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May 16, 2003

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Dobson Focus on the Family 8605 Explorer Drive Colorado Springs, Colorado 80995

Dear Shirley and Jim:

Thank you for the book, *Night Light: A Devotional For Couples*. It was a pleasure seeing you again at the White House to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. Laura and I appreciate your leadership, and we are grateful for your prayers.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

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George W. Bush

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cc: Denise Cardamone, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

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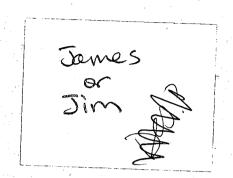
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Best regards.

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Is daily devotional from Dr. James Americas foremost family

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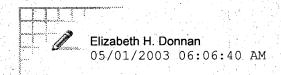
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Subject: EVENT BACKGROUNDER: REMARKS ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2003

EVENT BACKGROUNDER REMARKS ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 1, 2003 7:35 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. East Room

BACKGROUND

This is the 52nd Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer tradition dates back to February 19, 1795, when President George Washington issued a proclamation for a day of public thanksgiving. In 1952, President Truman marked the first official National Day of Prayer. In 1988, President Reagan signed legislation making the National Day of Prayer the first Thursday in May. This year's theme is "Righteousness Exalts A Nation," and the scripture verse adopted for the 2003 observance is "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

On the 2002 National Day of Prayer more than two million people attended 30,000 observances across the country organized by 40,000 volunteers.

PARTICIPANTS

Shirley Dobson, Chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force

Brigadier General David Hicks, Chaplain of the Army

Luis Palau, President, Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, (wrote this year's "Prayer for the Nation")

Father Joe Wallroth, Wing Chaplain, Andrews Air Force Base

The Washington National Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls

Julie Keim, Washington National Cathedral Soloist

Kurt Warner, Quarterback, St. Louis Rams, and Founder of First Things First Foundation

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Washington National Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls performs "All Things Bright and Beautiful."
- Shirley Dobson delivers remarks.
- Dr. Luis Palau reads the 2003 Official National Day of Prayer "Prayer for the Nation."
- Brigadier General David Hicks reads Psalm 33 and introduces the President
- The President delivers remarks
- Washington National Cathedral soloist Julie Keim performs "Swing Low."
- Washington National Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls performs "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."
- Father Joe Wallroth delivers closing prayer.
- Washington National Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls performs "America the Beautiful."



Record Type: Record

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Subject: REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 1, 2003

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The East Room

7:47 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming, thanks for the warm welcome. I'm glad you're here at the people's house. Laura and I welcome you, we're really pleased to have you here. I want to thank each of you for participating in the National Day of Prayer. It's a good time to be praying -- every day is a good day to pray. (Laughter.)

Today we recognize the many ways our country has been blessed, and we acknowledge the source of those blessings. Millions of Americans seek guidance every day in prayer to the Almighty God. I am one of them. I also know that many Americans remember Laura and me in their prayers, and we are so very, very grateful.

I want to thank General Hicks, Chaplain of the entire U.S. Army, for being here today, and thank you for your service. Shirley, thank you, as well, for once again being the Chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer. I see your brought your husband along, too. (Laughter.)

Luis, muchas gracias, thank you for your beautiful prayer. Father Joe Wallroth is going to be with us in a second; I'm honored you are here, Father.

I really want to thank the Washington National Cathedral Choir of men and girls, it is a fabulous way to begin a morning, to walk down the corridor here and hear your beautiful voices echo throughout this magnificent house. We're really glad you're here, and thank you for -- thank you for sharing your talents.

Julie, thank you, as well, for coming. Gosh, I could have sat here and listened all day to your singing. (Laughter.)

We've got a lot of military chaplains who are here. I want to thank you for your service to your country and to those who wear the uniform. You make a tremendous difference in the lives, the daily lives of people who are frightened and lonely and worried and strong and courageous. I appreciate so very much what you have done and will continue to do.

So many great events in our nation's history were shaped by men and women who found strength and direction in prayer. The first President to live in this house composed a prayer on his second evening here for all who would follow him. Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, knew that his burdens were too great for any man, so he carried them to God in prayer. Over the radio on D-Day in 1944, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for God's blessing on our mission to "set free a suffering humanity."

This past month has been another time of testing for America and another time of intense prayer. Americans have been praying for the safety of our troops and for the protection of innocent life in Iraq. Americans prayed that war would not be necessary, and now pray that peace will be just and lasting.

We continue to pray for the recovery of the wounded and for the comfort of all who have lost a loved one. The Scriptures say: the Lord is near to all who call on him. Calling on God in prayer brings us nearer to each other. After his son was rescued from northern Iraq, the father of Sergeant James Riley of New Jersey said, "We have been flooded with people's prayers. Everyone is praying for us and we are so grateful."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, many Americans have registered online to adopt a serviceman or woman in prayer. Others wear prayer bracelets to remind themselves to intercede on behalf of our troops. In Fountain City, Wisconsin, Lynn Cox has collected at least 80 bibles to send to those serving in Iraq. In Green, Ohio, a group of parishioners at Queen of Heaven Catholic Church has made 2,000 rosaries for our troops.

Margaret Brown, who helped start the group, said, "We want them to know that someone back here is holding them up in prayer, and that God is so powerful He can supply all their needs."

To pray for someone else is an act of generosity. We set our own cares aside and look to strengthen another. Prayer teaches humility. We find that the plan of the Creator is sometimes very different from our own. Yet, we learn to depend on His loving will, bowing to purposes we don't always understand. Prayer can lead to a grateful heart, turning our minds to all the gifts of life and to the great works of God.

Prayer can also contribute to the life of our nation. America is a strong nation, in part because we know the limits of human strength. All strength must be guided by wisdom and justice and humility. We pray that God will grant us that wisdom, that sense of justice and that humility in our current challenges, and in the years ahead.

I thank you all for helping to keep prayer an integral part of our national life. May God bless each one of you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

7:55 A.M. EDT

May 10, 2002

Dr. and Mrs. James Dobson National Day of Prayer Post Office Box 15616 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-5616

Dear Shirley and James:

It was a pleasure to see you at the White House last week. Thank you for joining Laura and me to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. We appreciate your leadership and your strong faith.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

