"We are in an epochal crisis in America and around the world. Prayer has never mattered more than it does right now." — Eric Metaxas

With the IFA 50th Anniversary Celebration & Gala fast approaching, we had the pleasure of sitting down with one of our keynote speakers, bestselling author and syndicated radio host, Eric Metaxas. His latest book, *Letter to the American Church*, is not only a prophetic warning designed to put new muscles on the Church and its leaders but also a heavenly jet fuel for the prayer engines of our national intercessors.

Our aim in bringing Metaxas to the Shaping HIStory conference is to encourage, exhort, and supercharge our intercessors to celebrate the work that has already been accomplished, even while preparing for the battles ahead.

Drawing richly on his prolific and meaty research of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the failures of the Christian Church in pre-WWII Germany, Metaxas roars the same warnings of heaven that Bonhoeffer did. Metaxas tells us that of the 18,000 Protestant pastors in pre-WWII Germany, only 3,000 stood in defiance of the rise of Nazism. That left some 15,000 church leaders either silent or complicit with the Führer.

When we spoke with Metaxas, he was thrilled to hear that IFA’s intercessors can be likened to those 3,000 strong — those who are heeding the warnings and are speaking loudly on behalf of Christ’s kingdom.

Asked how we might bolster these brave saints who are determined to call down God’s will for this nation, Metaxas replied: “Our nation came into existence with prayer and has only continued to exist because of prayer and will continue to exist only if we continue to pray.

“God sees all these souls in their otherwise private battles. In a way, it seems we are living at a time when God calls each of us to be the heroes we have read about, knowing that He is no respecter of persons and calls every single one of us to courageous acts, wherever we are.”

We are grateful that Metaxas took time to speak with us, and we are greatly expectant of the message he will bring to our historic event in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 9–10. If you haven’t registered yet, please consider doing so today at IFA50.org. We invite you to stand and be counted among the 3,000!
Few nations in human history were more desperate for a sweeping movement of God than Assyria. A dominant world superpower with enormous wealth, at first glance Assyria would have topped the “Top Ten List of Nations Least Likely to Experience Revival.” Its armies were invincible, appallingly cruel, and terrified other nations.

It’s not surprising that Jonah was less than enthused at the prospect of sacrificing his life for Assyria’s spiritual recovery. Telling the world’s dominant nation to repent of its sin or face imminent judgment was as politically incorrect then as now. So, instead of obeying God, Jonah hurriedly boarded a ship heading in the opposite direction.

Jonah’s story is well known. The Lord sent a great storm that caused the seasoned Phoenician sailors to rightfully fear for their lives. Yet Jonah slumbered in the bowels of the boat. When the terrified crew discovered the storm was the result of Jonah’s sin, the prophet responded by telling them to throw him overboard and take his life. Even after being tossed into the tempestuous sea, we have no record of Jonah calling for God’s deliverance. At last, in one of the most dramatic moments in Scripture, a divinely appointed “great fish” swallowed the Israelite and carried him in its seaweed-filled, waterlogged belly for three pitch-black days.

“Then” (finally), Jonah prayed to the Lord. That prayer changed everything. Until that point, Nineveh had been a condemned city. Its salvation hinged on Jonah responding positively to God’s invitation. Hearing God’s heart for revival in Nineveh had not compelled Jonah to join in God’s activity. Neither had faced a fearful storm, or even been thrown into a raging sea. It was not until Jonah reached the depths that he finally cried out to God in prayer. The recalcitrant prophet declared, “When my soul faints within me. I remembered the Lord: and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. ... But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving, I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord” (Jonah 2:7,9).

At the moment Jonah prayed, Nineveh had hope, and anything was possible. In fact, it took more time to get God’s man aligned with God’s will than it required to bring the entire pagan city of Nineveh to repentance. That is often the case.

God responds to the desperate prayers of His people. Until we have reached the end of ourselves, we still believe we can set the terms for our divine service. Until then, we can act as if Jesus is our Lord while we pick and choose which divine commands we will obey. That is why God allows His people to descend into the depths. In the abyss, we realize we have no alternative but radical obedience to God’s commands.

