

# PRAYERCONNECT

Connecting to the Heart of Christ through Prayer

**There's Still**

**HOPE**

*A Call for United Prayer  
for Our Elections*

A Prayerful Day in Your Neighborhood

**REVIVAL:** Breaking the Devil's Spell

**WHAT'S THE POINT?**

Sunday, November 6, 2016 is . . .

# Prayer Force One SUNDAY

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Save The  
Date!



Then  
Participate!

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

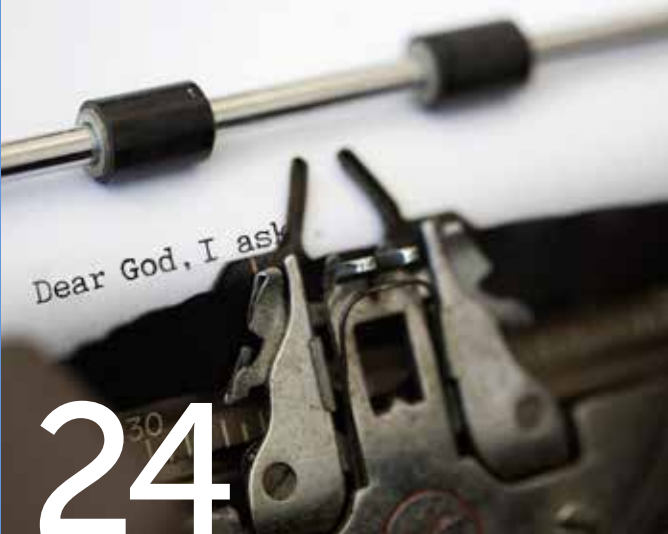
II Chronicles 7:14

*"Prayer Force One Sunday is not an event, but a date. We are asking every individual Christian, every home, and every church, ministry and denomination to participate in their own way. To find out how you can become involved in your own community, please visit our website listed below."*

Senator Ed Moore, (OK-Ret.)  
President, Prayer Force One



[www.PrayerForceOne.com](http://www.PrayerForceOne.com)



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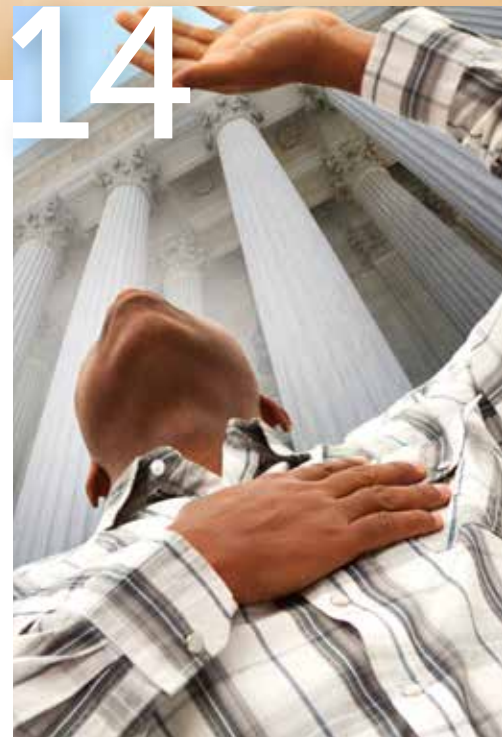
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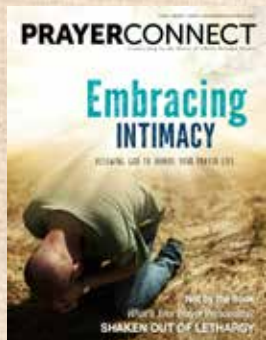
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## Need a Speaker for Your Prayer Conference or Event?

There are a number of gifted speakers associated with *Prayer Connect*. Jonathan Graf regularly ministers in churches of varying sizes. Carol Madison is also available to minister in the area of prayer for revival and community transformation. Our parent organizations, Harvest Prayer Ministries and the Church Prayer Leaders Network, have many speakers associated with their ministries. You can find their contact information at the respective emails or websites.

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The mission of PRAYERCONNECT is

1. To encourage and equip believers toward a deeper walk with Jesus Christ through prayer—our experiential connection to God.
2. To resource prayer leaders and pastors with tools to help them motivate, disciple, and mobilize believers in churches to be a part of an army that seeks to pray the purposes of God for churches, communities, and the nations.
3. To be a unifying force between prayer ministries, community transformation groups, and churches.

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## Previously in Prayer Connect

Pastors and spiritual leaders play critical roles in establishing their churches as “houses of prayer.” Yet, prayer is often delegated to intercessors, instead of being pastor-led.

This issue, “Leaders Who Pray,” demonstrates how spiritual leaders are the foundation to building the praying church that Jesus commanded. Order this issue and other back issues at [prayerconnect.org](http://prayerconnect.org).



## How Long, Lord?

**T**here's still hope for the United States. I firmly believe that.

Recently I attended a two-day gathering of prayer leaders from various denominations. Each year they come together to “talk shop,” share ideas, and pray for each other. Both mornings we started in worship led by a prayer leader from a liturgical background. Although I come from a nonliturgical church, I enjoyed this form of worship.

It was a refreshing change of pace for me. A number of times we paused in silence to listen to the Spirit.

One of those moments came after singing a great old hymn I had not heard in many years: “The Church’s One Foundation.” In a moment of silence following the hymn, my heart pondered the words of one of the verses. I found it prophetic regarding the Church today: “Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed, By schism rent asunder, by heresies distressed.”



### Assessing Our Condition

Certainly this is a picture of the way many unbelievers look at the Church and at followers of Christ. They scorn us, but there is a wonder there as well. They mock us because of our conflict with each other, our shortcomings, and our hypocrisy. Because we have lost influence in our nation, we are now fair game for insults and growing attacks on our religious freedoms. As a result, many believers in the U.S. are reeling in surprise and uncertainty. Their hope is waning.

The song’s next lyrics are also prophetic: “Yet saints their watch are keeping, their prayer goes up: ‘How long?’” That’s the cry of many today—many who have been praying for revival and spiritual awakening for years, even decades. How long, Lord?

Then the verse concludes in hope: “And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.”

As I pondered the lyrics, I became increasingly filled with joy. God is raising up more and more watchmen in this nation who are praying for revival, for spiritual awakening, and for God’s purposes in the elections and in the nation. They are crying out, “How long?” but it is not a cry of hopelessness. It is a cry filled with hope and the belief that a powerful move of the Spirit is coming soon.

### Renewing Our Focus

Where is your heart focused as we face the scorn of the world? Are you frightened and nervous at what might lie ahead? Or are you being a watchman? Are you praying with God’s purposes in mind? Are you keeping your eyes—and heart—firmly focused on Jesus Christ?

I am excited by the uncertain future because I know it is bringing a growing desperation to the Church and to individual believers. And that desperation will turn to prayer, along with the cry, “How long, Lord?”

My heart hears Him say, “Soon, My child. Soon. Watch and pray.”

—Jonathan Graf

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## Million on the Mall in July

An event called Together 2016 will take place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on July 16, gathering people to focus entirely on Jesus. It will be a day of unified prayer and worship, and a call for catalytic change in a nation marked by rampant and demoralizing division. Organizers are calling it a “family gathering” for everyone, but they expect a generation of young people to lead the way—boldly declaring that “Jesus changes everything.”

Hundreds of churches, ministries, and partner organizations are coming together to make this day possible. Nick Hall, founder and chief communicator for Pulse (an evangelistic ministry primarily to young adults), is the originator of this vision. He explains that there have been times in history when the call to Jesus assembled the masses: Explo '72 at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, TX; Stand in the Gap with Promise Keepers in Washington, D.C., in 1997, and many crusades in cities across the nation led by Dr. Billy Graham. These were historic events, and their impact stretched beyond

the Church to all of culture. Hall believes, “The time has come to define our moment, for our generation.”

He adds, “We believe our generation needs a reset. We’re praying for Jesus to move in our lives, to move in this generation. This is a call for all of us to come together. We believe this will be a historic and generation-defining moment. This is about Jesus and His invitation to us.”

The hope is that at least a million people will pray together on a single day, especially from the Millennial generation. The Together 2016 gathering is characterized by what organizers call a “reset” prayer: that Jesus brings hope and change by offering a reset in a person’s life. Collectively, they believe this prayer is also an outcry to God to reset a generation and the nation.

