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PRAYERCONNECT

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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

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for in prayer will actually happen. Praying in faith means walking in expectation that God is always at work.

But what does it mean to combine prayer with true faith? The November/December 2014 issue on "Faith and Prayer" and other back issues are available at prayershop.org.



PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Could Prayer Really Be the Answer?

I recently participated in the National Prayer Assembly, a gathering of intercessors in Washington, D.C., just before Election Day in November. We gathered to repent and do nothing but pray for our nation and the elections—in a nonpartisan way.



From our meeting place on the sixteenth floor of a hotel next to the Pentagon, we could look out the windows and see the Pentagon, the Potomac River, and downtown D.C. spread out before us. Powerful prayer took place there.

The format allowed a presenter to take ten minutes to give prayer points regarding an issue, then invite participants to pray for at least 20 minutes. Time was left every few hours to discuss "what God was saying to us."

While at this prayer assembly, I had a conversation with the guy who led the section on the abortion issue. I was interested to learn that while abortion is still legal in this nation, the tide has definitely turned. The pro-life side is gaining more and more ground. Public opinion is growing to a pro-life position. In fact, in January, in two court cases the Supreme Court could likely rule favorably on two state laws severely restricting abortions (within those states) to only within 12 and 6 weeks. That would rule out more than 90 percent of abortions there.

Our conversation centered around comparing the turning of the tide on the abortion issue with the absolute steamroller devastation of the issue of marriage being solely between one man and one woman. Without criticizing those who fought valiantly in the early days of the abortion issue, my friend pointed out that the tide did not start to turn until the pro-life movement got a concerted prayer movement behind it. He also said that there is, thus far, little call for prayer in the marriage debate. We seem to be putting our hope more in the Supreme Court.

I wonder why believers—especially ministry leaders—do not immediately push for prayer as the primary answer to the problem. We seem to get caught up in the doing—especially pushing a political solution—before we try to rally prayer. If prayer is suggested, it is usually as an afterthought.

A recent Facebook post by a large Christian ministry asked people to sign a petition in support of a Christian in Pakistan, who was to be hanged for her faith. That seems like a worthy petition, except that it was obvious the ministry was just trolling for names and email addresses. How in the world could such a petition have an effect on the judicial situation in Pakistan? A better request would have been to try to rally prayer for her.

With the nation collapsing around us, we need to do better. I am not opposed to political solutions or attempts to throw our clout around with petitions. But trying to do something—before a concerted effort to pray—is misguided and often destined to fail. *Pray first means pray first.*

I am reminded of what S.D. Gordon said: "The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Prayer is striking the winning blow, service is gathering up the results."

—Jonathan Graf



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Christians in Chicago Unite to Pray for Their City

PrayChicago brought Christians from many organizations, churches, and communities in the greater Chicago area together in prayer on September 5, 2014. Many gathered on the Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago over the noon hour. Others attended prayer gatherings in their communities that evening. PrayChicago was organized by Heart for the City, a Chicago-based ministry founded by Dr. John Fuder, a Moody Theological Seminary (MTS) adjunct professor.

The idea for PrayChicago came about while members of the Chicago Leaders Prayer Summit, a diverse gathering of more than 70 Christian ministry leaders, were discussing the city's violent Fourth of July weekend.

"Our desire through PrayChicago is that the Body of Christ in Chicago will

be mobilized to pray as a more unified force for our city, especially the marginalized neighborhoods," Dr. Fuder explains. "As a result we hope to see God develop hearts of compassion and greater levels of engagement in those communities."

One participant—Roy Patterson, station manager for Moody Radio in Chicago—has seen violence firsthand in his neighborhood. He agreed to emcee the event, and was joined by Moody Bible Institute's president, Dr. Paul Nyquist.

Other participants included Mayor Rahm Emanuel and pastors Erwin Lutzer (The Moody Church), Mark Jobe (New Life Community Church), and James Ford (Christ Bible Church). Among those leading the gathering were Arloa



Sutter (Breakthrough Urban Ministries) and Donnita Travis (By the Hand), as well as leaders representing Moody Global Ministries, the Mission America Coalition, and Cru.

A *Chicago Neighborhood Prayer Guide* served as a companion guide for the prayer events, offering prayer points and background for all 77 Chicago neighborhoods. Another prayer event is planned for January 28, 2015. For more information, go to b4tc.org/pray-chicago.

Mobilized Prayer for Pashtun Yields Explosive Growth

In 2013 the U.S. Center for World Mission (USCWM) began equipping thousands of churches in Latin America to pray for the Pashtun, one of the biggest, least-reached people groups in the world. The Pashtun number more than 30 million—and the Taliban are included within this Afghanistan ethnic group.

"If you are wondering whether prayer really makes a difference, in this particular case, we have the proof," says David Taylor with the USCWM.

A Christian radio ministry had been broadcasting for years to the Pashtun, receiving about 60 responses to their program each month.

"As soon as thousands of churches in Latin America began praying for the Pashtun, this radio program began receiving hundreds and then thousands of responses each month," Taylor

explains. "Like the Bible story of the disciples whose nets could not handle all the fish, this ministry is now asking for help from others to handle this unexpected interest in the gospel!"

In a related miraculous incident, some of the churches praying for the Pashtun are located in El Salvador. In one of these Salvadoran churches, a man was dying of HIV/AIDS.

"He decided to come to the Wednesday prayer meeting which was focused on the Pashtun," Taylor recounts. "As he was praying for them, he felt the Holy Spirit come upon him and move



throughout his body. He felt as though he had been healed. The next day he went to the doctor to have his blood checked. When the nurse came back with the results, she was beaming. His blood was completely clean of HIV!"

Taylor sees a valuable lesson for believers here. "When we bless the nations, God blesses us in return. This is the principle

we see in Psalm 67: 'May the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you. Then the earth will yield its harvests, and God, our God, will richly bless us' [vv. 5–6, NLT].

MARK ELLIS is a senior correspondent for ASSIST News Service (assistnews.net).



Prayer Leaders Gather in D.C. Prior to Elections

Sensing a strong call to pray on site in the nation's capital, about 90 prayer ministry leaders, issue experts, and intercessors from locations throughout America, gathered for two days of prayer a week before mid-term elections on November 4. The October 29–30 gathering featured several short presentations of issues and strategic concerns followed by extended times of prayer.

The group also identified and repented for the sins of the nation, acknowledging that the Church has not provided sufficient “salt and light” to the surrounding culture and nation. The intercessors also repented of the Church’s general prayerlessness. They then turned their prayers toward reconciliation and the healing of division between leaders, churches, and parachurch organizations—including the racial divide that continues to sow bitterness. Many participants



asked the Lord to grant spiritual revival and moral restoration.

David Bryant concluded the prayer assembly by focusing on the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Participants spent a few minutes on their knees in complete silence.

“We believe that history *does* belong to the intercessors,” says John Robb, chairman of the International Prayer Council, “and that the Lord will do ‘far more abundantly than all we have asked or imagined’ during this National Prayer Assembly. He will bring about true ‘hope

and change’ for the USA as we continue to pray and trust Him along with hundreds of thousands of others across the nation.”

Among the participants were Jason Hershey and a small group of his youth colleagues. Hershey is the visionary behind David’s Tent, a 24/7 worship and prayer ministry that was taking place concurrently on the White House Ellipse, an open plot of land between the White House and the Washington Monument. For the past three years Hershey has hosted continuous worship for 40 days prior to the elections. His desire is to extend these seasons of worship to 365 days per year.

Robb says, “Let’s pray for [Jason Hershey], his colleagues, and for the resources needed to carry on such a vital ministry that is affecting our nation’s capital and its atmosphere in significant ways.”

Walking and Praying Against Drug Epidemic

Stand in the Gap Coalition hosted a 1.3-mile walk on November 8 near Caryville, TN, to highlight the need for healing from the drug problems that have devastated many lives in that region. According to Sheldon Livesay, one of the leaders, “Drugs are an epidemic in Appalachia and east Tennessee. They are affecting virtually every household. They are bringing families to their knees, and churches are crossing denominational lines to come together and cry out to God for help.”

Organizers erected a 100-foot cross as the focal point for participants as they prayed and walked toward an exit off Interstate 75. Upon reaching the cross, the crowd gathered to pray for those addicted to drugs, as well as to hear testimonies from those who have found freedom from their addictions. Sheila Raye

Charles (Ray Charles’s daughter) told of her drug addiction experience and being in rehab 21 times. Prayers were offered by Campbell County’s mayor, E.L. Morton; the 8th Judicial District’s attorney general, Jared Effler, and the sheriff’s chaplain of Campbell County, Vinson Vannett.

In 2011, Stand in the Gap sponsored a similar prayerwalk in the Cumberland Gap, TN, with 8,000 participants representing 30 percent of the county. In 2012, a coalition of seven cities in nine



counties brought together 20,000 people for the prayer efforts.

Stand in the Gap Coalition was formed to promote prayer and a unified effort against drug problems in the region of east Tennessee, southeast Kentucky, and southwest Virginia. Since its inception, thousands of people have prayerwalked in their counties, seeking God’s healing for the drug epidemic. For more information, go to standntgap.smugmug.com.



Billion Hours of Prayer and \$1 Billion by 2020

The 10/40 Window is home to three billion Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus, and the vast majority still have little or no access to the gospel in their language and culture. More than 90 percent of the world's least-reached people groups are in that region.

A new initiative called Light the Window aims to equip ten million believers around the world to pray and give sacrificially to reach 365 influential people groups in the 10/40 Window region. Mission strategists refer to these large groups as “gateway peoples” because, if a breakthrough happens among them, it may have a huge impact on the surrounding

peoples, who are often related linguistically and culturally to these larger groups.

Light the Window seeks to equip intercessors around the world with prayer updates from the field, and make these available in every major language with a significant number of evangelicals. To facilitate this field/intercessor connection, an online prayer exchange is being set up that will enable field practitioners to upload updates that will then be translated by volunteers in every country.

In addition, a Light the Window app for smart phones is being developed, which will allow participants to log their prayer participation and receive live

prayer feeds from the 10/40 Window for the people groups they are following.

If Light the Window achieves its goal of equipping ten million participants around the world, potential donations to fund strategic projects is enormous. Using “crowd-funding” technology and concepts, participants will be encouraged to give small regular contributions to fund big projects. By faith, Light the Window is aiming to raise at least \$1 billion from ten million participants.

Light the Window plans to officially launch in 2015. Those interested in participating can help beta-test the program by registering at ltw2020.org.

Pray Down at High Noon

In Ardmore, OK, off I-35 near the 12th street exit, a billboard is strategically placed on the west side of the road, facing south. The sign proclaims, “Ardmore Prays ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ at High Noon Daily.”

Sponsored by Pastor’s Hope (a city-wide pastors’ prayer group), the billboard’s message has become a mission for the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church Ardmore. After hearing Dr. Terry Teykl’s prayer workshop, Jessica Moffatt

Seay was impressed by the Holy Spirit to encourage others to begin praying the Lord’s Prayer at high noon.

Dr. Teykl, national prayer teacher and author of 18 prayer-related books, founded “Pray Down at High Noon” with a goal of raising up a million people worldwide who will pray the Lord’s

Prayer at noon every day. So far, 800,000 have signed up to participate.

Pastor Seay challenged her congregation to join the prayer revival. Then at a Pastor’s Hope gathering, she invited other churches to participate. The response was overwhelming. Everyone present agreed to take part. She started a Facebook page and ordered 2,500 business cards printed with the Lord’s Prayer to hand out. “It’s gone crazy,” says Pastor Seay.

The roadside advertisement followed when

an anonymous person called and offered Pastor’s Hope the use of his billboard. “It’s been a unifying thing in Ardmore,” she adds. “It supersedes theology because the Lord’s Prayer is not controversial.”



CAROL ROUND is a special correspondent to ASSIST News Service (assistnews.net).

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Strategic Prayer in Hollywood at The Summons

The Hollywood Prayer Network (founded by Karen Covell in 2001) partnered with The National Day of Prayer (NDP) for five days of strategic prayer in early October. The Summons brought together prayer partners from all over the U.S. to meet with Hollywood insiders and hear about ways God is moving in the film and TV industry. The goal is to come alongside

Hollywood professionals to support them in prayer and intercession.

Prayer participants were also sent out on buses to key locations around Hollywood—onto studio lots, to Scientology Headquarters, and to other strategic places—to walk and pray over the property and workers there.

