Encounter God’s Glory by Ascending His Holy Mountains

I. THE 777 CALL TO PRAYER AND FASTING BY ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

“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)

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 and agree with their assessment of our current situation.


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.

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

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.¹

On Sunday, June 29, the terrorist insurgents in Iraq declared a new Islamic Caliphate based less than 50 miles from the ancient city of Nineveh. This new Islamic Caliphate creates a new base for international terrorism. Beginning this Ramadan, the new Islamic state is accepting pledge of allegiance for like-minded Muslims everywhere, as the Caliph claims to be the supreme ruler of all Muslims worldwide. This new Islamic Caliphate has declared that they intend to spread the Caliphate from Africa to Indonesia in the next five years. If this Caliphate has its way, all infidels (including Jews and Christians) will face a destructive future. They have begun to control enough oil fields to join OPEC. This sound like Austria-Germany in 1936 and invasion of Manchuria by Japan in 1931; both precursors toward the birth of the second world war in the Atlantic and the Pacific. Is it a coincidence that this evil trumpet of darkness was sounded on the same day, Allen Hood blew the trumpet to call us to return to Jesus, the King of kings?

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](http://www.god.tv/national-day-of-prayer/video/national-day-of-prayer/anne-graham-lotz).

She has given an urgent call to prayer and invited thousands of followers of Jesus Christ across our nation to take the first seven 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.

**A. 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.**

The purpose of the urgent call to prayer:

- For God the Father to restrain, protect, and deliver His people from the evil that has come into our world.
- For God the Son to be exalted, magnified, and glorified in His church, in our nation, and in our lives.
- 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.

**B. We are answering the Call**

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.

The prophets exhort us to posture ourselves in two primary ways in order to experience national revival. Hosea prophesied to Israel in Hos. 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 cry out to the Lord in corporate prayer with fasting.
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.

From July 1 to 6, intercession sets in the Global Prayer Room will focus on turning to the Lord and crying out for revival.

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).

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.

We encourage IHOPKC departments to use their meeting times as a time of prayer and seeking the Lord.

Individuals are invited to use Evan Roberts’ four points for greater consecration. Evan was a leading figure in the 1904-05 Welsh Revival.

Confess all known sin, receiving forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Remove anything in your life that you are in doubt or feel unsure about.

Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly.

Publicly confess the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 as we cry out to God for His mercy on behalf of America.

II. KEY POINTS FROM ALLEN HOOD’S PROPHETIC CALL ON JUNE 29, 2014

A. Hearing the voice of the spiritual fathers: David Wilkerson, John Piper, Billy Graham, etc.

B. Understanding our propensity to find justification in the Scripture in times when judgment of God is in the land.

C. God is kind to raise up Anne Graham Lotz in America for prayer, fasting and repentance.
III. DISCERNING GOD’S HEART IN THE MIDST OF HIS JUDGMENT

A. Calling us to return to Him and His blessed presence (Joel 2:13)
B. Revelation of His justice (Ps. 19:9)
C. Revelation of His mercy that triumphs over judgment (Jas. 2:13)
D. To help the people learn righteousness (Isa. 26:9)
E. Cleansing of the land that has been defiled by the inhabitants (Dan. 9:1-27)
F. Manifest the Spirit of the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:1-3)
G. Revelation of the glory of God (Ex. 33:14-18)

IV. HOW CAN WE PRAY WHEN JUDGMENT OF GOD IS THE LAND?

A. When God declared His coming judgment (Ex.32:10)
B. When God was executing His active judgment (Ex. 32:28)
C. When God has completed His initial judgment (Ex. 32:29-35)
D. When God has promised post-judgment restoration (Ex. 32:34)
E. When God has agreed to fulfill and execute His post-judgment restoration (Ex.33:1-3)
F. When the people have new yearning for God’s presence and His righteousness (Ex. 33:11-13)
G. When individuals who experience the glory of God in His beauty, His pleasure, and His judgment press in for more revelation of His glory (Ex. 33:14-18)

V. THE CALL TO ASCEND HIS HOLY MOUNTAINS

A. Mount of Transfiguration (9000 ft) – Matthew 16-17
On this journey to ascend the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples grew from a group of men who were concerned with bread to men concerned with encountering the revelation of Jesus, the Son of the living God, and the revelation of the glory of church, and how the Lord has entrusted His church with the keys of His kingdom. Jesus continued to guide His disciples to focus on eternity rather than temporal comfort and safety, and warned them of the serious threat of Satan’s temptation to avoid the cross in their path toward glory. Jesus showed His disciples that the path to ascend into the glory of the Lord involves the cross, suffering, and His death. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets) gave witness to Jesus along with the cloud of glory that thunders, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him!”

