

PRAYER OF THE PATRIOT

By Christy Long

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Take a trip back in history and learn how prayer has helped create this great nation. With Jesus as our guide, join a confused office worker in discovering the faith of past patriots such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and other well-known and many not-so-well-known patriots. With no scenery and just a few props, the focus is on the dramatic dialogue which includes excerpts from original speeches. Suggested songs enhance the mood of each segment of history. The powerful, surprise ending is a touching scene from the World Trade Center tragedy on Sept. 11, 2001. Give your audience a renewed sense of patriotism and a desire to pray for our nation.

Cast of Characters and Costuming

Widely flexible cast size.

Minimum is 5 to 6 men, 3 women, 2 boys, extras.

(All costuming should suggest the appropriate era.)

OFFICE WORKER (O.W.): Christian man or woman. Modern business suit.

JESUS: White robe.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD: Confident. Pilgrim clothes.

PILGRIM WOMAN: Pilgrim dress and hat.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Strong yet quiet. Military uniform.

ISAAC POTTS: Amazed by Washington. Commoner's outfit.

ISAAC POTTS' WIFE: Commoner's dress.

PASTOR HENRY MUHLENBERG: Lutheran pastor. Priestly robes.

PETER MILLER: A friend, sincere. Richly dressed.

JONATHAN EDWARDS - BOY: 7 or 8-years old. Commoner's outfit.

JONATHAN'S FRIEND: 7 or 8-year-old boy. Commoner's outfit.

JONATHAN EDWARDS - MAN: 50s. Preaching attire.

JONATHAN'S MOTHER: Elderly woman. Dress.

PARISHIONER: Middle-aged-woman. Dress.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER 1: Argumentative. Dirty and torn Civil War uniform.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER 2: Tired of the war. Dirty and torn Civil War uniform.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Confident and sincere. Suit with tall black hat.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S FAMILY (EXTRAS): Happy at his return. Commoners' outfits.

Prayer of the Patriot
- 4 -

FRANCES WILLARD: Leader of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Turn-of-the-century dress.
WOMAN: Wife of an alcoholic husband. Turn-of-the-century dress.

SCOTT, WORLD WAR II SOLDIER: Scared and discouraged. Dirty uniform.
JANET, HIS WIFE: Godly woman who prays. Dress from 1940s.
OTHER SOLDIER: Brings Bible to Scott. WWII uniform.

ANDREW GOODMAN: 20-year-old civil rights worker. Jeans and T-shirt.
MICHAEL SCHWERNER: 20-year-old civil rights worker. Jeans and T-shirt.

VIETNAM SOLDIER: Scared but trusting God. Combat uniform.
SOLDIER 1: Combat uniform.
SOLDIER 2: Combat uniform.

CASSIE BERNALL: Teenager, loves God. Modern, casual outfit.
GIRL: Teenager, Cassie's friend. Casual outfit.
BOY: Frenzied. Black trench coat.

COWORKER: Man or woman, scared. Modern business suit.
CRIPPLED: Man or woman in wheelchair, scared. Business suit.
EXTRAS

Props - Briefcase, books and reports, several Bibles (including a small one for WWII soldier), day planner, watch, podium, broom, desk, chair, paper, quill pen, modern pen, letter, bandages, stretcher, toy gun, wheelchair. Optional - fife, drums.

Note: Quotation marks indicate historically accurate dialogue or speeches.

PRAYER OF THE PATRIOT

(AT RISE: OFFICE WORKER enters SR, with briefcase and some books in hand. The rest of the stage is darkened.)

OFFICE WORKER: *(To SELF.)* That traffic is crazy out there. *(Puts books on desk and sighs. Flips through pages of a day planner on desk.)* So much to get done today. That analysis report has to be finished and sent to Loss Prevention before noon. A meeting at 10:30 with the shareholders from upstate. Oh, and I can't forget to pick up Billy for his dentist appointment at 2:00. *(Sits down at desk and writes in planner, speaks as writing.)* Billy, dentist, 2:00. There, now I won't forget. *(Looks at wristwatch.)* Wow, I actually got to work early. Maybe I'll get a jump on that report. *(Opens briefcase and looks through it. Pulls out Bible in one hand and the report in the other, looks at both and hesitates.)* No, I think I'll read a little before I begin my day. *(Bows head and prays.)* Father, help me now as I read Your Word. Speak what You want me to hear and give me what I need to get through this day. In Jesus' name, Amen. *(Opens Bible.)* Where was I? *(Flipping through.)* Oh yes, 2 Chronicles. "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." *(Contemplating the scripture and thinking out loud.)* That is what America needs, healing and forgiveness but, like it says, *(Referring to the Bible.)* we have to pray. I'm not sure we Americans know how to really pray and seek God. I'm not sure we ever knew how.

(JESUS enters and stands behind O.W.)

JESUS: There have been some who have prayed.

(O.W. is startled by JESUS and jumps out of seat.)

Prayer of the Patriot

- 6 -

O.W.: Jesus! (*Shocked.*) You are here, with me.

JESUS: I am always with you.

O.W.: (*Stuttering.*) Uh, I know. I mean, I believe that you are always with me. The Bible says you are, but, right now, you are here. I can see you and hear you and ... (*O.W. slowly walks towards JESUS and reaches out to him, hesitantly.*) and I can touch you, too.

JESUS: (*Reaches out HIS hand and lets O.W. touch him.*) Yes, it's really me.

O.W.: Why have you come to me?

JESUS: You made a statement a moment ago. You said that Americans don't know how to pray and seek God and that they probably never have known how. You are right, many Americans don't know anything about me. But there are some and there have been others in the past, that have called out to me, that have prayed and sought me for wisdom, strength and courage. For those praying patriots, I have been by their side, and on those prayers, America was truly founded. I have come to take you back in history to show you some of those faithful souls.

O.W.: Show me, Lord.

#1 Patriot - Governor William Bradford

Suggested songs: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"; "Now Thank We All Our God"; "We Gather Together."

(The LIGHTS go down in the office and come up on SL. GOVERNOR BRADFORD is talking to a PILGRIM WOMAN.)

PILGRIM WOMAN: I must confess, Governor, there were a great many moments during the drought when I was compelled to doubt the providence of God, who, before which trials, had been our shield and supporter but now, it seemed in His anger that He had armed Himself against us.

End of Freeview

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