John Bornschein, executive director of the NDP Task Force, says, “What we

found is that God is alive and well in this city. He is moving in the hearts of people. We’ve been in studios where the executives are Christians, where staff are Christians, to find out [there are] 10,000 believers here who need us to come alongside and affirm them, letting them know that the saints are going to be praying for them for the work that they’re doing here in the Tribe of Hollywood!”

Israeli Believers Praying for Muslims

Intercessors for America reports that Christians in Israel are responding to an increased burden to pray for Muslims—and they are hearing reports of answers to those prayers. According to a source from within Israel, “We have often prayed for the salvation of Muslims, recognizing that the greatest victory we can see is for our enemies to

become our family. We are now hearing reports of a huge number of Muslims who are receiving Yeshua as their Savior—especially in Iran, in Egypt, and among the Syrian refugee camps. The Lord is appearing in dreams and visions, and Arab Christians are also being used mightily in this.”

Other credible reports say that new

converts are showing up at Christian meetings, asking to be baptized, “as instructed in the vision.” These conversions are real enough to withstand persecution and martyrdom. Intercessors for America (ifapray.org) encourages believers around the world to pray for God’s grace to sustain fellow Christians.

Louisiana Governor Calls for Prayer

On January 24, 2015, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal will host a major event called “The Response-Louisiana: A Call to Prayer for a Nation in Crisis.” More than 100,000 evangelical pastors are being invited by American Renewal Project leader David Lane to gather at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

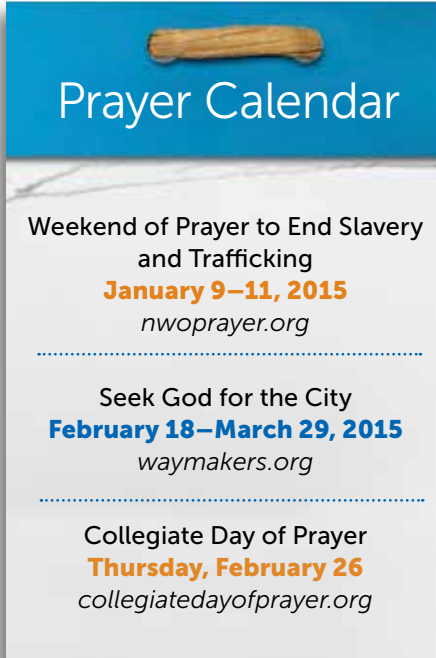
In addition, Lane is encouraging the pastors to pray about running for political office. He believes that if more pastors get involved in the political process, it will change the moral direction of this country. He writes in an email, “We are asking 63,000 evangelical pastors to begin praying to discern if God is calling you to run for political office in 2016. . . . A thousand pastors running in 2016—and three to

four hundred pastors winning their political races—would ignite a spiritual movement in the public arena of America not seen since America’s Founding.”

Besides Governor Jindal, other prominent attendees at The Response-Louisiana will include Oklahoma Senator-elect James Lankford, former congressman J.C. Watts, Pastor Rob McCoy (who recently ran and narrowly lost a seat in the California State Assembly), and Dr. Bruce K. Waltke, Old Testament scholar and professor emeritus of Biblical Studies, Regent College.

For more information on the event, go to theresponsela.com.

DAVID BRODY, adapted from blogs.cbn.com/thebrodyfile.



Prayer Calendar

Weekend of Prayer to End Slavery and Trafficking
January 9–11, 2015
nwoprayer.org

Seek God for the City
February 18–March 29, 2015
waymakers.org

Collegiate Day of Prayer
Thursday, February 26
collegiatedayofprayer.org

AWAKENING on Campuses

God Is
stirring Prayer!

My parents recently moved from their house of more than 50 years into a senior living situation. In the process of downsizing and cleaning out their home in preparation for the move, I came across a lockbox under my dad's desk. It was filled with letters, many of them dated more than 40 years ago. I brought it upstairs to the den where he was resting and asked him about the letters.

"Oh, those are from college students I worked with at the community college many years ago. A lot of kids came to Christ during that time. They kept in touch with us over the years. I was always going to do something with those letters, but I guess I never did."

I vaguely remembered a story about one of the students who is still—more than 40 years later—involved in full-time campus ministry as a metro director with Navigators. I asked him to refresh my memory.

"Well, I thought he should attend a student leadership conference in Chicago because I saw potential in him," my dad recalled, "but he couldn't afford it. Back then I was a dad with a young family. I had been saving for a long time to buy some golf clubs. But instead I gave him that money to pay for his trip. It was out of that conference that he decided to go into ministry."

A simple exchange of golf clubs for a lifetime investment in a student—who went on to invest in the lives of countless other students.

This Next Generation

In this issue you will read about how, throughout history, God has called and poured His Spirit into the lives of students and the next generation in ways that have changed nations. David Smithers details how God has used young people in past revivals because of their childlike faith and humble hearts. He challenges us to cultivate that same tender heart—the heart of a young person—and be willing to pray with that kind of simple faith.

Justin Christopher and Jeremy Story have both dedicated themselves to ministering on college campuses through Campus Renewal. They write about ways God is stirring campuses across our nation. This is a prime time for the older generation to come alongside the younger generation to support them and pray that God might once again use them to stir up a national movement of prayer. The Collegiate Day of Prayer is February 26. Put it on your calendar and take time to pray for a campus near you.

I don't have a lockbox of letters from students, but God has given me the opportunity to come alongside this next generation by helping to coordinate prayer for a ministry called PULSE. In a sidebar in this issue you will read about the desire of Nick Hall and PULSE to call students to "the largest Jesus gathering in American history" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in July 2016.

Will you join me in lifting up this generation in prayer—that they might passionately pursue Jesus and go all out in seeking spiritual awakening for our nation? In fact, if you are willing to pray with me specifically about the D.C. gathering in 2016, please email me at editor@prayerconnect.net. Let's fill up a lockbox with prayers on their behalf!

CAROL MADISON is editor of *Prayer Connect*.



The Power and Purpose of Young People in Revival

By
David Smithers

N

early a century ago, Baptist pastor A.C. Dixon (1854–1925) wrote, “When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education,

we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.”

No one has better proved the power and truth of this statement than the younger generation. Why does God like to use young people? Because praying for revival requires child-like faith, humility, and submission—and usually the ones most willing to make such changes are the young. The road to revival both begins and ends with the tender heart of a child.

Let Them ARISE

First Corinthians 1:27–29 explains why this is the case: “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

Yes, our young people are tomorrow’s leaders. Yes, they are creative, talented, untapped bundles of potential willing to try new things. But that is *not* the primary reason God so often uses them. It’s not their talent and potential that qualifies them most as carriers of revival but rather their hungry hearts and honest faith.

principles of grace and humility that had thrust him into his own prophetic service.

With the best of intentions, the old prophet at first overlooked the young shepherd boy named David. Swayed by outward appearances, Samuel momentarily confused the strength and talents of people for the grace and anointing of God. But God told him, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

Isn’t it strange that we can forget the very principles of grace that we ourselves have benefited from?

This divine partnership between childlike faith and revival can be traced throughout all the great moves of God. The last 300 years of Church history have been marked by powerful spiritual revivals and subsequent seasons of miraculous missionary growth. More people have come to Christ during this modern era of evangelism than during the previous 1,800-plus years combined. Much of this supernatural growth can be directly traced to the prayerful lives of the younger generation.

Great Awakenings and Missions

Early in the 18th century, when God began to reignite the fires of 24/7 prayer, revival, and world missions, He used a young Moravian in his mid-20s by the name of Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. A few years later God used the Moravians again to help ignite revival in England by inspiring two young Wesley brothers (John and Charles) and a slightly cross-eyed 21-year-old by the name of George Whitefield.

Through these fearless young Methodists, God birthed miracles of grace and power that the great English Reformers and Puritans had only imagined. The young men preached the gospel with power and passion to tens of thousands, and Britain was awakened and rescued from moral collapse and certain destruction. Many people considered them unorthodox, reckless, and inexperienced. But God used them to change the course of history!

This era of Great Awakening and the evangelical revival radically redefined the Church’s view of the character of God, the Great Commission, and the eternal needs of an unreached world. By the end



Too often God has to pass over the old guard and use our young people because He can’t freely move through an older generation’s extrabiblical rules and expectations. God prefers to work through those who are small enough, simple enough, and even flawed enough to erase all the debate over who did what.

Why does God like to use young people? Because God’s glory shines brightest through a humble heart!

God’s Hidden Vessels of Revival

God’s most precious treasures are often hidden in plain sight because of their seeming insignificance. Remember the Old Testament account of God rescuing His people through Hannah’s prayers and the fearless faith of her son, Samuel (1 Sam. 3:1–20)? Through this one boy’s prophetic ministry, God revealed His power and drove out the enemy. Yet years later when Samuel had grown into a strong and confident minister, he nearly stumbled over the very

of the 18th century the fires of revival had given birth to the modern missions movement in the British Isles. Soon William Carey, Henry Martyn, Robert Morrison, Robert Moffat, Alexander Duff, David Livingston, and James Hudson Taylor—all men in their 20s—were setting out to share the hope of Christ with a gospel-starved world.

The Haystack Prayer Meeting

By the early 1800s the Second Great Awakening was transforming whole communities and colleges in the Northeastern part of the United States. In 1806, when a young 23-year-old freshman named Samuel J. Mills arrived at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, he found the campus stirred by the recent move of the Holy Spirit.

One hot August day Mills and four other Williams College students were praying in an open field just off campus when suddenly they were caught in a thunderstorm. They took shelter in a nearby haystack and finished their prayer meeting. Before returning to campus, they pledged to take personal responsibility for the Great Commission. They committed the matter to prayer and went to work at mobilizing their fellow classmates. Only six years later, in 1812, America was sending out its very first missionaries to Asia—all because a handful of young college students dared to believe God's Word and pray it into action.

Today Samuel J. Mills is remembered as the father of American missions. But initially, some dismissed him because he was young, he was socially awkward, and he had an odd speaking voice. Most people never assumed that Mills would ever accomplish anything of lasting value. In spite of Mills's youth and inexperience, God used him to awaken and mobilize the American Church.

God is no respecter of age, title, or position, but He *always* honors and blesses humility and childlike faith!

The Welsh Revival

Evan Roberts is another example of the hidden gems (even spiritual misfits) God so often uses to bring revival. By 1902 many believers in the British Isles had begun to earnestly pray for another outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Many seasoned leaders were ready to move the Church forward into a new era of

spiritual awakening. Then in 1904 God surprised everyone by using an unknown young coal miner named Evan Roberts.

Roberts was a 26-year-old who had dropped out of Bible school to go home and pray for revival. The revival started at a mid-week young people's meeting as Roberts shared his vision for revival in Wales. Soon, everywhere Roberts and

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The War on Children

By Chris White



After working with students on college campuses for many years, I have noticed a shift in their emotional and spiritual personalities. Today's kids are great—loaded with possibilities for success—and it's a privilege to take the time to mentor them and help them find their niche for serving God. But they are coming to our campuses with deeper hurts and more emotional baggage than ever before.

What happened?

The Bible is clear that children are special to the Lord and play a crucial role in the Kingdom of heaven. They are precious in the heart of the heavenly Father. Jesus said in Matthew 18:10, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." In Luke 18:16, He declares that "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." And Psalm 127:3 says that "children are a heritage from the Lord."

Yet we see from Scripture and history that the devil hates everything God loves. Here are some examples:

- The Jewish race: The Lord chose the Jewish people as the firstfruits of His eternal Kingdom, yet the powers of hell and men have tried repeatedly to wipe out the Jews.
- Women: Because God declared that the judgment of the evil one would come through the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15), the devil has had it in for women ever since, provoking abuse, oppression, and mistreatment of this half of the human race. Yet the Bible declares them fully co-heirs of the Kingdom of God together with men (Gal. 3:26–29).
- Women and children: The American suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton strongly opposed abortion, predicting that, if allowed, it would become a chief weapon *against* women. Why then should we be surprised that the devil would also make war upon children, who are so dear to the heart of God?
- Marriage and the family: Our generation is witnessing a profound devaluation of marriage and of children. There are many roots to these changes, but the sexual revolution of the 1960s played a large part. That revolution spearheaded an attack upon traditional marriage and morality, claiming that marriage was no more than a piece of paper.

