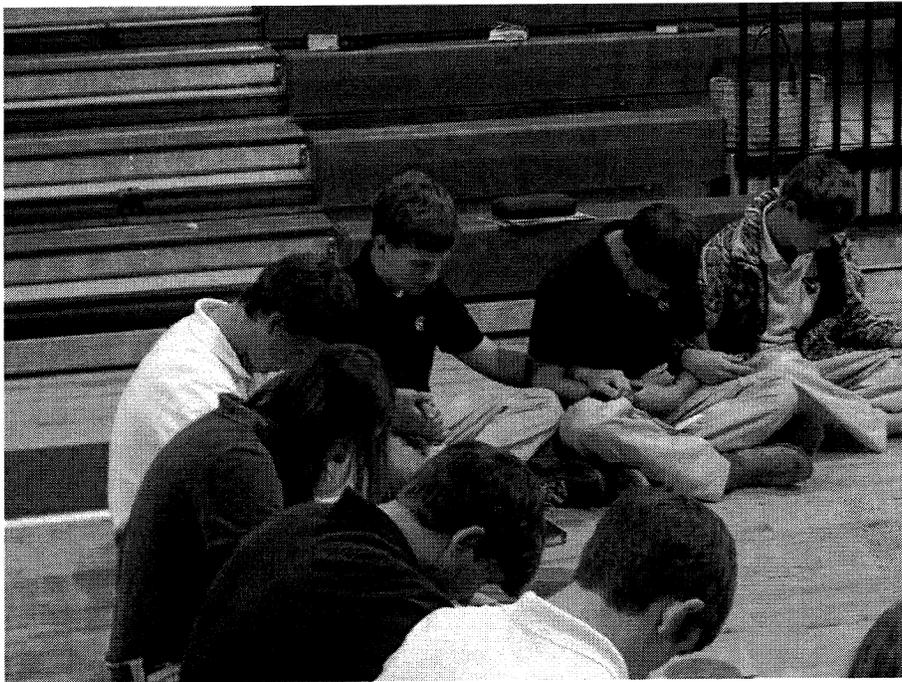


**National Day of Prayer Coordinators'**

# **School Prayer Event Guide**

**A Public, Private and Christian School Resource Manual  
How To Successfully Hold National Day of Prayer Events In Your Community's Schools!**



**A Project Begun May 2, 2002, at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer  
Marking the 40<sup>th</sup> Year of the Removal of Prayer from America's Schools**

National Day of Prayer Coordinators'  
**School Prayer Guide**  
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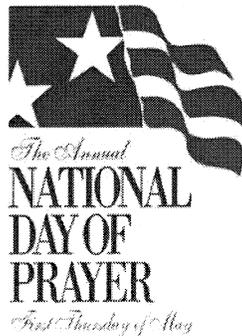
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## Foreword: Prayer and Dedication

We thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your gift of prayer – a gift that can change our schools, our nation, and our world. With this National Day of Prayer School Prayer Guide, we humbly ask you to help us reclaim our schools in order that present and future generations of young Americans may come to know You.

Please bless your faithful Prayer Intercessors and Event Coordinators who obediently seek Your wisdom and direction as they organize prayer events in their local schools. We ask also that you would guide and protect our nation's leaders and military servicemen, our schools and students, media executives, business entrepreneurs, churches, ministries, and families. May we once again be "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



In Jesus' glorious name we pray,

Amen.



Photo courtesy of Rhonda Wilburn

### Dedication

This School Prayer Guide is dedicated to all the children who, in the fall of 1962, returned to their classrooms and were told that there would no longer be a time of prayer before classes began in order to allow more time in the day for school activities.

I was one of those children, and I am honored to be blessed by God to author this Prayer Guide to give children another chance to know Jesus loves them.

With His Blessings,  
Susan Turner

## Section One

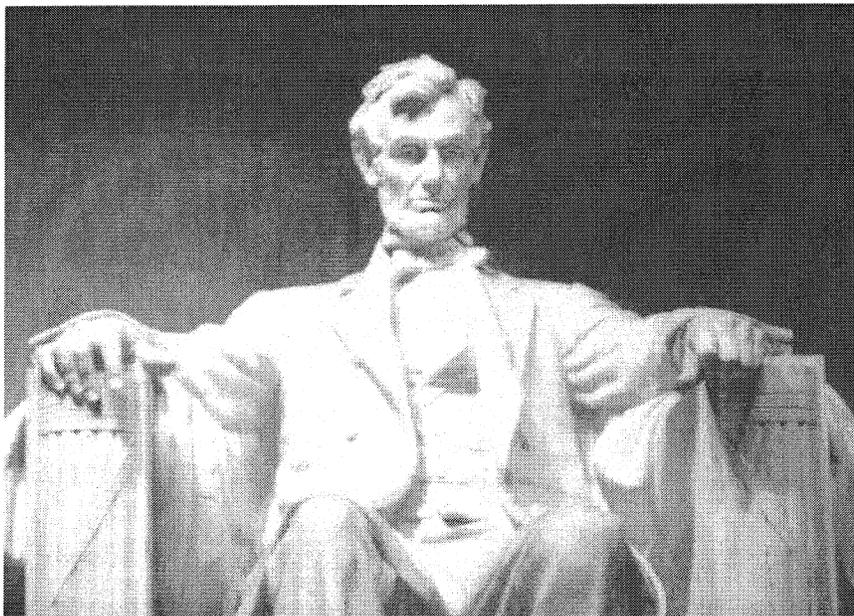
# Historical Narrative

It has been more than 40 years since the United States Supreme Court ruled on June 25, 1962, that prayer in our nation's schools was unconstitutional, effectively removing prayer from America's public schools. Since then, our nation has experienced a diminished reverence for the Almighty, as well as an erosion in many areas of American life. Not only are we seeing a decline in our schools' environment and academics, but student performance and conduct has also taken a turn for the worse. Meanwhile, the disintegration of family life is giving rise to societal crises such as teenage pregnancy and violent crime.

The number "40" shows up frequently in Scripture to demonstrate that something important is happening. For instance, the Israelites wandered in the desert 40 years until they were ready to enter the Promised Land. Likewise, our nation's public schools have wandered in a "desert wasteland" for the past 40 years. We believe, however, that they are now ready, with God's help, to enter into a "Promised Land" accessible to them through prayer.

This guide has been prepared specifically to help National Day of Prayer Coordinators throughout America hold prayer events in their community's schools. This effort began with a single event at a Colorado public elementary school in 2002, and has since grown into a national movement that is helping return prayer to America's schools.

Throughout this guide, you will find suggestions for holding prayer events at your local public, private or charter school.



## Section Two

# Yes! You Can Hold a National Day of Prayer School Event!

The phrase "separation of Church and State" does not appear anywhere in the Constitution of the United States of America. Our Founding Fathers designed our republic in such a way to ensure that a government-sponsored religion would not be imposed upon the people. However, they did not intend to isolate our governing authorities from God.

The basis for the public's misconception and ongoing debate in this regard is found in Amendment I of the Constitution, which reads:

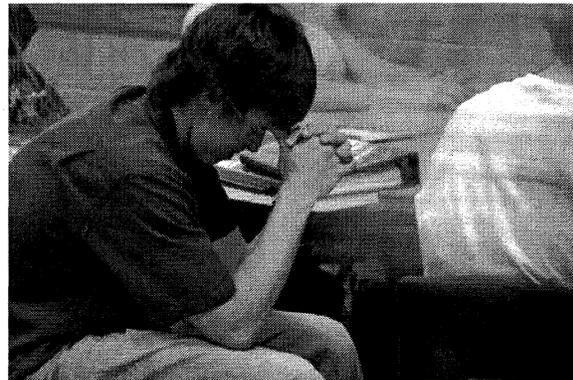
*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances [emphasis mine].*

Because of the misuse of what is referred to as the "Establishment Clause" in the First Amendment, Americans have been led to believe that school prayer of any kind is unconstitutional. To the contrary, school administration, staff, teachers, and students are permitted, as private citizens, to conduct and attend National Day of Prayer events at our nation's public, private and Christian schools before or after school hours.

Currently, school prayer events are to be student-led and student-initiated. One way of adhering to this model is to organize a Bible Club or Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at your school. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) estimates that there are over 8,000 FCA "Huddles" – or chapters – that meet at

secondary schools across the nation, and the American Center for Law and Justice reports that Bible Clubs are presently meeting in 15,000 U.S. schools. (An article related to the launch of a Bible Club, originally printed in *Teachers in Focus* magazine, follows at the end of this section.)

Private and Christian schools may have policies allowing students to pray during specifically designated times, such as the lunch hour. They also may permit information regarding a prayer event to be distributed by students to fellow students. It all depends upon the school and its district policies. Don't become discouraged if certain district guidelines hinder your first attempts to conduct a prayer event at your school. Such regulations can be modified by attending school board meetings and through lobbying your district's board members and administration. Even in cases where these kinds of efforts do not succeed, flyers can be circulated outside of school in order to raise awareness of the upcoming event. In addition, the establishment of a Bible Club or FCA chapter can open doors for publicizing and coordinating your prayer gathering.



# Who Me? Start a Bible Club?

By Suzanne Grissom

**I'll** never forget my first semester teaching at Granada Hills High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The beginning of school found me out in the bungalows with students who had been through six teachers in six weeks and were proud of it. Sometimes I felt like I was fighting for my very existence. It didn't help matters that my classroom was on the very edge of campus, almost in a different time zone. The long walk between my class and the teachers' cafeteria only reinforced the feeling that I was a missionary in a hostile land.

Then one morning I heard an announcement over the P.A. system: "Bible Club meeting today at lunch in Mrs. Hutton's room, B-12."

*Wow! If I bolt the minute the bell rings, I bet I could make it!*

I did, and what I found was like an oasis in the desert – about a dozen students, sitting with Bibles open, talking about the meaning of Scripture. And

teacher, Chris Hutton, sitting peacefully, listening and eating her lunch at the back of the classroom.

Over the course of the year, that group of students became an encouragement and a

challenge to me. More importantly, though, the group was a lifeline for many of those students. In the chaotic world of high school, that Bible Club was an affirming and secure place to be.

Do the Christian students in your school have a refuge like that? If not, maybe the Lord is calling you to help create one. Here's how.

## Learn the Law

If you want to help start a Bible Club, the first thing you should do is familiarize yourself with the Equal Access Act of 1984, which governs the establishment and conduct of student religious groups on public secondary-

school campuses.

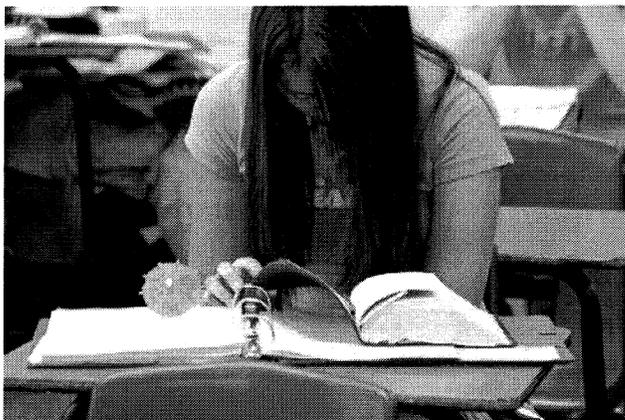
The Equal Access Act, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990, requires public secondary schools to let student religious groups meet on the same basis as other non-curricular student groups. In other words, if your school allows any kind of non-curricular club to meet on its campus (e.g., chess club, scuba club, service club), then it must allow religious clubs to meet as well.

However, student religious groups must also meet the following conditions:

1. The religious group meetings must be voluntary and student-initiated.
2. There can be no sponsorship of the meeting by the school or its agents or employees (the court defined "sponsorship" as "the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting"—this does not include simply attending the meeting for "custodial purposes").
3. Employees or agents of the school should be present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
4. The meeting must not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
5. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.<sup>1</sup>

Essentially, the school and its employees are forbidden "to influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity."<sup>2</sup>

"If a teacher calls me and wants to start a [Christian] club on campus, I tell them that they should informally ask students to start the club," said Kim Colby, special counsel at the Center for Law and Religious Freedom. "Teachers shouldn't initiate the club ... the law doesn't protect them. The students need to go through the process of starting the club. The teacher should only be



there as a nonparticipating advisor, to provide discipline and keep students safe.”

### Network, Network, Network

Okay, the club must be student-initiated. But how can a teacher connect with interested Christian students? According to Doug Clark, director of field ministries for the National Network of Youth Ministries and national promotion coordinator for “See You at the Pole,” relationships are the key. This includes not only relationships with students, but with teachers, churches and parents, as well.

**Teachers:** The best place to start networking is at your school, with other teachers. Some of your teachers may already know students who would be interested in starting a Bible Club. If not, Clark said, you can “form a prayer group with other teachers and pray for students to step out.”

**Churches and Parents:** If students from your school attend your church, ask your youth pastor if there are any kids who might be interested in starting a Christian Club. Better yet, see if you and your youth pastor can arrange a meeting with the kids’ parents. At the meeting, you can explain what Christian Clubs are all about and see if parents are interested in having their children lead or participate in such a group. If no students from your school attend your church, try to connect with youth leaders at other churches. Or enlist some of your Christian colleagues to canvass parents and leaders at their own churches.

**Students:** Of course, don’t overlook relationships with your own students. Perhaps the best way to develop contacts with Christian students is to be up front about your own faith. Rather than hiding it under a bushel, let people know that you’re a Christian. Icebreakers can help you do this in a non-threatening manner. For example, when we did introductions at the beginning of each term, I asked students to share their four loves. Mine, I’d say, are Jesus, my husband, horses and Hemingway. That’s all it took to draw a response from the Christian students.

### State Your Case

Once students have expressed interest and you have committed to sponsor the club, it’s time to go to the administration. The students may wish to do this themselves, or they may ask you to go on their behalf.

If students ask you to approach the administration on their behalf, be sure to do the following:

- **Remember that the law is on your side.** If your school allows even a single non-curricular club on campus, then the school must allow religious groups to meet, as well.
- **Watch your attitude.** Although the law is on your side, don’t use it as a bludgeon to beat



your principal (or anyone else) into submission. Rather, use your knowledge of the Equal Access Act to reassure your principal that religious clubs are indeed legal, and that you will be careful to stay within the law.

It was that attitude that helped win the day when Granada Hills High School teacher Chris Hutton assisted students in forming the Christian Awareness Club. The Supreme Court had just ruled that the Equal Access Act was constitutional. Equipped with this knowledge, Hutton approached her principal.

“Once I started using the terminology of the Act,” Hutton said, “the principal knew I knew what I was talking about. I made a commitment to her to sponsor the club in the right way.”

• **Stand pat.** Occasionally administrators try to put special conditions on student religious groups. For example, when I supervised a group a few years ago, the students invited a local pastor to speak about abortion from a Christian perspective. After we filled out the paperwork, however, we were told that we’d have to present “both sides” of the issue.

At first, I thought it was a good idea. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that we were being held to a different standard than the other groups. So I confronted the assistant principal and told her that the group would gladly present both sides if other groups did the same. I wanted the homosexual group to feature

those who'd gone straight, and the drug- and alcohol-abuse group to feature people who enjoyed their lifestyle. Faced with this obvious discrepancy, the assistant principal withdrew the requirement.

Once you've gotten permission for students to start a religious club, you need a game plan. How will the Bible Club be run? How will you advertise it? When will you meet?

According to the Equal Access Act, that's for students to decide. If it is going to be their club, they have to make the decisions. Your job is not to lead the club, but to make sure that meetings are orderly and do not disturb classes or other groups.

However, if the students are having trouble coming up with a format for their club, it is perfectly acceptable to educate them about the choices they have. For example, meetings could include guest speakers, prayer sessions, Bible studies, discussions of current events and even formal curricula.

Remember also to let students take the lead on promoting their group. The Equal Access Act requires that religious groups have the same access to school media as nonreligious groups. But, students must do the promoting themselves. Remember all aspects of the "religious group" must be student-initiated and student-led. Promoting your club or activity is no different.

### Remember the Big Picture

It wasn't long before the group I assisted began changing lives. A speaker on "Sex, Love and Choices" prompted 46 percent of our previously sexually active students to pledge abstinence. And at the height of the club there were well over 100 students attending – which forced us to move our meeting to the auditorium.

But, as you work with students to start their Bible Club, do not judge success by how many people attend. Three students who serve the Lord and their campus with gladness may do more to win souls than an army of 100.

Just keep praying that the Lord will guide and direct the students as they seek to do His will. Remember, our God is faithful. And He will always prevail.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> *The Equal Access Act and the Public Schools: Questions and Answers*. Center for Law and Religious Freedom, p.1. Full text available at [www.clsnet.com/eaabro.html](http://www.clsnet.com/eaabro.html).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* p.2.

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# Overview of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes

## History of Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The idea for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes was conceived in 1947 by founder Don McLanen when he was a student at what is now Oklahoma State University. Later, as a college coach, he envisioned athletes and coaches presenting Christ throughout the nation. McLanen's vision was brought to fruition in November 1954 when FCA was officially established.

Today, FCA is touching millions of lives. In fact, in the United States alone there are estimated to be more than 8,000 "Huddles," i.e., FCA groups that meet at schools, youth clubs and churches. Through this influential and widespread ministry that has become the largest Christian sports outreach in America, FCA is equipping coaches and athletes at every level to serve as Jesus Christ's ambassadors on the playing fields and in their local communities. As a result, countless people are being introduced to the hope and truth of the Gospel.

### Purpose of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

FCA's Campus Ministries are designed to impact schools through programs such as Huddles, team Bible studies, Chapel Programs, Team FCA memberships, the *One Way 2 Play* substance abuse prevention program, and various special events. Ultimately, all of these efforts are designed to help believers grow in their relationship with Christ and lead others to a saving knowledge of Him.

FCA's vision, mission and values are summarized on the organization's Web site ([www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org)) as follows:

- **The FCA Vision:** To see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches.
- **The FCA Mission:** To present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.
- **The FCA Values:** Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence.

*Integrity* - We will demonstrate Christ-like wholeness, privately and publicly.

*Serving* - We will model Jesus' example of serving.

*Teamwork* - We will express our unity in Christ in all our relationships.

*Excellence* - We will honor and glorify God in all we do.

## How to Start a Fellowship of Christian Athletes "Huddle" at Your School

There are two proven ways to successfully sponsor National Day of Prayer events at your school. One way, described above in Suzanne Grissom's article, is to start a Bible Club. The other way is to form a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle.

Whichever approach you choose, it's important to bear in mind that our present laws require your school's administration to treat your group as they do any other student organization. You are to have the options of meeting on campus, distributing your organization's literature (including prayer event flyers), and recruiting new members.

