

## ***An Urgent Call to Prayer: The 777 National Prayer Initiative***

### **I. HEEDING THE WARNINGS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHERS**

- A. Today the church in America stands at a very critical juncture, in a dire state, and we would do well to heed the voice of our spiritual fathers. In 1995, in his book *The Coming Revival*, Bill Bright, one of our premier spiritual fathers, called two million Americans to fast and pray for forty days because of the dire state of our nation and our great need for revival. He warned,

*God does not tolerate sin. The Bible and history make this painfully clear. I believe God has given ancient Israel as an example of what will happen to the United States if we do not experience revival. He will continue to discipline us with all kinds of problems until we repent or until we are destroyed, as was ancient Israel because of her sin of disobedience.<sup>1</sup>*

- B. In 1999 David Wilkerson wrote a book called *America's Last Call*.

*Our nation right now is receiving its final call to repentance, just prior to a great judgment! I believe America stands at the brink of an economic and social collapse. Now I say this not because I've had a vision or dream about it. Rather, I have simply studied God's Word, and I discern from the Scriptures that God is dealing with America in the same way He has dealt with all nations who have forsaken Him...*

*The fact is, God's ways are absolutely unchangeable when it comes to His dealings with sinful nations. There is no "shadow of turning" (James 1:17) in His ways; He works the same way in every generation, because He is just. In short, He will deal with our generation in the same way He has dealt with every other generation that sinned as we are sinning. By learning these principles of His ways from Scripture, we can deduce exactly how He will deal with us today.<sup>2</sup>*

- C. John Piper, a pastor, theologian, and highly respected author of such contemporary classics as *Desiring God*, preached a sermon in the 1980s on the need for revival in the American church. He included the following quote in his message:

*Why is every form of moral impurity rampant in our evangelical, Bible-preaching churches? Why is the divorce rate as high in the church as it is in the world? Why do the vast majority of Christians never introduce anyone to Christ? Why do people laugh their way down the aisle to make "decisions"? Why are our churches loaded with people who want a part-time, convenient, weekend Christian experience and who show no serious interest in spiritual growth? Why do pastors have to twist people's arms to give, to serve, to get involved in the work of the ministry? Why are church splits so common? Why are*

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<sup>1</sup>. Bill Bright, *The Coming Revival* (Orlando: NewLife Publications, 1995), 47.

<sup>2</sup>. David Wilkerson, *America's Last Call* (New Kensington: Whitaker House, 1998), 11, 37–39.

*so many professing Christians barren, empty, hurting, confused, and in spiritual bondage? Why is the world so utterly disinterested in what we have to offer?*<sup>3</sup>

D. In 2009 Piper said this of our nation: “You don’t need to have special revelation to know that the rejection of Jesus Christ as Lord is the norm in America. Therefore, we stand under the judgment of God and it is only a matter of time till the present judgments give way to spiritual awakening or punitive calamities.”<sup>4</sup>

E. On July 19, 2012. Billy Graham released a prayer letter entitled “My Heart Aches for America.”

*Some years ago, my wife, Ruth, was reading the draft of a book I was writing. When she finished a section describing the terrible downward spiral of our nation’s moral standards and the idolatry of worshiping false gods such as technology and sex, she startled me by exclaiming, “If God doesn’t punish America, He’ll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”*

*She was probably thinking of a passage in Ezekiel where God tells why He brought those cities to ruin. “Now this was the sin of...Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen” (Ezekiel 16:49-50, NIV).*

*I wonder what Ruth would think of America if she were alive today. In the years since she made that remark, millions of babies have been aborted and our nation seems largely unconcerned. Self-centered indulgence, pride, and a lack of shame over sin are now emblems of the American lifestyle.*

*Just a few weeks ago in a prominent city in the South, Christian chaplains who serve the police department were ordered to no longer mention the Name of Jesus in prayer. It was reported that during a recent police-sponsored event, the only person allowed to pray was someone who addressed “the being in the room.” Similar scenarios are now commonplace in towns across America. Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone—except God.*

*Yet the farther we get from God, the more the world spirals out of control.*

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<sup>3</sup>. SPIRIT OF REVIVAL, "Fire from Heaven," Del Fehsenfeld, Jr., Vol. 18, No. 1, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup>. John Piper, “Testing David Wilkerson’s Prophecy,” The Desiring God Blog, posted March 9, 2009, [http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/1670\\_testing\\_david\\_wilkersons\\_prophecy/](http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/1670_testing_david_wilkersons_prophecy/)

*My heart aches for America and its deceived people. The wonderful news is that our Lord is a God of mercy, and He responds to repentance. In Jonah's day, Nineveh was the lone world superpower—wealthy, unconcerned, and self-centered. When the Prophet Jonah finally traveled to Nineveh and proclaimed God's warning, people heard and repented.*

*I believe the same thing can happen once again, this time in our nation.<sup>5</sup>*

## II. ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ – AN URGENT CALL TO PRAYER

**“Blow the trumpet...sound the alarm...for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand-- Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God...”** (Joel 2:1, 13)

- A. Two years ago the greatest evangelist in American history called our nation to recognize our dire situation and to turn to the Lord in repentance. Little attention was given to his charge. Now, two years later, his daughter Anne Graham Lotz is calling the church in America to wake up and hear the words of the prophet Joel, “Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand.” At the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2014, Anne exclaimed that the alarms of warning are going off in our nation through the many crises—financial, social, political, ecological, etc. She called the nation to wake up to the Lord’s dealings with our nation and to give ourselves to prayer and fasting beyond a national day of prayer. You can watch her National Day of Prayer message at <http://www.god.tv/national-day-of-prayer/video/national-day-of-prayer/anne-graham-lotz>.
- B. She is now giving an urgent call to prayer and inviting thousands of followers of Jesus Christ across our nation to take the first 7 days of July to return to the Lord our God, rend our hearts, repent of our sin, and cry out to God for His mercy on behalf of our nation. Before it’s too late.

*I am blowing the trumpet...sounding the alarm...issuing a national prayer initiative entitled 777: An Urgent Call to Prayer. The Call is for God's people to pray for each of the first seven days in the seventh month—July 1–7. Then on the 7th day, July 7, we are to pray and fast for 7 hours*

- C. The purpose of the urgent call to prayer
  - 1. For God the Father to restrain, protect, and deliver His people from the evil that has come into our world.
  - 2. For God the Son to be exalted, magnified, and glorified in His church, in our nation, and in our lives.

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<sup>5</sup>. <http://billygraham.org/story/billy-graham-my-heart-aches-for-america/>

3. For God the Holy Spirit to fall on us in a fresh way, compelling the church to repent of sin and our nation to return to faith in the living God, resulting in a great national spiritual awakening.

### **III. ANSWERING THE CALL**

- A. We are joining with Anne in this 777 prayer initiative and calling our friends and partners worldwide to join with us. From July 1-7 we will focus our 24/7 prayer room on humbling ourselves before the Lord and crying out for our nation.
- B. The prophets exhort us to posture ourselves in two primary ways in order to experience national revival. Hosea prophesied to Israel in Hosea 10:12, “Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.” Joel 2:12-17 gives the same twofold emphasis. He calls Judah to rend their hearts in light of the coming judgment, and gather together in corporate prayer and fasting. We are to first prepare our hearts by breaking up the fallow ground through true repentance, by confessing and turning away from all sin. Second, we are to seek the Lord in corporate prayer with fasting.
- C. We are calling our community to a time of confession and consecration, breaking up the fallow ground and turning to the Lord as individuals, families, and church communities. Over these days our desire is to intentionally build altars of prayer in our personal lives, families, and corporate gatherings. These times are to be used for connecting our hearts to the crisis, humbling ourselves in prayer, and rending our hearts by listening to the Lord and responding to any of His leadings.
  1. From July 1 to 6, intercession sets in the Global Prayer Room will focus on turning to the Lord and crying out for revival.
  2. Members of Forerunner Christian Fellowship (FCF) are encouraged to give themselves to one hour a day in the prayer room at one of the intercession sets (6am, 10am, 4pm, 8pm, 12am, or 4am).
  3. Families of FCF are encouraged to meet once daily for a time of prayer, repentance, and consecration, asking for the Lord’s presence and power to break in to our homes, marriages, and lives of our children and other family members.
  4. We encourage IHOPKC departments to use their meeting times as a time of prayer and seeking the Lord.
  5. Individuals are invited to use Evan Roberts’ four points. Evan was a leading figure in the 1904-05 Welsh Revival.
    - a. Confess all known sin, receiving forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

- b. Remove anything in your life that you are in doubt or feel unsure about.
  - c. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly.
  - d. Publicly confess the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. On the final day, Monday, July 7, our community will hold two 8-hour solemn assemblies, from 10am to 6pm and from 10pm to 6am (ending on Tuesday morning). We welcome you to join us in the Global Prayer Room or live at [ihopkc.org/prayerroom](http://ihopkc.org/prayerroom) as we cry out to God for His mercy on behalf of America.