Creative Prayer Idea: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Creative Prayer Idea: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Here is a creative prayer idea to do individually, as a couple, a family, small group or Sunday School class, etc. You can tweak it to fit your needs in many ways, as you will soon see! Here are two ways to utilize this as a means of expressing thankfulness/gratefulness to God using the Living Bible translation (feel free to use whatever translation you wish…or even multiple translations to do this on a repeated basis).

- Read through Psalm 103 and notice all of the ways David expressed his thankfulness to God. Pray through this Psalm being sure to “bless the holy name of God with all of (your) heart” at the beginning and end, as David demonstrates for us.

- Write your own Psalm based on David’s format in Psalm 103 by being specific about ways God has transformed your life and your own gratefulness for His blessings. Perhaps go verse by verse as the Psalm is laid out below.

Either of these ideas would make great family or personal

activities for Thanksgiving, and year round! It’s important to cultivate gratitude for all of God’s blessings.

Psalm 103 TLB

I bless the holy name of God with all my heart. [2] Yes, I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things he does for me.

[3] He forgives all my sins.

He heals me.

[4] He ransoms me from hell.

He surrounds me with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

[5] He fills my life with good things!

My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!

[6] He gives justice to all who are treated unfairly.

[7] He revealed his will and nature to Moses and the people of Israel.

[8] He is merciful and tender toward those who don’t deserve it;

he is slow to get angry and full of kindness and love.

[9] He never bears a grudge, nor remains angry forever.

[10] He has not punished us as we deserve for all our sins, [11] for his mercy toward those who fear and honor him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

[12] He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.

[13] He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him. [14] For he knows we are but dust [15] and that our days are few and brief, like grass, like flowers, [16] blown by the wind and gone forever.

[17-18] But the loving-kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who reverence him;

his salvation is to children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant and remember to obey him!

[19] The Lord has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything there is. [20] Bless the Lord, you mighty angels of his who carry out his orders, listening for each of his commands. [21] Yes, bless the Lord, you armies of his angels who serve him constantly.

[22] Let everything everywhere bless the Lord. And how I bless him too!

- FollowFollow

Biography

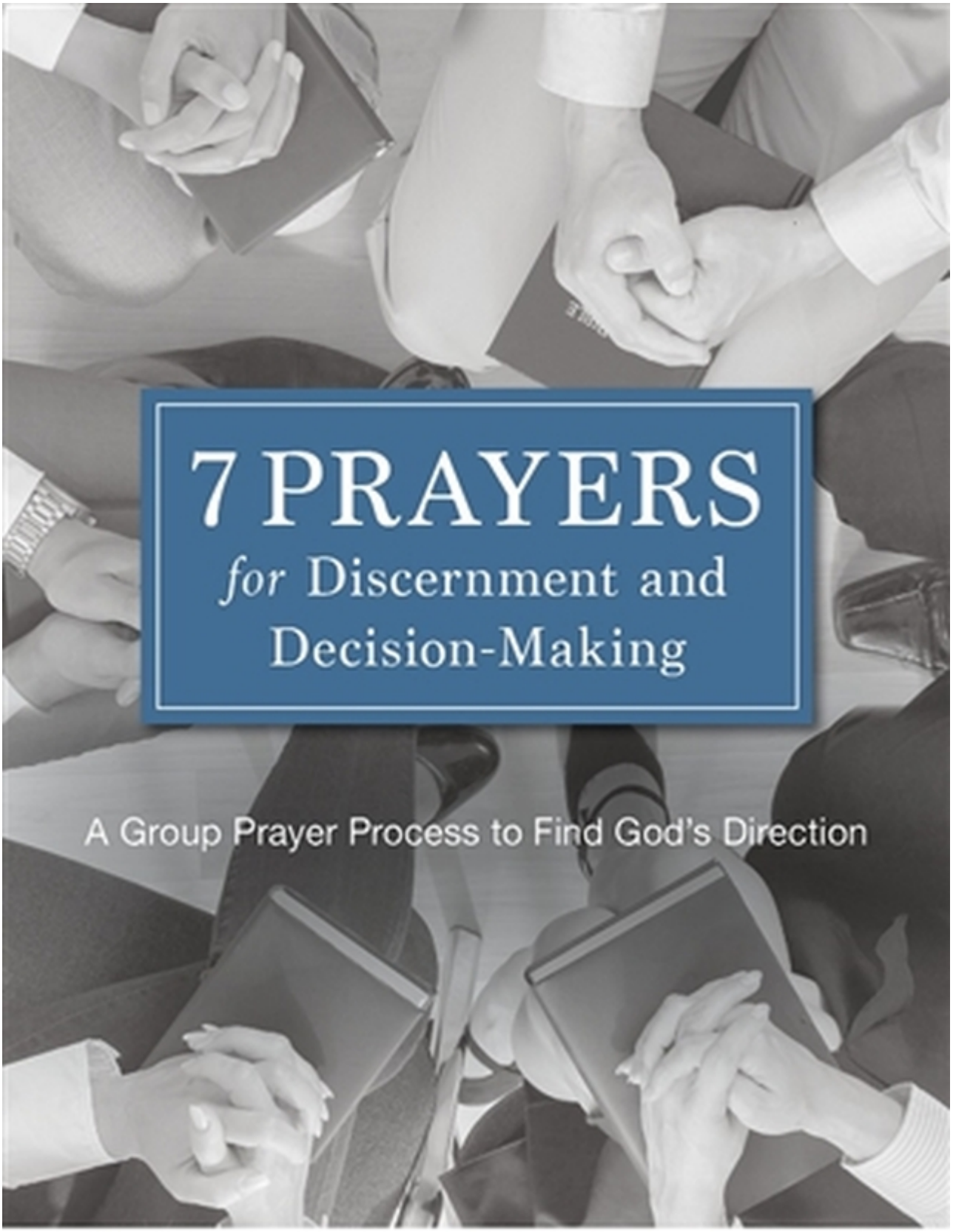
Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

and also compiles and edits HPM’s free daily devotional, Connection! as well as Prayer Tip Tuesday.

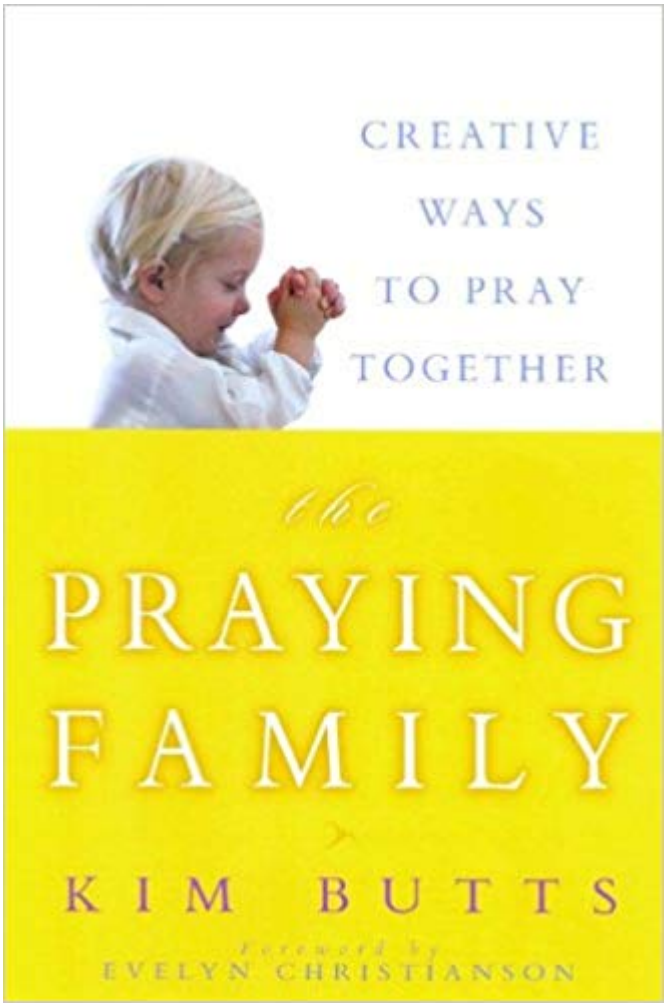
Kim has written multiple books and has published articles in a variety of magazines and publications. She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee and serves as President of Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming).