With that in mind, FCA's Web site provides the following suggestions for initiating a Huddle within your own school

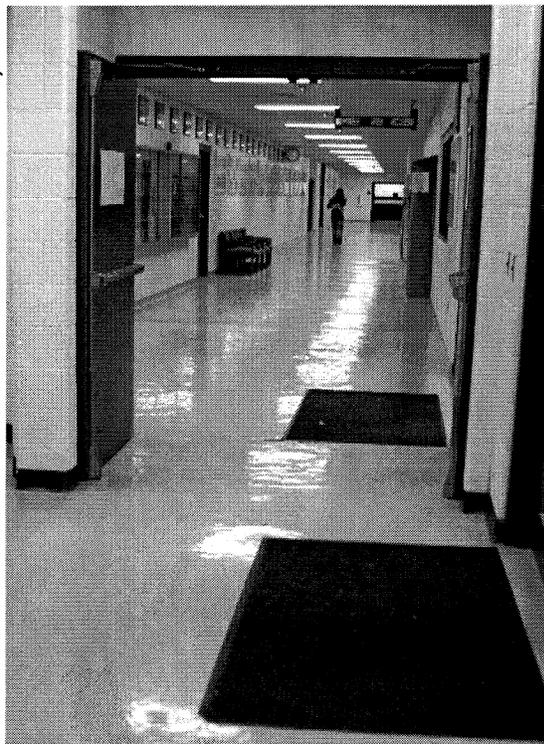
(<https://teamnet.fca.org/certifications.nsf/HowDoIGetStarted?OpenPage>).

1. Pray. Ask the Lord to prepare your FCA start-up.
2. Contact your FCA Staff. They will give you a better understanding of FCA's purpose, philosophy and programs. To find information on your local FCA office call toll free (800) 289-0909, or visit the [Find Local Staff](#) web site.
3. Seek the Administration's blessing. FCA should be student-initiated and student-led. Students should meet with school administrators to obtain approval, and provide them with information regarding the FCA ministry.

4. Certify your campus. Use the Online Certification tool on FCA's web site [www.fca.org/certify](http://www.fca.org/certify).
5. Complete the Ministry Leader Application. This can be obtained through your local FCA staff, or it can be completed online: [www.fca.org/mla](http://www.fca.org/mla).
6. Identify Student Leaders/Huddle Coaches. Identify the students who are most likely to be leaders in your FCA, and ask Christian adults to be Huddle Coaches. (It is ideal if the adults are coaches at your school.)
7. Surround yourself with volunteers. Adult Ministries are designed to support the FCA. These adults can meet together, raise funds and assist in activities.
8. Determine the impact. There are many ways you can impact your campus. Decide if you want to start a Huddle, lead a team Bible study or develop a team chaplain program.
9. Hold a Leadership meeting. Have a meeting with the Leadership Team and your FCA staff to learn about the great resources in the Campus Ministry Kit. Discuss meeting schedule, FCA-provided materials, and the impact that FCA will have on your campus.
10. Complete Basic Training. In your Campus Ministry Kit you will find our Huddle Playbook. In the Playbook are five leadership training sessions called: Basic Training. Take time to complete these lessons with your leadership team.
11. Build a Plan. In the Basic Training lessons you will learn how to utilize FCA's resources to do ministry on your campus. Use the Planning Sheets found in the Resource section of the Huddle Playbook to build two months worth of ministry plans. Then regularly meet with your

leadership team to put the plan in motion and to continue the planning process.

12. Evaluate. FCA has provided a great tool to help you lead the best campus ministry possible. The Huddle Scouting Report will help you evaluate all the important areas of your ministry. It is found in the Huddle Playbook, on the Huddle eEquipment CD and on the web in our Huddle eEquipment.
13. Ongoing Leadership Training. All great teams have that extra advantage – The X Factor. FCA's ongoing training for our leaders is that extra advantage. Leadership teams should meet regularly to pray, plan their campus ministry and further develop their leadership abilities by working through all 15 of our X Factor lessons found on the Huddle eEquipment CD.



**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**  
**8701 Leeds Road**  
**Kansas City, MO 64129**  
**1-800-289-0909**  
[www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org)  
 E-mail: [fca@fca.org](mailto:fca@fca.org)

### Section Three

## School Event Informational Contacts

*Should you have specific questions regarding your school event, including inquiries related to legal matters, you may find the following organizations helpful.*

#### **The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ)**

P.O.Box 90555

Washington, D.C. 20090-0555

(757) 226-2489

[www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org) (For specific information about school prayer, enter "National Day of Prayer" in the Web site's search field.)

*Founded in 1990, the American Center for Law and Justice is the nation's preeminent public interest law firm and educational organization dedicated to defending and advancing religious liberty, the sanctity of human life and the two-parent, marriage-bound family. Issues highlighted on the ACLJ Web site include education, Equal Access (i.e., Bible Clubs), freedom of speech, matters of church and state, prayer, and student rights.*

#### **Alliance Defense Fund (ADF)**

15100 North 90th Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

(800) TELL-ADF (835-5233)

[www.alliancedefensefund.org](http://www.alliancedefensefund.org)

For legal questions, call ADF and ask to speak with someone in the Legal Intake department.

*The Alliance Defense Fund champions the right of Americans to engage in public expressions of faith. Through strategy, training, funding, and litigation, the ADF staff focuses on issues such as religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and the preservation of traditional family values.*

#### **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) National Headquarters**

8701 Leeds Road

Kansas City, MO 64129

(800) 289-0909

[www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org)

E-mail: [fca@fca.org](mailto:fca@fca.org)

*(See Section Two for a description of FCA's work.)*

**Liberty Counsel**

P.O. Box 540774

Orlando, FL 32854

(800) 671-1776

[www.lc.org](http://www.lc.org)

E-mail: Liberty@LC.org

*Established in 1989, the Liberty Counsel is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life and the traditional family through litigation, educational resources and policy reform efforts. The Liberty Counsel offers informational materials pertaining to students' and teachers' rights on public school campuses. Of particular interest is a handbook titled Faith & Freedom, a comprehensive guide to defending religious rights.*

**WallBuilders Press and Ministry**

P.O. Box 397

Aledo, TX 76008

(817) 441-6044

[www.wallbuilders.com](http://www.wallbuilders.com)

*This ministry offers a wealth of electronic and print items geared toward perpetuating our nation's religious heritage. WallBuilders Founder David Barton has served as a speaker at many NDP events and has authored a book related to school prayer, A Constitutional Amendment Protecting School Prayer and Other Religious Speech, which can be purchased at WallBuilders' Web site.*

In addition to the above organizations, the NDP Task Force has staff members who are available to field inquiries related to school prayer. Contact information for NDP National Area Leaders (NAL's) or State Coordinators is also available through the NDP Task Force office at the following address:

**NDP Task Force**

P.O. Box 15616

Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616

(719) 531-3379

[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)

**National Day of Prayer product information and ordering**

Various products related to school prayer events can be obtained through NDP Task Force headquarters. Credit card orders can be placed online or through the NDP Order Line (1-800-444-8828). For mail orders with a credit card, check or money order, write to National Day of Prayer Task Force, P.O. Box 15440, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5440. You may also fax your order to (719) 531-4520.



pictures on NDP placemats depicting what the National Day of Prayer meant to them

- Discussions about NDP during Social Studies classes
- Chapel services for elementary, middle school and high school students in observance of NDP

#### Materials Used

- A large NDP banner, displayed on campus grounds to generate interest in NDP and prayer for our nation among the staff, students and parents



- Uncle Sam posters with the heading “I Want You to Pray” displayed in classrooms

#### ***St. Peter’s Episcopal Pre-School and Kindergarten***

Lake Mary, Florida

***Summary:*** *Yet another church-sponsored school, the senior pastor announced both the church’s and school’s NDP activities from the pulpit the Sunday prior to the event. The church and school cooperated in promoting their observance through various communication channels. The church, for instance, utilized NDP program covers that included announcements about the school’s planned activities that week.*

#### Program Details

- A National Day of Prayer chapel service hosted by the school in the church sanctuary
- Various classroom activities
- Prayers provided by each child that were shared during the chapel program

#### Materials Used

- NDP Balloons  
These were handed out for each child to take home.

- NDP Bookmarks

As an additional token of the National Day of Prayer, bookmarks were tied to the children’s balloons.

- NDP Placemats

Placemats were colored in the classroom for students to take home as another keepsake reminder to pray for our nation.

- NDP Posters

Posters were displayed to draw attention to the school’s NDP observance.

For ideas related to NDP events held at colleges and universities, contact Pastor Rick Barton, an FCA sponsor, at the following address:

***Western State College of Colorado  
Gunnison, Colorado  
(970) 641-3583  
E-mail: barton@gunnison.com***

# Public and Charter School Resources

## Event Examples and Ideas:

### *The Classical Academy Charter School*

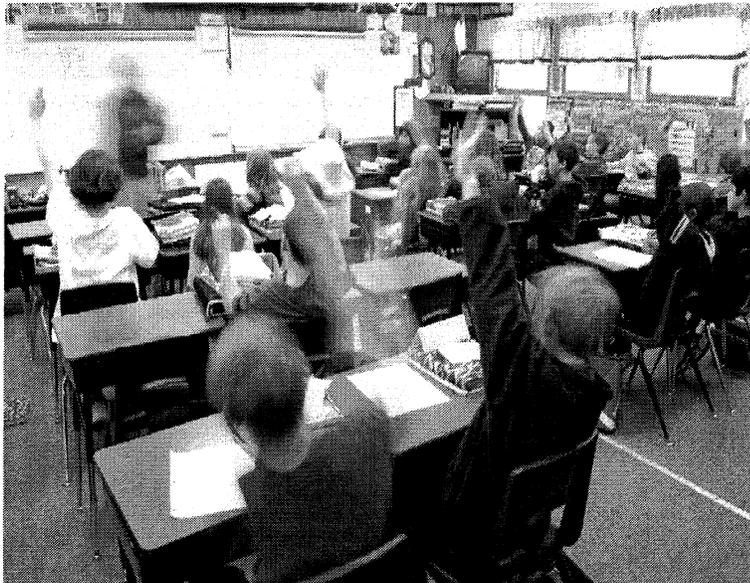
Kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
North, East and Central Campuses  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Summary:** *The Classical Academy (TCA) is a public charter school comprised of three campuses: East Campus (Kindergarten through sixth grade), North Campus (Kindergarten through twelfth grade), and Central Campus (Kindergarten through fourth grade). In 2003, with only a week to plan a National Day of Prayer event, the school opted to provide their staff and interested families with prayer guides and bookmarks. Posters announced that these were available upon request at all campuses.*

The following year, TCA's North and East campuses held campus-wide events. Each campus produced its own unique printed program, which included a list of all TCA administrators, staff members and teachers by name along with an encouragement to pray for those individuals. Because TCA is a public school, prayer events took place before school hours began and were attended by the entire school.

#### **Program Details**

- Administrative, staff and family involvement at both campuses
- Times of prayer both before and after school



#### **Materials Used**

- *NDP Posters and Balloons*  
These items were delivered to school offices the day before the National Day of Prayer to draw attention to the observance.
- *NDP Bookmarks and Other Printed Materials*

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### *Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School*

Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Summary:** *Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School may be one of only a few public schools in the nation that held an organized prayer and worship time in observance of the 2002 National Day of Prayer. Principal Tim Rawley viewed this prayer event as a character-building opportunity for the students. This school continues to hold an annual NDP event.*

#### **Program Details**

- A half-hour service at the flagpole allowing participants a time of prayer and praise, followed by light refreshments in the cafeteria
- Prayers for Colorado Springs, the state of Colorado, and the nation as a whole, presented by school staff and teachers
- Prayer for specific federal, state, county and local officials, along with the school district's administrators, staff members, teachers, and students
- "America the Beautiful" performed by students who had competed for the honor.

### Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School Cont'd

- NDP balloons released at the conclusion of the program to symbolize the event participants' prayers lifting to Heaven.
- A National Day of Prayer information table

### Materials Used

- NDP Program Covers  
Program covers obtained from the NDP Task Force were created with details and information specific to the school's event.

- NDP Event Stickers and "I Prayed" Stickers  
These stickers were distributed to attendees as they arrived at the event and made available at the information table.

- NDP Church Program Covers  
These programs, personalized with event information and labels, were included with church bulletins as a way of informing church and community members of the school's prayer event. (These resources are especially helpful when there might be a restriction placed on publicity on school grounds.) After using an event bulletin, the Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School saw attendance at its event triple.

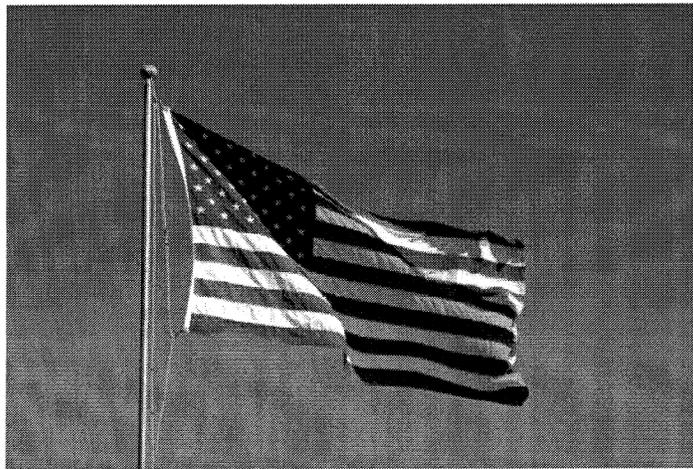
- NDP Balloons  
These were used to decorate the event, distribute to the children and release at the end of the program. (Prior to the event, students signed up to receive an NDP balloon.)

- National Day of Prayer Literature  
Displayed at the information table were NDP bookmarks, bulletin inserts, current NDP leaflets, copies of NDP's newsletter, and additional event programs.

### Columbine High School

Littleton, Colorado

**Summary:** On April 20, 1999, a tragic shooting at Columbine High School took the lives of several students and one teacher. Despite the horror of the incident and the ensuing trauma and heartache experienced by the entire Columbine community, God has continued to work mightily in the lives of many people connected with Columbine High School. In fact, not only was an FCA Huddle recently established at Columbine, but the school's Bible Club held its first annual National Day of Prayer event in 2003, which was attended by more than 100 students, faculty, family members, and friends. Clement Park – the site where the names of the Columbine victims were first read – also served as the site for the school's first NDP observance, led by members of the Bible Club's worship team. During their prayer service, participants praised the Lord for all of the healing that had taken place in their school throughout the preceding four years.



**Program Details:** In order to keep media attention to a minimum, the Bible Club members who initiated an NDP event elected to keep their assembly private. They were able to raise awareness, however, throughout the school and among Columbine residents by distributing flyers at a nearby business and among their friends, loved ones and fellow students. They also placed NDP posters within the school and announced the event on the school's public address system and at their weekly meetings. In addition, they contacted many local church youth groups, inviting them to participate in prayer for Columbine High School, the city of Littleton, the state of Colorado, and our nation as a whole.

### Materials Used:

- NDP balloons, bookmarks and program covers
- Lists of suggested emphases for prayer
- NDP "P.R.A.Y." bracelets featuring Columbine's school colors

## Section Four

# National Day of Prayer School Event Checklist

### *Preliminary Event*

It's best to begin planning your school's prayer event approximately four to five months in advance. Below are suggestions for preparations that should be completed within this timeframe.

- **Pray for God's leading for your NDP observance.**
- **Seek interested individuals who may help develop a steering committee to coordinate your event.** These individuals can be school administrators, staff members, teachers, parents, students, community members, or even local pastors.
- **In cooperation with your steering committee, determine the prayer event's**

- ◇ **Location** – Consider holding your event at your school, an adjoining park, or another nearby facility.

- ◇ **Time** – Generally, it's best to schedule your gathering before or after school. The lunch hour is also a possibility, depending upon the school's policies.
- ◇ **Program Type** – Options include a prayer walk, teachers' prayer breakfast, intercession accompanied by praise and worship, or a simple time of corporate prayer.
- ◇ **Program Format** – Ask yourself how you want the program to be conducted and on whose behalf you'd like to offer prayer.
- ◇ **Prayer Categories** – Topics could include federal, state, county, and local officials; local school districts and their staff; our nation's judicial system; military person-



nel; police and fire departments; local media representatives; business executives throughout the community; church leaders, and families in your area. Remember to lift in prayer your school's staff, as well as the students and their families. Whenever possible, mention individuals by name.

- ◇ **Refreshments** – In most cases, light refreshments such as a continental breakfast are sufficient.

- ◇ **Materials:**

- **Publicity posters**

• **Programs** highlighting your event format and prayer categories

• **Balloons with accompanying bookmarks** and other NDP keepsakes for participants to take home

• **NDP banner** to display at the entrance of your event location or as the backdrop for your assembly. (Most

sign companies are able to make these.) If you have several different prayer gatherings throughout the day, simply move the banner from site to site.

- **Event stickers** featuring the phrase "I Prayed" or the current NDP theme can be distributed to attendees to wear if they choose.
- **NDP brochures, newsletters, and program inserts** can be made available at the event.

- ◇ **School Contact Person** – This can be any staff member at the school who can be present at the event and provide needed support beforehand with details such as set-up, the sound system, etc.

Arrange to meet with this person at your event site in order to discuss any relevant logistics in advance.

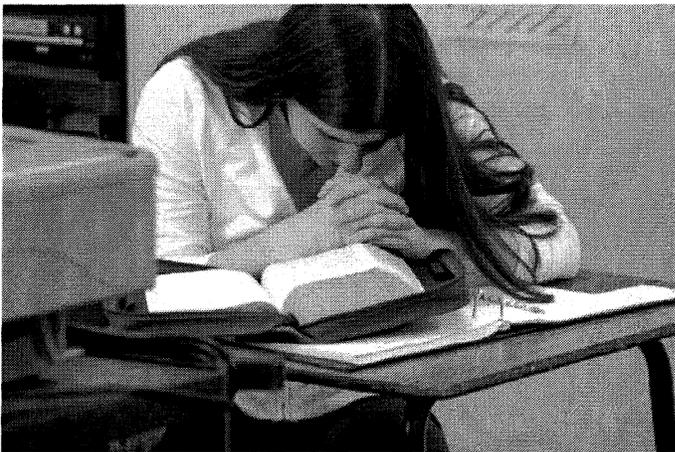
- ◇ **Music/Entertainment** – This aspect of your program can be led by members of the school, community, or a local church. It will depend largely on your school's policies and on the availability of performing groups in your area. Remember to obtain equipment such as sound systems, podiums and microphones ahead of time. Keep in mind, as well, that the NDP Task Force offers event videos and DVDs to supplement your program.
- ◇ **Prayer Intercessors** – Invite staff members or students to serve in this role, and suggest various topics each individual can emphasize during his or her prayer. Mention these intercessors by name and title in your printed program, also referring to the focus of their prayer. Three to five minutes of prayer for each of your categories is usually adequate.

Your NDP school event should not cost more than \$150.00, although that sum may vary depending on the entertainment, materials and refreshments you choose to incorporate into your event. The NDP Task Force now offers event packages, which are described at [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)

### **Event Preparation**

The following planning should take place three to four months in advance of your gathering.

- **Determine possible communication vehicles**



**that can be used to promote your school's prayer event.**

- **Media (print and electronic)** – Develop or obtain a list that includes media contact information pertinent to promotional efforts related to your event. Stay apprised of copy deadlines for broadcast spots or print advertisements, bearing in mind that some deadlines may fall one to three months before your event. Update your media list each year.

- **Develop press releases and Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** – These are helpful in getting the word out about your event. Remember to use the five “Ws” (who, what, when, where, and why) when describing your assembly, and be sure to provide contact information for anyone wanting additional specifics. Samples of both a press release and a PSA can be found at the end of this section.