Several national leaders are adding their names to the growing list of participants who will be on the National Mall on that day. They include Francis Chan, Kari Jobe, Ravi Zacharias, Hillsong



United, Luis Palau, Casting Crowns, Jeremy Camp, Nick Hall, Josh McDowell, Lecrae, Matthew West, Michael W. Smith, and others.

The hope is for a million intercessors to join the prayer team to pray in advance for Together 2016. Anyone can sign up as a prayer partner, church prayer leader, or prayer network leader by going to [reset2016.com/prayer](http://reset2016.com/prayer). Participants will receive monthly prayer updates and information.

“God is doing something today. He is calling movements together. In fact, you’re seeing this inclination in churches and ministries that are willing to rally together for something bigger than themselves,” says Hall.

For more information on the event, travel, and hotels, go to [reset2016.com](http://reset2016.com).

## United Cry DC16 Calls Pastors to Prayer

Thousands of pastors and Christian leaders will gather at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. to join in prayer and repentance, focusing on the spiritual needs of the nation.

According to organizers, when a nation is in crisis, Scripture is clear about the solution: “Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders. . . .” (Joel 2:16–17).

Lewis Hogan, co-founder (with

his wife Rachel) of United Cry DC16, describes it as a pastor-led initiative reclaiming America’s future. “Throughout our American history pastors have also always played a significant role in bringing about spiritual and social transformation in our nation. We need our pastors to rise up, teach us how to pray, and lead all of us within the Body of Christ back to a relationship with the Lord!”

They believe that making the effort to gather in the nation’s capital has been of historical and spiritual significance.

The website explains: “Each time thousands of Christians gathered to pray in Washington, D.C., our nation encountered significant events and God intervened. [This is] not a time to protest, but to pray; not to rail against, but to repent of our national sins.”

The Hogans believe the core issues of America are not political, but spiritual. They are planning for 30,000 pastors to join them at the Lincoln Memorial. For more information or to register your attendance, go to [unitedcry.com](http://unitedcry.com).



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## Coalition Calls for Prayerwalking Every Street

A coalition of influential evangelical, charismatic, and Pentecostal leaders met in December 2015 in Colorado Springs, CO, to discuss a comprehensive, national prayer strategy leading up to the elections in November 2016.

The coalition—including Paul Cedar (Mission America), John Bornschein (National Day of Prayer Task Force), Ed Silvo (Harvest Evangelism), Dutch Sheets, Lou Engle, David Butts (America's National Prayer Committee), Mike and Cindy Jacobs (Generals of Intercession), and David Kubal (Intercessors for America)—came to a consensus that God is leading them to unite and issue a

national call for multiple days of fasting and prayerwalking.

Out of this has emerged a coalition of ministries called As One. The strategy revolves around two 40-day periods of prayerwalking, fasting, and corporate prayer events. The first will start on Easter Sunday, March 27, and run through the National Day of Prayer on May 5. The second begins on September 30 and ends on Election Day. There will also be collaboration with other major national prayer events happening throughout the year.

The plan is to prayerwalk every street and zip code. A new website, [prayasone.org](http://prayasone.org), has devotions, information, and many resources to equip this prayer effort.

## Decision America Heads to 50 States

Franklin Graham of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, preach the gospel, and challenge Christians to take a stand and take action.

"America is at a crossroads," says Graham, "and I believe we should take every opportunity to stand up for the things of God and His Word."

He is urging Christians to vote and pray for the nation just as Nehemiah cried out to God to restore hope by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

More than 10,000 people gathered at his first three stops in January in Iowa, Florida, and Louisiana. The crowd swelled to more than 7,000 in Columbia, SC, in early February. Fourteen more states were scheduled through the end of April, and additional states are added each month leading up to the elections in November 2016.

While Franklin is not endorsing

a candidate, he does invite people to confess their own sins and intercede on behalf of the sins of America. To find out about future stops, go to [DecisionAmericaTour.com](http://DecisionAmericaTour.com).

### Prayer Calendar

Global 4/14 Day of Prayer for Children  
**Thursday, April 14**  
[global414day.com](http://global414day.com)

National Day of Prayer  
**Thursday, May 5**  
[nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org)

Global Day of Prayer  
**Sunday, May 15**  
[globaldayofprayer.com](http://globaldayofprayer.com)

30 Days of Prayer for Muslim World  
**June 6–July 5**  
[30daysprayer.com](http://30daysprayer.com)





## THERE'S STILL HOPE

**I** was just out of college and relatively inexperienced as a leader when the chairman of my church's elder board asked me to facilitate a small group discussion about the proposed budget. I was a bit intimidated as I sat in a group of about 15 people—all of them older than I was.

As I invited people's input, we began a rather friendly discussion. But then it turned hostile when a couple began complaining about things that weren't even connected to the budget. They had strong, negative opinions about all areas of our church's ministry—from the worship to the preaching to which missionaries we supported. I didn't know the couple well, but I couldn't think of any way they were involved in the church apart from attendance.

I was unsure of what to do as they brought up issue after issue that concerned them. Suddenly the husband let it slip that—because of their discontent—they chose not to tithe to the church. They instead gave their money to other missions.

Perhaps it was my youthfulness and inexperience, but I blurted out, "Hey, wait a minute. Are you saying you do not support this church in any way?"

"No, we don't," he confessed.

"You mean, *nothing*?" I asked incredulously.

"Well, no," he said, starting to sound sheepish.

"*Nothing*?" I repeated in disbelief.

I didn't mean to make a point, but apparently I did. They both suddenly got very quiet—and we moved on with the discussion among the rest of the group.

### The Right Kind of Voice

I still remember how stunned I was to hear these people complain and demand changes even though they did not serve the church in any way. They thought they should

have a voice. But, in fact, they were merely observers and critics of the ministry going on around them.

I see a parallel when it comes to having a voice in the direction our nation is headed. Most of us have deep concerns about what we see in politics, culture, families, and other societal struggles. In our discontent, we want to see change.

But are we engaged in that change process?

First and foremost, are we praying—truly praying—for our leaders, that they might have humble hearts and wisdom from God? If we do not follow Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy 2:1–2 to put our leaders at the top of our prayer list, we should not be surprised when our nation is in turmoil.

Second, are we exercising our voices in the right way by voting and participating in the political process? It matters who leads our nation. Both prayer and action are crucial responsibilities of every believer.

In this issue, Joel Rosenberg writes about our need for a Josiah—someone who will step into leadership with a heart tuned to God's will and purposes. He notes that we are quickly headed toward implosion, but there is always hope when believers humble themselves in repentant prayer. Lea Carawan reminds us that we have a history of trusting God in this nation and that we should not hold back in praying boldly for redirection. Dave Butts provides scriptural ways to pray effectively regarding the upcoming elections.

I believe there is still hope for our nation. Every day I pray for revival and spiritual awakening. We are commanded to pray. We *must* pray—instead of just complaining about what we see happening without investing in change through prayer and action. This nation needs every believer to be engaged and confident in Jesus' power to change everything.

**CAROL MADISON** is editor of *Prayer Connect*.

HOPE



# AMERICA

## needs a Josiah

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*Pray for a Humble and Courageous Leader*

BY JOEL C. ROSENBERG

A

merica is heading toward implosion. Judgment is coming. We cannot avoid it. The best we can hope for is that God in His sovereignty chooses to forestall His judgment, much like He did for the nation of Judah when He raised up a leader like King Josiah. Let me explain.

Since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortion, Americans have murdered more than 58 million babies. If we don't radically change course, in a few years we will have murdered 60 million babies. If we cross that threshold, God forbid, we as Americans will have killed ten times more human beings than the number of Jews killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Do we think we will escape judgment when our sins are *ten times* worse? The blood of these children cries out from the ground for justice.

Yet abortion is not our only national sin. We have five Supreme Court justices who have decided that the Bible is wrong and that they know better than God what the definition of marriage should be. We have a national debt that has soared past \$18 trillion. We have a tragic epidemic of murder, rape, and other violent crime, as well as out-of-control drug abuse and pornography.



