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*This devotional guide was written and compiled for those who would like to partner with the Awakening America Alliance and Cry Out America Intercessors as we seek God for a new Christ awakening in the nation, specifically beginning with twenty-one days of prayer and fasting during the month of January.*

*We have intentionally focused on uniting around the Twenty Indicators of Spiritual Awakening with a look toward some of the strategic ways they will intersect with the 2014 calendar and National Prayer Accord.*

*We encourage you to dig deeper into the Word of God and develop your own Scripture-based prayers for revival and transformation in America. Please visit us at [www.awakeningamerica.us](http://www.awakeningamerica.us) to register as an Awakening Intercessor and to share your insights and personal prayer requests.*

# Spiritual Awakening

Since the earliest days of European interest in the Americas, God's people have sought a place to worship in freedom and longed to experience spiritual awakening. Along the way, God has chosen a variety of places and people to awaken the nation for Christ: the colonial village of Northampton, Massachusetts; the Cane Ridge Camp Meeting; New York City's bowery district; a renovated livery stable on 312 Azusa Street in Los Angeles; and your world. *YOU are a vital link to the next great awakening looming on the horizon of America in our generation.*

Each occurrence of nationwide revival has been different, yet one common denominator has always been evident: a sense of hungry, prayerful desperation. Each time the extended masses have humbled themselves and sought God's deliverance, He has responded in power. That is why in the midst of obvious spiritual decline across America, we have reason for hope today.

In April 2008, an Awakening America Alliance Leadership Summit was called to reflect on the First Great Awakening and the potential for a contemporary nationwide transformation. Recognizing that true awakenings bring visible change, *Twenty Indicators of Awakening* were identified and now serve as an evaluation tool for Awakening in America.

These simple devotionals will highlight some of the awakening indicators and serve as a prayer guide during the opening days of this new year as we agree together in prayer for God to supernaturally bring a divine reversal from darkness to light in the hearts of the American people. The power of extraordinary, united prayer cannot be overstated. As we unite our voices CRYING OUT to God, we will experience a Christ awakening in America!

## UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Pray and believe for an increasing testimony  
of the manifest presence of God.

## A Radical Move

True awakenings follow extraordinary, united prayer and will bring visible change. Change is not always comfortable or easily accepted. Yet without it, we may have a tendency to become stagnant and complacent. In the words of Anthony Robbins, "If you do what you've always done, you will get what you have always gotten."

Recently, we relocated my mother from a home 350 miles away, where she had lived for more than 50 years, to a small duplex near us. The transition has not been without its challenges, but God's grace has been evident each step of the way. Mom's heart sometimes longs for the more familiar past, but her companion of 61 years has also relocated to his new home in heaven, and the house emptied of all its furnishings.

Yes, the old homeplace still holds sweet memories of warm embraces from my dad and children's laughter echoing through the rooms during family gatherings for the holidays. However, Mom is beginning to recognize the blessings and joy that God has for her on this new adventure are far better than trying to maintain a tight grip on the past.

*The great awakenings of the past were amazing,  
but God is not calling us to maintain a memory.  
He is challenging us to make a radical move to the higher ground  
of victory, power, and authority needed for Americans today!*

Transitioning from our familiar comfort zones to a place of passionate, united prayer inside and outside the church walls, may seem like a radical move, but as we continue seeking a new Christ awakening in our nation, God may require some major shifts in our perspectives that open us to the fresh and new things He is doing in His kingdom.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Ask God for amplified participation in corporate as well as individual prayer, fasting, and other spiritual disciplines, leading to more effective discipleship.

## Desperate Families

In this time of passionate prayer for awakening, one thing is certain; the American family is in a place of desperate need for healing and restoration. Because of broken homes and struggling single parents, our sons and daughters are desperate to be loved and nurtured. Mothers and fathers are mourning not only the loss of a stable marriage and home environment, but many mourn the loss of children through abortion or separation. Rather than a day to celebrate the priceless gift of life, Mother's Day each year can be a time of increased grief and depression.



