

PrayerCONNECT

Connecting to the Heart of Christ through Prayer

*Our
Desperate
Need for
Revival*

A Fresh OUTPOURING

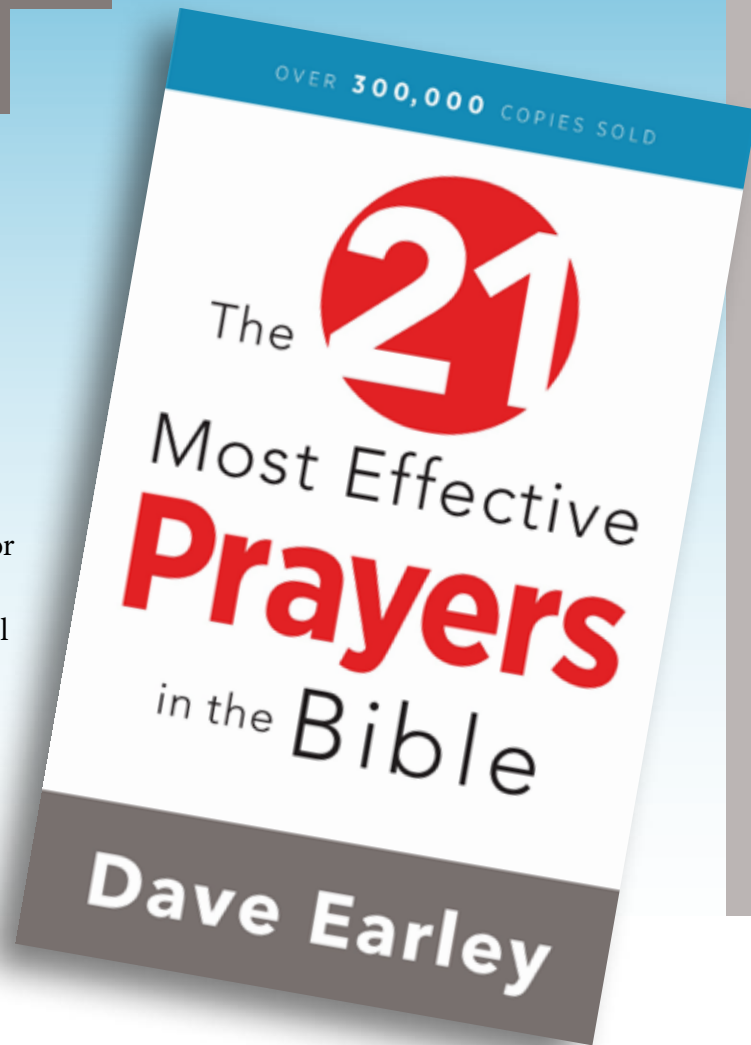
**Asbury: NEXT STEPS | Hockey Moms *Pray Too!*
GENDER CLARITY PRAYERS**

Learn from Prayers in the Bible

That God Said “Yes” To

In *The 21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible*, author pastor Dave Earley explores 21 prayers in the Scriptures that brought results. He shares personal and modern examples of these prayers in action and offers practical advice and instruction on how you can pray these prayers too . . . and see results!

A great resource for believers who struggle with prayer. Designed for entire congregations to pray through together.



Join the



Days of Prayer

GLOBAL EVENT

Thousands of churches and believers will participate in the 21 Days of Prayer Global event January 1-21, 2024. Entire congregations will develop a culture of prayer in their church as they learn about prayer and pray together. Join them!

Learn more at <https://21daysprayer.org>



PrayerCONNECT

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023 VOL. 13, NO. 3

A Fresh OUTPOURING

Our Desperate Need for Revival, p. 9

10 Past and Present

The Same Desperate Need for Revival
By Dr. Bob Bakke

14 Brokenness to Fresh Outpouring

When a Pastor Gets Desperate
By Nathan Lino

18 A Cry Up for Revival

Putting the "Oh" Back into Our Prayers
Plus: Praying Through Isaiah 64 Together
By Byron Paulus

10

feature

24 Receptive Hearts to Receive Radical Love

Kingdom-Focused Prayers for the Next Generation
By Stacey Pardoe

24



18

departments

5 Publisher's Note

Fill Our Cups, Lord

7 News & Events

- "Outpouring Teams" Next Steps in Asbury Revival
- 72-Hour Revival at Baylor Leads to 22 Baptisms
- Timely Prayer and Worship in Nashville
- Prayer Calendar

28 Tips & Tools

- A Hockey Mom's Radically Changed Prayer Life
- 7 Ways to Advance Your Prayer Retreat

30 Ministry Spotlight

OneCry Calls for Revival and Awakening

31 Pray Beyond

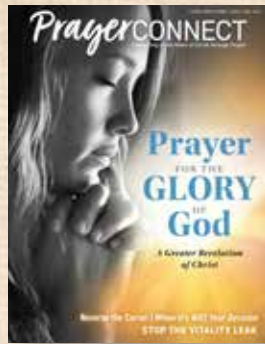
Powerful Prayer for Gender Clarity

Start with a Complete Set

GET EVERY BACK ISSUE OF PRAYER CONNECT



Issue 47
REVIVAL IN THE NEXT GENERATION



Issue 48
PRAYER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



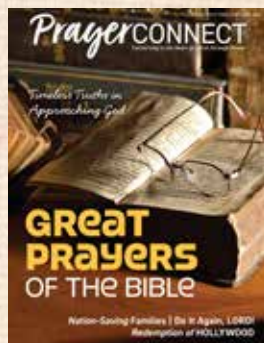
Issue 49
THE LORD'S PRAYER



Issue 50
GOD'S BETTER WAY



Issue 51
THE POWER OF PRAYER MOVEMENTS



Issue 52
GREAT PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

- Issue 1 Can Prayer Save America?
- Issue 2 Fresh Fire
- Issue 4 As the Waters Cover the Sea
- Issue 5 The Place Was Shaken
- Issue 6 Stand Firm & Strong
- Issue 7 Open Hearts, Open Doors
- Issue 8 The Lord is Near
- Issue 9 Releasing Children to Pray
- Issue 10 Living in the Upper Room
- Issue 12 Hope Undaunted
- Issue 13 Ask for the Nations
- Issue 14 Help!
- Issue 15 The Power of Praise
- Issue 16 God Speaks
- Issue 17 Roadblock Ahead
- Issue 18 Faith and Prayer
- Issue 19 Awakening on Campuses

- Issue 20 Rediscovering Fasting
- Issue 21 Beyond the Obvious
- Issue 22 Transforming Prayer
- Issue 23 Embracing Intimacy
- Issue 24 Leaders Who Pray
- Issue 25 There's Still Hope
- Issue 26 The Psalms
- Issue 27 John 17
- Issue 28 Watch and Pray
- Issue 29 Discernment
- Issue 30 From Knees to Action
- Issue 31 Let Prayer Arise
- Issue 32 Prayer 101
- Issue 33 Supernatural Partnership
- Issue 34 Prayer and Power
- Issue 35 Where Are You God?
- Issue 38 Cities at Prayer

- Issue 39 Pray for All the Saints
- Issue 40 A Nation Divided Against Itself
- Issue 41 Divine Prayer Partners
- Issue 42 Motivating Prayer in the Local Church
- Issue 43 Target Prayers
- Issue 44 Prayers of Blessing
- Issue 45 Repentance and Confession
- Issue 46 Come, Lord Jesus

Buy All 50 for \$129.99

COVER PRICE: \$8.00

PRAYERSHOP PRICE: Issue 1-37 \$4.00 | Issue 38-50 \$6.00

www.prayershop.org | Click on "Prayer Connect Magazine"
"Back Issues" | 812-238-5504

CONTACT US

Business and Shipping Address

PRAYER CONNECT
11969 E Davis Ave | Brazil, IN 47834
812.238.5504 | prayerconnect.net

Article Submissions

We are looking for general articles, ideas, and news stories on what God is doing as a result of prayer. We are primarily looking for newly written pieces that have not appeared in other publications. Writer's guidelines are available by emailing Carol Madison at editor@prayerconnect.net. For news stories, we recommend emailing first to see if we have an interest in reporting on the event or item you wish to write about. Send your submissions to:

Carol Madison
PRAYER CONNECT Submissions
4300 West 98th St. | Bloomington, MN 55437
editor@prayerconnect.net

Subscriptions

PRAYER CONNECT is published four times per year, available in Print (\$29.99 per year) or Digital (\$23.99 per year) formats, and through the Church Prayer Leaders Network (CPLN) Membership (\$49.99 per year). Both CPLN and Print subscriptions include access to the Digital version. To subscribe, go to prayerconnect.net. We also have multiple copy discounts available for individuals or churches who want to purchase copies for a prayer team or small groups:

Amy Crane
prayerconnect.net | 812.238.5504

Permissions

Jonathan Graf
jon@prayerleader.com | 812.238.5504

Reprint Permissions

If you are making copies for your small group or for church use, you have blanket permission to make up to 100 copies without asking for permission (as long as the copies are not sold or in a for-sale product). Please include the phrase: "Copied from PRAYER CONNECT (Issue #). Used with permission." Contact us to gain permission for all other uses, including posting articles on the Internet. We do encourage you to put links on Facebook and Twitter to articles that are open to the public at prayerconnect.net.

Advertising

If you would like information about placing an ad in PRAYER CONNECT, or if you have questions about our ads, please contact: PRAYER CONNECT, 11969 E Davis Ave | Brazil, IN 47834
jon@prayerleader.com | 812.238.5504

Need a Speaker for Your Prayer Conference or Event?

A number of gifted speakers are 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, and mentoring the next generation in prayer. The Church Prayer Leaders Network also has many speakers associated with its ministries. You can find contact information at the respective emails or websites.

Jon Graf | jon@prayerleader.com
Carol Madison | editor@prayerconnect.net
prayerconnect.net | prayerleader.com

Published by

Church Prayer Leaders Network

Sponsored by

America's National Prayer Committee
Denominational Prayer Leaders Network
Harvest Prayer Ministries

The mission of **PRAYER CONNECT** 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.

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Jonathan Graf
jon@prayerleader.com

Editor

Carol Madison
editor@prayerconnect.net

Art Director

J. Bridget Rennie

Editorial Assistant

Joan Sherman

Editorial Advisor

Kim Butts

Subscriptions/Orders

Amy Crane

Fill Our Cups, Lord

I added a part-time job to my plate in March of this year: interim teaching pastor at my home church. Our pastor of 14 years has taken a new church, and I will fill in until we find a new senior pastor.

