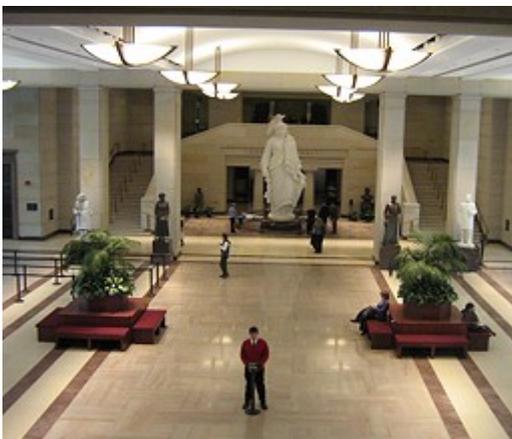


NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST 2010-President Barack Obama... Washington DC

Some friends of ours in Sydney invited us to the *2010 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC*. We count it a privilege that we were able to attend. Two days prior to the Breakfast we completed a tour of *Washington DC and Capital Hill*; we also meet some members of Parliament and had coffee with them where we discussed many issues that America and Australia are facing today.there were *3500 delegates* at the prayer breakfast from *160 Nations* around the world..... The previous night the streets around the hotel were policed off, we had to line up for “security” reasons at 6.15am the next morning; for an 8.30am start....Traditionally for the last 50 years *“The President in office”* has addressed the invited guests.



It was great to hear *President Obama, Hillary Clinton*, and to see *The First Lady Michelle Obama* as they were only about 10 tables away....

The *speeches* were amazing !!! And will have an ongoing impact in our lives....please log onto www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-national-prayer-breakfast to hear *President Obama's full speech*.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speech was dynamic to say the least !!!!
Please log onto www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/136501.htm to hear *Hillary Clinton's full speech*.

We found some of the following excerpts from his speech to be inspirational.....as follows..... “I am deeply blessed, and I thank God every day for being married to *Michelle Obama*”.

I come here to speak about the ways my faith informs who I am...as a President, and as a person. But I'm also here for the same reason that all of you are, for we all share a recognition...one as old as time...that a willingness to believe, an openness to grace, a commitment to prayer can bring sustenance to our lives.

There is of course, a need for prayer even in times of joy and peace and prosperity. Perhaps especially in such times prayer is needed...to guard against pride and to guard against complacency. But rightly or wrongly, most of us are inclined to seek out the divine not in the moment when the Lord makes his face shine upon us, but in moments when God's grace can seem farthest away. I also recognize that ***"There but for the grace of God go I"***...Empowered by faith, consistently, prayerfully, we need to find our way back to civility. That begins with stepping out of our comfort zones in an effort to bridge divisions. Civility also requires relearning how to disagree without being disagreeable, understanding, as ***President Kennedy*** said, that "Civility is not a sign of weakness."

Surely we can agree to find common ground when possible, parting ways when necessary. But in doing so let us be guided by our faith, and by prayer. For while prayer can buck us up when we are down, keep us calm in a storm; while prayer can stiffen our spines to surmount an obstacle...and I assure you I'm praying a lot these days....prayer can also do something else. It can touch our hearts with humility. It can fill us with a spirit of brotherhood. It can remind us that each of us are children of an awesome and loving God. Through faith, but not through faith alone, we can unite people to serve the common good. Progress comes when we look into the eyes of another and see the face of God. That we might do so – that we will do so all the time, not just some of the time...is ***my fervent prayer for our nation and the world.***

President Obama finished in the traditional American way by saying....***Thankyou, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America***

While we were in the USA we made some wonderful friends from all around the world. The hospitality of the American's was amazing they just loved us being from Australia....and couldn't do enough for us. On the rest of our trip we visited New York where we went to see the 9/11 site/memorial. It was a sombre occasion, and left one speechless!!!! We also went over to Staten Island to see "The Statue of Liberty", and took in many of the sights of New York City.





HAVEN FOR HOPE

www.havenforhope.org

While in San Antonio we had the experience and challenge of our lives, we saw how, county, religion, politics, and volunteers came together to give a “Haven of Hope” to the disadvantaged in San Antonio. We spent a day with this organisation, what a wonderful vision they have; they had transformed an old ice factory into an incredible home for the homeless, families, singles, and the addicted. Please log onto their website and see the vision that they want for the rest of the world, for other countries, states, towns and villages etc, to pick up on their vision and give hope, help and faith back into these disadvantaged people, as President Obama said *“There but for the Grace of God go I”*. Could we see such a project here in South Australia We Hope so!!!!