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# ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

May 4, 2011

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

### **The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 5**

The White House released the Proclamation marking the 60th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, which will take place on Thursday, May 5th. In this proclamation, it recognizes the important role that prayer has played in the United States, saying, "Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer for strength, inspiration, and solidarity. Prayer has played an important role in the American story and in shaping our Nation's leaders."

To read the *Proclamation*, calling the nation to observe the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, [go here](#).

This year's theme, "**A Mighty Fortress is our God**," is taken from Psalm 91. The theme reminds participants that our God is a refuge, a stronghold of safety in a troubled time.

Prayer is a vital part of our heritage as Americans. In times of need, American leaders have sought the assistance of God, and called on the people of the United States to pray.

The first National Day of Prayer was called by the Continental Congress in 1775. There have been over 135 national calls to prayer and/or thanksgiving by our Presidents. There have also been close to 1,000 state and federal calls to prayer since 1775. And God has answered those prayers by meeting the nation's needs. Sometimes that has meant sending rain, protecting our troops at war, or maintaining our peace and freedom, but God has been faithful to America.

It is time for America to pray again. Capitol Hill Prayer Partners urges you to attend one of the thousands of public services being held to recognize the National Day of Prayer. To find a National Day of Prayer event in your area or to host one at your church, [click here](#).

### **Prayer for Our Nation**

By Joni Eareckson Tada, Honorary Chairman

Almighty God,  
You are our Mighty Fortress,  
our refuge and the God in whom  
we place our trust.

As our nation faces great distress and  
uncertainty, we ask Your Holy Spirit to fall  
afresh upon Your people—convict us of sin

**and inflame within us a passion to pray for  
our land and its people.**

**Grant the leaders of our country an  
awareness of their desperate need of  
wisdom and salvation in You until sin  
becomes a reproach to all and  
righteousness exalts this nation.**

**Protect and defend us against our enemies  
and may the cause of Christ always  
prevail in our schools, courts,  
homes, and churches.**

**Lord God, send a spirit of revival  
and may it begin in our own hearts.**

**Remember America, we pray.  
Remember the foundations on which this  
country was built.  
Remember the prayers of our nation's  
fathers and mothers,  
and do not forget us in our time of need.**

**In the name of our Savior,  
Jesus Christ, Amen.**

## **Legal Questions Resolved!**

Recently, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has had its challenges. Last year, Federal Judge Barbara Crabb handed down a wrong-headed ruling based on a suit filed by the Freedom from Religion Foundation, which declared unconstitutional every government proclamation from those in Puritan New England, the Continental Congress, Governors and nearly every United States President since George Washington.

Earlier this month, the Seventh U.S. Court of Appeals thankfully upheld the constitutional right of public officials to proclaim and Americans to observe the National Day of Prayer. To learn more about that ruling, [go here](#).

President Harry Truman signed into law a declaration in 1952 that every President "shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer." In 1988, President Ronald Reagan took President Truman's declaration one step further and set the first Thursday of May as the official National Day of Prayer (NDP). Since then, President Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, and President George W. Bush have marked this day with a White House observance.

In commenting on the decision rendered by the court, Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer (NDP) Task Force and wife of Focus on the Family Founder Dr. James Dobson, said "I applaud the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. Since the days of our Founding Fathers, the government has protected and encouraged public prayer and other expressions of dependence on the Almighty. Prayer is an indispensable part of our heritage, and as citizens, we must remain faithful in our commitment to intercede for our nation during this pivotal and challenging time."

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Michael Calhoun, Director of Strategic Communication for the National Day of Prayer (NDP) Task Force added, "This is definitely a victory for the free exercise of religion that our Founding Fathers sought to ensure, and we are thankful for the outcome. I can't think of a time in recent memory when it has been more important to pray for wisdom and direction for our country and its leaders . . . I hope millions will join the ongoing efforts of our NDP Task Force to that end."

**Give thanks for God's Mighty Right Arm to deliver a righteous verdict in the U.S. Seventh Court of Appeals. Ask the Lord to draw the hearts of all Americans to call upon His Name for deliverance and for His delivering arm. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and insight into what the needs of our country are in this critical hour, so that we may clearly articulate before His throne a single voice with His heart and desire for our nation.**

*"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." Proverbs 14:34*

### **Watch the NDP Observance on TV**

Watch LIVE on Thursday, May 5th (9:00am - 12:00pm ET) as prominent leaders from around the country gather on Capitol Hill for the 2011 National Day of Prayer Observance. [CLICK HERE to watch LIVE.](#)

Program highlights include:

- Keynote - Joni Eareckson Tada, 2011 Honorary Chairman.
- Other speakers include: Dr. and Mrs. James C. Dobson, Congressman Allen West, Chaplain Barry Black, Justice Paul Newby, Captain Ryan Voltin, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, and more.
- Special Musical Guest - Ginny Owens.
- Worship Leader - Jared Anderson.

Special thanks to GodTV for broadcasting this special event around the world via DirecTV channel 365 and Webcast.

**Give thanks for the favor that the Lord has granted to us to make it possible for people throughout the nation to view the gathering in our Nation's Capital to seek God's Face and cry out to Him for His Mighty Hand of deliverance!**

*"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

### **OSAMA BIN LADEN**

#### **Osama bin Laden Removed from the Living**

The mastermind behind the September 11, 2001 destruction in the U.S. was removed from the land of the living in a raid on Osama bin Laden's compound, which was approximately 1000 ft. from a Pakistani military training center in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The U.S. intelligence community is exploring information obtained during the raid on bin Laden's compound in an attempt to learn al Qaeda intentions and the identity and whereabouts of key al Qaeda players. During that raid on the bin Laden compound, [several computers and various media were seized](#). A Senior U.S. Official told CNN that 10 hard drives, 5 computers and more than 100 storage devices which includes discs, DVDs and thumb drives were taken from the compound.

The source said that core al Qaeda out of the Pakistani tribal areas is "still the most dangerous element out there, the most significant for a spectacular attack on the homeland." A top priority continues to be the dismantlement of al Qaeda's core. U.S. officials are turning their focus to the elimination of Ayman al-Zawahri, bin Laden's second in command, and other senior operative planners who pose a threat to western interests.

Pressure is building on [Capitol Hill](#) to find out whether Pakistani officials knew about Osama bin Laden's location on the outskirts of a military town and withheld that information from Americans for years.

[Pakistan's leader denied](#) suggestions his country's security forces may have sheltered Osama bin Laden before he was killed by American forces, even as Britain said Tuesday it would be demanding answers from Islamabad as to how the al Qaeda chief was able to live undetected in a large house in a garrison town.

In Washington, [incredulous lawmakers are pressing Pakistan](#) for answers to two simple questions: What did its army and intelligence agents know of Osama bin Laden's whereabouts and when did they know it?

"I think this tells us once again that, unfortunately, [Pakistan at times is playing a double game](#)," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a Senate Armed Services Committee member who indicated that Congress could put limits on funds for Pakistan.

But in a nod to the complex realities of dealing with a nuclear-armed, unstable country that is crucial to success in neighboring Afghanistan, British Prime Minister David Cameron said having "a massive row" with Islamabad over the issue would not be in Britain's interest.

The self-proclaimed mastermind of the 9/11 terror plot told interrogators at Guantanamo Bay that Al Qaeda has a nuclear bomb somewhere in Europe and would detonate it if Osama bin Laden was ever captured or killed, [Fox News](#) reported, citing WikiLeaks' cables. Khalid Sheikh Mohamed, one of the top prisoners at the facility, called the plan a "nuclear hellstorm."

The WikiLeaks cables about Guantanamo, obtained and detailed last month by several news organizations, illustrated how intelligence agencies employ information obtained by the 780 prisoners. Although some of the information is proved to be erroneous, still some appears to be actionable. A prisoner described as the 20th 9/11 hijacker said the terror group is seeking to recruit staff at Heathrow Airport in London and plotted major chemical and biological attacks against the U.S.

In another twist, the [Taliban](#) cast suspicion Tuesday on the announcement of Osama bin Laden's death, saying they would not believe the Al Qaeda leader was dead until they had seen proof or received confirmation from sources close to him.

A senior US official says the [White House received 3 sets of photos](#) on Monday. The photos included:

1. Photos of Osama bin Laden's body at a hangar after he was brought back to Afghanistan. This is the most recognizable with a clear picture of his face. The picture is gruesome because he has a massive open head wound across both eyes. It's very bloody and gory.
2. Photos from the burial at sea on the USS Carl Vinson. Photos of bin Laden before the shroud was put on and then wrapped in the shroud.
3. There are photos of the raid itself that include photos of the two dead brothers, one of bin Laden's dead son (adult adolescent, approx. 18 yrs old), and some of the inside scene of the compound.

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A White House spokesman says [the photograph](#) of the dead Osama bin Laden is "gruesome" and that "it could be inflammatory" if released. (Contributors: Fox News, CBS News, CNN, Associated Press – Chron.com)

**Pray against any attacks of retaliation from groups that are sympathetic toward bin Laden. We pray that there will be extra vigilance on everyone's part to catch anything that would be a threat in Europe. Pray that no group or nation will be able to use nuclear weapons. Thank the Lord for this successful accomplishment to invade bin Laden's fortress and get important sources of information. Pray that there will be much information gained from these sources so that we can defeat our enemies.**

*"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:19)*

## **U.S. TREASURY**

### **U.S. Treasury Will Act to Avoid Default**

By taking "extraordinary measures," [the U.S. can keep borrowing until Aug. 2](#) after reaching its \$14.29 trillion legal debt limit no later than May 16 unless Congress acts, Treasury Secretary [Timothy F. Geithner](#) said.

However, those actions would be exhausted after about eight weeks and there would be ["no headroom" to borrow within the limit after July 8, he said.](#)

If the [debt limit](#) hasn't been raised by May 16, the government will begin delaying payments into two government pension funds and redeeming Treasury securities in those funds. "Default by the United States on its obligations would have a catastrophic economic impact that would be felt by every American," Mr. Geithner wrote. At that point, he said, the government would stop or delay in such payments as military salaries, Social Security checks and tax refunds.

In the first emergency step, Treasury on Friday will stop issuing state and local government series securities, commonly known as SLGS. That could make it harder for states and cities to issue debt, because they will have to seek issuers in the private market.

... [In addition](#), Treasury officials are prepared to suspend their daily reinvestment of Treasury securities held as investments in the Exchange Stabilization Fund, a fund held by the government to guard against exchange-rate fluctuations.

Democrats want to cap the deficits that the government can run up each year, which have now reached \$1.5 trillion. Republicans fear a deficit cap would mean tax increases as Congress struggles to close its deficits, and they are pushing for a spending limit instead. "You can count on House Republicans saying that if Congress is going to raise the debt ceiling, there has to be considerable spending reforms attached to that," said Rep. Peter Roskam (R., Ill.). (Contributors: The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, MSNBC, Capitol Hill Prayer Partners)

**Ask God for wisdom and discernment as to the best method to tackle our economic problems. We pray that all parties will not continue the over-spending, but that everyone will desire to cut the spending. Let them do this quickly and without any disagreement.**

*"I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion . . . I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness." (Proverbs 8:12, 18)*