What's more, we have a president who is steadily—tragically—turning against the State of Israel and the Jewish people in defiance of Genesis 12:3, in which God says, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse."

God will not be mocked. We will reap what we sow. It's not a matter of *if*, but *when*.

## Is There Hope for America?

Wherever I go, people ask me, "Is there any hope for America?"

My answer is yes, but we're running out of time. God in His great power could pour out His Holy Spirit upon our nation and grant us another series of sweeping spiritual revivals throughout the Church and another Great Awakening among the lost. He did it in the early 1700s. Millions repented and gave their lives wholly and completely to Christ. He did it again in the early- and mid-1800s. Tens of millions of Americans turned to Christ, and the nation was transformed.

Imagine Christians, *en masse*, truly repenting of our sins and our nation's sins. Imagine us truly humbling ourselves and pleading with the Lord to pour out His Holy Spirit to radically transform us so we're faithfully walking with the Lord again. I'm talking about sustained, consistent pleading with the Lord to have mercy on a nation that is on the fast track to implosion.

I have no doubt the Lord would respond by granting us another game-changing Great Awakening. As the pastor who disciplined my wife and me used to say, "Our God is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God, a wonder-working God!"

Imagine, too, American Christians truly humbling ourselves and praying and fasting and earnestly seeking the Lord's counsel in every area of life—including who should lead our government. Imagine registering tens of millions of previously apathetic Christians to vote,

and then voting at every government level for leaders who really love the Lord and are deeply committed to restoring the U.S. Constitution to its central place in American governance.

The Lord declared this to the nation of Israel: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Though a specific promise to Israel, this passage also lays out universal principles of national repentance and restoration—principles that reveal God's heart and His character. He wants to redeem a nation willing to repent. That's why the Lord said this, through Jeremiah, about all nations: "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned" (Jer. 18:7–8).

## What Kind of Leadership Do We Need?

Ultimately, revivals and Great Awakenings are sovereign acts of our Almighty God. Still, human leadership matters. God responds to the prayers of men and women. That's why we need pastors and elders and other spiritual leaders consistently calling the Church to prayer and repentance.

**L**ikewise, we need government leaders who have the courage to turn this ship of state around, to go in the right direction again. This is why for the past year I have been preaching all over the country that America urgently needs a Josiah.

Read carefully through 2 Kings 22–23 and 2 Chronicles 34–35, and you will find a dark time in Jewish history. Hebrew prophets like Jeremiah were warning the leaders and people of Jerusalem and Judah of imminent judgment. Why? Because they refused to read, listen to, or

obey the Word of God. Yet in 640 B.C., the Lord mercifully raised up Josiah, a leader who came to love the Lord his God and to love His Word. Josiah became ready, willing, and able to pursue big changes for a nation in big trouble.

**A**s a result of Josiah's humble yet courageous leadership, God chose to forestall the coming judgment for more than two decades. Indeed, during Josiah's tenure, the Jewish people experienced one of the greatest periods of repentance, reform, and revival in their history. Oh, that America would experience the same!

Josiah was not raised in a God-fearing home. His grandfather was Manasseh, the most wicked king in the history of Judah (2 Kings 21:1–18), and his evil ways triggered the certain coming judgment of Judah. Josiah's father was Amon, another wicked king of Judah (2 Kings 21:21–23), who was assassinated after only two years on the throne.

Josiah became king at age eight! He had no idea how to lead, but God planned to do a great work in his life. At 16, the Bible says, Josiah "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David" (2 Chron. 34:2). At 20, Josiah began to purge Judah of the idols and altars and places of false worship. At about 26, Josiah directed the high priest Hilkiah to hire workers to clean up and repair the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 34:3–13).

At this time, a lost copy of "the Book of the Law" given by Moses was found in the temple. When King Josiah learned of this, he asked that it be read to him. "When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. He gave these orders to [his servants], 'Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book'" (2 Kings 22:8–13).

## Where Does Our Power Come From?

Hearing the Word of God had a powerful impact on Josiah. He suddenly understood that though he was making some important reforms, much more remained to get the nation headed in the right direction. He understood that Judah faced enormous consequences for its long path of sin and rebellion. Judgment was coming. So Josiah asked his advisors to seek the Lord to find out whether there was any way to avoid cataclysmic judgment.

Sadly, the high priest did not know the Lord well enough to seek a word from Him directly. So Hilkiah sought out a true servant of God, a prophetess named Huldah, who was living in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 34:20–22).

This is the message Josiah received from the Lord: Judgment is coming to the nation because the people have turned against the Lord and His Word. The judgment is deserved, it is certain, it will come to pass, and nothing can be done to stop it.

The Lord said, “I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched” (2 Kings 22:16–17).

**B**ut then the Lord gave Josiah words of hope: “Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken against this place and against its people . . . I also have heard you. . . . Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place” (2 Kings 22:19–20).

God in His great mercy, sovereignly chose to delay the certain coming judgment until after Josiah’s death. So Josiah,

emboldened by God’s promises, demonstrated tremendous courage, making one bold reform after another, leading his nation in the right way.

When Josiah passed away, however, new leaders emerged, and, tragically, they turned away from the Lord and led the people astray. Finally, judgment—though forestalled—came to Judah in 586 B.C. The Babylonian army destroyed Jerusalem and the temple just as Jeremiah prophesied.

## So What?

Some might ask, “So what? What does the life of Josiah—who lived thousands of years ago—have to do with me today?”

As the 2016 presidential campaign heats up, we urgently need the Lord to raise up a leader like Josiah. Will He? I don’t know. But we need to ask Him to. So I’m asking the Lord to raise up a national leader who knows Christ personally and loves Him deeply, a leader passionate about reading and following God’s Word, a leader who wants to see a Great Awakening and revival, a leader who has the vision, plans, and courage to make bold, serious, sweeping reforms to get America back on the right course.

To be clear, I’m not looking for a pastor-in-chief nor a theologian-in-chief, to be president of the United States. America is a democratic republic, not a theocracy. The role of the American president isn’t the same as the role of king in the days of Judah.

But the Church’s job is to call followers of Christ to pray, fast, and repent, to love the Lord and love others, to preach the gospel, to teach and obey the “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27, esv), to make disciples of all nations, and to lead a great moral and spiritual revival. Only the Church can do this.

The American president’s job is not to impose the Bible on the nation but to follow the U.S. Constitution, to make bold reforms in keeping with the spirit and letter of our founding documents,

and to execute the laws of the land with wisdom and discernment. The mission of the commander-in-chief is to protect the safety and freedom of the American people and, in a time of great peril and volatility, to lead the free world to victory over evil and tyranny. The role of the nation’s chief executive is to protect our God-given rights and liberties (starting with the right to life), create optimum conditions for economic growth and opportunity, and appoint judges and Supreme Court justices who will follow the Constitution.

**O**viously, a president cannot preach the gospel to the nation or impose religious faith on the nation. But a president and his (or her) family can set a moral example. He can be friendly to people of faith and be a champion of religious liberty. The president can—and should—use what Teddy Roosevelt called the “bully pulpit” to speak to the nation about the importance of marriage and raising children. He can also call the nation to prayer and fasting in times of national crisis, just as great presidents like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan did.

America is in deep trouble. We’re heading for implosion. Judgment is coming. Yet Scripture gives us hope. The Word of God makes it clear that God in His mercy and sovereignty could grant us a great spiritual awakening and raise up a leader like Josiah. In so doing, the Lord could choose not to cancel the coming judgment, but to forestall it.

This is what I am earnestly, desperately pleading for Him to do. Time is short, and the stakes are high, so I pray you are doing the same. **PC**



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# CITY ON A HILL

## *Why Christians Need to Be Involved*

BY LEA CARAWAN

F

or too long, people of faith have relinquished their God-given influence in prayer, at the voting booth, and in the public arena or marketplace of ideas. Many may feel insignificant, discouraged, and disempowered in the democratic process.

However, the reality is that the Church still has an important role to play. Our country's founders created a form of government for the people and by the people. This means we, as members of our society, have the privilege and responsibility to be actively engaged, especially when our nation's future hangs in the balance.

Countless citizens across the country have grown weary of wayward politicians who fall far short of the expectations and standards set by the God-honoring leaders in America's past. Yet many statesmen and stateswomen continue to hold high the banner of integrity. They love their country, love their Lord, and love the ideals upon which the United States was founded. Those who model a genuine faith and do not succumb to the pressures and temptations that come with holding public office are the ones most willing and able to make tough decisions, putting us back on course.



