

TFRW Chaplain,
RHONDA LACY

This article consists of a true story about our Nation's history which was recently shared with me. I have relayed the greatly condensed version in my own words followed by an invocation I prayed at the TFRW January 2010 Board Meeting. As a preface to the following, let me explain my position concerning our TFRW invocations. We have several smaller meetings during our regular Board meetings. I ask different members to lead in our invocations and pledges to our flags at each meeting.

When I pray, being a Christian, I can boldly pray to **my** God, Jesus Christ. Under the law of our Constitution [including our Bill of Rights], I have this privilege. [At this point, I will say with all partiality and quite unashamedly that I am thankful that the great majority of American forefathers expressed an undying commitment to Jesus Christ.] In keeping with the Constitution of the United States, no one at TFRW is forced to believe what I believe or punished or chastised for **not** believing what I do. For example, our Jewish members also feel free to lead in our invocations during our Board Meetings, and have done so.

We are free to worship, and at the same time, we, by law, cannot go **against** our Constitution. You might think this is contradictory, but it is not. We have freedom of religion, but, thankfully, we do **not** have freedom of government. In America's history, even with freedom of religion, I think you will find that when the "religion" in question contradicts the Constitution of the United States, for example, putting her citizens in harm's way, the Constitution is the final authority. [There are many examples that I could cite, but will not go into detail at this time.] My desire is to keep and protect the Constitution as written by our forefathers.

A Brief Snippet of American History

During the late 1780s, a group of very dedicated, brave men met together for the sole purpose of writing the rules and laws for the new and fledgling nation. It was NOT going well. It was NOT coming together. And then, one of the elder statesmen came forth with this proclamation. "We have prayed together before other meetings, honored the Almighty and asked for His wisdom and guidance. We **failed** to do that this time. Let us break for three days for the purpose of praying, seeking guidance from the Almighty, discussing independently and then we will all come back together."

They DID. They PRAYED. They MET again after three days.....

And patterning much of what they wrote after the Devine guidance they had received, from their hearts to their fingertips flowed one of the most remarkable documents of all history, The Constitution of the United States of America. That elder statesman was Benjamin Franklin, and like our forefathers before us, prayer at TFRW is not a **mere** formality, but a lifeline for our freedom and governance, our guidance, protection and wisdom.

A Prayer from Your TFRW Chaplain,
RHONDA LACY

RHONDA'S PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we invite You to be here among us. We need you, Lord. We endeavor to serve You with our lives. We ask for Your wisdom and guidance in this meeting today, in the future of our state, and in our Nation.

There is a battle going on concerning who will lead our beloved State, Texas. We ask for your Holy Spirit to fall upon all those seeking leadership over us. May we remember to lift up to You, all those seeking these elected offices. We ask for Your guidance in choosing these elected leaders.

We ask for Your love and comfort, strength and healing to fall on Haiti, on all living there and all aiding in relief.

We ask You, Lord, for Your protection and guidance over our military who serve our Nation for our protection. May we remember daily to lift up our military to You. Give strength to the mothers, wives, sisters and friends of our military who sit here before us.

We ask for the power of Your Holy Spirit to fall on our State Officials, our Nation's Congress, our Judges, our President. Confuse any evil plans that any may have that would destroy what our forefathers so genuinely sought at the creation of our Nation. Bring wisdom, responsibility, reality and unity to our Federal and State leaders.

Please, Father, have mercy on the United States. Please return our Nation to the People and return the People to You.

I pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen