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Psalm 91 reminds us that it is God who saves us from “the fowler’s snare”—outward attack; and He also saves us from the “deadly pestilence”—inward attack. The passage provides 20 statements of what God will do to protect us, with only one conditional statement in verse 9: “If you say, ‘the LORD is my refuge,’ and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.” The word “dwell,” *ownah*, in Hebrew is significant. It is used to describe intimacy in a marriage—not a casual dwelling, but one of honesty, vulnerability, and commitment.

Our Founding Fathers understood this concept of dwelling in the presence of the Most High. Struggling to construct a country at a time of great uncertainty, they voted that our lawmakers would pray every day before beginning each session, additionally setting in place a National Day of Prayer on July 20, 1775. Today, in our uncertain times, let’s intercede that the Church would kneel and embrace this same posture of prayer, dwelling in this promise: “He is our refuge and fortress; it is in God that we trust!”

—David Kubal is President and CEO of Intercessors for America.

The Lord is calling America to awaken from slumber.

Pray that the course of our nation will move towards God’s will and desire.

“If the Church languishes, the State cannot be in health; and if the State rebels against its Lord and King, the Church cannot enjoy His favor. If the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from the Church, He is not present in the State; and if He, the only ‘Lord, the Giver of Life,’ be absent, then all order is impossible, and the elements of society lapse backward to primeval night and chaos ... I charge you, citizens of the United States, afloat on your wide sea of politics, there is another King, one Jesus: the safety of the State can be secured only in the way of humble and whole-souled loyalty to His person and of obedience to His law.” —A.A. Hodge (1823-1886)



CHURCH PRAY! is a monthly corporate prayer help to local churches published since 1991. This bulletin is posted for free download at “Resources” on our Web site or available as a one-sheet master for use on a copy machine or for quick print services. A monthly First Friday Prayer Letter and mid-week Alert are also available upon request. To subscribe to Church Pray! or inquire about other services, contact: INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA PO Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134. Tel 540-317-2070; E-mail ifa@ifapray.org Web sites: www.IFAPray.org www.GetAmericaPraying.com

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

**CHURCH
PRAY!**

**GOD, OUR REFUGE
AND FORTRESS**

BY DAVID KUBAL

“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.” —Psalm 91:2-3

Dictators overthrown. Political turmoil. Earthquakes. Unexpected nuclear disaster. All eyes linger on Japan’s nuclear crisis as both sides of the Pacific recover from a rush to stock up on potassium iodine tablets. What was once available for less than \$10 per packet quickly shot past \$500 in one online bid to prevent radiation sickness.

And while pill suppliers reported shortages, the World Health Organization issued a statement urging calm.

Could there be a more fitting context to be reminded of Psalm 91:2, the National Day of Prayer’s theme verse for 2011? The Bible urges calm with this life-saving message: “I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” The psalmist correctly understood that during uncertain times, we can count on God alone. Even His Son experienced political upheaval and economic uncertainty during His life on earth, so the Lord knows all about the tension of living in a hysteria-charged world.

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“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” —Psalm 91:2

**MAY 2011
PRAYER FOCUS**

Sunday, May 1, 2011

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - Offer thanksgiving for Thursday’s “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” National Day of Prayer (May 5) observance at noon.

Sunday, May 8, 2011

MOTHER’S DAY - Offer thanksgiving for motherhood, marriage and family. Thank God for the mothers and grandmothers in your church and area. Ask for the Lord’s blessing, strength, and encouragement to be upon them all.

Sunday, May 15, 2011

REPENTANCE - Pray that the Lord continues to look with mercy, longsuffering; that He grants the “grace of repentance unto life” to us as individuals, and as church communities.

Sunday, May 22, 2011

STUDENTS - With the school year ending, pray for all the students in your area, especially those graduating. Pray for Christian student leaders and believers who are desiring to witness for Christ in their schools.

Sunday, May 29, 2011

U.S. ARMED FORCES - Memorial Day is observed tomorrow. Offer thanksgiving for those who have given their lives in battle to secure our freedoms. Pray that the moral integrity of our Armed Forces be preserved and that many service men and women will come to know Christ.