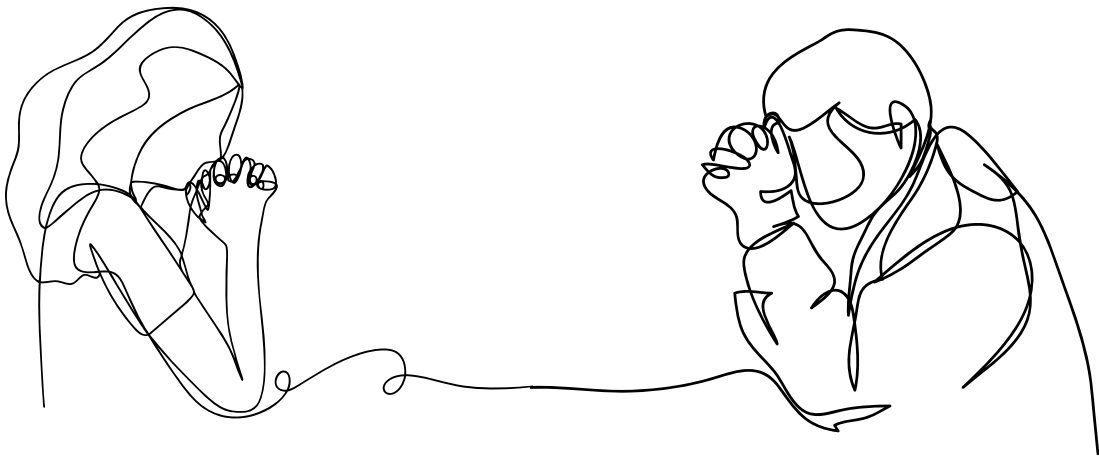




Coordinator Handbook

Teachings, tactics and tools to equip you for mobilizing unified, public prayer for America



“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much.”

-James 5:16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION

- 4 President Kathy Branzell's Letter to Coordinators
- 5 History of the National Day of Prayer
- 6 Mission and Beliefs
- 8 Coordinator Commitment
- 12 Engage, Equip, Encourage

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER GATHERING

- 15 Preparing to Lead Your NDP Gathering
- 16 Policy on Praying In Tongues
- 17 Non-Political Prayer Protocol

GATHERINGS, PLANNING, TIMELINES AND RESOURCES

- 22 Coordinator First Steps
- 23 Digital Conduct Policies
- 24 Building Up A Team and Network
- 26 Sample Invitations
- 29 Prayer / Worship / Speaker Commitment
- 30 Image and Recording Permission Form
- 31 Prayer Gathering Ideas
- 32 Sample Gathering Timeline
- 33 Sample Planning Timeline
- 41 How to Obtain A Proclamation

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION

- 43 NDP Organization Chart
- 44 Coordinator Job Descriptions

NDP365: Ongoing Prayer Mobilization

- 53 Patterns of Community Prayer
- 57 Protocols For the NDP Prayer Line
- 58 The Nightwatch: Commanding the Night
- 64 Children in Prayer For America
- 65 Policy For Giving A Reference
- 65 Data and Contact Information Policy
- 66 Collaboration Across State Lines
- 67 Financial Information

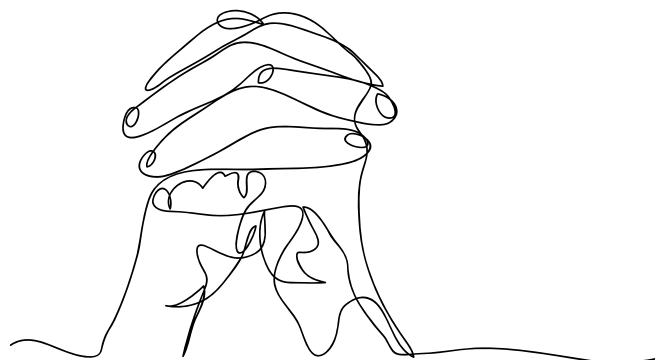
LEGAL AND MEDIA SUPPORT

- 69 Legal Support
- 72 Public Relations and Media

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 75 Community Prayer FAQs

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION



FOCUSED ON OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Greetings and welcome to the National Day of Prayer Task Force family!

We rejoice with you for your calling to serve the Lord as a National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF) coordinator to “mobilize unified public prayer for America.” An NDPTF coordinator serves with deep spiritual maturity and sensitivity. We are prayer warriors; living Scripture-fed and Spirit-led personal prayer lives that overflow into our leadership to facilitate corporate prayer for America. As you serve in this national ministry, please know we appreciate you. Together you build the structure and system that lifts unified public prayer for America.

Jesus is our focus; as our Creator, Savior, Lord, and intercessor at the right hand of the Father we pray, think, speak and act according to what we know that we know that we know that Jesus said, modeled and mandated. **The Word of God lights our path.** We are not tossed to and fro by cultural conversations, we are not divided in critical confrontations, we do not engage in the gossip and speculation of what we heard that someone heard, that someone might have said. We are committed and united in Christ, His gospel and love, living out Romans 12:9-21. Our prayers and leadership are Biblical; we pray and pour into the culture; the “seven centers of influence,” all generations, all denominations, all cities, all ethnicities, and all leaders at all times, in all circumstances, as a manifestation of the fact that we love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and love one another as Jesus has loved us.

God has called you to this assignment, and as our beloved past Chairman Shirley Dobson often reminded us, “Where God guides, He provides.” Many times, people connect this quote to money and resources, but it is essential to remember that God does not “drop us off” at the doorstep of ministry and drive away. God never leaves us nor forsakes us; we abide in Jesus, the Vine. The Spirit dwells in you, and as you submit your will to His, the Spirit will fill the space you yield to Him and you will bear much fruit to the Father’s glory. **Faith and prayer are the foundation of every coordinator’s success.** The enemy will tempt, attack, may even try to puff you up with this “title.” Rebuke him with humility and praise to God alone. Ministry is never about us. It is always from Jesus, through Jesus, for Jesus as we pray His Kingdom come and will be done. God’s wisdom, knowledge and understanding will light your way as you pray.

Prayer is always our first response—never a last resort. As a coordinator you will have the opportunity to pray for people and with people every day, not just on the first Thursday of May. It is a great honor to provide stewardship and even leadership for the Judeo-Christian expression of The National Day of Prayer that was put into law in 1952 and amended in 1988 for our President to call our Nation to a day of prayer for our nation. You will quickly learn that we are blessed to be a part of the prayer movement in America every day. Coordinators are often heard throughout the year sharing that in our hearts and responsibilities we are, “national daily prayer.” America, being all who make up the Church, families, workplace, education, military, government, arts, entertainment, and media, need our prayers every day. God inclines His ear to hear our prayers, forgive our sin and heal our land only as we humble ourselves, pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. This is the call of the NDPTF coordinator: to pray and love your way through every day, every circumstance, every need and gathering so that together **we mobilize unified public prayer for America** every day. Welcome to the NDP family!

We praise and thank God that He has brought us together in His service and glory. We look forward to the many prayers that we will pray with you and for you as we journey together.

Serving Him with gladness,

Kathy Branzell

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition. The Supreme Court affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer in *Marsh vs. Chambers* (1983).

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

Each year, the President, by law, must sign a proclamation declaring the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. Typically, all 50 states governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories sign similar proclamations.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS SIGNIFICANT

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation. It enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions.

The National Day of Prayer stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people. The unanimous passage of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual gathering, signifies that prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning.

Like Thanksgiving or Christmas, this day is observed annually across the nation and in Washington, D.C. The tens of thousands of National Day of Prayer gatherings held across our nation each serve as a magnificent tapestry, woven with the threads of God's faithfulness and the transformative power of prayer reaching millions, led by almost 19,000 volunteer coordinators. The broadcast of our National Prayer Observance from the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. alone, reached 110 million homes in the U.S. and 2 billion people worldwide with a call to prayer and a clear presentation of the Gospel.

ANNUAL REACH

195 Nations Reached

Almost 19,000 Coordinators

Close to 55,000 via email and text messages

216,000 active website users

696,000 social media users (Facebook and Instagram) – 3.3 million reached

1775

The first Continental Congress called for a national day of prayer.

1863

President Lincoln called for a national day of confession, fasting and prayer.

1952

Congress established NDP as an annual gathering by a joint resolution and signed into law by President Truman.

1988

The NDP law was amended and signed by President Reagan designating the first Thursday of May as the National Day of Prayer each year.

MISSION AND BELIEFS

THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE IS TO MOBILIZE UNIFIED, PUBLIC PRAYER FOR AMERICA.

KEY VERSES

“If my people, who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.”

-2 Chronicles 7:14

“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, kings and all who are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

-1 Timothy 2:1-4

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The National Day of Prayer Task Force has our roots in the National Prayer Committee with the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values.

We are a privately funded ministry whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families.

The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

In accordance with Biblical truth, the National Day of Prayer Task Force seeks to:

- Mobilize unified, public prayer for America
- Proclaim the Gospel
- Foster unity throughout the Christian Church
- Encourage and mobilize prayer and the Word of God, regardless of current issues and positions
- Show and share the love of Jesus to all people
- Be Biblical stewards of God's mission and provision
- Glorify the Lord in word and deed
- Exercise America's Constitutional Freedoms to gather, worship, pray and speak freely.
- Celebrate America's Christian heritage

HONORING OUR JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

The National Prayer Committee activated and encouraged our leaders to pass the amendment to the national law to make NDP the First Thursday of May, for the purposes of mobilizing Christians in prayer. Thus NPC stands as the root of the modern prayer movement and launched the broader Task Force. These godly leaders such as Vonette Bright, who were present at the signing of the law, then became the first generation of leaders within the NDPTF ministry that we know today.

The Congressional law extends the invitation to pray to people of all faiths and creeds. Encouraging them to gather with like-hearted and like-minded people to pray for our nation.

The NDP Task Force serves to mobilize unified, public prayer for the Judeo Christian faith and on the biblical principles for which we are based. All NDP Coordinators, gathering speakers, pray-ers, and worship leaders must sign our statement of faith to affirm their agreement.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force began ... with the expressed purpose of organizing prayer observances that conforms to Judeo-Christian beliefs.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This is the same statement of faith you signed as part of your coordinator application. **The statement of faith binds us together in a foundation of Biblical truth from Scripture.**

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of the Living God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The Lord is the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth; all things have been created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16, Genesis 1)
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

COORDINATOR COMMITMENT

1. Each coordinator should maintain consistent, active involvement in a local church body under pastoral covering.
2. In both public and private life, we ask that you demonstrate the commitment you have made to Jesus Christ by demonstrating the character outlined in scripture, which is the basis for the characteristics outlined in 'Who Is an NDPTF Coordinator' on page 8.
3. Coordinators should adhere to the mission, statement of faith and values that undergird the NDP Task Force. As a Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of Prayer, we provide support and resources that enable the planning of and participation in prayer gatherings that reflect these beliefs. If other people of other faiths wish to celebrate in their own traditions, they are welcome to do so at their own gathering or place of worship.
4. We ask that you set aside sufficient time for the work of the NDP Task Force in your leadership role. This commitment varies greatly throughout the year depending upon the number of volunteers who serve with you and the prayer activities planned.
5. Carry out the responsibilities and steward relationships with Biblical principles of working under authority, with humility and a teachable, unified, spirit.
6. Love, encourage, and pray for one another as co-laborers in Christ for the NDPTF and the eternal glory of God.
7. Commit to fervently pray for our nation, states and communities in Seven Centers of Influence: government, military, business/workplace, education, church, family and arts, media and entertainment.
8. Serve the Lord, giving the glory, honor, and praise to Him in all outcomes and ways.

WHO IS AN NDPTF COORDINATOR?

The character of an NDP coordinator is founded in commitment to Christ and living according to the Word of God. Below are listed scriptures and characteristics that NDP coordinators are to exemplify and strive toward.

Proverbs 4:18-27 NAS

- Walks in the light of Christ
- Meditates on scripture
- Guards heart
- Keeps corrupt talk from lips

Luke 11:28 NAS

- Hears the Word of God and observes it
- Word of God permeates all aspects of life

Romans 12:9-13 NIV

- Shows love with sincerity
- Clings to what is good
- Serves the Lord with zeal and fervor
- Joyful in hope
- Patient in affliction
- Faithful in prayer
- Practices hospitality

Ephesians 5:2 NIV

- Loving sacrificially as Christ loved

Philippians 1:15-17 NAS

- Preach Christ out of good will and love

Philippians 1:27 NAS

- Conducts self in a manner worthy of the Gospel
- Stands firm in one spirit with other believers

Philippians 2:1-7, 14-16a NIV

- Tender and compassionate
- Does nothing out of selfish ambition or vain

conceit

- Humble, considers others above self
- Does not grumble or complain

Ephesians 4:1-3 NASB

- Walks in gentleness
- Diligently preserves the unity of the Spirit

2 Peter 1:5-7 NAS

- Applies all diligence, moral excellence, self control, knowledge, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

Ephesians 4:21-32

- Does not act in bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, or malice
- Tender-hearted
- Forgives as Christ forgives
- Only speaks what is edifying and encouraging

Hebrews 10:24 NAS

- Encourages others to good deeds

2 Timothy 2:21-26 NASB

- Shows honor
- Flees from youthful lusts
- Refuses foolishness and ignorant speculations
- Never quarrelsome
- Demonstrates grace, never holds grudges

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NAS

- Treats body as a temple of the Holy Spirit

WHY WE PRAY

Every Coordinator in the National Day of Prayer Task Force is called to mobilize unified public prayer for America. As we mobilize on mission you may be asked why we pray. The question may be raised by someone who does not understand the unfathomable value prayer carries in the heart of the God of the universe or the intercessor who prays and the people we pray for. Therefore we want to always be ready with an answer for the reason we pray as well as your personal testimony of prayer.

Here are a few reasons we pray:

- **Prioritized by Jesus** - Throughout Scripture we find many examples of Jesus prioritizing time to meet with His Heavenly Father in prayer no matter, how much there was to do, what time of day or night it was or who was looking for Him. Like Jesus, when we pray we seek to know and do the Father's will, to the Father's glory.

"But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."
Luke 5:15-16 NAS

- **Profound Productivity** - we are promised that when we pray from a passionate believing heart in the righteousness and name of Jesus, our prayers accomplish immeasurably more than any human wisdom, effort, or finances could ever muster up. The "Much" God promises is also the same word in Scripture to describe His mercy, glory, and His reward to us in heaven. Heavenly productivity and provision may call for the prayer to go be a part of God's solution or resource. But prayer, seeking first His authority, priority, and plan is commanded if we want to see Almighty God's heart and hands move - not just man's - in the people, problems, and priorities of our life.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16b NKJV

- **Practices Relationship of Intimacy, Dependency, and Honor to God** - We are commanded to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," knowing God is Lord and we seek His permission and provision for His mission. Prayer expresses our dependency and faith in Him for our daily needs as well as honoring Him as the Sovereign and Supreme King of our lives and recognizes our citizenship is in heaven. We cry out to God in deep gratitude and thankfulness, reaffirming our faith in His goodness and sovereignty.

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden,

and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 NAS

- **Power** - As we praise God we remind ourselves of His extraordinary power that also fills us. When we remember how awesome our God is and His unending, unchanging attributes and affection we worship and work in and under and through His power.

"Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!" Psalm 117:1-2 ESV

- **Purifies** - in prayers of confession and repentance God purifies us, our thoughts, and the desires of our hearts. Guilt and shame have no place in the life of a believer who has asked God to forgive them by the grace and mercy given to us through the blood of Jesus. It is that purification we seek as we pray create in me a clean heart oh God and renew a right spirit within me.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

- **Path to Purpose** - Every human being is created by God in His image on purpose and for His purpose. God gives our lives earthly and eternal meaning. As we pray His Word, His Spirit lead us on the path of our unique purpose, prepared and positioned for good works that will deeply satisfy our souls and give Him glory.

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13 NAS

- **Pour Out and Be Filled** - God loves us and hears our prayers. As we pour out what is in us He fills

WHY WE PRAY *continued*

us with Himself. In supplication and intercession, pain and problems, hurt and need He fills us with provision, protection, healing and hope, decisiveness and direction, assurance and answers, security and strength. Whatever we pour out at His feet in belief that He is able He will respond to our faith and humility and fill us with abounding love and abundant life.

"On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah." Psalm 62:7-8

- **Positions Us to Obey** – Prayer places us in a loving and yielding position to receive and respond to God's blessings, instructions, forgiveness, discipline and discipleship. He leads and we follow.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NAS

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NAS

- **Peace** - Peace in the life of a Christian is not an absence of difficulties but a promise of the presence of the Prince of Peace. Jesus warned us that in this world we would have troubles. Trials are not necessarily a sign of discipline from God, but can also be an attack of Satan that God will use for good to show us His faithfulness and grow our faith in Him.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7 NAS

- **Perseverance** - Prayer enables us to abound in fruitfulness and hope in believing that the one who began a good work in us will see it to completion. Prayer submits to the Holy Spirit to enable and equip us to keep the faith as we fight the good fight, to wait and not manipulate, to

keep going and not give up.

