



# THE FAMILY LEADER FOUNDATION

Strengthening families...

January 2016... It is time!

Pastor,

First, **thank you** for everything you do for God's church. Your job is so challenging, and your work too often goes unnoticed, but we at The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation recognize how much of a difference you make. I am just one of many who would not be who I am today if it were not for the pastors in my life. So, thank you!

## For just such a time as this

I am writing you today because I believe God has put Iowa in a unique place, and the church has an important duty to fulfill. As the Iowa Caucuses approach, I cannot help but wonder ... why is Iowa first in the nation? Why does the world look to us in the race for president?

On one hand, history suggests a mere mistake made Iowa first. The date of the Caucuses was moved to early February in 1972, in part, to accommodate how long it took for mail to travel. Caucus organizers didn't even realize they had made Iowa first in the nation!

On the other hand, it may have been no mistake to God. I truly believe God put us in this position for a reason. I believe He put Iowa - and the church - in this place for this year, 2016.

## America at a turning point

Our country is at an important decision point: **We must decide whether we will repent and return to God or continue running from Him and His ways.** We are at a "T" in the road. Yet this isn't the first time America has been here, and we aren't the only nation to face a similar crisis.

Our nation's path actually lines up with biblical precedent. God sent the prophet Jonah to Assyria's capital city of Nineveh when the nation's sins had "reached Heaven." Yet when the king heard God planned to destroy his city, he ordered his people to put on sackcloth and repent. God spared the city after repentance led by the king.

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150 years later God sent the prophet Nahum to Nineveh again, but this time, the Assyrians had forgotten the hard lessons learned in Jonah's day. No king called the people to repentance ... and God destroyed the city.

In America 150 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln did not believe the great Civil War was merely the consequence of politics or geography. He believed the war was God judging America for its sins, and **he led the nation to repentance**, just like the king in Jonah's day.

On March 30, 1863, Lincoln issued a proclamation that gave birth to the National Day of Prayer:

"We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

And America displayed the fruit of that repentance. By 1870 Americans voted in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which ended slavery and gave black Americans equality under the law and the right to vote. Yet these amendments were all ratified before black Americans could vote themselves. Something happened in America in the 1860s, and it wasn't just political.

## Are we in a Nahum moment?

We are now 150 years since President Lincoln. Do we again believe our blessings were produced on our own? Have we, like Nineveh, forgotten our lesson? Are we in our Nahum moment?

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lead people closer to God or further away

**I believe we are, but it does not have to end the same way.**

God frequently used heads of state in the Bible to draw nations back to Him, like King Hezekiah, King Josiah, and the king of Nineveh after Jonah. Consistently in Scripture we see national leaders do one of two things: lead people closer to God or further away.

## We need to choose well

150 years after Lincoln's day of repentance, America needs a president who will drastically pull hearts back to God. And In Iowa, we are in a unique place to influence America's choice. **But who will wield that influence to select such a president if not the church of Jesus Christ?**

This January, The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation is launching "Caucus 2016 ... It Is Time" to equip Christians to caucus for a candidate with a heart for revival. **This is a non-partisan effort unaffiliated with any candidate.** It will focus instead on biblical teaching that reveals why a godly president matters and on equipping the church to caucus. "Caucus 2016 ... It Is Time" is a 501(c)3 project, which means churches can use it freely under IRS guidelines.

Resources the project makes available to you at [www.TheFamilyLeader.com](http://www.TheFamilyLeader.com) include:

1. Short videos describing the need for a godly president with a heart for revival
2. A one-minute promotional video on why to caucus
3. A "how to caucus" training video
4. A bulletin insert on the Iowa Caucuses
5. A webpage with Iowa Caucus information, including how to find your caucus location



## You are a part of this process

Frankly, pastor, you have more impact on your people than any politician or advertisement. If you can explain how caucusing lines up with biblical admonitions and impacts the Great Commission, people will respond.

Please consider reviewing the Caucus 2016 materials at [www.TheFamilyLeader.com](http://www.TheFamilyLeader.com) and encouraging your congregation to caucus for the spiritual future of our nation and its millions of souls.

We also encourage you to contact us for any reason or need. We are here to help and have resources available for you, to use as you wish.

Thank you so much for your time!

Greg Baker,  
Executive Director of the Church Ambassador Network  
The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation

