

New Sean Feucht Song Captures the Heart of God


While Christian artist and songwriter Sean Feucht continues to hit all 50 states in the U.S. on the Kingdom to the Capitol tour in 2023, he is also about to release a new EP to the public titled “Unplugged in Iraq.”

The first single to release off the EP will be “Send Me,” a song that embodies the heart of missionaries who forsake their own ambitions to do God’s work.

“Send me and I Will go—anywhere. Here I am, Lord, and I will follow you,” Feucht sings.

“This is my fav song off the forthcoming EP. Listen to it and I think you’ll understand why.”

Some commenters on YouTube indeed understand what Feucht is singing about.

 “Wow, what a beautiful heart you & your family have for God,” Sandy Hardy posted. “We are thankful for your faithfulness.”

“Beautiful! My family and I are preparing for our first overseas mission trip in a couple of months to Puerto Rico,” Shannon Shelton says. “A dream I’ve had for 10 years since I was saved. This is the time, this is the year. Send me and I’ll go Lord.”

“Thank you, God, for Sean, and his heart for others. God help us as we stand for your truth. Beautiful song,” Love Art wrote.

Watch the video, recorded live from the Nineveh Plains in Northern Iraq. {eoa}

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Shawn A. Akers is the online editor at *Charisma Media*.

Erasing Innocence and Indoctrinating a Generation

Author Karol Markowicz says that if your kids attend public schools, they are not alright.

While Christian parents may have laid a Christlike foundation in their children's lives, today's public school youth are being forced to fight a battle that is unlike any other in American history. Also a columnist for the *New York Post*, Markowicz says the left is waging an all-out battle on the American family, and it continues to intensify daily.

Markowicz says today's "woke" agenda is leading your children to question every building block of society and to rebuild their concept of reality. If they can make your children change their values, the left agenda would consider it a victory.

But, Markowicz says, we can't let the "wokeness" of our culture win. The leftist agenda says parents have no business telling schools what they should teach our children. Never mind that Critical Race Theory and the LGBTQ agenda has engulfed the public school systems, attempting to erase the innocence of our youth in an attempt to indoctrinate a generation.

Schools with pornography in their libraries are apathetic to the damage being done to our children.

“It is a right-wing bogeyman,” Markowicz wrote in a column for Fox News Digital. “Yet parents at school after school keep discovering these books at the school library.”

As Markowicz frankly puts it, “Wokeness pushes a separation between parent and child. We are seeing it happen in America today. Kids are told to keep secrets from their parents, and sometimes the secrets are life-changing.

One Christian teacher stood up to her school district for refusing to comply with the mandates of the district’s gender policies, and she was promptly fired for it. She simply would not compromise her Christian values and lie to the children she had been entrusted with.

Markowicz regales the story of a Long Island teacher who had transitioned a child from a girl to a boy, behind the backs of the parents. The child is nine years old.

The teacher assigned the student a new boy name and referred to the child as a boy. The parents did not know about it until their child began to have “suicidal ideation.”

☒ “Parents who think they are safe from the reaches of wokeness because they live in a conservative area have to think again.”

Markowicz’s new book titled, “Stolen Youth: How Radicals Are Erasing Innocence and Indoctrinating a Generation,” says that as concerned parents and American citizens, we have to understand what truly is going on in our schools to do something about it. “‘Stolen Youth’ provides an urgent deep dive into issues surrounding the woke indoctrination happening in politics, education, medicine, mental health, entertainment and culture.

Markowicz says, “We must now go on the offensive to protect our kids. This book sheds a bright light on the reason why. We can no longer afford to stay ignorant. Our children’s lives

and the survival of our families are at stake. ” {eoa}

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Wrongly Declared Brain-Dead Pastor Returns Home

Meghan Marlow will never again doubt God’s grace and the plans He has for her and her family. Watching her husband, Ryan, miraculously come back from the dead only sealed her belief in God’s mercy.

Ryan Marlow, the pastor of Grace Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, was pronounced brain-dead by doctors in August 2022 after suffering a traumatic brain injury. It was only a short time before doctors at the hospital had planned to harvest his organs.