When I knew in mid-January that I was going to start preaching in March, I began praying in earnest about the series I should preach first. The Lord led me to the theme of hunger and thirst for Him—personal revival.

As part of my five-week series, the elders and I decided to have our people read and pray through the devotional prayer initiative *Thirsty: A 31-Day Journey to Personal Revival* by Jamie Morgan. In God's wonderful providence, my wife JoLyn and I were totally re-charged at the Asbury Revival a few weeks prior to starting my role. Our pastor asked me to share our impressions of Asbury two weeks prior to March, and as a result God put a fresh hunger for Jesus in our people.

I planned on 60 copies of *Thirsty* to pass out to a congregation of 70–90 adults on an average Sunday. That was not enough as almost everyone purchased a copy. Every week until Easter when we ended, I brought more copies as people purchased for their friends and other small groups outside the church. I was still getting calls for more copies in mid-May, a month after we finished the series! Ultimately, I sold close to 125 copies of *Thirsty*.

Instead of experiencing the typical doldrums a church feels when a beloved pastor leaves, we have a spiritual excitement among the congregation. People are thirsty for Jesus. Our weekly prayer meeting has more than doubled in size! On Easter Sunday, we had our largest attendance since pre-COVID days.

While I give full credit to Jesus for this blessing, He certainly used a prayer guide to get an entire congregation longing for more of Him.

Prayer Will Turn on the Tap

I recently said to a pastor friend, "In my 25-plus years of working with churches to help grow prayer, I know of no better way to get the most people praying the quickest than to do a prayer initiative for 21, 30, or 40 days. It will take the prayer life of your congregation to a new level!"

If you want to see more prayer in your church, get your people praying together using a devotional prayer guide. God used *Thirsty* to fire up our church. He can use a unified prayer initiative to enliven your group as well.

Besides *Thirsty*, our ministry produces 16 devotional prayer guides for churches. We just released three new guides that I recommend to you. *Reclaim a Generation Volume 2* will rally your people to pray for your neighborhood schools. *Do It Again, Lord!* will put a passion in your people to pray for revival and awakening in the Church and nation. And *The 21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible* will open more people up to the blessing of prayer. (See more about them in ads in this issue.)

Try an all-church prayer initiative and see how God uses it in your church!

—Jonathan Graf



Previously in



Throughout the ages, God's people have called upon Him to bless, heal, deliver, and restore. Scriptural prayers of the past are timeless truths we can invoke today. Order "Great Prayers of the Bible" and other back issues at prayershop.org.

Will God grant us one more nation-shaking,
world-transforming move of His Spirit?

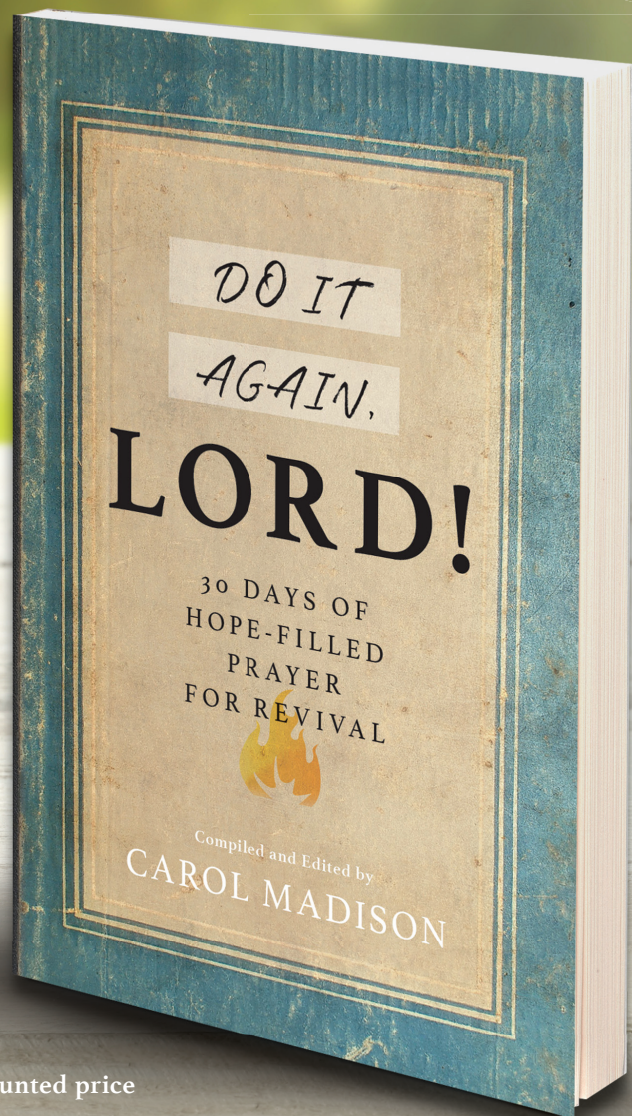
Will we experience one more Great Awakening that
results in a massive spiritual harvest of souls?

Will the Church be revived to live in the fullness of
Christ and the unmatched power of the Holy Spirit?

...before the Lord returns?

Do It Again, Lord! will inspire you and your church to pray with faith and hope that we will see at least one more spectacular move of God before Jesus returns.

Our world needs us to pray that way.



Purchase wherever you buy your Christian books. Discounted price and multiple copy discounts available at prayershop.org

"Outpouring Teams" Next Steps in Asbury Revival

Following the conclusion of their worship service that lasted 16 days, students and faculty at Asbury University have been sharing their spiritual revival experiences with others beyond their Wilmore, KY, campus.

Known as "Outpouring Teams," Asbury students go out either in groups or in pairs to local churches and testify about their experiences.

Rev. Greg Haseloff, associate dean of Spiritual Life at Asbury, says the teams are "both formalized and very organic," noting that they have a coordinator who reports to him.

"In a very short amount of time, the 16-day move of God at Asbury garnered national and global awareness. The interest from churches, colleges and universities, and other communities of faith was extremely strong—and came with the desire to hear a firsthand account," Haseloff says.

"The outpouring received a broad affirmation of authenticity—which elevated the requests for teams—which also testified to the stirring hunger within the Church to see a manifestation of God in our current world."

Between 30–35 Asbury students have been involved in the Outpouring Teams,



while as many as 20 other students have independently gone to places and shared their stories.

Haseloff explains that teams have a two-fold impact, with the first being that "the teams have grown the confidence of our students" to share their faith and pray for others, while the second is their impact on the broader Christian community.

"The impact on the churches has elevated the desire of churches to experience a move of God, and to be a vital community of faith where they are," he continues. "They witnessed worship times extend beyond the normal expectation, and they've experienced amazing hospitality—communities hosting our students with great love, care, kindness, and generosity."

Asbury Strategic Communications Director Abby Laub says the outpour-

ing teams have gone around the area to speak and the number of team members sharing their experiences with churches and others continues to grow.

"Our students are amazing and have enjoyed the opportunities to share with others," says Laub. "We are receiving many requests from all over and it's beautiful to see how God is still moving through this."

Since the close of the 16-day revival experience, there has been a bigger focus on small groups for students to connect with mentors and engage in discipleship, according to Laub.

"Many people have stepped up to walk alongside our students in discipleship and mentorship," she says, noting that the small groups are both on and off campus.

"Our faculty and staff are continually amazed by how God worked and is still working and are remaining in a posture of service and humility," notes Laub.

In February, the Hughes Auditorium at Asbury became the epicenter for an impromptu worship service that drew tens of thousands of students and people from across the U.S. and worldwide to the small town of 6,000 over the course of 16 days.

MICHAEL GRYBOSKI, taken from The Christian Post (christianpost.com).

72-Hour Revival at Baylor Leads to 22 Baptisms

The flames of revival were felt on the campus of Baylor University in Waco, TX, where students participated in 72 hours of continuous prayer and worship, leading to the baptisms of 22 students.

Baylor's Office of Spiritual Life, in

partnership with campus ministries and local churches, hosted FM72, a gathering of college students for 72 hours of continuous prayer March 19–22, on the Fountain Mall.

"The purpose of FM72 is to stir a passion for Jesus Christ in the Baylor

community," says Charles Ramsey, Ph.D., associate chaplain and director for Campus Ministries at Baylor. "It is a time to take inventory of one's own journey, to linger in prayer, and to recalibrate towards what is most important: our shared faith in Jesus Christ."

“FM72 is a reminder of what we yearn for, of spiritual promises yet to be fulfilled,” says Ramsey. “As I heard one student pray, ‘Lord, we ask for a forest fire, not a grass fire.’”

James Pool, founding sponsor for OneCry for Baylor University, explains that “Baylor has been a bit ahead of the curve” with the revival movement happening on campuses. “We’ve been seeing movement for the last five years. We’re seeing a kind of boldness in our students’ lives that is just phenomenal.”

Pool relates some stories of this boldness for the gospel that is consuming students. One student felt led to stand up on a chair in a Denny’s restaurant and—with permission of the staff—preach the gospel. The wait staff brought out the kitchen staff so they could also hear. As a result, many in the restaurant asked the Baylor students to pray for a variety of needs.

Another 18-year-old Baylor student met a young woman her age and shared the gospel with her. The woman’s boyfriend kept trying to interrupt and stop the encounter, so they went into the women’s restroom. The boyfriend entered three times, and the Baylor student boldly chased him out. As the young woman gave her life to Christ, the Baylor student declared, “You don’t need that guy!”

A sophomore Baylor student was compelled to stand up in a campus coffee shop among 200 students, as well as in the campus food court, to share the gospel. Many students responded by talking and praying with her.

During the 72 hours of prayer on campus, Pool says they witnessed 20 healings. “But the focus was not on healing,” says Pool. “It was on Jesus.”

One young man came to an evening worship gathering on crutches because



of a broken knee cap. Students gathered around him to pray—and he was healed of all pain and could suddenly do squats and knee bends. His friends said that only God could do that—and then put their faith in Christ. His entire dorm floor has turned to Christ because of his witness of how God has healed him.

“Students just by faith are trusting God at His Word to touch people. And out of that miraculous is coming salvation,” says Pool. “We’re seeing a real outpouring of the Spirit of God.”

Timely Prayer and Worship in Nashville

Worship leader and artist Sean Feucht and his team made Nashville, TN, one of their stops on the “Kingdom to the Capitol” tour immediately following the Covenant School shootings that shocked the nation.

“Despite a city still in mourning,” says Feucht, “Nashville felt the presence of God this night and everyone took notice. We were able to raise over \$22,000 for the Covenant School!”

About 500 worshipers gathered to sing and pray at War Memorial Plaza. Feucht began by reading the Bible verse Jeremiah 33:6.

“No matter what you’ve gone through, I will bring health and healing,” Feucht explained of God’s promise. “I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundance, peace, and security.”

Feucht said, “I want to say with all compassion, with all sensitivity, and with



no flippancy at all that Hallie, Evelyn, William, Katherina, Cynthia, and Mike were welcomed into their prepared place in heaven by the Son of God Himself.” He added, “Let’s not let trouble, anxiety, and worry overshadow the hope of heaven. Heaven is a place where life reigns and death dies.”

Sen. Jack Johnson, R-Franklin, was the only politician to address the crowd.

“There are very few things that are as beautiful to see as the Kingdom gathered here in a public square to worship our

almighty God,” Johnson said. “I felt led to read Psalm 34:18: ‘The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.’”

“Kingdom to the Capitol” tour is an ongoing movement to bring worship and prayer gatherings to every state capitol across America.

Prayer Calendar

Global Prayer Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

acts29.com

See You at the Pole

Wednesday, September 27

syatp.com

Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

Sunday, October 1

daytopray.com

A Fresh OUTPOURING

Our Desperate Need for Revival

The U.S. Park Service in Washington, D.C., issued their order: *Shut it down.*

I was part of a team hosting a major event at the Washington Monument. Some 400,000 people had gathered to worship, pray, and ask God to “reset” our lives and nation—a younger-generation term for “revival.”

After two years of planning, we did not factor in record temperatures that overwhelmed many people with heat exhaustion. The medical tents filled up, with no relief in sight. Plus, a storm was bearing down on us with threatening lightning and strong winds. We had to tear down and evacuate quickly. That included the seven prayer tents under my direction.

Most of the intercessors helped to quickly stack chairs, take down tables, and pack up boxes of materials in their tents. Except for one tent.

That tent was staffed by a group of women called the “wailing women.” They were from a church in the D.C. area—and based on their language and colorful dresses, I assumed many of them were native to Africa.

The heat had not bothered them one bit. They continued fervently crying

out to God. The sight of storm clouds moving in quickly was of no concern to them. They passionately “wailed” for repentance on behalf of the U.S.

I was terrified to enter in their space and ask them to stop. It felt like marching into the throne room of God and announcing that I was there to bring an end to all the intercession that was moving heaven and earth.

Instead, I packed up the boxes around them but stopped short of pulling chairs out from underneath them.

Event staff came to tear down the tent as the winds were now swirling forcefully around us. The rain was not far behind. Finally, their leader realized it was time to reluctantly seek shelter.

They were desperate and undeterred in their prayer. If revival *does* saturate our nation, these “wailing women” will be at the forefront of ushering it in!

In This Issue

We have published several articles on revival and spiritual awakening in the 12-year history of *Prayer Connect*. But we are still in desperate need of a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit across our nation. We cannot cry out to God enough!

Bob Bakke has written extensively

on the history of revival and awakening in our nation. He was witness to the Asbury revival and compares it to how God has touched our nation in the past. He focuses on patterns of prayer that are expectant, united, and sustained.

Nathan Lino knows the desperation of a pastor who simply cannot go on unless God moves supernaturally among His people. Nathan shares his story of his own brokenness, feeling the lack of the presence of God, and calling his congregation to fervent prayer.

And even as we “cry out” in desperation, we must also “cry up” vertically to God, according to Byron Paulus. He writes about the power of praying Scripture with biblical patterns for revival. He challenges *Prayer Connect* readers to unite in an upward cry of Isaiah 64.

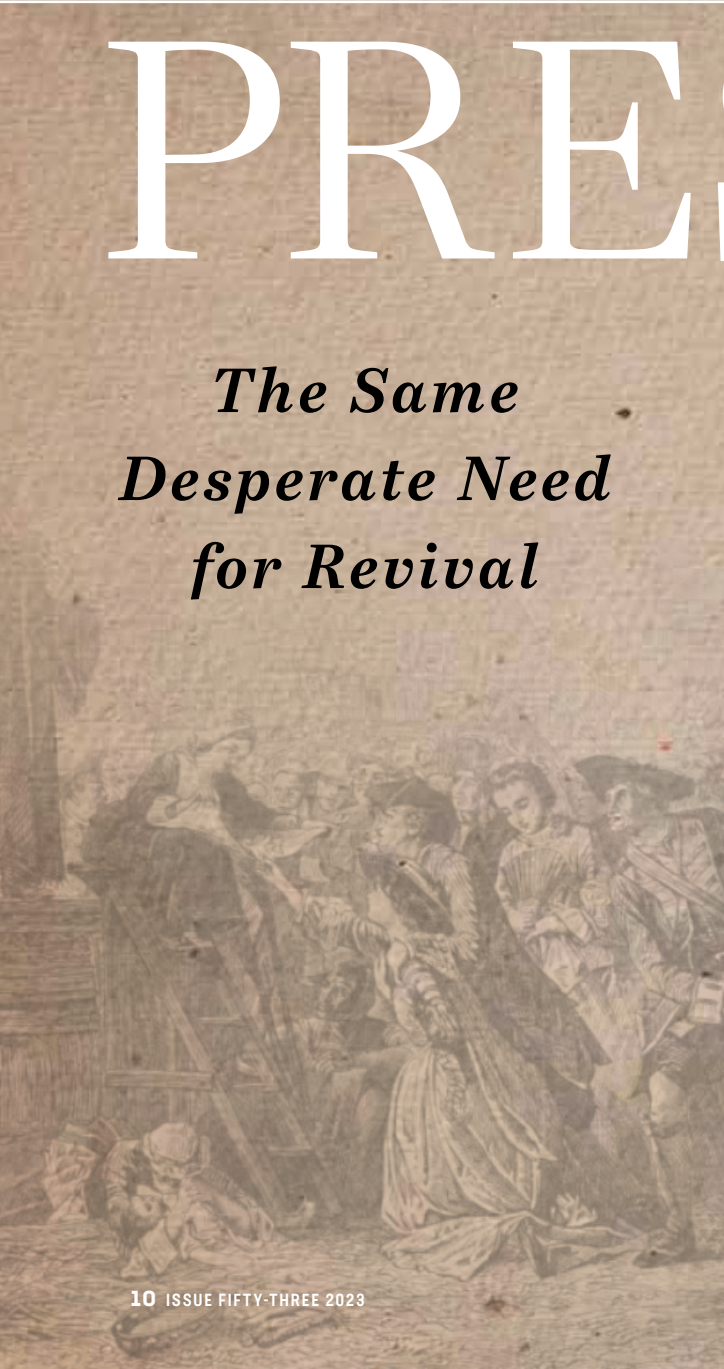
The storm clouds of disaster continue to swirl around our nation as we move further and further from God. In these drastic days, may we not be discouraged or intimidated as evil threatens to scorch and flood our land. We need that fresh outpouring that comes from desperate—and even wailing—hearts! **PC**

CAROL MADISON is editor of *Prayer Connect* and author of *Prayer That’s Caught and Taught*.



PAST *and* PRESENT

*The Same
Desperate Need
for Revival*





As I write, I am just a few weeks removed from 16 astounding days that captivated the small town of Wilmore, KY—as it caught the attention of the world. Wilmore is a half-hour drive from Lexington in the rolling hills of horse country. Asbury University is there, a school of about 1,800 students, founded in 1890.

Starting with a normal chapel service on the morning of February 8, 2023, a group of 19 Asbury students lingered in Hughes Auditorium to dwell with God. It grew into a breathtaking two weeks of student-led worship, soul-searching confession, Christ-centered exhortation, spirit-filled communion, and life-transforming salvations.

It eventually drew upwards of 100,000 people from nearly 300 colleges and universities, including visitors from across the United States and pilgrims from dozens of countries around the world.

Transfixed in un-embellished praise, a godly and tender orderliness adorned the people. “Radical humility, radical purity, and ethnic unity” guided the leaders. Disarmed by God’s grace and the Lord’s unmistakable presence, hundreds of students surrendered to Christ.

The altar was continually full as their tears flowed.

Hungry for God’s Presence

The crowds coming to Wilmore were

often so great that the mayor was tempted to declare a state of emergency. People came to Wilmore from everywhere because of a hunger to experience God’s visitation, much like the ancient crowds from Lebanon, Syria, and Judea who walked for days to Galilee because of the news about Jesus.


Street signs were posted on the highways near Wilmore when the town was too full to let more in. Dozens of churches mobilized their people to help with the crowds. Food and water were donated from around greater Lexington.

The lines to get inside Hughes Auditorium were often a half-mile long—often in 30-degree temperatures. Multiple venues were opened. Screens were set up on the lawns. Dozens of portable toilets were set up. Parking and traffic were sometimes impossible. Briefings were held every morning for the army of volunteers who organized logistics.

The media coverage was mind-boggling. Billions of social media views were recorded. “The Outpouring” appeared in national and international news, and this miraculous 16 days culminated with a televised prayer meeting that was seen around the earth. The Collegiate Day of Prayer (CDOP) simulcast, planned for February 23, had been on the drawing board nine months before. But as a producer, I worked with the CDOP leadership team to completely redesign it as the move of God became obvious.

Because of the broadcast, the story of God’s work spread to millions of viewers and listeners who not only participated but also witnessed similar

By Dr. Bob Bakke



Today's most recent
outpouring came after years
of expectant prayer—

AND AFTER MONTHS OF HEIGHTENED PRAYER.

works of God sprout up among them on dozens of other campuses and schools, and hundreds of local churches.

What's more, it also stirred up an immense audience for the film, *The Jesus Revolution*—another story about a move of God's Spirit in the 1970s, which, like The Collegiate Day of Prayer, was scheduled months before to premiere on February 24.

Expectant Prayer in Desperate Times

Having said this, these works of God never happen in a vacuum. We should not mention the Asbury account without understanding Asbury's backstory.

Asbury 2023 has at least two components that stand out:

1. A present-day religious and cultural context that produces hunger for God, and
2. A culture of prayer that surrounds the school.

Today's context is plain to almost anyone in America. The last few years have witnessed a catastrophic pandemic that killed more than a million Americans and forced a generation of students into years of devastating isolation and fear.

Meanwhile, a toxic and violent political and cultural environment engulfed them, too. There were riots in our cities. An era of moral and sexual chaos ensued (in and outside the home), leading to the disintegration of two-parent homes. American kids also watched the precipitous decline of practicing Christianity—

a religion increasingly dismissed by society. The list of troubles is lengthy, but it is obvious that recent years have been utterly corrosive to the souls of Gen-Zers (our student population).

