



I was standing on the top step of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. when I took this picture. This is a snapshot in time that I will never forget. Never before had I been to the capital, but to go for this occasion was even more impactful to me than I ever would have imagined. A small group of us from Dunklin decided to participate in the 'Prayer March' with Franklin Graham this year. This photo was taken at the very beginning of the event. I wish I could send you the video to witness what took place. At this moment 50,000 people stood together, praising and worshipping our Lord, Jesus Christ. This was led by Michael W. Smith and we all sang, "Worthy is the Lamb" together. The presence of God was overwhelming to me as thoughts of Him, His mercy, and His love towards me and this country as a whole flooded my being. It was one of those moments that you do not want to see end. My love and gratitude for God, family, and country rose up from within as we proclaimed each verse, placing Christ at the center of all that we are.

Franklin Graham prayed, "Father, our country is in trouble. We need Your help." That simple, yet revealing, prayer clarifies where we are right now in America. We are in trouble, we need a spiritual revolution, and God is the only One who can help; this is our reality. This year has brought with it numerous challenges – the pandemic, social uprisings, political chaos, and the list goes on. The scripture that comes to mind is Isaiah 5:20, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." I feel as if everything is turned upside down, but I also believe that God is moving and is urging His people to seek Him like never before, humble ourselves before Him, and repent from our ways that are in opposition to Him. Then, we may hear from heaven, He will heal our land, and our sins will be forgiven. (II Chron 7:14)

I have no idea what we face as Christians in the not so distant future. I think we can all sense in our spirits that times are changing, America is becoming more "progressive", Christianity is becoming diluted, the world is infiltrating our churches, and our God is often looked down upon, even mocked, rather than lifted up and exalted. It is time for us to humble ourselves before Him, but, also be willing to stand in the face of opposition, not shrieking back. Now, like no other time that I have witnessed, is it imperative that we believers allow our faith to be evident and recognized in the public square. Let us not fear repercussions or worry about what that may mean for us as individuals or the church. Let us not become weary or become downtrodden or defeated. Let us remember the words that Paul encouraged the Romans with in chapter 8,

“ If God is for us then who can be against? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all-how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (Rom 8:31,32, 35-37)

We have a couple of responsibilities and privileges to exercise that I want to express. We have a tendency to believe that our part is not effectual or impactful and that is a lie. The first thing we can do that makes a difference for ourselves, fellow believers, and the country is to pray. The ‘ Prayer March ’ emphasized 7 different areas as we stopped at various locations:

1. Lincoln Memorial – Humbling ourselves in repentance and asking God for healing
2. WWII Memorial – Our military, police, and other law enforcement
3. Washington Monument – Salvation of the lost and an end to abortion
4. White House – The President, Vice-President and their families
5. National Museum of African American History – Reconciliation between races
6. National Archives – Religious freedom and for churches to have boldness
7. U.S. Capitol – Our Congress and other leaders at the federal, state, and local level

May we as a body of believers continue to increase our passion to seek His face and to lay these requests before Him, trusting that He is in control and for His will to be done.

The second way we can make a difference is to vote on November 3rd. I, typically, do not get political here. The focus of the Campfire is Christ and what He is doing in the lives of the men here; however, I feel that we have a vital role in this upcoming election. I am going to pass on some words from James Dobson that explains it well, “...this election is the most significant since 1864, when Abraham Lincoln vied for a second term...Thank God he won, even though it cost him his life! ... this upcoming election carries enormous implications...a grave concern for our nation is valid.” He then encouraged us all to not vote based on personality or popularity, but vote for what lines up with our faith. The words he passed on from another person read, “I’m voting for the Second Amendment. I’m voting for the next Supreme Court justice. I’m voting for the electoral college. I’m voting for the Republic in which we live. I’m voting for the police and law and order. I’m voting for the military and the veterans who fought and died for this country. I’m voting for the flag that is often missing from public events. I’m voting for the right to speak my opinion and not be censored for it. I’m voting for secure borders. I’m voting for the right to praise God without fear. I’m voting for every unborn soul that is at risk of being aborted. I’m voting for freedom and the American dream. I’m voting for good and against evil! I’m not just voting for one person. I’m voting for the future of my country!” He added, “I am voting to support, ‘In God we trust’ and school prayer. I am voting for marriage. I am voting for the Church from oppressive politicians. This election isn’t about you. It’s about our kids and grandkids. This vote has awesome implications for future generations and the nation we love. It is about our Constitution and the immutable, God-given rights it protects.”

I couldn’t have said it any better! May America be a blessing to God!



Nick



the CURRENT
NEEDS OF DUNKLIN

- Prayer
- Scholarship for men in the program and SLT
- Scholarship for families in Family Development and SLT
- Hotel Room Renovations
- Donations of cars for camp vehicles