



## Talking to God

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UBA Executive Director, Tom Billings

I was in my study preparing for Sunday. The boys were running down the hall headed straight into the study when their mom stopped them. "You can't go in there. Daddy's talking to God." (I've often wondered what the boys thought, what image came to mind, when their mom told them that.)

The boys may not have understood all the dynamics of prayer, but they learned early on it was important, for they could interrupt me for just about anything (still can), but their mom drew a line -- not when Dad's praying.

Prayer is important. That's why virtually every president since George Washington has called for a national day of prayer and fasting. Prayer is essential. That's why President Reagan signed a bill into law making the first Thursday of every May a National Day of Prayer (For a history, go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_day\\_of\\_prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_day_of_prayer) OR <http://www.ndptf.org/>, the official NDP website.)

Last year the office of Houston mayor Bill White coordinated the National Day of Prayer in Houston. Big events like that are expensive and these are tough economic times. Consequently, the mayor's office couldn't fund the NDP this year. The event was going to be cancelled.

Pastor Steve Riggle, Grace Community Church, heard the NDP was cancelled. At first Steve thought it didn't matter if we met at City Hall to pray or not. We can pray anywhere. The more he tried not to think about it, the more not having a major, visible, public Day of Prayer event troubled him.

So Steve decided to call a few friends. I was on that list. "Prayer doesn't cost anything. We don't need any money to do this. We just need to get together to pray," Steve said. I agreed. Steve called the mayor's office and they have agreed that we can still meet around the City Hall. Mayor Bill White and other key leaders in our city will attend.

So we will gather from 12 noon to 1:15 PM at the City Hall on Thursday, May 7th to pray. With the troubled economy, the rising jobless rate, international crises, the ongoing war in the Middle East, terrorism, a new president, and ongoing issues like hunger, poverty, racism and a host of social ills, we will have much to pray about.

The boys are grown men now. They won't be with me on May 7th, but they'll know Daddy will be doing something important, because I'll be there, at City Hall, talking to God on the National Day of Prayer. I hope you'll join me.

For other important prayer concerns, visit our website at <http://www.ubahouston.org/385776.html>