- **In-school communication vehicles** – Depending on your school policies, you may be able to send flyers home with students or advertise your event through school newsletters, in-school telecasts or radio programs, or community billboards.

In all of this, it's important to keep in mind that Bible Clubs or FCA chapters are to be treated as any other student club or organization. In other words, by law they must have the same access to on-campus communication mediums. If you meet with any resistance, however, consider making an appointment with your superintendent (or his or her representative) to ask that their policy be changed. In addition, remember that groups such as the American Center for Law and Justice, the Alliance Defense Fund and the Liberty Counsel stand ready to assist you with any conflicts in this regard. (Their organizations' contact information is provided in Section Three of this document.)

- **Contact local churches** – Most churches are more than willing to mention your prayer event in their Sunday bulletin, make an announcement from the pulpit, hang a poster in

their youth area, or advertise your observance through signs placed on the church's grounds.

- **Determine the format and type of your program.** Choose a format that can be adapted every year with only minor changes. There are a number of desktop publishing software packages on the market that can aid you in designing your program copy to fit your program cover's size requirements. You can then print your programs on your home computer printer. If you need a large volume of programs, however, you may want to get price quotes from local print shops or even find out if there are any printing companies who would be willing to donate this service.

**Program items should include**

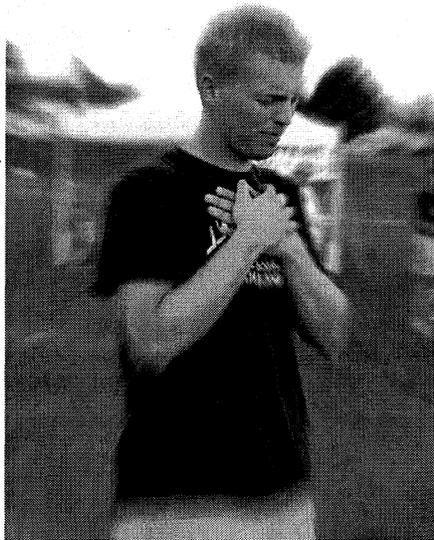
the current NDP theme and its accompanying Scripture verse  
the time, date and location of your event  
the order in which your program's components will occur  
the name of your emcee and any other program participants  
topics for prayer

- **Remember to make special arrangements if you are hosting a multi-campus school event.** For instance, if your hosting school has multiple campuses, but each campus houses the same grade levels, think about holding your event at the same time in the morning or afternoon. If each campus has different grade levels, however, you may prefer to schedule your events in a rotating sequence. In other words, the first campus could hold its gathering before school starts, while the second campus could allow its students to meet immediately after school. This type of arrangement would make it possible to accommodate anyone who wanted to attend.
- **Include in your program suggested subjects of prayer.** Below are listed areas the NDP Task Force encourages participants to remember during their times of intercession. Each of these covers a different segment of American society, and each one is influential in directing the course of our

nation.

- ◇ *Government*
- ◇ *Military*
- ◇ *Media*
- ◇ *Business*
- ◇ *Education*
- ◇ *Church*
- ◇ *Family*

Because you are hosting a school event, you will also want to remember individuals associated with your school, such as the faculty, staff, volunteers, and students.



- **Brainstorm any other components you'd like incorporated into your program.** A number of our Coordinators, for instance, include a tradition known as "Balloons Lifted High" at the close of their events. As attendees prepare to depart, everyone gathers to release NDP balloons in a meaningful symbol of the prayers that were just raised to the Almighty's throne. In addition, many assemblies conclude with a corporate rendition of "America the Beautiful." This can be sung with or without musical accompaniment. It's helpful to print the lyrics inside your program.

- **Select thank-you gifts for each program participant.** Don't forget to give thought to the administrative members who gave permission for you to hold your event. Gift possibilities that can be purchased through the NDP Task Force's Web site include pins, magnets, apparel, or other prayer-related memorabilia.
- **Recruit the involvement of individuals who will be willing to pray in the days prior to your event.** These intercessors will commit to ask God to be glorified through your gathering, in addition to seeking His wisdom for you and your fellow planners and His guidance and provision for any logistics associated with your event.

**Last-Minute Preparations**

During the final week leading up to your event, there will be a number of details you will need to confirm. Following are suggested items to review in the days

before your observance.

- **Get in touch with your contact person at the school.** Confirm that the sound system, podium, microphone, tables, and any other necessary equipment will be set up in time. If there are any fees associated with the use of these items, be sure to bring your payment to the event, if you have not taken care of that in advance.
- **Cue your music.** If you are using recorded music, ensure that you'll be able to begin your music easily at the appropriate portion of your program. If live musicians are participating, contact them to verify that they are still able to perform and remind them when you need them to arrive.
- **Make certain that your refreshments will be delivered or picked up on time.** If possible, have it delivered to your event location, and pay any remaining balance on the refreshments. If food or beverages are donated, you should acknowledge the donor's company name at some point during your event. In addition, it would be appropriate to credit their company in your program and with a small sign at your refreshment table.
- **Find a time when you can decorate your event location.** Pack up any banners, posters, paper goods for refreshments, balloons, programs, and any other NDP materials you will be distributing.
- **Pick up any inflated balloons.** These should be ready the night before the event if your gathering will take place early in the day, or first thing in the morning if you will be gathering in the afternoon. Ask the store provid-

ing your balloons to inflate them in a way that will make them last as long as possible.

- **Group your programs in ten- to twenty-count batches.** This will allow you to keep an accurate count of your attendees. You will also want to make sure that each program contains any additional information you'd like included, such as bookmarks or prayer guides. Designate someone to hand out programs as people arrive.
- **Bring to your event any miscellaneous items you may need.** Scissors, tape and other adhesives, and a supply of extra pens and pencils will likely come in handy. Pack them prior to your event and keep them on hand throughout the day.



- **Pray for the Lord's blessing on your observance.** Ask God to help your gathering proceed smoothly. Most importantly, pray that everyone in attendance will be positively impacted and that our nation will benefit from the intercession offered during your event.

### Instructions for the day of your observance

- **Arrive early.** You should show up at least one hour before your event is scheduled to start. This will allow you to be present to oversee any last-minute set-up and decorations.
- **Make sure all set-up preparations are completed according to your prior specifications.** For instance, the podium, sound system and chairs for attendees should be ready.
- **Have any media equipment, such as music or video presentations, set up and ready to play.** Any live musicians participating

should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the event to set up for their own segment of the program. In addition, prepare to begin playing any background music approximately 10-15 minutes before people are scheduled to start arriving. Appropriate selections can be found on NDP music CDs.

- **Prepare the tables that will hold information and refreshments.** In addition to refreshments, make sure that decorations, paper goods, your balloon sign-up form, and your NDP informational items are displayed at these tables at least 30 minutes before the event begins.
- **Help your program participants find their places.** Have these individuals at their respective stations at least 10 minutes before your event begins.

### **During Your Prayer Event**

As you proceed with the elements of your program that have been laid out in advance, there are several additional details you'll want to make sure to include.

- **Thank all those who assisted you.** Express appreciation to everyone who made your event possible. You may also present thank-you gifts at this time.
- **Offer refreshments and NDP information.** Invite everyone to stay for refreshments and to pick up NDP materials at your information

table. Balloon sign-up can also take place at this time. (Placing all leftover refreshments and materials in the teachers' lounge is a nice gesture.)

- **Play music with prayer-related themes.** Have approximately five or ten minutes of music play over the sound system as attendees exit for refreshments.

### **Event Follow-Up**

Following are several things you should do within the month following your prayer observance.

- **Send thank-you notes to everyone who helped with your event.**
- **Schedule a follow-up meeting with your steering committee and any other advisors to evaluate the success of your prayer event.** Also discuss ways you might improve a future prayer observance at your school. Include a time of prayer during which you thank the Lord for guiding your event and ask for His blessing upon your next assembly.
- **Be available to help other schools plan their own event for next year.**

- **Fill out an NDP Event report online in the coordinator section of:**  
[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)



**Sample:**  
**National Day of Prayer School Event News Release**  
*(Prototype for Print Media)*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(Date)**

Contact: **(Event Coordinator Name & Phone)**

**(School Name) Observes National Day of Prayer**

COLORADO SPRINGS – The (XX<sup>th</sup>) Annual National Day of Prayer, **(annual NDP theme)**, will be observed this Thursday, May **(date)**, from **(event time)** at **(event location and address)**. The public is welcome to attend and pray for our nation.

Prayer for America will be offered, emphasizing the following topics: government, military, media, business, education, church, and family. According to **(position and name)**, **“(quote from that person).”** This event is just one of many taking place today all over our country and overseas on our military bases. Gatherings planned for this Thursday include observances at the White House and the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Events will vary in size ranging from school and church gatherings to prayer events at state capitols, around county courthouses and at local parks.

This year’s theme is **(NDP annual theme)**, inspired by Scripture found in **(Bible book, chapter and verse)**: **“(quote passage).”**

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our national heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, this corporate prayer has continued throughout American history. President Lincoln, for instance, proclaimed a day of “humiliation, fasting and prayer” in 1863, and a joint resolution by Congress in 1952, signed by President Truman, declared an annual National Day of Prayer. In 1988, that law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently establishing the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday of every May. Each year our nation’s president, governors, mayors, and other elected officials sign proclamations encouraging all Americans to pray for their country on the National Day of Prayer.

For a full listing of all National Day of Prayer activities in our area, please contact your local church or visit the National Day of Prayer Task Force Web site at [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org). At this Web site, you can also find out how to contact your NDP State Coordinator for specifics about events.

For more information about this release or other school events, please contact **(insert local contact name and phone number)**.

***Sample***  
**National Day of Prayer School Event Public Service Announcement (PSA)**  
***(Prototype for Broadcast Media)***

*\*Please note that all copy is typed in capital letters and timed to fit within a 30-second spot.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(Date)**

**(Contact Person and Phone Number)**

Length: 30 seconds

**(Event Location)**

**National Day of Prayer**

COLORADO SPRINGS – THE (XXth) ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WILL BE OBSERVED THIS THURSDAY, MAY (DATE) AT (TIME) AT (LOCATION). THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO COME AND PRAY FOR OUR NATION.

PRAYERS WILL EMPHASIZE TOPICS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, MEDIA, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, CHURCH, AND FAMILY.

PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL CHURCH OR VISIT THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WEB SITE AT **[WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG)** TO LOCATE OTHER EVENTS IN YOUR AREA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE (EVENT LOCATION), CONTACT (LOCAL COORDINATOR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER).





# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- Chairman  
Mrs. James C. Dobson
- Honorary Chairman  
Mrs. Bill Clinton
- Co-Chairman  
Mrs. Bill Clinton
- Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Bill Clinton
- Senior Director  
Mr. John Bush
- Director of Public Affairs  
Ms. Fay Silliman
- Director of Strategic Partnerships  
Mr. Michael Johnson
- Senior Manager  
National Coordinator Network  
Mrs. Lisa Johnson
- Marketing and Media Manager  
Mrs. Becki Johnson
- Accounting Manager  
Mr. Ed Ahlmeier
- National Advisory Committee  
Mr. Philip Arebush  
Dr. Henry Blackaby  
Mr. Charles W. Colson  
Representative Lincoln Davis  
James C. Dobson, PhD  
Mr. Tony Dungy  
Representative Bob Goodlatte  
The Honorable Tony D. Hall  
Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)  
General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)  
Representative Mike Mcauliffe  
Representative Mary M. Matarazzo  
Representative Mike Pence  
Judge Charles W. Pickens Sr. (ret.)  
Bishop Philip Porter  
The Honorable Jim Ryan  
Representative Joseph Ritsch  
Representative Chris Smith  
Mr. Gu Strickland

February 17, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado Springs! On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to congratulate you on your historic victory in the presidential election. May God grant you wisdom and discernment as you confront the critical challenges facing our country.

I would also like to request your support of this year's National Day of Prayer, which will take place on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. As you know, the National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. From that time forward, every president has signed an annual proclamation setting aside a day of prayer for our nation. The theme for this year's observance is "Prayer... America's Hope," and is based on Psalm 33:22, which reads, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

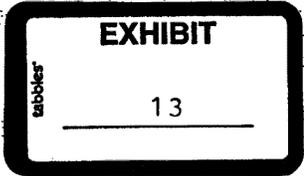
As in the past, citizens from across America will join together this year in public venues and statehouses throughout the land to pray for our country and its leaders, especially you and your administration. An integral part of this yearly national observance is the official presidential proclamation issued by the White House. In recent years, the NDP Task Force has worked with the Clinton and Bush administrations to craft the wording for the presidential proclamation. Enclosed you will find a proposed draft for this year's observance. If it meets with your approval, please sign and return it by Monday, March 30, 2009. As has been done previously, the official presidential proclamation will be included in promotional materials and posted on the Web site at [www.nationaldayofprayer.com](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com).

Thank you in advance for your consideration, Mr. President. Your acknowledgement of this year's National Day of Prayer will send a strong message to all Americans about the importance of our shared religious heritage and the continued need to embrace that heritage. God's blessings and our best wishes to you, to Mrs. Obama and your beautiful girls, and to everyone in your administration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures







February 14, 2006

AMERICA,  
HONOR  
GOD

"...Those who honor me I will honor..."  
1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings from everyone at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! It's my hope that you and Mrs. Bush are doing well. Like so many Americans, Jim and I continue to remember you in our prayers.

As you're undoubtedly aware, there is also an important day of corporate prayer rapidly approaching - the 2006 National Day of Prayer. Our theme for this year's observance, **America, Honor God**, finds its inspiration in our Creator's promise recorded in I Samuel 2:30: "...those who honor me, I will honor..." You and Mrs. Bush have been tremendously gracious in your willingness to take part in the official NDP events in Washington, D.C. in the past, Mr. President, and we're earnestly hoping that you will be able to do so again this year. Thursday, May 4th promises to be one of the most widely recognized observances on record, with gatherings scheduled in government buildings, churches, and other public venues across all 50 states.

As in the past, we have taken the liberty of composing a proposed draft of your official Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. You will find it enclosed with this letter. The leadership and example you provide in calling Americans to prayer every May is one of the most significant components of this historic occasion. We would appreciate receiving this signed proclamation at your earliest convenience so we may use it in our promotional materials. Should you wish to offer an alternative proclamation, we would welcome that as well.

Mr. President, it's been tremendously encouraging to experience firsthand your commitment to prayer and your recognition of this spiritual discipline as critical to the revitalization of our nation's health and stability. This is particularly true in the wake of last year's devastating hurricanes and the ongoing challenges facing our military as it defends freedom worldwide. Thanks in advance for serving a crucial role in calling Americans to prayer, not only in May, but throughout the year! God's blessings to you, your family, and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*I these 5:17*



Enclosure

Post Office Box 15616 • Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616 • (719) 531-3379 Fax: (719) 548-4520

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Vice President  
Director  
National Day of Prayer Task Force  
Senior Staff Accountant  
National Advisory Commission  
Liaisons  
Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)  
Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)  
Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 2006**  
**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**A PROCLAMATION**

America was founded upon the values of peace, justice and equality for all men. Our forebears, who braved incredible odds to establish this new land, looked to God Almighty for strength and guidance as they endeavored to forge a nation committed to those very principles. And the Hand of Providence was gracious in response, bestowing innumerable blessings upon America and its people. Through times of war and peace, want and prosperity, we have rested in the knowledge that our collective destiny lies in the benevolent hands of the Creator of the universe.

Although we have long understood that heavenly gifts are expressions of benevolence and grace that cannot be earned, we also realize that those gifts will be sweeter and more pronounced as we endeavor to honor the Divine Presence from which they emanate. The blessings of God are not to be received lightly; rather, they are to be embraced as a means of upholding truth and fostering goodwill among all men. Our 23<sup>rd</sup> President, Benjamin Harrison, had this in mind when he said: "God has placed upon our head a diadem and has laid at our feet power and wealth beyond definition or calculation. But we must not forget that we take these gifts upon the condition that justice and mercy shall hold the reins of power and that the upward avenues of hope shall be free to all the people."

In recognition of the promise that God will honor those who honor Him, I urge every American to reaffirm his or her dependence upon the Almighty by joining together in earnest expressions of prayer. May each of us, in meekness and humility, thank Him for the myriad blessings He has bestowed upon us thus far; seek His forgiveness for those times when we, in our weakness and imperfection, have fallen short of His standards; and reaffirm our trust as we look expectantly to Him to light the path before us.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on all citizens to unite in humility, faith and dependence upon Divine Providence by recognizing an annual "National Day of Prayer."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 as a National Day of Prayer. I ask all able citizens, each according to his or her convictions, to gather in public venues to take part in this cherished national observance. May we take the time to express our gratitude to Almighty God, both corporately and individually, for His provision, and to commit our ways to Him as we look toward the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 27, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500-0003

EXHIBIT

15

Dear Mr. President:

Warm greetings from our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force! My staff and I count it a distinct privilege each year to reinforce our country's religious heritage through the assembling of proclamations from our nation's leaders expressing support for the National Day of Prayer. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for standing with us in this way during your tenure as the Governor of Texas and, for the last eight years, as our President. With Thursday, May 1st rapidly approaching, I respectfully request that you come alongside us once again by publicly declaring the significance of this event.

The theme we've chosen for 2008, Prayer! America's Strength and Shield, is based on Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Although the threats leveled against our country and its people remain a deep concern both here on our own shores and abroad, we are sustained and reassured in the certainty that our omnipotent God is mindful of our petitions. As we humbly beseech His intervention, we can be sure that He hears our cries and willingly extends His grace and mercy to all those who seek His face.

May I ask you to review and sign the enclosed draft of the 2008 Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer by April 25th? We would consider it an honor to highlight this statement, or a version of your own choosing, among our materials promoting this year's observance. Our 40,000 volunteer coordinators will be reading the proclamation at their events, and your declaration underscoring the need for corporate and personal intercession will lend tremendous prestige and credibility to these gatherings. In addition, we plan to release it to the media the week preceding May 1st.

Thank you in advance for considering this request, Mr. President. Your steadfast devotion to God and your faithfulness in prayer have been a source of great encouragement to me and, I know, to millions of others across the United States. All Americans have been blessed to have someone of your moral courage leading our nation throughout the last eight years. May the Lord's guidance and protection continue to rest on you, Mrs. Bush, and your staff in the coming days.

Sincerely,

*Shirley C. Dobson*

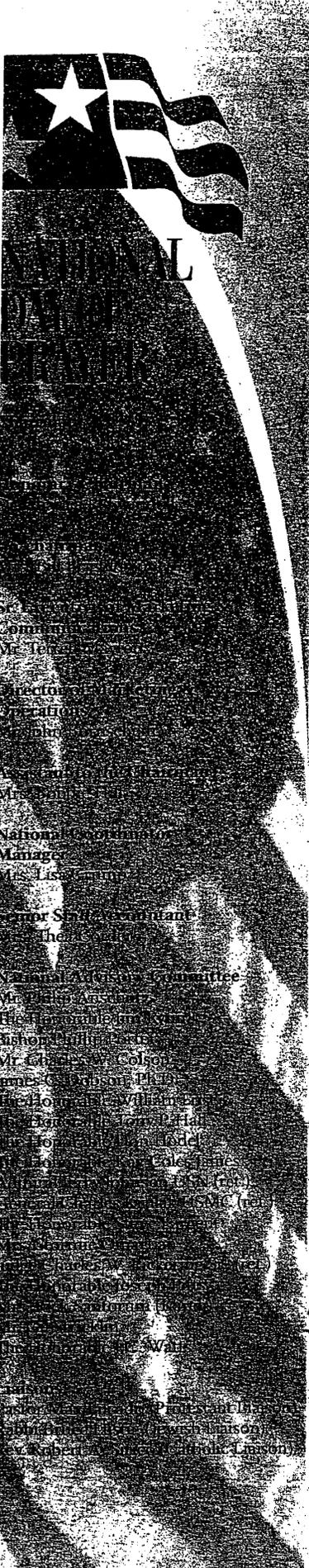
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

Pls Rsp Req POD 406

*you have led the nation  
I fightlessness high & we  
have been blessed to have  
you as our  
President*

*(1)*



America,  
**UNITE**  
in Prayer  
2 Chronicles 7:14

March 1, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! It has been an honor each year to present the American people with proclamations declaring the support of our country's leaders for the National Day of Prayer. In that spirit, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for coming alongside the NDP Task Force in this manner for over a decade – first as Governor of Texas and now as our President. As Thursday, May 3rd is on the horizon, I ask that you, once again, join us in proclaiming the importance of this occasion.

Our theme, **America, Unite in Prayer**, is based on our foundational verse, II Chronicles 7:14, which says, "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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Given the trials of this age and the troubles we face as "strangers in the world" (I Peter 1:1), how good it is to know that our distress is tempered by our assurance in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the cries of His children. As we humble ourselves before the Lord, we can look to the future in eager anticipation, confident that He is at work.

In keeping with tradition, I hope you will review the enclosed draft of the 2007 Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer and return it – or an alternative of your choosing – with your signature. It would be a privilege to be able to include your proclamation in our promotional materials. Your ongoing participation lends special significance to the day's events, and a signed declaration will do much to advance the cause of prayer. Undoubtedly it will inspire others to get involved on a personal level, as well.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my request, Mr. President. Your resolute commitment to God and the conviction that has long underscored your presidency have been a deep encouragement to me. I know America has benefited greatly from your moral leadership. May God bless you and your staff abundantly as you continue to faithfully serve our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

(2)

COPY

Dear :

A warm greeting from Colorado Springs! It is hard to believe that our 2008 National Day of Prayer observance is just a few short months away. As we continue to make final preparations, I trust you are in prayer as I am, asking God to again bless our efforts with a wonderful outpouring of intercession as millions of people gather to ask for the Almighty's intervention on behalf of our beloved country.

With each passing year, it becomes increasingly clear that our leaders and fellow citizens are contending with a vast and unprecedented array of threats to our safety and freedom. As our nation experienced a similar crisis in its infancy, the Continental Congress called for a nationwide fast. Their powerful and inspiring statement exhorted the American people "in times of impending calamity and distress ... to acknowledge the over ruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger..." This keen awareness of our reliance upon God is reflected in our Task Forces' 2008 theme, **Prayer! America's Strength and Shield**, based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

In our endeavors to lead our fellow Americans to the throne of mercy and grace, it is especially vital that we enlist the support and affirmation of our country's leaders. With this in mind, we encourage you to join us in seeking an official, written proclamation from your governor declaring May 1<sup>st</sup> as a National Day of Prayer. Please schedule an appointment soon with your governor in order to personally request a proclamation. If you're unable to do so, you may send a letter similar to the enclosed sample. We are asking our State Coordinators to help ensure that all proclamations are returned to our offices by April 1<sup>st</sup> so that we may prepare a special bound volume that will be presented to President Bush.

We'd also like to urge you to invite your governor to attend an NDP observance. If one is being held on the steps of the Capitol, such an assembly would be particularly suited for the governor's presence. It's important to bear in mind, however, that any NDP event taking place in such a visible and distinguished location should be well-attended and executed in a way that positively reflects the endeavors of both your state's NDP efforts and those of our Task Force. Toward that end, as you prepare to seek a proclamation from your governor and organize a gathering at which he or she may be present, we recommend that you solicit the assistance and advice of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. You may also find it useful to discuss ideas with your National Area Leader.

Deepest thanks for your dedicated labors on behalf of prayer for our country. You are truly having an eternal impact, and I'm confident that our events May 1<sup>st</sup> will yield abundant fruit as people throughout America lift their voices to heaven. May God richly bless you and multiply all that you undertake in His service!



COPY

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosure

(4)

January 22, 2009

COPY

<Name>  
<Street Address>  
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

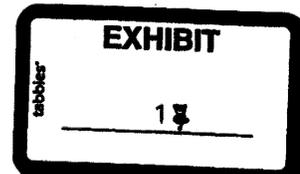
Dear <Name>:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful Christmas season and are looking ahead to all 2009 has in store! Now that the new year has arrived, we are closing in on the last several months of preparations for the National Day of Prayer on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The overwhelming response last year was deeply encouraging, and we anticipate even greater involvement as more individuals come to recognize the deep needs of a hurting nation.

As you well know, throughout its history, there have been many times when America has faced grave dangers and troubles. Although spoken over two centuries ago, the words of Thomas Jefferson in 1781 which are now engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflect the importance of our nation relying on the Almighty for help and guidance as we traverse stormy waters. Bemoaning the state of the infant republic, he said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God." Today, our trials may be different from those of our Forefathers, but like them, we must remain committed to seeking our Heavenly Father's wisdom and mercy. And when we do come before His throne, we can be confident that He will hear the petitions of His children. It is in that spirit that we chose, Prayer...America's Hope! as our theme for 2009. It is my great hope that millions will turn to God and pray in accord with Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

As in the past, it is critical that we garner the support of our nation's leaders for our efforts. In your role as a State Coordinator, we ask that you help in obtaining a written proclamation from your governor declaring May 7 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to do so, we encourage you to schedule a personal visit to your governor's office. If this is not possible, we suggest that you send a letter similar to the enclosed example. We ask that all proclamations are received at our office by April 1 so that we may have them bound for presentation to President Obama.

We also urge you to invite your governor to actively participate in an NDP observance, most appropriately on the steps of the Capitol building. In order to maintain your credibility – and that of the NDP Task Force – it is imperative that such an event involve a well-organized, substantial assembly. As you consider how best to approach such a proposal, consider enlisting the aid of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. For additional ideas, feel free to get in touch with your National Area Leader.



Again, thank you for your ongoing commitment to furthering the cause of prayer. Know that you are making a difference in hearts and lives for the future good of our country. As Ronald Reagan said, "The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America...our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal." May God's joy be yours as you serve Him at this crucial hour in history!

Every blessing,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

2006

COPY

<Name>  
<Address 1>  
<City>, <State> <Zip code>

Dear <Name>:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! With the start of every new year comes a sense of anticipation and wonder at the Lord's enduring providence, and 2006 is no exception. As Lamentations 3:23 says, *great* is His faithfulness, and indeed, we are truly blessed to have yet another opportunity to join hands and come before the throne of grace on behalf of our country.

As we approach this year's observance of the National Day of Prayer, I trust you, too, are looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store. Our theme, **America, Honor God**, is especially fitting in view of the ongoing challenges Americans have faced at home and abroad these last months. It serves as a powerful reminder that our country's allegiance should rest in the Lord above all else. Even in the midst of inevitable trials, we, as a nation, must seek Him in a spirit of humility and respect, heeding the promise of I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor."

Given the significance of this message, I hope you will work alongside us to ensure that we receive a written proclamation from the governor of your state or territory, declaring May 4, 2006 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to obtain this commemorative document, please take a moment to send a letter to your governor similar to the sample enclosed. Each proclamation will be bound in a commemorative book to be presented to President Bush on May 4. To make certain that our volume for the President is completed on time, it is important that we receive this proclamation by April 3. Don't hesitate to contact your National Area Leader with any questions you may have.

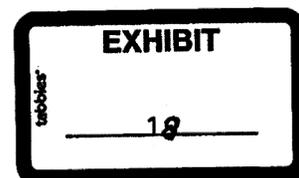
In addition, we encourage you to invite your governor to join with you in a local prayer gathering. Ideally, this event should be held on the steps of the state Capitol building. If you do choose to host a special assembly of this nature with your governor, be sure that the observance is well planned and involves a sizeable crowd so that we are able to maintain credibility with the governor's office.

Again, thank you for your dedication to NDP and more importantly to prayer. In the words of Oswald Chambers, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work." May God bless you abundantly as you seek to honor Him in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure





2006

COPY

<Name>  
<Address 1>  
<City>, <State> <Zip code>

Dear <Name>:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! With the start of every new year comes a sense of anticipation and wonder at the Lord's enduring providence, and 2006 is no exception. As Lamentations 3:23 says, *great* is His faithfulness, and indeed, we are truly blessed to have yet another opportunity to join hands and come before the throne of grace on behalf of our country.

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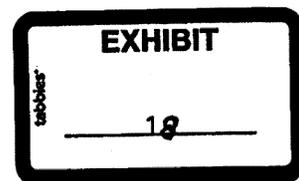
In addition, we encourage you to invite your governor to join with you in a local prayer gathering. Ideally, this event should be held on the steps of the state Capitol building. If you do choose to host a special assembly of this nature with your governor, be sure that the observance is well planned and involves a sizeable crowd so that we are able to maintain credibility with the governor's office.

Again, thank you for your dedication to NDP and more importantly to prayer. In the words of Oswald Chambers, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work." May God bless you abundantly as you seek to honor Him in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure





January 25, 2007

«Title» «First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Address»  
«City», «State\_» «Zipcode»

COPY

Dear «First\_Name»:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! May 3 is fast approaching, and preparations are well underway for the National Day of Prayer 2007. Last year, we were deeply encouraged by the overwhelming response we received from people coast to coast, and we anticipate even greater involvement as more individuals come to recognize the deep needs of a hurting nation.

As you well know, the gravity of the troubles facing America is not new. In 1781, Thomas Jefferson bemoaned the state of an infant republic saying, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Today, we may face different trials than those of our forefathers, but we are not far removed from the desperation of Jefferson's sentiments. How good it is to know, then, that our distress is tempered by our confidence in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the petitions of His children. It is in that spirit that we've chosen, America, Unite in Prayer as our theme for 2007. It is my great hope that millions will turn their hearts toward God in accord with 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

As we call on our fellow citizens to come before the Lord, it is critical that we garner the support of our nation's leaders. As a State Coordinator, we need your help in obtaining a written proclamation from your governor declaring May 3 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to do so, we encourage you to schedule a personal visit to your governor's office. If this is not possible, we suggest that you send a letter similar to the enclosed example. We ask that all proclamations are received by April 1 so that we may have them bound for presentation to President Bush.

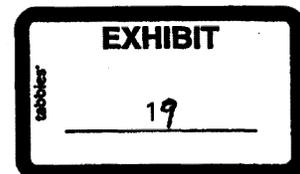
We also urge you to invite your governor to actively participate in an NDP observance, most appropriately on the steps of the Capitol building. In order to maintain your credibility – and that of the NDP Task Force – it is imperative that such an event involve a well-organized, substantial assembly. As you consider how best to approach such a proposal, consider enlisting the aid of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. For additional ideas, feel free to get in touch with your National Area Leader.

Again, thank you for your commitment to furthering the cause of prayer. Know that you are making a difference in hearts and lives for the future good of our country. As Billy Graham said, "To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees." May God bless you abundantly!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force













January 22, 2009

<Name>  
<Street Address>  
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Last Name>:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Each year since 1952 when Congress established an annual day of prayer, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our nation. These are extremely difficult times our country is facing from economic turmoil to the threat of terrorism to moral confusion and decline. It behooves us at this critical juncture to again honor the precedent established by Presidents and leaders throughout our history, that of proclaiming reliance on an Almighty God and calling Americans to come before Him on behalf of our nation.

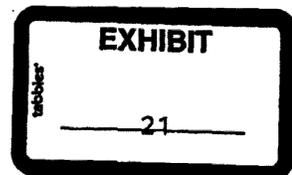
The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered in 1781 and found engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflect our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of the infant republic, he said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God." Today, our trials and challenges to freedom may be different, but our need to remember the truth of Jefferson's sentiments remains. How good it is to know that, despite the distress we are experiencing, we can come confidently before the Almighty, knowing that He is merciful and has promised to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, our NDP Task Force has chosen PRAYER...AMERICA'S HOPE as our theme for 2009, based on Psalm 33: 22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support through a public proclamation declaring May 7, 2009 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor in the nation did so as well. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to the NDP Task Force headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <name> who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Obama. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our Senior Manager, National Coordinator Network at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at [lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org).

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor <last name>, and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you faithfully serve the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force  
Pls\_Rsp\_Req\_POD\_435





COPY

January 8, 2008

<Name>  
<Street Address>  
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Name>:

A warm greeting to you from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! In an historic declaration in 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer during which people throughout the United States were encouraged to pause in repentance and intercession for our nation. Each year since then, millions of Americans have assembled in various venues to seek the Lord's guidance, protection and blessing upon our land and its people. In light of the unprecedented challenges and threats facing our leaders and fellow citizens today, it's particularly important that we continue to ask for the Almighty's intervention on behalf of our country.

In a 1776 document in which the Continental Congress called for a national fast, Americans were exhorted "in times of impending calamity and distress ... to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger..." It is with this keen awareness of our reliance upon God that we have selected our 2008 theme, **Prayer! America's Strength and Shield**. The underlying scripture is Psalm 28:7, which declares, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

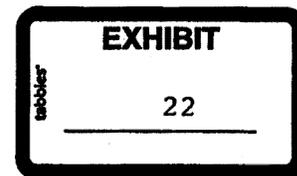
As has become customary, we ask that you acknowledge the historic role that prayer has played in our nation by issuing a statement proclaiming May 1, 2008 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this observance has been recognized and endorsed annually by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor also acknowledged this day, including those in our U.S. territories. May we ask you to lend your support to this important event as well? Please send a copy of your official proclamation to us here at NDP headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you in the near future. Each governor's statement will be included in a special bound volume that will be presented to President Bush. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803. You may also reach her via e-mail at [lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org).

Your consideration of our request is deeply appreciated, Governor <Name>

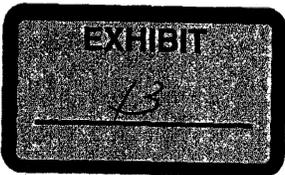
We look forward to hearing from you. Until then, may God grant you and your staff abundant measures of wisdom and discernment in your continued service to the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force  
SD/rw







January 24, 2006

<Name>  
<Address 1>  
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! We are quickly approaching yet another National Day of Prayer, and I consider it an honor to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our country.

We're convinced that our theme for this year, **America, Honor God**, will serve as a valuable reminder that the Lord is at work in this great land and is deserving of our veneration and absolute trust. Whether facing difficulties at home or overseas, we hope people will look to the promise found in I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor." With your support, we can further our efforts to call the nation to prayer, acknowledging our Creator and asking for guidance and protection on behalf of our families, our government, and our armed forces.

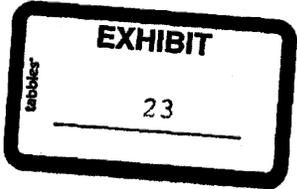
Will you join with us in this endeavor by issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer for <State>? It has become customary for the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to officially endorse the National Day of Prayer, and we hope you will do the same this year.

We respectfully request that you send your proclamation to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 1**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with more details. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at [bobbie.hill@fotf.org](mailto:bobbie.hill@fotf.org).

We look forward to hearing from you. Your proclamation will be a meaningful contribution to this year's NDP observance, and to the people of <State>. May God bless you and your staff in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force





January 24, 2006

COPY

<Name>  
<Address 1>  
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! We are quickly approaching yet another National Day of Prayer, and I consider it an honor to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our country.

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Will you join with us in this endeavor by issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer for <State>? It has become customary for the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to officially endorse the National Day of Prayer, and we hope you will do the same this year.

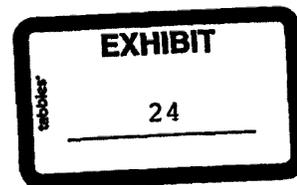
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We look forward to hearing from you. Your proclamation will be a meaningful contribution to this year's NDP observance, and to the people of <State>. May God bless you and your staff in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

(1)



<Name>  
<Address>  
<Address>  
<City> <Zip>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! Yet another National Day of Prayer is right around the corner, and it is my privilege to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our nation.

In preparation for this observance, each year the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you issue a proclamation urging the people of <State> to assemble on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in order to pray for our nation's leaders and citizens.

To ensure that a proclamation from your office is incorporated in this year's observance, we respectfully request that you take the following steps:

- After completing your proclamation, return a copy to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 1**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with further details.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at hillbr@fotf.org. Bobbie would be happy to field any inquiries you may have.

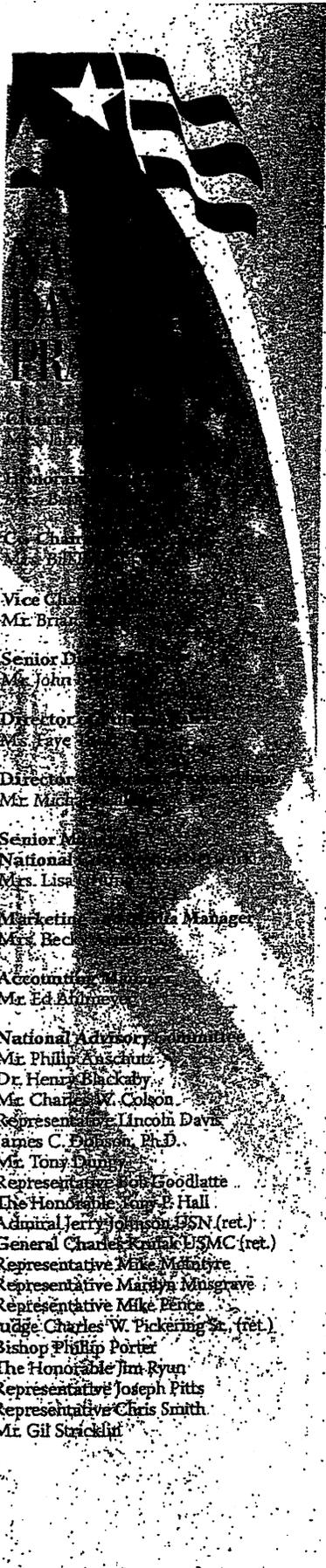
The 2005 theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Given the many challenges facing our country and its people, it seems particularly fitting that we should gather to request the Almighty's intervention as we respond to the threats confronting us – both within our borders and overseas.

Thank you in advance for lending your support to our NDP observance, Governor <Name>. Your participation will not only be a valuable addition to our May 5 events, but it will come as an encouragement to the people of <State>. God bless you and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

(2)



February 27, 2009

The Honorable Michele Bachmann  
United States House of Representatives  
107 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

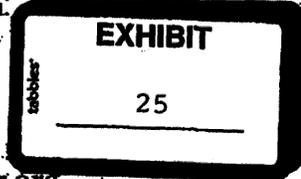
Dear Representative Bachmann:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am to hear that you have agreed to participate in our NDP observance May 7th in Washington, D.C. Our Task Force looks forward to the special events surrounding this historic gathering every year, and I trust you'll find this time of corporate intercession and worship meaningful and uplifting.

