

## TALKING POINTS

### As you prepare your remarks remember...

- 1) Stories are the most important. People remember and are moved to action when they hear a story that touches them emotionally. Facts and statistics can also be persuasive when given in moderation and support a story.
- 2) Most people are unaware of the widespread attack on Christians, religious freedom and the increasing hostility to people living out their faith in their public lives. (Tell a story of business owners who are losing their businesses, military personnel being court martialed, Christian schools being told they can't pray at football games, citizens threatened with arrest for reading the Bible on public sidewalks, etc.)
- 3) Be positive and bold. Talk about the possibilities for our future and not just the past.
- 4) The goal of the January 16<sup>th</sup> events is to accelerate a national conversation around the importance of ensuring that Faith, God, Prayer, the Bible and its teachings, continue to have a place in shaping America's future, to promote freedom, civility and to reduce animosity.
- 5) Make it personal. Sometimes just saying you stand for something is powerful. "Today I want to make clear that 'I Stand For Faith', and I invite you to stand with me."
- 6) Make this professional, not "church-like."
- 7) The first step is to stand - stand for our faith. The second step is to pray - pray for our country. The third step is to move - move the mountains that challenge our nation. Let's set America on a course that positions us well for the future that is ours.

### Key Messages for Public Speeches

- The **"Defense Of Faith"** in America is everyone's responsibility.
  - Faith and Freedom may not have been born together but their union built the foundations of America and separating the two today would be the demise of America
  - Faith has a positive impact in inspiring civility and reducing animosity
  - Faith played a key role in the freedoms defined in our founding documents
  - When you unravel the thread of faith in America, you unravel the thread of freedom. When you protect the fabric of faith, you protect the fabric of freedom.
- We must **"Keep Faith In America."**
  - America is important to the world and America is defined by Freedom.
  - Hatred is freedom's worst enemy.
  - Civility is more powerful than hatred.
  - Faith is the most effective source of civility.
  - There is a direct correlation between the reduction in the role of faith and the rise in the energy of hatred.
- We must **"Pray for our Leaders and Nation."**
  - Pray for our leaders, to maintain their faith, initiate efforts for restoring civility and reducing animosity, and to support and protect religious freedom.
  - Pray for our country and ask for God's continued grace, protection, guidance, and favor upon this nation

## Additional Key Messages About National Religious Freedom Day – January 16

- We proudly look back in history to the passage of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom by Thomas Jefferson, on January 16, 1786, recognizing and affirming Religious Freedom Day to commemorate that great historical accomplishment that provided the heart of our First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Thomas Jefferson, pointedly reminds us "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"
- In America today, the growing ignorance of our rich religious heritage of freedom and the rising intolerance specifically to the free exercise of religion and freedom of speech have been directly accompanied by increasing hatred and a coarsening of civil discourse.

## Additional Key Messages for talking to Christians

- **Stand. Pray. Move.**
  - Pray continuously.
  - Stand for Faith in your sphere of influence.
  - Move forward pro-actively to ensure faith will remain the guiding influence in our nation and to tackle the nation's challenges.
- Christians must embrace tomorrow and help shape our future and not live in fear of it. This is what we are called to do.
- Christians cannot afford to sit this one out. These are spiritual, political and cultural battles.
- We must be willing to embrace this challenge, not hide from it. We must be relevant. If we believe faith is the answer for the world, we must live and act as if it is.

## Additional Key Messages for describing the Keep Faith In America Movement

- The anti-faith movement is increasing their hostility and efforts, taking our nation in the wrong direction. We have been given a reprieve and have a window of opportunity right now to change that.
- There is a unique coalition that has formed to initiate a national movement called "Keep Faith In America," and we want you to join the movement.
  - In January, elected officials across America are taking a united stand to "Keep Faith In America." Be part of the Kick-off on January 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - In February, we are encouraging Pastors to encourage Christians to pray for our nation and take a stand for faith in their communities.
  - In March, we are equipping faith-based groups on university campuses to discuss how faith is tied to freedom, and the role of faith in more civility. We are challenging students to take this message across social media to their peers.
  - In April, we will focus on equipping businesses, school boards and city councils to stand for faith.
  - Small groups will be established around the country that will meet regularly to pray for the country, and ask the question "How Can I stand for Faith this week?"
- Go to [KeepFaithInAmerica.com](http://KeepFaithInAmerica.com) and get involved. (coming end of December)