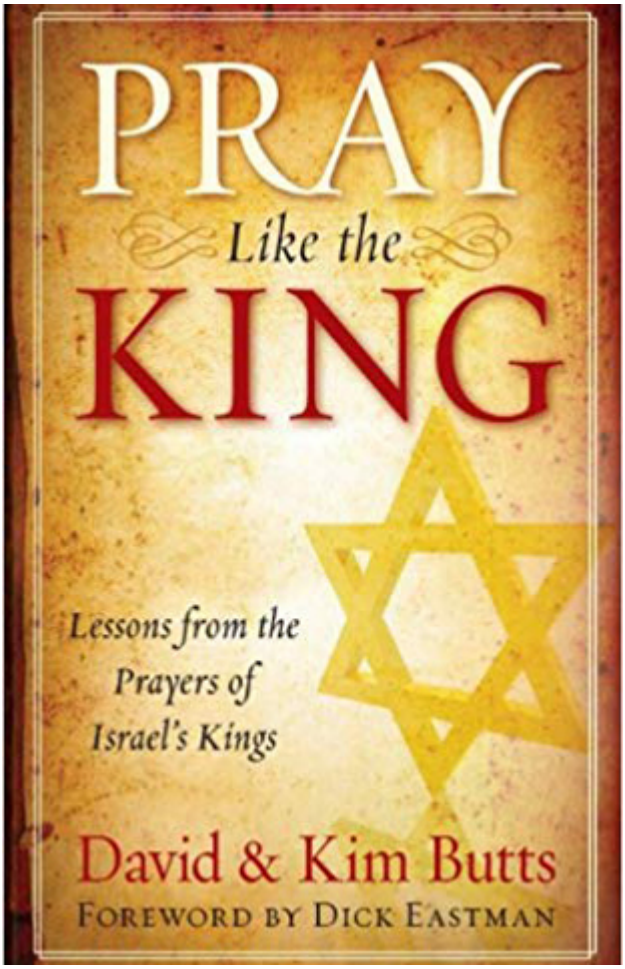
Kim has a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Leadership.

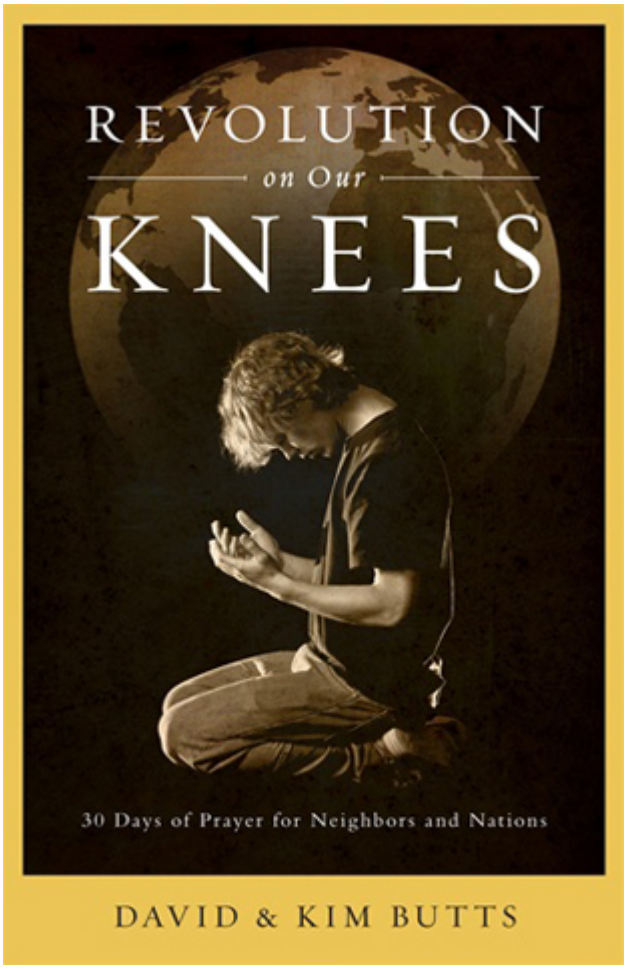
Some of Kim's Books

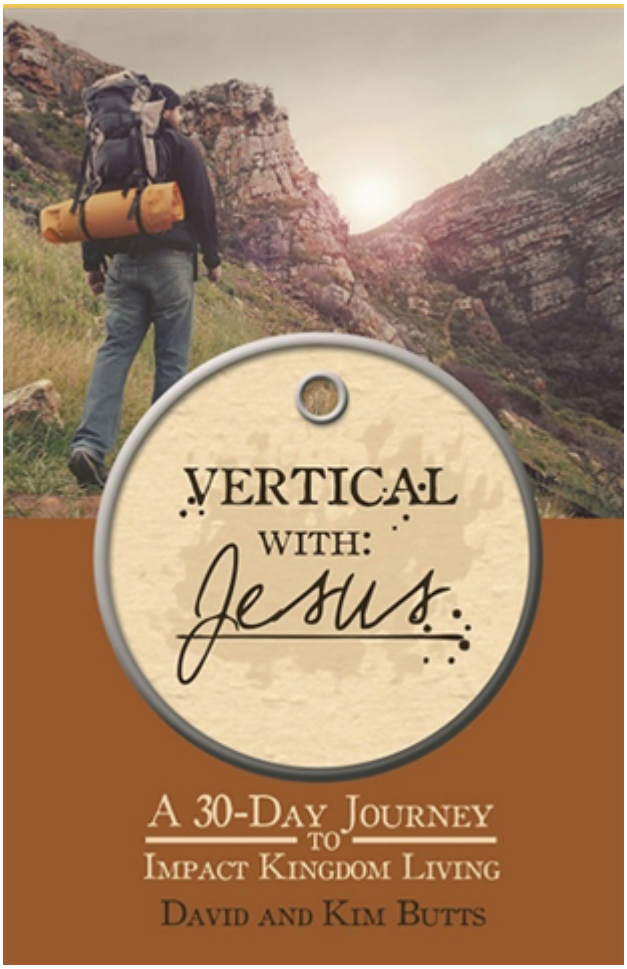

7 PRAYERS
for Discernment and
Decision-Making
A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS


CREATIVE
WAYS
TO PRAY
TOGETHER
The
PRAYING
FAMILY
KIM BUTTS
Foreword by
EVELYN CHRISTIANSON


PRAY
Like the
KING
Lessons from the
Prayers of
Israel's Kings
David & Kim Butts
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN


REVOLUTION
on Our
KNEES
30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations
DAVID & KIM BUTTS


VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus
A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS

Prayer Journeys 2019-2020

Great news! We have two new prayer journeys planned! The primary purpose of these journeys is prayer! Our second focus is seeing and experiencing the sites!

WASHINGTON DC: September 17-21, 2019! This trip will involve a lot of walking! Our journey will allow us to pray at key governmental sites such as the Supreme Court and the White House. We will spend time on the mall praying at various monuments, and worship at David's Tent DC where 24/7 worship has been offered to the Lord for the past 3 years! We will also visit the American Center for Prayer and Revival and the Museum of the Bible!

Click here for more information!

ISRAEL AND JORDAN: February 17-28, 2020! This prayer journey will include praying biblical prayers at or near where they were actually prayed. Some of the highlights will be exploring the Galilee where Jesus lived, taught and ministered (Capernaum, Magdala, Mt of Beatitudes, etc.) as well as worshiping on the Worship Boat on the Sea of Galilee, visiting Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, En Gedi where David hid from Saul and wrote several Psalms…and of course Jerusalem! This trip we are adding two extra days to see Mt. Nebo and Petra in Jordan and Eilat, Israel (on the Red Sea) where we will see an amazing life-size replica of the tabernacle of Moses!

If you are interested in either of these trips, email info@harvestprayer.com and let us know! We will send you more information as it becomes available. It will also be posted here, so stop back by!

Creating an Atmosphere for the Presence of Jesus

Creative Prayer Idea: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

If you are married or have been in a romantic relationship, you likely can recall some special times or seasons when you were overwhelmed by the way your loved one planned the perfect setting with great care and attention to detail. Perhaps it involved music, a special event, a quiet dinner, or just a peaceful evening watching a glorious sunset at your favorite spot. What made this experience significant in your mind is the time and effort taken by another person to please you and to express his or her heartfelt love.

When was the last time you took such care and made such a profound effort to meet with the One who loves you more deeply than any human on earth has the capacity to do? He is the One who has given you eternal life, blessed you and cared for you spiritually, emotionally and physically…and who has promised never to leave you or forsake you…in good times or in the midst of suffering. Jesus is worthy of our deepest love and affection. He is worthy of the time we spend creating an atmosphere that welcomes His presence no matter the situation or season of life we are in…whether in our most joyous thankful moments or when our hearts are broken and our lives are shattered.