But God.

Meghan Marlow’s niece, while visiting Ryan, played videos of the Marlow’s children playing and singing. It was then that the niece noticed his feet move.

Six months later, Pastor Marlow, 37, returned home and continues to recover from his injury. Letters and emails continue to pour in to celebrate God’s grace.

“Yesterday was such a beautiful day,” Meghan Marlow wrote in a Facebook post on their page Ryan’s Recovery. Hundreds of people came by to show love and support and we are just

humbled. Many dear friends and many we had never met in person but the Lord makes us brothers and sisters in Him.

“Ryan was just shocked at all the love that was shown. For the last six months I’ve been able to see all the messages and the comments and the support and the prayers. But he has seen just glimpses here and there which is what made yesterday that much more amazing.

“For three hours Ryan waved, smiled and interacted with hundreds of people. I’m so proud of him, I know he was exhausted. So THANK YOU to everyone who came by. To God be the glory great things He hath done!”

Pastor Marlow was hospitalized last August with a listeria infection. The fact that listeriosis primarily affects pregnant women, newborns and older adults made Marlow’s illness all the more puzzling. With listeriosis, individuals can develop severe infections of the bloodstream or brain causing meningitis or encephalitis.

For Marlow, listeriosis progressed into a brain injury, leading doctors to pronounce him brain-dead a few days later.

“The doctor came out [of husband’s hospital room] with about 20 other people as my witness and said your husband has clinically passed,” Meghan Marlow said in a Facebook live video on Aug. 31. He is clinically deceased. He has passed away. He has suffered neurological death.

“I was called into a room and told that my husband was an organ donor and that we were gonna begin the process of finding matches for his organs. So that process began, he was on life support and they told me he would remain on life support until they found all of the donors.”

Doctors began to schedule the harvesting of her husband’s organs. For two days, Meghan Marlow and her family mourned Ryan’s passing, but she received a call from doctors that they

had made a mistake and that Ryan wasn't brain dead.

Doctors, however, told her that he was in a coma and could not survive without life support.

- ✘ The next day, while on life support, Meghan's niece witnessed the miracle, and Meghan quickly came into her husband's room and cleared everyone else out.

"I told Ryan all the things that I wanted to tell him. That I loved him, people were taking care of me, that God was gonna make sure our babies were taken care of and it was gonna be alright," she said on the Facebook live post. "I told him, 'If you're inside of there and you can hear me, I need you to fight. I need you to fight like crazy because I'm about to stop this process of organ donating and we're gonna get some tests done because I don't know what's going on.'

"Long story short, he's not brain dead, my friends. The doctor would not even do the brain death test because they said that there is brain activity."

A drive-by parade was held for Ryan Marlow was held last weekend. Meghan Marlow gives all the glory to God, citing Luke 1:37: "For with God, nothing will be impossible."

"He (Ryan) is a fighter. He is the strongest man I know. He is my hero," Meghan Marlow said on a Facebook post. {eoa}

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NYC Mayor's Boldness for Christ Shocks Many

New York City Mayor Eric Adams (D) isn't backing down from recent comments expressing his inability to separate his faith from public service. However, at least one outlet said he appeared to reverse himself on related statements about the separation of church and state.

Adams appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday, telling anchor Dana Bash his faith prompts him to action and pointedly responding to concerns over his views on the separation of church and state.

He responded, "No," when asked, "Do you fundamentally believe in the separation of church and state from a governing standpoint?" But he added some caveats.

"What I believe is that you cannot separate your faith," he said, seemingly speaking of elected officials' personal beliefs about the Lord. "Government should not interfere with religion, and religion should not interfere with government."

Adams continued, "But I believe my faith pushes me forward on how I govern and the things that I do."

At the start of the segment, when Bash noted some people were "alarmed" by the comments Adams made last week at an interfaith prayer breakfast, the mayor broke down historical ties between politicians and faith.

"Let's be clear on something: the last words I said after I was sworn in was, 'So help me God.' On our dollar bill we have, 'In God we trust,'" Adams said. "Every president touched a religious book when they were sworn in, except for three. Faith is who I am."

- ❌ Adams said, though, that anyone taking his words to mean he will “compel people” to follow his faith is not correctly understanding what he was saying.

“I’m not going to compel people,” he said, later adding, “My faith is how I carry out the practices that I do and the policies such as helping people who are homeless.”

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Bible Study: Praise God in the Storm

It was the dead of winter in Yarmouth, Maine. Discouragement was trying to wrap itself around my neck like ivy twining around a house. My husband was out of work and depressed. Day after day he interviewed for jobs and didn’t get them.

Normally optimistic and able to encourage him, I was struggling now. I felt tired, anxious, burdened by stress. I didn’t see how we could pay our bills. Joy seemed gone from our lives, and hope seemed far away.

I continued reading my Bible and talking to God in this wilderness season, but my eyes kept landing on my circumstances. I poured out my heart to Him but heard no answers.

Finally I shared with our Monday night Bible study group how

trying a time it was for us. They prayed for us, but things only got worse financially, and my anxiety grew.

A few weeks later at the Monday group, one of the women, Linda, took me aside and said: "Cheri, no matter how hard things are, you must praise and thank God in the midst of your circumstances. And that's not a message from me but from my missionary friend Anne. She wants you to know she's praying for you."

I had heard Linda talk about this elderly missionary who'd served in China before World War II and survived prison camp, but I had never met her. The message was a hard one to hear that night.

"I always thought You wanted genuine—not fake—praise, Lord, and I want to be real with You," I prayed. "How can I thank you and praise You when I feel so sad inside, so discouraged? I know it's the right thing to do, so what's wrong with me?"

A Lesson in Trust

I pondered that question all week, trying to force myself to praise and thank God. I wanted with all my heart to be faithful but felt overwhelmed by my feelings and drained from trying to bolster my depressed husband. I knew I was failing.

Falling deeper into discouragement, the next week I told Linda, "When you go to see your missionary friend this week, I want to go with you. I have a few questions to ask her." I thought if anyone could shed some light on my problem, this wise missionary could.

Linda agreed, and on a bitter cold December day, we drove to Anne's apartment. We walked in and saw a white-haired woman in a burgundy sweater laying in a recliner. Her legs were propped up and covered with a small green blanket. Print house shoes peeked out from the blanket.

Anne was almost totally blind, but her spiritual eyes were sharp as she looked over in my direction. She spoke with effort but a quiet authority, asking me all about our situation. She seemed to have a knowledge and understanding about my life far beyond what I shared, and after listening, she offered insights.

“For your children’s and husband’s sakes, you must praise and thank God and show in your countenance your faith in Him. For he who trusts Him wholly find Him wholly true,” she said. “Thank Him in all things. Praise Him even if tears are running down your cheeks.”

“But how? I asked. “I want to praise and thank God, and I’ve tried, but it’s so hard when I’m depressed.”

“By trusting Him implicitly,” she continued. “You can’t depend on your feelings; they are Satan’s playground. Ask for God’s grace to praise Him, and He’ll give it to you.”

Later, over our salads and bowls of soup, I asked about Anne’s experiences as a missionary in China. She shared about the day she was to leave Shanghai for furlough in Scotland.

After nine years of service with the China Inland Mission, Anne couldn’t wait to see her mother, family and friends back in Scotland. She was overdue for a respite. She and the other missionaries had packed all their belongings and were about to leave for the boat when Anne heard a clamor outside their dormitory.

As she watched out the mission-house window, she saw Japanese soldiers goose-stepping in unison down the street, knees almost up to their noses. The Lord spoke to her heart, “Come aside for a minute. I want to talk to you, Anne.”

Reminding her of His care and provision in many adventures and close calls in the nine years she had ministered in China, He told her she was not going home but would be a prisoner of the

Japanese. He didn't tell her how long, but said He would be with her.

A precious but very real sense of God's nearness and peace filled her. "I've never forgotten this overwhelming peace and the Lord's closeness to me in that moment," Anne told us.

Then He asked her, "Do you have any prayer requests to make?"

Although Anne had never given her teeth a thought, the Holy Spirit nudged her to pray that her teeth would be preserved—that not one of them would fall out. In fact, the health and diet of prisoners is often so bad that they lose their teeth. So out of obedience rather than vanity, she asked God to protect her teeth.

Moments later she and the other English and American missionaries were taken prisoner and marched off to a Japanese prison camp. There she spent three-and-a-half years in near starvation, dreadful cold in winter and scorching heat in summer. Cruelty, rats, disease and death were all around her. There were no Bibles, so she had to rely on all the verses she had committed to memory.

Anne related story after story about God's provision in the prison camp. She shared about His constant presence, of the the people who came to know Christ.

She seemed to possess a quiet assurance that she could absolutely trust God. She knew He would never fail her. I sat there spell-bound, marveling at the mercy and faithfulness of the God she and I serve.

Anne was released after World War II ended. And although she was in poor health at the close of her internment, every single tooth was preserved.

Now she was dealing with the present, day-to-day trails of aging—failing eyes and numerous surgeries—but she encouraged

us: "Trust. Cast all your cares on Him. No matter what's on your mind, roll it onto His shoulders and rest under His wing."

One the drive home, my thoughts were filled with Anne's stories and the Scriptures she had shared. Her words came back to me: "Don't lean on your own understanding. Don't trust what you see or feel or think; trust God and His Word. He's faithful even when we're not."

I prayed silently, "Lord, I want to praise and thank You right in the middle of our situation, and I ask for Your grace to do that."

The Turnaround

That night my husband was just as withdrawn and depressed as usual, but something new was engaging my thoughts. The next few days in my quiet time I searched the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, for words to praise God. All the feelings of discouragement and worry were still lurking around, trying to drag me down, but I knelt and used these verses to adore Him.

As I did, that deep heaviness began to lift, and the anxiety about our empty checking account lifted with it. It was as if dark glasses were removed and I saw what I'd never seen before: that no matter how difficult or trying our situation was, and even if nothing external changed, I could praise and thank God because the trial would draw me into a closer relationship with Him.

Like a trickle from a frozen creek in the spring, something deep inside me began to thaw, and thanksgiving bubbled up and flowed. Slowly, my perspective began to change. I enjoyed loving God for the first time in a long time—no requests or complaints.

I could thank God for the season and for the inner work He was

doing in us. I thanked Him for our health; for our children; for our marriage that was still together (the fact that it had been strained caused me to depend more on God); for the plan He had for my husband, though we hadn't see it; even for the financial losses, because they reminded me of the temporariness of material things and our eternal treasures in Christ.

One April morning I walked our sheltie down the road. It had snowed for days, and everything was frozen. A somber gray sky above offered little promise of a break in the wintry weather. I was longing for spring—and also for things to turn around in our lives.

Just then I noticed a rose bush that had been severely cut back before the snow covered it. Now it was stark, with ice solidly frozen around it. Our lives, too, had been pruned, and the struggles weren't going away.

Three months had gone by after my visit to Anne. My husband was still having a tough time. Our savings were gone. I thought, "That's what we're like. We've been prune too—a not altogether—painless process."

"But just like this rose bush, you will bloom again and be fruitful," God seemed to say. "Let your roots go down deep in Me. Praise Me in the winters too!"

I slowly began to realize that praising and thanking God—no matter how difficult things get—will help us bloom again. There's no hole we can get ourselves into that's too deep for His love to fill. And the tough times, whether financial or physical, press us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. Just as the roots of a plant grow deeper in the winter to anchor it, our faith and dependence on God are strengthened in our "winters."

Are you struggling through a difficult time? Take heart; you will bloom again, with greater fruit than before! Just keep

anchoring yourself in Christ and trust Him to bring a springtime of resurrection. He does it for the roses. He will do it in my life—and He will do it in yours.

Cheri Fuller is an inspiring speaker and award-winning author of more than 45 books, including “Dangerous Prayer: Discovering Your Amazing Story Inside the Eternal Story of God” and “What a Girl Needs From Her Mom.” Visit her at .