The theme for 2009 is Prayer ... America's Hope, based on Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." There is certainly no better time than now to point Americans to the eternal Source of encouragement and help. With the very fabric of our great land and its institutions under siege, our desire is for this message to be a catalyst, drawing people closer to God for guidance, not only for the needs of their community and nation, but for their own concerns.

In 1988 when Congress set aside the first Thursday in May for all citizens to pray, in accord with their beliefs, these government leaders affirmed the country's heritage of public intercession that began with our Founding Fathers. In addition, they paid homage to the untold number of occasions when presidents and other esteemed national figures have initiated calls to prayer and proclaimed days of thanksgiving and intercession. For example, President Franklin Roosevelt read a lengthy prayer on live radio the morning of D-Day in Normandy. It was a passionate plea for God's mercy and for victory over the enemies of freedom and justice.

With this history in mind, it saddens us to report that there recently have been some outspoken critics that have opposed the National Day of Prayer. A ban is currently being sought in *Freedom From Religion Foundation v. George W. Bush, and Shirley Dobson, et al.* It is being defended by the United States Department of Justice and the Alliance Defense Fund. Efforts to impose such restrictions underscore the need to press forward in our efforts to ensure that religious freedom is preserved as a hallmark of our nation.



Representative Bachmann  
February 27, 2009  
Page 2

As you prepare your message for our upcoming observance, we ask that you briefly describe how prayer has played a valuable role in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the legislative branch of government in the days ahead. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 9:57 a.m., and be approximately ten minutes in length. I have enclosed the program from the 2008 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer, for your review.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and your husband, Marcus, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, May 6th, at the J.W. Marriott. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

Thank you, Representative Bachmann, for your commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact NDP Public Relations Director Faye Tharp. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or by email at [Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org). We look forward to seeing you in May! Until then, abundant blessings to you!

Warm regards,

  
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosures



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. (ret.)

Bishop Phillip Potter

The Honorable Jim Ryan

Representative Joseph Pitts

Representative Chris Smith

Dr. Bill Stetler

April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert S. Mueller, III  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I'd like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation for you to participate in our NDP observance May 7th in Washington, D.C. Our Task Force looks forward to the special events surrounding this historic gathering every year, and it would be a privilege to include you in this time of corporate intercession and worship.

The theme for 2009 is *Prayer ... America's Hope*, based on Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." There is certainly no better time than now to point Americans to the eternal Source of encouragement and help. With the very fabric of our great land and its institutions under siege, our desire is for this message to be a catalyst, drawing people closer to God for guidance, not only for the needs of their community and nation, but for their own concerns.

In 1988 when Congress set aside the first Thursday in May for all citizens to pray, in accord with their beliefs, these government leaders affirmed the country's heritage of public intercession that began with our Founding Fathers. In addition, they paid homage to the untold number of occasions when presidents and other esteemed national figures have initiated calls to prayer and proclaimed days of thanksgiving and intercession. For example, President Franklin Roosevelt read a lengthy prayer on live radio the morning of D-Day in Normandy. It was a passionate plea for God's mercy and for victory over the enemies of freedom and justice.

With this history in mind, it saddens us to report that there recently have been some outspoken critics that have opposed the National Day of Prayer. A ban is currently being sought in *Freedom From Religion Foundation v. George W. Bush, and Shirley Dobson, et al.* It is being defended by the United States Department of Justice and the Alliance Defense Fund. Efforts to impose such restrictions underscore the need to

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Mr. Mueller  
April 3, 2009  
Page 2

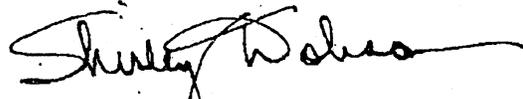
press forward in our efforts to ensure that religious freedom is preserved as a hallmark of our nation.

If you are able to share a message for our upcoming observance, we ask that you briefly describe how prayer has played a valuable role in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the men and women serving our nation's intelligence agencies in the days ahead. Your ten-minute portion of the program would begin at 9:42 a.m. or 11:24 a.m., based upon which time slot most suits your schedule. There will be with a brief introduction prior to your presentation along with a couple of minutes set aside following your remarks for those in attendance to pray. I have enclosed the program from the 2008 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer, for your review.

In the event that you are able to accept our invitation, I would like to urge you and your wife, Ann, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, May 6th, at the J.W. Marriott. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

Thank you, Mr. Mueller, for considering our request. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact NDP Public Relations Director Faye Tharp. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or by email at Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Until then, abundant blessings to you!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosures

*Thank you for considering partnering with us in calling the nation to prayer.*



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

August 8, 2008

Father Daniel P. Coughlin  
Chaplain  
House of Representatives  
HB-25 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Accounting Manager  
Mr. Ed Ahlmeier

National Advisory Committee  
Mr. Philip Anschutz  
Dr. Henry Blackaby  
Mr. Charles W. Colson  
Representative Lincoln Davis  
James C. Dobson, Ph.D.  
Mr. Tony Dungy  
Representative Bob Goodlatte  
The Honorable Tony P. Hall  
Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)  
General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)  
Representative Mike McIntyre  
Representative Marilyn Musgrave  
Representative Mike Pence  
Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., (ret.)  
Bishop Phillip Porter  
The Honorable Jim Ryan  
Representative Joseph Pitts  
Representative Chris Smith  
Mr. Gil Stricklin

Dear Father Coughlin:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! I'd like to take this opportunity to follow up on your recent conversation with Faye Tharp, our Director of Public Affairs, by reiterating our invitation for you to participate in the 2009 National Day of Prayer observance held on Capitol Hill. As you are aware, for many years our Task Force has facilitated this special gathering, and plans are already underway for our program on May 7th. The Cannon House Office Building event is symbolic of thousands of others that will take place throughout the country. Next year, as in the past, we expect overflow crowds to fill the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion.

The annual National Day of Prayer has become a significant expression of religious freedom in the lives of millions of Americans not only stateside, but on military bases and at embassies around the world. Next year's observance will mark the 58th anniversary of this important day. Our theme for 2009 is "Prayer ... America's Hope!", based on Psalm 33:22 which states, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You." During these challenging times, it has been encouraging to see the tremendous outpouring of prayer as people have lifted our beloved land and its leaders before the Almighty. The coming year's theme reflects our conviction that hope for our future is found only through God's mercy and provision as His people humble themselves before His throne.

Father Coughlin, it would be a distinct privilege to have you join us on May 7th at the Cannon House event by providing the opening prayer to commence our assembly. Your involvement has been a wonderful addition to our efforts in the past, and I know that our attendees would appreciate having you lead us in a time of intercession once again. Faye is available to answer any questions you may have. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or via e-mail at Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org.

Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

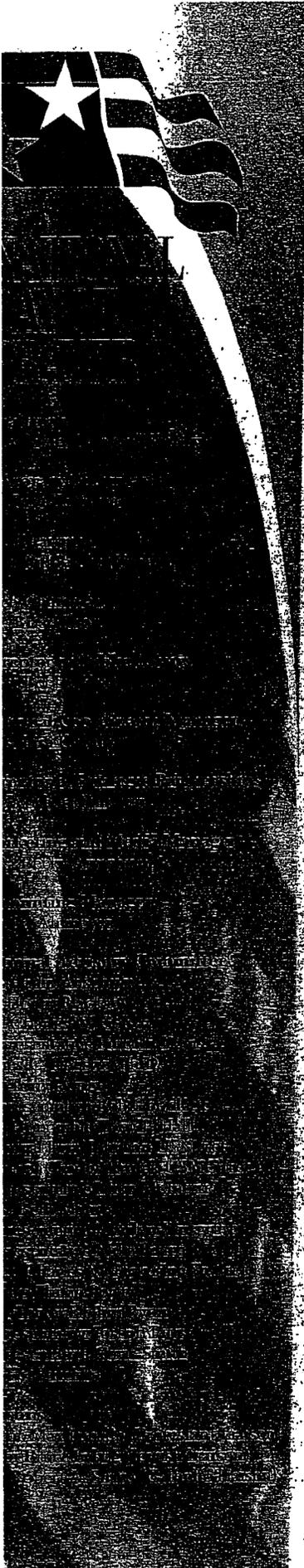
*Your participation is always a blessing!*



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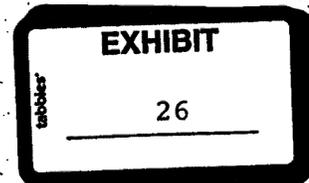


# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 4, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable Mike McIntyre  
United States House of Representatives  
2437 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative McIntyre:

A warm greeting to you from Colorado Springs! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how delighted we are that you've agreed to represent the legislative branch of our government during our Capitol Hill prayer observance on May 1, 2008. For many years, our Task Force has facilitated this special prayer gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of intercession for our beloved country. Last year, as in the past, overflow crowds filled the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion.

As you prepare your message, we ask that you include a brief description of the significant role prayer has played in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the legislature in the days ahead. You may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." You are tentatively scheduled to be introduced at 12:50 p.m., and you are slated to speak for approximately ten minutes. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance for your review, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and Dee to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge your participation and pray for you along with the rest of the speakers.

Thank you, Representative McIntyre, for demonstrating a commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org). We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*I trust you will be participating in our National Day of Prayer.*

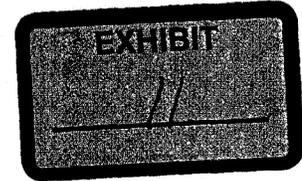
Enclosures

Pls Rsp Req. POD 403

# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

March 17, 2008



Chaplain Barry C. Black  
Office of the Chaplain  
United States Senate  
SROB-332 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chaplain Black:

Warm greetings! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how delighted we are that you'll be joining us once again to lead a time of intercession during our Capitol Hill NDP observance on May 1, 2008. As you know, our Task Force has for many years facilitated this special gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of prayer for our beloved country.

As you prepare the text of your prayer for our upcoming observance, you may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 1:20, and be approximately eight to ten minutes in length. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer as background. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and your wife, Brenda, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

Thank you, Chaplain Black, for demonstrating an ongoing deep commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty and encouraging others to do so. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

*You're always a blessing. Thank you for participating in our National Day of Prayer. See you soon*

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[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org) I'll see 5:17



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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Bishop Phillip Porter  
The Honorable Jim Ryun  
Representative Joseph Pitts  
Representative Chris Smith  
Mr. Gil Strickland
- Liaisons  
Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)  
Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)  
Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Department of the Interior  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Greetings from Colorado Springs! Now that the dust has settled following our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C., I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your participation. You shared a powerful message during our Cannon House program, and I have no doubt everyone present was impacted by your inspiring words.

It was tremendously uplifting to see so many leaders, dignitaries and fellow citizens come together to intercede on behalf of America, and this impressive turnout in our nation's capital was representative of thousands of observances taking place around the country. I trust you were as encouraged as I was to know that millions of people were approaching God's throne on May 1<sup>st</sup> to seek His guidance and protection on our land. You played a meaningful role in this endeavor, and my team and I are honored by your involvement in our efforts.

Thanks again for representing the Executive Branch of government during this year's NDP observance, Secretary Kempthorne. May the Lord's joy accompany all that you undertake in His service.

Every blessing!

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Thank you for supporting our national Day of Prayer!*

SD/rwj

(3)



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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Representative Lincoln Davis  
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Mr. Tony Dungy  
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The Honorable Tony E. Hall  
Admiral Jerry Johnson-USN (ret.)  
General Charles Kniskern USMC (ret.)  
Representative Mike McIntyre  
Mrs. Beth Moore  
Representative Marilyn Musgrave  
Representative Mike Pence  
Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr. (ret.)  
Bishop Phillip Porter  
The Honorable Jim Ryan  
Representative Joseph Pitts  
Representative Chris Smith  
Mr. Gil Stricklin
- Liaisons  
Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)  
Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)  
Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
1433 Longworth House  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Aderholt:

Greetings from Colorado Springs! Now that the dust has settled following our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C., I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your participation. Your willingness to urge your fellow congressmen to attend our Cannon House observance means a great deal to our entire staff, and we continue to value the time and energy that you invest in serving as our Task Force's liaison to Capitol Hill. It was a special privilege, as well, to have you and Caroline attend our reception on Wednesday evening. I do hope you enjoyed yourselves and found the event meaningful.

It was tremendously uplifting to see so many leaders, dignitaries and fellow citizens come together to intercede on behalf of America, and this impressive turnout in our nation's capital was representative of thousands of observances taking place around the country. I trust you were as encouraged as I was to know that millions of people were approaching God's throne on May 1<sup>st</sup> to seek His guidance and protection on our land. You played a significant role in this endeavor, and my team and I are honored by your continued faithful involvement in our efforts.

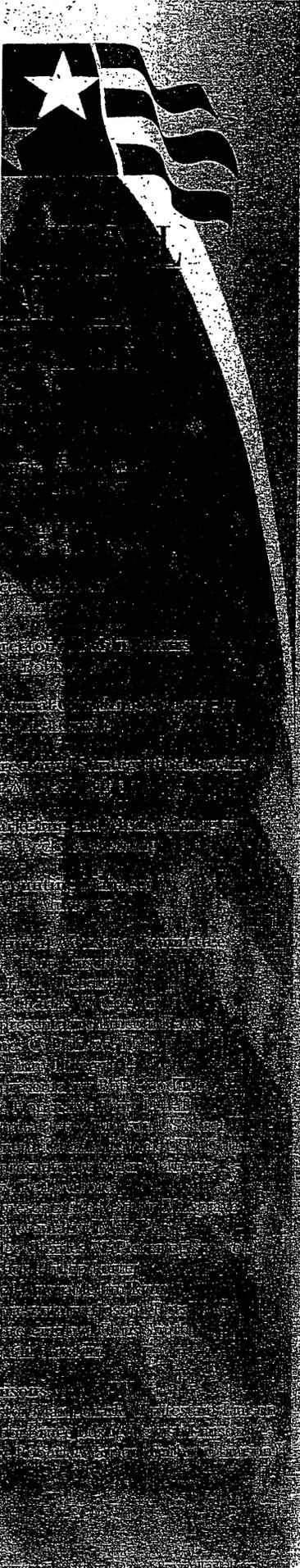
Thanks again for lending such active support to the cause of prayer, Representative Aderholt. May the Lord's joy accompany all that you undertake in His service.

Every blessing!

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rwj

*We deeply appreciate your friendship and support of our National Day of Prayer. It has been a pleasure working with you.  
4 Blessings!*

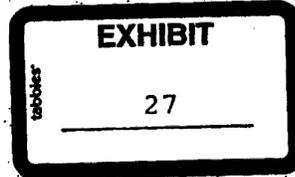


# Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 5, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM; AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20520



Dear Secretary Rice:

Warm greetings! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how honored we are that you've agreed to represent the executive branch of government during our Capitol Hill prayer observance on May 1, 2008. For many years, our Task Force has facilitated this special prayer gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of intercession for our beloved country. Last year, as in the past, overflow crowds filled the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion which exemplifies the thousands of events being held stateside and at various sites around the world.

As you prepare your message, we ask that you include a brief description of the significant role prayer has played in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the executive branch in the days ahead. You may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." You are tentatively scheduled to be introduced at 12:35 p.m., and you are slated to speak for approximately ten minutes. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance for your review, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge your participation and pray for you along with the rest of the speakers.

Thank you, Secretary Rice, for demonstrating a commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty through your willingness to take time away from your extremely hectic schedule to join us. We are deeply grateful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Shirley you will  
be participating  
in our nations  
day of prayer*

Enclosures

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# America, UNITE in Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14

January 19, 2007

Chaplain Daniel Coughlin  
Chaplain of the House  
HB - 25 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chaplain Coughlin,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! I trust you had a wonderful Christmas season celebrating our Lord's birth with your family and loved ones. Here at the Task Force Headquarters, our staff is busy preparing for America's 56<sup>th</sup> annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year, our theme is **America, Unite in Prayer**, drawn from II Chronicles 7:14; *"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* We hope that this theme will inspire believers from coast to coast to gather before God's throne in repentance and praise.

Your participation in our 2005 National Observance was a great blessing to all in attendance. We'd be honored if you would join us, once again, for the Cannon House Observance in Washington, D.C. As the officiating chaplain, your portion of the program would include a greeting to those assembled as well as a prayer of blessing, beginning at 2:02 p.m. and lasting approximately five minutes. I have enclosed a program from last year's observance for your review.

Chaplain Coughlin, it would mean a great deal to us if you would accept our invitation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Assistant to the Chairman, at (719) 268-4802 or via email at [bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org).

Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. We look forward to your reply. In the meantime, may God richly bless you in your service to our country!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*I trust your heart is good and wish you every blessing in the New Year.*

*If you can participate in NDP, 2007, it would be a blessing to the nation.*

# America, UNITE in Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14

February 1, 2007

Secretary Jim Nicholson  
810 Vermont Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Nicholson,

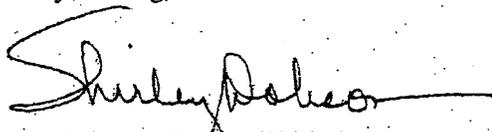
Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! Here at the Task Force headquarters, our staff is busy with preparations for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. As you may know, the National Day of Prayer has been an important historical celebration of America's First Amendment freedoms to gather, worship, and pray since its institution in 1952. This year, our theme is **America, Unite in Prayer**, drawn from II Chronicles 7:14: *"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."*

Secretary Nicholson, we'd be honored if you would join us for our National Observance at the Cannon House Office Building on Thursday, May 3 as our Executive Branch speaker. In this role, we ask that you share the prayer needs of our nation's Executive Branch, as well as importance of prayer in your personal and professional life. In past years, we've featured such influential leaders as Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Defense Mike Johanns, and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao. Your portion of the program would tentatively begin at 1:36 p.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. For your review, I've enclosed a copy of last year's Cannon program.

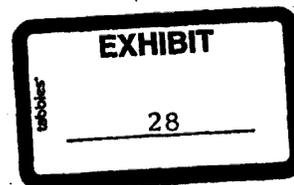
We'd also welcome your attendance at our Prayer Reception held on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for our Cannon participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Secretary Nicholson, I hope you'll prayerfully consider our invitation. It would be an honor to have your participation and leadership in our National Observance, and I look forward to discussing this opportunity. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Assistant to the Chairman, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org). We look forward to hearing from you! In the meantime, may God bless you richly as you continue in your service to God and country.

Every blessing,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force



Pls\_Rsp\_Req\_POD\_378

Post Office Box 15616 ★ Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616 ★ (719) 531-3379 ★ Fax: (719) 548-4520



February 8, 2005

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
Office of the Governor  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Governor Rounds,

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! Yet another National Day of Prayer is right around the corner, and it is my privilege to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our nation.

In preparation for this observance, each year the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you issue a proclamation urging the people of South Dakota to assemble on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in order to pray for our nation's leaders and citizens.