Then, there is Asbury's culture of prayer. Asbury is in a small town. Many former faculty, former missionaries, and former students live in Wilmore. There are multiple groups who pray earnestly and regularly for the school. They know what prayer can accomplish.

These prayer groups are motivated by Asbury's history. It has seen multiple revivals since its founding, including 1905, 1908, 1921, 1950, 1970, 1992, and 2006. So, like the previous occasions, today's most recent outpouring came after years of expectant prayer—and after months of heightened prayer.

But there was a catalyst, too. When the Collegiate Day of Prayer leadership showed up in Wilmore in 2022 and announced the partnership with the school for a February 2023 broadcast to unite in prayer colleges and universities throughout the U.S., the efforts in prayer around Wilmore shifted to another gear. Some intercessors prophetically believed God for a special work of His Spirit.

Like in years past, their prayers were answered. And the world took notice.

Patterns of the Past

When I think through these things, I cannot help but be reminded of another small town and another mighty work of

heaven: Cambuslang, Scotland.

The rural city of Cambuslang was about five miles southeast of Glasgow. And like Wilmore, KY, Cambuslang was surrounded by beautiful rolling hills, fertile land, and extensive woodlands. By the early eighteenth century, the city's population stood at about 1,000 people—or about 200 families.

In 1731, Rev. William M'Culloch (1691–1771), was ordained pastor of the small Cambuslang Parish. His church was in serious decline. M'Culloch was stirred by history, too. M'Culloch studied accounts of revival from the Scottish Kirk, and also came upon the account from the American colonies describing a marvelous work of God along the Connecticut River Valley in New England: *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God in the Conversion of Many Hundred Souls in Northampton*, by Jonathan Edwards.

M'Culloch was deeply moved by the reports and read excerpts to his congregation, without effect.

Then, in January 1741, devastation came. A furious hurricane roared across the British Isles. Extensive damage was done to shipping and property.

There came, too, what seemed to be two terrible omens. Glasgow's most important Cathedral was heavily damaged, and its steeple demolished. And on January 13, immediately following the storm, a total eclipse of the sun. To make matters worse, the devastation never allowed people to recover during the warmer months of 1741 to prepare for the following winter.

By the winter of 1742, Scotland was dreadful. There was famine and a pandemic. "Bands of haggard and emaciated women and pale, skeleton-like children" were seen "creeping slowly among the trees, stripping the branches of the beech of their tender leaves, returning to pick them day by day." Tragically, "Little children searched among the miller's husks, hoping for some stray grains of corn, gnawing the stems of vegetables from the dunghill."¹ Hungry mobs attacked food

wagons. *Scots Magazine* recorded that rioting broke out and that troops had fired on the mobs. Beggars filled the streets of Edinburgh. An estimated 2,000 people perished of hunger, cold, and disease.

In the midst of their problems, a catalyst arrived in town named George Whitefield, one of the most gifted preachers in history. Whitefield made an indelible impression. M’Culloch witnessed a remarkable hunger for God within his parish. Afterward, Robert Bowman, a weaver, went door to door with a petition requesting M’Culloch begin a weekly mid-week teaching time, and half the total households in the parish signed the petition. Excited beyond words, M’Culloch organized the 90 families into prayer societies.

Once the praying was underway, the church was soon packed. A second and a third service was added. Hundreds of people came to Christ and the mid-week lectures and the prayer societies were packed. Many meetings lasted throughout the night. Soon, daily services were held and M’Culloch needed help with the crowds. He was overwhelmed. He appealed to the other ministers of the region and they came.

By July the awakening was growing enormously. As the startling turn of events in Cambuslang spread into other towns and villages, Whitefield was summoned to return. Whitefield arrived the week of July 11–17, 1742.

United and Sustained Prayer

As Whitefield returned, the region was buzzing with fervent, expectant prayer. The people of God were earnestly and hopefully praying “in concert” for the revival of the church and general spiritual awakening. On July 11, Whitefield preached on the Braes at Cambuslang, and the enormity of the crowd was breathtaking, an estimated 30,000!

As Whitefield preached, multitudes came under deep conviction. They wept

over their sins, and some fell to the ground. M’Culloch reported that “Mr. Whitefield’s sermons were attended with much power . . . very great but decent weeping and mourning.”

One leader wrote: “Some who attended, declared they would not for a world have been absent from this solemnity. Others cried, ‘Now let thy servants depart in peace, if it were the will of God, to die where they were attending God in his ordinances, without ever returning to the world.’”²

In short order, the revival spread all over the Scottish lowlands, and within a year, the news of the revival had spread throughout the world.

The hand-in-glove relationship between spiritual awakening and united prayer did not go unnoticed by the religious leaders of Scotland. If such an awakening as they experienced could happen as a result of a single season of

united praying, they could only imagine what a sustained movement of prayer might mean for the ministry of the gospel throughout the earth.

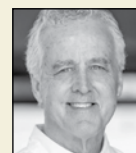
Lord, Do It Again!

So, there it is. Two small towns. Two similar stories. One shared outcome and a dream that God’s glory would ultimately fill the earth.

Let’s believe God for more. **PC**

¹*Scots Magazine*, October 1740, p. 537ff.

²*The Christian History* (Boston, N.E. Printed by Kneeland & Green) 1743, for Thomas Prince, p. 313.



BOB BAKKE serves on the executive leadership team of OneCry as director of media and film. He is one of the founders of The Global Day of Prayer, a producer of the Collegiate Day of Prayer, and author of *The Power of Extraordinary Prayer*.

ONECRY
A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening

TURN // PRAY // UNITE

in humble repentance from every sin God reveals to us with urgency for spiritual recovery and awakening with other believers in spreading the hope of revival

To learn more about OneCry and to join the movement, visit www.onecry.com



Brokenness *to* FRESH OUTPOUR

*When a Pastor
Gets Desperate*



NG

I was a broken man. My church was broken. I was in the most difficult season of my life.

And out of desperation, I found myself praying the same cry every day: “Lord, I need You to rescue me and redeem my church—or let me come home to heaven today.”

Like most churches, COVID took a toll as our Houston, TX, church had to go online in March 2020. We faced never-before-seen challenges. The following month, my father-in-law passed away during the COVID lockdown. His death was not only the closest and most personal death I had experienced, it also triggered complications that created significant challenges in our marriage.

A month later, the price of oil crashed. For our Houston economy, it was disastrous. Church leaders suggested we might need to cut as much as 40 percent of our church budget.

Just as we were trying to deal with a newly depressed economy, that summer a national racial divide erupted in our country. The national divide was similarly reflected in my congregation. Our people suddenly had pastoral expectations and demands of me that were unrealistic. I am a pastor, but I am not an expert in all things.

To add to the stresses imposed by a society that seemed to be falling apart, another personal tragedy struck when one of our church planters was run over and killed by a semi-truck. His death deeply affected my wife and

me, as well as my responsibilities as the senior leader of the larger organization of our family of churches. I was suddenly responsible for pastoring my own congregation while caring for another congregation that was now not only recovering from the pandemic, but also the sudden loss of their beloved pastor.

After six months of major crises hitting in waves, I felt like I was drowning under the ocean. I was broken and finished. I was desperate.

I cried out to God for rescue. It was a desperate cry that was personal, but also on behalf of the life of our church family.

Missing Presence

Simultaneously, I realized my congregation was also broken. As we reemerged from the lockdown, we had people, programs, and money, but I could not sense the presence of the Lord in our church. I believe the Church is “the people of God gathered in the manifest presence of God.” And when either is missing, it’s broken. The temple lays in ruins.

That’s when I began to pray my most desperate prayer: “Lord, rescue me and my church, or let me come home today.” And I meant it.

I prayed that prayer every day for a month without sensing God responding at all. At the very end of the month, for the first time, I felt God respond. And I had this premonition in my heart, “Go read *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala.”

I remember thinking at the time, “That cannot be of God, the book is so old.” But I ordered the book. It so

By Nathan Lino



“Things are broken. We are dead. AND WE NEED A MIRACLE.”

gripped my heart that I read it in one sitting. It’s the story of a desperate pastor leading a broken church who had come to the end of himself. When they didn’t know what to do, they just started crying out to God for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

The next Sunday, I stood in front of my congregation and poured out my heart. I told them that “things are broken. We are dead. And we need a miracle.”

Corporate Call to Prayer

I asked my congregation to set aside every Tuesday from September through December. And on every Tuesday, I wanted them to fast and pray—and for all who could, to end the day together in a prayer service.

“For four months,” I explained, “we are going to fast and pray and ask God for one thing: We want a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. We want more of the presence of God.”

I added, “We are not going to ask Him for stuff. We don’t want more money, more people. We’re not going to ask Him for anything but Him—and as much of Him as He’s willing to give us.”

That’s what started a whole movement.

That first Tuesday, we had a small number of our people show up. It was more than I expected, but it was still just a fraction of our congregation. So, I stood up the next Sunday and appealed to my church again.

“Look,” I said. “We need a miracle. I need you to hear me. And I need you to come.”

I was just so desperate. And that desperation became contagious. Our prayer meetings started to take off. By the fourth Tuesday night,

we averaged 45–65 percent of our congregation joining in corporate prayer each week.

Supernatural Shift

As our church gathered to pray, the Lord taught us about the necessity of depending on corporate prayer as much as we depend on proclamation of the Word. We maintain our high view of Scripture, but we now also elevate corporate prayer to the same level as the public preaching of the Word. They are equally critical to the life of our church.

As soon as we elevated prayer, we noticed a heightened, supernatural presence of God. We started watching people voluntarily repent of secret sin, even though we were not emphasizing repentance. More than ten couples confessed adultery to their spouses, in some cases a secret kept for more than a decade.

We started seeing physical miracles. Houses that weren’t selling suddenly found buyers. People who couldn’t get jobs were now offered positions. People caught in addiction were set free. We witnessed more than ten medically verified healings from diseases.

People started showing up on Tuesday night to get in the one-on-one prayer line. One parent requested prayer for the heart of an adult child (living in another state) to be turned from stone back to flesh. Within 24–48 hours that child’s heart had been transformed.

Families surrendered to the call to be missionaries overseas, and men committed to stepping into pastoral roles. Couples in divorce proceedings reconciled.

Soon, we experienced elevated numbers of salvations and baptisms. In those four months, Jesus saved 174 people and many were baptized. And from January to the spring of that year, another 195 people gave their lives to Christ!

When we decided to make the public preaching of the Word and corporate prayer the two equally important priorities of our church family, it’s like the Spirit just—whoosh—showed up!

