




RIGHT WING WATCH

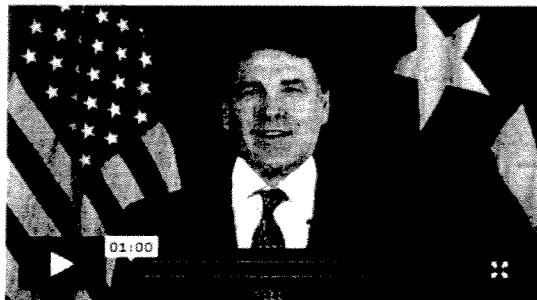


Rick Perry: Join Me To "Pray and Fast Like Jesus Did"

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Updated on 08/06/2008 11:06 AM EDT by Rick Perry

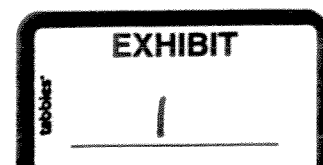
Governor Rick Perry has now [filmed a video](http://vimeo.com/25676383) (<http://vimeo.com/25676383>) urging people to join him for the prayer rally he is organizing with the American Family Association and various Religious Right activists in Houston in August, saying prayer is needed now more than ever to fix this nation's spiritual problems:



This is Governor Rick Perry and I'm inviting you to join your fellow Americans for a day of prayer and fasting on behalf of our nation. As an elected leader, I am all too aware of government's limitations when it comes to fixing things that are spiritual in nature. That's where prayer comes in, and we need it more than ever. With the economy in trouble, communities in crisis and people adrift in a sea of moral relativism, we need God's help. That's why I'm calling on Americans to pray and fast like Jesus did and as God called the Israelite to do in the Book of Joel. I sincerely hope you will join me in Houston on August the sixth and take your place in Reliant Stadium with praying people asking God's forgiveness, his wisdom and provision for our state and nation. To learn more, visit TheResponseUSA.com then makes plans to be part of something even bigger than Texas.

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Today's Issues, hosted by Tim Wildmon on AFA Radio. July 14, 2011.

Available online:

<http://www.afa.net/Radio/show.aspx?id=2147491263&tab=video&video=2147509564>

Tony Perkins (President of the Family Research Council): He's a good guy and he's, excuse me, he's joined with the American Family Association and others to do what I think is probably one of the most significant things that I think has happened in a long time and that's to join the nation, to call the nation to join together in prayer for our nation. And Tim, you've been, you and your dad have been very involved in that.

Tim Wildmon (President of the American Family Association): Yeah, absolutely. It's called The Response: A Call to Prayer for a Nation in Crisis. The Response, it's a prayer event in Houston on August 6 at the Reliant Stadium there where the Texans play uh, play football and it's an event that folks can find out more about it by going to theresponseusa.com. Check it out: theresponseusa.com. Is Governor Perry on with us? Governor?

Rick Perry (Governor of Texas): Tony?

TP: Hey, welcome governor, you're on with Tim Wildmon and Tony Perkins

RP: All right, I've been listening to you guys, listen, and I can't tell you how excited I am to be on. And Tony before we talk about The Response I want to just take a moment, I found out something about you I didn't know, and that you are a former marine. So I just want to salute you and say Semper Fi and thank you for your service, that is—

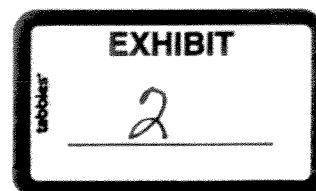
TP: Well, thank you, I appreciate that.

RP: I love you guys who serve your country and continue to serve, I might add, as you do, in another role. So anyway, Tim, it's awesome to be on your program, and I can't wait till the sixth of August rolls around and we fill up Reliant Stadium with people who are Christ-loving and realize that, you know, our country's gotten off track. And just like back in days of old, God is the same god we had from the days of Israel. And in the book of Joel it said to blow the trumpet and to assemble the people and to go into a day of fasting and prayer to ask for God's direction relative to, uh, our, um, our direction. And that's exactly what we're doing. And it's nothing more than that. I know there'll be, you know, folks who think it's something else, that it's, you know, other motivations but the fact of the matter is this is about—it's not about me, and with all due respect it's not about you either Tim, or AFA. It's about him. It's about really coming together in a day of fasting and prayer and just lifting this nation up and saying—

TW: Absolutely

RP:—Father, give us a blessing and give us direction and you know frankly forgive us for the, um, the sins that we've committed.

TW: Absolutely



RP: And that's what it's all about.

TW: Absolutely. The information about this event, August 6 at the Reliant Stadium in Houston, is at theresponseusa.com, theresponseusa.com. Folks, what you can do is load up church vans, you know, cars, buses, whatever and come to Houston at the Reliant Stadium for that day. I think it's 10 to 4, I think is the event, uh, hours. I'm not sure exactly. But it's a day of prayer, day of fasting, a day that—you know as the governor just said it has, we have historical roots here that go all the way back to our founding on presidents calling for prayer and even fasting. Don't hear about fasting much any more, but the prayers go way back in our country's history.

Governor, let me just say this publicly because I know you've caught a lot of heat for your association with the American Family Association here, which I'm the president of, and it's just been amazing, although I'm not surprised and I know you're not, you've been around the block a few times yourself, these, like this atheist group yesterday attacking us, you know, as somehow violating the constitution here because you're a public official—you're a public official and you call for prayer as if this has never been done. And I was thinking to myself, you know, where were these people when President Obama hosted the Muslims for Ramadan last year at an exclusively Muslim event? You know, these folks, it's just a hatred for Christianity by some of these left-wing groups.

