

30,000 GATHER FOR DAY OF PRAYER

As all Christian Americans were called to prayer by Texas Governor Rick Perry, there was no doubt that as a nation we needed to bow down to the Lord, repent, ask forgiveness and seek mercy.

Houston, Texas, August 7, 2011. By Joel C. Rosenberg

"WE NEED ANOTHER DUNKIRK"

The year was 1940. The moment was one of the darkest in the history of the English people. More than 300,000 British troops suddenly found themselves pinned down in northern France. Nazi forces were bearing down on them. The Brits didn't have enough ammunition or supplies. At any moment, Hitler's forces would launch a ferocious attack. The Brits faced imminent annihilation. Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his advisors thought at best the navy could rescue 20,000 to 30,000 before it was too late. Others feared even that might not be possible. And the stakes couldn't have been higher. If so many forces were wiped out, Hitler and the Nazis would invade the British Isles -- and win.

So the King of England called for a national day of prayer. That Sunday, an estimated 70 percent of the British people showed up at churches all over the country. They begged for the Lord's mercy on their fathers and sons, and for their national survival. And the Lord heard those heartfelt prayers and responded with what became known as "the miracle at Dunkirk." Hitler inexplicably delayed giving his generals the order to finish off the Brits. A great storm over Germany prevented Nazi planes from being able to take off. The British people quickly assembled some 900 fishing boats, yachts, trawlers, and other private and government vessels, and began ferrying the troops of the French beaches and back to England a few at a time. By the grace of God, nearly a third of a million souls were saved as a result, as was the British nation.

"We need another Dunkirk," said Dr. James Dobson at Saturday's national day of prayer in Houston as he recounted the famous story and called American Christians to devote themselves to prayer and fasting. "God answers prayer." He is absolutely right.

What an encouraging day during such a discouraging week. Against the backdrop of a severe financial crisis and near-crippling political gridlock in Washington, the S&P's first-ever downgrade of American debt, the increasing prospect of a double-dip recession, and the terrible tragedy of the murder of 30 American special forces heroes in Afghanistan -- including operators from the Navy's SEAL Team Six -- more than 30,000 Americans gathered peaceably here yesterday to pray for the Lord to have mercy on our country. They joined together with evangelical Christians gathered at some 1,300 satellite viewing locations in all 50 states. They implored the Lord to spare us from the judgment our many sins deserve. They pleaded with the Lord to pour out His Holy Spirit and give us a Third Spiritual Awakening. They chose, too, to pray for the Lord to bless the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and prayed faithfully and passionately for the peace of Jerusalem.

"The Response" was no ordinary prayer meeting. Personally, I've never been to anything like it, and I was blessed by every minute of it. There were no political speeches. No entrance fees. No offering. No fund-raising appeal. No merchandise sold. No light show. No entertainment of any kind. This was simply seven straight hours of prayer and fasting, heartfelt contrition and repentance, Bible reading from the Book of Joel and many other Scriptures, and wonderful worship - both modern praise songs and beloved hymns - with every generation represented along with so many races and ethnic backgrounds. Let's do more of this.

Some evangelicals were critical of "The Response." They urged people not to attend because they have serious and fundamental theological differences with some of those involved in the

event. A few emailed me and urged me not to participate. I heard those concerns and I have strong disagreements with some of the participants, too. But the truth is the vast majority of organizers and participants of this prayer meeting were theologically, morally and ethically solid evangelical, Bible believing followers of Jesus Christ. They included some trusted friends and allies that I have worked with over the years like Dr. James Dobson and Shirley Dobson, Vonette Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, Pastor Greg Matte of Houston's First Baptist, Penny Nance of Concerned Women for America, Don Wildmon of the American Family Association, among others.

Such men and women see the grave crises facing our country. They believe and faithfully teach that the Bible offers the only answers. Together with the governor of an important state, they called the country to pray based on the Scriptures. And many -- including the media -- paid attention. How often does that happen? How often do government leaders stand with believers and call meetings for prayer and fasting for the rescue of America and the blessing of Israel based on the Lord's commands in the Book of Joel? How often do 30,000 American believers gather not for entertainment but simply to fast, pray and worship all day long?

Yes, some feared the event was going to be political. But it wasn't. Yes, some feared what would be said or done would be theologically off base. But it wasn't. I know because I was there. I wish even more had been there, too. We need more pastors and ministry leaders to teach and follow the Book of Joel, not fewer. We need more officials to call for prayer and fasting and to be encouraged for doing so, not fewer.

I'm grateful to Texas Governor Rick Perry for helping call for this event to take place, for encouraging people from all over the country to participate, for standing his ground against intense liberal and atheist opposition and even a federal lawsuit (which was dismissed), and for speaking and praying at the event despite many calls for him not to do so. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback deserves credit for coming and speaking, as does Florida Governor Rick Scott for participating by video, and Rep. Louis Gohmert (R-TX) for attending in person, as well.

<http://au.mg1.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=4b0g5ifemhgem>

Bill Wilson comment:

We are a nation where not only its people, but some aspects of the Church have strayed far from God's Word. Jeremiah 18:15 says, "Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up."

This is as we have become, like Israel who strayed from the Lord, from our first love. And the Lord said in Ezekiel 22:30, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

On Saturday, there were far more than 30,000 -- in the stadium, in homes, in churches--standing in the gap. - www.dailyjot.com

A CALL TO PRAYER & FASTING FOR OUR COUNTRY

By Joel C. Rosenberg, (Denver, Colorado, August 5, 2011) –

Here's one sobering headline that caught my eye this morning: **"Global stocks tumble amid recession fears: Market panic spreads across globe as investors fear double-dip recession."**

<http://www.maranathamrc.com/>

Here's another: "**Dow's losing streak now in ninth day; Dow's losing streak unmatched since 1978.**"

U.S. and global markets have been severely rattled in recent weeks by the inability or unwillingness of politicians in Washington to make the truly serious and dramatic reforms necessary to move our country back from the brink of bankruptcy. Our national debt now equals 100% of our GDP. America hasn't faced a debt crisis this serious since we were fighting for our lives against the Nazis in World War II. Meanwhile, millions of Americans remain out of work. Millions are losing their homes. Nearly 46 million Americans are now on government food stamps. No wonder a stunning 73% of Americans say our country is on the "wrong track."

America is in trouble, morally, spiritually and financially. Yet no one seems to have any answers. The politicians seem clueless. The media certainly doesn't have any answers. Academia seems more out of touch than ever. Sadly, far too many Church leaders are asleep, as well -- or too timid, or drifting off course spiritually and theologically - just at the time they could and should be powerfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as the only real hope of mankind. God hasn't failed us. We have failed God. Christ is ready to come help us, care for us, get us back on the right track, if we would only turn to Him en masse. The Church's job is to be a light to the nations, ours and the world. But too much of the Church is sleeping. We need a wake up call.

America needs a revival -- a dramatic spiritual renewal like the "Great Awakening" of the early 1700s, and the "Second Great Awakening" of the mid-1800s. But such a revival has to begin first and foremost with the Church waking up and asking the Lord to purify us, heal us, and re-inspire us with the life-changing truths of His Word. Only then can we truly love our neighbors with Christ's love and be a blessing to our country in a time of severe crisis.

Saturday 6th August was the day of prayer & fasting for our country, called by Texas Governor Rick Perry. It's based on the Book of Joel. And despite enormous opposition from liberal groups and atheist organizations, I believe this is exactly what we need right now.

"'Yet even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.' Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness and relenting of evil. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind Him?" (Joel 2:12-14)

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