

# INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

## PRAYER LETTER

October 2010

Vol. 37, No.10

### EVERY ELECTION IS A KINGDOM ELECTION

David Kubal

**A**s we approach the nationwide elections, it is more vital than ever to know the purpose of intercession for our nation. People tend to be result-oriented; we like to have goals and get things accomplished. In searching the heart and mind of God to discover the goal of intercession, there is no better source to look at than the Lord's Prayer. Inserted in the middle of that prayer is our goal in intercession: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

This could not be more applicable than it is during election season. Every election is an election of kingdoms. We have the opportunity to establish leaders who are responsible to steer the course of our country. These leaders bring with them their morals and values, and relationships with those who influence them. They bring their "kingdom." As elected officials, they are then appointed to have authority in a larger kingdom. It could be a city, a district, etc.

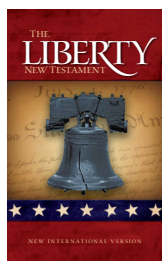
Jesus instructs us to pray "your kingdom come, your will be done," and I suggest to you that in our free republic, the election is the ultimate opportunity to see this prayer answered. We have the opportunity to see either the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness come to a greater degree.

There are three things that happen when God's Kingdom comes. First, his laws are put in place. One of the first things that God did with the Israelites was to give them the Ten Commandments. God did this so that they had a clear understanding of right and wrong. Our founding fathers understood this. George Washington said our Constitution would endure "so long as there shall remain any virtue in the body of the people" (The Washington Papers).

Second, when God's Kingdom is in place there are healthy relationships. The last six commandments of the Ten Commandments are all about relationships with one another. Samuel Adams described the importance of healthy relationships when he said, "Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt" (The Public Advertiser, 1749).

**T**hird, when God's Kingdom comes there is an understanding of an ultimate authority. On a number of occasions, the Israelites decided that they did not want to be ruled by Moses and Aaron, and each time God showed them that he was in charge (see Numbers 16). Our founding fathers considered this and sought rulers with this understanding.

*Continued on page 2 column 3*



#### 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. (Delivery expected by September 25); 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

October 1

#### PRAYER FOCUS

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

#### ELECTIONS

On Tuesday, November 2, U.S. voters will elect an entire House of Representatives, one third of the Senate, scores of state and local officials, and vote on important referenda. Pray that Christians take the time and examine candidates, positions, and issues on the basis of biblical truth, virtue, and character. Affirm the sovereignty of Christ (Ps 75:7; Rev 1:5), and intercede that the presence and fear of God permeate voting booths in every jurisdiction. Pray that the Holy Spirit help voters discern and prompt them to select God-fearing candidates who will place a high standard upon accountability in governmental directives. Read Johannes Facius' "Looking Through The Eyes of Jesus" on page 3.

#### ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

"Even to your old age... I am he who will sustain you" (Is 46:4). Intercede for revelation of Christ unto salvation, or for the strengthening of existing faith in Christ. Pray that the elderly and handicapped know that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps 139:14), that they experience God's love, comforting grace and joy, and that they are honored and engaged in ministry by local churches.

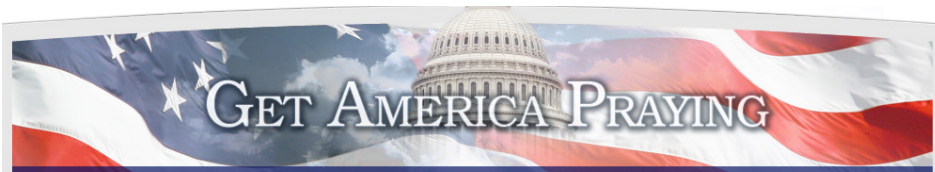
#### CLERGY

October is observed as Clergy Appreciation Month. Reflect, and offer thanksgiving for the blessing and benefit of church leadership and pastoral care in your spiritual growth (Heb 13:17). Intercede that unbelieving clergy be brought to authentic biblical faith, or removed if they are stubbornly apostate. Intercede for your local pastor(s) and church leadership.

#### UNREACHED PEOPLE

October encompasses global days of prayer for Israel and Jerusalem, unreached people groups in the "10/40 Window," and the Muslim community. Intercede as the Lord leads for the Jewish people and Israel, for a harvest of souls from the whole of the Middle East, from nations in the 10/40 Window, and from the 1.5 billion or more Muslims worldwide.

[www.IFAPray.org](http://www.IFAPray.org)



## PRAYING AND VOTING

David Zanotti

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim.2: 1-4)*

Yes, St. Paul tells us to pray for those in authority. Actually, he commands us to do so as a first priority, and for good reason.

In almost forty years of public ministry, I have rarely heard prayers made in congregational settings for American public officials. Most congregations, including my own home church, struggle mightily with this commandment. How is it that something so clear and plain is beyond the vision of the American Church in the 21st century?

Truth be told, might the answer be that we don't read these words very often? Might we also be guilty of not understanding the timeless importance of what the Bible teaches about civil authority?

On one hand, people will tell us our responsibilities are simple. "Just submit," they say, quoting the one-off verse of Romans 13:1. When challenged with Peter and John's defiance of the Sanhedrin ("We must obey God rather than man...") the simply-submit crowd grows silent.

On the other hand, people tell us that Jesus is coming and nothing we do matters anyway. The faster America collapses and the world ends, the sooner Jesus returns. So why bother with civil government—"It's all going to burn anyway...." Of course, there is one major flaw (and several minor ones) with this opinion. Was it not the Lord Jesus himself who told us the servants in the end who would be blessed are those whom he finds doing the job he commissioned—until the end?

Finally, there are those who say, "The system is just so corrupt and disappointing that I have no energy left for it. What's the use of praying or voting?" Here is where we must confess our need for the Spirit of encouragement. Here is where the Scripture most pointedly reminds us of our calling to be salt and light in culture. Salt adds flavor and preserves. Light overcomes darkness, even the darkness of despair. Of all people, the 21st century American ought to be the MOST grateful of all people for the liberties we have inherited. Praying for this nation and exercising our most basic responsibility of citizenship in voting is the LEAST we should be prepared to do.

I spoke the other day with a dear friend who is deeply invested in the true Church in China. Christians in China hear stories that Christians in America fail to vote and they are overwhelmed with total disbelief. They cannot fathom how the one people in the world who know the greatest freedom and opportunity could possibly dismiss the responsibility to shepherd such gifts with the greatest care.

G.K. Chesterton was fond of saying: "Anything worth doing is worth doing badly." People seldom feel fully prepared for the responsibility of voting on Election Day. Go vote anyway. Spend just a few minutes preparing yourself by visiting sites such as iVoters.com. Above all else, please pray for this nation and this critical election. It's not a suggestion. St. Paul chose instead to make it a commandment.

*David Zanotti is CEO of the American Policy Roundtable, founded in 1980. For more non-partisan voting information please visit iVoters.com, a public service of the Roundtable.*

*Continued from page 1*

### EVERY ELECTION IS A KINGDOM ELECTION

Thomas Jefferson said it well when he said, "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever" (Notes on the State of Virginia, 1781).

When we step into the voting booth, we need to understand that we are voting upon kingdoms. Believers in Jesus Christ need to realize the importance of searching for candidates who have kingdom values. The first chief justice of the Supreme Court, John Jay, said, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers" (October 12, 1816).

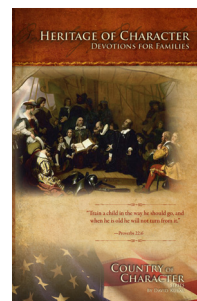
Let's pray specifically for three things: pray that candidates' values would be apparent; pray for truth in the media; and pray the Church would have discernment in voting. May "your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

## IVOTERS.COM

INDEPENDENT THINKERS INDEPENDENT VOTERS

iVoters.com is a non-partisan website where people can tap into a rich library of free data on current issues, campaigns and candidate's views. This site includes a dynamic forum where people can listen, learn and question. Let us pray that candidates' values would be apparent. Pray for truth in the media, and that the Church would make an effort to exercise discernment in voting in this upcoming election.

### 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. You will be tempted to drop it when times get hectic—but persevere! God will reveal himself and do great things in your family. Paperback, \$7.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

# LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Johannes Facius

The psalmist Asaph had great difficulty in understanding things. When he looked at his personal circumstances he seemed to be suffering much more trouble than the people in the world. This is how he felt:

“Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; They increase in riches. Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning” (Ps73:12-14).

As he continues meditating on this paradox, Asaph feels more and more pain, until he finally decides to bring it all before the Lord.

