

# INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

## PRAYER LETTER

May 2010

Vol. 37, No. 5

## A Nation Adrift

Jeffrey H. Coors

America is changing before our eyes. The freedoms men fought and died for are being frittered away by a government intent on encroaching on every aspect of our lives. It has been gradual. The Republicans enjoyed growing the government while they were in control the previous eight years. Some federal departments, like Education and Energy, which were deemed unnecessary and considered for elimination in the Reagan years, have been greatly expanded.

The excessive size and inefficiency of government, which even Democrat Bill Clinton worked to curb, has not even been a topic of discussion in Washington for years.

And now socialized healthcare has become law, even against the will of the majority of Americans. One sixth of our national economy will be managed for us by a new group of bureaucrats. These pretend to know what is best for us better than we ourselves know. "European envy" is afoot among the U.S. governing elite. They envy other nations and want America to be like them.

Israel's judge and prophet, Samuel, warned Israel not to follow other nations and their earthly kings, but they refused to heed his godly wisdom. The people got their king and sold themselves into his service. Seeds of destruction were planted when they chose to rely on man rather than God. America was at its strongest when it stood apart from other nations. Now, like Israel, we are choosing to sell ourselves into slavery to a new kind of earthly king—the federal government. "In God We Trust" is being replaced by "In Government We Trust."

In this time we must consider Jeremiah 29. When looking at this chapter we would hope that God would quicken verse 11 which so many have relied on: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'" But God wants us to read the entire chapter and note

**"Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."**

—Jeremiah 29:7 NLT

the context. Jeremiah was writing to the Jewish exiles in Babylon—those captured by King Nebuchadnezzar and enslaved to him in a foreign land. It is as if the Lord is saying, "You [America] have enslaved yourselves to a king of your choosing [the federal bureaucracy]."

Just like Israel you are no longer free people."

But redeeming direction also came from the Lord, as we see starting in verse 5: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you will have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

Firstly, God has permitted and sent us into this statist slavery. Our rebellion as a nation has resulted in our present judgment. God is trying to get our attention, but are we listening to Him or only to our own proud selves?

Secondly, we should not be resigned to an awful fate, but we should continue to bless our families, provide well for them, and plan for generations to come.

Thirdly, we should pray for the peace and prosperity of this land. Its welfare does determine our welfare.

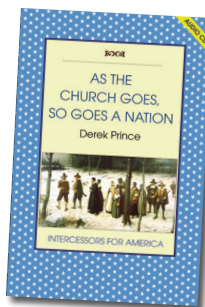
God is not saying we should stop fighting and praying for justice and righteousness. Nor would He discourage efforts to legally reverse the dependence we have put on our federal government. Above all else He would have us trust Him, obey Him and give Him all honor. And, in our current state of statist slavery, we should especially pray and work for the peace, prosperity, and welfare of this nation.

—Jeffrey H. Coors serves on the IFA Board of Directors and is Executive Chairman, Retired of the Board of Graphic Packaging International, Inc.

### AS THE CHURCH GOES, SO GOES A NATION

Derek Prince

At the request of IFA Partners-in-Prayer, now available as audio MP3s on our new Web site and as a 4-Disc CD set! These messages were delivered by Derek Prince at IFA's 25th Anniversary conference. \$19.95 + shipping. Order from IFA Fulfillment Center, c/o The Christian Shoppe, PO Box 1058, Purcellville, VA 20134. Credit card orders toll-free 888-349-4446 or via [www.ifaresources.com](http://www.ifaresources.com).



### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 6

#### REPENTANCE | SURRENDER

Take time on this National Day of Prayer to "present your body a living sacrifice" (Rom 12:1-2; 6:13), and to personally seek the Lord, asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart and to point out sin and areas where you "fall short" of doing the will of God. Surrender yourself afresh for the Lord's purposes. Use the 2 Timothy 3:1-5 listing of 18 areas of sin and self-centeredness for personal reflection, repentance, and intercession.

