



WEEKLY PRAYER | Focus

PRAY • PROVIDE • TRANSFORM

Key prayer needs for America's Leaders

PRAY FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS ADMINISTRATION

Christina Romer, Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, testified to the House Appropriations Committee that the White House does not see much of a change in unemployment figures for the balance of 2010.

President Obama outlined a new blueprint for overhauling federal education policies that would encourage states to raise academic standards after a period of "dumbing down" during the last decade.

Pray about the impact of the decisions made by the President and his many advisers.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

The Senate sent an \$18 billion job creation bill to the President Wednesday, providing, among other things, a new tax break for small businesses that hire new workers, paid for by enforcing foreign account taxes.

Legal action is already being prepared to oppose any passage of the health care reform legislation by the "deem and pass" means where voting on the actual Senate bill by the House of Representatives is avoided.

Pray that the intent of the legislation being worked on would actually benefit America's citizens.

PRAY FOR OUR JUDICIARY

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against atheist Michael Newdow in two First Amendment cases, allowing "under God" to remain in the Pledge of Allegiance, and *In God We Trust* as national motto.

The most senior in age and tenure, **Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens**, intends to decide in about a month whether to resign or remain with the Court for another year.

Give thanks for the decision of the 9th Circuit, and pray for Justice Stevens as he considers his future.

PRAY FOR THESE LEADERS THIS WEEK:

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Representative Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee

Stephen Gerald Breyer, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

William J. Lynne, III, Deputy Secretary of Defense

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:

THE WAR

Two US drone attacks killed seven in a Pakistan Taliban stronghold Wednesday, although militants elsewhere continued their casualties at a Pakistani police security checkpoint.

The Afghan army and national police have lost 13,000 weapons, 200,000 rounds of ammunition, 89 vehicles and one pair of night vision goggles, according to members of a US task force. Our fighters continue to find some caches.

Pray for the allies of the U.S. and NATO as they work to defend their own countries against Muslim extremists.

TERRORISM

A Pakistani court charged five young Muslim Americans from Virginia with planning terrorist attacks in South Asia, and conspiring to wage war against Pakistan and its allies. They have entered not-guilty pleas.

After the Yemeni government accused militant rebels of not complying with a ceasefire, the rebels released 178 civilians and government officials. The ceasefire there is exceedingly fragile.

Pray against terror and its many international manifestations.

THE ECONOMY

Wholesale prices of food and energy fell 0.6 percent in February, while other wholesale prices reported a 0.1 percent increase. Compared with a year earlier, wholesale prices are up 4.4 percent.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner forecasts a slow jobless recovery into 2011 and 2012, with a growth rate of about 3 percent.

Pray for an acceleration in the long-term growth of the American economy.

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Emboldened by the latest U.S.- Israeli disagreements, Palestinian Authority President Abbas is again insisting on “a complete cessation of settlement activities” before renewed peace negotiations.

President Obama in a show of impatience with Israel has recalled Special Envoy **George Mitchell**, while Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu strongly defended Jewish settlement construction in East Jerusalem.

Pray about the commitment that the United States has toward Israel and the Palestinian people.

HEALTH CARE

At least 105 products containing hydrolyzed vegetable protein (HVP), a processed food flavor enhancer, have been recalled by the Food and Drug Administration as contaminated with salmonella.

First Lady Michelle Obama, speaking at a meeting of Grocery Manufacturers Association, told them to “step it up” on the delivery of healthier snacks and packaged foods, especially those enjoyed by children.

Pray for the safety and nutrition of our food, both what is packaged and what is fresh.

*You are my portion, O Lord;
I have promised to obey your words.*

Psalm 119:57