

Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

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Prayer Really Does Change Things

If freedom, morality, and civility are under attack in America, where are we to turn?

For with God nothing [is or ever] shall be impossible. --Luke 1:37 [Amplified]

The forecast for the high today is 50°—almost 20° warmer than it was when we arrived in the well-preserved State Capitol area neighborhood before sun-up this morning. Tuesday mornings are set aside for prayer for *kings and all who are in authority* (1Tim 2:2), as has been the continuing and invigorating practice of local Christian Coalition leadership since 1994.

Speaking of authority, it is arguably a plentiful commodity in and about our own State Capital!

In a stately house mere yards across the brief dead-end street paralleling the southern-most perimeter of the Capitol campus, (where we gathered to pray this morning) one is able to drink in an incomparable view of the larger-than-life sandstone dome perched high above Capitol Lake. Under that dome are dozens of solons, staff, and four-of-nine executive branch (statewide) leaders.

The dome, or “Legislative Building,” completed in 1928 after six years of construction, “is the centerpiece of five historic buildings designed by New York architects Walter Wilder and Harry White. Conceived in the architectural competition of 1911 and selected by the State Capitol Commission, designs for the Legislative Building were completed and set into motion in 1922.”¹

Few locals know that the 188.5-million-ton “Ledge” Building rising 287 feet in the air, is the tallest masonry dome in North America, and fifth tallest in the world. The exterior sandstone came from Wilkeson Quarries in Pierce County while interior marble was quarried in far-off places including Germany, France, Italy, and Alaska.

The original cost of the building at \$7.4 million, a showstopper at its opening in 1928, is nowhere near today’s estimated replacement value of \$1 billion-plus (about 135 times the original cost).^{1b}

But we digress.

As a result of the national midterm elections in 1994 that saw a 54-seat swing in congressional membership from Democrats to Republicans—the largest seat gain for the GOP since 1946—Republicans were in control of the House of Representatives for the first time since 1952.² At the time, we were ecstatic to learn that the vast majority of newly elected freshman lawmakers in Washington, D.C. were unwaveringly Christ-professing Christians.

Yet, nowhere in the nation was the turnaround in congressional representation anywhere close to that in the Evergreen State. Six-of-eight Democrat congressmen were retired by seven Republicans (counting Randy Tate in the new 9th district). Likewise, it was a very good election for local Republicans who took command of their own Washington State House of Representatives.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Overnight, we began receiving invitations to attend numerous functions in both Olympia and Washington, D.C. Most visits included prayer at some point which was always graciously received.

In one instance, following a short prayer with the late Jennifer Dunn, a pro-choice Republican representing Washington's 8th congressional district, the congresswoman unexpectedly volunteered that she was re-evaluating her stand on abortion. This writer was stunned because the subject had not been on the table during the visit. Perhaps the prayer for her very personal need, had opened a new door of opportunity.

It was thereafter deduced that much prayer is significantly more urgent to our mission at the Christian Coalition than just registering new faith-based voters and producing election guides. Thus, in December 1994, a small circle of warriors began meeting in the Christian Coalition office at 6am every Tuesday morning for 15 consecutive years to pray for America, Israel, "those in authority," and each other, etc.

Although the number of committed 6am prayer participants seldom exceeded a dozen, there was never an eye towards "numbers." Sometime around year 15, due largely to a necessary location change, we unintentionally transitioned to two groups—one attracting men; the other, later in the morning—ladies.

Not that it was an epiphany, but soon after, the two groups developed different identities and dynamics. After tweaking the start time for the men to 7am, the participation began to change dramatically.

Following the 2017 Thanksgiving weekend, the early Tuesday morning prayer relocated yet again—this time to the aforementioned prayer house across the street from the State Capitol. Peering out the north-facing windows at the mammoth sandstone dome, our 15-to-20 men (and sometimes more) are no longer reserved in their *out loud* prayers for "kings and all who are in authority."

More so, giving feet to our prayers, six-to-eight men afterwards, frequently walk over to the legislative offices to see who or what the Lord will deliver into our hands. Many lawmakers and staff have pulled us aside to petition the Lord in both state and personal matters. One needn't press hard to hear testimonies of what God has been doing through his servants when they pray and then step out in faith.

NOW, TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND

While enjoying strong black coffee and a treat before assembling for praise and prayer this morning, we had a chance to review several of the many new state legislative proposals that range from puzzling to troubling. Very troubling! Suffice it to say, we are far beyond 1994 when family-friendly (God-honoring) proposals were considered by the majority party. As Millennials are fond of saying, "There's a new reality."

Actually, our younger friends are very much deceived. There is no new reality. What is coming upon us is a wholesale exchange of the TRUTH for a lie. It's the same lie (deception) that seemed so enticing to our first parents way back in the "*Garden*."

But the Lord has neither abandoned or left us without remedy. Friends and fellow sojourners in the faith, we know what we must do, and we must do it.

Wondering where to begin? Check out 2Chronicles 7:14. HE is listening!

Rick Forcier

¹ More information about the history of the building can be found online at www.HistoryLink.org.

² en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections