

Jo Heying has provided all of us with a memorial honoring the fact that this country is one nation under God. Through this small volume the voices of people sharing faith and hope transends the halls of an august body and are recorded for posterity.

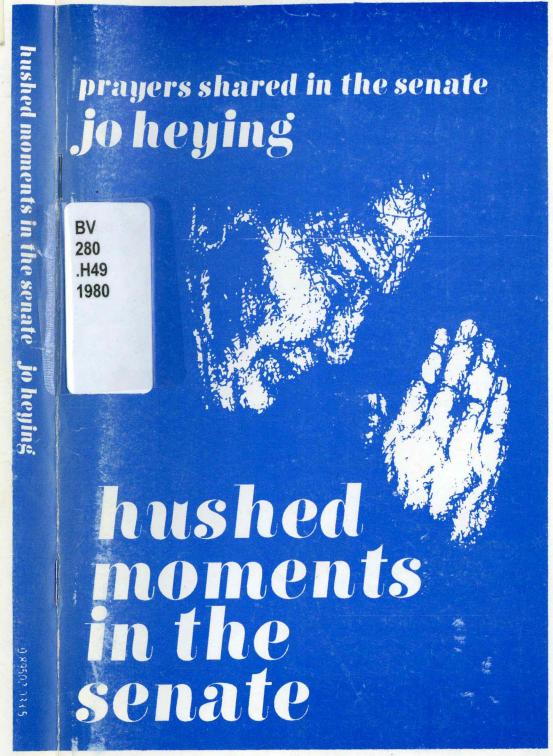
ISBN 0-89502-033-5



FEB is no longer in business.

This is a copy of the second printing.

Business Offices: 2116 East Carson Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203



hushed ts moments in the senate

jo heying

omplements Lo Deyrn. grateful to the Supreme Being for the Blessing hitherto enjoyed by us as a people and feeling our dependence on Him for continuance of this Blessing, do ordain and establish a free and independent government by the name of the state of Iowa the boundary whereof shall be as follows:

In Convention prior year Oct. 1, 1844 a resolution to open convention daily with prayer by Mr. Eliah Sells of Muscatine was considered and defeated according to a resolution offered by Mr. Galbraith stating that further consideration of the resolution to invite someone of the Ministers of the Gospel of the same city to open Convention every morning with prayer be postponed and the vote was 44 ayes and 16 nayes. It was not voted down - only postponed.

However, another notation shows that the Rev. Mr. Smithen opened the Convention by prayer on Oct. 7, 1844 on motion of Mr. Robert Lucas of Johnson Co.

In the state library we found other entries in the Journal that on Jan. 13, 1841 a committee of Robertson and Blair were appointed to greet Rev. Mr. Hummer who opened the session with a prayer.

Again on Dec. 5, 1842 -- motion by Mr. Walwarth resolved that a committee of two be appointed to receive the Rev. Bowman who was to open the session with prayer.

The practice to open the session with a prayer has continued through the years. As the legislative body became more organized a chaplain chairman was appointed each legislative session. It was this chairman's duty to see that a different member of the clergy was on hand each morning to open the session. Every legislator was given the opportunity to invite clergy or religious representatives from his or her district.

prayers shared in the senate

As wife and secretary to State Senator Heying it became my duty to schedule a minister to say a prayer at the opening of each day's legislative session. Every legislator was given the opportunity to invite a clergyman from his/her home area. The time consuming part of the job was to be fair and try to give everyone the date that was most convenient for their clergyman to come -- many of them great distances so early in the morning. On reflection considering all the variables one had to deal with, the Lord must have provided to make everything fall in place. Most often when one clergyman cancelled out somehow another legislator came along with a request.

After the scheduling for the week was done, twelve copies had to be made so that the clergyman was properly identified by all legislative offices. Every morning information containing the name, address, church denomination, mileage, host senator's and representative's name had to be on twelve different people's desk -- namely the desks of Lt. Governor so that he could greet him properly when he came to rostrum; the secretary of Senate, so he could announce him properly, the chaplain chairman, so he knew what legislator was bringing the guest clergy: the legislators having made the request so they would be reminded that the clergyman would be there; the engrossing clerk, so she could print it properly in daily journal; and the payroll clerk so that she could pay the ministers' expenses. Six copies were sent to the House, also. The secretary for the House of Representatives had to repeat the same in that assembly.

Once the routine was established it was relatively simple, but it was time consuming and had to be done every day and with some pride I must say, I

missed very few mornings during Senator Heying's eight years as chaplain chairman in the Senate. The interesting part of this responsibility was to meet and greet the clergymen and their families. Senator Heying and I tried to be at the Capitol well ahead of the 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. opening of the session.

As I look back, it's somewhat remarkable that the clergy, many of them coming from distant places, were on time for the largest percentage of the time. I guess if you condition your mind to think that the Lord will provide, you never panic and everything falls in place somehow.

Jo Heying January 1979 West Union, Iowa

PRAYERS

BICENTENNIAL PRAYER Diocese of Des Moines

Thank you, Lord, for a new day.

This day has never happened before.

It will never happen again.

Thank you for the precious gift of time.

Give us a sense of urgency to use it wisely and well.

This day, then, let us mend a quarrel build peace seek out a forgotten friend dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust

write a note of thanks share some treasure give a soft answer

encourage youth
manifest our loyalty in word and deed
keep a promise
find the time
forego a grudge
forgive an enemy

listen
apologize if we were wrong
try to understand

examine our demands on others think first of someone else appreciate be kind be gentle laugh a little laugh a little more inspire confidence take up arms against misunderstanding express our gratitude offer a prayer

gladden the heart of another admire the beauty of God's world

stand in awe speak our love speak it again speak it still once again!

> Bishop Maurice J. Dingman Prayer offered in Iowa State Legislature February 22, 1974

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES

Almighty God, we humble ourselves before You and pray that You will help us with the affairs of the state. We also pray for our families that You, O God, guide and be present with our families as we take care of the affairs of the state. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

SO THAT WE MAY LAUGH AT OURSELVES

Our Heavenly Father

We thank you for this day of grace. You have made the day, and we rejoice in it.

Father, we thank you for this nation, and for the freedoms we enjoy in it. We are grateful for these men and women, and for their willingness to assume their responsibilities, which are not always easy. We ask that You will guide them in their deliberations and in their actions, that your will may be done in all things.

Help us to have a good sense of humor, so that we may laugh at ourselves and at our own mistakes.

May all that we say and do, bring honor and glory to Your Holy Name.

In the Name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN.

SOCIAL HAPPINESS CANNOT EXIST

May Almighty God grant all of us the grace of unremitting effort to continue the blessings of corporate activity under his guidance. May no sentiments of ambition, or revenge, or ardor for retaliation keep us from ever bearing about the olive branch of peace. May our meeting together be an overture of perfect friendship and cordial union with all people. Knowing that the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately depend on the protection and blessing of God, we beg of You, our heavenly Father, at this present moment, the opportunity to practice morality and piety, without which social happiness cannot exist, nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed. We ask all these things in your most holy name. AMEN.

Let us bow our heads and pray: In constant dependence upon our Creator for the spiritual gifts required in the conduct of our affairs as individuals and as a State, we ask, Almighty God, for the wisdom and strength to fulfill the high purposes for which we are called, seeking the welfare of all people through a just and lasting peace upon the earth, desiring happiness for the most humble family and for the homes of the mighty. We pray with eager expectation that people be inspired to sacrifice at home and abroad, to achieve a life worthy of the children of God. AMEN.

NEVER DO ANYTHING FOR PERSONAL GAIN

Thank you for another day Lord.

You are all holy, our Creator, our Provider.

Every moment you are present to us - aware or not.

We come to you at beginning; dedicate it to you and place it in your hands.

We ask God that you help us do your will and not ours.

We ask that you help us have a right attitude in all things - that we never do anything for personal gains out of selfishness, but that we remember we are the servants of the people.

Help us Lord to serve our people with a generous heart, for it is in giving that we receive and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

UNSEEN DEPTHS OF OUR BEING

MAY WE ALL BE SO DEDICATED THAT WE PUT OUR BROTHERS WELFARE BEFORE OUR OWN

Eternal God, our Father, in these privileged moments we would praise Thee for Thy loving care. For the good land which Thou has given us, for quiet villages and busy cities, for our homes and schools, for our heritage of freedom and culture, we thank Thee. For those times when we have been excessively concerned about our rights and have neglected our responsibilities, when we have been over sensitive about the wrongs that affect us and have shown an easy acquiescence in wrongs done to others, forgive us our Father.

Grant to all to whom Thou has committed the responsibility of government and leader-ship, a vision of the truth that transcends all self-seeking and party zeal. Give them the counsel of Thy Holy Spirit whom Thou hast sent to guide us into all truth. Endow them with a sense of just to the end that the best interests of every citizen will be served.

May we all be so dedicated as to put our brother's welfare before our own. So rule our hearts and prosper the labor of our hands and minds to the honor and glory of Thy name.

AMEN.

Oh God, our Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being. Thou has created us and formed us for Thyself. We know the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

We know we are a part of destiny because it is written in the unseen depths of our being. Knowing this, we pray that the grip of limitation shall be taken off our minds and souls.

We know the powers that are ordained of God so we accept the authority with humility and integrity.

Keep us under the spell of immortality. Let us never act as if Thou art dead. Let us more and more come to know Thee as a living Lord who has promised to them that believe, "Because I live, ye shall live also." We are immortal till our work is done. May we no longer be afraid nor dismayed by the world's problems and threats since Thou hast overcome the world.

Give us the long view of our work and world and seek ultimately the Cause which shall remain.

Forgive us for our poverty of love for Thee and one another; for seeking to get more than we give and thinking of our own needs before our brothers.

Save us from skepticism which blights our faith and makes us weak.

We renew ourselves in Thy free, eternal love which makes us new creatures, triumphant in our personal and public life. Help us to return a simple faith which can make our homes and our land good

Now unto Him whose Name is, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace and upon whose shoulders shall this Government be secure. We give all praise and glory.

In His Strong Name. AMEN.

and strong.

WHEN WE CAN'T FIND UNITY LET US DEAL WITH CHARITY

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, you are the author of all life, all justice and all mercy. We thank you that you have entrusted to these people the administration of justice, mercy and the protection of life. When we seek justice temper it with mercy. When we seek mercy temper it with wisdom. Where necessary let us find unity. When we cannot find unity let us deal with charity. Over all, grant us a spirit of expediency for the sake of your people whom we serve, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

FOR THE WISDOM TO SEE LIFE AS IT REALLY IS, LET US REFLECT:

For the wisdom to see life as it really is, let us reflect:
Father, how greatly you respect and love us;
what great hope you have for us as men and women that you call us to deep and human brotherhood;
what great trust you have of us that all creation you have placed within our own hands.