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Morning Rundown: Pastor Hayford's heart, humility & authenticity allowed the Holy Spirit to shine through

Here's a quick summary of the top stories on :

Just Call Me Jack: Pastor Hayford's heart, humility & authenticity allowed the Holy Spirit to shine through

The San Fernando Valley northwest of downtown Los Angeles is bordered by a quartet of mountain ranges that serve as the boundary of the huge fertile plain. Once home to thousands of acres of orange and lemon trees, after World War II most of the citrus groves gave way to middle class neighborhoods, parks and shopping centers.

It was in this sprawling suburban enclave known by Angelenos

as simply “the Valley” that, in 1969, a young pastor named Jack Hayford found himself sitting at a stoplight in his car, not far from a small, struggling congregation called First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys. God spoke to him, confirming his calling to the church. Little did Hayford and his wife, Anna, know that the Lord would soon plant and root them there to nurture and expand a ministry beyond their wildest dreams.

WATCH: Prophecy Fulfilled as Voters Oust Chicago Mayor

Late Tuesday night, a friend of Tony Suarez’s text him with the news that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s bid for a second term had failed. He was stunned with the news.

A pastor and the Chief Operating Officer of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Suarez had prophesied in September 2022 that Lightfoot, the first openly gay person to lead the city, would not serve a second term. Lightfoot lost her Democratic primary for the mayor’s office Tuesday to Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson, who will meet in a runoff in April for the position.

When he received the text, he went straight to the Chicago Tribune’s website to affirm what Darryl Hooper had told him.

Locke Movie ‘Come Out In Jesus Name’ to Ignite Revival

Pastor Greg Locke says satanism indeed is becoming prominent in the secular world, and he believes the new movie “Come Out in Jesus Name,” produced by Locke Media, will spark a revival through deliverance this country has never seen before.

The lead pastor at Global Vision Bible Church in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, Locke says he and those who participated in making the film “underestimated the hunger and thirst” for deliverance they are now seeing in the body of Christ.

The movie is set to run in as many as 2,000 theaters nationwide on March 13 and 14. You can purchase tickets [here](#).



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Holy Spirit Moving Mightily at Secular Black Colleges

As Holy Spirit-led revival stirs students' radical devotion to Jesus on campuses across the nation, historically Black colleges are experiencing powerful outpourings of salvation, repentance, worship and prayer.

A Spirit-filled pastor in Atlanta, Georgia believes student revival and Holy Spirit outpouring is manifesting on campuses near his church—a predominantly Black congregation in the city.

Pastor Arthur Breland highlights three Atlanta-area schools—recognized as historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)—that show signs of God moving mightily among students.

The lead pastor at United Church Atlanta, Breland notes three campuses that are experiencing fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, along with Clark Atlanta University—all three secular schools—are marked by student revivals like those on other secular and Christian campuses.

“They are gathering in groups of 50 to 70 students to pray, do evangelism, repent of sin and worship Jesus,” Breland wrote on social media.

Hoping to fan the flames of revival, a movement of radical Millennial and Gen Z missionaries will visit four Atlanta-area campuses beginning Monday, March 6th.

A fourth Atlanta school, Morris Brown College, will be the first stop for the missions group that hopes empower students in their Christ-centered callings.

The Black Voices Movement gathering is empowering leaders of color into their Christ-centered calling and it is a tool the Holy Spirit is using to stir even more revival on college campuses and, ultimately, to reach the nations with the gospel.

Comprised of Black evangelists who love Jesus, the cross of Christ and His gospel, BVM is aligned with Circuit Riders, a missions organization that empowers and inspires leaders to share the good news of Jesus.

A student at Morehouse, Carlton Bates travels with BVM, which will boldly proclaim with one voice the name of Jesus on his campus March 8.

Morehouse is one stop in Atlanta and 30 outreaches to HBCUs nationwide.

“There are young Black boys who can look and see that there’s a young Black male that’s going across the nation encouraging people, saying ‘man, if no one else believes in you, I believe in you,’” Bates told a news network during a BVM stop in Greensboro, North Carolina.