#### ALL IN AUTHORITY

Engage in private prayer and participate in local public prayer observances. Repent for national sin and earnestly intercede for "all in authority" (1 Tim 2:1-2)—for President Obama, his Cabinet and administration, the U.S. military, Congress, and Supreme Court. (Use the "Top 130 U.S. Officials" bookmark.) Pray for your Governor and other state officials as the Lord prompts. Pray for local city, township, village or county officials, judges, sheriff and police, school administrators, security, emergency, fire, rescue and public health workers, civil magistrates, and support staff. Join in praying the special prayer written by evangelist Franklin Graham. (See Page 4)

#### LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

All IFA "partners-in-prayer" are asked to pray in agreement and affirm the Lordship and Supremacy of Jesus Christ on this National Day of Prayer. Let us repent for the falling away from obedience and sound doctrine in church life. Joyfully affirm the finished work of Christ, His preeminence and dominion. (Col 1:12-20, 2:15)

### FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

May 7

#### DECEPTION | DISCERNMENT

Jesus warned that deception will increase in "the end days." (Mt 24:4; Col 2:6-8; 2 Tim 3:13-15) Intercede for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for revival in the Church, and for spiritual awakening across the U.S. and world. Intercede for a return to biblical truth, sound doctrine, and constitutional governance. Intercede that U.S. Christians will be able to "discern the signs of the times" and grow in spiritual discernment. (Mt 16:3; 1 Cor 2:12-14)

Pray weekly via  
On Watch In Washington

[www.ifapray.org/blog](http://www.ifapray.org/blog)  
[www.twitter.com/IFAPray](http://www.twitter.com/IFAPray)



## WAYS TO PRAY FOR ALL IN AUTHORITY

Gary Bergel

The life of every citizen is impacted by a vast multitude of individuals who wield significant influence each day. Consider: millions of elected and appointed officials, judges, police officers, lawyers, bureaucrats, media elites, military officers, bankers, business executives, supervisors, and managers, those involved in church leadership, educators, scientists, medical practitioners, and hospital administrators. How might we pray for these individuals? Here are 30 things based on Scripture we can pray for all in authority and influence. Select one person or a group and then pray one of these points each day for them.

1. That they be **God fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him** for each decision and act (Prov 9:10)
2. That they be **granted wisdom, knowledge and understanding** (Js 1:5)
3. That they be **presented with the Gospel and loving Christian witness** (Rom 10:14)
4. That they be drawn, if unsaved, to a saving encounter with Christ; if born-again, that they be **strengthened and encouraged in their faith** (1 Tim 2:4; Eph 1:17-23)
5. That they **see their own inadequacy, pray and seek the will of God** (Prov 3:5-8; Lk 11:9-13)
6. That they be **convicted of sin, transgression and iniquity** (Ps 51:17; Jn 8:9)
7. That they heed their conscience, **confess their sins and repent** (Prov 28:13; Js 4:8)
8. That they **read the Bible and attend prayer meetings and Bible studies** (Ps 119:11; Col 3:2)
9. That they **value and regard the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ** (Ps 19:7-11; Jn 8:31,32)
10. That they **respect and honor their own parents** if living (Eph 6:2,3)
11. That they **respect authority and practice accountability** (Rom 13:1-7)
12. That they be **given godly counsel and God fearing advisors** (Prov 24:6)
13. That they be **honest and faithful to spouses and children** (Mal 2:15,16)

