

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

November 2010

Vol. 37, No.11

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.

David Kubal

For nearly four decades, IFA has been “uniting believers in effective prayer and fasting for America.” Through the hard work and prayers of many men and women God has done incredible things. IFA has led the Church in calling for fasting on the first Friday of the month. IFA has trained many how to pray through the monthly prayer letter, informed multitudes through up-to-the moment events in our country and mobilized hundreds of thousands to pray for our country. Those connected with IFA have served well as they responded to the Lord’s leading and the “signs of the times.”

It has been said by many in various ways that America is at a crossroads, teetering on a precipice. Our country could go either way. It all depends upon us—the Church. How will we respond? In *The Church at Richmond* (Bethany House, 2003), a book on revival in that city, the author writes: “Where a significant number of praying leaders are in place, and have a trusting relationship of Christian love, the conditions are ripe for a sustained move of God.”

In this one statement comes a description of what we intercessors are looking for—a sustained move of God. This is what America needs. This is what your community needs; a sustained move of God.

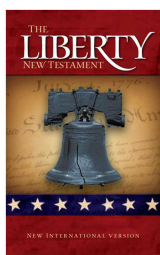
This is why IFA is embarking on two new empha-

ses. IFA has been informing intercessors how to have focused prayer and fasting for this country since its inception. Now is the time to add “Connecting” and “Mobilizing.”

Connecting believers is critical in this day of busy schedules, complex lives and fractured communities. There needs to be a legitimate reason for the Church to come together. Typically, if a single church attempts to bring a community together there is a negative perception of “territorialism” that comes into play and destroys unity. That is why IFA is offering the platform for this to occur.

Mobilizing believers is the next step. Mobilizing people to pray for their community and the nation happens at all levels. We need families praying for their communities and the nation. We need small groups praying, we need church groups praying, we need community groups praying. Through our tools and resources we will help those who desire to mobilize people to pray. Whether you are a father who wants to teach your children, or a business leader with a desire to see your community changed, we can serve you in your efforts.

Inform. Connect. Mobilize. That is Intercessors for America. In the weeks and months to come you will be hearing more about this, but please seek the Lord and ask him how you can be a part.



THE LIBERTY NEW TESTAMENT

A new resource offered by Intercessors for America!

This fall could prove to be 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 or a case of 24 for \$99.00 plus shipping. See our ordering information on page 4.

FIRST FRIDAY

November 5

PRAYER FOCUS

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

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to God for redemption in Christ, for all the freedoms and blessings he has bestowed upon our nation, and for his patience and longsuffering. Pray for a greater “love of neighbor” and generous sharing of his blessings among all Americans, especially toward the less fortunate. Intercede that the offering of private and corporate prayers of thanksgiving increase in your personal prayer life, in American churches, and in the global prayer movement.

PERSECUTED CHURCH

Intercede for believers worldwide who are being persecuted, tortured, and martyred, especially in Pakistan, Sudan, India, China, North Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sudan, Iran, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and others.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Offer thanksgiving for the fact that we have been delivered from “the evil one,” from “the power of darkness,” and are “sealed” by the Holy Spirit (Col 1:13; Eph 4:30). Pray that you, your family, the members of your church and believers in your area be granted spiritual protection, increased spiritual discernment, wisdom for spiritual warfare, and courage to “resist the devil” (Eph 6:11-20; Jas 4:7).

