

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

April 2011

Vol. 38, No.4

THE LORD'S PROMISES

David Kubal

As Joshua was finalizing all of the details of Israel's conquest of Canaan, we find a remarkable verse: "Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled" (Joshua 21:45). Every promise the Lord had

"So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it... Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."

—Joshua 21:43-45

made to the Israelites concerning captivity in Egypt, plagues, wandering in the wilderness, conquest, and the peaceful new land, etc. was fulfilled. Hundreds of years of history came to pass in perfect alignment with the Lord's will!

Almost as an exclamation point to His sovereign will, this chapter gives a special glimpse into God's heart for a nation. The Lord disperses his priests to serve the people in every part of the country. The Lord is very specific about which of the priestly clans were to go to each of the 48 "cities of refuge" listed in scripture. These priests would later set up synagogues and act as mediators and intercessors for God's people.

As the final ingredients of the Jewish nation, these safe havens were places of mercy and justice; mercy for the one who unintentionally killed a fellow Jew, and

justice for the family of the deceased. It is



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here that we find that not one of the Lord's "promises to Israel failed."

As we intercede for our country, we as the dispersed priests in the land must remember God's promises for our nation, praying that every one of them would be fulfilled.

Our lives as intercessors are evidence of His "special possession" (1 Peter 2:9-10) as we declare His praises and watch for unfolding answers. What a privilege to glimpse firsthand the Lord's heart to administer justice and mercy for His people here in America!

Do you think our Founding Fathers knew that they would set in motion a country that would send more missionaries and more relief dollars to foreign countries than any other nation in the history of the world? No. These men of prayer could not have known, but their conviction and obedience worked hand-in-hand with God's faithfulness to pave the way for far-reaching promise.

Ask our Lord, what is it that You still desire to accomplish? By faith, let's continue to intercede that our nation's leaders would not derail the Lord's promises for this country.

FIRST FRIDAY

April 1

PRAYER FOCUS

On the first Friday of the month we encourage all to fast and pray for our nation.

GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

Read and reflect upon Ephesians 1:15-19. Intercede for family members, for your pastor and area church leaders, and for city, state and national officials according to Eph. 1:15-19. Specifically ask that the Lord will reveal "the exceeding greatness of His power" and resurrection life toward them, and that He grant them grace to fully believe and faithfully follow Him.

GOD'S NAME

Prayerfully reflect upon the meaning of the Third Commandment. Repent of any irreverent, empty, frivolous or insincere use of the Lord's name, perhaps even in your prayer life. (See page 3.) Pray that the Lord impart a greater understanding and reverence for His Name in you, members of your family or household, your church, community, and across the nation.

CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES

Offer thanksgiving for the Lord's mercy, patience and forbearance toward us in the midst of much ingrained corruption. After sincerely asking the Lord to search your own heart, and after confessing and purposing to turn from any sin and iniquity He might point out, intercede that He continue to expose and cleanse corrupt practices in high places.

SEEK PEACE

Pray that the LORD would replace hearts of anger and bitterness with hearts of faith and trust. He has the ability to turn things meant for evil into good. "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it" (1 Pet 3:10-11).

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Specifically intercede that the Lord expose and reveal why, after massive expenditures of manpower and money for decades, the drug traffic into America has not diminished.

www.GetAmericaPraying.com

We offer this publication resource for a suggested donation of \$25 a year.



“The Prayer Business”

Interview by Nicole Arnoldbik with Arlene Miller

PROFILE SNAPSHOT

Intercessor: Arlene Miller

Location: Schellsburg, PA

Profession: Retired van driver

IFA member since: 2004

Meetings: Every First Friday, 7 PM

For 44 years Arlene Miller has been a part of what she calls “the prayer business.” She can hardly remember a time when prayer didn’t infuse structure or spontaneity into her day. “I think God gave prayer to me as a substitute for loneliness,” she says, explaining that her husband often worked late-night shifts and the empty house prompted her to turn silence into intercession. Using the alone-time to pray for the needs of family and friends, Miller’s conversations with the Lord began an irresistible calling.

“My mom once told me that I can do housework and pray,” she says, recalling how the seeds of intercession were first planted in her early childhood. Today Miller reveals that prayer tends to take her undivided attention. Often, the Lord wakes her in the middle of the night, quickening her spirit by impressing a person or a subject on her mind. Since October, the Lord has given her a greater burden for her church as she’s asked Him to grant the congregation a spirit of prayer.