14. That they be **practicing members of local congregations** (Heb 10:25)
15. That they **desire purity and avoid debauchery, pornography, perversion and drunkenness** (1 Cor 6:9-20; Ti 2:12)
16. That they be **timely, reliable and dependable** (Mt 21:28-31)
17. That they be **honest in financial, tax and ethical matters** (1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 6:6-10)
18. That they **seek pastoral care and counsel** when needed (Heb 13:7)
19. That they **seek out and nurture godly friendships** (Ps 1:1-3)
20. That they **have thankful and teachable spirits** (Rom 1:21)
21. That they be **generous and have compassionate hearts** for the poor and needy (Ps 112:9; Lk 10:33-37)
22. That they **redeem their time and know their priorities** (Eph 5:15-17)
23. That they **desire honesty, integrity and loyalty** (Ps 26; Prov 11:3)
24. That they **have courage to resist manipulation, bribery, pressure and the fear of man** (Prov 29:25; 2 Tim 1:7)
25. That they be **shielded from the occult, New Age religions and secret societies** (Is 1:29; 2:6-9)
26. That they be **presented with biblical world views and principles** (Eph 3:10)
27. That they **endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order and morality** in our nation (Eph 5:22; 6:1)
28. That they would **work to reverse the trends of humanism, socialism and statism** in our nation (1 Chr 12:32; Is 59:19)
29. That they **desire humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate** (Jn 13:14-17; Ti 3:1,2)
30. That they be **prepared to give account to Almighty God** (Heb 9:27)

—This prayer guide is posted on “Resources” at [www.ifapray.org](http://www.ifapray.org).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds...”

—2 Cor 10:4

## STRATEGIC PRAYER TOOLS

IFA's monthly Prayer Letter with the First Friday focus is now also available as a full-color PDF version sent to you via e-mail. Sign up online or send an e-mail to [editorial@ifapray.org](mailto:editorial@ifapray.org) to receive the PDF version of the Prayer Letter via e-mail. Please put “Prayer Letter” in the subject line.

**On Watch In Washington (OWIW)** has expanded into a blog site as well as the e-mail prayer alert sent each Wednesday. We are “watching unto prayer” and working to frame perspectives that will help you and your prayer group members pray with insight and understanding. Read the articles, pray in agreement, and give us your comments! You are invited to visit and read the OWIW blog at [www.ifapray.org/blog](http://www.ifapray.org/blog). Sign up online or send an e-mail to [editorial@ifapray.org](mailto:editorial@ifapray.org) to receive the mid-week OWIW e-mail alert. Please put “OWIW Alert” in the subject line.

**Get America Praying! (GAP)** You and your prayer partners are invited to avail yourself of our free GAP Web tools which will help you easily build your own unique Web site and inform, connect, and mobilize a personal, church, ministry, regional, city, or state prayer group. Commit to pray for America at a given time each week. Visit [www.GetAmericaPraying.com](http://www.GetAmericaPraying.com).

**Follow on Twitter or Facebook** and pray in agreement with strategic prayer points. Visit and sign up at either [www.ifapray.org/blog](http://www.ifapray.org/blog) or [www.GetAmericaPraying.com](http://www.GetAmericaPraying.com).

**SMS text messages** can be sent straight to your cell phone to alert you to items of immediate importance so you can strategically pray in agreement. E-mail [editorial@ifapray.org](mailto:editorial@ifapray.org) with your mobile phone number to sign up. Please put “Text Alerts” in the subject line.

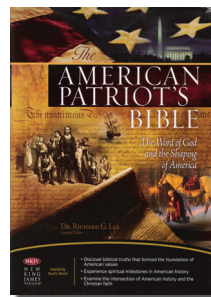
**We are grateful** to be able to provide these additional prayer helps during this critical mid-term election year.

**Your prayers and financial support** help make these services possible. Contributions of any amount are needed and greatly appreciated during this economic downturn. You can give directly from an IRA to not-for-profit organizations like IFA. Many Christians are not aware of this option. Contact IFA President Dave Kubal at [ifa@ifapray.org](mailto:ifa@ifapray.org). He is ready to assist you with an IRA contribution, stock transfers, estate planning or other questions you might have.

