

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

February 2011

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A TOUCH FROM THE LORD

David Kubal

It was a moment of great victory. Elijah had just stood on Mount Carmel with 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah, watching God rain down fire in what had to be an incredibly dramatic fashion. He then prayed seven times and saw a cloud the size of a man's hand break a three year drought. Afterwards, he tucked his cloak into his belt and ran with superhuman strength fast enough to overtake Ahab's horses.

What a day! And yet with Elijah's impossible victories in 1 Kings 18, the next chapter reveals that he sat down under a broom tree and asked God to kill him. Depressed, exhausted, and intimidated by how his exploits might backfire in the face of his enemies, he prayed twice: "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (vs. 10, 14).

The Lord is so good, dispatching an angel that "comes at once" to touch Eli-

"But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD's prophets.... And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!"

Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today." —1 Kings 18:12b-15

After this encounter, Elijah travels non-stop for 40 days and nights. His journey into the wilderness culminates when the word of the Lord comes to Elijah who obeys with fully strengthened zeal. The Lord patiently rejuvenates Elijah's resilience and calling.

As intercessors, we can learn from Elijah's life that there is often an attack at the point of great victory. It could be a personal attack. It may even drive us to the point where we don't want to live. It's at those times that we can ask the Lord to meet us, touch us, and nourish our bodies. Then we will be able to continue to ask the Lord to restore His morals in our country, energize His Church, and raise up those who will speak for Him.



GET AMERICA PRAYING MOBILIZATION KIT

Find out how you can more effectively encourage others to start fasting and praying for America. Our Mobilization Kit will show you the way with easy, short training segments and practical ideas. \$29.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

FIRST FRIDAY

February 4

PRAYER FOCUS

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

EVANGELISTS

Offer thanksgiving and intercede for evangelists who are working faithfully to preach the Gospel. (See page 3.) Offer thanksgiving and intercede for the evangelists working in outreach teams in U.S. correctional facilities. Intercede that the Lord Jesus will call, equip, anoint, release, protect, and sustain a holy "multitude" of New Testament evangelists across the U.S., in our inhabited U.S. Territories, and in Washington, DC. (Acts 10:34-43; Rom 10:13-15; Eph 4:11-12).

RECONCILIATION

"He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). Offer thanksgiving for the wondrous God-created diversity in the human family. Pray that the Body of Christ will take a lead in demonstrating racial equality, reconciliation and working harmony to the world. Ask God to bless, prosper, and grant leadership positions to people of color. Agree with the high priestly prayer of Jesus that all true believers might reconcile and be "one" (Jn 17:20-23). The "ministry" and the "word" of reconciliation has been committed to the Church (2 Cor 5:18-20). Intercede that all believers be willing to effectively function as "ambassadors for Christ" and "ministers of reconciliation" in word and deed.

STREET AND DRUG GANGS

Intercede for all law enforcement and public officials wrestling with the growing threat from gangs across the U.S. Intercede that the Father draw, reveal Jesus, redeem, deliver, and disciple key gang leaders and members in your area and state, and across the nation. Pray He anoint and send "servants" to reach and "set the captives free" (Is 42:7, 61:1-3; Mt 9:38; 1 Cor 6:11).

U.S. MILITARY

Intercede for the Top U.S. Military Leaders, for the protection and salvation of all U.S. Armed Forces stationed around the world, for U.S. Military Chaplains and for all support personnel.

www.GetAmericaPraying.com



Community Prayer in Action

Interview with Cary Wiik by Nicole Arnoldbik

“Since we’ve started praying, we’ve seen dramatic changes,” says Cary Wiik, a retired business contractor, who meets weekly with up to ten intercessors in his hometown, Ashland, WI.

Connected with Intercessors for America since the 1980s, Wiik says the ministry has been a real mainstay in his understanding of judicial and administrative issues in Washington, DC, supplementing his passion for community politics. Once, he even raced home from over 200 miles away just to make it in time for Tuesday prayer, where his group covers everything from local to national issues and building the Kingdom of God.

“Our main thrust is community,” he says. “Everything from Minot, ND to Sault Ste Marie, MI, including everything above Highway 8 in Wisconsin—this is our geographic prayer target.”

And the gatherings at the library aren’t his only weekly prayer commitment. He also attends city council meetings solely to intercede behind the scenes as the members work. His philosophy for community prayer groups: “It’s not about the numbers. I’d rather have four or five who have absolutely one heart, rather than emphasize numbers.”

