

Millions of Students Pray at School Flagpoles

Teenagers across the U.S. and Canada prayed early Wednesday morning for their schools, families and communities.



[] Millions of students took part in the 19th annual See You at the Pole prayer events held on Wednesday throughout the U.S. and in several other nations.

The theme for students praying at this year's event centered on 1 Sam.

3:10—"Speak, for your servant is listening" (NIV). Organizers said students earnestly prayed early Wednesday morning for God to bring a moral and spiritual awakening to their campuses and nations.

Paul Fleischmann, president of San Diego-based National Network of Youth Ministries, which helps to coordinate the annual event, said each See You at the Pole gathering serves as a springboard for unity among teens. "Young people have taken unprecedented leadership through this to have a positive impact at their schools," he said.

See You at the Pole in Canada also was observed Wednesday morning. Its official Web site points out that the prayer event is not a demonstration, a political rally, "nor a stand for or against anything."

"This is all about students," the site states, "meeting at

their school
flagpole, or somewhere else if you don't have one, to pray for
their school,
friends, teachers, government and their country.”

Though pastors, parents and spiritual leaders seek to
emphasize the
apolitical and solely spiritual ambitions of See You at the
Pole’s student-led
prayer movement, activists concerned with a clear separation
of church and state
often pay close attention to adult involvement at the
flagpoles—especially area
pastors.

Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based Christian legal advocacy
group, offers
free legal services to students whose schools attempt to block
them from
participating in See You at the Pole events.

In addition to Canada, more than 20 nations take part in See
You at the
Pole rallies, including Guam, South Korea, Japan, Turkey,
Ivory Coast and
Australia. **-Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**