

*Prayer*CONNECT

Connecting to the Heart of Christ through Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus

PRAYER FOR
THE SECOND
COMING

Healing Prayers GOD ANSWERS
Prayer Pals and Softball
REMEDY, REVERSE, REPEAT

Are You Thirsty for More of God?

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

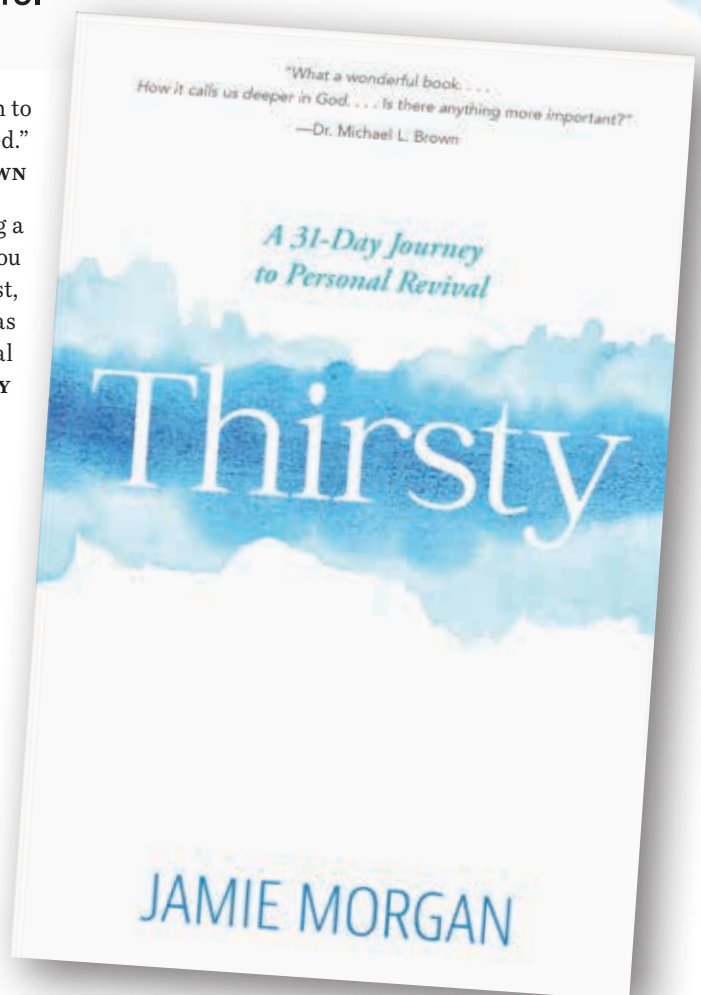
“Read this book, follow its clear, down to earth directives, and be ignited.”

—DR. MICHAEL L. BROWN

“Reading this book is like hitting a divine reset button. It will help you recover the passion you have lost, restore the childlike faith that has waned, and regain your spiritual hunger.” —J. LEE GRADY

Thirsty: A 31-Day Journey to Personal Revival is the fire starter you need to become a living, breathing, walking revival—setting everything you touch ablaze for God.

GO ON THIS JOURNEY BY YOURSELF OR WITH
YOUR ENTIRE CONGREGATION!



Available wherever you purchase your Christian books. Multiple copy discounts at prayershop.org

PrayerCONNECT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021 VOL. 11, NO. 4



Come, Lord Jesus

Prayer for the Second Coming, p.9

10 Longing for the King's Return

Heart-Cry of Anticipation

By Nathan E. Jones

16 Praying as the Away Team

Preparing for the Second Coming

By Dave Butts

20 "Occupy Till I Come"

Jesus' Instructions in Waiting for His Return

By Kyle Lance and Laura Martin

feature

24 From Fear to Trust

Four Prayers for Healing God Will Answer

By Stacey Pardoe

24



16

departments

5 Publisher's Note

Why Are We Surprised?

7 News & Events

- Facebook Shuts Down Jerusalem Prayer Team Page
- Prayer for Racial Healing on MLK Day
- Florida Governor Signs "Moment of Silence" Bill
- Kids at Terrorist Camp Shown JESUS Film
- Prayer Calendar

28 Tips & Tools

- Prayer Pals and More
- The Prayer Bench Program
- Saturate a New Building with Prayer

30 Pray Beyond

Lord, I Thirst for You!

31 Prayer Leader

Pray Without Walls

Start with a Complete Set

GET EVERY BACK ISSUE OF PRAYER CONNECT



Issue 40 A NATION DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

Prayerful Solutions to Turmoil

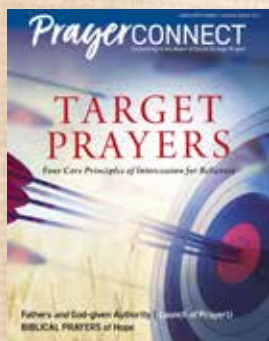


Issue 41 DIVINE PRAYER PARTNERS

The Roles of Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit



Issue 42 MOTIVATING PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



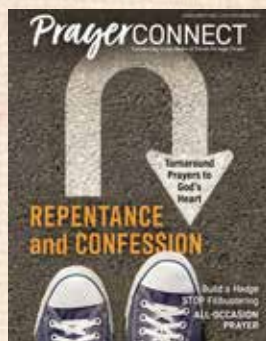
Issue 43 TARGET PRAYERS

Four Core Principles of Intercession for
Believers



Issue 44 PRAYERS OF BLESSING

Interceding for Favor,
Peace, and Increase



Issue 45 REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION

Turnaround Prayers to God's Heart

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

Issue 17 Roadblock Ahead
Issue 18 Faith and Prayer
Issue 19 Awakening on Campuses
Issue 20 Rediscovering Fasting
Issue 21 Beyond the Obvious
Issue 22 Transforming Prayer
Issue 23 Embracing Intimacy
Issue 24 Leaders Who Pray
Issue 25 There's Still Hope
Issue 26 The Psalms
Issue 27 John 17
Issue 28 Watch and Pray
Issue 29 Discernment
Issue 30 From Knees to Action

Issue 31 Let Prayer Arise
Issue 32 Prayer 101
Issue 33 Supernatural Partnership
Issue 34 Prayer and Power
Issue 35 Where Are You God?
Issue 38 Cities at Prayer
Issue 39 Pray for All the Saints

**MULTIPLE
COPY
DISCOUNTS**
available!

COVER PRICE: \$6.00

PRAYERSHOP PRICE: Issue 1-43 \$3.00 | Issue 38-Current \$5.00

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

CONTACT US

Business and Shipping Address

PRAYER CONNECT

Suite 43-L | 2800 Poplar St. | Terre Haute, IN 47803
812.238.5504 | prayerconnect.net

Article Submissions

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

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

Subscriptions

PRAYER CONNECT is published four times per year, available in Print (\$24.99 per year) or Digital (\$19.99 per year) formats, and through the Church Prayer Leaders Network (CPLN) Membership (\$35.99 per year). Both CPLN and Print subscriptions include access to the Digital version. To subscribe, go to prayerconnect.net. We also have multiple copy discounts available for individuals or churches who want to purchase copies for a prayer team or small groups:

prayerconnect.net
Amy Crane
800.217.5200 or 812.238.5504

Permissions

Jonathan Graf
jon@prayerleader.com | 812.238.5504

Reprint Permissions

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

Advertising

If you would like information about placing an ad in PRAYER CONNECT, or if you have questions about our ads, please contact: PRAYER CONNECT, Suite 43-L, 2800 Poplar St., Terre Haute, IN 47803
jon@prayerleader.com | 812.238.5504

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

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

Published by
Church Prayer Leaders Network

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

The mission of **PRAYER CONNECT** is

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

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Jonathan Graf
jon@prayerleader.com

Editor
Carol Madison
editor@prayerconnect.net

Art Director
J. Bridget Rennie

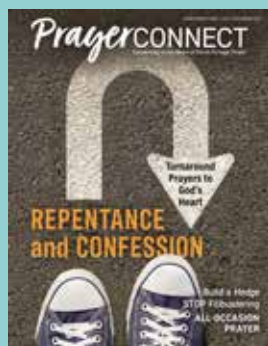
Assistant Editor
Niko Peele

Editorial Assistant
Joan Sherman

Editorial Advisors
Dave and Kim Butts

Subscriptions/Orders
Amy Crane

Previously in



Revival is a favorite prayer topic, but the need for repentance and confession of sin is often overlooked. This issue looks at “turnaround prayers” that focus on transformation of the heart. Dealing with sin is the way to God’s heart. Order this issue and other back issues at prayershop.org.

Why Are We Surprised?

During a Sunday morning service, my pastor will often have a spontaneous prayer time by opening the floor for prayer. (He always provides the topic rather than leave it to whatever anyone wants to pray.) When a church is used to praying together regularly, there is a greater spirit of expectation among the people.

We often pray for the nation or for God’s Spirit to do a greater work among us. But one Sunday in July, he shared two very urgent needs related to several members. One was about Eddie, the son of Susan, one of our older members. He had been in a terrible auto accident and was in a coma. We knew that already, but our pastor said he did not have brain activity and it did not look good. We started praying. One member prayed boldly that “just like Jesus called forth Lazarus from the grave, I call, ‘Eddie, come forth!’”

We learned the next day that Eddie came out of his coma! I bet most of us were a little surprised.

Here’s my question: Why does a miracle surprise us? If we believe Scripture, shouldn’t that be the norm? I mean, Jesus Himself said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12).

