After weeks of soul-searching, Carol and I agreed that she would take on a new responsibility on behalf of Family Research Council. We also agreed that she should tell you about it herself:

Dear Friends of FRC:

At the end of May, Gary and I had the opportunity to spend some time with other couples who share our faith and our worries about what the future holds for America's families. We talked about the pain that comes as parents wrestle with cultural and social forces that they cannot control. Gary sees this dilemma every day, as he fights for family, faith, and freedom in the media and in Congress.

We spent hours talking about the increasing attacks being leveled at Gary here in Washington. As he has helped lead the charge against partial-birth abortion, the radical gay rights movement, and religious persecution in China, Gary has come under even heavier attack than usual. Some Washington friends have even warned us that the worst is yet to come – they say that the more effective Gary is, the more the Washington elites will try to discredit him and that the stress on our family, particularly our children, will grow. Washington is like that.

Sadly, even some of our Republican friends have joined the assault because Gary insists on speaking the truth regardless of politics. It is a quality that attracted me to Gary from the very beginning. Unfortunately, men and women of conviction are in very short supply in the nation's capital. When your husband and the father of your children is constantly attacked in the media, it can be a frightening experience. That is why I am writing this letter to you.

Gary and I are convinced that if we are to survive and thrive in this atmosphere, we must rely more on the power of prayer – and that's where you come in. We want you to join with us as a "prayer warrior" – not just for Gary, our family, and our FRC family, but also for all those who currently wield power in Washington, D.C.

In the end, we know that we are all children of a sovereign God who watches over our every breath. He is the King of kings, although too often it is the kings of this world – our leaders in government, in business, and in the arts – who are the last to realize that fact. Against God's sovereignty, nothing we do can succeed. With it, nothing we do can fail.

As our group talked, we realized that we have done too little to acknowledge God's sovereignty over the policies we care about and the people who make those policies. In First Timothy, Paul urges "that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life." (1 Timothy 2:1-2). I don't know about you, but I think that this plea from Paul is one of the hardest of all to take to heart.

When I see how often our leaders fail us, or fail to uphold even the most common standard of decency, I find myself crying out, "Why don't they do something about this?" or "How can they let that happen?" To pray for our leaders is hard enough sometimes, but the task takes on new meaning when we see what Paul says is the purpose of our prayer – that we might "lead a tranquil and quiet life." Isn't that exactly what a people who recognize the sovereignty of God should seek? Among the very first words of our Constitution, telling us the goals of those who wrote it, are "to secure domestic tranquillity." To be happy at home, to have the blessings of liberty, to be at peace with ourselves and with other nations – those are hallmarks of a nation living under good government.

Today, I believe there are millions of families who pray for the well-being of our leaders and for their wisdom. I know that you too most likely pray for our leaders from time to time while working with FRC to bring about positive change. I hope you will choose to join with me in committing to do even more. Groups like "Moms in Touch" have had tremendous success in promoting change for the better by encouraging parents, students, teachers, and those who work in our schools through intercessory prayer. Following their example, I volunteered to Gary that I would lead a coordinated prayer effort on behalf of FRC. It means so much to Gary and our family when we discover that people we have never met are praying for his strength and wisdom and for the work of FRC. There is nothing you could do that would be more encouraging to us than organizing friends at your church, school, neighborhood, or workplace to pray regularly.

Please take a moment and return the enclosed card if you would like to join me in this effort. We plan to use the best means possible to communicate with you when concerns or issues arise in Washington that need immediate prayer – or when Gary is under particularly heavy attack – so I am asking for your address and, if you have them, your fax number and e-mail address as well. If you know of others who you think will want to participate, send me their names and mailing instructions also. To participate, all you need to do is offer those "entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings" Paul asked of our first-century brothers and sisters in Christ.

The need to pray for our leaders and the issues before them is surely as great today as ever. That's why I'm recommending a resource my dear friend Shirley Dobson developed in her efforts as Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. If you would like a creative way to pray for and communicate with our country's leaders, you can order an "Adopt a Leader" Prayer Kit. *It includes a Prayer Journal, helpful reminders of your prayer commitment, and a series of colorful notecards you can send to the public figure you choose to adopt. These communications will let our leaders and their families know that they are being lifted up in prayer before our Heavenly Father. This is also an excellent family or group project.*

Finally, our family wants to thank you for what you do for Family Research Council and for the constant prayers you offer on our behalf. I want you to know that not a day passes that we do not feel in some real way the grace and strength for which friends like you are praying. Life in Washington can be a real challenge, but the knowledge of your interest, support and prayers makes it a challenge worth accepting.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Carol Bauer