“I really think God is intervening,” she

reports, “because our new pastor asked people to pray John 15 for the month of February, and the amount of people who went forward to pledge was astonishing!”

Miller’s heart for prayer extends beyond the walls of her own home and church as she carries her burden into the community. Since 2004, she attends a 7 PM First Friday meeting with three to six fellow intercessors to pray for the nation.

Now gathering at their church, the group originally met inside a township building and ran advertisements to invite the community. News continued to spread by word of mouth and by forwarding copies of IFA’s prayer letter and Church Pray! Sunday bulletins to anyone who might commit to intercession. Miller’s burden to mobilize prayer includes sending IFA materials to loved ones and acquaintances around the country and praying for each mailbox that

“I really think God is intervening,” she reports, “because our new pastor asked people to pray John 15 for the month of February, and the amount of people who went forward to pledge was astonishing!”

—Arlene Miller

receives a copy. “It’s in the Lord’s hands,” she says about her ongoing efforts, noting that it’s His decision how He will use her to engage others in persistent intercession.

Miller describes how the Lord has brought to mind specific Scripture verses for various branches of government and

issues highlighted in the monthly prayer letter. In October she prayed through the Lord’s Prayer for the Supreme Court: “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, in the Supreme Court as it is in heaven. . . .” Later in January, she was compelled to pray for Moms in Touch and the Mom’s Day of Prayer, sensing the ever-growing need to intercede for our nation’s families, mothers and young children.

Making a point to convert her prayers for the next generation into hands-on ministry, she invited each child in her second-grade Sunday school class to intercede with her. “I just feel that many kids aren’t hearing anybody take them before the Lord nowadays,” she says, concerned about the lack of demonstration at home. “I prayed for a close walk with God, for the children to grow in the love knowledge and baptism

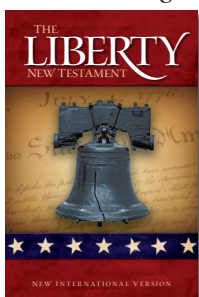
“I just feel that many kids aren’t hearing anybody take them before the Lord nowadays...”

of our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, for justification, reconciliation (because we need so much of it), and forgiveness. This is my outcry for each of them.” Periodically, she takes this outcry one step further, pulling into school parking lots to pray for the students and teachers in her district.

When asked what prayer tip she has to offer her fellow intercessors, Miller cited Ephesians 5:14, “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” She emphasized the need for Christians to be alert in prayer and to take this calling seriously, finishing with this challenge: “Don’t read about it. Don’t talk about it. Do it.”

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THE LIBERTY NEW TESTAMENT

A new resource offered by Intercessors for America!

This is one of the most pivotal times in the history of America. The Liberty New Testament is a perfect resource and opportunity to encourage your people to pray for our nation. Paperback, \$4.99 each plus shipping. See our ordering information on page 4.

LET US PRAY

Watchman Nee

The power and effectiveness of prayer lies not in how much we pray, but in how much our prayers are in accordance with “the principle of prayer.”

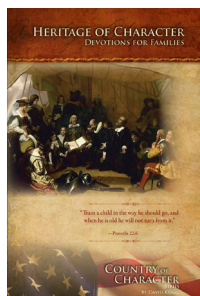
The foremost question to be asked is, Why pray? What is the use of praying?

Is not God omniscient as well as omnipotent? Why must He wait till we pray before He commences to work? Being almighty, why does God not work directly? Why is it that only those who ask are given, only those who seek find, and only those who knock enter in? (Matthew 7:7) Why does God say: “Ye have not, because ye ask not?” (James 4:2)

We know God never does anything against His own will. If opening doors is God’s will, why should He wait until we knock before He opens? Being omniscient, God knows we need to have doors opened; why then, must He wait for our knocking before He opens? What advantage does our knocking give to God?

“The foremost question to be asked is, Why pray? What is the use of praying?”

Yet we must further ask these questions: Since God’s will is to open the door and since opening the door is in accord with righteousness, will God nevertheless open the door if we do not knock? Or would He rather have His will and righteousness delayed without accomplishment in order to wait for our prayers? Will He really allow His will of opening doors to be restrained by our not knocking? If so, will not the will of God be limited by us?