My intent is not to make us feel bad or chastise us for the lack of faith in modern Western believers. Rather, I believe we will start to see more and more of these types of miracles as we get closer and closer to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Why do I believe that? For a number of reasons:

First, the darker it gets in our world as we head to the end, the more powerful the light will be! God will show His power through believers in greater and greater ways. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). I believe God will reveal Himself through signs and wonders as the darkness gets stronger—even in the skeptical Western world.

Second, Christians have experienced the safety of being the dominant culture in America. As this disappears more and more, we will need to rely on our faith, not on the power of our vote or voice. When every human idea or thing we have trusted is removed, many believers will begin to walk in the strength of Christ alone. Then, when we pray, “greater things” will happen.

Finally, I believe that before the end comes, there will be the greatest spiritual awakening and revival the world has ever known. Why? Because God is bringing into His Kingdom those who are yet to be saved before Jesus comes. A part of that great awakening and revival will be many miracles that we can only attribute to God!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

—Jonathan Graf



A MUST READ FOR PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS!

There are times in history...

when God moves through His leaders and people in a such way that
EVERYTHING CHANGES.

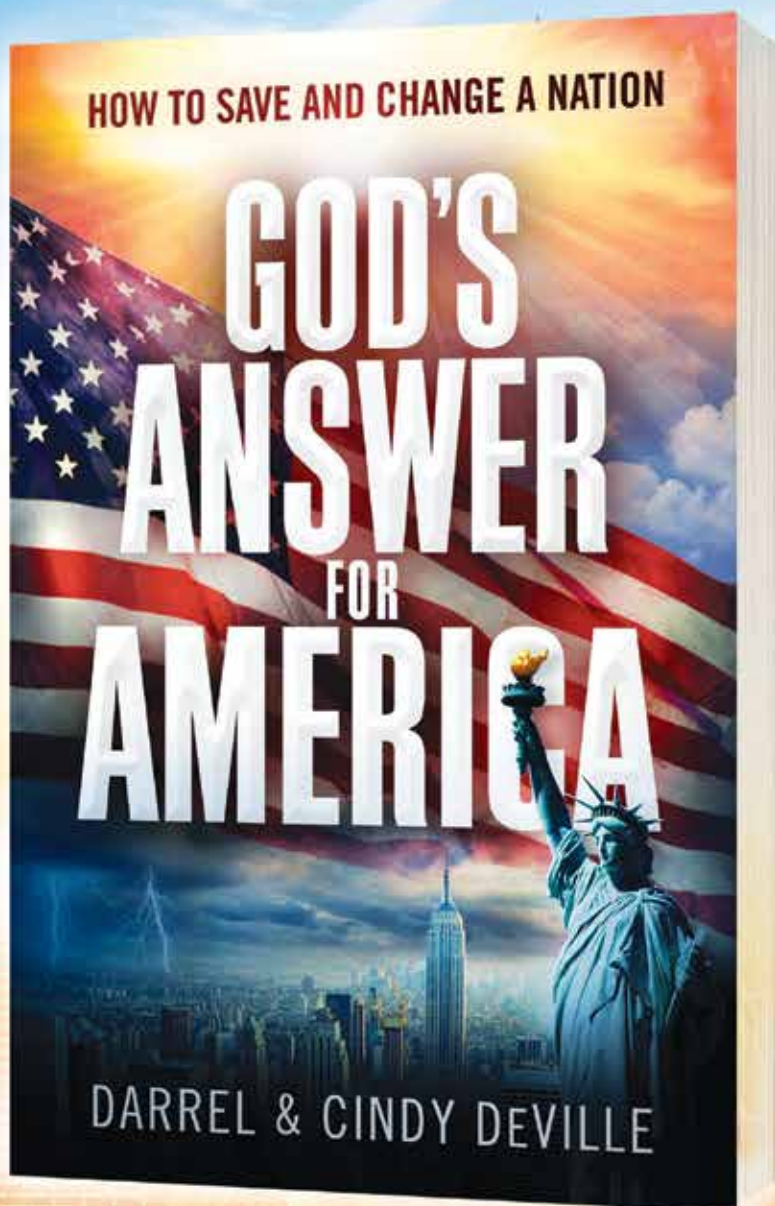
NOW
is that time!

This UNIQUE,
URGENT, and
COMPELLING
BOOK REVEALS:

- An undeniable prophetic sequence in our news since 2007, and foretells what's coming next.
- What God is calling pastors and churches to do?
- How bad things could really get if we don't act quickly!
- How the Great Awakening will begin?
- And much more...



"A NATION-CHANGING MESSAGE!"



Download FREE Chapters or Order Today at:
GodsAnswerForAmerica.org

Facebook Shuts Down Jerusalem Prayer Team Page

The Jerusalem Prayer Team (JPT) Facebook page, established in 2002 with more than 75 million followers, was shut down by Facebook in May.

The pro-Israel, evangelical page for prayer and worship was banned after it claims to have been inundated by a cyberattack of more than two million comments, many of which were anti-Semitic in nature.

Mike Evans, an American pastor and founder of the Friends of Zion Heritage Center and the Jerusalem Prayer Team, says that the JPT Facebook page was the largest online church in the world at the time it was shut down.

“There was an organized attempt by



radical Islamic organizations to achieve this objective. They posted over a million comments on our site and then had the people contact Facebook saying that they never posted to the site. That was a complete scam and fraud. It was a very clever, deceptive plan by Islamic radicals,” he explains.

The attack came during the midst of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas and other Islamic groups in the Gaza Strip. Evans had been leading thousands of people in prayer daily for Israel and about the crisis in the Middle East.

Evans contends nothing was done about the attack and JPT’s requests for assistance were ignored.

Facebook told *The Washington Times* that it removed the JPT page for “violating our rules against spam and inauthentic behavior.” A company spokesperson added that “we are not seeing any evidence that this page was a victim of a cyberattack.”

The group filed an appeal to Facebook on May 16, which was rejected. They were told the decision was final.

Jerusalem Prayer Team’s Facebook page had a weekly engagement of around three million users per week. The organization was founded in 2002 and was inspired by Corrie ten Boom (who helped save Jews during the Holocaust) and the biblical command to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

—Taken from *The Christian Post* (christianpost.com).

Prayer for Racial Healing on MLK Day

Afifth-generation pastor, evangelist, and missionary is seizing Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 17, 2022, as a prayer gathering for believers who desire national change and transformation.

The founder of “Pray on MLK,” Jonathan Tremaine Thomas, is a black pastor who says he heard the Lord say, “Call America to Pray on MLK.” Thomas’s family tree includes African and Native American ministers dating back to slavery.

The inaugural Pray on MLK in August of 2020 gathered thousands across all 50 states and from 300-plus cities in a multi-ethnic human chain along streets and near monuments named after the preacher and civil rights leader. The second

Pray on MLK event was held January 18, 2021.

Thomas is also the founder and president of Civil Righteousness, Inc. (civilrighteousness.org). His prayer for racial healing is featured in the book, *Make Us One: A 31-Day Prayer Journey Toward Racial Healing*. He writes in his prayer:

Forgive us for leaning on our own understanding and pursuing justice and reconciliation within our own strength. We are guilty of what the prophet Jeremiah exhorted in that we have said, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace!” Forgive us for accepting temporal victories, drinking from the broken cisterns, and settling for a pagan peace. We cry out to You today, Father, forgive us. We

confess our guilt before You today with unveiled faces, because of Your Son Jesus! With You there is mercy.

At public events on Pray on MLK, some people will place white tape—signifying purity of speech—over their mouths with words that identify how they’re praying or what their hopes are for the nation.

“We’re going to call out to God for His mercy,” Thomas says. “We’re going to pray around specific issues related to righteousness, justice, unity, healing, oneness, with certain themes that were critical to the Civil Rights movement.”

Thomas says the model is for any community where there’s been a historic dividing line or what he calls an “altar

of pain”—a place where there’s been loss of life due to either a systemic injustice, a race-related encounter or incident, or a location where there’s been a historical, painful divide in a community.

“We’re just encouraging people to

do something on that day, something to respond to this invitation to lay hold to the heart of God and to really go low and lift up our nation before the Lord,” Thomas says.

Make Us One can be used by churches

to launch a 31-day prayer campaign on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 17, 2022. Discounts on quantities are available from prayersthop.org.

—Adapted from Charisma News (charismanews.com).

Florida Governor Signs “Moment of Silence” Bill

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has signed a bill that requires at least one minute of silence in public schools at the beginning of every day so that children can pray or meditate.

DeSantis signed HB 529, known as the “Moment of Silence in Public Schools” bill, into law in June. Under the law, public-school principals will be required to direct first-period teachers to institute moments of silence.

“It’s something that’s important to be able to provide each student the ability,

every day, to be able to reflect and to be able to pray as they see fit,” DeSantis says. “The idea that you can just push God out of every institution, and be successful—I’m sorry, our founding fathers did not believe that.”

The governor added he was signing the measure to help protect religious freedom in the state.

Opponents say the measure promotes prayer in school. The new law will make Florida one of at least 15 states that require moments of silence at public schools.



The governor made the announcement at The Shul of Bal Harbour, a Jewish community center, where he also promised to protect the Jewish community and touted his support for Israel.

—Taken from CBN News (cbn.com).

Kids at Terrorist Camp Shown JESUS Film

It happened in an extremely dangerous country, where the culture is hostile to Christ and His followers. Every day a *JESUS* film team there begins their ministry with the same prayer: “Holy Spirit, where should we go today?”

One day as they walked and prayed, they heard the voices of children. Following the sound, the team entered a compound filled with children and began talking to them about Jesus. The team had no idea the risk they were taking.

The police heard what they were doing, moved in, and arrested them. Before being hauled away a team member quickly turned on a “NewLifeBox” in his backpack, leaving the backpack behind.

Authorities transported the team members to the police station where they subjected them to torture, beatings, and threats. Finally, the police let them go.

The team made their way back to the



compound to retrieve the backpack. To their amazement hundreds of children were quiet and sitting in groups, watching the *JESUS* film on their phones. The battery-powered NewLifeBox they left behind creates a Wi-Fi hotspot, inviting anyone within 150 feet to watch a film about Jesus.

In all, there were 672 children engaged with the film. They began asking the film team many questions about what they had seen and heard, including, “Can you help us tell our parents about Jesus?”

Later, the team learned that the compound was a training center for the children of wealthy militants.

—Taken from God Reports (godreports.com).

Prayer Calendar

Day of Prayer for Peace of Jerusalem
Sunday, October 3
daytopray.com

Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
Sunday, November 7
ldop.ca

Weekend of Prayer to End Slavery and Trafficking
January 8–9, 2022
facebook.com/weekendofprayer

Pray on MLK
Monday, January 17, 2022



Come, Lord Jesus

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND COMING

A woman pulled up in our Drive-Thru Prayer station at my church on a hot summer day a few months ago. Her car was packed with belongings, and it quickly became apparent that she was there for more than prayer. She had questions.

“What position does your church take on premillennialism?” she asked.

I looked at my prayer partner Lane with a smile and immediately deferred to him. I don’t think he appreciated my graciousness!

We tried to field that question—and a host of others—without letting the focus become doctrinal positions that might unify or divide us. I eventually turned the conversation back to prayer and asked how we could pray for her.

“Pray that I can find a new church,” she said. Based on all her questions and comments, her request was not a surprise.

After she left, it prompted some interaction about the various beliefs related to the “end times” and Jesus’ second coming. The one thing I know we all agreed on is the sense that the return of Christ may be soon.

Yes, I’ve felt that for a long time, but the intensity of world situations seems to increase by the moment. This adds to the growing sense of urgency. And my living in Minneapolis with riots, police tensions, and racial struggles over the past year is a reminder of how quickly seemingly peaceful lives can change. We don’t know the day or hour that Jesus will return, but we can sense we are in the season of the final of the final of days.

It is with this anticipation that we pray and prepare for the second coming of Christ.


IN THIS ISSUE

For most of the life of our nation, the Church has been viewed with favor. We are seeing that comfort rapidly decline. Dave Butts likens this to no longer being the “home team” with all the extra advantages. He writes about our need to adopt an entirely different mentality—one that recognizes hostilities and animosity, yet presses forward with the gospel.


Nathan Jones echoes the heart-cry of anticipation of the second coming captured in the prayer: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” from the closing verses of Revelation. He highlights the “signs of the times” and biblical indicators that the Lord’s return is near. Our prayers for the return of the King will radically change how we live now.

The question of what Jesus meant when He said, “Occupy till I come,” is the challenge that Kyle Lance and Laura Martin explore as we await His return. They highlight the need to pray, but also to be obedient as “the answers to our prayers.”

When I had the chance to stand on the Mount of Olives while on a tour of Israel in 2017, it gave me a powerful image of the fulfillment of Zechariah 14:4. There will come a day when Jesus returns, and His appearance will split the Mount of Olives in two. The whole world will know that He is Lord of all!

Let’s pray like we believe it is soon. Our prayers will prepare us for that moment the heavens open and Jesus appears. 

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

A full-page background image of a sky filled with large, billowing clouds. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) are visible, streaming down from the top left towards the center. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The clouds are illuminated from below, creating a strong contrast between the bright, orange-gold edges and the darker, blue-grey upper portions.

HEART-CRY OF ANTICIPATION



Longing for the King's Return

Jesus Christ is returning. That is a given.

Three times in Revelation 22, Jesus promised He will return (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). Jesus said over and over, “Surely I am coming quickly.” He even added that we could trust this promise, stating, “These words are trustworthy and true” (Rev. 22:6).

Jesus’ return is a promise made by God. It is a promise found so prolifically in the Bible that you can read about His second coming in nearly 500 prophecies of the Old Testament and one out of 25 verses in the New Testament. Jesus fulfilling all 300 first-coming prophecies 100 percent means you can rest assured that all of the second-coming promises will be fulfilled as well.

In the exaltation of that exciting promise, the apostle John closed out the Book of Revelation (and the entire Bible) with a prayer: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20). Final messages often are the most poignant. Therefore, when

Christians pray, we can follow John’s example with the mindset of, “It could be today!”

If we long for the King’s glorious return and that becomes our heart-cry, then we can live every day in eagerness and preparation: “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Indeed, that certain knowledge of Christ’s soon-to-be-fulfilled promise can dramatically change our daily prayer lives.

THE BIRTH PANGS

We live in a world where alarming news and the absurdity of what’s happening increase each day—especially at a rapid pace in our nation. Absurdities that we didn’t give much thought to before are suddenly becoming a nightmarish reality. It is obvious that society is speeding down the fast track to the end of the world as we know it. What astounds us today is the speed of its approach.

BY NATHAN E. JONES

We are speeding ever closer to the second coming of Christ.

But that also means we are speeding ever so closer to the second coming of Christ.

How soon is soon? After all, it's been nearly 2,000 years since Christ made that promise. From a human perspective, that's a very long time. But from God's eternal perspective, not so much. For Him, those two millennia have been only like two days (2 Peter 3:8).

The apostles asked this very question of Jesus when He dropped the bombshell revelation on them about the eventual destruction of the Temple (Luke 21:6). This prophecy, found in Matthew 24 and paralleled in Mark 13 and Luke 21, resulted in the apostles asking three questions:

1. When will the Temple fall (related to New Testament times)?
2. What will be the signs of the end of the age (meaning the end of the Church Age concluded by the rapture, which is our time)?
3. What will be the sign of Jesus' coming (concerning Christ's second coming, a time yet future)?

Using the prophetic perspective that looks across time and covers multiple events, Jesus answered all three questions with the same answer. He provided ten signs that would mark the advent of these three events. He added the illustration of birth pangs, in that these signs would increase in frequency and intensity the closer humanity got to these events, much like a woman's contractions as the birth of the baby draws near (Matt. 24:8).

THE TEN SIGNS

The following list contains the ten signs Jesus gave to show us that we are getting closer to His return.

1. False Messiahs. Jesus warned, "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them" (Luke 21:8).

We live in a time like no other as false messiahs and prophets such as Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell, Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon, and hundreds of others claim to speak for God—and even commit the blasphemy that they are Jesus Himself! These fakes will lead up to the greatest of all false messiahs—the Antichrist—and his False Prophet (Rev. 13).

2. Wars. "When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Luke 21:9–10).

British novelist Margaret Drabble labeled the 20th century a "Beastly Century" because an estimated 160–187 million people were killed by war. And the 21st century isn't shaping up to look any different. Nation can also be translated as *ethnos*, meaning the great divisions along ethnic lines will widen.

3. Earthquakes. "There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven" (Luke 21:11).

According to the British charity Oxfam, earthquakes and other natural disasters have gone up 400 percent over the last two decades. High Richter scale-level earthquakes have been increasing in frequency and intensity, affecting nearly 254 million people per year.

4. Famines. Jesus also foretold how famines would increase the closer the world approached His return. Seventeen famines have occurred just in the first two decades of the 21st century, decimating nations such as Myanmar, Malawi, North Korea, East Africa, Kenya, and Somalia. Some 925 million people go to bed hungry, and every day almost 16,000 children die from

hunger-related causes. That's one child every five seconds.

5. Plagues. Likewise, pestilence and plagues will increasingly continue to kill people by the masses. More than three million people have died from the latest COVID-19 pandemic, but malaria, cholera, AIDS, and countless other diseases also continue to ravage the world's population.

6. Fearful Events. Fearful events, especially socio-economic disasters, loom over every horizon. Trillions in debt have been mounting as every country in the world tackles the pandemic by printing unbacked currency. The Bible prophesies an inevitable worldwide economic collapse (Rev. 6:6) and a new passport system that grants permission to people to buy and sell (Rev. 13:16–17).

7. Signs in the Sky. Great signs from the heavens include cataclysmic weather such as tornadoes and hurricanes,

and objects in outer space hurtling past the earth at unimaginable speeds. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that every year unusually active and deadly tornadoes are on the rise. And in 2020, so many hurricanes tore through the Atlantic that naming them exceeded the 26-letter alphabet.

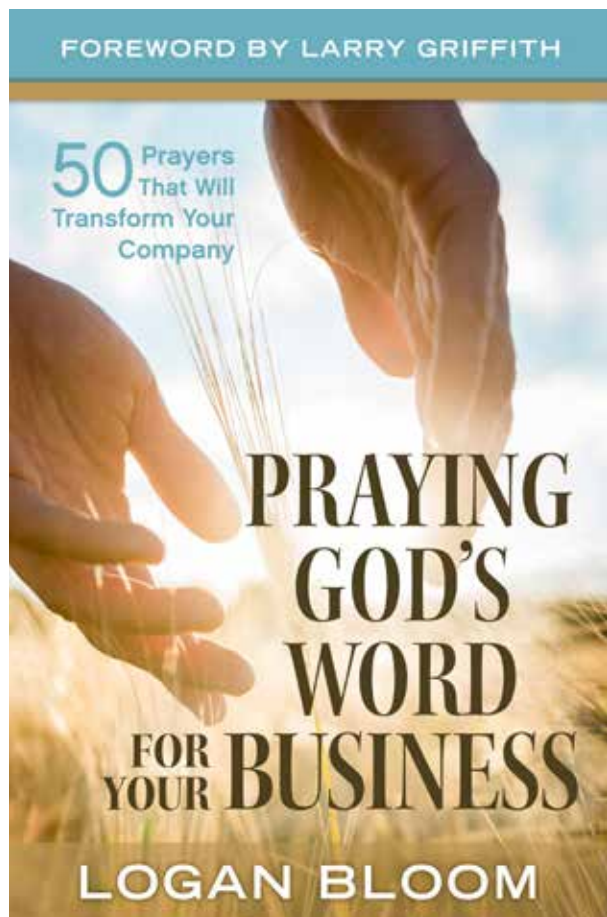
8. The Persecution of Christians. “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. . . . All men will hate you because of me” (Luke 21:12–17).