And yet how often we are less than men and women; how often do we bring our calculating logic and vested interests to the paradoxes and mystery of life;

How often do we call our efforts to possess, love; efforts to dominate and control, freedom and peace; seeing wisely and acting rightly, our bias and manipulation of life.

Yet, you give vision to those who would see,

Keep us open, Father, to the mystery which we call life, and stir in us each day a renewed and radical commitment to authentic values: especially peace, justice, trust, forgiveness, love, joyfulness and equality.

And, never let us belittle our abilities, our resources, our intelligence, our goodness, our efforts.

But always help us to know more deeply a very simple secret:

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Father, we thank you -- for ourselves, each other, all women and men and for you.

- Let us in prayer invoke God's blessing on this session:
- God of infinite wisdom and might. Be pleased to favor us today with Thy omnipotent presence.
- In our deliberations and decisions we, in faith, look up to Thee for guidance.
- In our frustrations and fears we acknowledge "Our souls are indeed restless until they repose in Thee."
- O God, we do have some knowledge of what to do today,
 But that knowledge is lacking.
 And even so, it's ours because you have given it to us.
- Help us today to see that it is better "to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail."
- Keep our eyes upon you, God of grace.
- Turn us away from trusting in ourselves and in our military might and scientific achievement and political know-how.
- Open our eyes to see the folly of forgetting you.

TAKE MY YOKE AND LEARN FROM ME

individual and corporate limitations, mistakes and sins, aware that without Thee we can but fail. But by Thy grace and help, we make bold to look forward in hope to the achievement, through the Legislative Process of an ever greater degree justice in our state and nation.

May all members of this body be guided by your enduring and perfect law that neither the false god of "Change" or the idol of "The Good Old Days" will keep them from discerning the essential elements of our society.

Inspire us, O Spirit of Power, with the vision of this Grand Commonwealth, deriving creativity and strength from its cultural and ethnic diversity, yet bound together in the unity of democratic process and humanitarian concern.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto God.

Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.

Oh God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of all mankind, Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we open our hearts and minds in prayers of thanksgiving for our very beings and for this occasion.

We are thankful, O Father, to be citizens of a great and powerful free nation. We thank Thee, Father, for being active citizens of the productive State of Iowa. We thank Thee for a governor and legislative body that seeks Thy face, O Lord, in weighty matters of carrying forth the functions of state government. We thank Thee for each one of our legislators and our governor, collectively and individually and for this opportunity to pray, as it is always good for men to pray and not to faint.

We pray, Heavenly Father, for this session and that this august body may be guided by the wisdom known to Solomon and the great prophets and the wisdom of Jesus who said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and I will give you rest; take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." May right decisions, Heavenly Father, bring satisfaction and fulfillment to our lawmakers.

Hear us, as we pray for better health for all here assembled, ever understanding the needs of each other and of our state and nation. Hear us, Eternal Father, as we pray for continual mercy, grace and care from Thee, holding us in Thy divine keeping, both here and in our homes.

We thank Thee in the name of Triune God who made us in His image and likeness to have dominion over the face of the earth.

AMEN.

DIRECT US TO YOUR
DIVINE WISDOM

Let us pray. Oh, Almighty God, our help and refuge, fountain of wisdom and power of strength, who knowest that we can do nothing without Thy guidance and help, assist us, I pray Thee and direct us to your divine wisdom and power; that we may accomplish this task which sets before us and whatever we may undertake to do, faithfully and diligently, according to Thy will; so that it may be profitable to us and to others and to the glory of Thy Holy Name. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, unto ages of ages. AMEN.

Father. Creator of all that is good. we ask for Your blessing on us here gathered. You are the source of wisdom and truth. You created the earth and all that is placed on it. but You gave man that honor and somber responsibility to govern it wisely. Man has at times forgotten that grave responsibility and has spurned his honor and made this world to be dishonorable. You have called man from this sinfulness and have brought him to see your will. Time and time again through the patriarchs and the prophets you have called upon man to live in the trust given to him as his creation. Even when your people were put into exile you did not abandon them. but instead gave them the strength to survive the destruction of their land and temple. You led them back to their land as you did with Moses and the people of Israel in the desert. You were by their side in times of peace and war. in times when there was hatred and the times when there was love.

The greatest gift you gave us was to send your own Son, to give of himself in his life and in his death, to bring men to realize the importance of their mission here on earth. Your son, Jesus, spoke to the poor and the rich, the sinner, the man on the street and those in charge of government. His message was not one of condemnation, but one of responsibility to all mankind. Crime and corruption founded in sin put Jesus to death, but

WE HAVE DONE LITTLE

the love of the Father gave him new life. The message was not lost, it was made more glorious and given a universal scope. For from this man came a group of believers who felt this world could be made to be a better place and that life did have meaning.

Father, you have sent your Spirit to live among us in the creation you have formed and in the words you have spoken through your prophets and through your Son, Jesus Christ. The message will not die, your creation will continue, for you will be there to be our guiding light through the darkness of the future.

We take this moment to ask for your continuing guidance and light as we carry on with the responsibilities of government. May our minds always be aware of your continuing presence and may our work here show forth to the whole world as the work of men guided by the Spirit. AMEN.

Most merciful God our Heavenly Father. We invoke Thy blessing upon this legislative body as we begin our deliberating tasks of this new day and another week.

Guide and direct all gathered that we may have a right attitude of mind and a positive spirit as Social, Ethical and Financial concerns are dealt with and as decisions are made.

We thank you for a degree of Peace, for the release of those prisoners of war who are today on their way home.

Most merciful Father, we have done little to forward Thy Kingdom in this World, to establish the brotherhood of Men and Love as the law of life. We have allowed our own fortunes to blind us, our pains, our sorrows and our reversals to embitter us.

We have forgotten that whatsoever is done to one of the least of our brethren is done unto you.

- If our lives have become shallow, deepen them.
- If our principles have become shabby, repair them.
- If our ideals have become tarnished, restore them.
- If our hopes have become faded, revive them.
- If our loyalties have grown dim, brighten them.

If our values have become confused, clarify them.

If our purposes have grown blurred, sharpen them.

If our horizons have become contracted, widen them.

Pardon our shortcomings and forgive our past neglect.

Give us a single and a simple heart intent upon pleasing you. Help us in all our seeking first to seek Thy Kingdom and your Righteousness, that we may be blessed with the full measure of Thy blessing.

Through Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

LEND US THY SPIRIT

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we pause in the midst of a very busy and hectic schedule to quiet our souls and prepare ourselves for the tasks that fall to us.

We are grateful for the many blessings that have come to us, yet in our humanity we feel lost and alone.

Lend us Thy Spirit that we may have clarity of purpose, certainty of action and the comfort of knowing thou art with us. AMEN.

TIME IS NOT RECYCLEABLE

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Thank you, dear God, for this day, with its ups and downs, its triumphs and trials, its privileges and obligations. Give us the right perspective, so we turn today's problems into opportunities!

Thank you for these public servants, our lawmakers and all who assist them; they labor more or less unnoticed and their praises are more or less unsung. So give them a sense of right and justice and truth. Give them the courage to follow conviction, not convenience. Teach them to listen, as well as to speak. With wisdom and to see their need for each other. Let all of the citizens of this great state and land maintain a high and serious commitment to freedom, independence and responsibility; but at the same time, let us all declare our dependence on you, for without you we can neither live or move or exist.

Move us all to work together, teaching us that we can no more make it alone than one hand clapping. Show us that time is a gift, expendable, not recycleable and let us use it wisely.

Bless the youth who are invading this city for another basketball tournament. Give them safe travel, good enjoyment of the contests and lots of thrills and excitement!

Hear this prayer, heavenly Father, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN. And what we pray for these who serve here we likewise would pray for all of us who serve in our various capacities as constituents. Save us from the temptation to make scapegoats out of politicians. And give to all of us the good wisdom to keep our mouths shut unless we know what we are talking about. AMEN.

FORGIVE THEM FOR ANY MISTAKES THEY MAKE

Our Heavenly Father:

We thank you for this beautiful day.
We thank you for allowing us to live in
this great nation and this great state.
We thank you for those who are so interested in the legislative process that they
would make this kind of commitment to us.

We are aware that many important decisions must be made here. We pray for Your wisdom and help. We know that it is not always easy to see right from wrong or to decide what is best. But to those committed to this process, give guidance, direction and encouragement. Give physical strength for the task at hand. Forgive them for any mistakes they make. We ask it all in Jesus' name. AMEN.

COURAGE TO CHANGE WHAT WE CAN AND ACCEPT WHAT WE CAN T CHANGE

We are all invited to pray together this morning members of the Senate.

Let us pray to our Almighty Father in Heaven. Who is a God of Wisdom and Justice. through Whom Authority is rightly administered. Laws are enacted and judgement decreed. Assist us with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude, that the members of this Assembly, who are elected to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled to discharge the duties of their respective offices with honesty and ability: that their deliberations may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to the people over who they preside: by encouraging due respect for virtue and worship: by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of your divine Wisdom shine forth in all deliberations that the Laws framed for our rule and government, may tend to the preservation of Peace, the promotion of happiness, the increase of industry and useful knowledge.

Let us pray also for His Excellency, Governor Ray, that he may be enabled to perform the duty of his office with integrity and ability.

O God, you are the strength of all who put their confidence in You. Kindly hear our prayer.

We are weak human beings and can do nothing without you. Give us your supporting hand -- so that all of our thoughts, words and actions may be pleasing to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can; and the Wisdom to know the difference.

In these days of confusion, doubt and uncertainty, the prayer of Francis of Assisi may be of some help in our reflections:

"O Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow Love; where there is injury, Pardon; where there is doubt, Faith; where there is despair, Hope; where there is darkness, Light; and where there is sadness, Joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving, that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

SEND YOUR HOLY SPIRIT

I would like to pen this morning's session with several verses from Psalm 119 and then proceed with a short prayer.

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them.

Give my discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart.

Lead me in the path of your commands, for in it I delight.

Incline my heart to your decrees and not to gain.

Steady my footsteps according to your promise and let no iniquity rule over me.

