

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

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A SEASON FOR REAL CHANGE

David Kubal

Today's Americans are not the first to cry out for change, or to welcome a radical shift in focus. Discontentment is at our core, currently woven into the very fabric of who we are as a nation, and echoing the sentiments that first brought pilgrims to these shores. Our disenchantment with the abuse of power, and our restlessness with cultural decadence are simply symptoms of national discontent—a desire for something more; a longing for higher standards and true meaning.

This is nothing new. We have been down this road before.

Take America's celebration of Christmas, one of our nation's more surprising examples of cultural change. A few hundred years ago, the Puritans were so disturbed by materialistic practices influencing the Christmas traditions of their time—the blatant celebration of excess, the distortion of biblical truth—that they demanded reform. They expressed their discontentment with the course of their culture and chose to steer their communities on a different path, even outlawing the celebration in Boston to help restore godly conduct and perspective. The change took place gradually, and it wasn't until 1870 that Christmas

became a federal holiday—a turning point that marked a long journey toward family-oriented traditions and a heightened reverence for Christ and His birth.

Only 140 years later, we are drifting in our focus once again. Cultural and political distortions overwhelm us on all sides. As we consider how to intercede for our nation today, with all of its potential for change and transformation, our prayer must be that any renewed discontentment would drive us to embrace an attitude of reverence for God. Without this as our foundation, real change will never come. Regardless of who was just elected or which party is in control, we must intercede that an attitude of reverence and humility would affect everything from personal behavior to federal law.

May the Church fall upon her knees and cry out to God for mercy, that we would be known as a country with restored reverence for Christ, who is both our Cause and our Celebration. What a true gift of change this would bring!

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility” (Proverbs 15:33).

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FIRST FRIDAY December 3 PRAYER FOCUS

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

BLESSING OTHERS

“I was a stranger.... I was sick.... I was in prison and you visited me” (Mt 25:35-36). Pray that the Lord will reveal Himself, comfort, provide for, and grant Christmas grace, visitors, greetings, and gifts to all families suffering special needs, and/or separation from loved ones. Pray about whom the Lord would have you visit or bless.

DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

Offer thanksgiving for another round of free and open mid-term elections, for protection from terrorist attacks, and for the incredible liberty, blessing, and prosperity we still enjoy. Intercede for the reconciling of political animosity, and healing of divisions in the body of Christ, and across the nation. Pray for working harmony among believers, for bipartisanship in local, state, and national governments, and for domestic tranquility across the USA.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS 112TH CONGRESS

Affirm the Lordship of Christ over all elected, and appointed officials, their advisors, staff, and associates (Ps 2:1-6). Intercede for the hiring, and placement of godly, moral, and wise men, and women into all staff, and advisory positions. Pray that security clearance procedures be followed. Pray that all elected officials be shielded from bribery, the occult, and immoral influences. Intercede for your present, and any newly elected U.S. Senators and Representative (whether or not they were your first choice). Pray that the Lord grant them wisdom, and guide them in the closing days of the 111th Congress. Intercede that all involved in formulating policy toward Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the global war on terrorism receive wisdom and divine guidance in decision making. Pray for any who are first-term members of either chamber. Intercede that no partisan “root of bitterness” (Heb 12:11-15) from the mid-term elections be permitted to spring up and trouble deliberations, or deter legislative progress when the new 112th Congress convenes in early January.

www.GetAmericaPraying.com



Mobilized Prayer Transforms

John Peters

History tells us that God always causes an individual or remnant to seek Him to transform His people. Prayer movements have preceded every awakening in Church history, and I believe we are at the dawn of another awakening. It could be the last awakening to sweep the nations of the earth. I hear the Lord asking us the question He asked Prophet Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones: “Son of man can these bones live?”

Like wildfire, a corporate lifestyle of disciplined prayer emerged, coupled with a deep desire to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the country.

We all know it's time for America to get back to her foundation built upon the Lord and His Word. God is moving all across the globe in Africa, China and Asia, and His desire is to visit us here once again—provided that God's people mobilize a praying remnant.

Let me encourage you with a story of unified prayer in India. Anti secular political party was in power during the beginning of this millennium. These political leaders were notorious for their anti-Christian sentiments and turned a blind eye to many atrocities against Christians. An anti-conversion law prohibited evangelism and baptisms, and Hindu

fundamentalists persecuted Christians in every state.

Filled with desperation, Indian Christians began to unite in prayer and look to Jesus for deliverance. Like wildfire, a corporate lifestyle of disciplined prayer emerged, coupled with a deep desire to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the country. The National Prayer Network of India (NPN) became a catalyst for mobilization, encouraging four million Christians to accept the call to action by praying for the 2004 national election. Every method of prayer—fasting, prayer chains, prayer walks, all-night prayer rallies, etc.—could be seen in homes and around local offices, party headquarters and polling centers, all with the purpose of removing anti-Christian leaders from power.

God heard the persistent outcry and responded in unimaginable ways. A minority party not affiliated with fundamentalist Hinduism won India's 2004 election, paving the way for further testimonies of answered prayer. In a prominent city of southern India, with over one million people and 3,000 Hindu shrines, Christians were so encouraged by God's hand at work that



they initiated 365 days of prayer in February 2005 and declared August 2006 to be a “Month of Prayer.” Groups of believers took turns sponsoring a day of prayer and divided the city into 35 strategic prayer sections, interceding for transformation. By God's grace, the government destroyed 1,600 Hindu shrines over the next few months—all because a simple traffic study found that roadside shrines were illogically placed and disrupted the flow of travel.

“The Lord is calling America to awaken from slumber and pray that the course of our nation would change. At this urgent hour the future of America is in the posture of the American church: clothed in sackcloth, hands lifted in worship, knees bent in surrender and crying with one united voice in a language God understand, tears.”

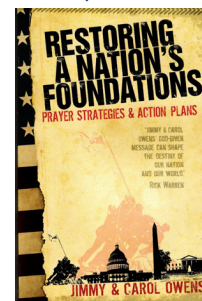
The Lord is calling America to awaken from slumber and pray that the course of our nation would change. At this urgent hour the future of America is in the posture of the American church: clothed in sackcloth, hands lifted in worship, knees bent in surrender and crying with one united voice in a language God understand, tears. Will you join this remnant to pray? There is Hope for our future. God is looking for one man. Let us respond by saying, “Here I am, Lord, send me to my knees. Be it unto me according to Your Word.”

—John Peters is a member of the National Prayer Network of India.

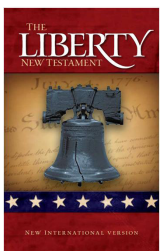
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“THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CHRIST”

Christian Overman

“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”—Revelation 11:15

The Greek view of origins and history was non-absolutist and relative enough to give credence to notions of chaos with no view of final judgment by a Sovereign, the biblical-Hebraic concept of history is linear, presenting the Messiah as creator, consummator, and judge of both human history and creation itself (Gen. 3:15, Rev. 4:8-11).

By virtue of God’s creating and sustaining act, the whole earth and all its contents are His (Ps. 24:1). Though human beings may deny His existence, or even curse Him daily, He still sustains their very breath. Apart from His mercy, they would simply not exist. He is Lord of all, whether man acknowledges Him as such or not. By creation, all men are His handiwork. Though not all are His by the second birth, they all remain His by the first.

All that man puts his hand to belongs to God, whether for good or evil. To understand this we must examine Genesis 3, where we read about the fall of man and the entrance of sin into God’s good creation. As a result of the fall, man now lives in an abnormal and distorted world. Things are not the way God originally made them to be. Autonomous man has gone his own way and taken God’s creation with him. God’s good work has been abused, exploited and misused. As a result of man’s rebellion, the earth and all it contains has suffered since the day of the first sin.

Since the first temptation of man, the earth itself and all it contains have been contested ground. There is an enemy who has come to lay claim to what is God’s. Satan has sought since the beginning of man’s history to usurp the Lord’s authority, drawing men away from the Creator, trying his utmost to tear down and destroy all that God has established and ordained. He is decried in Scripture as the one who “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). He has done such an effective job of de-

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.” —Isaiah 9:6

ception that Christians actually believe the earth is indeed his. In reality Satan has never created anything during his existence. He has only twisted and perverted what God has made.

While he is the great usurper, a squatter on God’s land, his efforts and effects are nonetheless real. Man lives in a world of both light and darkness, in the midst of two kingdoms at war. While the one kingdom is of heaven and the other is of earth, both are yet on earth simultaneously. For the time being, both wheat and tares are growing in the same field. Jesus spoke plainly to this matter in the parable of Matthew 13.