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saint." Ephesians 6:18 NAS

- **Packed with promises** - We pray to the God who was, and is, and is to come. He is the author and perfecter of our faith, the Alpha and Omega who has never failed to keep a promise. Our prayers are not a wish upon a star or sending "positive thoughts" into the universe. Our prayers are to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the Promise-Keeper in whom we fully trust and treasure.

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:1-5

"And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 NAS

- **Pleases God** - Our prayers please God. Prayer expresses our love, honor, faith, obedience, relationship as His children, servant, and so much more. There is no greater joy in life than to please and glorify God.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer." Psalms 19:14

- **Profess Gratefulness** - Our prayers convey our thankfulness and gratefulness to God, reaffirming our faith that He truly is who He says He is.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

ENGAGE, EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE UNIFIED PUBLIC PRAYER FOR AMERICA

INTRODUCTION

In a world facing numerous challenges, the power of unified public prayer rooted in the Word of God is more essential than ever. Mobilizing communities across America to come together in prayer can have a profound impact, not only on the individuals involved but on the nation as a whole. For this movement of prayer to flourish, it's critical to focus on **three key actions: Engaging, Equipping, and Encouraging**. These steps are vital in multiplying the number of believers who are committed to prayer and mobilizing others in their communities to do the same, on the first Thursday in May—and every other day.

ENGAGE

The first step is to personally engage with the vision and purpose of unified public prayer. This begins with a personal commitment to seek God through His Word and in prayer. As it says in James 4:8, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." By prioritizing time with God, we allow Him to shape our hearts, align our desires with His will, and fill us with His Holy Spirit. When we are engaged personally, our passion for prayer becomes contagious, inspiring others to join us.

Engaging with others is just as important. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." As we commit ourselves to prayer, we must also reach out to those in our communities—friends, family, neighbors, fellow believers—and especially the leaders and influencers in our local churches, schools, businesses, media, government, and military installations. Engagement is about building relationships, creating opportunities for conversations about faith, and encouraging one another to prioritize prayer. Through personal engagement, we can start a ripple effect that leads to a new wave of unified public prayer across the nation.

EQUIP

Engagement naturally leads to equipping. Once individuals are committed to the cause, they need the tools and resources to grow in their understanding and practice of prayer. Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us that God gave "the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Equipping begins with education—learning what the Bible teaches about prayer, studying the lives of those who have modeled a life of prayer, and understanding the power of prayer in history. It also involves providing practical resources, such as prayer guides, Scripture-based prayers, and training on how to lead others in prayer.

Being equipped also means being prepared for the spiritual battles that come with mobilizing prayer. Ephesians 6:10-11 instructs us to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." We need to equip ourselves and others with this armor, ready to stand firm against any opposition. When we are well-equipped, we can confidently lead others, knowing that we have the knowledge, resources, and spiritual strength and wisdom to guide them.

ENCOURAGE

Finally, encouragement is essential for sustaining and multiplying this movement. Mobilizing prayer is not a one-time event; it's a continuous effort that requires perseverance and often patience. Galatians 6:9 urges us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Encouragement helps keep the fire of prayer burning brightly, both in our own hearts and in the hearts

ENCOURAGE continued

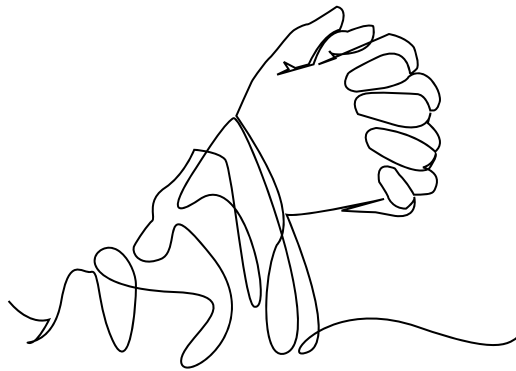
of those we mobilize. This can be done through regular communication, sharing testimonies of answered prayers, celebrating progress, and reminding one another of the importance of what we are doing.

Encouraging others also means fostering a sense of community among those involved in prayer. Romans 12:10 encourages us to “be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” We can do this by creating spaces—whether physical or virtual—where people can come together, share their experiences, pray for one another, and be strengthened in their purpose and in their resolve. As we encourage others, we help to create a supportive network of believers who are united in purpose and passionate about prayer.

CONCLUSION

The multiplication of prayer leaders who are engaged, equipped, and encouraged to pray and mobilize others is key to transforming our nation through the power of prayer. By focusing on these three critical actions, we can ignite a movement that touches every community across America, beginning on the first Thursday in May and continuing every day after. Let us commit to this cause, knowing that God is ABLE, and through unified public prayer for America, God can do immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20)!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER GATHERING



PREPARING TO LEAD YOUR NDP GATHERING

The battle we are fighting is not a political battle, nor an economic battle, nor a social battle, it is a spiritual battle and must be fought with spiritual weapons. **Our primary weapons are prayer and the Word of God.** As a prayer warrior, we prepare in prayer daily as we put on the full armor of God and step onto the battlefield to prayerfully plan and mobilize prayer. In the next few pages, we will discuss some ways you can prepare yourself in prayer and lay the foundation for a fruitful and effective prayer gathering.

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

-2 Corinthians 12:9

FIND AN AARON AND HUR

In the Biblical story of Joshua’s battle with the Amalekites in Exodus 17:8-16, verse 11 is a great picture of the difference that intercession makes - while Moses held up his hands in intercession before God, the Israelites were winning; but when he grew tired and lowered his hands, the Israelites were losing. Make no mistake - intercession is work, and it’s possible to grow weary in intercession just like it’s possible to grow weary in any other kind of work. Enter Aaron and Hur. They came alongside Moses and held up his hands, so that he could continue in intercession before God. God answered Moses’ prayers, and Joshua won the battle.

Like Moses, you’re going to grow weary. **You need to recruit a leadership team to help you** organize the gathering. You also need to recruit an Aaron and Hur who will hold you up in prayer and who will join you in the work of prayer for the gathering and for your community. These could be individuals from your leadership team - as long as they are committed specifically to praying fervently and consistently as a major part of the work to which they’ve been called.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES OF COMMUNITY PRAYER

Public prayer gatherings are very different than times of personal prayer. It is vital that you keep unity, agreement with one accord in the things at the center of your prayer gathering, and, most obviously, Jesus. Beware and take care not to become too theological or denominational but always remain Biblical. Here are some suggestions to get you started.

Pray over the “Seven Centers of Influence” in America. These seven centers are the, Church, Family, Education, Business/Workplace, Military, Government, and Arts, Entertainment and Media. These seven centers are the prayer focus of our National Day of Prayer gatherings along with the Scripture verse, theme, and the National Prayer that is chosen and written every year by the president of the NDPTF to bring a special focus and unity to our prayer gatherings. (This prayer can be found on our website each year.) Praying the National Prayer each year unites every gathering across America with our National Observance in Washington D.C. as we lift this prayer up in agreement across America throughout the day at every gathering as well as a moment of personal prayer for those who cannot attend a gathering that day. This prayer can also join the heart and voice of those unable to attend the gatherings, for use in personal prayer.

PRAYING IN TONGUES

Our gatherings are comprised of various denominational backgrounds, and our mission is to mobilize unified, public prayer for America. Tongues is a personal prayer language, and therefore we ask at all NDP gatherings and prayer calls, either **refrain entirely from speaking** in tongues, or place yourself on mute if on a prayer call so **unity and agreement can be maintained**.

Selected verses from 1 Corinthians 14:

"Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

"But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue." 1 Corinthians 14:1-19 NAS

"Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner." 1 Corinthians 14:39-40 NAS

PRAYING IN UNITY WITH OTHERS

- We pray the Word of God over personal preferences. Praying the Word of God is the best way to pray in unity with fellow intercessors, and in unity with the Spirit.
- As intercessors, we are everyone's intercessors, and no one's judge or critic - we pray FOR others, never against them and always speak blessing over others.
- NDPTF coordinators are not critical or political in unified prayer. (See page # for Non-political Prayer Protocol. We pray for perceived 'enemies' as fervently as we would want someone to pray for us in front of our family.
- Prayer is not sermons and extended testimonies.
- There should be no pressure to participate verbally in any given topic. By all means avoid the "prayer circle" model where each person is compelled to pray in turn - this encourages people to think about what they will pray rather than agreeing with the one praying, and builds pressure rather than promoting unity.
- Times of silence are okay! Listening to God is as important as speaking to God.
- Provide guidance as to topics for assigned pray-ers to keep prayers varied and on topic.
- Do not assume everyone knows the words to songs or recitations - provide lyrics on screens or handouts.

LET YOUR WORDS BE FEW

A good way to instruct people in corporate prayer is the 5B's method, "Be brief brother, be brief." Long prayers in corporate settings often disconnect from the audience as it becomes more personal than unifying. It is always better to assign many pray-ers two minutes to pray each than two people ten minutes each. Use these as the foundation and framework of your gathering and expand as needed.

Stay within the advertised time of your gathering. It is always important to respect people's time by starting, staying, and ending on time. They will be more prone to participate in future gatherings if they can count on you to be prompt, prayerful, and Biblical.

NON-POLITICAL PRAYER PROTOCOL

The NDPTF Non-Political Prayer Protocol is a Biblical guideline for all established staff members, coordinator leadership and coordinators participating in all forms of communications from conference calls, in-person gatherings, social media posts, videos, Zoom, email, etc. Keep in mind that all our communications and actions, whether as a private citizen or from an official NDPTF capacity, can easily reflect on the ministry and the cause of Christ.

The Non-Political Prayer Protocol provides an overview procedure which will ensure compliance of the ministry's primary purpose and mission focus, preventing misinterpretation of the established prayer intent.

The need for united prayer is vitally important, but **the separation of political agendas is crucial** when it involves the NDPTF staff members and coordinators. This will foster unbiased public confidence, guard against our own limited human perspectives, and keep the focus on Kingdom agendas. We acknowledge that we as believers and members of the NDP Task Force, we seek to impact every part of our culture with the love of God through the power of prayer and our actions.

The established NDPTF staff member, leader, and coordinator primary commitment is to pray our nation, our elected leaders, the identified Seven Centers of Influence and the mobilization of the Christian community. Our commitment to the mission of prayer should be diligently accomplished, while simultaneously maintaining the IRS policies of the NDPTF 501(c)3 status when speaking or praying as a representative of the NDPTF.

PLEASE NOTE: None of these policies apply to your personal activities, they only apply when you are attending an gathering, speaking, or posting as a direct representative of the NDPTF.

WHAT IS POLITICAL ACTIVITY?

It is an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate, campaign cause for partisan political office, or a political group or specific bills and legislation.

WHO ARE ESTABLISHED NDPTF STAFF MEMBERS, VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATORS

NDPTF primary full-time and part-time staff members, along with a vast number of coordinators located across the USA within eight volunteer coordinator positions: gathering coordinator, community/city coordinator, county coordinator, capital coordinator, regional coordinator, state coordinator, prayer shield, and the national area leader.

"I urge you first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

-1 Timothy 2:1

WHAT IS A NON-POLITICAL POSITION?

Maintaining a position which avoids any implication of endorsement/support to a candidate, political party, or specific legislation while facilitating/participating officially at an gathering or using the name of the NDPTF as a staff member, volunteer leadership and coordinators. Speaking the truth in love: as in Ephesians 4:15 *"Instead speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."*

WHAT ARE PARTISAN ACTIVITIES?

Partisan activities relate to candidates or issues representing national or state political action and parties. Candidacy for national, state or local office is partisan, even if the candidate is not affiliated with a national or state political party. **Prayer for partisan activities is more restricted** than prayer for nonpartisan activities. Praying Biblical principles for elections and legislation leads us to God's will and outcomes. When invited to serve, pray, or speak in an official NDPTF capacity, the employee staff, volunteer leadership and coordinators must **refrain from engagement in partisan political activities** and avoid inferences that their activities imply or appear to imply official sponsorship approval or endorsement. Using NDPTF credentials in introductions, invitations to attend or speak at any gathering should be focused on Biblical statutes and the priority of exercising our constitutional freedom and responsibility to vote.

Employee staff, coordinator leadership and coordinators **may not** wear NDPTF attire during or in connection with furthering political activity or when an inference of official sponsorship for the activity may be drawn when serving as a direct ministry representative.

NDPTF Staff, Volunteer Leaders & Coordinators will avoid during ministry activities:

- Wearing of political endorsement or critical attire.
- Political-based comments and communication.
- Use of NDPTF platforms for partisan and nonpartisan political activities.
- Any communication and social media referencing political endorsement or opposition to political positions or persons---make it Biblical instead.
- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, when serving as a direct NDPTF representative.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for partisan party, candidate, or cause when serving as a direct NDPTF representative.
- Display partisan political sign, poster, banner visible to public, when serving at a specific gathering as a direct NDPTF representative.
- Criticism of senior government officials or positions, when serving as a direct NDPTF representative.
- Suggest through social media that others "like", "friend" or "follow" a partisan account from your NDPTF page. Please note again, these policies do not prohibit you personally on your personal accounts.
- Please do not forward invitations to partisan gatherings, solicit, or fundraise as a direct NDPTF representative.
- Please do not directly campaign support via local newspapers, campaign newsletters, discussions, cartoons, endorsements and editorials, as if you are speaking for the NDPTF.

Again, these policies are violated if using NDP title and credentials to endorse or criticize a party or person during NDP Task Force ministry activities.

EXAMPLES OF APPLYING THE NON-POLITICAL POLICY

1. NDPTF is a non-profit 501c3 we must protect this status by conducting ourselves in ministry capacity that reflects that we are not lobbying but praying and responding biblically.
2. Official NDPTF social media pages may not be used to voice your personal political party or candidate endorsement.
3. Readily state why abortion or another sin is wrong according to the Word of God/Bible, share beliefs and encourage to vote the Bible. Do not use these as grounds to speak against a group, person or specific bills and legislation, but towards the principles of God's Word.
4. **Always stop and pray before you post or speak.** Check your tone, asking yourself, "Am I speaking with the gentleness and kindness that God commands?" Check your temper, and remember Psalm 37:8. Check your motive, and ask yourself, "Am I glorifying God and mobilizing prayer by what I am saying or am I speaking in my own pride and preference?"

"Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil."

-Psalm 37:8

Better to pause and pray than rush to respond in a way that hurts our witness.

WHAT ARE NONPARTISAN ACTIVITIES?

Nonpartisan activities are not associated with a national or state political party but involve "stand alone" political issues, such as constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances, voting your beliefs and values, etc.

ARE ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PERMISSIBLE?

The **following activities are allowed** as a private citizen:

- Register and vote
- Express personal political opinion in a Christlike, personal capacity
- Participate in the political process as a private citizen
- Donate money to political organization, party, or committee as led by the Lord

The above NDP Task Force Non-Political Prayer Protocol is foundationally based upon the purpose, mission statement and Judeo-Christian foundation outlined on pages 6-8.

WE PRAY BIBLICALLY NOT POLITICALLY

Prayer for our country can unite or divide, depending on how the group approaches it. Prayer focused on God's desires as revealed in scripture will tend to unite a group, whereas prayer that emphasizes political solutions will tend to divide.

Encourage your participants to leave politics at the door and **focus their prayers on God's glory and His will as revealed in Scripture.**

Example: God loves the unborn, but His focus is less likely to be on legislation than He is on caring for the mothers and the children and on the morality of sex outside marriage. God wants to raise up leaders who know Him and will seek His discernment in the decisions they need to make; this is likely more important to Him than the political party of any given candidate.

Focusing our prayers around the revealed word of God rather than politics will honor Him and promote unity in the group.

Focusing our prayers around the revealed will of God rather than politics will honor Him and promote unity.

GENERAL LOGISTICS OF A GATHERING

You can create variety in a couple of ways by incorporating a balance of types of prayer and by varying the structure of prayer.

Your prayer time should include prayers of worship, of confession, and of intercession. There are many formats you can use to incorporate these different types of prayer. The format is less important than the balance. By incorporating the multiple types of prayer, you ensure that your prayer time will be honoring to God and not degenerate into “shopping list” type prayer.

For example, if you are going to have a time of confession, that may best be done as a time of silent prayer (since most people are going to struggle with confession to strangers.) Worship and thanksgiving prayers lend themselves well to larger groups, particularly if the group is encouraged to pray very briefly (possibly using sentence prayers.) Varying the structure like this will create some texture for your meeting and keep it interesting for your participants.

In a prayer time of any length, it is good to provide variety and some breaks. This will keep your participants engaged and focused. Consider the following outline and example:

Information - Share about the churches in the city, their pastors, and their ministry efforts

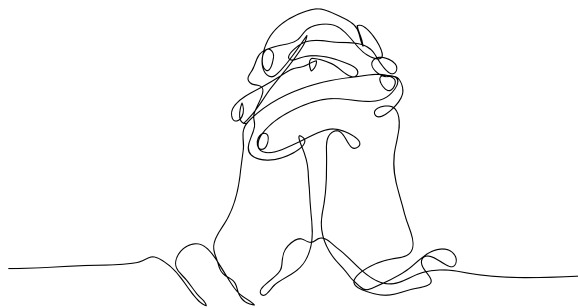
Inspiration - Read scripture involving the Church or Great Commission.

