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“That all religious congregations do, with the deepest humility, acknowledge before GOD the manifold sins and transgressions with which we are justly chargeable as individuals and as a nation; beseeching him, at the same time, of his infinite Grace, through the Redeemer of the world, freely to remit all our offences, and to incline us, by his holy spirit, to that sincere repentance and reformation which may afford us reason to hope for his inestimable favor and heavenly benediction.”

President John Adams' March 23, 1798 national Fasting and Prayer proclamation

National Day of Prayer Observed Despite Judge’s Ruling

On Capitol Hill and many other places across the nation, people gathered together in prayer on Thursday for the 59th [National Day of Prayer](#) despite the recent ruling from a U.S. district judge in Wisconsin who ruled that the annual National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional. President Obama issued a [proclamation](#) on April 30th declaring May 6th 2010 a National Day of Prayer as his Justice Department appealed Wisconsin Judge Barbara Crabb’s [ruling](#).

Events all week long have been held in honor of this day, including “May Day 2010” which was held on May 1st at the Lincoln Memorial with people from all over the country coming together for hourly prayer for families, churches, schools, government and country. According to the *Christian Post*, “Christians representing all 50 states joined national leaders...to cry to God for a nation in distress.” Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council also expressed, “We pray that the truth would go throughout the land and the media would be used to proclaim the good news...that is available through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.”

The 21st annual U.S. Capitol Bible Reading Marathon also began on Sunday evening and continued nonstop throughout the week, beginning with Genesis 1:1 through the last verse of Revelation, which was read on Thursday, the National Day of Prayer. This reading marathon first started in 1990; and now every year hundreds of Christians, including pastors, Congressmen, students, military personnel, teachers, and otherwise ordinary believers stand together to read the Word of God.

At the National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, DC, many leaders, including Justice Nathan Hect, Senate Chaplain Barry Black and Rear Admiral Lawrence Rice, prayed for wisdom, for us to be disciples, for prayer without ceasing, and for our military branches. John Bornschein, the Executive Director of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, closed with Abraham Lincoln’s 1863 proclamation:

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God... to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God...

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us... It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

By Julie Goodale, AACS intern. Julie is a graduate of AACS school Ko'olau Baptist Academy in Kaneohe, HI, and received her B.S. in Broadcasting from Pensacola Christian College last May.

Illinois School Choice

The State of Illinois is embarking on [landmark legislation](#) that would allow parents a choice in their child's education. The Illinois State House Legislature plans to vote early next week on a bill that has been passed by the state senate that would allow low-income families whose children attend some of the lowest-performing schools in and around Chicago to be given a voucher to send their child to the school of their choice, including non-government schools.

Many conservatives and education experts have declared the bill a step towards [improving](#) education success as well as transforming schools within the Chicago area. Collin Hitt, Director of Education Policy for the [Illinois Policy Institute](#), praised the bill, stating, "This is bold policy, but it can change the course of education in Chicago. If the Illinois House passes this legislation, families will have a better choice of schools; public schools will compete for students and improve. This can all be accomplished at no additional cost to taxpayers or public education."

The bill has been sponsored by Rev. Senator James Meeks (D-15) and has received bipartisan support; however, some Republicans who may have ties with teacher unions are hesitant to support the bill. Conservatives are [urging](#) voters to pressure lawmakers to support the bill. In order to pass in the state house, a total of 60 votes will be needed. Lindsey Burke, Policy Analyst for the Heritage Foundation, stated the benefits of the bill: "We know what works in education: empowering parents with the ability to choose the best school for their child. School choice puts families in the driver's seat and holds schools accountable to parents. For 22,000 low-income families in Illinois, they could soon hold the key to their children's educational future."

AACS Welcomes Regional and State Legislative Directors

This week the American Association of Christian Schools Legislative Office was pleased to be visited by many of our Regional and State Legislative Directors. Each year, the AACS hosts the Legislative Directors from around the country as they come to lobby on important issues.

This year, representatives from the west, south, mid-Atlantic, and northern states came to the nation's Capitol to lobby Congressman and Senators on issues related to education, religious liberty, and family. Many were able to sit down with Members of Congress or their aides to discuss the protections needed for Christian schools in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as well as the threat that the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) would impose on an individual's religious liberty. Congressman and Senators were also urged to co-sponsor and support the Parental Rights Amendment.

The AACS greatly appreciates the hard work and efforts of the Regional and State Legislative Directors who work to keep Christian education protected at their state level and also lift their voice on the national level in order to ensure that the mission and autonomy of Christian schools throughout the nation are protected. During the [National Legislative Conference](#) in September many of these state leaders along with administrators, pastors, teachers and students will convene in Washington D.C. to discuss current legislation that can affect our schools and families and to hear from godly Congressman, Senators, and other national leaders who have been called to protect the religious freedom of our nation. For more information or to register for the National Legislative Conference, please call the AACS National Office at (423) 629-4280.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Despite Controversies, National Day of Prayer Proceeds](#)

[FL School Sued over "Prayer Constraint"](#)

[Military Urges Congress to Slow Down on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Preparations](#)



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