

*When pursuing the Archangel Michael fulfills God's plan.*

## **Prayers of the Righteous**

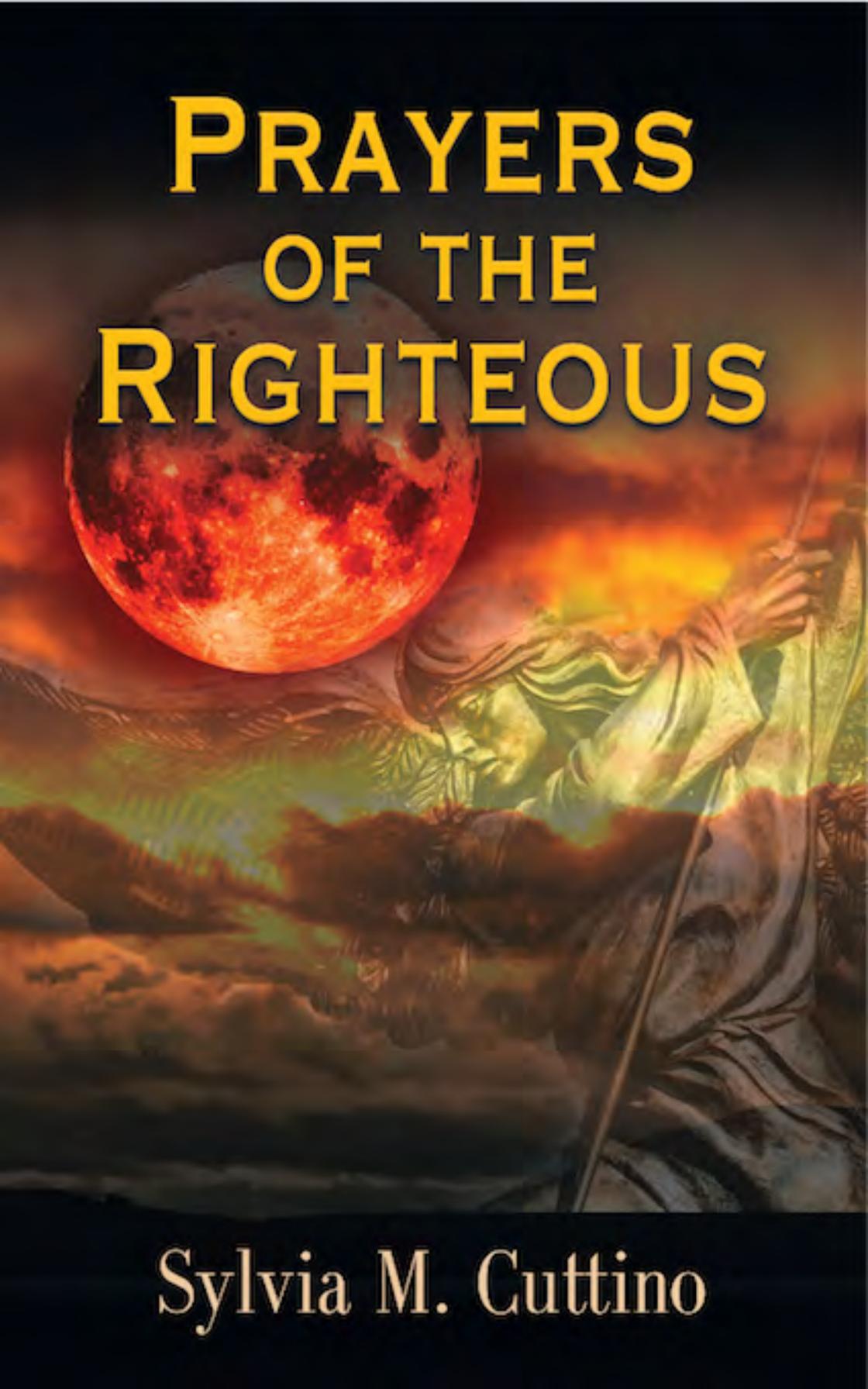
by Sylvia M. Cuttino

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First Edition

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®.  
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“Prayers of the Righteous tells of an amazing journey of heroics and soul saving. It is action packed, yet amazingly delivers a divine response to prayer. This is Revealed to today’s world from a modern social standpoint. It’s appeal will reach all ages, Worldwide. Well and carefully written, it also permeates an Enlightenment, which most would welcome.”

“PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS A COMPELLING AND EXCITING READ! DIVINE AND HUMAN JOIN TOGETHER EXTRAORDINARYILY! IT ALSO REVEALS LIFE’S BATTLE AND IS SIMPLY NOT JUST A PRAYER BOOK!”

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## CHAPTER ONE:

### The Overseers

Tobias Mathias is a college student, home for the summer vacation in a slow paced, coastal town called De Dios Calas. A typical day in her religious household begins with morning prayers and then prayers before every meal, including snacks. It also involves the inclusion of some kind of church function, at least five days of the week. This mandatory religious lifestyle only seems to make Tobias unaware of its true meaning and a slave to its routine. Church services are now just Tobias' means to catch up with text messaging on her cell phone. Tobias' mother, Rita, is a religiously dutiful person and prays constantly over and about everything, especially when it concerns Tobias' welfare.

One day, Rita and her daughter get into the car for a visit to a church shut-in; Rita buckles her seatbelt, bows her head and blindly reaches for Tobias' hand. Tobias stops text messaging long enough to obediently grab her hand but not before rolling her eyes. Rita sighs, instinctively aware of what her daughter is thinking.

Rita begins to pray for God's grace and the Blood covering travelling mercies that will secure their journey. Finally, Rita utters one of Tobias' most favorite words, 'Amen.' Rita cranks up the car, slowly backs down the long driveway and they are on their way. The car eases down the road and Tobias finds herself staring out the window, wondering why at this particular time, her

mother's prayer is still on her mind. She has heard this prayer many times before but this time it is different, for some reason. Tobias tries to shake off this feeling by putting in her earphones and switching on her music, which just barely drowns out her mother's joyful humming.

It is late evening when they return and Rita is driving while Tobias takes a nap in the passenger seat. Tobias does not realize that her earlier protest against her mother's faith and prayers would soon be tested.

A weary Rita continues driving down the hillside and around its sharp twists and turns when suddenly, a shadowy figure seems to move across, in front of her car. She turns the wheel reflexively and swerves, while trying to correct the car's direction but it begins to spin out of control. Bouncing off the hillside, the car crashes through a railing, before it comes to a dead stop; balancing precariously on the edge of a sharp drop!

By this time, Tobias is wide awake and can hear the familiar sounds of her mother praying to God to save them. Tobias jolts toward her mother, causing the car to jerk forward and over! Rita clutches her daughter and screams, "God please help us!" Suddenly the women are pulled apart, hurtling through their respective windows. Then, everything goes completely black.

The darkness slowly lifts and the two women look around them. When their eyes catch sight of each other they embrace in amazement that they are still alive. Rita looks Tobias over to make sure her daughter is all right. Amazingly they both are! Then their eyes are drawn into the distance and towards a bright orange glow. They

soon realize that it is all that is left of their car; a mangled wreck and completely engulfed in flames. Tobias stares at the wreckage in disbelief while her mother kneels, rocking back and forth and giving thanks to God. As if in a trance, Rita rises to her feet and walks toward the flames. Tobias struggles to get to her feet in order to chase after her mother but waits when she sees her mother stop to pick up an object from the ground. Tobias walks over to Rita and sees that the object her mother has picked up is her purse, unscathed by the crash. Rita takes out her cell phone and calls for help.

Soon red and blue lights are flashing all around the crash site. Rita and Tobias are escorted to a waiting police car where they climb into the back seat. As the car door closes, Rita suddenly sits up straight and turns to face the window of the closed car door. She stares out into the darkness with a look of relief and gratitude. "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you," Rita mouths over and over, as Tobias struggles to peer around her mother to see what she is focussing on but all she can see is darkness. Rita raises her left hand and presses it against the window as the car drives off. She continues to stare into the darkness, turning her body to keep constant eye contact with a particular spot, until she is completely turned around in her seat and facing the back window. When the car rounds a curve and the hectic scene is finally out of sight, Rita finally faces forward and bows her head. Fearful for her mother, Tobias places her right arm around Rita and lays her head on Rita's shoulder as she tries to support and comfort her, as well as herself.

A few days later, when all the chaos has died down, Tobias responds to one of her mother's upbeat moods, seeing an opportunity to address what was still concerning her of her mother's behaviour on the night of the accident. Rita reluctantly tells Tobias, as through a flashback, about being distracted by a shadowy figure, losing control of the car and making pleas to God to save them. This Rita believed, resulted in God sending His champion, the Archangel Michael, to rescue them.