When asked about one of his group’s greatest highlights in answer

to prayer, Wiik tells a remarkable story about anointing the mayor of Ashland.

It happened on a Tuesday last April, Wiik recalls, describing how he invited Mayor Bill Whalen to their meeting specifically to commission him for service. The group gathered around the leader and blessed him through prayer—a gesture that Whalen still talks about to this day, careful to point out the afternoon’s significance for his political career. Even now, Whalen calls or sends his prayer concerns to Wiik every Tuesday at noon so the group can intercede for strategic prayer points for the city’s leadership.

“It’s not about the numbers. I’d rather have four or five who have absolutely one heart...” —Cary Wiik

“Little by little, we got a greater burden and responsibility to pray for him,” says Wiik, realizing how the event expanded their vision of God’s work within local government. He emphasizes, “It was really a ‘God thing.’”

Tracing his history with Whalen back three years, Wiik is amazed to see how God orchestrated the opportunity to minister from the very start. In fact, over a cup of coffee one morning, it was Wiik who encouraged Whalen to run for mayor. Whalen dismissed the idea at first, feeling too hurt by a previous controversy over his position as city treasurer. But Wiik couldn’t shake the idea, and he began to earnestly

pray in private for God to reveal His will.

Sure enough, as Wiik tells it, “One morning, God grabbed [Whalen] by the scruff of the neck, stood him upright and told him, ‘You’re running.’”

The campaign set in motion a chain of God-given events that continue to this hour, largely fueled by weekly prayer support at the local library. Like any political undertaking, the road has been uphill for Mayor Whalen. But that’s why Wiik and one or two other intercessors have devoted themselves to pray in the Spirit at every city council meeting, watching with enthusiasm as prayers visibly take effect.

Wiik joyfully summarizes the ongoing blessings resulting from intercession:

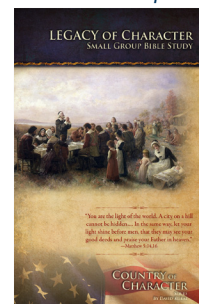
“[Whalen] has gotten excited about God running our city. God has given him real favor and the gift of a peacemaker. It’s been absolutely amazing to see how barbs have not stuck. He is totally free and he releases people. He tells others, ‘I’ve been praying for you,’ and he says it with no bitterness. God spoke to my heart that all of this is because we are praying for him.”

Wiik continues to brainstorm for more prayer opportunities for the future, saying, “We found out that our fire chief and new sheriff are believers. I’m looking forward to buying them lunch to see how we can be of support to them.”

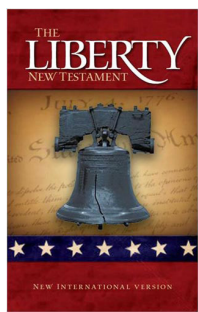
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THE SURPRISING WORK OF GOD – Part 1

In the latter part of December 1734, the Spirit of God began to set in extraordinarily and to work wonderfully among us. Licentiousness was prevailing among the youth of the town; many of them were very much addicted to walking the streets at night with evil intentions, to frequenting taverns, and to lewd practices. Some, by their example, exceedingly corrupted others. It was frequently their manner to get together for mirth and frivolity in meetings of both sexes, which they called frolics; and they would often spend the greater part of the night in them, without regard to any order in the families they belonged to.

Then, very suddenly, one after another, five or six people were miraculously converted. I was particularly surprised by the story of a young woman who had been one of the greatest company-keepers in the whole town. When she came to speak with me, I had never heard that she was serious about anything. Yet, by the conversation I then had with her, it appeared to me that what she gave an account of was a glorious work of God's infinite power and sovereign grace.

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She told me that God had given her a new heart, truly broken and sanctified. I could not then doubt it, and I have seen much in my acquaintance with her since to confirm it. Though the work in this woman's life was glorious, I was filled with concern about the effect it might have upon others. I was ready to conclude (though too rashly) that some people would be hardened by it in carelessness and looseness of life, and that they would use it as a reason to open their mouths in reproach of religion. However, the event was the reverse, to a wonderful degree.

Jonathan Edwards

"This revival among us seems to have been a very extraordinary dispensation of Providence. God has, in many respects, gone out of and far beyond His usual and ordinary way. The work in this town and others around us has been extraordinary on account of the universality of it affecting all kinds of people, temperate and corrupt, high and low, rich and poor, wise and unwise. It has reached the most considerable families and individuals, as far as anyone can tell, as much as it has reached others."

—Jonathan Edwards

God made it, more than anything else that ever came to pass in the town, the greatest occasion of awakening to others.

Through my private conversations with many of the people, I have had abundant opportunity to know the effect this woman's story had upon them. The news of it seemed to be almost like a flash of lightning upon the hearts of young people all over the town, and upon many others. Those people among us who used to be farthest from seriousness, and who I most feared would make an ill improvement of her story, seemed to be awakened by it. Many went to talk with the young woman concerning what she had met with; and what had come about in her, to the satisfaction of everyone who did so.

Awakening Affects Daily Life

Soon after this, a great and earnest concern about the things of religion and the eternal world became universal in all parts of the town, among people of all social positions and all ages. The noise among the dry bones became louder and louder (Ezekiel 37:1-7). Talk about anything besides spiritual and eternal things was soon thrown by the wayside. All the conversation, in all companies and upon all occasions, was only about religious matters, unless it was necessary for people to talk about other matters in carrying

on their ordinary secular business. Discourse on anything besides religion would scarcely be tolerated in any gathering. The minds of the people were wonderfully removed from the cares of the world.

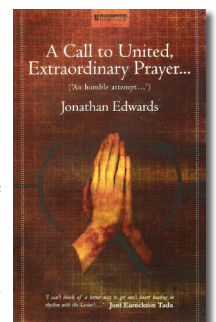
Although people did not neglect their worldly business, religion was the great concern among all sorts of people. The world was simply incidental to them. The only thing on their minds was to obtain the kingdom of heaven, and everyone appeared to be pressing into it. The fixedness of their hearts in this great concern could not be hidden; it appeared on their faces. It then was a dreadful thing among us to be out of Christ, in danger every day of dropping into hell. Indeed, the people were intent upon escaping for their lives and fleeing from the wrath to come (Matthew 3:7).

"The work of conversion was carried on in a more astonishing manner, and it increased more and more. Souls literally came by flocks to Jesus Christ. From day to day, for many months at a time, sinners were brought out of darkness into marvelous light"

The work of conversion was carried on in a more astonishing manner, and it increased more and more. Souls literally came by flocks to Jesus Christ. From day to day, for many months at a time, sinners were brought out of darkness into marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9), delivered out of a horrible pit and from the miry clay, and set upon a rock with a new song of praise to God in their mouths (Psalm 40:2-3).

A Call to United, Extraordinary Prayer... *Jonathan Edwards*

Reverend Jonathan Edwards was the foremost leader of the Great Awakening in North America in the 18th Century. Paperback, 176 pages, \$8.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.



REACHING AMERICA'S STUDENTS

★ AUSTIN, TX – God is doing something amazing at the University of Texas! The Body of Christ, composed of more than 60 campus ministries and churches, is uniting to reach all 50,000 students with the Gospel of Jesus. Over the last 10 years the Christian community at UT has doubled in size, from 5 percent of UT students involved in campus ministry to 10 percent involved in campus ministry. It is hoped that the movement will provide a model for those who desire to implement the same vision elsewhere. The story of what God is doing is shared in a new book titled “Campus Renewal—A Practical Plan for Uniting Campus Ministries in Prayer and Mission” by Justin Christopher. Visit www.campusrenewal.org.

40-DAY VIGIL, MARCH 9 – APRIL 17

★ AUSTIN, TX – The annual “Seek God for the City” Lenten “Forty Days to Palm Sunday” begins Wednesday, March 9. Now is an ideal time to pursue God’s promises for your city, seeking His face and His Kingdom by lifting up urgent needs with long-range vision. Prayer guides are available for the 2011 vigil. www.waymakers.org

40 DAYS FOR LIFE, MARCH 9 – APRIL 17

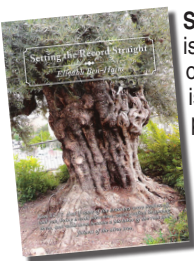
★ FREDERICKSBURG, VA – The next 40 Days for Life campaign (prayer and fasting vigil) will take place March 9 – April 17, 2011. In an international teleconference webcast, National Director David Bereit reported that the pro-life movement may have reached a “tipping point” in 2010, with unprecedented mobilization making way for massive social transformation. Abortion clinics in cities like Seattle, WA and Sacramento, CA (both sites of 40 Days campaigns) are struggling due to finances. Client numbers are dropping. One 40 Days campaign manager reports, “We continue to pray for conversion of hearts and minds, so that this employment lay-off becomes a life-long detachment from the abortion industry.” www.waymakers.org

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 5

★ COLORADO SPRINGS, CO – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” is this year’s theme, drawn from Psalm 91:2. To sign the petition to “save the NDOP” after U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb ruled that the statute serves no secular purpose, or to participate in prayer events in your area for the NDOP’s 60th observance, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point.
CNW=ChristianNewswire.com; UT=USA Today; W=Win1040.com; WP= The Washington Post; Y=YNETNews.com

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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.

THE MISSION OF INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA: Uniting Believers in Effective Prayer and Fasting for America – Since 1973.

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PRO-LIFE GRASSROOTS VICTORY

★ The Susan B. Anthony List (SBA List) rejoiced over the passage of a Department of Defense Authorization Bill in late December excluding the pro-abortion Burris Amendment which would have condoned elective abortions performed on taxpayer-funded military bases. Activists say that this victory demonstrates the increasing strength of the pro-life movement and shows that Congress is listening. (CNW 12/22/2010)

In America Today...



Photo: The Washington Post

NEBRASKA LEADS THE WAY

★ After Mike Flood, the speaker of Nebraska's legislature, introduced the Abortion Pain Prevention Act, LB 1103 last spring, abortion opponents say the bill could set a precedent for other states. The Washington Post reports that Flood's legislation, which prevents abortion after 20 weeks, may lead the way in challenging the Supreme Court's restrictions hampering the government's capacity to ban abortion before life can survive outside the womb. State Sen. Danielle Conrad told the Post, “This legislation makes dramatic changes to every understanding of every court case and every bill and every ruling on this issue over 30 years.”

Roger Evans, who monitors litigation for Planned Parenthood, compares the decision to planting seeds that result in “shoots popping out of the ground.” Meanwhile, the Center for Reproductive Rights stated that in 2010, state legislatures introduced laws creating countless new hurdles and implemented “some of the most extreme restrictions on abortion in recent memory.” In just two years, the number of lawsuits challenging state abortion limitations has increased by a dozen cases. (WP 12/28/2010)

U.S. AWARDS LONGEST VALENTINE

★ Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA) promoted strong support in Congress for Worldwide Marriage Encounter's “Longest Married Couple” project. The faith-based marriage enrichment program was praised for undertaking sponsorship to “recognize the longest married couple from every State, with special recognition to the longest married couple in the United States.” Dahlkemper noted that in light of the tragic divorce rate in America, Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) serves as an inspiration. With goals to honor so many traditional couples, at least 120 nominations from 36 states have already been received. Winners will be awarded on Feb. 14, 2011. (CNW 12/20/10 and BCN 12/6/10)

HOMICIDES FALL IN U.S.

★ Justice Department records show that overall violent crime has gone down to its lowest level since 1973, and across the nation homicide rates are the lowest in nearly a generation. Even in the face of ongoing recession and spikes in gang activity, the level of crime has reduced, according to FBI statistics released in 2010. New York City is down 79 percent, Chicago is down 46 percent, and Los Angeles is down 68 percent – all within the last 20 years. (UT 12/10)

PRAISE FROM THE 10/40 WINDOW

★ The harvest of souls is gaining momentum in India! Dr. Victor Choudhrie, leader of a church planting movement in India, reports that “the last decade has seen a great escalation of disciple making and church planting” in his nation. His ministry witnessed one million baptisms between Pentecost 2009 and Pentecost 2010. He attributes the great awakening to “an avalanche of prayer,” explaining that “Holy Spirit-guided, informed [prayer] strategies resulted in a huge harvest that we could not think or imagine.” (W 2010)

TERROR-RELATED DEATHS DROPPED

★ Israel's Shin Bet announced that 2010 saw the lowest amount of terror victims and terror attacks in 10 years. 2002 tallied the highest number of terror-related deaths. But since 2005, the number of deaths has steadily declined. Even though tensions have risen on Israel's border with Gaza, 2010 saw a decrease in rocket attacks from Hamas-ruled territory and a small decrease in mortar attacks. (Y 12/30/10)

Publication index: BCN=BreakingChristianNews.com;

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’” —Mark 16:15-16