Voice of the Martyrs reports that tragically more Christians died for their faith in the 20th century than in the 19 centuries leading up to it. But, as bad as the 20th century was, the 21st century is looking much worse. Tonight, more than 200,000 Christians will try to stay warm in horrific North Korean labor camps. And the mass murder of Christians in China, Nigeria, and many

Islamic countries bloodily continues unabated.

9. Jerusalem under Siege. “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. . . . Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:20–24).

Since the Six Day War in 1967, Jerusalem has once again moved under the control of the Jewish people. The United Nations Human Rights Council has passed more resolutions condemning Israel than it has all of the other states combined. And yet, God promised: “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All



Bless a Business Owner You Know!

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

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

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



who try to move it will injure themselves" (Zech. 12:2–3).

10. The Return of Christ. Jesus Christ's final sign will be unique to the third question concerning His second coming. "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men

will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world. . . " (Luke 21:25–28).

Just before Jesus breaks through the heavens, the sky will be filled with even more celestial signs, the nations will cringe in terror, the seas will toss violently, and all of His enemies will run in terror over the return of the King. Jesus

then defeats Satan and his followers and ushers in His earthly Kingdom, defined as a 1,000-year reign of peace, righteousness, and justice.


PRAYING FOR THE KINGDOM

These signs of the times indicate that Jesus is coming back, and we don't have much longer to wait. Can we know the exact day and hour of His return? No, for Jesus stated point-blank, "But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matt. 24:36). But from these ten signs and the many others Jesus provided throughout the gospels, as well as knowing that these signs are happening with increasing intensity, it is likely we are now living in the season of Christ's return.

So that begs the question, "Are you ready for the Lord's return?" The only way to be ready is to in faith and repentance surrender your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

If you do know Jesus as Savior, then make John's prayer your prayer: "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20, KJV).

Our prayers do not bring Jesus back. That date has been stamped in heaven by the Father. But prayer for the return of the King can radically change us, release God's power, and bring about revival and spiritual awakening in those we encounter.

Ask the Lord today to grant you His heart-cry of anticipation. Pray according to His Kingdom purposes. One day soon, you will see the fulfillment of your prayers and experience that blessed hope of the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). 



NATHAN E. JONES is an author and Internet evangelist with Lion & Lamb Ministries, reaching out to the 4.5 billion people with access to the Internet (christinprophecy.org).

Subscription Information



Take Prayer to a NEW LEVEL

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

Print Subscription. Our most popular subscription, the print sub sends a hard copy of *PRAYER CONNECT* through the mail to you four times per year. You also receive full digital access to all issues online at prayerconnect.net. Price: \$24.99

Digital Subscription. This version provides just the online version of *PRAYER CONNECT*. Each issue, an email announcement is sent to you with links to the articles at our password-protected website. You can view any or all articles, and have access to the articles in all back issues. Price: \$19.99

CPLN Member Subscription. This subscription is an annual membership in the Church Prayer Leaders Network. Besides a subscription to *PRAYER CONNECT* (U.S. members receive a print subscription and foreign members a digital subscription), members receive a bimonthly email newsletter, *Prayer Leader Online*, and discounts on most of the 150 plus products at our webstore prayershop.org. Price: \$35.99

Three Ways to Subscribe:

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

Phone. Call Joanne at 1-800-217-5200 or 1-812-238-5504 and have her help you place an order (you need to have a credit card available). She is available 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST.

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

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

TRAUMATIZED, PERSECUTED, FORGOTTEN: WHO CARES?

*CHILDREN ARE
SUFFERING AS
PERSECUTION
INTENSIFIES
AROUND THE
WORLD!*

As the persecution of Christians increases in many countries, Christian children are being forgotten. Many of them are orphaned or fatherless; traumatized by violence, Covid and natural disasters; worn down by discrimination and contempt.

**You can remind them that God
is always good and He loves them!**

Barnabas Aid, 80 Abbeyville Road,
Lancaster, PA 17603, USA


barnabasaid®
hope and relief for the persecuted church

Find out more online at:
barnabasaid.org or
call: 703-288-1681 or
email: **usa@barnabasaid.org**



Enhancing Trust

Our guarantee: Gifts made to a specific project, such as our "Children's Fund", go 100% to that need.

A full-page background image of a basketball court. In the foreground, a basketball is positioned on the left side, resting on the wooden floor. The court's lines are visible, leading towards a basketball hoop in the distance. The background is filled with a large, out-of-focus crowd of spectators in a stadium setting. A thin red horizontal line is positioned across the middle of the image, separating the court floor from the crowd.

PREPARING FOR THE SECOND COMING



Praying as the Away Team



One of the earliest prayers of the Church was “Maranatha”—come soon, Lord Jesus. Christians have always longed and prayed for the soon return of Jesus. I believe we are approaching *the end* of the end times. And that should prompt even greater times of prayer for His soon appearing!

How do we pray for the return of Jesus? Aside from “Maranatha,” is there more to pray? As we consider the rapid cultural shift in the United States, I believe we can pray in a way that prepares the way for the return of Jesus.

Believe it or not, I’ve been learning how to pray from my love of basketball.

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Growing up in Indiana, I went to lots of basketball games. In the 1960s and ‘70s, most of our high schools were still smaller schools that

were passionate about their basketball teams. I remember the high level of excitement as we hosted other teams in our small gym at Garfield High School in Terre Haute, IN. It was packed with enthusiastic fans for every game. Even if we had a mediocre team, the home team fans could bring down the rafters with cheers for our team. The visiting team—the away team—may actually have been a stronger basketball team, but we certainly had the advantage as the home team.

Home teams have the fans and the noise. The stands are filled with those who cheer on the home team. Often a small band plays the school fight song. Every call by the officials is cheered or booed by the crowd. It’s pretty intimidating to walk into your opponents’ gym as the away team. You feel like you have to play not only the home team, but also the home crowd—and sometimes even the home officials.

For many years now, the Church has been the home team in America. We’ve had the advantages that a home team enjoys. We were the culturally

BY DAVE BUTTS

We forget that we need a battle mindset as we pray for the United States.

dominant force that had to be dealt with by everyone else. When national leaders talked about faith, everyone knew they were referring to the Christian faith. People believed in freedom of religion. No one even considered such a thing as freedom *from* religion.

But those days are over.

NO HOME TEAM CHEERS

It's pretty discouraging for a basketball team to come into a gym thinking it's their home, only to be met with boos instead of cheers. You expect such a negative response when you are the away team in your opponents' gym.

It's time to admit the Church is no longer the home team in America. If we understand this, we will pray differently and more effectively for our nation. So much of the conflict comes when we still act as though we are on our home court.

It's hard. We feel as though we lost something special with a home court advantage. And in some ways, we have.

But it wasn't necessarily good and healthy for us to be the home team. That advantaged position often resulted in a watered-down, cultural faith that only vaguely resembled New Testament Christianity.

Rather than longing for a comfortable memory, we need to embrace our role as the away team. It better fits with how Jesus describes us in Luke 6:22: "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man."

An away team doesn't try to be loved and honored. They just want to do their best to bring about victory. We forget that we need a battle mindset as we pray for the United States. Rather than focus our prayers on returning the Church to a place of privilege, we need to be passionate about seeing the gospel preached with transforming power. Clarity of vision allows us to pray in alignment with the purposes of God. This translates into praying for the return of Jesus in a powerful, biblical way.

Several years ago, my prayers for my nation shifted as a result of a message I heard by a young revivalist, Kyle Lance Martin. We were both speakers for a conference in Texas. One phrase he used grabbed my heart. Though I'd heard similar things before, Kyle spoke with such clarity that we are no longer living in a Christian nation—and we had better start acting like it.

Right then, the Holy Spirit began a work in me. I pulled out my phone and wrote some notes based on what I was hearing.

AWAY TEAM MENTALITY

I've worked for years with various mission organizations and missionaries. We often talk about how they must live and pray differently because they are in non-Christian countries. As I heard Kyle explain we are no longer in a Christian nation, it hit me hard that we need to develop that same mindset that missionaries have for their cross-cultural work.

This is the away team mentality we must develop.

It is time for the Church in America to develop good missionary strategies for reaching our own nation. We can no longer assume that most people understand our "Christian" language and terms. It is a serious error to believe that those living in our cities and towns even know who Jesus is. It is not enough to elect some Christian politicians; we must re-evangelize America!

Of all the New Testament writers, it was the apostle Peter who most clearly understood the "away team" lifestyle. He gave us great practical instruction for living effectively in a culture that is not our own. Here are some ways we can pray in preparation for the Lord's return, based on Peter's words from 1 Peter:

- Father, because we know that You judge each man's work impartially, we ask You to help us live as strangers here in reverent fear (1:17).
- Lord, You have chosen us to be Your people, a royal priesthood and a holy nation that belong to You. Help us today to declare Your praises before our nation (2:9).
- Help us, Lord, as aliens and strangers here, to stay away from sinful desires that war against our souls. Give us the strength to live among our non-Christian friends in ways that they will recognize You in us and will glorify You (2:11–12).
- Lord, as those who are subject to Your divine authority, help us to honor human authority while still living as free men and women. We want to show respect to everyone around us, and especially to love the brotherhood of believers (2:13–17).
- Lord, Your Word tells us that the


end of all things is near. With that firmly in mind, give us clear minds and a spirit of self-control, that we might release Your transforming power in prayer (4:7).

- Lord, as we live out Your life in the midst of increasing wickedness, we fully expect to suffer as Christians. Give us the strength to not be ashamed but to continually praise You that we bear the name of Christ (4:16).

Peter is certainly speaking to believers in the United States today! We cannot begin to call what we are experiencing “persecution” without watering down the term when we compare the situation of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ in other nations. But we are certainly no longer the home team and are discovering the inconveniences of being an away team. Peter speaks directly to us as the away team and gives us wonderful instruction for living a victorious life. This prepares the way for the return of Jesus.

ADVANCE THE KINGDOM

Do you see how developing the “away team” mentality allows us to tone down the culture war animosities and instead become loving missionaries to our own nation? Our prayers become less angry and nationalistic, and more loving and Kingdom-focused.

Rather than wanting the Church to be the dominant force in society, we want to see Jesus recognized as Lord in every aspect of life. Our prayers will shift to focus on the advance of Christ’s Kingdom and the coming of our King to reign forever. 



DAVE BUTTS is chairman of America’s National Prayer Committee, president of Harvest Prayer Ministries (harvestprayer.com), and the author of several books

available at prayershop.org.

TARGET YOUR PRAYERS

for the Days We Are In

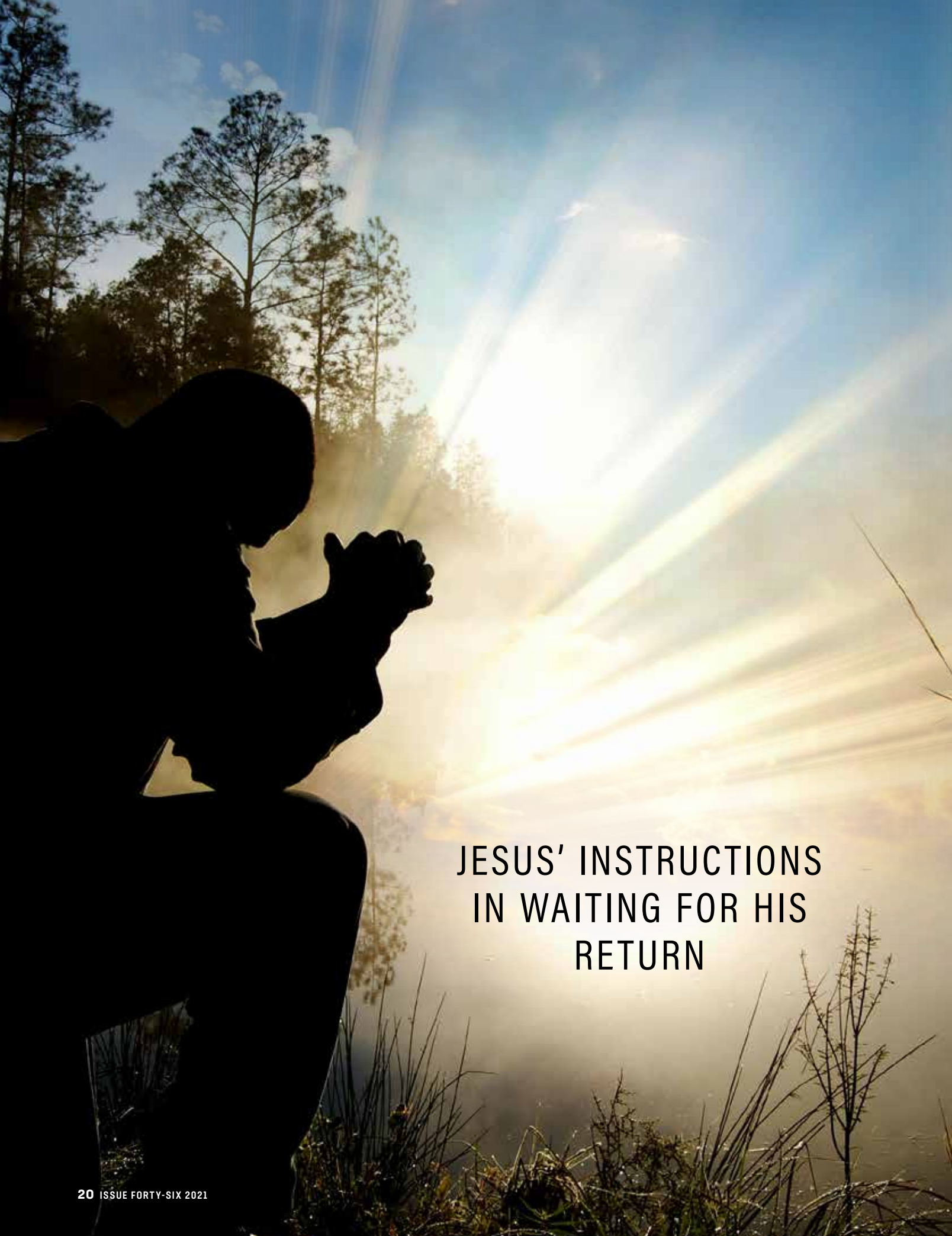
As the chairman of America’s National Prayer Committee, Dave Butts is uniquely positioned to understand how to pray into our current situation in America and around the world. Dr. Butts has written three books that equip followers of Christ to pray with knowledge for our nation and world. Make sure you have these resources!



Books available in print and e-book formats wherever you purchase your Christian books. Multiple copy discounts available at prayershop.org.

TAKE Dave’s
COURSE ON
“Praying for
America”
at

PRAYER

A full-page background image featuring a silhouette of a person in a prayerful pose on the left side. The person's head is bowed, and their hands are clasped together in front of their chest. The background is a bright, hazy sky with a strong sunburst effect emanating from the center-right, creating a warm, golden glow. Silhouettes of trees are visible on the left, and some grass or reeds are in the foreground at the bottom.

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS IN WAITING FOR HIS RETURN



“Occupy Till I Come”

As believers longing to be ready for Christ’s return, we need the Lord to help, guide, and equip us *to number our days carefully*. The psalmist writes, “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts” (Ps. 90:12, HCSB).

We need the Lord’s power and strength to help us view every moment as from the Lord—from the moment we wake up, to getting kids ready for school, to filling our car with gas, to running errands, to seeking the Lord on whether to say yes or no to new opportunities arising each day.

With this mindset, *how can we make each moment count for the Lord?*

PRAY AND PURSUE

Another way to ask this question is found in Luke 19:13, where Jesus uses a parable to make His “occupy till I come” point to His disciples (KJV). How do we occupy until He returns? The

nobleman gave his servants a specific amount of money to steward. As another version puts it, he asks them to “engage in business until I come back” (HCSB).

So, we must ask: what is this “business” we should engage in until Christ returns?

First, we must *pray*. Prayer aligns us with the Father and moves His heart. Prayer strengthens us to walk out the will of God. Prayer readies our hearts for every thought, conversation, and moment. Prayer is the “business” to engage in until Christ returns.

We must pray:

- for the lost to be found.
- for people to become burdened to ready themselves for Christ’s return and to be a laborer in the harvest. In Luke 10:2, Jesus said, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”
- for a move from the Lord.

BY KYLE LANCE and LAURA MARTIN

We need to walk obediently in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit until Christ returns.

As you pray, you must also *pursue* what you are praying for. This is the other half of the “business” you are to engage in until Christ returns. Are you willing to be an answer to this prayer? Are you burdened for whatever burdens the heart of Jesus?

Every day is a gift from the Lord. We not only need to desire and pray for a move of God, but we need to pursue a move of God by walking obediently in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, until Christ returns.

A.W. Tozer said it powerfully and truthfully:

Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late—and how little revival has resulted? I believe our problem is that *we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work*. To pray for revival while ignoring or actually flouting the plain precept laid down in the Scriptures is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. *Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience* (italics added).¹

Pursuing those things we pray for fulfills the business of the Lord. Pursuing them *in obedience* allows you to actively number your days for Jesus, until He returns.

GO WITH THE GOSPEL

For a believer, the business to *go* was quite clear in Matthew 28:19–20, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And

remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In order to number our days and occupy until Christ returns, believers go with the gospel entrusted to us. We must not be ashamed of it. Jesus Himself said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and that of the Father and the holy angels” (Luke 9:26).

The Great Commission says we must *go* and *make*. We go unashamedly: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

And we *go out*—like Jesus modeled to His disciples. When Jesus went into the community, He engaged in the business of His Father. He loved the people. He listened. He discerned what to do, say, or act, and then responded as the Spirit led. It’s a remarkable pattern: love, listen, discern, respond.

Time to Revive, a ministry based in Dallas, TX, has been equipping the saints around the world to go out so that believers steward the love the Lord has entrusted us and do the Father’s business, until He returns.

We go, relying on the Holy Spirit to direct our steps, never knowing how the Lord will lead. But He always does. Kyle recently had this unique testimony from the Lord while at our son’s baseball game:

I just dropped off my son and his friend to warm up with their team before their baseball game. They had 45 minutes before the game actually started, so I decided to go for a walk around the park. As I did, the Holy Spirit highlighted two women sitting at a picnic table. I knew right

away I was to share with them, yet I needed to wait on the right timing.

