

HEALING FOR A NATION-

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Imagine you and your neighbor are playing with your father's favorite train set when the boy unintentionally leans on the track and pops off one of the wheels on a cargo car. Turning around, you call out, "Dad, can you come here a minute?" "Be right there, son." you hear from the kitchen. As Dad approaches the scene of the accident he sees the sad, ashamed, and deeply regretful young man's face. Reaching out to the boy, he says, "It's okay, son, it's fixable."

Things are already starting off with a whirlwind in 2008. Not only does this happen to be a leap year but as February is the month we remember our country's past presidents, I find it ironic that as we are celebrating these leader's birthdays we are also preparing to select a new president, begin a new election for our nation - an election that is bound to hold many changes during its duration, not just with policies and procedures but also with Supreme Court seat vacancies that are destined to open and other positions certain to arise. It is a very crucial election and a very critical time for our nation.

So what does this have to do with trains and broken wheels and little boys? 2 Chronicles 7:14 tells us: *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

If My people...- that is You and Me, everyone one of us needs to humbly pray and ask God to forgive our country, as a whole for the greed, hate, perversion, and filth that we have allowed to filtrate our nation, our schools, our homes, and our lives; for the moral dysfunction we have permitted to seep into our very beings little by little, perhaps unintentionally, without even knowing it.

Please join me in a quest to save a homeland, to pray for the healing of a broken nation, believing "things will be great in 2008." For, if we humbly ask for forgiveness and turn from our wickedness then perhaps, *then and only then*, our country, our nation can be saved. Perhaps then we will hear our dad say, "It's okay, son, it's fixable."

c. michelle bryant is a freelance writer & the author of the devotional book "God, are You listening?"