Almighty Father, you have given us this great land as our heritage. We humbly ask you, that we may always prove ourselves mindful of your favor and strive to do your will.

Grant to this administration, a ministry of service to all, not the few, to our Assembly the upholding of public interest, not merely competing private claims; to our judiciary a wisdom in interpreting law, grounded in principle, not expediency:

NEW OR DIFFERENT

Eternal Creator of the Universe, we pause, calling your attention to this instant in your Eternity, requesting guidance in all of the deliberations that shall come on the floor of these chambers, that somehow we shall keep ever before us the basic needs, physical as well as emotional, that govern our fellow-man. We would seek courage of our convictions, freedom to exercise this same courage, and divine intervention at those points which are too difficult for us to rationally approach. Keeping in mind our obligation to our fellow human beings. encourage all whose thoughts may appear to be somewhat "new" or "different", that they may not feel "let down" if their program does not become implemented by this body.

In those places where we find encounters that are not joyous, grant to all here assembled the patience they shall need to hear without prejudice or judgements.

ALL OF US OUGHT TO BE "A HAPPY FAILURE"

Pastors have in common that we all like to be successes. There is a man for whom I have a great deal of respect, who was my seminary professor, Dr. Alvin Rogness, who wrote a devotional book containing a brief devotion entitled "To be a Happy Failure."

The world loves a success story. Every person dreads being a failure, or, at least, being regarded as a failure. The Bible thinks of success in a different way; in fact, success is rather a phony. There is really only one success story in all the world and that is the story of God. God alone finished what He set out to do. In life we try to emulate God and succeed only in clowning our way through life. Either we set ourselves such low, unworthy goals that in reaching them our success is not worth the name, or we pretend to have reached high goals when we actually have fallen far short.

All the while we may think we do all this on our own. The truth is that we couldn't take one breath on our own. Our hands, our brains, our feet, the country we live in, the skills we attain, the money we accumulate are really not ours at all. Whatever we call success is a borrowed commodity.

Every one of us ought to be a "happy failure". At the end of the day we should gladly admit that everything we seem to have achieved

we have from God. The successes are God's, the failures are ours.

OUR LORD, we all love success; success by the standards of our friends more than by Your standards. By Your high standards we confess to more failures than successes, but help us to find more joy in failing by Your standards than in succeeding by any other. AMEN.

MAY WE SEE OUR NEED

Our Father
Because you have given us the gift
of mind with which to think and make
decisions - does not mean that we think,
work or act better without you.

We pray today that we may remember that we are not our own and that we are still dependent upon you to help us, to guide us and direct us. We know that it pleases you when we call upon you for help.

Today may we voice our need of your direction. May we remember that we have great responsibilities on our shoulders and that we represent many people. Guide us into your will, for our lives. We pray. AMEN.

SO BE THE THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Let us Pray:

Good morning, Lord. And a good morning to you, too.

Another day has begun and with a thought for today, we, too, begin the day, rested and restless; facing challenges of the day.

Crisis solving, votes deciding, decisions made, laws established; each represent the representing. Yet what difference does it make, if the represented is unrepresented.

How do we meet the wishes of the day? Or more important, why?

After all is said and done, there's only one to whom the difference makes. The one who was, is and always will be.

Grant us Lord, if it be.
First, the grace to be.
Then, the grace to do;
Not because of me,
But because of you.
Praise be Yahweh!
Praise be Jesus!
Praise be he who is!
So be, the thought for today.

GOOD AND BAD ARE OFTEN WOVEN IN A CRAZY PLAID

Father, the world we live in is complex. Right and wrong seem so easy to distinguish when we argue politics from our armchairs at home, but here in the legislature, where hard decisions must be made, good and bad are often woven in a crazy plaid. And so this morning to those whose duty it is to engage in the discipline of decision-making, as they seek to resolve the conflicts of our society, may they be able to disagree without being disagreeable and to differ without being difficult.

Father, our prayer this morning is for political wisdom and also for a spiritual understanding of the problems which beset our world. In Christ our Lord's name, we pray. AMEN.

SHOW US HOW TO BE BOTH OUR OWN AND YOURS

Your power, Lord God, made the universe and holds it in being. You are the reason for it and the ruler of it. Direct our hearts and minds to yourself, so that our humanity may be fulfilled. Forgive us for our willful disobedience to you and for our unwitting transgressions of your commandments. Teach us that the right use of our freedom is in controlling ourselves and in so ordering society as to encourage mutual service. Save us equally from the pride which results in lawless self-will and from the fear which results in a craven surrender of our wills to other people. Show us, in each situation and decision, how to be both our own and yours, so that we can freely and confidently enter into those binding relationships with others by which human life is shaped and supported.

For Jesus' sake. AMEN.

INVOCATION

(Legislative Session May 3, 1974)

O Merciful Father, you who are Lord of Heaven and earth, you understand so well the difficult decisions these our elected officials must make. In these days when men freely judge and condemn, when freedom of conscience is at stake, when confidence in leadership is shaken, we ask that all the members of this body and all who share in its work may turn to you for guidance.

Help them as they meet in these closing hours of the legislature. Help them to understand their responsibilities to the people they represent, but most of all, help them to understand their responsibility to you, their God and Father.

So help them, Lord, that when this session is over, they will merit your praise. Well done, good and faithful servants.

We ask You these blessing. AMEN.

PARTY LOYALTY

Lord God of our fathers - who called the worlds into being and created persons in your image - we call upon your continued guidance for those who would govern society and establish laws by which we all must live.

We ask your forgiveness when we seek power instead of justice, or place party loyalty above loyalty to you and to the children of humankind.

Help those who govern to replace wrangling tongues with considered speech and stubbornness with open mindedness. Make them free enough to recognize their awesome task and to seek information - to listen - and to serve with humility.

Make our leaders, we pray, good stewards not only of tax monies and property, but also of our finest resources - the lives of persons - the talents of persons - the intelligence of those who are represented here.

Keep our leaders mindful of all of our people - those who have wealth and those who are poor, those who have power and those who have been disenfranchised; that they may serve the whole family of this state with equity, compassion and love.

We ask this, Lord, as a people who need your help - whose leaders are human - and in need of courage and strength; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

A HOUSE THAT LIVES BECAUSE GOD IS NEAR

What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house; the earth its floor, walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door. Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed, names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders sent from the past are all we need. We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard: God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at his table, broken and shared, a living sign. Here in this world, dying and living, we are each others' bread and wine. This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase God's justice and his peace.

GOD'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE WAYS

How wonderful are the works of God; how incomprehensible His ways. After each day of creation, the order and the laws governing your creation. God. were so judged that you saw that "it was good". May our legislators make the identical claim with each and every law they pass -it is good in the name of justice. As they act according to their consciences. may they always consider on which they impose a conscience morality. May they be characteristic of the human wisdom of Solomon revealed in the Old Testament: a wisdom approved by Almighty God. Inspire them to exercise power so that truth will prevail; truth resting within your mind as revealed through your written word, your natural law and man's informed conscience. In the spirit of our common sonship with the Father and our brotherhood with Jesus Christ, join with me, please, as we pray the perfect prayer formulated by Jesus Christ...

Our Father
Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us
this day, our daily bread and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and Glory,
forever. AMEN.

HELP US TO LISTEN TO THE HEART OF OUR FELLOWMAN

Prayer offered by Sister Janet Michael, Director of Communications, Diocese of Des Moines in the Senate and House of the Iowa Legislature on Wednesday morning, February 19, 1975.

'If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.' (Psalm 94)

Today, Lord, we bless you and praise you. We thank you for this TODAY - for its uniqueness; for its laughs and its tears.

We ask you, Lord, to help us be the good listener that is needed to be a good leader:

- to listen to a person's heart
- to understand what is not contained in words
- to sense what cannot be voiced
- to be open to ideas, dreams, aspirations
- to expose ourselves to risks that emerge from learning new things

Help us today, dear Lord, to hear YOUR voice

through one another through the shouts and cries of the world and harden not our hearts.

Help us to make today A BETTER WORLD.

HELP US TO CHOSE WELL

Let us pray -- To you 0 God, who has been our help in ages past, and our hope for years to come, we pause at the beginning of a busy day to petition you for divine guidance.

You have endowed us mind and spirit, and we pray that we may use them both in our daily tasks.

We pray Thy blessings upon these lawmakers and their staffs and families, as they serve this great state of Iowa. Be with our leaders everywhere and guide them in straight paths of righteousness.

These are days of decision making. Help us all to choose well. During these Holy days we pray that we will accept your directing and that because of you and your teachings, we will realize that we are a part of ONE WORLD.

We confess that we have more often forgotten than remembered you, but we know that you are the maker of Heaven and Earth. Pardon us for our shortcomings. Cleanse our conscience of all imperfections and may we take up our cross daily and follow you, we pray. AMEN.

SAVE US FROM MAKING SCAPEGOATS OUT OF POLITICIANS

O God, we thank you that we can call you our Father, knowing that our concerns also are your concerns.

We are thankful for this new day and the fresh opportunities it brings us to find meaning and significance in our lives. We are thankful for the challenges that perhaps today will stimulate us to accomplish more than we dared expect.

And now we come to you with our petitions:

These who have come from their various communities and families to serve on this important hill are first of all persons, with personal and private concerns. Some perhaps have special concerns today about their families back home. While they are here we pray that you will look after the needs of those loved ones wherever they may be.

We ask that these whose lives are publicly exposed and vulnerable, if they have done their best to exercise their best judgment-grant to them an inner calmness and satisfaction that neither threats nor enticements can destroy.

And yet we also would pray for those who serve here. We, likewise, would pray for all of us who serve in our various capacities as constituents. Save us from the temptation to make scapegoats out of politicians. And give to all of us the good wisdom to keep our mouths shut unless we know what we are talking about. AMEN.