Intercession - Invite clergy members to stand and be recognized, and direct those gathered to pray for them, as a leader leads the brief time of prayer.

Song - Invite those gathered to sing in worship.

As you switch from one type of prayer and one structure to another, breaks provide a good opportunity to remind the group of some of the community prayer principles we discussed elsewhere. No need to instruct the group at length each time - just a quick reminder can help a lot.

GATHERINGS, PLANNING, TIMELINES AND RESOURCES



NEW COORDINATOR FIRST STEPS

1. **Pray God's wisdom** as you determine the type of gathering you intend to coordinate: Review gathering planning sections in this Coordinator Handbook to find the one specific to your interest.
2. Read and note ideas after you read through the entirety of the Handbook.
3. Pray for God's guidance as you implement each step in the planning process.
4. Begin pulling a team together to help you.
5. Contact your State Coordinator if you have any questions after your reviewed this Handbook. They may also put you in touch with others in your area.
6. Talk with other coordinators who have been serving for several years for additional help and ideas.
7. Secure your gathering venue. If in a public park or space, find out if permits and liability insurance is needed.
8. Contact local public officials and local leaders in the Seven Centers such as church, education, media, etc. inviting them to your community observance, listing time, location and the other speakers. Let them know someone will personally be praying for them.
9. Promote your gathering, see the Media section of this manual or the [Promotional Tools webpage](#) for more information.
10. Purchase resources from the [NDP Webstore](#) to help promote your gathering and compliment your observance (posters, prayer guide, bulletin inserts, bookmarks, and more.)
11. Consider having a Bible Reading Marathon leading up to your prayer gathering.

ONLINE RESOURCES

As you prepare for your gathering, it is important to know all the resources you have at your disposal as a vetted NDPTF coordinator! Realizing that our Biblical mandate is to pray without ceasing and to pray for those in authority, the national website tool is designed to inform and help equip those who desire to lead and participate in daily, disciplined prayer.

Connect with other coordinators or point other intercessors to apply to join on our [Coordinator Page](#).

Engage with us on [Facebook](#), and on our [Instagram, @natlprayer](#)! Social media is another way to find prayer prompts, Glory Stories, resources and opportunities to pray with our partner ministries.

Subscribe to daily or weekly text message prayer prompts by texting JOIN to 833-259-8648.

Read our [Glory Stories](#), where we celebrate God's goodness with glory and gratefulness.

Post your prayer gathering(s) for others to find on our [Gathering Finder](#).

Look for prayer gathering support resources in our [online store](#) and [promotional tools page](#).

Find a time to join a [prayer call](#) with other intercessors.

Continue to direct individuals with questions to the [national website](#) to learn more about the history of NDPTF, our mission, values, read encouraging articles, prayer prompts and profiles of the national staff.

DIGITAL CONDUCT POLICIES

As we mobilize prayer in our modern day, we are grateful to use technology to connect with fellow believers and promote prayer. Below are policies covering how we utilize technology and digital communication.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- We encourage separate social media account(s) for NDP activities
- All pages for NDP activities must follow the format "City or State Name" + "NDP" or "National Day of Prayer"
 - Ex. Gloryville NDP
 - Ex. Rejoice City National Day of Prayer
- Do not livestream your NDP gathering online. You may choose to record it and post it later.
- The same guidelines for NDP gatherings and code of conduct apply to online spaces: Non-Political Protocol, no outside organizations, no personal promotion, and no selling of personal resources that are not produced through or by the NDP Task Force.
- Throughout the year, you may repost from the NDP Task Force page, or other prayer-focused activities in your community. Again, following all non-political policies and upholding the character of an NDPTF coordinator.

WEBSITES

- Refrain from creating your own website, and instead direct audiences to the main National Day of Prayer Task Force website. This keeps all NDP activities unified.
- Information for your NDP gathering is able to be listed on our Gathering Finder each year, so your gathering is represented on our site.

EMAIL

- We recommend having a designated email address for NDP activities that is separate from your work or personal email. This keeps your contacts from confusion as to your activities.
- For all NDP activities your email signature should only have your NDP position.

Example: Dante Jones
Gloryville City Coordinator
National Day of Prayer Task Force
- If you utilize the same email address for multiple responsibilities and involvements, ensure that a separate signature is used for NDP communications.
- Never put your home mailing address in your email signature line.
- Always write emails with godliness and graciousness in mind, just as you would in verbal communications.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YOUR NDP PRAYER GATHERING

After your gathering, submit your report to the National Day of Prayer Task Force - **the report form will be sent to you via email**, to the email address that was used to list a gathering on the Gathering Finder.

Having information about your gathering and stories about God's impact resulting from prayer are important for broadcasts and for other coordinators' use. Please also share photos taken at gatherings, along with the "Image and Recording Permission Form" found in this Handbook.

BUILDING UP A TEAM AND NETWORK

BUILDING YOUR NDP TEAM

Prayer is the key to building your National Day of Prayer Gathering team. Since your goal is to find committed praying Christians, ask the Lord to bring divine appointments with others that share this common passion.

- **Identify needs for your NDP gathering and day.** For example, you will need someone to promote your gathering in the local media, leverage social media to promote the gathering to potential attendees, visit and invite local churches to participate, display posters throughout your town, head up speaker and music recruitment, be responsible for invitation letters, thank you notes to speakers, arrange for audio-visual equipment and someone to operate it, etc.
- Another great way to **find support for your gathering is by speaking to local prayer and church groups** about the National Day of Prayer and its importance. There may be an opportunity for you to present the vision of NDP at Christian conferences in your city. You may want to ask if you can have an NDP information booth and provide brochures, information and a Coordinator Signup Sheet to recruit new prayer Coordinators. This is a great way to increase prayer in your state.
- **Write up a specific job description** for positions needed. The more clearly you can identify your candidate and the talents you are looking for, the more likely you will be to get the right person to head up this task. Suggested positions might include: social media manager, A/V coordinator, manager for NDP resources, set up/tear down coordinator, worship leader, prayer shield, greeter, and a trusted table host.
- **Look within your church.** Often your church prayer ministry will yield those who already have a heart and passion for the importance of prayer for our nation. You may also want to contact other prayer groups from local churches to add to your team. Do not recruit people away from other ministries.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

-Proverbs 27:17

Our goal is to have the body of Christ represented at your NDP gatherings while prayerful for those who need prayer to come too.

RALLYING CHURCHES

Make a list of all the churches within your community you wish to invite.

Begin to pray immediately for each pastor and his or her congregation. Solicit help from your committee, community intercessors, local houses of prayer and your church bible study or prayer group and then pray daily over your list.

Email or call for an appointment with each pastor or a prayer leader. Build relationships throughout the year!

Remember that pastors are very busy and DO NOT need one more thing to do. What you are looking for is someone from the church who can be a part of the citywide community plans or to coordinate getting several churches together to pray. Do your best to get with them BEFORE you have all your plans laid in stone.

People will support that which they help create.

Churches vary greatly on worship and prayer postures, thus seek the Lord and listen as He equips you with the mind of Christ. We want everyone to come to the NDP gatherings, but the only people who get the microphone to pray or share are **those we know have a personal relationship with Jesus** Christ and who agree with the NDP Task Force Statement of Faith. Everyone who is invited to speak is asked to share their testimony with the committee and must sign the Speaker Commitment Form, found in this Handbook and online.

Inform the church pastor or prayer leader that this is a nationwide effort for over 70 years, currently led by the NDPTF president, Kathy Branzell, a national staff and facilitated by over 18,000 coordinators across America who are equipped to host prayer gatherings. Communicate **the goal to fully represent the body of Christ is its entirety**, thus their church participation is vital for the community.

See from the sample letters below, we invite pastors, government leaders and other institutions asking them to participate because this is a day our President and the joint Congress have put aside for all Americans to pray for our nation. Encourage them to get to know more about us from our national website.

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

-Ephesians 4:4-6

Building relationships in the churches of a community is key. This must begin with intentional prayer for God to open hearts and doors, seek Him step by step. The church can get distracted by its many programs and leave little time for prayer. May this be a growing experience.

If churches are invited and don't participate, do not allow offence. If they express concern or opposition to joining, encourage them to do something in their own church, with their own people. Be faithful each year to invite them to the larger gatherings and continue to pray that they grow in seeking oneness in prayer.

Prayer and love (the greatest of these) breaks down barriers, even man-made ones. Be faithful in prayer for the 'oneness' that Jesus prayed for us, John 17:21.

Non-holiday seasons are a good time to build relationship with reaching out to every local pastor on behalf of the community National Day of Prayer Task Force. Consider visiting their church for a worship service if at all possible. Often, we must **go to them first**. Ask for their prayer requests representing the body of Christ in a community, not a singular church.

*Please note in the following letter that we are looking forward to **assembling the BODY OF CHRIST**, therefore we are covered as to why we have not invited interfaith or non-Christian religions. It is our goal to assemble all the Christians together for a given city.

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

-John 17:21

SAMPLE INVITATIONS

SAMPLE INVITATION TO PASTORAL LEADERS

Month 00, 202_

Church name

Church street address

Church city/state

IF SENDING AS AN EMAIL:

-Use the subject line:
(City/County Name) Day
of Prayer

-Do not include mailing
address information

Dear Reverend/Pastor/Bishop etc. _____,

Each day many requests may come to your attention. Yet, I come first to encourage you with renewed hope in the power of prayer.

My name is (name) and I am the (position) for the National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF). In 1988 the joint Congress of the United States passed into law a bill naming the first Thursday of May as our National Day of Prayer. President Regan signed that bill on May 5, 1988 in the presence of Vonette Bright, our first NDPTF president, Congressman Tony Hall, Congressman Frank Wolf, Dr. Jerry Nims, Pat Boone, Congressman Carlos Moorhead, Rabbi Joshua Haberman, Father John O'Connor and Susan Sorenson.

As the (position), I will be helping to bring groups together across our city/county to publicly celebrate and participate in this spiritually significant day and unite Christians in prayer for our country and community. As a member of the body of Christ, we would love for your congregation to be involved with us. We are setting up our committees now to determine what our observance will include this year. I want to assure you this will not be a political rally, nor critical of any person, but prayerful and Biblical.

(Last year /this year) we held (give example of what was done last year/or planned this year)

As we begin our planning for this year, we welcome your suggestions and ask you to prayerfully consider speaking to us. I will be calling your office in the next week. Our goal is to have you identify someone we can talk to from your congregation. If you have any questions or would like to reach me, please call or email me at (your information.)

I hope you will make this a matter of prayer and that God will direct your heart. We look forward to assembling the Body of Christ to pray for our community and country. If you would like to learn more about the NDPTF, please visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org. Thank you for your time.

Thanking God today for you,

(Name)

(Title)

National Day of Prayer Task Force

(Phone Number)

(email)

SPECIAL NOTE:

This template is
available online to be
copied from our
[Promotional Tools page](#)

SAMPLE MEDIA INVITATION

Month 00, 202_

Media Outlet name

Media Outlet street address

Media Outlet city/state

IF SENDING AS AN EMAIL:

-Use the subject line:
(City/County Name) Day
of Prayer

-Do not include mailing
address information

Dear (Media Outlet) Staff,

We would like to invite you to be with us on Thursday, May (day) as we join millions of Americans across the country in glorifying God and observing this year's National Day of Prayer. His grace has guided this nation's growth and progress since its birth for almost 250 years.

Our observance will be held at (location) from (time to time). The gathering will be filled with prayer for media, arts, and entertainment, governmental leaders, the military, churches, families, education, and other topics. (Name of speaker) will deliver a special message on prayer and its importance to our nation's present and future.

Many are concerned about the future of America and our city. We see more violence and struggles in everyday life as our culture moves further away from the source of our strength.

All through history, America has turned to God in times of conflict and in peace. The National Day of Prayer, which was established by law in 1952 and then amended in 1988 to permanently designated its observance on the first Thursday of May, every year, is a great opportunity for American to unite in recognition of our incredible need for God. The President will issue a proclamation on this day, proclaiming a day of prayer for our nation.

This year's theme is (Theme and verse). For one day out of the year, we can join with millions of other Americans in bringing light and hope to our country, through the power of prayer to Almighty God.

The National Day of Prayer National Observance will be observed on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and locally observed in tens of thousands of gatherings in all 50 states and U.S. territories, connecting us to the National Observance being hosted on the Capitol. I hope our entire community will realize the importance of God's hand in America and will remember the great opportunity we still have in America to come before God publicly and corporately. We hope you will join us as an important part of our community. God bless!

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Title)

National Day of Prayer Task Force

(Phone Number)

(email)

SPECIAL NOTE:

This template is
available online to be
copied from our
[Promotional Tools page](#)

SAMPLE INVITATION TO A MAYOR OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Month 00, 202__

Government Office

Office street address

Office city/state

IF SENDING AS AN EMAIL:

-Use the subject line:
(City/County Name) Day
of Prayer

-Do not include mailing
address information

Dear Mayor/Councilperson/Commissioner (____),

As part of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, I feel privileged to invite you to attend the National Day of Prayer observance in our community on Thursday, May (DAY). Our observance will be held (location) from (time) to (time). The gathering will be filled with prayer for our nation, its governmental leaders, churches and families. (Name of speaker) will deliver a special message on prayer and its importance to our nation's present and future.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was established by federal law in 1952 when the United States Congress passed a joint resolution, which was signed by President Harry Truman. The law was amended in 1988 and signed by President Ronald Reagan, specifically designating the first Thursday in May as the official National Day of Prayer.

I have reached out to your office requesting a proclamation, and invite you to attend the National Day of Prayer gathering to read the proclamation aloud.

In 1988, President Reagan's proclamation shared this bold quote, "Americans in every generation have turned to their Maker in prayer. In adoration and in thanksgiving, in contrition and in supplication, we have acknowledged both our dependence on Almighty God and the help He offers as individuals and as a Nation."

Most recently, President Biden in his 2024 Presidential proclamation wrote, "Scripture tells us to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer. This year, my prayer for our Nation is that we keep faith that our best days are ahead of us and continue to believe in honesty, decency, dignity, and respect. May we see each other not as enemies but as fellow human beings, each made in the image of God and each precious in His sight."

For the sake of (your city), please join us for prayer on Thursday, May (day). I look forward to seeing you there!

May God bless you and the ones you love.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Title)

National Day of Prayer Task Force

(Phone Number)

(email)

SPECIAL NOTE:

This template is
available online to be
copied from our
[Promotional Tools page](#)

PRAYER / WORSHIP / SPEAKER COMMITMENT

The National Day of Prayer Task Force ("NDPTF") appreciates your desire to intercede for America and to communicate the need for personal repentance and prayer. Please complete this form and return it to your gathering host.

In having been invited to lead prayer, worship or to speak at the National Day of Prayer Task Force observance, I agree to:

- Maintain my allotted time: not share nor give it to another person
- Stay within the time limit specified for me
- Honor the authority of the gathering host who invited me to participate
- Use my allotted time on the subject for which I was requested
- Not use my platform time to promote or share on political issues or campaigns, including political dress
- Be committed to Biblical unity of oneness in Christ from Scripture: John 17
- Respect all attendees with love of Christ; exhibiting Biblical truth in love
- Come with the heart of Jesus to love our enemies and pray for those who oppose Biblical truth
- Serve in agreement with:

Statement of Faith: I believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, only, infallible, authoritative Word of The Living God. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; The Lord is the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth; all things have been created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16, Genesis 1); In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory; That for salvation of lost and sinful men and women, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential; In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they who are saved unto resurrection life and they who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation; And in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Organization: _____

Gathering Date: _____ Gathering Host: _____

Gathering Location: _____

This document, and a Youth Participation and Permission Form, are available online for easy download and printing on the [Promotional Tools page](#).

IMAGE AND RECORDING PERMISSION FORM

I, _____, hereby grant the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a Texas Non-profit Corporation ("NDP"), or any contractor hired by NDP, permission to record, by any means or device, including but not limited to video, audio, digital media, and any other form of recording, my image, voice, and words spoken by me at and for the National Day of Prayer Observances or broadcast.

Event Details:

National Day of Prayer Observances and Broadcast

I also consent that copies of the images and recordings may be offered for sale, copied, or distributed, at NDP's sole discretion, by NDP or NDP's contractors. Furthermore, I grant to NDP the right to use the images or recordings or any portion thereof in connection with any other product, project, production, publication, promotion, etc. of the National Day of Prayer. I further consent that any images and recordings may be retained by NDP for archival purposes. This permission is granted to NDP with the understanding that NDP will not assert any copyright or deprive me of any other rights I may have in the material I present at the observances or in the broadcast. NDP will identify itself in the copyright notice. If the copyright is, in fact, owned by me, then NDP's identification on the notice shall be only as the licensee.

The grant of rights set forth herein is irrevocably made without my reservation. I specifically release and disclaim any right to receive any compensation, royalty, residual, or any share of any project proceeds, which may be received or derived by NDP as a result of the images or recordings or the sale or distribution of the images and recordings as permitted herein. I understand that NDP has no actual obligation to proceed with the images and recordings described above, or to use the images and recordings for any purpose. However, if NDP does use the images and recordings, NDP may, at its option, use my name in connection with the images and recording, advertisement, promotion and description, and in any other manner not inconsistent with this consent.

I have the full legal authority to grant these rights to NDP. To the best of my knowledge and belief, all the material presented, and to be presented at the observances or in the broadcast, stream, promotion, etc. or to be provided to NDP by me is my own true and original material which does not violate or infringe the rights of any third party.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

PRAYER GATHERING IDEAS

Ask the Lord for creativity; where and how He would want you to mobilize prayer.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

- Observances at the county courthouse, city hall, town plaza or park, sports stadium or amphitheater
- Offices / workplace / ministry locations / headquarters
- Rescue mission, pregnancy centers, places of outreach ministry
- Host a prayer breakfast with local leaders
- Prayer walks or drives by bus, vans, carloads
- Go to police or fire stations to pray with those on duty

CHURCH GATHERINGS

- Concert of prayer
- Prayer walk
- 24 hour open church/prayer time
- Multiple churches participating in single gathering
- Watch and pray through the 8 p.m. ET National Day of Prayer Broadcast on livestream from NDP website.

MORE IDEAS

- Host virtual gatherings - Zoom, Facebook Live, Conference calls, etc.
- Host a neighborhood dessert potluck at your home and enjoy a time of prayer for the community.
- Station prayer volunteers at downtown intersections with an NDP sign and invite them to stop for a moment to be prayed for, or to pray for the community and country.
- Begin your observance with a rabbi from your local synagogue sounding the shofar, the traditional Jewish ram's horn used to call the people to prayer.
- Invite a local high school choir or band to perform at your National Day of Prayer observance. Organize a children's choir to sing; this will bring the entire family.
- Include local veterans, active duty military personnel, and chaplains.
- Contact nearby prison chaplains and encourage them to plan a National Day of Prayer observance for the inmates. Better yet, ask the chaplains to encourage the inmates to organize the observance themselves. Make NDP Posters available for them to post.
- Ask if an NDP observance can be held at a local juvenile home. Bring a group o pray for God's will in their lives, for reconciliation with their families and for His direction in their futures. Pass out NDP resources.

LEARN FROM OTHERS

- Plan on attending your state/regional training meeting hosted by your State Coordinator and/or National Area Leader to learn more prayer gathering ideas.
- Check out the website for gatherings already posted around the country for inspiration.

SAMPLE GATHERING TIMELINE

The below run of show is from the 2024 National Observance hosted in the U.S. Capitol by the NDP Task Force. This is a sample run of show that can be a guide or inspire you, as you plan out your gathering flow.

Time	Length	Subject
8:00	1:00	Welcome/ Please rise
8:01	3:00	Posting of the Colors
8:04	1:00	Pledge of Alleigance
8:05	2:00	National Anthem
8:07	1:00	Color Guard Exit
8:08	3:00	Introduce theme and NDP
8:11	5:00	Host Welcome
8:16	3:00	Opening Prayer
8:19	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
8:21	3:00	Repentance
8:24	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
8:25	5:00	Church (Pray For)
8:30	1:00	Introduction next speaker
8:31	3:00	Brief testimony about power of prayer
8:34	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
8:35	5:00	Military/ law enforcement Prayer
8:40	1:00	Recognize first responders attending the gathering
8:41	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
8:42	3:00	Prayer for Israel
8:45	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
8:46	3:00	Business - (Prayer for)
8:49	1:00	Introduce Keynote Speaker
8:50	15:00	Keynote speaker thoughts/ Prayer
9:05	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
9:06	3:00	Education (Prayer For)
9:09	1:00	Introduction -next prayer leader
9:10	3:00	Arts Ent & Media (Prayer for)
9:13	2:00	Thank chaplains
9:15	3:00	Government (Prayer For)
9:18	3:00	Family (Prayer for)
9:21	3:00	Prayer for Nations
9:22	1:00	Closing THANKS
9:23	3:00	Words to National Prayer on screen, everyone pray together
9:26	4:00	Close in worship song(s)
9:30		Participants depart

SAMPLE PLANNING TIMELINE

If you are reading this in March, or even April, it's still possible to pull together a community prayer gathering. Keep it simple: prayer is the focus.

NOTE: This timeline is for guidance only for ongoing prayer mobilization. Some efforts can take longer to plan while keeping your first organized gathering simple will take less time.

JANUARY:

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force in the monthly prayer focus of praying for what is new and next.
- Pray and listen to the Lord to direct you for prayer gathering scope.
- Join the Pray Across America Pray For America call on the first Thursday of January, where we pray for all 50 states and U.S. Territories. State Coordinators and NALs must be on the call.
- Connect with State Coordinator and other coordinators ensure best support through experienced leaders.
- Review website for updates, prayer calls, and upcoming trainings.
- Review NDP gathering materials in [webstore](#) or catalog for ideas/promotional items.
- Participate in the annual Nightwatch through January.
- Begin drafting a Run of Show document to plan for prayer and worship leaders for May gathering.
- In late January, the National Office will send proclamation requests to all state governors. Check the [Promotional Tools page](#) on the website for a template for mayoral requests and proclamations.
- Review your checklist as you plan with your committee.
- Plan and prepare for logistics: parking, indoor/outdoor, electrical needs, permits, etc.
- Decide on prayer leaders/participants and send out invitations by phone and follow-up in writing via email. You may want to ask your mayor, governor, senators or local officials to attend. Invite representatives of all seven Centers of Influence to attend and be prayed for.
- Seeks funds from those who said in the fall they had already given for the previous calendar year.
- Offer to list business, churches in program as prayer gathering sponsors.
- Pray daily for God to move in this gathering.
- Set your team meetings by date/time for the months leading up to, and through, National Day of Prayer, to get confirmed on their schedules.

FEBRUARY

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force for the monthly prayer focus of Family.
- Meet with your team to review checklist and assess progress and responsibilities, and what still needs to be done: permits, insurance, invitations, equipment needs (podium, projection, microphones, etc).
- Send 'save the date' cards. Customizable cards are available through the [NDP Webstore](#).
- Send any last minute requests for participants; prayer leaders, worship leaders, area churches etc.

FEBRUARY CONTINUED

- Continue to purchase themed and other resources from [NDP Webstore](#).
- Post your gathering on the national website [Gathering Finder](#).
- State Coordinators are to contact the governor's proclamation office for proclamation follow up.
- County and community coordinators, have one designated person reach out to mayor or city council office for a local proclamation request follow up.
- Invite the media to a public signing if possible.
- Connect with State Coordinator for updates or help with questions.
- As we pray for Family, please stay in touch with local influencers in the area of Family. Consider writing a handwritten card to first responders or 911 dispatchers using the sample below:

Greetings (NAME),

As a member of our local National Day of Prayer Task Force team, I am always spending time in prayer, and this month, the prayer focus is 'family.' In praying for family, I want to extend deep gratitude to you for all that you do to keep the families in (CITY NAME) safe.

I can sleep soundly at night because I know you are keeping my safe. If anything were to happen, I know you would be there, selflessly serving others.

You risk your safety and wellbeing to make sure our community is safe, and you and your family sacrifice many evenings and holidays together as you fulfill your important duties. I am praying for you and your family this month.

In prayer,

(NAME)

(NDP position)

NDP Task Force

Staying in touch with personalized, handwritten cards to is a powerful tool to building strong, sincere relationships. Always keep these notes grateful and prayerful.

MARCH

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force for the monthly prayer focus based on mission, such as the mission of the NDP Task Force and the mission of the Church.
- Begin promoting your local gathering. Get permission to display NDP theme art/posters with time and location in public places such as churches, supermarkets, bus stops, and public buildings.
- Officially invite honored guests who are not being asked to speak or pray: local officials, board of education members police officers, chaplains, firemen, city council members, honored veterans, etc.
- Confirm specifics for all gathering speakers, worship leaders, and pray leaders - receive their signed Speaker Commitment Form, found in this Handbook and on the [Promotional Tools webpage](#).
- Post your gathering on the [Gathering Finder](#).
- Update your state coordinator on your plans; join any state prayer calls.
- Be sure to order any last minute resources from the [NDP Webstore](#). Resources begin to sell out in March.

MARCH CONTINUED

- Keep the planning committee informed; get updates.
- Join national prayer calls for equipping and intercession for NDP coordinators.
- State Coordinators send governors' proclamations to Gwen Bradley and the national office.

APRIL

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force for the monthly prayer focus of praying for Easter celebrations and upcoming NDP gatherings!
- Continue to promote gathering in your community with radio, press releases, posters, and social media.
- Contact local media for interviews.
- Coordinate with other NDP volunteers in community and seek mayoral or other appropriate proclamation, requesting a public signing. Take pictures and post brief for blog, social media update, or local media use.
- Early in April, email your speakers, participants and musicians a program with schedule.
- Meet with team for progress report. Adjust as needed.
- Mid-April, reconfirm speakers with date, time, and location of your gathering and their pre-arrangement topic and time limit.
- Review audiovisual needs with suppliers; confirm details.
- Make copies of the Image And Recording Permission Form available in this Handbook and on the [Promotional Tools page](#).
- Review the web Media Section in the NDP Coordinator Handbook below; inform media of your gathering date, time and location. Utilize the Media Invitation Letter to invite them to cover the gathering.
- State Coordinators, check the listed gatherings via the Gathering Finder for your state, to ensure that community gatherings are are posted correctly.

MAY

- Meet with your team for a last-minute review of needs and confirmations and who will be filling each need.
- Pray together.
- Host your NDP gathering!

After NDP:

- Send thank you notes to your team, speakers, public officials, volunteers and anyone who contributed to the NDP gathering.
- Submit your Gathering Report via the online survey that is sent to your email from the national office, and forward a copy of your report to your State Coordinator.
- Submit photos of your gathering, along with Image and Recording Permission forms.
- Share any extended testimonies with the national office by emailing glory.story@nationaldayofprayer.org.
- Gather names of people who said they would like to volunteer with you and follow up with them.

MAY CONTINUED

- Book your venue for next year's National Day of Prayer gathering.
- Follow up with media outlets who promoted or covered your gathering to say thank you.
- THANK the LORD, REST

JUNE

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force prayer focus of gratitude, and prayer for young people during summer months.
- State coordinators, thank all local gathering hosts in your state. The National Office will send you a list of the gathering hosts in your state.
- Debrief with your core volunteer team. Review praises and places for improvement.
- Confirm space or permit for next year's gathering venue.
- Join the June Pray For America call for the 'Praise and Thank You' theme.
- Visit with pastors and past supports to share reports on this year's National Day of Prayer and ask to be included in their next year's budgeting. NDP activities can be 'home/local missions' in church budgets.
- Pray for young people: prom, graduations, summer ministries to kids, children who go hungry without school meals, children who have household changes in the summer, etc.

JULY

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Government. We pray for all people serving at all levels, asking for God to bless each of them.
- Enjoy July 4th with family and friends.
- Pray and register for the September NDP Task Force Summit. Invitations will arrive to you via email.
- Join prayer conference calls (available every morning and evening)
- Utilize Children In Prayer For America prayer resources to pray with children in your family or church.
- As we pray for Government, please stay in touch with local influencers in the area of Government. Consider writing a card to your mayor, city council leaders, county commissioners, or other leaders using the sample below.

Greetings (name),

As a member of our local National Day of Prayer Task Force team, this month I am focused on praying for those who serve government. I want to extend deep gratitude to you for all that you do to serve our beloved (CITY NAME), and I want you to know that I am praying for you by name throughout the month.

I know there are many things resting on your shoulders as our (THEIR POSITION).

You sacrifice time away from your family to attend evening and weekend meetings, address emergencies, and you daily have people asking you for all kinds of conflicting favors and rulings.

(If they signed a proclamation or attended your NDP gathering, thank them for their attendance and

JULY CONTINUED

share how it blessed you/the community.)

I am praying for God to give you wisdom as you make many important decisions for the people of our (city/town/community) and to protect your family and loved ones as you spend significant time away from them.

Please know that you remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

AUGUST

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Education. We pray for all people serving and learning in Education.

Build relationships, continue networking for prayer and in prayer

- Join [NDP Task Force prayer calls](#).
- Begin thinking and set a date for Area and State meetings in October – March
- Education is the prayer focus for the month of August. Consider writing a card to an educator that participated in your NDP gathering, a member of the local school board, the district superintendent, or other education leader, using the sample below and personalizing it.

Greetings (NAME),

As a member of our local National Day of Prayer Task Force team, I am dedicating time in prayer this month for those who are impacting young people in (CITY NAME/SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT through education.

I am grateful for your dedication to serving and leading in education. The impact you have today will be felt far into the future as these young students grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

I am praying for as you lead your (staff/team/district) through the many challenges that you face, from students who come to school hungry, leveraging technology, and supporting students with many mental and emotional health needs.

Please know that you remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

SEPTEMBER

- Attend the NDPTF Coordinator's Summit
- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Business and Workplace.
- Seek the Lord for your prayer life and impact to world around you.
- Check the NDP Task Force website and your email for the new theme, art, and verse.
- Promote next year's theme, after it is revealed at the Summit.
- State Coordinators, check with county and community coordinators to ensure all their gathering venues have been confirmed for their May gatherings.
- Pray for the NDP Task Force Fall Appeal letter that gathers support from our partners.
- Research and reach out to business leaders in the community, praying for them by name, especially Christian businesses.
- Business/workplace is the prayer focus for the month of September. Consider writing a card to a business leader to stay in touch, using the following sample:

Greetings ____,

As a member of our local National Day of Prayer Task Force team, I am focusing many prayers for those make a difference in our beloved (CITY NAME) through business.

You put in many long hours for the betterment of your customers and employees, and the jobs you create in our community have an impact beyond what anyone can fully know. Thank you for your diligence and dedication as you conduct your business in our community.

(If this business owner sponsored or attended your NDP gathering, thank them and share how their participation was impactful.)

I am praying for you and your family, and I am asking God to bless you with a great team in your place of business and wisdom for the decisions you must make each day.

Please know that you remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

OCTOBER

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Church, noting Pastor Appreciation Sunday.
- Seek the Lord for your prayer life and impact to world around you.
- Plan for raising funds for prayer mobilization: mission field.
- Follow through on goals set at the Summit.
- Reach out to National Area Leader and State Coordinator for Nightwatch prayer schedule for January.
- Churches and pastors are the prayer focus for the month of October. Consider writing a prayer card to the pastor(s) who participated in your NDP gathering, or who are in your vicinity, using and personalizing the sample below:

Greetings pastor (NAME),

During this month of pastors' appreciation, we appreciate you as you are serving the Lord, preaching His word and every single day and making an eternal Kingdom impact in our beloved community.

(If this pastor has participated in NDP, or you've attended a service at their church) Thank you for your impact and addition to our gathering.

We want you to know that we are praying for your family and those who are near and dear in your life who serve and sacrifice alongside you. We are praying for them as they pray for you.

So grateful to have you in our community. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you, or a specific request that I can take before the Lord in prayer.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

NOVEMBER

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Military, noting Veteran's Day.
- Thanksgiving with family/ministry.
- Schedule your January team meeting.
- Consider sending a Thanksgiving card, or holiday themed card or small gift for past gathering participants and local government leaders.
- Consider taking a small gift to the manager or point of contact for your upcoming May gathering venue to say 'thank you' for their friendship and all they are doing in the busy holiday season.
- State Coordinators, make sure President Kathy Branzell has your state verse for the January Pray For America call.

NOVEMBER CONTINUED

- Utilize Giving Tuesday and End of Year Giving to NDP Task Force.
- Military is the monthly prayer focus for November. Consider writing a prayer card to a military base near you, to a community liaison officer, or other leadership, using the sample below:

Greetings (RANK) (LAST NAME),

In this season of Thankfulness, I am thanking God for you and I pray this holiday season is a blessing to you and your loved ones. Thank you for your service here in our community, and as you defend freedom around the world and support the mission.

As I pray for you, I am also praying for all military members and their families as you all serve and sacrifice together.

Please know that you remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

DECEMBER

- Pray in agreement with the Task Force monthly theme of Arts, Entertainment, and Media.
- This is an excellent time to reconnect with local leaders or other community partners by sending them a Christmas card.
- Arts, Entertainment, and Media is the prayer focus the month of December. Consider writing a prayer card to staff members at your local newspaper, radio stations, or television stations, using the sample below:

Greetings (NAME)

As a member of our local National Day of Prayer Task Force team, I am dedicating time in prayer this month for those who benefit our city in the area Arts, Media and Entertainment. Thank you for how keep our community informed of what is going on in (LOCAL AREA/REGION). Through your informative converge, I am able to keep up and know how I can be in prayer for this community.

In this busy holiday season, I am praying for you, your staff, and your loved ones, as you put in countless hours and work with great diligence. I pray that you have peace in the time you spend working and away from home, and that you have abundant joy in your down time spent with loved ones.

Please know that you remain in my prayers through and beyond this holiday season.

Sincerely,

(name)

(position)

NDP Task Force

HOW TO OBTAIN AN NDP PROCLAMATION

1 - WHAT TYPE OF PROCLAMATION OR RESOLUTION IS APPROPRIATE?

- Governor Proclamation
- State Senate Resolution
- State House of Representative Resolution
- Mayoral Proclamation
- County Commission/Council Proclamation
- School Board Proclamation

2 - WHO IS THE PROPER PERSON TO APPROACH?

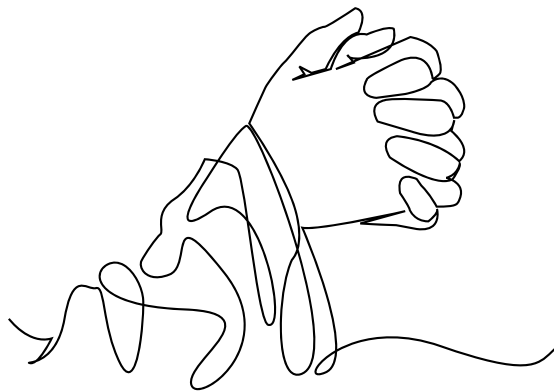
- Look on the State/City website for the proclamation request process and form. It is recommended to start **at least 90 days before the annual National Day of Prayer** (First Thursday of May).
- Make the proper calls to person in charge of writing the proclamation, presenting your purpose with National Day of Prayer to obtain this official document.
- **Supply a sample of the proclamation**, which is found on the [Promotional Tools](#) webpage each spring.
- Give that person a date that you need the proclamation by, or preferably, ask for a public presentation of the proclamation. **You can ask for a copy early** to distribute to coordinators / churches / network and still receive the official proclamation during a public signing ceremony. This ceremony, prior to NDP, is a great public relations promotional tool. If you are unable to receive it publicly prior to NDP, try to make it a part of your NDP prayer gathering. (Example: Ask the Mayor to represent the proclamation during the NDP prayer gathering.)
- Please note that State Coordinator is responsible for procuring the **State Governor proclamations, and should be received by April 15th** annually, preferably electronically to gwen.bradley@nationaldayofprayer.org, Or mail to National Day of Prayer Task Force, 3710 Sinton Rd., Suite 220, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
- State coordinators: If receiving paper documents, ask for two copies of the Governor Proclamation. Keep one for your state use and mail the other to the National Day of Prayer headquarters (see above address). A book of State Proclamations is made to present to the President each year on the National Day of Prayer and they are archived year to year for historical purposes.
- **Be polite, but persistent.** If they do not want to issue a proclamation, explain to them that the President, all the governors, and many mayors throughout the United States have issued NDP proclamations, and that it is legal for them to issue one. If state coordinator has concerns on securing the governor proclamation, please contact your National Area Leader by March 15th annually.

3 - FOLLOW UP

After you have obtained the proclamation you were seeking:

- Email it to coordinators and other leaders in your area to use at NDP gatherings.
- Send a copy to the media with a press release about the prayer gatherings in your community/state.
- Send a thank you note to the person who obtained the proclamation and the leader who signed it (governor, mayor, etc.)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION



NDP TASK FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



KATHY BRANZELL

President



DION ELMORE

Vice President



GWEN BRADLEY

**National Liaison for Prayer
Mobilization and Partnerships**



SHEILA KIMBALL

**Partner Engagement
Specialist**



AMY PARKS

**Communications
Director**

The president of the National Day of Prayer is the chief spokesperson, strategist, ambassador and spiritual leader responsible for mobilizing unified, public prayer for America within the Judeo-Christian tradition. Furthermore, he/she is responsible for building a staff team that will assist in fulfilling the vision of the NDPTF and seeing it funded fully. The National Day of Prayer staff reports to the president directly.



GEOFF ECKART

**Chairman, NDP Board
of Directors
Chairman, National
Prayer Committee**



DICK EASTMAN

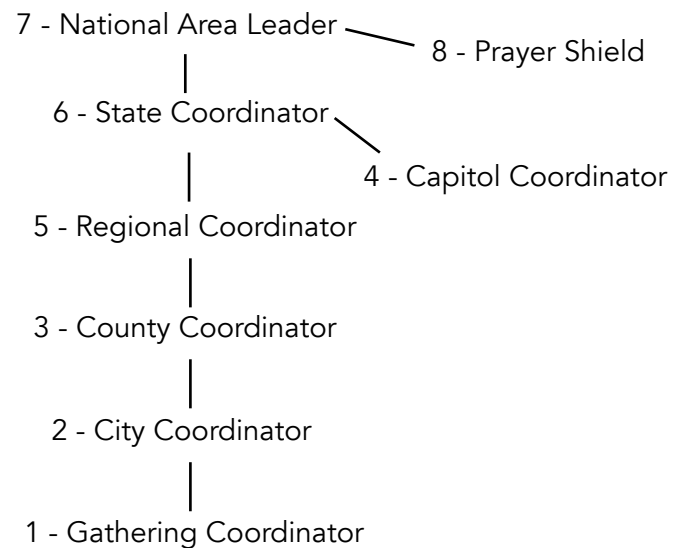
**President, NDP Board
of Directors
President, National
Prayer Committee**

COORDINATOR NETWORK JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The purpose of the Coordinator Network outlined below exists to divide the work and provide frontline support in our mission to cover every community and county in our nation with prayer on the First Thursday of May (NDP) and throughout the year. The State Coordinator will be the point of contact for all coordinators in their state, unless otherwise noted.

COORDINATOR NETWORK STRUCTURE

1. Gathering Coordinator
2. City Coordinator
3. County Coordinator
4. Capitol Coordinator
5. Regional Coordinator
6. State Coordinator/Co-State Coordinator
7. National Area Leader (NAL)
8. Prayer Shield



1 - GATHERING COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to coordinate and support a singularly focused prayer observance on the First Thursday of May (NDP) at a church, business, school, public location, home or other appropriate location for prayer. Gathering coordinators are expected to be in contact with local NDP community/city coordinators who provide direct oversight, guidance, encouragement and prayer covering while serving as the first line of support for this position.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Visit website for on-going information, prayer alerts, coordinator updates, training tools
- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Gathering Posting: Post on the national website gathering listing as early as possible all prayer gatherings helping to coordinate for the First
- Thursday of May to enable those seeking gatherings in your area to plan to participate and get information as needed. Post prayer efforts in your area that are offered throughout the year to encourage more local prayer mobilization. If there is a local NDP site, link to the national site for continuity of national media campaign and national gathering listing.
- Gathering Reporting: Fill out the on-line brief report after NDP every year in May. Gathering report data supports the network at large, efforts of the NDP President and media to praise, track, and share the power and results that come forth from fervent prayer.
- On-going, local prayer mobilization support is highly encouraged.

1 - GATHERING COORDINATOR POSITION *continued*

REPORTING

This position reports to and is directly accountable to the Community/City Coordinator, County Coordinator, Regional Coordinator, or State Coordinator.

Gathering Coordinator positions are recruited and filled by the Community/City Coordinator.

2 - COMMUNITY/CITY COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to pray for, coordinate with and support the local prayer efforts of gathering coordinators, build relationships with churches, pastor networks and prayer ministries on the First Thursday of May and throughout the year within a given community. This position is responsible for facilitating a citywide strategy for prayer gatherings and ongoing mobilization by establishing working relationships with fellow Christians, pastors, prayer leaders, houses of prayer and civic leaders within their community. They promote the NDP gatherings, recruit and develop gathering coordinators, and work with area churches, prayer groups and networks. They may also be called on to lead their city in prayer when there are local or national calls to fast and pray and in times of local celebrations or tragedies.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support and coordinate with the existing local NDP prayer efforts.
- Facilitate a citywide gathering or strategy: work with local leaders to develop a program, budget and operational plan to unite the city in prayer on NDP with one or several local gatherings.
- Develop a citywide promotional campaign with church, business, and media channels.
- Promote NDP gatherings; develop coordinators with area churches. Contact the city churches to identify prayer coordinators. Encourage them to be a part of the NDP volunteer team promoting the message to their church or even becoming a member of the citywide team or committee.
- Visit the [national website](#) for ongoing information, coordinator updates, and training tools.
- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Gathering Posting: Post all your upcoming prayer gatherings on the national website with local contact information. A thorough gatherings search assists with National office updates, media searches and participants seeking an gathering to attend.
- Gathering Reporting: Fill out on-line brief report after NDP every year during May. Gathering report data supports coordinator network, Chairman and media efforts to praise, track, and share the power and results of prayer.

REPORTING

This position reports to and is directly accountable to the County or Regional Coordinator.

Community/City Coordinator positions are recruited for and filled by the County or Regional Coordinator.

3 - COUNTY COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position is responsible for recruiting and supporting city coordinators in their county and communicating with the regional coordinator concerning their area. This coordinator may also support local prayer efforts and grow relationships throughout the year. They promote NDP gatherings and develop city coordinators in their county. They may lead more than one county in their state as assigned by the state coordinator until a coordinator is recruited for the vacant position in the county they are covering but do not reside in.

3 - COUNTY COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY *continued*

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee and support county coordinator network.
- Recruit and develop community/city coordinators, ongoing training support.
- Build relationships with leaders in the seven centers of influence and ministries in the county.
- Promotion of prayer mobilization through NDP Task Force
- Build relationship with existing local prayer initiatives.
- Pray for your county, communities/cities, and your coordinators.

NATIONAL WEBSITE (nationaldayofprayer.org):

- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Visit site for on-going information, coordinator updates, and training tools.
- Gathering Posting: Oversee and post all your upcoming prayer gatherings on the national website, gatherings listing with contact information. A thorough gatherings search assists with National office campaign, updates, media searches and participants seeking an gathering to attend.
- Gathering Reporting: Oversee and fill out on-line brief report after NDP every year during May. Gathering report data supports coordinator network, President and media efforts to praise, track, and share the power and results of prayer.

REPORTING

This position reports to and is directly accountable to the Regional Coordinator or State Coordinator, if there is no Regional Coordinator in place.

County Coordinator positions are recruited and filled by the Regional or State Coordinator.

4 - CAPITOL COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to support the state coordinator and lead a committee as needed in helping to plan and carry out all details for the state capitol gathering on the First Thursday of May. They must keep the state coordinator informed and involved in all decisions and aspects of gathering planning. If the State Coordinator is able, the State Coordinator is to participate in the capitol gathering as the leader of the statewide NDP efforts, thus linking the state with the national office. Should the National Area Leader be in attendance for state observance, they too would be included in the gathering as appropriate.

All speakers and pray-ers asked to participate will sign the Speaker Commitment Form. The English language should be used; with translators as needed for participants or special program portions. Extend an invitation to the governor or other elected state level officials to give a greeting to attendees, read to state proclamation for NDP, lead the Pledge of Allegiance or attend to be prayed for during the observance as we obey the command of 1 Timothy 2 to pray for our leaders and all those in authority.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Gathering assistance; phone calls, emails, ongoing communications, program assistance, invitations, tracking progress of this high-profile state capitol gathering.
- Document through pictures, assists with thank you process, data management and other duties as assigned.

4 - CAPITOL COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY CONTINUED

NATIONAL WEBSITE (nationaldayofprayer.org):

- Visit site for on-going information, coordinator updates, and training tools.
- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Gathering Posting: Post the upcoming capitol prayer gathering on the national website, gathering listing with contact information. A thorough gatherings search assists with National office updates, media searches and participants seeking an gathering to attend.
- Gathering Reporting: Fill out online brief report after NDP every year during May. Gathering report data supports coordinator network, President, and media efforts to praise, track, and share the power and results of prayer.

REPORTING

- This position reports to and is directly accountable to the State Coordinator.
- Capitol Coordinator positions are recruited and filled by the State Coordinator.

5 - REGIONAL COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to work with the coordinators in the region to facilitate efforts, promotion and training associated with the NDP and give further support to very large or population challenges within certain states. The position helps the State Coordinator recruit coordinators in the region and maintains relations with the coordinators in the region. The key to success will be to develop personal relationships with coordinators in the region and with the State Coordinator. Assist State Coordinator as needed and assigned to call the region assigned to prayer.

****This position is filled when deemed necessary by the State Coordinator, NAL and the National Task Force Office.**

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinate and communicate regional efforts, promotions, and training.
- Identify and address the training requirements of coordinators.
- Help host regional and/or state prayer and training gatherings.
- Understand the promotional strategies at the local level and coordinate efforts for maximum exposure.
- Recruit and equip coordinators for the region.
- Provide the first line of support for planning and logistical issues
- Ensure coordinators apply online; maintain current database for region.
- Give guidance or help host local observances in the region regarding programming and logistical requirements.
- Help local or county coordinators solve problems and seek the advice of the State Coordinator as necessary.
- Communicate to the State Coordinator on successes and challenges.
- Develop personal relationships through prayer, encouragement and communication with coordinators in the region and with State Coordinator.
- Participate in the January Nightwatch prayer assignment and recruit NDP teams to join.

5 - REGIONAL COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY *continued*

NATIONAL WEBSITE (nationaldayofprayer.org):

- Visit site for on-going information, coordinator updates, and training tools.
- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Gathering Posting: Oversee and/or post all your upcoming prayer gatherings on the national website, gatherings maps with contact information. A thorough gatherings search assists with National office updates, media searches and participants seeking an gathering to attend.
- Gathering Reporting: Oversee and/or fill out on-line brief report after NDP every year during May. Gathering report data supports coordinator network, President and media efforts to praise, track, and share the power and results of prayer.

REPORTING

- This position reports to and is directly accountable to the State Coordinator.
- Regional Coordinator positions are recruited for and filled by the State Coordinator.

6 - STATE COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to work with the coordinators across their state to facilitate efforts, promotion and training associated with the NDP. Develop a statewide prayer strategy. State Coordinators are responsible to host an observance at the State Capitol and secure the proclamation from the Governor. Provide ongoing frontline coordinator support. Develop personal relationships with their coordinator network and their National Area Leader. To effectively lead the NDP state efforts and represent the Task Force perspective within their respective states.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinate and oversee all state efforts: coordinator recruitment, communications, promotions, training, and prayer mobilization.
- Identify the training needs of coordinators; travel and/or send resources in order to address needs; provide state/regional training annually.
- Recruit and train a team to support and share the responsibilities such as technology, gathering planning, training, etc.
- Ensure new coordinators apply online, welcome and integrate them into ongoing state communications, maintain current database for the state NDPTF.
- Identify creative, new, unique gatherings and share scope and ideas with NAL; ensure national gathering posting and reporting online.
- Responsible for ongoing communications with current coordinators.
- Recruit and equip coordinators for the state, building relationships with churches, prayer networks, houses of prayer, etc.
- Equip County, City, and Gathering Coordinators to build relationships with leaders in the seven centers of influence, and fellow prayer networks.
- Attend the annual NDP Leadership Summit hosted each fall.
- Host/oversee annual State Capitol prayer gathering. Invite state government officials to attend for prayer support, greeting audience; secure signed speaker agreement guidelines
- Host/oversee the Capitol Coordinator

6 - STATE COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY *continued*

- Annually secure the Governor's signature on the state proclamation sent to each State Coordinator from the national office. When received, forward to the national office.
- Responsible for reading weekly Thursday inspiration e-newsletter for prayer updates and opportunities.
- Participate in the NDPTF Pray for America calls on the first Thursday of every month.
- Participate in the January Nightwatch prayer assignment and recruit NDP teams to join.

STATEWIDE STRATEGIES

- Build towards prayer mobilization and gatherings in every community and county. Recruit through personal relationships and recommendations from family, friends, and other prayer networks, not recruiting people away from other networks and ministries.
- Develop promotional strategies and efforts for maximum NDP impact.
- Provide the first line of support for planning and logistical issues.
- Build state database for communications; ensure applications are received by the national office. Complete the review process, including contacting reference and providing notes from these conversations to the national office upon giving approval or declining and application.
- Give guidance to observance programming and logistical requirements.
- Problem solve with coordinator network.
- Communicate with NAL on victories and current challenges.

Develop personal relationships with their coordinators and National Area Leader through phone, email, virtual and in-person meetings, etc.

NATIONAL WEBSITE (nationaldayofprayer.org):

- Visit site for on-going information, coordinator page updates, and training tools.
- Gathering Posting: Oversee and/or post all your upcoming prayer gatherings on the national website, gatherings maps with contact information. A thorough gatherings search assists with National office updates, media searches and participants seeking an gathering to attend.
- Gathering Reporting: Oversee and/or fill out online brief report after NDP every year during May. Gathering report data supports coordinator network, President and media efforts to praise, track, and share the power and results of prayer.

REPORTING

- This position reports to and is directly accountable to the National Area Leader (NAL).
- State Coordinator positions are recruited, interviewed, and appointed by the National Area Leader with final approval by the National Office.

7 - NATIONAL AREA LEADER (NAL) POSITION SUMMARY

This position exists to oversee and support the State Coordinators with their area of responsibility and be a liaison to the National Task Force Office. NALs oversee a cluster of states within the nation. The position involves the development of personal relationships with each of the area's State Coordinators, the design of statewide strategies to implement observances and mobilize ongoing prayer, training plans to equip the State Coordinators and their network with oversight support to assist the entire national area.

7 - NATIONAL AREA LEADER (NAL) POSITION SUMMARY *continued*

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Liaison and extension of the National Office and mission.
- Work in conjunction with National Prayer Mobilization Liaison and other NDPTF staff.
- Participate in conference calls with national office on second and forth Friday's on each month.
- Annual strategy/retreat meeting with National Office.
- Grassroots movement: Share victories, identify concerns, needs and opportunities, prayer alerts, messages, remain prepared as spokespersons from the respective national area.
- Keep abreast of the national and regional prayer movement.
- Tracks with key Christian leaders, potential coordinator leader recruits.
- Host the national Pray for America call with your state coordinators as assigned on the first Thursday of one month each year.
- Prepares messages for key training needs, prepared as national speakers/prayer leaders.
- Coordinator Data: oversee new coordinators apply online; ensure current state databases.
- Oversee current data from state to national office; ensure state receives national data updates.
- Oversee training, equipping, recruitment, and reporting for national area.
- Organize and orchestrate the January Nightwatch.
- Attend and participate in annual NDP Leaders Summit, held in September.
- Develop training plans within states to increase effectiveness, support, and prayer ministry impact.
- Oversee flow of training resources to coordinators: web, state training days, national summit, phone, email support, social media presence.
- Ensure the vision, mission, consistent promotion, and presentation messages at observances through NDP website and resources.

DEVELOP A BUDGET

Establish a non-profit account through an existing non-profit local church or Christian ministry or establish their own non-profit status, 501(c) (3) to receive donations.

* Note that an NDP area 501(c) (3) must remain connected to the National Day of Prayer TF regardless of who originally initiates and obtains the status. The 501 (c) (3) will remain attached to the NDP area and will be connected to the current National Area Leader of that specific area. NAL will relinquish all responsibility and claim to the status upon resigning from their NAL position.

STATE COORDINATOR SUPPORT

- Develop a personal relationship with each of the State Coordinators: ongoing prayer support, guidance, ideas, communication, discipleship, mentoring, equipping, and problem solving (email, phone, virtual & in-person meetings).
- Ensure Biblical integrity in all state networks; keep Kingdom focus.
- Develop state strategies to implement prayer observances.
- Assist in developing plans for recruiting, budgeting, funding, obtaining proclamations, promoting gatherings and participating in prayer initiatives.

7 - NATIONAL AREA LEADER (NAL) POSITION SUMMARY continued

NATIONAL WEBSITE (nationaldayofprayer.org):

- Visit site for on-going information, coordinator updates, and training tools.
- Subscribe to the NDPTF weekly articles and information emails

REPORTING

This position reports to and is directly accountable to the National Prayer Mobilization Liaison, and the President of the NDPTF. National Area Leader positions are recruited and appointed by the President of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

8 - PRAYER SHIELD

The Prayer Shield exists to intercede for the coordinators operating in their assigned state or area.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate in all calls/communications among teams.
- Remain in steadfast prayer for team members.
- All prayer needs shared team members are confidential, unless permission is otherwise given.
- other responsibilities as assigned by SC or NAL, as agreed upon by other parties.

NDP365: ONGOING PRAYER MOBILIZATION



PATTERNS OF COMMUNITY PRAYER

So, what might it look like to host an organized prayer time with prayers of worship, confession, and intercession, outside of your National Day of Prayer gathering.

Suppose you were going to pray for an hour. You might start with a few minutes of instruction to the group to overview what will happen and highlight any other guidelines. (five minutes or less.) Then move to worship for maybe ten minutes. You could introduce the worship time by reading a passage of Scripture, perhaps a worship scene from Revelation or one of the Psalms. Then encourage the gathering to offer up sentence prayers (that is, prayers of one sentence) praising God for his attributes. You could close out this worship time by offering a prayer of your own or reading another passage of Scripture.

You could then introduce a brief time of confession by reading a prayer of confession from Scripture or maybe a passage about confession. Then encourage your participants to spend a few minutes (probably five at most) in silent confession, followed by confession for corporate sins.

After the intercession time is over, you might conclude with a doxology such as the one in Ephesians 3:20-21 or a scene from Revelation showing God's ultimate triumph.

That's just one simple example; it's not meant to be prescriptive but rather descriptive - you can use it or modify it how you see fit. There are a few structures that have been commonly used to guide prayer gatherings, and we'll touch on them next.

PRIORITIZE

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."

This is always a great way to start off your prayer time. It lifts God up in worship; sets Him on the throne of our hearts in awe, holiness, and reverent fear. This step keeps us from entering into His presence with complaining, judgement and grumbling and sets our eyes on Him to see our own sin and weakness for a time of confession and repentance. Remember, praise speaks of God's unchanging, unmatched, attributes, who He is. Thanksgiving gives an account and appreciation for what He does.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name!"

-Psalm 100:4

CONFESSION

Allow for a time of silent prayers of confession. This is not a time to bring the focus on ourselves and ask for personal counseling from the group. Personal confession is a daily, private practice. In corporate gathering we do not confess the sins of others, but like Daniel and Nehemiah in Scripture we use the word, "We." Our national sins are corporate sins that we take responsibility for as citizen. "We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Never use this time as an excuse to judge another person, name-call, curse, etc. **Pray for people not against them**, remembering that they may be held captive by the enemy, blinded, shackled by shame, need, oppression and more. We are "search and rescue" for the Kingdom of God not judge and punisher.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

-Romans 3:23

INTERCESSION

Intercession is a time of prayer for others. **If possible, make these prayers personal**, learn the names of the family and staff members of the government officials, leaders,

military members, etc. that you are praying for. In sweeping prayers for many people that you do not know pray for them as you would pray for yourself, asking God to bring blessings, purity, fruitfulness, provision, protection and especially salvation and a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.

ASK

We ask God for personal needs and concerns as well, but the corporate gatherings focused on prayer for our communities, states and nation is not the proper setting for these prayers. Seek a prayer partner or small group that is intended to intercede for and with one another in personal matters of prayer.

YIELD AND COMMIT

Take a moment or two to commit to obey God; submitting to the Holy Spirit to search and convict us of sin or areas we are holding back from Him. Then **pray in full submission, yielding to His work** in our lives as, *"it is to our Father's glory that we bear much fruit."* The result, the proof of a submitted life filled with the Spirit is a life filled and overflowing with, *"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

Commit to be a faithful laborer in the fields that are ripe for harvest. Commit to pray, love, and make disciples as Jesus modeled and mandated.

LISTEN

Silence is vital in prayer time; it quiets us to **listen for the promptings of God**. Prayer is a conversation. In personal prayer take longer periods of silence to listen. In corporate prayer take one minute or less to listen so that silence calms the heart and mind in a noisy world but can make people uncomfortable in a group if it goes on too long.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

Scripture offers Truth and is a lamp to our feet and light to our prayers as well as our path. Praying God's unchanging praise and promises is firm ground in corporate prayer to make sure pray-ers do not veer off into preferences and opinions. When in doubt, when you don't know what to say, always pray God's Word back to Him in confidence, conviction and compassion. His Word is our sword against the enemy, not to be used against one another. Be careful not to draw your "sword" in judgement; praying Biblically does not allow us to pray critically.

We can examine Jesus' model prayer for instruction in how to pray.

Matthew 6:9-13

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.'"

"Our Father" – puts us in a position of relationship first with the Father and secondly, corporately as He is ours and we are brothers and sisters in Christ. He is high and lifted up, in heaven yet with us, never leaving nor forsaking us. His thoughts and ways higher than ours, so we enter into the throne room of heaven to be led in His higher ways. We bless His holy Name, the Name above every other name.

We pray His Kingdom come and will be done just as it is in heaven. Above our preferences and desires we submit to His will knowing it is perfect and brings His glory and purpose. So, we pray as it is in heaven: perfectly, without question or hesitation. In full obedience His will is carried out in heaven and we pray that for our nation and across the earth. We seek first His Kingdom and righteousness, knowing all our needs, what we eat, wear, and His agenda for our day is from Him. We worship, not worry.

We are sinners in need of forgiveness, and His Word is clear, even expounded on at the end of this prayer that He forgives us as we forgive others.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE CONT'D

We pray He guards and guides us away from temptation and the evil one who seeks to kill, steal and destroy our purpose and destiny; knowing he cannot take our soul.

There are many great books and sermons that go deeper into this prayer and others in Scripture. Remember that your NDP gathering is a time of prayer not preaching—even your prayer calls and virtual gatherings need to keep the focus on prayer. Be careful and watchful that they do not turn into times of speeches or preaching.

Always keep the focus on God and what you are asking Him to do in His power and purpose. E.M. Bounds said, “Our prayers move the hands that move the universe.” Allow God to move the hearts and hands of those who have gathered, and do not pray prayers that seek to get people on board with a specific position or project in your public gatherings.

HERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES TO PRAY:

Matthew 5:2-12 The Beatitudes

“And He began to teach them. He said: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Galatians 5: 22-25 The Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Ephesians 6: 10-18 The Armor of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

AWAKENING AND ADVANCEMENT

In this pattern of prayer, prayer is broken into two topical areas. The first area is prayer for awakening (or revival) in the church. Prayers of worship and confession would be appropriate here, as well as prayers for God's growth of His people. In order to provide some guidance praying this way, I recommend referring to several passages of scripture and using those as guides.

The prayers of Paul for the churches are primarily prayers for awakening (see, for example, Ephesians 1:15-19, 3:16-21; Colossians 1:9-14; Philippians 1:9-11.) Other passages that can be used to pray for awakening include the vine and the branches (John 15), the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:13-26), the love chapter (1 Corinthians 13), Paul's exhortation to humility in Philippians 2, and "transformation" passages such as the Colossians and Ephesians chapters mentioned above.

Prayer for advancement means **seeking God for the advancement of His kingdom**. A great passage to use for introducing this segment is Luke 4:18-19 (Jesus' proclamation of His mission.) Advancement is often thought of in two areas of emphasis: proclamation of the Gospel, and promotion of Biblical justice. Prayer in this area would focus on asking God to open doors for the spread of the Gospel to seekers in the community (and in our nation) and for Him to provide for the poor.

Praying for social instead of Biblical justice carries the same risk of becoming political and reflecting personal agendas rather than seeking God's will. A few well-placed instructions here can help keep prayer on track, promoting unity and agreement as people focus on God's will found in Scripture rather than their own preferences.

CONCERT OF PRAYER

Concert of prayer has come to mean a couple of different things. As we use the term here, it refers to the interspersing of worship (especially singing, hence the "concert") with prayer times. There are several advantages to incorporating worship throughout the prayer time:

It repeatedly brings the focus back to God, whereas grouping all of the worship at the beginning can make worship seem more like an "introduction" to the "real prayer." The intercession can tend to get a bit more off-track when all the worship is done at the beginning. It creates additional variety in the prayer time, breaking up the prayer and keeping people's attention focused. Even seasoned pray-ers have limits to their attention spans.

Interspersing worship keeps attention and engagement levels high. Worship, especially musical worship, invokes the heart. Worship happens as intercession connects information and inspiration, the mind and the heart.

Of course, if you're going to incorporate musical worship, you'll need a musician who can act as your worship leader and possibly a worship team, depending on your venue and budget. This will require additional coordination, which may make it difficult in some circumstances. You need to understand what resources, as well as venue restrictions and limitations when making decisions like this.

The Concert of Prayer pattern can actually be worked in with any of the above formats; you simply insert the music at a few break points.

For more information and ideas, contact your State Coordinator, and attend your area and state meetings as well as our national coordinator's Summit each fall.

PROTOCOLS FOR THE NDP PRAYER LINE

The NDP Task Force mobilizes ongoing prayer throughout the year through coordinator-led prayer calls on a conference call line. Sarah Lowe, South Central National Area Leader and Prayer Call Ambassador, serves as administrator of the prayer line. Each call has a commissioned leader appointed to guide the prayer time.

National Prayer Room #: (667) 770-1523
Entry code: 4961322#

View the up to date prayer call schedule on the [Prayer Calls Webpage](#).

There are some practical helps that facilitate effective, corporate prayer, especially when using telephones. These instructions are not intended to “control” the Holy Spirit, or to be a legalistic straight jacket but when they are followed, they actually enable a greater flow of the Spirit and unity on a prayer call.

PROTOCOLS

1. Generally, the call leader will welcome callers and bring an introductory exhortation and/or scripture to set the framework for the call. It is good to then start out the first few minutes of the conference prayer call with thanksgiving and worship, building faith and exalting God.
2. Everyone should take part, as the Holy Spirit leads and identify themselves and their State including any leadership position they hold (Region, State, County, City, Gathering). This is “corporate” prayer. The more who participate in praying, the easier it will be to sustain a spirit of prayer and expectancy. Be mindful that on prayer calls, there are often those who have more to contribute than others. However, those individuals should allow others to pray their hearts and not pray multiple times without giving others the opportunity to contribute what God is giving to them. In honor, preferring one another.
3. **Keep prayers short.** Long prayers make it difficult for those listening to stay in agreement. Being in spiritual agreement is key to the power of “corporate” prayer. Refrain from long sermons or stories.
4. Pray with a warmth of spirit in keeping with the urgency of our need for God to act and the reality that God has invited redeemed humanity into prayer in order to enforce His plans and purposes for humanity. “On earth as it is in Heaven.”
5. It is a spiritual discipline to **listen to the heart and focus of the person who prayed ahead of you** and then start your prayer off with something in their prayer that stirred your spirit. Thus prayer builds among those on the call as they affirm, encourage and exhort one another with prayers of agreement and confirmation.
6. **Stay on target with the theme** or prayer point expressed by the call leader. This means to pray about one subject at a time, so that others can stay in agreement under that prayer burden. Avoid pin-ball praying, where multiple points are addressed by the one praying. This makes it harder for others to stay in spiritual agreement, especially on prayer calls. The other points that one wants to pray about should be held until the moment when the opportunity opens for that prayer topic.
7. Similarly, **do not radically change the direction of prayer** when it is your turn to pray, unless the leader opens the call for additional prayer points. This can throw everyone off as they have to adjust the focus of their prayer burden to accommodate a 180-degree shift in focus. Changes in direction should generally be guided by leadership.

8. Unless authorized by the call leader, do not use your time of prayer for a long testimony, story, song, exhortation, or extended Scripture passage. Those all have their place when requested by the call leader, but they may also distract from the spirit of prayer at that moment, since they can introduce a different stream of thought and processing when done at an inappropriate time in the flow of the call.

9. Our Task Force is comprised of various denominational backgrounds, and our mission is to mobilize unified, public prayer for America. Tongues is a personal prayer language, therefore **refrain entirely from speaking in tongues**, or place yourself on mute so **unity and agreement can be maintained**. (1 Corinthians 14:1-40)

10. **Pray at a volume everyone present can easily hear** so they can be in spiritual agreement with you. If those on the line cannot hear a prayer offered, they cannot be blessed by the prayer or come into agreement with you. Make sure you are taking the call from a quiet location with good signal. Using land lines whenever possible helps avoid signal issues prgatheringing those on the line to not hear a prayer offered.

11. **Mute your phone when not praying** on a prayer call, then unmute when you want to pray. If the call leader invites all to pray together on a call, then all unmute. Some phones have mute buttons; otherwise enter *6 to mute and *6 to unmute. This is very important as background noise can prevent others on the line from hearing the prayers. It is rude to stay unmuted when the leader calls for participants to mute their phones. It hardly seems necessary to include this, but on many prayer calls this is an issue and callers have to be repeatedly reminded by the leader to mute their phones.

THE NIGHTWATCH: COMMANDING THE NIGHT

Excerpts from a teaching by Gwen Bradley, National Liaison for Prayer Mobilization and Partnerships and Southeast National Area Leader.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:35-37

Command – To order with authority; to take charge of; to exercise direct authority over; to lead; to dominate by position; to guard, to overlook

WHAT IS THE NIGHTWATCH?

"Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street." Lamentations 2:19 NIV

The Nightwatch was established by National Day of Prayer Task Force and for many years it was conducted in partnership with Capital Hill Prayer Partners. The prayer watch is facilitated in the month of January and covers the hours from midnight to 6:00 AM. The value of this corporate intercession in the nightwatch is that God is able to use various gifts in the Body of Christ and heart cries to express the needs of His heart for the Nation. Prayer for America and its leadership in the seven centers of influence: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family is emphasized as well as the National Day of Prayer Theme for the year.