These individuals are deeply committed to American exceptionalism and the awareness that God's favor and blessing have long graced our history. They follow the same credo as President John Adams, who said, "Always stand on principle, even if you stand alone."

## History of Trusting God

For nearly 240 years, America has asserted its trust in God—even on our currency. This prevailing faith has given our nation strength in wartime, dignity and compassion toward those less fortunate, and hope in the face of unprecedented challenges. This spirit is derived from deeply held Judeo-Christian values. We see these principles woven into the fabric of our founding documents. These documents give substance to the freedoms we all cherish. They echo the words and prayers of patriots who rose up together with one voice.

President Ronald Reagan understood that "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction" and that "without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience . . . without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure. . . . If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

The battle for faith and religious freedom has come to the forefront of our national discourse. For decades, targeted efforts have been growing to remove God from every vestige of American life and culture. The things we hold sacred are slowly eroding all around us.

An aggressive and misguided minority have attempted to remove God from the public domain. Rogue court challenges by anti-God factions and widespread

misrepresentation of the phrase "separation of church and state" create a climate for censorship and promote religious discrimination.

The intolerant have commanded center stage long enough. Some advocate that public acknowledgement of God must be eliminated. Then, by default, the government assumes sole authority as the final arbiter of moral order. But our founding documents place necessary and appropriate limits on how much power government should exert over life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## So What Is a Christian Nation?

A Christian nation is not necessarily one in which all leaders or citizens are professing believers, or where its laws require everyone to adhere to an overtly Christian theology. A Christian nation

# Government Leaders Calling the Nation to Prayer

Throughout the nation's history, our leaders have offered prayers in many situations: as petition and thanksgiving; to embrace our grief and sorrow; for our troops and first responders; in times of uncertainty and crisis; in war and in peace; for protection, provision, and guidance; and to acknowledge that in and of ourselves we are wholly insufficient.

Elected representatives are again calling on God's people to unify with one heart and one voice to pray for the country and those who lead her. This unprecedented call for unceasing prayer was launched on March 7, 2015, by government leaders at the LIFFT America Religious Liberty Summit. (LIFFT America stands for Leaders Inspiring Faith and Freedom To America.) The Summit was convened by the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation along with Congressman J. Randy Forbes and Senator James Lankford, co-chairs of the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

Sixteen members of the U.S. Congress and 36 state legislators representing 25 states, gathered to challenge today's growing anti-faith movement. In a solemn and historic ceremony,

all present signed a Call to Prayer for America Proclamation, declaring that people of faith can no longer be silent as our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage and religious liberties are increasingly compromised.

It didn't stop there. The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation also launched the *PrayUSA: Government Leaders Calling the Nation to Prayer* movement, in which key government leaders and pastors stand side by side—a public demonstration of unity and purpose—to call the Church to unceasing prayer for America. Government leaders are now joining pastors in their churches, encouraging congregations across the U.S. to hold PrayUSA Sundays. This initiative is now exploding all across the nation, and the numbers continue to grow—nearly 900 government leaders, 50 leading organizations, and more than 130,000 citizens who have said yes to prayer.

A three-minute video and downloadable church kits are available at [prayusa.com](http://prayusa.com) to help churches schedule a PrayUSA spotlight or special service. You can also add your signature to the proclamation.

—LEA CARAWAN



denotes that biblical principles are incorporated into the ongoing development of essential freedoms.

Such a nation recognizes certain inalienable rights given to us by our Creator. For America, they help form our identity—evidenced in the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of our government—all embedded in the Constitution. They help ensure that the “public square” will remain neutral ground, where every voice is heard and every citizen is free to advocate for his or her position. Our founders recognized the potential for unguarded attempts to censor the truth and exclude certain voices. However, our founders also were confident that in the marketplace of ideas, truth would win out in a free society.

Though many scholars agree on the tremendous impact Christianity has had in shaping America and important building blocks of our society, the past two centuries have seen Christianity’s waning influence on the family, civil government, and even the church. Postmodernism, with its moral relativism, has exacted its toll and pushed these institutions to the breaking point.

Either a complete collapse may be forthcoming or those who operate within God’s boundaries will summon the courage to restore a necessary balance of truth and moral responsibility. With the alarming trend to erase God from America’s memory, we need the courage to make religious liberty a priority. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.”

## Pray for a “City on a Hill”

Hundreds of national and state leaders are working to protect our Judeo-Christian heritage, freedom of conscience, religious liberty, and the right for citizens to adhere

to their moral convictions. The Congressional Prayer Caucus was established in 2005 to promote prayer for our nation, protect our religious freedoms, and restore Judeo-Christian values to their rightful place in the marketplace of ideas. In 2011, members of that Caucus initiated a resolution to reaffirm our national motto: “In God We Trust.” Their efforts resulted in a landslide vote in the House of Representatives—396 to 9 in favor of recognizing God’s enduring place in American culture.

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation (CPCF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, was also formed in 2005 to work alongside this official Caucus to build and support a growing nationwide network of lawmakers and citizens who are committed to prayer and action.

America can still be a “city on a hill” and a light to the world (Matt. 5:14), but it is imperative that we pray for our country and for our national and state leaders. Their voices are needed now more than ever. The Apostle Paul encourages us to do just that: “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

“We the People” must decide whether or not we are going to stand up against undue censorship, the dismantling of our heritage, and efforts that give the state the ability to force us to leave our God-given liberties at the door of the public square—our places of business, our barracks, our schools, and our government entities.

It is our choice. It is our time to make a bold declaration to the halls of power. And it is our responsibility to do so with unity and resolve.

With the next election cycle quickly approaching, this is a critical period in our nation’s journey. Our responsibility is to discern between fact and false narratives, between truth and deception,

between political gamesmanship and genuine integrity. Our privilege and responsibility is to seek out and choose our leaders wisely. Actions speak much louder than words, and we must exercise due diligence. Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (NASB).

## Don’t Give Up

Many are battle weary and discouraged. Some have given up. Others are writing off our challenges as God’s judgment on a country that is walking away from Him. However, nowhere does Scripture tell us to shrink back.

The truth is that those who oppose religious liberty are counting on you and me to be intimidated, passive, unorganized, underfunded, and lacking the resolve and determination to engage in the public arena. They know that human nature often creates a “someone else will do it” mindset. So they aggressively take more ground. We cannot allow that to happen!

With each passing week, the United States is edging precariously closer to the unthinkable—a tangible and serious loss of our long-held religious liberties. Too many citizens remain uninformed, unaware, and, in some cases, unconcerned.

During World War II, not that long ago, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident, offered these sobering words: “Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. Silence in the face of evil is evil itself.”

It is time to speak. It is time to act. And it is time to pray without ceasing. **PC**



**LEA CARAWAN** is president and executive director of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation ([cpcfoundation.com](http://cpcfoundation.com))—a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established to unite and mobilize government leaders nationwide, leaders who are committed to protecting religious freedom, preserving America’s Judeo-Christian heritage, and promoting prayer.



# INVITE GOD

## into the Process

*A 2016 Election Prayer Guide*

BY DAVE BUTTS

Is

positive change truly possible in our nation today?

In every election cycle, American Christians have amazing opportunities sandwiched between grave dangers. We are privileged to be a part of a nation of people who have the responsibility to choose their own leaders. For those believing that godly leaders are a source of blessing to a nation, elections provide us with great *opportunity*. However, when we begin to put our hope in leaders rather than in the Lord, we open ourselves to *even greater danger*.

God's Word is very clear about having an undivided heart, trusting only in the Lord. King David, the mighty warrior, says, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God" (Ps. 20:7). Awareness of this verse can create a tension in the thinking Christian. Some have overreacted and rejected the political process completely. Such people will be less motivated to pray over the elections.

A balanced and biblical approach, however, allows us to fully participate in the electoral process without falling into improperly placed trust.



## Inviting God into the Process

In Paul's teaching on prayer in 1 Timothy 2:1–4, one of the major thrusts is praying for those in authority. According to Paul's reasoning, we want good government that allows us to live peaceful and quiet lives—ultimately freeing us to evangelize those who are lost.

