

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

Maybe you've heard the lyrics from a song that has been around a long time:

*It's me, it's me, oh Lord ... Standing in the need of prayer ... It's me, it's me, oh Lord ... Standing in the need of prayer.*

*Not my father, not my mother ... But it's me, oh Lord ... Standing in the need of prayer.*

*Not my sister, not my brother ... But it's me, oh Lord ... Standing in the need of prayer.*

*Not the preacher, not the sinner ... But it's me, oh Lord ... Standing in the need of prayer.*

This is a traditional black gospel song, and the author is unknown. But it has wide appeal because of the truth it proclaims.

While all of us individually stand in need of prayer, the song most certainly applies to our nation today, with all of the challenges we face at home and abroad, and a culture that is far from God. That's why the observance of the National Day of Prayer – to be marked in public ceremonies and private worship this Thursday, May 3 – is even more important than ever.

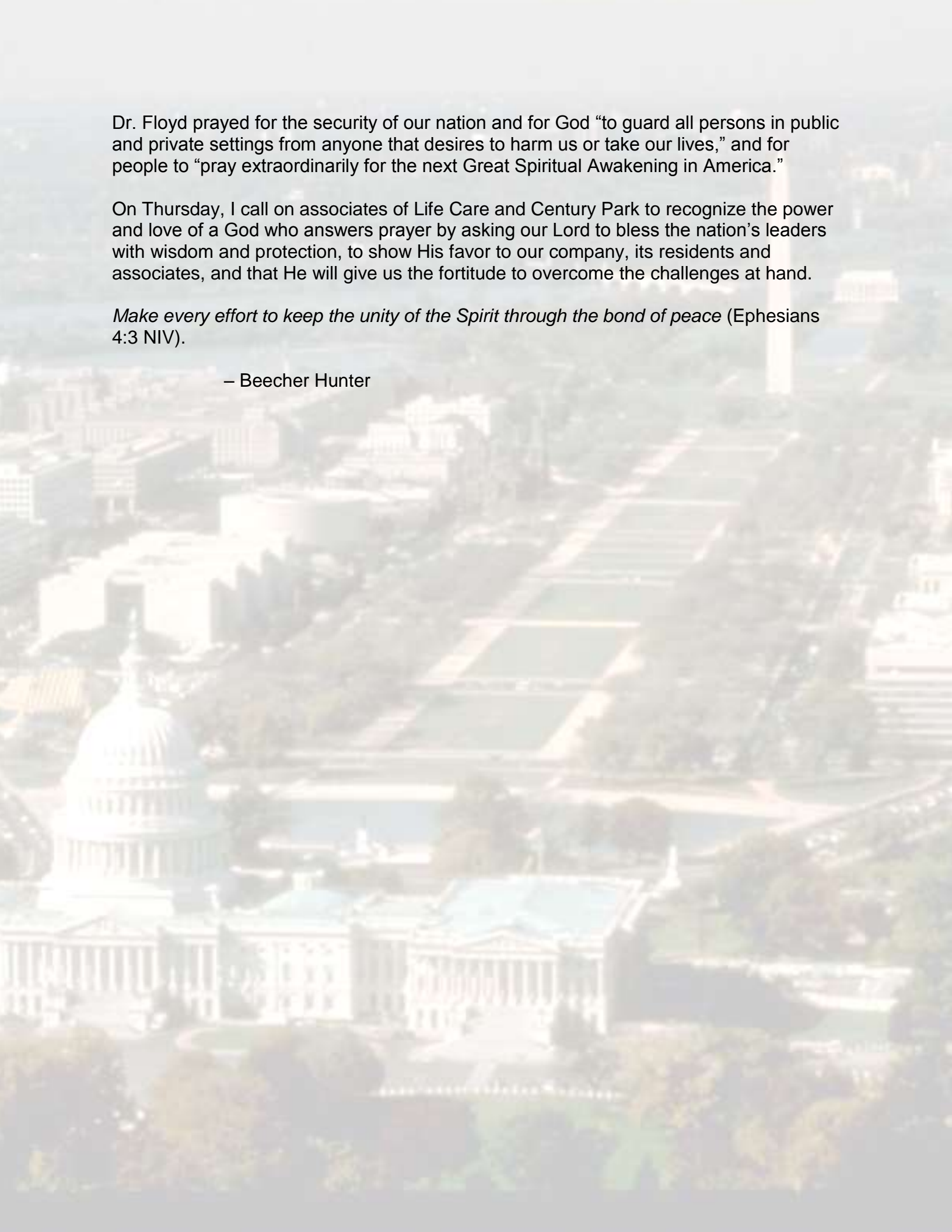
The National Day of Prayer theme for 2018 is *Pray for America – Unity*. Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image, and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Our hope is that individuals, churches and spiritual leaders in America will humble themselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America.



The 2018 National Prayer was written by Dr. Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Arkansas, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 2014 to 2016. "While we come to You in complete humility," he wrote, "we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

His prayer continues to ask for unity, harmony and oneness in America, for churches to unite in Jesus Christ and to pray as one unified spiritual family for America, for God's power to unify families, workplaces, communities and cities ... leading "to forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and unity." He asked for people of all ethnicities and races to come together as one, living in peace and unity ... and "the courage to stand against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as evil and sinful."

(more)

An aerial, slightly hazy photograph of Washington, D.C., featuring the U.S. Capitol building in the lower-left foreground. The image shows the city's grid pattern, green spaces, and the Washington Monument in the distance. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

Dr. Floyd prayed for the security of our nation and for God “to guard all persons in public and private settings from anyone that desires to harm us or take our lives,” and for people to “pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America.”

On Thursday, I call on associates of Life Care and Century Park to recognize the power and love of a God who answers prayer by asking our Lord to bless the nation’s leaders with wisdom and protection, to show His favor to our company, its residents and associates, and that He will give us the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand.

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace* (Ephesians 4:3 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter