



**Flames of Hope Where There Were Flames of Hate**

Dear praying friend,

Today I talked by phone with a pastor of a community in the deep south. His city is where some of the most notable events of racial tension took place decades ago. He had already distributed hundreds of copies of Seek God for the City to more than a dozen churches from several denominations. He was calling to order more.

He told me, "I think God's Spirit is about to come with an awakening."

To which I said, "Yes! He is. And that's true primarily because God has promised — not so much because we have prayed. But praying the scriptures together is just about the only way for many to share a vision of hope and to fuel a flame of love for our Lord."

He went on to tell me that some native American Christians were joining in with the white and black churches. He needed extra copies because he was seeing more interest in united prayer than he thought at first.

When people realize that Seek God 2017 is not just a devotional for personal prayer, but instead, they are prayers from—and for—the entire community, that's when people become excited to pray. They realize that we're going to pray differently than we usually do.

This is just one of many stories we've been hearing of God inspiring praying in great hope for Christ's glory in our communities. When people hope, they pray. When people pray God's promise, they hope.

Yours for Christ's greater glory!

Steve Hawthorne

**Copies of this  
40-Day Prayer Guide  
are available at our back  
table in the narthex.**



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