So, I continued to go on a walk. When I circled back around, the Spirit of God released me to go and speak with them. As I approached, I asked if there was anything I could pray for them. The one woman pointed to her best friend and indicated her friend needed prayer. I asked why. The best friend said she drove almost four hours to vent about her personal struggle of depression.

This conversation at the park was as real as it can get. The timing was only of God. In fact, the best friend said, “This has to be of God.” We prayed right there under the pavilion for her to experience the love and presence of the Lord. When we finished praying, and after going through the Good News, this young woman placed her hope in Jesus as her Lord and Savior. It was a sweet moment of the Holy Spirit showing up.

Going out and pursuing the business of the Lord is only possible when you pray, spend time receiving Jesus’ love for you, and then go out and share this love with others.

REPEAT CYCLE

As a “baseball mom,” the Lord whispered to Laura’s heart while cleaning our nine-year-old son’s baseball jersey and pants. It was a great season, cheering on her little slugger. But after every single game, what does she do with his white uniform? Spray. Bleach. Soak. Wash.

And just like that, before the next game, he has his crisp, white uniform to go back out and play his game all over again: bat, catch, slide, and run through the dirt, grass, and puddles.

While in the middle of this cleaning process, the Lord had Laura pause to see what He saw. First, she noticed the cardinal on his shirt—a cardinal is a personal reminder to her that “the Lord is near. He is with me and always working.”

Then she saw the dirt covering his uniform—so, so, so much dirt. The Lord whispered to Laura’s heart:

“Just like in life, you go out there and show up every day. You may get messy when in relationship with people. You may get tired. You pour out and you get dirty, bruised, and seemingly stained. But you are obediently doing and going out as I’ve created you to do—loving, delighting, serving, caring, and sharing with others with the love I’ve poured into you.

“Now, *what do I want you to do?* Come to Me. Rest in Me. Abide in Me. Renew your heart in Me.

“Spray, bleach, soak, wash. And then go out again and ‘play the game’ to which I’ve called you. Fight the battle, embrace the God-moment, and share the testimony just for Me—as you delight in living out your calling for Me.”

As you think about numbering your days until Christ returns—occupying until He comes—what’s holding you back? Don’t make it harder than it needs to be. Pray and pursue in obedience.

As we number our days until Christ’s return, we actively pursue the prophetic words of Jesus: “This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. *And then the end will come*” (Matt. 24:14, italics added).

It is time to proclaim to all the world the testimony of the love of Jesus within you. **PC**

¹A.W. Tozer, *Of God and Men* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2015).



KYLE LANCE and LAURA MARTIN founded the ministry Time to Revive in Dallas, TX. They live out their desire to engage people with the gospel and equip believers in evangelism and discipleship until Christ returns (timetorevive.com). In addition, Kyle developed a two-year teaching through the Bible (reviveschool.org) and Laura authored *Revive Daily*, a two-year devotional book through the Bible.

Check out some additional articles on blogs and websites related to “Come, Lord Jesus” at prayerleader.com/issue-46-extras.

- “To Number Our Days,” a series of video teachings by Kyle Lance Martin
- “5 Powerful Prayers for the End Times,” by Meg Bucher
- “Characteristics of Prayer in the End Times,” by Mike Bickle

Do you want to see a greater passion for prayer in your church?

Are you equipped to be a catalyst for prayer in your congregation?

Then you need to be a member of the



The Church Prayer Leaders Network exists to encourage, challenge, inspire, and resource you as you seek to motivate and mobilize your church toward deeper levels of prayer.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Annual subscription to *Prayer Connect* magazine
- Receive “Prayer Leader Online,” a bi-monthly email that includes suggestions, inspiration and resource ideas to help you in your ministry of developing prayer.
- Discounts on prayer resources at prayershop.org

GO TO prayerleader.com/membership OR CALL 812 238-5504 TO JOIN.

A photograph of a white ceramic vase filled with several bright orange autumn leaves. The vase sits on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of warm yellow and white tones, suggesting a window with sunlight. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

From ***Fear*** to

Four Prayers for Healing God Will Answer

By Stacey Pardoe


WHITE BEAMS OF AUTUMN SUNLIGHT pierced the windowpane the morning I answered the phone call. I was preparing lunch and almost ignored the call, but I picked up the phone when I saw it was my doctor's office. Nothing could have prepared me for the words spoken by the kind woman on the other end of the line.

She gently informed me of some abnormalities in a recent routine health scan. My mind went numb when she spoke the words "potentially cancerous." All I could think of were my young children and what would happen if the worst-case scenario in my mind became my reality. My heart hammered in my chest, and I struggled to focus long enough to jot down a few details about the logistics of my next round of testing.

The days following the difficult phone call seemed to drag on like weeks. I awaited follow-up tests and tried to pray. But mostly, I lived beneath a paralyzing mantle of fear. I imagined a slow, painful death and trembled every time I thought about leaving my precious husband and children without a wife and mother.

A few days into my battle with fear, I invited a close friend to join me for coffee. We sat in my living room with steaming mugs in our hands, and I told her everything. I shared the threat of the potential diagnosis and spewed out fear-filled notions and worries about worst-case scenarios.

rust



"You'll *defeat* *fear* when you trust Jesus with your worst-case scenario."

After a few minutes of contemplating my situation, my friend looked at me with gentle eyes and said, "Friend, it's not a sin to be fearful. But I think you've felt your fear long enough. It's time to take your eyes off your fear and fix them on Jesus instead."

I knew my friend was right.

I also knew I'd been *trying* to overcome fear, but I couldn't shake it. I told her I didn't know how to make the shift from focusing on fear to focusing on Jesus.

"You'll defeat fear when you trust Jesus with your worst-case scenario," my wise friend said.

Together we unpacked my hypothetical worst-case scenario. This scenario entailed dying from cancer and leaving my kids without a mom and my husband without a wife.

Gently, my friend asked me if I could trust Jesus to care for my husband and children if I died. I didn't like the thought, but I told her yes.

"Every time fear springs up in your heart, remind yourself you trust Jesus even if the worst-case scenario takes place," my friend suggested. "You will win the battle against fear."

Faith-Filled Prayers

I followed my friend's advice throughout the following weeks of medical exams and follow-up tests. Fear sprang up within me hundreds of times, and every time I felt it, I embraced an opportunity to return my gaze to Jesus as I expressed my trust in Him.

I prayed for God to heal the "potentially cancerous" cells, but my prayers weren't fear-filled, pleading prayers. Instead, they

became faith-filled prayers of gratitude.

The following four prayers transformed my journey toward healing. They pointed my trembling heart to God's Word and aligned my fearful heart with His loving heart. I pray they will transform the way you pray for healing as well. Let's take a closer look at these four powerful prayers God always answers:

1. "Father, thank You for hearing me."

Most of us know how it feels to pray for healing without seeing measurable results. I have prayed for certain friends to be healed for years. All the while, we watch and wait, and we see no visible sign of healing. This kind of prayer can be disappointing and disheartening. We wonder if God hears us and we struggle not to take offense.

I'm learning a new way to pray. I trust God hears me the first time I ask. Scripture reminds us that God hears the prayers of His children: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14).

I no longer repeat the same prayers for the same needs hundreds of times, as if I never asked at all. Instead, when I return to an ongoing request, I begin by thanking God for hearing me. I don't approach Him with a discouraged heart. Instead, I approach Him with childlike faith—like a child who is excited to see when her loving father will unveil a promised gift.

This expectant prayer of gratitude shapes my heart and helps me shift from fear to faith.

2. "Father, thank You for blessing me with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3 tells us God "has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." God has already appropriated our healing. He has made a way. We might not see immediate results. We might have to wait until heaven. Nonetheless, God promises healing and wholeness for His children.

As I prayed for the "potentially cancerous" cells growing within my body, my pleading prayers shifted to prayers of gratitude. I thanked God for the finished work of the cross and for touching my body. Instead of begging in fear, I thanked God for His healing power and told Him I couldn't wait to see how the healing unfolded. I told Him I hoped to see it immediately, but I trusted Him even if it lingered.

3. "Father, help me in my weakness to shift from fear to trust."

Trusting God in the face of our fears sounds like an easy undertaking when life is smooth and skies are clear. However, when the storms of life arise, choosing trust over fear often feels impossible. Storms weaken us and test our resolve. The most powerful moment in my journey toward healing was the moment I asked God to make His power known in my weakness.

When health and healing are on the line, our bodies grow weak. But our souls can languish beneath the weight of worry as well. We take the first step from fear to trust when we acknowledge our inability to muster up trust in our strength.

I remember praying a prayer that went something like this, "God, I want to trust You, but right now I'm having a hard time shifting from fear to trust. Thank You that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Please help me trust You in my weakness."

This humble prayer is a prayer God will answer. He will take our trembling hearts and help us shift from fear to

trust. I made this shift when I surrendered my worst-case scenario to God.

When we struggle to shift from fear to trust, it can be helpful to identify the specific worst-case scenario we fear. It's difficult to admit to our fears about the future, but when we are brave enough to do so, we open our hearts to let God carry these burdens for us. This is how we shift from fear to trust.

4. "Father, I thank You that nothing is too hard for You."

One of my favorite prayers in Scripture is Jeremiah's prayer for understanding. He begins his prayer with the following words: "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you" (Jer. 32:17).

When we begin our prayers with reminders of who God is, we strengthen our hearts. These prayers please God and they build up our souls. Our prayers for healing will become prayers for building our inner strength when we learn to pray with gratitude and thank God for His unchanging attributes.


Running into Jesus' Arms

Further testing revealed my abnormal cells were indeed precancerous. Throughout the months following the diagnosis, I faced fear every day. I looked into the bright blue eyes of my children and thanked God for every moment He gave me to hold them and care for them. I considered what their lives would be like without me—and plenty of times, I trembled.

Most prayers for healing involve the battle between fear and trust. When I began praying for my healing, I assumed the battle was physical. I thought I was praying to win the battle in my flesh. My journey taught me a powerful lesson: we are also in a spiritual battle. When we learn to use fear as a prompt to send us running to the arms of Jesus, we find victory in the spiritual battle. We learn

to pray powerful, trust-building prayers, and these are prayers God answers.

I faced plenty of fear throughout our journey, but fear lost its grip on me. After six months of fear-fighting and thousands of prayers, I returned to the doctor for further testing. The precancerous cells were gone. My healing was a miracle, but it was not the only answered prayer.

God used the trial to deepen my trust in Him, and this was the biggest miracle of all. 



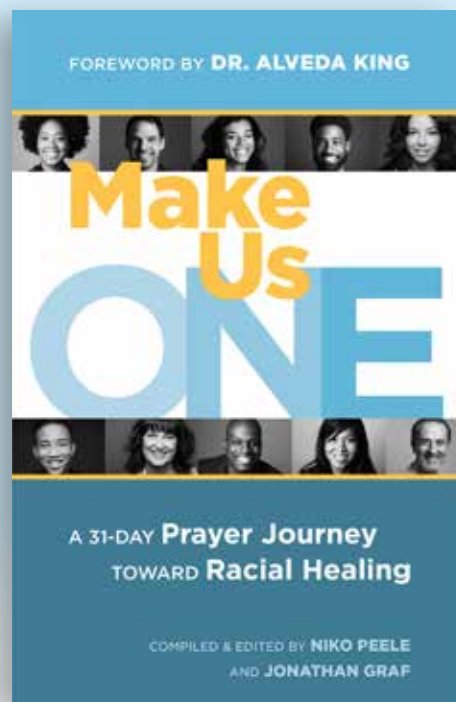
STACEY PARDOE writes about her walk of faith in the "in-between moments" at staceypardoe.com. She also mentors and teaches Bible to younger women.

JOIN THE CRY of Jesus' Heart in John 17

Make Us One is a compilation prayer guide that offers a Christian, biblical response to the racial division in our nation.

Each of the powerful, insightful, Scripture-based prayers is written by a national prayer leader or pastor of multiple ethnicities. It has a hard-hitting, clear, prophetic voice for our times, and a message to the Church that it cannot turn a blind eye to this issue any longer, but needs to live out Jesus' prayer in John 17—that we would be one.

We encourage and challenge you and your church to pray through *Make Us One*. Be part of seeing Jesus' prayer to make us one answered!



AVAILABLE WHEREVER YOU PURCHASE YOUR CHRISTIAN BOOKS.
YOU WILL FIND DISCOUNTED PRICING AT **PRAYERSHOP.ORG**.

Prayer Pals and More

My prayer pal Lucy and I have something in common. We both think first base is the best position to play in softball!

But we have other things that connect us as well, especially when we get together on our “Prayer Pal” nights. We love to figure out how we can pray for each other.

The leaders of our Wednesday night club program hit on a great idea several years ago. They invited the adults in our church to volunteer to be prayer pals with the children attending the program. It’s a rather simple commitment, and most adults are eager to be involved in supporting the kids in prayer.

We start the children with prayer pals when they are in first grade, with the hope that the adult and child can be paired up until the fifth grade when he or she graduates from the children’s program. This gives time to develop a relationship. I’ve had four prayer pals in the last several years, and the most meaningful relationships are the ones we can build over time.

Daveny, my first prayer pal, was quite shy in the early years. But by the time she reached fifth grade, we chatted about all sorts of things—and sometimes

she seemed like the mature one in our relationship! When we did activities together, I watched her grow in leadership and confidence.

Lucy is my new prayer pal, and we hit it off right away. She’s enthusiastic about everything and doesn’t hesitate to find me on a Sunday to give me a hug. When we shared prayer requests after I had a bout with COVID, she did not let go of my request about regaining my taste and smell. I didn’t realize she was still praying about it until months later when her mom asked me if I was better!

Organized Events

Lucy and I intersect with each other on a regular basis and pray for each other. But we also spend time together three nights out of the school year when all the prayer pals get together during a designated time on a Wednesday night.

Two of those Prayer Pal nights are for just half an hour. The other night—at the end of the year—is for a longer portion of the evening that includes a carnival or some other fun activity.

On those special nights, we often do a quick game together like a word search to get some conversation started. Then we ask how we can pray for each other—



and we take the time to pray! This is an opportunity for all the adults to spend time with their prayer pals, doing somewhat structured activities that can help with any awkwardness.

We encourage adults to be careful about giving gifts to their pals, especially in front of other pals. It can also be a little tricky when one sibling gets something special from an adult pal, but another sibling doesn’t. They do keep track! But I will occasionally send a small gift card to an ice cream place or something similar—and instruct my pal to take her siblings out for a treat. However, the last time I did this, Lucy requested that the two of us meet—without her brother and sister!

Our children are learning about the priority of prayer. Our church is abuzz with activity on Prayer Pal nights—and the kids can’t help but notice!

CAROL MADISON is editor of *Prayer Connect* and directs the prayer ministries at Hillside Church of Bloomington, MN.

The Prayer Bench Program

Dixon Chibanda is a psychiatrist in Zimbabwe, where mental health problems are rampant. Many of them are summed up in one word: *kufungisisa*, their Shona-language term for brooding, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, etc.

When one of his patients committed

suicide in 2005, Chibanda was motivated to find a solution to the desperate need. Eventually he hit on a plan.

Nearly every village had respected “grandmothers”—elderly women who were time-tested, life-wise, and often excellent listeners. Why not use them to

help the many suffering from *kufungisisa*?

Chibanda began a program that came to be called “The Friendship Bench.” In village after village, grandmothers were given several weeks of training. Benches were set up, perhaps under a tree or near a clinic, where the elderly women could

meet with troubled villagers (by phone during the pandemic).

Over six sessions, according to *friendshipbenchzimbabwe.org*, “participants are encouraged to open their minds to identify their problems, choose one to work on, identify a feasible solution, and agree on an action plan” with the guidance of the grandmothers.

Grandmothers in the Church

What about in the Body of Christ? Do believers suffer from some form of *kufungisisa*? Do congregations deal with depression and discouragement in ways that are spiritually insightful and bring comfort? Or are pastoral leaders overwhelmed, prayer warriors underutilized, and urgent prayer requests neglected?

Imagine recruiting, training, and mobilizing grandmothers—and grandfathers—for a Prayer Bench program in your church. Volunteers don’t need to be literal grandparents, but any older, wise, and godly men and women willing to “pray for each other so that you may be healed,” for “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

Those benches—or cell phones—could

become altars on which hearts open up to the healing work of the Holy Spirit. They can be sites of emotional and spiritual victories. Benches of intercession will be an immeasurable benefit to younger adults.

Coming Soon to Your Church?

If the Holy Spirit seems to lead in that direction, here are some suggested steps to start a Prayer Bench program in your church or ministry (prayerfully adapt to your own situation):

- Develop a team, appoint leaders, and establish a framework.
- Identify potential grandmothers/fathers and approach them about participation in the Prayer Bench program.
- Determine methods, i.e., Zoom, phone call, appointment in prayer room, etc.
- Provide training by experienced intercessors/Christian counselors. It’s important to learn to listen well and provide encouragement without overstepping professional counseling boundaries.
- Set additional boundaries on length and number of sessions and when

to refer a person to counseling. Be upfront with participants before the first session. One-hour sessions three times a good place to start.

- Select a coordinator who will pair up initial requests with a prayer partner and arrange a time to pray.

To ensure success and keep the Prayer Bench program going, remind participants often that the point is intercession, not counseling. It’s good to listen well, but make sure that a portion of the time is spent in prayer. Keep the prayer focused on bringing the person to Jesus for His healing touch. It is Jesus who restores and brings hope—and the grandmother/father is the one who points the person to Him.

Praying the Word is always powerful, so encourage the praying of Scriptures over the person, such as Romans 12:1–2, 15:13; Philippians 4:6–28, and Hebrews 12:1–2.

Finally, pray over your grandparents, pray for those they’ll minister to—and then begin in faith that God will keep your Prayer Benches filled!

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

Saturate a New Building with Prayer

A church in Florida was in the midst of building a larger church. Before the painting and carpeting final stages, the church leaders and staff went to the areas of the church where their primary responsibility would be located. Children’s leaders went to the children’s area; student leaders gathered in the new youth room. Staff members stepped into their new offices. Everyone spent time praying over their spaces.

Next, they took pencils or sharpies and wrote Scriptures on the floors and walls—any place that would eventually be covered by carpet or paint. Thought was given beforehand to Scripture passages that were personally meaningful



or could be used as prayers of blessing or declaration over the ministries.

Afterwards, everyone regrouped to prayerwalk the entire building indoors, praying Scriptures, worshipping, and adding written Scriptures in the common gathering places. They asked the Lord for His guidance, wisdom, and blessing.

Then they prayerwalked the outside

of the building, asking God to draw lost people to the church, praying for the various community and worldwide outreaches of the church, and planting tent pegs with Scriptures written on them at the corners of the property.

It was such a powerful experience with staff and ministry leaders that they invited the entire congregation to join them once again to prayerwalk inside and outside the building and property.

What a great way to pray into the future of your ministry!

HARVEST PRAYER MINISTRIES, taken from Prayer Tips and Ideas (*harvestprayer.com*).

Lord, I Thirst for You!