How desperate is America for revival? How fervently are American Christians crying out to God? Ordinary prayer is insufficient! God has spoken. Must we endure storms, loss, and plummeting to the depths before we urgently seek the Lord? America continues to spiral downward. How low must we sink with it until we pray with desperation?

First published by IFA, May 2012. Richard Blackaby will be speaking at IFA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration & Gala.
Hubert Lindsey, a gentleman used greatly by God in the early days of the charismatic movement, exemplifies a life lived according to God’s heart. Mr. Lindsey was part of that, which was eventually called “The Jesus Movement.” This movement was used by God to bring thousands of drug-addicted, sexually perverted, disillusioned, and rebellious young people into the kingdom of God. Hubert Lindsey eventually became known as “Holy Hubert.”

Like King David, who wasn’t called by his father to join the “potential king lineup” (see 1 Samuel 16), nothing about Holy Hubert’s appearance or personality caused him to stand apart. He wasn’t all that charismatic, but again, like David, he possessed something more important: God’s heart.

I once had the privilege of hearing Mr. Lindsey speak. He told of his calling to minister at the University of California, Berkeley, and spoke of the miracles and salvations. He mixed in some humor, and we all laughed, cheered, and applauded. What impacted me most, however, was a passing comment Holy Hubert made about how his ministry at Berkeley had been birthed.

“I became so burdened for this generation,” he said, “that I would walk the streets of the campus—sometimes all night long—weeping and interceding for those lost kids. I pled with God to give me those young people.” God had given this man His heart for a lost generation.

The Lord answered Hubert’s cry—because it was His own—and gave him a revival. Church historians agree that the Jesus Movement was of extreme significance in the renewal of the ’60s and ’70s. And when tracing the roots of the Jesus Movement, one invariably ends up at Berkeley with Holy Hubert Lindsey.

His burden cost him dearly, however. His broken heart led to broken bones—not to a large salary or a huge congregation. Lindsey and his wife were beaten on numerous occasions, stabbed, mocked, and ridiculed as they preached the gospel on campus. His wife eventually suffered brain damage from this, and Holy Hubert lost his sight due to the beatings. Just as the apostle Paul did, they bore on their bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus (see Galatians 6:17).

The Lindseys picture for us the principle of allowing the heart of God to become the motivation for ministry. This heart releases pure revival, keeping it free from the debris of pride and selfish motivation.

Father, give us Your heart for lost and hurting people. Give us Your heart for the broken, wounded, and confused. Give us Your heart, even for the rebel. Break our hearts—give us many who will walk the empty streets, weeping for those who are so lost. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen. —Excerpted from Praying for America. Dutch Sheets will be speaking at IFA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration & Gala.
Target’s child-oriented LGBTQ Take Pride collection has backfired. According to news reports: “In the first two weeks of May, when the company’s Pride controversy began to go viral, its market capitalization declined by $1.85 billion.” Through the rest of May and in early June, reports said, “the market cap fell by an additional $11.66 billion.” The brand’s popularity levels are at their lowest ever.

Disney’s losses are as dramatic as the LGBTQ ideology it advocates. Low attendance at Disney parks and the resultant box office flops reveal the impact. The company reported some $659 million in losses for its most recent quarter. In March 2023, Disney officially and publicly opposed laws that protect kids from LGBTQ content in Florida. This resulted in some $50 billion in value loss and the company’s worst stock performance since 1974—down 45% so far this year alone.

Parents win their battle against a woke library. When a public library featured graphic LGBTQ books as part of a Pride display in June, parents asked the library staff to remove the books. The library’s board refused, so the parent group mounted a campaign to halt the library’s funding with taxpayer money—and won overwhelmingly: The library stands to suffer the loss of some 84% of its budget.

Missouri sued the Biden administration, alleging collusion. The suit (Missouri v. Biden) alleges that the Biden administration has colluded with online platforms to censor free speech. While the case proceeds, the judge has enjoined the administration from “doing what they have no legal right to do—contacting social media companies for the purpose of urging, encouraging, pressuring, or inducing in any manner the removal, deletion, suppression, or reduction of content containing protected free speech posted on their platforms.”

Excerpts from IFA’s We Are Winning special report, at IFApray.org.