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## In Their Own Words



Instead of **wringing** hands figuratively in despair as opposing opinions bicker to wrest power within our nation, let our voices **ring** with others in prayers united in repentance, trust, and obedience. May our hearts echo corporately the prayers of two American presidents spaced over 200 years apart as we meet. Both proclaimed that this national union rests upon citizens that choose to obey the one true God. God delights to display true unions of diversity that exists in Jesus-Christ. Our nation of individual voices can again learn to chime harmoniously and share an oneness. May the remedies of <u>2 Chronicles 7:14 be applied</u>. The healing of nations starts in the hearts of believers. Happy 4th!

**A FOUNDING FATHER:** I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Devine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Amen. — (June 8, 1783, prayer by George Washington read aloud daily at Mt. Vernon's public wreath-laying ceremony)

A LATE PRESIDENT: My first act as President is a prayer. I ask you to bow your heads. Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: "Use power to help people." For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us to remember it, Lord.

The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us; so that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways... that all peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. — ( <u>January 20, 1989, George H.W. Bush</u>, inaugural address)

## **Prayer & Praise**

We join these and other prior presidents in praying that the Lord help us to live holy, fruitful lives, so we jointly heal our divided country. We pray that real freedom **rings** from our hearts to identify sin and **wring** them from our beloved nation! May prayers uttered in united supplication join US and encourage other countries to obey the Creator by the example of our fellowship.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin and Debbie Anderson

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