



# BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

## *Heal Our Land*

Becky Combee

The command of Scripture to pray “for kings and for all that are in authority” always leaves me feeling inefficient and inept.<sup>1</sup> After I pray, I usually wonder if I could have done a better job. This may be because of my lack of knowledge of government processes, the large dimension of the task, or even the normal leadership of my heart to



## *We must pray!*



pray for one small thing at a time. Ordinarily, my heart leads me to pray for an individual, a city, a church, or a business, so to sweep past the entity of government seems to be an impossible assignment.

I could envy the people who “see the big picture.” Yet that is not usually my place before God. I see details. When I pray for governments, I pray for major cities, specific states, and certain elected officials. I stand beside a particular high school or in a county courthouse, and one by one, I carry them before God’s throne.

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray. He guides us into truth and tells us about tomorrow so that by divine unction we can pray successfully.

## *There Are No Words For That*

Suzanne D. Williams

What can I say that hasn’t been said? That the voices of thousands of fallen soldiers don’t already speak from the grave. That I can’t describe with lines of flag-draped coffins, secured in the back of military aircraft. That I can’t read about on the headstones of Private First Class John Smith or Airman First Class Jane Doe. That I can’t count in the paced footsteps of guards, through rain and snow and summer heat in front of the Unknown Soldier’s tomb.

My words are but pale imitations of the real thing. Of a kid sent to Vietnam, age nineteen, trembling in his boots. Of a mom, finding out he won’t come home and clinging to an old baseball trophy. Of a dad, trying stoically not to cry, but be strong when his heart is breaking. Of a wife, with two kids, who look like their father, but won’t know or barely remember him twenty years from now.

The best thing I could say is, in fact, to say nothing at all.

To, instead, show respect in my actions. To live each day with my priorities straight, knowing that nothing I can do will ever compare to that. To hold my chin up when the storms of life beat against me and survive. To always place my hand over my heart in Pledge of Allegiance to more than the flag of a nation, but to the soldiers who secured its stripes. Who founded each brick, each

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He is a wonderful, necessary friend. We can depend on Him to increase our understanding and our vision in prayer. When we follow his leadership, we pray the will of God.<sup>2</sup>

We must PRAY! In the day of Israel's captivity, Daniel sought the Lord by prayer and fasting.<sup>3</sup> First, he confessed Israel's sin. He said, "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly and have rebelled."<sup>4</sup> Here, we must note that this was not Israel's prayer as a nation, but Daniel's prayer for Israel. Daniel testified, "All this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities."<sup>5</sup> Israel did not pray. Daniel prayed, and as Daniel prayed and confessed his sin and the sin of Israel, the angel Gabriel came.

Doesn't this encourage us? Remember what the Lord said to Solomon. If MY people shall pray and turn from their wicked ways, I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND. We don't wait until a contrite nation bows in prayer and repentance. We pray! We repent! Isn't that what God said?

What is accomplished when we pray? The



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building, each political office, the football stadium, the corner drugstore, and a million houses in suburbia ... all created from the blood of people far better than myself.

After all, I haven't walked, knee-deep, in jungle morass, wondering where the enemy hides. I haven't suffered desert heat, eating blowing sand, fearing that sweet-looking local woman actually plots my death. I didn't feel the tear of a bullet or mortar round enter my flesh, thousands of miles from home. Nor shout for my mother in the darkness, which slowly steals my mind.

My life is a weak thread amongst a tapestry of much stronger ones, men and women of steel, who treated the cause as greater than their future. And wore the ultimate form of dedication, with their iron-clad sacrifices, securing the freedom of a

Word of the Lord to Timothy gives our objective. It is "a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty."<sup>6</sup> A quiet life is a life that is not surrendered to trouble or agitated by trouble. A peaceful life is one free from disturbance. This peace begins in the spirit of man and extends to the circumstances that surround him. It is peace beyond our understanding. It is God at work in us and through us to lands and nations.

Today, we covet God's peace and quietness in our nation. As we petition our God, we echo the words of Daniel. "We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you [God] are so merciful."<sup>7</sup> We follow the example of Moses who prayed asking God to pardon Israel "according to the greatness of [His] mercy."<sup>8</sup>

We pray, asking God for mercy, and as we pray, we are confident because God's "tender mercies are over all his works."<sup>9</sup> We are assured when we as His people repent and turn from our wickedness, He will HEAL OUR LAND.

Why? Because He is good, and His mercy endures forever.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>1Ti 2:2 <sup>2</sup>Rm 8:27 <sup>3</sup>Dan 9:3 <sup>4</sup>Dan 9:5 <sup>5</sup>Dan 9:13 <sup>6</sup>1Ti 2:2 <sup>7</sup>Dan 9:18 NLT <sup>8</sup>Num 14:19 <sup>9</sup>Ps 145:9 <sup>10</sup>Ps 107:1

woman, who's written a handful of books some people liked and others, not so much.

There are no words for that. Not on Memorial Day or any other day of the year. Though, I suppose if I were to create them, I couldn't speak them better than Ol' Abe:

*"But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." — Gettysburg Address, 1864*

Never. Their deaths assured us of that.