

# From the Desk of Doug Stringer

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Why I am Participating With & Will Attend  
The Response  
in Houston, August 6th



**Dear Friend,**

I have been asked why I am participating with and will attend *The Response* at Reliant Stadium in Houston on August 6th. Please take the time to read through my letter, which should help answer this question. I hope that you will use your influence to help spread the word and mobilize a broad denominational, ethnic and regional appeal to this potentially historic and unusual gathering.

## The Response USA

In a letter dated May 18, 2011 inviting the 49 other Governors to join him, Governor Rick Perry cited Joel 2 as the answer for the challenges facing America. Scripture is clear. When the Lord moves a governmental official to sound a trumpet to pray, the response is to come and cry out to the Lord together.

A National Solemn Assembly called **The Response: A Call to Prayer for a Nation in Crisis**, will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2011, in Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas.

On August 6th, there will be no political agenda, no merchandise sold, no ministries promoted, no literature distributed and no offering taken. Registration is free. This event will not promote any denomination or organization. It will simply be those who love God and love America responding to this invitation to get on our knees together to ask for His mercy, guidance, wisdom and provision.

If you haven't had a chance to visit our website, **[www.theresponseusa.com](http://www.theresponseusa.com)**, please do so as it will give you critical information and help you see how this moment is building across our nation and among national church leaders.

## Joining Hearts

This is definitely a collaboration of thousands of hearts, prayers and individuals like you from all over the nation.

This gathering is so much greater than any one denomination or group. Our heart is that every aspect of the body of Christ is represented and that credit will not point to any single group or organization but to Christ alone.

## Duplicate the Heart

The heart, tone and events surrounding the Book of Joel are solemn, sobering and sacred. The aim of *The Response* is to mobilize the nation with these same attributes in mind. When we communicate about *The Response*, we want to reflect this heart. You can trust that we are asking the tough questions on a daily basis and taking the proper steps to insure that this solemn assembly stays pure in heart.

## Dialogue with Understanding

When answering questions, we are attempting to keep personal agendas, individual perspectives and denominational differences out of the equations. Yes, we are responding to the call of a governmental official; however, we are not working with a governmental official or a political agenda to decide how the church responds to God in this sacred moment. There will be worship, instruction for prayer directives and a repentive heart, led only by a coalition of diverse ministers who know how to touch the throne of God.

It's simply a day to "set apart a fast, a day of restraint and humility; call a solemn assembly." Joel 2:15

**Simply put,**

**The Response is:**

### **YES**

- ✓ A Joel 2 call for the Church of America to repent
- ✓ An individual preparedness of prayer and fasting from now—August 6th
- ✓ An assembly with Jesus as the focus

### **NO**

- x Not about personal, political or denominational agendas
- x Not a day of sermons, political speeches or ministry showcases
- x Not a time of finger-pointing, blame-shifting or praying "against" anyone or anything

# What is a Solemn Assembly?

Throughout time, questions, reasonings and ideology have accompanied humanity.

When questions arose and understanding was needed, Jesus painted a simple picture. The simple truth Jesus would speak canceled out personal theories or perspectives. It put everyone on the same page, with the same understanding.

Such clarity and definition is needed regarding a solemn assembly as connected to Joel 2. Consisting of only 3 chapters, the Book of Joel was written as a wake-up call to the nation. Finding the country in a desperate and dire state which had brought devastation to the people of Judah at nearly every level of society, Joel pleaded to his nation to gather before God in a great sacred assembly. The time of great need called for a great response.

## Our Joel 2 Moment

This August, the American Church has an opportunity to participate in a Joel 2 moment. Key church and political leaders of our nation are sounding the same trumpet that Joel did in his day. The result is a sacred assembly on August 6th called *The Response*. While there is much anticipation over this gathering, many are expressing a strong need to understand exactly what a sacred assembly, or solemn assembly is; what the heart and intentions behind this event are; and what is really being asked of them.

The heart of *The Response* is to keep this gathering purely Joel 2 inspired. A simple way to understand the heart of the Book of Joel and *The Response* is to realize 4 parallel points.

## 4 Parallel Points: Joel 2 & The Response

1. **Joel's appeal was to the people of God**: the priests, the ministers, the leaders of the country and the church itself.

*The Response* is a created opportunity for the Church to simply respond. It's for the us to focus solely on God and the church, both individually and corporately. In doing so, political, denominational and personal agendas are dismissed. A solemn assembly waves only the banner of repentance.

2. **Joel requested a holy fast and a sacred assembly**. This is key in capturing the heart and spirit behind the gathering. Key words in Joel are holy, sacred, weeping, mourning, repentance. The singular purpose was, as 2:12 reads, to "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

*The Response* is pursuing a posture of holiness and humility through repentance. Sacred means “dedicated” or “set apart.” This is first met with a personal response, as individuals position themselves correctly with humility and repentance before God leading up to August 6th.

When this is done and we gather together at *The Response*, we will be positioned correctly before the Lord with a corporate response that is holy, sacred and in humility, focused on ourselves and the Lord alone.

**3. Joel sought representation of everyone:** ministers and leaders, children and adults.

*The Response* will be successful if there is a full representation of the Body of Christ: young and old, Catholic and Protestant, Republican and Democrat, and diverse ethnicities—Asian, Anglo, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Middle Eastern. This is an opportunity for us to focus on our common thread: our love for Christ and our belief in prayer.

The realization of a Joel 2 moment requires a recognition of our commonality and unity. Having the courage to set aside differences and the wisdom to look beyond ourselves so that we can gather in unison is necessary for a true solemn assembly.

**4. Joel emphasized that it was to be top priority.** He asked that all previous plans be put on hold for all to attend. Emphasizing urgency, Joel repeatedly wrote “blow the trumpet,” which demanded action and soberness.

*The Response* is not a gathering of convenience or recreation. It is a gathering that reflects responsibility, repentance and priority.

During Summer—a season of vacationing, relaxing and unplugging, attending *The Response* for most means rearranging calendars, rescheduling events and even canceling plans. These cumulative sacrifices will reinforce the strength and power of this moment in the history of the Church.

## Let Us Not Miss This Moment

Please continue to pray for this to stay pure and for the hearts of the Body of Christ to be clean. Paul the Apostle said in 1 Corinthians 16:9, "a great and effective door has been opened, yet the adversaries are many..."

There is definitely a great door opened for the Church to respond properly in humility and holiness, yet there are many adversities and challenges. Sadly, oftentimes these challenges come not from the outside, but from the Church itself. May we all see the larger Kingdom purposes at hand.

(Please read the book of Joel for biblical reference for this simple explanation of a solemn assembly. )

**We're asking you to respond by helping us:**

1. **Through networking and spreading the word to your circle of influence.** You will be joining other ministry leaders in agreement with the need for this historic gathering and the biblical precedent for a corporate day of prayer and fasting.

I know your heart is for God, prayer and this nation. **Will you consider joining with The Response by mobilizing our nation?**

2. **Simply Respond** by clicking this link: [edwin@thestirringconsulting.com](mailto:edwin@thestirringconsulting.com)

**Subject line:** Count me in!

**Email:** Include as much of your contact information as possible, and describe your position and circle of influence: region, denomination, ethnicity or focus group

Once we receive a response from you, we will add you to our list to receive any future updates and resources regarding mobilization for this gathering.

# National Mobilization Coordinator

As the National Mobilization Coordinator, I have the privilege of mobilizing and promoting this historic event. Additionally, our offices in Houston will be the national hub for information and contact. It is an honor to serve our nation and city in such a monumental way.

That's the reason this invitation is coming to you. You are a vital part in helping promote this historic event, and we gladly welcome your help! I pray that the Lord will confirm the urgency for this solemn assembly and your participation.

There are several key mobilizers who are collaborating with us. If you have already been contacted by someone to help mobilize for *The Response*, consider this email as a duplicate endeavor to ensure that key people like you are contacted and connected to our mobilization efforts and future updates.

If you have any specific questions, it's best to email me at [doug@somebodycares.org](mailto:doug@somebodycares.org). If you have any questions about mobilization and networking, you can email Edwin Ennis at [edwin@thestirringconsulting.com](mailto:edwin@thestirringconsulting.com) or call him at 713-482-1878. God bless you.

With appreciation and honor,

**Doug Stringer**  
National Mobilization Coordinator, The Response

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## ESSENTIAL MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR THE RESPONSE

### ZIP FILE

[http://dl.dropbox.com/u/959243/The\\_Response/spread\\_the\\_word\\_eblast-inline-css.html.zip](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/959243/The_Response/spread_the_word_eblast-inline-css.html.zip)

### MEDIA LINKS FROM WEBSITE

<http://theresponseusa.com/endorsers.php>

<http://theresponseusa.com/spread-the-word.php>

### GOVERNOR RICK PERRY RADIO SPOT

[Governor Rick Perry's Audio Address](#)

[60-second radio spot](#)

[30-second radio spot](#)