



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection October 2020

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Freedom

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

Mark Your Calendar!
Tuesday, Nov. 3, General and Presidential election

Tuesday, Oct. 20, early in-person voting begins.

To register to vote or to update your voter registration, visit myvote.wi.gov. Online voter registration must be done by Oct. 14!

Commit to Vote!

Go to committovotewi.org and pledge to vote.

If you need to vote absentee, request your ballot ASAP. You can return your ballot in person or by mail. **All absentee ballots must be received by Nov. 3.**

Healing Prayer

As the COVID-19 crisis escalated, President Trump called for a National Day of Prayer to be held on Sunday, March 15. In a Tweet, the president said, *“We are a Country that, throughout our history, has looked to God for protection and strength in times like these....”* President Trump was right. We have a long history of our leaders praying and calling the nation to prayer.

As you read these prayers and the declarations, it’s hard to miss the overtones of II Chronicles 7:14. Of course, this passage is specific in promise to Israel, but its principles are applicable to any nation. With that in mind, consider some of the prayers, calls to prayer and acts of worship during the Revolutionary War era.



In June of 1774, following several acts of aggression by the British, Thomas Jefferson, drafted a declaration for a Day of Fasting. It passed unanimously in the Virginia House of Burgesses. *“This House, being deeply impressed with apprehension of the great dangers, to be derived to British America,... deem it highly necessary that the said first day of June be set apart, by the members of this House as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, devoutly to implore the Divine interposition, for averting the heavy calamity which threatens destruction to our civil rights. Ordered, therefore that the Members of this House do attend...to the Church in this City, for the purposes aforesaid; and that the Reverend Mr. Price be appointed to read prayers, and the Reverend Mr. Gwatkin, to preach a sermon.”* George Washington wrote in his journal on the designated day, *“Went to church, fasted all day.”*

Consider This

In I Chron.12:32, we are told the children of Issachar were men who “*had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.*” When Jeremiah wrote to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon, he told them to “*seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it....*” (Jer. 29:7).

What is striking in these two passages is that it wasn't enough for the people to just understand their times, and it wasn't enough just to pray. Both are critically important, but both understanding and prayer needed to be accompanied by action. And not just any action, but the right kind of action.

We are ambassadors of the King of kings, and as such, we represent Him to the world. We are to love our neighbors and pray for our enemies (Mt. 22:39 & 5:44). Further we are exhorted to do good to all men, (Gal. 6:10). And James reminds us that faith without works is dead, (James 2:17).

Voting for men and women who will uphold the law, punish the evil, and make it possible for good to flourish (Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:14) is a **vitaly important responsibility**. Please be sure to vote, and please be careful to vote for men and women who have a proven track record of being pro-family, pro-life and pro-religious liberty. The future of our country depends on it!

On July 12, 1775, the nation observed a congressionally declared Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer: “*Congress...considering the present critical, alarming, and calamitous state...do earnestly recommend, that Thursday, the 12th of July next, be observed by the inhabitants of all the English Colonies on this Continent, as a Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer...that we may with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly confess and deplore our many sins and offer up our joint supplications to the All-wise, Omnipotent and merciful Disposer of all Events, humbly beseeching Him to forgive our iniquities....It is recommended to Christians of all denominations to assemble for public worship and to abstain from servile labor and recreations of said day.*”

John Adams in a letter to his wife Abigail wrote about this day: “*Millions will be upon their knees at once before their great Creator, imploring His forgiveness and blessing, His smiles on American Council and arms.*”

Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull reported about this proclamation to General George Washington in a letter dated, July 13, 1775. Trumbull included a prayer for General Washington: “*Now, therefore, be strong and very courageous. May the God of the armies of Israel shower down the blessings of his Divine Providence on you, give you wisdom and fortitude, cover your head in the day of battle and danger, add success, convince our enemies of their mistaken measures.*”

This is our heritage. It is not fiction, lies or fake news. We have had such leaders—men who understood the principles of II Chronicles 7:14 and who were humble enough to know they needed to pray and to lead the nation in prayer, fasting and repentance. President Trump was in good company with his March 15 Day of Prayer declaration. We need more of that leadership right now, but we also must remember that the oft-quoted verse begins with “*If my people...*” As God's people we must exercise these principles whether or not we have “official” days of prayer and fasting. The healing of our land depends on it.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.