Tobias was shocked as Rita continued to explain how Michael had pulled them through the windows of the car and protected them with his body, placing them safely on the ground, which explained the sudden darkness. It was Michael that she had been thanking as they drove off in the police car. Tobias remains skeptical of her mother's story but does not want to upset her mother by revealing any outward show of it, especially nervous laughter; which is how she feels she expresses her skepticism.

Rita addresses her daughter's silence in her own way. "The prayers of the righteous availeth much," she says as she leaves the room.

Tobias holds onto what strength and courage she has and follows her mother, continuing the conversation. Tobias presses Rita about this Michael phenomenon, wanting to know how he looks and what he wears. Does he speak? What does he say? What are his powers? Etc.

Rita is cautious of her daughter's sudden interest, but eventually goes on to describe Michael as being a colossal and heroic character; possibly close to seven feet tall, with a muscular and athletic build. He has very

dark features. His hair is jet black, with slight waves that rest on his broad, strong shoulders. Dark, heavy brows shelter his piercing and hypnotic green eyes. His full lipped mouth falls into a half smile, with a semi-pout that displays a stoic expression from a strong and chiselled jawline, completing his facial frame. He wears a breastplate which reveals a cross at its center and flames either side of it. He also wears a strap which appears to be slung across his chest, for holding a sword or a weapon.

“I can’t be sure, as I have only seen him from the front,” Rita’s voice trails off. After a few moments, Rita closes her eyes and blurts out that Michael had protected them by shielding them under his wings.

“Michael...has...wings,” Rita repeats slowly.

Tobias just stares at her mother, before breaking into a wide smile to hold back her laughter and offending her mother. Rita sighs and leaves the room, this time to end the conversation but Tobias runs after her; half apologising, yet also half laughing..

Later that evening, Tobias’ ever present thirst for knowledge, keeps her thinking about all that her mother has spoken about and believes to be true. She also thinks of how many other people, if any, believe as her mother does.

Tobias is lying across her bed wondering how to begin her search for the answers, when her cell phone chimes an alert to inform her that someone has posted something on her social media page. Tobias’ brain explodes with an incredible idea as she clicks on the announcement. Using her artistic abilities, she sketches

out a picture of this archangel, using the description her mother has given her.

When the portrait is complete, she is surprised to find herself attracted to the image before her. Tobias scans the image to her computer and starts to set up a page for the Archangel Michael as the 'Champion of the People.' Just as the last touches on the page are made, her mother walks in. She frowns as she peeks over Tobias' shoulder. Tobias quickly explains her actions as not to mock her mother, rather, to find out if anyone else shares her mother's beliefs. Before Rita can say anything, they hear ping after ping from the website as people post 'friend requests' and messages. The two women are amazed at how quickly a multitude of responses come in. Rita sits down next to Tobias and asks her what her plans are now.

"To read!" she replies.

## CHAPTER TWO:

### Searching For Answers

There is a great expression of gratitude to the Archangel for his intervention on their behalf, from most of the replies; as Tobias is introduced to another major player, Satan's henchman, called Samael, who is also known as the instigator of all problems. Tobias diverts her attention from the page only long enough to do a little research on the two and what she finds out intrigues her!

Apparently, Michael and Samael once worked side by side in heaven but Samael became part of Satan's rebellion and was cast out. On his way down, Samael grabbed onto Michael's wings to bring Michael down with him but God interceded and saved Michael. Ever since then, Michael and Samael became rivals, even arguing over the Prophet Moses' body when he died. Samael knows that Michael is involved in protecting God's people, so he is on a mission to cause despair to those believers, which in return will cause Michael to fight with him. These confrontations of Samael's are made within his hope that Michael will eventually become resentful in his duties towards God and join Samael in Satan's army. Tobias leans back in her chair considering such validity but shakes her head, finding it all a bit too much to be true.

She decides that it is time to clear her head and a ride into town for her favorite ice cream seems like a

perfectly good idea. Heading out the door, Tobias calls out to her mother that she'll be right back. Tobias gets into her car but as she closes the door she is startled by her mother, who appears standing next to the car. To prevent any arguments, Tobias just reaches out her hand, her mother takes it and she 'lays hands' on the car in prayer. After a quick 'Amen,' Tobias heads down the long driveway and out towards town.

She can't believe that it is so dark outside, so early in the evening. After a few minutes of driving, Tobias soon approaches a stretch of road aptly nicknamed "Vader's Yawn" because it is so dark and invokes a deathly, sinister feeling. Usually all telephone and electronic signals are lost during this two mile stretch. She shudders and steps on the gas intending to rush through this part of the road, when all of a sudden the car sputters, jerks forward a few yards and then dies!