LEGACY OF CHARACTER

Devotions for Families
David Kubal

This historical eight-week Bible study will bring to light incredible stories of character displayed by this country’s founding fathers. This is a perfect resource for small groups, Sunday School classes, etc. Enjoy this resource as you rediscover our “Country of Character.” Paperback, \$7.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

—Matthew 7: 7-12

Is God really almighty? If He is almighty, why can He not open the door all by Himself—why instead must He wait till we knock? Is God really able to accomplish His own will? But if He truly is able, then why is His opening of doors (God’s will) governed by our knocking (man’s prayer)?

By asking all these questions we come to realize that prayer is a great mystery. For here we see a principle of God’s working, which is, that God’s people must pray before God Himself will rise up and work. His will is only to be realized through the prayers of those who belong to Him: the prayers of the believers are to accomplish His will. God will not fulfill His will alone—He will perform only after His people show their sympathy in prayers.



LET US PRAY

Watchman Nee

What is prayer? Are we really praying when we pray? Do we know the power of prayer? These matters and others must be understood if we would have a real prayer life and be effective in prayer. In this little volume of collected messages given over a long period of ministry by the author, Watchman Nee shares his personal lessons on prayer. Paperback, \$3.99 each plus shipping. See our ordering information on page 4.

Prayer is no other than an act of the believer working together with God. Prayer is the union of the believer’s heart and thought with the will of God. The effective prayer which a believer utters on earth is but the voicing of the Lord’s will in heaven.

Prayer does not alter that which God has determined. It never changes anything; it merely achieves what God has already foreordained. Prayerlessness, though, does effect a change, because God will let many of His resolutions go suspended due to the lack from His people of prayerful cooperation with Him.

A servant of the Lord has well said: Prayer is the rail for God’s work. Indeed, prayer is to God’s will as rails are to a train. The locomotive is full of power: it is capable of running a thousand miles a day. But if there are no rails, it cannot move forward a single inch. It may be able to travel over great distances, yet it cannot go to any place where no rails have been laid.

“Indeed, prayer is to God’s will as rails are to a train.”

Such is the relation between prayer and God’s work. Hence, our work is to prepare the way of the Lord through prayer.

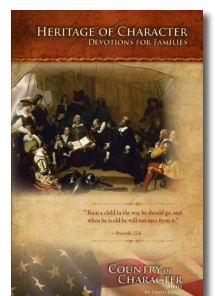
Oh let us see that prayer in sympathy with God is more vital than any other thing! May we pray through in all directions—so that God’s will may prosper at all points!

—The above was excerpted from the book, “Let Us Pray” by Watchman Nee, Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc., and re-published from IEA’s May 1990 Prayer Letter.

HERITAGE OF CHARACTER

Devotions for Families
David Kubal

David Kubal, President and CEO of Intercessors for America, wrote this eight-week family devotional to encourage parents and children to pray for our nation. Blending stories from American history with lessons found in Scripture, this study guide offers a unique context to inspire and nurture young readers. Paperback, \$7.99 each plus shipping. See our ordering information on page 4.



SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY TO APRIL 17

Forty Days to Palm Sunday | www.waymakers.org

40 DAYS FOR LIFE THROUGH APRIL 17

Prayer outreach in 247 cities | www.40daysforlife.com

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 5

★ Joni Eareckson Tada, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center, has been named 2011 Honorary National Task Force Chairman. "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is this year's theme, drawn from Psalm 91:2. Intercessors are signing the petition to "save the NDOP" after U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb ruled that the statute serves no secular purpose. To sign the petition, plan events for the 60th observance, or participate in your area, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

JUST PRAY NO TO DRUGS APRIL 30-MAY 1

★ Uniting Christians around the world in intercessory prayer for the addicted and their families, "Just Pray No! Ltd." recognizes that substance abuse is one of America's greatest health problems and generates a tremendous source of income for organized crime and terrorist activities. This year's global anti-drug abuse day of prayer includes intercession for those in bondage to pornography, obesity and gambling. www.justprayno.org

FOOD PRICES AT DANGEROUS LEVELS

World food prices peaked in January, and the UN food agency predicts that the trend is unlikely to let up before summer. Experts report that prices will continue to rise, potentially causing turmoil in hard-hit countries. Food prices have increased substantially in Central Asia, and unrest in the Middle East is already aggravated in part by rising costs, says World Bank President Robert Zoellick. Experts cite financial speculation, bad weather, increased oil prices, export restrictions, unrest, and a growing demand for biofuels as the reasons for soaring prices. Global aid agency Oxfam reports that 50 to 80 percent of a person's income in a developing country is spent on food, so the outcome of higher prices would cause serious risk for poor communities. Oxfam is challenging governments in at-risk areas to start programs to support and invest in small-scale agriculture. Zoellick predicts that "given the poverty levels ... there is a real stress point that could have social and political implications." (AN 3/2011)

UNITED STATES OF CHRIST

★ Representatives from all 50 states have scheduled a national conference call "to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord over the entire nation." To join the call to corporate prayer, dial 712-432-0075 (access code: 397367#) on April 18 at 9 PM EDT. (USC 4/2011)

In America Today...