### AMERICAN PATRIOT'S BIBLE

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Dr. Richard G. Lee, General Editor

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# Democracy and Progressivism

Ken Meyers / Paul Rahe

Thoughtful political discourse is extremely rare in our modern world. Talking heads, radio show hosts, and political figures shout catch-phrases, but there is a lack of serious conversation. Ken Myers of Mars Hill Audio ([www.marshillaudio.org](http://www.marshillaudio.org)) interviewed Paul A. Rahe, the author of “Soft Despotism, Democracy’s Drift: Montesquieu, Rousseau, Tocqueville, and the Modern Prospect” to get his perspective on current political dialogue.

The following was transcribed from the interview. A complete audio MP3 podcast of Ken Meyers “Democracy and Progressivism” interview is available on “Resources” at [www.ifapray.org](http://www.ifapray.org).

**Ken Myers:** Paul Rahe’s introductory chapter comments on how the end of the Cold War was greeted by many intellectuals not with hearty confidence about the prospects for a democratic future, but by a mood of discontent and world weariness. The safety secured for democracies with the collapse of the Soviet Union 20 years ago should have been an occasion for re-examining the arguments that have been made in the past that democracy is as threatened by internal structural problems as by external enemies. I asked Paul Rahe where one might look to find such reflection.

**Paul Rahe:** I don’t think any discussion is going on now, and I think there’s a reason why. We’re living in a period in which the dominant way of seeing the world is what I would call a Christian heresy. The heresy is progressivism. And it substitutes for salvation history an account of secular progress, and it borrows from Christianity the idea of history having a kind of direction, and then it transfers it into the secular world.

The effect is that you really don’t have to think about institutions, because things are getting better all the time, and you don’t have to worry about the fallen character of human beings, you don’t have to worry about the tyrannical instinct that all

“Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die....”

—Rev 3:2 NASB

In 1748, Montesquieu argued that forms of government are to a very considerable degree dependent upon the size of the territory to be governed: If the territory is enormous, the government’s going to be a despotism; if it’s of middling size, it can sustain a monarchy, though despotism’s always a possibility; and that the natural place for republics is a city-state, a small territory like Venice or Florence or ancient Athens or early Rome. And if you expand the way Rome did, you gradually cease to become democratic and become oligarchic, and then you gradually cease to be oligarchic and either become monarchical or despotic in character. So the problem was: can you have liberty and a large territory, say the size of the United States? And the initial answer that Montesquieu offers is: “no, you cannot.”

In a large territory, there are a thousand things that have to be dealt with, there are always emergencies, this leads to a concentration of power in the hands of the executive.

Montesquieu suggested, however, that there were two ways that you could sustain liberty on an extended territory. The first is through federalism, and the second is by having a government with a separation of powers between the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The American founding fathers borrowed both of these conceptions, and they combined them in a way that innovated upon what Montesquieu had to offer them. So you got a government that was balanced between the federal and the state governments, and you also had a government at every level that operated in terms of a separation of powers between those who execute the laws, those who legislate, and those who judge whether individuals have committed an infraction of the law. Now, what’s interesting about the progressives is they are deeply hostile to the separation of powers, and they’re deeply hostile to federalism, because both of them get in the way of all of the things that government can do for us.

The most important theoretician among these progressives was Woodrow Wilson, who, when he ran for president in 1912, attacked the American Constitution as a relic of the past. And he argued it needed to be Darwinian, not Newtonian in character; not balancing forces between them, but allowing everybody to cooperate together to a common end. But there’s also a hostility to federalism, because you have to concentrate power in the central government to do all of these things. It’s not an accident that you get a kind of messianic politics, in which the Savior is

the president of the United States. And we’ve seen that over and over again in the 20th century. If you look at the speeches of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, he’s always presenting himself as the Savior. And if you look at the tone and manner of Barack Obama, it’s very similar.

**Myers:** If I can be nonpartisan for a minute, I think a lot of Republicans saw Ronald Reagan as a Savior.

**Rahe:** They may have, but I don’t think he ever himself presented himself as a Savior. But you’re onto something in one regard: progressivism emerged initially within the Republican party, and Teddy Roosevelt was its standard bearer. So there’s a sense in which party isn’t the key issue here. The key issue is a kind of intellectual atmosphere in which there’s a consensus that federalism is a relic, that the separation of powers is a relic.