What if we, as believers, spent as much time preparing our

hearts to create a place where Jesus feels welcomed and cherished as we would for a family member or friend…a place where we can have an intimate conversation, hug tightly when life is hard, or simply enjoy each other's company? Prayer is that space for every believer!

I can assure you, that if you will take the time to create a sacred space in your heart and life with God, your seasons of prayer will be deeper and richer and more powerful than ever. He is the One we adore and He deserves all of our affection and attention. So, before you next spend time in prayer, consider asking and reflecting on these questions during a quiet season of preparation:

1. **Is my heart in right relationship with God and others?**Have you renounced any idolatry to things that take up more time than you are willing to pour into your relationship with God (social media, sports, television, etc.)? Have you emptied yourself in order to make room for Jesus? Is there anything you need to confess or anyone you need to make things right with before praying? "But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too (Mark 11:25 TLB)."
2. **Am I focused upon entering the throne room of heaven to stay for a while, or am I intent on rushing through my prayer list for the day?** How have you ordered your day so that the best part is given to Jesus? Will He have your full attention, or are there distractions to pull your attention away from His face? Can you picture the Father sitting on His throne attentively focused upon you as you enter His throne room…and into His very presence? Consider how you might "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) throughout your day, just as your thoughts might be drawn to a human relationship continually.
3. **Do I worship Him because of my deep love for Him…adoring**

His beauty and majesty?Sometimes it is easy to forget our First Love and let other things and other people in life take greater importance. If we will take the time to worship in spirit and truth (for this kind of worship is true prayer), the other things we have our hearts set on begin to fall away and become lesser in our hearts. "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers" (John 4:23). Sometimes we have to lay our lists aside because we forget what we wanted to ask for in the midst of His beauty and majesty. Are you ready to worship Him? Do you long to spend time focused upon His loveliness?

4. **Do I draw near to Him with the kind of anticipation and expectation that is fueled by a childlike faith?** Jesus made much of the faith of children and urged us to come to Him this way. Are you excited to meet with Jesus, anticipating what He might show you or say to you? Do you delight in His presence and believe He will hear and answer? Are you willing to humble yourself and perhaps even posture yourself in a position to experience Jesus in whatever way you imagine a child would?
5. **Do my prayers bring honor and glory to Jesus?** This is a vital question to ask ourselves as so often we become more intent upon our own selfish desires. If our prayers are not focused upon the kingdom of God and His plans and purposes being accomplished for His glory alone, then there is always a danger of the focus being taken off of the Father and put onto us. Praying with an open Bible often keeps our prayer focus upon the things that God desires.
6. **Are my prayers focused on His will being done on earth or my will being done in heaven?** Even Jesus had to bow His will to the will of the Father and submit to death on a cross; however, His prayer was, "…not my will but yours be done (Luke 22:42)." This is particularly

difficult when we pray for healing or for things that seem good to us, but the outcome is beyond our understanding. We must learn to trust that His will is always perfect and that His ways are not our ways. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:11), and that we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). What power is at our disposal to discern the Father's will!

7. **Am I yielded to hear what He might say to me?** We often spend most of our time in prayer talking to God and not spending a lot of time listening to what He may have to say to us. The priest Eli told young Samuel, when the Lord called him, to say: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9 NASB). This is good instruction for us all. Quietly wait for Him to call your name, or to give you instructions for your day…or even just for the moment you find yourself in. Sometimes all you will hear is an affirmation of His great love for you…but you will miss it if you don't take the time to wait for such an encouragement. Perhaps you will hear nothing…and that is okay too, for you are spending time in His presence. If you have ever just sat quietly with someone you love, you know that sometimes nothing needs to be said…and yet, you know what is in one another's heart.
8. **Am I able to "pray without ceasing"?**Think about creating an atmosphere that allows your thoughts to turn towards the Father continually throughout your day much as would happen with a human "love interest" that one would wish to call or make contact with as often as one's thoughts turned towards this person. What needs to happen in your life in order for Jesus to take first place in your thoughts, so that communing with Him becomes as natural as breathing? Consider prayers of continual gratitude, which is an incredibly powerful way to keep your thoughts fixed upon God.
9. **Are my prayers a sweet sacrifice with an aroma pleasing**

to the Father? God is pleased when His people come to Him in prayer. “God, come close. Come quickly! Open your ears—it’s my voice you’re hearing! Treat my prayer as sweet incense rising; my raised hands are my evening prayers” (Psalm 141:1-2 MSG). Imagine your prayer life as incense rising up to the nostrils of God. How will that change the way you seek Him?

If you will sincerely take time to create a spiritual atmosphere that will attract God’s presence, He will draw near and your communion with Him will be meaningful and rich. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).

- FollowFollow

Biography

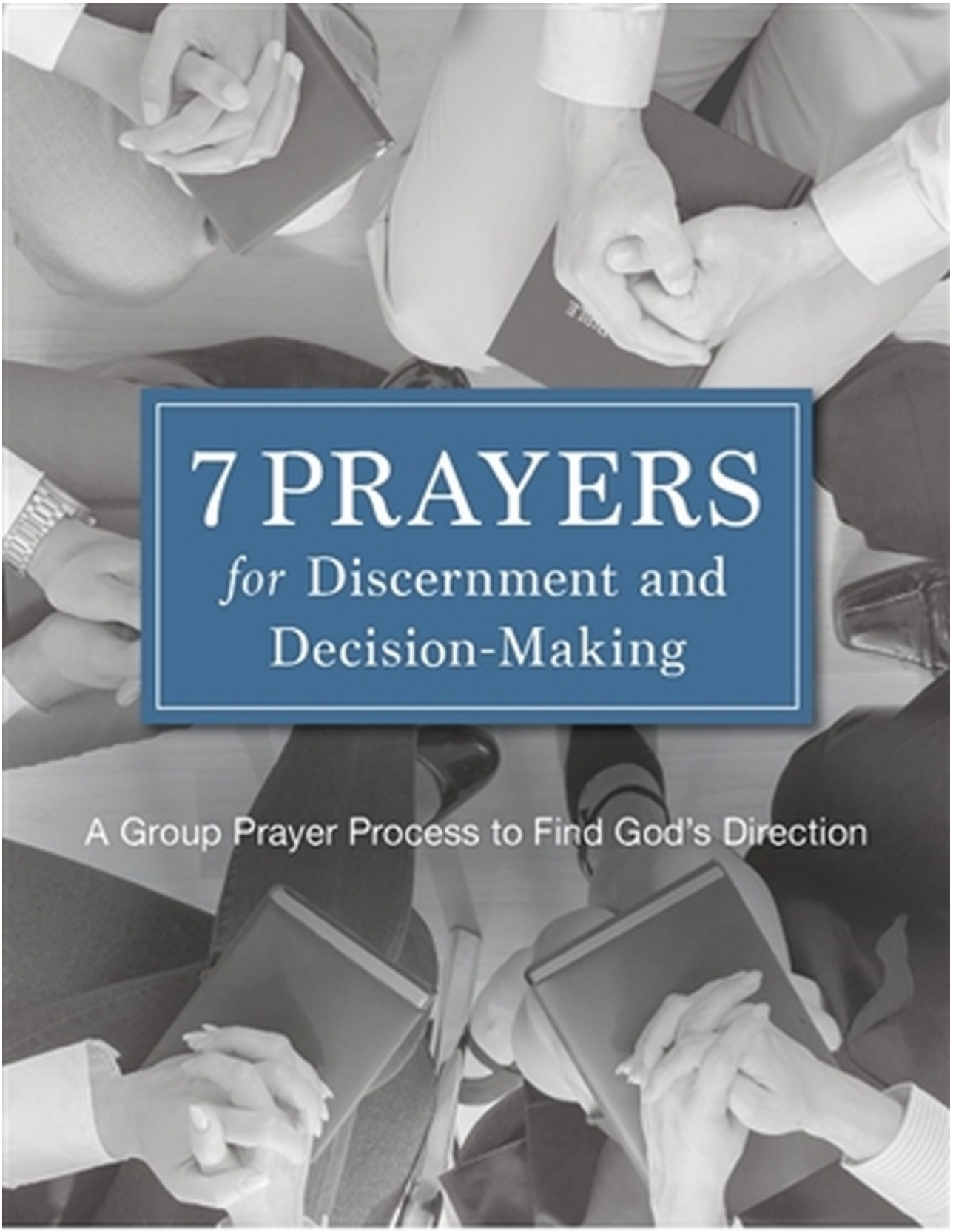
Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

and also compiles and edits HPM’s free daily devotional, Connection! as well as Prayer Tip Tuesday.

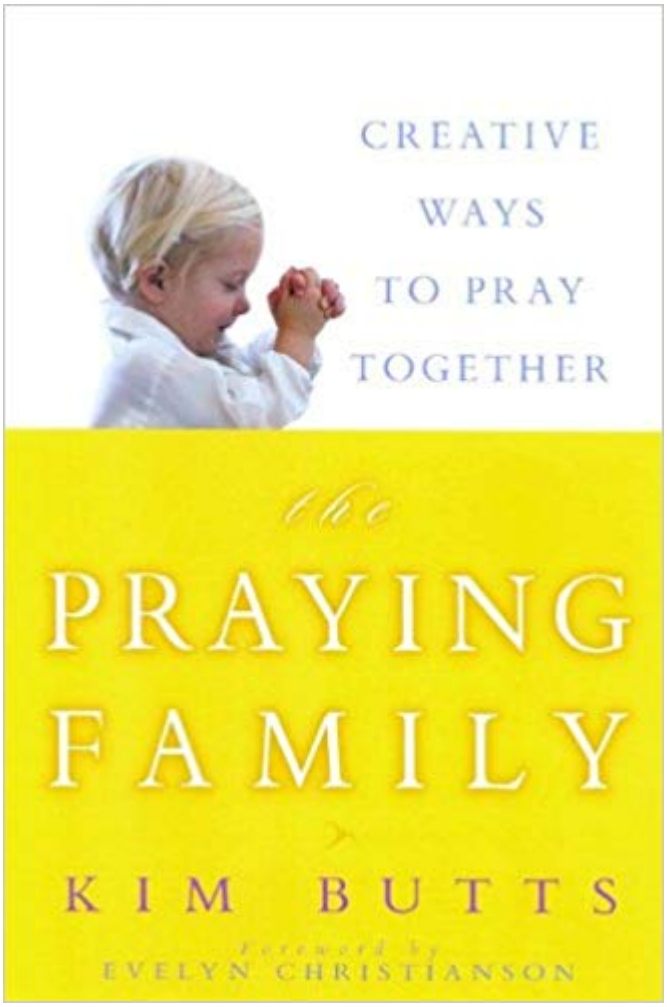
Kim has written multiple books and has published articles in a variety of magazines and publications. She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee and serves as President of Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming).

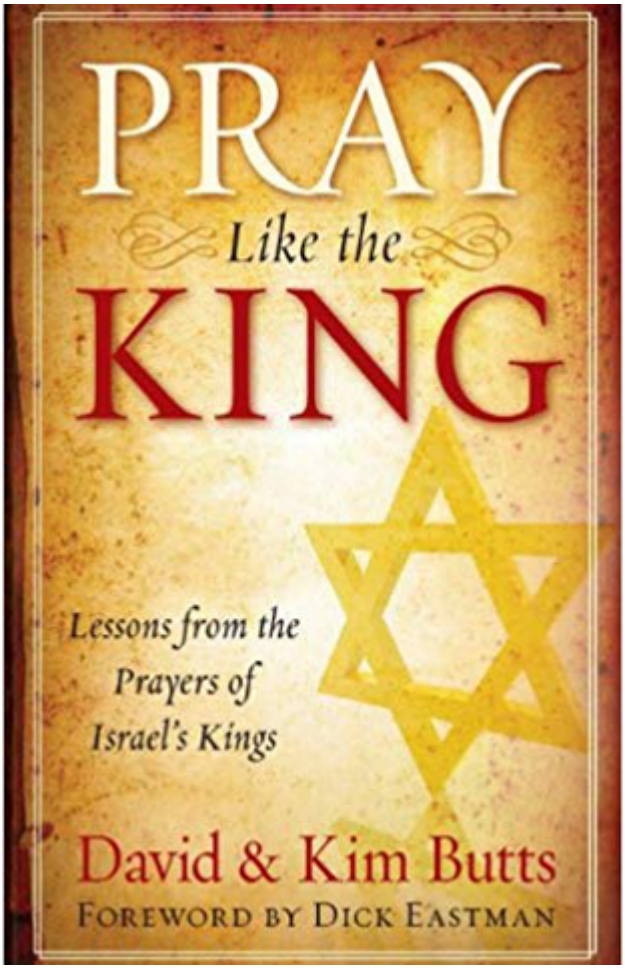
Kim has a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Leadership.

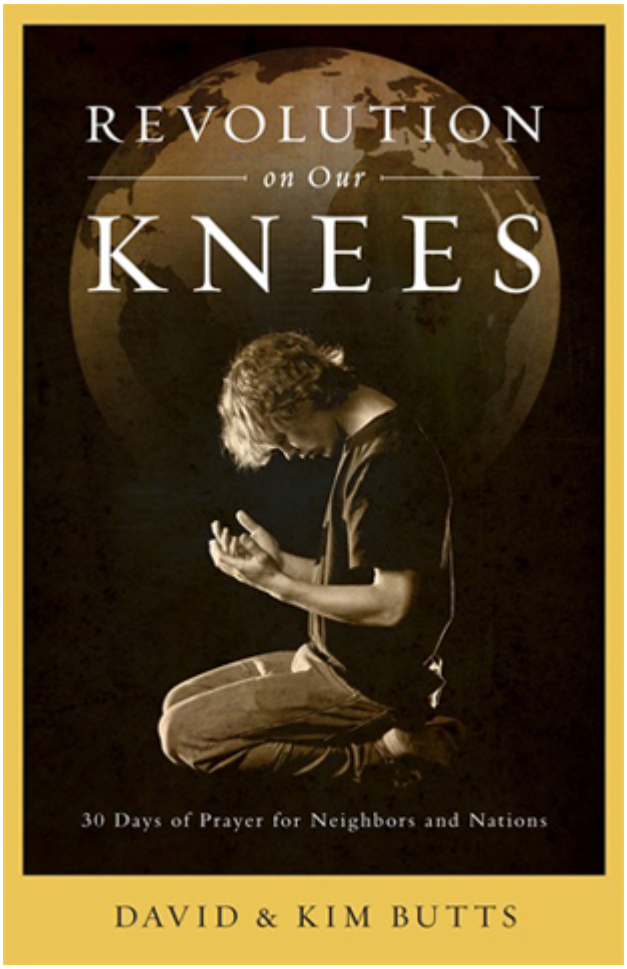
Some of Kim's Books

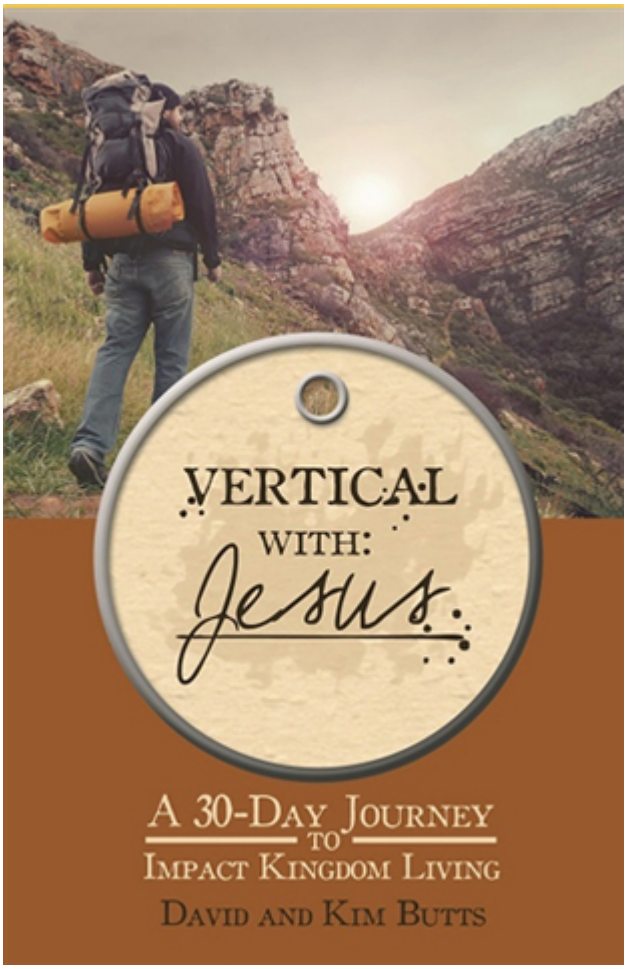

7 PRAYERS
for Discernment and
Decision-Making
A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS


CREATIVE
WAYS
TO PRAY
TOGETHER
The
PRAYING
FAMILY
KIM BUTTS
Foreword by
EVELYN CHRISTIANSON


PRAY
Like the
KING
Lessons from the
Prayers of
Israel's Kings
David & Kim Butts
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN


REVOLUTION
on Our
KNEES
30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations
DAVID & KIM BUTTS


VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus
A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS

Your Church’s Prayer Room – Is it Pretty…or Powerful?

