

# Citizenship Ministry NEWSLETTER

April 2011

## Mark your calendar

- National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 5 (see article this page)

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### National Day of Prayer—Thursday, May 5 — *by Dawn Desuacido*

"I will say to the Lord, my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."  
Psalm 91:2

Rolling Hills Hills Covenant Church will observe the National Day of Prayer ("NDOP") on Thursday, May 5. This year's theme for NDOP is A Mighty Fortress is our God. The honorary national chairman for 2011 is Joni Eareckson Tada, a well-known Christian speaker and author who has been used of God since a swimming accident left her a quadriplegic at the age of 17. Joni is also the founder of the ministry Joni & Friends, which has been instrumental in

giving thousands of wheelchairs to people around the world as a witness to God's love and compassion. (See back page for Joni's 2011 National Prayer.)

In preparation for the NDOP, please visit the National Day of Prayer's website (see below), which has helpful information regarding the history of America's national days of prayer, the importance of prayer and how to pray. It also lists prayer events and activities in your local community.

So, Christian warriors

unite! Please join millions of Christians across the country as we get on our knees to pray for our country. RHCC's worship center will be open from 7am – 4pm so that we may bring our praise, confession and petitions before God. Then at 7pm in the 290s, Pastors Andy Noch and John Thill will lead us in a special time of prayer. If you are already part of a prayer group at RHCC, please consider cancelling your pray time in May to join us on the National Day of Prayer. If you cannot join us at RHCC, please join us in spirit that day by carving out time to pray for our nation at your home or work.

[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)

### Christianity and Cultural Hot Buttons — *by Dawn Desuacido*

The Rolling Hills Bible Institute is offering a course this spring that addresses many of the cultural topics the Citizenship Ministry has addressed. This new class is called "Christianity and Cultural Hot Buttons," and it starts May 2011. Pastors Andy Noch and John Thill will team up for this course which takes a Christian worldview approach to cultural hot buttons such as abortion, homosexuality, end-of-life issues, relativism and other sub-

jects. The course will include video teaching segments by Greg Koukl, Norman Geisler and Paul Copan. The goal of the course is to help Christians develop a biblical worldview and to charitably articulate that view with others in society. Please sign up early to reserve your attendance for a course that will prove to be both clarifying and challenging. To register log on to [www.rhbi.org](http://www.rhbi.org), or call the church office at (310) 519-9406.



## Greetings from the Chair — *by Dawn Desuacido*

For our ministry supporters, you may have wondered where we've been! Well, the Citizenship Ministry has been working quietly to refine and re-tune this ministry. We're getting a facelift, so to speak! Pastors Andy Noch and John Thill have been working with ministry members to refocus and re-energize the ministry.

Here is what you can expect in the coming days ahead. First, we are going to get a name change. The "Citizenship Ministry" name in some ways served us in that that our purpose is to encourage Christians to become active participants in their American citizenship, i.e., to register to vote, to learn about the issues, to contact their representatives, etc. But in other ways, the name did not totally encompass the full mission of this ministry.

Additionally, we will be streamlining the number of events we hold each year in an effort to focus on the most important issues. One such important issue is prayer, and our next event is the National Day of Prayer on May 5 (see article on front page). Please clear your calendar to participate in this vitally important national event.

Also in an effort to focus on what's most important, we hope to be participating more in the Rolling Hills Bible Institute. For this next session of RHBI, Pastors Andy Noch and John Thill have developed a new class called "Christianity and Cultural Hot Buttons." This class will address topics such as abortion, homosexuality, and truth versus relativism, which our ministry has dealt with in past presentations. This class will start on Tuesday, May 10 and continue to the end of June. Our ministry members will participate in these class sessions, and we hope to see you there. Let's make this a class that is jam packed with participants!

Finally, the ministry members are thankful to Pastors Andy Noch and John Thill. Please pray for them and for the committee members. As this planning process continues to shape the contours of this ministry, we will keep you informed. Thank you for all your prayers and support throughout the years.

God Bless You,

*Dawn*

## Parents as Sheep: Wake Up to the Nanny State — *an opinion, by Diane Schrader*

Parents in one Chicago public school are being told, in effect, that they are too stupid to pack their own kids' lunch. This latest intrusion on our personal freedoms from the so-called "Nanny State" has generated a lot of negative reaction, and rightly so. One writer said, "If we can't even decide for ourselves what our kids can eat, we might as well throw in the towel and hoist a Marxist flag up the flagpole. There is no more basic decision for parents than what we decide to feed our children. If we capitulate on something so utterly fundamental to parenting, there is no freedom that cannot be taken from us."

However, it occurs to me that we capitulated, a long time ago, one something even more fundamental than what we put in their stomachs, and that is what we put in their minds.

The parents who are bowing and scraping to this public school official by submissively accepting her dictates regarding the potential evils of potato chips or cupcakes are parents who no longer can think critically or independently. And why is that, you say? Because they themselves are products of this same public education system.

Wake up, people! Public schools, although on a dizzying downward spiral now, have not been bastions of rigorous academic or critical inquiry anytime in the recent past - in fact, I would say that any of us still young enough to vigorously debate in the public square did not in fact have the benefit of an excellent public

school education (with the occasional exception in various affluent communities, etc.). People like leftist hippie terrorist Bill Ayers have been teaching the teachers - effectively hollowing out America's education system from the inside with the rot of Marxism. These are the people who are educating your children - and it's why the younger the voter, the more likely he/she voted for Obama.

The battle in the schools is not what your child eats. It is what your child thinks.

So teach your child to do so. Whether you make the courageous and principled choice to homeschool your kids, the financially sacrificial choice to pay for private education, or you use the deeply-flawed public education system - engage in conversation with your children every single day about what they're learning, what they're absorbing from the culture around them, how they're being prodded to think. Talk to them about why you believe the way you do. Give them examples; show them in a hands-on way the value of the free market. Teach them to revere our liberties. For heaven's sake, read the Constitution with them. Make sure they know the beauty of what we have.

Long term - this kind of parenting is really America's only hope.

Yes, the Chicago school principal is guilty of gross intrusion into private family matters. But she could not get away with that if the Left hadn't already stacked the deck. If my kids were in that school, I'd be a lot more worried about what's going into their brains and their hearts than what's going into their stomachs.

## Call to Prayer and Praise — *by Joyce Ashley*

### **Focus on persecution:**

As the days draw nearer to the return of our Lord Jesus, the persecution of the saints will increase. Many of our fellow believers in Christ have suffered and are experiencing mind boggling adversity. Please pray for men, women, and children who are part of systems involving violence, child abductions, physical and mental torture, repeated sexual assault by multiple perpetrators, loss of home and personal possessions, separation from family, and other indescribable acts of persecution.

Please pray for the following nations, situations, the persecuted and their persecutors.

Indonesia—the president was targeted for violence and churches attacked weekly by Muslim terrorists. (Source: Compass Direct News).

Somalia—“Honor killing” of Nurta Mohamed Farah, 17-year-old girl. She was killed for converting to Christianity from Islam. The killing was preceded by torture, beating, being shackled to a tree, and given medications for mental illness by her parents. Their actions included other forms of torture since May 2010. Nurta died in November 2010. (Source: Compass Direct News).

May the persecuted be encouraged by God’s Word, which says, “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11, The Amplified Bible).

### **Praise God for:**

The American Center for Law and Justice’s help with South Sudan’s “new nation” status and its continued fight for freedom in America.

The Endangered Species billboard campaign in South Los Angeles bringing attention to deaths due to the “abortion epidemic.”

### **Please pray for:**

The Coptic Christians (at high risk risk for extermination) and citizens of Egypt as they cope with the Muslim Brotherhood and pending Islamic Sharia Law.

