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A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.

**When Is It Time to Pray?**

*Tanya Ditty, Vice President of Field Operations*

The Gospels record Jesus praying at least 38 times. Prayer was an integral part of Jesus’ time on earth, and He prayed regularly. Luke 5:16 says, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

Consider Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus looked toward the horizon of time, and He knew that in just a few very short hours, all He came to do would be completed, and history would be forever changed. It was a crisis time in His earthly walk, a crisis that could have eternal repercussions. In that part of Jesus’ life, Matthew records His words reminding all who would listen that Jesus was in overwhelming sorrow. The crisis was quite real and threatening. At such a point, what does Jesus do? He prays, not just once but three times.

And when you are weary or feeling attacked by the Enemy, also pray Scripture. His Word is *proven*. His way is *perfect*. He is our *Strength*, our *Shield*, and our *Deliverer*, and we can fully trust Him. Pray through the following portion of Psalm 18. May the truth of God’s Word refresh both your mind and spirit.

“I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies …” Psalm 18:1-3 NKJV
Influencer Monthly

Demanding Accountability for Ethical Research
Ashley Foster, Legislative Strategist

COVID-19 pandemic were coming to light, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) worked to educate members on the dangers of handing blanket authority to government research institutions that are failing the American people. We amplified how the bill did nothing to restore public confidence in the National Institutes of Health or ensure that fundamental human rights would be protected.

Specifically, CWALAC urged members to support two critical amendments. The first was introduced by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) to prohibit funds for research involving aborted fetal tissue or embryo destruction. The second was sponsored by Sen. Mike Braun (R-Indiana) to prohibit certain types of human-animal chimeras in federal research. Both measures were rejected.

Soon after Senate passage of the USICA, the House considered two bills boosting spending for National Science Foundation and Department of Energy scientific research. CWALAC once again asserted that neither of these bills should advance without adding essential safeguards to address unchecked ethical landmines. Both pieces of legislation passed easily, with over two-thirds of members blindly supporting.

The House and Senate failed to reconcile differences between these two bills until now. As we evaluate this supposed compromise proposal from House Democrats, we must recommit to ensuring that any legislation aimed to advance U.S. competitiveness also fully secures America’s ethical research interests.

Act: Tell your Members of Congress that you oppose funding for reckless and unethical research and ask them to insist that federal research prohibit the use of aborted fetal tissue or human-animal chimeras. Call 202-224-3121 to be directed to their Washington D.C. offices.

Pray: “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

(2 Peter 3:17-18)
Praise & Prayer

Praise!
Praise the Lord for His continued presence in each of our lives as we commit ourselves every day to represent Him in all that we do with CWA.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10

Prayer!
Pray without ceasing for our state and federal legislators. Pray for God’s guidance to be felt by them as they make decisions in the upcoming months.

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.”
Proverbs 3:13-14

Pray for the more than one hundred new chapters that started up last year and for those starting this year. May people be compelled to attend the meetings to pray and take action for the glory of the Lord and the benefit of this nation.

“And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.”
Revelation 8:4

Gavel Watch

Breyer Retires
Mario Diaz, Esq., General Counsel

I was done writing my newsletter piece to you when the news broke. Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring. That changes things a bit.

No official word from the Supreme Court, though, which is interesting and suggests someone talked without authorization. It immediately brought memories of these radical groups in Washington, D.C., driving trucks saying “Breyer Retire” all over town, trying to bully him into submission. The Left is so eager to see him gone that they even messed up his announcement. Usually, the justice who is retiring gets to announce it himself. He must not be happy.

Whatever the case, the radicals got their wish. Breyer is retiring, they have the majority in the U.S. Senate, and President Joe Biden gets to appoint whomever he wants.

Except, that is not entirely true. President Biden made a pledge. During the 2020 presidential debate in South Carolina, when his campaign was struggling to get off the ground, then-presidential candidate Biden promised that, if elected, he would appoint the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. “Not a joke,” he emphasized with his usual common-man style.

As told through different reports, the story of the pledge behind the scenes is not about sincere, ordinary person concerns for the country but about raw politics, as you might have guessed.

The story goes that candidate Biden desperately needed the endorsement of one of the most influential figures in South Carolina, House Majority Whip James Clyburn, who had also been the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Without his endorsement, the whole campaign could tank. Clyburn asked him not only to commit to appointing the first African American woman but also to pledge it publicly during the debate.

According to Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes, who wrote the book “Lucky,” Clyburn was so frustrated when he didn’t hear candidate Biden say the pledge publicly that he went backstage during one of the breaks to put pressure on him. “Don’t you leave this stage without doing it,” he is reported saying.
And so, he did. Now, President Biden is locked into a very narrow pool of candidates, not based on professional qualifications and merit, but on identity politics. Sad to see the judicial nominations process reduced to these sorts of calculations.

Given that, some names are already floating around. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was recently elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, which is said to be the second-highest court on the land, is the first name you will hear. She is a former clerk of Justice Breyer.

California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger has also been mentioned, as well as South Carolina U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs and NAACP attorney Sherrilyn Ifill.