In that chapter, we see that the boundaries of God’s Kingdom are as broad as the world is wide. While out of His soil has sprouted worthless fruit, planted by the evil one, the wheat must not despair. They see so many weeds about them that they forget the field itself is God’s. Feeling outnumbered and overwhelmed, many retreat and focus attention upon an inner world of “spiritual life,” leaving the “other” world for an enemy to control. Not only have the tares told the wheat that they have no rightful place in the field, but the wheat has believed it.

Harmlessly building bigger churches in a religious corner of the field, the people of God have often accepted the words to one of their songs: “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through. My treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.” Many forget that right now the world is our home, and God has specific directives for us while we are in it.

How we respond to His orders to “occupy” has eternal significance. By removing ourselves from righteous stewardship over many “secular” areas of life, Christians have unwittingly given these areas over to the ungodly by default. Yet the

Lord is calling the redeemed to take up the rod of rulership given to man in Genesis 1, and administer His all-inclusive Kingdom as joint heirs with Christ, under God. The cultural mandate of Genesis 1:28 to rule over creation in response to God’s call to subdue the earth and all it contains is still in effect. It has not been revoked.

Because of the dominance of dualistic, sacred/secular thinking among Christians, a truly effective application of biblical thought and practice to the whole of our culture has been short-circuited. It is not as though sincere Christians are off living in secluded monasteries, spending their lives in prayer and pious isolation. Very few do, nowadays. The problem is that the salt has lost its savor.

The task of learning to “think Christianly” about politics, economics, law, medicine, science, media and the arts is the great challenge of the Church today. We can no longer afford to privatize our Christianity or limit our understanding of God’s Kingdom to the local church or to the world beyond the grave.

To reclaim what has been lost will necessitate obedience to God’s Word in all parts of life and culture. Every aspect of God’s all-inclusive Kingdom must be brought back as much as possible into line with the standards of the King.

This means installing judges who will judge from biblical standards, raising up economists who will manage money biblically, teachers who will teach biblically, governors who will govern biblically, farmers who will farm biblically and parents who will parent biblically. It will necessitate the establishment of knowledgeable, God-fearing leadership in every field. And for any fields the people of God were never leaders in, they need to become leaders. They must infiltrate every corner of society and culture with the light of Christ and His Word. This is what it means to “occupy until He comes.

—Dr. Christian Overman is the author of *Assumptions that Affect Our Lives*. This article is a reprint from an December, 1990 IEA publication.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUNDAY, JAN 16

★ Religious Freedom Sunday, January 16 is a national event calling churches to honor educators within their congregations and inform their congregations about the freedom of religious expression students have at public schools and campuses. The day marks the passage of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom in 1786, considered one of Thomas Jefferson's greatest achievements. For more information and to find out how you can participate, visit www.religious-freedomsunday.com.

MOM'S DAY OF PRAYER, JAN 16

★ A worldwide movement to mobilize mothers in prayer for their children began in 1998, inspired by an article about a group of mothers uniting for prayer in Brazil. Every third Sunday in January is dedicated to this God-given vision, providing a framework for women to cry out together for the lives of our nation's children and release a rich inheritance for the next generation. Visit www.momsdayofprayer.com.

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY, JAN 23

★ Care Net (care-net.org), Focus on the Family (family.org), Lutherans for Life (lutheransforlife.org) and other groups are calling on churches to observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS), a day to celebrate the value of all human life.

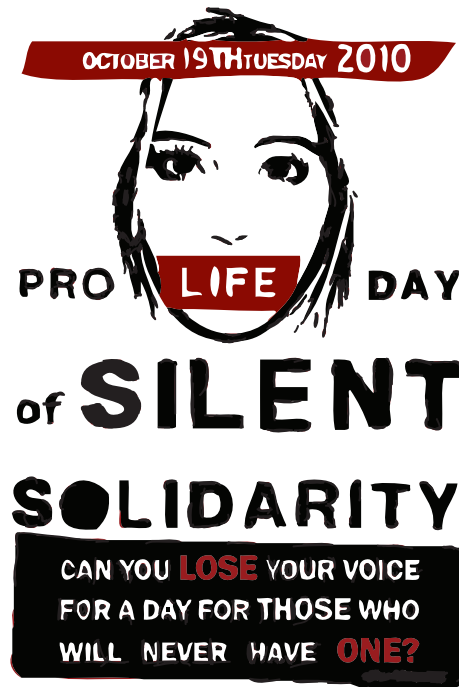
38TH MARCH FOR LIFE, JAN 24

★ WASHINGTON, DC – The 38th annual March for Life will rally at noon on Jan. 24 at the Mall in Washington, DC. More than 54 million pre-born humans have been killed through abortion since the Roe vs. Wade decision on Jan. 22, 1973. As this year's anniversary date falls on a weekend—a time when lawmakers are typically away from Washington—the rally will be held on Monday to make sure marchers have an opportunity to visit with their Congressional delegations and press their pro-life message. For details on the rally, visit www.marchforlife.org.

