

## ACLK Clergy Speak at National Day of Prayer Rally in New York City - Michael Jenkins

Sachie Kawachi  
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*Rev. Edner Pierre Louise was one of the ministers of the American Clergy Leadership Conference to pray.*

The 60th National Day of Prayer was observed on May 3, 2012 at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., State Office Building in Harlem (Upper Manhattan), New York. The first Thursday of May was designated by the United States Congress in 1952 as an event in which citizens are asked to turn to God in prayer and meditation.

Rev. Dr. Luonne A. Rouse, pastor of United Methodist Church Huntington-Cold Spring Harbor in Huntington, New York and Minister Akil Rose in coordination with Rev. Dr. Michael Jenkins, Chairman of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLK) headed the National Day of Prayer event in Harlem, where ministers from eight denominations and more than twenty invitees and onlookers attended.

This prayer meeting was held to honor past and present national leaders, as well as religious leaders in the United States. The theme of the event was, "One Nation under God," based on the Psalms 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance."



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The goal of the prayer meeting was to be a rally of people of all religious back grounds coming together in prayer. As Rev. Rouse expressed it, "As authorized by the United States Congress, this is a day when citizens are urged to turn to God in prayer and meditation. I have especially reached out to the Unification community, because I have witnessed their life of prayer and the importance of prayer to the lives of the people in the Unification movement.

"As you know, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon begins his day with prayer and ends his day with prayer and encourages everyone on the in-between to stay in communication with God. It is a move toward peace, so I am hoping today as we come together in unity in that same spirit we will pray for our nation, the national leader, for the religious-community leaders, and for world peace. This is the time for us to do that and to come together in that way with our

common Source and Power - with our communication with God.”



*Pastor Glenda Phillips-Lee (holding microphone), flanked by Rev. Luonne Rouse (right) prayed as well.*

During the prayer event each minister was given an opportunity to offer a few words and a prayer for the nation and world. Each minister spoke of his or her common love for God and gratitude toward God for blessing the United States of America. In attendance was Reverend Bruce Grodner, Unification Church District Pastor of New York, who told the gathering, “This nation is prepared by God. This nation has a purpose, a divine purpose, and our challenges and problems in this nation have one problem. We are unaware of God’s purpose and God’s will for us. This nation is prepared, a beacon of light unto the world. We are the people that are made to break down barriers...Here in America we have so many races, so many nations, so many ethnicities, here we have such an opportunity to go beyond and break down the barriers and break down the walls that isolate us.”

Rev. Rouse ended with expressions of gratitude and emphasized the importance of keeping frequent prayer events. Rev. Rouse said that he hoped, “that people today will join us in praying in the direction for the height and depth of the people of our nation and throughout the world. We are forming a unity that will continue past today and that we will grow in spirit. This is not for the reelection for Barak Obama, but we will continue to pray, in years to come, for the office of President of the United States and for all of our national leaders.

“We do pray now continuously as we make return to the spirit that brought him (President Barak Obama) out of nowhere to be where he is today. That spirit will guide the future work that he has and indeed the other leaders of our community, nation and our faith community.”

Reverend Glenda R. Phillips, International Gospel Helpers Church and Harlem ACLC co-chairman, observed that this National Day of Prayer was a profound gathering. “It means a lot, because it is incredibly essential coming together in prayer. This is incredibly important because it not only shows unity to the world but also to the Father.”