

One Nation Under God - Walk Across America

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Three years ago on the sunny warm fall day of October 5, 2002, the One Nation Under God – Walk Across America began with my wife, Nadine, and I leaving footprints in the sand at Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware at the start of the American Discovery Trail. From the effects of wind, rain, surf and other footprints, our footprints have long vanished, but the call on my life to prayer-walk across America has not disappeared. Others have heard the same call. Pastor John Halvorsen (Prayer Walk America), Don Vermilyea (A Walk Across America), and Lyn Hanush, Joan Balong and Ronni Schoch (The Great American Journey) are some of the many that have heard the same call.

The reason for my prayer-walk was to keep the words, *under God*, in our Pledge of Allegiance. On June 26th, 2002, a federal appeals court ruled that it was unconstitutional to ask schoolchildren to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and vow loyalty to one nation “*under God.*” This case against the pledge was brought by the atheist father of a Sacramento, California, schoolgirl. Since the first day of the walk, I began to realize just how much our country needs prayer. On October 7, 2002, only two days after my first footsteps, a 13 year-old boy was wounded at the Benjamin Tasker Middle School’s entrance by the Washington Sniper in Bowie, Maryland. A message left on a tarot card said, “Dear policeman: I am God.” On May 3, 2003, I unknowingly walked across that very spot where the boy was shot. At that time I was praying that the spirit of fear be lifted from the Washington, D.C. area.

In the last three years numerous tragedies have struck our nation. The Washington Sniper incident was one of many. The space shuttle, Columbia, burned during reentry over Texas. There is the War with Iraq and Abu Ghraib Prison abuse scandal. There was another school massacre in Minnesota. Of course there were the hurricanes that laid waste to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Even a tidal surge from Hurricane Isabel came up the Chesapeake Bay and flooded downtown Annapolis, Maryland in 2003.

There are also the tragedies that do not often make the headlines of our newspapers. Suicides and abortions rarely make the news. The availability of guns; poverty; boredom; alcohol and drug abuse; and the erosion of traditional values are factors of suicides. The lack of God and love in their lives is the main factor. During the 46 days that the Washington Sniper brought terror to Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. by killing ten people, about 3,300 Americans ended their lives by committing suicide and approximately 181, 000 legalized abortions occurred in our nation. The news media does not deem those numbers as news worthy.

Approximately 4,730,400 unseen and unwanted children were aborted in the United States during the last three years. That is one abortion every twenty seconds. Do the people hear their cries? Those children will never feel the love of a mother’s arms. Those children will never see the love in a father’s eyes as it takes its first steps. Those children will never say, “Ma, Ma” or “Pa, Pa.” Those children will never hear the sound of the words, “I love you.”

During the last fifty years, television, VCR's, DVD's, video games and cable TV have rapidly eroded our traditional values even within the church. We have replaced family time with television time. Television has aided in the spreading of the gospel but during the last three years the networks have been heavily proselytizing gambling and homosexuality. Television also helps to promote the drinking of beer and other alcoholic drinks. Does the drinking of one beer hurt anyone? Just ask the mother of son or daughter, who was killed by a drunk driver. Violence is also promoted through network shows, movies and sports. Ice hockey, boxing, wrestling and football are violent. Some churches have even changed their Sunday evening service on Super Bowl Night to including watching the game. When a quarterback is brutally sacked by a linebacker, are we learning that '*in your face*' is more imperative than '*love thy neighbor as thyself*,'? What are we teaching our children? That football is more important than prayer or the word of God? I pray not.

During the last three years our Supreme Court has made many rulings on a variety of subjects including displaying the Ten Commandments on government property and the words, under God, in our Pledge of Allegiance. There is one ruling that will hurt the poor and middle class of our nation. The court ruled that a property can be seized for the prospect of more tax revenue, even if the land will be acquired by a private developer. This decision may lead to the abuse of eminent domain at the expense of the poor or middle class. Our government is repeating its history over again. During the 1800's, Native American Indians were required to live on reservations, land that was considered to be next to worthless. But when gold was discovered on their lands, they were forced to relocate again. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Chief Seathl.

If we sell you our land, love it as we've loved it. Care for it as we're cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you take it. And with all your strength, all your might and all your heart, preserve it for your children and love it as God loves us all. One thing we know-our God is the same God. This earth is precious to him. Even the white man cannot be exempt from common destiny.

On September 13, 2005, the federal district court in San Francisco has again ruled that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because of the words, *under God*. This somehow overrules the Supreme Court ruling that was issued on June 14 of last year. Our nation needs to acknowledge God in our Pledge of Allegiance. Without God we will become *just one nation* without blessings from above.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7

We as a nation listen but do not hear. We look but do not see. Our nation has become a backslidden nation. Please pray for the restoration of God in our nation, in our government, in our schools, in our homes and most of all in our hearts.

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, www.walkacrossamerica.info.

**God bless,
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**Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 613 miles
Number of prayer walkers - 52 prayer walkers
Number of people praying for America - 40,557 prayer warriors**