

# The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



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## Eric Metaxas: Bolstering the Saints

BY KEITH GUINTA, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

***"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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

"There is no beacon of freedom like America, and it is an unimaginably vital role God has entrusted us with.



"Whether we like it or not, the world in many ways depends on us in America — and we in America depend on the prayers of the intercessors. It is a sobering thing to consider."

In reflecting on Metaxas' masterfully written biographies of Bonhoeffer, Wilberforce, and Luther, some intercessors may feel that their own contributions to history can only pale in comparison. But Metaxas says: "Everyone has a different role, and the key is for each of us to ask the Lord to lead us to what He has made us for. Trying to do what others are doing can be a big mistake.

"Whom God sees as courageous is often different than whom we would see as courageous. And there are doubtless innumerable souls who are courageous in what are private spheres, but that have a ripple effect in the wider world, and whom we may never know.

"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](https://IFA50.org). We invite you to stand and be counted among the 3,000!



## Then Jonah Prayed to the Lord

RICHARD BLACKABY, AUTHOR, SPEAKER, AND MINISTRY LEADER

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 was 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 fainted 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Gala.

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

October 6, 2023

12:15 PM ET

CALL (667) 771-7910, CODE 2452#

WEBCAST IFApray.org/watch

*Join with thousands across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on the first Friday of every month.*

### HEART FOR REVIVAL

Let's seek the face and heart of God for a great revival in our time — by asking Him to give us hearts after His own. Ask Him to search you; listen for His voice; confess as He leads you; repent of what is wrong; devote yourself to do what is right. Entreat Him for His mercies and salvation upon our families, our neighborhoods, our churches, our civil governments. Ask God to release His light and His truth, and to give us this generation for His kingdom and His glory. Let's desire a heart like King David's.

### CALLING ALL SAINTS

God must prepare us — now — for what is just ahead. Let's trust Him for the faith, strength, and bravery we're going to need. Ahead of the IFA 50th Anniversary Celebration & Gala, pray incessantly and pray hard for the guest speakers He will bring. Begin praying for the prophetic warnings these speakers will set forth. Pray that the word would be clearly proclaimed, and that the ears of the listeners would be opened and their hearts softened. Pray about the revival this is going to produce. Ask God to stand up in America and the world — and to make Himself heard and known.

### PLEAD NOW, NOT LATER

Let there be no further delay in crying out for the rescue of this nation and of all the nations of the earth. "The end of all things is near," and multiplied millions of souls are sleeping. Plead day and night before heaven for an awakening of all the churches, and for an end to the rebellion of this world's rulers against God's chosen, Jesus Christ. Pray fervently that the sword of judgment that is poised over humanity might not fall before many more souls are saved and delivered.





## Holy Hubert and the Heart of Revival

DUTCH SHEETS, PASTOR, AUTHOR, TEACHER

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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Gala.

TEAR-OFF

# PRAY *with* UNSHAKABLE HOPE

*Father, fill us with YOUR unshakable hope until we overflow and that same hope becomes contagious, touching all those around us.*

*Let us overflow with joy, hope, and peace. Cause us to abound in hope and joy by the power of the Holy Spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name. (see Rom. 15:13).*

*We know that You have good plans for us, plans for a hope-filled future.*

*For this, we give You praise. Daily we will dwell on Your faithfulness as our hearts are filled with all peace, joy, and faith (see Jer. 29:11).*

*I choose to rejoice in hope, to be patient in every challenge that comes my way, and to be constant in prayer. You alone are my hope — I will trust in You. In Jesus' name. Amen (see Rom. 12:12).*



*I am assured that I will have all I have hoped for in You, Jesus. My faith is my assurance and conviction that You will do all that You have vowed and promised (see Heb. 11:1).*

*The hope that lives in me is not dead, it is alive through the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! My hope is alive! It is alive and full of Holy Spirit power. For this, Lord, I give You praise! (see 1 Pet. 1:3).*

*Jesus, through Your word alone do I have hope. I am encouraged each time I read scriptures from the Bible. My hope comes from You and Your word. Thank You for always encouraging me (see Rom. 15:4).*

## DECLARE

*God's hope in me never brings shame, nor does it disappoint. God's love has been poured into my heart by the Holy Spirit, and therefore I am filled to overflowing with His hope. (see Rom. 5:5).*



TEAR-OFF

## Answered Prayers

### **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 [IFA.org](https://www.ifa.org).*

November 9-10

It's not too late!

Register for  
IFA's 50th  
Celebration!



Eric Metaxas



Dutch Sheets



Michele Bachmann



Richard Blackaby



Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright



SHAPING  
HISStory

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