



February 26, 2019

PRESIDENT TRUMP AND NORTH KOREAN LEADER MEET IN VIETNAM

Father, we ask Your will to be done in these important meetings in Vietnam.

Download our free prayer resource to pray effectively about the meetings in Vietnam. The Singapore Summit established principles for the relations between North Korea and the United States. Pray through those principles with [our free resource](#).

HOLLYWOOD CHRISTIANS UNDER FIRE FOR ATTENDING BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCHES

Lord, we pray that the actors in Hollywood would stand firm in their faith and dispel the acts of darkness. ([Jn 1:5](#))

Join us Friday, March 1 on our First Friday Prayer Conference Call to pray with Hollywood prayer leaders about the influence that the entertainment industry has in our culture.

Christians in Hollywood have come under attack in recent days for attending churches that hold to a biblical view of sexuality, and one conservative commentator is calling it the “height of intolerance.”

The Washington Post ran a column by Drew Goins Feb. 19 criticizing actor Chris Pratt for attending a Los Angeles congregation, Zoe Church, that Goins said doesn’t fully affirm LGBTQ beliefs. Goins also found fault with Justin Bieber, Kylie Jenner and Selena Gomez for attending Hillsong Church. CNN, too, posted a similar column.

“It takes digging to unearth that these churches are as inhospitable to queer Christians as less-hip congregations,” Goins wrote. “... This obfuscation is a win-win deal for Hollywood’s conservative Christians and the churches that give their patron stars plausible deniability. The celebrities get a place to worship and still seem woke, and Hillsong and its fellow churches get to raise their profiles.

“Unsuspecting LGBTQ worshipers, on the other hand, get nothing but the eventual shock that they’re surrounded by people who quietly condemn their identity,” Goins wrote....

“If the church does not affirm LGBTQ people, he has three options as an ally: Leave his church and join one that actually affirms LGBTQ people ... stay and publicly voice his belief in a need to affirm LGBTQ Christians in his church or stop portraying himself as an LGBTQ ally,” Graves-Fitzsimmons wrote.

Both churches try to stay out of the political and cultural spotlight, although they nevertheless hold to traditional Christian teachings.

The controversy over Pratt and his church started when actress Ellen Page, a lesbian, tweeted that Pratt attended an “infamously anti-LGBTQ” church.

Oh. K. Um. But his church is infamously anti lgbtq so maybe address that too?
<https://t.co/meg8m69FeF>

— Ellen Page (@EllenPage) February 8, 2019

Pratt responded on Instagram, “Nothing could be further from the truth. I go to a church that opens their doors to absolutely everyone.”

Chris Pratt just posted this on his instagram story addressing his church.
<pic.twitter.com/eiEg4ICnXi>

— uncle jen (@tardypartypeter) February 11, 2019

The back and forth led Hillsong to release a statement. Pratt’s congregation, Zoe Church, is part of the Hillsong community. The statement said Hillsong is an “inclusive Christian church that loves, values and welcomes all people” and that it “adheres to mainstream biblical values shared by the overwhelming majority of evangelical Christian churches around the world, and millions of Christians across the USA.” ...

“One wonders what qualifies people like Goins and Page to authoritatively determine that traditional Christian theology is false, and one also wonders what enables them -- or the legions of people who, for example, attacked Karen Pence for teaching at a Christian school -- to enjoy the unique privilege of imposing their secular religion on others,” French wrote. “After all, a core (and very basic) tenet of pluralism is the notion that people of diametrically opposed belief systems can live and work side by side so long as they treat each other with dignity and respect.

“I’ve spent my entire career working with people who believe that my religious beliefs are wrong, that my stance on sexual morality is wrong, and that my political judgments are deeply misguided,” French wrote. “Yet even in the case of profound disagreement, it is easy to treat people well. It is easy to treat people fairly.”...

“We cannot exist as a pluralistic and diverse society if the price of admission to any American industry is the abandonment of religious faith to conform to the demands of the intolerant,” French wrote. “If Hollywood ever becomes so radical that it no longer has space even for Hillsong, then Hollywood will stand opposed to the American experiment itself.” (Excerpts from Michael Foust article in ChristianHeadlines.com)

INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT WEEK AT THE SUPREME COURT

God, our Judge, we ask for justice in the important Supreme Court cases this week. We especially pray for wisdom for the lawyers of First Liberty. ([Is 33:22](#))

In Bladensburg Maryland, the American Legion Veteran Organization erected the Bladensburg WWI Veterans Memorial in 1925. The memorial is referred to as the “Peace Cross,” and it honors 49 men from Bladensburg who gave their lives in WWI.

It has stood for more than 90 years. In 2014, the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit claiming the cross-shaped memorial was unconstitutional because the public ownership and maintenance of the memorial violated the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.”

First Liberty, a law firm that specializes in religious liberty cases, intervened in the lawsuit on behalf of The American Legion to defend the Bladensburg Memorial Cross. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the Memorial, and now the case is before the Supreme Court....

Kelly Shackelford, President and CEO of First Liberty said, “If this gravestone is bulldozed to the ground, it’s only a matter of time before the wrecking ball turns on Arlington National Cemetery and the hundreds of memorials like this one across the country.”

The central questions in this case: Is a 93-year-old memorial unconstitutional because it is shaped like a cross, and does the public maintenance of a cross-shaped memorial violate the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment?

Oral arguments for this case will be heard on February 27, 2019.

Case 2: Manhattan Community Access Corp. v. Halleck

Content platform companies should closely watch for the decision on this case, as it could substantially limit their power to control the content on their platforms. The Manhattan Neighborhood Network, located in New York City, suspended two of their employees, Melendez and Halleck, from using the network’s services or facilities after the employees incited violence against other employees. Melendez and Halleck then filed a lawsuit against Manhattan Neighborhood Network claiming the company violated their First Amendment rights to free speech.

The First Amendment does not apply to private institutions and only applies to state actors....

The central question in this case: Are private operators of public access channels state actors subject to constitutional liability?

Oral arguments for this case will be heard on February 25, 2019.

Case 3: United States v. Haymond

In 2010, Andre Ralph Haymond was convicted of possessing child pornography and sentenced to 38 months in jail and ten years of supervised release. While on supervised release probation officers found him in possession of child pornography and alleged he had violated five conditions of his supervised release. According to U.S. Law, 18 U.S.C. § 3583(k), a mandatory minimum sentence of five years is required for possession of child pornography for anyone on supervised release from a crime involving a

minor. Convicted felon Haymond appealed. He argued there was insufficient evidence to prove he had knowingly possessed the child pornography and claimed it was a violation of the Constitution to deny him due process....

The central question in this case: Did the court of appeals err in holding "unconstitutional and unenforceable" the portions of 18 U.S.C. 3583(k) that required the district court to revoke the respondent's ten-year term of supervised release, and to impose five years of reimprisonment?

Oral arguments for this case will be heard on February 26, 2019. (Excerpts from [MyFaithVotes News](#))

STATE LEGISLATORS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT

Father, we lift up to you the many state legislators across the country. We pray that You would especially encourage those who are serving You by serving our states. Help us know how to support them.

While often our focus is on Capitol Hill, across the country state legislatures are passing or blocking laws that have a direct impact on incredibly important issues for Christians—life, religious liberty, family laws, what is taught in local schools, as well as other issues that affect our finances and daily life.

It is our belief that the engagement of intercessors with legislators is a natural next step to praying for them. Because of this, we have developed a tool to help you engage with your legislators. We hope this tool will help you reach out to your leaders to let them know you are praying, to encourage them, and to continue to purposefully pray for them on a regular basis. We encourage you to reach out to your lawmaker regardless of what party they represent—they all need prayer!