Paul would have been amazed that Christians could someday actually take part in selecting those leaders. I believe he would have been even more amazed (and appalled) that many of those Christians didn't even bother to get involved in selecting their leaders for the purposes of God to be fulfilled.

**P**raying for the electoral process is the first step in seeing the fulfillment of what Paul is writing about to Timothy. I don't believe we should wait for a leader to be selected before we move into obedient prayer for those in authority. In prayer, we invite the Lord into the process of electing those leaders who will ultimately allow us to lead "peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (v. 2).

So why pray for the elections? There are a number of compelling reasons:

- The Bible commands us to pray for those who are in leadership, which would include those who are vying to *become* leaders.
- Godly leaders can help slow the erosion of religious liberties in our land, providing an increased window of opportunity for the Church to pray and evangelize.
- The selection of leaders who understand and lead according to God's righteous standards can bring great blessing to a nation (Prov. 14:34).
- Scripture also says, "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure" (Prov. 11:14). The determination of who leads our nation will also determine who advises that leader and how we are guided.

## Praying for Our Nation, the Elections, and the Church

The following prayer points cover seven major areas that relate to our national elections, as well as some current flash-points.

**N**ote that there are more prayer points regarding the Church than any other area. As the Church goes, so goes the nation. Judgment most certainly begins in the house of God (1 Peter 4:17).

This prayer guide is loosely structured for multiple uses. Choose from the suggested topics according to your interest and the leading of the Spirit. An individual might pick out a few prayer points from each category and pray those daily. A group might choose to divide them all among its members and cover the entire guide at one gathering. Some families or individuals may want to pray from this guide for months leading up to the election—and perhaps even beyond. Allow the Lord to lead you as you pray.

### 1. Our Nation and the Issues It Faces

- Pray for the judges of this nation, that they will seek the wisdom that comes from above (James 3:17).
- Ask the Lord to thwart the efforts of those who would remove religious freedom from our nation (Gal. 5:1).
- Pray for truth to become valued again in American society (John 8:32).
- Pray that our nation will increasingly see that God is our only refuge in the midst of the troubles of this world (Ps. 46:1).
- Pray for our judicial system and lawmakers—that justice for all, tempered by mercy and compassion, will guide our nation (Isa. 1:17; Zech. 7:9; Isa. 28:17).
- Repent on behalf of our nation, because we have turned from making Scripture the basis of law, leaving behind wisdom and looking to ourselves

for truth (Isa. 53:6; Jer. 14:14).

- Ask the Lord to pour out a spirit of repentance on our nation, that we might become a nation committed to following His ways (Jer. 29:13).
- Pray that the U.S. will repent of its corporate rejection of the Word of God as the basis of law (Prov. 1:22–23).
- Pray that a holy fear of God will sweep across our nation, leading us back to a place of wisdom and walking in the Lord (Isa. 50:10).

### 2. The Election Process

- Pray for wisdom for voters and a safe and fair election (Prov. 3:21–23).
- Ask the Lord to remove those who might try to unjustly and illegally change the outcome of the voting (Isa. 28:17).
- Pray for a huge turnout of voters who use wisdom in their decisions (Prov. 4:5–6).
- Pray for protection from any attacks from enemies that would prevent or delay the election (Deut. 3:22).

### 3. Candidates and Leaders

- Pray for the salvation of those who are in leadership of our nation. Ask the Lord to remove all envy and selfish ambition (James 3:16).
- Pray that candidates will take brave stands for righteousness, even when it may not be well received (Eph. 6:13–14; Isa. 7:9).
- Pray that their families will be protected from harm and unnecessary scrutiny (Ps. 12:7–8).
- Ask the Lord to surround them with godly advisors (Ps. 111:10).
- Pray that each candidate will focus on the issues we face as a nation—and not on personal attacks on other candidates (Gal. 5:15).

### 4. The Church

- Pray for a spirit of humility in the Church and an outreach toward those whom the Bible calls the least among

- us (1 Peter 5:5; Ps. 9:18; Matt. 25:40).
- Pray that the churches in your community will preach the gospel of Christ powerfully (Rom. 1:16).
  - Thank the Lord for the freedom we have in Him and for the wisdom to understand that freedom (Gal. 5:13).
  - Pray for a spirit of consecration and holiness to come upon the Church in America (Josh. 3:5; 1 Peter 1:15).
  - Pray for a spirit of compassion to come over the Church in this nation so that we will begin seriously to live out the lifestyle of Jesus in our communities (Phil. 2:1–4).
  - Ask the Lord to help strengthen the trumpet call to intensive prayer, so that it is heard throughout the Church in the U.S. (1 Tim. 2:8; 1 Thess. 5:17).
  - Ask the Lord for the Church to rise up with a strong prophetic voice for America (Eph. 6:19).
  - Pray for a spirit of repentance to fall upon the Church in America that will cause believers to turn back to God and seek Him (Ps. 53:2).
  - Pray for a spirit of courage to rise within the Church, a commitment to endure whatever it takes to see the fulfillment of God’s purposes in our nation (1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 1:6).
  - Pray that the Church in America will so noticeably live in Christ’s peace (Col. 3:15) that His peace comes into the councils of our nation.
  - Pray for a movement of the Spirit that creates a dramatic cultural transformation in the United States, bringing about a nation that has learned to put its hope in the Word of God (Rom. 12:2).
  - Ask the Lord to awaken the Church to the temporary nature of the nations and to the eternal nature of the reign of God (Ps. 37:20; Matt. 6:33).
  - Pray that courage born of wisdom will be given to Christians in places of leadership in government, the courts, and law schools across the nation so

that they will stand for a godly basis for law (Josh. 1:9; Ps. 51:13).

### 5. Media

- Pray for truth to be an established standard in our news media (Ps. 45:4).
- Pray that media bias will be replaced by fairness (Ps. 99:4, 58:1).
- Ask that Christianity will receive fair coverage in all reports (Prov. 22:20–21).

### 6. Spiritual Warfare

- Ask for great awareness and discernment for the Lord’s people as they pray over the election (Num. 10:9; Eph. 5:15–17).
- Pray for physical protection for all candidates and their families throughout this campaign season (Ps. 20:1, 91:1).
- Beseech the Lord for a strong hedge of protection around the nation itself during this time of decision (Ps. 33:22).

### 7. Revival

- Pray for another Great Awakening to sweep the nation as the Lord’s people learn to humble themselves with a contrite spirit, and to tremble at the Word of the Lord (Isa. 66:2).
- Ask the Lord to bring revival to the Church in America (Isa. 64:1–4).
- Pray for the preachers of America to fearlessly proclaim the Word of God regarding sin and God’s love (Rom. 5:8; 2 Tim. 4:1–3).

## Flashpoints for Prayer

**F**lashpoints are areas of controversy, disagreement, division—and sometimes outright hostility—in our nation. Some would pick other issues than what I have listed here, but I believe we must pray over at least these seven areas, praying with discernment and strength:

1. the life of the unborn
  2. the nature of marriage and family
  3. religious freedom
  4. the U.S. relationship with Israel
  5. the growing threat of terrorism and the fear and mistrust it brings
  6. racism and its growing divisiveness
  7. the idolatry of tolerance—and the resulting intolerance for those who disagree with prevailing ideas.
- This issue greatly impacts the other flashpoints.

## Amen Is Not the End

Prayer rarely stops after the *amen*. When we passionately cry out to God over any issue, we should, with integrity, find ourselves praying, “and Lord, if there is any way You can use me to be an answer to this prayer, here I am.” When we pray for an election, it seems that simple integrity will then require us to follow up our prayer with voting.

What about broadening the prayer effort beyond your own prayers? Why not start a short-term prayer gathering in your home for the 30 or 40 days before the election? Invite friends or those with similar passion to join you each week for a very focused prayer meeting that asks God to intervene in our electoral process.

In a country with nearly 325 million people, it is easy to feel as though one person is incapable of making a difference. That is false on many levels, particularly when we consider the power of prayer.

