Prayers for Our

Leadership

*By Kat Rowoldt*

 Photo Courtesy of DallasNews.com

I had the unique privilege to be on a phone call Friday afternoon with the President of the United States, the Vice President, and Dr. Ben Carson, along with over five hundred pastors from across our nation. The tone of the conference call was so different than what we are witnessing on television with the media.

I appreciate the Coronavirus Task Force giving us a daily update on what is going on. Friday, we witnessed one of the media trying to plant a gotcha question with the President and he let him have it. Rightly so. I cheered when the President finally showed he had had enough of that type of question. Then the other reporters began asking Trump how the rest of the world would feel about him calling out a reporter. Who cares!

We are living in such a crazy time. The same type of conspiracy theories that we witnessed during Y2K are already circulating, such as the government is about to shut us down and force us to stay sheltered in place. That could happen at some point if we don’t do our part in stopping the spread of this virus, but those orders are not coming down today.

A few cities which are struggling with serious wide-spread outbreak of the virus are taking more extreme measures to protect their people. Here in Texas we are still free to move about freely, just not to gather in groups larger than ten people. Churches are getting creative in how they will continue to minister to their congregants. Life as we are accustomed to is being curtailed.

On this phone call with the leaders of our country, the President was able to speak freely and from his heart. We are blessed to have such a man leading this country, especially during this pandemic. This call was originally planned to be with the Vice President and Dr. Carson, but President Trump asked to join the call to speak to the spiritual leaders of our country. He was given the opening moments so he could share his concerns and then bow out to continue with his schedule.

He wanted to remind the Pastors that he had knocked out the Johnson Amendment and today any Pastor can speak freely from the pulpit, guiding their members on the issues of the day without fear of retaliation or losing their 501 (c) 3. In today’s world, this is critical.

As the President tried to exit the call, Tony Perkins asked the President to allow him to pray for him. He inquired of the President for what he would like prayer. Without hesitation, he immediately replied for “the health of our country.” He then added also for the November 3rd election, because the leadership of our country is so important. Perkins lead a wonderful prayer, including also for our President and other leaders to be given continued additional stamina. The President thanked him for the prayer and the additional request for stamina saying, “we surely do need more stamina.”

During the few minutes he spoke, like we see when he comes to the podium on TV, his first comments are to thank so many key people who are carrying a huge portion of the load in dealing with the COVID-19 virus, or the Chinese virus, as he often calls it. You can feel how much he truly appreciates those who are working alongside him.

Vice President Mike Pence spoke for about thirty minutes. One of his primary topics was sharing that churches are being added to legislation dealing with Non-Profit Organizations who will qualify for financial assistance. He was sharing how he was aware of how any time a church meeting is cancelled they never seem to recover the same dollars in tithes and offerings, and this shut down was going to impact them directly.

He too spoke of and praised those who were working alongside him. He shared a real American spirit of together we can conquer this pandemic. Both the President and Vice President had a calm tone in their voice and expressed their appreciation for the prayers that are being sent their way.

When asked what he would like prayer for, Pence replied, “the President and his Work Force Council to be able to bring forth the best, for the state leaders, and our country’s health care workers. Lamentations 3:22-23 was shared. “Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

The final guest speaker was Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. His gentle spirit and voice, as always, was not rattled. He shared a story about how in the midst of preparing to separate conjoined twins years ago, he prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to guide him through the surgery. He reported he did not remember most of the surgery, but the assisting doctors shared with him how he tackled all the various issues and organs, attaching them appropriately to their amazement. He looked at them and simply said it wasn’t me, it was God.

The final moments of the call a few Pastors were asked to share a few of the unique things they were doing to help others during this time. The various Pastors shared about doing live streaming, drive through prayer, and other types of ministering to their congregants. Pastor Chris Hodges shared how he had invited Pastors from his community to come in and record their service to be shared with their congregants, knowing that so many churches were not blessed with the equipment he had available. He commented his church was booked around the clock with Pastors taking him up on his offer to help their churches.

I am thankful I had the opportunity to be a part of this call, to hear directly from our leaders in an environment where they could speak freely and without concern of a “gotcha” moment, to hear their heartfelt concern for what every American is going through. The spirit of bringing people together to solve a problem, to work together to accomplish great things, and with assured confidence that nothing will be able to hold us back was refreshing.

Keep our President, Vice President, and other key leadership in your prayers.