Creative Prayer Idea: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

After being in prayer ministry for many years, I have been in hundreds of prayer rooms in churches of every stripe. There are three basic types or prayer rooms I would like to address today:

- **The Prayer/Storage Room**– this is a “prayer room” that shares space and is not fully dedicated to the purpose of prayer. In many cases, it is used for sound equipment, stage props, Christmas decorations…well, you get the idea. This tells me that a church is definitely not “all in” about becoming a praying church. To be fair, many churches simply don’t have any discretionary space, as prayer rooms usually aren’t in the initial plans when churches build. Church leadership hasn’t yet recognized that prayer is the strategy for the life and mission of the church. People who want to pray in these spaces are often resentful about sharing with those who would use the space for storage and vice versa. Hurt feelings and disunity can be a result of this arrangement.
- **The Pretty Prayer Room**– this room has been designated as the “place for prayer” in the church. A team of people have put in nice furniture, lovely artwork, etc. But…it

isn’t used except on Sunday mornings before church or special and infrequent times of prayer. This room is often confiscated for meetings other than prayer because it is a nice, quiet setting and not utilized very much. Churches feel good because they “have” a prayer room. To this I have to say, “What good is a pretty prayer room that isn’t being used for prayer?” One or more people in the church have created a space for their community of believers to come and pray, but find that the congregation and sometimes even the leaders are enticed to other activities in the church building other than prayer. This can be very discouraging for those who have prepared the room as they are often the only ones who use it. Very few other than those who are already gifted in intercession place value in spending time here.

Both of these first two rooms are usually only accessible when the church building is open or during special times of emphasis on prayer. The life of God working mightily in the midst of His people here may be less than it could be because His people are not yet focused upon the critical necessity of seeking His presence both individually and corporately.

- **The Power Prayer Room**– kingdom activity happens in this prayer space! People are continually coming and going, creativity is being cultivated, all generations are engaged, and God is receiving much glory as He launches people into His purposes in homes, in the church, the community and around the world. This prayer space is open and available often…sometimes even around the clock for intentional worship and intercession. It can even be a room with an outside access available by keypad or some other arrangement so that people can seek God 24-7. I have seen small prayer rooms built on church property or some other designated location rather than located in the church building. It is in such spaces that God is pouring out blessing and answering prayer. His people

are His hands and feet in their homes and community, and actively sharing the love of the gospel. These people are being transformed by Jesus because they are drawing near and pressing into His presence.

By the way, very rarely is the Power Prayer room "pretty" although it certainly can be! It may actually be a bit messy because people are doing the work of prayer. You might see prayer stations that engage the different senses, maps of the nations on the wall, people drawing or painting their prayers, places to kneel, people worshiping (worship IS prayer)…children are welcome in this space and there are age-appropriate prayer stations for them to seek God…and that just scratches the surface.

Is a prayer room an absolute necessity for a church to become a praying church? Absolutely not! But it is often an entry place for many people to learn to stretch and grow in prayer. There is something about coming to a designated place of prayer that invites people to draw apart from the world in order to meet with God. It is a place where individuals, families, small groups or prayer teams can gather to learn how to seek His face and where God is welcome to breathe into the lives of those who desire His presence: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8a); "…these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).

A good way for the leadership of a church to allow people to grow in their life with God is to provide a space where they can learn how to intercede for more than personal needs and issues and be stretched towards God's kingdom purposes through prayer.

For more information about creative prayer rooms and for ideas, check out my Pinterest pages:

Prayer Room Ideas

Creative Prayer Ideas

Prayer and Missions Ideas

Kids and Prayer Ideas

- FollowFollow

Biography

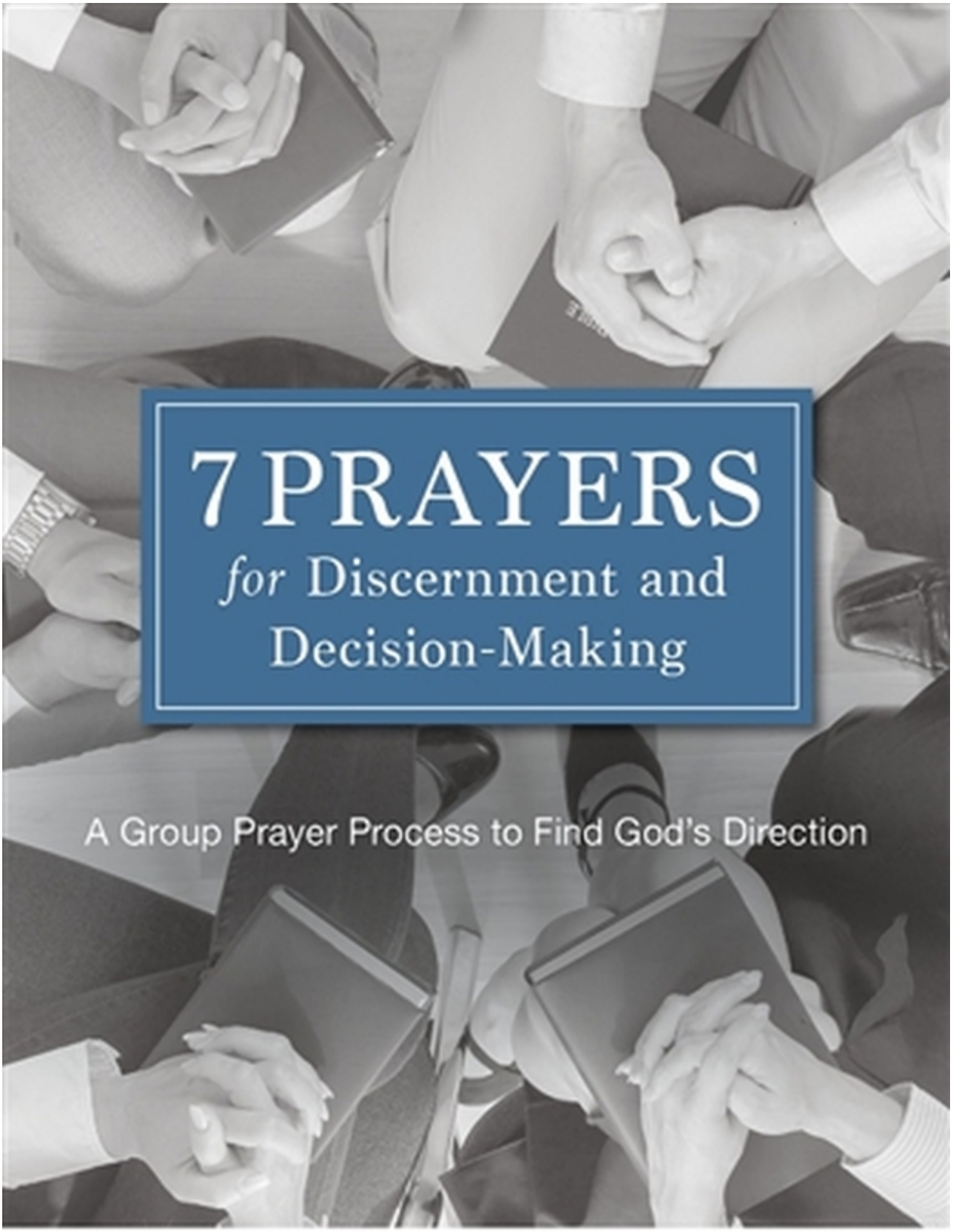
Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

and also compiles and edits HPM’s free daily devotional, Connection! as well as Prayer Tip Tuesday.

