

PRAYER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

By Marshall Foster

The World History Institute enters its 40th year of ministry this summer. For four eventful decades we have communicated the truths of liberty — truths rooted in the life-liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over these years we have conducted innumerable events, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours and more. But there is still so much more to do! In fact, this month we launch one of the most important initiatives ever — a call to all believers to pray for all the world.

Faith-filled prayer can change everything. It can unleash God's power to harness the forces of nature, to stop an army in its tracks, to turn back the enemies of the Gospel. Prayer can transform a life, and through the privilege of intercession we believers can have a part in God's will being done and His kingdom coming to people and places around the globe.

This new prayer initiative is called *GPS30* — *GPS* stands for **G**lobal **P**rayer **S**trategy, and *30* stands for 30 days of consistent, focused praying. We'll say more about this unique endeavor later in this issue. First, let me remind you of some ways in which the power of prayer has been evidenced over the course of history...

Plymouth Colony, 1623

Three years after landing in Cape Cod, the Pilgrims faced starvation. They had been forced to work in common fields by the merchants who funded their voyage. The result of this socialism was disastrous. Then William Bradford became governor and turned to the biblical plan for private property and free enterprise. It inspired productivity among the settlers. With each family allotted their own land, the crops began to flourish. But no rain fell in July and August of 1623 and the crops withered. The Pilgrims appointed a Day of Fasting, Repentance and Prayer. At 4 o'clock that day a gentle rain began to fall and it continued for three days, saving the crops and saving the Pilgrims from starvation during that winter. With grateful hearts, the Pilgrims inaugurated the First Thanksgiving in November, 1623.





New England, 1746

In September, 1746 scores of French warships and thousands of troops were ready to invade and attack New England. The Colonists prayed for God's deliverance. On October 1st a powerful hurricane struck, sinking virtually the entire French fleet. The few ships left afloat set sail for France. Back in New England, the Colonists "stood still and saw the salvation of the Lord". (Exodus 14:13)

Connecticut, 1775

On April 19, 1775, Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut called for a Day of Prayer and Repentance for all the colonies. In the governor's proclamation he explained that their real enemy was not England, but their own sin and lack of repentance. He asked for the people to be "awakened, humbled and reformed...that God would graciously pour out his



Holy Spirit on us, to bring us to a thorough repentance and effectual reformation, that our iniquities may not be our ruin — that He would

restore, preserve and secure the liberties of this, and all the other British American Colonies, and make this land a mountain of holiness, and habitation of righteousness forever." Little did the governor know that on that very day, their sister colony in Massachusetts was facing the opening battle of the War of Independence at Lexington and Concord. A way was opened for the colonists to be warned of the attack and at the end of the day, God gave the patriots a victory which changed the course of history.

England, 1940

In May, 1940 the English were on the verge of losing their nation to Hitler's Nazi forces. German tanks plowed through Belgium and France so quickly that 360,000 English troops were trapped on the shores of Dunkirk. England's new Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, said that it would be a miracle if 20,000 of their men could escape death or capture. Churchill called the British people to a Day of Repentance and Prayer on May 27, 1940. Meanwhile, back in Germany, the Führer went against the advice of his generals and pulled back his army. He assigned the destruction of the English to his crony Air Force General. At that moment a thick fog dropped upon the Channel, crippling Hitler's pilots and preventing them from





seeing the stranded English troops. The water of the English Channel became like glass for the next eight days. Six hundred little boats were able to ferry 330,000 men back to England before the curtain of clouds lifted. It was soon known as “the Miracle of Dunkirk.” The Archbishop of Canterbury said that it was the greatest miracle England had seen since the Spanish Armada had been scattered by the North Wind, saving England from destruction in 1588.

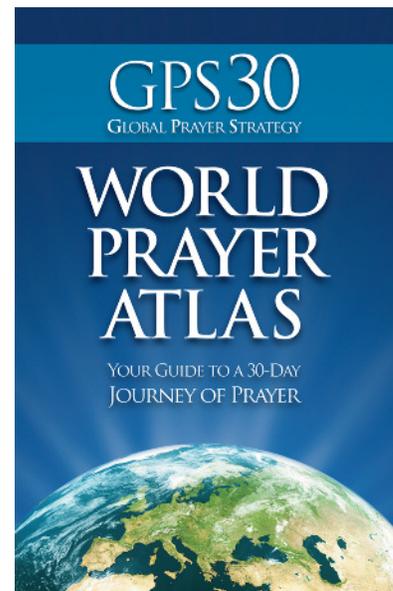
East Germany, 1989

One of the most dramatic events of our lifetime was the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union. Yet most people do not know that a prayer movement was the chief catalyst for the re-unification of Germany. In 1982 a Lutheran pastor named Fuehr in Leipzig, Germany, began a weekly prayer meeting in his church on Monday nights. He called the meetings “Prayers for Peace.” Many who dared to attend the prayer meetings were persecuted. Pastor Fuehr was once driven into the snow-covered wilderness by communist troops and left there to die. But he

found his way back to town and held the prayer meeting again the following Monday night. Eventually the attendance at Prayers for Peace grew to thousands every week. For seven long years believers persevered in prayer and seemingly had no answer from God. Then, on October 9, 1989, Pastor Fuehr convened his prayer meeting as usual. This time, however, he handed out candles to all attendees. He said that they should all light their candles and remain peaceful. As they left the church the 2,000 prayer warriors were met by tens of thousands of other East Germans who also carried lighted candles. Pastor Fuehr led this army of prayerful warriors to the train station in Leipzig, crossing an open market place that was filled with Communist GDR troops who could have mown them down. But the peaceful prayer warriors simply surrounded the soldiers in love and one by one the East German soldiers disregarded their weapons and picked up candles. That night other prayer rallies were held throughout East Germany. As a result of this movement of prayer, the East German chancellor was compelled to resign. Four weeks later, the Berlin Wall fell. Prayer has transformational power! The National Day of Liberation in Germany is not celebrated on November 9th, the day the wall fell, but on October 9th in honor of the courageous prayer warriors who with their faith in God overturned an evil empire.

Once again we live in a time of deep peril in which our troubled world stands in need of prayer. We must do our part to meet this need head-on. Shown to the right is the cover of our new *GPS30 World Prayer Atlas* — just off the press.

This booklet is being sent to churches across America to encourage them to join in a 30-day strategy of intercession. Just as our *Pray31* initia-



tive called upon believers to pray across America in one month, this initiative engages believers in praying around the world over the course of one month — interceding for every nation and territory on earth.

I am honored to serve as National Chairman of this initiative, and I encourage you to get involved. Print out and fill in the form below to request your own complimentary copy of the *World Prayer Atlas*. Once you have it in hand, start your 30 days of global prayer and follow the plan day by day — on your own,



with your family, with your small group, or however you wish to pray. Encourage your pastor to engage your entire church in a *GPS30* initiative. Thousands of churches across America are joining in.

For bulk orders of the *World Prayer Atlas*, plus other *GPS30* resources, go to www.GPS30.com.

We are so grateful for your partnership in ministry and we thank you in advance for any gift that you give at this crucial time. Your generosity is making a difference!

May God use this prayer endeavor to transform countless lives. And may God bless you richly as you do your part.

Yours for a global harvest,

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