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, and one who controls the destiny of nations and individuals, we give thanks for this new day and for the various opportunities which await us. Aware of the importance of our responsibilities, grant to us, Lord, not only the courage to defend what we believe is right and good, but also the humility which enables us to give due consideration to the views of others. Help us to know the difference between that compromise which is degrading and morally indefensible and that compromise which produces healing and meaningful cooperation between opposing groups. Grant to us, Lord, an eagerness to learn and to profit from constructive criticism, but also a patience and forgiving spirit when unfairly criticized. During this bicentennial year, when we shall be reminded about the great accomplishments of our nation, help us to humbly acknowledge Thy goodness toward us throughout our history. Help us, Lord, to understand that the future strength of these United States shall not be dependent primarily upon more weapons, bigger government, or greater financial wealth, but upon a solid faith in Thee and a willingness to obey Thy commandments. And when this day comes to an end. may we be able to honestly say that we have been good stewards of the time, sound minds, and opportunities for service which have been entrusted to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

CONCERN FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

Our Father, as we take up this day's duties, we would be still and know that you are God and pause for your power. Help us to have open hearts and minds that are responsive to the leading of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

Give us knowledge and understanding of the issues we shall encounter this day, that we shall be able to make decisions with wisdom. This may mean that we will not give to our people everything they want. Rather, help us to make decisions on the basis of what is right and good for the people of our State. Do not let us be motivated by selfish interests in making decisions on the basis of what is expedient for ourselves. Help us to be concerned about all the people of Iowa; the rich and poor, the privileged and underprivileged, the educated and uneducated, whose destinies are in our hands.

When this day is over and it has been recorded as history; may we look back upon it with pride, being assured that for this one day we have done our best. Make us aware that we must not only give an accounting of ourselves to those who have elected us to our offices, but we must also give an accounting of ourselves to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

TRUE JUSTICE SEEMS EVASIVE

O Lord, our God, we give you the praise and glory for being in charge of all things.

We are faced with complexing problems and correct solutions often seem far beyond us. Help us realize that we need the guidance and wisdom from you and that we must turn to you in prayer for your help.

Though needs overwhelm us and the resources seem so limited, we are reminded how your Son fed the 5000 with only two fishes and five barley loaves.

Though true justice seems so evasive, we are reminded that your Son recognized the dignity of the criminal on the cross. Punishment needs to be meted out, but let us do it in a manner which does not destroy the dignity of the person.

O God, as you are called on by members of this assembly, grant wisdom in seeking solutions, concern for the needs of all the people of this state and guidance to fulfill these needs with the resources you provide.

This we pray in the name of your Son. AMEN.

DESPAIRING WE DARE HOPE

Our Father: What fools we mortals be; yet what wisdom is demanded of us. Often appalled at our lowly production; yet we reach toward a grant potential. Frustrated by the trivial we still aspire to the significant. Indeed, what is man that thou art mindful of him? Yet thou hast made him only a little lower than the angels. Despairing we dare to hope. Frightened by our bent to self-destruction; we still believe in good-will, and life and strength of purpose and all things made new again.

Look with mercy and favor upon the efforts of this legislature. When there isn't enough to go around among all the states; make us all very much aware of one another in our time of common need and keep us a United States. And when there isn't enough to go around among all the nations of this small planet, make us sensitive to one another and help us to become a United Nations.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we all live and move and have our being. AMEN.

PURSUE THE RIGHT WITHOUT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

Almighty and Sovereign God, who leads through your providence the ways of all those who seek your blessing. Grant that this day's session in the Senate may be fruitful in producing the kind of action that will bless the people of our state. Give us a sense of direction that we may pursue the right-without selfrighteousness. Unite us in a sense of unity - without conformity. Help us to always speak the truth, and to act with justice for all. May our convictions be based upon a wisdom that is directed by Your Almighty Spirit. Forgive us for the sin of self-satisfaction and self-indulgence. Forgive us for love of honor for self, or for our love of money and pleasure. Forgive us for our readiness to condemn others and to excuse ourselves. Lead us by Your Spirit so that we may discern your will and give us resolution and strength to follow it. Bless each leader here in whom responsibility has been placed by the people of our state and by your supreme authority as Creator and Lord of all. AMEN.

THE ORDERLINESS OF YOUR CREATION

Lord, whom we acknowledge as Father, and by whom we are accepted as children:

The seasons in their stately march, the stars in their predictable movements and the personal experience of our own steady movement from youth to age -- all proclaim the orderliness of your creation and the continuing presence of your hand in creation.

To your children you have given the responsibility of living in and caring for that order. You have laid in our hands plows and microscopes, saws and books, hammers and soybean plants. With them you have directed us, "Tend the earth. Make it bring forth food. Learn and live with its laws."

Equally so in the inter-actions of human beings with each other you have described the ways by which we can grow together. You have given us love so that we eagerly seek each other's welfare. You have given us respect so that we govern our actions to keep them from intruding into other's happiness. And you have given us brother-hood so that we accept our equality and allow no one's desire to run roughshod over another.

We, following your own designs of creation and order, have established this Assembly and given it the charge to guide us in ordering our common life. As this

week of the people's business begins, we pray that those of us to whom this responsibility is given may begin our work as servants with an eagerness to make our product as orderly as yours.

May we be bold in leadership and humble in self-appraisal.

To your name be glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT GOD IS NEAR

Be still and know that God is here. We thank him for the gift of life and this new day, with its challenges and opportunities. Help each of us to be good stewards of the life you have given us and to use it for the benefit of our fellow man and the glory of God.

Grant wisdom and knowledge to the men and women who are dealing with the affairs of our state here today. Help them to be sensitive to the concerns of the people and the will of God. May our actions today be motivated by love and may they be profitable for the brotherhood of man and the Kingdom of God.

I pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

BLESS THE FAMILIES

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of men and women, of states and of nations, look upon this legislative body with favor and blessing today. We give thanks to you for minds and bodies that are able to wrestle and struggle through issues that face us as individuals and as a state. We thank you for the willingness and ability of these women and men to serve in this capacity as legislators. My prayer this morning, Father, is that you will grant to each of them enough patience to hear one another out, enough understanding to grasp other's opinions and ideas, enough conviction not to compromise where compromise is less than just and right, enough wisdom to make the proper decisions and enough endurance to see an issue thoroughly and to the end. May your guiding and upholding Spirit be felt here first and then emanate to the citizens of this state through the decisions that are reached and the lives that are brought into public focus here.

Finally, loving Heavenly Father, bless the families of these legislators as they too have sacrificed time, energy, privacy, and family companionship during this legislative session. Enable them to give love and support wherever and whenever it is needed.

Remind us throughout this day that in Jesus Christ you have identified yourself with all humanity and that by your spirit we are all under your intimate care and grace. AMEN.

THAT WE MAY DO OUR BEST TODAY

Eternal God, Our Heavenly Father, we pause at the beginning of this new day to thank Thee for Thy care of us and Thy many blessings to us.

We thank Thee for this day. May its opportunities for service challenge us. We thank Thee for the resources of mind and spirit that are called forth by the problems we face -- for an overriding spirit of unity beyond our momentary differences.

We thank Thee for our land and all its people -- for our heritage of ideals and the opportunity to work for their achievement -- that our future demands that we be our best today.

Forgive us if we have grown weary or faint-hearted -- if we have allowed difficulties to weaken our effort or our hope. Forgive us when we let our good fortune blind us to the needs of others -- when we sacrifice our highest values for short term gains.

Grant us Lord, the strength and the courage to make the decisions that are necessary today. Give us sensitivity to human need and the will to meet it responsibly. Grant us the resources of mind and spirit to venture into new ways of thought and action when they are necessary.

Give us the ability to resist selfish impulses and narrow views by making us deeply conscious of the interdependence of all life.

Grant us Thy guidance and Thy blessing in all the endeavors of this day. In Thy name we pray. AMEN.

THE AUTHORITY WE EXERCISE BE IN HARMONY WITH YOUR WILL

Almighty and Eternal Father, Author and Source of all life and all authority Without You, we can do nothing. We pray for your guidance and direction So that the Authority we exercise here may be completely in harmony with Your Will. Help us to know Your Will in all the decisions we must make. Give us the courage to fulfill Your divine Will even at the cost of personal sacrifice. We pray in Your Name. AMEN.

TO YOU WE OWE EVERYTHING

O God, to You who has given us the dawning of one more day - we give you thanks.

To you who has granted us freedom but not freedom from your presence nor from your claim upon our time or our stewardship of resources and talent nor freedom from the moral action of our linear, help us to use our freedom responsibly.

To you who has given us lives to live at their fullest but not lives to be wasted through lack of purpose or lack of Divine direction, as if we owned the days that Thou has given us, help us to use our time wisely.

For to you we owe everything.

- O God, As we gather here as your men and women upon whom you have laid a claim of responsibility, we pray that the legislation that we form will not only be best for the people of our great state but that it shall be best in your eyes, too.
- So give us assurance of your presence, give us your strength and wisdom and bless the work we do together today.

For we pray in Thy name. AMEN.

FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

Almighty God - "How excellent is Thy name in all the earth. Before the mountains were brought forth--or ever Thou didst form the earth and the world--from everlasting to everlasting--Thou art God." These words were spoken by a psalmist over 2500 years ago--but they speak to our minds and hearts now at this hour.

"From everlasting to everlasting". This we cannot comprehend. We have made Thee too small.

We are grateful for your creative power-for the mountains--the earth and the
seas. Help us to preserve these for the
succeeding generations--your mountains-your earth--your seas.

Dear God, we are grateful for your shepherding care. The psalmist told us you watch over us twenty-four hours of everyday. Concerned for our welfare and our needs.

Bless O God these leaders of our people as they begin a new day. Give them insights for the needs of our people and as the day ends, may they have Thy smile and benediction. AMEN.

INTO YOUR HOLY HANDS WE COMMEND OURSELVES

We begin our prayer this morning in the name of the Triune of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen. O Thou, who art the only God and who alone can hear prayers and to whom alone belong all kingdoms and power and glory, we give heartfelt thanks to Thee that in Thy mercy and grace Thou hast so richly blessed these United States of America for 200 years with both temporal and spiritual blessings, especially, providing for us a human form of government for the temporal welfare and needs of its citizens.

As we embark upon this 200th anniversary year of our country, we beseech Thee to continue unto us such legislators and executives in both Federal and State governments who have been taught and always remember that Thou alone art God and Lord of nations and the world. Endow to all members of Government throughout the world a right understanding of all issues and a pure purpose. Enable them to rise above all self-seeking honor and glory as well as party zeal unto the large sentiments of its citizens whom they represent and wish to serve so that the will of its people be done according to Thy will.

Especially do we ask Thee to purge our political life of every evil and corruption.

Make us all to love peace and our fellow man and to deal fairly with all both at home and abroad. Inspire all people of the earth with calmness and self-restraint so that they seek to do Thy will everywhere upon the earth.

Thus, into Thy Holy hands we command ourselves today, tomorrow, or as long as we shall live. Let Thy Holy Angels watch over us, so that no harm come to us and our beloved country and state. In the blessed name of our one and only Saviour, Jesus Christ, we ask it. AMEN.

