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58th Annual Observance
Thursday, May 7, 2009

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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>>

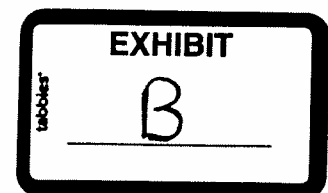
Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:

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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History Of Prayer In America

NDP History



The History Of National Day Of Prayer

Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition. The Supreme Court affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer in *Marsh vs. Chambers* (1983).

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

The National Day of Prayer Is Significant

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation. It enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people. The unanimous passage of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual event, signifies that prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning.



Like Thanksgiving or Christmas, this day has become a national observance placed on all Hallmark calendars and observed annually across the nation and in Washington, D.C. Last year, local, state and federal observances were held from sunrise in Maine to sunset in Hawaii, uniting Americans from all socio-economic, political and ethnic backgrounds in prayer for our nation. It is estimated that more than two million people attended more than 40,000 observances organized by approximately 40,000 volunteers. At state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, and in schools, businesses, churches and homes, people stopped their activities and gathered for prayer.

The National Day of Prayer Is Ours

The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans. It is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds. Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP chairman, reminds us: "We have lost many of our freedoms in America because we have been asleep. I feel if we do not become involved and support the annual National Day of Prayer, we could end up forfeiting this freedom, too."

History Summary

1775 - The first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer

1863 - Abraham Lincoln called for such a day.

1952 - Congress established NDP as an annual event by a joint resolution, signed into law by President Truman.

1988 - The law was amended and signed by President Reagan, designating the NDP as the first Thursday in May.

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Press Room

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[Champions of Prayer](#)

Media/ Marketing Tools

Upcoming Events

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Shirley Dobson Bio](#)

[Beth Moore Bio](#)

[Coach Tony Dungy](#)

[Ricky Skaggs](#)

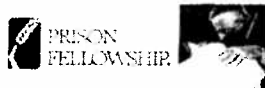
[Brian R. Toon Bio](#)

[John Bornschein Bio](#)



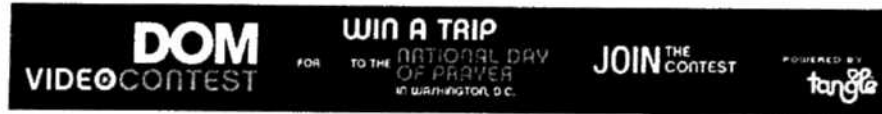
[Answered Prayer>>](#)

[Ministry Partners>>](#)



FAMILY

Christian Stores



National Day of Prayer 2009

The 58th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 7, 2009. Millions will unite in prayer as thousands of events will take place from coast to coast. The theme for this year is "Prayer... America's Hope" and is based on the verse from Psalm 33:22 which states: "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

Beth Moore will join Shirley Dobson to lead the nation in prayer as the 2009 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

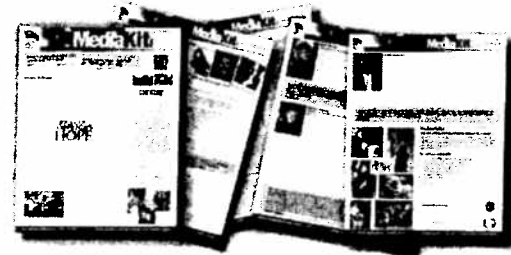
[Order the 2009 Theme Poster>>](#)

Media Resources

The National Day of Prayer Task Force has developed an e-Media Tool Kit complete with broadcast quality videos, radio PSAs, press releases, bios, articles, and much more. To request these resources, click on the Media Form button below. **NOTE: This request form is for media outlets only (Radio, TV, Newspapers, etc).**

[Media Form](#) ★

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is pleased to provide you with our 2009 Media Kit. This kit highlights many of this years media tools including our Radio and Video PSA's, Answers to Prayer, events throughout the country, a message from Chairman Shirley Dobson and more. To acquire this kit, simply click the 'Download Now' button below for a print ready PDF.



2009 Media Kit

[Download Now](#) ★

2009 Media Kit_NDP.pdf, 3.1 MB
(Requires Adobe Acrobat)



Coach Tony Dungy Beth Moore, Honorary Chairman Shirley Dobson, Chairman Darrell Waltrip

SuperBowl winning coach, Tony Dungy and NASCAR Legend and current FOX Sports Analyst, Darrell Waltrip have joined Honorary Chairman, Beth Moore and Chairman, Shirley Dobson, to challenge America to unite in prayer on the 58th annual National Day of Prayer observance, May 7, 2009

[To view video messages from these leaders, click here>>](#)

Banner and Print Ad Downloads