RP: Well and I guess they weren't paying attention when I've done a National Day of Prayer I can't tell you how many times. And you look back and you know President Truman called for a national day of prayer. And listen I get it, but the fact—you know, the event's not political. The event's not about promoting an organization, it's not some fancy promotional event, it's going to be simple, and you know, this is simply people coming calling out to God and that's all, you know. And others may—

TW: And everybody's invited.

RP: —May ascribe—

TW: Everybody's invited.

RP: Absolutely. And um, so the, we're going to pray.

TW: Amen.

RP: And I'm excited about it. It's not a secret that America's facing some huge crises. I mean anybody that sticks their head in the sand and says, "Oh look," you know, "What are y'all doing?" we've got huge problems facing this country, whether it's economic, whether it's the breakdown of the family, and for us to pray and fast for God's mercy and guidance shouldn't be a surprising response to anyone. And the idea that we're so proud we think we have all the answers is beyond me as well, and I'm—I know my limitations, and let me tell you I want God helping me, guiding me, giving me direction. And um, that's the reason that we've brought together these Christian leaders of all races, all ages, all Christian denominations. This is a very diverse group.

Matter of fact, I just got off the phone with Tony Evans up at Oak Hill Bible Fellowship, one of those big old megachurches up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and we were just talking about the, his, uh church and the folks that are going to be coming together up there. I was visiting with a physician who's from one of those big megachurches in Tyler, Texas. I know for—they're sending a bus with at least seven—I'm talking, excuse me, seven buses full of folks, charter buses out of Tyler, Texas. And that's what we want to ask people to do from, you know, not just all across Texas but you know folks that want to load up from the surrounding states, if it's possible to be there. You know, I know there's going to be simulcasts going on as well for folks that want to participate, be a part of it, so, there's going to be a lot of ways—in the privacy of someone's home they can sit there and pray for the healing of America, and pray for God's abundant blessings to flow down on this country.

TW: We're talking to Governor of Texas, Texas Governor Rick Perry, he's on the phone with us today, talking about this prayer event in uh August, August 6 in Houston at the Reliant Stadium there, and we're just sending out the word. All are invited, all are welcome, please come, please join us for this day, this special day and you can find out more information by going to theresponseusa.com.

RP: And let me just add that the doors of Reliant Stadium are actually going to open up at 8 o'clock that morning, and there'll be some music that starts at about 8:30. And the service actually will begin at 10 o'clock and I believe run to five, Tim, I'm almost positive, but again if you go to theresponseusa.com it can answer all the people's questions about the specificity of the times.

TP: Well and folks I want to encourage you to go. I'm going to be there, I know Tim's going to be there, the Governor will be there, it's going to be I think a very significant event. And Tim, I think, you know, to your point about, uh, you know, you don't hear much when it's the Muslims, you don't hear much when it's, uh you know, the Buddhists or whatever. I think the reason is because there are those that are very concerned that our prayers will be heard and things will happen. And I think that's what happens when Christians come together in unity and they pray.

And Governor I want to ask you about this, I do want just to say what, kind of add to what Tim said, I want to appreciate you for, express my appreciation to you for your unapologetic stand for being a Christian. You know, there's some that think that or act as if, as a public official you have to check your faith at the door. I mean, these people want to sue and keep you from going. I don't know if that means they want to sue and, and make, put you under house arrest so you won't go there and pray. I guess they would if they could they would keep you from going to church on Sundays. But here's my question: As you're hoping folks across the country gather together to pray, not only there on site but in churches across the country, as you mentioned it's going to be simulcasted as well, what do you hope will be the outcome of this?

RP: Well obviously I hope there are literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of people across this country that will that day go into a spiritual, truthful fasting and praying mode, lifting up this country. And you know just ask for God's will to be done. I mean, that's simply what we're asking people to do, nothing more, nothing less.

You know I want to get back to the, you made this statement, maybe people will want to lock me up, but you know the fact of the matter is I look at that and I think about those that talk about Christian faith as being intolerant to some. Now, isn't just it the height of intolerance to say that we can't gather together in public and pray to our God? I don't—that's amazing to me.

TW: Yeah, the Freedom From Religion organization, folks you don't know this, we haven't talked about this, they're suing Governor Perry for, it's a frivolous, stupid, if I can use the word, my momma's not listening, lawsuit here. I read it yesterday. But this Freedom From Religion organization is suing Governor Perry and uh they got a litany of things, none of which are legal, uh, violations that I can see anywhere near, over this uh, hosting this event. And it's just, it's just crazy. Governor, I know you've got to go, and we appreciate you being on with us this morning on the program.

RP: Ah it's good—hey listen, God bless you guys. Thanks for what you do. Godspeed. See you soon.

TW: Thank you. All right, see you, governor. Thank you. That's Governor Rick Perry of Texas. And uh Tony, uh, the event there at Reliant Stadium, you know, this was planned before there was even any talk of Governor Perry might or might not throw his hat in the ring in terms of the presidency.

TP: Right. Right.

TW: And he hasn't even announced—he hasn't made a decision on whether or not he's going to run for president or not.

TP: Well—

TW: So this is not, this is not politically motivated. And the reason I say that is, what does it benefit Governor Perry on a national scale politically to host a prayer rally in Houston? That doesn't—he's doing this I believe sincerely because he's a believer and follower in Christ and he thinks this is important, this is an important moment in our country's history and he wants to call Christians to pray. There's going to be, there's nothing political about this particular event.

TP: Maybe he just likes to be attacked in the media, so this was one way to get that done.

TW: Oh yeah, so much fun.