**Myers:** And the loss of a sense of the fragility of political health.

**Rahe:** Right, and also a loss of the sense that somehow political health depends upon character of the people. Roman Catholics talk about subsidiarity. Subsidiarity is the notion that responsibility should be placed at the lowest level possible, starting with the individual, then the family, then the local community, then the state community, and then the federal government. That’s exactly what Tocqueville aims at when he talks about the importance of townships in Jacksonian America. The concentration of power at the center means a concentration of responsibility at the center, and it goes hand in hand with a population that becomes ever more irresponsible in its conduct.

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Concentrating power at the center wrongly concentrates responsibility at the center—the population becomes ever more irresponsible in its conduct.

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**Myers:** This is something that all three of the authors you’re looking at are profoundly concerned about, that they’re not only looking for forms of government that would be suitable to human nature in some way, but they’re very concerned about what the consequences might be of institutional structures and particular policies on the ecosystem of political community.

**Rahe:** They’re all agreed that character matters, and they all agree that character is, to some degree, formed by institutions. This can be put in very simple ways. Could you have self-government among a collection of dope addicts? The answer is no, because they might kill one another for heroin. They’re not capable of controlling themselves. So for self-government to function, you need in the population a species of sobriety, at least.

**Myers:** Self-government requires selves who govern themselves.

**Rahe:** That’s exactly right, and it begins at the individual level.

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We’re in a period in which the dominant way of seeing the world is what I call a Christian heresy—progressivism.

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human beings seem to have somewhere or other, because things will take care of themselves. I think that’s in part because the kind of prudence about politics that flowered in the 18th century was abandoned under the influence of progressivism.

In the 18th century, there was no notion that progress was inevitable, particularly moral progress. There was a conviction on the part of the American founding fathers that human beings are capable of making a big mess of things, that despotism has been the normal form of government throughout human history, that liberty is exceptional and rare and requires particular circumstances that are favorable to it, and benefits enormously from institutions that are also favorable to it.

## In America Today...

### CREATION CARE PRAYER DAY MAY 25

★ WASHINGTON, DC – Christians from around the nation will gather at noon at the Upper Senate Park on the Capitol grounds for the National Day of Prayer for Creation Care. Prayer for stewardship of the earth's resources, worship and celebration around the theme of Psalm 24:1 will mark the day. An evening Creation Care Concert will feature Dove Award winning artist Mark Schultz. Creation Care Prayer events will also be convened in additional cities across the country. Visit [www.creationcare.org](http://www.creationcare.org).

### OBAMA EXECUTIVE ORDER ON ABORTION FUNDING SEEN AS "BOGUS" BAN

WASHINGTON, DC – The health care reform package passed on Sunday, March 21 after Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) and pro-life Democrats threatened to vote no unless the bill included language barring federal funding for insurance plans and exchanges that cover abortions. Stupak and allies extracted an executive order from Barack Obama "to close loopholes" that would allow federal funding for abortions. Prominent pro-life groups have accused Stupak of "caving" for a "bogus" order that is nebulous, does not have the weight of law, and can be annulled by the president at any time. In actuality, even the Hyde Amendment HHS abortion funding ban language must be attached to appropriations bills and renewed year after year. (LN 4/1/10 S 3/21/10)

### RATIONING ON HORIZON IN HEALTH CARE

WASHINGTON, DC – The health care restructuring bill approved by the U.S. House and sent for President Obama's signature (having been adopted by the Senate in December 2009) will, if not repealed before its most dangerous provisions come into effect, result in an 18-member "Independent Payment Advisory Board" [Sec. 10320(b)] "ordering the rationing denial of lifesaving medical treatment, and consequent premature and involuntary death, of an unknown but immense number of Americans." U.S. citizens will effectively be limited in spending their own money to save their own lives, unless they are able to travel abroad for life-preserving measures denied them in America. (RPC NRLC 3/21/10)