Yet in the midst of obvious spiritual decline across America, we have reason for hope today. After the prophet Joel called for the priests to put on sackcloth, mourn, declare a holy fast, and cry out to the Lord (Joel 1:13-14), he prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our sons and daughters. No other power in heaven or on earth has the same ability to move us from desperation to anticipation.

When a true Christ awakening occurs in America, we also will experience the reality of Isaiah 61:1-3. The good news will be preached to the poor. The brokenhearted will be healed and families held captive by the pain of divorce and separation will be freed. Those imprisoned behind the bars of silent grief and loss will be given a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise to replace a spirit of despair.

As we pray anointed prayers of intercession, we become a vital link to the restoration of the American family in our generation.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Petition the Father for an increased care for children as "gifts from the Lord" as the Gospel addresses abortion, adoption, foster care and child well-being.

## Remembering Yesterday

Memorial Day is an annual, federal holiday for remembering the men and women who died while serving in our United States Armed Forces. Originating after the Civil War, this time of commemoration has evolved to an occasion for more general expressions of memory for deceased relatives. As members of the family of God, we also remember those who have given their lives in the service of our King, so that people may experience the liberty which comes from a heart set free by the truth of God's Word.

Your personal devotion times most likely do not include parades, concerts, and cookouts like a Memorial Day event, but why not set aside some time to pray a prayer of Thanksgiving for those who have blazed a trail of hope and freedom in the Kingdom of God and the nation of America. Petition Him to provide leaders who will seek out the church as an answer to society's problems rather than merely trusting in an economic shift, a court decision or newly enacted laws.

Each year, September 11 (Patriot Day) actually serves as a memorial of a tragic "wake-up" call issued to the American people. We cannot allow ourselves to be lulled back into slumber. May the words of the ancient prophet be spoken of us in the generations to come:

*"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name" (Malachi 3:16 NKJ).*

*It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died.*

*Rather we should thank God that such men lived.*

— George S. Patton —

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Decree and declare that community and national leaders  
will begin seeking out the church as  
an answer to society's problems!

## Impacting Traditional Marriage

*The first stated purpose of marriage was to remove aloneness . . .  
Adam's spiritual aloneness had been removed through  
his intimate walk with his Creator, but even with a perfect relationship  
with God, God declared that something was lacking. Adam was needy.  
God proceeded to provide for man's aloneness  
with the creation of Eve, a helpmate suitable for him.  
—David Ferguson, Co-chair, AAA Cabinet—*

On May 31, 2014, we will celebrate our 39th anniversary. Why May 31st? I did not want to be the typical June bride — America's favorite month for weddings is June. How ironic that our Supreme Court handed down rulings on two gay marriage cases (Prop 8 and DOMA) in the month of June 2013.



With the definition of marriage now hanging in the balance, what will be the impact on our children and grandchildren? Perhaps the mentality of same-sex marriage in our nation results from the fact that our perspective toward traditional marriage has slipped down the cultural slope through a misunderstanding of true covenant, fidelity, and family values. Destruction of marriage in our nation may be due to a lack of defense of traditional marriage — God's way — even within the community of faith.

Yes, the American family is fragmented, but does it have to remain that way? We invite you to join with us in praying for the restoration of Godly marriages that will encourage the next generation to embrace the value of pro-biblical marriage in the Church and society.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Ask God for a decrease in divorces and renewed commitment to marriage between a man and a woman in covenant relationship as God intends.

## Celebrating Courageous Dads

On June 6, 1944, allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory. " By D-Day's end, the Allies had gained a foothold in France.

Prior to the invasion, General Eisenhower warned his troops, "Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened, he will fight savagely."



The same warning applies for American fathers today. Our enemy, who came to steal, kill and destroy, would like nothing better than to keep the next generation from being committed believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came to give abundant life. The task will not be easy, but these final words from the Old Testament, give us reason to hope:

*"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6 NIV).*

The Awakening America Alliance will accept nothing less than a nation filled with courageous fathers and mothers, imparting godly faith to our children. As we look ahead to Sunday, June 15, 2014, let's pray in advance that we will witness a *Dad-Day* invasion that regains vital territory stolen from our families by Satan.

UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
*Spiritual Awakening Indicator*  
*In the Church*

Pray that the church will play an active role in imparting faith to our children and youth by equipping parents to become the primary disciplers of their children.

