

A CALL TO CORPORATE PRAYER ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

God has laid it upon our hearts to call the people of the United States of America to prayer on behalf of our nation.

In the inspiration and tradition of the Fulton Street Revival of 1857, we are calling for a grassroots movement of prayer around the cities of America for the welfare of this nation. Many believe that with the upcoming presidential election, the future of our country lies in the balance.

America has turned its back on its rich spiritual heritage that once encouraged a fear of God – respect and trust of Him – and a life of morality directed by the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God and should be honored as such in all matters of life.

Our society has greatly degenerated with each passing year, removing the traditional acknowledgement of God from public places and public forums, demeaning those who hold to the precepts of God, redefining the meaning of family, tolerating the corruption of morality even among its leadership, and ignoring the consequences, the judgment of God as seen in natural disasters and in the removal of His sovereign hand of protection from this nation. We have polluted the land with the blood of the unborn. Morally, America has never sunk so low. This has come to pass because there is no fear of God before our eyes. Instead, without the moorings of His Word, as the scriptures say, “everyone does what is right in their own eyes ...”

Only the mercy of Almighty God can save us from ourselves. The time is critical.

It is our conviction that there are many in this nation who agree, who believe as we do that the time is critical. Therefore we are calling them to rise up in their communities and join with others in corporate prayer on behalf of the United States of America, its citizens, and its future.

Thursday Noon Prayer Meetings through the November Election

In the tradition of the Fulton Street Revival of 1857, we are calling those who fear God to come together for corporate prayer every Thursday at 12 noon for 30 – 60 minutes of prayer in churches and places of business. Ask God to rend the heavens and come down again in His mercy and lovingkindness, to visit this nation and turn our hearts back to a fear of God as He is revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible.

THE FULTON STREET REVIVAL

Our times today are similar those of the Second Great Awakening of the early 1800s. Religious fervor had greatly waned and even came under criticism because of prophecies predicting the return of Jesus Christ in 1844. There was a burden of prayer on people of various denominations and ministries. The Fulton Street Prayer meetings began September 23, 1857; a financial crash came in October; the nation was divided over the issue of slavery.

1. It was an awakening that started and was sustained by “lay leadership.” There was no single personality behind it except the Spirit of God.
2. It began in New York City with business men reaching men of all walks of life, soon moving from weekly to daily prayer meetings and growing until they filled three floors of a church facility on Fulton Street. From there other churches opened their doors. Eventually the noon prayer meetings spread to other cities reaching various cities of the nation where thousands were converted. Then it moved to Europe.
3. It was not characterized by “emotional” outbursts. It was a move of God on the hearts of men who saw between 500,000 and one million people come to salvation through Jesus Christ.
4. Thousands of soldiers came to know the Lord during the Civil War.

What were the Guidelines for the Fulton Street Prayer Meetings?

The Prayer meetings which convened for one hour with people coming and going according to their schedules:

- It began with a hymn.
- A passage of Scripture was read.
- Prayer requests were written out and read by the moderator or they were given verbally during the meeting.
- No one was to pray or speak more than 5 minutes, nor more than twice per meeting. A moderator would ring a bell after 5 minutes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THURSDAY PRAYER MEETINGS

Some have asked for guidelines for these prayer meetings. These are given in light of that request with the prayer that the Lord Himself, by His Spirit, will clearly direct our prayers.

WHEN AND WHERE

We suggest that these prayer meetings take place across our nation:

- Every Thursday at 12 noon to 12:30 or 1 pm beginning on May 1, the National Day of Prayer and continuing at least through the elections or until Thursday, December 25 when we honor the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In homes, churches *and* places of business which open their facilities so that people can conveniently gather together for corporate prayer.

BEGINNING AND SUSTAINING CORPORATE PRAYER TIMES

- Prayerfully seek God's direction as to who you are to approach in beginning these prayer meetings and where they are to be. God has been stirring the hearts of people to pray and there are many pockets of prayer going on already. Remember there is to be no competition—rather a joining in the work of God.
- Once you have a place to hold the meeting, ask God how to spread the word. This could be through church bulletins, public service announcements on radio and television, posters, cards to hand out to others, email and the internet. Finance what God lays on your heart. (Stations and networks across the nation will be carrying radio and television spots calling the nation to prayer.)
- Seek God regarding a moderator who can begin and end the prayer meeting on time and possibly ring a bell after 5 minutes of prayer. Begin and end on time.
- Have slips of paper at the door so those coming to pray will understand what is taking place and the guidelines for this time of prayer.
- Ask God to draw people to these prayer meetings. You pray. God will gather.
- Possibly begin with one hymn or song of worship but no more as the people have come to pray. Be very conscious of time if the prayer meeting is only to last for 30 minutes rather than an hour. Remember it is a time for prayer.

- Read a Scripture that causes the people to focus on God and/or the condition of the United States of America. Some suggestions are:
 - Isaiah 63:19 – 64:4
 - Daniel 9:3-19
 - Ezekiel 14:12-20
 - Ezekiel 22
 - 22:1-12
 - 22: 23-31
 - Ezekiel 9
 - 2 Chronicles 20

- Confess the sins of our nation and cry out to God for mercy. Ask Almighty God to visit our nation in the power of His HOLY Spirit.

- Take your petitions to Him knowing “we do not have because we do not ask” or “we ask and do not receive because we ask with wrong motives – to spend it on our pleasures” rather than to conform to His holiness. (James 4:2-3, NASB)

- Pray that our nation will return to a fear of God, that multitudes will be convicted of their sin and turn to Him that they might live righteously before Him. “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34, NASB)

- Diligently seek God to be merciful to us in the leader He will give us as the President of the United States. Leave politics out of your prayers and remember “It is He [God] who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.” (Daniel 2:21, NASB)

- Do not become discouraged if few attend the prayer meeting. Continue, persevere in prayer. At the Fulton Street Prayer meeting Jeremiah Calvin Lanphier prayed by himself for the first 30 minutes, when he was joined by one other person. Eventually five more joined him. Only six came to that first prayer meeting, but the Spirit of God grew it until it outgrew the church and they had to open the church down the street.

God will bring His people. You are only responsible for you. Do what God has called you to do and trust God to do the rest. This is a grassroots movement, which means it begins with people just like you who hear God’s call and move in faith’s obedience.

We believe that if God does not move in mercy in answer to our prayers, America will be judged. Corporate prayer, repentance, and the mercy of God are our only hope.