To ensure that a proclamation from your office is incorporated in this year's observance, we respectfully request that you take the following steps:

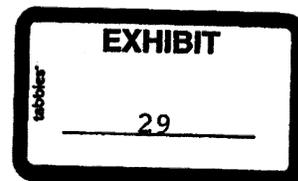
- After completing your proclamation, return a copy to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 1**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our South Dakota Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with further details.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org). Bobbie would be happy to field any inquiries you may have.

The 2005 theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Given the many challenges facing our country and its people, it seems particularly fitting that we should gather to request the Almighty's intervention as we respond to the threats confronting us – both within our borders and overseas.

Thank you in advance for lending your support to our NDP observance, Governor Rounds. Your participation will not only be a valuable addition to our May 5 events, but it will come as an encouragement to the people of South Dakota. God bless you and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force









# National Day of Prayer



February 28, 2005

- Chairman:**  
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)
- Honorary Chairman:**  
Pastor Max Lucado
- Co-chairman:**  
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)
- Vice Chairman:**  
Mr. Jim Weidmann
- Director:**  
Mrs. Rich Caldwell
- Public Relations Manager:**  
Mrs. Bobbie Hill
- National Coordinator Manager:**  
Mrs. Lisa Crump
- Senior Staff Accountant:**  
Mrs. Debra Corder
- National Advisory Committee:**  
Mr. Philip F. Anschutz  
Mrs. John Ashcroft (Janet)  
The Honorable Dan Coats  
Mr. Charles W. Colson  
Dr. James Dobson  
Mrs. Annie Dunham  
The Honorable William Frist  
The Honorable Tony P. Hall  
The Honorable Don Hodel  
The Honorable Kay Coles James  
Admiral Jerry Johnson  
General Charles C. Kaulak  
The Honorable Steve Largent  
Mr. Spencer Overman  
Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karen)  
Dr. Raleigh Washington  
The Honorable J. C. Watts

- Liaisons:**  
Rabbi Bruce Lustig  
Pastor Max Lucado  
Father Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
TASK FORCE  
P.O. BOX 15616  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
80933-1616  
(719) 531-4379  
Fax (719) 548-4520  
nationaldayofprayer.org

A project of the National  
Prayer Committee, Inc.



Congressman Tom DeLay  
2370 RHOB  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative DeLay,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! As May 5 approaches, the Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2005 National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year. Your participation and support mean a great deal to me, and I trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting.

Our theme for 2005, **God Shed His Grace on Thee**, is based on Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Even in these challenging times, the overwhelming grace of God's hand has been with us. It is in His grace that we find our hope. Our prayer is that this theme will draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance in their personal lives and on behalf of our nation. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you share about the importance of prayer in both your political and personal life. Please highlight the needs of those involved in our nation's legislative branch. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 11:03 a.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you and Christine to attend our National Day of Prayer Reception on Wednesday, May 4, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, Dr. Dobson would like to introduce you and lead a time of prayer for you and our Cannon participants. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Again, it is an honor to have your participation this year. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org). In the meantime, may God bless you richly as you continue in service to our country.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Dobson*  
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Thank for blessing  
the nation with your  
participation.*

<b>EXHIBIT</b>	
number	31

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

—Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Pls\_Rsp\_Req\_POD\_349

The 54th Annual ★ National Day of Prayer ★ Thursday, May 5, 2005

# National Day of Prayer



March 21, 2005

Secretary Michael Johanns  
 c/o Marlene Minix  
 1400 Independence Ave. SW  
 Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force in beautiful Colorado Springs! Here at the Task Force Headquarters, our staff has been busy with preparations for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was approved and established by an act of Congress in 1952, and it has become a significant activity in the lives of millions of citizens, not only in America, but on military bases and embassies around the world. This year marks the 54th anniversary of this historic day. Our theme for 2005 is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," drawn from Hebrews 4:16.

Secretary Johanns, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Executive Branch. A number of esteemed current and former Executive leaders have participated in the past, including Attorney General John Ashcroft and Secretary Mel Martinez. In this role, we ask that you share about the impact of prayer in your personal and political life, as well as the prayer needs of the Executive Branch. Your portion of the program would tentatively begin at 10:46 a.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would take part. For your review, I have enclosed a copy of the 2004 Cannon Caucus Room Observance and the history of the National Day of Prayer.

I'd also welcome your participation at a special Prayer Reception held Wednesday, May 4, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for our Cannon participants. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Again, it would mean a great deal if you'd accept our invitation. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is hillbr@fotf.org.

Thank you, Secretary Johanns, for prayerfully considering our request. We hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

*We hope you can participate in blessing our nation!*

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
 Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

—Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Pls\_Rsp\_Req\_POD\_350

The 54th Annual ★ National Day of Prayer ★ Thursday, May 5, 2005

- Chairman:**  
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)
- Honorary Chairman:**  
Pastor Max Lucado
- Co-chairman:**  
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)
- Vice Chairman:**  
Mr. Jim Weidmann
- Director:**  
Mr. Rich Caldwell
- Public Relations Manager:**  
Mrs. Bobbie Hill
- National Coordinator Manager:**  
Mrs. Liz Crump
- Event Staff Accountant:**  
Mrs. Liz Crump
- National Advisory Committee:**
  - Mr. Patrick J. Aschultz
  - Mr. John Ashcroft (Janet)
  - Hon. Johnnie Dan Coats
  - Mr. Charles W. Coburn
  - Dr. Dennis D. Coonan
  - Mr. Johnnie Dan Coats
  - The Honorable William Frist
  - The Honorable J. P. Hall
  - The Honorable Tom Harkin
  - The Honorable John C. Calvert
  - Mr. James W. Hansen
  - Mr. Tom Harkin
  - The Honorable Steve Largent
  - Mr. Tom Harkin
  - Mrs. Kathleen Harris (Karen)
  - Dr. Raleigh Washington
  - The Honorable J. C. Watts
- Liaisons:**
  - Rabbi Bruce Lustig
  - Pastor Max Lucado
  - Father Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
 TASK FORCE  
 P.O. BOX 15616  
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
 80901-0616  
 719/233-2589  
 Fax: 719/233-4520  
 nationaldayofprayer.org  
 A project of the National  
 Prayer Committee, Inc.



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2007

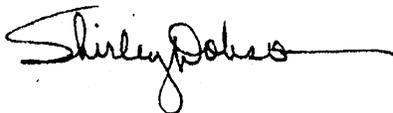
Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Every year since Congress established an annual day of prayer in 1952, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our country. Given the extent to which our culture has deviated from the moral underpinnings upon which our nation was founded, it behooves us to honor the precedent set forth by our forefathers.

The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered over 200 years ago, echo our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of an infant republic he said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Today, we may face different trials, but we are not far removed from the desperation of Jefferson's sentiments. How good it is to know, then, that our distress is tempered by our confidence in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, we have chosen **America, Unite in Prayer** as our theme for 2007, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support in the form of a public proclamation declaring May 3, 2007 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States and last year, every governor in the nation, as well as those in our U.S. territories, participated. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to us here at NDP headquarters before **April 1**, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <SC name>, who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Bush. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at [lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org).

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor «Governor», and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you continue to faithfully serve the people of «State»!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force  
SD/eb

EXHIBIT

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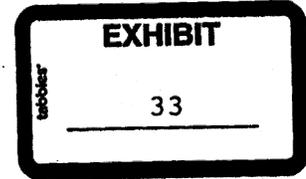
# National Day of Prayer

October 22, 2004

# Let Freedom Ring

The freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, the freedom to pray

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Office of the Majority  
The Capitol, Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20502



Dear Senator *Frist*, *Bill*

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Our ministry is busily preparing for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2004. For years we have been privileged to hold this special observance in our nation's capitol. This gathering, held at the Cannon House Office Building, is only one of thousands of events taking place throughout the country. Each year we have been blessed with an overflow crowd of American believers filling the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress. Today, for millions of believers in the United States and on foreign soil, it stands as a celebrated memorial to our Christian heritage. In our nation's critical state, the National Day of Prayer draws its theme from the call of promise in Hebrews 6:11: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Senator Frist, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us and Honorary Chairman Max Lucado at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch. A number of current and former esteemed Cabinet members have participated in the past, including Senator Wayne Allard, Representative Mike McIntyre, Representative Steve Largent, and Senator John Ashcroft. In this role, you would convey to the audience the prayer needs of the Legislative branch, as well as the role of prayer in your personal and professional life. Your portion of the program would be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would join us.

For your review, I have included a copy of the Cannon Caucus Room Observance program agenda. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her email address is [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org).

In these challenging times, it has been most encouraging to witness believers from across our great nation lift this beloved land and its leaders before the Lord. Again, it would be a great blessing to have you join us this May 5<sup>th</sup> at our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington. Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. Give my best to Karyn. We look forward to hearing from you.

May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Dobson*

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

*Bill - what a blessing to our nation if you could represent the Congress in our nation's Day of Prayer*

Leviticus 25:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

Pls Rsp Req POD 356  
The 53rd Annual National Day of Prayer \* Thursday, May 6, 2004

*Please meet Karyn for me.*

Line  
Rabbi  
Max Lucado  
Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
TASK FORCE  
PO BOX 15616  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

A Division of the National  
Day of Prayer Task Force, Inc.





December 10, 2004

The Honorable Rick Santorum  
Address  
Address

Dear Senator Santorum,

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Our ministry is busily preparing for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2005. For years we have been privileged to hold this special observance in our nation's capitol. This gathering, held at the Cannon House Office Building, is only one of thousands of events taking place throughout the country. Each year we have been blessed with an overflow crowd of American believers filling the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress. Today, for millions of believers in the United States and on foreign soil, it stands as a celebrated memorial to our Christian heritage. In our nation's critical state, the National Day of Prayer draws its theme from the call of promise in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Senator Santorum, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us and Honorary Chairman Max Lucado at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch. A number of current and former esteemed Cabinet members have participated in the past, including Senator Wayne Allard, Representative Mike McIntyre, Representative Steve Largent, and Senator John Ashcroft. In this role, you would convey to the audience the prayer needs of the Legislative branch, as well as the role of prayer in your personal and professional life. Your portion of the program would be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would join us.

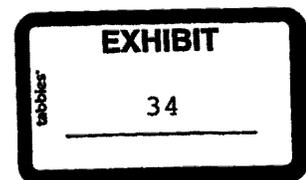
For your review, I have included a copy of last year's Cannon Caucus Room Observance program agenda. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her email address is [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org).

In these challenging times, it has been most encouraging to witness believers from across our great nation lift this beloved land and its leaders before the Lord. Again, it would be a great blessing to have you join us this May 5<sup>th</sup> at our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you.

May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force





February 23, 2004

The Honorable Charles W. Stenholm  
United States House of Representatives  
c/o Jayne Schoonmaker  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stenholm:

A warm "hello" from Colorado Springs! As you know, the staff at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2004 prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year on May 6 as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch and trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting. The gathering, held on Capitol Hill, is symbolic of the celebrations taking place throughout the land. Last year, more than 1,000 people crowded into the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room and adjoining areas to participate in this historic event.

Our theme for 2004, **Let Freedom Ring**, is based on the scripture found in Leviticus 25:10, "... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." Foundational to our country has been the understanding that God is the Source of freedom and has given His creation "inalienable rights." We hope this message will be a catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance with their personal concerns, as well as those of our leaders, community and country. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you present a brief message calling for prayer on behalf of those in the Legislative Branch of our government. As a representative for our nation's leaders, you will highlight the needs of those involved in tackling the crucial decisions that will set the course for our nation's future. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 11:27 and be approximately ten minutes in length. After you speak, someone will lead those gathered in prayer.

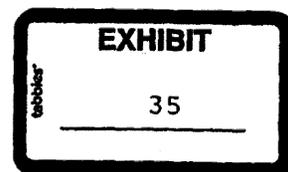
I would also like to urge you and Cynthia to attend our NDP Task Force reception on Wednesday evening, May 5 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for you and the other participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures.

Again, it is an honor to include you among our list of speakers for this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org). See you in May! In the meantime, may God's richest blessings be yours.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures







# The Annual NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

*Prayer Thursday of May*

### Chairman

Mrs. James Dobson (Surley)

### Honorary Chairman

Dr. Henry Blackaby

### Co-Chairman

Mrs. Bill Booth (Vohette)

### Vice Chairman

Mr. Jim Weinmann

### Director of Operations and Finance

Mr. Rick Caldwell

### Public Relations Manager

Mrs. Debbie Hill

### National Coordinator Manager

Mrs. Lisa Camp

### Marketing & Communications Manager

Mr. Terrell Maynor

### Senior Staff Accountant

Mrs. Theria Corder

### National Advisory Committee

Mr. Philip Anschutz

Mrs. Jon Ascroft (Janet)

The Honorable Ben Coats

Mr. Charles W. Colson

James C. Dobson, Ed.D.

The Honorable William Felt

The Honorable Tony F. Hall

The Honorable Don Hodel

The Honorable Kay Coles James

General Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)

General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)

The Honorable Steve Largent

Mrs. Stacie Oranian

Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., retired

The Honorable Joseph Pitts

Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karen)

The Honorable J. C. Watts

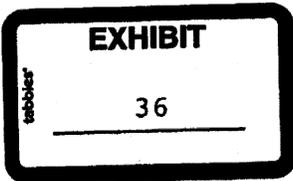
### Liaisons

Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)

Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)

Fr. Robert A. Sirco (Catholic Liaison)

May 15, 2006



# AMERICA HONOR GOD

*"... Those who honor me I will honor ..."*  
1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

Chaplain Barry Black  
Office of the Chaplain  
United States Senate  
SROB-332 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chaplain Black:

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! Although May 4 has come and gone, I am still overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of prayer and repentance that encompassed our nation. As hands joined together to cry out to God, hearts were changed and hope was restored. Given the significance of this day, I am so pleased you were able to be a part of the 2006 National Day of Prayer observance at the Cannon House Office Building. You gave a powerful charge to believers through your exhortation at the Cannon House to pray with passion and perseverance. I'm delighted that we were able to share your words with our Focus on the Family radio audience as well. During such an uncertain and dangerous period in history, it is encouraging to be reminded of prayer's effectiveness in combating the despair of our time.

We have already heard from a number of our coordinators, and I am excited to share with you some of the unique ways in which millions of participants gathered for corporate prayer. Here are just a few of the reports we have received thus far:

- This year marked the first annual observance at the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Amphitheater in South Dakota. Due to cold rain and fog, the event was moved indoors, where a standing-room only crowd interceded for our nation. Governor Mike Rounds and author William Federer were among those leading this time of prayer.
- Nashville's celebrated Ryman auditorium hosted the nationally broadcast Concert of Prayer for City Transformation. Through Moody Radio affiliates across the country, it is estimated that 3 to 4 million participants tuned in for a powerful time of intercession.
- Rebecca St. James, who has been a wonderful ambassador to our country's youth this year, actively sought to motivate young people to pray for America. On May 3rd, she televised a nationwide event geared towards inspiring teens to take part in the following day's observances.

I trust you, too, find these accounts uplifting. Our nation is desperate for the healing only the Almighty can bring, and I hope Americans will remain in a posture of prayer daily as we look to the future. Again, deepest thanks for your part in making the Cannon House observance a true reflection of the thousands of gatherings throughout the country - it was a privilege to have you with us. May God bless you abundantly in the days ahead!

Sincerely,

*Shirley Dobson*  
I June 5:17

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Chaplain  
You hit the ball out  
of the court! Your message  
was powerful and returned  
in spirits. Thank you  
for your involvement in the  
day of prayer in America.*



February 23, 2004

The Honorable Roderick R. Paige  
Secretary of Education  
c/o Mary Ann Gomez  
Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20202-1510

Dear Secretary Paige:

A warm "hello" from Colorado Springs! As you know, the staff at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2004 prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year on May 6 as the representative for our government's Executive Branch and trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting. The gathering, held on Capitol Hill, is symbolic of the celebrations taking place throughout the land. Last year, more than 1,000 people crowded into the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room and adjoining areas to participate in this historic event.

Our theme for 2004, Let Freedom Ring, is based on the scripture found in Leviticus 25:10, "... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." Foundational to our country has been the understanding that God is the Source of freedom and has given His creation "inalienable rights." We hope this message will be a catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance with their personal concerns, as well as those of our leaders, community and country. As we mentioned in our previous letter, we ask that you present a brief message calling for prayer on behalf of those in the Executive Branch of our government. As a representative for our nation's leaders, you will highlight the needs of those involved at the highest level as they make crucial decisions regarding our nation's future. *There has been a minor change in the schedule, and your ten-minute segment will now be from approximately 11:09 to 11:19.* After you speak, someone will lead those gathered in prayer.

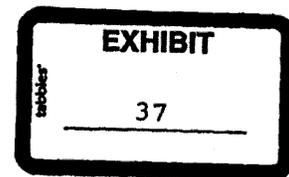
I would also like to urge you to attend our NDP Task Force reception on Wednesday evening, May 5 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for you and the other participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures.

Again, it is an honor to include you among our list of speakers for this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [hillbr@fotf.org](mailto:hillbr@fotf.org). See you in May! In the meantime, may God's richest blessings be yours.

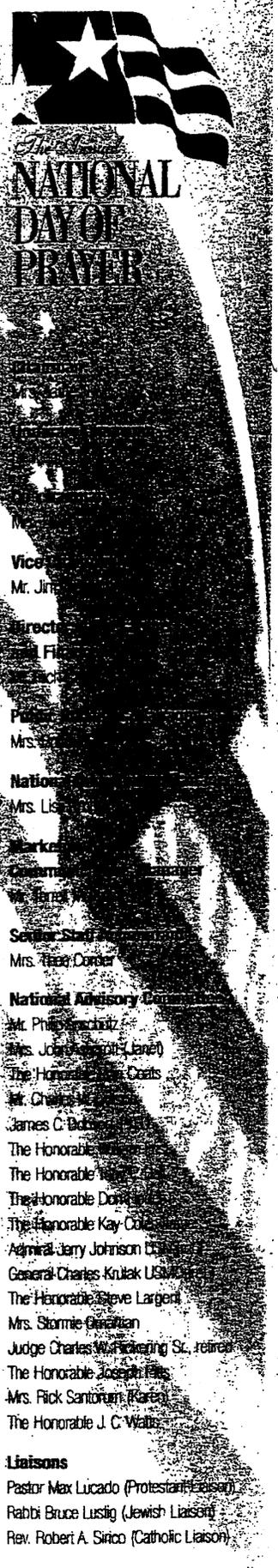
Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures







# AMERICA, HONOR GOD

"... Those who honor me I will honor ..."  
*1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)*

April 3, 2006

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
ATTN: Paul Conway  
Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Chao,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! I'm delighted that you have agreed to join us for our National Observance in Washington, D.C. as our Executive Branch speaker on May 4, 2006. Your participation and support mean a great deal to me, and I know you will find the observance tremendously uplifting.

This year's theme is **America, Honor God**, based on I Samuel 2:30 "...Those who honor me I will honor..." Our prayer is that this theme will draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance in their personal lives and on behalf of our nation. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you share about the role of prayer in your personal and professional life, as well as the prayer needs of our government's Executive Branch. Your portion of the program will begin at 1:36 p.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. We've enclosed a copy of last year's Cannon program for your review.

Again, it is an honor to have your support this year. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is [bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org](mailto:bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org). We look forward to seeing you in May.

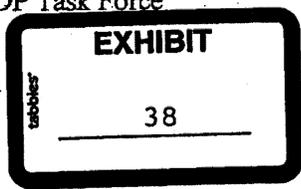
Blessings,

*Shirley Dobson*

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Appreciate your participation in this year's National Day of Prayer observance. Every blessing!*

Enclosures





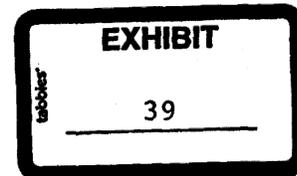
Thanks to Congressmen Who Attended 2005 NDP (SD Sig)

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! On behalf of everyone here at the National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters, I'd like to extend heartfelt appreciation for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this year's NDP observance at the Cannon House Office Building. I know that there are a great many pressing demands calling for your attention, and I'm encouraged that you set those concerns aside in order to join us in lifting our nation in prayer. Your actions demonstrate that you value prayer and acknowledge our need to seek the Almighty's guidance, protection and blessing as we confront the challenges facing us. Millions of Americans from coast to coast joined with us at gatherings large and small in what may have been the largest turnout ever!

Thank you once again for taking part in the 54th annual National Day of Prayer observance, <name>. I trust your commitment to praying for the United States set an inspiring example for many of our fellow citizens, and it's my hope that you were uplifted by our event. May God continue to grant you His wisdom in your vital service to our beloved land and its people.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)  
Chairman, NDP Task Force





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 2007

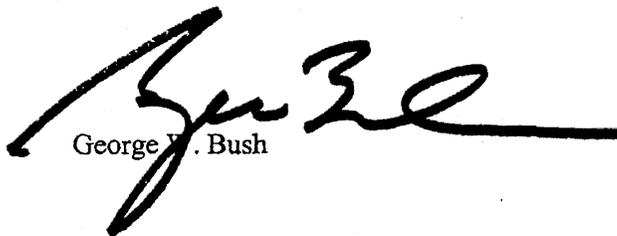
Mrs. Shirley Dobson  
1453 Smoochers Circle  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

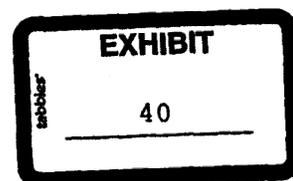
Dear Shirley:

It was good to see you and Jim again at the White House. The National Day of Prayer was a great opportunity to join good people across the country in praying to the Almighty. A prayerful nation is a strong nation, and I was honored to be with you at such an uplifting event.

Thanks for your leadership of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and for the wonderful collection of proclamations as well. Best wishes, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

  
George W. Bush





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 22, 2008

Mrs. Shirley Dobson  
Chairman  
National Day of Prayer Task Force  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Shirley:

Your thoughtful note just reached me in the Oval Office. Thank you for your kind words.

The National Prayer Breakfast is a wonderful tradition that reflects the true strength of our country. Prayer plays an important role in the fabric of America, and I am grateful for your commitment to serving a cause greater than self. Your compassionate work is helping to lift the hearts of many, and I appreciate your efforts.

Laura and I send our best wishes to you and Jim. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



George W. Bush

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Cannon Program — Thursday, May 7, 2009

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room

9:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.

Prelude Music — Military Brass Quintet

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar

Opening Prayer — Father Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Prayer for the Nations — Ambassador to the United States

Worship — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Prayer of Repentance — Dr. Dick Eastman, President Every Home for Christ

Special Music — Miss Lillie Knauls

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Mr. Dave Butts, President Harvest Prayer Ministries

Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Michele Bachmann, Minnesota

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, Co-Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Military Branch Remarks — General James Amos, Assistant Commandant of United States Marine Corps

Prayer for Military Branch — Brig. General David Cyr, Deputy Chief of Chaplains United States Air Force

Worship — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Keynote Speaker — Mrs. Beth Moore, Honorary Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Special Music — Miss Lillie Knauls

Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Priscilla Owen, Federal Judge United States Court of Appeals 5th Circuit

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Dr. Paul Cedar, Chair and CEO Mission America Coalition

Special Guest — Shaun Alexander, NFL MVP

Prayer Challenge — Mr. Brian Toon, Vice Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Closing Song — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Reserved seating must be in place before 8:30 a.m.

Schedule is subject to change.

THE 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we  
put our hope in you." — Psalm 33:22

EXHIBIT

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**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
**CANNON PROGRAM —Thursday, May 1, 2008**  
**Cannon House Office Building —Caucus Room**  
**12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Prelude Music** — Military Band Brass Quintet  
**Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and Anthem Vocalist** — National Anthem  
**Opening Remarks** — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of National Day of Prayer  
**Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar** — Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig  
**Opening Prayer** – Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Services  
**Prayer for the Nations** –Her Excellency Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, Ambassador of Zambia  
**Worship**—Mr. Charles Billingsley  
**Prayer of Repentance**—Rev. Dick Eastman, National Prayer Committee  
**Executive Branch Remarks** — The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior  
**Prayer for Executive Branch** — Mr. Dave Butts, NPC\*  
**Legislative Branch Remarks** — The Honorable Mike McIntyre, North Carolina  
**Prayer for Legislative Branch**—Dr. Paul Cedar, NPC\*  
**Worship**—Mr. Charles Billingsley  
**Prayer** — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain  
**Keynote Speaker** — Dr. Ravi Zacharias, Honorary Chairman NDP\*\*  
**Prayer for the Nation**—Dr. Ravi Zacharias  
**Special Song**— Ms. Abby Schrader  
**Judicial Branch Remarks** — Judge Janice Rogers Brown, U.S. Court of Appeals  
**Prayer for Judicial Branch** — Mrs. Vonette Bright, Co-Chairman NDP\*\*  
**Armed Forces Remarks** — Lt. General Patrick Caruana (retired U.S.A.F)  
**Prayer for the Armed Forces** — Mrs. Kathy Branzell, NPC\*  
**Worship**—Mr. Charles Billingsley  
**Prayer Challenge**— Mr. Brian Toon, Vice Chairman, NDP\*\*  
**Closing Song**—*God Bless America*—Charles Billingsley

\*National Prayer Committee

\*\*National Day of Prayer Task Force

Reserved seating must be in place before 11:30 am

Schedule is subject to change

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Cannon Program — Thursday, May 3, 2007

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room, 12:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Prelude Music — Military Brass Quintet

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks - Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP Chairman

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar - Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Prayer of Blessing — Father Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Worship — Charles Billingsley

Executive Branch Remarks - Secretary Jim Nicholson, Veterans Affairs

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Rev. Richard Eastman, NPC\*

Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Marilyn Musgrave, Colorado

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-chairman

Worship — Charles Billingsley

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Charles W. Swindoll

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation: I Pledge My Allegiance

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Judicial Branch Remarks — Chief Justice James W. Smith

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Mrs. Barbara Byerly\*

Military Multimedia Presentation

Armed Forces Remarks — Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander United States Northern Command and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense

Prayer for the Armed Forces — Dr. Glenn Sheppard\*

Music - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge, — Mrs. Shirley Dobson

Closing Song — God Bless America — Charles Billingsley

\*NPC—National Prayer Committee

Throughout the day, congressional hostesses will be available to assist you and direct you to restrooms and dining facilities. Please feel free to ask for their assistance.

... people who are called by my name, will  
... themselves and pray." 2 Chronicles 7:14

THE 7TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007

CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
**CANNON PROGRAM —Thursday, May 3, 2007**  
**Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room**  
**12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Prelude Music** — U. S. Navy Band Brass Quintet

**Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and Anthem Vocalist** — National Anthem

**Opening Remarks** — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP

**Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar** — Rabbi Joui Hessel

**Opening Prayer** — Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

**Worship**—Charles Billingsley

**Executive Branch Remarks** —Secretary Jim Nicholson, Veterans Affairs

**Prayer for Executive Branch** — Mr. Dave Butts, National Prayer Committee

**Legislative Branch Remarks** — Representative Marilyn Musgrave, Colorado

**Prayer for Legislative Branch**—Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman

**Worship**—Charles Billingsley

**Keynote Speaker** — Dr. Charles R. Swindoll, Honorary Chairman

**Prayer for the Nation**—Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

**Theme Song Multimedia Presentation**—*I Pledge My Allegiance*, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

**Judicial Branch Remarks** — Chief Justice James W. Smith, MS Supreme Court

**Prayer for Judicial Branch** — Mrs. Barbara Byerly, National Prayer Committee

**Military Multimedia Presentation**—*We Will Stand*

**Armed Forces Remarks** —Admiral Timothy J. Keating, U.S. Pacific Command

**Prayer for the Armed Forces** — Dr. Glenn Sheppard, National Prayer Committee

**Music**—Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

**Prayer Challenge**—Shirley Dobson

**Closing Song**—*God Bless America*—Charles Billingsley

\*emcee—Mr. David Butts, Chairman of the National Prayer Committee

\*reserved seating must be in place before 11:30 am

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM — THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room, 1:00 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.

Prelude Music — Air Force Band Brass Quintet

Prayer for the Nations — H. E. Oyinle S. Ogun, Ambassador of Benin

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP Chairman

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Opening Prayer — Father Charles Pope

Worship — D.C. Washington

Executive Branch Remarks — Secretary Elaine L. Chao, Department of Labor

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation: "America" — Rebecca St. James

Prayer of Blessing — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Multimedia Presentation — "If I Die Before You Wake"

Armed Forces Remarks — Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp,

Commanding General of U.S. Army Accessions Command

Prayer for the Military — Rev. Dick Eastman\*

Legislative Branch Remarks — Senator Rick Santorum, Pennsylvania

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — David Burg\*

Worship — D.C. Washington

Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Mr. John Lind

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Henry Blackaby, NDP Honorary Chairman

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer — Mrs. Shirley Dobson

Closing Song: "God Bless America" — D. C. Washington

\*NPC — National Prayer Committee

Interpreting for the deaf — Peg Spinello, Mary Abernathy and Kathy Martin

Throughout the day, congressional hostesses will be available to assist you and direct you to restrooms and dining facilities. Please feel free to ask for their assistance.

*Those who honor me, I will honor*

THE 55TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**CANNON PROGRAM—Thursday, May 4, 2006  
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room  
1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

12:40 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.\*\*

**Prelude Music** — Air Force Brass Quintet  
**Prayer for the Nations**—H. E. Cyrille S. Oguin, Ambassador of Benin  
**Joint Armed Services Color Guard** — National Anthem  
**Opening Remarks** — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP  
**Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar** — Rabbi Bruce Lustig  
**Opening Prayer** — Father Charles Pope  
**Worship**—D. C. Washington  
**Executive Branch Remarks** —Secretary Elaine Chao, Dept. of Labor  
**Prayer for Executive Branch** — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chair  
**Theme Song Multimedia Presentation**—Rebecca St. James, *America*  
**Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America** — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain  
**Music** — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound  
**Multimedia Presentation**—*If I Die Before You Wake*  
**Armed Forces Remarks** — Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General of US Army Accessions Command  
**Prayer for the Armed Forces** — Rev. Dick Eastman\*  
**Legislative Branch Remarks** — Senator Rick Santorum, Pennsylvania  
**Prayer for Legislative Branch** — Mr. David Butts\*  
**Worship**—D. C. Washington  
**Judicial Branch Remarks** — Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.  
**Prayer for Judicial Branch** — Mr. John Lind  
**Keynote Speaker** — Dr. Henry Blackaby, Honorary Chairman  
**Music**—Ernie Haase and Signature Sound  
**Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer**—Shirley Dobson  
**Closing Song**—*God Bless America*—D. C. Washington

\*reserved seating must be in place before 12:30 pm

08/03/09

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**CANNON PROGRAM — Thursday, May 5, 2005**  
**Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

### ***OPENING***

12:45 p.m. – 2:19 p.m.\*\*

**Prelude Music** — The President's Own United States Marine Brass Quintet  
**Joint Armed Services Color Guard** — National Anthem  
**Opening Remarks** — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP  
**Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar** — Rabbi Bruce Lustig  
**Opening Prayer** — Dr. James C. Dobson, Focus on the Family Chairman  
**Keynote Speaker** — Pastor Max Lucado, Honorary Chairman  
**Music** — Sounds of Liberty Musical Group  
**Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America** — Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

### ***GOVERNMENT***

2:20 p.m. – 3:47 p.m.\*\*

**Multimedia Presentation**—Dennis Jernigan, *God Shed His Grace on Thee*  
**Executive Branch Remarks** —The Honorable Mike Johanns, Sec. of Agriculture  
**Prayer for Executive Branch** — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman  
**Legislative Branch Remarks** — Representative Tom DeLay, House Majority Leader  
**Prayer for Legislative Branch** — Mr. Dave Butts\*  
**Worship**—Immanuel Singers  
**Armed Forces Remarks** — Rear Admiral Charles Young, Director of Strategic Systems Command  
**Prayer for the Armed Forces** — Dr. Paul Cedar\*  
**Judicial Branch Remarks** — Alan Sears, General Counsel for Alliance Defense Fund  
**Prayer for Judicial Branch** — Rev. Dick Eastman\*

### ***THE PEOPLE***

3:48 p.m. – 4:48 p.m.\*\*

**Multimedia Presentation** — *Freedom* by Michael W. Smith  
**Speaker for The Family** —Dr. Gary Smalley, Cofounder and Chairman of the Smalley Relationship Center  
**Prayer for The Family** — Rev. Dana Olson\*  
**Worship**—Immanuel Bible Singers  
**Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer** — Jim Weidmann, Vice Chairman

NPC - National Prayer Commitee

\*\*Exact times are subject to change during the event

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**CANNON PROGRAM —Thursday, May 6, 2004  
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room  
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

### **OPENING**

**9:10 – 10:49 a.m.\*\***

**Prelude Music – Marine Corps Brass Quintet  
Armed Forces Color Guard – National Anthem  
Welcome and Opening Remarks – Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP  
Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar– Rabbi Bruce Lustig  
Remarks and Opening Prayer – Bishop Francisco Gonzalez  
Keynote Speaker – LtCol Oliver L. North USMC (Ret) of FOX News Channel  
Music–McLean Bible Worship Ensemble  
Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America—Chaplain Barry Black**

### **GOVERNMENT**

**10:50 – 12:34 p.m.\*\***

**Multimedia Presentation—Dennis Jernigan, *Let Freedom Ring*  
Executive Branch Remarks – Secretary Andrew Card, White House Chief of Staff  
Prayer for Executive Branch – Dave Butts\*, National Prayer Committee  
Legislative Branch Remarks – Congressman Charles Stenholm, Texas  
Prayer for Legislative Branch – Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman  
Worship – McLean Bible Worship Ensemble  
Armed Forces Remarks – General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman-Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Prayer for the Armed Forces – Rev. Dick Eastman\*  
Judicial Branch Remarks – Justice Kenneth Bell, FL Supreme Court  
Prayer for Judicial Branch –Evelyn Christenson\*  
Music—Freedom Village Singers**

### **THE PEOPLE**

**12:35 – 1:27 p.m.\*\***

**Multimedia Presentation—Dennis Jernigan, *America the Beautiful Medley*  
Speaker for Corporate America – Archie Dunham, Chairman ConocoPhillips  
Prayer for Corporate America – Rev. Jeff Noel\*  
Closing Song - McLean Bible Worship Ensemble  
Prayer Challenge – Jim Weidmann, Vice Chairman  
Closing Prayer – Rev. Earl Pickard\***

05/03/04

\*NPC – National Prayer Committee

\*\*Exact times are subject to change during the event

58th Annual Observance

# PRAYER... AMERICA'S HIGHLIGHT



**National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 7, 2009**  
**Cannon House Office Building - Caucus Room**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Keynote speaker Mrs. Beth Moore, Honorary Chairwoman

Other speakers include:

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, Judge Priscilla Owen, General James Amos, and Dr. and Mrs. James Dobson

[www.NationalDayofPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayofPrayer.org)

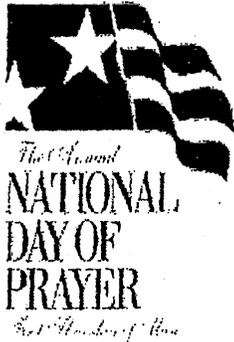


58th Annual Observance

PRAYER...  
AMERICA'S  
HOPE

THE 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2009  
CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we  
put our hope in you." -Psalm 33:22



From the Desk of Faye Tharp  
Director of Public Affairs  
Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org  
P. (719) 268-4802  
F. (719) 548-4520

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**Cannon House National Day of Prayer Observance  
Executive Branch Representatives  
(1999-2008)**

1999 – Director Barry McCaffrey (Office of National Drug Control Policy)

2000 - Secretary Rodney Slater (Transportation)

2001 & 2002 – Secretary Mel Martinez (Housing & Urban Dev)

2003 & 2004 - Attorney General John Ashcroft

2005 - Secretary Mike Johannes (Agriculture)

2006 - Secretary Elaine Chao (Labor)

2007 - Secretary Jim Nicholson (Veterans Affairs)

2008 – Secretary Dirk Kempthorne (Interior)

**EXHIBIT**

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59th Annual Observance  
Thursday, May 6, 2010

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## About NDP

About NDP

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Mission

Our Vision and Values

Who We Are and What We Do

Official Policy Statement on Participation

## Mission

The National Day of Prayer Task Force's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

## Our Vision and Values

In accordance with Biblical truth, the National Day of Prayer Task Force seeks to:

- Foster unity within the Christian Church
- Protect America's Constitutional Freedoms to gather, worship, pray and speak freely.
- Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage
- Encourage and emphasize prayer, regardless of current issues and positions
  - » Respect all people, regardless of denomination or creed
- Be wise stewards of God's resources and provision
- Glorify the Lord in word and deed

## Who We Are and What We Do

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Our Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

[History of the National Day of Prayer>>](#)

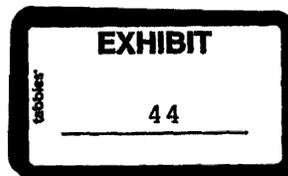
**Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:**

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based.

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Thursday, May 6, 2010

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How Prayer Works

How Prayer Works

Your Best Work

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## En Español

What Makes Prayer Work?  
Jennifer Kennedy Dean  
The Praying Life Foundation  
www.prayinglife.org

"Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him."

Billy Graham

Additional Articles:

The Power of Prayer - Your Best Work  
by Dr. David Jeremiah

## Giving Ourselves to Prayer

An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry



Complete Study on Prayer - developed by the National Prayer Committee and compiled by Dr. Dan Crawford. This is an 80 chapter, 592 page textbook written by

80 different professors and national prayer leaders. The content covers both personal prayer issues and concepts and how to grow prayer in a church. To order, click here>>

## What Makes Prayer Work?

It's all about a relationship!

