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Abortion-free states: the focused prayer objective of 40 Days for Life fall campaigns

The largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history is currently in full swing.

“The simple truth is that business is off in the abortion industry,” said David Bereit, national campaign director of 40 Days for Life. “Abortion numbers have dropped so significantly that several states are now down to only one or two remaining abortion centers. This fall’s 40 Days for Life campaign presents a great opportunity to finish the life-saving work in these states, creating abortion-free zones and encouraging other states to follow suit.”

40 Days for Life vigils is taking place at the last remaining abortion centers in North Dakota and Mississippi, states which each have only one remaining abortion facility, as well as the last two abortion facilities in Nebraska and the last two in Kentucky.

More than 170 cities in the United States and Canada will take part in 40 Days for Life from September 24 through November 2, making this initiative the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history. Each campaign is a focused 40-day-long initiative made up of three components: prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, peaceful vigils outside local abortion facilities – round-the-clock vigils in many cities – and grassroots educational outreach to an entire community. The list of participating cities is available online at: <http://www.40daysforlife.com/location.cfm>.

Two other abortion centers that were the sites of previous 40 Days for Life vigils have gone out of business this year – one in Dallas, Texas and the other in Rockland County, New York. “It was the power of a peaceful, prayerful presence that helped make a difference in these communities,” said Bereit. “With God’s help, we look forward to seeing which will be the first abortion-free state in America.”

[HTTP://40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/NEWS.CFM?SELECTED=RELEASES&RELEASE=20](http://40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/NEWS.CFM?SELECTED=RELEASES&RELEASE=20)

Evangelical Women Pray to Transform America

More than 2,000 evangelical women gathered in the nation’s capital this weekend to pray for positive change in the country ahead of the upcoming presidential election.

Michelle A. Vu
Christian Post Reporter

WASHINGTON – More than 2,000 evangelical women gathered in the nation’s capital on the weekend of 26-28 Sep 2008 to pray for positive change in the country ahead of the upcoming presidential election.

Under the banner “A Voice for the Times: Calling Women to Transform their Nation,” participants of Aglow International’s Sept. 26-28 conference were called to pray for a spiritual awakening in the country and to be engaged in the election process.

“In this pivotal election year, it is critical that the voices of evangelical women and spiritual mothers be raised,” said Jane Hansen Hoyt, the president of Aglow International, one of the world’s largest women’s organizations. “We must pray for America’s future and participate in public life.”

Hoyt said the voice of the evangelical women offers something unique to the discussion because God created females so that they innately care about social issues concerning family, children, abuse issues of children and women, and they have a “low tolerance” for crime and government corruption.

“Women could well swing the election,” Hoyt told The Christian Post. “They hold 52 to 54 percent of the voting power in our nation. It is critical that women become involved in the political process, that their voice be heard.”

The three-day conference, held 40 days before Election Day, featured a public prayer gathering on Saturday. During the gathering, participants prayed for seven spheres of influence in the country.

“We have come to the nation’s Capitol to focus prayer on government, family, the Church, media, education, science/business/technology and arts/entertainment,” Hoyt said, naming off the seven spheres. “With all of the decisions before our leaders on Capitol Hill and all the crises they face, we believe it is time to call on God’s name.”

Aglow began in 1967 with four Christian women who met together for prayer and fellowship despite denominational differences. Today, Aglow has grown to more than 200,000 women who meet in more than 170 countries, including some in the Middle East. The ministry estimates that it reaches out to 17 million people each year through prayer, teaching, and acts of compassion.

<http://christianpost.com/article/20080928/evangelical-women-pray-to-transform-america.htm>



PRAY

God is doing something in our world today. He is calling His people to prayer like I have never seen it before. Young people are entering prayer rooms throughout the world and seeking Him, many praying through the night. Churches have moved away from all the different programs their staff have been running to seek the Lord in worship and prayer. I believe God is up to something big, drawing us back to Himself and to see the nations worship Him. Prayer seems to be united with worship and fasting, as well. Is this where God is taking you? Join Him in what He is doing. As He calls us to Himself, we will be released into His heart for those that do not know His Son.

