

PUT PRISON MINISTRY ON THE CHURCH'S
AGENDA

In 1974 Colson entered a plea of guilty to Watergate-related charges; although not implicated in the Watergate burglary, he voluntarily pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the Daniel Ellsberg Case, which was prosecuted in the acutely sensitive Watergate atmosphere. He entered Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Alabama in 1974 as a new Christian and as the first member of the Nixon administration to be incarcerated for Watergate-related charges. He served seven months of a one- to three-year sentence.

Colson emerged from prison with a new mission: mobilizing the Christian Church to minister to prisoners. He founded Prison Fellowship in 1976; this would become perhaps his greatest contribution to the Church and the world. Although many local churches had ministered in nearby prisons for many years, most observers would affirm that Colson and Prison Fellowship truly put prison ministry on the agenda of the church in a substantial way.

Colson's personal prison experience and his frequent ministry visits to prisons also developed in him new concerns about the efficacy of the American criminal justice system. His founding of Justice Fellowship in 1983 helped make Colson one of the nation's most influential voices for criminal justice reform. His call for alternative punishments for non-violent offenders was often effective because Colson's conservative credentials enabled him to line up conservative legislators in support of what had traditionally been seen as a liberal set of reforms.

That passion and sense of obligation to God's calling and to his fellow inmates took Colson into prisons several times a year. He visited some 600 prisons in the U.S. and 40 other countries, and built a movement that at one time extended to more than 50,000 prison ministry volunteers. Often, particularly in the early days of Prison Fellowship, he was vocal in his disgust over the terrible conditions in the prisons and the need for more humane conditions and better access to religious programs.

Colson's advocacy for prisoners' religious rights took an additional form in the late 1990s when he and Justice Fellowship were at the forefront, lobbying legislators to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), both nationally and state by state. Colson's and Justice Fellowship's work to bring an end to the national scourge and shame of prison rape culminated with the passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act in 2003.

His 1987 book, *Kingdoms in Conflict*, was a best-selling directive to the Christian community on the proper relationships of church and state, and it positioned Colson as a centrist evangelical voice for balanced Christian political activism. Although not as visible as others in the frontline battles, Colson provided counsel to many of the most-evident activists and had a strong influence on Christian politicians who went to Washington in the 80s, 90s and into the new millennium.

RECIPIENT OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE

In recognition of his work among prisoners, Colson received the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1993, donating the \$1 million prize to Prison Fellowship. In perhaps his most-eloquent and well-known speech, *The Enduring Revolution*, given at acceptance ceremonies at the University of Chicago, Colson encouraged the Church in the face of troubling times:

"For history's cadence is called with a confident voice. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob reigns. His plan and purpose rob the

future of its fears. By the cross He offers hope, by the resurrection He assures His triumph. This cannot be resisted or delayed. Mankind's only choice is to recognize Him now or in the moment of ultimate judgment. Our only decision is to welcome His rule or to fear it."

Colson's other awards included the Presidential Citizens Medal (2008, the second-highest U.S. civilian honor), Humanitarian Award from Domino's Pizza Corporation (1991), The Others Award from the Salvation Army (1990), several honorary doctorates from various colleges and universities (1982–1995), and Outstanding Young Man of Boston from the Chamber of Commerce (1960).

Recognized as a champion for historic orthodoxy, Colson ignited a controversy in the Protestant world in the mid-1990s with his initiative to declare common ground with conservative Roman Catholics in two documents called *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*.

PROVIDED INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT TO MODERN
EVANGELICALISM

The evangelical-Catholic issue was just one in which Colson brought intellectual vitality to popular Evangelicalism in the last three decades. Many considered him a prophetic voice for the evangelical community, and, perhaps, an intellectual successor to theologian/sociologist Francis Schaeffer. Perhaps in open recognition of that legacy, his magnum opus was titled *How Now Shall We Live?* after Schaeffer's *How Then Shall We Live?*

In all, Colson wrote more than 30 books, which have sold more than five million copies. His autobiographical book, *Born Again*, was one of the nation's best-selling books of all kinds in 1976 and was made into a feature-length film. His last book, *The Faith*, is a powerful appeal to the Church to re-embrace the foundational truths of Christianity.

Colson was one of the Christian community's most sought-after speakers, but he resolutely refused to establish a speaker's fee. Colson donated all speaking honoraria and book royalties to the ministry and accepted the salary of a mid-range ministry executive.

In 1991 Colson launched BreakPoint, a unique radio commentary that provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends. BreakPoint was aired weekdays on some 1,400 outlets nationwide with an audience of 8 million listeners. But his heart was ever with the prisoner. He clearly never forgot the promise he'd made to his fellow inmates during his brief stay in prison that he would never forget those behind bars.

In his later years, Colson focused full time on developing other Christian leaders who could influence the culture and their communities through their faith. The capstone of this effort was The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, a research and training center launched in 2009 for the promotion of Christian worldview teaching. In addition to a vast library of worldview materials, the Colson Center provides online courses and serves as a catalyst for a growing movement of Christian organizations dedicated to impacting the culture.

In 2009, Colson was a principal writer of the Manhattan Declaration, which calls on Christians to defend the sanctity of human life, traditional marriage and religious freedom. More than half a million people have signed the Manhattan Declaration. Collaborating with other Christian leaders, Colson aimed to launch other ecumenical grassroots movements around moral and ethical issues of great concern.

