

Day of Prayer and Advocacy

October 1, 2008



Day of Prayer and Advocacy: October 1, 2008 Leaders' Guide

For the rest of the country, the New Year begins on January 1, but for the United States government, the new fiscal year starts October 1. On this day, each World Vision office around the world stops all daily operations for a day of prayer. This year, we invite you to join in this day of prayer and advocate to God on behalf of a world that needs prayer. We ask that you use this occasion to pray for a faith movement of justice on your campus, for U.S. government leaders, and for community leaders around the world who are working to address extreme poverty and global AIDS, malaria, and hunger.

As a concrete form of commitment, we ask you to sign the **Prayer and Advocacy Pledge**. This will be delivered to U.S. government leaders and community leaders around the world. After signing the pledge, Acting on AIDS will also keep you informed of issues and current events, as well as prayer and action points, to mutually engage us in this commitment. Following is an outline of the objectives for the day, as well as some ideas to implement on your campus.

Unify a Movement

Strong, powerful movements are generated by passion, and, as a campus leader, you are the go-to source for such enthusiasm and direction. As the new school year falls into a rhythm, the Day of Prayer and Advocacy is a good opportunity to generate excitement and commitment for the upcoming year. This is your chance to gather together with the rest of your AoA network to recognize, strategize, mobilize, and personalize the advocacy you're planning for the 2008-09 year.

Recognize: The Day of Prayer and Advocacy is ultimately about deliberate, prioritized prayer. Set apart some time for your group to engage in prayer and meditation, both individually and corporately. Use these moments to recognize the necessity and power of prayer in advocacy, and align your campus goals with God's heart for social justice.

Strategize: Define your priorities. Get together with others who share your passion for justice and make a plan for this year. Connect AoA on your campus with other student organizations, and even with other campuses. There's so much potential for groups to join together in creative activism! Plot it out and let us know how we can help.

Mobilize: Engage both active AoA advocates as well as students who have not yet joined the AoA movement. Use the Day of Prayer and Advocacy as a unifying kick-off event for 2008-09. See the suggestions below for ways to commemorate the Day of Prayer and Advocacy on your campus.

Personalize: Make sure that you know where you stand. Why is justice important to you? Are you committed to advocacy on your campus? Sign the Prayer and Advocacy Pledge and make a commitment to seek justice, not just during this school year, but in your life. Publicize the Pledge and use it as an opportunity for others to join in on the movement for justice.

Ideas for Engaging Prayer and Advocacy

Leaders' evening: Set aside a few hours to meet with other members of the AoA team on your campus. Pray about your goals and priorities for the year and then write them down! Let us know what you're planning and what's important to you in working together toward justice this school year.



Prayer points: Included in this packet is a list of prayer points. We invite you to use these points as a guide in your prayer as we collectively concentrate upon the national and global authorities in power, the 15 focus countries of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and your local campus leaders and students.

The prayer points are divided into three sections, each spotlighting one of the following areas for prayer: your campus, the U.S. Government, and the PEPFAR countries. With each section, a scripture passage has been selected for reflection. Read through the verses, and then consider their application in your life as you pray.

24-hour prayer room: Take the Day of Prayer and Advocacy to the highest level and organize an all-day, all-night prayer vigil. Use the prayer points as much as you'd like, but don't limit yourself! Leave papers and pens for students to write out their own petitions to God.

Prayer stations/walk: Designate particular locations on campus as prayer "hot spots." Use the prayer points as a guide and design simple themes for each location. Host a prayer walk around campus or create a list of locations, encouraging students to stop by throughout the day, making time for intentional prayer.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. – Romans 12:1



Day of Prayer and Advocacy, October 1, 2008 Prayer Points

Your Campus Movement

Romans 12:1-8

Thank God for the blessings and opportunities we have available to us. Pray for your campus movement, that God's presence will be known through all the upcoming campaigns and activities you are planning for the year. Pray that people will come to a better understanding of the gospel and God's heart for the poor through your movement's actions and activities. Pray that the students will use their education to empower others and amplify the voice of the poor and oppressed.

U.S. Government Leaders

2Chronicles 7:14-15

Thank God for the free and non-violent elections in our country. Find out the names of your local government leaders, particularly your Senators and Representatives (See www.house.gov and www.senate.gov for a listing of Congressmen.). Pray that they will be strong leaders in our country. Pray for the administration we will elect in November. Pray that the new president will surround himself with wise advisors and be willing to listen to the voices of all people, including those whose voices have been previously silenced.

PEPFAR Countries

Isaiah 58:9-10

Focus Countries: When the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was created in 2003, 15 focus countries were chosen to receive significant aid and attention from the plan's programs. The focus countries together bear the weight of approximately 50 percent of the world's HIV infections.

Botswana: Praise God that, though the HIV-prevalence rate is the second highest in the world, nine out of 10 Botswanans between ages 15-19 remain uninfected. Pray that the HIV-negative youth maintain their status and the spread of the virus will be stopped through them.

Ethiopia: Thank God for the 81,800 Ethiopians who, through PEPFAR funding, have received antiretroviral treatment. Pray that funding will be allocated for the treatment of many more Ethiopians, as well as increased opportunities for those who are HIV-positive to gain access to the available treatment.

Cote d'Ivoire: Pray for the 0-5 year old population, whose mortality risk is among the greatest in the world. Petition that vaccinations and treatments for childhood diseases will be made more readily available, as well as care for those with compromised immune systems triggered by AIDS or malnutrition.

Guyana: Thank God for the improved drinking water available to 83 percent of the population since 2004. Pray for increased access to adequate water sources, as it is essential to communities fighting the health crisis, particularly AIDS and malaria.

Haiti: Pray for the 60 percent of Haitians who are currently without access to the most basic of health care services. Pray for peace where fears of escalating violence have kept health care workers from leaving their homes, subsequently closing local hospitals and clinics.



Kenya: Praise God for the innovative approach of PEPFAR-supported HIV prevention programs in Kenya, which specifically target 13,000 mentally and physically disabled people.

Mozambique: Thank God for the increased treatment opportunities available to women in Mozambique, preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Pray for intensified focus upon prevention, lowering prevalence and mortality rates.

Namibia: Thank God for his sovereignty throughout the major flooding during the early months of 2008. Pray for relief of the victims through the long term effects of the subsequent food shortages and increased spread of disease.

Nigeria: Thank God for the Nigerian government's increased attention and new legislative initiatives regarding child trafficking. Pray for the orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria, as they easily become victims of this crime.

Rwanda: Pray for both physical and emotional healing in Rwanda as the recovering structure of the nation, since the 1994 genocide, has been made even more vulnerable by the invasion of AIDS.

South Africa: Praise God that the AIDS prevalence rate has stabilized among the 15-24 year old age group and pray that the rate begins to decline. Pray that the new initiatives launched by the South African government, assisted by PEPFAR programs, have a significant effect on the country's HIV and AIDS rates.

Tanzania: Pray for a cognitive shift in Tanzania, as stigma and ignorance prevent all but one in five AIDS-related deaths from being reported as such. Pray that awareness and prevention will be promoted, and communities will encourage one another to get tested and know their status.

Uganda: Pray for peace in Northern Uganda as 20,000 children have been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army and millions of other citizens are displaced. Pray for the health care system, which has fallen into disarray in the midst of the conflict, and pray also for the increased care of those suffering the impact of malaria, TB, and AIDS.

Vietnam: Praise God for the combined efforts of projects funded by both the Vietnamese government and PEPFAR, which have caused the average prices for antiretroviral treatment to drop notably. Pray that access to the drugs will continue to grow and reach the 35,000 HIV-positive Vietnamese people who are still without treatment.

Zambia: Praise God that Zambia is making rapid progress to meet the Millennium Development Goal regarding water sanitation. Pray that water sanitation projects will be welcomed and successful in the country, and that the health of the nation will be dramatically improved by the increased access to clean water.

**Information was gathered from the following sources: cdc.gov, globalhealthreporting.org, news.bbc.co.uk, pepfar.gov, unicef.org, worldvision.org*



