“Treating others as you want to be treated. Requiring much from those who have been given so
much. Living by the principle that we are our brother’s keeper. Caring for the poor and those in
need. These values are old. They can be found in many denominations and many faiths, among
many believers and among many non-believers ... And they’re the ones that have defined my own
faith journey.

And today, with as many challenges as we face, these are the values I believe we’re going to have to
return to in the hopes that God will buttress our efforts.”

-President Barack Obama

President Obama is a committed Christian who understands the importance that faith
plays in the lives of millions of Americans—including his own—and he knows that
America needs a President who leads with values.

The President believes that we have to reclaim the security that too many families
have lost by restoring the basic values that made our country great and helped to
create the American middle class. America prospers when hard work pays off and
responsibility is rewarded; when everyone, from Main Street to Wall Street, does their
fair share and plays by the same rules.

President Obama’s belief that we are in this together—that, as Corinthians says, “if
one part suffers, every part suffers with it” and “if one part is honored, every part
rejoices with it”—has anchored him as he has worked tirelessly to lead with values:
basic economic security for everyone who is willing and able to work, including jobs
with a salary you can raise a family and save for retirement on, affordable health care
that’s there for you when you need it most, and opportunity through education.

Since his days as a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago, working with
a local ministry to lift up families and neighborhoods devastated by the closure of a
local steel plant, President Obama has recognized that faith and values are not only a
personal anchor, they are also a powerful force for the greater good.

ECONOMIC SECURITY for FAMILIES:

Economic Recovery

• President Obama knows that when the recession hurt our economy, it hurt families.
  His top priority has always been putting more Americans back to work and restoring
economic security for the middle class.

• Businesses have created more than 4 million new jobs in the last two and a half years,
  but we need to do more. The President won’t stop fighting until everyone who’s
  looking for work can find it. That’s why he continues to push for jobs initiatives that
could create up to a million new jobs, but that Congress left on the table last year.
President Obama stood with American workers and middle-class communities across the heartland, refusing to let our auto companies fail. He saved more than a million jobs, gave a lifeline to local businesses, and spared countless families the strain they would have endured without his decisive action.

**Tax Fairness**

President Obama believes our tax system should reflect our values, reward hard work and responsibility, and ask everyone to do their fair share. President Obama supports tax reform that reflects the common-sense idea that no one making over $1 million should pay a smaller share of income in taxes than middle class families pay.

- Over President Obama’s first term in office, the typical family has seen their taxes cut by $3,600.

**Wall Street Reform**

President Obama is holding Wall Street accountable, cracking down on abusive financial industry practices and protecting consumers so that American families will never again have to pay for Wall Street’s bad bets.

**Health Reform**

President Obama fought for health insurance reform so that no family will ever have to worry that their child will be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Obamacare means no family will ever have to worry about how to make ends meet once a loved one hits the lifetime cap on their coverage for a serious disease like cancer, and that no one will have to worry about going bankrupt because he or she got sick.

**Veterans and Military Families**

- As millions of our servicemen and women return home from war, we must continue fulfilling our duty to them and their families. President Obama is strongly committed to honoring our sacred trust with those who serve and protect our nation. He’s helping veterans find work when they return home, get the health care and benefits they earned, and afford a college education.

**MY BROTHER and SISTER’S KEEPER:**

**Leading with Values Abroad**

- **Iraq/Afghanistan:** President Obama opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning, and he kept his promise to responsibly end it as President. And he has a plan to bring our troops home from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

- **Foreign Aid:** President Obama believes America is and should always be a light to the world, not just because of our words, but because of our actions. Even as we work to rebuild our own country, President Obama made sure the United States works with faith-based and other NGOs to respond to natural disasters and hunger crises, empower women and girls, and combat child mortality.
• **Libya**: In Libya, President Obama built an international coalition to stop an advancing army, prevent a massacre, and free the Libyan people from Muammar Qaddafí’s oppressive regime. We did so by sharing responsibilities with our allies, and without putting American troops on the ground.

• **New START**: President Obama provided moral leadership when he negotiated and signed the New START treaty, which moves us one step closer to the goal envisioned by President Kennedy and renewed by President Obama in Prague: “the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”

• **Torture**: In his first week in office, he banned torture and closed secret CIA prisons, reversing policies that harmed our national security and moral authority in the world.

• **Kony/LRA**: President Obama dispatched U.S. military advisors to help Uganda and its neighbors pursue Joseph Kony as part of a regional strategy to end the scourge of the LRA that has seen countless lives lost and children stolen from their families.

**Education**

• President Obama understands that education is not a luxury, but a moral and economic imperative for our country. Education is essential to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

• Our responsibility to the next generation begins in our homes and communities—it’s family that first instills the love of learning in a child. But our schools share this responsibility. When a child walks into a classroom, it should be a place of high expectations and high performance. But too many schools don’t meet this test. That’s why instead of just pouring money into a system that’s not working, the Obama administration launched a competition called Race to the Top.

• President Obama believes turning around failing schools is a moral imperative, and that every child deserves a good education. His education reforms empowered 46 states to raise K-12 standards for our schools with no new federal mandates or federal dollars. Programs like “Race to the Top” and “Promise Neighborhoods” are encouraging local innovation and helping schools get the tools and resources they need to succeed.

