



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER, 1998

## Praying For Your Leaders

One of the privileges that you have as an American citizen is to vote for the individuals that you want to lead this nation. This is a privilege that many across this world do not have. It is a privilege that has been bought with blood, sweat, and tears. At the same time, it is a tremendous responsibility. You have the responsibility for voting for those who will make the laws and determine the direction of the country morally, ethically, and financially. You are accountable before God for whom you vote and why you voted for them. You cannot escape the responsibility that comes with this privilege.

However, there is a greater privilege and responsibility when it comes to your leaders, whether they are national, state, or local leaders. You have the privilege and the responsibility to pray for them. You have the privilege to pray for them due to the death of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. You can intercede for these leaders because Christ has broken down the barrier of sin between God and you. The Holy Spirit enables you to pray for these individuals. You can go into God's presence for these people who so desperately need your prayers. Yet, you have the responsibility to pray for them. They are "*your*" leaders. You are accountable to God for your prayers or lack of prayer in their behalf.

Some may protest by saying, "They're not "*my*" leaders. I didn't vote for them. I didn't want them in office." You may not have voted for some officials. Also, you may not agree with them or be pleased with the job that they are doing. However, that does not remove your responsibility before God to intercede for them. This does not make you exempt from crying out to God in their behalf.

There are several biblical reasons why you are responsible to pray for your leaders. The Bible declares that you are to intercede for your leaders. **The first reason that you are to pray for your leaders is because it is God's command for you.** The apostle Paul declares in **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, *for kings and all who are in authority* (emphasis mine)." In **1 Timothy 3:15**, Paul states the purpose of his writing this letter, "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Paul writes to these believers how they are to conduct themselves as a body of believers. He states how they are to act as a body of believers. Paul explicitly states that the church "first of all" is to pray for authorities. The first priority of the church then is to intercede for men, especially for those in leadership positions. This is God's command for His church.

This is what God desires that the church do. It is the believer's responsibility before God to pray for those in authority. Paul states in **1 Timothy 2:3**, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." What is good and acceptable in the sight of God? It is to pray for those who are in authority. It is to give thanks for these leaders and offer supplications, intercessions, and prayers for these individuals. This is a matter of obedience. To neglect this responsibility or to refuse to do this is to disobey God and to displease Him.

**The second reason that you should pray for your leaders is so that it will ensure a peaceful society in which we can carry out God's will and work.** In **1 Timothy 2:2**, the Bible declares, "For kings and for all who are in authority, *that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (emphasis mine)." Paul declares that believers are to pray for leaders because what they do affects those under them on a daily basis. If the leaders are being faithful and true to their task, then society will be under control and there will be order. This is one of God's purposes for government. It is to maintain peace and order in society. When this takes place, the church can carry out God's will and work. When the government is hostile to the church, it makes it very difficult to do these things. It is a hindrance to believers living a faithful, godly life for Jesus Christ.

It needs to be made clear that a hostile government does not stop the church nor can it be used as an excuse for failing to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The church can thrive and do the will and work of God even when the authorities have been hostile. A believer can be faithful to Jesus Christ despite his or her circumstances. This is being proved constantly throughout the world. However, the church is not to seek persecution. Believers are not to seek persecution from those who do not know Jesus Christ. It is the church's responsibility to pray for leaders so that there will be peace and order in society, allowing the church to do the will and work of God without the threat of resistance and hindrance.

**Another reason that you are to pray for your leaders is because it is a part of being a good citizen before God.** In **Romans 13**, the apostle Paul teaches that Christians are to be good citizens of the nation where they have been placed by Him. Government has been ordained by God. Submitting to these leaders is seen as a duty that is to be done before God. These officials are designated as "God's ministers" (**Romans 13:6**). Because of this, Paul goes on to state that believers are to "render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor (**Romans 13:7**). A necessary part of rendering their due to them is praying for them. They are accountable for their "ministry" to you; you are accountable for your submission to and your prayers for them.