Encouragement to Pastors

When I look back on my seminary days, I can

remember hours and hours of instruction about interpreting and teaching Scripture. But I struggle to remember a professor teaching extensively about preparing and leading prayer services. No one taught me how to lead a corporate body into the presence of God.

So, as an encouragement to pastors, I know probably one of your primary fears and struggles with all of this is: “How do I lead a corporate body into the presence of God and to sit there and stay there? I know how to lead myself into the presence of God and stay there, but what about a whole body of believers?”

I didn’t know how to lead in prayer either. All I know is that Scripture emphasizes the pastoral call to devote as much time to planning and leading corporate prayer meetings as preparing and preaching sermons. The apostles figured this out quickly in Acts 6:2–4 (emphasis mine):

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them *and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.*”

When I realized my desperate need for God’s intervention, the Holy Spirit took over and led me to people like Jim Cymbala and others who taught me the skills to lead people in corporate prayer.

Trust the Spirit. He wants your church to be a house of prayer more than you do. If you will just lock it into your heart that you will marry yourself to your church becoming a house of prayer—and stake yourself and your church to that—the Spirit will guide your steps to the people and resources. He wants you to encounter Him so that

He can equip you to lead your people into the presence of God and sit there.

Going All In

That August, when I was a broken man and praying every day for God to let me come home to heaven, I read Isaiah 32 in my quiet time. God says to His people (my paraphrase):

“You think you’re fine, but you’re not. You have money. You have relationships. The lights in your home are on. You’re having birthday parties and festivities. You think you’re fine, but what you haven’t realized is, I’ve left the building. You are not filled with Me anymore. And you’re going to realize that down the road in a painful way, or you can realize it now.”

But God says to His people in Isaiah 32 (again, my paraphrase), “So if you

right now will begin to fast and pray and ask Your heavenly Father for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and if you will keep on praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a fresh filling in your heart and in you as a people, your Father will give you this. And when there is a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, there will be fresh righteousness.”

There will be fresh justice.

There will be fresh joy.

There will be fresh peace and quiet and security.

Our only response needs to be, “Okay, God. I’m going all in.” **PC**



NATHAN LINO founded Northeast Houston Baptist Church in 2002 and served as their senior pastor until June 2022, when he became senior pastor at First Baptist Forney, TX. This story can be heard in a series of podcasts at onecry.com.

Are You **Thirsty**
for **More**
of God?

Then let Jesus quench your thirst as you go on a **31-day journey** to experience more of Him in your life.

“Read this book, follow its clear, down-to-earth directives, and be ignited.”
—**DR. MICHAEL L. BROWN**

JAMIE MORGAN

A CRY UP REVIVAL

*Putting the
“Oh” Back into
Our Prayers*



for

Embedded in my memory are several agonizing cries. As a teenager, I will never forget the heartbreaking cry of my mother as I watched two Army officers approach the back door of our farmhouse to tell our family about the death of my older brother in Vietnam. That piercing cry still echoes in my heart.

As a husband, my own cry joined my wife Sue's when we found out the heartbeat of our unborn child had ceased. At the gravesite, we united our cries in deep anguish.

And many times, my cries have been with and for the suffering of dear friends. In one instance, I was on the phone with one of my staff when I heard the scream of his wife in the background as their infant daughter breathed her last breath, losing her battle with leukemia.

A fallen soldier, a dying infant, a bereaved mother.

What circumstances or experiences have caused you to cry out?

It's Time to Cry Up

But crying out is not always the same thing as *crying up*. Sometimes our cries are born out of anger—cries *at* or cries *for* or cries *because*. But the kind of crying we need goes beyond these kinds of cries.

We need a *vertical* cry. Like the cry of Moses when he asked God to spare the nation from destruction. Or when the Israelites got together to repent after the ark of God had been stolen and the

nation had lost the glory of God. Like the cry of Psalm 85, when broken hearts looked toward heaven and pleaded, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (v. 6, ESV). Or when Isaiah cried with prophetic passion, "Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1, NLT).

Isaiah's plea is the cry of the soul for God to come in all His glory.

A Sacred Cry

Have you ever been so swept up in the purposes of God, the lostness of the world, the brokenness of your own condition, the desire for Christ's honor that you lifted your eyes to heaven and wept? Have your tears for the "Kingdom of God to come" ever rivaled the most agonizing human cries of despair or bondage or sorrow?

This kind of heartfelt, passionate cry and anguish of soul is a part of seeking God with fervency, just as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane (Heb. 5:7). And like Jesus experienced, there is often great personal sacrifice to truly seeking and obeying God.

But some things are so important that they are worth the cost. And once you see the value of the power and presence of God, as well as the alternatives without Him, I believe you will cry out to God like you never have before.

I recall a seminary student who, in his quest to learn more about revival, asked to meet with me. It was more than four decades ago, but it seems like yesterday. After about an hour, he asked if we could pray together. I was new in

By Byron Paulus

THIS CRY IS A TURNAROUND MOMENT. *It's a moment when we admit that we don't have the answers.*

ministry, so I was taken back when he positioned himself prostrate on my office floor. With a broken, grieving heart, he audibly cried out to the Lord, "I want revival more than I want to breathe."

His prayer sent waves of conviction into my heart that have not subsided over these many years.

The cry of a God-seeker is not a morbid, defeated cry. *It is a cry of hope.* A cry that looks at heaven and, therefore, changes the way we live on earth. A cry that resets priorities and rearranges schedules. A cry that will turn you from a prayer spectator to

a prayer participant. A cry that will take you to places you've never imagined and demand sacrifices on a level you never anticipated, but also cause you to love and live more like Christ than you ever expected.

A Prayer to Change Your Life

This cry, this one cry, is a turnaround moment. It's a moment when we admit that we don't have the answers. We don't have solutions. We can't fix what's broken in our world. Our one cry upward to God, born in humility, is our ultimate admission of need before Him.

And when we admit our need, when we humble ourselves before the Lord, He gives grace. And everything changes. Not because of us, but because of Him.

We cry up to God in that sacred moment when we realize we have nothing else to offer. We have nothing we can do. *But* we come to the realization that *God* has everything to offer that really matters: His amazing presence!

I had always struggled with prayer. Everything from knowing what to pray to simply doing the necessary hard work of prayer. I struggled with both desire and discipline.

But my greatest struggle was lack of confidence. Assurance that what I was praying was actually God's will. As a result, I prayed with little passion . . . until . . . *I began praying Scripture.*

Not just any Scripture, but a specific, biblical prayer for revival. It changed my prayer life and changed me. That prayer




Would You Like to Love 2 Pray

Introducing a digital ministry that will mentor you toward a powerful, meaningful personal prayer life!

Features and Benefits:

- Learn to pray beyond your own personal needs.
- Experience a meaningful prayer connection where you love to pray.
- Develop a prayer life where your prayers expand the Kingdom of God in your sphere of influence.
- Content to develop your personal prayer life is delivered daily, weekly, or monthly.
- Access to 30- or 40-day prayer devotionals published by PrayerShop Publishing. List includes: *Love to Pray*, *Pray the Word*, *Thirsty*, *Praying What Jesus Says*, *Revolution on Our Knees* and many more.
- Online access to more than 500 *Prayer Connect* magazine articles.

Go to love2pray.com for more information.

 Love 2 Pray is a ministry of the Church Prayer Leaders Network and *Prayer Connect* magazine.

was birthed in the heart of Isaiah and has been passed down for more than 2,500 years. A model prayer for today as much as yesterday.

God's will is never contrary to God's Word, so I can always pray with boldness for the practical pleas embodied in Isaiah 64.

Isaiah's prayer begins and ends with verses punctuated with the words: "Oh" and "O." In the middle of this prayer (vs. 8, ESV), the word "O" also appears as if the passionate cry of our prayer is as vital as the prayer itself. Words overflowing with passion from a heart that's overflowing with desperation and faith in what God could do. A passionate heart focused on God produces passionate praying. And being faith-filled intensifies the cry.

The most passion-filled praying person I have ever known was Leonard Ravenhill. I vividly remember Leonard lying prostrate on the platform at our

staff gathering when he cried out "Oh!" multiple times. Urgency filled his prayer for revival. He later made the following statement—one that has shaped my thinking ever since:

If we are willing to live without revival, we will.

Are you willing to live without revival? Willing to live without personal revival? Marriage revival? Church revival? National revival? Or even worldwide revival?

Does the lack of the glory of God in the Church (Eph. 3:21) produce a sense of urgency in your heart? How much does it bother you that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord is not filling the earth (Hab. 2:14)? Is it producing a pain and corresponding passion in your heart?

If not, what is standing in the way? What are you passionate about—more

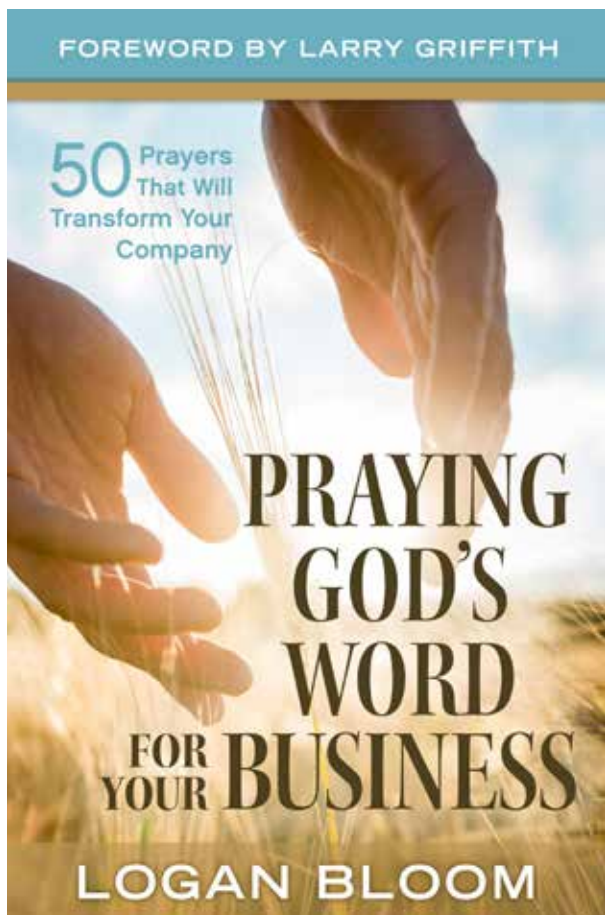
than the Most High God of Heaven receiving His due glory?

Another Ravenhill quote that I memorized and recite to myself often, relates to why we as a Church overall do not pray. Grasp this quote. Memorize it. And then ask God for the grace to avoid these prayer pitfalls at all cost:

- We are so *self-sufficient* we do not need to pray.
- We are so *self-satisfied* we do not want to pray.
- We are so *self-righteous* that we cannot pray.

"Wake Me Up, God"

Another mentor of mine is someone few people have ever heard of, yet his impact on the world this past half-century remains profound. His name was Bill McLeod. It was in his church in 1971 that the famed Canadian Revival broke loose.



Bless a Business Owner You Know!

Praying God's Word for Your Business is a prayer guide, journal, and strategy that will equip and teach business people to pray for God's wisdom, guidance and power to navigate the difficult pressures of company ownership or leadership.

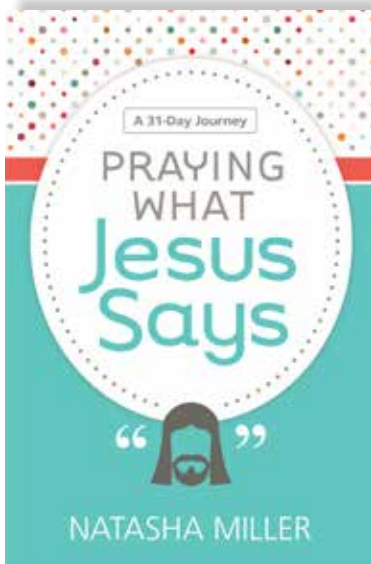
In these trying times for small businesses, why not encourage business people you know with this dynamic resource that can put them on the path to God's blessing.

Available wherever you buy your Christian books or from prayer-shop.org where you will find discounted prices.



DO YOU
VALUE THE
WORDS OF
JESUS?

Then Why Not
Pray Them into
Your Life!



Praying What Jesus Says is a 31-day devotional that teaches the reader the power of praying God's Word by equipping them to pray through Jesus' words in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).



Available wherever you purchase Christian books. Discounted prices available at prayer-shop.org

Praying Through Isaiah 64 Together

Isaiah uses word pictures in much of this chapter. In grasping the implications of those word pictures, the Lord put the following prayer points for revival on my heart for each verse.

He may lead you to other prayer points designed just for you. But ask God to make this passage practical and powerful as you pray His Word for revival in our generation.

Biblical Pattern of Prayer:

- Pray for God's supernatural power and presence (v. 1): *Burst forth from the heavens!*
- Pray for purity among God's people (v. 2): *Fire causes the water to boil.*
- Pray that our focus will be on Christ (v. 3): *You came down.*
- Pray for increased faith in God (v. 4): *No one has seen a God like You.*
- Pray for a proper view of God (v. 5): *Remember Him in His ways.*
- Pray for a proper view of ourselves (v. 6): *All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.*
- Pray for others to pray (v. 7): *There is no one who calls upon Your name.*
- Pray for surrendered lives (v. 8): *We are the clay, and You are our potter.*
- Pray for urgency (v. 9): *O, Lord, behold, please look.*
- Pray for cities (v. 10): *Your holy cities have become a wilderness.*
- Pray for the Church (v. 11): *Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised You, has become ruins.*
- Pray for a release of God's mercy (v. 12): *May You not be silent anymore.*

—Byron Paulus

That single, small church in Saskatoon was an unlikely place for a widespread movement to begin. Much like Asbury, God chose to honor a praying man, a praying church—one that understood the nature of revival and believed it was possible.


The greatest impact Bill McLeod had on me personally was when he shared that, during that revival, he asked God a favor with a corresponding promise. He asked God to wake him up in the middle of the night, and if He did, he would get up to pray. And he would specifically pray for revival.

For more than 30 years, God woke him up every night. And Bill told me that each time he got up and kept his promise to pray. Often for more than an hour, praying for nations of the world. And for various revival ministries and individuals, including me, before the Lord. I was humbled beyond measure.

I wish I could say I was as faithful as Rev. McLeod. I did ask God to wake

me in the middle of the night, almost 25 years ago now. And God has woken me up most of those nights. And I have prayed for revival many of those times. And, almost always, I pray through all 12 verses of Isaiah 64—asking God for a deeper sense of urgency.

Will you join me? Will you ask God to wake you up in the middle of the night? And when He does, will you pray through Isaiah 64, using the guide in the sidebar? Will you ask God to put an “Oh” in your prayer life?

What if all who read this article would unite in this biblical prayer? Is it possible the windows of heaven would open and He would hear our cry and come down in our day? 



BYRON PAULUS is founder and president of OneCry (onecry.com). He is also CEO-emeritus of Life Action Ministries. He and Bill Elliff coauthored the book *OneCry*:

A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening.

PRAY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

RAISE UP OTHERS TO PRAY WITH YOU!

Praying God's Word Over Your City will make you and your congregation more effective in praying for your community. It is a prayer guide that can be used either for a 40-day period of time or as an ongoing prayer guide to pray for your city.

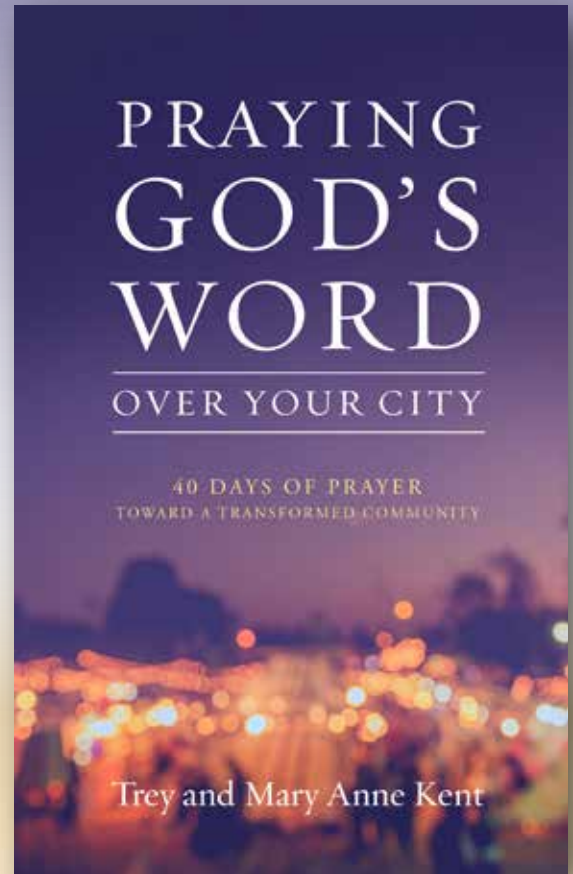
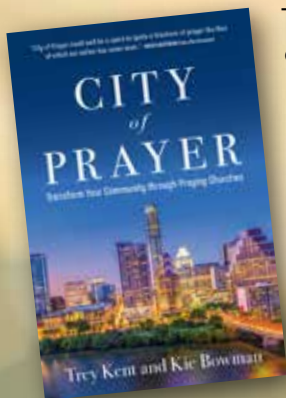
This guide follows the America Prays "7 topics for prayer" model. Each topic covers 5 or 6 days, and each day includes a Scripture, prayer points, and a powerful prayer.

Use it to pray for your community and you will come to both understand God's heart for your city and learn to pray His Word over it!

Praying God's Word Over Your City is written by Trey and Mary Anne Kent, who are leaders in a movement of more than 100 praying churches in Austin, Texas.

Praying God's Word Over Your City is a sequel to *City of Prayer* by Trey Kent and Kie Bowman. *City of Prayer* tells the story of how God raised up 100 churches to pray together for Austin,

Texas, and it shows you how to do the same in your community. *Praying God's Word Over Your City* provides the "what to pray."



Both are available wherever you buy Christian books. You can get discounted prices at prayershop.org.



**Receptive
Hearts to
Receive**

Radical

Kingdom-Focused Prayers for the Next Generation

By Stacey Pardoe

Every Tuesday night, a group of sixth-grade girls meets in our family's home for an evening of crafting, laughter, and pursuing God together.

I've been mentoring young women for more than two decades, but this group is unique. This group is different because my 12-year-old daughter is a part of the group.

Like many parents, grandparents, and concerned Christ-followers, I often look at the condition of our world and feel alarmed by the direction we're heading. I consider the next generation and question my role in helping direct this

generation toward the Lord.

At times, I feel helpless.

Meanwhile, God has not called us to helplessly stand by and idly watch as the moral climate rapidly declines. We aren't all called to invite groups of teenagers into our homes for Bible study; however, we *are* all called to pray for God to intervene on behalf of the next generation.

As I prepare my daughter and her two younger brothers for adulthood, I've been praying for the next generation more earnestly than ever. Here are a few of the prayers I pray on a regular basis. Let's join in praying for God's Kingdom to reign over the next generation.

Love

The first step toward the abundant life is *recognizing* *our need for Jesus.*

1. Pray for the next generation to grasp their unchanging identities as Christ's beloved children.

We live in a climate in which people are tempted to find their value through what they can produce and achieve. I see this vividly in the lives of the young women I mentor. They put tremendous pressure on themselves and strive for perfection. At the root of this striving is a spirit of fear. They find their worth through success, which means failure is a crushing blow to their identities.

In his letter to the Roman church, the apostle Paul reminds us that nothing can take God's love away from us (Rom. 8:38–39). God's love for us is the truest thing about each of us. God's love is also the only part of our identities that can never be taken away.

When the next generation learns to live from their unchanging identities as Christ's beloved children, they will be set free from the need to prove their worth through performance and success. Grasping the truth about their identities will change everything about their lives.

2. Pray for repentance to lead to refreshment.

Most of us don't readily equate the word repentance with refreshment. However, God's Word offers the following connection between repentance and refreshment: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

Turn on the television for five minutes of primetime viewing from the nation's largest networks, and something ungodly is certain to come across the screen. This can be disheartening, but we don't need to lose hope. We can pray that the next generation will experience the refreshment that comes from repentance.

I've been praying that the young people in my life will experience the refreshment that comes with repenting of subtle sins. I pray they will then desire more of this refreshment in their lives. Breaking free from the grip of sin and returning to the Lord doesn't have to be arduous or painstaking. It requires effort, but the reward always outweighs the effort.

Pray for a spirit of repentance to sweep across the next generation. Pray they will experience the refreshment that comes from turning away from sin and turning toward the Lord. This kind of renewal brings lasting transformation.

3. Pray for a spirit of humility to sweep across the next generation.

We are living in a world in which independence is highly esteemed. Young people take pride in their personal strength. The idea of being dependent upon someone else is generally met with ridicule. These young people are taught that with enough determination, they can achieve any goal they set for themselves. Self-effort is exalted and being strong and independent is the goal.

Sadly, these mindsets are pulling the next generation away from the truth: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). We all need a Savior. Without God's intervention, none of us can live the abundant life we crave. The first step toward the abundant life is recognizing our need for Jesus.

I often pray for a spirit of humility to fall upon the next generation. Instead of praying for my children to be strong and independent, I pray for them to reach the end of themselves and recognize their need for Jesus. I pray they will feel weak so that they might experience the power of God, which is perfected in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

Let's pray for the next generation to recognize their need for salvation

through Christ. Let's pray they will have humble hearts to see the ongoing need for Christ's lordship in their lives.

4. Pray for a lack of contentment with the comforts of this world.

We are all bombarded with countless options to fill the emptiness within our souls. The next generation faces limitless choices for entertainment, enticing social media platforms, and culture's subtle enticement to fill their schedules to overflowing.

At the end of a long day, most young people default to sitting in front of a screen as a way to decompress. Technology can be a blessing, but more than ever, the next generation is turning to technology as a source of comfort and escape. Sadly, the images on the screens in front of them often point them away from Jesus instead of pointing them toward Him.

Meanwhile, our heavenly Father wants to be our source of comfort and escape. He wants to be our strong tower—the place where we run for safety (Prov. 18:10).

I frequently pray that my children—and the young women I mentor—will not be content to find reprieve in the comforts of this world. I pray that worldly comforts like social media, TV, food, and video games will not satisfy them. I pray for a sense of restlessness that only God can fill.

My own experience has taught me that no worldly comfort will ever satisfy the part of my soul that longs for intimacy with God. I can eat every cookie in the house, binge watch Netflix for hours, or spend an entire afternoon scrolling through my social media feeds. These worldly comforts always leave me feeling worse than I felt when I started. Let's pray for this same discomfort for the next generation.

5. Pray for godly influences to point them to the truth.

After praying for a lack of contentment with worldly comforts, I always pray for godly influences to point my children to the truth. My husband and I take our responsibility as their primary role-models seriously, and we aim to point them to the truth daily. We also pray for godly mentors to enter their lives. We pray for Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, coaches, teachers, family members, and friends to speak truth into their lives and guide them on their journeys.

Praying for the voice of truth to impact the next generation includes praying for people who will point them to the power of God's Word and voices to help them turn their lives toward Jesus. Let's pray for God to send voices of truth into the lives of young people. Taking it a step further, let's also pray for the Lord to show us the faces of young people who are hungry for an encounter with His love.

6. Pray for boldness to stand for truth in love.

Mainstream culture is moving further away from biblical values on a slippery slope that is gaining momentum. Let's pray for the next generation to recognize this moral decline and stand for biblical truth.

Taking a stand for biblical truth isn't about personal agendas. It's an indictment to call an entire nation back to the Lord out of a spirit of love. Pray for God to raise up a generation of heartbroken Truth-bearers—Christ-followers who will lovingly and humbly plead for a return to biblical morals and values. Pray for soft hearts to receive their words and pray that the light and love of Christ will shine brightly through these ambassadors of hope.

Encourage Receptive Hearts

In addition to praying, the Christ-following believers among the next

generation are facing strong opposition. Let's continue to pray, but let's also encourage these young people to stand firm in their faith. God has not given up on the next generation, and He has plans to make Himself known to His beloved children.

Let's keep praying for God to prepare the hearts of these young people

so that they are ready to receive His radical love. **PC**



STACEY PARDOE is a writer, mentor, and teacher. She and her 12-year-old daughter Bekah recently published the devotional *Girl to Girl: 60 Devotions for a Closer Relationship and Deeper Faith*. They live in western Pennsylvania.

Subscription Information



Take Prayer to a NEW LEVEL

If you enjoy this issue of *PRAYER CONNECT* magazine, why not start a regular subscription? There are three types of subscriptions available:

Print Subscription. Our most popular subscription, the print sub sends a hard copy of *PRAYER CONNECT* through the mail to you four times per year. You also receive full digital access to all issues online at prayerconnect.net. Price: \$29.99

Digital Subscription. This version provides just the online version of *PRAYER CONNECT*. Each issue, an email announcement is sent to you with links to the articles at our password-protected website. You can view any or all articles, and have access to the articles in all back issues. Price: \$23.99

CPLN Member Subscription. This subscription is an annual membership in the Church Prayer Leaders Network. Besides a subscription to *PRAYER CONNECT* (U.S. members receive a print subscription and foreign members a digital subscription), members receive a bimonthly email newsletter, *Prayer Leader Online*, and discounts on most of the 150 plus products at our webstore prayershop.org. Price: \$49.99

Three Ways to Subscribe:

Online. Go to prayerconnect.net and click on "MEMBERSHIP – SUBSCRIPTIONS" on the top toolbar. Then simply select the type of subscription you want and follow the instructions.

Phone. Call Amy at 1-812-238-5504 and have her help you place an order (you need to have a credit card available). She is available 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST.

By Mail. Simply make out a check to *Prayer Connect* in the amount of the subscription level you want and mail it to us. Mail to: *Prayer Connect*, P.O. Box 10667, Terre Haute, IN 47801.

1-(812) 238-5504 | PRAYERCONNECT.NET

A Hockey Mom's Radically Changed Prayer Life

When my son Danny graduated from high school last year, he also graduated from hockey. Hockey consumed our lives for most of his childhood—early mornings at freezing cold rinks, hot coffee, weekend tournaments, warm boots, team dinners, and so much more. This was my life as a hockey mom—and I loved it.

Well, most of the time.

I love to pray for my kids and have always prayed regularly for Danny's hockey situation. My earliest memory of praying for him was at one of his first travel team tryouts. I remember pulling up to the front door of the rink in my big, hockey mom SUV, and before he could jump out and grab his gear, I prayed out loud for the tryout. I prayed for him to be focused, to do his best, and for the Lord to place him on the team that was right for him.

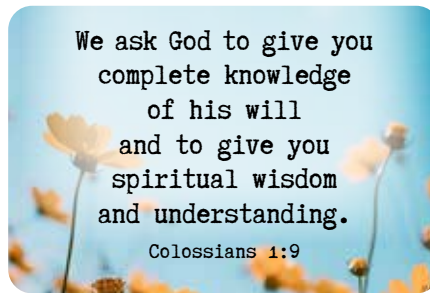
The added stress of Danny being a goalie weighed on me. At every game, I would call out to God quietly in my heart, "Help him, Lord." My heart would race throughout each crazy game, heavy with the enormous pressure on him. My comfort was in praying.

I prayed most of all for his success, for him not to get pulled from games for underperforming. I prayed for every game to be a win. As parents, we all want our children to succeed. It makes them look good, and to be honest, it makes us look good, too. My prayers were certainly Danny-centered, and maybe a little bit *me*-centered.

I love my son and yearned for his success, but God wanted his heart.

A Better Prayer

When I began to study Colossians more



seriously, I realized that over and above anything my children are involved in, God desires them foremost to be His followers. The apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossians was for them to have "complete knowledge of his will" and "all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Col. 1:9). He wanted their very life foundation to be Jesus. This began to change my prayers.

Yes, hockey was a big part of Danny's life, but it couldn't be everything. I needed to pray for the better things. My own heart posture and desires for my son changed, and suddenly my daily prayers also changed—from wanting Danny's success on the ice to wanting him to love God and to put Him first. I longed for that love to be displayed in his life for God's glory.

And this changed everything.

I can only explain what gradually happened during Danny's senior year as the miraculous work of God. He listened to my endless prayers and answered them in a new, exciting way! Danny ended up having the very best season of his life, both on the ice but more importantly, as he grew in the Lord and emerged as a leader to his teammates.

Praying for Your Sports-Loving Kids

The Lord changed Danny, and He also

changed me and my prayer life. I became radically close to Him as I learned to pray His will for my son. Here's what I encourage you to consider as you pray for your children in all their extra-curricular activities:

- Pray for God's will above their earthly success. His will may not involve your child being the best player or the one scoring the most goals (or the goalie saving the most!). Remember, God's plan is the ultimate and *best* plan.
- Consider the words of Paul to the Colossians. Pray for their "complete knowledge of his will" and "all spiritual wisdom and understanding." This world is not their home. Prepare their hearts for eternity and for growing in their faith, above all else.
- Listen to the call of the Holy Spirit in your prayer life, which will prompt you to pray in unique ways. Be quiet before Him as He guides you in prayer.
- Praying the Psalms is a great way to draw closer to God. It will transform your prayer life! Psalms are powerful prayers to God. Insert your children's names into these Psalms and see how our mighty God guides you to pray for them in this tremendous way!

Get excited for how God will begin to work in your child's life and in yours as you align your will to His. You will experience your prayer life utterly transformed—and that's a score!

CAREN PAULING is a freelance writer from Avon, CT. She enjoys studying God's Word with her weekly Bible study group.

7 Ways to Advance Your Prayer Retreat

Over the last couple of decades, I've gone on dozens of personal getaways with God. I have found these seven guidelines invaluable:

1. WAIT FOR HIM. In preparation, allow the Lord to set the retreat time, place, and theme. Will it be a worship retreat? A deep study of prayer in the Word? A time of fasting and intercession for a crisis or a long-unresolved need? A space in which to seek guidance or a fresh focus for ministry? Allow Him to unfold His heart in His timing. He alone understands your season and His purposes.

“Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:5, ESV).

Lord, what do You want this retreat to be about? When? Where?

2. LOOK TO HIM. Allow God to direct the plan, choose the Scripture focus, and highlight any resources to take along. He alone knows if you are depleted or burdened or backslidden—and how to address that. He also knows the new work He desires to do and what tools He wants to use.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).

Lord, You know what You want to accomplish on this retreat. Please show me the Scripture and prayer focus. Guide me to any additional materials I should bring so that Your purposes will be advanced.

3. OPEN TO HIM. As the retreat begins, welcome the Holy Spirit as your intimate Companion and Guide. Acknowledge His authority, invite His revelation, and open wide to His work.

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Ps. 139:23–24).

Welcome, Holy Spirit. I surrender

myself to You. I know I need You. I need Your insight and revelation; I need Your transforming power. Take over this retreat, I pray.

4. TURN IT OVER. Going forward, keep every activity in God's hands. Prayer. Bible study. Godly meditation. Reading. Walks. Conversations with others. Listening silence.

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25).

Take control of each moment and all I am and do; continually direct me according to Your will. Don't let me wander off-course or waste any of this precious time.

