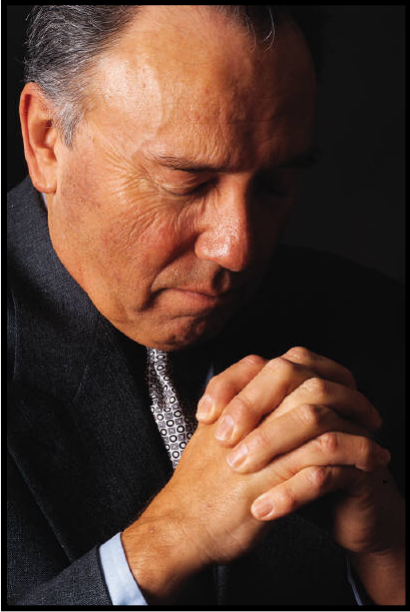


# A Day for Prayer

Today (May 5) is National Day of Prayer, the 60<sup>th</sup> annual observance of this important event in the life of our country. Its theme is *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, based on Psalm 91:2, which states, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."



The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said believers in God should "labor throughout the year to communicate the pressing need for God's people to unite in repentance and corporate intercession for the sake of our beleaguered country. We continue to face unabated moral decline, economic turmoil, military conflict in the Middle East, and ever-increasing

assaults against our religious liberty. Given these urgent concerns, it's imperative that we remain on our knees in contrite supplication for the United States."

Certainly, our company is grateful for the many blessings showered upon us by our Lord. As we thank Him for His grace and providence, we should fervently seek His direction and His wisdom in the mission to which we have been called. As opportunity presents itself today – whether in a standup meeting, on a coffee break or at lunch, take a few moments to pray for our country and our company, for our residents and our associates, as we seek to be obedient to God by serving others.

Joni Eareckson Tada, founder and chief executive officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center, is honorary chairman of National Day of Prayer and composed the 2011 National Prayer. Here it is:

*Almighty God, You are our Mighty Fortress, our refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. As our nation faces great distress and uncertainty, we ask Your Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon Your people – convict us of sin and inflame within*

(more)

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

*Protect and defend us against our enemies and may the cause of Christ always prevail in our schools, courts, homes and churches. Lord God, send a spirit of revival and may it begin in our own hearts.*

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

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

Make this a special day – in your life and in the lives of those you encounter – because you have spent time with Christ.

– Beecher Hunter