3,300+ BABIES SAVED FROM ABORTION

★ Fredericksburg, VA – The fall September 22 – October 31 “40 Days for Life” campaign organizers reported that 581 babies were saved during this vigil of prayer. Since the first coordinated campaign three years ago, at least 3,352 babies have been spared from abortion. Visit www.40daysforlife.com to read the blog and learn how to get involved.

In America Today...



UPDATE: STUDENTS PROMOTE LIFE

★ Students around the world participated in a day of silence on Tuesday, Oct. 19 to remember the millions of children aborted every year. Many students wore red duct tape over their mouths with the word “LIFE” written across it, while others marked the day with t-shirts, armbands, fliers, and information booths.

Over 3,700 schools registered for the sixth annual Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity, according to the website silentday.org. The website tells stories of students facing harassment from their peers as well as opposition from teachers and administrators in years past. The Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian organization of lawyers, committed to defending students who participated in the day, reminding youth that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling 40 years ago protects freedom of speech in the classroom.

Pro-Life Day began in 2004 and is sponsored by Stand True Ministries. Last year, according to the website, students from more than 4,800 campuses in 25 countries participated. TCP 10/19/10

GAS FIELD STIRS WATERS IN MIDEAST

★ Israel began drilling the Leviathan natural gas and oil field last October, the deepest well ever drilled off the nation's coast. The project is expected to last until March and, if successful, will significantly boost Israel's energy independence, providing domestic insurance, and the option to export gas. With limited data about the conditions that exist at target depths, the project has a 50% geological chance of success.

Another recent survey indicates 26 million barrels of recoverable oil worth \$2 billion lie underneath the Western Negev, near Gaza, with potentially 12 million barrels of recoverable oil further down. American-based Noble Energy is part of the Leviathan consortium and also operates Israel's Tamar gas field—struck last year—which may hold enough gas to supply Israel for decades.

The maritime boundary between Israel and Lebanon has never been settled, and Leviathan's success could fuel a full-scale war between Israel and Lebanon. Already, Hezbollah claims the field belongs to Lebanon, and vows to defend natural resources with its arsenal of rockets. Environmentalists fear that conflict could trigger a catastrophe in the Mediterranean similar to BP's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. FN 7/27/10, AS 10/20/10, OJG 10/19/10

HOMEGROWN TERROR PREVENTED

★ Manhattan, NY – A federal court jury convicted four men for scheming to fire heat-seeking missiles at military transport planes and bomb a Bronx synagogue and Jewish community center. Arrested in May 2009, the men were caught after collaborating for 11 months with Shahed Hussain, an F.B.I. informer posing as a member of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad. The defendants will be sentenced on March 24. NYT 10/18/10

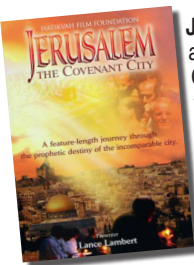
PLOT CONFIRMED U.S. SUSPICIONS

Washington, DC – As counterterrorism assistance more than doubled this past year, the State Department and Department of Homeland Security are on the brink of starting a new program to improve aviation and maritime security between the U.S. and Yemen. October's thwarted terrorist plot to send bombs on U.S. bound cargo planes confirmed U.S. resolve to expand intelligence operations in Yemen, a country especially susceptible to Al Qaeda operating with impunity. CNN 11/2/10

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point. News; FN=FoxNews; OJ=Oil & Gas Journal; NYT=New York Times; TCP=The Christian Post

Publication index: AS=Arutz Sheva News; CNN=CNN

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JERUSALEM: THE COVENANT CITY by Lance Lambert / Hugh Kitson – Why do world leaders wage war for the Temple Mount and rage over “the final status” of Jerusalem? Part 1 of “Jerusalem: The Covenant City” traces the prophetic history of the Holy City. Part 2 explores what the Bible has to say about Jerusalem's present and future destiny. We discover that as we move into the third millennium of the Christian era, the destiny of the whole world hinges upon the destiny of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. This 108-minute documentary will bring you a memorable message of challenge and hope. \$15.95 + \$3.50 shipping.

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