

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

September 2010

Vol. 37, No.9

AMERICA'S DEBT TO GARY BERGEL

John Beckett

Gary Bergel announced his retirement from IFA effective July 1, completing nearly 37 years—a tenure that reaches back to IFA's founding. As a co-laborer with Gary that entire time, I cannot begin to express my gratitude, and that of our board and staff, for Gary's enormous contribution. It is no exaggeration to say our nation and the Church in America is a great beneficiary of Gary's unique and sacrificial leadership. He has "stood in the gap" as few others for one-sixth of America's history as a free nation.

Gary, a native of Wisconsin, completed undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in 1972 while teaching at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Gary and his wife Susan, who have now been married 41 years, attended the Christian Growth Conference in Miami, the conference where IFA was founded, in November 1973. From the outset, Gary began serving as editorial assistant to John Talcott, our founding president. It is remarkable to me that Gary, just over a year old in the Lord, was immediately zealous for the spiritual health of our nation—a reminder that we need to challenge and mobilize new believers toward prayer today.

Gary, Susan and their growing family moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1981, where Gary developed an IFA Research and Education Department. He became Executive Director in 1985 when IFA headquarters were relocated from Ohio to Reston, VA. He was named president in 1988, a post he held until 2009 when Dave Kubal joined us to become our current president. During the past year, Gary has served as Senior Editor/President Emeritus while assisting Dave in his new role.

I asked Gary to recall for us some of the key prayer-related lessons he has learned. A sampling:

- Prayer is a relational privilege of grace.
- Effective intercession springs from vital union with Christ, hearing from God, living in forgiveness, obedience and accountability.
- Praying disciples must be Kingdom-minded
- Never underestimate the power of even one minute of sincere prayer.

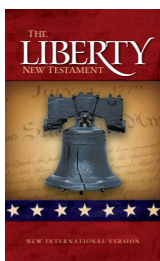
While the legacy of Gary's prayer leadership will be most fully written in heaven, I have observed certain landmark contributions:

- Continually pointing believers to God's Word as the basis of concerted prayer.
- Helping preserve

Continued on page 2 column 3



Gary and Susan Bergel



THE LIBERTY NEW TESTAMENT

A new resource for 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

September 3

PRAYER FOCUS

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

MOBILIZE THE CHURCH

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory" (Eph 1:11-12). Bearing this in our hearts, let us march forth into these coming months as the Church and live out Paul's words of inspiration and hope. Reflect and offer thanksgiving and prayer for the courageous fellow believers, church leaders, and public officials that you know. Intercede for those suffering affliction, weakness, distress or public ridicule. Pray for all members of the Body of Christ in your area, that they be delivered from fear, strengthened in their faith, and granted courage and perseverance (2 Tim 1:7).

TRUTH IN MEDIA

Democracy depends upon truth to govern intelligently and righteously in matters of concern for its citizens. Intercede for exposure of corruption in the realms of media, that true and accurate assessments be reported regarding government, politics, public service, intelligence, military, immigration, law enforcement, corporate business, banking, commerce, relief agencies, medicine, science, education, news media, the arts, culture, and athletics. Pray that the Lord move upon the hearts of editors, producers, journalists, and others who make decisions regarding the reporting of news. (Deut 19:16-17; Pr 12:17; Pr 14:5; Ex 20:16)

ELECTIONS

In 60 days, U.S. voters will elect one third of the U.S. Senate, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and scores of state and local officials. Intercede for wisdom and mercy in electing good governmental representatives, that Christians take time to examine candidates, positions and issues on the basis of biblical truth, virtue, and character. Affirm the sovereignty of Christ (Ps 75:7; Col 1:9-20) over all candidates, debates, and campaigns. Intercede that godly local, state and national pro-life, and traditional family candidates be granted resources, workers, media exposure, and favor with voters.



Your Kingdom Come The Goal of Intercession

Dave Kubal

Part one of a two-part series

For the most part, God has wired us to desire results from the things we are involved in. We have certain expectations that are both conscious and sub-conscious. One of the hardest things that intercessors struggle with is interceding with faith (having expectations) and yet submitting to God's will. In a word, we struggle with the goals of our intercession.

In searching the heart and mind of God on what is 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 the goal of intercession simply stated: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

One of the reasons God has blessed this country so greatly is that many of our founders had this point of view. For example, in 1620, those on the Mayflower signed the Mayflower Compact, which included the words, "Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country."

The pilgrims desired to set up a government that would bring glory to God and they understood the practical application of establishing God's kingdom on this earth as they covenanted together under this contract. It is interesting to note that these Mayflower sailors specified not only "the advancement of the Christian faith," but also for the "honour of our King and Country." They obviously saw no contradiction between bringing glory to God and honoring the King. This could be true for many reasons, but it is clear in scripture that the Lord is the one who establishes nations: "He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them" (Job 12:23). It is up to the nation's inhabitants how close to God's kingdom the nation becomes.

As we enter into an election season full of energy, let's keep this in mind: it is about God's Kingdom. It's about God's will to be done just like it is in heaven. It is not about a particular party or particular candidates; it's about creating a nation on earth that is a reflection of God's rule in heaven.

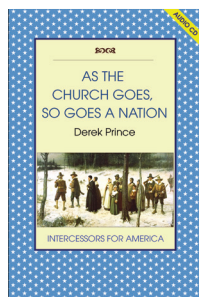
James Madison's plan which he presented at the 1787 Constitutional Convention to divide the central government into three branches came from Isaiah 33:22, "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us." Madison laid the foundation for America to bring in God's Kingdom.

As we approach a very critical election cycle, I want to encourage everyone to keep this goal in mind: that God's kingdom would come and that the Lord would rule over the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of our government.

AS THE CHURCH GOES, SO GOES A NATION

Derek Prince

At the request of IFA Partners-in-Prayer, now available as audio MP3s on our new Web site and as a 4-Disc CD set! These messages were delivered by Derek Prince at IFA's 25th Anniversary conference. \$19.95 + shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.



Continued from page 1

AMERICA'S DEBT TO GARY BERGEL

the First Friday observance, initially established in 1974.

• Leading the prayer effort to defeat the "Equal Rights Amendment" (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution—proposed legislation introduced by militant feminists in 1972.

• Authoring a powerful pro-life booklet, "When You Were Formed in Secret" in 1980. Three million copies of this publication have been distributed in six languages resulting in untold numbers of saved lives. (Some of these, as adults, have sought Gary out to thank him for the gift of life!)

• Underscoring God's purposes and our nation's responsibility to Israel and focusing special intercession during Israel's several wars for survival.

• The use of technology to connect praying people as it has migrated from a telephone hotline to fax to email and web-based strategies.

• Multiple efforts to preserve religious freedom, drawing on Gary's keen understanding of the place of faith and prayer in our nation's history.

• Investing in the lives and spiritual development of IFA staff over the years.

In summary, Gary has faithfully served our nation in heroic, yet unheralded ways. We know he will continue to "rise up in spirit" to our ongoing burdens, yet as he retools for the future, he won't miss publishing deadlines and budgets. We wish Gary and Susan God's supreme best, including some added time with their wonderful family, now 10 children and 11 grandchildren.

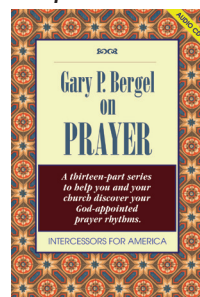
Gary, we're deeply grateful!

—John D. Beckett is Co-Founder and Former Chairman of the Board for Intercessors for America.

GARY P. BERGEL ON PRAYER

A Thirteen-Part CD Series

For personal and small group use! Drawn from



Abrahamic/Hebraic scripture studies. These Hebraic roots and understandings carry over into the New Covenant, and nourish our personal prayer "rhythms" and corporate prayer life. Gary Bergel's 37 years in the prayer movement help you find your God-appointed "prayer rhythms." Seven CDs, \$34.95 + \$3.50 shipping. See page 4 for ordering information.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY IN GOVERNMENT A SPECIFIC CALL TO PRAYER

John G. Talcott

A review of the Christian influence in the development of our constitutional form of government shows that the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut was the first written constitution known to history which created a government and from which the government of the United States is in lineal descent. It was inspired by and had its origin in a sermon preached by Rev. Thomas Hooker in Hartford on May 31, 1638. Rev. Hooker took as his sermon text Deuteronomy 1:13: “Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you ... captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds—over fifties—over tens, etc.” From this Biblical injunction Rev. Hooker reasoned that:

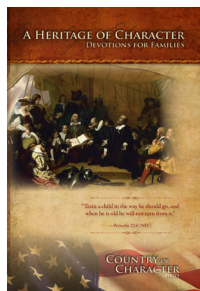
1. The choice of public magistrates belongs unto the people by God’s own allowance.

2. The privilege of election which belongs unto the people, therefore, must not be exercised according to their humors, but according to the blessed law of God.

3. They who have power to appoint officers and magistrates, it is their power, also, to set the bounds of the power and place unto which they call them.¹

Thomas Hooker’s concluding exhortation in his sermon was, “As God hath spared our lives, and given us them in liberty, so to seek the guidance of God, and to choose in God and for God.”² Along with

A HERITAGE OF CHARACTER *Devotions for Families*



A 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.

“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering . . . but if we neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”

—Daniel Webster

Thomas Hooker, I believe we should use our God-given liberty to choose carefully and prayerfully those men who are to make the laws by which we must abide.

In 1694, Mr. Samuel Willard wrote an article entitled “The Character of a Good Ruler.” The following few excerpts from that article provide inspiration and a guide as we ask God to raise up men of Christian character to represent us in our government:

“Now that all these may be just, it is firstly required that they have a principle of moral honesty in them and swaying of them; that they live righteousness and hate iniquity; that they be ‘men of truth’ (Exodus 18:21) for every man will act in his relation, according to the principle that rules in him, so that an unrighteous man will be an unrighteous ruler, so far as he hath an opportunity.

“He must be one that respects the cause, and not the persons in all his administrations, ‘Ye shall not respect persons in judgment’ (Deuteronomy 1:17). If his affections oversway his judgment at any time, they will be a crooked bias, that will turn him out of the way, and that shall be justice in one man’s case, which will not be so in another.

“He must be one whom neither flattery nor bribery may be able to remove out of his way. ‘Thou shalt not wrest judgment, thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift’ (Deuteronomy 16:19). He must be one who hates both ambition and covetousness (Exodus 18:21).

“Finally, he must be one who prefers the public benefit above all private and separate interests whatsoever. Every man in his place owes himself to the good of the whole, and if he doth not so devote himself, he is unjust; and he who either to advance himself, or to be revenged on another; will push on injurious laws, or pervert the true intention of such as are in force, is an unjust man; and he who is under the influence of a narrow spirit, will be ready to do so, as occasion offers.

“Nor is this justice to be looked upon as separate from the fear of God, but as influenced and maintained by it. He therefore that ‘ruleth in the fear of God,’ is one who acknowledgeth God to be his sovereign, and carries in his heart an awful fear of him; who owns his commission to be from him, and expects ere long to be called to give in an account of his managing it; which maketh him to study in all things to please him, and to be afraid of doing any thing that will provoke him.”³

Let us unite our prayers and believe God to raise up righteous men to govern us, for “righteousness exalteth a nation.”

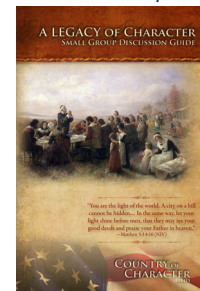
¹ *History of the First Church in Hartford - 1633-1833* by George Leon Walker, 1884 and reprinted in *The Christian History of the Constitution* by Verna M. Hall.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Samuel Willard, 1640-1707 as published in Library of American Literature* by Stedman and Hutchinson, 1889 and reprinted in *The Christian History of the Constitution* by Verna M. Hall

—*Christian Morality in Government*. Mr. Talcott served as the founding president of Intercessors for America, is a present IFA trustee and is president of the Plymouth Rock Foundation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This article appeared in the first issue of the IFA newsletter.

A LEGACY OF CHARACTER *Small Group Discussion Guide*



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.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE SEPT. 22-OCT. 31

★ The 40 Days for Life fall 2010 campaign will take place September 22 through October 31. This life-changing prayer vigil and peaceful protest operates on three basic components: prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. In six previous coordinated campaigns, the 40 Days for Life program has been conducted in 307 communities across all 50 states, plus Canada, Australia, Northern Ireland and Denmark. More than 350,000 people representing some 11,000 church congregations have participated. More than three dozen abortion center employees have left their jobs in the abortion industry, and more than 2,800 babies' lives have been spared from abortion during these campaigns. For more information and to find out how you can participate, go to www.40daysforlife.com.

