

Prayer Focus: MAY 4 - 10, 2020

"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him!" (John 5:23; NASV)

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MONDAY - May 4 (Judges 19:1-20:48; John 3:22-4:3; Psalm 104:24-35; Proverbs 14:22-24)

INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY (IFFD)! This day developed as a response to the Dec. 2, 1998 large brush fire in Linton, Australia in which five firefighters (Garry Vredevelde, Chris Evans, Stuart Davidson, Jason Thomas, and Matthew Armstrong), called in to assist, were headed into the "hot zone" when the winds suddenly shifted, engulfing their fire truck and killing all five. Firefighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property. This is a day to remember their sacrifice and to show gratitude and support to firefighters everywhere. We are very grateful to you, our heroes. Pray for firefighters and their families.

TUESDAY - May 5 (Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22; John 4:4-42; Psalm 105:1-15; Proverbs 14:25)

INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE DAY / NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY. Both of these are held on the first Tuesday in May. IFCD is dedicated to all the children in the US foster care system and kicks off "Foster Care Month" - a reminder of the over 400,000 children in the foster care system at any given time (a new child is placed into care every 2 minutes!). NTD is a day to show appreciation to all teachers. Begun by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, it is a time to remember and thank God for all teachers (homeschoolers included). Pray for firefighters, teachers, and their families. Pray for students currently using new processes to finish the year.

WEDNESDAY - May 6 (Ruth 2:1-4:22; John 4:43-54; Psalm 105:16-36; Proverbs 14:26-27)

NATIONAL NURSES DAY. First observed in 1954, this day is celebrated annually on May 6 to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in our society. It also marks the beginning of "National Nurses Week," which ends on May 12 - the birthday of Florence Nightingale in 1820 (d.1910). On this special day, celebrations and receptions are held across the US to honor the vitally important work of nurses. Among the most popular activities are banquets, state and city proclamations and seminars. Many nurses receive gifts or flowers from friends, family members, or patients. The theme this year is "compassion/expertise/trust" and a reminder of the vital role nurses play in our society. How grateful we are for them! Pray for Nurses and their families.

THURSDAY - May 7 (I Samuel 1:1-2:21; John 5:1-23; Psalm 105:37-45; Proverbs 14:28-29)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER! Today is the 69th annual "National Day of Prayer and the theme: "Pray God's Glory Across the Earth" taken from Habakkuk 2:14 which says: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" - a prophecy which will ultimately be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom of Christ and is stated five times in the OT (Num. 14:21; Ps. 72:19; Isa. 6:3; 11:9, and here). Pray for America and the many issues she faces. Pray for our Governor and local leaders that they may lead in integrity and according to the Word of God. Pray for the lost to know Jesus Christ; our ONLY Source of hope and purpose.

FRIDAY - May 8 (I Samuel 2:22-4:22; John 5:24-47; Psalm 106:1-12; Proverbs 14:30-31)

Mount Pelee (Fr. *Montagne Pelee* or "Bald Mountain") is an active volcano at the northern end of the island of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles island arc of the Caribbean. That stratovolcano is famous for its eruption - on this day in 1902 - which destroyed the town of Saint-Pierre and killed some 30,000 people, making it the worst volcanic disaster of the 20th century. Pray for those still recovering from recent disasters. Pray for leaders/volunteers of Samaritan's Purse and other Disaster Relief Teams.

SATURDAY - May 9 (I Samuel 5:1-7:17; John 6:1-21; Psalm 106:13-31; Proverbs 14:32-33)

Accra is the capital of Ghana on the West Coast of Africa with a population of nearly 3 million and covering an area of just over 87 square miles. Its two most successful football teams (the "Phobians" of the Accra Hearts of Oak Sporting Club, and the "Porcupine Warriors" of the Asante Kotoko Sporting Club) were on the field. Officials were expecting problems and when Accra scored 2 late goals, a referee called the score 2-1 for Accra resulting in Kotoko fans throwing plastic seats and bottles onto the field. Police responded by firing tear gas into the crowd and a stampede resulted killing 126 - on this day in 2001. Thank God for sports and recreation.

SUNDAY - May 10 (I Samuel 8:1-9:27; John 6:22-42; Psalm 106:32-48; Proverbs 14:34-35)

MOTHER'S DAY! "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother," said Abraham Lincoln. Theodore Hesburgh (President emeritus of Notre Dame) said: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Even while hanging on the cross, Jesus shared His special love and care for His mother (John 19:26-27). God says: "Honor your father and mother that your days may be long upon the earth" (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:2). Thank God for mothers! Pray for God's wisdom, peace and joy in all homes! Maranatha!

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