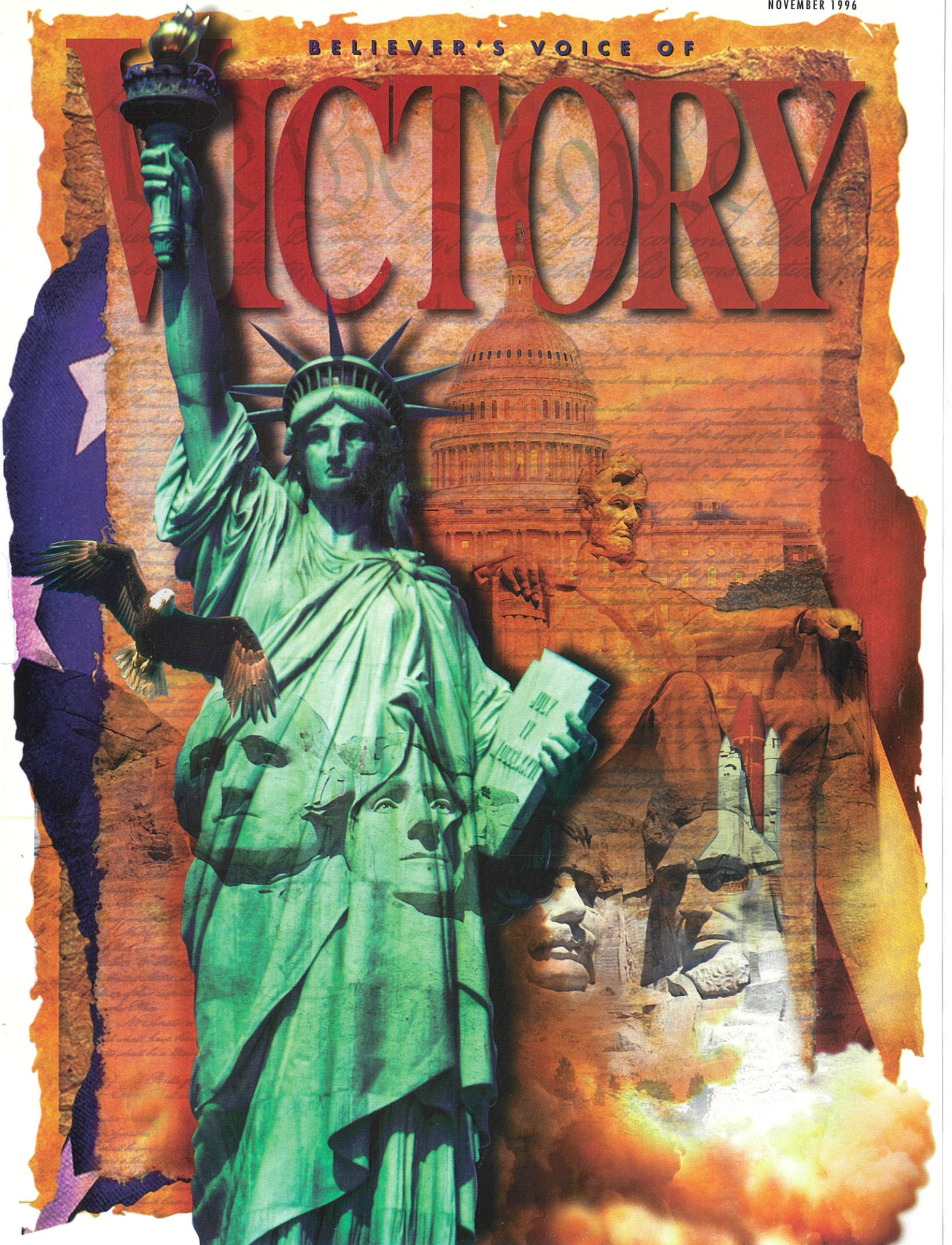


BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY





B Y M E L A N I E H E M R Y

AS POLICE HELICOPTERS hovered over the campus of Stanford University in the fall of 1969 beaming their lights on the mob below, Jeff Wright slipped out of his dormitory. Hiding in the shadows, he crouched beside the wall near the Student Union and listened to the sound of shattering glass. Hardly able to believe what he was hearing, he scaled the wall and looked down on the scene before him.

Hundreds of angry demonstrators threw rocks at windows while SWAT teams sprayed clouds of tear gas into the crowd. Fires erupted as anti-war demonstrators burned their draft cards. Police sirens wailed while the chopper engines roared.

Jeff shivered—newsreels from Vietnam flashed through his mind. The war was awful enough, but now this campus, renowned for its Nobel prize-winning professors, looked like a war scene as well.

Has the whole world gone crazy?

Just a few months before, Jeff had been sure that Stanford University would prepare him for the future. Now, he'd begun to wonder if he would even *have* a future.

One of Stanford's professors had written a book titled, *Population Bomb*. He predicted that the earth would destroy itself by 1975.

To Jeff Wright, it seemed to be happening.

Everywhere he turned, someone was predicting a collapse of the world as he knew it. Economic collapse...environmental collapse...political collapse—was there no hope for America?

Confused and frightened, he slid

Facing the Troublemaker

from the wall. Staying in the shadows, he walked back to the dorm through shards of broken glass. *If there's no hope for the earth, and no hope for America, he thought, how can there be hope for me?*

"I was troubled during my years at Stanford," Jeff explains, "but I wasn't alone—the whole world seemed troubled then. After three years, I left the university and went back home to Kansas.

There, I married my wife, Kim, and we got involved in church. In 1976, I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"I'll never forget the day an older Christian pressed a set of tapes in my hand and suggested I listen to them. The tapes were by Kenneth Copeland. Later, I discovered that our church library had a complete set of Brother Copeland's teachings. I spent the next year and a half listening to them. The more I learned about faith and prayer, the more hope I felt for our future as a nation.

"I attended a Bible School in Kansas. Then in 1981, the Lord led us to move to Fort Worth to be closer to

the Copeland's ministry."

In addition to attending all the Copeland's regular meetings, Jeff



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and Kim also started attending a Bible study led by Vinita Copeland, Kenneth's mother. Week after week, they soaked up her teaching and anointing from that great woman of prayer. Back then, Jeff and Kim had no way of knowing that God was using her to prepare them for their life's work. In fact, they didn't even know what God wanted them to do with their lives.

Jeff was working as a fireman and filling pulpits whenever invitations were offered. For two years, their lives seemed to revolve

around the Copeland's ministry and especially Vinita's Bible study.

Then in March 1983, while Jeff was praying, the Lord spoke something unexpected to his heart.

I want you to start a church in Washington, D.C. that will concentrate on praying for the government of this nation.

Suddenly, Jeff's mind raced back to those difficult years at Stanford. He'd been deeply disturbed by the nation's problems back then. And now it seemed that God was calling him to be part of the solution.

"The idea of moving to Washington, D.C. was daunting," Jeff admits. "I thought I'd burned my snow shovel when I moved to Texas. Still, I knew the Lord's voice, and that I would obey Him. Immediately we went to Vinita. She prayed for us, then gave us the name and phone number of some friends of hers in the area."

Three months later, in June of 1983, Jeff and Kim, with their two children, Amy and Sam, moved to Washington, D.C. and started the Victory World Outreach Church in Lanham, Maryland. The first thing they did was broadcast Kenneth Copeland's teachings on intercession. Almost immediately, revival broke out, and people's needs were being met in a miraculous way. Caught up in the joy of it, they never got around to organizing prayer for the nation.

A month later, the Lord spoke again. He was direct and to the point.

When are you going to pray for this government?

About the same time, Jeff was talking to the wife of another pastor in the nation's capital. "If I'm a pastor's wife who lives here, and I'm not praying for this nation," she said, "who is?"



