

Date: March 2010

\*Question:

Dear Pastor,

I got your email from your church site, and I feel God gave me an idea to present to you to bring this nation back to him. If churches, have prayer services one or two nights, first six months of 2010 to be a witness unto the people that are not Christians, and invite them to church, where each Christian comes up front of the congregation, and pray for this nation to come back to God, and pray in groups. Matthew 18:20

I feel God is calling Christians to pray, come back to him, and stand up for Jesus, because these are the end times, and Jesus is coming soon. Also pastors and churches need to preach about Repentance, Salvation, Sin, Holy Spirit, Hell, and the cross of Christ Jesus, and not just preach what people want to hear. Our nation right now is just like the Israelites when they fell away from God. 2 Chronicles 7:14

I believe that God is also allowing the economic collapse and Natural Disasters in this nation to get people's attention. If we as a nation do not heed to God's word now, God will allow things to get worse. People are not listening to what God is trying to say. Like it says in Proverbs 21:13, Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard. Proverbs 28:27, Matthew 25:45.

The church has gotten away from its responsibility, and conforming to the world in what they preach, because they want to make people happy, but not preach the truth or offend anyone. What if Jesus called your church, would you turn him away? God won't help them in their time of need, and commanded us to help those in need. Remember, God will reward you. God has taken his hand off a lot of churches, because they stopped helping the poor. I feel God wants me to reach out to churches in the United States to show God's love, and that I care about this nation.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

\* For the purpose of privacy and ease of reading, a few grammatical errors have been corrected and the question presented here is a slightly shortened version from the full letter sent to Living Springs. However, all pertinent information has been maintained.

Answer:

Dear Sir,

Thank you for contacting Living Springs Institute. I did take the time to read your letter, and I will start by telling you that Living Springs was founded over 15 years ago, because we desired to preach what The Holy Spirit leads. We did not want to just be a part of a denomination or organization which simply teaches what people want to hear. This is the primary reason we are an independent organization, and we make this fact very clear right on the Home page of the website I assume you got our e-mail address from. However, I can tell you that doing strictly what The Lord wants instead of what makes people happy is a long and lonely road. There are not many people out

there who truly believe in doing this, especially once they find it doesn't garner much support. Yes, we are living in the last days, and this is precisely what Jesus told us would be the case. (Matt. 24:35-42) Just as in the days of Noah there are very few who truly seek The Lord.

Yes, this nation is in trouble, and it is because they have turned their backs on our Creator whom the forefathers that founded this nation believed in. However, we are in this situation not because God is specifically punishing us, but because turning from God is punishment in and of itself. Without His guidance, no man can hope to find the wisdom needed to face the challenges a nation faces. Thinking themselves to be wise, this has become a nation of fools. (Rom. 1:21-23) Our leaders in government believe man's ways are wiser than God's ways, and that their thoughts are new and innovative instead of seeing them as the old failed ways man has tried for centuries. This has come about in no small part because we have many pastors and "church leaders" who believe keeping the pews full is more important than teaching the truth of God's Word. This has come about because as people's hearts have grown colder and colder toward God, and as they left the church because they did not want to feel the conviction that was there, ministers were unwilling to stay the course. They were unwilling to be there for those who saw the error of their ways and desired something real again. Their desire to have large churches instead of Spirit filled churches, to have a church which could support them instead of trusting God and doing whatever it took to stand firm, is what has led to all this.

Judgment starts at the house of God, (I Pet. 4:16-19) and I hope you understand I'm not downing your idea when I say that what the church really needs to be praying for is itself! Maybe a better way to put it is that true believers should be praying for the church. Jesus said, first in Jerusalem, then in Judah, then out to Samaria and the utter most parts of the world. (Acts 1:8) The church no longer cares to have the fire; and until it finds it again, there will be no one to truly reach heaven with their prayers for this nation and its leaders. (James 5:16) "Christian" may be a title many churches are willing to give to anyone willing to repeat a sinner's prayer, but only those who truly seek a relationship with God will be told to enter into that place Jesus said He left to prepare so where He is there we may be also! (John 14:1-3)

I hope your desire to see people come to Christ and to live for Him in your own life is not based on, or dependent on, how much success you have in getting churches to respond to your ideas. Nor how fast or if ever this nation climbs out of the crisis it has found itself in. (Matt. 24:3-14) I pray you will seek to grow continually in God's knowledge in spite of how few may go with you, or how tough the road becomes. In these last days, those who truly seek The Lord are becoming fewer and farther apart, as opposed to being in the groups we commonly look at as churches. However we know, just as Noah knew, more important than anything that surrounds us, is finding and following God's instructions in our personal lives. Seek to know Him, and as you do you will find the strength and wisdom to serve Him!

Sincerely,  
Philip E. Busby  
Director  
Living Springs Institute