ourselves to the Lord that He may use us as His instruments.**

Let us remember, "THAT LIFE IS FILLED WITH GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITIES, BRILLIANTLY DISGUISED AS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS".

" So, O LORD through your Body, glorify your Name in all the earth for the good of all people and may the **power of the cross explode in this world with healing, redeeming, comforting, life-giving effects.** "

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