## God's Commanded Blessing

Imagine the Jews returning from Babylonian captivity singing, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1 KJV). All the while, they had to survive the journey with Uncle Jedediah, who snored, and Cousin Samuel, who like to spit—not to mention Grandma Miriam and Aunt Jacobeb, who constantly fussed over who was best at cooking by campfire. They finally arrived at their precious Mount Zion or Jerusalem only to realize they were going to have to work side-by-side with these same folks in a massive rebuilding project.

We often refer to the church as the body of Christ or the family of God, but do you know what happens when families get together for family reunions? We eat good food, play games, and make wonderful memories. We also typically endure a few fireworks and some less obvious or willfully ignored, smoldering embers. However, when God's family puts aside our differences (which are minimal compared to what we have in common), God can accomplish amazing miracles as we work together to build the kingdom of God.

As we unite throughout the nation in a National Prayer Accord and Preach2Engage *Upstream* Strategies, we can be assured of the Psalmist's promise that this place of unity and anointing is where "*. . . the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore*" (Psalm 133:3 NIV). Our extraordinary, united prayers based upon the Twenty Indicators of Awakening can help to bring God's blessing of new life to America.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Pray for heightened expressions of love and unity  
among all believers, as demonstrated  
by the unity of pastors and leaders.

## A Call to Prayer

Several years ago, I was blessed to serve on a team taping *World Impact* television programs at the Seven Churches of Asia, in what is now the nation of Turkey. This was my first exposure to the Islamic use of a human voice announcing times for prayer to the Muslim community. The summons, proclaimed via public address systems atop their numerous Minarets, actually begins with repeating two very powerful statements: "God is great," and "I bear witness that there is no god except the One God." The call ends with the twice-repeated imperative, "Hurry to prayer!"

The Turkish Muslims hear this summons to mandatory prayer five times each day. Regardless of where they are, many will fall on their knees, bowing with faces to the ground. Sadly, their false belief system will not merit them any righteous results. Thankfully, the Christian's call to prayer is not from a human voice, but is birthed from a relationship with the ONE TRUE GOD and HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. The summons is issued through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT and the WORD of GOD. My heart and soul's cry in response to this never-ending, divine invitation is, "Yes, LORD! Yes!"

One of the most definitive calls resonating through the nation of America today is this summons to prayer and repentance , which promises powerful results:

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV).*

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Pray, asking, believing, and thanking God  
for an awakening to the "fear of the Lord" rather than the  
approval of people, thus restoring integrity and credibility.

## Changing the Destiny of Americans

Your faithful, consistent prayers are a vital part of changing the destiny of our children, our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren. My heart's cry is for my granddaughter, Lillian, to grow up in an environment of hope, peace, and security. Why would I question that possibility?

Things unthinkable less than 50 years ago are becoming reality. In 1973, the highest court in America told us that the 14th Amendment to our U.S. Constitution requires a policy of abortion on demand. Now, 40 years later, in an article titled, "So What if abortion Ends Life," Mary Elizabeth Williams writes: "My belief that life begins at conception is mine to cling to . . . And I would put the life of a mother over the life of a fetus every single time. Even if I still need to acknowledge my conviction that the fetus is indeed a life. A life worth sacrificing."

In a 2013 decision based on potential violation of the 5th Amendment—"No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"—the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). While falling short of saying same-sex marriage is constitutionally required policy for all 50 states, the liberal language used by the majority sets the stage for that to occur soon.

**Without a true spiritual awakening that invites God and His Word to be the rightful authority in our nation,** the Court will push their liberal agenda alongside the constitutional right to abortion. We must ask ourselves the question, "What will Americans 40 years from now believe is worth sacrificing?"

Some of the saddest words in Scripture were spoken by King Hezekiah, a good ruler, who had witnessed great deliverance and supernatural healing power during his reign. Following

God’s message of coming judgment for his having exposed future generations to potential enemy invasion and ultimate ruin by the Babylonians, Hezekiah replied to the prophet Isaiah:

*“The word of the LORD you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?” (2 Kings 20:19 NIV).*

May the attitude of our hearts never reflect such a selfish perspective, either in the stewardship of our natural resources or in the responsibility of protecting our spiritual heritage. We must pray, believe, and model before our biological and spiritual children that consistent, united prayers will make a difference in the condition of our world today—creating a nation of hope, peace, and security for future generations.

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Take a few moments to list the names of your spiritual or biological children (next gen list parents), praying over each one individually as the Holy Spirit directs:

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UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Let us unite our voices praying for a restoration of righteous relations between men and women; decrease in divorce rates, co-habitation, same-sex relations, sexual abuse, sexual trafficking, out of wedlock children and STD's.

## Play Stations or Prayer Stations

Let me begin by saying I'm not a *PlayStation* enthusiast. As a matter of fact, video games are a dangerous topic for me to address because the terminology is foreign to me. Yet I was intrigued to learn global statistics reveal **1.02 billion of the top 10 video gaming systems** have been sold since they were first released. While many notable exceptions exist, this essentially tells me that twenty-first century people are fun-seeking, comfort-loving, and relatively undisciplined.



While prayer labyrinths and contemplative prayer stations date back thousands of years, many contemporary Christians are



unfamiliar with their use or benefits. We are well-acquainted with prayer at meals or prayers on wheels (praying on the way to work or the next sporting event for the kids), but very little margin remains in our lives for those "burning bush"

moments when we turn aside to encounter the all-consuming presence of a sovereign God. One purpose of a prayer station is to create a time and space for people to experience God in their lives. How dramatically changed our individual lives and the nation of America would be if our approach to prayer and spiritual reflection became more than a Tweet or FaceBook post to God.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Seek God for an increase of young adults, students, and children embracing the claims and lifestyle of Christ through the dynamic witness of peers who live and love as Jesus.

## The Dead Can't Speak

For police, paramedics, and firefighters at the scene of a tragedy—such as what occurred at Ground Zero—the reaction to that rhetorical comment (the dead can't speak) could be "Yes, they can!"

According to CNN Reporter Michael Pearson, the incessant ringing, chiming, and musical tones of victims' cell phones become a virtual soundtrack of disaster reverberating through the ears of these brave first responders. A parent, friend, someone is desperately trying to connect, but nobody is answering.

Each year in September, many cannot help but hear the cries of 9/11 victims in 2001 and the resulting wars in the Middle East. Yet we also must reflect upon and be grateful for the echoes of great patriots, who paid a high price so that Americans could live with liberty and freedom today, and spoke words such as these:

*"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here." —Patrick Henry*

If the dead really can speak, what will the generations who follow us hear when they try to connect with their past? As we CRY OUT to God for a Christ awakening and a restoration of godliness in every arena of America today, may those who come behind us hear the sounds of godly hope, Christian liberty, and powerful worship echoing throughout the land!

UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Believe God for neighborhood transformation and an accompanying decrease of social ills through increased expressions of "loving your neighbor" in service, compassion, and unity.

## Awakening a Sleeping Giant

Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto is portrayed at the end of the 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* as saying, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

Although unverified, the line not only serves as a dramatic ending for a movie, it encapsulates some of the Admiral's very real feelings following the attack at Pearl Harbor. Should not the same sentiment continue to be true about the American church years following the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

As we listen to news reports of a horrible train crash in Spain or a tragic plane crash in San Francisco, the current reality of global terrorism resonates in many reporters' comments: "This is not considered to be the result of an act of terrorism."

Such commentary, which would have seemed odd at one time in our nation's history, has simply blended into our mental and spiritual landscape. If we are not careful, we will be lulled back to a point of lethargy where Satan's threats and attacks against God's kingdom no longer arouse in us a fierce anger, outrage, and resolve to launch a powerful counterattack! In the words of the prophet Isaiah to the God's people, someone needs to cry out:

*"Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city . . . Shake off your dust, rise up . . . Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion" (Isaiah 52:1-2 NIV).*

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Pray, asking God to awaken within churches a passionate pursuit for the well-being of their cities through the planting of new congregations, benevolent ministries, practical service, focused evangelism and prayer!

