



THE INFORMER

MAKE THIS ADMINISTRATION THE MOST PRAYED FOR IN U.S. HISTORY

February 7, 2019

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST TODAY—YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

IFA intercessors are on-site at the National Prayer Breakfast. Join them in praying for the event right where you are. Thank you, Lord, for the continued importance that our national leaders put upon this very special event each year. This article explains the fascinating history of the event and will inform your prayers today.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ([1 Cor 10:31](#))

[Today, February 7, 2019], more than 3,500 political leaders, military chiefs and corporate moguls meet for eggs, sausage, muffins – and prayer. The Washington, D.C. gathering, the 66th National Prayer Breakfast, is an opportunity for new friends and old associates, from 50 states and 140 countries, to break bread and forge fellowship in Jesus' name.

Convened on the first Thursday in February, the gathering, known as the Presidential Prayer Breakfast until 1970, has always included the American head of state. . . .

As a scholar of American religious history, I am intrigued by how presidents negotiate the intricacies of church/state relationships versus religion/politics entanglements. Most avoid the former while trying to benefit from the latter. That's why the prayer breakfast is noteworthy – it is an opportunity for leaders to appear as Christ's servants rather than formidable heads of state.

Faith first

President Dwight Eisenhower began the tradition with the first breakfast in 1953. While Eisenhower was initially wary of attending a prayer breakfast, evangelist Billy Graham convinced him it was the right move.

Speaking to an audience that included Graham, hotel magnate Conrad Hilton and 400 political, religious and business leaders, Eisenhower proclaimed that "all free government is firmly founded in a deeply felt religious faith."

Today, "Ike" – the 34th president's nickname – is not remembered as being deeply religious.

However, he was raised in a pious household of River Brethren, a Mennonite offshoot. His parents named him after Dwight Moody, the famous 19th-century evangelist who likened the state of the world to a sinking ship and stated,

“God has given me a lifeboat and said... ‘Moody save all you can.’ ...

Soon after his election in 1952, Eisenhower told Graham that the country needed a spiritual renewal. For Eisenhower, faith, patriotism and free enterprise were the fundamentals of a strong nation. But of the three, faith came first....

A strategic move

It is possible that Graham may have used the breakfast’s theme, “Government under God,” to convince the president to attend. Throughout his tenure, Eisenhower promoted God and religion....

A political meeting?

The National Prayer Breakfast has grown steadily over the years – from 400 attendees to close to 4,000. The presence of the U.S. president has made the event a draw for leaders worldwide and networking before and after the breakfast.

In a 2006 journal article, sociologist D. Michael Lindsay described the breakfast as a “veritable ‘Who’s who’ of the political and evangelical worlds.” Invitations cast it as an opportunity to “seek the Lord’s guidance and strength ... and to renew the dedication of our Nation and ourselves to God’s purpose.” ...

A guide for the powerful

The prayer breakfast’s success would have pleased Abraham Vereide, the Methodist minister behind the meetings. Vereide immigrated from Norway in 1905 when he was 19. For many years, he ministered to the down and out – society’s cast-offs....

Using the breakfast moment

In the years since, presidents have used the prayer breakfast to burnish their image and promote their agendas. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson spoke about the harrowing days following John F. Kennedy’s assassination and his desire to build a memorial for God in the nation’s capital.

Richard Nixon, speaking after his election in 1969, said that prayer and faith would help America’s fight for global peace and freedom. In 1998, Bill Clinton, faced with allegations that he had a sexual relationship with a White House intern, asked for prayers to “take our country to a higher ground.” ...

More changes with time

There is a wide diversity among breakfast attendees.

Just as speakers have become more diverse, so have attendees. There are Muslims and Jews as well as Christians of all stripes. The Fellowship Foundation, an organization started by Vereide that sponsors the breakfast, considers the National Prayer Breakfast as an inclusive event....

But while the breakfast is an open tent, the small seminars and discussions that fill the days before and after are exclusive. These meetings, also organized by the Fellowship Foundation, convene clergy,

politicians, military leaders and businessmen for high-level discussions on the global intersections of faith, power and money. The president does not attend these meetings, but his confidantes do. . . .

