

# One Nation Under God - Walk Across America

Vol. 8 No. 3

May 2009

*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.* Proverbs 3:13-15

Dateline: 11:00 am, Saturday, May 2, 2009. Location: somewhere north of the White House in Washington DC. Things were not going my way. As we drove in circles looking for two parking places, I asked myself why are the parking garages closed? How can we prayer walk around the White House if there are no parking places? Is it going to rain; the forecast called for a 50% chance of rain with the fret of thunderstorms? In the previous 48 hours, six people called me to withdraw from the prayer walk that left seven people from Praise Fellowship Church and one person joining us in Washington. Pastor Bruce with his wife, Terry, and Shirley were in the lead car. I rode shotgun with Jane driving her car with her two children, Crystal and Jordan, following Pastor Bruce. Originally we planned to carpool from Downingtown to Greenbelt, Maryland and take the Metro Rail into Washington, but changed plans after we only needed two cars. We drove past the Greenbelt Metro Station around 9:30 am and would have been walking around the White House by now, but somehow I was at peace. I knew from my previous prayer walks that just because things are not going my way that it doesn't mean things are not going God's way. Before we started I prayed for divine appointments, God could now be arranging them for us. I said to myself, "If I am in the palm of God's hand, I need to relinquish my control of the prayer walk over to God." There were too many times that I tried to micromanage a prayer walk only to see my plans vanish like the morning dew. God's ways are higher than my ways.

Then Pastor Bruce found a parking garage that was open and soon we were finally walking towards the White House. As we walked through McPherson Square, I was so elated that we were finally walking that I paid no attention to the people sitting on the park benches. Soon we were standing on the south side of the White House; the prayer walk was now genuinely underway.

Without his wife, Abigail, President John Adams, the second President of the United States, moved into a yet to be finished White House on November 1, 1800. The next morning wrote this simple benediction in a letter to his wife. "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 we can apply to any house or building.

After reaching the north side of White House, Jane received a phone call from her friend, Liz, a school teacher living in Washington, D.C. Liz, who was on the south side of White House, wanted to know if our group wanted to go to a church service in a coffeehouse near Union Station. After Liz joined our group, everyone said that they would like to attend that service.

When we finished prayer walking around the White House, we headed for the World War II Memorial. There we saw a field of 4, 048 stars on the west wall of the memorial. They represent the 405,000 American lives that were lost in that war. Next were black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. My eyes started

to tear before I reached the Wall just as they did on June 6, 2003 when I found the name, Robert J Sovial, engraved on the 47<sup>th</sup> panel of the east wall. We played on the same baseball team while I was nine years old. Two other players of the same team are also engraved on those walls along with the names of over 58,000 American men and women who died as a result of the Vietnam War. Then came the Lincoln Monument. Honest Abe also died for the cause of freedom just as the soldiers did in the Korean War Memorial across the Reflecting Pond from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

On the way back to our vehicles, Shirley, who is a nurse, and I stopped to admire the stature dedicated to the nurses who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Shirley was deeply touched by the life-size stature, one nurse is ministering aid to a wounded soldier on a pile of sandbags while the other nurse is resting her hand on the arm of ministering nurse and is looking towards heaven for God's mercy for the maimed soldier. Shirley in addition brought it to my attention as we again walked through McPherson Square that the people sitting on the park benches were homeless. A homeless shelter is located only three blocks from the White House. People making millions of dollars received bailout money. What do the homeless receive?



As we headed for Ebenezers Coffeehouse, I reckoned that the congregation size would be about 30 people. Was I wrong with that assumption! Ebenezers is one of five locations of National Community Church, which also assembles in movie theaters and is also the number one coffeehouse in Washington. The total congregation size of the five sites is 1800 people and growing. They are also very strong with small groups with 55% of the congregation attending one or more of the 62 groups. Visit their website, [www.theaterchurch.com](http://www.theaterchurch.com). During the service, businessman Stanley Tam, who has donated \$120 million in different charities, shared his testimony.

As I reflect on the things which I saw that day, prayer walking around White House seems almost secondary. The first person along the trail whom I had a conversation about prayer on the prayer walk in 2003 was 91-year-old veteran of World War II. Last week after I had finished prayer walking in Ohio, the last person I spoke to in Ohio was retired Lt Col Peale. When I asked him to pray for America, his reply was, "I was in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. I know how to pray!" I could not help to think about the Saturday before in Washington. Though we did not walk past the Korean War Memorial, I know what is written on that wall, the simple words, *Freedom is not free*. While driving home from Ohio, I noticed a framed photo of a marine in a gas station. On that photo were written the very same words. Our freedom in America is not free but paid with the blood of thousands and thousands of patriots throughout this nation's history. Memorial Day and Veteran Day should not be the only days that we honor those brave men and women. They deserve honor and respect every day. I am sure

that many of the homeless who are sitting on benches in our city parks throughout America are veterans. They need our prayers and our help.

Two thousand years ago, one person's blood was shed so we can be free for eternity. The cross that we wear around our necks and place on our walls is also a memorial to Jesus. The cross should never be taken lightly and never worn just as a piece of jewelry to look good or to be in style. Jesus' death on that cross is the only way we are able to reach heaven to be with the Father.

To learn more about One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, [www.walkacrossamerica.info](http://www.walkacrossamerica.info).

God bless,  
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Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 886 miles  
Number of prayer walkers - 70 prayer walkers  
Number of people praying for America - 60,417 prayer warriors