## Effective vs. Ineffective

During a recent devotional time, one word came forcefully to my mind—*effective*. While praying and meditating on this concept, I was reminded of James 5:16, which speaks of a powerful and effective prayer life:

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”* (James 5:16 NIV).

One area where most Christians feel a need for improvement (besides patience) is our prayer life. I have never known anyone who claimed to be content with the time invested or complete effectiveness of their prayers.

James’ role model for prayer was Elijah the prophet. The apostle was so obviously impressed with the effectiveness of Elijah’s prayer life that he sought to follow his example. Tradition tells us that James was nicknamed “camel knees” because his fervent dedication to prayer caused calluses to develop on his knees.

Yet contrary to what many believe, the Bible does not encourage long, pious, or public prayers. Instead, the *effectiveness* of our prayers is emphasized. An effective prayer involves praying with clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3–4). According to Peter, preventing ineffectiveness includes a lifelong pursuit of an increasing demonstration of godly characteristics such as goodness, self-control, godliness, and love (2 Peter 1:5–8). Essentially, our prayer life will be a reflection of our personal relationship with God.

UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Intercede for God to grant increased conversions and baptisms.

## Relocating the Keys

Have you ever found yourself in a real predicament and had no idea where or how to find a solution? Clyde Moore of the *Columbus Dispatch* gives a good example: "A predicament occurs when an attorney who specializes in medical malpractice suits finds himself in need of major surgery."

One day, a friend of ours found herself in a predicament when she lost her keys. She had stopped by the office to meet with a realtor and tour some potential homes. When she got back to the office, she couldn't find her keys anywhere. Lisa did the usual retracing of her steps, looking under the car seats, and embarrassingly calling the lady whose home she had toured.



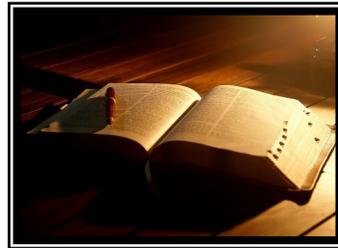
Finally, she retrieved the alternate set of car keys from her purse and drove home. At prayer meeting that evening, she was so frustrated as she explained that the key to their home, the car, and their missionary daughter's storage building were all on this key ring. A few days later, she discovered her keys were on the counter at home all the time. She had driven to the office with her alternate key.

Is this not typical of the body of Christ today? The Lord offers us the key to Father's house and invites us to enter into close intimate relationship with Him. He has provided access to the storehouse of heaven with unlimited resources, and He has even made available to us the key of Holy Spirit empowerment to propel us forward into anointed ministry.

In Matthew 16:19, Jesus clearly tells us He has given us the keys to the kingdom, yet we seem to have misplaced them and contented ourselves with using alternatives we have retrieved from our own resources.

*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18–19 NIV).*

If we are going to fulfill the divine destiny Christ has for us, we will need to relocate some of those keys that helped to transform His church into a movement that literally turned their world upside down (Acts 17:6). As God's Church, His governing body on earth, He has given us the keys of love, intercession, and proclamation of the Gospel to open doors for a dramatic transformation of the nation of America in our generation.



*"The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure" (Isaiah 33:5–6 NIV).*

We are thankful you have united with the Awakening America Alliance and are joining us utilizing the key of scripturally-based prayer for a Christ awakening in the nation.

UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Thank God for the kingdom keys He has given us and pray, believing that He will inspire Christians to be involved in bold witness accompanied by miracles, dramatic conversions and Holy Spirit-empowered victories over evil.

## Reviving the Heart of Our Nation

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) is an emergency procedure, performed in an effort to manually preserve brain function until further measures are taken to restore a person in cardiac arrest. Years ago while teaching a fitness class at the local YMCA, I was required to have CPR certification. Thankfully, I never encountered the necessity for this important procedure, but the goal was to develop a sensitivity to the needs of my class members and be prepared.



For those who may be sensitive to the spiritual heartbeat of America, we must ask ourselves, “Are we merely using emergency procedures to preserve brain function or are we prepared to implement further measures to revive the heart of a nation?” Could uniting believers in a consistent rhythm of prayer across America help to strengthen the heart, preventing cardiac arrest?

As we pursue strategic plans for implementing a National Prayer Accord along with a prayer-care-share lifestyle among Christ-followers, we believe God will strengthen and revive our hearts. A major component will be unified prayer gatherings like those in the New Testament church, which was involved in consistent prayer and fellowship.

*“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,<sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46–47).*

The early Christians took advantage of every opportunity to share the truth in love and witnessed thousands added to the church (Acts 2:41; 3:4). The extraordinary, united prayer of God's people synergized with the transforming truth of His Word demonstrated in our lives will accomplish more than temporary, survival procedures.

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Take a few moments to list people within your sphere of influence that have never experienced a renewed heart through accepting Christ as Lord. After praying for each of person by name, list some ways you could be prepared in 2014 to live a prayer-care-share lifestyle before them.

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**UNITED PRAYER FOCUS**  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Ask God to enlighten and fulfill His plan for a restoration of morality, ethical foundations and accountability among leaders of church and government, business and politics.

## Upstream Generators

We live in an area blessed with beautiful, clear rivers and streams. This is very appealing to my husband, who loves trout fishing. Yet, he knows to always check the Tennessee Valley Authority website for the water generation schedule before making his plans. You see, if the dams *upstream* are generating power, it will impact the water levels and fishing conditions *downstream*.

A similar principle is occurring in our nation today. *Downstream* in America, we find the symptoms of church irrelevance, moral decline, and fragmented relationships. However, wisdom tells us if we will examine and address what those in authority are generating *upstream*, we can make a real impact on the pollution levels and fishing conditions *downstream*.

Many have a passion to embrace the authority given us to fulfill the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations (cf., Matthew 28:18–20); however, we should not forget earlier in the Gospel, Christ first revealed the Great Commandment:

*Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Matthew 22:37–39).*

The Alliance proposes if Christ-followers and those empowered with heavenly authority demonstrate a Great Commandment lifestyle, we can have hope of cleaner streams producing greater success as fishers of men.

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Seek God for an awakened commitment to radical generosity as evidenced by compassion ministries and global missions.

## The Rope of Hope

Most of us are familiar with the comment, “When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on.” However, you may not be aware that this quote (or something very similar) has been attributed to Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Whoever the original author may be, the tone of desperation does not have to be the motto for Christ followers in our nation today!



Recently, my husband observed our granddaughter's preschool group preparing for their walk from chapel service to class. Each child held to a loop on a special rope between two teachers. This was a great way to assure everyone stayed together and arrived safely.

Perhaps, this imagery is an oversimplification of the promised Holy Spirit's guidance in the believer's life. However, imagine the difference we would make if rather than tying a knot in the end of our ropes, we lived with such a contagious joy and trust in the sovereign Lord of the universe that others would want to grab a loop on the rope of hope and join us on our journey

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth . . .”* (John 16:13).

### UNITED PRAYER FOCUS Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Church:*

Intercede for improved health among ministers as evidenced by their joy, decreased resignations, healthy loving relationships within their families, and an increased response among young people called to the ministry.

## Changing the Stream

Prior to engaging in any conflict or military action, two questions should be asked: When is it victory?—and—What do we want the world to look like when we're done?

If we are going to eliminate pollution and experience a positive change in the various streams of culture both inside and outside the church walls, we need to ask ourselves similar questions.

Essentially, that is what occurred at the 2008 Awakening America Alliance Leadership Summit in North Hampton, Massachusetts. Christian leaders from across the nation sat surrounded by the memories of the Great Awakening that swept through this land in the 1730s. They sensed an urgency of the Holy Spirit for a fresh, transformational awakening to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and confessed a desperate dependency upon God.

Yet the Alliance wanted to do more than talk about the need for awakening and change. They wanted to know when and how it could be accomplished. They developed some definitive indicators of what a transformed nation would look like when awakening dawned. This 21-day devotional resource is focused upon those indicators.

Along with asking the questions, we want to engage in strategic actions that will help bring about the positive change. In 2014, the Alliance will be joining the North American Mission Board in LoveLoud, a movement of churches demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.

The same love that compels us to prayer for America will also motivate us to care for neglected and hurting people needing to hear the liberating message of the Gospel. One naturally flows from the other. Perhaps if we are involved in changing the stream together, what may have seemed a wasteland will be filled with fresh springs of living water.

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more” (Isaiah 43:18–19, 25).*



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Ask yourself . . . When is it victory? What will an awakened America will look like? As you have been fasting and praying, which indicators resonate most in your spirit and motivate you to LoveLoud?

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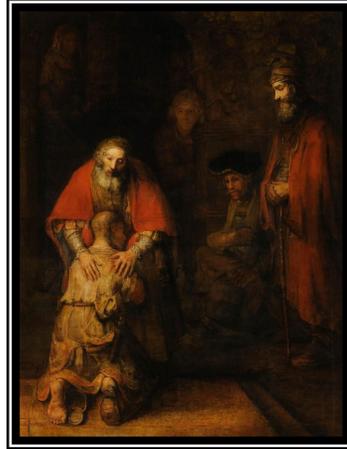
**UNITED PRAYER FOCUS**  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to not only convict but to anoint and inspire us to be a nation with increased care for the hungry and homeless, the most vulnerable and needy.

## Rembrandt and the Walking Dead

Author and priest, Henri Nouwen, describes traveling thousands of miles to St. Petersburg Russia to see Rembrandt's *Return of the Prodigal Son*. After sitting and observing the original work of art for hours, He was inspired and moved to write his book with the same title. A painting created in the 1660's inspired Nouwen's transformational account of mercy, forgiveness, and God's pursuing love in the twenty-first century! Truth expressed through the Arts penetrates a culture. Truth is timeless.



With the cost of movie tickets approaching \$10.00 and a large popcorn pushing \$11.50, we can rarely justify the expense of a movie outing for our entire family of six. When we do, chances are Ramen noodles and frozen pizzas will be the main menu items for the rest of the month! Taking our family to the movies is as extravagant to us as a flight to St. Petersburg.

However, we have refused to miss some movie events through the years. We wouldn't miss *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *The Hobbit*. All based on the works of great Christian apologists and scholars. We have also been determined to support producers of Christian films such as *FireProof*, *Courageous*, *October Baby*, *Soul Surfer*, *The Blind Side*, *Letters to God*, and *Facing the Giants*.

Like the impact of Rembrandt's painting on Nouwen, these movies have allowed our family to be inspired and to dialogue about repentance and redemption, good and evil, love and grace, hope and hopelessness, and crises of faith. These conversations

extend to our community and can easily bring these vital topics into a secular conversation. They are tools, helping us teach our children a Christian worldview and enabling them to communicate that worldview to their spheres of influence.

Not every song, film or painting is “Christian.” Consequently, we are cautious about media that is clearly *outside* the realm of family-friendly. A recent conversation with my 13-year-old son forced me to look differently at the very secular side of media.

When asked, “Mom can I watch *The Walking Dead*?” (the hit TV show about, you guessed it, ZOMBIES!) I immediately replied, “NO WAY!” Yet my articulate son said, “But Mom, *The Walking Dead* is a great metaphor for people lost in sin and without Christ. People without Jesus are alive but really dead, and many, just like the Zombies, don’t even know it.”

YES! I was so proud. Of course, my answer was still **absolutely not** on the topic of the flesh-eating zombies show, but I was thrilled to see, without my prompting or leading, our son was running media through the filter of a Christ-centered worldview.

As we focus our prayers on the arts and entertainment industry, remember to pray for believers called and gifted to create Christ-centered art, but also intercede for those in the entertainment industry that desperately need a personal encounter with the God of the Bible and His plan for Redemption through Jesus Christ.

(Contributed by Victoria Eachus, AAA Administrative Coordinator)

UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Ask and believe God to bring a transformation  
of society through the restoration of Christ’s influence  
in the arts, media, and communications.

## Praying with a Big Picture Perspective

We have a long-time, family friend with an eye disorder, which severely limits his peripheral vision to the point that he is legally blind. In lay terminology, we would say Jonathan has tunnel vision—a constricted view as if looking through a tiny, narrow tube. Yet Jonathan's spiritual and mental outlook on life is anything but narrow-minded or limited. He is an anointed vocalist, gifted writer, and dedicated husband, father, and local church leader. He recently completed his Master's Degree in counseling to open new avenues for ministry to hurting, broken people.

As true believers, ministers, and intercessors in a post-Christian society, we must be careful to not allow news media, court decisions, economic forecasts, or even doomsday prophets to distort and limit our perspective. Nothing should diminish our hope in the LORD God of Hosts and our resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ. These were Peter's words to God's chosen people, living as strangers scattered throughout the known world:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3–5 NIV).*

God is able to take the seemingly impossible issues of our (His) world and turn them around in an instant. Yet, He sometimes chooses to continue shaping and molding His people in the furnace of adversity so that they may testify of Him in the arena of victory and deliverance.

Our Creator King sees the big picture. We see only a small framework through a dimly lit tunnel. His challenge to us is to rest in His love. Trust in His power and wisdom. Anticipate His grace and deliverance. His answers may seem delayed on our schedule, but He will certainly answer without delay on His sovereign timetable.

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry” (Habakkuk 2:3 KJV).*

*“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior” (Habakkuk 3:17–18 NIV).*



UNITED PRAYER FOCUS  
Spiritual Awakening Indicator

*In the Culture:*

Petition God for the breaking down of racial, social and status barriers as Christ's church celebrates Jesus together!

## Evidence of Goodness in America

The publisher of Dr. Herbert Lockyer's book, *All the Prayers of the Bible*, suggests there are no fewer 650 prayers in Scripture with 450 recorded answers. Can you imagine if all of our prayers were recorded and later published for the world to read? I shudder at the thought!

We can be relatively sure that all of the prayers of great men and women in the Bible were not documented for posterity, but our heavenly Father obviously felt some were significant enough to be available throughout time and eternity. The prayer of Moses, recorded in Exodus 33, has always been very intriguing and inspiring for me. The scope of this devotion limits our ability to examine his entire, impassioned plea, but perhaps a few highlights relate well with our prayers for a restoration of godliness in America today.

Less than 40 days had passed since the Israelites pledged to keep the Law of God, given them at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:3). They had already broken the first two commandments with their worship of the golden calf. Moses interceded for forgiveness, and God relented from the threat of extermination. However, this friend of Yahweh would not be content until God was intimately present in his own life and in the lives of the people God had called him to lead.

In his face-to-face dialogue, Moses wisely used the Lord's answers to become a platform for each succeeding request until he boldly asked:

*"I pray You, show me Your glory!" (Exodus 33:18).*

This called and anointed leader was desperate for a sign of God's favor. After all, who wouldn't want to see God's glory? I suppose it depends on what happens when the heavy, weighty

presence of God is manifested among us! The prophet Isaiah found himself keenly aware of his own depravity, humbling himself in repentance, and pleading for cleansing.

God knew what Moses really needed was the assurance of his heavenly Father's goodness and mercy. All of a sudden, this was more important to him than any Promised Land he had ever imagined. Following his encounter with the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth (Exodus 34:6), Moses emerged a changed man. His solitude and personal worship led to an ability to mediate the very nature and presence of God to the people.

*To do God's work and miss God's presence  
is the wrong way to go.*

*To experience God's presence and not fulfill His plan for your life  
is the wrong place to stop.*

The goodness of the Lord is what leads people to repentance (Romans 2:4). He is the One who came to seek and to save those who are doomed for destruction. We might like to stay in this place near the Lord, hidden by His hand in the cleft of the rock, but He calls us to take up the mantle of ministry He has given us and become the visible evidence of His goodness to a hurting and broken world. Could the Holy Spirit be calling us to become part of the answer to our own prayers for a restoration of godliness in America?

We challenge you to take a few moments to write a personal commitment to consistently seek the Lord for a Christ awakening in America and to spend time during 2014 focusing on the *Twenty Indicators of Awakening* during your individual and group prayer gatherings. Please know as a partner with the Awakening America Alliance, you are in our thoughts and prayers, too.

*During 2014, I commit to seek the Lord \_\_\_\_\_*

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*21 Days Fasting for a  
New Christ Awakening*  
Devotional Prayer Guide  
prepared by  
Kay Horner, National Coordinator  
Cry Out America