--Graham Wells, OM Prayer Ministry

The evidence is clear and irrefutable, strategic church planting coupled with deliberate, focused prayer, is resulting in unprecedented church multiplication in many nations."

--Amaury Braga, prayer mobilizer for Dawn Ministries

"The destiny of a nation lies not in the hands of politicians or economists but in the hand of God's people who pray."

--John Mulinde, Uganda

"Intercession is impossible until we allow the things that break God's heart to break our heart as well."

--Pete Greig, 24/7 Prayer

It has been said that "the Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists have a prayer culture, but we Christians have a prayer meeting." God is raising up a desperate cry from His people. "Why desperate prayer? Because the world's unreached multitudes are in desperate need. Hell is desperately real. Hell is desperate people, eternally trapped, with no hope of relief. Our desperate cries to God on their behalf powerfully influence the lost to make the right choices. Heaven is then more populated and Hell less. Desperate people pray with intensity and are not self-conscious."

--Joy Dawson

"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshippers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose."

--John Piper

"God never intended prayer to be merely a value but a lifestyle. Engaging in continual prayer and fasting means embracing a way of life before the Lord that challenges everything in us. When the church corporately embraces and approaches prayer as a lifestyle and not a meeting, she will begin to take significant steps toward her ultimate destiny, which involves partnering with God to shape history, affect the spiritual atmosphere, and influence nations."

--Dave Sliker

<http://omusa.org/pray/pray/pray.html>



The last major "harvesting" in the Canadian nation was 40 years ago as many turned to God during the Jesus Movement. Yet God still longs **that in this generation, none should perish.**

Biblical fasting and prayer has always been God's initial catalyst to release revival and harvest. In Canada, in 2008, it is no different! Over 70% of decisions for Christ are made before age 21, so numerous Canadian prayer ministries are standing together and calling the nation into a year of focused fasting and prayer, specifically to see a mighty move of the Spirit breakout upon the younger generation. They are crying out that the Lord would call a whole generation to Himself, in a move of God far surpassing the Jesus Movement of the 1960s & 70s.

The Fast Track

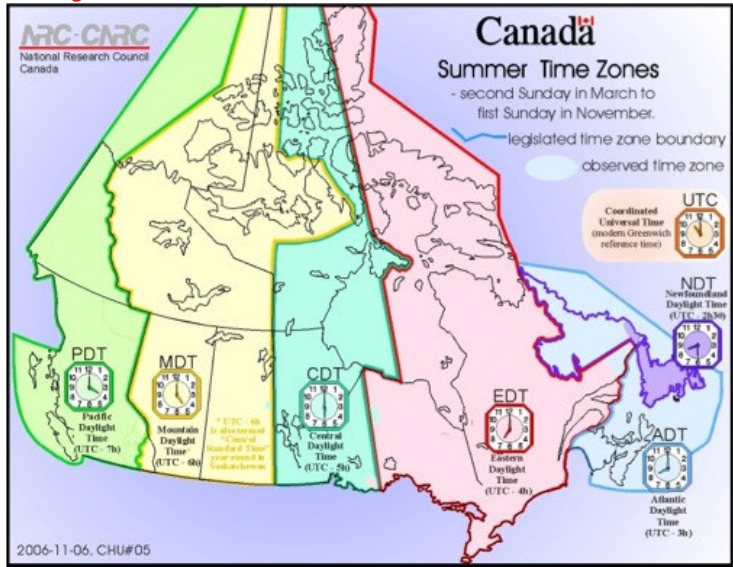
The call is for region after region of the nation to each shoulder responsibility for 40 days which they would fill with fasting and prayer. Some in the region may want to fast and pray for the full 40 days, others may commit to a week, or one day a week for the 40 days, still others may only be able to sign up

for one day. But when each one walks in wholehearted obedience to the Lord, He will do the rest.

Like a relay race, the fasting “baton” will begin on the East Coast in the Newfoundland and Atlantic Time Zones. After 40 days it will move to the Eastern Time Zone and remain in Quebec, Nunavut and Ontario for another 40 days. Then the “baton” moves again to the Central Time Zone, Mountain Time Zone and Pacific, each time zone carrying their 40 days of focused fasting and prayer one after another.