As we pray—even as one solitary person—we are teaming up with the Creator of the universe to change situations. The only way that positive change is *not* possible is when Christians refuse to pray! **PC**



**DAVE BUTTS** is president and co-founder of Harvest Prayer Ministries and the chairman of America’s National Prayer Committee. This prayer guide is available online at [harvest-prayer.com](http://harvest-prayer.com) and also in a small and inexpensive 16-page booklet from [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org). It is adapted from a chapter in Dave’s latest book, *With One Cry: A Renewed Challenge to Pray for America*.



# THE GRASSROOTS LAUNCH APPROACH OF THE Strategic Prayer Initiative, Inc.

*Have you noticed the moral deterioration of our country? Are you aware that persecution of Christians is expanding in the world? Sin is now running rampant.*

(And we know things will get much worse before the end will come –2 Timothy 3:1-9; Matthew 24)

**NEVERTHELESS, THE LORD IS CALLING HIS PEOPLE TO FIGHT THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD THROUGH PRAYER AND INTERCESSION. THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE 5Y80 OBJECTIVE.**

The Strategic Prayer Initiative™ (SPI) began over a decade ago. It cut its Research and Development teeth by working with churches. However, it is individuals on the grassroots level where the real opportunity for rapid and large scale prayer growth exists. In other words, millions of genuine American Christians developing and maintaining “Good Prayer Lives” (GPLs) for virtually the first time and waiting on God for His answers.

The Strategic Prayer Initiative™ (SPI)

was birthed by the Lord based on the constant prayers of His intercessors and the countless prayers of His people, over the past few decades. There have been at least a half dozen circumstances where the Lord has confirmed His sovereign initiating, leading, and guiding of this immense effort. If we move forward with small beginnings, the chance to go viral is distinctly possible. However, going viral without depth is not success.

SPI’s main large scale objective is the

mission of 5Y80™. Basically, 5Y80 is short for the objective of mobilizing 80% of the genuine Christians in the U.S. to have or develop a “Good Prayer Life” and then maintaining it for five years. During and at the end of the five years, we will be waiting to see what our Lord might do in response to this massive buildup of prayer. If the few can start with reasonable goals, the few can become the many. When the many continue to mature in prayer, great things can take place!

**5Y80** IS OUR DESIRE AND PLAN TO SEE 80% OF THE CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA HAVING OR DEVELOPING A GOOD PRAYER LIFE AND MAINTAINING IT FOR FIVE YEARS.



If you are a Christian, will you please ask God if you should take on a small part of the 5Y80 Objective by helping two others who do not currently have a “good prayer life” to develop one? Our nation desperately needs prayerful intervention. And by saying yes to this 3 minute a day strategy, you will be part of something much greater than yourself. YOU WILL BE PART OF A PLAN THAT HOLDS A TRUE POTENTIAL (BECAUSE OF GOD’S IMMENSE POWER) TO HELP CHANGE THE COUNTRY.

**Is our nation in trouble?**

**Can prayer change a nation?**

**If it is not too difficult, will you help?**

**Here is what we are asking you to do:**

- Make a commitment to form a PrayerCord™ with two other people of your gender (Ecclesiastes 4:12).
- Pray for two minutes a day (guides will be provided).
- If not already in the Scriptures daily, commit to reading “two verses” a day (takes less than one minute).
- Meet once a month with your PrayerCord for prayer, encouragement, and accountability. (One reason you need to be in a Cord is so that you will fully understand how this powerful growth tool works.)
- You track the progress of your people, as they become part of 5 to 15 million new individuals who are empowered to truly begin practicing a good prayer life, essentially for the first time in their lives as Christians. **AND SEE WHAT WONDERS GOD MIGHT SPEAK IN HIS ANSWERS.**

Think of the power that could be focused and released. All you have to do is help two

other people, but **TOGETHER WE CAN BE MILLIONS**. If you think things are going from bad to worse in our country, wouldn't you agree that a strategy of large scale growth in fervent, righteous, strategic and persistent prayer, from untapped multitudes in our Bible believing churches could prove immensely helpful?

For lack of space we could not include it, but there is a basic mathematical model behind these numbers that demonstrates the conservative plausibility of at least 5 million new participants developing consistent and good prayer lives for the first time. This will be emailed to any of you asking for it. Additionally, there is a video of a SPI Workshop available at the SPI website. Although we have had some major breakthroughs since the video was made, it can still give you some very helpful background information.

It is very important to let you know that the SPI Diagnostic Survey work we have done indicated or hinted that 40% to 55% of those surveyed (on Sunday mornings) said they had never had a “good prayer life” (GPL) or had had a good prayer life only a small portion of their total life as a Christian. Additionally, since past performance is the greatest predictor of future performance, it is a fairly safe bet that unless a new approach is tried with this huge portion of the church, most will never get to “good prayer lives” based on all of the methodologies that have been tried up until now. We believe that is one of the main reasons the Lord has been birthing the Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI).

**There is a weekly conference call available on Thursday nights at 9:30 pm Eastern Time, 8:30pm Central, 7:30pm Mountain, 6:30pm Pacific.** Someone will be available on these calls for at least 10 minutes. If no one has called in by then, the call will end at that time (until the following week). These calls are available for asking general and/or specific questions concerning becoming part of the 5Y80 Objective as well as questions concerning implementing SPI Small Groups or PrayerCords. To participate in the weekly conference call use the following phone number **641.715.3580** and access code **478951**.

**TO RECEIVE A FREE SPI-5Y80 ENVELOPE OF MATERIALS  
EMAIL MIKE@HARVESTPRAYER.COM OR CALL 708.655.1044**

**strategicpi.org**

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BY DAN R. CRAWFORD

Dear God, I ask

30



IF GOD KNOWS, WHAT'S THE POINT?

DO

I



he introduction was over and I was setting my notes on the speaker's stand, preparing to speak about prayer to a group of missionaries in a West African nation. Looking up from my notes for the first time, I saw a hand raised. Having taught for many years at both university and seminary levels, I was accustomed to hands being raised. But seldom had I seen one raised before I began to speak.

The missionary said, "Dr. Crawford, before you begin, I have a question. If God's called me to this country and to this people, and if God knows I am here, and if I am happy here, and if significant things are happening here, why do I need prayer?"

In my many years of classroom teaching, I had become fairly accurate in determining whether a question was designed to get information, to show how much the student knew, or to throw the professor off in his thoughts.

My answer was brief and to the point. "The Apostle Paul was a God-called missionary, and a pretty good one at that," I replied. "Yet in every letter he wrote, he asked for prayer. If

Paul needed prayer, I suppose you do also."

I don't think he appreciated my answer, but I felt frustrated at the timing of his question. However, it was a good question. Have you ever wondered the same thing?

Let me elaborate on my earlier answer with four reasons why you and I need prayer.

### 1. The Bible teaches prayer.

The first verbal interaction between God and mankind is recorded in Genesis 3:1–19, when God seeks out Adam and Eve and asks why they are hiding from Him. The first reference to prayer in the Bible is Genesis 4:26, "Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD."

The Bible's first use of the word *pray* is in Genesis 20:7: "Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live." The last use of the word *prayer* in the Bible is in Revelation 8:4: "The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God

# Need Prayer?

from the angel's hand." The next to the last verse in the Bible, Revelation 22:20, contains the last prayer in the Bible: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

All the way between Genesis and Revelation, the Bible teaches prayer. According to Herbert Lockyer in *All the Prayers of the Bible*, Scripture records no fewer than 650 definite prayers, of which 450 have recorded answers. (This is exclusive of the Psalms, which is itself a book of prayer.)

So, from cover to cover, the Bible is about prayer.

## 2. Jesus modeled prayer.

Jesus was known for His great intercession, praying early in the morning and late into the night, seeking His Father in solitude, and modeling prayer for His followers.

- The Gospels contain 24 references to Jesus praying, and Hebrews adds two more.

- The most used verb in the ministry of Jesus was not *to preach, to teach, to heal, or to counsel*. It was the verb *to pray*.
- The disciples discovered prayer's priority for Jesus. After observing Him heal the sick, restore the fallen, multiply the food, raise the dead, teach in parables, still the storm, and silence the critics, the disciples' ultimate request of Him was, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

## 3. Christian history records prayer.

Ever since the disciples spent ten days praying before the Day of Pentecost, Christian history has been dotted with great examples of prayer. Time and space permit the sharing of only two examples:

*Moravian revival of 1727.* When Pastor Rothe finished his morning sermon one August Sunday at Herrnhut, Germany,

he fell to his knees and began praying. Various members of the small Moravian Brethren church quickly followed. When they finished, much to their amazement, it was midnight.