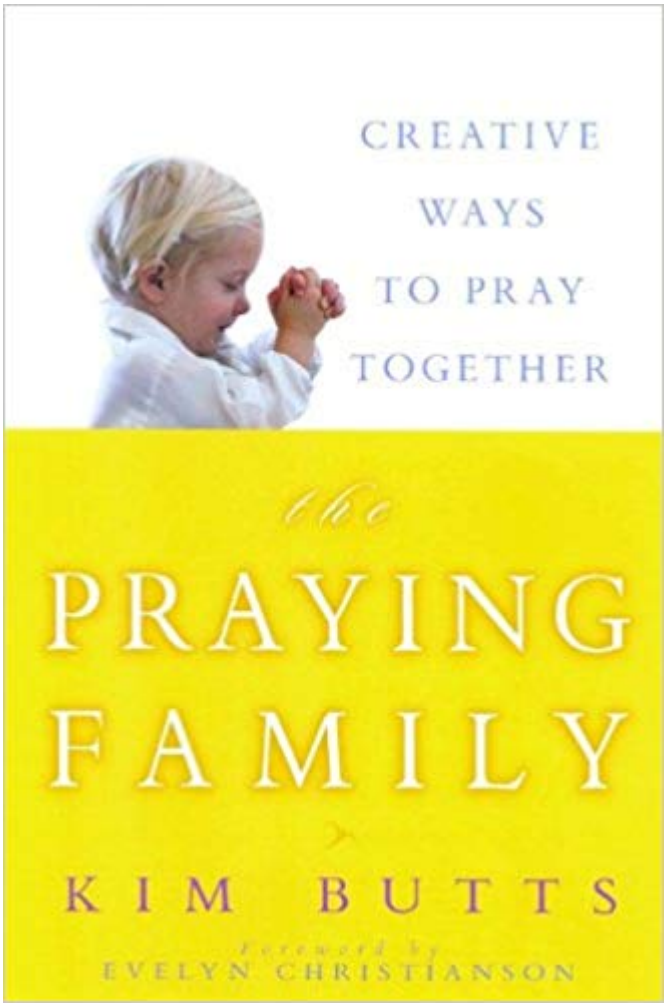
Kim has written multiple books and has published articles in a variety of magazines and publications. She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee and serves as President of Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming).

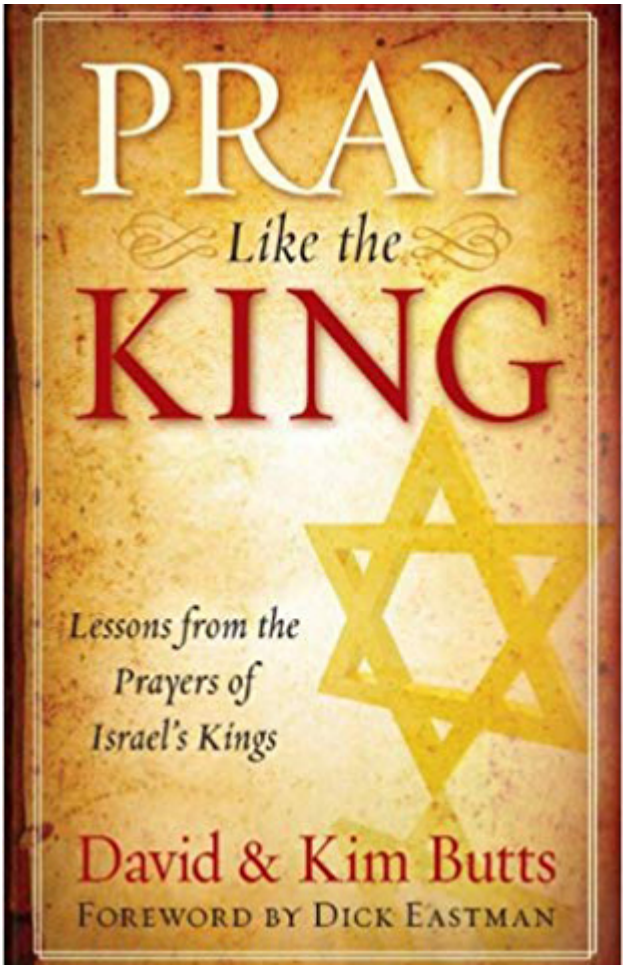
Kim has a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Leadership.

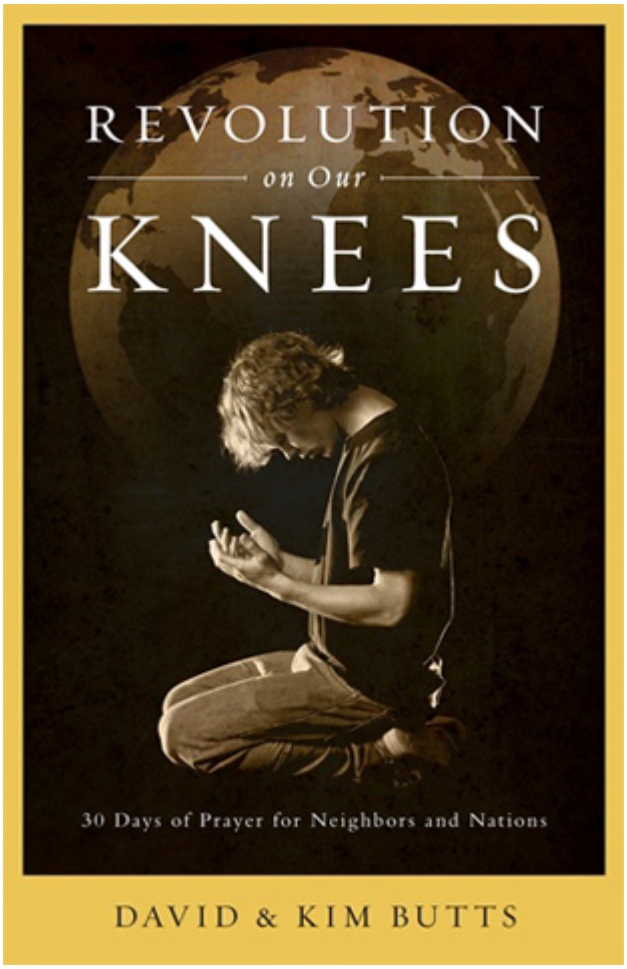
Some of Kim's Books

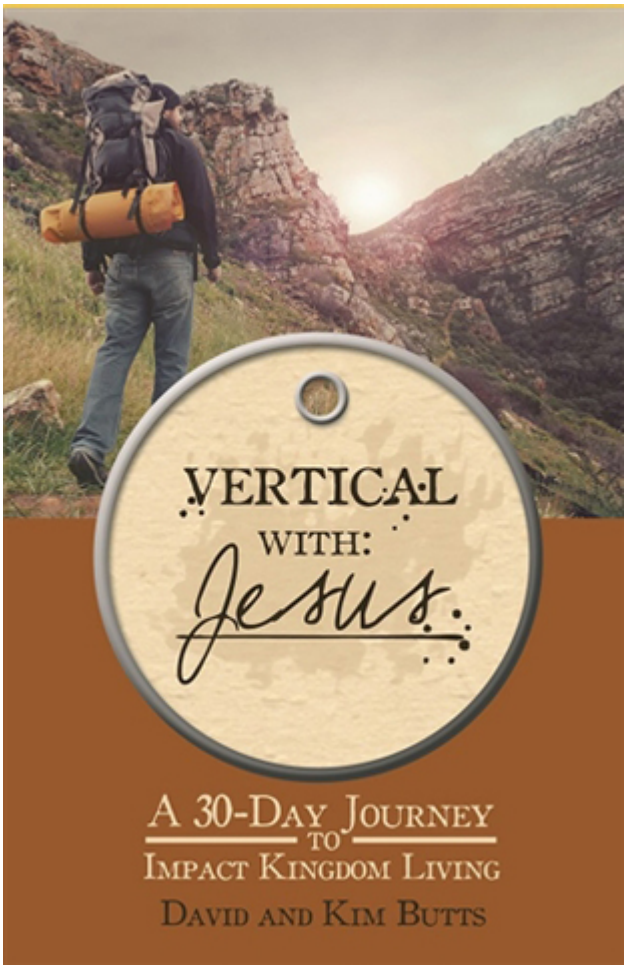

7 PRAYERS
for Discernment and
Decision-Making
A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS


CREATIVE
WAYS
TO PRAY
TOGETHER
The
PRAYING
FAMILY
KIM BUTTS
Foreword by
EVELYN CHRISTIANSON


PRAY
Like the
KING
Lessons from the
Prayers of
Israel's Kings
David & Kim Butts
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN


REVOLUTION
on Our
KNEES
30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations
DAVID & KIM BUTTS


VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus
A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS

6 Ways to Stay Present to God and Others

Creative Prayer Idea: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

A few years ago, my husband went through his second of three battles with cancer. Following treatment that put him in remission, he had an appointment with an integrative oncologist to discuss some alternative ways to keep him healthy. Along with a green smoothie recipe and some other recommendations, Dr. Park talked a lot about stress. This was not a huge surprise as most of us now know how damaging stress can be to our bodies; however, it was how he used an example from his own life as a physician that gripped my heart. He is not a believer in Jesus, but his counsel agrees so completely with the counsel of God. Dr. Park said, “If I came into this room today fully aware and pre-occupied with the fact that there are other patients in rooms waiting for me to get to them, I would come in here worried and stressed. I would hate coming to work every day knowing that I can never keep up as I would like to. But,” he said, looking at my husband, “I choose to come in and focus on you – just you. I have learned how to simply live in the moment I am in and not the moments I can do nothing about other than worry. Stay present to the moment you are in. It will help you relieve worry and stress.”

