

ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

January 12, 2011

TUCSON SHOOTING

Pray for the healing of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and others recovering from gunshot wounds from the Tucson massacre last Saturday. Pray for the families who are grieving after the death of their loved ones. Pray for swift justice for the perpetrator.

“My enemies did their best to kill me, but the Lord rescued me. ... I will not die; instead I will live to tell what the Lord has done.” (Psalm 118:13, 17) “The godly will rejoice when they see injustice avenged. Then at last everyone will say, ‘surely there’s a God who judges the earth.’” (Psalm 58: 10, 11)

Doctors are “guardedly optimistic” as Representative Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona remains in a medically induced coma. Shot through the head at last Saturday’s “Congress On Your Corner” event at a Tucson Safeway, Rep. Giffords continues to fight for her life and her resilience is an answer to prayer. The staff at Tucson University Medical Center reports that she has been able to respond to occasional commands – [squeezing a hand, wiggling toes, scratching her nose, and giving a thumbs-up sign](#). A hospital division chief of trauma ventured to guess that Giffords has a “101 percent chance” of surviving.

A prayer service will be held today at 1 PM (EST) in the Capitol Visitors Center. President Obama is scheduled to speak later this evening at a memorial service at the University of Arizona, one of at least six services planned for the next several days. Attorney General Eric H. Holder will accompany the President and read a Bible verse at tonight’s service.

Pray for those who were injured, their families, and medical staff:

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, risk of infection, pneumonia and damage to the brain
Michael Lamole (chief of neurosurgery for Giffords) and other medical staff
U.S. Navy Captain Mark E. Kelly, (Rep. Giffords’ husband) and children/family
Susan Heilman, sustained injuries at the shooting, i.e. fractured hip and trauma
Ron Barber and Pat Simon (Giffords staffers)
Mavy Stoddard (wife of Dorwin Stoddard who was shot and killed)
8 others whose names and injuries were not released

Pray for the family and friends of those who were killed:

Family/friends of **U.S. District Judge John Roll**
Family/friends of **Dorwin Stoddard**
Family/friends of **Phyllis Schneck**
Family/friends of **Christina Taylor-Green**
Family/friends of **Gabe Zimmerman**
Family/friends of **Dorothy Morris**

Give thanks for those who responded to the shooting with steel and calm under fire:

Daniel Hernandez (Gifford's intern, who [helped save her life](#))

Retired Army Col. **Bill Badger** (who helped restrain the gunman)

Roger Salzgeber (who helped restrain the gunman)

Patricia Maisch (who rushed to pick up fallen ammunition and stop the gunman)

Pray for the alleged gunman, Jared Loughner, and his family.

"There are no words that can possibly express how we feel. We wish that there were, so we could make you feel better. We don't understand why this happened.... It may not make any difference, but we wish that we could change the heinous events Saturday. We care very deeply about the victims and their families. We are so very sorry for their loss." – [statement](#) from the Loughner family

PROLIFE NEWS

Give thanks for the efforts of Dr. Alveda King, Rep. Mike Pence, and Personhood USA! Continue to ask the Lord to intervene in the lives of countless women whose circumstances and worldview tempt them to believe that abortion is the only answer. Intercede that they – and our nation's leaders who form policy – would hear the voice of God and exchange the world's "wisdom" for God's "foolishness." Pray for God to protect minority women from the abortion agenda, and to steer them towards centers that promote life. Ask God to defend Christian pregnancy centers, thwart those who would rob the unborn of life (Isa. 61:8), and bless godly organizations and leaders fighting on behalf of the voiceless.

"Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." (1 Cor. 3:18-19)

KING RALLIES FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

"We come together in a chorus of protest against Bill 371 – legislation that would require pregnancy centers, (CPCs) to post signage in front of their buildings that would discourage women seeking alternatives to abortion from entering their facilities," said [Dr. Alveda King](#), the niece of Martin Luther King, Jr. On Monday, January 10, she met with other members of the Black Pro-Life Movement at Manhattan Bible Church, Bronx, NY to participate in a rally where she planned to express her grief over the unprecedented targeting of minority women for abortion.

As Director of African American Outreach for NY based Priests for Life, King is outraged at the millions of abortions performed in NYC, considered the "Abortion Capital of America" with about 250 providers in the market. To read more about Save the Life Centers and Dr. King's rally, visit <http://www.savethelifecenters.com/>.

CLICK HERE to read more pro-life news, including the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act introduced by Rep. Mike Pence, and an update on Personhood USA.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Pray for the following officials, all of whom have been involved in recent legislation or policy accommodating gay activists: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Brenda Sprague (State Dept. passport services), all those involved in the court case *Raftopol v. Ramey*, and U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker. Intercede for proponents of Proposition 8 (a Christian coalition) to be

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allowed to defend their case in court. Intercede for judges to have a clear understanding of the definition of marriage, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Ps 11:3). Pray that the Church's civic involvement and public discourse would be backed by a consistent commitment to morality and matched by humble submission to Christ. Pray that our lives – both as individuals and as a corporate body – would not weaken our witness (Rom. 2:24, Matt. 5:16).

“They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.” (Rom. 2:15)

“MOTHER” OR “FATHER” = OUTDATED TERMINOLOGY?

In an effort to update paperwork to accommodate gay, lesbian and transgender families, the State Department's "Consular Reports of Birth Abroad" will now ask for "mother or parent 1" and "father or parent 2." (The original form read simply "mother or father.") Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton instructed the State Department to modify the forms on Dec. 22 to ensure that they are as inclusive and informative as possible, according to State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley. Gender neutral terminology will go into effect on [U.S. passport applications](#) in February.

[The Washington Post](#) cites a Jan. 5 statement, explaining that the change "carries significant tangible and symbolic consequences for same-sex headed families, and increases governmental efficiency by alleviating the needless confusion, delays and denials caused by outdated gender-specific forms."

Brenda Sprague, deputy assistant Secretary of State for Passport Services, [told Fox News](#) that the decision is not an act of political correctness. Instead, she says it's an effort to accommodate changes in medical science and reproductive technology, responding to family dynamics that were not anticipated 10 or 15 years ago. She disagrees with gay rights groups who said the old terminology was discriminatory, saying she prefers to use the word "imprecise."

[The Family Research Council](#) has this to say about the revision:

As Clinton knows all too well, these sorts of incremental changes help to chip away authority from the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as the union of a man and woman. But her department, which insisted that the edits would not "involve any expense to taxpayers," seems oblivious of the cultural costs.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more marriage/family news, including a recent Connecticut ruling on gay parenting, an update on California's Proposition 8, the marriage debate, and DADT.

NATIVE AMERICA

Pray for the Lord to powerfully demonstrate His presence in the lives of Native American youth – for their eyes to be opened to His love, acceptance, peace and joy. Pray for revival and renewed hope for tribes around the nation, and for confidence, insight, boldness and sensitivity for those who minister and share the Gospel in Native contexts. Pray also for Christian leaders on reservations to experience refreshment and encouragement from the Lord. Intercede specifically for the Lord to raise up godly male role models who will have a strong desire to invest their lives to ministry on remote reservations; for discipleship opportunities for Native youth desiring to learn Scripture and mature in Christian leadership. Give thanks for ministries like On Eagles' Wings.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” (Luke 19:1-10) “I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35) “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matt. 9:38)

NATIVE SUICIDES NEARLY DOUBLE THE NATIONAL RATE

[Indian Country Today reports](#) that Federal officials are exploring ways to address the alarming rate of suicides in Alaska Native and Native American communities, especially among the young. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost twice as many Native young people (ages 15-29) committed suicide in 2006-2007 compared to non-Native youth.

Few Natives are untouched by suicide, often losing a friend or close family member to the epidemic. That's why tribal leaders, the Indian Health Service, the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration are teaming to develop strategies and coordinate resources.

Meanwhile, On Eagles' Wings, a Christian ministry based out of Arkansas, has a different strategy aiming to bring the Gospel of hope to America's most isolated people groups – specifically targeting the youth. Executive Director Doug Hutchcraft compares the context of Native youth outreach to the story of Zacchaeus who was overlooked and “invisible” among the crowd.

Hutchcraft [writes this](#) about a trip to one of many reservations the organization visited for outreach :

"This is a community that has seen 1,500 suicide attempts in eight months! It's unimaginable that there could be that much despair among any community of just 10,000 people. But according to the reservation hospital, that's the awful reality of life here. What's more unimaginable is that we've never heard about this recent suicide epidemic. Sadly, it shows how totally invisible Native Americans can be in this country. The first Americans bleed - and die - out of sight and out of mind."

INTERNATIONAL – CHURCH / CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?” (Isa. 58:6)

Pray that Christians throughout Sudan will continue to entrust themselves to Christ and preach the gospel boldly, knowing Jesus is the ruler over the kings of the earth (2 Timothy 1:7-12, Revelation 1:5). 4) Pray that many more people will come to know Christ as Lord in Sudan. Pray for true and lasting peace in the country. (VOM)

SOUTH SUDAN VOTE PASSES 60 PERCENT PARTICIPATION

[Voices of America reports](#) that south Sudan's vote passed 60 percent participation, receiving the needed voter turnout to push forward the nation's landmark independence referendum. Preliminary results released next week are expected to show that the South will choose to secede from the North. At least 46 people are dead since Friday after clashes along the disputed border. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.