Thus began what history records as the "Hourly Intercession," wherein 24 teams of at least two men and two women were assigned to pray for one hour each, covering the clock with hourly prayer. History records that the prayer effort lasted for 100 years without interruption.

In 1732, as they were praying, a young man named Conrad stood to announce that he had felt God's call to take the gospel to the Virgin Islands. Another young man admitted to the same call, and thus began a movement of church planting that exceeded the total of all churches started in the previous 200 years. So committed were these new missionaries that, reportedly, they packed all their belongings in their caskets, assuming they would not return alive.

During the 100 years that the Moravians were praying for "the heathen of the world," numerous significant events took place. Although there is no way of proving their connection, it is easy to think of God responding to the prayers of this small denomination of believers with global results such as these:

- the First Great Awakening (1734)
- the conversion of John Wesley, incidentally at a Moravian prayer meeting (1738)
- the Methodist Revivals in England (1739)
- the Seven-year Concert of Prayer in Boston (1747)
- the Baptist First Monday Prayer Meetings (1783)
- the Second Great Awakening (1792)
- the sailing of William Carey to India, citing the example of Moravian missions to his resistant Baptist Missionary Society (1792)
- the Haystack Prayer Meeting, resulting in the Student Volunteer Missions Movement, which was the beginning

# Change the Course of History

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of the modern missionary movement from within the U.S. (1806).

One wonders what God would do if believers once again prayed with such purpose and intent, and for such a length of time.

*Prayer revival of 1857.* Thirty years after the ending of the Moravian “Hourly Intercession,” once again a mighty movement of prayer saw an awesome response from God. On the corner of Fulton and William streets in the lower Manhattan area of New York City, stood the North Dutch Reformed Church. It had been declining in membership and budget because of members moving to the suburbs. The church hired a Presbyterian businessman, Jeremiah Lanphier, to manage the affairs of the dying church. Knowing little else to do, he announced a businessman’s prayer meeting to begin at noon on Wednesday, September 23, 1857. On that day, six men arrived to pray. The next Wednesday there were 13, and the next, 24. The group grew until it had spread, not only to every room in the church but to every other church building in lower Manhattan.

A young reporter, sent to the churches to count the number of men in attendance, could only make it to 12 churches, where he counted 6,000 praying men. By February, the prayer meetings were resulting in a reported 10,000 new converts per week. Then the revival left New York City and spread across to Brooklyn, then down the eastern seaboard, and across the mountain range. After eight months, more than 250,000 conversions were reported, even on ships entering New York harbor.

Again, one wonders what God might do if people once more gathered to pray with such intensity and passion.

#### 4. Our lives require prayer.

Finally, not only does the Bible teach prayer, not only did Jesus model it, and not only does Christian history record it, but our lives require it.

First, the nature of our prayer relationship with God causes us to deeply desire God’s presence in our lives. When you love someone, you want to be in his or her presence. When that physical presence is impossible, you desire to communicate with that person by whatever means is available.


When I was traveling globally, I made a commitment to try to communicate with my wife at least once every 24 hours. I remember standing in the only phone booth in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and finally getting an international operator to make a connection to my wife in the U.S. It was challenging, but I made the effort because of love.

One wonders what life would be like if we made similar efforts to communicate with the God we love on a regular basis.

Second, the purpose of prayer is not to receive gifts, for God knows what we need before we ask. The purpose is to

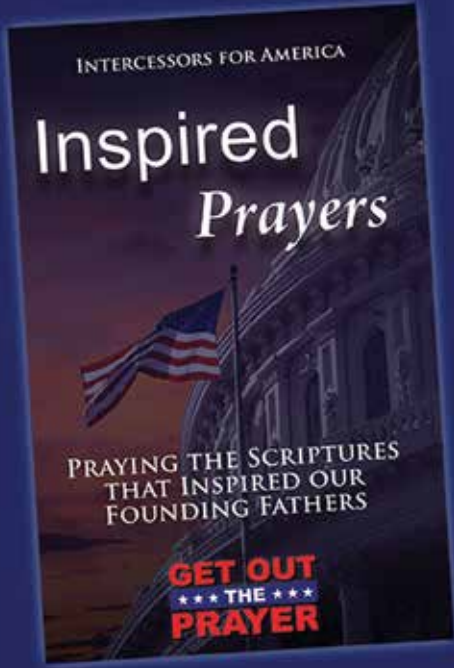
get to know God. The more you communicate with people, the better you know them, and the easier it is to please them.

Prayer is communication *with* God. This two-way communication allows us to talk with God about people before we talk to people about God. After all, we have no worthy, eternal message for people unless it comes to us from God. Thus, our lives require a prayer relationship with God.

So why do I need prayer? Given the answers above, we may ask a more appropriate question: Why wouldn’t I? 



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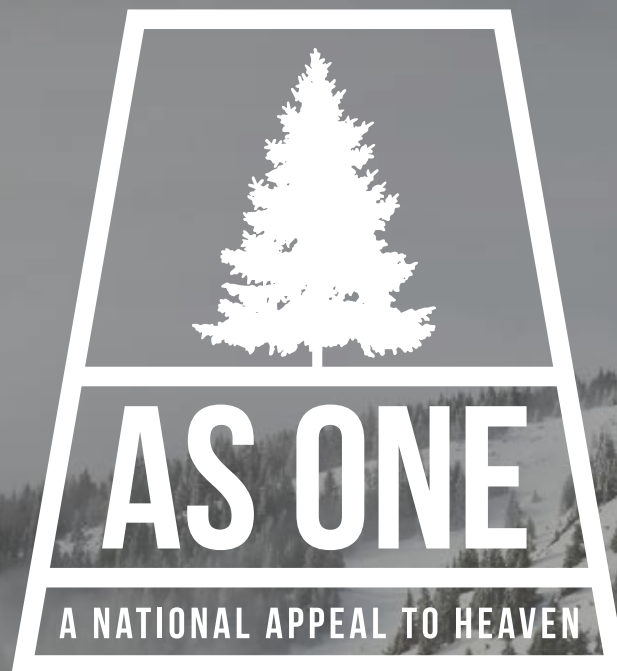
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## Praying for Neighbors Up Close and Personal

When a group of pastors in Collin County, TX, felt overwhelmed with the growing number of people in their community who did not know Jesus, they asked, “What if we prayed for every household by name?”

Collin County is one of the fastest-growing counties in America. Yet only an estimated 25 percent hold evangelical beliefs. Almost 50 percent profess no religion at all. So local pastors came together and dreamed about what might happen if—through prayer—God would arrange divine appointments with those who needed Christ, would restore broken relationships, and would transform neighborhoods. As a result, together they created Pray 4 Every Home.

As these more strategic prayer efforts developed in their community, they began to hear stories of answered prayer. One woman said her grown daughter had wandered from God and wasn't sure He existed. But one day when the daughter was on her way to her mom's house, she stopped at a traffic light and saw some young men yanking an elderly man from his car directly in front of her. He was trying to fend them off with his cane.

The daughter called 911 on her cell phone and then got out of her car to assist the elderly driver. When she did, the young men ran off. After making statements to the police, she and the man each got into their cars and left.

They kept making all the same turns all the way into the mother's neighborhood—right onto the same street. It turned out that the mother and this man lived only a few houses apart!

When the daughter told the story, her mom pulled out her printed prayer list and found the name of the man

her daughter had helped. “I've been praying for him. Do you think this is a coincidence, or can you see that this is God?” Mom and daughter cried together and rejoiced in the way God orchestrated the divine appointment.

### Praying for Neighbors

Organizers of Pray 4 Every Home formed a partnership with Mapping Center for Evangelism and Church Growth ([mappingcenter.org](http://mappingcenter.org)) to provide maps and demographic information to help participants pray more effectively.

When signing up for this software, you can create a personalized list and map for your neighborhood. This interactive map shows a house icon for each neighbor. When you click on an icon, you will see the name, address, and demographic information—marital status, number of children, length of residence, possible ethnicity, language spoken, and approximate ages.

