

# Are you preparing for rain?

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## PASTORAL VIEWS

Have you begun to sense that God is desiring to do something new in our area? Is your pastor conveying this to your congregation? Is your congregation preparing for a fresh move of God? Are you catching a passion for a radical change in your own relationship with Jesus?

The late 1960s and early '70s saw the rise of the hippie movement, which resulted in a group of young people who encountered and came to know Jesus Christ in a personal way as their lord and savior. This fresh move of God became known as the "Jesus Movement." They were sold out to and passionately in love with Jesus. It came through in their music, art and lifestyle. This was not mere religion they had experienced, but a living and vibrant, born-again experience.

Those young people had originally rebelled against hypocrisy in the established institutions of our western society. They were looking for truth and something that embodied reality. Many looked for it in wrong areas: drugs, illicit sex, eastern philosophies and religions, and many other dead-end roads. A remnant of them did find the narrow road that leads to eternal life: Jesus Christ! One could not dispute that something had significantly, radically and authentically transpired in their lives which was easily observed.

Today, we have a generation of young people who have been deceived by the enemy of their souls through numerous vehicles of persuasion: Our present-day culture of relativism and humanism, the filthy and ungodly media that contaminates and warps their world views, gangs instead of intact, God-fearing families, dysfunctional relationships, illicit Web sites, perversion of so many types, and the list goes on and on.

So many of these children have lost their innocence at such early ages like never before in so many ways. They, like their predecessors of four decades ago, are earnestly seeking for truth and reality, the true meaning of life and their existence. They are not only angry at hypocrisy, but they are enraged with life in general and, in some cases, even with God. Imagine what will happen when God gets a hold of their lives and the radical revival that will take place when they have authentically met Jesus and have allowed Him to meet them at their point of need.

We who know Jesus have a tremendous responsibility to this generation. They are the future of the church and Satan knows that as well. When Hitler sought to build his army, he sought out the young boys and brainwashed them, as he had them trained to serve him and his twisted ways. Satan seeks to do the same through countless avenues today. The church needs to prepare to be a catalyst and conduit for God to

use and flow through to reach this generation and all generations who are on this planet at this point in history because each soul has eternal value to his or her creator!

Maybe you have succumbed to sin, guilt, frustration, or been lulled into apathy. This is the time to wake up, stand up, and be counted in God's army. We are in a spiritual war, but we often get so caught up with the cares of this life that we forget that the last page of God's Word says that we WIN! This is not a time to be lethargic and battle-fatigued but, rather, to strengthen and refresh ourselves in the Lord our God.

A farmer plants seeds in faith that rain will come to help them grow and produce a harvest. The body of Jesus Christ needs to plant seeds and do our best with what the Lord has entrusted to us in faith that He will rain His Holy Spirit down upon us and bring a fresh, sweeping change to our area.

One basic, practical, and powerful tool our father has given us is the blessing of communicating with him: Prayer. There is a wonderful opportunity to pray for our city and beyond in order to see God move like never before by banding together with other brothers and sisters in prayer. Many of us will be using a focused prayer guide entitled, "Seek God for the City" that you can obtain through your pastor or [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org). This will take place for 40 days from Ash Wednesday (Feb. 6) through Palm Sunday (March 16).

Are you preparing for rain? Will you prepare for rain? Will you be a vessel for carrying His presence, good news, and light to our dark and sin-sick community? Our God loves everyone in our city and He proved that by the sacrifice of His son on the cross of Calvary. He sacrificed His best for each one of us; can we do anything less for the one who paid the price for our sin, adopted us as His dearly loved and valued children, and guaranteed us life everlasting with Him?

I say, "No!" Our Lord graciously and profoundly invites you to enlist in His army and make a difference for eternity in the lives of many. Let revival begin in the house of God because His children have fallen to their knees and faces in prayer for repentance, revival, and radical change! Let this be the next step in seeing and experiencing a powerful and awesome move of God in Bridgeton and beyond!

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