David Elkind, professor emeritus of child development at Tufts University, describes these changes: "Up until the 1950s, we placed the needs of children and adolescents ahead of the needs of parents, and children flourished. . . . From the '60s on,

we have put the needs of children and adolescents beneath the needs of adults and parents. The outcome is a lot of stress."

What has ensued since then is a continuing redefinition of marriage, without considering the consequences for children. Combine these cultural changes with the legalization of abortion in 1973, the breakdown of the family, and more recently, calls for the legalization of infanticide by university professors in the United States and England—and you have what can only be described as a "war on children."

God's Plan: Godly Offspring

In our time, the majority of children around the world are living in poverty. Many suffer abuse, neglect, and increasing exposure to immorality at an early age. How? Through the Internet as well as observing adult behavior around them. Thousands of children are ensnared in the worldwide sex-trafficking industry.

Why is traditional marriage—the lifelong union of one man and one woman—so important? Marriage was not the invention of man but of God Himself. Malachi 2:15 declares, "Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth."

Children need a mother and a father who are faithful and loving to one another as well as to their offspring. A study published in May 2014 by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided strong evidence that children do best with their two *biological* parents. Such children avoid the majority of negative outcomes suffered by children living under other circumstances.

How should we respond to this war on children?

1. Repent of any sexual immorality in ourselves and live according to the standards of God's Word.
2. Value children—as much as God does—because they are His eternal heritage.
3. In this war with the enemy, battle for families through prayer! Pray that kids today will find the Savior, the only One who can redeem them and heal their brokenness.

Remember Jesus' words in Mark 9:37, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

CHRIS WHITE is an evangelist and the New York City metro director of Campus Renewal Ministries.

his young ministry team went, the fires of revival followed. Within a year and a half much of Wales had been radically awakened and transformed.

Like many of God's instruments of revival, Evan Roberts was not a great orator or brilliant theologian. But he did know how to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Often when trying to pray or preach, he became so overwhelmed by the Spirit he couldn't speak. He would collapse behind the pulpit and sob like a baby. Then the Holy Spirit would sweep through the congregation and people would begin to spontaneously confess their sins. Others, convicted by those confessions, would then stream down the aisles and come to Christ.

The meetings would often run night and day, around the clock, because the miners would sometimes arrive late and start the process all over again. Roberts was proof that God is able to do much more through much less, when a heart is fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit!

The Jesus People Movement

Because God's ways are higher than ours, we sometimes miss or even reject some of His most precious gifts. Just as God loves to hide gems beneath the clay or hide pearls in rough oysters, He delights to send revival through flawed and broken people. This is exactly what happened in the late 1960s and early '70s during the Jesus People Movement.

It was an age of political and social unrest—an era of defiant self-expression. War, riots, and assassinations cast a dark shadow of fear over the whole nation. Many within the evangelical church had been praying for revival since the late '50s, yet everything seemed to be growing steadily worse.

Then in 1967 revival broke out in an unexpected place—among the hippies of Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco. From there the revival quietly spread south and gained momentum in Orange

County at Costa Mesa's Calvary Chapel. Soon a wave of revival was washing over the whole California coast, transforming thousands of young drug addicts and runaways. Whole motorcycle gangs reportedly converted to Christ. Dozens of go-go bars across the state turned into Christian coffee houses where young people sang worship songs and prayed.

The revival moved east and broke out in places like Asbury College in Wilmore, KY. Then, seemingly unrelated, revival also broke out in Canada around 1971. God was sovereignly moving in a variety of different ways all across America, but especially among the youth counterculture. The February 9, 1971 issue of *Look* magazine quoted one very optimistic minister as saying, "It's the greatest awakening in the history of the Church, and it's kids. Kids are leading it."

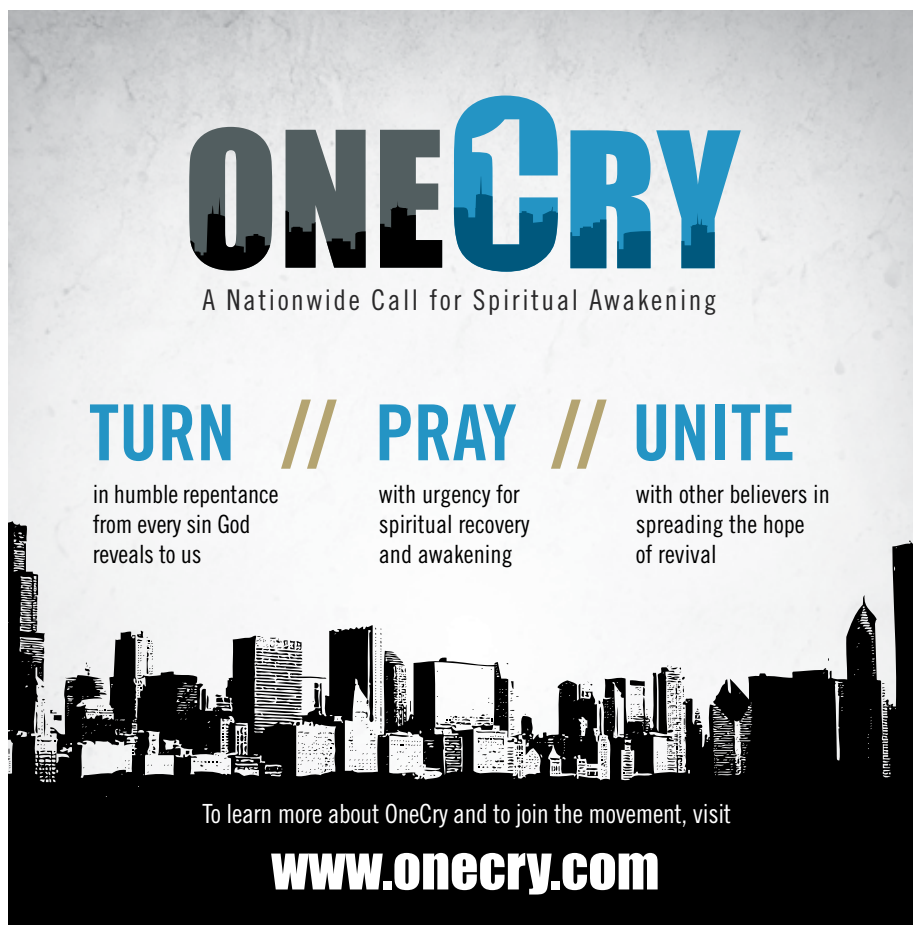
Many of the older generation who

had been praying for revival were not prepared for the manner God chose to move and the people He chose to use. Though God was unquestionably working, some people still resisted the revival because its converts were barefoot and shaggy or too charismatic and unconventional. Young seekers were regularly told that they could not come into churches unless they cut their hair and put on shoes.

Many others recognized what God was doing and quickly adapted to the needs of the new converts. But it is sad that some, to this day, refuse to acknowledge the lasting significance of this powerful move of God!

The Two Faces of Revival

As useful as young people are in revival, we must not forget that God typically works through a shared partnership



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between the older and younger generations. This is the message of Joel 2:28 (echoed in Acts 2:17) about the last days: God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

The birth and ministry of Jesus confirms this same truth. Luke 1:1–20 tells us that the coming of Jesus and the forerunner ministry of John the Baptist, were birthed through two very different families and generations. One was older and declining in strength; the other was young and energetic but very inexperienced.

God reached out first to the older Zechariah and Elizabeth. Even though Gabriel tried to encourage Zechariah that his prayers had been answered, Zechariah couldn't accept it. Apparently his physical circumstances or past

disappointments had blinded his eyes of faith. So the Lord disciplined him, and Zechariah temporarily lost his voice and his power of influence. Nevertheless, God in His mercy still used him and Elizabeth in this special season of grace.

The younger Mary responded quite differently from Zechariah. In spite of the greater obstacles she faced, she responded with a tender heart of faith and submission.

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her (Luke 1:34–38).

We Don't See Like the Lord Sees!

It's this kind of faith and humility that makes our young people such powerful tools in the hand of God. Humble hearts always make better homes for the Spirit of revival than heads full of assumptions. The thing that gives our young people so much potential is not their head but their heart connection with God.

If, in our pursuit for revival, we trust in what we can see and touch, we are destined to be swayed by the fool's gold of human strength, or stumbled by God's unconventional means and methods.

Remember, those who knew Jesus best were deeply offended by His outward meekness and humanity. They missed the day of their own visitation. "When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, 'Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son?' . . . So they were offended at Him. . . . Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matt. 13:54–58, NKJV).

May we not make the same mistake!

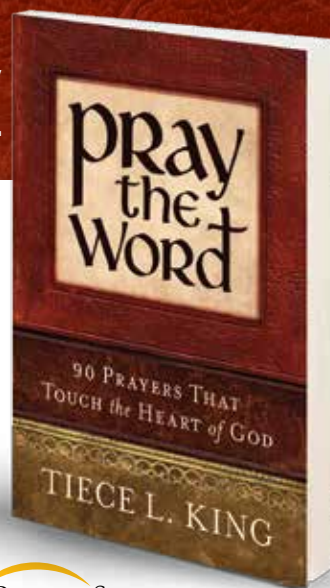
If we want to see revival, God may be asking us to cultivate in ourselves, whatever our age, the tender heart of the young—a hungry heart with honest faith. A heart that relies upon *prayer* to see what *God* can do. **PC**

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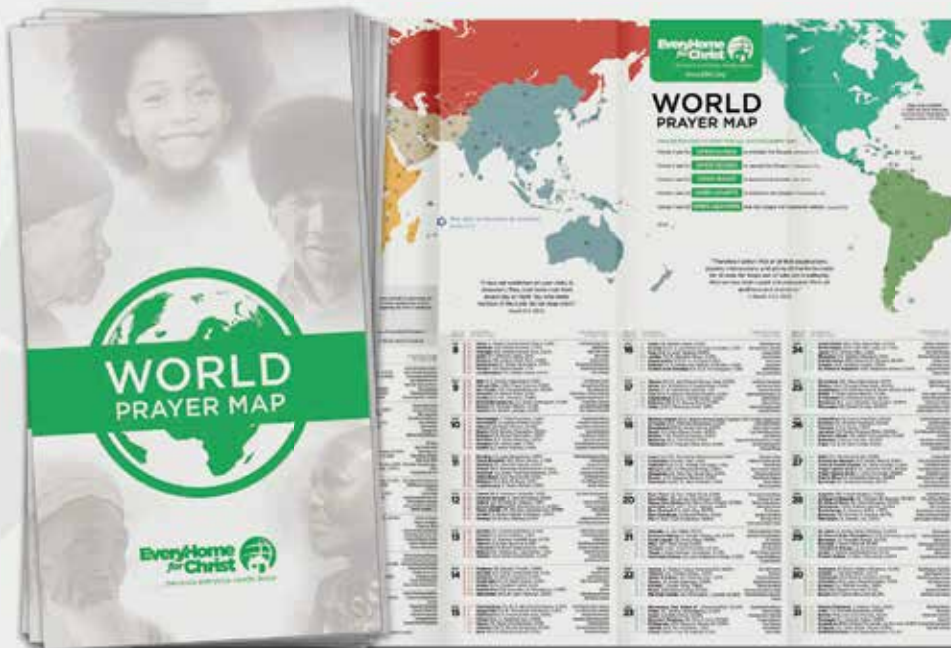
DAVID SMITHERS and his wife Lucretia serve as the English ministers for the Chinese Christian Assembly in Pomona, CA. He is the founder and director of Awake and Go

prayer network (awakeandgo.com) and also serves on the leadership team for the Collegiate Day of Prayer (collegiatedayofprayer.org).

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The Stirring of a College Campus Prayer Movement

By
Justin Christopher

I still remember the discouraging responses I heard during my senior year of high school when I told Christian friends and their parents I was going to the University of Texas (UT). They warned me that it was a “liberal” party school where I—as a good Christian kid—was going to lose my faith. They spoke as though UT was a barren land where God was unable to bring His Kingdom and salvation.

At that same time, I was reading Dan Hayes’s book *Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening*, which told stories of many historic revivals led by young people in spiritually dry nations, cities, and campuses. As a result, I arrived that fall on the University of Texas campus with an incredible hope that God was going to bring awakening to my campus, especially if we began to pray.

God Is Moving Now!

During the second week of my freshman year, every weekday at 7:00 a.m., two of my friends and I began praying for revival. The next week we found out that other believers had already been meeting and doing the same, so we joined forces. A group of 6 to 10 of us prayed together every day for the next four years. Through this united effort, a prayer movement at UT was born.

Now, 23 years later, the prayer movement is still

Movement in England were getting started (in 2000), we began uniting the Body of Christ on campus in 24-hour prayer (during the week leading up to Easter) for an event we called Resurrection Week. We erected a tent in the middle of campus and asked students to sign up to lead prayer and worship 24 hours a day for five days. The tent walls were lined with wooden boards on which students could write down prayers and Scriptures or sketch the vi-

sions God was giving them. We hoped these short bursts of 24-hour prayer would eventually give students a strong desire for a permanent place of 24-hour prayer—a Campus House of Prayer (CHOP).

In 2006, God answered our prayers. He gave us a building for a CHOP right across the street from campus. To this day, students from dozens of campus ministries and churches come together for prayer in that place 100 to 120 hours a week.

We love the fact that today our CHOP is shared by the entire Body of Christ at UT. Most hours are filled by students praying for the parts of campus God has called them to reach with the gospel. Our ministry's headquarters (Campus Renewal) are in the same building as the CHOP, and it is a joy to be in my office and watch students from various campus ministries coming in and out of our building to pray every day.



The spiritual atmosphere around a campus that is being prayed for 24 hours a day is radically different.

growing as students meet weekly in prayer. Since we started praying together, the percentage of students involved in Christian community at UT has more than doubled, from only 5.5 percent in 1991, to 12 percent today.

United in Prayer

God used the morning prayer group at UT to begin several prayer initiatives. We started a united prayer gathering on Friday afternoons, aiming to have one student leader representing each of the 30 campus ministries. These student leaders then began bringing together all of the campus ministries for concerts of prayer several times a year.

We developed a number of campus-wide prayer strategies. They included a 168-day prayer chain, complete with prayer guides written by students—an adopt-a-prof initiative to pray for UT's 2,100 professors, and a "High-Five" initiative, aiming to get Christian students to pray daily for five of their unbelieving friends.

About the same time that the International House of Prayer in Kansas City and the 24/7 Prayer

United Prayer Resulting in United Mission

The unity we developed in prayer has led to increased unity in mission. In 1997, the college pastors at UT started praying together every week. As they grew in their love for one another, they developed an increased desire to work together to reach every student with the gospel. We started mapping out the campus, listing various affinity groups, such as academic clubs, Greek houses, sports teams, ethnic groups, international student groups, social clubs, dorms, apartment complexes, majors, and departments. Then we charted who was reaching out to these groups and which groups on campus were not being reached with the gospel.

The college pastors generously connected their students, across ministry lines, with others who

shared common affinity groups. Our dream became crystal clear. We wanted to see a day when every affinity group on campus had believers among them who were faithful to pray for them, serve them, and share the gospel with them.

Beyond UT

After launching our CHOP in 2006, we started hearing stories about prayer rooms and prayer tents popping up on campuses all over the country. Here are some of the campuses that we know have prayer rooms: Ohio State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Tennessee, University of Houston, University of Texas at Arlington, Kenesaw State University, Arizona State University, Florida State University, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and several of the schools in the University of California system. The list goes on and on.

It has become common for campus ministries to collaborate for several days of focused, united prayer by putting up tents in the middle of campus, where students can come to pray and to be prayed for. Prayer tents not only serve as a space for believers; they are also a place of ministry for the spiritually lost students walking across the campus. The spiritual atmosphere around a campus that is being prayed for 24 hours a day is radically different. The heavens are opened, and more students are aware of their spiritual need. Gospel conversations take place everywhere. Again, prayer leads to mission.

In the spring semester of 2007, Campus Renewal partnered with several other national campus ministries to pray for college campuses 24 hours a day for the entire semester. We started with a modest goal of getting 18 campuses to do a week of 24-hour prayer, back to back, from Martin Luther King Day to Memorial Day. Instead of only enlisting 18 campuses, we were wonderfully surprised to have 72 campuses participate. Most

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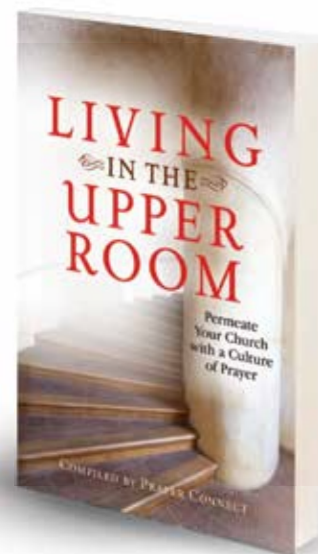
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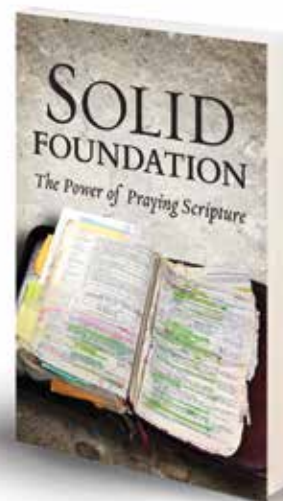
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RESET Movement

Uniting a Generation
around Jesus in 2016

By Nick Hall

Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds” (Ps. 71:17).

God moves and His people pray—and when we pray, God moves.

As a freshman in college, God was after my life. On many sleepless nights, I’d find my way to a small chapel near my dorm. I would unscrew all the light bulbs until only those shining on the cross were left. In those long nights of prayer, God birthed in me an aching desire to see my peers reached with the gospel.

Since then, I’ve seen prayer multiplied on campuses across the nation. As this prayer movement has grown, God’s presence has been magnified on campuses. Since PULSE launched in 2006, we have seen more than 400,000 students in the United States publicly respond to the gospel. Prayer unites and ignites hearts around Jesus. It transforms our lives.

We believe something even bigger is stirring: God is laying groundwork for spiritual awakening. This is why we have united with others to launch RESET. With a passion for every person to know Jesus personally, and a vision for the Church to work together to proclaim Jesus, the RESET Movement is building toward an historic event in 2016 and praying for spiritual revival to sweep this nation.

RESET is uniting a generation around Jesus to bring hope and make history. I’m praying and believing God for the largest Jesus gathering in American history on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in July 2016. Why? Because it’s time to come together around the gospel. It’s time for our nation to turn to Jesus.

God loves audacious prayers because they force our dependence on Him. As we press on toward 2016, our eyes are fixed on Jesus. We know the task is impossible for us, but nothing is impossible for our God! We can’t force God to act, but we can respond to His movement. We must continue praying and putting feet to our prayers—appealing to the attributes we know are true of the great I AM:

- He is near to those who call on Him (Ps. 145:18).
- His eyes are looking for those fully committed to Him (2 Chron. 16:9).
- He is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in love (Ex. 34:6).

- His arm is not too short to save (Isa. 59:1).
- It’s not His will that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9).
- He responds to repentance and is able to heal our land (2 Chron. 7:14).

- When we unite as one under God, the world sees Jesus (John 17:20–26).
- When we lift up Jesus, He will draw all people to Himself (John 12:32).

Already, many churches and ministries have made RESET their own, adopting the prayer for revival and mission to share the gospel. Because RESET is a movement, it exists apart from any single church or ministry. We’re asking God to awaken this nation! We pray the words of Isaiah: “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down. . . !” (Isa. 64:1).

Prayer is the spark of revival, starting in our own lives and spreading like wildfire. Isaiah described God’s *coming down* as “when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil” (Isa. 64:2).

As I continue to see God stir hearts around the nation, I’m convinced that now is the time. Now is the time to pray. Now is the time to give. Now is the time to go.

When we turn to Jesus, we experience a supernatural RESET. As the reset button on your computer corrects past errors and gets the system working again, Jesus alone heals, forgives, and saves. If God can RESET our lives, I’m convinced that He can RESET our communities, culture, and nation.

Here are six prayers for RESET in 2016:

1. that God will call and raise up leaders to carry the RESET Movement
2. that God will stir the burden for unity and spiritual awakening in believers
3. that God will ignite prayer among the next generation toward the proclamation of the gospel
4. that God will grant wisdom, favor, and grace in planning for this massive gathering in July 2016
5. that God will give victory in the midst of spiritual warfare. It’s happening, and it will continue through 2016.
6. that each person who gathers for RESET will be commissioned to live fully for Jesus.

Now is the time for a supernatural RESET. God has done it before, and I’m asking, “Lord, would You do it again?”

NICK HALL is the founder and chief communicator of PULSE (pulsemovement.com). You can join RESET at resetmovement.com.

weeks there were several campuses praying 24 hours a day!

That semester of united prayer led to further collaboration and the rebirth of the Collegiate Day of Prayer. Leaders from many of the well-known campus ministries labored together to restore an annual day of prayer for college campuses. Since 2010, thousands of students on hundreds of campuses have been gathering on the last Thursday of February to cry out for repentance and revival among college students. In 2014, there were united prayer gatherings on 1,573 campuses in 844 different cities, in all 50 states, and in 30 different countries. The Collegiate Day of Prayer serves as a catalytic event that stirs more and more students to pray each year.

The Future of Our United Movement

There is perhaps more prayer on and for college campuses than ever before. In the fall of 2014 Campus Renewal launched a simplified prayer strategy, asking college students to make a four-part commitment to pray for their campuses. College students are asked to:

1. personally pray for revival and awakening on their campuses daily
2. corporately pray for revival and awakening on their campuses weekly
3. fast for revival and awakening on their campuses monthly (first Fridays)
4. unite the Body of Christ on their campus for an event to pray for revival and awakening on their campus once a semester.

For students who join the movement, we're providing a daily and weekly prayer guide for personal and corporate prayer. We also connect them with one another through social media and biweekly video conferences.

With this kind of prayer taking place all over the country, we're hopeful that God will once again bring revival and

awakening to our college campuses. He has done it before, but it has been far too long. We pray that we could see His great fame in our day:

"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2). **PC**

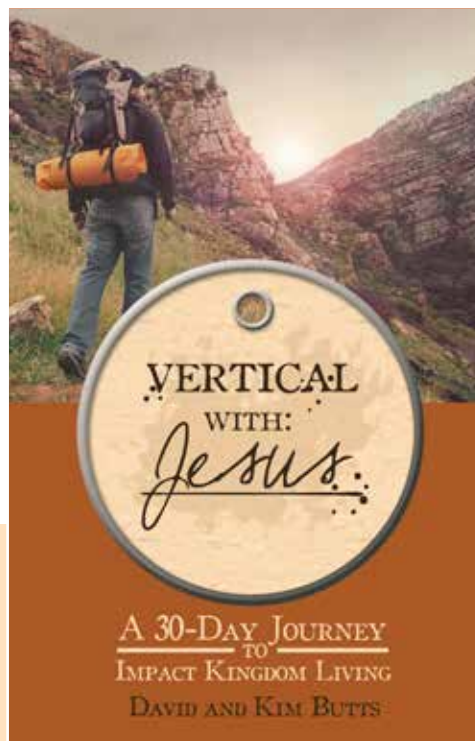


JUSTIN CHRISTOPHER is the national campus director for Campus Renewal, and the author of the book *Campus Renewal: A Practical Plan for Uniting Campus Ministries in Prayer and Mission*. He gives leadership to the Campus House of Prayer and the missional community movement at the University of Texas (texasunited.org).

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How to Pray for God's Movement on Campuses

By
Jeremy Story

Upholding the

NEXT Generation



he recent movie *God's Not Dead* depicts the struggle between a Christian student and an atheist professor. Producer Mike Scott told me that during test

screenings his team discovered viewers had a hard time believing any college classroom could be that hostile toward Christians. As a result, the producers added to the film credits a long list of recent court cases regarding the violation of students' basic religious liberties.

As you pray for colleges and universities, it is important to understand the amount of depravity there. It's helpful to realize how spiritually dark campuses can be. Yet we also need hope—the

knowledge of ways God has used students in dark times to bring light and to spark national spiritual awakening again and again.

For every hostile academic environment, there is often a courageous faith-filled student, administrator, or professor willing to represent God's Kingdom. I am reminded of Lauren, a student at the University of Texas, whose religious studies professor was going to have a shaman do a healing demonstration in front of her class. Lauren asked her professor if she could demonstrate how Jesus can heal. She then prayed for students willing to put God to the test in front of the class. Not only

Ministries was an art professor in the University of Wisconsin system. During the Jesus Movement in the 1970s Gary Bergel turned from doing drugs with his students to proclaiming Christ in the classroom. Later in his life God used him to lead a major nationwide prayer movement called Intercessors for America.