STUDENT BATTLES CREATIONISTS

Zachary Kopplin, a senior at Baton Rouge Magnet High School, is working with state Sen. Karen Carter Peterson (D-New Orleans) to gain support to repeal the 2008 Louisiana Science Education Act (LSEA) signed by Governor Bobby Jindal. The 2008 Act allows school boards to approve supplemental classroom materials that critique scientific theories such as evolution, the origins of life, global warming, and human cloning. Under the LSEA, teachers, principals and school administrators are encouraged to promote "critical thinking skills, logical analysis, and open and objective discussion."

However, Kopplin argues that the law is "embarrassing," undermining the integrity of sound science education and hindering students' preparation for success in the global economy. He plans to team with Sen. Karen Carter Peterson this month to influence the Louisiana state legislature to reverse the Act and endorse life science textbooks that teach "real science." Kopplin's supporters and church-state separation proponents are praising his battle against the Louisiana Family Forum, (an affiliate of Focus on the Family and an advocate of Intelligent Design), viewing him as an underdog against the "Religious Right." Jindal has been accused of enacting a law that subjects school boards to costly, unproductive litigation defended at taxpayers' expense. (AU 2/2011)

U.S. INDUSTRIAL STATUS NEAR CRISIS?

The U.S. intelligence community believes U.S. manufacturing has reached such a state of decline that it warrants a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to evaluate security implications. Since intelligence estimates are typically reserved for the most serious threats, the fact that this analysis is a work-in-progress signals that America's industrial status is nearing crisis. According to Forbes.com, an average of 50,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost each month since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. Not only is the dependability of America's military industrial base in question, but key products like steel, rebar and antibiotics are endangered. (F 2/2011)

REVIVAL AT BETHEL COLLEGE

★ A chapel service at Bethel College in Mishawaka, IN ignited revival when Jeff Kling, a 1980s Bethel alumnus, shared how God miraculously healed him of stage 4 cancer. Above and beyond what any of the faculty expected and prayed, the service resulted in 7.5 hours of worship, Scripture reading, confession, repentance, testimonies and conversion. Repentance continued in residence halls across campus, and a pastor from Peoria, IL called the faculty later to say that his church had been praying for revival at Bethel at the exact time the service occurred. The college is now forming discipleship groups to facilitate the work of God across campus and around the nation. (ECM 2/2011)

NEW 1099 TAX LAW BURDENSOME

Tax pros warn that tax evasion could increase if the health-reform bill's new 1099 stipulation is implemented next year. More instances of under the table, all-cash transactions are likely to take place in small businesses trying to avoid the 1099 reporting requirement and its countless provisions. With tax revenue considered more crucial than ever, this spells trouble for the Internal Revenue Service, especially as Medicare and Social Security are in jeopardy and more states depend on federal funding to meet their budgets. "The new reporting burden, particularly as it falls on small businesses, may turn out to be disproportionate," says Nina Olson, the IRS Taxpayer Advocate (TAO). (FX 2011)

CREATION CARE PRAYER DAY MAY 20

Nationwide Day of Prayer | www.creationcare.org

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER JUNE 12

Unite with millions worldwide. | www.gdopusa.org

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point.

Publication index: AN=AlertNet; AU=www.americansunited.org;

ECM=www.exploringcollegeministry.com; F=Forbes Magazine; FX=Fox News; USC=www.unitedstatesofchrist.net

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Setting the Record Straight by Eliyahu Ben-Haim – The question of Israel's legitimacy as a nation in the family of nations is an issue that is being raised more frequently every day and even in the Church. In many circles, present day Israel as a fulfillment of God's prophetic word is denied as a false interpretation of Scripture. This is a battle that is not going away, but to the contrary, is increasing in intensity. These questions and negative attitudes toward Israel's legitimacy as a nation need answers. This book provides a historical, legal, and scriptural response. 36 pages, \$7.00 + \$3.50 shipping. See ordering information above.



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A higher purpose.

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"I have set watchmen on your walls.... They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest ... till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." —Isaiah 62:6-7 NKJ