

Who would have guessed we'd have a snow day on May 2 – but unfortunately inclement weather canceled our community prayer service, scheduled for the National Day of Prayer!

But you can still make a difference in our community – every day – by using helpful resources provided by [www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org) and [www.commit2pray.com](http://www.commit2pray.com).

Their “7x7” prayer guide lists seven “influence centers” of life – family, education, business, media, military, government, and church. Here are suggestions for ways you can use this prayer tool.

**FAMILY** – Thank God for creating people in His own image, and establishing family as the fundamental unit of society. Pray for strong marriages and families, as people live according to principles of God's Word. Key Bible passages include Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Proverbs 2:1-15; Ephesians 5:33-6:4; 1 Peter 3:7.

**EDUCATION** – Pray for God's protection of children at school, for their teachers, and for good role models, so children seek to fulfill God's purposes for their lives. Pray for parents to instruct their children to become responsible, productive members of society. Key Bible verses include Exodus 20:1-17; Proverbs 3:1-10; Titus 2:1-15; 2 Timothy 2:15.

**BUSINESS** – Thank God for the skills and talents He blesses people with so we can serve one another. Pray for opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs to contribute to a strong local economy. Pray that we serve one another with integrity, according to God's principles. Key Bible passages include Genesis 1:26-28; James 5:4; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Ephesians 6:5-9; Matthew 6:33.

**MEDIA** – Pray for Christians to be well-informed people, utilizing responsible print, broadcast, and electronic media which objectively inform citizens about issues and opportunities. Key Bible passages include Ephesians 4:25,29; Romans 1:18-32; Deuteronomy 32:2-4.

**ARMED SERVICES** – Pray for those who serve, to protect our God-given freedoms for future generations. Pray for God's protection on their lives, and freedom to share their faith with one another. Pray also for policemen and emergency responders. Key Bible passages include 2 Chronicles 32:6-8; Romans 13:4.

**GOVERNMENT** – Thank God for His prescription of limited civil government to protect the godly, punish evil, and establish justice in society. Pray for God to raise up qualified and honorable men and women to serve and advise in all branches of government, according to His principles. Key Bible verses include 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Exodus 18:21; Romans 13; Isaiah 33:22.

**CHURCH** – Thank God for freedom to worship and serve Him, and spread the Good News about Jesus. Thank Him for transforming lives by the forgiving and renewing power of the risen Lord and Savior. Pray that we live out our mission to be His salt and light, as His life overflows through us into the community around us. Key Bible passages include 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 2:6-8; Matthew 5:13-16.

Following the 7x7 format, you can pray daily or weekly, by yourself or gather with a friend or two, as you use this outline to ask for God's provision and protection in your community, church, and country.

You'll soon see God at work in your own life and those around you, as you trust Him to fulfill His plan and purpose for His world. Thank you for praying – and making a difference!

- Rev. Grant Mangold, Riverside Evangelical Free Church, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

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