ABORTION FUNDING PREVENTED

★ Washington, DC – Following releases by the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) demonstrating that the Obama Administration had approved high-risk pool plans submitted by at least three states that would have funded virtually all abortions, the Department of Health and Human Services released a statement that it would enforce a policy restricting abortions to cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a report confirming that neither the health care law, nor the March 24 executive order on abortion prevent the use of funds in the new high-risk pool program from being used to cover all abortions. NRLC and other pro-life groups are calling for a repeal or “major corrective surgery” on the health care law. CN 7/29/10

HEALTH CARE SUIT MOVES FORWARD

Richmond, VA – A U.S. district judge denied the Obama administration's request to dismiss the state of Virginia's lawsuit over a central portion of the health care law Obama championed. Virginia Atty. Gen. Ken Cuccinelli filed suit over the law's requirement that most Americans buy health insurance beginning in 2014. The Obama administration defends the law according to Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce, but Cuccinelli and other opponents argue that the federal government cannot require citizens to participate in interstate commerce against their will. LAT 8/3/10

LEGAL CHALLENGES TO PRAYER

Incidents of prayer being challenged as unconstitutional are becoming increasingly common. One of the most recent high-profile cases involves police telling a group of schoolchildren to stop praying on the steps of the Supreme Court because it is illegal. FN 7/23/10

In America Today...



SEE YOU AT THE POLE SEPT. 22

★ See You at the Pole, an annual global day of student prayer, is happening on September 20, 2010. See You at the Pole began 20 years ago with a small gathering in Burleson, Texas, and has now grown to where more than 3 million students from all over the world participate every year. The 2010 See You at the Pole theme is Reveal, asking the Lord to reveal himself, based on the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9–13. You can find more information at www.syatp.com.



NEW FACEBOOK PRAYER APPLICATION

★ Intercessors for America and the National Network of Youth Ministries have partnered to create a new interactive prayer app for Facebook called wePray. Students, parents, administrators, and others can join a prayer group for their school to share prayer requests and answers and begin a coordinated prayer movement for schools across the nation. Students and prayer partners can upload photos and videos, see how God is moving in their school, and take advantage of prayer training resources. For more information and to get started, go to www.wePrayUSA.org.

CRY OUT AMERICA SEPT. 11

★ Cry Out America, in conjunction with the Awakening America Alliance, will hold its third annual nationwide county courthouse prayer gatherings on September 11.

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. www.daytopray.com

CDC REPORT FINDS MOST TEENS ARE VIRGINS

★ The Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued a study in June showing that most teens are virgins, which pro-life groups like the American Life League (ALL) say contradicts Planned Parenthood's sex-education curriculum. The study, “Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Child Bearing, National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG),” says that in the 2006-2008 period, 58% of never-married teen girls and 57% of never-married teen boys between the ages of 15 and 19 reported that they had never had sexual intercourse. ALL says that this provides evidence to the contrary of Planned Parenthood's repeated claims that most teens will not abstain from sex. The reason most often cited for abstaining was that pre-marital sex is “against religion or morals.” LSN 7/14/10

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES GAY CLERGY

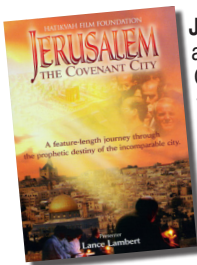
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has welcomed back seven homosexual clergy members who had been barred from the denomination. At a ceremony in July, the seven became some of the first actively homosexual clergy to be added or reinstated by the ELCA since the denomination voted last year to rescind its policy requiring homosexual clergy to be celibate.

Since the vote last year, at least 185 congregations have voted to leave the denomination over its position on homosexual clergy, according to an ELCA spokeswoman. The ELCA is the largest denomination in the U.S. to allow homosexual ministers. The U.S. Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ also allow them, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in the process of allowing them. Two smaller Lutheran denominations, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, do not ordain ministers in same-sex relationships. NYT 7/25/10

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington prayer point.
LAT=L.A. Times; LSN=LifeSiteNews.com; NYT=New York Times

Publication index: CN=Christian Newswire; FN=FoxNews.com;

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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.

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

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A higher purpose.