HELP THEM TO BE WHAT THE PEOPLE EXPECT THEM TO BE

God of all people, bestow your blessings upon these Senators of all the people in this State. Help them to be what they want to be, but more importantly, what their people expect if that be consistent with your plan.

Bless these public servants and their families in repayment of their efforts this session to contribute to the improvement of this State. AMEN.

YOU HAVE SENT YOUR SPIRIT

Father, creator of all that is good, we ask for Your blessing on us here gathered. You are the source of wisdom and truth. You created the earth and all that is placed on it. But You gave man that honor and somber responsibility to govern it wisely. Manhas at times forgotten that grave responsibility and has spurned his honor and made this world to be dishonorable. You have called man from this sinfulness and have brought him to see Your will. Time and time again through the patriarchs and the prophets You have called upon man to live in the trust given to him at his creation. Even when Your people were put into exile You did not abandon them, but instead gave them the strength to survive the destruction of their land and temple. You led them back to their land as You did with Moses and the people of Israel in the desert. You were by their side in times of peace and war, in times when there was hatred and the times when there was love.

The greatest gift you gave us was to send your own Son to give of himself in his life and in his death, to bring men to realize the importance of their mission here on earth. Your Son, Jesus, spoke to the poor and the rich, the sinner, the man on the street and those in charge of government. His message was not one of condemnation, but one of responsibility

Father.

to all mankind. Crime and corruption, founded in sin, put Jesus to death, but the love of the Father gave him new life. The message was not lost, it was made more glorious and given a universal scope. For from this man came a group of believers who felt this world could be made to be a better place and that life did have meaning.

Father, You have sent Your Spirit to live among us in the creation You have formed and in the words You have spoken through Your prophets and through Your Son, Jesus Christ. The message will not die; Your creation will continue, for You will be there to be our guiding light through the darkness of the future.

We know that it is by Your personal design that some have been appointed as teachers and clerical workers, housewives, merchants and judges, rulers and legislators. We thank You for first of all giving us the talents and then the opportunities to put those talents into constructive usages so that we may be

positive influences in Your world and in ours, instead of becoming negative drones who flaunt the traditions and the values of life for selfish purposes.

O God, we know how You have guided the founding and the destiny of this land. And we know that in good times, or in bad, how You have never ceased to bless us with the wherewithal to do what needs doing and to get done, the jobs and problems which daily confront us. Help us always to remember that we are "A NATION UNDER GOD!" and that without Your help we literally are helpless; but with Your help, we can, if we must, move mountains!

Today, Father, we ask Your especial blessings and concern for these who have been elected as Your servants and ours, here in this place of government. Give them the vision that sees beyond their years here...the ears that really hear what You and Your people are saying...and the vim, the vigor and the vitality to think and to do what they determine is best for all of us. We ask for Your continued guidance, blessing and concern on them; and on each of us here present. In Christ's Name...

GIVE ME A HEART WITH GREAT ROOM IN IT

O God; who abides in our poor and shabby human life, lifting it now and then above the dominance of animal passion and greed, allowing it to shine with the borrowed lights of love and joy and peace and making it a mirror of the beauties of a world unseen, grant that my part in the world's life today may not be to obscure the splendor of Your presence but rather to make it more plainly visible to the eyes of my fellow men.

Let me stand today for whatever is pure and true and just
and good:
for the advancement of science and education and true learning:
for the rights of the weak and the
oppressed:
for industrial cooperation and mutual
help:
for the conservation of the rich traditions of the past:
for the recognition of new workings of
Your Spirit in the minds of the men
of my own time:

for the hope of yet more glorious days

Today, O Lord let me put right before interest:
let me put others before self:
let me put the things of the spirit
before the things of the body:

to come.

let me put the attainment of noble ends above the enjoyment of present pleasures: let me put principle above reputation: Let me put You before all else.

O God, the reflection of whose transcendent glory did once appear unbroken in the grace of Jesus Christ, give me today a heart like His - a brave heart, a true heart, a tender heart, a heart with great room in it, a heart fixed on Yourself; for His name's sake. AMEN.

ONE OF THE MOST PRAYERFUL SENATORS

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy holy name.

We praise and thank you for life; for all human life everywhere. We thank you for the men and women in this General Assembly and pray that you will bless them with wisdom, courage and strength, that they might produce good legislation for this state. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

IT HEED NOT BE THIS WAY

Father, we thank you for the great things you ask of us.

You gave us a world to build and mind and strength to build it.

You kept us alive with the power of your spirit until we could find our own.

Help us understand that our powers are for others, especially those who have no voice—the poor, the oppressed, all who suffer injustice. The only words they have are ours. They look to us with hope that tomorrow will be better.

Help us also to remember our own suffering—that suffering which unites all people like a "second nature" - which prevents a purely technical understanding of freedom and peace. The remembrance of suffering makes the present real and the future possible, because it places that future into the hands of people, not into the things of technology. It says to all who suffer, and that means everyone, it need not be this way.

We ask all this O God, in your name. AMEN.

IN WHOSE NAME THEY BEAR THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT

Lord of power and giver of grace and wisdom, bless all who are engaged in the government of this state, especially our governor and the members of this Senate. Grant them clean hands, pure hearts and unfailing devotion to the cause of right-eousness.

We commend their work to you, merciful Lord, praying that it may be such as will promote your will in our midst, to the help of the poor, the relief of the oppressed, the putting down of all social evils and the redress of all social wrongs. Let all they think or speak or do be for your glory and the good of your people, in whose name they bear the authority of government.

And bless, Almighty God, the people of this state, that in sound learning, honest industry and pure manners we may be led into the ways of justice and truth. Establish among us that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that we may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

TRUE JUSTICE SEEMS SO EVASIVE

O Lord, our God, we give you the praise and glory for being in charge of all things.

We are faced with complexing problems and correct solutions often seem far beyond us. Help us realize that we need the guidance and wisdom from you and that we must turn to you in prayer for your help.

Though needs overwhelm us and the resources seem so limited, we are reminded how your Son fed the 5000 with only two fishes and five barley loaves.

Though true justice seems so evasive, we are reminded that your Son recognized the dignity of the criminal on the cross. Punishment needs to be meted out, but let us do it in a manner which does not destroy the dignity of the person.

O God, as you are called on by members of this assembly, grant wisdom in seeking solutions, concern for the needs of all the people of this state and guidance to fulfill these needs with the resources you provide.

This we pray in the name of your Son. AMEN.

YOU HAVE PLANS FOR US AND OUR LAND

Eternal God, our Father, who led our ancestors to bring forth in this land a new nation, conceived in liberty; give your grace to us, that we may ever be mindful of you, without whom no people can prosper or dwell secure.

At the beginning of this new day as we stand to give praise to you, we are grateful that this nation, now 200 years old, still strives mightily to insure liberty and justice for all and that we are still governed by our peers, elected from our own ranks.

You have plans for us, O Lord, and for our land—and you have the power to make them happen. Strengthen in these legis—lators a knowledge of your will. Remind them always that they serve a public trust. May they see that no individual, no special interest group, no town, county, state or nation exists for itself alone, but is responsible to you.

Our prayer this day and every day, is that you will guide this legislative body as they deliberate and make decisions on those matters which are of concern to all of us. Help them to know that no one ever acts in isolation, but that we are dependent upon one another and ultimately upon you.

For we pray in your name and as we call you "Father", we realize you have given us unity. AMEN.

RAISE UP LEADERS AMONG US

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who alone is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, yet Who has ordained human governments for the temporal welfare of mankind, and Whose rule of good order and peace is extended through human efforts, we thank You that You have in so many ways blessed us with Your guidance, strength and wisdom through the elected and appointed officials of this State and nation. Although we must confess that we have often and in many ways failed our sacred trust to manage our personal lives and our several responsibilities to Your glory and for the good of Your people, we trust in Your forgiveness for the past earned for us by the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross and we confidently look forward to the hope for the future that you alone can give. We pray that You would endow all members of this assembly with a due sense of the solemn responsibility with which you have endowed them through the people of this State. Give them a right understanding in all things, pure purpose and sound speech. Enable them to rise above all party spirit into the larger concerns of the public good and human brotherhood. Inspire them with calmness, self-restraint and the endeavor to further the doing of Your will in all that is before them. Give them guidance to see the right, the courage of decision and the wisdom of choice to do the same, not so much to gain popularity

and good-will, but to do what is Your will and in the best interest of Your people. Most of all we pray that You would raise up leaders among us who have seen the wider vision of the Kingdom of God in the hearts and lives of people, which has been restored through the holy life, innocent suffering and death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, through Whom alone we have access to You and by Whom alone we live. It is in His name that we pray. AMEN.

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM

O God, the fountain of wisdom, Whose statutes are good and gracious and Whose law is truth; we beseech Thee so to guide and bless the Legislature of this State, that it may ordain for our governance only such things as please Thee, and that Thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper all its consultations, to the advancement of Thy glory and to the welfare of the people who have charged these members with this responsibility and trust. These things we pray in the name of Thy Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

OPEN THEIR EYES TO THE ACTS OF INJUSTICE

God, Our Father, grant to us this day a full measure of your grace and mercy. Bless these who serve in our State government that they may never forget that all power is instituted by You. Remind them of their sacred task to the end that they might be upright and just in all that they do. As Christ was guided in the way of love and truth, so guide these men and women to formulate legislation that will enhance the lives of those they represent.

Lead them from sin and evil, open their eyes to acts of injustice, their ears to the cries of the afflicted and their hearts to the tears of the oppressed that they may serve as your representative in Iowa, showing forth the love and concern you desire from them.

In the name of Christ who revealed God's plan of salvation, we pray. AMEN.

THESE MOMENTS BE A GENESIS OF CREATIVE THOUGHT

Almighty God, we pause in these moments of quiet that this time may be a genesis of creative and refreshing thought as we prepare ourselves for the activities and decisions of this day. As your creation separated the eight from the darkness and brought order from the chaos. help the members of this legislative body to remember that they are the servants of the people of this state and servants of you as they frame laws that provide meaningful order to the lives of all of the people of Iowa. We know. Heavenly Father, that the concerns and needs of Iowans are many and great. As the democratic process of people governing themselves is actively pursued in this chamber. enable each member of this body to be alert to the basic principles of liberty, equality and freedom for all upon which this great nation and state were founded. Help each member of this body to know when and where to compromise on the various issues but never to compromise on what is good and right and just. Trigger the alarm of our common sense in our decision making and caution us against legislating morals but encourage us to create laws that enhance and allow the people of this state to be moral and to recognize their brotherhood with each other. As your Son taught us that he is the way, the truth and the life, help

each of us to seek that way which is peace, to seek that truth which is love and to live that abundant life he promised.