TP: Now let—What—I do want to—there's been some speculation around this and I was quoted, or not quoted but named in a Time article recently saying that there were evangelical leaders trying to recruit Governor Perry into the race and there was a conference call. I was not a part of that. David Barton was identified as being on that call, and he and I talked, and he wasn't on the call either. What's happened is Governor Perry, as you said, weeks ago—months ago, actually—

TW: Right.

TP:—issued this call and it just now of course has come to the surface. But as a result of that, people began to see his leadership. There were people that came to him and said, you know, hey, this is the type of leader we need to see. Because as soon as he started getting hit, you know, he didn't back up and retreat like many political leaders do. And so you know, that's what generated the conversation I think that has been taking place in some circles about him being a potential candidate. So it was his call—

TW: Yeah.

TP: It was his call to prayer first, and then the political conversation happened second. As you pointed out, he's not made a decision, doesn't know if he's going to run. This is about prayer.

TW: Let me just say too, one other thing about what I told him on the air a few moments ago and then we've got another guest we want to get to, about this, what Governor Perry calling for this prayer event because of American Family Association and FRC, and others, but particularly the fire's been at us, and criticizing Governor Perry for his association with the American Family Association because we're homophobic and intolerant and bigoted and all these words that they use, you know, against, against us, he has not backed down. He has not taken the bait, Governor Perry I'm talking about, he has not said, you know, I need to distance myself from the American Family Association because it's going to hurt me politically. That's what a lot of politicians do when they think, you know, being linked with some group or some individual may hurt them politically. Governor Perry to his credit from our perspective has not done that at all, and we thank him for that, and I think that's something I think, Tony, that we can be proud of, with our association with the governor on this event, he's not backing up on this.



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Rick Perry Speech

Claim: Transcript reproduces a speech given by Texas governor Rick Perry.

CORRECTLY ATTRIBUTED

Example: *[Collected via e-mail, July 2011]*

Thought this was interesting. It is food for thought..... It would be nice if Rick Perry really is that strong of a Christian.

From TEXAS TO THE WHITEHOUSE!

Below are his remarks in Longview. Be sure and read where he stands and where his heart is.

In 1977, I had left the Air Force and moved home. I'll be real honest with you -- I was a bit lost spiritually, and I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. So I moved in with my mother and father. Now that's a real trip!

I had been an aircraft commander, traveling all around the world, seeing amazing places that a boy from Paint Creek, Texas, had never even dreamed were out there before.

I had this great epiphany during my mid twenties. As I had lived in Europe and South America and the Middle East, I saw all these different countries with different forms of government. I was actually paying attention to the dictatorships, theocracies, monarchies, democratic states, etc. I started making the connection between how those people lived and the form of government they had.

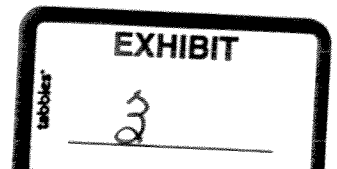
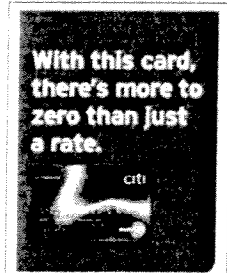
It was most interesting for me, as I'd never really given that much attention to our form of government in America . I'd taken for granted this extraordinary country we live in, but I came to realize that America is really a special place. I also made the calculation that inside that really cool place was this incredible place called Texas!

At twenty-five, twenty-six years old, it dawned on me what an incredible country we live in, and that the vast majority of the people take it for granted. They abuse the privilege of living in a free country. They don't realize how so many other people live around the world.

But with that knowledge, I went home and lived with my mom and dad. I moved back into my old room.

At eighteen years old, I left to go to my beloved Texas A&M University. Nine years later, I came back into my old room. I swear to God, I know mother cleaned it, but it looked exactly like it did the day I left.

It had my football number on the door, and it had the all-star football game program still stuck on the bulletin board. It was an eerie moment for me to



move back home. My dad was pretty sure I was the same stupid eighteen-year-old that had left. I was pretty sure he hadn't gotten any smarter either.

So we went through this really brutal period of time of finding our comfort zone. But God was dealing with me.

At twenty-seven years old, I knew that I'd been called to the ministry. I've just always been really stunned by how big a pulpit I was gonna have! I still am. I truly believe with all my heart that God has put me in this place at this time to do His will.

On Aug. 6 of this year, 2011, we are going to have a day of prayer and fasting. And it's going to be the real deal. It's not going to be some program where we line up a dozen political figures to come in and talk. It's going to be people standing on that stage, projecting and proclaiming Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior at Reliant Stadium in Houston.

Let me tell you, that's a big stadium and there will be a lot of people. But it's going to send a powerful message across this country!

Our country's broke. Well, actually, Washington's broke; our country's going to be just fine. But we've got to have men and women who are willing to stand up to proclaim the values that this country was based upon.

In 1774, at the Continental Congress when they got together and penned that first document, they talked about "life" and "liberty." Interestingly, the third thing they talked about was "property."

A couple of years later, when they actually wrote the Declaration, they changed that "property" to "the pursuit of happiness." I just signed a piece of legislation today, the eminent domain legislation.

I tell people, that "personal property" and the ownership of that personal property is crucial to our way of life.

Our founding fathers understood that it was a very important part of the pursuit of happiness. Being able to own things that are your own is one of the things that makes America unique. But I happen to think that it's in jeopardy.

It's in jeopardy because of taxes; it's in jeopardy because of regulation; it's in jeopardy because of a legal system that's run amok. And I think it's time for us to just hand it over to God and say, "God, You're going to have to fix this."

(I think it was Herman Cain who stood up the other day and said, "How's that 'Hope and Change' thing working out for you?")

I think it's time for us to use our wisdom and our influence and really put it in God's hands. That's what I'm going to do, and I hope you'll join me. I hope you'll join us in Houston on the 6th day of August and really start a revival across this country.

Here's what I want to leave you with. I know from time to time, people will say something like, "There goes Perry. He wants to secede." But I love this country. We're a special place.

We were created by God-fearing individuals who understood those biblical values and how powerful they could be and would be in the future.

And I suggest that for our country, our best days are ahead if we'll get on our knees and ask God to take over and give us wisdom.

I may wear the Lord out every day in prayer. I pray for this country. I pray for restoration for this country. I pray for our president every day. I pray that God turns buckets of wisdom out on his head, that God will open his eyes.

We can change this country, but it requires our giving it to Him and letting Him guide us.



Origins: The above is an accurate transcript of a speech given by Texas governor Rick Perry at Longview, Texas, on 23 May 2011. The event referred to therein is [this](#)

Response, a "solemn gathering of prayer and fasting for our country" to be held at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, on 6 August 2011.

Last updated: 11 July 2011

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Comments

Recommend

Transcript shows Perry likening office to pulpit

Allusions to his faith could either help or hurt him, analysts suggest

By PATRICIA KILDAY HART

AUSTIN BUREAU

July 14, 2011, 5:41AM

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Employing deeply religious language that national experts say affords both power and peril for his political career, Gov. Rick Perry in late May told a group of East Texas business leaders that he was "called to the ministry" at age 27, suggested that the governor's office was his pulpit and that God put him "in this place at this time to do his will."

According to a transcript of the private meeting, organized to raise funds for Perry's Aug. 6 "day of prayer and fasting" at Reliant Stadium, the governor stated that property rights, government regulation and a "legal system that's run amok" were threatening the American way of life and "it's time to just hand it over to God and say 'God, you're gonna have to fix this.'"

Perry spokesman Mark Miner could not verify an Internet transcript of the remarks, but said it contained nothing inconsistent with the governor's belief that "every Christian is called into ministry" whether

serving as a church leader or in the workplace, and that "God provides opportunity throughout peoples' lives to do his will." Eric Bearse, a spokesman for "the Response," confirmed the meeting was a fundraiser for the Houston prayer event.

Historians and political scientists say that Perry, who is actively testing the waters for a presidential campaign, may be ratcheting up religious rhetoric to seize the mantle of evangelical candidate in the Republican primary, but could frighten away a more mainstream general election electorate.

"This speech is a good example of both the power and the peril of politicians talking about their faith," said Dr. John C. Green, a political scientist at the University of Akron and senior fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. "To the extent they can mobilize people's deepest sentiment, it can be very effective for them. On the other hand, it can also frighten people because it sounds like too much of an intrusion of religion into the public sphere."

For the immediate goal of seizing a lead in the GOP primary, Perry's strong appeal to the religious right "will play incredibly well," pollster Anna Greenberg suggested.

"I don't think there is anything off-putting about his language or his imagery in the Republican primary," said the senior vice president at the national polling firm of Greenberg, Quinlan, Rosner.

Pitfalls of declaring faith

According to a transcript of the Longview meeting, Perry said his faith grew after his service in the Air Force, when he returned to live in his parents' home in Paint Creek. "God was dealing with me," he said. "At 27 years old, I knew that I had been called to the ministry. I've just always been really stunned by how big a pulpit I was gonna have. I still am. I truly believe with all my heart that God has put me in this place at this time to do his will."

To advocates of religious tolerance, that borders on "a theocratic declaration," said C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Interfaith Alliance.

"The problem is not faith. The problem is the public assumption that he understands God and the will of God so perfectly that he can implement for everybody God's policies for this nation," Gaddy said. "I think there are a lot of people uncomfortable with that — and I am one of them."

The American public is accustomed to politicians who talk openly about their faith.

"Voters very much want their leaders to believe in God, to have an internal moral compass," said Greenberg.

Remarks 'innocuous'

Baylor historian Thomas Kidd saw Perry's remarks - in the context of a fundraiser attended by evangelicals - as fairly "innocuous."

Kidd sees a challenge for Perry as he moves to other parts of the country less familiar with what Green called "a strong evangelical accent."

"You can do this in Texas. It is more challenging on a national level," he said

Outside the evangelical community, voters will be suspicious of a politician who links political and religious roles, Greenberg said, adding that "separation of church and state is still a majority position in this country."

At one point in his remarks, Perry reminded the gathering that he had recently signed imminent domain legislation because "ownership of personal property is crucial to our way of life."

Tort reform not doctrinal

After saying that property ownership was in jeopardy because of taxes, regulation and the legal system, Perry said, "And I think that it's time for us to just hand it over to God and say, 'God, you're going to have to fix this.'"

Greenberg noted there are "a lot of people, even in the evangelical community, who don't like the mixing of politics and religion" for issues on which religious doctrine is silent. "Tort reform is pretty far afield," she suggested.

Buchanan warned that if Perry initiates a presidential campaign, opponents will be studying every recorded sentence he has uttered.

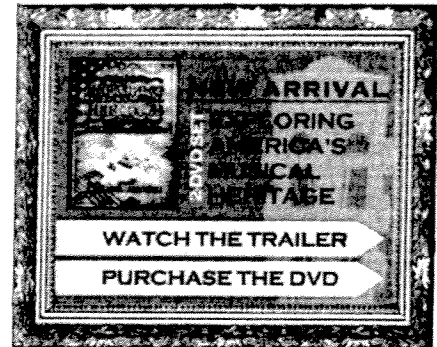
"To imply he's got God's direct guidance - if I were advising him and had his best interests at heart, I would downplay that kind of thing," Buchanan said. "But he's road-testing it."

patti.hart@chron.com



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WHO IS AFA?