During the days that each region (time zone) is holding the “fasting baton”, they strongly encourage prayer rallies and special prayer meetings to corporately join together and cry out to God for a move of His Spirit. Provincial coordinators will be helping to encourage such events.

Passing the Baton



Atlantic & Nfld Time Zones: May 12th - June 20th, 2008

Eastern Time Zone: June 21st - July 30th, 2008

Central Time Zone: July 31st - Sept 8th, 2008

Mountain Time Zone: Sept 9th - Oct 18th, 2008

Pacific Time Zone: Oct 19th - Nov 27th, 2008

Sign Up

Everyone! Join in and add your voice to this national cry. ***It is a cry for a generation, for souls, for harvest, for the fire of God to touch down and fill your nation.***

<http://www.fastrack40.ca/>



Christian Meditation: Is it Christian to Meditate?

Christian meditation is rooted in the Bible. In fact, the Bible commands us to meditate. In Joshua 1:8, God says to meditate on His word day and night so we will obey it. The psalmist says "his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2). Actually, the Bible mentions meditate or meditation 20 times.

In the Old Testament there are two primary Hebrew words for meditation: *Haga*, which means to utter, groan, meditate, or ponder; and *Sihach*, which means to muse, rehearse in one's mind, or contemplate. These words can also be translated as dwell, diligently consider, and heed.

Christian Meditation: A History

One form of Christian meditation that has been used by believers since at least the fourth century AD is the *lectio divina*. It has been traditionally used in monastic religious orders and is enjoying a resurgence today. *Lectio divina* means "sacred reading" and has four stages: *lectio* (reading), *meditatio* (discursive meditation), *oratio* (affective prayer), and *contemplatio* (contemplation). In the *lectio* (reading) stage, one finds a passage and reads it deliberately. The next stage, *meditatio* (discursive meditation), is where one ponders the text. In the *oratio* (affective prayer) stage, one talks to God about the reading, asking Him to reveal the truth. In the final, *contemplatio* (contemplation) stage, one simply rests in the Lord's presence.

Today, meditation is generally seen as a practice of the New Age movement. This comes primarily from its association with Transcendental Meditation. Transcendental Meditation (TM) was developed by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi of the Hindu religion and is steeped in Hindu philosophy. The "yogi" in the TM founder's name indicates his status in Hinduism. Courts in the US have ruled that TM is not a secular discipline; it is Hindu religion (US District Court, Newark, NJ, on October 29, 1977 and the US Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, PA February 2, 1979).

Christian Meditation: What do Christian Leaders Say?

One important thing the Bible tells us to do is to think about God's Word. Our thoughts determine our behavior and so what we think about is very important. That is why God wants us to think about His Word, or meditate on it. Jim Downing in *Meditation* (NavPress) says God considers meditation a "vital exercise of the minds of His children."

Rick Warren, in *The Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan), describes meditation this way: "Meditation is *focused* thinking. It takes serious effort. You select a verse and reflect on it over and over in your mind...if you know how to worry, you already know how to meditate" (190). Warren goes on to say, "No other habit can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus than daily reflection on Scripture...If you look up all the times God speaks about meditation in the Bible, you will be amazed at the benefits He has promised to those who take the time to reflect on His Word throughout the day" (190).

In *Satisfy Your Soul* (NavPress), Dr. Bruce Demarest writes, "A quieted heart is our best preparation for all this work of God ... Meditation refocuses us from ourselves and from the world so that we reflect on God's Word, His nature, His abilities, and His works ... So we prayerfully ponder, muse, and 'chew' the words of Scripture. ...The goal is simply to permit the Holy Spirit to activate the life-giving Word of God" (133).

Christian Meditation: How do we do it?

There are three times during the day we can actively turn our minds over to God's Word in Christian Meditation. Just before we fall asleep, we can have God's Word be the last thing that occupies our mind. Upon awaking, we can have God's Word be the first thing to fill our minds to start the day. Finally, we need a specific time each day to be in God's Word so it can speak to us throughout our day.

What should we focus on in Christian meditation? "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things" (Philippians 4:8, NASB).

<http://www.allaboutgod.com/christian-meditation.htm>

Contact details: info@global24-7.org or phone +27-12-365-3213 or visit our website www.global24-7.org