



MAY 2017

THE CONNECTER

CONNECTING HEARTS OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION TO GOD AND EACH OTHER!



IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS



By Anne Graham Lotz
Chairman, National Day of Prayer

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found (Ps. 32:6).

The Psalmist implies that there comes a time when God cannot be found. A time when God hides Himself. A time that I believe may have begun in America.

Our nation is in turmoil. Why? Could it be because America is losing God's blessing? His favor? Could our sin be provoking His judgment? Judgment that is not necessarily in the form of a nuclear dirty bomb, or another ISIS attack, or an economic collapse. But a Romans 1 judgment as God backs out of our national life and turns us over to ourselves.

In the Old Testament, God moved in judgment on His own beloved nation of Judah. His judgment of Judah was a 22-year process. God moved slowly, giving plenty of opportunity for Judah to repent of her sin, turn to Him, and therefore escape the judgment. But with all of God's warnings, Judah became even more defiant. More disobedient. More wicked.

She insisted on her right to immorality and idolatry. In the end, God became her enemy. He sent in the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem, the temple, and the people. Those who were not taken captive were slaughtered in the streets (2 Chron. 36:15-19).

God warns a nation that judgment is coming. He doesn't want any to perish. But if a nation does not heed His warnings, He unleashes His anger and there is nothing—who can prevent it. If God would judge His own beloved nation of Judah, why would we think America could escape?

So, if we are coming under the judgment of God—if He is giving us over to ourselves, removing His blessing, protection, and favor—the solution will not be found in politics or the economy or the military or technology. The solution will be found on our knees as we humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and repent of our sin. Then we must plead for Him to return to us as we return to Him.

Now is the time to get serious about

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FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER May 5, 2017

On the first Friday of the month, we encourage all to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

ALL IN AUTHORITY

Engage in private prayer and participate in local public prayer observances. Repent for national sin and earnestly intercede for "all in authority" (1 Tim 2:1-2)—for President Trump, his Cabinet and administration, the U.S. military, Congress and Supreme Court, public policy and national affairs. Pray for your Governor and other state officials as the Lord prompts. Pray for local city, township, village or county officials, judges, sheriff and police, school administrators, security, emergency, fire, rescue and public health workers, civil magistrates and support staff. Join in praying the special National Prayer written by Anne Graham Lotz for May 4, 2017. See page 4 for prayer.

SUPREMACY OF CHRIST



All are asked to pray in agreement and affirm

the truth of Jesus Christ as Son of God Messiah, and His Lordship, Kingship and, Supremacy on the National Day of Prayer (Acts 10:34-43; Col 1:12-18, 2:15; Rev 1:6). Let us repent for the distorting and diminishing of God's Son among some contemporary theologians, and in U.S. church life. Intercede and ask God to defuse and thwart the effects of the lies, myths, and false gospels being promulgated.

To see God's purposes for America fulfilled through sustained prayer and Spirit-led obedience

KNOW YOUR GOD-FEARING LEADERS



By Wanda Alger,
IFA Field Correspondent

As we approach this year's National Day of Prayer on May 4, we urge intercessors to continue focused prayer on government leaders in the new White House administration.

Betsy DeVos is the Secretary of Education. Born Elisabeth Prince in Holland, MI, "Betsy" grew up in a family of Dutch descendants who were members of the Christian Reformed Church. She attended a Christian high school and then Calvin College where she found a passion for civic involvement. She married Dick DeVos, a businessman and entrepreneur, whose father built the Amway corporation. Both have a rich heritage of faith and conservative values.



Betsy DeVos

According to *Politico* magazine, "... one constant is the DeVos family's devout Christian beliefs." In a 2001 interview, DeVos revealed her Christian worldview: "Our desire is to ... confront the culture in which we all live today in ways which will continue to advance



God's kingdom."

She and her husband believe the Church needs to get more involved in community affairs and education in order to return to our God-fearing roots as a nation. They have also been strong supporters of family and pro-life issues. It is clear DeVos is a leader with both core biblical beliefs as well as the long-term vision to bring lasting change.



Kellyanne Conway

Kellyanne Conway serves as Counselor to President Trump. Conway, who turned 50 on Inauguration Day, was raised in an Italian Catholic family by her mother, grandmother, and two aunts after her parents divorced at age three. Living on a farm and learning the value of hard work, she states, "Everything I learned about life and business started on that farm." Conway says her worldview was shaped in a home "where family and faith and self-reliance were premier. We were not encouraged or allowed to complain or talk about what we didn't have."

She graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and later earned her law degree. In 2001, she married George T. Conway III, a New York lawyer, and they now have four young children.

A longtime pro-life activist, she was invited to speak at the 2017 March for Life. "Kellyanne has been a prominent fixture in the conservative and pro-life movement for years," said Kristen Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, "lending her wisdom and expertise to the good causes of many candidates and organizations. She understands the value of protecting innocent life and communicating that message effectively." She also stands with Israel and boldly defends the biblical definition of marriage.

"Faith plays a minute by minute part of my life. It is constant," Conway says. During the height of the presidential campaign, she clarified her perspective on all the high-level activity and notoriety: "This is consequential, this is exciting, and historic in its own way, but it is nothing compared to the universe in which we live, the God that I worship, and the totality of our lives."

Reince Priebus is President Trump's new Chief of Staff. Priebus is a member of St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He also maintains dual participation at Grace Church. Life-long friend John Binkley states that [Priebus] "was passionately focused on his

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IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

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repentance and prayer.

God promises: *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart* (Jer. 29:13). There can be no casual, half-hearted turning to God—not if we want Him to return to us. God emphasizes this principle in Joel 2:12–14: *“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. . . . Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing.*

Some of the prayers and calls for repentance that I have heard within the Church or at prayer events seem to be a rending of garments—an outward show to impress. There is a sense of going through the motions of repentance. But the pleading seems to be contrived and hollow instead of broken-hearted and contrite.