Jeff Wright and others prayed in front of the White House lawn, until the reality of tourists wandering by prompted him to seek God's strategy—Prayer Tours.

Convicted, Jeff called his congregation together.

"We went to the White House lawn to pray," Jeff remembers. "There is a place called the Ellipse

near the helicopter pad where we gathered. It was summertime and the weather was nice. We stood in a circle, held hands and prayed for every branch of government.

"Afterward, we prayed there once a week. At first it seemed ideal, but soon we encountered the reality of barking dogs, tourists wandering by and Frisbees zipping past us. Then there were days when we stood praying in drenching rainstorms. By winter, when snow and ice hit the area, I knew there had to be a better way."

In addition to the environmental considerations, most of our members drove into D.C. every day to work. Asking them all to drive back into the city every weekend was creating a real hardship.

Jeff went back to his prayer closet to get God's strategy. There, he heard two words, "prayer tours." In his heart, Jeff saw cars and buses full of praying people driving past the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and Embassy Row.

"I realized," Jeff says, "that Washington, D.C. is filled with visual reminders of how to pray. We set up time for the prayer tours on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock during the Sunday School hour. We enlisted enough people to participate so that everyone took a turn every two to three months."

Jeff divided the prayer tours into three distinct groups. The first group drove past Embassy Row on Massachusetts Avenue. The first embassy they passed belonged to Israel, so the team began by praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Then, as they passed each embassy, they prayed for that nation to be reached for Jesus and for peace so the gospel could spread around the world.

The second group drove past the Pentagon and prayed for the military, especially where they were involved in conflict. That tour also passed the Lincoln Memorial to pray for God's healing of racial unrest, and the Federal Reserve Board which sets interest rates to control the economy. They also drove past the Vietnam Memorial to pray for our veterans,

MIAs and POWs.

The third group drove past Capitol Hill, praying for Congress and the Supreme Court. The Capitol Dome, resembling a helmet, reminded them to pray for the helmet of salvation for all our elected officials.

All three groups drove past the White House, praying for the president. "The president's safety was a major concern to us," Jeff recalls.

"Ronald Reagan was president when we moved to Washington, D.C. We sensed an urgency to pray that Ronald Reagan complete his term alive. Although he was shot by an assassin, he survived the attack and left office alive. We believe that is a testimony to the power of united prayer.

"In fact, we believe that each of the presidential deaths in office was a failure, not of government, but of the Church. After all, God gave specific instructions to the Church in 1 Timothy 2:1-4. He lists four kinds of prayer: supplication, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, to be made for kings and all in authority.

"I realized that those words were penned to a local pastor, like me, to exhort believers to pray."

In 1983, when Jeff's congregation began gathering for prayer at the White House, they discovered that for 20 years prior to 1973, the Christmas display on the Ellipse had included a life-size nativity scene. It had been removed in 1973 due to a court case.

Jeff and his congregation began praying for that decision to be reversed. In December of 1984, after an eleven year absence, the nativity scene was back on the Ellipse.

The prayer ministry expanded further in 1988 when a praying minister named Bob Wilhite spoke to Jeff Wright's congregation. While there, he received a vision for a new embassy in the nation's capitol—the National Prayer Embassy. Under the covering of Jeff's church, he moved to Washington, D.C. and founded the Prayer Embassy.

The mission of the Prayer Embassy is to help Christians pray for nations,



"Prayer Tours" drive cars, vans and buses of praying people past the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Embassy Row and other visual reminders to pray for national leaders.

leaders and world events. The embassy sends out weekly prayer alerts to believers around the world. Those prayer alerts are being broadcast on radio stations, from pulpits and through church bulletins.

The embassy also sends out prayer handbooks on request and assists in conducting prayer tours for groups visiting the Washington, D.C. area.

In 1992, Bob Wilhite moved back to Arkansas, and today, Jeff Wright is the director of the National Prayer Embassy, as well as pastor of Victory World Outreach Church. Through those two arms of ministry, Jeff has been involved in many significant events in our capital, including, "March For Jesus," "True Love Waits" and "Promise Keepers." He has led prayer tours with buses full of our nation's youth.

What's next for Jeff Wright and his army of intercessors?

"Hollywood is destroying the moral fabric of this nation," he says. "The Church may influence our young people a few hours a week, but Hollywood influences them for untold hours each week.

We have been praying for churches in that vicinity to begin prayer tours past Fox TV, NBC, Warner Brothers, Disney and all the major studios. In fact, we arranged prayer tours following the 1996 West Coast Believers' Convention in Anaheim, California.

"Every city has visual symbols—the city hall, the court house, county and state government offices, police stations, jails, schools and abortion clinics. We are praying, and we believe that God is igniting the vision in churches across the nation for prayer tours in every city.

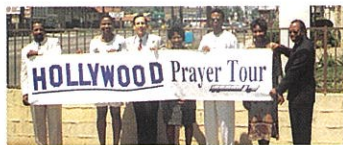
"Furthermore, we fully expect to see prayer returned to school, and the ten commandments to the walls of the classroom."

Today, the dark, frightening days of the fall of 1969 seem a lifetime away to Jeff Wright. When he thinks back on them, he just shakes his head in wonder. "I wasn't even a committed Christian back then," he says. "So when I saw trouble all I knew to do was sit on the sidelines and watch."

One thing's for sure, Jeff Wright isn't sitting on the sidelines anymore.

He and his band of faithful Christians are facing the troublemaker himself on the front lines of our nation's capital every Sunday. They are doing more than just believing that if Christians humble themselves and pray, God will heal their land. They're doing the one thing against which Satan has no defense.

They are obeying God's command. And clearly, it is making a difference. *KCM*



At KCM's 1996 Anaheim Convention, Jeff Wright was joined by other pray-ers who focused their faith toward the influential force of Hollywood's studios.

For a resource list of prayer handbooks provided by the National Prayer Embassy, to receive weekly prayer alerts or to schedule a prayer tour for a group visiting Washington, D.C., write: National Prayer Embassy, P.O. Box 90600, Washington, D.C., 20090, or call: 1-800-828-PRAY.

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

God Is Healing Our Land

by Kenneth Copeland

FAITH-FILLED WORDS—THEY change things. They'll move mountains into the sea. They'll turn sickness into health. They'll turn a sinner into a saint. Faith-filled words will also take a sin-ridden nation and turn it into God's own country.

If we believers would back up the prayers we've been praying for this nation with words of faith instead of words of doubt and discouragement, we'd soon begin to see spiritual resurrection.

God promised us that if we, His people, would humble ourselves and pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, He would

heal our land. Let me tell you, there are prayer warriors all over this country (I hope you're one of them) who are doing what that promise requires.

But, even so, you don't hear many people saying, "This is great! God is healing the land." You don't hear people speaking out by faith the promise of God. Instead, you hear them saying, "Oh my, oh my, did you hear what those terrorists are doing?" or some other destructive thing they've seen on television.

Listen, we need to stop preaching what the terrorists are doing and start telling what God is doing! God said He is healing this land.

We must start speaking about this country by faith instead of going around spouting bad news all the time. Of course, that will sound odd to most people. Some of them may even think we've slipped a few cogs. But that's nothing new.

Let me tell you something: One

handful of believers who are listening to, trusting in, and speaking out the good news of God is more powerful than all the devils on earth. One handful of believers is more powerful than a whole army of unbelieving doomsayers. Their unbelief will not make the faith of God of no effect!

Listen, we need to stop preaching what the terrorists are doing and start telling what God is doing! God said He is healing this land.

That's why over the last 30 years, Gloria and I have learned to turn a deaf ear to the bad news and just start praising and thanking God for His deliverance. Every word of praise we speak releases faith in our hearts.

Get determined with Gloria and me right now. Take a firm stand with us that things are changing in this country. Settle it in your heart as you pray. Speak it out. Call it forth. God is healing the land! *KCM*