B. Mount Moriah (2400 ft) – Genesis 22

Abraham journeyed with Isaac for three days from Beersheba to the Mount the Lord had shown Abraham to offer up sacrifice. Abraham had faith that he and his lad would go worship the Lord on this Mountain and return, although the Lord has clearly spoken to Abraham to present Isaac as the offering. On the Mountain of the Lord, He provided a ram for the offering. It was on this same spot many years later that David built an altar after purchasing it with a full price, and where Solomon built the temple.

C. Bethel (3000 ft) – Genesis 28, 32

Jacob had an encounter about the gate of heaven, house of God at Luz. He renamed this Bethel as a result of his encounter. During his initial encounter with God at Bethel, he was slumbering and yet God was merciful and kind to reveal Himself to Jacob. In Gen. 32:22-26, we see Jacob growing into a man of God who wrestled with God until He left him with a limp and a blessing.

D. Mount Sinai (7500 ft) – Exodus 19-34

The Lord commanded the Israelites to consecrate themselves for three days and then approach Him. The seventy elders of Israel saw the glory of the Lord and pathways under His feet, and Moses ascended to the mountain of the Lord seven times during this period (on two occasions for 40 days), and twice on the mountain of the Lord he received the tablets with the Decalogue. The Lord was the One who commanded the people to consecrate themselves and ascend the Mountain of the Lord, but the Israelites eventually grew afraid of the voice and the presence of the Lord. Moses continued to draw near to God in worship and intercession multiple times to stand in the gap between God and the Israelites during the time of the judgment of the Lord.

E. Mount Zion (2500 ft) – Hebrews 12
The Scripture says, we have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the firstborn who was registered in Heaven. This passage was the culmination of the unfolding priestly theme developed by the author of Hebrews about God’s desire for an everlasting priesthood. Heaven is where the throne of God is, and the earth is His footstool. He has chosen Zion as His resting place on the earth. The ascension of Mount Zion is likened to an approach to the throne of God and His mercy seat.

F. Mount Carmel (1700 ft) – 1 Kings 18

After three years of judgment (drought and famine), Elijah finally gathered Israel and the hundreds of false prophets on Mount Carmel. He challenged the false prophets before the people of Israel to demonstrate the power of their gods. The Scripture was clear that at the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah began to prepare holy sacrifices unto the Lord. Fire came down from heaven to consume the sacrifice, and the people exclaimed that the God of Israel, YHWH, was the only true God. The nation turned back to the Lord in one day, and then Elijah proceeded to pray for the drought to break. On the Mountain of the Lord, the glory of the Lord is revealed, false prophets were judged, and the judgment of the Lord ended with the blessing of abundant rain.

G. Mount of Olives (2600 ft) – Luke 22

On the Mount of Olives Jesus gathered His disciples to watch and pray as He wrestled with His final temptation to yield to the fullness of the Father’s will. This happened right after Jesus finished the washing the disciples’ feet, instituting the Lord’s Supper, and completing His final words in the upper room discourse, which He sealed with His high priestly prayers. On the Mount of Olives Jesus prevailed in prayer while His disciples slumbered. On the Mount of Olives the angel ministered to Him, and eventually Jesus ascended to the Father from this same mountain.

When God beckons His people to ascend His Holy Mountains, He intends to show them His glory; His loving-kindness that endures forever. He intends to see them consecrated as holy unto the Lord, to be awakened and watchful. On the mountains of the Lord, He led us to yield toward the fullness of His will through paths of trials, sufferings, and even death. On the mountains of the Lord, the judgment of God is complete when a nation turns back to God and He leaves a blessing of revival.
Appendix 1

An enquiry into the obligation of Christians to pray and labor with urgency for another Great Awakening (Revival) in America.

By Daniel Lim

(This message was given in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 23, 2009.)

I am gripped by the reality of the time in which we are living in America; this hour of history in this nation. Before I begin, I want to ask a question. I want to know how many of you were born after the year 1984, which means you are about 25 years old and younger. That is about 85% of this sanctuary.

We are talking about you tonight, so pay attention. I am going to reason with you, with the faculty of your mind, and also the condition of your spirit-man. I want you to stay engaged and alert.

Let’s begin by turning in our Bibles to Luke 3:2 where the Scripture says, “While Annas and Caiaphas were high priests the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.” Now this is a very simple sentence, but it is packed with profound implications at many levels.

Basically, at that time, history was documented based mostly on events and not just on chronological years. So at this historical moment, the Word of God goes forth from the throne of God, into the land of Israel, and to the people of Israel. It happened when two major spiritual leaders were in Jerusalem: Annas and Caiaphas. There are four human figures in this verse: John, Caiaphas, Annas, and Zacharias, the father of John. Caiaphas and Annas were in leadership over the priesthood in Jerusalem. Zacharias was also a priest according to the division of Abijah. John, the son of Zacharias therefore is from the priestly lineage.

They were all set within a very real historical context. In order to really appreciate this, you have to understand the events preceding this verse. Israel went through a season of severe drought of the Word of the Lord. The historians of the Bible call it the season of prophetic silence, or the inter-testamental period. From the days of Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi to the time when John the Baptist began to declare the Word of the Lord in the wilderness, until Christ manifesting Himself in public ministry, there were four hundred years of prophetic silence. No Word of the Lord was documented in the canon of Scripture from that time period.

In Zech. 9:1, Zechariah received the burden of the Word of the Lord, and then he began to prophesy. In Mal.1:1, the burden of the Word of the Lord was given and Malachi began to prophesy. Then there was silence and there was no written Scripture. That means that when the time of Christ came, there was no endorsement of any inspired Word of God worthy to be documented in the Old Testament Scripture after the prophet Zechariah.

Suddenly, after 400 years, in the fullness of time, the Word of the Lord was brooding, looking for a vessel to rest upon. The Word of the Lord began to move on the Temple Mount among those who were still calling upon the Lord, those who practiced religious Judaism. It skipped over all of the religious leaders and went into the wilderness finding a man who had been preparing himself there for decades.
The burden of the Lord fell upon that man named John, and he emerged to call a generation to repentance and to preparing themselves to receive the Messiah. Lk. 3:2 is no small statement. The Word of the Lord was moving looking for someone to carry the burden of the Lord. And the Word of the Lord found John, for John was in preparation.

Now, I leave you with that verse, and we will move to the context of today and the time in which we live. 2008 was a very significant year to America as well as globally. Many of us know that in September and October, Wall Street had a severe shaking that basically revealed the unsoundness of the global financial system. This unsoundness became publicly manifested.

Then, in November, Americans went to the polls and voted for change. Now the word ‘change’ itself is rather neutral because change could be a change toward the better or change could be a change toward the worse. So when America voted in November, there was a mixture of events that happened through that ballot. Some choices actually made progress toward the establishment of biblical values while other changes were alarming and shocking – such that most people who believe in the Bible and practice the Christian faith were utterly dumbfounded by how America voted in November of 2008.

We woke up one morning and said, “How could that have happened?” Those who care about the Ten Commandments, care about the Sermon on the Mount, care about the Bible as a moral yardstick for the foundation of this nation were startled by how America voted. America voted for a more liberal expression of government, and the conditions seemed to swing quickly, catching many off-guard.

Eight years prior to that, America went to the polls to choose the leaders of this nation. At that time there was some campaign machinery that was mobilizing those who are called evangelicals to push them to vote for biblical values. As a result we had someone in leadership for eight years that supposedly represented values that were friendly toward the Scriptures. I am not going to comment much about that since I am not a political expert.

Then, the same strategy was used again to mobilize so called Bible-believing and Bible-practicing Christians to go to the polls in 2008, but the result was radically different, and America was left surprised (at least among those who said, “Give us back some Bible values.”) How could this have happened?

In 1997, Thom S. Rainer, the former dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the current President and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, published a book called The Bridger Generation that provided information of the changing demographics of church engagement between four different consecutive generations. The statistics were drawn from church membership data of the more established denominational church groups and likely serves as a fair assessment of the changing state of evangelical Christianity in America. The data showed the estimated proportion of each generation reached for Christ over the course of four consecutive generations leading up to the generation born after 1984:2

- Born between 1927-1945: 65% church engagement

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• Born between 1946-1964: 35% church engagement
• Born between 1965-1983: 16% church engagement
• Born between 1984-current (projection based on trends): 4% church engagement

Consider the demographic of those that were born between 1924 and 1944. They call this generation the “Builder” generation. 65% of that age group is actively engaged in church life. They count on the Bible for their values of life and godliness and faith. That generation is now between 60 and 80 years old. Now, you must remember that America had a series of revivals at the turn of the twentieth century. Church engagement, twenty to forty years after revival was still very strong.

Then, you have those who were born right after World War II until 1966. This is called the “Boomer” generation. 35% of this group still engage actively in church and practice Christianity in a very consistent way. 35% is still a very significant number. That age group is now in their mid-40s to mid-60s. Similarly, a nation in Asia that experienced revival is currently at about 30-40% Christian. Korea is at a height where several churches have more than a hundred thousand church members.

Then you have another generation that was born from 1966 to 1983 called the “Buster” generation. We all know what happened in the 1960’s. Out of San Francisco, a counter-cultural movement was birthed that basically caused the fundamental fabric of the conservative and family values of this nation to disintegrate. 15% of those born from 1966 to 1983 (the Buster generation) are actively involved in church.

Finally, we have you, the “Bridger” generation, the majority of this audience, which consists of those born 1984 or after. Of your generation, according to Thom Rainer’s projections, only 4% of your generation is actively involved in church.

So, what does this tell us? In the year 2000, and even the year 2004, many of your generation were not at the age where they could vote. But by 2008 those who were born after 1984 passed the age where their vote counted and helped to swing the vote, the values, and the leadership of this nation. Of your generation, only a mere 4% goes to church, worships Jesus, and holds onto the Bible as the Word of life.

We can see that this number continues to spiral downward almost as if it were spinning down into a bottomless pit. It seems as if there is no bottom to this. In 2016 many of those between 5 and 14 years old today will be in the age group where their voices are influencing the move of this nation. What is their state of spirituality? You know your generation better than I do.

I am bringing this up because those who study missiology say that if a subculture adhering to a certain set of values reaches 2% of the total population, that set of values or that subculture will probably sustain as a minority within the larger culture. It will not be easily annihilated, but it will not have strength to grow to a substantial number. It will simply stay as a defensive minority.

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3 The “Bridger” generation is a term used by Thom Rainer and not necessarily a generally used sociological term for those born after 1984.
If the population grows to 10%, then it has enough critical mass to gather strength to move forward and grow. If it reaches 16%, it has gathered enough critical mass to self-propagate without the initiator of the movement or the subculture organizing a campaign or devising a strategy. It has a life of its own to self-propagate.

The generation that was born after 1984 has only 4% active church engagement. We are close to survival mode. We may not be annihilated, but we’re almost there. Are we ready to call this a crisis? Are we ready to sound the alarm and say, “We need a revolutionizing, turning of the generation in America back to God”? Are we ready to declare this hour of crisis requires a radical response, or is it still business as usual? Do we want the number to fall below 2% before we say, “Lord, help us!”?

America today has a birth rate of 2.1%, which means the growth rate of the population is just about enough to replace the aging population. Most developed countries cannot even replace their population. The median age of Americans according to the census from the year 2000 is 36.7 years. That means that more than 50% of Americans are younger than 37 and are the majority in America! America actually has a relatively young population compared to most developed nations.

America today has the 5th largest population in the world of those between 5 and 14 years old. India has 240 million in this age group, China has 180 million, and then you have Nigeria and Indonesia. America is 5th with more than 60 million Americans below the age of 15 years. In eight years, a portion of that generation will be at the polls casting their votes and determining where America is going. The battle is not over, my friend.

Why am I quoting all of these numbers? Because it illustrates our battleground and what will be the future of America. Since this statistic is so transparent, are the professors, the intellectuals, the theologians, and the church leaders in America concerned? This is not a secret number that nobody has read. This is a public figure.

Church growth statisticians and experts have been concerned for years by this trend of the church. The Church’s response, for the most part, has been to merely tweak its message, because it has concluded that the exodus of worshipers is due to the Church lacking a so-called “relevant” message. Then, they conclude, that the downward trend is caused by a need for a contemporary genre of music. So the Church has responded by attempting to change its music toward more contemporary musical expressions.