### 2010 CENSUS WILL COUNT SAME-SEX COUPLES AS MARRIED

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Census Bureau released promo videos and other materials in April advising same-sex couples to choose "married" status if that's how they view their relationships, and told transgender people to check off the sex they identify with, not necessarily their legal or birth genders. Demographers expect hundreds of thousands to report they are spouses—even though legal same-sex weddings in the U.S. number in the tens of thousands. Gay activists say they plan to use "A Census That Reflects America's Population" to push for legislative and policy initiatives. (MH 4/5/10)



### 2010 PRAYER FOR MAY 6 DAY OF PRAYER

Franklin Graham – 2010 Honorary Chair Lord – We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector, Provider, and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.

We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness.

From bondage, You grant freedom.

Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation.

From the state of despair, You offer peace.

From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed—not because of our goodness—but by Your grace.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, "yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behooves us then... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.

May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord. Amen

### DOCTORS WARN SCHOOLS ABOUT GAY MISINFORMATION

★ WASHINGTON, DC – The American College of Pediatricians (ACP) sent letters to school superintendents asking that they not tell students who may experience same-sex attractions to simply accept that they are homosexual. The group also launched the Web site [www.FactsAboutYouth.com](http://www.FactsAboutYouth.com) with material for educators and students. The letter cites studies that "demonstrate most adolescents who initially experience same-sex attraction, or are sexually confused, no longer experience such attractions by age 25."

One such study shows as many as 26 percent of 12-year-olds reported being uncertain of their sexual orientation, yet only 2-3 percent of adults actually identify as homosexual. (CL 4/5/10)

### UNDEREMPLOYMENT GRIPS U.S.

WASHINGTON, DC – The March unemployment rate remained at 9.7, despite the addition of 162,000 jobs to the workforce. The number of new jobs was lower than the 200,000 that had been projected, and 40,000 or more of those were public sector temporary 2010 Census workers hired by the federal government. Factoring in the 9.1 million part-time workers who would prefer full-time work and the 2.3 million who want a job but have given up searching, the U.S. "underemployment" rate stood at 16.9 percent. [IEA encourages daily prayer for the unemployed and for private sector job creation.] (AP 2/3/10)

### U.S. RUSSIA REACH 'START' AGREEMENT

★ PRAGUE – The U.S. and Russia formally agreed to a new nuclear arms reduction treaty in April, ending negotiations over a new version of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expired last December. The new START treaty calls for about a 30 percent reduction in both countries' nuclear arsenals, but some critics say that "creative accounting" will actually mean a much smaller drop. The Obama administration hosted an international summit nuclear security in Washington in mid-April intended to discourage nuclear proliferation. (NYT 3/30/10)

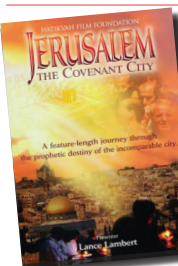
### OBAMA PERMITS OFFSHORE DRILLING

★ WASHINGTON, DC – President Obama announced new leases for offshore oil drilling in late March, as part of a move to try to gain Republican support for his energy strategy. The new lease will allow drilling 50 miles off the coast of Virginia, and Obama said the administration will allow exploration of other possible drilling sites off both coasts. He also announced that proposed leases in Alaska's Bristol Bay will be canceled, and any drilling in Florida would be no closer than 125 miles from shore. (USA 3/31/10)

### GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 23

Worldwide Day of Prayer | [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com)

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point. Publication index: AP=Associated Press; CL=CitizenLink.org; LN=LifeNews; MH=The Miami Herald; NRLC=National Right to Life Committee; NYT=New York Times; RPC=Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics; S=Slate.com; USA=USA TODAY



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A higher standard. A higher purpose.