

“Prayer is warfare. Just getting to prayer is half the battle; staying there is the other half.” Anonymous

“On the basis of the record of the whole Bible, I would say that prayer and fasting combined constitute the strongest single weapon that has been committed to God’s believing people. Derek Prince

“The greatest impact any of us can have on Christ’s global cause is to be involved in consistent prayer for the whole world and to teach other Christians how to pray this way.” David Bryant

The Strategic Prayer Initiative - **Pink Sheet EXPANDER - LEGAL ISSUES** Where Prayer Focuses Power Falls!

- ❑ **1. Legal Organizations** / Pray for Christian legal agencies (Alliance Defending Freedom, ACLJ, Christian Legal Society, Center for Religious Expression, and a host of others) who provide legal advocacy for issues surrounding freedom of speech and religion around the world. Pray that leaders nurture their walks with God and that they are open to the leading of the Spirit of God, not political ideology or expediency. Pray for wisdom as they choose, advocate, and litigate cases and effectiveness in their work.
- ❑ **2. Appointment of Supreme Court Justice** / Ask God to fill the vacant Supreme Court Justice seat with a person who would be courageously impartial in every case. Pray this person would be beholden only to God and not beholden to any person, ideology or group. As God draws this person to Himself, pray that this person would render decisions that are right and just before God and in accordance to our nation’s constitution and laws. Pray that the Senate would quickly approve any such candidate.
- ❑ **3. Church Freedoms** / In *Fort Des Moines Church of Christ v. Jackson* a local commission was prevented from limiting speech and facility use of churches during events deemed as “non-religious”. “A federal district court held...officials have no business determining which church activities are ‘religious enough’...” Pray for freedom of churches “to teach their religious beliefs and to use their houses of worship consistently with those beliefs without government intrusion and threat of punishment.” Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **4. U.S. Mid-term National Elections** / Pray that Christians would ask God about their voting decisions and that they would be adequately educated about candidates’ views. Pray every eligible Christian would register and vote in both the upcoming primaries (effecting 18 states) and the general national elections in November.
- ❑ **5. Anti-Conversion Laws** / Pray that South Asian nations would remove or appropriately enforce anti-conversion laws meant to stop forcible conversions but are used to persecute Christians. Sources: www.lausanne.org and www.adfinternational.org
- ❑ **6. Free Speech at Universities** / *Students for Life at Ball State University v. Hall* is a federal suit filed when the Student Activity Fee Committee at Ball State denied funding (from student activity fees) to a pro-life student organization that wanted to “share resources with pregnant and parenting students on campus.” Pray for a favorable outcome and that “public universities...not refuse to approve a student group without justification and...student activity funding [is] approved in a viewpoint-neutral manner.” Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **7. USCIRF (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom)** / “USCIRF is [a]... government commission...dedicated to defending ...freedom of religion...abroad.” Ask God to lead the USCIRF as it “reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.” Pray that God would lead U.S. government officials as they create laws and policies based on findings presented to them by USCIRF. Source: www.uscirf.gov
- ❑ **8. China’s New Laws** / New religious regulations pressured many churches to stop meeting and prevented minors from religious training. Chinese Holy Bibles, not sold in brick and mortar stores, are now no longer available on-line. Pray that Chinese Christians will still have God’s word available and that China will repeal these new oppressive regulations. Pray that Chinese Christians will grow closer to the Lord as a result of the recent crackdown. Sources: www.aclj.org, www.adfinternational.org and www.world.wng.org
- ❑ **9. Freedom of Speech on Public Streets** / Pray that the Supreme Court would hear and decide favorably in *Keister v. Bell* where an evangelist was told that he had to have a permit to speak and hand out leaflets on the sidewalks running along University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. At stake in the case is the freedom of people to speak on sidewalks along public streets. Source: www.aclj.org
- ❑ **10. Rights of Public School Students** / Pray that the students and parents know and exercise their legal rights: to opt out of activities that violate their religious beliefs; to bring their bible to school; to form bible clubs; and to choose religious topics when students are asked to choose topics. Source: www.ChristianLaw.org
- ❑ **11. Place to Worship Initiative** / In June, the US Attorney General announced initiative “protecting the ability of houses of worship and other religious institutions to build, expand, buy, or rent facilities—as provided by the land use provisions of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA).” Pray that this clarification helps churches not be pulled into unnecessary and costly litigation and that their resources can then be used to advance of the gospel to more people. Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **12. At the Cross Fellowship Baptist Church v. City of Monroe** / Pray for the favorable outcome of federal lawsuit filed against the City of Monroe, North Carolina for enacting unconstitutional zoning codes. A church was denied occupancy where zoning allows uses for “education, training or resources of a public, nonprofit, or charitable nature,” but excludes churches. Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **13. Senate and House of Representative Chaplain** / Pray that the lawmakers of our nation will continue to seek God and that there will always be a chaplain to pray and offer pastoral service to the members of Congress.
- ❑ **14. Freedom of Speech and Religion** / Pray that “Congress...make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Source: First Amendment U.S. Constitution

- ❑ **15. *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*** / Georgia Gwinnett College sought to limit the speech of students to a small time period in a small geographical zone so Alliance Defending Freedom filed a lawsuit that prompted GGC to change its policies. The policy change caused the court to rule that the lawsuit was now “moot” but never addressed the constitutional issues. ADF filed an appeal. Pray for a favorable outcome and that students at all colleges can freely share their faith. Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **16. Christians in Office** / Pray that more Holy Spirit-led citizens would run for public office and be elected on the local, state and national level. Pray that they would seek to create or uphold righteous laws and overturn and replace unrighteous laws. Pray that they would be protected from personal or public scandal and would live righteous lives before God and their constituents.
- ❑ **17. Christians Lawyers and Judges** / Pray that God would raise up lawyers and judges who “Vindicate the weak and fatherless; / Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. / ⁴Rescue the weak and needy; / Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4 NASB)
- ❑ **18. Freedom of Religion for Christian Universities in Canada** / At stake in *Trinity Western University v. The Law Society of Upper Canada* was the question of whether a Christian University can act consistently with its faith by requiring staff and students to refrain from premarital or extramarital sex. The court ruled against the university and the “future of accreditation for Christian education in Canada is at risk.” Pray that God would intervene despite the outcome of this case, and pray for the “freedom of faith-based institutions to act consistently with their faith without fear of reprisals.” Source: www.adfinternational.org
- ❑ **19. UN and Nigeria** / ACLJ “submitted a key legal submission at the U.N.” detailing “the atrocities in Nigeria” asking “for swift intervention in Nigeria before the violence against Christians becomes a complete extermination.” ADF International also submitted reports asking the International Criminal Court to “immediately start prosecuting members of Boko Haram who have been persecuting Christians in Nigeria.” Pray that these legal moves in the international arena are effective in rallying a response to help the persecuted Church in Nigeria. Sources: www.adflegal.org and www.aclj.org
- ❑ **20. Freedom of Religion and “Artistic Professionals”** / There are several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts or state courts where the religious freedoms of business owners or artistic professionals are at stake. Pray that “the right of artistic professionals to express themselves without government coercion to express views with which they disagree.” Source: www.adflegal.org
- ❑ **21. *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra*** / Praise God that “the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 ...against a California law that forced pro-life centers to advertise abortion services.” Please pray that our nation “not allow the government to target and punish anyone because the government disagrees with their message” and that pro-life pregnancy centers in California and elsewhere “be free to help women to choose life.” Sources: www.adflegal.org and www.world.wng.org
- ❑ **22. Free Speech in Europe** / As hate speech laws spread in Europe, pray that everyone and in particular Christians participate in creating laws in Europe that protect minorities and diffuse conflict, without stifling free speech and freedom of religion. Pray that Christians will continue to be able to spread the gospel in EU nations. Source: www.adfinternational.org
- ❑ **23. Individual Free Speech Rights of Christians** / Pray that the right of citizens to speak to others about religion or pass out bibles and religious literature will remain protected by local ordinances and laws of the United States. Pray for favorable outcome in the many court cases pending where these rights are being limited. Sources: www.crelaw.org, www.adflegal.org, and www.aclj.org
- ❑ **24. Public Officials Freedom of Speech** / The U.S Supreme Court declined to hear appeal in *Rowan County v. Lund* “...to uphold its policy pertaining to prayer before public meetings and to clear up conflicting rulings on legislator-led prayer in lower courts.” This let stand, a lower court’s ruling that “Rowan County’s prayers constituted a state endorsement of religion.” Pray that “All Americans, including public servants, have the freedom to pray without being censored...” Sources: www.adflegal.org and www.world.wng.org
- ❑ **25. Free Speech on College Campuses** / Pray for God’s intervention in the numerous college/university free speech/religion cases cited by Christian legal agencies. Please pray that the rights of students to freely speak and live out their religious beliefs and for college campuses to continue to allow free speech and not have discriminatory policies against speech. Pray that students would know their rights and courageously exercise their rights as led by God. Sources: www.crelaw.org, www.adflegal.org, and www.aclj.org
- ❑ **26. Executive Branch (President)** / Pray, petition and give thanks for “...all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:2). Pray that the Executive Branch would create policies that would allow Christians to live in peace and share their faith freely and that would “Vindicate the weak and fatherless; / Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. / ⁴Rescue the weak and needy; / Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4 NASB)
- ❑ **27. Judicial Branch (U. S. Supreme Court)** / Pray that Supreme Court’s decisions would line up with the word and will of God and that they would make right judgments in every matter brought before them regardless of cost or consequence.
- ❑ **28. Legislative Branch (Congress)** / Pray that no law be passed that would infringe on freedom of religion or speech for any citizen and that the free sharing of the Gospel will always remain legal. Pray that all life would be protected by our nation’s laws. Pray for your U.S. Senators and Congress person to be led by God.
- ❑ **29. States’ Lawmakers** / Pray for governors and state legislators to create no law that hinder the freedom of speech or religions for its citizens. Pray for your governor and state legislators to be led by God as they create bills, laws and policies.
- ❑ **30. Municipal Governments** / Pray that local ordinances would not hinder the rights and activities of individual Christians or Bible believing Churches and that the free spread of the Gospel is not hampered.