You can choose to receive a daily



email and prayer prompt with the names of five neighbors. In real time, you can see if any of your surrounding neighbors are also using the software and praying. If you want to customize your list, you can add other individuals or families. Your prayer progress can be recorded in an online journal.

Churches can also use the software to map out a radius of 70 miles, which is helpful in targeting specific ministry to certain areas, in encouraging neighbors to pray together, and in sending mailings specific to certain demographics.

To sign up as an individual or become a partner church, go to [pray4everyhome.com](http://pray4everyhome.com).

## Will You Pray with Us?

Thank you for being a part of our team and lifting us up in prayer:

- Please pray that this issue will be distributed even more broadly than our subscriber base—and that God will use it to call people to timely and crucial prayer prior to the elections.
- Please pray for Carol Madison, editor of *Prayer Connect*, and her involvement in raising prayer support for Together 2016, a prayer and worship gathering on the Mall in Washington, D.C., on July 16, 2016. Leaders are praying for a million people (especially next generation) to come and spend the day exalting Jesus.
- Pray for Dave and Kim Butts and Jonathan Graf of Harvest Prayer Ministries (and publisher of *Prayer Connect*) as they spend many weekends per year teaching about prayer and revival in churches around the country.

## Protecting Pastors through Strategic Prayer | By Adena Hodges

In the 1990s, one of the regions in a very dark part of Kenya, Africa, was known as the graveyard of pastors and missionaries. It seemed that no work of God could be established there.

But a pastor with a team of intercessors was determined to see God's Kingdom advance. They tried many prayer and worship methods but still experienced considerable opposition. Then, in desperation, the pastor asked each of his intercessors to take a day of the week to fast and pray for him and the ministry.

In the beginning there was a measure of breakthrough. However, one by one, the intercessors were "picked off" through sickness or accidents. Realizing the vulnerability of the intercessors as they fasted and prayed for their leader, the pastor then asked two intercessors to cover the intercessor assigned to pray for the pastor on each day.

When they began to do this, breakthrough happened! Today, there are many churches and a Bible college in this region (source: compilation by Beni Johnson, *Prayer Changes Things*, chapter 9).

### The Power of Strategy

This simple prayer strategy changed everything! It was not complex, but it significantly turned around the thwarted attempts to advance God's Kingdom.

Without strategy, battles are lost, businesses fail, and people walk aimlessly through life. We cannot afford to be isolated on the battlefield of prayer. God wants us to learn to understand one another's gifts, callings, and assignments as we fight strategically side by side.

Picture intercessors like the military. Each branch (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard) has specific roles and assignments. As intercessors learn to

appreciate each other's differences, operate in their strengths, and pray strategically, we'll see much greater advances for the Kingdom of God.

### Seal Teams in Prayer

While we need everyone to be engaged in prayer for our churches, pastors, and leaders, a specific type of prayer team can come around the pastor—much like the teamwork of U.S. Navy SEALs. These "special ops" team members perform a strategic role in assisting the pastor by providing additional spiritual coverage and protection.

Using the simple model from the example of the pastor and his intercessors in Kenya, my church implemented the idea of Seal Teams. The Seal Teams not only fast and pray for the pastor, but they also cover each other in prayer. When it is one intercessor's turn to fast and pray for the pastor, the people assigned to the days before and afterward also pray for that intercessor.

Since implementing this model in our church in 2011, we've seen incredible breakthroughs. It is amazing to see major obstacles removed and lives changed.

Our Seal Teams found other benefits we hadn't anticipated. Too often breaches between pastors and intercessors can divide ministries and decrease their effectiveness. Often a pastor may be willing for intercessors to pray off in a corner or back room but might have difficulty working directly with them. In our church, these special, dedicated Seal Teams, however, helped form bonds between the pastor and the intercessors that produced spiritual fruit.

In addition, a culture of prayer developed as the teams learned to pray for

one another. You can't pray for someone regularly without coming to love and appreciate him or her in new ways.

### Prayer Points for Leaders

As you develop Seal Teams, here are some common prayer points to encourage intercessors to pray in agreement:

- Pray for a strengthening of your pastor's "inner man." Paul tells the Ephesians that he is praying that they will be "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16, NASB).
- Pray for effective team leadership. Ask God to surround your pastor with trusted, faithful leaders and intercessors to help fulfill the calling on his or her life.
- Pray for courage for your pastors so they will ask for help when needed. Most pastors feel they can't trust anyone with the battles and struggles they are going through. This isolates them and keeps them from sharing their difficulties until sometimes it's too late.
- Pray for seasons of rest. Pastoring is one of the most difficult jobs around. It's often 24/7 with little reward or compensation. Encourage your pastor to get away for times of rest and refreshment.

For more information or training, go to [intercessorsworkshop.com](http://intercessorsworkshop.com). **PC**



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## The Need For Revivals | By Billy Sunday

**W**hat is a revival? Now listen to me. A revival does two things. First, it returns the Church from her backsliding, and second, it causes the conversion of men and women—and it always includes the conviction of sin on the part of the Church. What a spell the devil seems to cast over the Church today!

*When is a revival needed?* When the individuals are careless and unconcerned. If the Church were down on her face in prayer they would be more concerned with the fellow outside. The Church has degenerated into a third-rate amusement joint, with religion left out.

*When is a revival needed?* When carelessness and unconcern keep the people asleep. It is as much the duty of the Church to awaken and work and labor for the men and women of this city as it is the duty of the fire department to rush out when the call sounds. What would you think of the fire department if it slept while the town burned? You would condemn them, and I will condemn you if you sleep and let men and women go to hell. It is just as much your business to be awake. The Church of God is asleep today; it is turned into a dormitory; and has taken the devil's opiates.

*When may a revival be expected?* When the wickedness of the wicked grieves and distresses the Christian. Sometimes people don't seem to mind the sins of other people. Don't seem to mind while boys and girls walk the streets of their city and know more of evil than gray-haired men. You are asleep.

*When is a revival needed?* When the Christians have lost the spirit of prayer.

*When is a revival needed?* When you feel the want of revival and feel the need of it. Men have had this feeling, ministers have had it until they thought they would die unless a revival would come to awaken their people, their students, their

deacons and their Sunday school workers, unless they would fall down on their faces and renounce the world and the works and deceits of the devil.

### Expect Revival with Sacrifice

*When may a revival be expected?* When you are willing to make a sacrifice for the revival; when you are willing to sacrifice your feelings. Make a sacrifice of your business, of your time, of your money; you are willing to give to help to advance God's cause. When you give your influence and stand up and let people know you stand for Jesus Christ and it has your endorsement and time and money. Somebody has to be willing to make a sacrifice. They must be willing to get out and hustle and do things for God.

*When may a revival be expected?* When Christians confess their sins one to another. Sometimes they confess in a general way, but they have no earnestness; they get up and do it in eloquent language, but that doesn't do it. It is when they break down and cry and pour out their hearts to God in grief, when the floodgates open, then I want to tell you the devil will have cold feet.

### Persecution Is a Godsend

There are a lot of people in church, doubtless, who have denied themselves—self-denial for comfort and convenience. There are a lot of people here who never make any sacrifices for Jesus Christ. They will not suffer any reproaches for Jesus Christ. Paul says, [in effect], "I love

to suffer reproaches for Christ" [2 Cor. 12:10]. [Jesus] says, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" (Luke 6:26, κτν). "Blessed are you when your enemies persecute you" [from Matt. 5, author paraphrase].

That is one trouble in the churches of God today. They are not willing to suffer reproach for God's sake. It would be a godsend if the Church would suffer persecution today; she hasn't suffered it for hundreds of years. She is growing rich and lagging behind.

### Remember: God Is First

Make up your mind that God has given Himself up for you. I would like to see something come thundering along that I would have more interest in than I have in the cause of God Almighty! God has a right to the first place. God is first—remember that.

Multitudes of people are willing to do anything that doesn't require any self-denial on their part.

Seek you first God and everything else shall be added unto you. Christianity is addition; sin is subtraction. Christianity is peace, joy, salvation, heaven. Sin takes away peace, happiness, sobriety, and it takes away health. You are robbing God of the time that you misspend. You are robbing God when you spend time doing something that doesn't amount to anything, when you might do something for Christ.

"Oh, Lord, revive thy work!" **PC**

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