(Excerpts from Diane Winston article in [The Conversation](#))

CONGRESSMAN MIKE BOST INTERVIEWED BY DAVID KUBAL

Thank God for godly elected officials! So far this year we have featured 4 in our two First Friday Prayer Conference Calls. It is so encouraging to pray for, and with, these godly men and women.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. (1 Thes 1:2)

[Watch Video](#) (7:23)

Mike Bost is a congressman representing the 12th District of Illinois. He shares his thoughts on the letters of encouragement and prayer sent by many intercessors to President Trump in the past year! Congressman Bost and his wife started and maintain the prayer card campaign. He makes sure all the cards are hand-delivered to the Oval Office. ([Intercessors For America](#))

INSIDER INFORMATION ON ABORTION LEGISLATION IN VIRGINIA

Father God, thank you for the many elected officials who are fighting the battle for life in our state legislatures across the country. Have mercy on us and help us effectively oppose pro-abortion legislation and support pro-life legislation.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. (Pr 16:3)

[Watch Video](#) (15:05)

Virginia Delegate Dave LaRock speaks about the proposed Virginia legislation expanding abortion to birth with IFA President Dave Kubal. ([Intercessors For America](#))

THIS IS WHAT ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIGOTRY LOOKS LIKE

Father, speak into the hearts of our citizens to help us learn how to love one another, and in so doing, honor Your Word. Help us stand firm, speaking the truth in love.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Rom 10:12)

The first thing you have to understand about the battle for free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association in this nation is that it is primarily cultural, not legal. From a First Amendment perspective, legal protection against government censorship and government repression is at or near an all-time high. The First Amendment has never been more robust. Panic over court decisions is mainly panic at the margins, whether key decisions and doctrines will be undermined, not discarded entirely.

At the same time, however, talk to virtually any social conservative — especially a Christian conservative — and they will tell you that they feel free less free to speak and to exercise their religion now than they did five years ago, or ten years ago, or 20 years ago. Why? Because of cultural shunning. Because of cultural shaming....

A media feeding frenzy followed, with progressive pundits across the land condemning Pence's alleged bigotry. A hashtag, #ExposeChristianSchools, popped up on Twitter, leading a New York Times reporter to openly call for people to come forward and discuss their Christian school experiences. And, this week, a local private academy called the Sheridan School decided to prohibit its sports teams from playing games at Immanuel. The reason? According to the text of an email from the head of school, obtained by Rod Dreher, some students felt "unsafe." No, really. Here's the key paragraph:

Since the majority of students wanted to play, we were initially planning to go to ICS with the student-athletes wearing a statement of support (such as rainbow socks or warm-up jerseys). As we talked more, we understood that some students did not feel safe entering a school that bans LGBTQ parents, students or even families that support LGBTQ rights. Forcing our children to choose between an environment in which they feel unsafe or staying home was not an option. So we decided that we would invite ICS to play all of the games at Sheridan. Since ICS declined our offer to host, we will only play our home games and will not go to ICS to play. [Emphasis added]....

It's hard to overstate how ridiculous this is. I attended a Christian college that had policies similar to Immanuel's. For a dozen years my children attended a Christian school that had policies similar to Immanuel's. I was the chairman of the school board for a year and on the school's executive committee for four years. . . .

It's time for Christian parents, pastors, and politicians to understand a simple fact — in the fight for religious freedom, we often focus our efforts on the less important battleground. Legal protections matter less and less when the culture drifts so far from Christianity that shunning, shaming, and exclusion become the norm. . . .

Combatting intolerance is a matter of persuasion, and it depends on Christians exercising a degree of personal courage and resolve — if you feel pressure at work, speak anyway. If you see a colleague facing persecution for his beliefs, stand with him. If a Christian school faces public shame and public sanction for its fidelity to Scripture, send your kids anyway.

Silence and compliance only embolden those who seek to sideline Christian thought and belief. Those who seek to censor and exclude have no reluctance to express their loathing for traditional Christianity. Christians must be equally willing to speak the truth and defend their faith. Otherwise, fear and shame will do what censorship cannot — drive the Christian faith from America's public square.

(Excerpts from David French article in [National Review](#))

For another great perspective on this topic, [click here to watch a video.](#)