Our prayer is for our nation this morning; help us during the coming bicentennial celebrations to once again discover who we are as a people, to discover once again the great privilege that is ours to live in this country as a free, self-governing people. Be with our President and encourage him to take bold steps in executing the duties of his office.

Be with the Governor of this state and the other elected officials as they go about their activities this day.

And now, Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings and guidance for the men and women in this chamber. Make them mindful of the will of the people they represent but in all to earnestly pray that not the will of man but your will be done this day. Hear this our prayer. In the name of your Son, we pray. AMEN.

AS WE GATHER FOR ANOTHER WEEK

Our Father, God as we assemble for another week's work, we pause to acknowledge
a power greater and wiser than we. We
confess our weaknesses and our inability
to do alone what we need to do to make
and keep our state the kind of place in
which we like to live and rear our children. We are grateful for your confidence
and trust in people and for the call upon
those of us assembled here to wrestle
with the problems of state.

Forgive our seeking for easy answers and simplistic solutions that often set us at odds with each other and build walls of misunderstanding between people. Give us Christian convictions and integrity of character to stand for high principles. Help us to stand for high principles and moral integrity.

Forgive our temptation truly humble servants of yours and the people we represent.

Our Father we do want to be servants of Thine even when we allow ourselves to get in the way. Now bless each person here as he or she goes about the work of the day. Bless each staff member and help each one to make adequate research and preparation to do the best possible job.

We are here to serve but we need your help to do our jobs well and give you glory.

Hear these our prayers as we ask them through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

FULFILL YOUR LAW OF LOVE

"One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, in an attempt to trip him up, asked him, 'Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?' Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul and with all your mind...This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well."

(Mt. 22:35-40)

Lord, Heavenly Father, Most Gracious and Loving Legislator, for all men and things, you gave to men a part of your authority that they might share in their own government. This in no way changes the goal of the Beatific Vision which you have established for all men nor does it diminish the great commandment of total giving in love for you and one another among men that must be applied and fathered by all man-made laws.

Today, as this state legislature begins its deliberations, we pray for the spirit of love and unselfishness needed for just and fair laws that will give everyone an equal chance to reach his eternal goal of happiness with you. We pray that our people will not make unjust and selfish demands on these legislators and if so that the legislators will not respect such evil demands.

If there are complaints may we direct them as much to ourselves either for having openly fostered the wrong or for having fostered it by our silence in not making our thoughts known.

May the short vacation from which our legislators are returning give them new vigor and eagerness to study the ramifications of proposed laws so that the laws will fulfill the purposes intended and not be wasted away by loopholes.

In short, Lord, give us and these men who represent us a determination to fulfill your law of love in all things. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. AMEN.

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, 'This is my own, my native land!'"

Our Father, in Heaven, these words of Sir Walter Scott have often found their place in our hearts. We are humbly grateful to be part of this favored State of Iowa. We thank Thee that though we face problems, ours are not so difficult as many others encounter and ours are not beyond resolve.

We are thankful for men and women who have left home and family to serve in this Assembly. Some are doing so at a sacrifice to their business or profession.

Please grant that we may have clearness of mind and honesty of intent this day. May we remember the declaration of Thy servant David, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance." (Ps. 33:12)

In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

BLESS THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

Bless, O Lord, this legislative body as it meets to do its' work today. Give us confidence and hope about our future. Help us to move toward new beginnings and to what things might be. Forgive us relinquishing so easily to what is.

Bless the children of the world. Especially those who are the innocent sufferers of war...who have been born into it, lived in it, and now are dying in it... without ever having tasted the goodness of peace and security. Help us, O God, to find ways and the will to minister to their humanitarian need.

Bless the families of those who are here. We thank you for people to love and for those who love us.

We pray for a good day, a productive day...but whatever kind of day it might be, at its end we will commit it to you in the certain hope that you can use all kinds of people to do your will. AMEN.

WE FEEL INSIGNIFICANT BUT THEN YOU CREATED US

Almighty -- eternal Lord,

For a fleeting moment at the opening of this -- in our lives -- just another interlude which we call a session -- we pause. We pause to remember that we are not all-wise, nor all knowledgeable, nor all powerful, but that You are. For the moment, we stand in awe at Your magnificance, Your power, Your wisdom. And we feel insignificant.

Yet we also remember that we are taught that we were created by You and that through You we have the power to become good. Thus we are both encouraged and grateful.

We would then ask only that You grant us a measure of wisdom, guidance and strength to be as nearly like You as possible this day in the acts which we do. May those acts reflect what is truely best for the most without in anyway oppressing even the least individual.

Forgive us for our prideful, selfish thoughts and desires for the sake of Christ. AMEN.

TO THE VISION OF WHAT COULD BE

These are days of tension and distrust, O Lord. Instead of being filled with love and concern, we are suspicious of each others motives...Our national life. our dreams and our political institutions...indeed the very fabric of our society seems to be as taut as a bowstring. Having tried grasping for straws proffered so enticingly and finding them to be of no real substance or lasting worth, we turn now, where we should have turned so long ago to ask Your help, O God. We know in our hearts that with Your help our forefathers made their dreams and aspirations, realities. And even in this awesome place of power and prestige as these Your servants engage in their tasks of formulating the laws of this State. that our prayer is that similarly You will provide them with the wisdom and guidance they need so that Your people may be enhanced and our wills may be consonant with Your will.

Open all of our eyes to the vision of what could be...and tune our hearts, minds and wills with the determination to make those dreams come true in our time. And Lord, when we get to feeling too proud, or self-sufficient...then shake us up a bit and let us know how dependent we all are upon You!

Today we offer this prayer out of our limited experience of what is needful to strengthen these Your servants, but we ask that whatever it is, may be given by You who are the ultimate in all experience.

May we always seek justice...love...mercy... and learn to walk humbly with You, our God. AMEN.

THIS WE ASK IN JESUS' PRECIOUS NAME

Our Great and Merciful God, we thank you for your blessing to us. As we near the close of this legislative session we ask that your favor may rest on the action taken thus far.

We pray that you will this day give us the knowledge and wisdom to carry out the responsibilities placed upon us. Grant that the decisions made by this Senate may be to your glory and to the best interests of the people of the State of Iowa. This we ask in Jesus' precious name. AMEN.

NONE OF THEM SEES THE HEART OF ANOTHER

Almighty God, Thou who art the great lawgiver of the ages, we pray for Thy blessing upon those who have assembled here this day. How often we recognize that the task before them is not an easy task for so often words cannot say that which their hearts dictate. Each of them seeks to do that which is best and yet, none of them sees completely the heart of any other. We are aware that as they labor from day to day, they catch new and different views of each question that is before them.

May those who serve in this august body seek to serve all within this state to the best of their ability. May there be no distinction between the high and the low, the rich and the poor, black, white, red or yellow, male and female, young and old, those who dwell in the cities and those who abide in the countryside, but may these, our lawgivers upon the earth, show their concern for all.

We ask, too, 0 God, that we who stand outside these halls of government may we be slow to condemn the actions of those within when we do not agree with their decisions; but, may we be quick to applaud when it is apparent that their actions are in harmony with Thy great purpose of mankind upon the earth.

This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

RULE THEIR HEARTS

O Lord, our God, we pray Thee to purify our lives. Help us each day to know more of Thee and by the power of Thy Holy Spirit use us to show forth Thyself to others. Make us humble, brave and loving; make us ready for adventure. We do not ask that Thou wilt keep us safe, but keep us ever loyal to the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We beseech Thee, with Thy favor, to behold and bless these Thy servants in the Senate and all others who bear rule throughout our commonwealth. Grant them wisdom and strength to know and to do Thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness. So rule their hearts and prosper their endeavors, that law and order, justice and peace may everywhere prevail, to the honor of Thy Holy Name through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

WE HAVE ACTED LIKE SPOILED CHILDREN

Our Father and our God, we come this day seeking a deeper understanding of Thy ways! As elected public servants, our responsibility sometimes seems like a many splendored thing and sometimes causes us despair.

As we lift our thoughts to Thee, our despair disappears in the knowledge of your love for us.

We remember Thou didst create us but a little lower than Thyself. Such knowledge fills us with gratitude, but we pray we are sharply aware of our failures. We have misused our power, we have misunderstood our responsibility, we have sometimes acted like spoiled children.

Our Heavenly Father, amid the panic and peril that swirl about us, plant new ideas in our minds: ideas that will inspire us - wise ideas; ideas that will uplift humanity; ideas that will help us fulfill our responsibilities.

So we pray not for insulation from problems but for inner wisdom to guide us. Help us as elected public servants to involve ourselves in the needs of our state and its people. Help us to be ready to do our best to heal the wounds of our constituency, but keep us from selling out for a mess of pottage.

May these days, our Father, be days of sensitivity. Set our minds upon paths of service. Give us inner peace, this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

PRAY FOR THOSE BATTLING THE AFFAIRS OF STATE

Our Father and our God, we come to you in Jesus' name on this beautiful morning to petition your help and wisdom for the day before us. Thank you for the good word from your word to come boldly before the throne of Grace, there to find help in the time of need.

And, Our Father, I pray today for these who must battle the affairs of State -often a thankless job, but you have said
"if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of
God," and I would pray for that wisdom
for them today. Let there be no selfseeking, but rather only the good of all
the people be earnestly sought for.
This is our prayer and we give you thanks
in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WE ASK YOU TO OPEN OUR SENSES IN THIS MORNING HOUR

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we bow in humble reverence before you and with grateful hearts acknowledge your blessings to us as a people. We thank you for this bountiful and beautiful land, for the industry and integrity of our people, for the happiness and hope so many of us have experienced. We thank you for the freedom we have enjoyed and for all those who have been diligent to preserve it.

We lift our prayer for all who are assembled here in this morning hour. Bless us with your presence that we may be of one mind to establish justice and to promote the welfare of all our people. As we face the issues of this day may we be blessed with purity of heart and strength of purpose.

Forgive us for our willful disobedience to you and for our unwitting transgressions of your commandments. Teach us that the right use of our freedom is first of all, in controlling ourselves. Cleanse our life of every evil and make us a disciplined and devoted people that we may do your will on earth as it is in heaven.

Father, as we begin our work today we ask you to send your Spirit into our lives.

- Open our ears That we may hear what you are saying to us, through the morning news and the pages of history and the voices of those people whom we serve.
- Open our eyes That we may see the needs of the people around us and be aware of the opportunities of the day.
- Open our hands That we may do our work well, that we may act with courage and help where help is needed.
- Open our lips That we may speak with wisdom and utter only that which is true.
- Open our minds That we may discover new truth and learn new ways of thinking and living.
- Open our hearts That we may love you and our fellow men as you have loved us in Jesus Christ. AMEN.

GIVE US A SIMPLE HEART

Most merciful God, our Heavenly Father, we invoke Thy blessing upon this legislative body as we begin our deliberating tasks of this new day and another week.

Guide and direct all gathered that we may have a right attitude of mind and a positive spirit as Social, Ethical and Financial concerns are dealt with and as decisions are made.

We thank you for a degree of Peace, for the release of those prisoners of war who are today on their way home.

Most merciful Father, we have done little to forward Thy Kingdom in this world, to establish the brotherhood of Men and Love as the law of life. We have allowed our own fortunes to blind us, our pains, our sorrows and our reversals to embitter us.

We have forgotten that whatsoever is done to one of the least of our brethren is done unto you.

- If our lives have become shallow, deepen them.
- If our principles have become shabby, repair them.
- If our ideals have become tarnished, restore them.
- If our hopes have become faded, revive them.

If our loyalities have grown dim, brighten them.

If our values have become confused, clarify them.

If our purposes have grown blurred, sharpen them.

If our horizons have become contracted, widen them.

Pardon our shortcomings and forgive our past neglect.

Give us a single and a simple heart intent upon pleasing you. Help us in all our seeking first to seek Thy Kingdom and your Righteousness, that we may be blessed with the full measure of Thy blessing.

Through Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

SILLY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Almighty God, our Creator, sustainer and Lord, we praise Thee with words inadequate to tell Thy glory and with deeds partial and imperfect.

O Jesus Christ by whom all things are completed when in accordance with Thy Holy Will, complete those efforts which meet with Thy favor, but which we do so inadequately attempt.

Holy Spirit, who doth bless us with the guidance of truth, the strength of know-ledge and the conviction of conscience, now be present with us, for Thou knowest our needs.

O Lord, our Judge, we pray for mercy seeking forgiveness: for the petty triumphs of trivia, for time lost in self-praise and pity, for default of duty through the sin of sloth, for blind pride and silly self-sufficiency.

O God of the dusk and dawn, you know that stark reality comes in shades of gray and how often in the murkiness of uncertainty we must choose between the many expedient but imperfect possibilities. May neither fear of retribution nor lust for applause turn our heads

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from justice, mercy and goodness. May neither the anguish of uncertainty nor the false pride of perfectionism paralyze us into fearful ineffectiveness.

O God of every good and perfect gift, give unto these Thy servants:
 discernment to understand Thy way among man's ways,
 determination to follow the way of Righteousness, and decisiveness that delights in Thy way alone.

Our Father, there are many here whose families know the loneliness of an empty chair at the table. Give unto each spouse a double portion of Thy love and presence and unto each child orphaned each week by the responsibilities of leadership, grant Thy special care and security and Thy kingly friendship.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

IT'S ANOTHER THING TO PRAY FROM THE HEART

Our Father in Heaven As you have granted to each one of us
present here this morning, the light
of a new day and the gift of life, grant
to us again the strength and will to
do the tasks before us.

Help each of us, in our appointed positions to use our abilities and insights, not only for our own satisfaction and success, but also for the good of others. In this collective body of government may the results of our labors work for the betterment of society.

We remember, of God, on this morning the anniversary of a day, almost three decades ago, when the armed forces of our nation and our allies, were engaged in an invasion of the continent of Europe, to free the people there of an oppressive tyranny. As we pause in our duties, for this prayer, may we include in our petitions the plea that the sacrifice of those who died on that day, may never be in vain. Help us, 0 Father, to not only treasure and love freedom for ourselves, but for all people.

Give to us, by the power of your spirit, a renewed respect for the rights of all persons. Help us to have a sense of personal accountibility that comes from knowing you have given us this world, and all life in it.

May the wisdom of your Holy word be for us a light on the pathway of life that we take.

May your will for us and for all humankind, become more and more a reality, as we accept the truth of your love and blessings to us. AMEN.

WITH THANKSGIVING

"Our Heavenly Father We come before you this day
for the opportunities of
the day and for the abilities
to meet them;

for the men and women who administer the affairs of this state;

for the blessings which you bestow and uphold to your people.

In your Son's name, we pray.

AMEN.

ONE WHO STANDS HERE FOR FIRST TIME

Eternal Father of Wisdom and Light; as one who stands here for the first time and whose daily concerns usually are turned to other matters, I would pray for those who are NOT here today, but whose welfare and concern are a part of the deliberative processes taking place in these august halls.

Bless, we pray, the families of those who are in this place. We acknowledge too seldom the sacrifice which they have made as they, with loving patience, await the time when, once again they shall be re-united with one that they love.

Then there are those of us who call ourselves citizens of this state. We seem so often ready to point a finger in hot anger; in biting sarcasm; in mindless jest. May we find the integrity to offer our criticisms constructively; may we take the time to commend and congratulate when long hours of deliberation yield fruitful advances in our legislative process.

Nor would we, this day, forget the great servants of our past who have left us a rich heritage of honorable service. We seek to be numbered among their ranks as we face the needs of this day. As we have remembered those who are NOT here today, we would reflect upon one who IS. Too often we make our decisions as though we do not recognize your presence in our midst. In these moments we would declare that THINE is the Kingdom; THINE is the power; THINE is the glory; both now and forever more. AMEN.

EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

Let us pray. We beseech Thee, O Lord, to bless those who bless Thee and sanctifiest those who put their trust in Thee. Save Thy people, especially those who are here present and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of this state. Sanctify those who love the beauty of your house; glorify them in recompence by Thy divine wisdom and power. And forsake us not who hope on Thee. Give peace to Thy world, to all civil authorities, to our armed forces and to all Thy people. For every good and perfect gift is from above and cometh down from Thee, the Father of Lights. And to Thee we ascribe glory, thanksgiving and worship, to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. AMEN.

WE ARE FRAIL VESSELS OF YOUR GRACE

Heavenly Father and First Lawgiver, we come to the beginning of another legislative day. We are far from the excitement of the beginning of the session and equally far from the release and relief of its end. Our peers have elevated us to serve them and we are doing so to the best of our ability. But we are human, Lord, frail vessels of your grace. We need your help to perform the task we have been given: keep us mindful of our responsibility to value the common good above the special privilege. Give us courage to defend the right with both firmness and charity. Grant us humility and graciousness to confess our errors. Help us to see our colleagues, even those who oppose us, as also made in your image.

All of which we ask in the Name of Him who came not to abolish but to fulfill the Law, your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying ...

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory. Forever and ever. AMEN.

LORD. SHAKE US UP A BIT

These are days of tension and distrust. O Lord. Instead of being filled with love and concern, we are suspicious of each others motives...Our national life, our dreams, and our political institutions...indeed the very fabric of our society seems to be as taut as a bowstring. Having tried grasping for straws proffered at enticingly and finding them to be of no real substance or lasting worth, we turn now, where we should have turned so long ago to ask your help, 0 God. We know in our hearts that with Your help our forefathers made their dreams and aspirations, realities! And even in this awesome place of power and prestige as these Your servants engage in their tasks of formulating the laws of this State, that our prayer is that similarly You will provide them with the wisdom and guidance they need so that Your people may be enhanced and our wills may be consonant with Your will.

Open all of our eyes to the vision of what could be...and tune our hearts, minds and wills with the determination to make those dreams come true in our time. And Lord, when we get to feeling too proud, or self-sufficient...then shake us up a bit and let us know how dependent we all are upon You! Today we offer this prayer out of our limited experience of what is needful to strengthen these Your servants,

but we ask that whatever it is, may be given to You who are the ultimate in all experience.

May we always seek justice...love mercy... and learn to walk humbly with You, our God...AMEN.

PEACE, THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Lord of power and giver of grace and wisdom, bless all who are engaged in the government of this State, especially our Governor and the members of this senate. Grant them clean hands, pure hearts, and unfailing devotion to the cause of righteousness.

We commend their work to you, merciful Lord, praying that it may be such as will promote your will in our midst, to the help of the poor, the relief of the oppressed, the putting down of all social evils, and the redress of all social wrongs. Let all they think or speak or do be for your glory and the good of your people, in whose name they bear the authority of government.

And bless, Almighty God, the people of this State, that in sound learning, honest industry and pure manners we may be led into the ways of justice and truth. Establish among us that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that we may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

YOU NEVER PROMISED US AN EASY ROAD

Almighty and everlasting God and Father, we commit this another day into your hands for we know that you have promised to sustain and protect that which is yours. We pray this day for our nation and for each state that is within it. We give thanks for the freedom that we have to read and proclaim your Word, to be able to worship and to share the blessing you have given to us with others.

We pray especially today for this State and for these people who represent us. You know Heavenly Father that they do not have an easy task today. We pray that you will help them with their decisions so that they will not yield to the many temptations which press in upon them but that they will seek your will which brings peace and happiness. You have never promised us an easy road but you have promised us that no matter where we are or how difficult the way, that you will be there to guide and direct us into the right way.

We thank Thee Heavenly Father for all those who even in these times of strife, unrest are seeking a more excellent way for our nation.

Help each one to work together no matter what may be their race, their nationality or their creed, so that our nation may be strong in peace as well as in war. That we do not become self-centered but other

centered and then as we are guided by the Holy Spirit we may be able to love all of your creation as well as each other and through your love be able to forgive when others have hurt us and be humble enough to say we are sorry and ask for others forgiveness when we have harmed someone else.

Help us, Heavenly Father, that we are so loving that we do not always demand our own way, but help us to seek first the Kingdom of God, knowing that you have promised that all things will then be added to us.

So now, O Holy Spirit, be with these people in authority and guide them so they may be high in purpose, wise in council and unwavering in duty and that they will constantly be willing to serve your will. Continue then to bless our nation and all those in authority as well as all those who are in the background that we as a nation may be the shining example and that the power of the Gospel may here abound to the blessing of all nations of the earth for we pray this in the name of our Lord and risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

THEY STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD

O God, our help in ages past. Our hope for years to come. Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.

We bless and praise Thee for this day which Thou has given to us in order that we may be about our God given tasks.

Bless these men of the Senate as they take up the affairs of government. Give them wisdom which is above that of mere men, so that they may carry out their work with the courage and conviction that they do which is right and good and that which is beneficial to men. Help them to solve the many problems which come to them. Help them to rise above any criticisms which may result from their labors and to carry on their work in the realization that even before they stand in the judgement of men, they stand before the judgement of God.

Bless, we beseech Thee, this our State and the nation of which we are a part. For we acknowledge that Thou art the Supreme Ruler of all.

We ask these blessings in the name of Christ. AMEN.

AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER NATIONS

O God, our Governor, the source of wisdom, whose statutes are good and gracious and whose law is truth: Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and an example to other nations of the earth.

To the President, the Governors of our several states and to all in executive authority, grant such a measure of wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties as will be equal to the challenges of our times.

Guide and support our Senators in legislature here assembled, that by just and prudent laws, they may promote the wellbeing of all our people.

And finally, teach us all to rely on your strength and to accept our individual and personal responsibilities to our fellow-citizens, no matter what their station in life. Enable us to elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; so that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your own most holy Name. AMEN.

Rev. Jim Albertson St. Paul Methodist Cherokee, IA

Rev. Alex Ayers Riverside Presbyterian Linn Grove, IA

Rev. David Ash United Methodist Church Decorah, IA

Rev. Byron Ayers United Methodist Church West Union, IA

Father Robert M. Amborn St. Mary's Catholic Oxford, IA

Ms. JoAnn Brown % Spiritual Ass. of D.M. Baha'i Faith

Rev. Wayne Bryne Drake Campus Ministry Drake University Des Moines, IA

Rev. Carroll Brown Mitchellville Com. Parish Mitchellville, IA

Rev. Donald Berg Peace Lutheran Church Oelwein, IA

Rev. James R. Bjorge Morningside Lutheran Sioux City, IA

Rev. August Boessler Concordia Lutheran Lake Park, IA Rev. Tom Allen Iowa Federated Des Moines, IA

Sister Eleanor Ansley
Instructor - Social Work
University of Iowa

Rev. Marvin Armpriester United Methodist Church Lime Springs, IA

Rev. John Asby First Baptist Church Cedar Falls, IA

Rev. Donald Babbitt Congregational Church Sibley, IA

Rev. Warren Bintz United Methodist Church Rolfe, IA

Rev. Paul Bodine United Campus Christ Iowa State University Ames, IA

Pastor W. Michael Bicklen United Methodist Church Stuart, IA

Pastor Carl Benander Bethlehem Lutheran Red Oak, IA

Rev. M.Trevor Baskerville Methodist Church Mason City, IA

Rev. Leroy Bauman United Methodist Church Waterloo, IA Rev. Hugh Berry Presbyterian Church Sidney, IA

Rev. Walter Behrens Elk Creek Lutheran Church Kensett, IA

Rev. Alfred Burlingame Vicar St. Mark's Episcopal Maquoketa, IA

Archbishop James Byrne Archdiocese of Dubuque Dubuque, IA

Pastor Peter Bergen First Federated Church Des Moines, IA

Rev. Matthew Beelner St. Patrick's Catholic Ryan, IA

Rev. Richard Bohr St. Luke's Catholic St. Lucas, IA

Father Frederick Bahning Sacred Heart Church Monticello, IA

Father Frank Bognanno St. Patrick's Church Cumming, IA

Rev. Louis Cronbaugh Church of God Gladbrook, IA

Rabbi Barry Cytron Tifereth Israel Synagogue Des Moines, IA Rev. Tommy Barnett Westside Assembly of God Davenport, IA

Rev. Wm. Brewer Grace Presbyterian Council Bluffs, IA

Rev. Lewis Bakke Lutheran Church Lake Mills, IA

Monsignor A. W. Behrens St. John's Catholic Bancroft, IA

Pastor Boral Biorn Morningside Lutheran Sioux City, IA

Rev. David Ter Beest First Reformed Church Hull, IA

Rev. Jack Boerigter First Reformed Church Sioux Center, IA

Rev. Arthur Brent Union Park United Methodist Des Moines, IA

Rev. George Brighton Methodist Church Lake View, IA

Dr. D. Chapman Calvary United Methodist Walcott, IA

Pastor Ralph Cottier Park Ave. Presbyterian Des Moines, IA

Rev. Albert Calaway First Assembly of God Indianola, IA

Dr. Robert Caldwell Central Presbyterian Des Moines, IA

Father John Cullen St. Matthew Catholic Clare, IA

Monsignor Ed Cooney St. Mary's Catholic Greene, IA

Rev. William Cotton Harcourt United Methodist Harcourt, IA

Rev. George Carlson First Lutheran Church Cedar Rapids, IA

Rev. Max Deffenbaugh First Baptist Church Eldora, IA

Rev. Evelyn Durkee Westlyn Methodist Church University - Iowa City, IA

Rev. Harold DeGroot Christian Reformed Church Ocheyedan, IA

Pastor R. Dean Dixon First Baptist Church Boone, IA

Rev. Howard Dukelow First Presbyterian Greene, IA

Rev. Robert Clay St. Paul A.M.E. Church Des Moines, IA

Rev. Stewart Congdon Lake City Union Church Lake City, IA

Rev. Val Cudnoski First Baptist Church Sumner, IA

Rev. John Clinton First Church of Iowa Des Moines, IA

Rev. James D. Cobb United Presbyterian Denison, IA

Father Al Davidsaver Holy Family Catholic Council Bluffs, IA

Father Gerald Deere St. Mary's Catholic Shenandoah, IA

Rev. David Dugan Presbyterian Church Marengo, IA

Rev. Jack Dilley First United Presbyterian Fairfield, IA

Rev. W. Dawson St. Ambrose College Dayenport, IA

Rev. Delbert Dawes Methodist Church Maquoketa, IA

Rev. Maurice Dingman, D.D. Bishop - Des Moines Diocese West Grove Methodist Des Moines, IA

Rev. Robert Elkin Peace United Church of Christ Presbyterian Church Walnut, IA

Rev. Robert Evans Christian Church Logan, IA

Rev. Edward English West Branch Friends Church West Branch, IA

Rev. Robert Fallgatter St. John Lutheran Dunlap, IA

Rev. Gary Frahm St. James Episcopal Oskaloosa, IA

Rev. Joseph Flatt First Baptist Church Yarmouth, IA

Rev. Ron Friedell St. Nicholas Church Evansdale, IA

Rev. R.B. Flentgen Immanuel Lutheran Church Estherville, IA

Rev. James Fyfe Montrose Presbyterian Montrose, IA

Father Kenneth Gehling St. John's Catholic Independence, IA

Rev. Vern Elder West Grove, IA

Rev. James Ellison Bellevue, IA

Rev. Leland Enke Silver Creek United Meth. Hancock, IA

Rev. Kenneth Ebb Boys Training School Eldora, IA

Rev. Gilbert Fields St. Mark's Methodist Cedar Rapids, IA

Dr. L.P. Fitzpatrick United Methodist Church Coin, IA

Rev. Dean Fullerton New Hope United Methodist Des Moines, IA

Rev. Gordon Freeburg Methodist Church Northwood, IA

Monsignor C.E. Farrelly Catholic Church Emmetsburg, IA

Dr. Lloyd Gustafson Ambassador Apartments Mason City, IA

Rev. Richard Gaul Sacred Heart Catholic Oelwein, IA

Rev. Leland Grove Christian Church Washington, IA

Rev. C. R. Gisell Augustana Lutheran Manson, IA

Rev. C. Dendy Garrett First Methodist Church Iowa City, IA

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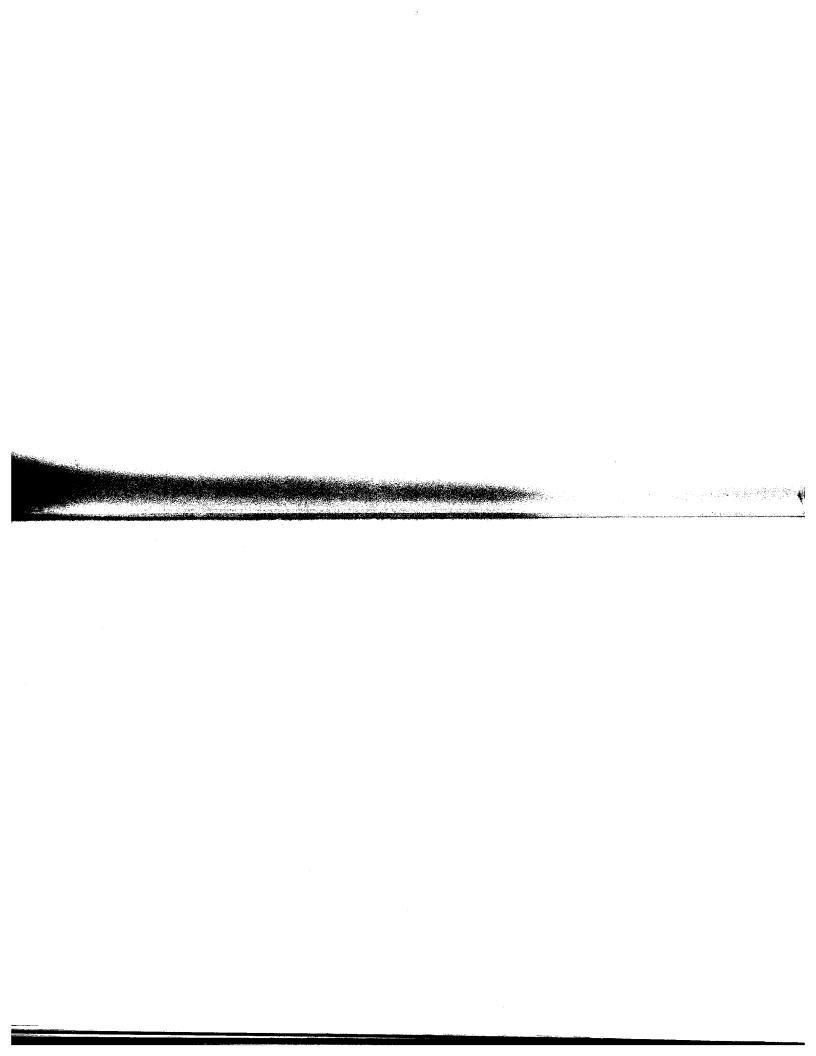
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ISBN 0-89502-033-5



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This is a copy of the second printing.

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