

**September 06, 2017**

*Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. [Joel 2:12-13](#)*

Dear Praying Friends,

Rev. Richard Owen Roberts studied at Gordon and Whitworth Colleges, and Fuller Seminary. He pastored in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California and founded International Awakening Ministries. His collection of 9,000 books on historic revivals and awakenings forms the heart of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Library. From Roberts' Treatise on [The Solemn Assembly](#):

*Consider the situation at the time of the Solemn Assembly called by the Prophet Joel. The people, as was common, were guilty of flagrant sin which had not been confessed and put away. God visited them with a remedial judgment - a plague of locusts of such proportion that nothing like it had happened before... a fierce drought had afflicted the land... The fields were ruined and the land itself mourned, the vinedressers wailed, and the beasts groaned while the herds of cattle wandered aimlessly because there was no pasture for them... The Prophet issued orders: "Gird yourselves with sackcloth, and lament, O priests... Come, spend the night in sackcloth... Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the House of the Lord your God and cry out to the Lord... Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble... Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments. Let the priests say, 'Spare Thy people, O Lord, and do not make Thine inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations...' Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and will have pity on His people."*

*[In] response to the corporate repentance of the people through the use of the divinely ordained means of the Solemn Assembly, the land rejoiced and was made glad... So great was the blessing bestowed by the God who delights in a broken and contrite people that He made up to them the years that were lost to the mighty army of locusts. The people had plenty and were satisfied and praised the name of the Lord who had dealt wondrously with them. They knew that God was in their midst, that He only was God, and that there was none other! ...*

*Not only were Solemn Assemblies a very common aspect in the revivals of the Bible, but they were a very important part of the life of believers in America during all its early years [the historical record yields a vast number printed sermons from the colonial and founding eras.]*

*Our Fathers believed God was offended by sin. They themselves were deeply troubled both by the existence of personal sin in their own lives and by the presence of unconfessed corporate sins in the churches and in the nation. They regarded natural calamities as manifestations of the displeasure of God Almighty against sin and allowed such events as earthquakes, fires, volcanoes, epidemics, floods, and droughts to prompt them to special seeking of God's face in fasting, prayer, and corporate repentance. They also sought the Lord in Solemn Assemblies in connection with wars, murders, rapes, etc., believing such outbursts of wickedness to be directly related to the general decline of moral and spiritual life in the churches. (R.O. Roberts, *The Solemn Assembly*, 1989)*

**Pray for Nation-Changing National Solemn Assembly** -- 1) [Hurricane Harvey](#) has devastated large parts of Texas and Louisiana. 2) [Hurricane Irma](#), one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in history is already atop American territories, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico and is heading for Florida, then likely the Southeastern Atlantic or Gulf Coast. 3) [Wildfires](#) are running amuck in the West, Northwest, and Midwest. 4) Our country is in a [stand-off with North Korean despot Kim Jong-un](#) who is [escalating his threats](#) of nuclear devastation against the U.S and our allies in Japan and South Korea. 5) [Islamic terrorists](#) continue to threaten Americans at home and abroad. 6) Our fighting men and women are engaged in warfare in [Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan](#), and tens of thousands are headquartered in South Korea just a few miles from the North Korean border, where experts say they could initiate a swift and [devastating blow to Seoul](#) and our troops. 7) [The liberal mainstream media is becoming increasingly untrustworthy](#), radicalized in its partisanship and hostility toward President Trump. 8) Democrats in [Congress have stood as one man, together with a couple of left-leaning](#) Republican Senators to prevent pro-life conservatives from passing critically important legislation. 9) Perhaps worst of all, the American people are shockingly divided by competing worldviews. 10) Moreover, at the root of America's problems, like ancient Israel and Judah, is the rottenness of our personal and national sins, and our departure from the living God. [The only cure](#) for this is personal and national repentance and returning to God (Let this list be part of your prayer list).

- ***Pray that God's people will recognize the urgency of the hour and lead America in individual and corporate repentance now! May every leader with authority: pastors, fathers, military commanders, business leaders, educators, and political leaders at every level -- local, state and national -- do their part. May Christian leaders in every sphere of society take responsibility to help America become one nation under God by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ! ([Eze 33:1-11](#); [Rom 12:8](#); [Eph 6:4](#); [Heb 3:7-12](#); [13:17](#); [Jas 3:1](#); [1 Pet 4:17](https://www..biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter+4:17&version=KJV))***

**Time for Urgent, Extraordinary Prayer, NOW and Going Forward** -- In the aftermath of the violence in Charlottesville, Tony had called for a [National Day of Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation](#). President Trump called for this past Sunday, September 3rd to be a [National Day of Prayer](#) for the [victims of Hurricane Harvey and for our national response and recovery efforts](#). FRC President [Tony Perkins thanked the president](#) and we urged our pastors' network to participate. Next on the calendar of prayer is the September 11th [Cry Out America](#) annual Day of Prayer, initiated in response to the [9/11/2001](#) terrorist attack. Another upcoming prayer emphasis is [Awakening the Dawn](#). Local and national prayer leaders and organizations have banded together to call the nation to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on October 6-9, 2017 to seek the face of God. Focused on young people, the agenda is to gather as one voice. Organizers hope ATD will catalyze a new, nation changing, Jesus movement. In times like these, all who name the Name of Jesus should be given to extraordinary prayer.

- ***May the American people make united corporate prayer a priority in the turbulent days ahead. And may the church show up to these national events and be counted among those who pray! ([2 Chr 7:14](#); [Ps 133: all](#); [Joel 2:16-18](#); [Mt 12:25](#); [18:19](#))***

**Prayer AND Action** -- Repentance includes breaking out of the apathy and indifference that has characterized the American church for decades. Christians must realize that it is not the actions or inactions of the Republicans or Democrats that are ultimately to blame, but rather our own self-satisfaction, prayerlessness, failure to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and thus passive inaction. As believers, we should be yielding our lives to Jesus and following his guidance to take a public stand for Him and make a difference. [The 2017 Values Voter Summit](#) on October 13-15 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. is one of those gatherings in which those who want to make a difference can learn about the issues of our day from a biblical perspective. Among the invited or confirmed speakers include President Trump, Vice President Pence (both spoke at last year's summit), Franklin Graham, Tony Perkins, Gen. Jerry Boykin, Joel Rosenberg, Michele Bachmann, George Barna, the Benham Brothers, Dr. Bill Bennett, Gary Bauer, Lila Rose, David Daleiden, Brigitte Gabriel, Dr. Alveda King,

Oliver North, Phil Robertson and many others. Register now at [valuesvotersummit.org](http://valuesvotersummit.org). When you come, take time to visit the Prayer Room and pray with the team for as long as you like. Together, let's seize the moment God has given us in our nation's history with Him!

- ***Help your people to be salt and light. May we both pray and take anointed, Spirit-led action to preserve and better our nation, returning the American people to their biblical roots. May we exercise our free speech, take action, and serve to improve our nation's laws and public policy -- and pass on to our children a nation that honors God! (Ps 103:17; Pr 28:4; Is 58:12; Dan 11:32; Mal 4:6; Mt 5:13-15; Jn 16:13; Rom 8:14)***

**Finally,** 1) Congratulations to Dr. Ronny Floyd, Pastor of Arkansas' Cross Church, immediate past President of the Southern Baptist Convention and member of FRC's Board of Directors on his appointment as President of the National Day of Prayer! 2) The SPLC is now being sued by several mainstream conservative organizations targeted on the SPLC's "Hate Map." These Christian groups are being targeted because of their firm biblical views on marriage. The liberal media has been all too willing to use the SPLC's libelous assertions as fact. A group of conservative leaders has penned a letter to the media requesting that they cease using the discredited SPLC as a news source. 3) If you missed the Prayer Targets that featured "Dunkirk," visit [HERE](#). Thank you for praying!

Sincerely,



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