



THE FAMILY LEADER

Strengthening families...

APRIL | 2016

Give a reason for the hope that is in you.

~ 1 Peter 3:15

## REVIVAL AT THE CAPITOL

Under the golden dome of the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines, something amazing is happening. The Word of God is being read aloud; prayers and are being offered daily; Bible studies are forming weekly; the gospel of Christ is being shared; hundreds of pastors are coming to counsel and pray for legislators; and several of those pastors have even testified to the truths of God before subcommittees when bills were being considered!

It's no wonder a legislator told The FAMILY LEADER recently he feels the Capitol building is "ripe for revival."

### How did this happen?

God's hand at work was revealed early last year when churches around the state partnered with The FAMILY LEADER Foundation to distribute Founders Bibles to Iowa's lawmakers. Many pastors were among those who delivered the Bibles personally to legislators and officials.

The FAMILY LEADER then began to invest in those relationships, providing lawmakers with weekly devotionals based on the Founders Bibles and inviting pastors to return through the Capitol Project, which welcomes pastors from the same area or denomination to come on the same day to minister to legislators.

"I learned a lot," explained Jack Owens, a pastor at Cornerstone Church in Ames who attended one of the Capitol Project days.

**"We have believers, men and women here daily, trying to hold up the Word of God and influence our legislature."**

"I had never been to the state Capitol building," he confessed. "I had never even met one of my elected officials outside of a campaign speech. This is really eye opening to me. And to find out we have believers, men and women here daily, trying to hold up the Word of God and influence our legislature ... I was amazed."

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### IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

- Revival at the Capitol
- Hope beyond politics
- Let the church arise
- The next battlefront

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

- MAY** Iowa Capitol: End of session '16
- JULY** If 7:14 prayer & repentance
- JULY** The Family Leadership Summit

### PLUG IN TODAY...

- 16,000 people follow us on Facebook. **Do you?** "Like" our page: [facebook.com/TheFamilyLeader](https://www.facebook.com/TheFamilyLeader)
- Over 2,700 people follow us on Twitter. Join the conversation: [@theFAMILYLEADER](https://twitter.com/theFAMILYLEADER)

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## REVIVAL AT THE CAPITOL

Other events began to fall into place this year as well, including a visit from Franklin Graham—which drew over 2,000 people to the Capitol—a public reading of the entire Bible in the Capitol’s Rotunda, a daily prayer gathering, a weekly Bible study, a Holy Week worship service on the Capitol steps, and more.



TFL family advocates and pastors at the Capitol.

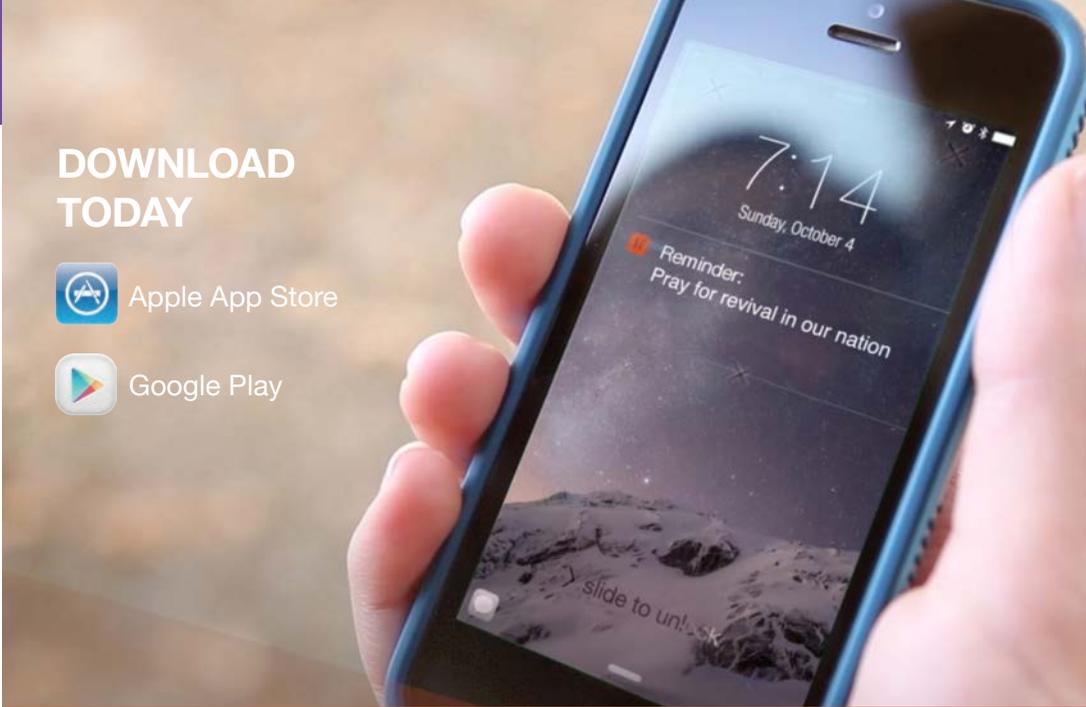
The influence of godly men and women began to make a difference in legislation, too. Encouraged by several groups, including The FAMiLY LEADER advocates and visiting pastors, Republicans and Democrats banded together not once, but twice, to pass legislation combatting the evil of human trafficking in Iowa. And when a bill came forward to legalize doctor-assisted suicide, dozens of pastors and pro-life groups worked together to testify against the misguided law, which was stopped in its tracks.

To this date, The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation has reached over 1,800 Iowa pastors and is looking to schedule at least 300 pastor visits to the Capitol this year. The goal is nothing short of cultural transformation for Christ. A change at the Capitol won’t be enough to accomplish that goal alone, but the biblical pattern is clear: when God moves in the families, the churches, and the government of a nation, we have a word for that: “Revival.” ■



Pastors attend fetal body parts subcommittee.

## DOWNLOAD TODAY



## HOPE BEYOND POLITICS

**At the 2012 Family Leadership Summit, political tensions were high. Attendees were frustrated with President Obama and unhappy with the GOP choice of a challenger. They were disillusioned with the political process and looked to the Summit for hope.**

Yet one by one, speakers Rick Perry, Rick Santorum, Mike Huckabee, and Joel Rosenberg – without any prompting or coordination – all affirmed it was time America put its hope not in man, but in God.

“The only way we can survive,” said Rosenberg, “is if we have revival.”

From that Summit was born the If 7:14 ministry, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

“The only way we can survive is if we have revival.”

“The idea was just to pray,” says Darla Vander Plaats, who today leads If 7:14. “There is power in united prayer, so let’s have everybody on the same page to seek revival.”

That simple idea has now become a movement. Just this year, a free phone app was launched, issuing reminders to pray at 7:14 a.m. and p.m. every day, in every time zone, igniting a global rhythm of united prayer. And the app’s encouraging messages, prayer journal, and devotionals prompt Christians to go deeper and deeper into the cry for revival.

And while you’re reading this, Christian superstar band Newsboys is on a world concert tour, encouraging an estimated 750,000 people to download the app and join the rhythm of prayer.

The world is uniting to pray, in answer to a prayer from Iowa, in response to a God that is bigger than any state. Will you join the If 7:14 call to pray? ■



Joel Rosenberg

“If we beg God as individuals, as families, as congregations... fast, pray... plead with God to apply 2 Chronicles 7:14 to the United States, He might do it.”



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newly designed newsletter highlights only a few of the amazing things you and your support of The FAMILY LEADER have made possible thus far in 2016.

But there is plenty of year left and plenty of opportunities for you to continue making a difference for the cause of Christ in Iowa and beyond.

Your support of The FAMILY LEADER is fueling a call to the nation for repentance and revival. If this year's contentious presidential race has revealed anything, it's that America needs so much more than just "the right person" in office. We have a broken culture in need of healing, in need of God.

And thanks to you, that call to revival has been given a global megaphone. Your giving enabled us to build a prayer app that the Newsboys are enthusiastically taking on their world tour. Over the next 12 months, the Newsboys plan to encourage over 750,000 people to download the app and begin praying for revival twice a day!

Whether it's the If 7:14 global rhythm of prayer, a life-affirming bill at the Capitol, or a pastor who just needs a hand in your backyard, your contributions to The FAMILY LEADER are fueling a cultural transformation for Christ, and I thank you for joining us in this mission.

## LET THE CHURCH ARISE

**In late 2015, The FAMILY LEADER Foundation was stirred to answer a daunting question: Could the sleeping church be awoken to speak to our times?**

To bring a prophetic voice to the king, like Nathan did to David? Would Christians engage their government again?

The statistics in Iowa were grim. Even during the Caucuses - the much-publicized vote that helps determine who will run for president in November - hundreds of thousands of Christians in Iowa alone had a record of staying home. Misunderstandings about the so-called "separation of church and state" had anesthetized the Body of Christ.

But revival cannot spark true cultural transformation unless it finds flame in all three of God's ordained institutions - the family, the church, and the government - so The FAMILY LEADER Foundation, enabled by donors like you, engaged in a fervent campaign to awaken the church.