Colson was born in Boston in 1931 and received a scholarship to Brown University and went on to earn his law degree at George

Washington University in Washington. He served in the Marine Corps from 1953–1955, becoming what was at the time its youngest captain. He began his political career in 1956, when he was the youngest administrative assistant in the Senate, working for Massachusetts Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

Although God worked through Colson to encourage Christians around the world and serve many whom society would often neglect, his greatest love and focus were his family. Colson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patty; three children, Wendell, Christian and Emily; and five grandchildren.

AUSTIN CLARK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Austin Clark for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Austin Clark is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Austin Clark is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Austin Clark for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE VALENTINES FOR
TROOPS PROGRAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and adults involved in the Valentines for Troops program in Connecticut and around the nation. The students involved in this program wrote over 4,000 letters for our servicemembers this year.

This program seeks to give thanks to the most deserving among us, the men and women of our Armed Forces. Donna Monteleone Randle, a former captain in the Army Signal Corps, serves as the chairperson of Valentines for Troops in Newtown, Connecticut and helps the organization send letters from the students to the servicemembers overseas.

The participants in the Valentines for Troops program are doing a fabulous job of showing their support and admiration to those who need it the most.

This program was started by a second grade student at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2006. That first year there were 50 letters written by students at the school, and since then the popularity of the program has increased tremendously. Schools and organizations from

Trumbull, Monroe, Bethel, Fairfield, and Danbury have joined Newtown in this program. There has been a great deal of national interest in the program this year as well. There are clubs, groups, churches, senior centers, professional offices, and schools from such diverse locations as Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, and New York City lending their support to the program.

I conducted a similar program called Holiday Cards for Heroes this holiday season. School children in northwestern Connecticut made hundreds of cards for veterans staying in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the State of Connecticut Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. So I know what these small tokens of appreciation can do to lift the spirits of a veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree that the Valentines for Troops program deserves recognition for their efforts to show the admiration that this nation has for its troops. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Valentines for Troops program for the service it provides to the men and women of our Armed Services.

CONGRATULATING LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FIRST "GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS" IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to congratulate Longfellow Elementary School located in my hometown of Long Beach, California, and the 37th Congressional District which I am proud to represent, on its designation by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the first-ever Green Ribbon Schools.

According to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Longfellow Elementary School was recognized for its outstanding achievements in the areas of environmental curriculum, energy reduction, campus recycling and water efficiency.

The Green Ribbon Schools program is a federal recognition program that began in September 2011 under the leadership of President Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson. Honored schools embrace and exercise a comprehensive approach to creating "green" environments, which includes taking remedial action to reducing adverse environmental impacts, promoting health, and providing high-quality environmental instruction that prepares students with the skills and sustainability concepts needed to compete and win in the global economy of the 21st century.

Green Ribbon Schools promote environmental education and learning as well as protect our children's health.

Under the leadership of Principal Laurie Murrin, Longfellow Elementary School has successfully gone "green" by reducing energy use by 17 percent since 2004, has a 34 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

since 2003, and an increased recycling rate of 46 percent. Also, 100 percent of the landscaping at the school is water-efficient, and the District uses Compressed Natural Gas School Buses.

Additionally, Longfellow Elementary School actively promoted environmental learning by implementing environmental programs on campus like Energy Star Recycling program, Water Quality and Efficiency program, Green Cleaning program, Safe Routes to School, School Garden, School Integrated Pest Management Program, Indoor Air Quality Program, as well as Environmental Education.

This is a remarkable record and is all the more impressive given the economic background and demographic diversity of the Longfellow Elementary School student body. The student body is comprised of 1,080 students, 30 percent of whom are Hispanic, 17 percent are African American, 5 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, and 28 percent Caucasian. Four in ten students receive free or reduced lunches.

Despite their challenging backgrounds, the students at Longfellow Elementary School have shown that great things can happen if you are motivated, committed, and have the right leaders like Principal Murrin. As King Henry V exhorted his comrades in arms at the Battle of Agincourt, "all things are ready if our minds be so."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lions of Longfellow Elementary School, Principal Laurie Murrin, The Green Team, and the entire Longfellow Elementary community for being at the forefront of improving our environment and helping prepare our students to be competitive and succeed in an emerging green economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAMBURITZANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Tamburitians, a group which has been promoting Eastern European arts and culture for 75 years.

Established by Dr. A. Lester Pierce in 1937, the Tamburitians are a multicultural song and dance group. The group consists of students of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Duquesne University Tamburitians are dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the cultural heritage of Eastern Europe and its neighbors through performance, while awarding scholarships to talented and deserving student performers.

The Duquesne University Tamburitians have grown from an original group of 12 men to today's company of more than three dozen performers. Since 1988, the Tamburitians have been under the direction of Mr. Paul Stafura, a former member of the Tamburitians during the late 1960s. Each year, the Tamburitians travel throughout the United States to put on an average of 80 concerts. They have also held concerts in numerous Latin American countries, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Poland, Romania, the former Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Duquesne University

Tamburitians, the longest-running live stage show of its kind in the United States.

ANJELICA HARRISON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anjelica Harrison for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anjelica Harrison is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anjelica Harrison is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anjelica Harrison for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on April 4, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on The National Mall in Washington, DC. This memorial was built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on April 4 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Leonard David Adler; David S. Albert; Donald John Anderson; Richard J. Andrew; Theodore Arey; Harold L. Autrey; Asa Melville Bacon; Rudolf Balek; Stanley C. Bartecki, Jr.; Robert L. Barz; Victor J. Biasetti; Otto R. Bobysud; Raymond J. Brejcha; Joseph P. Brooks; Walter H. Burtan; Joseph S. Buttice; Jack R. Cerniglia; Ranson Coleman; John M. Conway; James J. Corolis; James M. Cribbs;