So, we’ve changed our message, we’ve changed our music, and then, instead of asking people to come to a good old church in some sort of cathedral-type building, we decided we were somehow going to go out there to find them. We meet in homes, coffee-shops, gymnasiums, parks, etc. So then, we’ve changed our methodology, even changing our marketing strategies to incorporate Facebook, iPods, YouTube, and whatever else we determine is the best and latest way to reach this generation. Finally, we also assume that large gatherings are no longer the best way to build community. Instead, we organize ourselves into small groups, hoping that this will develop quality relationships with one another calling ourselves “communal and missional.”

Now, these responses are not all bad, but consider the way the Church responds to this alarming number. We tweak the message, we tweak the music, we tweak the methodology, we tweak the way we meet with one another, we tweak our missional expression, but we have forgotten that what is needed is not more programs, not more “relevance.” What we need in America are Acts 2 and Joel 2 responses: to cry out to God for another gut-wrenching revival in America.
I am extremely troubled with my own lack of burden to the point where I called this message “To Be Yoked with the Burden of the Lord.” O Lord, when will You give us a generation who is yoked with the burden of the Lord for America, for the nations, for our next generation at this very hour? Do we live to be yoked with the burden of the Word of the Lord and the burden of intercession for this nation? Or do we say, the recession is over, although the unemployment rate is a little high right now?

Perhaps God is creating a perfect storm scenario for this nation, so that all our options are removed. We have no choice, because our tweaking of the message, music, methodology, and missional approaches will not be able to turn this number around. Unless an historical revival breaks into this land and turns the flood of darkness back to where it came from, this nation will not turn.

I do not know how to respond to this. I am a missionary. I was not born in this country, but I have a deep gratitude for the people of this land who have gone forth as missionaries to evangelize my people. But, when this reality struck me, I knew this was talking about my 7-year-old son. I knew this was talking about the future that my children will face in this land. This is not business. This is personal. This is not business. This is profoundly personal.

Why did you come to Kansas City? Why did God gather a group of people in Kansas City in the prayer room? Why do we call a generation of young adults and challenge them to sit in a prayer room? Everybody else says, “You are wasting your youth, your productivity, and your creativity. What are you doing in that room?” The question is not “Why are you sitting in that chair?” The question is: “What are you doing when you are sitting in that chair?”

We are approaching the ten-year anniversary of night and day prayer. Ten years of perpetual worship and prayer. We have a thousand staff in Kansas City. We can take a deep breath and say, “We have done it. The fire on the altar will not go out. Night and day prayer will go on until Jesus Christ returns.” But the number of believers in the church is still dwindling!

What are we called to do in Kansas City, my brothers and sisters? Why is God raising up prayer rooms across America today? Why is this prayer movement set in the context of the current historical moment? If this trend stays consistent, all the renewal and the revival movements during the twentieth century from the 1920’s have not successfully turned around this slide. Although these movements have perhaps slowed down the dwindling process, the faith is still not successfully passed from one generation to another.

I call this downward trend the emerging prospect of a post-Christian America. However, the battle is not over and the key is in your hand. I am not ready to put up a white flag and admit defeat. Even if there is only 4%, all we need is a generation of fiery revivalists in America who will go into prayer and fasting and call down fire from heaven to come and turn this nation back to God. That is how good old gut-wrenching revival happens.

It has happened many times before in the darkest periods of the history of this nation and other nations. In the 18th Century, we have George Whitfield and the Wesley brothers along with Jonathan Edwards preaching on both sides of the Atlantic. In particular, among those who dwelt in the colonies, thousands upon thousands were swept into the kingdom of God. They were literally preparing them for eternity. Within a short period of time,
there came the Revolutionary War, where Americans fought with foreign forces for their independence. Many young people died, but they were prepared for eternity right before death, by an act of the mercy of God through historical revival.

In the 19th Century there were revivals that swept across America because of pockets of prayer meetings and the proclamation of the Word by men like Charles Finney. Then, within decades was the largest bloodshed that ever happened in the continental USA, through the Civil War. Brothers fought against brothers. Most didn’t even know why they were killing one another. On both sides they had preachers going on in full-swing revivals. But God was preparing young men and women for eternity as judgment and revival broke out at the same time.

That pattern did not only happen within continental USA. In 1903 there was a group of missionaries gathered in Korea in a place called Wonsan. They gathered for a time of reflection, realizing the barrenness of their work that had no power and no fruit. Crying out to God, a spirit of revival began to brood upon them. In 1907 they had a ten-day gathering in Pyongyang and revival broke forth. Thousands and thousands in Korea were swept into the kingdom of God. Shortly after that, in 1910, Japan came and occupied Korea for 25 years and slaughtered many souls. Many were prepared for eternity ahead of time.

From 1927 to 1939, revival swept across China through a group of revivalists. Millions of people entered into the kingdom of God, built upon the foundation of foreign missionaries. By the time the communists took over China in 1949, there were five million born again fervent believers, prepared for the fiery furnace of persecution. Millions died and gave up their lives during the five to six decades of the oppressive rule of a Maoist regime. Out of that furnace, emerged more than a hundred million born again Christians in China today, all calling upon the name of Jesus. Millions were prepared for eternity ahead of time as the Maoist regime purged the nation with the infamous cultural revolution.

We need this revival, but not just because of church growth and adding larger numbers to the statistic. Not just because we want the right kind of government in power. Not just because we need right laws in the land, but simply because we need a great act of the mercy of God to prepare this young generation of Americans for eternity. May God have mercy upon our children. May God have mercy upon our children’s children.

May God prepare a whole generation before any future military confrontation hits this land and the Eschatological events unfold across the earth.

Human ingenuity, ideas, ideology, philosophy, political activism, strategy, and methodology all fall short in turning a nation back to God with a revolutionary force. We need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We need an historical revival in America. We need an historical revival that will shift the fundamental DNA of the civilization in America in a revolutionary magnitude. If statistics are accurate in reflecting the downward spiral trend in the last 80 years from generation to generation, then no revival or renewal movement in the 20th century, except those before 1920, like the Azusa Street revival, has managed to turn this exodus of worshipers from the church.

We need God in America. As a spiritual family, we are approaching ten years in the grace of God; we have much to celebrate and much for which to give thanks to the Lord. Even in the pre-revival stage, there is a company of people here who have said ‘yes’ to keeping prayer and worship going day and night for ten years.
That is a miracle, and we need to give thanks to Jesus for this. But it is not enough to just show up to cover our time before the Lord, even though it is so glorious, so sacred, so holy, and so pleasurable to Jesus. There is truly a need for us to stand during this onslaught and say, “Lord, clothe me with the two-fold burden of the Lord: the burden of prayer and the burden to proclaim the Word of the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord is going forth and running across the earth, looking for a generation of people whom He can clothe and upon whom He can put a burden. He wants to clothe that generation with a burden of intercession. Yet, I am profoundly shocked and troubled by my own lack of burden. That is why I am preaching this message to myself. I am profoundly conscious of the fact that IHOPKC’s graduation is nowhere close. We are not experts in prayer. Perhaps we are at possibly an elementary school, working to show up to school on time. But we are trying to get there and that deserves some loud applause saying, “Yay, we did it! Hallelujah!”

I believe there is a three-fold ‘Now’ word for IHOPKC as a spiritual family. Number one, we must hold on to the plumb line that intercession is our primary expression of mission and outreach.

At the height of the Chinese revival, there was a radical revivalist named John Sung. I visited some of the villages where he visited and preached in the 1940’s. I saw some grey-haired people in their 80’s still praying and sustaining the prayer meeting that he started. That is what I call fruit! Somebody visited the village in the 1940’s and proclaimed the Gospel, and in the year 2007, the people of the village are now older ladies and men, who had been young adults, and are still praying. I’d like to leave some fruit behind like that. So, this is a man who moved in signs and wonders, just like the revivalists in western church history. He had a quote in his writing that said,

“The greatest work that the saint can enter into is prayer.”

After 10 years on a journey of night and day prayer, have we even touched the tip of the revelation of what that means? Do we really understand the power that has been entrusted to us to do this great work called prayer? We must understand that some of the greatest works of God can be accomplished on our knees. Nations would turn, cities would be opened up to God, and the hardest sinner’s heart would melt as we go on our knees and cry out to God to have mercy upon America.

Right now let me tell you this: the church is on the defensive in this nation, with a dwindling generation that is so plagued with cultural relativity and unbelief. You have an onslaught of campaigns, which are labeling the church as an opponent or “haters” of equality. Let me tell you this, attacks on our faith will come from all directions. We cannot avoid it entirely. So, let’s just duck, put our face to the floor, and cry out for God to have mercy on America. We need a tangible burden of intercession.

The second ‘Now’ for this spiritual family is to get clarity on our core message that God has called us to prepare ourselves as forerunners. The ink on our message has not dried yet. It is still in the formative stage. The sound that comes forth from the place of night and day prayer has to be clear. It has to be able to go forth and penetrate through every argument that stands up against it and bring down every barrier. The power of apostolic preaching must go forth from this place of brokenness with decades and decades of history in prayer and fasting.

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We must not short-change that preparation. We must prepare ourselves as vessels to carry the burden of the Lord, when the word does come. We need to get our message clear. I am a good example of one that does not know how to articulate clearly what I want to say. This is why this is so important.

The third ‘Now’ is the initial impetus of 24-hour works of justice with a 24-hour cry for justice. Underline the word initial, because the Lord is truly giving us a signal that we are turning. There has been false accusation against IHOPKC that says we have just been doing prayer for the last ten years. The people who do not really understand us will continue to drum on this one issue and say, “Why do you steal the best years of young people and make them sit in a chair and do nothing productive? Why don’t you do missions, compassionate ministry, preaching unto salvation of the soul?”

My brothers and sisters, the reality is that our fruit abounds in every area, and we don’t even need to answer that. Since we are accused of that so often, there will be tendency for us to over-react in these area of works; This over-reaction may potentially derail us from contending for the Word of the Lord and the burden of the Lord in the place of intercession and the clarity of our message. That is why this word ‘initial’ is very important. This is not the time of fullness, but it is the time for us to be more deliberate and more active in laying our strategy and the highways for the works in the days to come. In terms of global alliances as well as local outreach, we need to be concentrated. We need to be focused. We need to cry out in a relentless way before the Lord day and night for an historical outpouring of the Holy Spirit in America. It may not happen right here in Kansas City. It can happen in a small little unknown town, and it can start snowballing from there. Wherever it begins, the reward is still the same for us. Our joy is complete by fulfilling God’s desire. God has His way of leading His church. But we have a promise from God that revival will happen in Kansas City. Mike Bickle and the leadership here have carried the promise of revival for years. We must put that in front of us once again.

The time is urgent, and we are in a crisis in this nation. How much longer before we really feel gripped by this urgency? Eighty years of sliding. When do we declare a crisis? Until we are at 2% and we are pushed to the place where we have to go to Asia, Latin America, and Africa to practice Christianity? That is what happened to Europe. Fervent Christians had to go abroad as missionaries to find authentic Christianity. Their own land is ravished with values that are in opposition with what they believe.

Do we want to wait for another statistic that declares another generation with a totally different faith? Before that result is written, we could storm the gates of heaven with fervent prayers and let that number be radically different. If historians would recap another 20 years that will emerge after us, what will the numbers be? The key is in our hands. I don’t know what else to say to you. Let’s respond to the Lord in prayer.

This cry for revival is not just that the number of the people in the Church would increase. There is something brooding on the horizon, not too far in our future. We need to prepare a generation for eternity. It has to happen quickly with a revolutionary force. It cannot just happen by human strategy or methodology. That may not be fast enough and far-reaching enough. We need God to rend the heavens and come down. We need God to clothe us with the burden of intercession.

*That burden which will be increasingly tangible, that will bend us, and that will cause us to bend and stay in the posture of bending.*
I believe this is what the Lord has to say through this missionary from another land. I am severely alarmed and feeling the emptiness as well as a sense of, “Oh God, this is the nation that sent out missionaries to my country. This is the nation whose generations in the past have saved my people.”

I am standing in this land among those who have brought the gospel to my people while we were still worshiping stone statues and idols that could not speak. 4% is unacceptable. I cannot bear having my son grow up in a culture where Jesus and what He taught is irrelevant. We must contend for revival because many people are not prepared for the type of scenario that is coming upon America and the world. We must prepare. If we are called to just do this one thing, PRAYER! Let’s do it well; let’s do it all the way until we see Him face to face.

Rev. Daniel Lim currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the International House of Prayer Missions Base located in Kansas City, Missouri. He earned his M.A. from a Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married with Levi and together they have a son. Their lost their infant daughter, Emmanuel Lim during a missionary assignment.