

A CALL TO CORPORATE PRAYER

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. It is believed by many that the future of America lies in the balance of the upcoming election of a new president of the United States of America.

America has gravely turned its back on its rich spiritual heritage that once encouraged a fear of God and a life of morality dictated by the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God and is to be honored as such in all matters of life.

It is apparent that 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 consequential judgment of God seen in natural disasters and His 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 – respect and trust of Him – 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 believe this and 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.

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 to ask

God to rend the heavens and come down again in His mercy and loving-kindness and visit this nation and turn our hearts back to a fear, a respect and trust, of God as He is revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible.

THE FULTON STREET REVIVAL

1. It was an awakening that started and was sustained by “lay leadership”. There was no one personality behind it except the Spirit of God. In New York it moved from weekly to daily noon prayer.
2. It spread among business men and although it started in a big city, New York, word spread and it moved even into small towns.
3. It was not “emotional” – it was a move of God on the hearts of men that saw between 500,000 and one million people come to salvation through Jesus Christ and spread across the ocean.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THURSDAY PRAYER MEETINGS

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

WHAT WERE THE FULTON STREET GUIDELINES?

The Prayer Guidelines for the Fulton Street Prayer Meetings, which convened for one hour with people coming and going according to their schedules, were the following:

- Begin with a hymn
- Read a passage of Scripture
- No one was to pray more than 5 minutes. A moderator would ring a bell after 5 minutes.
- No one was to pray more than twice in the meeting. This is assuming there were more than a handful of people present.

Prayer requests were submitted and read by the moderator. The prayer meetings soon moved from weekly to daily, Monday through Friday.

WHEN AND WHERE

It is suggested that these prayers 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 until Thursday, December 25 when we honor the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- That churches *and* places of business open their facilities so that people can conveniently gather together for corporate prayer.

SUGGESTIONS FOR 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 prayer 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.

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.

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 22
 - 22:1-12
 - 22: 23-31
- Ezekiel 14:12-20
- 2 Chronicles 20

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

Take your petitions to Him knowing we have not because we ask not or we ask wrongly – to gratify our lusts rather than to conform to His holiness.

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.

Diligently seek Him to be merciful to us in the leader God will give us as the President the United States. Leave politics out of your prayers and remember “It is He 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)”.

Do not become discouraged if there is a lack of attendance at the prayer meeting. Continue, persevere in prayer. At the Fulton Street Prayer meeting Jeremiah Calvin Lampier prayed by himself for the first 35 minutes. Then he was finally joined by one other person. Only five attended that first prayer meeting, but the Spirit of God grew it until it outgrew the church and they had to open the Methodist church down the street.

God will bring His people. You are only responsible for you. Do what God has called you to do.