I translated this exchange with the Dr. into spiritual terms: Stay present to God who is in this moment with you. His yoke

is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Every moment of every day God is present to us. He doesn't take breaks to involve Himself elsewhere. He is within us, about us, for us, and desiring to engage with us in all things. This is a great encouragement to me. And, it is a way to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). As I increase my awareness of Christ in me…continually breathing life into my experiences (good or bad, exciting or mundane), I can lessen my worry about what is next, who is waiting for me to do something, what has happened in the past, or how much work there is to be done. This awareness allows me to stop being conformed to the image of the world, but instead to be transformed by the renewing of my mind (Romans 12:2). I want to be able to stay in the moment with God's peace and presence rather than in moments that contain stress and worry.

Here are some suggestions on how to live this out in a practical way:

- **Put on the armor of God** (Ephesians 6:10-17) so that the enemy is unable to tempt you to be anxious about other moments rather than the one you are in. We are all in a major war and it is important to be clothed with Christ (the armor) in order to win the daily battles of staying present to the moments He invites us to step into. Don't forget to praise God that He is the Ultimate Victor in this war! We just want to be His faithful warriors.
- **Sit quietly in the presence of God** for a few minutes, apart from noise or other distractions. When you are comfortably settled there, release to Him whatever is causing you worry, anxiety, stress or concern. Ask Him to free you from the rushed, crazy pace of the world and to teach you how to be present to Him only. Picture the Father gently touching your head with the intent to release you from the rushed ways of the culture in order to transform you by renewing Your mind.
- **Read and pray through Philippians 4:6-7** as a powerful

way to overcome the distraction or worry of the other people, events, undone work, etc. that keep you from staying in the spiritually important moments: “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” The Devil would like nothing more than to keep us from the moments when we are seeking God’s face, developing and maintaining meaningful relationships, and serving His kingdom.

- **Practice staying present to God in every moment**. He might wish to speak to you in the most difficult, awkward, or unexpected times. Practice being attentive in the midst of your everyday life. Whether you are overcome with joy, filled with uncertainty, or if you are running away from the moment due to fear or frustration, don’t disconnect from God’s presence. He is near – always.
- **Practice focusing on and being present to other people.** (especially your family members) you are with by turning off your phone, and/or looking at them instead of an iPod, game or computer screen. Invite God into the moment and see if He doesn’t give you plenty of time to go back to the other things you feel are needing your attention. And, you will not damage relationships with people who feel you are just too busy or that they are not worth your time. Sometimes we miss opportunities God places in front of us because the enemy has succeeded in distracting us. He will even use good, godly things as distractions. What kingdom opportunities are lost because we aren’t staying in the God moments?
- **Pray:** Father, You are the Peace-giver, and the God who lives in each of my moments, who walks beside me, and who deserves my worship and my time. Keep me from being worried, stressed or distracted by things that rob me of

the moments when You have directed me to people, situations or work that will build Your kingdom on this earth. May I rest in the knowledge that You will care for the people and projects that are waiting for my attention so that I can stay focused on whoever You lead me to and whatever You desire me to accomplish for the glory of Your Name alone!

(c) Harvest Prayer Ministries

- FollowFollow

Biography

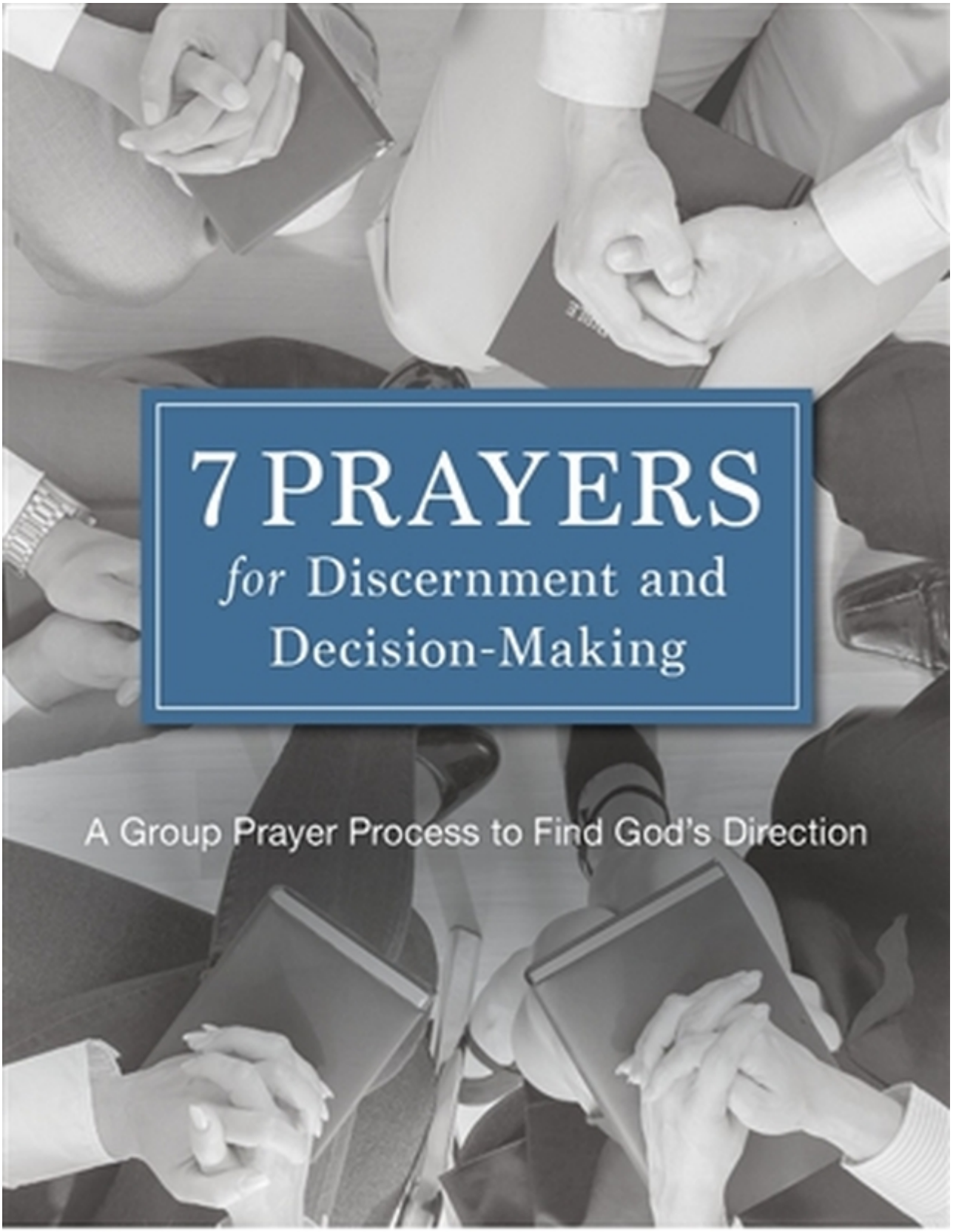
Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

and also compiles and edits HPM’s free daily devotional, Connection! as well as Prayer Tip Tuesday.