Have you ever prayed for personal revival? Most believers have at various times in their lives because it is easy to let the embers of revival in our hearts begin to grow cold. But rather than a quick prayer, there is value in taking devoted time to allow the Lord to do a deeper work in your heart.

Here are some prayers for personal revival from *Thirsty: A 31-Day Journey to Personal Revival*, a recently released book by Dr. Jamie Morgan, pastor of Life Church in Williamstown, NJ.

May God stir your heart as you pray through them!

Thirsty for Worship

Lord, I want to lavish my worship on You. You deserve my worship when I'm on top of the mountain, when I'm in the valley, and every day in-between. Teach me to worship You the way You deserve to be worshiped. Take me deeper in worship. Forgive me for holding back and for losing sight of all You have done for me.

Lord, revive my worship life. I know that worship and personal revival go hand-in-hand. I want to live a lifestyle of worship, never letting fear of man impede. Today, I make the decision to freely express my love and desire for You in the language of unhindered worship until I take my last breath.

I love You, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thirsty to Seek God's Face

Lord, I want to see Your face. As I gaze upon You, let me see Your glory, countenance, and power. Let hardships and pain drive me to seek Your face. Let the questions of life cause me to seek Your face. Let

weariness catapult me to seek Your face. Let the temptations of the enemy cause me to seek Your face.

I want Your glory to permeate my entire being. I want to impart Your fragrance to world. Lord, I'm going to spend the rest of my days seeking Your face, until the day I see You face-to-face.

I love You, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thirsty to Abide

Lord, I know that the secret to maintaining personal revival is abiding in Christ. When I continually abide in You, I experience continual personal revival. Lord, teach me to abide. From the time I open my eyes, until the time I lay my head on the pillow at night, let me dwell in You. Regardless of what life brings, help me to abide. Use everything in my life, including victories and adversities, to remind me to abide in You.

When I've stopped abiding in You, convict me so I can quickly turn my attention back to You. Lord, I no longer want to move in and out of Your presence. Therefore, I'm going to pursue abiding in You all the days of my life.

I love You, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thirsty to Follow

Lord, help me to follow You more closely than I ever have in my Christian walk. I want to follow Your every move from a heart of submission, love, and obedience. Root out any rebellion from my heart. Any time my eyes are fixed on something or someone else, remind me to place them squarely back on You. Help me to always walk behind You, and never in front or beside. Help me to love You more—even

during times of hardship.

Lord, I want to obey You instantly, completely, and at all cost. Help me to obey Your Word, Your will, and Your way. Search my heart, Lord, for anything that hinders me from following hard after You.

I love You, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thirsty for Prayer

Lord, revive my prayer life. Reignite my times of prayer with a fresh grace. I'm so grateful that Your ear is always attentive to my cries. Help me to never take the privilege, honor, or responsibility of prayer for granted. I want to be devoted to prayer and constant in prayer. Help me to protect my prayer life from the busyness of life.


I also ask You to give me a revelation of the power of corporate prayer with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, I want my prayers to be big, bold, and global. Although I desire personal revival, I also ask You for worldwide revival. Jesus, I want more of You. You are revival!

I love You, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Get Started Now

Thirsty is an interactive devotional that focuses on 31 vital aspects of your Christian walk. Each day you'll embrace the fire of revival for one specific area of your relationship with God and invite Him to bring that area back to life.

This book is great for personal prayer and reflection, use in small groups, or as a churchwide study on revival. January has 31 days—and it's a great time to start a unified prayer initiative in your church.

Newly published in 2021, *Thirsty* is available from PrayerShop Publishing (prayershop.org). 

Pray Without Walls | By Dr. Jamie Morgan

When I was a new believer I attended a prayer leader conference that marked the course of my life. One of the speakers stood out among the rest. She talked about taking prayer outside the four walls of the church.

Her prayer assignment, she explained, was to pray for the nations of the world by prayerwalking the embassy of each nation represented in Washington, D.C. As she prayerwalked each foreign embassy, she stood on Joshua 1:3, “Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you” (NLT). My heart leapt! The prayer possibilities excited me beyond words.

That conference was 30 years ago, but God planted a seed that grew into a ministry. Calling the church to the place of prayer, with an emphasis on praying beyond the church walls, is now one of my life’s missions.

Prayer journeys for me and my church are normal Christianity.

Unique Prayer Journeys

The opportunities to pray beyond the borders of your church are limitless. To help you mobilize your people to pray outside the sanctuary walls, consider these five types of unique prayer journeys:

- **Former revival sites.** Known as “thin places,” these locations are where revival has transpired in the past and where heaven has previously touched earth. Conduct research into where revival has transpired in your area and lead prayer journeys crying out to God to “do it again!” My church has conducted prayer journeys to several First Great Awakening sites at the exact spot where George Whitefield preached. We’ve also prayed in front of 214 Bonnie Brae Street,

Los Angeles, where the Azusa Street revival was birthed. We asked God to send worldwide revival once again.


- **Locations marked by war, bloodshed, or injustice.** Are there places in your city where blood has been shed due to violence? Stand on that site and ask God for peace. Are there abortion clinics in your area? Prayerwalk the city block around the clinic. Have military battles been fought in your region? Through prayer, take back the land for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our church sojourned to the Mason-Dixon line and asked God to end racial division and injustice. I have also prayed at the United States-Mexican border.
- **Places of government or historic significance.** Conduct prayer gatherings in front of your town hall, county courthouse, and state capitol. Are there monuments or statues in your region commemorating moments in history? Hold a themed prayer meeting there. In addition, you could intercede in places where historical documents were drawn, or covenants were made or broken. We have prayed on the steps of our state capitol in Trenton, NJ, right before an election cycle, asking God to place righteous men and women in positions of power. We also traveled to Washington, D.C., to the Museum of the Bible, and prayed that the Word of God would once again take preeminence in our nation.
- **Your city.** We have prayerwalked almost every street in our city, asking God for the souls of the people in each house, business, and school we encounter. We anoint driveways, development signs, and street signs,

asking God to awaken people to their need for Jesus. A by-product of this type of prayer journey is the powerful witnessing encounters you will have with people who are mowing their lawns, walking their dogs, and holding yard sales.

- **Spontaneous prayer everywhere you place your feet.** Take your prayer closet wherever your feet trod. Our church went to the movie *Unplanned*. At the end of the movie, as the credits were rolling, I stood to my feet and loudly proclaimed, “Prayer meeting in the parking lot!” There on the sidewalk in front of the theater, our church gathered, joined by others who had just watched the movie. Together, we cried out to God to end the atrocity of abortion and heal those who have had abortions.

Remedy, Reverse, Repeat

So how do you motivate prayer warriors to accompany you on prayer journeys? Describe in detail what took place on that site and how God wants to use them to intercede. Through their prayers, He will heal, remedy, reverse, or repeat what occurred. This will create great excitement regarding their prayer assignments.

There are no greater spiritual adventures than taking prayer journeys. As one young lady in my church puts it, “It’s like living on the spiritual wild side!” 



JAMIE MORGAN is lead pastor of Life Church in Williamstown, NJ. She is a member of America’s National Prayer Committee and the Assemblies of God Prayer Committee. Jamie is also the author of a newly released book: *Thirsty: A 31-Day Journey to Personal Revival* (prayershop.org).

A Simple Way to
Support a Pastor!

 **ChurchPrayer**
LEADERS NETWORK
2800 Poplar St, Ste. 43L
Terre Haute, IN 47803

The Pastors Resource Project

Pastors Need Our Help! A pastor is the key to growing prayer in the local church. But with all the things that demand a pastor's attention, it becomes hard to grow a church into a praying church without support and encouragement.

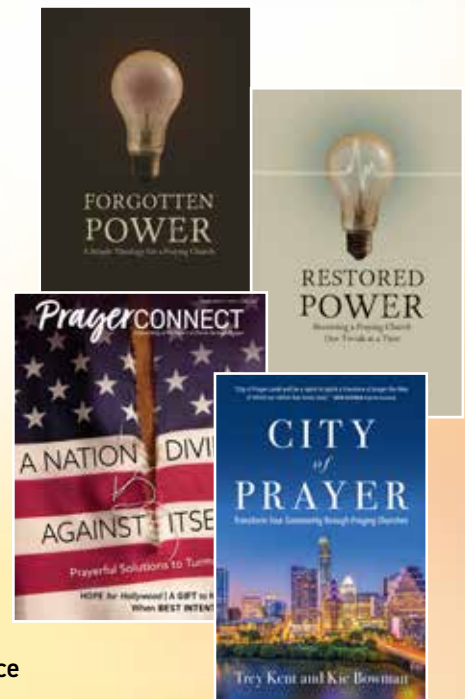
The Church Prayer Leaders Network and PrayerShop Publishing have launched the Pastors Resource Project to do just that. We are raising funds to put a **FREE** prayer resource pack into the hands of pastors.

Each pack includes 4 key prayer resources that can equip and encourage pastors to become champions of prayer in their churches. The packs include:

- **City of Prayer:** Transform Your Community through Praying Churches
- **Forgotten Power:** A Simple Theology for a Praying Church
- **Restored Power:** Becoming a Praying Church One Tweak at a Time
- A copy of **Prayer Connect magazine**, and a coupon for a free one-year subscription

How Can You Support Pastors?

By giving a gift to the Pastors Resource Project! Every \$40 raised puts a resource pack into the hands of a local church pastor. A gift of any amount will help.



 **ChurchPrayer**
LEADERS NETWORK

To give, go to prayerleader.com/a-gift-for-pastors and give online, or send a check made out to:

Church Prayer Leaders Network
P.O. Box 10667
Terre Haute, IN 47801

Indicate that you desire your gift to go to the Pastors Resource Project