Dear Open Door Family,

Tomorrow is the National Day of Prayer. Please take time during your day, perhaps at noon, to stop and spend a few minutes specifically praying for our nation. I have also found some specific prayer requests for our nation and leaders which I will ask Janet to send out today. May we truly become more and more a Church that Prays. If anyone would like to come by the church and spend some time quietly praying in the sanctuary, there will be someone here from 9 AM - 5 PM and the prayer lists will be in the entryway at the welcome center.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *(NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. [2] Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. [3] This is good and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

Life Application Study Bible - "Paul's command to pray for kings was remarkable considering that Nero, a notoriously cruel ruler, was emperor at this time (A.D. 54-68). When Paul wrote this letter, persecution was a growing threat to believers. When Nero blamed the Roman Christians for the fire in Rome persecution erupted throughout the Roman empire. Not only were Christians denied certain privileges in society, some were even publicly butchered, burned, or fed to animals. When our lives are going along peacefully and quietly, it is difficult to remember to pray for those in authority, because we often take good government for granted. It's easier to remember to pray when we experience problems**."**

Paul goes on to remind the Christians in Ephesus that praying for leaders and those in authority was a good thing and that God was pleased with it.

PRAYER: Lord God, help me to always keep our nation, and especially our leaders, before you in prayer. Help me to do this whether I like them or not, whether I respect them or not. May I do what pleases YOU by praying for them.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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