

Pompeo Opens Cabinet Meeting in a Surprising Way

In a move that served as a reminder to many people of faith that the U.S. is still a nation under God, President Donald Trump had his secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, open Thursday's Cabinet meeting with a word of prayer.

Pompeo, a former United States Army officer and devout Catholic, explained the prayer comes from a tiny handbook that's issued to every new Army cadet.

"O God, our Father, Thou Searcher of human hearts," he prayed. "Help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural."

"Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish," he continued. "Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life."

"Help us to maintain the honor of the United States untarnished and unsullied and to show forth in our lives the ideals of America in doing our duty to Thee and to our Nation. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men. Amen."

The news comes as the U.S. continues to fight back against religious persecution worldwide. The latest case—Turkey's ongoing detainment of American pastor Andrew Brunson.

On Wednesday, a Turkish court rejected an appeal for Brunson's release. The situation has put relations between the U.S. and its NATO ally on shaky ground.

"Great Friend and Master of men. Amen," he concluded. {eo}

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