Tobias panics as she repeatedly tries to start the car without success. She checks her cell phone in the hope of getting a signal but she is too far into the Yawn. Tobias sighs and is resigned to just waiting for her over protective mother to notice that her daughter has been gone too long and sets off to search for her.

After a while, she sees headlights approaching in her rear view mirror. When she sees the vehicle is a large black truck, her heart begins beating faster and she debates whether to get out and ask for help. The truck passes and then swerves in front of her, coming to a halt. The driver steps out of the truck, walks up to the front of the car and motions for her to open the hood. Strangely obedient she releases the latch while the stranger lifts the

hood. Tobias remains seated in the car feeling somewhat stunned, especially when it jerks every now and then, due to the stranger's movements under the hood. She squints to see through the gap between the car and the hood but all she can see of the stranger is the shadow of his nose peeking from under the hood of his jacket. Tobias takes a deep breath and cautiously steps out of the car. She slowly walks around the car to stand next to the stranger, while he is still bent over the engine. All that she can make out of him is that he is tall. She moves in a little closer and for a moment is distracted by his pleasant scent of "clean;" like soap and water clean.

Tobias doesn't realize how close she is to him until he suddenly turns to face her, which startles her. She looks up to see him peering at her over his left shoulder and immediately becomes lost in his hypnotic green eyes. Tobias manages to pull back, feeling stunned again. The stranger lifts his head to reveal a slight smile that slowly spreads across his full lips. He straightens up and slams the hood shut without losing eye contact with her. Tobias is motionless, still transfixed to his eyes, her mouth slightly open, as if trying to find something to say but she can't! He finally nods his head in the direction of the car, motioning Tobias to get in. As if by telepathic communication Tobias obeys, gets into the car and turns on the ignition. The car cranks up smoothly. She glances down briefly in amazement and looks back up to thank the stranger, but he and the truck are gone!

Tobias turns the car around and heads straight for home. She gets there within minutes, practically jumping out of her still moving car. Leaping up the steps,

Tobias bursts through the door. Her mother, who appears to be frozen and in a state of shock, is standing in the kitchen doorway as Tobias runs towards her.

Giving her mother a bear hug, she begins telling her all about what has just happened. Tobias then releases her mother mid-sentence and runs into her room to her computer. She brings up the page which has the image of Michael on it and carefully studies it. After what must be ages, Tobias eases her concentration and collapses into her chair. She soon gets up again, only to cross the room and fall face first, down onto her bed. She turns her head to the side so that she can still see the faint glow of the computer and Michael's face. Before she drifts off to sleep, Tobias asks two questions to the image on the screen. "Who are you?" "How can I reach you?"

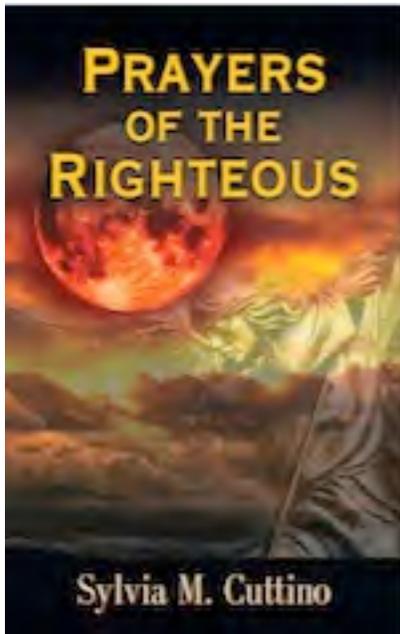
The morning sunshine radiates through the curtains, gently waking Tobias. She slowly rolls over onto her back and stares at the ceiling. Replaying last night's events over and over in her head, she realizes that she is very intrigued with Michael and needs to know more of him; whether from a religious standpoint or from this odd, almost unnatural attraction she has towards him. Tobias is determined to scratch this itch but how?

She walks over to the computer and runs her finger across the mouse pad, bringing Michael's page back to life. As if stung by a bee, Tobias jolts up and starts reading through the messages on the screen. She decides on her plan of action and that is to find all those 'friends' who are located within a short distance from her and to send them message requests to meet with

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them and hear their story. Maybe this would help her connect with Michael, in some way at least. To her surprise, her requests are met with enthusiasm from everyone. She smiles to herself, breathes deeply and exhales.

*Here we go!*



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