

Community Hopes Prayer Meeting Will Spur U.S. Revival

Written by {ga=patrick}

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By **Patrick Butler** | ResonateNews.com

LINDALE, Texas — When Texas Gov. Rick Perry called for pastors to plan “The Response,” — a huge prayer meeting in Houston last August — organizers hoped smaller community prayer rallies would pop up across the nation.

Some of that hope will be fulfilled in Lindale from 9:30 a.m to 1 p.m. Saturday when the second Church United in Prayer community meeting will be held by a coalition of Lindale-area churches and ministries. Lindale Mayor Robert Nelson, school Superintendent Stan Surrat and Barham Fulmer, president of Lindale Southside Bank will help lead prayers for the Lindale community at the meeting.

The event's purpose is to continue the prayer-petition effort for the nation, state and local communities that The Response began nearly a year ago, Church United in Prayer, or CUP, organizers said.

“The reason we are coming together as a group of local churches and believers is that now, more than ever, this nation and our community needs prayer,” said the Rev. Steven Charles, a Lindale CUP event organizer who attended The Response in Houston. “There is more power in prayer when we take time to lay aside our denominational differences and unite to call out to God to come bless our land. Prayer is powerful because it touches God. He hears and he answers. He acts.”

The Lindale event follows the first CUP meeting held in Garden Valley in January and attended by about 1,100 people from various churches. A third community prayer event is scheduled for Tyler churches on Oct. 29 at Green Acres Baptist Church, which hosted The Response live via a Web cast.

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The biblical theme for the Church United in Prayer events in Lindale and Garden Valley is taken from 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray pray ... then I will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land."

The nearly four-hour prayer gathering will be hosted at – but not led by – the Fellowship of Prairie Creek, 2401 S. Main St., in Lindale. Leadership of Saturday's prayer focus will be provided in 30-minute segments by heads of various Lindale-area ministries Charles said.

"Every church and all people are welcome to participate on this morning of prayer," Charles said. "We understand this is nearly four hours on a Saturday, but people can come and go as their schedule allows."

At 10 a.m. The prayer focus will be personal repentance, coordinated by the Rev. Philip Dillon, former senior pastor of Church of the Living Hope. At 10:30 a.m. corporate repentance will be coordinated by Brian Johnson of the Abba Justice ministry.

At 11 a.m. Nelson, Surrat and Fulmer will join the Rev. Phil Brown of Lindale's River's Edge Church to pray for city officials, school administrators, teachers and students. A Lindale police officer will offer prayers for local law enforcement. The Rev. Joe Fauss of Lindale's Calvary Commission will coordinate prayers at 11:30 a.m. for local churches, minorities living in the Lindale area, the homeless and those caught in addictions. At noon, the Rev. Steven and Camilla Charles of Prairie Creek will offer prayers for the nation, with an emphasis on revival. A special "Children's prayer hour" from 10 to 11 a.m will be led by a coalition of children's ministers from local churches in a separate room, Charles said.

The Rev. Doug Stringer of Somebody Cares America and the Houston host of The Response said he was happy to hear of the Lindale meetings.

"It is encouraging to see so many gatherings of humble and desperate prayer spring up across the nation," Stringer said. "Those of us involved in hosting The Response knew how critical it was for our nation to have a heavenly intervention in such challenging times. Yet, as the National Mobilization Coordinator and Houston Host, I had no idea it would spark so many responses to The Response."

The Church United in Prayer is free and no offerings will be taken, said Charles. Visit the Web at www.churchunitedinprayer.com for more information or on face book at www.facebook.com/ChurchUnitedInPrayer.

Photo By: Raymond Billy

Children paint pieces inspired by prayers offered during the Church United in Prayer event at Community Christian Fellowship, a Lindale, Texas, church, in January.