American Family Association (AFA) a non-profit 501(c3) organization was founded in 1977 by Donald E. Wildmon, who was pastoring First United Methodist Church in Southaven, Mississippi, at the time. Since 1977, AFA has been on the frontlines of America's culture war. The original name of the ministry was National Federation for Decency but was changed to American Family Association (AFA) in 1988.

Today, AFA is one of the largest and most effective pro-family organizations in the country with over two million online supporters and approximately 180,000 paid subscribers to the **AFA Journal**, the ministry's monthly magazine. In addition, AFA owns and operates nearly 200 radio stations across the country under the **American Family Radio** (AFR) banner.

Other divisions of AFA include **OneNewsNow.com**, an online news provider that is syndicated around the world. AFA maintains activist web sites such as **OneMillionMoms.com** and **OneMillionDads.com** that rally Christian activists to contact companies asking them to drop their advertising from objectionable TV shows. AFA web sites average over 40 million hits and five million visitors each month.



AFA uses all these means to communicate an outspoken, resolute, Christian voice throughout America.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the American Family Association is to inform, equip, and activate individuals to strengthen the moral foundations of American culture, and give aid to the church here and abroad in its task of fulfilling the Great Commission.

PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT

The American Family Association believes that God has communicated absolute truth to mankind, and that all people are subject to the authority of God's Word at all times. Therefore AFA believes that a culture based on biblical truth best serves the well-being of our nation and our families, in accordance with the vision of our founding documents; and that personal transformation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest agent of biblical change in any culture.

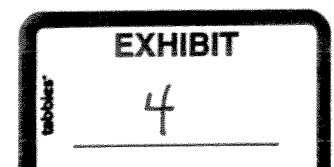
ACTION STATEMENT

The American Family Association acts to:

- (1) restrain evil by exposing the works of darkness;
- (2) promote virtue by upholding in culture that which is right, true and good according to Scripture;
- (3) convince individuals of sin and challenge them to seek Christ's grace and forgiveness;
- (4) motivate people to take a stand on cultural and moral issues at the local, state and national levels; and
- (5) encourage Christians to bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ as they live their lives before the world.

To that end, AFA spurs activism directed to:

- Preservation of Marriage and the Family
- Decency and Morality
- Sanctity of Human Life
- Stewardship
- Media Integrity



Gov. Perry Declares August 6th a Day of Prayer

Monday, June 06, 2011 Austin, Texas Proclamation

In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to join in prayer, seeking wisdom as they faced the responsibility and opportunity of building a new nation. As leaders of that young nation assembled in 1787 to craft a Constitution, Benjamin Franklin implored the framers to pray for guidance, famously declaring, "The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men." Decades later, during a time of national turmoil, President John Adams declared a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer, asking citizens of all faiths to pray for America's protection from danger. Later, as civil war tore our young country apart, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of national fasting and prayer, saying, "It behooves us... to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray to the God that made us." During World War II, with our troops locked in battle on the beaches of France, President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation in prayer. "As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts."

Given the trials that have beset our country and world - from the global economic downturn to natural disasters, the lingering danger of terrorism and wars that endanger our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and theaters of conflict around the globe, and the decline of our culture in the context of the demise of families - it seems imperative that the people of our nation should once again join together for a solemn day of prayer and fasting on behalf of our troubled nation.

In times of trouble, even those who have been granted power by the people must turn to God in humility, for wisdom, mercy, and direction. In the spirit of the Book of Joel, Chapter 2, verses 15-16, I urge a solemn gathering of prayer and fasting. As those verses admonish: "15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly... 16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly... As Jesus prayed publicly for the benefit of others in John 11:41-42, so should we express our faith in this way:

THEREFORE, I invite my fellow Texans to join me on August 6 at Reliant Stadium in Houston, as we pray for unity and righteousness - for this great state, this great nation and all mankind. I urge Americans of faith to pray on that day for the healing of our country, the rebuilding of our communities and the restoration of enduring values as our guiding force.

THEREFORE, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim August 6, 2011 to be

A Day of Prayer and Fasting for Our Nation

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby, affix my signature this the 23rd day of May, 2011.

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

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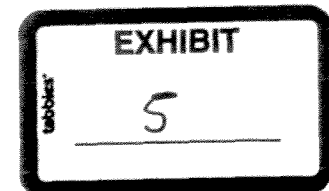
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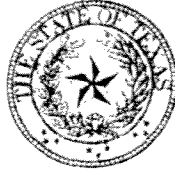
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THE RESPONSE:

a call to prayer for a nation in crisis



Fellow Americans,

On August 6, the nation will come together at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas for a solemn gathering of prayer and fasting for our country.

Right now, America is in crisis: we have been besieged by financial debt, terrorism, and a multitude of natural disasters. As a nation, we must come together and call upon Jesus to guide us through unprecedented struggles, and thank Him for the blessings of freedom we so richly enjoy.

Some problems are beyond our power to solve, and according to the Book of Joel, Chapter 2, this historic hour demands a historic response. Therefore, on August 6, thousands will gather to pray for a historic breakthrough for our country and a renewed sense of moral purpose.

I sincerely hope you'll join me in Houston on August 6th and take your place in Reliant Stadium with praying people asking God's forgiveness, wisdom and provision for our state and nation. There is hope for America. It lies in heaven, and we will find it on our knees.



Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

HISTORIC CRISIS. HISTORIC RESPONSE. HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH.

 SATURDAY, AUGUST
06, 2011

10AM-5PM

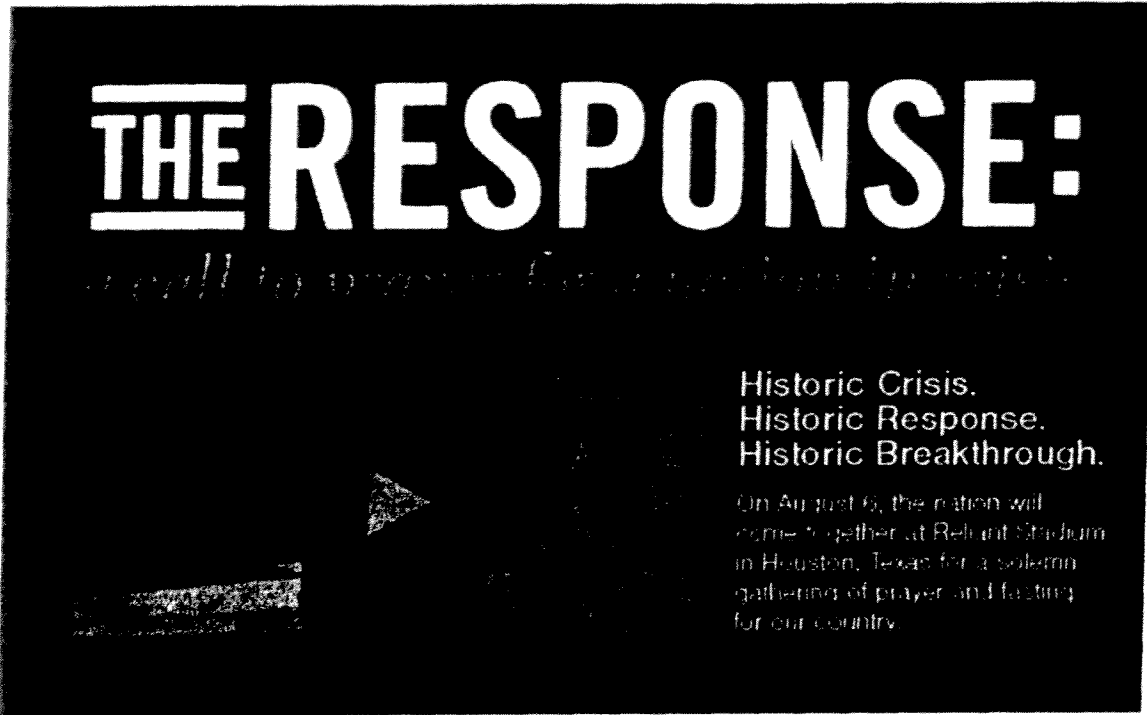
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6




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 SATURDAY, AUGUST
06, 2011
10AM-5PM

 RELIANT STADIUM
HOUSTON
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THE RESPONSE:

a call to prayer for a nation in crisis

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THE RESPONSE:
a call to prayer for a nation in crisis



 SATURDAY, AUGUST
06, 2011
 RELIANT STADIUM
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On August 6 at Reliant Stadium in Houston, at 8:00 am, the doors will open for an all-day gathering of prayer, fasting, and worship for the future of our nation. Together, we have the privilege of shaping the course and the future of our nation. For the first time in America's history, a governor has "sounded a trumpet" for the body of Christ to gather together and seek the Lord for the healing of our land. This is not a ministry, it's a mandate: a historic opportunity to see a breakthrough in prayer for our generation and generations to come. Can America be changed in a day? The answer is in the hands of the praying church.

On behalf of the Governor, we are asking for your help. We are laboring and believing for over 75,000 believers would come together at Reliant Stadium because they believe that their voice makes a difference before the courts of heaven. The prophet Joel urged his people to "sound an alarm" because of national crisis and God's urgent solution: a national prayer gathering. We are asking you to consider changing plans this summer, and making this prayer gathering a priority in your city, your church, and your household. From every denomination, from across every generation, it is the longing of every believer to be a part of something significant, something eternal in impact, and critically relevant for our times. The most relevant and helpful thing we can do as leaders is to "weep between the porch and the altar" as we gather the peoples to pray and fast (Joel 2:17). Will you join us in our labors?

WHY THE RESPONSE?

HISTORIC CRISIS

America is in the midst of a historic crisis. We have been besieged by financial debt, terrorism, and a multitude of natural disasters. The youth of America are in grave peril economically, socially, and, most of all, morally. There are threats emerging within our nation and beyond our borders beyond our power to solve.

Our nation is at a crossroads. More and more Americans are perceiving the critical juncture we find ourselves in – the future of our nation is determined by the courage of its people: first, in recognizing the magnitude of our common trouble; then, by uniting to seize the unique opportunity this moment offers us. Our response can, in part, determine our future and define for our children – and their children – what kind of nation they will govern, serve, and lead.

HISTORIC RESPONSE

As a nation, we must come together, call upon Jesus to guide us through unprecedented struggles, and thank Him for the blessings of freedom we so richly enjoy according to His grace, mercy, and kindness towards us. A historic crisis facing our nation and threatening our future demands a historic response from the church. We must, as a people, return to the faith and hope of our fathers. The ancient paths of great men were blazed in prayer – the humility of the truly great men of history was revealed in their recognition of the power and might of Jesus to save all who call on His great name.

Our hope is found in the One who might turn towards our nation in its time of great need – if we, as a nation would turn to Him in repentance, prayer, and fasting. The call of God to His people in times of great trouble is to gather together and call on Him with one voice, one heart, and a unified desire to see great blessing and great glory come to our nation again. The power of unified prayer from a humble gathering of the saints is found in the hope that He might answer us, and turn the tide of trouble and threats that stand against us.

HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH

Here, on August 10, thousands will gather to Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, to pray for a historic breakthrough for our country and a renewed sense of moral purpose. We want the presence, power, and person of Christ to fill our nation and turn the hearts of millions to righteousness, peace, and joy in Him. We want the blessing and favor of a Holy God who loves righteousness and wants to see righteousness exalt a nation in our generation. We want to see real change across our nation that only our God can perform. Will you join us in Houston? Will you pray, fast, and believe with us for a mighty move of God in our nation again?

There is hope for America. It lies in heaven, and we will find it on our knees.

WHY A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY OF PRAYER AND FASTING?

In Joel chapter two, an ancient Hebrew prophet speaks to a nation in crisis and gives her God's solution: gather together, repent of their sins, and pray to God to intervene on their behalf. In that day the command was for everyone to stop what they were doing and gather for a sacred assembly to turn to God with all their hearts, "with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning" (Joel 2:12).

Why did God desire fasting, weeping, and mourning - or, to put it differently, contrition and humility - from the people? A "sacred assembly" (Joel 2:15) was a gathering that served a few purposes: first, in gathering, the people were acknowledging that their nation had drifted away from its foundations in morality and faith. Because of this moral decline, the people were not prepared to face the external threats rising up against them: economic, political, and military in nature. God wanted His people to understand that their internal threats (moral decline) were far greater than their external threats (economic crisis and military invasion).

In gathering together, God wanted the people instructed so that they would know why their nation was in peril. God named the people - from the children and nursing babies to the leaders and priests (Joel 2:16) - to all completely understand both the nature of the crisis at hand and the only solution that would deliver them from their great crisis. God

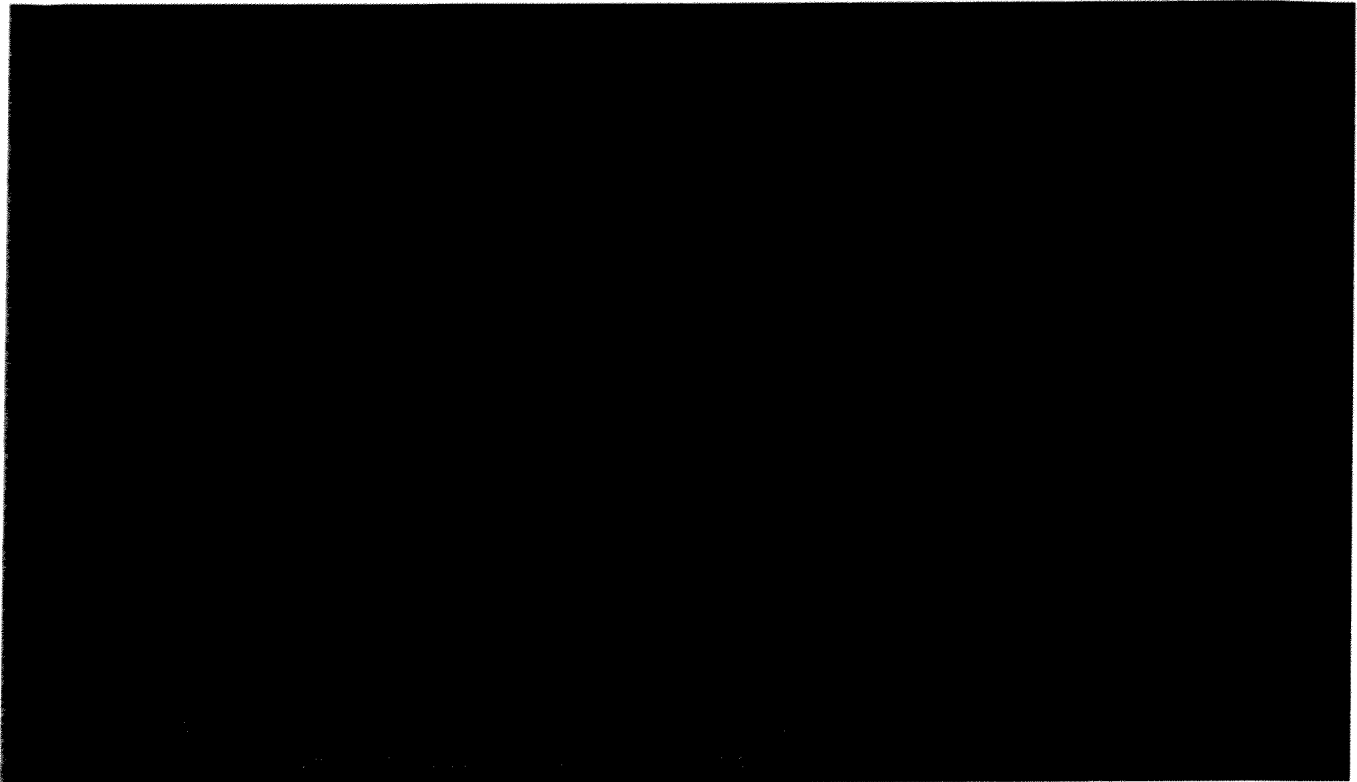
Himself. God ordained in that hour of history that prayer would serve as the only way of escape from the mounting trouble. Why? Because only God had the power to solve both the internal moral decline and the external economic and military threats. All three were unsolvable by human means and human solutions - but God had a solution that could be found in His great mercy.

In gathering together, therefore, the people could cry out together with their leaders in humility and repentance led by their priests (Joel 2:17). There is power from heaven available to those who gather together and pray. We see a "Joel 2" gathering at the beginning of the book of Acts with a "Joel 2" answer in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). The greatest missions movements in history - starting with the Apostle Paul - were launched out of prayer gatherings like the one in Acts 13. The great Catholic, Protestant, and Student Volunteer missions movements were all launched out of gatherings of prayer.

The greatest revivals in history, such as the First and Second Great Awakenings, were also birthed out of sustained, persistent gatherings of prayer. Dramatic things have happened throughout many generations when the people of God come together and seek His face. Who

knows what can happen in our generation when we gather together to worship Jesus, fast and pray, and believe for great change in our nation?

**THERE IS POWER FROM
HEAVEN AVAILABLE TO
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TOGETHER AND PRAY.**



What does The Response believe?

The Response is a non-denominational, apolitical Christian prayer meeting and has adopted the American Family Association statement of faith.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why is The Response happening? Why should I come?

We believe that America is in a state of crisis. Not just politically, but morally, spiritually, and socially. We believe that the only way to bring about a change in our nation is through a spiritual revival. We believe that the only way to bring about a spiritual revival is through a prayer meeting.

SEARCH

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Houston Clergy Join Protest Against Perry's Prayer Event

November 14, 2011 11:00 AM

A growing number of local and national civil rights organizations have joined the protest against Texas Gov. Rick Perry's **extremist-sponsored** [anti-gay prayer event](#) in Houston since SCA **first criticized** [this secular and openly government-backed religious prayer event](#) in [Houston](#) [two weeks ago](#).

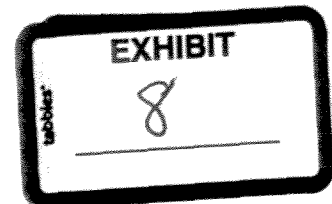
Echoing SCA's position that it is totally inappropriate for an elected official to promote divisive religious messages while teaming up with an identified "hate group" such as the American Family Association, organizations including the Southern Poverty Law Center, American Atheists, the Interfaith Alliance, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations have all issued statements condemning Perry's role in the event.

But it's not just the "usual suspects" promoting church-state separation who have a problem with Perry's actions. Last week, more than 20 clergy members from the Houston area penned a **must-read editorial** (<http://www.chron.com/stories/mpe/editorials/txkx.0914497.html>) in the *Houston Chronicle*, explaining their "deep concern" over the event:

We believe in a healthy boundary between church and state. Out of respect for the state, we believe that it should represent all citizens equally and without preference for religious or philosophical tradition. Out of respect for religious communities, we believe that they should foster faithful ways of living without favoring one political party over another. Keeping the church and state separate allows each to thrive and upholds our proud national tradition of empowering citizens to worship freely and vote conscientiously. We are concerned that our governor has crossed the line by organizing a religious event rather than focusing on the people's business in Austin.

We also express concern that the day of prayer and fasting at Reliant Stadium is not an inclusive event. As clergy leaders in the nation's fourth-largest city, we take pride in Houston's vibrant and diverse religious landscape. Our religious communities include Bahais, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Unitarian Universalists and many other faith traditions. Our city is also home to committed agnostics and atheists, with whom we share common cause as fellow Houstonians. Houston has long been known as a live-and-let-live city where all are respected and welcomed. It troubles us that the governor's prayer event is not open to everyone. In the publicized materials, the governor has made it clear that only Christians of a particular kind are welcome to pray in a certain way. We feel that such an exclusive event does not reflect the rich tapestry of our city.

Reading a group of Unitarian Universalist ministers offer such a poignant defense of secular government and warmly refer to agnostics and atheists as their fellow Houstonians is a truly great reminder that it takes a village to raise a child. If all the religious people who support keeping church and state separate were revered more than a few religious extremists, we could have a lot to be proud of. It is not just a good idea, it is a good idea. Let's hope that the prayer event will be a good idea for all.



As the authors of the editorial point out, secular government is in many ways what allows religious faith to flourish. Providing freedom of and from religion is the only way to ensure that everyone is able to practice (or not practice) their own beliefs freely... and the best way to preserve those freedoms is a secular government that gives no privilege to one worldview over another.

When a U.S. governor, on the other hand, [declares](http://thatspokane.com) that, as a nation, we must come together and call upon Jesus to guide us through unprecedented struggles, and insists that all Americans should embrace his religion as the only solution, those freedoms become threatened, for believers and nonbelievers alike.

Pick Perry might not fully appreciate the purpose of secularism, but those Houston Clergy members sure do.

We ask that Gov. Perry leave the ministry to us," they wrote, "and refocus his energy on the work of governing our state."

is there a secular word for "amen"?

Correction: This post originally referred to the op-ed's authors only as Christian clergy when, in fact, many of them were also Unitarian Universalists. The post has been updated to reflect those changes.

Comments

Commented by [Ronald Martin](http://www.ropia.com/author/ronald-martin/) (http://www.ropia.com/author/ronald-martin/) on 11/18/2011 11:13

Interesting. But we do understand that the theist clergy is seemingly only correct in this instance and is not a reliable source of referencing legitimacy of church and state issues. Do we know the motives of these ministers - maybe they would prefer the day of prayer to be held in their churches for some reason that may benefit the church that could not be actuated at the stadium venue - is that possible???. Suppose the Governor concedes to the churches and compromises with them on this issue - would the churches stand to gain anything?

is there a secular word for "amen"? Ummm... maybe "hey-men"??

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