

January 7, 2021

Dear GLN Partner:

With escalating and inciteful rhetoric and accusation, the United States and the world was subjected yesterday to a painful and agonizing example in the halls of the U.S. Congress that leadership matters. The acts of violence and assault on the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. were reckless and lawless. These are dangerous actions that should be condemned and recognized as being both tragic and heartbreaking.

The Global Leadership Network stands with fellow U.S. Christ followers and faith leaders in denouncing these unlawful actions of protesters that are contrary to the valued foundations of democracy that are supported and affirmed.

Leadership holds the ability to influence for both good and for harm and yesterday was a vivid illustration of how positional power can breed restlessness and discontent that drives unprecedented exploits. Influence has the capacity to inspire or incite and these recent events have shown the dark side of leadership when it is abused and not held in trust – when it is manipulated for personal gain.

Now is the time for evangelical leaders and pastors in the U.S. to stand up and denounce and condemn these compromised and mendacious leadership actions by an individual that was once supported, with acknowledged character faults and willing alignment with particular policies. Calling out what is morally offensive and manifestly wrong and calling for needed change and greater unity in the midst of pervasive divisiveness is the servant leadership that is requisite at this hour.

With you, our brothers and sisters in Christ and our partners in the Gospel, we ask you to join us as we humble ourselves and pray for the United States of America in these critical days – that we would turn to God as the giver of truth and grace, and we would seek his influence and leading. May we trust in God's sovereignty as we recognize he remains in control, even in times of turbulence and tumult.

I believe that in the days ahead more will be revealed about what has occurred beneath this very public tragedy and there will be greater opportunity for Christ followers to be at the forefront for the help and healing that will be needed. The Church must pray, influence, and serve – not for a particular political party or agenda – but for the recovery and restoration that will allow us to once again be *one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all**.

Together in the Cause,

Tom De Vries
President/CEO
Global Leadership Network

Be strong, live courageously, all you who hope in the Lord!
(Psalm 31:24)

**Taken from the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States, a defining statement of American democracy.*