“When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then, I understood their end.

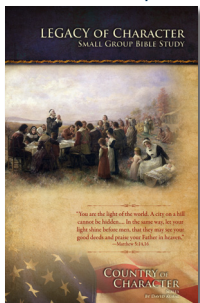
“Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors” (Ps 73:16-19).

What a dramatic change in this man’s whole outlook upon life! All because he entered into the presence of God and he saw light in His light. Beloved, we need to have our spiritual eyes opened to see how God sees on all aspects of this life, whether in our own personal situation, or in the entire world situation. Only then can we be of use for the Kingdom of God.

When the greatest event in history took place, namely the birth of the Son of God, it passed by the whole of the religious hi-

## 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 county 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.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,  
says the LORD”  
—Isaiah 55:8 (NKJV)

erarchy without any of the priests or high priests being aware of it. The whole religious leadership of Israel was fast asleep and did not have a clue about the historical event taking place around them—and that in spite of their diligent study of the prophetic scriptures. They had no understanding whatsoever of the fact that the Messiah was to be born in the little town of Bethlehem, although it was clearly there to be understood by reading the Word of God. Only two people in the city of Jerusalem knew that the little baby boy who was brought up to the temple to be circumcised, eight days after his birth, was in fact the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel and the Saviour of the whole world.

Simeon knew because he was just and devoted to God, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. He was waiting for the coming of the Messiah (Lk 2:26-32).

Or what about Anna, a prophetess, a widow, eighty-four years old. She “did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day” (Lk 2:37-38).

Why did she know the importance of this moment? Because she did not depart from the temple, the presence of God, and served Him in prayer and fasting.

Two ordinary, elderly people were able to see light in His light, because they were both living in intimate fellowship with the Lord. The rest missed the great historic moment. When the Lord comes again—soon—history will repeat itself. The religious establishment will be sleeping spiritually, but God will have some Simeons and Annas who will have eyes to see.

Paul’s great desire and prayer for the

church was that she would have eyes to see.

“... I ... do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Eph 1:15-18).

What we need is not information, which is simply storing up human knowledge in our heads, but revelation: the opening of the eyes of our heart to understand spiritual things. Why is this so important? For the simple reason that the essence of the spiritual life consists of spiritual mysteries that cannot be fully comprehended by the human intellect. This is immediately evident from the teachings of the New Testament:

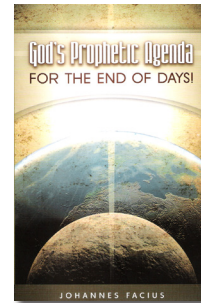
- The church is a mystery (Eph 3:3).
- Israel is a mystery (Rom 11:25).
- The Kingdom of God is a mystery (Mk 4:11).
- The wisdom of God is a mystery (1 Cor 2:7).
- The resurrection is a mystery (1 Cor 15:51).

How can we possibly understand spiritual mysteries with our natural intellect? Can anyone learn or study how to comprehend mysteries? No, we desperately need the light of the Holy Spirit. We need to be able to see light in His light.

—This article was excerpted from “God’s Prophetic Agenda” by Johannes Facius. Johannes is an international teacher born in Denmark. He is the former director of The International Fellowship of Intercessors. Scripture quoted in this article are from the New King James Version.

## GOD’S PROPHETIC AGENDA

Johannes Facius



The driving force behind world history is nothing more and nothing less than the fulfillment of God’s purposes. Throughout Biblical history, God challenged his people to read the signs of the times. In these “end days,” it is vital that we seek to discern God’s purposes. Paperback, \$14.99 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE SEPT. 22-OCT. 31

★ The 40 Days for Life Fall 2010 campaign, which began September 22, will continue through October 31. For information and to find out how you can participate, go to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

## FAITHFUL PHYSICIANS PROTECT LIFE

★ A survey of British physicians shows that non-religious doctors were more likely to recommend treatments hastening the death of patients nearing the end of life. Doctors who were “very” or “extremely” non-religious were almost twice as likely as strongly religious doctors to initiate treatment that would be expected to shorten life, the report found. Physicians who reported being very or extremely non-religious reported higher rates of using continuous deep sedation, making a decision involving some intention to hasten the end of life, and supporting the legalization of euthanasia compared with those who held strong religious beliefs. ABC 8/26/10

## VA ATTORNEY GENERAL GOES AFTER ABORTION CLINICS

★ Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli issued a legal opinion that the state can hold abortion providers to hospital-type standards. Cuccinelli’s opinion would allow the state’s Board of Health to write new regulations requiring that doctors who perform abortions at the clinics hold hospital privileges, counselors have professional training, and buildings undergo structural changes. The opinion does not force the board to act, and any new regulations are unlikely anytime soon. WP 8/24/10

## EMBRYONIC STEM CELL FUNDING HALTED TEMPORARILY

★ A federal judge temporarily halted Obama administration regulations designed to expand research on stem cells harvested from human embryos. In March 2009, President Obama released new regulations to ease restrictions placed by the Bush administration on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. The administration attempted to sidestep legislative restrictions by only allowing funding to be used for the research after the embryos had been destroyed, and not for the actual destruction of the embryos. But Royce C. Lamberth, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ruled that the distinction violates the law. BG 8/24/10

## DAY OF PRAYER FOR JERUSALEM OCT. 3

On the first Sunday of every October, over 175 nations join together in prayer for the city of Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, and all her inhabitants. Visit [www.daytopray.com](http://www.daytopray.com).

## In America Today...



## clergy appreciation month

### PASTORS NEED TIME OFF

★ Studies have shown that members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans. Social trends, such as the likelihood that a male pastor’s wife has a career of her own, have spurred some ministers to push themselves past their limits, along with pressure from cell phones, social media, and e-mail. Health care experts and some church leaders are encouraging pastors to take more time off to benefit their health. The Episcopal, Baptist, and Lutheran churches have all undertaken health initiatives that place special emphasis on the need for pastors to take vacations and observe “Sabbath days,” their weekday time off in place of Sundays. Some non-denominational evangelical Christian ministers have embraced a similar approach. NYT 8/1/10

## SUPREME COURT BEGINS NEW TERM

New Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is being formally invested on October 1 before the court begins its October 2010 term on Monday, October 4. The justices have returned from their summer break and held a “long conference” to determine which of the 2,000 cases that came in over the summer will be heard. When the term begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, the chief justice will likely welcome Justice Kagan and then move right along to the first oral arguments. The October docket includes a case about employee privacy, a case about the right to counsel, and a case about the First Amendment right to express one’s views, even at a funeral. SB 9/7/10

## IRAN STARTS NUCLEAR REACTOR

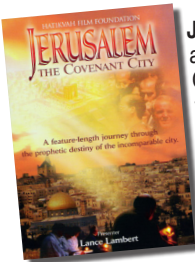
Russia began loading Iran’s Bushehr nuclear reactor with fuel rods on August 21. The U.S. had pressured Russia not to provide the fuel for the reactor, dragging out the process since Russia signed a \$1 billion deal in 1995. While the reactor will be used for a power plant to generate electricity for Iranian cities, spent fuel could be reprocessed to be used in a nuclear weapon. Russia says the terms of the agreement ensure that it can retrieve all the spent fuel, and the International Atomic Energy Agency will be monitoring the process. But the move brings Iran one step closer to being a nuclear state, casting doubt on the effectiveness of sanctions the U.S. has relied on to deter Iran. AP 8/13/10

## U.S. MARKS TRANSITION IN IRAQ

The United States marked the transition to a new stage in the Iraq war, when U.S. troops will be on an “advise and assist” mission called Operation New Dawn. Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Robert Gates presided over a ceremony in Baghdad to mark the change of command as Lieutenant General Lloyd Austin formally replaced General Raymond Odierno. Nearly 50,000 U.S. troops will remain in Iraq to train Iraqi security forces. The Obama administration says all U.S. troops will be removed from the country by the end of 2011. In a speech heralding the transition, President Barack Obama said, “The American combat mission in Iraq has ended.” American forces are still almost certain to face combat in the country, even though that is no longer their official mission. VOA 9/1/10

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point. Publication index: ABC=ABC News; AP=Associated Press; BG=Boston Globe; NYT=New York Times; SB=SCOTUSBlog.com; VOA=Voice of America; 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](http://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](mailto:IFA@IFAPray.org). **IFA Web sites:** [GetAmericaPraying.com](http://GetAmericaPraying.com) [IFAPray.org](http://IFAPray.org) [IFAResources.com](http://IFAResources.com)