**You must pray for your leaders because it can make a difference.** It often seems that authorities on every level are going to do what they choose without any regard for what the citizens want. And, there is corruption in every level of government. It appears that the corruption blinds and guides the decisions of many leaders. However, your prayers can make a difference. The Word of God states in **Proverbs 21:1**, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers (or channels) of water; He turns it wherever He wishes." In Solomon's day, the king was absolute. Whatever he said

was law. Whatever he desired was done. There was no greater authority or power on earth. However, Solomon states that even the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord. The "rivers" or "channels" that the text speaks of refers to irrigation ditches. Farmers would dig these ditches to get water to wherever they needed it. They simply would dig the ditch in the direction they wanted the water to go. Solomon is teaching that God can guide the king to do whatever He wants. God is the supreme and absolute Ruler. He can change and guide the heart of any ruler no matter how power that ruler is. You are praying to the supreme, all-powerful God. He can change the hearts of your leaders. He can guide your leaders whether they know Him or not. **Too many believers want to whine and complain about the way things are. Too many believers want to have a "pity party" rather than a "prayer meeting" concerning these matters. It is time to repent of this!** Your prayers can make a difference!

**A final reason that you must pray for your leaders is because it is a part of being salt and light for Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ declares in **Matthew 5:13**, "You are the salt of the earth." In **Matthew 5:14**, Jesus Christ continues by stating, "You are the light of the world." The person who follows Jesus Christ is to have a positive, powerful impact on the world around him or her. You are commanded by Christ to make a difference in this world. You can do this in various ways. Yet, the most powerful way to do this is by praying for your leaders. You can be salt and light by interceding for those who are in powerful positions, directing this nation, your state, your local affairs. No matter who you are and no matter where you are, you can impact this nation, your state, and your area by praying. You can stand for Jesus Christ by praying for these individuals.

The following is a list of national officials for whom you need to be praying. Following this, there will be a list of prayer requests that you can use to intercede in their behalf. These prayer requests are offered as a guide to help you in praying for them. You need to develop some type of plan to pray for these leaders during your prayer times through the week. Customize your own schedule and intercede for these individuals.

## Executive

President: William Clinton  
 White House Chief of Staff: Erskine Bowles  
 Secretary of Defense: William Cohen  
 Sec. of Housing & Urban Development: Andrew Cuomo  
 Secretary of Commerce: William Daley  
 Secretary of Energy: Federico Pena

Secretary of the Interior: Bruce Babbitt  
 Secretary of Transportation: Rodney Slater  
 Chairman Joint Chief of Staffs: Gen. Henry H. Shelton  
 Surgeon General: Dr. David M. Satcher  
 National Security Advisor: Samuel Berger  
 U.N. Ambassador: Bill Richardson  
 CIA Director: George J. Tenet

Vice-President: Albert Gore  
 Secretary of State: Madeleine Albright  
 Secretary of Treasury: Robert Rubin  
 Secretary of Agriculture: Dan Glickman  
 Secretary of Education: Richard Riley  
 Secretary of Health & Human Services:  
 Donna Shalala  
 Secretary of Labor: Alexis Herman  
 Secretary of Veteran Affairs: Togo West  
 Attorney General: Janet Reno  
 Postmaster General: Marvin Runyon  
 Trade Representative: Charlene Barshefsky  
 FBI Director: Louis Freeh  
 NSA Director: Lt. Gen. Kenneth Minihan

IRS Commissioner: Charles Rossotti

## United States Senate

Majority Leader: Trent Lott (R-MS)  
 Minority Leader: Thomas Daschle (D-SD)  
 Whips: Don Nickles (R-OK)\Wendell Ford (D-KY)  
 Chaplain: Lloyd Ogilvie  
 YOUR UNITED STATES SENATORS