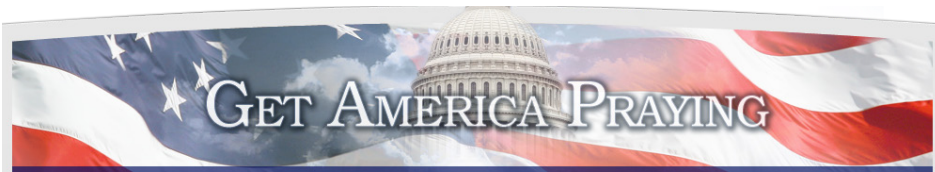
TERRORISM

A terrorist alert continues here in the U.S. and at our embassies, military bases, and government installations worldwide. Intercede for adequate protection, exposing, and thwarting of any planned terrorist attacks.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Offer thanksgiving for citizenship in a nation that has been blessed with free elections. Repent for the low voter turnouts, especially among Christians, in past mid-term elections. Intercede that the Lord will convict more believers of their duties as Christian citizens, and prompt them to register, become informed, and vote. Please read Pierre Bynum’s article on page 2 regarding prayer and civic duty.

www.IFAPray.org



Prayer & Christian Citizenship

Pierre Bynum

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples... (Dt 32:8-9).

God our creator made the nations. He has given mankind laws with which to govern them. Every nation is accountable to him, both to honor him and obey his laws. What distinguishes nations is not only the beauty of lands, the richness of their culture, their wealth or achievement, but the God they serve, the laws that govern them and the kind of justice they provide the weakest of their citizens (see Dt 28: all; 32:8-9; Ps 9:17; 24:1; 33:12; Pr 14:34; Mt 22:39; Rom 13:4).

God gave the Jews his perfect law for Israel and the nations (Is 2:3; Mic 4:2). Jesus charged us, his disciples, to teach the nations (Mt 28:18 ff). As Christian citizens, we must use our authority to turn our nation to God, his blessing and righteousness! Every nation's accountability to him is a major theme of Scripture.

We must love our neighbors (fellow countrymen). Nations with an active citizenry, godly leaders, godly public policy and a framework for just enforcement of the laws (Rom 13:1-12), are blessed. We must do our part to ensure laws that honor God and provide our families and neighbors physical security, moral legal boundaries, genuine justice and liberty. These are the baseline of love. It is very difficult to function amid societal chaos and lawlessness. A godly civil society makes religious and charitable enterprise possible. Our Pilgrim Fathers understood this and established their civil government, drafting and signing the Mayflower Compact before they stepped foot on American soil.

Citizen participation in town meetings and the election of leaders in the 13 original colonies was every citizen's duty. The people expressed their faith and love both by being active participants in their churches, and by being responsible participants in the civil life of their country.

Two key verses identify the church's role in prayer for our nation. They are found in 2 Chr 7:14 and 1 Tim 2:1-8.

In one, God calls believers to restore their declining nations through prayer and repentance, in the other he ties our prayers to national peace and continued liberty to advance the gospel. Our Founding Fathers called for frequent days of prayer and fasting, closing government and business for the purpose of prayer. They wrote detailed prayer days.

Even sometime skeptic, Ben Franklin, made one of history's most eloquent appeals for prayer during the Constitutional Convention, warning that the framework for our nation could not be laid without the aid of our heavenly Father. But prayer was not enough.

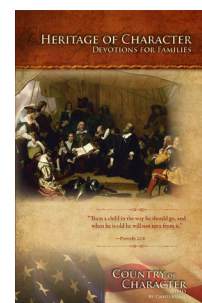
Others warned that the Republic could not survive unless active citizens with vital faith labored to preserve the God-given rights government was charged to protect.

By 1980 Christians had largely abandoned politics and public policy. Their neglect of the nation showed. Most stood by and watched when prayer and Bible reading were taken out of our public schools in 1962 and 1963, when abortion was declared a constitutional right in 1973 and when state laws changed to provide for no-fault divorce.

In his Christian Manifesto (1981), Dr. Francis Schaeffer challenged Christian leaders to use the window of opportunity opened by Ronald Reagan's election, to actively reverse the decades-long trend of increasingly godless public policy. If they would not or could not succeed, he urged them to begin seriously considering the alternatives: secular tyranny and persecution; Christian flight and/or civil disobedience.