Our hope was to stir 20-30,000 more Christians to see the need, catch the fire, and make their voices heard.

The strategy was multi-pronged: A "Caucus 2016... It Is Time" video that

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## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### ■ PRAY

So many Christians have grown cold to the power of prayer. Would you ask God that If 7:14 would be a wake-up call to the Body of Christ? And if you haven't downloaded the app for yourself yet, visit [www.if714.com](http://www.if714.com) today!

### ■ IMPACT IOWA

Did you know many Iowans just like you are getting weekly updates on what's happening at the Capitol? That many are calling and emailing legislators, actively influencing the bills and laws passed in our state? If you'd like to know how YOU can make a difference, email "sign me up" to [info@TheFamilyLeader.com](mailto:info@TheFamilyLeader.com), and we'll add you to the team with a single, weekly email.

### ■ SHARE YOUR STORY

We want to hear from YOU. We want to hear stories of God at work reviving real people, real churches, real communities around you. We'd also love to hear how the If 7:14 prayer app is blessing you or someone you know! Your response may even be published in our next newsletter. **Send 100 words or less to [info@TheFamilyLeader.com](mailto:info@TheFamilyLeader.com) or mail to the address on the back page.**



For the family,

Bob Vander Plaats  
President & CEO

### FUEL THE MISSION...

**Please send your very best contribution to The FAMILY LEADER with a gift of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, or \$2500 using the enclosed response envelope, or go to [TheFamilyLeader.com](http://TheFamilyLeader.com) right now and make a secure online donation. Thank you!**

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## LET THE CHURCH ARISE

would call Christians to faithfully steward the God-given gift of self-government, a website with directions on how to caucus and support materials, social media, radio ads, and a team dedicated to encouraging churches to pray, discern, and get involved.

“850 churches stepped up like never before to encourage Christians to engage in government.”

By Caucus Night, over 1,400 Iowa churches had been contacted. Our team had spoken directly to over 800 Iowa pastors. Tens of thousands had watched the video. Millions had heard the message through social media. And The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation had equipped leaders to awaken the church.

“Bulletin inserts, a PowerPoint slide, videos, directions on where to caucus,” summarized Pastor Philip Herman of Fellowship Community Church in Norwalk. “All those things were really helpful, just exactly the tools we needed to do the proper education of our people.”



Record turnout at a Iowa Caucus location.

In the end, over 850 churches stepped up like never before to encourage Christians to engage in government. Over 60,000 people visited the “Caucus 2016... It Is Time” website.

And according to the Washington Post, Iowa’s record turnout in the 2016 Caucuses was actually fueled by Christians. Not by the 20-30,000 more we had hoped for... but over 50,000 more Christians engaged in 2016 than in 2012! ■



## THE NEXT BATTLEFRONT

**An Iowa legislator did something very rare this spring. He called a meeting with supporters and reporters to generate publicity on a bill already dead. The goal of his tactic was clear: By this time next year, he wants doctor-assisted suicide legalized.**

Ten years ago, the legislator’s ploy would have been an effective step toward passing one more piece of life-destroying legislation. But not anymore.

Thanks to your continued support, The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation’s Capitol Project (see the front-page article of this newsletter), and the help of like-minded organizations in Iowa, the legislator didn’t get to fill the paper with glowing, one-sided testimony. Instead, medical professionals and pastors responded quickly to also attend the surprising meeting.

“This isn’t about giving patients the right to die,” testified Dr. Bruce Van Houweling, Iowa director of the American Academy of Medical Ethics. “It is about giving doctors the right to kill.”

“Furthermore, if a patient facing a terminal illness is allowed to commit suicide,” he continued, “why not a person enduring a long-term chronic illness, a person suffering with a psychiatric disorder, and why not end the life of a newborn that faces a lifetime of medical problems?”

Pastor Michael Demastus of Fort Des Moines Church of Christ affirmed no matter how difficult a person’s life might

become, they are still valuable and worth protecting.

“Approving self-murder as a legal option in the state cannot cure, comfort, or encourage anyone: It can only enforce the lie that killing is an acceptable solution,” he said. “If we claim that death is the answer to certain circumstances, we are inviting the choice of death in any circumstance.”

Thankfully, the bill was defeated. Capitol Project pastors actually testified against it twice and were critical to the bill’s defeat.

But know this: Those advocating what they call “death with dignity” are not going to rest until doctors can legally prescribe medication that kills their patients. It will be talked about in the media. It will be debated again next year. It is the next battlefield in the war on life. ■



Pastor Demastus joins TFL at the hearing.



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