BIBLICAL MANDATES AND EXAMPLES OF PRAYER WATCHES

The following list sketches a few examples of night and day prayers in the history of the church:

1. Old Testament

"The lampstand will stand in the Tabernacle, in front of the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant. Aaron and his sons must keep the lamps burning in the LORD's presence all night. This is a permanent law for the people of Israel, and it must be observed from generation to generation." Exodus 27:21 NLT

"Give Aaron and his sons the following instructions regarding the burnt offering. The burnt offering must be left on top of the altar until the next morning, and the fire on the altar must be kept burning all night." Leviticus 6:9 NLT

In Exodus and Leviticus we read that the priests had to keep the lamps in the temple burning. The Lord highly stressed and commanded that the fire on the altar was never to be allowed to go out. The priests were assigned a shift of 24 hours to pray and worship in the temple.

2. New Testament

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:8 NIV

The early church was born out of continuous, 24-7 prayer. According to most scholars, the disciples prayed in unison for ten days before the Holy Spirit descended on them at the Pentecost.

3. A Move of God in Herrnhut, Germany (1727) - In 1727, the tiny village of Herrnhut, Germany was established. The village of Herrnhut became a segregated war based of denominations which precluded community unity. A divinely lead group of Men and Women heard the call of God to begin praying in unison for one hour each day. God began to grace the Prayer movement and additional believers including children, acknowledged the call to Join the Prayer Hour. The strife and division within the village stopped in the spring of 1727. The spirit lead movement motivated Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf to encouraged the township to congregate for prayer and worship. The prayer watch was maintained for 125 years, serving as a base for future prayer movements such as; the revival in the early 18th century, the planting of Moravian churches in many nations and the birth of the Methodist Church can be traced to this prayer movement. The prayer movement in this tiny village literally changed the course of Christian history.

4. Prayer Mountains - The Nation of South Korea is well known for it's Prayer Mountain. Prayer Warriors and Intercessors frequently journey to the Mountain for Day and Night Prayer consecration. The Prayer Mountain venues provide adequate accommodations; chapel facilities, lecture halls, prayer stations and prayer cubicles where individuals can pray privately. Believers come from all over the world to pray regarding personal matters, world matters and engage in forty Day praying and fasting interludes.

THE CALL TO AWAKEN

"I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.

Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your laws.

Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your law. Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever."

Psalm 119:147-152 NIV

"But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

Matthew 13:25 KJV

THE CALL TO AWAKEN *continued*

In the book of Matthew 13:25, the Bible says, *"...While men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way."* Many disastrous events in History occurred while men slept.

In 1776, the fire for American independence burned low. Several defeats were suffered in a row. But while men slept, General Washington led 2,500 men across the Delaware River at Trent, New Jersey, and swept a victory for American independence. While men slept, the Meades and Persians entered and conquered Babylion and Belshazzar the king was slain. While men have slept, many tragedies have occurred. Fires, tornadoes, and flash floods have swept homes, and even cities, away while men slept. The only thing more frightening than the sight and sound of a tornado approaching is one that strikes while you're asleep. It comes in the middle of the night, enveloping your neighbor The only thing more frightening than the sight and sound of a tornado approaching is one that strikes while you're asleep. It comes in the middle of the night, enveloping your neighborhood with dangerous winds, swirling debris, and possibly deadly consequences.

We need to be aware of the dangers when we sleep spiritually. The devil understands quite well that the helplessness of man is revealed at the highest proportion while he is asleep.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE

As we face unprecedented challenges in America such as wars, rumors of wars, a sluggish economy, attacks upon our Christian heritage and religious freedoms, God is restoring the ministry of the "watchman" to the body of Christ. We must hear the call to spiritually defend and protect our Nation through fervent and consistent prayer.

What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:37 KJV

We are all called to be watchmen. God's original intent for man was to watch over what He had created, to tend and keep it (Genesis 2:15). The terms watch, watchman, watchmen, watching are mentioned 165 times in the Bible. America is a nation that was founded upon Godly Principles. It is time for the watchman in this nation to awaken and begin to cry out to God for mercy.

"You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you. I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." Leviticus 26:7-12

Prayer Power is greatly multiplied when it is linked with others. A prayer watch is coming into corporate agreement with God's will about an issue, a situation, a nation in a time ordained by God in fervent, consistent, believing prayer. Corporate prayer manifest the presence of God and brings transformation to our nation.

THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF BEING A WATCHMAN

1. You will gain intimacy with God

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 63:3-7

THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF BEING A WATCHMAN continued

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning." Psalm 130:5-6

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them." Luke 12:37

2. You will gain insight/strategy on How to Pray For America and the Seven Centers of Influence

"But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat." Nehemiah 4:7-9 NIV

"Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.' Ezekiel 33:1-6 NKJV

"Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street." Lamentations 2:19 NIV

"But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea." Matthew 14:24-25 KJV

3. Establish righteousness and governmental order

"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalm 127:1 NIV

"The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men." Daniel 4:17 NIV

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7

4. Pray Protection, Provisions and Blessings Forward

"Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." Habakkuk 1:5

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:32-37 NIV

NIGHTWATCH HOW-TOS: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL NIGHTWATCH STRATEGIES

A. Purpose of the Nightwatch

-Mobilize unified corporate prayer for America and its leadership in the seven centers of influence: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family aligned with the Word of God and in preparation for revival.

-Promote unity, agreement, encouragement and wisdom between NDP Coordinators through prayer and relationships.

-Engage and expand strategic level prayer initiatives for our neighbors and nation developed By NDP Leadership.

B. Proven planning and coordination Principles for a Fruitful Nightwatch Season

1. Each National Area should commit to praying one night each of the weeks for the Nightwatch season allotted by NDP Leadership/National Area Leader (12 Midnight – 6 a.m. EST).
2. NDP Nightwatch is usually broken into watches (shifts), of two hours each (12-2, 2-4, 4-6).
3. Please remember to synchronize the time of the watch (shift) according to your particular Time zone. Times will always be listed according to Eastern Standard Time. If you are Not sure of your allotted prayer time, please contact your National Area Leader.
4. NDP Coordinators are assigned and commit to lead prayer for each watch (shift). Most Coordinators commit to two hours of leading. If necessary, two coordinators can be assigned one hour each for a given shift. (Ex. 1st Watch, 12-1 & 1-2).
5. Once a Coordinator is assigned to lead a watch (shift), please pray for the grace and favor of God to recruit other intercessors to be a part of your team. Team Members can be other NDP coordinators in your state, city, church or region. If you pray about your recruitment process. God will send Help.
6. Coordinators/Prayer Watch Leaders should recruit early. The NDP Nightwatch is scheduled to occur in January of each year. The recruiting process will be more successful if you begin at or right after the Summit before the holiday season. Invite coordinators, pastors, prayer partners, family and friends to join the watch. Do NOT post on social media or provide a public, open invitation.
7. Once your team is recruited, send out resource materials that will be provided by NDP Leadership / National Area Leaders via email. Please do not use this time to promote other ministries, materials or books; lift up the Word and light up the world.
8. Schedule a telephone conference call for training purposes to release the strategy on how the shift should be run and what the focus should be.
9. It is very, very helpful to send out a text one day prior to the shift as a reminder of the night or hour of the shift. On the day of the shift, please be mindful of your commitment. Try not to overschedule your day to allow your body to be prepared to watch in the night.

EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME

-If we studied our materials prior to the watch, we can present ourselves to the Lord as a prepared vessel.

EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME continued

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

-If we chose not to be offended or give offense on the day of the watch, we can present ourselves to the Lord as a prepared vessel.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23-24

"Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:24

"But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:15

-If we are alert to spiritual warfare tactics by the enemy (sickness, oppression, despair) and armed ourselves for battle, we can present ourselves to the Lord as a prepared vessel.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:10-17 NIV

REMEMBER THAT THE NIGHT BELONGS TO THE LORD. HE WILL REWARD YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7 NIV

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6 NIV

EXPECT GOD TO MOVE!

CHILDREN IN PRAYER FOR AMERICA

By Gina Gibson, Ambassador for Children and Western NAL

It has always been the vision of the National Day of Prayer Task Force to engage all ages in unified public prayer for America. In Summer of 2019, that dream began to be birthed into reality with the beginning of our initiative that is now known as "Children in Prayer for America." Since December of 2019, we have invited families with **children to join our monthly Pray for America calls** (1st Thursday) allowing children as young as 4 years old to voice their prayers. Please contact me if you want to suggest a child, grandchild, family member, or friend to join the Pray For America call.

As an NDPTF coordinator, you can **help to engage children in prayer for our Nation**. Here are just a few ideas:

- Seek God for wisdom in engaging the children in your circles of influence in prayer. Remember the words of Jesus: "Let the children come!"
- Encourage Children's Ministers to help children write prayers and draw prayer pictures that can be sent to elected leaders.
- Help children write prayers that can be read at public prayer gatherings.
- Take children with you on prayer assignments so that they can learn Biblical prayer.
- Encourage families with children to join our monthly Pray for America call. We try to include a segment each month when children and youth can pray.
- **Ask more questions and make fewer statements** when teaching children. Here are a few suggested questions: What is God saying to you? Is there anything in your heart that you'd like to pray? Why do you think that prayer is important?
- Pray with children using the [Childrens Prayer Calendars](#) and resources.

I invite you to follow our new Facebook page: Children in Prayer for America. I'd love to connect with you in further networking to engage children in prayer for our Nation.

Gina Gibson | Ambassador for Children | gina.gibson@nationaldayofprayer.org | 307-761-0369

LOGO POLICY

All NDPTF gatherings should use the national logo and annual theme art as identification and support of our own gatherings.

NDPTF receives numerous requests to endorse other ministry efforts and to partner with gatherings and projects. If a local gathering request NDP endorsement with the use of our logo, first seek permission through your National Area Leader (NAL) who will discuss with the national office, who will determine if this is advisable.

Your considerations at local level before contacting your NAL:

- Have you attended this event in the past?
- Will you be speaking or praying as an NDPTF leader?
- Do you personally know the leader?
- Are they Biblical in all ministry aspects?

LOGO POLICY continued

- Do you know the other speakers?
- Is there a speakers' agreement to protect your reputation and that of the other speakers?

While we seek to foster unity and strength through serving the LORD together, we also safeguard the Biblical integrity and statement of faith of National Day of Prayer Task Force.

The **use of our logo for endorsement of another national or regional ministry effort requires permission** from the national office/president whether it is for display on their website, in promotional or support resources, or other materials that would be misconstrued for partnership.

The use of our logo is only for national or regional partnerships.

POLICY FOR GIVING A REFERENCE

On occasion you may be asked for a reference concerning someone you served with or know through your time as a coordinator with the National Day of Prayer Task Force. If for any reason you cannot give a reference because of something you know or encountered personally, all NDPTF coordinators are required to **simply say, "I can confirm they served as a volunteer from (date) - (date)."**

This should be the end of the conversation. If the person checking the reference asks for more information, details, or clarification the NDPTF coordinator should simply repeat your first statement saying, "I can confirm they served as a volunteer from (date) - (date)." There should not be any further conversation after that. If you have heard rumors or gossip and have not experienced or witnessed the problem, simply excuse yourself from giving a reference, by stating you do not have the knowledge and experience to say one way or the other at this time. (1Peter 4:8. Proverbs 17:9, John 8:7)

*"Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates
close friends."*

-Proverbs 17:9

While we seek to foster unity and strength through serving the LORD together, we also safeguard the Biblical integrity and statement of faith of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

DATA AND CONTACT INFORMATION POLICY

When someone shares their data/contact information (email, phone, address) with National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF), staff and coordinators agree to **protect that information to be used for ministry purposes only**. Contact information can come into our internal database through a coordinator application, newsletter signup, social media contact, gathering posting, resource purchase, feedback email, gathering attendance and more. It is our duty to protect their data and privacy, to not sell or share contact information unless we are given permission for a direct connection to another. Our assumption is a person does not engage with one ministry to have their contact information freely shared with others.

Thus, all data of National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF) will not be sold or shared without permission to any other entity. All lists of coordinators, emails, phone numbers, addresses and so forth are the confidential sole property of NDPTF.

An example is when a coordinator leader is given a data contact list, they are to use for NDP ministry operations solely. If another person or ministry wants to contact someone on our lists, we work to inform the

DATA POLICY continued

NDP contact of the request to connect. Thus NDP coordinators are able to pursue if they desire to do so on an individual basis. This applies to all contact aspects such fundraising, campaigning, sales, endorsements and partnering with other ministries.

Many requests come through the national office from another national or regional endeavor. The national office occasionally passes forward an opportunity to our coordinator contacts to determine on an individual basis whether to engage with a non-NDP effort.

While we work to foster growth of the prayer movement at large and networking, we respect the personal information and privacy of each ministry contact by sharing opportunities with our coordinators instead of their data.

COLLABORATION ACROSS STATE LINES

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is blessed with many talented servants who seek to serve God in fulfilling their commitments as Regional, State, and Capital coordinators as well as National Area Leaders. We encourage our coordinators to pray and serve with one another. On occasions when a coordinator or coordinators have the opportunity to serve together at a NDP assigned or sanctioned gathering the leaders will communicate and collaborate with the national NDP office and the Area and State coordinator in the location of the gathering.

A coordinator who has been granted an "Ambassador" assignment from the NDP national office may at times go minister in other states and areas. Out of loving respect, the National Area leaders of both areas must be contacted as well as the State Coordinator to pray and when possible, to participate together.

Coordinators who wish to serve together within their NDP job assignments but reside in different areas should communicate with each of their area coordinators so that they are aware and can pray, participate, and plan when necessary.

On the rare occasion when a NDP coordinator would like to explore the possibility of ministering in some way outside of their NDP assignment, the coordinator may not use their NDP email address, NDP email signature, business cards, or NDP credentials to engage or plan any project not assigned or sanctioned by the national NDP office.

In addition, in maintaining respect for each coordinator's assigned state, Capital or area assignment; coordinators should **contact the coordinator of the state or area that they desire to minister in** to communicate and possibly collaborate if they feel called to participate. No coordinator is obligated to promote, participate or help plan any gathering, project, meeting, etc. outside of their NDP assignment but may view each as an opportunity to pray and decide if and how they will collaborate personally. Neither coordinator may use their NDP email or credentials including business cards to plan gatherings that are not in alignment with their specific NDP job description and may not rename or add additional titles or locations to their assignment without the full approval and written agreement from the National Day of Prayer President and the National Liaison of Prayer Mobilization and Partnerships. All of these policies are to maintain clear and respectful boundaries as each coordinator develops relationships and is accountable for their assigned locations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

DONATIONS

The National Day of Prayer Task Force operates under **our own 501 (c) (3) non-profit status**. We cannot allow other groups and/or individuals which are not under our direct, day-to-day control to use that designation. When you accept donations for NDP related to expenses in your area you must make certain the donors are aware **the money is to be used locally and not for the NDP Task Force based in Colorado Springs, Colorado**. Therefore, they will not receive a tax-receipt from our office. Checks need to be made out accordingly, (e.g. Alabama NDP Task Force) not to the National Day of Prayer (NDP) Task Force.

1. Contact your State Coordinator to determine if there is a state or local committee that can accept donations for you.
2. **Ask your own church for permission to have donations given to them**, with specific instructions that the money would be used to promote the National Day of Prayer in your area. The organization would then write you a check for the designated amount and receipt the donor for you. Of course, the decision to do this is at their discretion.
3. An additional alternative would be to **apply for a 501 (c) (3) status for your organization**. You may wish to check with your local IRS office to learn of the steps required. Remember you would need your organization name to be something other than the National Day of Prayer or NDP Task Force to eliminate confusion for the donor.
4. **Many NDP coordinators have need of fundraising for their local gatherings** and expenses related to mobilizing prayer. Thus, appeals for funding through brochures, newsletters, emails, and social media are encouraged to sources that are independent of your fellow NDP coordinator contacts, who are also likely raising support. Appeals to fellow NDP coordinators through personal phone calls and texts are discouraged and inappropriate.
5. Consider connecting with local churches and requesting to be added to their annual missions budget under local missions, as your prayer mobilization has profound impact on your community!

Prayerfully consider the alternatives to handling money donated for your use in promoting the National Day of Prayer in your area of responsibility.

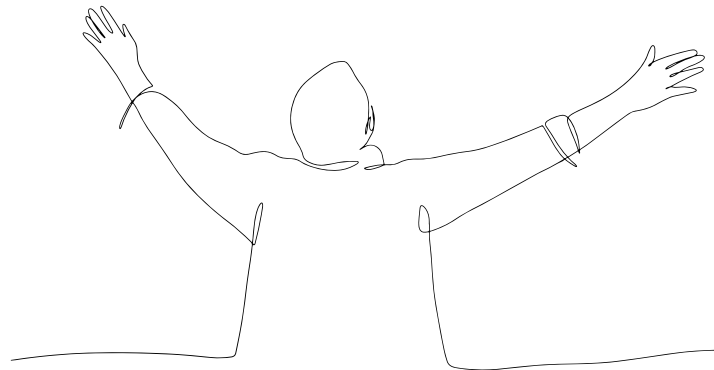
501(C)(3) INCORPORATION

Setting up a nonprofit organization is fairly complex. If after consideration, you believe incorporation best suits your needs we strongly suggest you consult with a local attorney who specializes in the formation of nonprofit ministry organizations, an accounting firm which specializes in nonprofit ministries and you put yourself under the authority of a local church or board which you must establish for accountability in all spiritual and business matters. You may wish to contact the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) for further guidance.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

You may be asked to provide liability insurance for your gathering, especially if it is a public gathering where you are required to get a permit to have an gathering. Please note, the NDPTF cannot provide this insurance for you. Should you need to obtain insurance you may want to see if you can put your gathering under the umbrella of **a local church or ministry organization that can provide insurance for you**. Gathering insurance can be expensive; however, you can check with insurers in your area for gathering insurance or even with your homeowners' insurance if you have a home business. If obtaining insurance is a problem, consider finding an alternative site for your gathering. As always, your State Coordinator may be a resource for you in matters of fund raising, donations and gathering insurance.

LEGAL AND MEDIA SUPPORT



LEGAL SUPPORT

The first place for information and support is your State Coordinator and National Area Leader (NAL). If you do not have this leader's contact information, [visit the State Coordinator page and select your state](#). The NAL will contact the National Office for extra support as needed.

LEGALITY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Letter by Alliance Defending Freedom:

RE: Legality of National Day of Prayer gatherings

Dear Mayor,

The Alliance Defense Freedom also provides additional legal support to the National Task Force Office and queries for coordinator network.

Also be sure to post this "Gathering Photo Permission" wording at your gathering if you will be taking photos.

"By my attendance and participation in this gathering, I give permission if I am photographed, to use in reporting or promotional efforts."

We write to encourage your observance of the 70th Annual National Day of Prayer to be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021. In recent years, particular activist groups have suggested that observing the National Day of Prayer is somehow unlawful. Such opinions have no foundation in the law.

Our organization, the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), is a not-for-profit legal alliance of more than 1,300 attorneys and likeminded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. ADF educates the public and the government about important constitutional rights, particularly Our First Liberty—religious freedom. ADF also litigates in defense of these rights and has successfully defended cities and other governmental entities that properly accommodated religious expression such as the National Day of Prayer. This letter presents a brief legal analysis to demonstrate why you may freely and lawfully choose to observe the National Day of Prayer in your community.

I. LEGAL ANALYSIS

You can be confident that your participation in and acknowledgement of the National Day of Prayer are constitutionally protected activities. You are free to proclaim your city's support for this gathering, and you are under no obligation to satisfy the demands of any disgruntled individual or civil libertarian group that may oppose such action.

A. Official Proclamations of Thanksgiving and Prayer, including the National Day of Prayer, are Constitutional.

Since the time of this nation's founding, public prayer has been an essential part of our heritage. The tradition of designating an official day of prayer actually began with the Continental Congress in 1775. On October 3, 1789, President George Washington issued a National Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation, "to be devoted by the people of these United States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be, so that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him . . . to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue . . ."

Since that time, American Presidents have continued this important tradition. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed into law a joint resolution by Congress to set aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan to specify the annual gathering should be observed on the first Thursday in May in each year. The resulting statute, 36 U.S.C.A. § 119,

LEGALITY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CONT'D

currently provides as follows:

The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged that presidential proclamations of thanksgiving and prayer, including the National Day of Prayer, are indeed a part of our culture and tradition and are in no way a violation of the Constitution. In *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 675 (1984), the Court affirmed, "Our history is replete with official references to the value and invocation of Divine guidance in deliberations and pronouncements of the Founding Fathers and contemporary leaders." Justice O'Connor further noted that such official references encompass "government practices embracing religion, including Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, congressional and military chaplains and the

congressional prayer room, the motto, the Pledge of Allegiance, and presidential proclamations for a National Day of Prayer." (Id. at 693) (concurring opinion). She explained, "Those government acknowledgments of religion serve, in the only ways reasonably possible in our culture, the legitimate secular purposes of solemnizing public occasions, expressing confidence in the future, and encouraging the recognition of what is worthy of appreciation in society. For that reason, and because of their history and ubiquity, those practices are not understood as conveying government approval of particular religious beliefs."

Similarly, in *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783 (1983), when an offended taxpayer filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the State of Nebraska's tradition of opening each legislative session with a prayer by a chaplain paid with public funds, the Court ruled in favor of the State. Chief Justice Burger wrote, "To invoke divine guidance on a public body . . . is not, in these circumstances, an establishment of religion or a step toward establishment; it is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country." (Id. at 792.) Those beliefs help define who we are as a nation.

Thirty years before *Marsh*, Justice Douglas famously observed, "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being. . . . When the state encourages religious instruction or cooperates with religious authorities by adjusting the schedule of public gatherings to sectarian needs, it follows the best of our traditions. "For it then respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs." (*Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306, 313-14 -1952.) The Court affirmed the Establishment Clause does not prohibit prayers in our legislative halls; the appeals to the Almighty in the messages of the Chief Executive; the proclamations making Thanksgiving Day a national holiday; 'so help me God' in our courtroom oaths-these and all other references to the Almighty that run through our laws, [and] our public rituals . . .

[including] the supplication with which the Court opens each session: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court." "These practices are legitimate because they are deeply imbedded in the history and tradition of this country." *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 786. By simply following these traditions, government officials run no risk of violating the Constitution.

B. State and Local Participation in the National Day of Prayer is likewise Protected by Law.

Just as the President's proclamations and appeals to the Almighty can be issued consistent with the Establishment Clause, so can the proclamations and appeals of state and local officials. Historically, all 50 governors, along with the president of the United States, have issued proclamations in honor of the National Day of Prayer, and we anticipate this year will be no different. There is no basis to suggest that a mayor or city council member could not do the same.

For example, the 2009 proclamations issued by the nation's governors once again affirmed the importance of this annual gathering.

Governor M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut observed, "It is fitting that we should give thanks for [our] freedom and prosperity. . . and pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has been graciously bestowed upon this Nation since its inception." As Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle noted, "Prayer is a comfort for many people,

LEGALITY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CONT'D

especially during times of trial and tribulation.” Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue agreed, “We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions.” The 2014 proclamations will express similar ideas.

As the leader of your city, you are well within your rights to echo these sentiments. Local observances of this historic annual gathering are both lawful and appropriate. We thus encourage you to proclaim and participate in the National Day of Prayer, just as millions of Americans and thousands of other local leaders will be doing on May (DAY), (YEAR).

C. The City has No Legal Obligation to Issue the Suggested ‘Non-believers’ Proclamation.

Finally, we want to assure your administration that there is no legal precedent to suggest that observance of the National Day of Prayer necessitates special treatment of, or official recognition for, those who choose not to participate. Several years ago, the mayor of one large city received an unprecedented demand to prove that he does not show favoritism toward believers by issuing a simultaneous proclamation for all non-believers of the city. That contention was patently absurd. Any similar demand upon you or your city would have no basis in existing law and would run counter to the well-established right of the government to accommodate religious expression.

Again, the National Day of Prayer was created by an act of Congress and is meant as an opportunity for all willing Americans to pray or meditate according to their own beliefs, not to promote any particular religion or form of religious observance. Any claim that the law is meant to do otherwise is without merit.

II. CONCLUSION

In his Farewell Address, President Washington admonished, —Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. [T]he mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. It is both lawful and wise for public officials to respect and cherish our religious heritage, and to encourage all Americans to invoke God’s protection and guidance over our nation.

We hope that this letter will encourage you to join the countless other national, state, and local leaders who will be participating with full confidence in the 2014 National Day of Prayer.

If ADF can provide you with any further information or assistance, or if you receive any threat of litigation to which we may be able to help you respond, please contact us. As a not-for-profit legal organization, our services are provided pro bono.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your dedicated public service.

Very sincerely yours,

Alliance Defending Freedom

Senior Legal Counsel

June 12, 1775, Resolution Calling for a Day of Public Fasting and Prayer. The Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789 (Washington, D.C.:

Government Printing Office, 1905), Vol. II, p. 87. James D. Richardson, A Compilation of Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897 (Published by Authority of Congress 1899), Vol. 1, p. 64. —Presidents Adams and Madison also issued thanksgiving proclamations, as have almost all our presidents.— Lynch v. Donnelly, 465 U.S. 668, 675, n.2 (1984). Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64— April 17, 1952. January 25, 1988, in the Second Session of the One Hundredth Congress. Public Law 100-307—May 5, 1988. September 19, 1796, Farewell Address. James D. Richardson, A Compilation of Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897 (Published by Authority of Congress 1899), Vol. 1, p. 220

PUBLIC RELATIONS - MEDIA

The media can be a very positive tool if you build a positive relationship with them. The media is not the enemy, they help promote and share about NDP gatherings.

STEPS TO PR POSITIVE RESPONSE

- Pray for the Lord's guidance, from beginning to end.
- Write an in-depth situation analysis: identify your strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.
- **Develop action lines**, based upon your analysis. (Know where you're going as an organization, and determine how your efforts will shape public opinion of your organization.)
- Think long-range.
- Write externally only when you have something say.
- Affirm your commitment to communicating the truth:
 - o Fact: "350 churches in Orange County are participating in our gathering."
 - o Fact: "200 people purchased tickets to the NDP Governor's Prayer Breakfast."
 - o Fiction: "We expect 10,000 people at our gathering."
- Understand the practical reality, logistics and time frames of news gathering. (Print, Radio, TV, Internet)
- Identify key media outlets and the **specific person** you want to see your press materials. (Editor, producer, program director, host etc.)
- Build a list with specific contact names, phone numbers, addresses and email.
- Know your target audience. Collect anecdotes and testimonials as you gather information for your public relations writing. (press release, editorial, advertisement.)
- Utilize many media formats. **If you have something to say, say it often.** Repeat it to as many audiences as possible. (daily newspaper, weekly newspaper, general market radio, Christian radio, cable television, network television, internet, billboards, and social media)
- Think reinforcement, not repetition. People don't attend an gathering because the media influenced them. They often come because an interpersonal contact influenced them. The media creates awareness and promotion. **Personal contact influences attendance.**
- Follow-up. **Be professional as you engage the media.** Don't get defensive, combative or flustered when the tough questions are asked. Be politely persistent, but know when to take "no" for an answer. Sometimes "maybe" is the best they can do.
- Be patient. **Good media relations take time.** Don't be impulsive and press the panic button.

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEXTBOOK DEFINITION:

The management function which evaluates public attitudes, identifies the policies and procedures of an individual or organization with the public interest and plans and executes a program of action to earn public understanding and acceptance. (Source: PR News)

PUBLIC RELATIONS STREET DEFINITION:

What you are saying about your organization, and what the public is saying about your organization.

STEPS TO PR POSITIVE RESPONSE CONT'D

- Remember that your relationship with the media is both long-term and short-term. Be a good witness. Understand that you may be bumped at the last minute. (Natural disaster, death of a celebrity, national emergency, etc.).
- **Even a tiny mention can produce results.** Procrastination produces anxiety. Perseverance brings forth much fruit.

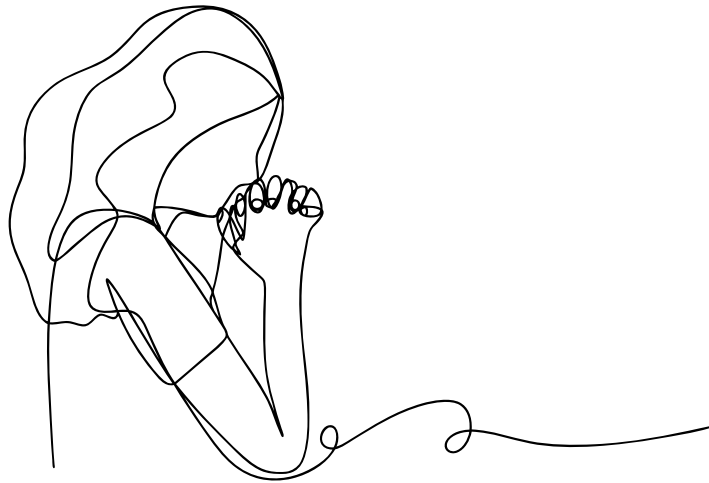
PRESS RELEASES

A press or news release is information sent to the media pertaining to an issue, gathering or special announcement.

View the [promotional tools page](#) for media resources.

- It is vital that your release be formatted to look like news to get the attention of your media contact.
- Basic elements include the name, address, and phone number of your local NDP team (letterhead would suffice), location, current date, and the contact person's name (your media coordinator) and phone number for obtaining additional information.
- **Specify the release date** or indicate if it is intended for immediate release.
- Make sure your release has an eye-catching headline, **reads like a newspaper story** and is truly newsworthy.
- Be brief; **a one-page release is ideal**. For a longer release, type "-more-" centered at the bottom of the first page; then type a one- or two-word description and the page number at the top of the next page. At the end of your press/news release type "####" signifying "the end," on a separate line centered below the last paragraph.
- Ensure your release answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.
- Write your copy in the third person, avoiding the use of such pronouns as "our" and "we."
- **Keep sentences short and to the point.** Also keep paragraphs short, using a new paragraph for each of your key points. Double space all copies with wide margins, always using upper and lower case both in your headlines and body copies. This makes for readable copies that can be easily edited by the media.
- Proofread your release carefully checking for grammar, misspellings, and typographical errors. Have at least one other person on your NDP committee proof it as well.
- **Be aware of media deadlines.** Weekly or monthly publications will need your press release much further in advance than daily newspapers or the broadcast media.
- Whenever possible, tailor your release to the media outlet to which it is being sent.
- Always be grateful in speech and in writing. Thank you notes and spoken appreciation are a necessary part of every relationship.
- Important: In keeping with a yearlong approach to promoting prayer and its bearing on our lives, send out **a follow-up release** to the media, sharing stories that highlight the impact of NDP. This will further enhance the importance of prayer as well as create greater awareness of the National Day of Prayer.
- Keep in mind that NDP headquarters serves as the official "clearinghouse" for all position statements. You may **never make legal, political, or positional statements on behalf of the NDPTF**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



COMMUNITY PRAYER FAQ'S

Q: IF I GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO PRAY TOGETHER, WON'T SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS FEEL LIMITED IN THEIR PRAYERS?

A: In honesty, yes, some will. But don't let this discourage you. Think of similar settings in which having a few guidelines makes the experience better for all. Good corporate worship involves following the lead of those directing the service. Realistically, the majority of your participants will be grateful for clear expectations and guidelines.

Q: WHAT IF SOME PARTICIPANTS DON'T FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES?

A: In a group of any size, some people will follow your guidelines better than others will. Everyone who speaks, prays, or sings during an NDP gathering must agree to adhere to their signed Speaker Commitment form. If someone forgets they're in a group setting and prays too long, gently place a hand on their shoulder, and this will remind them of the timing and their commitment. Be ready to prayerfully interrupt if the leader moves away from their agreed upon topic.

One way you can help this is with occasional reminders during the prayer time. If you're providing some topical guidance during the prayer time, you can use those occasions to share quick reminders about praying briefly, agreeing together, and keeping your prayers God-focused.

Q: HOW LONG IS TOO LONG FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PRAYER?

A: There's no specific length of time that fits all situations. In a group setting, a prayer is too long when other group members start to lose focus. This prevents them from truly agreeing together in prayer. Groups that are used to praying together can often get away with longer prayers, because their hearts are knit together over the times they've prayed. In a gathering such as an NDP prayer gathering. Aim for 1-3 minute prayers before moving forward.

Q: SHOULD I BREAK THE GATHERING UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS TO PRAY?

A: No, not for the National Day of Prayer gatherings. Utilize the annual prayer guide to cover prayer for key topics, in order to keep unified, public prayer.

At gatherings throughout the year, people may want to break into groups.

Q: CAN WE MEET IN A PUBLIC AREA SUCH AS COURTHOUSE STEPS, PUBLIC LIBRAIRIES AND OTHER BUILDINGS?

If public meeting rooms are available to citizens for discussion of public issues, then they are available for religious activity. In the case of *Lamb's Chapel vs. Center Moriches Union Free School District*, June 7, 1993, a unanimous decision overturned a ruling by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A New York school district had disallowed the use of the school district's facilities for the showing of a Christian film. The Supreme Court upheld the right of freedom of speech in a public arena.

Q: CAN MY CHILD ORGANIZE A PRAYER Gathering AS HIS/HER SCHOOL?

A. Yes. In *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District*, 393 U.S. 503, 506, 512, 513 (1969) the United States Supreme Court stated, "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate. [Students' rights apply] in the cafeteria, or on the playing field, or on campus during authorized hours . . ."

Q: DURING OUR GATHERING, THOSE OTHER THAN OF THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN BELIEFS WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NDP GATHERING. WHAT ARE OUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS?

A. The National Day of Prayer was created by an act of Congress intended for people of all faiths. The NDP is not a function of the government. Any faith has the right to organize and honor the Day based on their particular beliefs. Because of this right, we, the NDPTF have no obligation, legal or otherwise, to present beliefs, or a faith, other than the Judeo-Christian values Task Force was founded on.

Everyone is invited to attend an NDP Task Force gathering, to hear a message, and pray the prayers that are based on Judeo-Christian beliefs.

Find out more on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Coordinator Handbook

www.nationaldayofprayer.org
1 (800) 444-8826

COPYRIGHT © 2024 National Day of Prayer Task Force

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