The continued education of Christians emphasizing their ministry of Godly love and reconciliation with their responsibility for obtaining God’s wisdom and knowledge with understanding of the objectives of the Qur’an in conjunction with Haddith, and the Qur’an’s mandatory rules pertaining to infidels and Muslims who do not meet varying Islamic standards for worship and daily living.

Christians’ increased involvement in petitioning their elected officials regarding human trafficking, persecution of Christians, abortion, gambling, homosexuality, and pornography.

The securing of America’s inadequately protected, porous borders and the containment of Hezbollah and Mexico’s drug cartel activity.

### ***Did you know...***

***...according to Israel My Glory magazine, Jan/Feb 2011, the United Nations declared the tomb of Rachel—a mosque?***

## **CALIFORNIANS: Urgent Legislative Alert**

Bob Cielnicki, president of the Life Priority Network ([www.LifePriority.net](http://www.LifePriority.net)) has posted information on proposed bill AB 190, vehicle code violation: additional penalty: spinal cord injury research. AB 190’s author is Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski of Fremont.

This bill “would impose an additional penalty of \$3 upon every conviction for a violation of state or local traffic laws (except parking violations)...would require such penalties to be deposited with the county treasurer and transferred monthly to the spinal cord injury research fund within the University of California... Funds acquired by AB 190 will be used by the Roman Reed Spinal Cord Injury Foundation. The Roman Reed Foundation strongly supports human embryonic stem cell research which... destroys human embryos. Funds acquired... would be administered by the Reeve-Irvine Research Center at the University of California-Irvine... a major proponent of Proposition 71 that established the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine...costs California taxpayers \$6 billion and allocates almost \$1 million a day for 10 years toward human embryonic stem cell research... AB 190 would add an estimated 11 million per year....”

The bill is rescheduled for hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, April 26. PLEASE call, fax or e-mail committee members to oppose this bill. You do not have to be a constituent of any of the committee members to express your opposition.

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Your editor also has her own politically-oriented blog, as well as writing for a national political site. You can read Diane's articles at these two sites (the first is explicitly Christian; the other is not):

<http://vastrwing.blogspot.com> and [www.newsrealblog.com](http://www.newsrealblog.com).

*RHCC is located at:*  
2222 Palos Verdes Dr N  
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Visit us at the Citizenship Ministry window outside the sanctuary for information on current issues including many helpful resources!

**ABOUT OUR MINISTRY  
AND OUR NEWSLETTER**

The mission of RHCC's Citizenship Ministry is to uphold a Christian worldview and educate the church and families on matters related to current events, government, law, society and culture. If you have a passion for politics, the pro-life movement or protecting our Constitutional liberties — join us! Contact the ministry chair — information at left.

Do you have something you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, or an issue you'd like to see us explore? E-mail the editor! Contact information to the left.

Did you know that you can use your RHCC offering envelopes to donate to the Citizenship Ministry? Simply check off the "other" option on the envelope and write in "Citizenship Ministry" along with the amount you wish to contribute. You can also mail your donation to the church at the address listed to the left.

**2011 National Prayer — by Joni Eareckson Tada, Honorary Chair, National Day of Prayer**



Almighty God, you are our Mighty Fortress, our refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. As our nation faces great distress and uncertainty, we ask your Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon your people — convict us of sin and inflame within us a passion to pray for our land and its people. Grant the leaders of our country an awareness of their desperate need of wisdom and salvation in You until sin becomes a reproach to all and righteousness exalts this nation.

Protect and defend us against our enemies and may the cause of Christ always prevail in our schools, courts, homes, and churches. Lord God, send a spirit of revival and may it begin in our own hearts.

Remember America, we pray. Remember the foundations on which this country was built. Remember the prayers of our nation's fathers and mothers, and do not forget us in our time of need.

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**You can read this  
newsletter online at  
[www.rollinghillscovenant.com/citizenshipnewsletter](http://www.rollinghillscovenant.com/citizenshipnewsletter)**