



## INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA THE INFORMER

A biblical, prophetic look at current events for those who have a heart to pray for our nation.

### On Watch in Washington

December 28, 2011

#### **FIVE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER**

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. Recent polls conducted by General Nutrition Centers, Quicken, and others listed the following in their top resolutions for 2012. The encouraging news is that five of these top listed goals are scripturally supported and encouraged for a godly life style. We have included scriptures with these resolutions to consider as goals.

##### **1. Spending More Time with Family & Friends**

Recent polls conducted by General Nutrition Centers, Quicken, and others show that more than 50% of Americans vow to appreciate loved ones and spend more time with family and friends this year. [50% of all marriages](#) in America end in divorce."

*"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (Ephesians 5: 21-33)*

##### **2. Working on Physical Fitness**

The evidence is in for fitness. Regular exercise has been associated with more health benefits than anything else known to man. Studies show that it reduces the risk of some cancers, increases longevity, helps achieve and maintain weight loss, enhances mood, lowers blood pressure, and even improves arthritis. In short, exercise keeps you healthy and makes you look and feel better.

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

### 3. Taming the Bulge

Over 66 percent of adult Americans are considered overweight or obese [by recent studies](#), so it is not surprising to find that weight loss is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions. Setting reasonable goals and staying focused are the two most important factors in sticking with a weight loss program, and the key to success for those millions of Americans who will make a commitment to shed extra pounds.

*"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness...."*  
(2 Peter 1:5-6)

### 4. Getting Out of Debt

Was money a big source of stress in your life last year? Join the millions of Americans who have resolved to spend this year getting a handle on their finances. It's a promise that will repay itself many times over in the year ahead.

*"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."* (Proverbs 22:7)

*"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."*  
(Romans 13:8)

*"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."* (Matthew 6:24)

*"Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."* (Proverbs 13:11)

### 5. Helping Others

A popular resolution in volunteerism could take many forms. Whether you choose to spend time helping out at your church, an elderly shut-in, mentoring a child, or repairing a house, there are many nonprofit volunteer ministry organizations that could use your help.

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* (1 Peter 4:10-11)

**Pray that American citizens seek to live a holy life style as a witness to a fallen world in need of a Savior. Ask the Lord to help you live that righteous life as an example of what the Lord wants His world to be like. Ask the Lord to give you strength to be an overcomer with any temptations that need His strong arm of deliverance.**

### **TSA SCREENING: NOT JUST AIRPORTS**

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and state Sen. Michael Gianaris, both Democrats, told Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano and TSA Administrator John Pistole in a letter that an on-site passenger advocate would help strike the right balance between security and protecting vulnerable travelers.

"I appreciate the TSA's work to keep air passengers safe, but passengers should not be humiliated and degraded during their travels," Gianaris said in a statement accompanying the letter.

Roving security teams increasingly visit train stations, subways and other mass transit sites to deter terrorism.

The Transportation Security Administration isn't just in airports anymore. TSA teams are increasingly conducting searches and screenings at train stations, subways, ferry terminals and other mass transit locations around the country.

"We are not the Airport Security Administration," said Ray Dineen, the air marshal in charge of the TSA office in Charlotte. "We take that transportation part seriously."

The TSA's 25 "viper" teams — for Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response — have run more than 9,300 unannounced checkpoints and other search operations in the last year. Department of Homeland Security officials have asked Congress for funding to add 12 more teams next year.

According to budget documents, the department spent \$110 million in fiscal 2011 for "surface transportation security," including the TSA's viper program, and is asking for an additional \$24 million next year. That compares with more than \$5 billion for aviation security.

TSA officials argue that the random nature of the searches and the presence of armed officers serve as a deterrent and bolster public confidence.

"We have to keep terrorists on edge," said Frank Cilluffo, director of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University in Washington. "We're not going to have a permanent presence everywhere."

U.S. officials note that digital files recovered from Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan after he was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs in May included evidence that the Al Qaeda leader had considered an attack on U.S. railways in February 2010. Over the last decade, deadly bombings have hit subways or trains in Moscow; Mumbai, India; Madrid; and London. (Contributor: [MSNBC](#), [LA Times](#))

**Pray that those in charge of transportation safety will be given sharp eyes for security purposes. Give thanks to the Lord for the uncovering of potential plots that have been thwarted to date.**

*"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." (Proverbs 18:10)*

### **U.S. NAVY CHAPLAIN PREACHES JESUS CHRIST ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

Normally this should not be headline news, but in light of irreverent edicts made by some holding political office these days, this is indeed a good news proclamation.

On Christmas Eve at the Marine Memorial Chapel, LT Justin Hayes, CHC, USN, representing the Grace Brethren Church, under the pressure of the shortage of Evangelical Chaplains, single-handedly and flawlessly executed his Commanding General's religious support program under the watchful eye of the Senior Chaplain, Captain Ollis Mozon, CHC, USN. Captain Mozon's duty was to supervise and make the rounds, visiting various Christmas Eve services on base.

"It's a great night to celebrate Christ's birth," LT Hayes told the packed out chapel of some 300 Marines and their wives and children. Immediately, the Marines knew this was all about Jesus Christ, as confirmed by the opening prayer when this obviously experienced chaplain led the Marines in the confession of sins  
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in the name of Jesus Christ for a clean conscience and pure heart toward God. The newcomers learned what the regular attendees already knew--LT Hayes is culturally and spiritually relevant as a Chaplain for all people of all faiths--enlistees and officers alike. This officer is destined for success, as confirmed by the relevant content and superb delivery of his sermon.

The sermon began with many teens' nightmares of impregnating their girlfriends and having to deal with the fallout and answer to their parents. Chaplain Hayes reverently and discreetly illustrated in this manner what Joseph dealt with when Mary was found to be with child. Joseph, being a respectable and devout adult in his devout community when he encountered his nightmare, undoubtedly answered to his father who not only trained him in his carpentry trade as a service to the community of the faithful, but also taught him matters of integrity, righteousness, and reverence in the fear of God. As LT Hayes rhetorically asked if faced with such a dilemma, "What would you do? Fall apart?"

In an age when U.S. Marines must watch for legal and moral blunders in order to re-enlist, some Marines, like some personnel of other Armed Forces and even like citizens in the general populous, sometimes face this very issue. LT Hayes brought this point home quite clearly in his outstanding sermon. As he articulated, when an unfaithful wife or husband is found out, dreams are crushed, pain is often numbed with alcohol, and people lash out. Others seek justice, demand harsh punishment, and pursue every legal means possible so as to not be humiliated and shamed. Not Joseph! He undoubtedly sought counsel and considered putting Mary away privately, but instead he maintained his integrity. As LT Hayes pointed out, Joseph heard the voice of God, remained obedient to God, and took Mary as his lawful wedded wife. Consequently, his nightmare turned into a dream-come-true when she gave birth to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus the Christ, the only Savior of the world, by whom men may be saved from their sins, and before whom men must kneel.

We have choices to make. We can follow apparent distractions by implementing destructive coping mechanisms, or we can keep our focus on Jesus Christ in the midst of our nightmares, and maintain our integrity and righteous manners with a clean conscience before God, until He makes our dreams come true.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at this quaint chapel was tremendously enhanced with Christmas Carols which were only about Christ and which were therefore truly uplifting to the Marines. This multi-talented Lieutenant also served as the worship leader, directing each song with the backing of one of the finest women's quartets ever to be found. Mrs. Becca Hayes complimented her husband's ministry in an exemplary fashion when she provided the backdrop for her husband's sermon by reading Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus Christ. This example of a Chaplain and his wife is the right model for U.S. marines and sailors today, and also for soldiers, airmen, and coast guardsmen, especially at Christmas time. (This article was submitted by Dr. Verna Linzey to Christian Newswire on December 25, 2011 and reprinted for your encouragement.) (Contributor: [Christian Newswire](#))

**Pray for the freedom and liberty of our chaplain corps to speak God's Word without restraint.  
Thank the Lord for the chaplains who are courageous in proclaiming the hope and life that our  
Lord and Savior gives to those who will believe His Words of life!**

*"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Acts 5:42)*

## **SAUDI ARABIA: NO CHURCHES ALLOWED**

Saudi officials are cracking down on Christians again, and a spokesman for an international human rights organization says Ethiopians are the target this time.

Jonathan Racho of [International Christian Concern](#) (ICC) explains that the practice of Christianity is forbidden in Saudi Arabia, which makes it difficult for foreign Christians working in the country to worship.

"Saudi officials arrested 35 Christians," he reports. "The Christians are from Ethiopia, and they were gathering to worship at a private home."

He details why they were not at a church.

"As you know, there is no church in Saudi Arabia. There is no church building, no synagogue -- nothing is allowed, except the Islamic mosques. So, Christians who come there to work are forced to worship in their homes."

But he finds it ironic there are no churches in the country, pointing out that "Saudi Arabia is a country that builds mosques all over the world," yet no churches are allowed on home turf.

So far, no formal charges have been lodged against the Ethiopians, so the ICC spokesman is encouraging listeners to contact the Saudi embassy in Washington and request that the Christians be released. (Contributor: [One News Now](#), [Persecution.org](#))

**Pray that the Lord will cause a mighty wind of His Spirit to engulf the lands of Saudi Arabia. Pray that the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon this land in these last days before His return.**

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." (John 1:5)*

## **THE OHIO PERSONHOOD AMENDMENT**

Why is Ohio such an important state for a Personhood Amendment? Ohio is famous for our advocacy in protecting African American slaves in the colonial era. An infamous Supreme Court decision in 1857 declared that the runaway slave Dred Scott was "property" and not a "person", and should therefore be returned to his southern master. Many Ohioans defied this immoral, unconstitutional Supreme Court decision and hid runaway slaves from their slave-masters and the federal government. Ohioans transported slaves in the "Underground railroad" to Canada, where the law protected them.

Campaign officials have submitted the first round of signatures to Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has said he will certify it. ["By law, he has to certify it within a couple of weeks," reports Dr. Michael Johnston, who is heading up the campaign.](#) "So by the beginning of 2012, we'll be ready for our statewide campaign to gather the 380,000 signatures necessary to put the Ohio personhood amendment on the ballot."

Our American forefathers stated in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."

You have the right to life and liberty because you are created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:26-27). Not because you are wanted, not because you are fully developed, not because of your size, not because

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of the circumstances surrounding your conception, and not because of where you live - your rights come from God. You possess these rights by virtue of His law which forbids others to assault you, steal from you, or kill you. Moreover, your God-given rights are inalienable; that is, irrevocable except for punishment for a crime.

When precisely were you "created in the image of God"? When did your life begin? When did you first have the right to live?

Article 1, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution states, "All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety."

Article 1, Section 16 states, "All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done him in his land, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and shall have justice administered without denial or delay."

The Ohio Personhood Amendment will insert Section 16(b):

"Person" and "men" defined:

(A) The words "person" in Article 1, Section 16, and "men" in Article 1, Section 1, apply to every human being at every stage of the biological development of that human being or human organism, including fertilization.

(B) Nothing in this Section shall affect genuine contraception that acts solely by preventing the creation of a new human being; or human "eggs" or oocytes prior to the beginning of the life of a new human being; or reproductive technology or In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) procedures that respect the right to life of newly created human beings.

**The Bible proves when life begins** - It is a verifiable fact of the Holy Bible that life begins in the womb. The Bible confirms repeatedly that a woman is pregnant with a "child" - not "products of conception", not "a blob of tissue." In Genesis 25, Rebekah's "children" struggled within her. In Psalm 139, the inspired writer insists that he existed in his mother's womb - not a non-living, non-human "product of conception" that became him later on. Pregnant women were considered "great with child," and Jesus' mother Mary was found "with child of the Holy Ghost."

Some have argued that since Adam did not begin to live until God breathed life into his nostrils, then therefore no one begins to live until they breathe air. However, God created Adam differently than he created the rest of humanity. He created Adam as an adult without a mother or a human father. The circumstances of his creation have no bearing on the creation of his posterity. Moreover, although a child in the womb does not breathe air into his lungs, he does require air to survive, and that air is diffused in his bloodstream from the air in his mother's lungs.

One of the most convincing passages proving that the preborn had full human status is found in Exodus 21:22-24. The passage says that if a man carelessly injures a pregnant woman and she has a premature delivery, yet no lasting harm follows to the mother or the child, he shall be punished for his carelessness as the judges determine. However, if the mother or child is injured or killed, then "life for life." God mandates the same civil penalty for those who would kill the preborn as for those who would kill the born: "life for life." Preborn human beings are children to God, and the intentional killing of innocent human beings at any stage of existence is unlawful and criminal - His Word is clear.

In light of this, it becomes obvious that we have committed a great travesty against the weakest and most helpless members of the human family - the preborn. Forty-five thousand to fifty thousand innocent children die in Ohio every year by abortion. In this, as in all state-sponsored genocides throughout history, society first dehumanizes the victims before genocide can be committed against them. Thus, one of the first steps to protect the preborn and end the Abortion Holocaust is to inscribe into state law that which science, reason, and biblical truth affirms: that personhood begins at the beginning of our biological development, or at fertilization. Children in the womb are recipients of the God-given, inalienable right to life and liberty. It is the mission of Personhood Ohio to restore the God-given right to life and liberty to all Ohioans, and to secure "justice for all." (Contributor: [PersonhoodOhio.com](http://PersonhoodOhio.com), [One News Now](http://OneNewsNow.com))

**Pray that the state of Ohio will adopt the Personhood Amendment and protect the lives of the unborn. Pray that the leadership of Ohio will be sensitive to the lives of those they hold in their hands by the creation of child protective laws that honor God's Word.**

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." (Psalm 127:3)*

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)*

### **CONGRESS QUESTION AARP TAX-FREE PROFITS**

"AARP is known for being the largest and most well known seniors' organization in the country," Herger said in a statement. "[But what Americans don't know is that AARP](#) was the 4th highest spending lobbying organization between 1998 and 2010 or that the AARP brand dominates the private Medicare insurance market. AARP went along with the Obamacare legislation and as a result has come under scrutiny by many who view Obamacare as a dangerous socialist promotion. Many senior Americans are leaving the AARP and looking to other organizations like [AMAC](#) that reflect their conservative healthcare values.

Three House Republican lawmakers are asking the IRS to explain how the nonprofit seniors group AARP is able to shield hundreds of millions of dollars from tax levies even though, they say, the group is effectively in "day-to-day control" of products offered by private firms with the AARP stamp of approval.

Rep. David Reichert, R-Wash., said companies that use AARP's brand to sell everything from health insurance to hearing aids are helping the seniors' group make huge profits. All the while AARP's profits gain tax-exempt status.

"They're really trying to manage these companies to increase their revenue," said Reichert, one of the House Ways and Means Committee GOP members to sign onto a letter sent to the IRS.

Republican critics note AARP's income from United HealthCare alone skyrocketed from 2007 to 2009, even as the recession was hitting, leaping from \$284 million to \$427 million during that time, a 50 percent jump. In 2010, those revenues soared even higher -- to \$670 million.

["Those increases, I think, are dramatic,"](#) Reichert told Fox News.

Republicans say AARP's deal with United HealthCare is different, and in the letter to the IRS, they point to what they say are several examples of AARP's daily influence over the business, including its "authority over United's 'operating plan'" and its ability to "approve, modify on a line-by-line basis, or provide specific direction to United."

Josephson said if that's indeed the case, "the kinds of hands-on relationships (AARP) has with its supposedly arms-length insurance companies are hardly passive."

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And if it's not passive, lawmakers contend, the income is taxable.

AARP did not make anyone available for an interview, but did send a letter to Fox News from Kevin Donnellan, AARP executive vice president and chief communications officer, who wrote that AARP's chief aim is upholding its standards, and its actions are a detailed commitment to quality control on products offered in its name.

"We have spent more than five decades proving our commitment to helping older Americans obtain quality, affordable health so, of course, we take seriously how others use our name," Donnellan wrote. "We are disappointed that this work should be the subject of congressional criticism."

AARP makes the majority of its revenues from United's supplemental insurance policies to seniors, including what is known as Medigap, which covers things for which Medicare does not pay. One of AARP's many ads tells seniors that the insurance can help them protect themselves "from some of what Medicare doesn't pay."

"Save up to thousands of dollars in potential out-of-pocket expenses with an AARP Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan," the ad says.

Donnellan wrote that the group's supplemental plans "help many of the sickest and most disadvantaged seniors who would otherwise be denied insurance by accepting more than 99 percent of applicants, which is far higher than the market standard."

But AARP's support for the Obamacare law, which calls for \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare, critics say, makes it all the more likely people would need supplemental insurance, something AARP stands ready to provide.

Wow, how convenient and profitable is that?

"That move alone, as seniors began to go to Medigap insurance, increases AARP's revenue over a 10-year period by **\$1 billion**. And we think **that's just a little bit suspicious**," Reichert said. (Contributor: [Politico](#), [AMAC](#), [Fox News](#))

**Pray that the ongoing Congressional investigation will bring to light any unlawful practices of the AARP. Pray that any illegal activities be uncovered. Pray for righteous leadership in these organizations that are committed to helping those in need.**

*"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

## **PRAYER FOCUS ON THIS WEEKS CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES**

**Supporting legislative prayer at the Supreme Court of the United States** - Members of the Prayer Caucus signed an [amicus curiae brief](#) submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States by the Family Research Council, asking the Court to reverse a decision by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in [Joyner v. Forsyth County](#), which held that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners' prayer policy was unconstitutional because the prayers too often mentioned "Jesus." The county's prayer policy was based on a model policy used by other city and county councils throughout the country that has been upheld by four other federal courts since 2009. However, the Fourth Circuit held that in order to be constitutional, such prayers must not be "too sectarian." The *amicus curiae* brief asks the Supreme Court to take up the case and overturn the Fourth Circuit's decision, in hopes that the Court will bring the ruling into alignment

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with decisions of other federal courts and our nation's historic legacy of permitting such prayer.

**Working to protect the symbols and traditions of Christmas** - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.Res.489](#), introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected for use by those that celebrate Christmas. Each year during the Christmas season, there are increasing efforts to remove religious symbols and references from the holiday. H.Res.489 emphasizes that the First Amendment does not require bans on religious references to Christmas, and supports the use of these symbols by those who celebrate Christmas.

**Urging Vanderbilt University to protect religious student groups** - Congressman Randy Forbes, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, led 22 Members of Congress in sending a [letter](#) to Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos of Vanderbilt University, urging him to ensure that the school's nondiscrimination policy is not being interpreted in a manner that discriminates against religious student groups. Several religious student organizations at Vanderbilt University, including the Christian Legal Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, were placed on "provisional status" for requiring their student leaders to share the groups' religious beliefs.

**Advocating for the inclusion of prayer in the tenth anniversary commemoration of the September 11th attacks** - Congressman Forbes, Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, sent a [letter](#) to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg urging him to include prayer in the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Congressman Mike McIntyre, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, led 31 Members of Congress in sending a [letter](#) to Mayor Bloomberg echoing the call for the inclusion of prayer.

**Working to reaffirm our national motto, "In God We Trust"** - Congressman Forbes, Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, introduced [H.Con.Res.13](#) to reaffirm our national motto "In God We Trust," and to encourage its display in public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions. The legislation was passed favorably out of the House Judiciary Committee on March 17, 2011, and is awaiting a vote by the full House of Representatives.

**Fighting attempts to remove "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance** - Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus lead in sending a [letter](#) to NBC, expressing concern over the network's omissions of "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance twice in a video montage aired during coverage of the U.S. Open. In [response](#) to the letter sent by 108 Members of Congress, the network reprimanded the employees responsible for the omissions and implemented safeguards to prevent similar instances in the future.

**Opposing efforts to remove a memorial cross honoring military veterans** - In January 2011, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a cross displayed at the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California was unconstitutional. Members of the Prayer Caucus signed on to an *amicus curiae* brief submitted to the Ninth Circuit in *Jewish War Veterans of the United States v. City of San Diego*, asking the full court to reconsider the case, and asserting that the cross's presence at the veterans memorial is constitutional.

**Urging religious freedom protections for service members** - The repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military raised concerns that service members whose consciences or religious beliefs conflicted with homosexual behavior would face discrimination and disapproval. Members of the Prayer Caucus sent a [letter](#) to President Obama, urging that specific religious freedom and conscience

protections be adopted during implementation of the repeal to formally assure all Americans that our citizens need not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve.

**Affirming America's rich spiritual heritage** - Co-chairmen of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, Congressman Forbes and Congressman McIntyre, reintroduced legislation to recognize our nation's religious history. [H.Res.253](#), America's Spiritual Heritage Resolution, affirms the rich spiritual and diverse religious history of our nation's founding and subsequent history, and designates the first week in May as America's Spiritual Heritage Week.

**Working to decrease frivolous lawsuits challenging public expressions of religion** - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.R.2023](#), introduced by Congressman Dan Burton, which would ensure that the legal system is not used to extort money from state and local governments through frivolous lawsuits against public expressions of religion. H.R. 2023 would not prevent parties from filing lawsuits alleging Establishment Clause violations, but it would require each side to pay its own attorneys' fees.

The bill would limit the remedies available to the suing party, so the only relief available would be that the state or local government would be required to stop its public expression of religion, if the court deems it unconstitutional. The result would be a decrease in frivolous lawsuits and the assurance that state and local governments are not intimidated into halting constitutional public expressions of religion.

**Supporting the addition of the D-day Prayer to the World War Two Memorial** - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.R.2070](#), the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, introduced by Congressman Bill Johnson. H.R. 2070 directs the Secretary of the Interior to add President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. President Roosevelt delivered the prayer to the nation on June 6, 1944, the day that American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France.

**Recognizing the significant impact of the Ten Commandments on America's development** - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.Res.211](#), introduced by Congressman Louie Gohmert, which recognizes the significant contribution that the Ten Commandments have made in shaping America's principles, institutions, and national character. The bill supports designating the first weekend in May as "Ten Commandments Weekend." (Source: [Congressional Prayer Caucus Web Site](#))