## Senate Committee Chairmen

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Richard Lugar (R-IN)\Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
 Appropriations: Ted Stevens (R-AK)\Robert Byrd (D-WV)  
 Armed Services: Strom Thurmond (R-SC)\Carl Levin (D-MI)  
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY)\Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)  
 Budget: Pete Domenici (R-NM)\Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation: John McCain (R-AZ)\Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC)  
 Energy and Natural Resources: Frank Murkowski (R-AK)\Dale Bumpers (D-AR)  
 Environment and Public Works: John Chafee (R-RI)\Max Baucus (D-MT)  
 Ethics: Robert Smith (R-NH)\Harry Reid (D-NV)  
 Finance: William Roth (R-DE)\Patrick Moynihan (D-NY)  
 Foreign Relations: Jesse Helms (R-NC)\Joseph Biden (D-DE)  
 Governmental Affairs: Fred Thompson (R-TN)\John Glenn (D-OH)  
 Indian Affairs: Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO)\Daniel Inouye (D-HI)  
 Judiciary: Orrin Hatch (R-UT)\Patrick Leahy (D-VT)  
 Labor and Human Resources: Jim Jeffords (R-VT)\Edward Kennedy (D-MA)  
 Rules and Administration: John Warner (R-VA)\Wendell Ford (D-KY)  
 Small Business: Christopher Bond (R-MO)\John Kerry (D-MA)  
 Veterans' Affairs: Arlen Specter (R-PA)\John Rockefeller (D-WV)

## United States House of Representatives

Speaker: Newt Gingrich (R-GA)  
 Majority Leader: Dick Armey (R-TX)  
 Minority Leader: Richard Gephardt (D-MO)  
 Whips: Tom DeLay (R-TX)\David Bonior (D-MI)  
 Chaplain: James Ford  
 YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

## Committee Chairmen

Agriculture: Robert Smith (R-OR)\Charles Stenholm (D-TX)  
 Appropriations: Bob Livingston (R-LA)\David Obey (D-WI)  
 Banking and Finance: Jim Leach (R-IA)\Henry Gonzalez (D-TX)  
 Budget: John Kasich (R-OH)\John M. Spratt (D-SC)  
 Commerce: Thomas Bliley (R-VA)\John Dingell (D-MI)  
 Education and Workforce: Bill Goodling (R-PA)\William Clay (D-MO)  
 Government Reform and Oversight: Dan Burton (R-IN)\Henry Waxman (D-CA)  
 House Oversight: Bill Thomas (R-CA)\Sam Gejdenson (D-CT)  
 International Relations: Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)\Lee Hamilton (D-IN)  
 Judiciary: Henry Hyde (R-IL)\John Conyers (D-MI)  
 National Security: Floyd Spence (R-SC)\ Ronald Dellums (D-CA)  
 Resources: Don Young (R-AK)\George Miller (D-CA)  
 Rules: Gerald Solomon (R-NY)\Joe Moakley (D-MA)  
 Science: James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)\George Brown Jr. (D-CA)  
 Small Business: James Talent (R-MO)\John LaFalce (D-NY)  
 Transportation and Infrastructure: Bud Shuster (R-PA)\James Oberstar (D-MN)  
 Veterans' Affairs: Bob Stump (R-AZ)\Lane Evans (D-IL)  
 Ways and Means: Bill Archer (R-TX)\Charles Rangel (D-NY)

## United States Supreme Court

Chief Justice William Rehnquist  
 Justice John Paul Stevens  
 Justice Sandra Day O'Connor  
 Justice Antonin Scalia  
 Justice Anthony Kennedy  
 Justice David Souter  
 Justice Clarence Thomas  
 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
 Justice Stephen Breyer

## State and Local Officials

Your Governor  
 Your Lieutenant Governor  
 Your State Legislators  
 City and Local Judges, Police, and Firemen  
 School Officials

### Prayer requests that you can pray through concerning these leaders:

- (1) That, if they are unsaved, they will be drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; if saved, that they will be strengthened and encouraged in their faith (**John 3:16-18; Ephesians 1:17-23**);
- (2) That they would be God-fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him for every decision and act of their lives (**Proverbs 9:10**);
- (3) That they be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors (**Proverbs 24:6**);
- (4) That they recognize their own inadequacy and pray and seek the will of God for their lives and decisions (**Proverbs 3:5-8; Luke 11:9-13**);
- (5) That they be honest in financial, tax, and ethical matters (**1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:6-10**);
- (6) That they be generous and have compassionate hearts for the poor and the needy (**Psalm 112:9; Luke 10:33-37**);
- (7) That they have the courage to resist manipulation, bribery, pressure, and the fear of man (**Proverbs 29:25; 2 Timothy 1:7**);
- (8) That they desire honesty, integrity, and loyalty (**Psalm 26; Proverbs 11:3**);
- (9) That they be prepared to give an account to Almighty God (**Hebrews 9:27**);
- (10) That they desire humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate (**John 13:14; Titus 3:1-2**);
- (11) That they endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order, and morality in our nation (**Ephesians 5:22-6:1**);
- (12) That they would be granted wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (**James 1:5**);
- (13) That they be convicted of sin, transgression, and iniquity (**Psalm 51:17; John 8:9**);
- (14) That they heed their conscience, confess their sins, and repent (**Proverbs 28:13; James 4:8**);
- (15) That they read the Bible and attend prayer meetings and Bible studies (**Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:2**);
- (16) That they value and regard the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus Christ (**Psalm 19:7-11; John 8:31-32**);
- (17) That they respect authority and practice accountability (**Romans 13:1-7**);

- (18) That they be faithful and honest to their spouses and children (**Malachi 2:15-16**);
- (19) That they may desire purity and avoid debauchery, pornography, perversion, and drunkenness (**1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Titus 2:12**);
- (20) That they have thankful and teachable spirits (**Romans 1:21**).

## Learning To Praise God: God The Son

In previous issues of *The Prayer Closet*, we have focused on learning how to praise God. Every child of God desires to praise God. This is a result of the new birth, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a new understanding of who God is. This desire has to be cultivated into a discipline. Praising God should not become a habit or a routine. However, it has to be a discipline that you develop. **The desire to praise God has to be channeled into a disciplined pursuit of God and the turning of every truth you learn about Him into praise for Him.**

In order to help you do this, *The Prayer Closet* has been offering you guides to the attributes, the names, and the titles of God. This issue is concerned with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. As the Lord and Savior of sinners and the Head of the church, He is worthy of your praise. He is worthy of you seeking to know Him more intimately and praise Him more fully. The following is a list of the titles of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Scripture where each title is found is also given. Study these verses in order to learn what this title reveals about Jesus Christ. Meditate on how this title of Jesus Christ affects your life. Record these insights and use this truth to praise Jesus Christ.

As you study these titles, you will see as never before that Jesus Christ is truly God in human flesh. In Jesus Christ, there is the power to change situations, lives, and worlds. In Him, you can find protection, stability, growth, guidance, authority, boldness, and restoration. You can find these things and more in the name and titles of Jesus Christ. He is sufficient for your every need, burden, and crisis. Seek to know Him and praise Him like never before in your life.

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|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Advocate-1 John 2:1-2                       | Alpha and Omega-Revelation 1:8; 22:13           |
| Apostle and High Priest-Hebrews 3:1         | Author and Perfector-Hebrews 12:2               |
| Author of Salvation-Hebrews 2:10            | Blessed and Only Ruler-1 Timothy 6:15           |
| Branch from Jesse-Isaiah 11:1               | Bread of God-John 6:33                          |
| Bread of Life-John 6:35                     | Bridegroom-Mt. 25:1-10; Mk. 2:19-20; John 3:29  |
| Chosen of God-Luke 23:25; 1 Peter 2:4       | Chosen One-Isaiah 42:1; Luke 23:25              |
| Christ Jesus our Lord-2 Timothy 1:2         | Christ of God-Luke 9:20                         |
| Christ the Lord-Luke 2:11                   | Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God-1 Cor. 1:24 |
| Consolation of Israel-Luke 2:25             | Cornerstone-Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6           |
| Deliverer-Romans 11:26                      | Desired of All Nations-Haggai 2:7               |
| Everlasting Father-Isaiah 9:6               | Faithful and True-Revelation 19:11              |
| Faithful and True Witness-Revelation 3:14   | Firstborn-Hebrews 1:6                           |
| Firstborn from the dead-Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5 | Firstborn among many brethren-Romans 8:29       |
| Firstborn over all creation-Colossians 1:15 | Forerunner-Hebrews 6:20                         |