5. CHANGE IT UP. A change of activity or scenery renews the mind and recharges the body. Eat a snack. Take a walk. Listen to a song. Read an uplifting magazine (like the latest issue of *Prayer Connect!*).

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Eccl. 3:1).

Lord, I acknowledge both my frailty and my reluctance at times. Take it into account by pacing me throughout this time.

6. WRITE IT DOWN. As check-out time nears, ask the Lord for specific ways to live out any spiritual insights and practical instructions you've received. Write His directives down so that none are forgotten.

“... work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose” (Phil. 2:12–13).

Please help me, as I leave this place, to continue to embrace the new truths You've shown me and to completely carry out all You've charged me with, as Your Holy Spirit directs and helps.

7. CARRY IT THROUGH. After you are home, reread those

Scripture-based instructions from time to time. If the Lord spoke it to you, obedience is important!

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do” (James 1:25).

Am I living out what You worked into me at my retreat? Am I staying on task? Are any course corrections needed?

Making the Most of It

These guidelines will help to advance your retreat, renew your prayer life, discern His leading, cooperate with His workings, and return home having made the most of your getaway with God.

SANDY MAYLE is a freelance writer and a frequent contributor to *Prayer Connect*.



ChurchPrayer
LEADERS NETWORK

**Equips
Inspires
Encourages**
Local Church
Prayer
Leaders

prayerleader.com

OneCry Calls for Revival and Awakening

At the close of the Asbury University awakening in Wilmore, KY, in February 2023, God used the previously scheduled Collegiate Day of Prayer simulcast to broadcast this extraordinary move of God beyond the university. Produced by Bob Bakke, a OneCry team member, this awakening among students was viewed by millions around the world, with the call to pray for God to pour out His Spirit on universities and colleges everywhere.

Bill Elliff, another OneCry team member, attended the Asbury awakening multiple days (along with other OneCry staff) and wrote blog posts about his observations and experiences. He recently authored a new book *Reflections on Spiritual Awakenings: Insights from the Asbury Awakening and Beyond*.

In it he writes that God “chooses to rend the heavens and make Himself known in seasons of revival and awakening with Divine precision.” He adds, “These visitations are glorious and extraordinary, reviving His people and accelerating His work among the unconverted.”

Heart of OneCry

That’s heart of the mission and vision of OneCry. This movement is “a call to the nations for revival among believers and spiritual awakening among the lost, leading to cultural transformation resulting in the rapid advancement of the gospel throughout the world.”

OneCry’s missional values are simply expressed:

1. We seek Christ, not revival.
2. Prayer is always a precursor to revival.
3. The fame of revival spreads the flame of revival.

4. Revival produces lasting change.
5. Revival does not diminish denominational distinctives.
6. Christ’s Kingdom advances among friends.
7. Revival rapidly advances the gospel.
8. Revival embraces and embodies diversity.
9. Revival planning is submissive to Holy Spirit activity.

National Spiritual Emergency

A core document of OneCry is the “Declaration of National Spiritual Emergency.” It’s an acknowledgment that the Church in America is in a state of spiritual emergency.

Because OneCry believes that true revival is the only hope to reverse this nation’s spiritual recession, the call is for desperate prayer that will “enable us once again to display the beauty of Jesus Christ and His gospel throughout the world.”

Those ascribing to the Declaration are encouraged to:

- TURN—in humble repentance from every sin God reveals to us.
- PRAY—with urgency for spiritual recovery and awakening.
- UNITE—with other believers in spreading the hope of Christ-centered revival.

Transformation Among Friends

OneCry was founded ten years ago by Byron Paulus in response to a conviction that after teaching about and praying for revival for years, this nation had not yet experienced a national revival. Paulus, who served more than 35 years as CEO and president of Life Action Ministries (LAM), devoted a week in prayer to seek God about this void.


“That’s when God just smote my heart and said, ‘You’re trying to do this thing alone,’” he explains. Paulus realized that God’s pattern, based on Acts 2, had more to do with the uniting of the people of God, and that God works through people, not methods. That’s when OneCry was born as another dimension of LAM. Paulus recently stepped down from his LAM leadership to devote his time to OneCry.

OneCry team members believe that “history is transformed among friends.” To achieve this goal of bringing the Church together with a heart for revival, OneCry has partnered with more than 60 ministries, including the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, National Day of Prayer, Collegiate Day of Prayer, Sherwood Pictures, and other like-minded organizations.

Calling the Nation to Prayer

OneCry saw an increase in prayer with the 2016 election, and then experienced a major spike following the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest. For ten years, OneCry hosted a Tuesday night prayer call that typically involved 20 to 30 people, but soon after the outbreak of the virus, the ministry expanded the prayer calls from one evening to three, with several thousand participants on each call.

“The prayer movements are escalating,” says Paulus. “We’re getting desperate enough to seek Jesus for revival through prayer and obedience, so I believe God could be on the verge of extending great mercy to His people.”

OneCry provides many resources including videos, e-book downloads, printable prayer guides, and regular podcasts featuring pastors and prayer leaders. To learn more, go to onecry.com. 

Powerful Prayer for Gender Clarity | Jamie Rohrbaugh

As the spiritual battle against human beings worsens, those who do not serve our God are pushing the demonic, lying propaganda that says a person can and should change his or her gender. Actual science is being thrown out the door in favor of an evil agenda.

No longer do people in authority seem to be teaching every person how to maximize the person God created them to be. Instead, children and adults alike are being told that they were born a mistake—and so their health, their identity, and their very futures are being compromised.

The enemy cannot have our children, friends, or our loved ones. We must stand united in a prayer and covering over the people of this nation and over their true gender identity.

Join me in these prayers for every person in America to have gender clarity—and for their ideas about their gender to align with God’s original created works.

Wonderfully Made

Father God, we come to You in Jesus’ name. Abba Father, we thank You that every human being is fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works; our souls know that right well (Ps. 139:14)! You have created, fashioned, and ordained every person to be exactly the gender that they are. You—and You alone—have placed skill sets and giftings in the heart of every person. And You alone know the plans You have for every individual.

Father, we know that You created boys to be boys and girls to be girls. You ordained men to be men and women to be women. They all have distinct personalities and sensitivities, different giftings

and skill sets. But You did not make any mistakes, Father—and differences in personalities and giftings do not mean that a person is the wrong gender.

So, Father, we lift up to You every person who is struggling with gender identity. And in the name of Jesus, we ask that You:

- send holy and godly wisdom into their lives by Your Spirit.
- remove from their ears all unholy propaganda from evil agendas.
- show them that You have a good plan for their lives.
- help each person to know that the unique giftings and sensitivities they have do not mean they should have been born the opposite gender.
- teach every young boy how to be a godly boy—and give him the desire to be a holy, sanctified, set-apart boy who grows up into a godly man.
- teach every young girl how to be a godly girl—and give her the desire to be a holy, sanctified, set-apart girl who grows up into a mighty woman of God.
- help every woman to know that You have created her to be a woman. Help her to delight in her femininity, for she is Your daughter and You delight in her beautiful femininity.
- help every man know that You created him to be a man. Help him to enjoy his masculinity, knowing that he was born to be Your son and that You delight in him as Your son.

Protect Their Minds

Father, remove every thought from our children and adults that would tell them they are the wrong gender. Remove them from the path of lies and destruction.


Give them great clarity about their birth gender—and help them to embrace it. Protect them from wicked, dark forces and evil agendas.

Your Word says that when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him (Isa. 59:19, *κῆν*). The enemy has come in like a flood, with the lies and propaganda of sex changes, surgeries, gender confusion, and mutilation.

Please help us, Lord Jesus. Raise up a standard against the enemy. We pray in Jesus’ name that:

- You force the enemy to flee.
- You wake the American people up.
- every person—even the ungodly—sees every lie about gender as the lie that it is.
- we will soundly and roundly reject and eschew every lying tongue, every falsehood, every wicked strategy.
- we will firmly denounce these untruths related to gender confusion.
- You will prevent the enemy from devouring the lives of those impacted by this wicked gender-change agenda.

Thank You, Abba Father. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

We as Christians must want our children for Christ more than the enemy wants them for his own nefarious agendas. Join us in praying this prayer for our own sons and daughters—and for those of every family, everywhere. 



JAMIE ROHRBAUGH is founder and CEO of From His Presence. Reprinted from *Headline Prayer, Intercessors for America (ifapray.org)*.

Our nation's children and schools are
UNDER ATTACK!

We are in a spiritual fight for the hearts
and minds of our children.

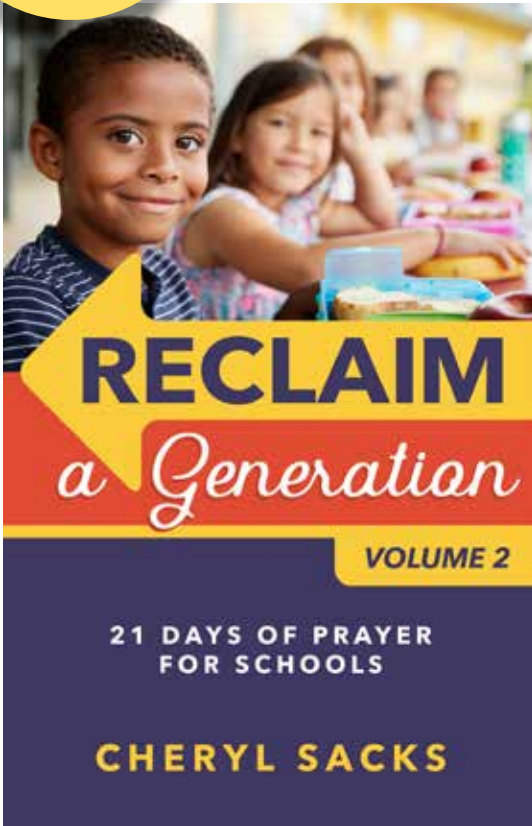
 **ChurchPrayer**
LEADERS NETWORK

11969 E Davis Ave
Brazil, IN 47834

It's Time to Reclaim a Generation!

Join with thousands of believers and churches

New
Edition of
Prayer Guide
Available for
2023-2024!



21 Days

OF PRAYER FOR SCHOOLS

Let a unified cry for our
children go up to the Lord!

Go to reclaimgeneration.com for more information.

Order the prayer guide *Reclaim a Generation Volume 2* in order to participate.
AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND E-BOOK FORMATS WHEREVER YOU ORDER YOUR
CHRISTIAN BOOKS.

(Multiple copy discounts available at prayershop.org)

 PRAYERSHOP
PUBLISHING
prayershop.org