

## I. Introduction:

- A. On January 2, 2023, Buffalo Bills Safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field during the Monday Night Football game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Buffalo Bills and suffered cardiac arrest. Medical professionals rushed onto the field and administered life-saving CPR. He was transported by police escort to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. After being deemed stable, he was flown to the Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute for further testing. Incredibly, he has already made a full recovery, and is now home.
- B. Tonight, I simply want to offer some reflections on this stunning event. I think there is a lot to unpack if we have ears to hear.

## II. The responses of the people. (These are just a few documented accounts that probably number in the many thousands.)

- A. This is from someone who was at Paycor Stadium. Jenn Sanz, who was at the game, posted this on Facebook (at 10:07 p.m.):
- “Let me tell you what you didn't see on TV. \* Not one Bills fan or one Bengals fan left their seat. \* The entire stadium was almost silent. \* The entire Bills team was around the ambulance. \* The entire Bengals team was down on one knee. \* Many in my section (Bills fans and Bengals fans) broke out in prayer. \* I sat and cried with a Bengals fan hugging each other so tight. \* The teenage Bengals fan in front of me ran to get me more Tissues and made sure I didn't need anything else. \* I saw grown men crying and strangers linking arms. \* So many Bengals fans circled around all the Bills fans offering support. \* The shocked look of every single fan showed the devastation \* The walk out of the stadium was very somber, eerily quiet and honestly just sad. This is bigger than football. Something so critical bringing fans of both sides together. Tonight, we were one team. One team praying for Hamlin. ❤️🙏💙🙌 #hamlinstrong” (This really sounds like a Joel 2:12-17 kind of solemn prayer assembly.)
  - Christian sports commentators began to pray on television. Notably, football analyst Dan Orlovsky prayed on-air on the Tuesday edition of NFL Live the day after Hamlin was injured. I've seen varying reports on how many people watched him pray, but it's conservatively in the five million range. The clip has been shared on social media and undoubtedly has reached into the tens of millions more views. Praying on-air on ESPN would have been considered unthinkable the day before.
  - I like what Kirk Bennet of IHOPKC said on Facebook: “I think it's possible that the sudden spontaneous prayer ‘meeting’ for Damar Hamlin during Monday night's nfl game might have been the largest most focused “prayer to God”, for one thing, at the same time, in modern history. Think about both teams, the stadium, and millions watching... All praying the same thing.”

## III. The promise of stadium Christianity. (Read Nehemiah 8-9 on your own to get a sense of what a biblical revival really looks like.)

- A. I often wonder what it would take to get the high school gymnasiums, civic centers and stadiums of America—and the world—filled with Christians praying, and I think we saw a glimpse in this situation. The culture suddenly turned on a dime. Millions reached out to God in the best way they knew. Interesting how nobody talks about atheism in these moments.
- B. I think often of the vision the late prophet Paul Cain had of stadium Christianity. I believe this is in our near future, and could be sooner than we might imagine. If a man who nearly died can get a stadium and nation stirred to pray, what about when the Holy Spirit releases a blazing spirit of revelation related to a Man who not only died, but died for them—in their place and for their sins. If an athlete collapsing can bring grown men to tears, what about a Man who died on a cross for them?

## IV. The power of prayer.

**James 5:13-18** | <sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

- A. James tells us that a single man named Elijah—who is as human as us—caused a shift in weather patterns because He prayed and kept praying. He relentlessly prayed God's revealed will. I believe we have been given a reminder to relentlessly pray for our nation, and the prophetic promises given individually, to our cities and to our nation.
- B. Let's see more stadium prayer meetings erupt, and the culture shift in our nation—not just for a few days, but for a few decades—for a generation.

*Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.*

### Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for January 13, 2023.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** We pray from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Come on out! The Central Illinois School of Prayer January 2023 winter mini-mester will be here soon. Visit [gphop.org/school](http://gphop.org/school) for more information.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). Contact Mandy Kistner at [mandy@gphop.org](mailto:mandy@gphop.org) if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Lackland Air Force Base in Bexar County, Texas.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at [derek@gphop.org](mailto:derek@gphop.org) if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org) if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org).
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website ([gphop.org/donate](http://gphop.org/donate)) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*