God has created mankind so that we naturally hunger for a relationship with Him. He has built that yearning for Himself into our frame; He has encoded eternal longings in our spiritual DNA structure. The Scripture says, "He has also set eternity in the hearts of men" (Eccl. 3:11). The famous theologian, C.S. Lewis, wrote "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." (Mere Christianity)

Prayer is the bridge between Heaven and Earth. It is the conduit through which the spiritual realm is brought into our everyday lives. Prayer is the way our spirits breathe. Just as our lungs require oxygen and are designed to seek it out, so our spirits require the presence of God and are designed to seek Him out. Without His presence, we are left gasping for meaning and desperately seeking our purpose in life. We find ourselves trying our best to pray because it is as needful as air for our lungs. Prayer is the method God uses to provide not only our daily needs from food to shelter but also comfort, strength and guidance. The late E. Stanley Jones, missionary and preacher, wrote, "Prayer ... is the opening of a channel from my emptiness into His fullness." (Abundant Living)

Answers depend on the relationship!

You find yourself drawn to prayer, curious about prayer, or even desperate for prayer. Maybe you've tried prayer and prayer has failed you. Maybe you can point to unanswered prayer after unanswered prayer, proving that prayer doesn't work.

Does that describe you?

Welcome! You are at this Web site because God wants you to understand how you can have a fulfilling relationship with Him that will turn prayer from a fruitless exercise to an exciting adventure.

Prayer = Love

Prayer works in the context of relationship. Once the relationship is established, you will find that prayer is its natural expression. It is simply speaking and listening to your Heavenly Father. God wants to answer our prayers. Answered prayer is how He manifests Himself in our life and makes this relationship personal "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." Prayer is the intimacy that flows spontaneously from a loving relationship.

Imagine that you went into a restaurant with your father. Imagine that you and your father ordered your meals, and when the waiter brought them to your table, he said to your father, "That looks delicious. I want to try a bite of that!" Then imagine the waiter picks up a fork and helps himself to a bite from your father's plate. It would be inappropriate. You would be offended. You would demand an apology.

Now imagine that you and your father ordered your meals, the waiter brought them to your table, and you said to your father, "That looks delicious. I want to try a bite of that!" Imagine that you pick up a fork and help yourself to a bite from your father's plate. It would be natural. Your father would be happy to share his meal with you. It would be an accepted intimacy.

What is the difference between the two scenarios? Not the words. Not the actions. Not the intention. The difference is the relationship. The child has access to the father that the stranger does not. (Adapted from Live a Praying Life by Jennifer Kennedy Dean)

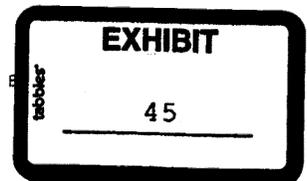
Prayer starts with the relationship.

Have you found that prayer does not work for you? Perhaps you need to start with the relationship.

Click here to learn how>>

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59th Annual Observance  
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### Why We Pray

As American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt called for our nation to unite in prayer. He also offered a prayer to prepare each citizen for the road ahead. "Let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be. And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee." The victory that followed on June 6, 1944-also known as D-Day-began the march to Berlin. Eighteen months later, WWII was over and one of the world's greatest evils had been defeated. The prayers of a nation had been a powerful force.

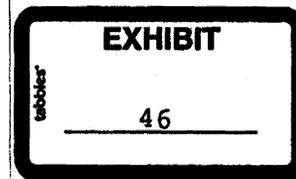
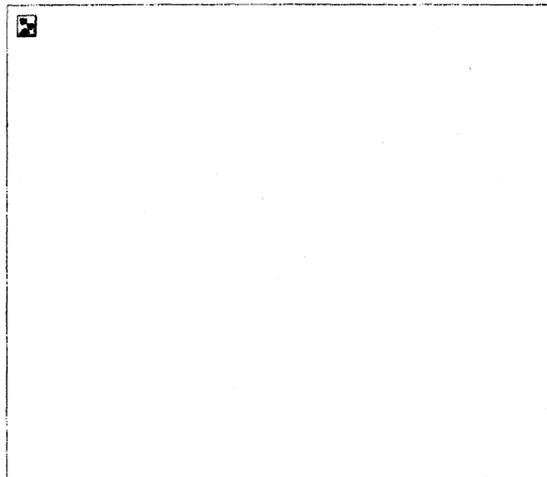


Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

President Abraham Lincoln knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

It is our goal that you, your family and friends would participate in the National Day of Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

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**Giving Ourselves to Prayer**

An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry



Complete Study on Prayer - developed by the National Prayer Committee and compiled by Dr. Dan Crawford, this is an 80 chapter, 592 page textbook written by

80 different professors and national prayer leaders. The content covers both personal prayer issues and concepts and how to grow prayer in a church. To order, click here>>

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of salvation is to restore lost people to relationship with God our Father. Through the cross of Jesus, the barriers to that relationship were removed. When we begin to trust God once again and turn from our sin, He comes into our lives to begin a new relationship of love with us. God is in every true Christian (Romans 8:9,10; John 14:23; Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Our faith and love towards God will lead us to recognize His presence with us, to talk with Him, to listen to Him, to sense Him. This is prayer. We express our thanks, our faith, our love, our hopes with God in prayer, and we receive from Him answers, assurance, guidance, peace, strength, power, revelation of who He is and what He wants to do. (Matthew 7:7-8; John 16:13; Philipplians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:17,18

**WHAT IS PRAYER?**

For true Christians, prayer [Gk: "proseuche"] is "communion with God". Through prayer we actually experience relationship with God. The quality of our prayer life then determines the quality of our relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God. Prayer is listening to God. Prayer is enjoying the presence of God. It can take many forms - for example: worship, confession, thanksgiving, praise, petition (asking for things), waiting (silent, listening and sensing of God) and warfare (command). If we are baptized in the Spirit we can pray with the spirit, in languages unknown to us but not to God. (1 Corinthians 14:2,14).

Prayer is not simply saying words. It is not repeating formulas. God is looking for heartfelt relationship. We are told by Jesus not to make meaningless repetitions of words when we pray. (Mathew 6:7). Tongues may be meaningless to our understanding, but it is not to God. In a future lesson we will give more attention to this subject.

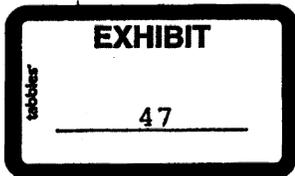
There is a lot of prayer that never reaches God. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself" (Luke 18:11). "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer shall be an abomination." (Proverbs 28:9). It is outside the scope of this lesson to talk about prayers offered to false gods or to the devil. Also, we will not look at religious prayers or traditional prayers that can be uttered without heart. We will be considering prayers that come from one who has repented of his sins to the best of his knowledge, and who walks by faith.

**WHY PRAY?**

1. We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love him. Just as a man and woman in love desire to be together and communicate, so we - if we love God - will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him in proportion to our love for Him.
2. We pray because we depend on God. God is our source. He is our life (Colossians 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life - both naturally and spiritually. Prayer - relationship to God - is as necessary to the spiritual life as air to the natural life.
3. We need to pray in order to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Mt. 26:41). Much sin is the result of the sin of prayerlessness. Through lack of prayer, we are weak, others are weaker and Satan gains the advantage in our lives.
4. We need to pray because it is necessary for men to invite God to act in salvation. God gave the earth to Adam and his descendants. We must invite God to work here. If no-one invites God to work here, Satan (the god of this world through man's universal rebellion - 2 Corinthians 4:4) will dominate the affairs of men and eventually the judgment of God will come. By inviting God often and specifically, multitudes can be saved that would otherwise be lost.
5. We need to pray because God commands us to pray. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2). "Then he [Jesus] spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1). The need to pray is as great as the authority of God which commands us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on the earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time. We should even deny ourselves sleep and food at times in order to pray more and with greater power. (Matthew 6:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 21:36; Colossians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 11:27).

**HOW TO BEGIN**

If you are not sure how to pray, don't despair! Everyone had to begin sometime. Just talk with God respectfully but openly. Talk with Him as your Father. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father ...". Recognize God as a loving





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### Coordinator Application

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your interest in becoming a volunteer for the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Knowing that you are busy and have many pressures that impinge upon your time, we deeply appreciate your willingness to consider "pitching your tent" with us. God has assembled an elite force for this endeavor. Our team is made up of extremely dedicated men and women who love and serve Jesus Christ and who have a heartfelt belief that prayer is the only hope for our country. Through their efforts, a covering of intercession blankets our entire culture - a "prayer shield" that is critical at this juncture when America faces turmoil within and grave threats from without. As our Task Force works to achieve the divine purposes to which we are called, we'd be encouraged to have you join us.

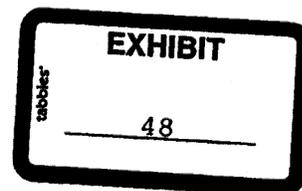


Shirley Dobson

To determine your personal and spiritual qualifications for this service, we would ask that you fill out the enclosed questionnaire. This process will help us, as well as you, decide if this commitment is right for you. May The lord lead you as you prayerfully reply - and may God bless America!

Shirley Dobson

[Apply online to be a coordinator](#)



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Profile Information (fields marked with \* are required)

User Name\* Password\*

No more than 10 letters/numbers. No non-alphanumeric characters like @#\$%.

Suffix First Name\* MI Last Name\*

Sex Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Company

Address 1\*

Address 2

City\* State\*

Country Postal Code\* County

E-mail Address\*

Day Phone\* Night Phone

Cell Phone Fax

Coordinator Information

Read Shirley Cobson's letter to coordinators

Experience

Last/current employer\* From (mm/dd/yyyy): To (mm/dd/yyyy): Position:\* Responsibilities:

Have you ever been convicted of a felony?\* Yes No (Conviction will not necessarily disqualify you from volunteering)

References

Local church/fellowship\* Address Pastor/spiritual leader Phone

I have been an active member for\* Years Months

List past, present, or volunteer ministry responsibilities (i.e. youth pastor, Bible study leader, elder, scout leader, etc.)\*

[Text area for ministry responsibilities]

Emergency Contact (someone not living with you)

Name Relationship Phone Alternate Phone

Give three other references (not family) that you have known more than three years.

1) Name\* Relationship\* Phone\* Address\* 2) Name Relationship

Phone	<input type="text"/>	Address	<input type="text"/>
3) Name	<input type="text"/>	Relationship	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>	Address	<input type="text"/>

**Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:**

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based.

**Statement of Belief:**

I believe that the Holy Bible is the Inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God. I believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, the atoning work of his shed blood, his resurrection and ascension, his intercession and his coming return to power and glory. I believe that those who follow Jesus are family and there should be unity among all who claim his name.

**I agree that these statements are true in my life. \***

Yes  No

**National Day of Prayer Volunteer Program Commitment**

**Coordinator Qualifications**

- I. We would hope that each coordinator would maintain active involvement in a local church body as we believe this should be a person's first ministry priority.
- II. In both public and private life, we ask that you demonstrate the commitment you have made to Jesus Christ in the following areas: spiritual maturity, emotional stability, healthy personal relationships, financial responsibility, and a stable living situation
- III. We would request that coordinators adhere to the guidelines and philosophy that undergirds the National Day of Prayer Task Force. As a Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of Prayer, our mission is to provide support and resources that enable the planning of and participation in events that reflect these beliefs. If other people of other faiths wish to celebrate in their own traditions, they are welcome to do so.
- IV. We would ask that you set aside sufficient time for the work of the NDP Task Force in your state. This commitment varies greatly depending upon the number of our volunteers who report to you the activities planned.
- V. It is our desire that each volunteer would be dedicated to the teamwork model of the NDP Task Force and to the completion of their assigned duties. Our Task Force staff provides ongoing support and information and in return requests that volunteers agree to specific tasks and time schedules so that we can ensure successful events in May.
- VI. We would hope that the new volunteers joining us would share in the legacy of those before them who would have shown a passionate devotion to advancing Christ's Kingdom and the cause of prayer in our nation. As true volunteers, those who partner with us have earned our great admiration for their sacrificial work. They are the backbone of our ministry and labor diligently for God's glory, without any expectation of early pay, recognition, or compensation.

Having read the above statements, I am in agreement with the principles and guidelines mentioned and will subscribe to them as a volunteer. As part of my application process, I also authorize the references listed above to provide the National Day of Prayer Task Force with any pertinent information requested. Further, I release all parties from all liability for any damage that may result from use of such information by the Task Force.

I agree to utilize and follow copyright usage of the NDP Task Force promotional materials to 1) perpetuate the annual theme and national media opportunities and 2) ensure a strong, consistent Christian message throughout the nation. I commit that NDP activities I serve with will be conducted solely by Christians while those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend.

Finally, I understand that the National Day of Prayer Task Force regards this volunteer relationship as a mutual one that can be terminated at any time by either party without notice and without cause.

Applicant's Signature \*  Date (mm/dd/yyyy)\*





**Press Room**

- Press Room
- NDP at NASCAR
- NDP Vision
- Event Summary
- Ministry Partners
- Champions of Prayer

**Media/ Marketing Tools**

**Upcoming Events**

**Presidential Proclamation**

Shirley Dobson Bio

Beth Moore Bio

Coach Tony Dungy

Ricky Skaggs

Brian R. Toon Bio

John Bornschein Bio



**A Nation United in Prayer**

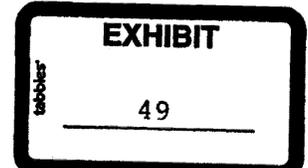
Millions Gather on the 2008 National Day of Prayer

Throughout the nation, we witnessed a greater outpouring of prayer for our nation on the First Thursday in May than ever before. The number of the public-invited events posted on our Web site through our event tracker doubled from the previous year. We experienced more favor from local and state governments this year; more politicians participated this year, more access to government buildings, and even more governors (all 50 signed proclamations) and mayors participated. There was a wider scope in the type of events as well: planes, motorcycles, children prayer walks, buses, train, IRS, NASA and police departments. PrayerFlight; a group of Ohio based private pilots organized "50 Capitols" in which private pilots flew over all 50 state capitols, praying for their states. Military pilots serving overseas and airline pilots and flight attendants prayed while airborne as well. Prayer events occurred at past sites of recent tragedies: Minneapolis 35W Bridge Collapse, New Life Church shooting site and the Virginia Tech shooting site. YMCAs and the Salvation Army held events around the nation. In Colorado Springs pastors from 27 denominations filled the Pikes Peak Cog Railway and prayed for the local community and our nation on the 75 minute trip up and back the 14,000 ft peak. In Alaska, a 300 mile prayer train traveled from Anchorage to Fairbanks. In Bakersfield, CA, 30 churches lengthened the National Day of Prayer to three days, highlighted by the formation of a human cross with red shirts. Prayer events were held in 110 Federal Prisons, national monuments such as Mount Rushmore and the St. Louis Gateway Arch, military bases, stadiums, nursing homes, schools, town halls and in the Senate and Congressional chambers of many state capitols as well as the west lawn of our nation's capitol in Washington, DC. In rain, snow, sunshine or indoors tens of thousands of prayer events took place with every denomination and race present in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

In addition to the huge variety of venues, the prayer events took on the unique direction of our thousands of volunteer organizers. Prayer breakfasts, prayer walks, Bible reading marathons, motorcycle cavalcades, prayer at countless businesses, and even prayer balloon releases marked some of the creativity of our massive national network. Governors in Minnesota, Texas, Louisiana, and the First Lady of Nevada spoke at their events and were prayed over by participants. Attorney Generals and Judges participated in many states. President Bush held his eighth straight National Day of Prayer event in the East Room of the White House with Chairman Shirley Dobson and Honorary Chairman Ravi Zacharias sharing the stage with our President. In the Cannon House office building, home to the offices of our U.S. Congressional leaders, the Task Force hosted a prayer event with several members of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of our government which was televised around the globe.

Here are some Media Victories that God blessed us with:

- Web site: On April 30, we had a 300% growth in visitors over last year = 1.3 million visitors to our web site in just one day. 515% growth for month of April.
- NASCAR: The Furniture Row racing team again covered the #78 driven by Joe Nemecek at Talladega in the red, white and blue of National Day of Prayer. Our car qualified with the fastest speed and won the number one pole position to begin the race earning it prominent coverage on Fox Sports and USA Today.
- Radio: NDP was featured on Michael Reagan, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Bill Bennett, and Focus on the Family in April. At least 2500 stations nationally carried over 70 unique spots. Our leadership had radio interviews in every one of the largest 25 metro areas.
- Email Blasts: Focus on the Family, Family Christian Stores, Newsmax, and the American Family Association sent emails to over 11 million people.
- Internet: The National Day of Prayer spread the word on thousands of sites including Facebook, My Space, YouTube, and GodTube.
- Stores: Family Christian Stores partnered with the National Day of Prayer distributing bookmarks at 307



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The First Thursday in May  
May 7, 2009

Of Special Note...

- NPC Meetings
- NEW! NPC Project Launched
- Textbook Publication Announced
- First Friday Prayer Call
- Critical Prayer Concerns for Revival- IFA

Support the NPC



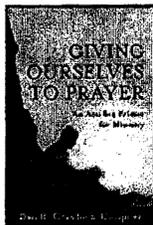
It's now easier than ever to donate using PayPal.

Prayer Ministries Spotlight

Waymakers (NPC)

Waymakers helps churches prepare the way for renewal and gospel advance by building local movements of united prayer, presenting weekend seminars and providing materials designed to equip Christians in

New Textbook



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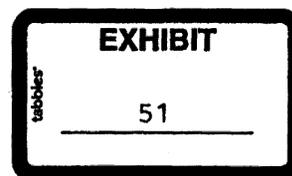


Welcome to the webhome of America's National Prayer Committee! This site has links to many prayer ministries, lists of prayer resources, calendar of prayer events, and the roster of America's National Prayer Committee.

Centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, America's National Prayer Committee exists to provide collective servant leadership to the national prayer movement.



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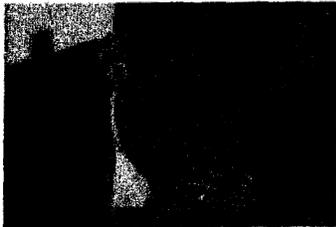


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**Automatic Monthly Giving**

If you choose to give through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) you reduce our administrative costs and increase the impact of your donations. It is easy to do. Simply download the EFT Form and return it by mail to begin.

**Why Give to the National Day of Prayer Task Force?**

"America needs prayer and your willingness to stand on the front lines with us in calling our nation to its knees is a blessing. We won't be successful in our mission without your partnership."

Each year, millions of believers across our great nation join together to worship and pray on the National Day of Prayer. However, behind the scenes is an intricate network of volunteer coordinators, prayer warriors and Task Force employees working year-round to increase the publicity and priority of prayer. Each year, their efforts bring the name of Christ out from behind church walls and into the public frontlines of all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

However, we need your help. As a nonprofit ministry, we are dependent upon the generous contributions of people like you to extend our ministry efforts. Your gifts allow us to continue the mission to which God has called us: to communicate with every family the need for personal repentance and prayer, and to mobilize American believers to prayer for our nation and its leaders.

**Make an online donation...**

**Donate online** - Make an instant donation to our cause [Donate Now!](#)

**...or donate via post**

National Day of Prayer Task Force  
P.O. Box 15616  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616

With your prayers and support, the Task Force can:

- Help instill a sense of personal urgency and conviction for prayer in America's families, churches, and communities
- Keep our Christian faith and religious freedom in the public square
- Increase publicity and priority for this historic day
- Help train and equip national and state leadership overseeing many volunteers across the country