Professors and administrators often feel isolated. Their specialization can put their closest counterparts hundreds of miles away on other campuses. Pray for godly people to connect with these leaders on our nation's campuses. Pray that all their vast knowledge will lead them to God rather than to prideful arrogance.

2. Pray for religious freedom to flourish.

In September 2014, the California State University (CSU) system "derecognized" InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as a student club because InterVarsity said practicing homosexuals couldn't be leaders in their clubs. The great news is that CSU-system students have stood their ground and have refused to sign the nondiscrimination agreement, even though doing so would allow them to be officially recognized by the university system.

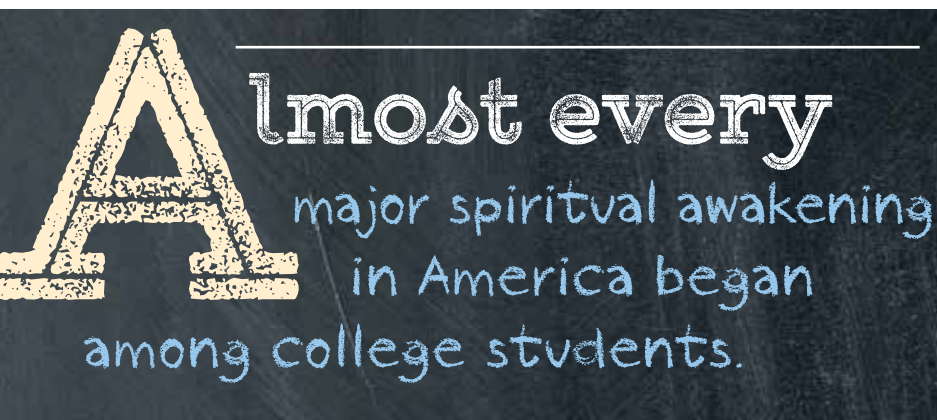
Variations of this scenario have happened on many campuses across the nation. Pray for students to courageously stand up for their faith rather than caving to university pressures. Pray for administrators to value religious freedom as much as they value academic freedom. Pray for favor and unity among the coalition of lawyers from different ministries that are fighting to stop this alarming trend across America. Ask God to turn this persecution into good for believers on campus.

3. Pray for a harvest of Kingdom ministers in every vocation and field of study.

A few years ago I trained a group of students at City College in New York City, showing them how to pick a community for themselves within a campus full of nonbelievers, how to be relevant and valuable assets to that community, and how to help everyone in that community grow closer to Christ. Andy Mineo, a student in that training group, graduated from college shortly thereafter and recently released a hip hop album that topped MTV charts and filled stadiums with fans.

In an interview Andy did with MTV, he clearly explained the good news about Jesus in a language and manner that gained the ears and respect of the

continued on page 30



was a student healed, but that student became a follower of Christ! Lauren's professor also gave her 15 minutes to share her own experiences with Jesus and His healing power.

Hope for Transformation

The reality is that almost every major spiritual awakening in America began among college students. Opposite forces fight side by side. Christian students are the pivot point for great transformation or great evil in our nation. This means we must know how to pray for them in practical ways.

I have worked with a wide spectrum of students and college ministries nationally and globally. Out of that experience I offer five key points you can focus on as you pray for colleges, universities, and their students. This is not a complete list, but it highlights some of the most practical and tangible aspects you can pray about.

1. Pray for a revelation of Jesus and righteousness among college administrators, faculty, and staff.

A former board member of Campus Renewal

Beyond Prayer

Unique Ways to
Minister to Campuses

You may have a college or university campus near your home. It needs your prayers. And you can also be effective in *acting* on those prayers. You don't have to be a college student or professor to impact college life. Here are some practical ways you or your church can make a difference:

1. Adopt an administrator or faculty member from a campus near you or from your alma mater.

Ask to meet that person, and then express how grateful you are for his or her work. Let that individual know you are praying, and ask how you can be of service. Pastors and key business people can often access college presidents and other key administrators in ways students never will. Contacting a professor who teaches in the same field in which you work is a fabulous initial connection.

Whole Church Idea: Obtain a list of specific administrators and professors, and start a church-wide “adopt-a-prof” campaign.

2. Write a letter to your alma mater's key administrators and encourage them to allow freedom of religion on campus.

We need to be more proactive than reactive. It is easier to head off an administrator's being pressured into a bad decision than it is to reverse a decision already made.

Whole Church Idea: Designate a special month-long focus to praying for college administrators. Ask your congregation to sign up to write letters to one or more administrators during that month. Urge them to send copies of the letters to the church office. Then, to encourage others to write letters also, read a few versions of the submitted letters, anonymously, during church services.

3. Invite a student of your gender into a low-key, regular meeting with you for mentorship and encouragement.

One of the fundamental ingredients in sexual purity is mentorship and healthy accountability. Most students want to connect with mentors but don't know where to turn. Many experienced adults think students aren't

interested in hearing from them. The opposite is true. Take the risk to initiate a simple meeting over coffee. An especially effective way to connect is to find a student majoring in the field in which you work. And if you are a parent/homemaker, mentors like you are also desperately needed. College students need to learn how to build great family relationships.

Whole Church Idea: Identify college students in your church. Find out which ones would like a mentor for a semester (likely all of them!) and which fields they are studying. Ask people to adopt a student from this list. You might want to have a screening interview with interested mentor candidates to make sure they are appropriate connections with students. Create a list of expectations for mentors. Mentoring doesn't have to be difficult. A simple, brief, regular meeting over coffee with a mature listener can help students immeasurably.

Buy every student in your church an apologetics book that deals with faith and reason, such as *More Than a Carpenter*, *Finding God at Harvard*, or *The Case for Christ*.

4. Open your home for a student gathering.

Tell your pastor you would like to host a gathering for students at your home. Fix a meal or order pizza. Students long for the home environment. Even one event a semester is a great alternative to the other social activities that can tear students down. Pulling students outside the campus bubble can offer them perspective.

Whole Church Idea: International students especially appreciate invitations to someone's home during holiday breaks. When other students go back to their families, internationals usually can't afford to fly around the world back home. Work with an international student ministry to host a holiday student gathering in a church family home or at another fun venue.

—Jeremy Story

Collegiate Day of Prayer on February 26

As the students go, so goes our nation! If we win the spiritual battles across our nation but neglect our college campuses, all our progress will be undone in a generation. Therefore, students today need our support and earnest prayers.

Biblically and historically, united prayer has always been the means of grace to bridge the gap between a great need

and a great awakening. You and your church can find ways to offer prayer support for your local campus, especially on the Collegiate Day of Prayer, Thursday, February 26, 2015. Learn more and register your support at collegiatedayofprayer.org.

This generation needs our unified prayers—please join us in praying for America's college campuses!

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hip hop community. He has open doors in the hip hop world with rap artists and others. Few people have the credibility to speak to them.

Pray for more students like Andy in every field. Ask God to help college ministries train students to serve Christ in a way that doesn't separate the secular and religious worlds. The future leadership of our culture, business climate, and economy depends on it.

4. Pray for sexual purity among students and for great future marriages.

Yale University is now famous for its Sex Week celebrations. Yale allows this week for students to explore and discuss all sexual options. During the annual event there have been workshops regarding "fantasies with family members" and "masochistic sexual practices," to name a few.

Here is the good news. Several students have courageously stood against this event. As a result, Yale removed its name from the event and prohibited any corporate sponsorship. On many Ivy League campuses Christian students have organized alternative events. Students at Harvard founded a club dedicated to starting a chastity movement.

For the first time in their lives college students find themselves completely on their own with lots of freedom. They are surrounded by a very sexually explicit campus culture. Pray for students' foresight to see compromising situations and avoid them entirely. Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict students to flee from sexual sin. During this phase of life, students make decisions that affect them for the rest of their lives. Ask God to divinely connect male and female students in marriages that edify both spouses, glorify Christ, and last a lifetime.

5. Pray for truth to rise to the top.

Pluralism is the norm on college campuses. Everyone is seeking truth and many people are making truth claims. While Kelly Monroe was a chaplain at Harvard, she organized an event featuring Christian speakers who are top academics in various fields. The goal was to have a week-long discussion in pursuit of real truth. Hundreds attended. The event, now known as the Veritas Forum, has spread to campuses across the United States. It has raised the banner that absolute truth can be found in the midst of various claims to truth.

Pray for God to help students discern good from evil. Pray for light to expose darkness for what it really is. Pray for the claims of Jesus to be seen as truth—unique and utterly different from the myriad of other religious options on campus. Pray for great speakers—those who can clearly articulate and prove the authenticity of biblical teachings—to proliferate across campuses.

Good Reason to Pray!

Ultimately my desire is to see another great awakening to Jesus the Christ in our culture and a revival to Him in the Church. We desperately need Him. We need to show the world that God's not dead. And we have good reason to pray with faith that He will use college and university campuses to instigate that revival and spiritual awakening. **PC**



JEREMY STORY is president of Campus Renewal Ministries (campusrenewal.org). He also serves on the executive committee of America's National Prayer Committee and the executive board of Intercessors for America.



ampus Renewal Ministries has produced a comprehensive prayer guide to help you pray for colleges and college students. It is written by national leaders from different college ministries. You can receive a free copy by requesting one at campusrenewal.org or emailing info@campusrenewal.org.

God's Movement of Prayer on Campuses

By
Sandra Higley

"What do you want to do when you grow up?"

Have you ever been guilty of asking that question? I have. With those few words, it's as if we relegate this entire generation of young people to living in limbo until they are "old enough" to be of some use to the world. And while we wait for this self-imposed deadline, all the passion, energy, focus, and assets of these young people is diverted toward video games, media, drugs, sex, and other distractions. We wring our hands at the misdirected vitality that often resurfaces as mischief—or even violence—and then wonder what went wrong.

A BIBLE Study

Note: This Bible study is formatted for small group open discussion. If you use this study by yourself, we suggest that you journal your answers to the discussion questions. Also, please use suggested translations where indicated. Biblegateway.com is an excellent source for translations you may not have on hand.

In our attempts to entertain this group with diversions until society says they are ready to accomplish something, we have sidetracked a God-given resource meant to bring about the Kingdom here on earth. What a waste. Worse yet, what a scheme of the enemy!

David Smithers comments on God's frequent use of young people as catalysts for revival: "They are creative, talented, untapped bundles of potential willing to try new things. But that is *not* the primary reason God so often uses them . . . but rather their hungry hearts and honest faith."

Discussion Questions

Look up the following passages and identify the young person(s) God handpicked to accomplish His purpose. Record any thoughts you have about why these young people might have been His first choice:

Genesis 37, 41:14–41, 50:15–20 _____

Exodus 2:1–10, 3:7–10 _____

1 Samuel 1:11, 24–28, 2:18–21, 3:1–4:1 _____

1 Samuel 16:1–13, 17:1–51 _____

2 Kings 5:1–15 _____

Luke 1:26–56, 2:1–20 _____

Matt. 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:2–11; John 1:35–51

Acts 16:1–5 _____

Smithers remarks that “too often God has to pass over the old guard and use our young people because He can’t freely move through an older generation’s extrabiblical rules and expectations.” Do you agree or disagree with his assessment? Why? Give examples.

Look up the following Scriptures and discuss how they apply to God’s use of young people throughout history (1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 8:2, 71:17; Matt. 21:16; Mark 10:13–16; 1 Cor. 1:27–29; 1 Tim. 4:12).

“Almost every major spiritual awakening in America began among college students. Opposite forces fight side by side. Christian students are the pivot point,” writes Jeremy Story. If God has chosen to use them in the past, might He not use them again? Read Habakkuk 3:2 and share your thoughts on this.

God frequently “works through a shared partnership between

the older and younger generations,” according to Smithers. Look back at the list of young people referred to earlier in this study. How many of these situations involved generational partnerships? There are others in Scripture such as Abraham and Isaac, Ruth and Naomi. Can you think of more?

Justin Christopher recalls the following: “I still remember the discouraging responses I heard during my senior year of high school when I told Christian friends and their parents I was going to [a secular university]. They warned me that it was a ‘liberal’ party school where I—as a good Christian kid—was going to lose my faith. They spoke as though [that school] was a barren land where God was unable to bring His Kingdom and salvation.” But according to Jeremy Story, “For every hostile academic environment, there is often a courageous faith-filled student, administrator, or professor willing to represent God’s Kingdom.”

If these statements about colleges/universities are true, how does the multigenerational approach discussed earlier apply to what God is doing on college campuses today? How does or should it affect you?

Action Steps

When discussing the RESET Movement on college campuses, Nick Hall writes, “When we turn to Jesus, we experience a supernatural reset. As the reset button on your computer corrects past errors and gets the system working again, Jesus alone heals, forgives, and saves. If God can reset our lives, I’m convinced He can reset our communities, culture, and nation.”

There are an extraordinary number of prayer guides, initiatives, and practical ways to join God in what He is doing in the collegiate world today! How will you hit your “reset button” in response? Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit how He wants you to apply your study of Scripture today.

SANDRA HIGLEY is an intercessor, author, and editor whose journey in prayer began in 1993. She lives in Colorado Springs, CO.



The Never-Changing Revival Message

By Eddie Hyatt

The Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a direct result of the preaching of the evangelists of the Great Awakening,” concluded the late Harvard professor Perry Miller. But what was it about the preaching of Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tennant, George Whitefield, and others that would lead this Harvard professor—a recognized expert in Puritanism and early American history—to make such a statement?

It was not the act or style of preaching, for there were very diverse styles. Jonathan Edwards wrote out his sermons and read them in a monotone voice without movements or gestures. George Whitefield preached extemporaneously and with much fire and movement.

The Message Matters

The message itself brought the results. This is what Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:18—that it is not the mere act of preaching that produces fruit for the Kingdom of God but the message that is preached. Style may stir the emotions, but it can never change the heart. In fact, Paul says that if we go too far in trying to make the message acceptable to contemporary culture, we run the risk of preaching a gospel that is emptied of its power (1 Cor. 2:4–5).

The results of the Great Awakening should be credited to the message that was preached, backed by much prayer, and to messengers who lived like they believed what they preached. I see seven common emphases in their collective messages.

1. God is a great, majestic, and holy Being who created all things and to whom all creatures owe their love, honor, and respect.

2. Adam and Eve, our first parents, rebelled against their Creator and went

their own way, dragging their posterity down with them into the abyss of sin and judgment—known in historical theology as “the fall.”

3. Humanity in its current state is a rebellious and fallen race. All people stand guilty and condemned before an infinitely just and holy God.

4. God in His sovereign mercy and grace now offers full pardon and forgiveness of sins to all who will put their faith in Jesus Christ the Savior.

5. Faith in Jesus Christ alone must be laid as the only foundation. The Great Awakening preachers emphasized that many professing Christians had built their faith on faulty foundations, such as church membership, good deeds, family pedigree, social status, and cultural refinement.

6. There must be a new birth. These preachers emphasized that when one truly believes in Christ, a work of regeneration by the Holy Spirit occurs—a new birth—from which springs new desires and aspirations that are godly, producing a whole new tenor of life.

7. God offers eternal bliss in heaven for all who truly trust in Christ. And eternal suffering and damnation are reserved for all those who refuse God’s gracious gift of salvation in Christ.

America’s First National Event

The Great Awakening had a pervasive impact throughout Colonial America. Entire cities were transformed. In his autobiography, Benjamin Franklin describes the wonderful change that came over his hometown of Philadelphia. He wrote, “From being thoughtless and indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world was growing religious so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in

different families of every street” (p. 49).

It was the first time the colonists of different ethnicities, denominations, and languages had participated together in a single event. Denominational and ethnic walls came down, and they saw themselves as a single people with one Divine destiny—one nation under God.

The preaching of the Great Awakening evangelists tended to democratize Colonial society by putting everyone on the same level—guilty sinners before God, with only one remedy for all: unfeigned faith in Jesus Christ. We can see the fruit of this in the American Constitution, where in Section 9 the Founders forbade the American government to grant honorific titles of nobility to anyone. There was to be no aristocracy in the new nation.

Today, America is probably facing its greatest crisis since the Civil War. It is a crisis on multiple levels—moral, spiritual, political, and social. While many Christians hold out hope for a political solution, the First Great Awakening shows us that only a new commitment to preach biblical truth in love and in the power of the Holy Spirit will bring the change that America must see in the days ahead.

After all, it was not some newfangled revelation that was preached by Edwards, Whitefield, and the others. It was the same message preached by those first apostles and followers of Jesus. It was an old message made alive through prayer and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **PC**



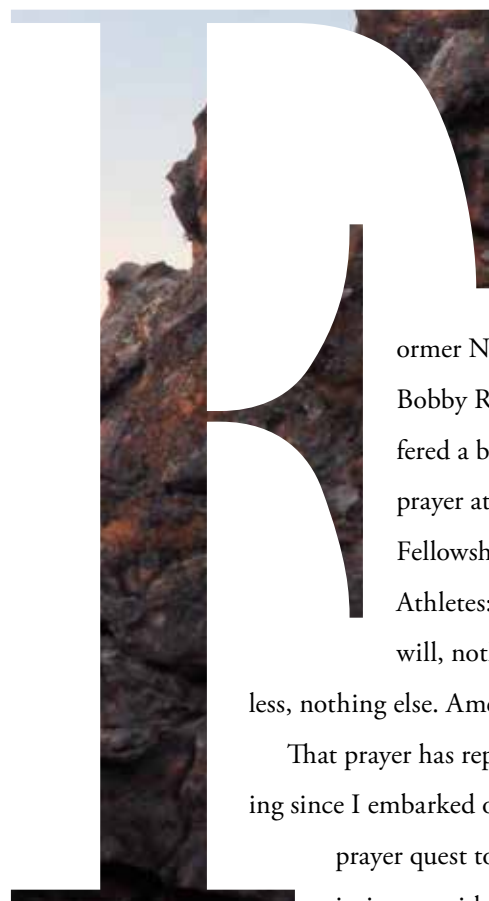
EDDIE HYATT is an author, Bible teacher, and ordained minister with a passion to see another Great Awakening. This article was derived from his book *America’s Revival*

Heritage, available from Amazon and his website (eddiehyatt.com).



What
It Takes
to Stand
in the
Gap

The Consecrated Inter



former New York Yankee Bobby Richardson once offered a brief but poignant prayer at a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes: “Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen.”

That prayer has represented my longing since I embarked on a passionate prayer quest to develop a deeper intimacy with God as an interces-

sor. I hungered to know the unfamiliar facets of His character. I soon discovered that the further I pursued Him, the more I discovered of His infinite being. The more passionately I sought Him, the more He revealed Himself to me.

Through this quest, one word resounded deeply within my heart: *consecration*.

Exclusive Devotion to God

So what does consecration mean to us as intercessors? Similar to the Levitical priests, intercessors are conduits. They stand in the gap between God and others. In 1 Chronicles 15 we read that before the priests were allowed to carry the ark of the covenant, God instructed them to be consecrated. The ark was where God’s Spirit resided. He required anyone coming near His presence to be dedicated and separated unto God for His service alone.

Since the time of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we, too, have been appointed priests (Rev. 1:5–6). Therefore it is no surprise that we are also called to a life of consecration—to separation, to a total, exclusive devotion to God.

By Kathy Wenrich

cessor

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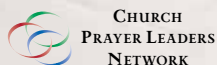
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Publisher *Prayer Connect*

Author of *The Power
of Personal Prayer* and *Praying
Like Paul*.

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It seems we have lost a true understanding of consecration. Our modern society doesn't require it. However, from a faith perspective, a recent example of consecration is Saeed Abedini. While on a missions trip, this American pastor was arrested for his Christian faith and sentenced to eight years in an Iranian prison. During all that time he has been suffering torture and brutal beatings because he refuses to deny Christ.

By not backing down, though, no matter how difficult his persecution, he has proven that he is willing to die to his own life in order to accomplish the Father's will. "Because I want to serve God," Pastor Abedini wrote in a letter from prison, "I see all of these difficulties as golden opportunities and great doors to serve. There are empty containers who are thirsty for a taste of the Living Water and we can quench their thirst by giving them Jesus Christ."

Because Saeed has consecrated himself, his position as an intercessor for the Muslim prisoners and guards he comes in contact with is that of a modern-day Paul. God is receiving glory as He answers prayers and Saeed's fellow inmates learn of Jesus' love.

Set Apart

Consecration literally means "the devoting or setting apart of anything to the worship or service of God." When we consecrate ourselves to God, we separate ourselves from the desires of our flesh and wholly give ourselves—body, soul, and spirit—to Christ Jesus who lives within us.

Just as the disciples did during the Last Supper (Matt. 26:26–30), we share the cup of Jesus, saying, I pledge myself to Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else—even unto death.

In consecration we join together our complete being with His Spirit. We deny anything that would take our focus off the mandate God has given us: to intercede on behalf of others.

Consecrated intercession involves taking hold of God's will and praying it into existence. Sometimes the direction we are led to pray doesn't make sense to our natural minds. If we are not open to praying God's will, then we can easily be led astray by the flesh.

I recently had to pray the will of God when everything within me wanted to pray the opposite. A friend's husband was dying. She asked that we pray for his healing. Understandably, she was not willing to watch her husband die. I went to war in the spirit, wholeheartedly focused on the victory of this man's total healing.

However, when I began to pray, the Spirit impressed upon me that my prayer needed to change. I was not to pray for his healing. I was to pray for the family to stand strong in their faith even though they did not understand.

I desperately wanted this man to be healed for the glory of the Lord and for the sake of his family. But my focus in battle had to change in order to be consecrated.

I prayed this way until I sensed victory in the situation. Victory in God's Kingdom realm is vastly different from that of the earthly realm. As intercessors, we need to perceive when the victory has been won in the Spirit, regardless of what it looks like from an earthly perspective.

A few days after my prayer perspective changed, my friend was able to release her husband to God, and soon the dear man peacefully slipped away to be with Jesus.

If we allow our human feelings or understanding to get in the way, we are in danger of praying amiss. As long as we try to intercede in the power of our own flesh, we will never be able to consecrate ourselves to fulfilling the Father's will. Our battleground is not of this earth. We are fighting against strongholds and against spiritual powers in the heavens above (Eph. 6:12). It takes a strong, dedicated, singularly focused warrior to fight for a cause not his own, believing it is more important.

War Heroes

In the garden of Gethsemane, just before Jesus went to the cross, He obviously prayed out of a consecrated heart. In prayer, His “human will” asked that the cup be removed. But because He was consecrated, His prayer changed to one that desired the Father’s will above His own (Matt. 26:36–46). There were no limits. Just as Jesus had lived each day dying to His own will and desires, He was now taking one step further. He was vowing to be faithful to the call even though it would cost Him His life. The vow of total consecration. No turning back. He could offer nothing more, for He had pledged all.

The nature of a consecrated *intercessor* is the willingness to sacrifice personal rights in order to petition God on behalf of those who cannot plead for themselves. Moses, for example, was willing to be blotted out of God’s book for the sake of the Israelites (Ex. 32:32). With Stephen’s last words he interceded for the ones who were killing him (Acts 7:59–60).

They, along with many others, were willing to lay down their own lives to intercede for the greater need. They emptied themselves of their own rights to stand in the gap and fight not only for the physical needs but the eternal life of others. We consider them war heroes because they went to battle and warred against powers and authorities to win the victory.

Consecrated intercessors run to the front lines whenever they perceive a threat from the enemy, regardless of their circumstance. Their peacemaker hearts suddenly become those of a mighty lion. The roar of a fully dedicated warrior resounds in the heavens. A divine, Holy Spirit power fills their being. Their lives have been emptied of self, anticipating being used mightily by the Father.

So a desire for consecration requires a personal inventory:

desires? If not, our prayers have become wicked things. We are in essence saying, “My will be done, not Yours.”

- Are we willing to lay aside all that could hinder our ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit—then pray accordingly? If not, what do we count so dear that it interferes? Has it become an idol?
- Are we willing to drop all else and run to war when the Spirit sounds the battle cry? True consecration recognizes that we are not our own (and that includes our time); we’ve been bought with a price (1 Cor. 7:23).

Recognizing our need for consecration is only the beginning. When we empty ourselves of “self,” we become moldable—humble enough for God to use us. Only a vessel empty of self and

filled with the power of the Holy Spirit can remain faithful to a pledge of consecration, even unto death of self. Only a vessel totally devoted to the will and purpose of our Lord God Almighty has the spiritual fortitude and strongman’s faith to run into battle and recapture ground taken by the enemy.

These are the vessels the Lord calls upon when He needs someone to stand in the gap (Ezek. 22:30). Only these set-apart ones know the priceless privilege of being able to say, “God, Your will be done. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.” **PC**

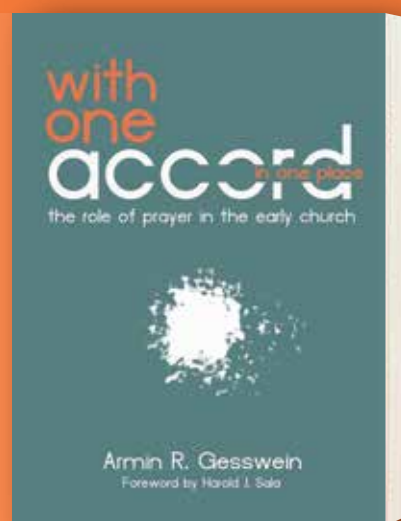


KATHY WENRICH is the director of the Ministry of Helps at Church for All Nations in Colorado Springs, CO. She enjoys freelance writing about the topics of prayer and

spiritual growth.

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In the praying life, God schedules waiting periods. Count on it. But waiting on God can be the most difficult, perhaps confusing part of the prayer process.

It is during the waiting times that many people drop out of the school of prayer. Not receiving their answers as they expected, many conclude that prayer doesn't work—at least not for them.

While the waiting time is the most difficult part of the process, it is also the most important. Waiting gives God the opportunity to redefine our desires and align our purpose and vision with His. What appears from the earth-perspective to

be a delay on God's part is really the time when God is working in the spiritual realm, beyond our senses. "Faith is being . . . certain of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1). During the waiting time, we are operating by faith.

PUTTING FAITH TO THE TEST

Prayer has an immediate impact. The instant a thought is turned toward God, no matter how unformed or inarticulate the thought, it creates a stir in the heavenly realms. Unless we understand what is happening in the spiritual realm, we may think that prayer is having no effect.

BY JENNIFER KENNEDY DEAN

What does Scripture tell us God is doing when it looks to us like He's delaying? Do you believe that God has a good and productive purpose for building waiting periods into your life? Recall James 1:2–4: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

When God brings waiting periods into your life it is for only one reason: so that you can test-drive your faith.

If I were planning to buy a car, I could research my purchase and decide what car I wanted—what make and model, what color, what add-on features. I could know everything about the car I want *except* how it handles. Not until I get behind the wheel and drive it for myself will I know the feel of the car. I won't make my final

purchase until I've handled the car myself—until I've test-driven it.

It's the same way with your faith. You can study faith. You can memorize verses about faith. You can learn slick, pithy definitions about faith. But until you have the opportunity to test-drive your own faith, you will never know how it handles.

PROVING OUR FAITH

James says that God "tests" our faith. Does that mean He puts it to the test so that He can see how much faith you have? Or does He put it to the test so that you can see how faith operates? The word *test* really means to prove. God knows everything about you and everything that's in your heart. In fact, He knows it better than you do. He doesn't have to devise a test that will tell Him about your faith. He is proving your faith to you!

When God allows you to test-drive your faith over and over again, you learn how to operate in faith with confidence. You become a mature and seasoned faith-walker. The person with mature faith is steady and tenacious. He has what James calls *perseverance*, the ability to go the distance.

What is it that you are waiting for? What is your proving ground right now? Do you believe that God has the power to change your circumstances and end your wait right now? Do you believe that God loves you and wants only your highest good and deepest happiness?

1. *If* God has the power to change your circumstances right now
2. *If* God loves you and wants your highest good
3. *If* the circumstances are still in place
4. *Then* what is your conclusion, based on truth?

Accept the circumstances as they are and embrace what God is doing to move things to His best conclusion. He does not submit to us His detailed plan for how He is going to do His will. Sometimes during the waiting period it will look as though God has lost control of events and everything is headed in the wrong direction.

But God is right now orchestrating answers to your prayers. We can learn more of God's ways from the life of Joseph.

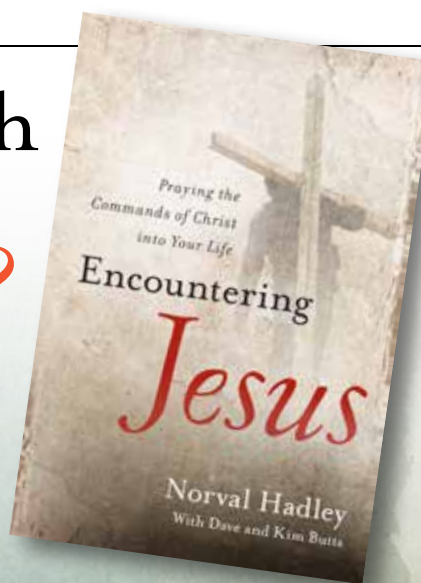
REMEMBERING JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE

Joseph's story begins in Genesis 37 and continues through the first chapter of Exodus. What was God's will for him? God showed Joseph His plan in a series of dreams. Joseph came to understand that he was destined to be a ruler, one to whom even his father and brothers would bow.

The next we hear of Joseph, he is at the bottom of a well, listening to his brothers plot his death and begging for

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his life (Gen. 42:21). He is sold into slavery, taken as a slave to a foreign land, and thrown into prison after being falsely accused. It does not appear that God is bringing about His will. It appears that God has lost control of Joseph's life because of the choices of evil men.

Actually, God is working out His plan for Joseph so that He can work out His plan for Israel—so that He can work out His plan for humanity.

For God's perspective on the situation, look at Psalm 105. What is God's will for Israel, the nation? Summed up, it is this: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit" (v. 11).

When Israel first reached Canaan, they were "but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another" (Ps. 105:12–13). What did God need to do in order to bring His will about? He needed to give Israel

a place to grow, prosper, learn skills, and reproduce safely. He needed to put them under the protection of a larger, more advanced civilization for a time. He needed them in Egypt.

How did He do it? "He sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave" (Ps. 105:17). It looked as if Joseph's evil brothers had sent him to Egypt. But God said that it was He who sent Joseph to Egypt. Joseph explained it to his brothers like this: "God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Gen. 45:7–8).

How did God get Israel out of Canaan into Egypt? "He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food" (Ps. 105:16). He brought famine on the land, but first He prepared their deliverance. What appeared to be a disaster and a tragedy

drove them to God's provision.

God allowed Joseph to be put in a position from which God could display His power in just the way that would give Joseph the most credibility with the pharaoh. "They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true. The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free. He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed, to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom" (Ps. 105:18–22).

Did God bring about exactly what He had promised Joseph He would do? Yes, to the last detail. Did God do it as Joseph expected Him to? No, far from it.

Israel moved into Egypt under the protection of Joseph, whom God had put in place. In Egypt, the tiny nation of Israel grew to become a large nation. "Then Israel entered Egypt. . . . The LORD made

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his people very fruitful” (Ps. 105:23–24).

Exodus 1 tells us that the nation of Israel grew so large and so strong that it frightened the pharaoh. As a result, he ordered slave masters to deal with the people harshly and oppress them with forced labor.

What was the next step in God’s plan for His people? He wanted to toughen

them up—physically, mentally, and spiritually—and get them ready to take the land He had promised from their enemies. So what did He do? “The LORD made his people very fruitful; he made them too numerous for their foes, *whose hearts he turned to hate his people*, to conspire against his servants” (Ps. 105:24–25, italics added).


Do you see? It appeared that the Israelites became victims to the whim of the new pharaoh. The truth is that God was engineering Israel’s next step toward possessing the promise. What looked like a setback was really a step forward. He had grown the nation of Israel in number. Now He wanted to grow them in character. When they were ready, He would drive them out of Egypt, the land to which they had become accustomed, and propel them into the Land of the Promise.

SEEKING GOD’S WAY, NOT OURS

How God does His will is up to Him. We cannot control God or tell Him how to accomplish His plan. He will do His will in His way.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? (Rom. 11:33–34).

When you treat prayer as if you have the right to tell God how to do His work, you will be disappointed. God does not take instructions. When you realize that God’s ways are not your ways, that His ways are superior to your ways, you will not be thrown off balance when circumstances seem to be leading away from God’s will rather than toward it.

Nothing happens by chance with God. His timing is an astounding thing. He is a micromanager who is working out all the details of His plan. When He calls on you to wait, it is because He is doing what is necessary for the best outcome. Allow Him to test-drive your faith. 



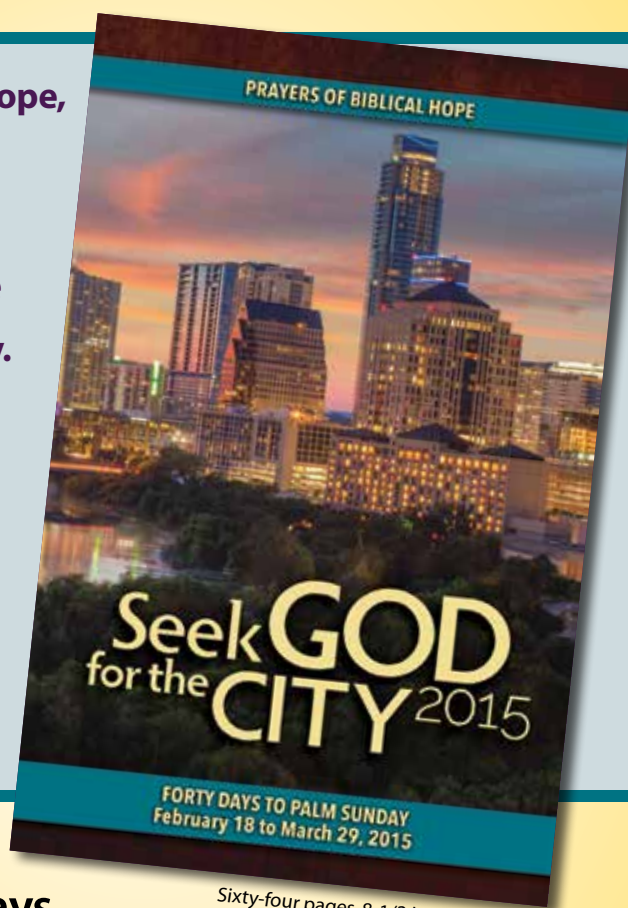
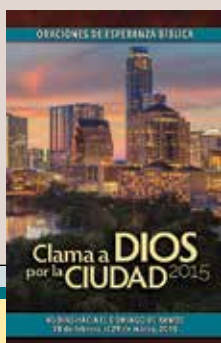
JENNIFER KENNEDY DEAN is the executive director of the Praying Life Foundation (prayinglife.org), as well as an author and speaker. This article is adapted from her book *Live a*

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Praying Beyond Personal Needs

One of the most difficult things to do in a corporate prayer setting is to motivate people to pray beyond personal needs. Finding ways to encourage people to pray for the ministry and life of your church can be a challenge.

Here are some simple ideas for a corporate prayer meeting that may draw your people into new ways of praying. Like any prayer idea, it can get dull if overused. But occasional use can help model new prayer perspectives.

Depending on the length of your prayer meeting, choose one or more of these options. If you do not have a corporate prayer meeting, any of these things can be done in 5–10 minutes in a worship service.

1 Invite ministry leaders to come forward to receive prayer. Ask them to spread out across the

front of the room and have each one simply describe his or her ministry.

Invite people from the congregation to come and gather around each person (two or three around each) and pray for that person's ministry. Don't allow time to take requests. Just have people pray God's blessing and power into that person's life and ministry.

2 Invite the people in the room to spend time praying through your sanctuary. They can pray

in a variety of ways:

- through the seats—that God will open the hearts of those who sit there
- around the pulpit—that the power of the Holy Spirit will fall on those who preach
- in the area where the worship team stands—that they will exhibit

passion in worship and lead people into God's presence

- next to the altar—that people will respond to God's Word and the wooing of the Spirit
- around the offering plates—that God will make people cheerful givers.

3 Invite elders to pray for a spiritual hunger for people in the congregation. If you are in

your worship center and have an altar, gather the elders around it. Then invite them to pray out loud for the spiritual health of the congregation.

These simple ideas can model for your people ways to pray beyond the common personal requests.

JONATHAN GRAF is publisher of *Prayer Connect*.

Don't Ignore the Nudge

I was a part of the staff of *Pray!* magazine several years ago when we were planning an issue on revival. We had invited David Bryant (then president of Concerts of Prayer International) to meet with us as we sought God's direction for that issue of the magazine. David began to give us a vision of what revival means—what it looks like, what it accomplishes—and my spirit began to burn within me.

The more he talked about the manifest presence of the Lord, the more I felt like I needed to be face down on the floor! At one point I shared with the group: "I want our articles to inspire readers to feel what I'm feeling. I feel like I need to go off and pray right now!"

David Bryant looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Maybe you should."

But I didn't. I wanted to savor every exciting word of what he was saying. Surely *more* information would fuel the "burn" for even more extraordinary prayer when the time was right.

But the time *had been* right at that moment and I missed it. The Holy Spirit was ready *right then* to bear witness with my spirit on an issue of monumental importance, and I let the occasion slip through my fingers. The burn went away.

That was 1997, and I have always regretted that missed opportunity. Who knows what would have been birthed in prayer in that moment if I had cooperated with that "Holy Spirit nudge"?

It is grace—a true gift from God—when He extends a heart-addressed



invitation to be His partner at the dance. No one else in the room that day felt that extraordinary "pull" that I felt. He had chosen me (for some unexplainable reason), and I brushed it aside.

In the years since, I've been graced with many other invitations to partner with Him in something He wanted to bring to pass. But that "lost bit of destiny" stands as a reminder to flow with the Spirit when *He says it's time*—not just when it's convenient for me.

So when the grace comes, go with it! Don't miss the nudge!

SANDRA HIGLEY is a frequent contributor to *Prayer Connect*.



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Now I Lay Me Down to Pray

It is my practice to pray for a list of extended family members each night after I lie down in bed. I have memorized specific Scriptures that I pray over certain family members. I have prayed for some of the children on my list every day of their lives.

Of course I sometimes fall asleep before I finish the list—but there are worse ways to go to sleep! And because I pray for them in a certain order, I am able to pick up the prayer in the morning as far as I remember praying the night before.

I have done this for years. I don't remember how I came up with the order. The list probably developed over the years simply by repetition. I do not know how

long it takes me to get through the list, and, in fact, no two nights are quite the same.

I do this each night because of continuing needs in my family. My grandchild has a need this week. My nephew could face a crisis tomorrow. And several family members seem to have ongoing problems.

But I suspect the primary benefit, like most prayer, is in what God does and will do in me. I believe going to sleep in prayer may help saturate every aspect of my life in the presence of God.

DAVID YOUNG is a retired pastor, teacher, and writer (daveswatch.com).

Will You Pray with Us?

Prayer Connect magazine needs you! We are grateful for readers who will come alongside us and uphold us in prayer:

1. The National Prayer Committee (NPC) will meet the end of January in Mesa, AZ. This is a key time to interact with prayer leaders from around the country, hear what God is saying to them, and gather ideas for themes and articles for the magazine. Pray for Dave and Kim Butts, Jon Graf, and Carol Madison as they spend time with people who are key contributors of editorial content for the magazine. Pray for favor in securing commitments to write articles. Pray also that these prayer leaders will have valuable ideas about how to further the mission of *Prayer Connect*. Dave Butts, as chairman of the NPC, will lead the meetings. Pray for endurance and wisdom for him.

2. Pray for our graphic designer Bridget Rennie as she balances working on the magazine with the needs of her young family. Pray that she will be blessed with creativity as she designs the cover and article layouts. Pray also for Bridget's health and stamina. She is such a critical part of our small staff!

3. Pray for the continued growth of subscriptions, favor from advertisers, and greater financial stability. Pray for more openings in the many prayer networks around the country—that God's Spirit will move upon thousands of pastors and intercessors to support *Prayer Connect*.

4. Pray that this issue on God's movement of prayer on campuses will stir even greater prayer among all generations!

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Send us an email to let us know how you are praying—and if the Lord is speaking anything to you that we need to hear (editor@prayerconnect.net).

Praying for Missions Teams at Risk | By Zoe M. Hicks

Prayer leaders routinely call on congregations to pray for missions teams, whether the teams are working at home or halfway around the world. The bread-and-butter prayers for any missions team include praying for team members' safety, for the team to be following God's agenda, and for opportunities to touch lives for the glory of God.

Most teams work in relatively safe venues. But when a team, on occasion, is headed to a place of known danger, a special prayer covering from friends back home can give the team the confidence to proceed under God's protection from any threat.

Ebola Threat

In April 2014, our church sent a medical missions team to Liberia, on the west coast of Africa. I was on that team, and we learned, two weeks before we were scheduled to leave, that Ebola had broken out. Most people now know from the vast news coverage that Ebola is a deadly disease transmitted by bodily fluids. And to date there is no known cure. Because the team planned to set up a medical clinic, the risk was greater than for a nonmedical team.

At the time of our scheduled departure, only a few Ebola cases had been reported. But the team debated whether or not to go. A concerted prayer effort, using Psalm 91 as a prayer shield, was the deciding factor that moved the team forward.

The congregation committed to pray this psalm (often used as a prayer of protection for soldiers) over the missions team every day. The prayer leader also assigned each team member to an intercessor in the church to ensure that each team member had at least one intercessor praying specifically for him or her while away. Even though our team's potential enemy was an unseen virus—not tanks,

guns, or bombs—the threat of death or bodily harm was no less real.

The Power of Psalm 91

Meanwhile, on the west coast of Africa, each morning before going to the medical clinic, the team gathered for devotions and prayer. Some of us had memorized Psalm 91 before we left, but all of us had a copy from the same Bible translation so we could pray it together. In addition to praying it together in the morning, we used it throughout each day:

- When carrying bodily fluids from the medical clinic to the lab, we whispered, "Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence" (v. 3). When the Liberians, covered in sweat, hugged us, we silently prayed, "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (v. 11).
- This psalm has such beautiful imagery that visualizing those images gave us a greater assurance of God's protection: "He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge" (v. 4). Mother hens hide their little ones under their feathers. We pictured ourselves as chicks protected under the mighty wings of God spread over us while unseen dangers lurked but could not penetrate.
- We even developed hand signals to help us remember the verses of the psalm. For pestilence, we put our thumbs and index fingers together

in the shape of a triangle, which is the shape of the biohazard warning sign. This reminded us again, "Surely he will save you from . . . the deadly pestilence" (v. 3). We made a motion as if about to shoot a bow and arrow and prayed, "You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day" (v. 5).

- Whatever the day held for us in Liberia, whether we encountered sick people (not knowing from what illness they suffered when we first met them) or battled dark thoughts from the enemy that we would never return home in good health, we found that phrases from Psalm 91 helped get us through. When we ended our trip, we found assurance in verse 16: "With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Our team has been back for several months. And with Ebola in the news daily, we continue to pray for our friends in Liberia. But as we grow increasingly aware of the risks we faced, we know God protected us in answer to our prayers. We found that "his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart" (v. 4).

Praying for missions teams is as important as going. Without prayer, the team faces greater risks, not only physically but also spiritually. As prayer leaders, one of our greatest contributions is to equip the missions team before they go and then mobilize the intercessors left behind to provide prayer covering against any threat. ☛



ZOE M. HICKS is an attorney, author, and inspirational speaker. She was co-chair of the prayer ministry at her church for ten years, mobilizing groups to pray for events and missions teams.

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What Hinders Prevailing Prayer? | By D.L. Moody

How often we go to prayer meetings without really asking for anything! Our prayers go all round the world, without anything definite being asked for. We do not expect anything. Many people would be greatly surprised if God did answer their prayers.

I remember hearing of a very eloquent man who was leading a meeting in prayer. There was not a single definite petition in the whole. A poor, earnest woman shouted out: "Ask Him, man." How often you hear what is called prayer without any asking! "Ask, and ye shall receive."

Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The only way to trouble God is not to come at all. He encourages us to come to Him repeatedly, and press our claims.

I believe you will find three kinds of Christians in the church today. The first are those who ask; the second those who seek; and the third those who knock.

"Teacher," said a bright, earnest-faced boy, "why is it that so many prayers are unanswered? I do not understand. The Bible says, 'Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,' but it seems to me a great many knock and are not admitted."

"Did you never sit by your cheerful parlor fire," said the teacher, "on some dark evening, and hear a loud knocking at the door? Going to answer the summons, have you not sometimes looked out into the darkness, seeing nothing, but hearing the pattering feet of some mischievous boy, who knocked but did not wish to enter, and therefore ran away? Thus is it often with us. We ask for blessings, but do not really expect them; we knock, but do not mean to enter; we fear that Jesus will not hear

us, will not fulfill His promises, will not admit us; and so we go away."

"Ah, I see," said the earnest-faced boy, "Jesus cannot be expected to answer run-away knocks. He has never promised it. I mean to keep knocking, knocking, until He cannot help opening the door."

Too often we knock at mercy's door, and then run away, instead of waiting for an entrance and an answer. Thus we act as if we were afraid of having our prayers answered.

A great many people pray in that way; they do not wait for the answer. Our Lord teaches us here that we are not only to ask, but we are to wait for the answer; if it does not come, we must seek to find out the reason. I believe that we get a good many blessings just by asking; others we do not get, because there may be something in our life that needs to be brought to light.

Earnest, Knocking Prayer

Prayer is hardly ever mentioned in the Bible alone; it is prayer and earnestness; prayer and watchfulness; prayer and thanksgiving. The highest type of Christian is the one who has got clear beyond asking and seeking, and keeps knocking till the answer comes. If we knock, God has promised to open the door and grant our request. It may be years before the answer comes; He may keep us knocking; but He has promised that the answer will come.

I heard of a wife in England who had an unconverted husband. She resolved


that she would pray every day for twelve months for his conversion. Every day at twelve o'clock she went to her room alone and cried to God. Her husband would not allow her to speak to him on the subject; but she could speak to God on his behalf. The twelve months passed away, and there was no sign of his yielding. She resolved to pray for six months longer; so every day she went alone and prayed for the conversion of her husband. The six months passed, and still there was no sign, no answer. The question arose in her mind, could she give him up?

"No," she said; "I will pray for him as long as God gives me breath."

That very day, when he came home to dinner, instead of going into the dining room he went upstairs. She waited, and waited, and waited; but he did not come down to dinner. Finally she went to his room, and found him on his knees crying to God to have mercy upon him. God convicted him of sin; he not only became a Christian, but the Word of God had free course, and was glorified in him. God used him mightily. That was God answering the prayers of this Christian wife; she knocked, and knocked, till the answer came.

We cannot be too frequent in our requests; God will not weary of His children's prayers. Sir Walter Raleigh asked a favor of Queen Elizabeth, to which she replied, "Raleigh, when will you leave off begging?"

"When your Majesty leaves off giving," he replied.

So long must we continue praying. 

D.L. MOODY (1837–1899) was an American evangelist and publisher who founded Moody Church, the Moody Bible Institute, and Moody Publishers.



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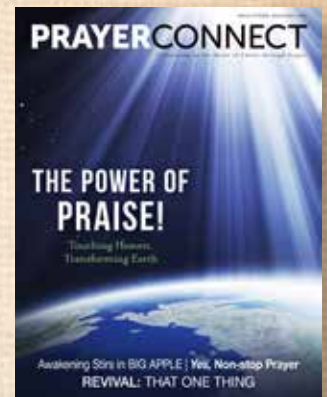
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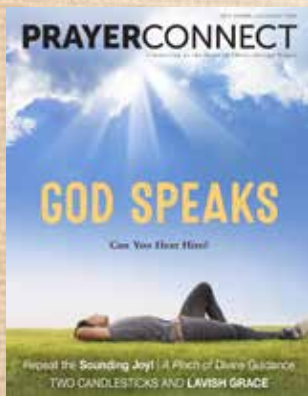
The Heart Cry of Desperate Prayer



Issue 15

THE POWER OF PRAISE

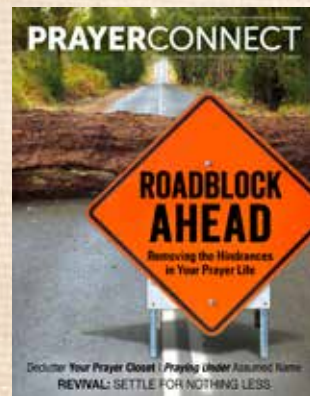
Touching Heaven,
Transforming Earth



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