

## **I. In the Coming Days**

A. We believe that the bible is very clear, concerning the direction of human history as we approach the return of Jesus to the earth. There are a multitude of passages that describe increased crisis, and lawlessness abounding, even now and in the days to come.

(Mat. 24:3-31, Mk 13:9-13, Luke 21:7-18, 1 Thess. 5:2-3, Rev. 6-18)

B. In these passages there are many clear trends that are discernible, simultaneous, universal, and escalating that are to be understood by the church as “signs” that prepare us for the final days of this age.

1. National and International Warfare
2. Ethnic Conflict
3. Economic Crisis
4. Governmental Corruption
5. Famine
6. Disease
7. Earthquakes
8. Various unique Trouble
9. Sign in the Heavens
10. Increasing Anti-Semitism
11. Increasing Persecution and Martyrdom of Believers
12. Breakdown of Marriage and Family
13. Injustice of Poor
14. Acceptance and Promotion of Sexual Perversion
15. Wide spread Fear and Worry
16. Increase of Domestic Violence and Murder

## **II. Prophetic History and Direction**

A. Even the most casual glance at the prophetic history concerning Pagosa Springs would quickly reveal, that this city has a unique calling and destiny, to be a place of spiritual and physical refuge. Over the past 25 years, there have been more than a dozen clear words from outside individuals concerning this, and numerous from within. In recent years, this direction and calling from the Lord has increased in clarity and purpose.

necessary steps as you gather in worship and prayer.

### **III. The Biblical Spiritual Response to Coming Crisis (Joel 2)**

A. The Lord raised up the prophet Joel to give the people a roadmap to respond to a prophesied coming crisis. The coming crisis in Joel's day was the vast army of Babylon who were being sent by the Lord. The Lord not only gave Joel the proper response for the crisis of his day but also the end time crisis leading to the return of the Lord. (Mat. 24:29, Mk. 13:24, Lk 21:25, Acts. 2:14-39)

B. We must respond rightly in our day just as in Joel's day. We must continue to foster and promote a culture of prayer in our families and our city. We are given a roadmap to a culture of encounter (prayer and worship) from (Joel 2:12-17).

- 1) *Sound the Alarm/Blow the Trumpet* – Shut down business as usual and adjust your normal, to fit the calling of God.
- 2) *Fasting* – Giving up our comforts and strength tenderizes our hearts and positions us in a greater way to receive from the Lord.
- 3) *Culture of Encounter* – Elders, Parents, Singles, Children, and Infants are called upon to gather as one. They are to wait upon Him and then respond in unity.
- 4) *Rend your Heart* – This is a twofold heart tearing of the Lord imparting His heart to you. Mourn and weep for your own spiritual condition, and mourn for the spiritual condition of others.
- 5) *Pursue the Knowledge of God* – Understanding and leaning upon who He is will be the anchor that we must have in times of crisis.
- 6) *Partner with His Mercy* – The Lord always releases the prophetic word, in order that the intercessors would cry out for His mercy and repent on behalf of their people.
- 7) *Long-Term Lifestyle* – Joel was given an urgent message for an event that was decades away. We are called to respond, and the timeline is up to the Lord.

#### **IV. The Mercy of God Manifested Through Areas of Refuge**

A. Our God is jealous for the affections of humanity, and will actively disrupt our false comforts and allow us to experience suffering to draw us nearer to Him. He uses His judgements and allowance of sin and darkness as a strategy of mercy in order to “wake us up” from our carnal stupor and cling to Him alone. In the last days, He will “shake everything that can be shaken” to produce wholehearted love in His Bride and to bring as many into His Kingdom as possible.

(Deut. 4:24-30, Hos. 2:6-7, Hag. 2:6-7, Heb. 12:25-29)

B. The Lord will establish places and people of refuge in a time of crisis to accomplish His ultimate goal of establishing wholehearted love in His people. When this mandate is not maintained an area of refuge will become no more than secular humanitarian aid. Establishing earthly refuge must be prioritized by spiritual refuge with relationship with Jesus at its center.

(Is. 55:1-3, Mat. 6:25)

## V. Taking Initial Steps

A. Our leadership team has felt lead by the Lord to respond in some small but significant initial steps in both spiritual and physical preparedness as a church family. The prophetic words ring true to the fact that we don't have the full picture or strategy and don't always get it perfect. In light of this we are committing to lean upon Him in our weakness and cry out for understanding as we move forward.

- 1) Intimacy, Waiting, and Inquiring through Prayer and Worship
  1. Intentional Prayer Meeting at CPR
  2. Family Assemblies
  3. Intentional Fasting Day
- 2) Putting a Team in Place
  1. Ministry Department
  2. Strategy Meetings
- 3) Training and Teaching
  1. Hebraic Roots Understanding
  2. Preparedness Peace
- 4) Seed Money
  1. Supporting the CPR
  2. Starting a Designated Fund