For our part, we must add this nomination to our prayers as we continue to lift up the Court on the upcoming Dobbs decision. As CWA President Penny Nance said in her statement on Justice Breyer’s resignation, let us pray for President Biden that he may use this opportunity to unite the country, instead of further alienating half, to appease the most extreme elements of his party.

“The president has a chance to finally unify the country with a consensus nominee, breaking away from the shameful and vile tactics we have experienced in recent Supreme Court nominations,” Penny said.

Let us pray as one for that as we await an official announcement. And stand by, ready to lift our voices for justice.

This story continues to unfold since the time of writing. Be sure to keep current by visiting ConcernedWomen.org and follow us on social media.

AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. Foreign Policy Threatens Religious Beliefs

Neydy Casillas, Esq. - Vice President of International Affairs

The Biden Administration continues its horrific trend of U.S. policy by threatening to withhold U.S. aide from nations unless they support abortion and LGBT rights. Case in point: Congress is set to vote on H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act. As drafted, the current Global Respect Act does not promote respect. Instead, it creates a method of ideological colonization in which the U.S. government attempts to impose a far-left, controversial gender ideology agenda upon governments and individuals, undermining legitimate freedoms of expression and belief and attacking counties’ national sovereignty.

The Global Respect Act purports to protect the rights of those who identify themselves as LGBTQI, but in essence, it undermines rights to freedom of conscience and religious belief for those who disagree. The bill could be used to punish individuals for viewpoints on sexual behavior and gender as a “flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty or the security of such persons.” Moreover, H.R. 3485 threatens countries’ democratic processes and risks peace between nations.

Internationally, people continue to be persecuted for their religious beliefs about marriage—declaring the sacred union between one man and one woman—or the biological reality of being male or female. Priests, pastors, and other individuals are accused of hate speech when they respectfully express their rights of conscience and beliefs.
As written, the so-called Global Respect Act provides a weapon, using intimidation as the method to persecute those who maintain historically accepted, Biblically foundational, and scientifically accurate beliefs concerning human sex and sexuality. H.R. 3485 requires the State Department to blacklist individuals whom it accuses of causing “restrictions on the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms in foreign countries based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.”

Beyond sanctioning individuals, the language included within the bill could be used as a pretext to pressure countries to legalize same-sex marriage, adoption for same-sex couples, legalization of gender-affirming therapies for minors, and more.

Although this bill has not yet been enacted, we have received information that in the Dominican Republic, lawmakers have been threatened by the U.S. government with taking away their visas for not including sexual orientation and gender identity within their new criminal laws.

International law is based upon the fundamental principles of non-intervention and sovereign equality for all countries. As drafted, the Global Respect Act infringes on these principles.

Just as the U.S. government demands respect for its institutions and representatives and for the self-determination of peoples, we as a nation have an obligation to respect the national sovereignty of other nations.

Please pray for the leaders of nations to stand firm and refuse to bend to the threats of the United States foreign aid policies that would change their country’s abortion and pro-family policies.
Meet the New CWA State Director of New Mexico!

We are excited to share that Nickie McCarty is the new State Director of New Mexico. Nickie is a native of New Mexico, has a degree in accounting and teaching, a master’s in educational leadership, an associate degree in ministry, and is working on her bachelor’s degree in ministry. She has been married for 30 years and has two sons in the military.

Nickie recently retired from the Taos Municipal Schools, where she taught math for 16 years and was the Athletic Director for 10. She is currently the director of the children’s and youth ministries at her church and serves as the leader of the CWA Taos County Prayer/Action Chapter.

Her 2022 goals are to grow the chapter base and to tackle the state’s abortion laws. New Mexico has the least abortion restrictions and permits abortion at any stage of pregnancy. Please contact Nickie if you know of anyone in New Mexico that may want to get involved and pray for Nickie as she launches CWA of New Mexico.

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

YWA Marches On
Annabelle Rutledge, National Director, Young Women for America

The first couple weeks of January were on the slow side for YWA as so many of our leaders are students and on break from school.

It didn’t stay slow for long! Our team was outside the Supreme Court twice in one week. First, for a religious liberty case rally, Shurtleff v. City of Boston in which the City Hall Plaza in Boston denied a group from hoisting the Christian flag despite allowing over 280 other independent flag raisings including numerous LGBTQ+ and Muslim flags. I had the honor of representing YWA and all of you in standing for our constitutional right to religious freedom and the Biblical values on which this nation was founded.

Several our YWA leaders joined us in D.C. to march in the 49th, and potentially last, March for Life in January. From California to Virginia, Arkansas to Pennsylvania and beyond, we marched together in great anticipation of the upcoming Dobbs decision and the implications it has to preserve life in our nation. As always, it was a blessing to be together in person! We opened our office after the March for any leaders who wanted dinner and conversation. There’s fruit in gathering, connecting, brainstorming, and being encouraged by women who share our beliefs and our goals.

It is also worth noting that we had leaders unable to make it to the national march who marched in their own states (and territories!). YWA Ambassador Ana Sofia Santiago Russo marched in Puerto Rico representing YWA. Chapter President Riley Lang marched with members of her chapter from Kennesaw State in Georgia.

The end of January saw many of our Chapter Presidents start kicking off the semester with meetings. Chapters at Liberty University, Grove City College, and Kennesaw state had their first meetings of the year.