

# National Children's Prayer Network

## The Vision

To raise up a generation of young leaders who know how to reach heaven through intercession. To challenge youth of all ages to find their destiny in Christ and to recognize their potential in prayer by training them in principles of effective prayer and motivating them to pray for their national leaders. To minister to and pray for our national leaders with *precision, power and purity*.

## The History

The National Children's Prayer Network and Prayer Congress had its beginnings in a Christian School in Southern California. Directed by Mrs. Lin Story and their teacher the children in the third grade class began to pray for a member of the Reagan Administration. As a result of their prayers this high official paid a visit to the school and met with the children. As he sat in a child-size chair the children gathered around to pray. Tears came to the man's eyes and it was obvious that the children's prayers had ministered deeply to this leader. From the seeds of this small beginning has grown a ministry that touches the lives of our National leaders and ministers to children across the nation.

## The Curriculum

"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, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1Timothy 2:1-4

Our simple curriculum seeks to train the children to walk in obedience to the exhortation found in 1Timothy. Included are the following teaching tools:

- Principles of Effective Prayer—Learning to know God's Heart, God's Word and God's Ways
- Prayer Agenda for Congressional Leaders—Learning to pray for the personal needs of your leaders.
- Directives for Classroom Use—Making time for prayer in the classroom can be fun and easy and educational.
- How to Communicate with Your Congressional Leaders—Writing letters is a good way to communicate your prayers and concern for your leaders.
- Neighborhood Prayer Watch—a plan for organizing prayer for your neighborhood.

*Pictured to the right: Delegates signing a declaration to live in obedience to God's Word.*



## The Ministry

The key to the ministry is relationship— children growing into a dynamic relationship with the Lord. The ministry is people— children sharing that relationship with the people for whom they pray. This can be accomplished by using the basic principles of prayer and the teaching tools mentioned earlier. Begin to pray for those with whom you live and worship. Then expand your prayers to your city, state, nation, and the world. Our scripture (1 Timothy 2:1-4) tells us why we pray for our leaders and what we can expect: *that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in godliness and reverence; that we may do that which is acceptable in the sight of God; that all men might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Use the following guide to organize your prayer targets.

- Family Neighborhood Prayer Watch (*details available upon request*)
- Church Pray for your Congregation, Church Leadership, Missionaries
- School Pray for your school, teachers, students, and principal.
- City Pray for your Mayor, City Council, School Board/City Managers
- State Pray for your Governor, State Senators and Representatives
- Nation Pray for the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of our Government
- The World Pray for other World Leaders

## *Children's Prayer Groups*

*What will I need?* An effective children's prayer group needs a dedicated teacher/parent/youth leader who believes the children can have a powerful ministry to our nation through prayer. This teacher must be willing to make the sacrifice of time and energy that it will take to train the children in intercession and further, to lead them in prayer for their national leaders, churches, communities, and neighborhoods. You will also need children who are willing to make a commitment to pray. It is amazing to watch the dedication and love with which children take the responsibility of prayer. This will happen when they are made to understand that their prayers make a difference and they have a valuable contribution to make. Each child will need a prayer journal and a Bible. (*journal ideas available*)

*How will I find the time to pray for our nation and the world as well?* There are many ways to accomplish this mission. Be creative. Let the Holy Spirit guide you. You can spend as much or as little time as you have available in your schedule. In a school situation, divide your prayer responsibilities by grade level. For example: First grade: Senators, Second grade: Representatives, Third grade: The President, Fourth grade: the Supreme Court. After a month or two, switch prayer responsibilities giving each grade level another experience. Pray daily in class, in chapel or in groups at lunch or after school. Start a prayer club. Find a plan that suits your unique school/church. If you are in a church situation, you may want to spend time in Sunday school classes or children's worship to pray for your congregational leadership, neighborhoods and missionaries, as well as choosing national leaders on which to focus. A mission's class for the children is an excellent way to introduce prayer for the world. As a family/home school family, try developing a neighborhood prayer group.

## *Opening the Doors of the Prayer Room*

- Prayer Walking—Take a walk through your neighborhood/community. Make notes about the needs you see. Pray about the things you see.
- Scriptural Prayer Agendas—Study scriptures that apply to the needs of your community. Pray through the scriptures verse by verse.
- Personal Visitation—Visit the people for whom you are praying: local politician's office, inner city mission, retirement home, an orphanage or a pastor.
- Encouraging Letters—Write cards and letters to those for whom you are praying. Include scriptures and encouragement.
- Essay Witness—Have the children write an essay describing their relationship with God. Then share the essays with those for whom you have been praying.



*Pictured above: White House Prayer Walk using scriptural prayer agenda, NCPC, 1999.*

## *The National Children's Prayer Congress*

Each year children from across the nation come to Washington, DC to participate in three days of prayer and leadership training. During their time in the city they meet and pray with the leaders for whom they have been praying, as well as diplomats and even at times the President or Vice President. The Congress consists the following exciting events: *(details available upon request)*



- America's Children Pray—A service of prayer and worship for America
- White House Prayer Walk—Stations of prayer for our President at the gate of the White House
- Embassy Reception— Meeting and prayer with an Ambassador
- Capitol Hill Prayer Briefing— Meeting and prayer with Senate Chaplain and other guests.
- Diplomatic Banquet—Prayer for a specific country and missionaries with guests from the Diplomatic world. *Pictured above: The Ambassador from Bosnia receiving a hug from a delegate.*

## *Words of Encouragement—*

### *From the Heart of One of America's Young Intercessors*

As a child growing up in church, I was aware that prayer was a part of every service. What I was not aware of however, was the purpose behind it. Prayer was just another pious act, a requirement for holiness. Six years ago I was introduced to the National Children's Prayer Network, and God began to reveal himself to me in a powerful way. For the first time in my life, I had a relationship with Him, and I realized the importance of prayer.

Now my life is consumed with the call to pray. The network has given me the prayer foundation to live an overcoming and influential life for God. When I came to the realization that my prayers could change the world, I became serious about my calling. We are all called to be world changers, the question is, are we serious enough, and do we have enough faith, to step out and be used of God for our Nation. If every person in this country could see the potential in his own life through God, our nation would truly be the greatest nation in the world, in every aspect.

Through the National Children's Prayer Network, the children of America have the chance to find out if they have what it takes to be a world changer. The call is simple, the results cannot be measured. God is raising up the children of this nation, to stand up and never be swayed, to see their call and follow him wherever he leads, and to always pray continuously.

Jessica Seals

Huntsville, Alabama

*Speech given at the 1997 National Children's Prayer Congress  
Washington, DC*

## *The Gift of Prayer*

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. 1Timothy 2:1-4

Paul's letter to Timothy was a gift being passed from one generation to another. Timothy was one of Paul's converts. Paul considered Timothy to be his *own true son*. He believed Timothy was a valuable servant of God, called to preach the Gospel throughout the world. If Timothy were to be a good evangelist, he would need the wisdom and affirmation that Paul could give him through this epistle.

In 1Timothy 2:1-4, Paul speaks to Timothy about the importance of prayer. He reminds him that prayers should be said for “everyone, for kings, and for those in authority.”

Paul begins by listing four types of prayers: Requests, Prayers, Intercessions and Thanksgivings (to study the types of prayer, look at the definitions below.) When you pray, as an individual or in your groups, try to use all four types of prayer.

To understand this passage, we must know why we are called to pray. Here, Paul gives Timothy some very practical reasons to pray for those in authority. Paul explains, we pray, “that we might live peaceful and quiet lives”. When we pray, we experience the very precious promise of the peace of God. Quietness comes when our hearts are at peace with God and man.

To give us a clearer picture of what this quiet peaceful life is like, Paul uses two very descriptive terms: godliness and holiness. These two attributes are a very important part of God's character and will become a part of our lives when we truly dedicate ourselves to prayer. Godliness and holiness become a heart response before they are exhibited in our behavior. It is in the place of prayer that these attributes are developed. (Note: godliness and holiness are defined at the bottom of this page.)

There is another reason for the urgency in this call to prayer. Paul tells Timothy, “This is good and pleases God our Savior.” We should all desire to please God, not only by doing what He wants us to do but also by being what he wants us to be. In prayer, we can accomplish both the doing and the being. When we answer the call to prayer, we become the kind of servants He wants us to be.

The third and most important reason to pray is found in the last part of this verse, “who wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” When we pray “for everyone—for kings and all those in authority,” we should always remember to pray that everyone would receive the wonderful gift of salvation and begin to pray themselves. Prayer is a gift you can give to everyone with whom you come in contact.

<b>Request</b>	To express a desire for; ask for. To ask (a person) to do something.
<b>Prayer</b>	A reverent petition to God. An act of communion with God.
<b>Intercession</b>	A prayer or petition to God on behalf of another.
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	The act of giving thanks; an expression of gratitude, especially to God.
<b>Godly</b>	The right worshipping of God. Having great reverence for God; pious. Divine.
<b>Holy</b>	A good conduct toward all men. The state or quality of being holy; sanctity