

Introduction: 40 Days to Raise the Canopy of Prayer

May 25 - July 3rd, 2026

There are moments when God begins to stir hearts, awaken urgency, and call His people to attention. I believe we are in one of those moments. As it is written, “*Blow the trumpet in Zion. Consecrate a fast. Call a sacred assembly*” (Joel 2:15). This is not a casual invitation; it is a divine call.

While Rachel and I were in Washington, D.C. during America Reads the Bible, the week of April 18–25, the Lord met me in a profound way through two distinct dreams. The first was deeply personal—a clear admonition to carry the dreams of my spiritual fathers, to not let what has been entrusted fall to the ground, but to steward it faithfully in this generation. It was a call to pick up the mantle and continue forward with obedience and resolve.

The second dream, however, carried a weight that extended beyond myself. In the dream, I was with my sons, calling a sheriff in Waco, Tx, McLennan County. There was urgency in the conversation. The sheriff raised objections and concerns about my request for prayer gatherings to take place at the fairgrounds during the summer months, but something in me would not yield. With conviction rising in my spirit, I responded again and again, “But we must pray. Above all else we must pray. We must put up the canopy of prayer.” The setting felt like a time of crisis, with the fairgrounds functioning as staging areas for relief efforts. Yet even in the midst of activity and preparation, something essential was missing—prayer. That absence was undeniable, and the urgency to restore it became overwhelming.

When I awoke, the Lord spoke clearly to my heart that we are entering a specific window of time—a 40-day season where I am called to champion prayer with fresh urgency, especially as we approach the 250-year anniversary of our nation. There is a convergence of significant events during this time. On May 17, our nation experienced a rededication to God, something that had not occurred since George Washington dedicated the nation on May 17, 1789 at St. Paul's Chapel. At the same time, the nations of the earth are coming to North America for the World Cup, with a unique concentration in Dallas, where nine games will be held at AT&T Stadium. Then, on July 4, we will mark the 250th anniversary of our nation, alongside a unified call known as America Prays 250, believing for 1,000 churches across America to gather in prayer, dedicating our land under the covering of intercession.

Scripture reminds us, “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray...*” (2 Chronicles 7:14). This is our moment to respond to that invitation. From May 25 to July 3, United Cry is inviting you to join us in 40 days of prayer and fasting. This is not simply a devotional rhythm; it is a season of preparation—preparing our hearts, our homes, and our nation for what God desires to release.

Each morning at 6:00 AM, we will gather for 30 minutes on Zoom to seek the Lord together, and each day a devotional will be sent out to anchor us in Scripture and focus our prayers. As it is

written, *“Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God”* (Isaiah 40:3). We believe these days are meant to prepare the way—for awakening, for harvest, and for a fresh move of God across our land.

The fire on the altar must not go out. *“The fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out”* (Leviticus 6:13). This 40-day journey is an invitation to tend that fire again, to build and sustain a canopy of prayer over our lives and our nation.

I truly believe these are days unlike any other—a sacred window. The words from the dream continue to echo in my spirit: above all else, we must pray. So I invite you to say yes to this call. Together, let us raise a canopy of prayer and prepare the way of the Lord.

To God be the glory.