

*A Special Prayer for President Obama*

After a divisive campaign, an extraordinary economic collapse, a period of ecological vulnerability, and a time of war and global instability, our president and our nation need humility, wisdom, and courage. It is tempting to pray that certain policies or political ideologies are enacted by the government, or for those in authority to establish our idea of a utopian vision. Such a prayer would mistakenly treat the United States as a theocracy instead of a democracy.

Mark Labberton provides a deeply rich insight when he suggest” Our president needs the humility to live and lead in dependence upon God, practicing a clear estimate of our human and national limitations”. Few qualities are more characteristic of Jesus than his willingness to serve in dependency on the Father, "emptying himself and taking the form of a servant." Servant leadership is the essence of Jesus' power. Let's pray that as a new season of presidential leadership begins, President Obama will live before God with a clarified awareness of who he is and who he is not.

Given the social, economic, environmental, and security threats today, we could accumulate a pile of fear-inducing situations to rival Everest. This is an exceptional time, when our leadership needs the strength of character and will to seek, say, and do what is right.

While attending meetings in the White House, and standing in the State Dining Room, I am always intrigued by the words engraved on the fireplace: a message from John Adams to his wife, Abigail: "I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof".

That is a prayer that needs to be prayed often by the people of this land, and to insure the answer to that prayer we need to pray for the president's protection, wisdom, reverence and strength. *(Continued next week)*

Your Ministering Servant, David L. Lane, Ph.D.