

CRY OUT AMERICA! 9/11 PRAYER EVENT

PRESENTATION SCRIPT [Approx. 40-45 minutes]

Resource: As people arrive, a program will be distributed with the following information for audience participation. The program contains the following:

- *America*
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Prayer of Repentance
- The Lord's Prayer
- *America, the Beautiful*
- *Battle Hymn of the Republic*
- *God Bless America*
- Program Participants

Music package prelude: 11:30 – 12:00 (patriotic/gospel)

PROGRAM START: 12:00 noon

Welcome/Introductions

- Presenter: _____

➤ **Welcome**

Welcome to the [**County Name**] County Cry Out America 9/11 prayer gathering! I am [**personal introduction**]. On behalf of the planning team, thank you for joining us for this cross-denominational, non-partisan time of prayer together. I am pleased to announce that similar county prayer gatherings have taken, are taking place, and will take place today in all 50 states, from the Hawaiian Islands to Alaska and across the mainland from coast to coast. We thank God for that!

Though we face challenges as a nation, I am so thankful and proud to be a citizen of the United States of America! Ours is a great nation, a nation worth fighting for and a nation worth praying for. It's for the latter cause—to pray—that we have gathered here today. There are serious moral and spiritual needs in both our nation and in the Church today. There is great need for the Church to be the influence that it must be in our culture so that those needs can be addressed biblically in a spirit of love and compassion.

In a period when the nation of Israel and God's people faced great moral and spiritual challenges, the prophet Joel wrote this prescription:

***“Declare a holy fast;
call a sacred assembly.
Summon the elders
and all who live in the land
to the house of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.”
(Joel 1:14, NIV)***

Today we have gathered at our county courthouse, a seat of authority and justice in this county and symbolic of those important issues across the nation. We will be calling out to God for a Christ-awakening to come to our county, our cities, our state, our nation, and to the Church. Your participation here today is deeply appreciated and indicates your concern for the challenges we face in this nation. We believe that as we gather for prayer, along with many others across the nation, that a tremendous awakening will be kindled that will have impact far beyond the hour spent here, but for a long time to come.

➤ **Special Thanks/Introductions**

[Acknowledge county and city officials, and other special guests]

I also want to express thanks to the members of the Cry Out America Planning Team that have provided such tremendous input and assistance in putting together this gathering today. Members of the team include: **[Acknowledge Planning Team members]**

We also are very honored to have the following special guests who also will participate in today's prayer event: **[Acknowledge guest program participants]**

We are grateful for the involvement of each of these individuals. Each participant is noted on your program. As the various prayers and readings are presented during our time together, each will come in turn without further introduction.

➤ **Purpose**

- Presenter: _____

Our gathering here today will not be a time of celebration. Certainly there is a place for that; but our purpose today is to give honest and solemn reflection as to the deep

spiritual needs in our nation. These needs touch us all at all levels of society, at all levels of government, at all levels and branches of the Church.

Five purposes have been outlined for the Cry Out America prayer gathering. These purposes are...

1. To raise awareness of the deep spiritual need of the Church and our nation;
2. To seek God's forgiveness and outpouring of His Spirit in sweeping revival in the Church
3. To seek God's intervention in our nation to reverse our worsening moral decline and convert the lost.
4. To unite believers in our communities in intense and intentional prayer toward those ends.
5. To lay a foundation for continued local efforts toward united prayer and evangelism.

To these ends we have gathered here today from all walks of life and from various churches. Yet we are united around a common cause: to seek God's help. Let's believe together that this will be only the beginning of what God can and will do through our united faith, prayers, and efforts.

Recognizing, first, that our allegiance is to both God and country, **[participant name]**, is coming to open our gathering with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **[participant name]**.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AMERICA

➤ **Invocation**

O, Lord God, we thank You for the privilege we have in this nation to assemble freely to pray. We do not take for granted the rights and privileges we enjoy as citizens of this great land. And as Your people, the Church, we thank You for the opportunity to stand collectively as members of the Body of Christ to seek Your aid and intervention both for the Church and for our nation. May our time together be hallowed by Your holy presence.

In the strong name of Your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance** (audience participation)

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

[Song, "America," audience participation]

In keeping with our focus on God and country, we will sing two verses of the well-known patriotic hymn, “America.”

➤ **Song: “America”**

○ [Musicians/song leader]: _____

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing: Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From ev'ry mountainside, Let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might. Great God, our King!