He warned that if American public policy was not deliberately reshaped to reflect the Founders' thoroughgoing Christian world view, tyranny and persecution were inevitable. How tragic it would be if American Christians, given a nation with unprecedented freedom and blessing, where each adult can play a part in insuring just laws, were to lose it. Now we may be on the verge of another window of opportunity opening. If so, will we now aggressively exercise our God-given responsibilities to pray, to elect God-fearing men and women and pass laws that reflect the eternal laws of Almighty God? "The night is far spent... let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Ro 13:12).

HERITAGE OF CHARACTER *Devotions for Families*



Heritage of Character is part of the Country of Character Series by Dave Kubal. This workbook is an eight-week family challenge. This is a historical Bible study that will encourage. God will reveal himself and do great things in your family. Paperback, \$7.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

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.

Items included in the Mobilization Kit: *The Liberty New Testament, Heritage of Character, Legacy of Character, Mobilization Manual, Get America Praying DVD, 30 Ways to Pray bookmark, 130 Top Officials bookmark, Pray Button, C4 Explosive Prayer notepad, window stickers, sample Church Pray!, sample On Watch in Washington alert, and other helpful promotional tools.*



Election Days in Early America

Colonial historian John Wingate Thornton documented the role of pastors in Early America in his study, *“The Pulpit of the American Revolution,”* published in Boston in 1860. Here is an excerpt from Dr. Johnathan Mayhew as documented by Thornton.

ON STEWARDING LIBERTY

Rev. Samuel Phillips Payson, 1778

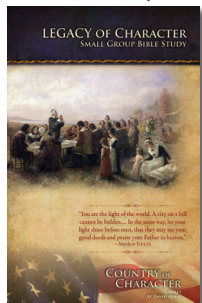
Next to the liberty of heaven is that which the sons of God, the heirs of glory, possess in this life, in which they are freed from the bondage of corruption, the tyranny of evil lusts and passions, described by the apostle “by being made free from sin, and becoming the servants of God.” These kinds of liberty are so nearly related, that the latter is considered as a sure pledge of the former; and therefore all good men, all true believers, in a special sense are children of the free woman, heirs of the promise. This religious or spiritual liberty must be accounted the greatest happiness of man. Hence a people formed upon the morals and principles of the gospel are capacitated to enjoy the highest degree of civil liberty, and will really enjoy it, unless prevented by force or fraud.

The voice of reason and the voice of God both teach us that the great object or end of government is the public good. Therefore a free, popular model of government—of the republican kind—may be judged the most friendly to the rights and liberties of the people, and the most conducive to the public welfare.

In this view, it is obvious to observe that a spirit of liberty should in general prevail among a people; their minds should be possessed with a sense of its worth and nature. Facts and observation abundantly

LEGACY OF CHARACTER

Small Group Bible Study



This historical eight-week Bible study will bring to light incredible stories of character that the founding fathers of this country displayed. 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.

“But Jerusalem, which is above, is free, which is the mother of us all. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond woman, but of the free.” —Galatians 26:31

teach us that the minds of a community, as well as of individuals, are subject to different and various casts and impressions. The inhabitants of large and opulent empires and kingdoms are often entirely lost to a sense of liberty, in which case they become an easy prey to usurpers and tyrants. Where the spirit of liberty is found in its genuine vigor it produces its genuine effects. It is no easy matter to deceive or conquer a people determined to be free.

The baneful effects of exorbitant wealth, the lust of power, and other evil passions, are so inimical to a free, righteous government, and find such an easy access to the human mind, that it is difficult, if possible, to keep up the spirit of good government.

Recollecting our pious ancestors, the first settlers of the country, we may say, in the most literal sense, we are children, not of the bond woman, but of the free.

The slavery of a people is generally founded in ignorance of some kind or another. The human mind may be so sunk and debased, through ignorance and its natural effects, as even to adore its enslaver, and kiss its chains.