Only God knows those who are rending their hearts as they seek Him. But I am led to ask myself: *how truly serious am I about seeking God on behalf of our nation? When was the last time I fasted and wept and mourned and confessed the sin of our nation as though it were my own?* I believe the future of America hangs on the answer that His people give to those questions.

—Anne Graham Lotz is Chairman of the National Day of Prayer and Founder/President of AnGeL Ministries.

Learn how to **pray** for, **connect** with, and **contact** our elected officials. PrayForAmericasLeaders.com



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Reince Priebus

marriage, on his career, on his faith. His faith was something very important to him.”


May 1, 2016, Priebus gave an official message as chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), wishing “Orthodox Christians around the world a happy and blessed Easter.” He added, “Just as the first Christians praised God at the sight of the empty tomb, we too praise our good and merciful God today for his victory over the grave.”

In a 2013 interview with Pat Robertson of CBN, Priebus spoke freely about his faith: “What you will see is a party that embraces life, a party that embraces marriage, and a chairman that understands that there’s only one sovereign God.” Priebus is a born-and-bred conservative whose mantra is, “Win every day, live the mission every day, wait on God’s timing and good things happen.”

Former senior pastor of Grace Church, Jerry Worsham, often gave Priebus stories to read about Abraham Lincoln and

William Wilberforce, who were not only politicians, but also active evangelical Christians. Worsham’s wife Jane recalled that whenever her husband gave a message on leadership, Priebus sought him out. “He knew that’s what he was and what he was designed to do. He just wanted to do it in the right way,” she said.

In each of these leaders, it is evident they are serving a higher call in this hour. Our prayers can help assure the fulfillment of that call.


TOP U.S. OFFICIALS
 PRAYER GUIDE

“I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL, THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE—FOR KINGS AND ALL THOSE IN AUTHORITY...”
 — 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

EXECUTIVE
 President Donald Trump
 Vice President Mike Pence
 White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus

Use our prayer guide to pray for our elected officials. Now available at ifaresources.com, 25 for \$5.

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*A higher standard.
 A higher purpose.*

Answered Prayer

TRUMP'S 1ST ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

President Donald Trump addressed a badly divided nation following an intense election. Both sides applauded his comments on civil rights and childcare. But immigration and Obamacare repeal brought jeers. He vowed to destroy ISIS and reiterated his support of Israel. The greatest applause was for Carryn Owens, widow of U.S. Navy Special Operator William "Ryan" Owens (killed in Yemen). CNN's liberal news contributor Van Jones said that Trump's recognition of Owen's widow was "one of the most extraordinary moments you have ever seen in American politics." "[Trump] became President of the United States in that moment, period. . . . If he finds a way to do that over and over again, he's going to be there for eight years." (BCN)

TARGET SHARES PLUMMET



TARGET

Target was hit by its third straight quarter of lower sales from existing stores. The stock has lost a quarter of its value since the holiday shopping season started in November, back to levels last seen in August 2014. Several conservative organizations campaigned for families to take their business elsewhere because of Target's decision to allow people to choose the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. (CP)

National Day of Prayer

**MARCH 4, 2017
PRAYER FOR OUR NATION**

By Anne Graham Lotz

We worship You, God. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the living God of our nation's founding fathers. When we pledge our allegiance, it's as one nation under You.

You have given us victory over our enemies. You have blessed us in our bustling cities and in our beautiful countryside. You have blessed our "fruited plain" so that we have had an abundance for ourselves and for others.

You alone are our Hope for the future. If we as a nation do not get right with You, no one in Washington can reverse the downward moral and spiritual spiral. We approach You with fear and trembling, as we confess our national sins.

We turn to You with tears of shame and a heart of fear for the judgment we are provoking. We repent of our sin. Please, God, do not remove Your hand of blessing. As we return to You with humility . . . with a desperate sense of urgency. *Please! Return to us!* Hear our prayer. Forgive our sin. Heal our land. For the Glory of Your Great Name . . . JESUS.

*-Anne Graham Lotz, NDOP Chairman
(excerpted from the National Prayer for 2017;
www.nationaldayofprayer.org/first_thursday_
call_to_prayer_february_2nd_2017)*

Issues for Prayer

PLANNED PARENTHOOD REFUSES OFFER



Planned Parenthood has declined an offer from President Trump to keep its federal funding in exchange for ceasing to commit abortions. The proposal was an "impossibility" for Planned Parenthood officials, the New York Times reported. (LF)



APPEAL TO HEAVEN JUNE 29 - JULY 2

Intercession & Worship Conference, Franklin, North Carolina. CTCI welcomes David Kubal, President of Intercessors for America, and Bob & Kathy Fitts, international worship leaders and songwriters, for a time of powerful worship and intercessory prayer. It is at this vital time in our nation's history for the "watchmen on the walls," to pray and make intercession. Join us as we appeal to the Lord to move over America with a spirit of repentance and revival! Call (828) 524-5741 or go to: www.lifeisrelationships.com/appeal-to-heaven-conference.

Events

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 4, 2017**

This year's theme is "For Your Great Name's Sake." Visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

**30 DAYS PRAYER FOR MUSLIM WORLD
MAY 25-JUNE 30**

Pray for Muslims during the month of Ramadan. Visit www.pray30days.org.

Join believers in praying for our elected officials at PrayforAmericasLeaders.com • IFApray.org



FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Please plan on setting these important 30 minutes aside to join with hundreds across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on **May 5 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**

Call: (712) 432-0075 Access Code: 1412452#

Publication index: BCN= Breaking Christian News; CP = Christian Post; LF = LifeSite

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