9/11 COMMEMORATION

Presenter: _____

In all likelihood, everyone here today can remember exactly where you were and what you were doing on this day, 8 years ago, when you first heard news of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and the crash of United Flight 93. Like Pearl Harbor, 9/11 is a day that will live in infamy in the memories of us all. And today it is fitting that we pause to honor the memory of those who perished, both in the attacks and in the heroic efforts to save lives on that awful day. May we take a moment of silence and pray in our hearts particularly for those who still suffer with grief and loss.

[Moment of silent prayer]

We pray, O God, for those who risked so much and lost so much on that tragic day. We pray that your sustaining grace will undergird those who still hurt on this 8-year anniversary. Thank You for Your love, grace, and mercy toward them; and we ask that Your hand of protection remain upon our land in these challenging times. Amen.

OUR PRESENT CRISIS

➤ Presenter: _____

Today we have gathered to address a crisis of another kind—not a crisis of external attack, but an internal crisis—a moral and spiritual decay that is undermining and eroding the biblical foundations upon which this great nation was founded, softening and weakening the moral fiber that once strengthened us as a nation under God.

In addressing the concerns of our nation in prayer, we must recognize that the Church, the body of Christ, bears a tremendous load of responsibility in providing moral and

spiritual guidance for our nation. Regrettably, in many ways we have fallen short and have failed to have the impact on our culture that we should.

- Ease, complacency, and tolerance have replaced righteous fervor, bold witness, and godly example.
- A bold proclamation of the gospel has been muted in deference to political correctness.
- Celebration has trumped hearing God's Word and seeking His aid through earnest prayer and intercession.
- Personal and corporate witness has been silenced by fear of what others might think.
- Standards of holy living have been diluted by accommodating a postmodern, anything-goes morality

In view of this, we must deal openly and honestly with our need for repentance and forgiveness. In order for the Church to have the impact we must have on our culture, renewal and awakening must first come to the house of God.

- The Church is God's agency in this world to convey the promises and commands of His Word to each generation.
- The Church is to provide a voice of authority and guidance; to warn against departure from the moral absolutes and ethical precepts of God's Word.
- Each believer individually and the Church collectively must be an example of godly character and righteousness.
- We are to be salt and light, serving both as a preservative against moral decay and light to shine through spiritual darkness.

May we be reminded again of the oft-quoted words of 2 Chronicles 7:14. You have the text of that verse in your program, so **please read or recite in unison with me this important instruction from God's Word.**

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Until this prescription is followed by the people called by His name, healing cannot come. So we are here, as the Church and as citizens of this great nation, to openly and honestly ask God to forgive us of our sins and shortcomings and to breathe new life into us, His Body, so that we will influence our culture with good and righteousness. In so doing, may we provide compelling reason for many people to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Prayer of Repentance: Daniel 9:4ff.

➤ Presenter: _____

In a time of Israel's moral and spiritual decline, the prophet Daniel, with great humility, interceded for God's people and for his nation. His prayer of intercession is recorded in Daniel chapter 9. May we apply this intercession to our day and make it our prayer as well. Daniel, as recorded in chapter 9 verse 3, "set [his] face unto the Lord God, to make request by prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."

Please join me in Daniel's prayer of intercession, a Scripture prayer of repentance:

"O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame...because of the unfaithfulness...committed against You.

Incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see...we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name" (NKJV).

CHURCH PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

○ Presenter: _____

As we consider our responsibilities as a Church today, we recognize our need, as did Daniel, to pray our own prayer of confession and contrition. In your program is a Prayer of Repentance.

Please read in unison with me the portions in boldface type in your program.

Let us pray...

Gracious and patient God, we, the Church, confess our reluctance to enter the wilderness places of our land, dark and evil places, dangerous and disoriented places. We confess that we avoid danger; that we drive around the slums. We confess our tendency to prefer the safe places of our homes and our quiet neighborhoods.

Forgive us for failing to be salt and light. Forgive us for staying in the salt-shaker, for fashioning our churches to serve us rather than others.

We confess our tendency to focus only on the idea that you love us. We thank you that you are reminding us that our renewed status in Christ should not isolate us from those

who do not yet know your love. Rather, it should cause us to invade the dark and depressed places around us with love and light, with joy and care.

Forgive us, God, for receiving your unconditional love without being transformed into loving people who give that love away to the most powerless among us. Forgive us, and love through us.

We confess that on our watch, the nation is being lost. That we have been far too silent, too passive, too disengaged. We confess a sense of being overwhelmed by the rapidness of cultural change. We confess that we are disturbed by the moral and spiritual state of the nation. We are alarmed for the next generation.

Forgive us, God, for the sin of failing to act. Forgive us and have mercy on us. Have mercy on our land. Have mercy on the generation of our children. Heal our land. Send a revival – a nation-changing spiritual and moral renewal.

*The only route to renewal and national revival is to acknowledge our wrong and have the courage to change. Therefore, **We repent.***

*For the failure to protect the unborn, **We repent.***

*For the legal and legislative attack on the family, the failure of our own homes in the church, **We repent.***

*For the easy access to drugs and mind-bending chemicals, **We repent.***

*For schools without prayer and Biblical values, **We repent.***

*For music and art, for entertainment values so void of moral substance, **We repent.***

Forgive us, O God, and increase our capacity to actively and openly trust in you. Amen.

- **Scripture Prayer: The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV)** (audience in unison)
 - Presenter: _____

Let us take time together to pray The Lord's Prayer in unison as we reflect upon our responsibility as individual believers and as the Church to accomplish God's will in this world. ***[Ask audience to read/recite in unison The Lord's Prayer, per the printed program]***

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our

debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

FOCUS ON OUR NATION

➤ Presenter: _____

As we focus our prayers upon Greene County, our state, and our nation, may we reflect first upon the greatness of our nation, its grandeur, and the bountiful blessings we enjoy as its citizens. Join in singing “*America, the Beautiful*,” as [song leader name/names] lead us.

➤ **Song: “*America, the Beautiful*” [audience participation]**

○ Presenter(s): _____

**O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!**

While we do indeed enjoy great blessings in this land, we cry out to God today for a Christ awakening across America. We pray that God indeed will continue to shed His grace upon our land. His blessing, however, does come with condition. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (NIV). Psalm 33:12 declares, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD” (NIV).

Regrettably, many evils plague our land today:

- crime and violence
- sexual promiscuity and perversion
- drug and alcohol addiction
- strained marital and family relationships
- entertainment void of moral, biblical principles

These evils have resulted in:

- fractured lives and homes
- dysfunctional families
- overcrowded prisons
- increasing poverty
- disregard for authority
- denial of moral absolutes
- disregard for the sanctity of human life

Only a sovereign move of God will bring about needed transformation. While ours is indeed a great nation, a bastion of political, religious, and economic freedom, the soul

of our nation is in serious jeopardy. Therefore, we are here to pray for a spiritual awakening that will bring spiritual renewal and healing through Christ's transforming intervention, mercy, and saving grace.

➤ **Historical readings**

- Presenter: _____

Early in our history, and leading into the present generation, many great leaders of our nation have acknowledged God's sovereignty and the need to align our lives with His Word and will. It is fitting for us, on this occasion, to hear their words.

[Patriotic music playing in background]

- Presenter: _____
 - **"It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here." –Patrick Henry**
- Presenter: _____
 - **"The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained."**

"It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness..." –President George Washington
- Presenter: _____
 - **"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." –President Thomas Jefferson**
- Presenter: _____
 - **"We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. Where we have been the truest and most consistent in obeying its precepts, we have**

**attained the greatest measure of contentment and prosperity.”
–President Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

- Presenter: _____
 - **"Sometimes it seems we've strayed from our convictions that standards of right and wrong do exist and must be lived up to. God, the source of our knowledge, has been expelled from the classroom. He gives us His greatest blessing, life, and yet many would condone the taking of innocent life. We expect Him to protect us in crises, but turn away from Him too often in our day-to-day living. I wonder if He isn't waiting for us to wake up."
–President Ronald Reagan**

PRAYER FOR THE SOUL AND WELL-BEING OF OUR NATION, STATE, AND COUNTY

➤ Presenter: _____

It is time, as a nation, to awaken to our need for God’s help and intervention. As citizens of this great nation, state, and county, **please join me in a prayer for the soul and well-being of this land.**

*O God, we have been reminded of the shortcomings and sins as Your people and as a nation; we have prayed the prayer of the prophet Daniel and we have confessed our sins and have sought Your mercy; we have listened to the words of great national leaders, reminding us of the importance of seeking Your aid, living according to Your Word, and obeying its precepts. Now, O God, we ask that a new realization of our need of You and for Your help and divine presence would sweep across **[name of county]**, across the State of **[name of state]**, and across the United States of America. May a hunger for You and Your righteousness be awakened in our hearts. May we as a nation humbly confess our sins and ask for Your mercy and forgiveness; and may we align our lives according to Your Word and will. In so doing, may we, as one nation under God, continue to be a bastion of freedom, peace, hope, and blessing to all who call this dear land home, and to all the world.*

We pray for our present national leaders, for our president, vice president, the Cabinet, the Senate, House, and our Judiciary. We pray that a powerful awakening will happen in their hearts and minds as they consider their need of Your direction and wisdom in giving leadership to our nation. May we, Your people, exercise our political freedom at the polls and be careful to pray for all our elected officials, keeping them before You constantly.

*O Lord, we pray also for the great State of **[name of state]**. We thank You for the many resources and opportunities for commerce, education, industry, and personal enjoyment this state affords us. We pray for **[state governor]** that You will give him/her guidance*

and wisdom as he/she gives executive leadership to the affairs of this great state. We pray for all levels of state administration, asking that Your blessing and favor will rest upon their efforts as they look to You for guidance and direction. We pray that a Christ awakening will take place across the citizenry of this state, causing many to look to You as their source of hope and help in all aspects of life.

*And now, O Lord, we pray also for our leaders here in **[name of county]**. We thank You for them. We pray for our county administrators and staff, our city administrators, city councils, our courts, law enforcement, and emergency management personnel. We pray for your guidance, wisdom, and protection as they lead and direct the various programs and services within this county and its cities and towns. We pray for all our fellow citizens who reside in **[name of county]** and the concerns and challenges we face together.*

*We pray for a Christ awakening that would dispel the darkness of **[concerns impacting the county]**. We pray for those caught in economic hardship due to our struggling national economy. We thank You that we can trust in Your great mercy and grace to help us though these challenges. May we learn to look to You always and not only within ourselves for the wisdom and strength to move forward with Your blessing, as a county, as a nation, and as Your Church. Amen.*

THE SPIRITUALLY LOST

Presenter: _____



Many people here in **[name of county]**, our state, and across our nation are spiritually lost. Foundational to the healing of our county, state, and nation is the spiritual healing of individual persons who occupy these territories. Jesus' entire mission on earth is summed up in a single statement in Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (NIV). He commissioned His Church to this task when He commanded us to, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV). His reason was straightforward: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (verse 16).

Helping people find Christ as Lord and Savior is the ultimate goal of a Christ awakening in our culture. As the hearts of citizens are turned to Christ, the plague of sin perpetuated by unrighteousness will be reversed. Standards of holy living will permeate our culture, affecting change for right and righteousness at all levels of society. To those ends we pray.

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUALLY LOST

➤ Presenter: _____

Please join me in a prayer for the spiritually lost.

O Lord, help us to realize that our reason for being as individual believers and as a Church is to bring people to You. We thank You, O Lord, for coming to this earth to show us the way to heaven and for giving Your life as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross. Thank You for paying the penalty for our sins and for making it possible for us to receive forgiveness of our sins by confessing them to You. Thank You for the joy that comes through a close, personal relationship with You day by day.

May we intentionally pray and intercede for the spiritually lost, and actively take opportunities to share our faith with them and live exemplary lives before them. Help us in our connections with the lost to speak truth in love, being sensitive to their circumstances, yet being bold and confident in sharing our faith journey with them.

We thank You that You came to “preach the good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...to release the oppressed” (Luke 4:18, NIV). Help us to redemptively reach out to people often marginalized by society: those disadvantaged by poverty, trapped by life-controlling circumstances, bound by addictions, limited by disabilities or other issues wrongfully used to judge human worth and dignity. Help us to see all people as You see them, as sheep in need of a Shepherd, as Your creations worthy of Your love and acceptance, and as people entitled to all the rights and privileges of being part of Your family. May we also embrace with the love of Christ people of all races and ethnic origins, for all are precious in Your sight.

Thank You for reaching into our lives with Your redemptive grace. May we return Your love by sharing it with others and helping them also come to You. Amen.

CONCLUDING SONGS/PRAYER

- **Song, “Battle Hymn of the Republic” [audience participation]**
 - Presenters: _____

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me; As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free, While God is marching on.

[Chorus] Glory! Glory, hallelujah! Glory! Glory, hallelujah! Glory! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

- **Song: “God Bless America!” [audience participation]**

○ Presenters: _____

**God bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home.**

God bless America, my home...sweet...home!

➤ **Closing Remarks/Benediction**

○ Presenter: _____

Concluding Remarks

Benediction

O God, we thank You for this day and for this occasion to gather as the Body of Christ to pray for our nation and the Church. May the concluding moments of this gathering signal the beginning of our renewed commitment as followers of Jesus Christ and citizens of this great county, state, and nation to be carriers of Your presence and influence the culture around us for good and righteousness. We thank You for the enablement You provide to be Your representatives to the world around us. Amen.

Thank you for coming today. God bless you, and God bless America!

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