Every kind of useful knowledge will be carefully encouraged and promoted by the rulers of a free state, unless they should happen to be men of ignorance themselves; in which case they and the community will be in danger of sharing the fate of blind guides and their followers. Despotism and tyranny want nothing but wealth and force, but liberty and order are supported by knowledge and virtue.

Civil society cannot be maintained without justice, benevolence, and the social virtues. Even the government of the Jerusalem above could not render a vicious and abandoned people quiet and happy. The children of the bond woman,

slaves to vice, can never be free. If the reason of the mind, man’s immediate rule of conduct, is in bondage to corruption, he is verily the worst of slaves.

The truths of the gospel are the most pure, its motives the most noble and animating, and its comforts the most supporting to the mind. The importance of religion to civil society and government is great indeed, as it keeps alive the best sense of moral obligation.

The qualities of a good ruler may be estimated from the nature of a free government. Power being a delegation, and all delegated power being in its nature subordinate and limited, hence rulers are but trustees, and government a trust; therefore fidelity is a prime qualification in a ruler.

A state and its inhabitants thus circumstanced in respect to government, principle, morals, capacity, union, and rulers, make up the most striking portrait, the liveliest emblem of the Jerusalem that is above, that this world can afford. That this may be the condition of these free, independent, and sovereign states of America, we have the wishes and prayers of all good men.

ON RESISTING CIVIL TYRANNY

Dr. Jonathan Mayhew, 1750

It is proper for all who acknowledge the authority of Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of his apostles, to endeavor to understand what is in fact the doctrine which they have delivered concerning this matter. It is the duty of Christian magistrates to inform themselves what it is their religion teaches concerning the nature and design of their office. And it is equally the duty of all Christian people to inform themselves what it is which their religion teaches concerning that subjection which they owe to those vested with authority.

Civil tyranny is usually small in its beginning, like ‘the drop of a bucket,’ till at length, like a mighty torrent, or the raging waves of the sea, it bears down all before it, and deluges whole countries and empires.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL FUNDING BATTLE CONTINUES

The National Institutes of Health resumed funding for embryonic stem cell research amid an ongoing court battle over the legality of the funding. Opponents argue that President Barack Obama's executive order allowing the funding violates a 1996 law prohibiting federal funding for the destruction of human embryos. Meanwhile, members of Congress are pushing a bill to legalize the funding regardless of the outcome of the court battle. The Stem Cell Research Advancement Act has already passed Congress twice—in 2005 and again in 2007—but was vetoed both times by then-President George W. Bush. The bill is sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and in the House by Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Mike Castle (R-DE). WM 9/10/10

SENATE CANCELS I-VAWA HEARING

★ The Senate Foreign Relations Committee canceled a scheduled hearing on the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA), a bill that pro-life groups caution will expand abortion around the world. Among other things, the I-VAWA "directs the Secretary of State to establish the Office for Global Women's Issues," and "establishes an Office for Women's Global Development . . . to be headed by the Director of Women's Global Development, to coordinate USAID efforts to integrate gender in U.S. foreign assistance programs and policies." The bill would also direct U.S. funds to U.N. programs. According to Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse, political commentator for the Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee, those programs promote "reproductive services" which include access to abortion. LN 9/10

U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL AT IAEA

★ At the urging of the U.S. representative, the International Atomic Energy Agency narrowly defeated a resolution calling on Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The U.S. urged Arab nations not to single out Israel, saying it could jeopardize the upcoming 2012 conference on a nuclear-free Middle East. The U.S. announced its support in May for the Egyptian-sponsored conference, to Israel's chagrin, but the Obama administration has promised to keep Israel from being singled out. Arab nations, backed by Iran, won narrow support for a similar resolution singling out Israel at last year's conference. BBC 9/24/10

CRIME RATE FELL IN 2009

★ National crime rates fell across the board in 2009, according to an annual FBI report. Violent crimes dropped 5.3 percent, the third straight annual decline, and property crimes fell 4.6 percent, the seventh straight yearly decline. The report, which tracks crimes reported to police nationwide, came as a surprise to many experts, because it defies the conventional wisdom that crime increases in times of economic difficulty. WP 9/13/10

In America Today...



The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth by Brownscombe

MANY FALLING INTO POVERTY

In the Census Bureau's annual report on poverty, it found that 14.3 percent of Americans lived below the poverty line last year, up from 13.2 percent in 2008. While the method of counting is disputed, high unemployment unquestionably means that many people are pushed hard to make a living. The recession has pushed many into poverty from the middle class; people who traditionally have had enough to get by on are finding it harder to make ends meet. Food pantries are seeing one of their greatest periods of demand. Despite a government panel officially declaring that the recession ended in June of 2009, high unemployment remains a severe problem, keeping many from collecting a steady paycheck. ABC 9/21/10, NYT 9/20/10

GOP BLOCKS MILITARY DADT REPEAL

★ Republicans blocked the passage of a measure in the Senate that would have ended the military's policy prohibiting openly homosexual men and women from serving in the military. The repeal was added to the annual defense authorization bill, which includes funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Democrats moved to bring the bill to the floor on Tuesday, but fell short of the 60 votes necessary. Two Democrats from Arkansas, Sens. Mark Pryor and Blanche Lincoln, joined all Republicans in voting against the measure. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) also voted no, despite having been the only Republican to support the bill in committee. Collins said that though she still supports the repeal of the military's policy, she voted against the bill because of the limited floor schedule for debate. The bill could come up again in a lame duck session after the November elections. LAT 9/21/10

CONGRESS 'PUNTS' BUSH TAX CUTS

★ When Congress adjourned at the end of September, they had yet to reach a deal on extending the Bush tax cuts set to expire at the end of December. Democratic leadership favors extending the tax cuts for all households making less than \$250,000 per year, but Republicans and some Democrats refuse to vote for anything less than an across-the-board extension of the tax cuts at all levels. The issue will be revisited in a lame duck session in November after the elections. In 2001 and 2003, the Bush administration was forced to include a sunset provision in the tax cuts because the measure cleared the Senate on a procedure that avoids a filibuster. In response, Republicans set all the tax cuts to expire on the same day to maximize pressure on future lawmakers to extend them and reform the tax code. CSM 9/24/10

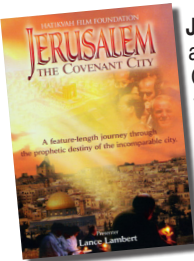
SUPREME COURT BEGINS TERM

The Supreme Court began its new term in October with new Justice Elena Kagan replacing former Justice John Paul Stevens. Kagan, President Obama's second appointment to the court, will recuse herself from about half of the cases this term because of her prior involvement as the U.S. solicitor general. Kagan will not vote on the case over Arizona's crackdown on employers who hire illegal immigrants, but will be involved in a case over state tax credits being used to help pay tuition at religious schools. LAT 10/5/10

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

Publication index: ABC=ABC News; BBC=BBC News; CSM=Christian Science Monitor; LAT=L.A. Times; LN=LifeNews.com; NYT=New York Times; WM=WORLD Magazine; WP=Washington Post

Information on placing orders with IFA: Order all IFA products through the IFA Fulfillment Center, PO Box 1058, Purcellville, VA 20134. **Credit Card orders toll-free 888-349-4446 or via www.IFAResources.com.**



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.

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

This First Friday Prayer Letter, provided on request, is published 11 times annually. IFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All Scripture references are NIV unless otherwise noted. Contents may be reproduced, except for items separately copyrighted; please credit IFA. **IFA Office:** Post Office Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134; Tel 800-USA-PRAY; e-mail IFA@IFAPray.org. **IFA Web sites:** GetAmericaPraying.com IFAPray.org IFAResources.com



"When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel." —Dt 32:8-9