• **Making College Affordable**: President Obama is helping students repay their federal loans more affordably. He ended subsidies for big banks and is using the savings to help more students afford college. He expanded Pell Grant scholarships to nearly 4 million more students while creating and extending a tax credit for college students and families worth up to $10,000 for four years of college to help them afford tuition.

• **Early Childhood**: President Obama expanded access to Head Start and Early Head Start to reach 64,000 more children and families. He also created the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge to help early learning educators improve their skills and raised standards for existing programs, making sure America’s children are better prepared for elementary school.
DREAM Act

• The Obama administration announced a policy to lift the shadow of deportation from young people who came to the United States as children and grew up as Americans. The President announced that young people who meet certain criteria, who are serving in the military or pursuing an education, can request temporary relief from deportation and apply for temporary authorization to work in this country.

• Only Congress can provide a permanent fix for these young people, but this is a step in the right direction. President Obama believes that immigration reform is a moral imperative, and will continue to push for a long-term solution as long as he is in office.

Poverty

• President Obama believes we have a responsibility to look out for those less fortunate than ourselves. Helping hardworking Americans succeed is part of what defines us as a nation.

• Unemployment Insurance: The recession caused many Americans to lose their jobs through no fault of their own. President Obama extended unemployment insurance for people looking for new jobs, preserving a vital economic lifeline for 17 million Americans by the end of 2010 and 7 million Americans in 2011.

• Health Insurance for Children: President Obama reauthorized the Children’s Health Insurance Program, which will help 4 million more American children who would otherwise be uninsured get health coverage.

• Head Start: The President has fought back against Republican budget cuts to critical programs like Head Start, so every child can achieve their potential. His Recovery Act investments helped 61,000 additional kids participate in Head Start’s early learning programs.

• Nutrition Aid: President Obama believes American families shouldn’t go hungry just because politicians would rather cut nutrition aid than close corporate tax loopholes. Nutrition aid helps millions of families keep food on the table and helped lift nearly 4.5 million Americans out of poverty in 2010.

• Affordable Housing: President Obama launched a $23.5 billion Housing Finance Agencies Initiative to help support low mortgage rates and expand resources for low-income borrowers who live in affordable housing. The program has helped to keep credit flowing to low-income families by financing 100,000 home purchases by first time homebuyers and creating or preserving of 24,000 affordable rental units—all at no expected cost to taxpayers.

• Social Security: President Obama has committed to strengthening Social Security without slashing benefits for seniors.
Equality, Dignity, and LGBT Rights

• President Obama believes all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. That’s why he spurred a national conversation on bullying, passed the first comprehensive hate crimes prevention legislation in our country’s history, and repealed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

Environment

• President Obama believes we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our planet and take care of the environment and resources God has given us. He’s making sure our children will always have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, and has set historic standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. He’s cutting down on mercury and toxic air pollution from power plants and is taking steps to protect those who live downwind from major polluters. These steps will prevent up to 46,000 premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and millions of missed school or work days each year.

FAITH, FAMILY and the COMMON GOOD:

Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

• The work of The Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships comes out of the President’s belief that faith and values are powerful forces for good in the world, and that the government should rely on and partner with these groups to serve the common good.

• The office has formed substantive partnerships with faith-based and nonprofit organizations around pressing issues such as hunger, poverty and unemployment, education, and international development.

• President Obama expanded the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, creating its first-ever advisory council composed of 25 diverse religious and nonprofit leaders who advise the President on how the federal government can better partner with faith-based organizations. More than 80% of its recommendations have been implemented.

• The President also created a new Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to work with faith-based and non-profit organizations on environmental issues.

Common Ground on Abortion

• President Obama has advanced common-ground policies that support women and families, strengthen adoption, and reduce unintended pregnancies. The President is pro-choice: he believes these decisions aren’t made lightly, and that they’re best made by women—not politicians. He knows that there are people of good faith on all sides of this issue, and believes we should continue to work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions.
• The President signed the Pregnancy Assistant Fund into law—a $250 million program that helps local organizations support pregnant women who are choosing to carry their pregnancies to term.

• The President has extended and increased the value of the Adoption Tax Credit and proposes making it permanent.

• President Obama has advanced policies to increase access to contraception for those who are sexually active.

• President Obama has fought to protect critical social safety net programs that support women and families.

Fatherhood

President Obama believes fathers play a vital role in the lives of their children. Both through his own example as a proud father of two daughters and through his Responsible Fatherhood Initiative, he has joined millions of Americans around the country to promote the importance of fatherhood in our families and communities. The President also increased funding for organizations that work with fathers to promote or sustain marriage, promote responsible fatherhood and foster economic stability.

Faith in Public Life

• President Obama started the new tradition of an Easter Prayer Breakfast, where he has spoken passionately about the role of his own Christian faith in his life and the role of faith in the lives of millions of Americans.

• He has also hosted events for individuals of many diverse faiths. He was the first President to mark Diwali and host a Passover Seder at the White House, and has continued the tradition of celebrating Ramadan at the White House.

For More Information, Visit FAITH.BARACKOBAMA.COM