After its first event on the Greensboro campus, the BVM team was gripped by the fact that most of the students did not know Jesus.

Full of faith and on fire for Jesus, Bates and his teammates returned the next day to preach the gospel in the student union, a three-story building.

“People stopped in their tracks all across the student union as he boldly says, ‘If you know you need to give your life to Jesus today, I want you to come down here right now and we’re going to pray for you,” says BVM leader Yasmin Pierce.

From the third-floor people streamed down to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

At another tour stop, a young man on the BVM team shared the gospel with three males. “They were so gripped that they call their friends over. All nine of them give their lives to Jesus,” says Pierce.

Most campuses and universities have less than 5% of the student body engaged in Christian community. On many campuses it’s closer to 1%, Pierce estimates.

A few years ago, a part of Circuit Riders sensed an important call to reach HBCUs. “We started to meet all of these on-fire Black, Bible-believing leaders who felt called to be missionaries; they started joining Circuit Riders,” Pierce recalls.

In Revelation 7, the writer John describes a vision of every nation, tribe and tongue before the throne of Jesus Christ, declaring in a loud voice that salvation belongs to God. “That’s the heart of Black Voices Movement and Circuit Riders,” Pierce says.

A missionary herself, Pierce knows students want a relationship with Jesus, who says to pray for laborers to bring in the harvest.

“We’re empowering this generation to share the gospel and, specifically, young Black men and women as laborers, creatives, musicians, worship leaders, preachers and evangelists,” says Pierce.

While BVM is sometimes mistaken for Black Lives Matter in

political conversations, the two movements are worlds apart. "In Joshua chapter 5, God shows up and He tells him He's on neither side.

"Even Moses, Joshua's predecessor, tried to work justice from his frame of mind, but God pulled him to the burning bush to say, 'I have My way of doing this; surrender to Me for the work I want to do,'" Pierce says.

Simply, BVM provides a biblical understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. "He's a God of solution and, as we surrender to Him, He will lead us to be ministers of solution," says Pierce.

- ✘ BVM is driven, especially as missionaries, by the Great Commission to preach the gospel in every nation according to Matthew 24.

Throughout revival history, large open-air meetings marked by bold proclamation of the gospel have produced great harvests.

Seeking to fulfill its role as a tool of Holy Spirit awakening, BVM is headed to Newark, New Jersey—with its majority-minority population—in April for a weeklong gospel festival including preaching, training and outreach. The main event is Friday evening, April 21 beginning at 7 p.m. {eoa}

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Steve Rees is a former general assignment reporter who, with one other journalist, first wrote about the national men's movement *Promise Keepers* from his home in Colorado. Rees and *Promise Keepers* Founder Bill McCartney attended the Boulder Vineyard. Today Rees writes in his free time.

Revival Spreading Across America 'Can't Be a Coincidence'

The timing of revival breaking out in America is no coincidence according to one evangelist.

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Senior Pastor of New Season Church and President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC), believes that God is on the move.

"If you were a skeptic," said Rodriguez in an interview with Fox News, "you would label this as a coincidence. But if you're a person of faith—you see this as divine providence. It can't be a coincidence."

He added, "God is in charge. God is up to something. And that's the great news."

In the wake of the pandemic and social changes occurring in America today, Rodriguez finds what is happening in the church today to "be unbelievably interesting," he said.

"During COVID," he said, "Gallup and Pew had surveys out regarding the 'Z Generation' and how it's the most so-called 'unChristian generation'—some have even deemed it the most anti-Christian generation in American history. Well, how about that? Then God shows up—and we have the Asbury revival, and we have this emphasis on generational change and how a mess can become a miracle.

"It can't be a coincidence. God is up to something. That's why I truly believe that America's mess is about to become God's miracle," he added.

But this younger generation who endured a lockdown during their formative years has a spiritual desire for truth that

can only be quenched by God.

“You have young people hungry for spirituality, for authenticity, for truth in a world full of fluidity and relativism today. There’s a generation hungry for truth and something that is solid. So I love the fact that God, with a wink and a nod, says, ‘Yeah, sure, you guys think you’re in charge? And you really think I’m no longer involved? Let me show you who’s truly in charge and who’s on the throne,’” Rodriguez observed.

“It’s what happening across the country.”

Rodriguez pointed out the many ailments afflicting America today, and in the midst of the spreading darkness, God’s light is shining where it is needed most.

“We’re looking at disarray, we’re looking at families without a father figure in 78% of African American homes, we’re looking at so many other issues in America—including political disarray and discord. And we ask, ‘Is there an answer?’” explained Rodriguez.

“In this chasm—God shows up. And says, ‘I got this. All you have to do is call upon Me. And I’ve got this.’”

In the midst of this spiritual opportunity, Rodriguez implores Christians to stand up in faith, not fear, and take hold of the destiny that God has called His people to.

“We, as a church,” he added, “need to stop the whining and the moaning and the complaining—and we have to get out of the fetal position. God is not coming back for a defeated church, a broken church, a whiny church. He’s coming back for a glorious church, according to the apostle Paul.

“We really need to demonstrate the glory of Jesus to a broken world,” said Rodriguez.

Rev. Rodriguez echoes the words of the apostles James, John

and Peter where they implore believers to prepare to put their faith into action as witnesses of Jesus Christ. Change will not come by remaining within the four walls of a building, but by taking the Word of God to a world that so desperately needs it. {eoa}

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James Lasher is Staff Writer for *Charisma Media*.

Why the Asbury Revival Is as American as Baseball and Apple Pie

The Asbury Revival, characterized by spontaneous and extended times of prayer and worship by students of Asbury University, and thousands of visitors to their campus, may seem strange to those whose Christianity is characterized by ritual and structured formality. However, there is nothing strange or weird about the Asbury Revival.

It is, in fact, as American as baseball and apple pie.

Such religious awakenings have been an integral part of the American experience from the nation's inception. For example, the Pilgrims and other early immigrants to these shores came seeking a reformation of Christianity. In contrast to the cold, formalized orthodoxy of the state churches of Europe, they took the New Testament as their guide and preached a warm and personal faith that could be both known in the head and experienced in the heart.

After a time of spiritual backsliding by the children and grandchildren of those early immigrants, a Christian revival erupted in the 18th century that transformed colonial America. When, for example, 24-year-old George Whitefield, a Methodist evangelist from Great Britain, preached from the courthouse steps in Philadelphia, it seemed the entire city turned out to hear him.

Benjamin Franklin, who became a close friend of Whitefield and printed and distributed his sermons, described the remarkable change that came over his hometown. He wrote:

“The multitudes of all sects and denominations that attended his sermons were enormous. It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street” (Hyatt, “1726: The Year that Defined America,” 79).

The same sort of revival erupted further north in New England. Jonathan Edwards, pastor of the Congregational Church in Northampton, wrote that, “the town seemed to be full of the presence of God.” He said the Spirit of God worked so powerfully that, “there was scarcely a single person in the town, old or young, left unconcerned about, the great things of the eternal world” (Hyatt, “America’s Revival Heritage” 2nd Edition, 42).

The revival seemed to spring up spontaneously and transform community after community. It was also spread by evangelists, such as Whitefield, who travelled up and down the eastern seaboard preaching that church membership would not save anyone, but we must be born again according to the words of Jesus in John 3:3. Everywhere they went the masses turned out to hear their Christ-centered message.

When, for example, Nathan Cole, a farmer in Massachusetts, heard that Whitefield would be preaching 12 miles away in Middletown later that same morning, he dropped his tools, called his wife, saddled their horse and headed for Middletown. As they approached the main road to Middletown, they saw a large cloud of dust in the air and then heard the thundering sound of hoofbeats.

The word had rapidly spread and the entire region, it seemed, was headed for Middletown to hear Whitefield preach. Cole later wrote, "The land and banks over the river looked black with people and horses all along the 12 miles. I saw no man at work in his field, but all seemed to be gone." Cole was not disappointed and wrote,

"And my hearing him preach gave me a heart wound. By God's blessings, my old foundation was broken up, and I saw that my righteousness would not save me" (Hyatt, "1726: The Year that Defined America," 79).

This "Great Awakening," as it came to be called, also impacted colleges, including one where many of America's founders received their training. In a letter dated April 16, 1757, Samuel Finley, a trustee of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, wrote:

"Our glorious Redeemer has poured out His Holy Spirit upon the students at our College. The whole house was a Bochim (place of weeping). Mr. William Tennant, who was on the spot, says that there never was, he believes, more genuine sorrow for sin and longing after Jesus" (Hyatt, "America's Revival Heritage" 2nd Edition, 81).

Among those who received their training at this college were 37 who became judges (three of whom served on the Supreme Court); 12 members of the Continental Congress; 28 senators; 49 congressmen; and James Madison, America's 4th president and chief architect of the U.S. Constitution.

This First Great Awakening was the first national event experienced by the 13 divided colonies. Regional and cultural barriers were breached and for the first time they began to see themselves as one people—"one nation under God" as Whitefield had prayed and proclaimed. It was for this reason that the late Harvard professor, Perry Miller, said, "The Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a direct result of the preaching of the evangelists of the Great Awakening" (Hyatt, "1726: The Year that Defined America," 67).

Christian revival seemed to have been imprinted in our national DNA, for in addition to countless local and regional revivals, America has experienced at least three subsequent Great Awakenings that have come at critical times in the life of the nation.

The Second Great Awakening renewed the faith of the nation and saved her from the negative, atheistic influences of the French Revolution. The Third Great Awakening, also called the Great Prayer Awakening of 1857-58, unleashed the spiritual and moral forces that carried the the nation through a Civil War. The Fourth Great Awakening—the Jesus Revival and Charismatic Renewal—saved the nation from the social and racial turmoil of the 1960s-70s.

✘ Many are asking, "Will the Asbury Revival lead to another to another Great Awakening that will alter the course of the nation once again?" That remains to be seen, but one thing is certain. There is nothing weird or strange about the Asbury Revival. It is as American as baseball, hot dogs and apple pie. {eoa}

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This article was derived from "America's Revival Heritage" and "1726: The Year that Defined America" by Dr. Eddie L. Hyatt and available from Amazon and his website at .

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Kelsey Grammer Won't Apologize for Loving Jesus

Actor Kelsey Grammer is probably best known to audiences as Frasier Crane, the character he portrayed on the television series "Frasier" and "Cheers" for 20 years. But in a recent interview, he has spoken openly about his deep Christian faith and "the difference Jesus made in his life."

Known for many years as one of the few conservatives working in Hollywood, Grammer, 68, told USA Today that he won't apologize for his faith.

"I've had hiccups. I've had some tragic times. I have wrestled with those and worked my way through them: sometimes rejecting faith, sometimes rejecting God even, in a period of being pretty angry about it, like, 'Where were you?' That kind of thing," he explained. "But I have come to terms with it and have found great peace in my faith and in Jesus. It's not cavalier—Jesus made a difference in my life. That's not anything I'll apologize for."

Grammer was raised in the cult known as "Christian Science" but he was moved by the "Jesus movement" of the 1960s and '70s, he told USA Today.

"They were energized and optimistic, and I thought that was a great thing to see," he said.

The historic Jesus Movement began on the West Coast and spread. The Christian revival saw young people, often called hippies, turning to Christ.

The revival that unfolded in Southern California in the late

1960s and early 1970s is what Time Magazine called “The Jesus Revolution.” But just four years earlier, the front page of the very same magazine was asking, “Is God Dead?”

❌ Even though Grammer has won numerous awards over the years for his TV work, he said his best work just maybe his portrayal of Pastor Chuck Smith in the new motion picture Jesus Revolution.

“It’s really uplifting. It’s a good movie,” the actor told USA Today.

As CBN News reported last month, Grammer became emotional while talking about his portrayal of Pastor Smith during an appearance promoting the movie on the syndicated program “Live with Kelly and Ryan.” {eoa}

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