

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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**Folder Title:** Reagan, Ronald – Religious Beliefs

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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## RONALD REAGAN'S RELIGION

Compiled by J. D. Carlson

Ronald Wilson Reagan, veteran film personality, two-term governor of California, and one of today's presidential aspirants, has also the distinction of being one of the ten most admired men in the United States.

Recently he was asked, "What does Jesus Christ mean to you?" He replied, "Christ has been a part of my life almost from the time I was born in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911. There was no great dramatic moment when I accepted Christ." Reagan confided, "I simply have grown up, thanks to my mother, with a deep and abiding faith."

Mr. Reagan added, "I am glad that prayer has always been a part of my life. I have my mother to thank for indoctrinating me with faith. As a result, I never drifted away from my belief in God, and my dependence on prayer."

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Upon Pastor Cunningham's return he will be glad to speak to your church about what he saw on his missionary journey. Please write to him and he will correspond with you about this possibility.

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"When I first became governor," continued Ronald Reagan, "a flood of problems began to descend. They were unusual problems, in that we came into this administration at a time of great stress for the state. Every day when I arrived at the office, it seemed someone was standing at my desk saying, 'We have a problem.'"

"In those first dark days, I developed an almost physical urge to turn and look over my shoulder, hoping there would be someone to whom I could turn for help in making my decisions.

"Perhaps there was a dramatic awakening . . . because, very simply, I realized I was looking in the wrong direction! I have been trying to look in the right direction ever since. Basically, my prayer is for strength, courage and wisdom: wisdom to know the right course, strength and courage to carry it out."

Ronald and Nancy Reagan are members and regular attenders of the Presbyterian church near their Pacific Palisades home. Their clergyman, Dr. Donn Moomaw, is the former UCLA football line-backer whose spiritual guidance has helped many Hollywood stars.

Mr. Reagan concluded the interview by saying, "I am convinced that one of the greatest needs in our country today is a return to faith, a belief in moral principles, and conduct based on our Judeo-Christian tradition."

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