Foundation-1 Corinthians 3:11  
 Gate-John 10:7-9  
 Glory of Israel-Luke 2:32  
 Head of the church-Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18-20  
 High Priest-Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 7:26-27  
 Holy One of God-Mark 1:24; Lk. 4:34; John 6:69  
 Horn of Salvation-Luke 1:69  
 Immanuel-Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14  
 Jesus Christ-Matthew 1:1  
 Judge-Acts 10:42  
 King of kings-1 Timothy 6:15; Rev. 19:16  
 Lamb of God-John 1:36  
 Light of the world-John 8:12, 9:5  
 Living Stone-1 Peter 2:4  
 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ-2 Peter 1:11  
 Lord of lords-1 Timothy 6:14; Rev. 19:16  
 Lord of the Sabbath-Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28  
 Mediator-1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:24  
 Mighty God-Isaiah 9:6  
 Our Holiness-1 Corinthians 1:30  
 Our Redemption-1 Corinthians 1:30  
 Physician-Acts 4:31  
 Prince of life-Acts 3:15  
 Rabbi-Mark 10:51; John 1:38, 49  
 Radiance of God's glory-Hebrews 1:3  
 Righteous Branch-Jeremiah 23:5  
 Righteous One-Acts 7:52  
 Rising Sun-Luke 1:78  
 Root and Offspring of David-Rev. 22:16  
 Ruler-Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6  
 Savior-Luke 2:11; Acts 5:31; Titus 3:6  
 Servant-Isaiah 52:13-15; Philippians 2:7  
 Son-Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 3:6  
 Son of God-Mt. 8:29, 14:33; John 10:36  
 Son of the Blessed One-Mark 14:61  
 Son of the Living God-Matthew 16:16  
 Stone-Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:8  
 Teacher-John 13:14  
 The Amen-Revelation 3:14  
 The Branch of the Lord-Isaiah 4:2  
 The Last Adam-1 Corinthians 15:45  
 The Morning Star-2 Peter 1:9; Rev. 22:16  
 The Resurrection-John 11:25  
 True God-1 John 5:20  
 True Vine-John 15:1  
 Friend-Matthew 11:19  
 Gift of God-John 4:10  
 Good Shepherd-John 10:11, 14  
 Heir of all things-Hebrews 1:2  
 Holy One-Acts 2:27  
 Hope of Glory-Colossians 1:27  
 I Am-John 8:58  
 Jesus-Mt. 1:21; Acts 5:9; Hebrews 2:9  
 Jesus of Nazareth-Mk. 1:24; John 18:5-7, 19:19  
 King-Luke 19:38  
 Lamb-Revelation 5:6  
 Light of the Gentiles-Luke 2:32  
 Lion of the Tribe of Judah-Rev. 5:5  
 Lord-Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:11  
 Lord of Glory-1 Corinthians 2:8  
 Lord of the dead and living-Romans 14:9  
 Master-Matthew 23:8  
 Messiah-John 1:41, 4:25  
 One and Only-John 1:14, 18, 3:16  
 Our Passover-1 Corinthians 5:7  
 Our Righteousness-Jeremiah 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30  
 Prince-Acts 4:31  
 Prince of peace-Isaiah 9:6  
 Rabboni-John 20:16  
 Redeemer-Isaiah 44:24; Galatians 4:5  
 Righteous Judge-2 Timothy 4:8  
 Righteous Servant-Isaiah 53:11  
 Rock-1 Corinthians 10:4  
 Root of David-Revelation 5:5  
 Ruler of God's creation-Revelation 3:14  
 Second Adam-1 Corinthians 15:47  
 Shepherd and Overseer-1 Peter 2:25  
 Son of Abraham-Matthew 1:1  
 Son of Man-Mt. 8:20; Mk. 2:10; John 1:51, 3:13  
 Son of the Father-2 John 3  
 Son of the Most High God-Mk. 5:7; Luke 8:28  
 Sure Foundation-Isaiah 28:16  
 The Almighty-Revelation 1:8, 15:3  
 The Beginning-Colossians 1:18  
 The Christ-John 7:41; Acts 2:36  
 The Life-John 11:25, 14:6  
 The Prophet-John 7:40  
 The Son of God-Mt. 8:29; Mk. 1:1; Lk. 1:35  
 True Light-1 John 1:9  
 Truth-John 14:6



Way-John 14:6  
 Wonderful Counselor-Isaiah 9:6, 28:29  
 The Word of God-Revelation 19:13

Wisdom-1 Corinthians 1:30  
 Word-John 1:1, 14

## Praying Through The Ten Commandments

In the first commandment, you are taught that it is wrong to worship and serve a false God. God's desire is that you worship and serve Him and Him alone. In the second commandment, you are taught that it is wrong to worship the true God in a false way. You are not to focus on external objects such as relics, pictures, and art. You are to worship God in spirit (the inward response of the heart, the mind, and the will) and in truth (according to what God has revealed in His Word).

In the third commandment, God declares that you are not to take His name in vain. The popular interpretation of this commandment focuses on profanity. According to this interpretation, taking God's name in vain occurs only when a person uses God's name with profanity or swear words. This is definitely a part of what it means to take God's name in vain. It is a despicable and evil thing to attach God's holy name with profanity. You should not use God's name in a common or profane way. You should not use His name in a flippant and irreverent way.

However, taking God's name in vain cannot be limited to using God's name in a common way or connecting it with profanity. The word "vain" in Hebrew means "carelessly" or "without thought." Obviously, one should not use God's name in speech without thinking about how one is using it. Yet, there is a deeper meaning. God's name is not a mere word. It is not an empty title. God's name means something. It stands for everything that He is. To take God's name is a serious commitment to worship and serve God alone. It is a commitment to glorify God for all that He is by one's words and actions.

Taking the name of God means to identify with Him. It means that you are declaring that you know God and that you love Him and serve Him. Taking the name of God is the open confession that you are in a personal relationship with God.

To take God's name in vain is to confess these things and then fail to live it out on a daily basis. It means that you say that you know God and then live as if you do not. It means that you profess to know God and then deny this in your lifestyle.

It is a dangerous thing to be a hypocrite-to profess to know God and then fail to live for Him and serve Him on a daily basis. God declares that He will not hold this person guiltless. This person will not escape the wrath of the living and true God. Even though this person professes faith and can claim great works, he or she will be denied by Jesus Christ and will be cast into eternal hell (**Matthew 7:21-27**).

What God desires from you is sincere worship and service along with your profession. God wants your walking to match your talking. He commands that your profession be backed up with a life of genuine worship, service, and obedience. If you are going to claim the name of God, you must seek

to live a life that reflects that you belong to Him. You must strive to make sure that your words and actions reveal that you belong to God and that you are in a relationship with Him.

### **Questions For Self-Examination:**

1. Have I been careless in the way that I have used God's name in my daily conversations?
2. Have I developed the habit of saying, "My God!" or "O, my God!"?
3. Can people see the relationship between my faith in Christ and the way that I live my life?
4. Have I caused others to doubt God and His Word by my words and actions?
5. Have I disgraced Jesus Christ and His gospel by my words and actions?

### **Prayer:**

Holy and true God, the one living God of heaven and earth, I praise You because You have revealed Yourself to me. I know that I could have never known You unless You had made Yourself known to me by Your creation, by Your Word, and by Your Son, Jesus Christ. I now see You for who You are: the great and awesome God of all time and eternity. You have made all things. They were made by You and they exist to praise You. You are great, beyond description and comprehension. There is none like you in all of heaven and earth. From eternity unto eternity, You exist as the Most High God over all.

Father, I ask You to forgive me of the times that I have used Your most excellent name in a common or flippant way. Forgive me for using your name in an ordinary way. I ask for You to have mercy on me for failing to live in such a way that shows that I belong to You. Forgive my hypocrisy. Cleanse me of failing to live in a way that is worthy of Your great and exalted name.

I plead with You for the grace and strength to serve you and live for you in such a way that it is evident to all that I belong to You. Deliver me from hypocrisy in any form. Cause me to hate hypocrisy in my life in any form. Cause my talking to be matched by my walking. I want You to be glorified by my words and actions. I want people to see the greatness of Your power through my words and actions. I want people to know how great and glorious You are through my life. Amen.

## **Advancing The Kingdom      Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia once had a large Christian population. When Islam gained control in the nation over 1300 years ago, all Christians were expelled. It is now one of the least evangelized nations on the earth. No Christian workers are permitted and all Christian "propaganda" is banned. Very few Saudi Arabians have ever heard the gospel, seen the Bible, or even met a true believer.

Islam's holiest city, Mecca, is located in Saudi Arabia. The world's one billion Muslims are required to pray towards Mecca five times daily. Every year over two million Muslims make the *Hajj* or pilgrimage to the city. No Christians are allowed to set foot in Mecca.

Any Saudis who confess Jesus Christ face the death sentence if discovered. One Saudi believer was beheaded in 1992. Anyone who does mission work or converts a Muslim faces jail, expulsion, or

execution. Even foreign Christians visiting Saudi Arabia are not allowed to meet together and worship. Visiting Christians live under strict surveillance. Since 1992, 360 cases have been documented in which visiting Christians were arrested for taking part in private worship. Secret gatherings are hunted down with increasing diligence and the leaders of these meetings are subjected to humiliating beatings, imprisonment, and expulsion from the country. Visiting Christians have little contact with the people under these conditions.

Saudi Arabia has signed many agreements over the years regarding religious freedom. They have signed and agreed to many U.N. and international rights conventions. However, this is only window dressing. The Saudi Arabian government refuses to adhere to these and is strictly intolerant of everything but Islam. There is no deviation from Islam.

The massive Islamic missionary outreach is coordinated by the Muslim World League in Mecca. The world's largest printing presses are set up in Saudi Arabia and they turn out 28 million Korans (the "Bible" of the Muslim) annually. This nation is at the heart of the Islamic faith. It is thoroughly committed to Islam, its preservation and its propagation around the world. It is thoroughly bound by the powers of hell.

Despite the harshness and intolerance of the Islamic government and its stance, there are true believers in Saudi Arabia. They are few in number and they desperately need your prayers. You can use the prayer requests in the July issue of *The Prayer Closet* to intercede for these believers. There are other specific requests that you need to make for these believers and this nation. These requests are:

- (1) Pray that God would break the satanic grip that he has on Saudi Arabia through Islam. This nation is in bondage to the power of hell and it is our responsibility to pray for this to be broken and for the gospel to spread throughout Saudi Arabia;
- (2) Pray that God will enable the believers in Saudi Arabia to share the gospel and that God will open the hearts of the Saudi Arabians to the gospel;
- (3) Pray that God will draw Saudi Arabian government officials into a relationship with Him;
- (4) Pray for the 146 hours of radio broadcasts that go into this nation. Plead also for the spread of Christian literature in this nation. Even though it is banned, pray that God would blind the officials to it and that the gospel literature would spread throughout the country.

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in the situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members  
Church affiliation  
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected.



**THE PRAYER CLOSET**  
**Dr. Kevin Meador**  
**595 Stratton Road**  
**Decatur, MS 39327**