

CAMPUS AMERICA

“Wisdom rests not in the revelation but in the timing.”

INTRODUCTION

The Campus America vision began with a clear word from God spoken simultaneously (in the early hours of Sunday, January 23rd, 2005) to Pete Greig, co-founder of the 24-7 Prayer network, and to David Blackwell, who co-leads the 24-7 movement in the USA: “Campus America,” said the voice, jolting Pete awake. “Call Campus America to pray!” Meanwhile, David Blackwell was receiving a dream about a friend from high school who had died of a drugs overdose. In the dream the young man was alive, dressed in college football gear but vacant and lethargic. However, as David stirred his old friend to action, a voice spoke saying: “It’s time to call the dead to get into the game”. (A fuller account of this remarkable episode is included below.)

*“Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”
(Ephesians 5:14)*

24-7 Prayer, of which both David Blackwell and Pete Greig are leaders, is an international, interdenominational prayer and missions movement which began with a single prayer room in England in 1999 and has since spread to establish night-and-day prayer watches in more than a third of the nations on earth.

From Pete Greig

It was – for the record – on a trip that David Blackwell and I took to Redding, California that God spoke to us about mobilizing prayer on campuses in America. I’ve transcribed below our original record from my journal:

- 2am In our hotel room in Redding, CA, David sits up in bed, bolt upright, and says (in his sleep): “Do you have the intimacy part? My hands are burning.” This, he later explains, must have been a reference to a moment during the previous afternoon when Banning called people from campuses forward for prayer and, as he did so, David’s hands began to feel like they were burning. This continued right through my subsequent talk.
- 6am I wake up buzzing with God speaking to me, “Campus America, call campus America to pray.” I go down to the foyer and begin journalling – it’s as if God is speaking directly to me – a strategy for mobilizing movements of prayer on every campus in America. This includes the Isaiah 60-62 piece (see below) and the idea of an exit strategy as people leave prayer rooms having met with God, plugging them into areas of training and mobilization
- 7:45am In the shower God speaks to me and simply says, “David’s had a dream.” I leave the bathroom and find him awake and journalling furiously. I ask him if God gave him a dream last night, and he replies that he had four dreams that were significant. David writes out one of them:

I was just coming out of a church service and knew there was a college football game about to start. I entered into a lobby area and could see the football players dressed in their pads and ready to play. I noticed this one guy standing alone and knew it was my old friend from high school, Donni West. (Donni died during our senior year.) Donni, however, seemed disinterested and very unprepared to play this game. I started asking him basic questions about the game and his role to play in it, in effort to stimulate him toward readiness. Slowly, he became alive and mentally prepared to play the football game.

Immediately as I awoke, I was thinking about Donni West and I felt the Lord say, "It's time to call the dead to get into the game." It was as though God was challenging me to wake university students up from the dead, to come alive and to fully participate.

For two years, we have kept quiet about this, seeking God's timing and the counsel of seasoned Christian leaders before we moved forward. Meanwhile, the conviction has grown in our hearts and the Lord has given us some key relationships while multiplying mini-movements of prayer on many campuses in a number of U.S. states. For instance, after witnessing 70 (???)53 days of non-stop prayer at America's largest university - Arizona State University – in which more than 400 students and 7 campus ministries all worked together, one campus minister was moved close to tears. "I've been praying and longing to see this kind of stirring on this campus for almost forty years," he said. Something unprecedented in our time is undoubtedly stirring. Now, at last, we believe that the timing seems right to become more intentional and public in obeying Christ's specific word: "*Campus America; Call Campus America to prayer*". Perhaps we can summarize the vision like this:

The Campus America vision

Our vision is to create an opportunity for every student in America to experience the presence of Jesus, through a season of night-and-day prayer on every campus in the USA in a single year. We desire to channel the prayer and encounters with Jesus outwards into a lifelong commitment into Mission, Mercy, and the Marketplace.

The Mandate: Isaiah 60

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come...
See darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you...
Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you."*

Yes, we believe that it is time for our generation to 'arise and shine' in the thick darkness; it's time to wake the dead. Such a reviving work invariably begins, as it always has done, in Christ's presence with passionate, persevering prayer. In obedience to what we believe to have been God's call, we are therefore sounding the trumpet and calling the students of this great nation to give ourselves to prayer. Of course, all prayer is valuable. No prayer is ever wasted. However, if just one in every ten campus prayer rooms was to experience a visitation of the Holy Spirit, this would represent a stirring of the nation's students more wide-spread than that experienced even at the height of the Jesus movement in the 1970's. Right now, the momentum is already growing dramatically as we prepare to go public with the Campus America vision.

As it says in the movie Wayne's World, "Book the bands and they will come!" In other words, when we sound the trumpet, we believe that this vision will quickly spread, through the grassroots groundswell that is already building, catalyzed by a series of gatherings and a system of regional and state leaders who champion the vision to every university.

INVITATION

Is God calling you to be part of this Campus America movement? We need Simeons and Annas who will pray for us, we need business leaders who will sponsor us. We need people with organizational skills at both a local and national level, we need state and regional leaders, musicians, artists, journalists, web-designers, and most of all, we need students to come on-board, bring their friends and spread the word. Together we can make history. We need you!

Isaiah 61: The Mission

*“Good news to the poor...
the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Our mission is to mobilize prayer *for a reason*: to grow in our love for God, for each other, and for the world. We will focus the prayer rooms outward onto the plight of the world (the campus, the city, the nation and the nations), and we will seek to use the prayer rooms as a launch-pad for mobilizing this generation to dedicate their lives to make a positive difference in the world. We have seen that prayer rooms can spring up on campuses and have a wonderful impact, but afterwards the question is always, “What now?” It is important, therefore, that we channel the unity, the prayer, and the encounters with Jesus outward into a lifelong commitment.

Isaiah 62: The Model

*Watchmen on your walls...Prayer - they will never be silent...
Workers on the way – Practical - removing the stones and raising the banner*

The model we are familiar with: Night-and-day, persevering prayer in a fixed location, motivated by a passion for the people of God (vv1-2). This leads the watchmen to leave the walls and pass through the gates of the holy city so as to prepare the way of the Lord and to make the city of God visible and accessible.