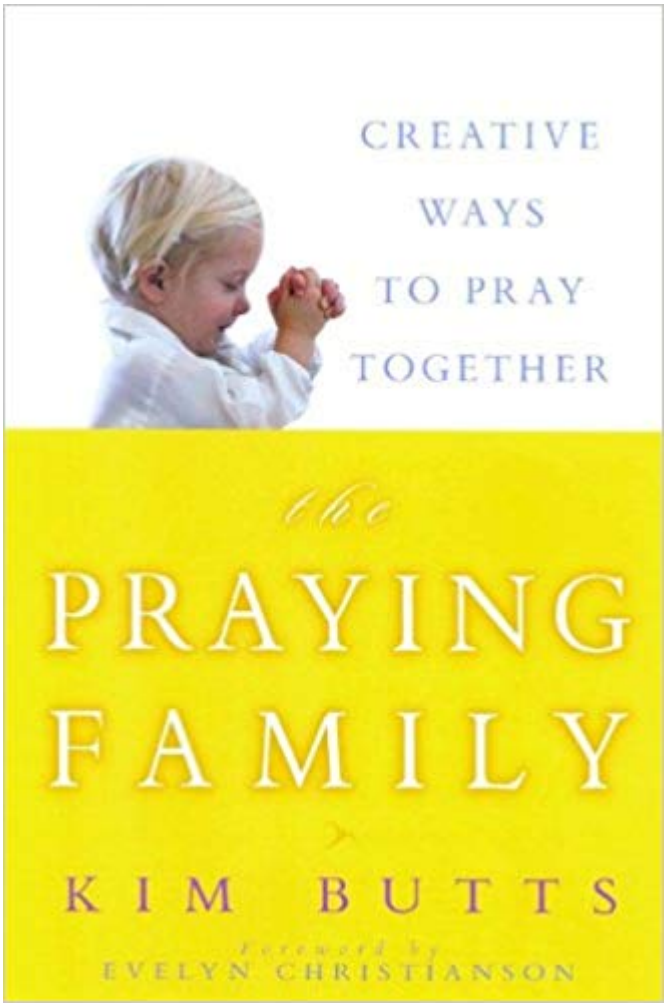
Kim has written multiple books and has published articles in a variety of magazines and publications. She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee and serves as President of Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming).

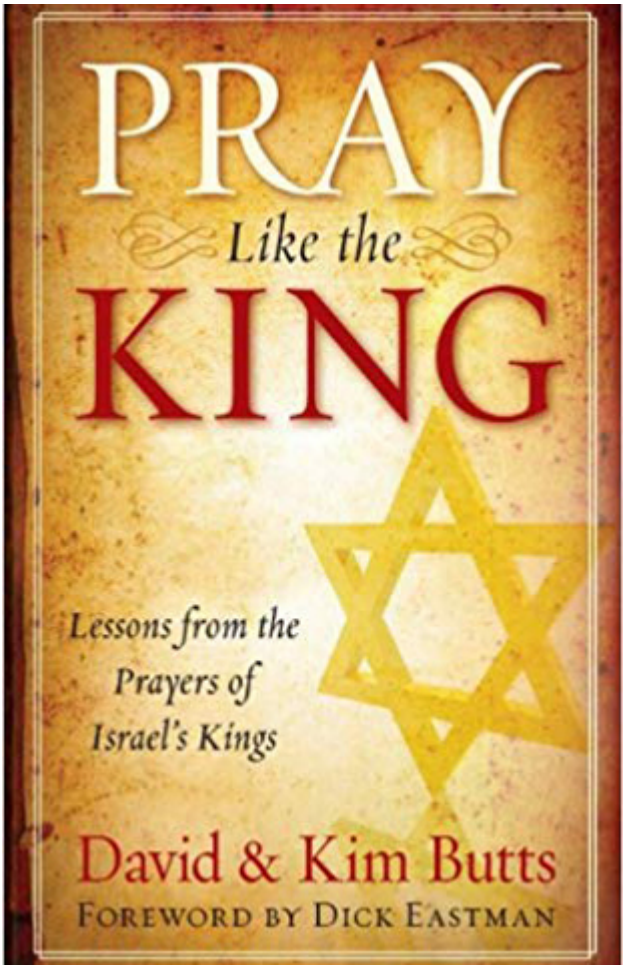
Kim has a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Leadership.

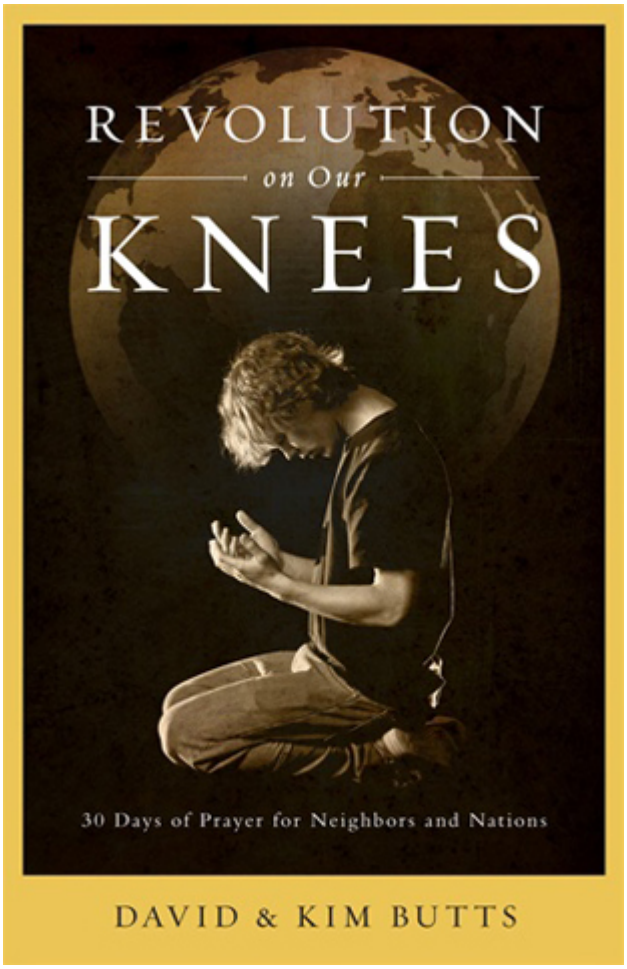
Some of Kim's Books

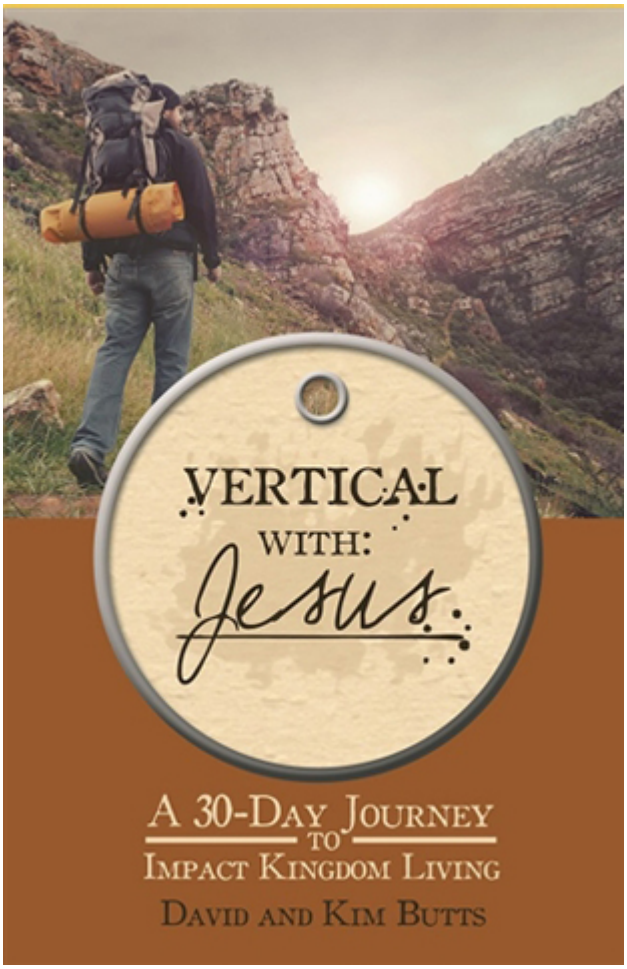

7 PRAYERS
for Discernment and
Decision-Making
A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS


CREATIVE
WAYS
TO PRAY
TOGETHER
The
PRAYING
FAMILY
KIM BUTTS
Foreword by
EVELYN CHRISTIANSON


PRAY
Like the
KING
Lessons from the
Prayers of
Israel's Kings
David & Kim Butts
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN


REVOLUTION
on Our
KNEES
30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations
DAVID & KIM BUTTS


VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus
A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS