



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

JULY / AUGUST 2018

THE CONNECTER

CONNECTING HEARTS OF PRAYER FOR
THE NATION TO GOD AND EACH OTHER!

RESTORING THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA



Lea Carawan
Congressional Prayer
Caucus Foundation

For over 240 years, America has placed its trust in God. This simple act of humble faith has given our nation strength in wartime, dignity and compassion toward those less fortunate, and hope in the face of unprecedented challenges. Throughout our history, prayers have been offered by our government leaders in petition, in thanksgiving, to embrace our grief and sorrow, for our troops and first responders, in times of uncertainty and crisis, during war and in peace, for protection, provision, guidance, and the acknowledgement that in and of ourselves we are wholly insufficient.

In 2005, the Congressional Prayer Caucus was formed, and the nearly 100 members are committed to advancing prayer and protecting our religious freedom. Through the efforts of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation (CPCF), a non-profit, non-partisan organization, 32 states have joined the American Prayer Caucus Network, and now over 1,000 federal and state legislators are united and mobilized to pray and to ensure that God, prayer, and the Bible will help shape America's future.

In November of 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (396-9) to reaffirm "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States, **and encouraged its display in every school and public building.** Since that time, millions of "In God We Trust" displays are now in school classrooms, courthouses, government buildings, law enforcement and private vehicles, homes, and offices. PrayUSA, another initiative spearheaded by these government leaders, has brought thousands of government leaders and pastors together with one heart and one voice for the purpose of unceasing prayer on behalf of the country.

Today, more than ever, we need to lift up those who serve us in all levels of government—that God's favor and grace would be with them, that He would give each leader the discernment and wisdom to make decisions that honor Him and to fearlessly speak truth within the halls of power. Only then, will we experience **a renewed hope... a strengthened resolve... a sharpened focus... a bold declaration, and an energized movement!**

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

JULY 6 / AUGUST 3, 2018

On the first Friday of the month, we encourage all to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

FREEDOM

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17) Pray for increased spiritual hunger and desire for the Lordship of Christ, and for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers and in local congregations across America. Ask God to grant revelation and understanding that obedience to Him and to biblical truth is the basis for personal liberty and national freedom.

TRUTH

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (Jn 8:31-32) Read and reflect upon the Beatitudes and other teachings of Jesus recorded in Matthew, chapters 5-7. Ask for grace to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

Intercede that the Lord will give President and Mrs. Trump spiritually renewing encounters. Pray for revelation and wisdom for the President and First Lady, and that they will fulfill their God-appointed destinies. Intercede that President Trump will be used of the Lord as a Hezekiah. (2 Chr 29-32)

To see God's purposes for America fulfilled through sustained prayer and Spirit-led obedience



The Triumph of Mordecai - Jean François de Troy

ARE YOU A MORDECAI?



A Story of Intercessory Activism

By Wanda Alger,
IFA Field Correspondent

As believers engage in intercessory activism, we can learn much from one intercessor in the Bible who affected an entire nation through his prayers and actions. Though many are familiar with Esther's role in delivering a nation from destruction, Mordecai paved the way for national breakthrough. His story imparts several strategic keys for effective prayer and engagement in the public square.

Loving God and others: Mordecai was a father figure to Esther. In raising her, he helped establish her faith, as well as her love for God and the Jewish people (Esther 2:7). This bond rightly directed their hearts, their prayers, and their responses throughout their journey.

Going "on-site for insight": When Esther was taken to the palace, Scripture states, "Every day he (Mordecai) walked

back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her." (Esther 2:11) As a man of prayer, could these have been daily prayer walks? Every day, Mordecai was on-site to listen and learn, seeking the Lord for insight during the twelve months of Esther's beauty treatments for the king.

Going to the public square: Mordecai also sat at the king's gate where decisions were made and official business took place (2:19). Whether he was an invited participant or careful observer, he sought to be better informed. He positioned himself at the place where decrees were issued, and verdicts were rendered on behalf of the king and the nation.

Speaking out against corruption: Mordecai's decision to sit in this place of political activity proved to be significant. He overheard a plot to assassinate the king and reported it to Esther (2:21-23). He did not let fear stop him from alerting the palace of this threat. When the investigation proved the story to be true, the criminals were hanged, and Mordecai's courageous actions were recorded in the official record.

Exposing injustice/gaining favor with the king: This seemingly small but significant act granted Mordecai great favor with the king. Unbeknownst to Mordecai or Esther, God planned to use this event

later to position Mordecai as a trusted advisor to the king. His willingness to speak up and take action against injustice created a platform for him when much more was at stake.

Standing in the face of intimidation and threats: When Mordecai refused to bow to Haman, the demonically-driven official sought to kill him (3:5-6). Even so, Mordecai didn't compromise or relent. Despite ridicule and death threats, Mordecai stood his ground and trusted God to vindicate him.

Standing in the gap for the people: Once Mordecai learned of the decree of death to his people, the Bible says he *tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.* (4:1) He humbled himself in front of the whole city in order to bring attention to an injustice against his people. His witness became the example for others to follow throughout the entire province as fellow Jews fasted and wept aloud for their nation.

Being informed and prepared: When asked by an official what he was doing, Mordecai was prepared with a testimony as well as written papers proving his case (4:8). His lament was not without cause. He knew the facts and details and was prepared to share them with the appropriate people.

Continued on Page 3, Column 1

ARE YOU A MORDECAI?

Continued from Page 2

Speaking the word of the Lord: When Esther responded to Mordecai's suggestion of appealing to the king for mercy, she was fearful and hesitant. Yet, his word to her became the key that unlocked the door to her destiny: *For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?* (Esther 4:14) Just as Esther was there "for such a time as this," so was Mordecai. Without his presence and prophetic declaration to her, Esther may have missed the God-ordained opportunity for her.

Becoming an ambassador of national prayer: When Mordecai took Esther's request to the Jewish people for a time of national fasting and prayer, he became a conduit of intercession (4:15-17). He championed this national call to prayer and stood in the gap for Esther and their people.

God is strategically placing believers in positions of influence and authority throughout our nation to bring needed transformation. Whether speaking to elected officials, or providing godly counsel and wisdom to those who do, everyone can begin by praying. But just as Mordecai made himself available, we can also choose to add action to our prayers, becoming Christ's vessels of blessing and breakthrough.

Learn how to **pray** for, **connect** with, and **contact** our elected officials.
PrayforAmericasLeaders.com



INTERCESSORY ACTIVISM WITH THE CONNECTER

An interview with Jean Bednar,
IFA Intercessor

IFA: How have you used The Connector?

Jean: "I always carry copies to share at church when people show interest in praying for the nation. In our weekly Spirit-led prayer group, we intercede for government officials, world events, Israel, and news items—I share *The Connector* with new folks. In addition, we meet monthly with a Culture Impact Team to strategize and pray about how to be salt and light to others, often interacting with prominent Christian policy makers.

Since 1989, we have been involved with ACTION, Americans for Christian Traditions in Our Nation. We publish and share voter guides, asking people to pray as well. We always bring copies of *The Connector* to our quarterly meetings to hand out.

Outside of our church family, we carry a small supply, asking the Lord, 'Who are we to see and share with?' Then, as He leads, we share them—at the grocery store, Christian bookstore, doctors' offices, and basically anywhere.

In 2016, we shared hundreds of IFA prayer guides and issues of *The Connector* at campgrounds during an RV trip out West, telling people that IFA had

been doing this good work for over 40 years. We got such a good reception! We would look for, especially at church gatherings, Christian and conservative bumper stickers, Christian witness messages, and/or flags on hats and clothing. Then we would begin conversations with folks and sense the Lord's leading—it was so exciting! We gave out more than 500 of each kind of prayer resource. Even in Canada, we shared with a pastor and his family, asking if they would be willing to pray with us for our nation and the upcoming election. They heartily agreed, saying that it also mattered to them who became our next President.

We surely appreciate IFA and want others to learn about who you are and all that you do for our culture and nation."

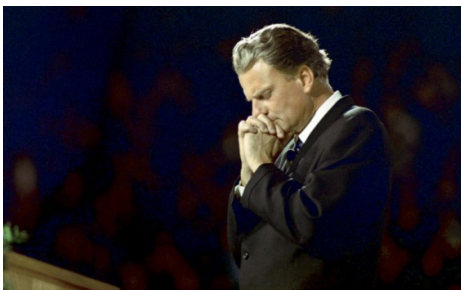
How are you adding action to intercession? Let us know by emailing ifa@ifapray.org.

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Answered Prayer



DEFEND THE GOSPEL AT ANY COST

In Billy Graham's last will and testament, he urges his family to uphold Jesus Christ no matter the cost. (CP)

WHITE HOUSE SUPPORTS FAITH COMMUNITY

President Trump signed an executive order establishing the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative. The executive order acknowledges the vital role that faith and community-based organizations play in the transformation and empowerment of our society. The executive order also affirms the role that churches, and other organizations, play in the strengthening of marriages and family, religious freedom, education, health and humanitarian services, poverty alleviation, and crime. (CL)

FOX CANCELS "LUCIFER" PROGRAMING

FOX opted not to renew *Lucifer*, which told the story of the fallen angel coming to Earth after he gets bored in Hell. *Lucifer* aired for three seasons and was criticized by *One Million Moms*, which urged companies to pull their ads in part because it "glorifies Satan as a caring, likable person in human flesh." (CH)

VICTORY FOR FAITH-BASED ADOPTION

Kansas and Oklahoma are now listed amongst the states that have passed laws to protect faith-based adoption agencies, joining 7 other states. Due to the recent erroneous redefinition of marriage through some legislatures and courts, faith-based adoption agencies have been faced with either closing their doors or violating their conscience. Now, faith-based adoption agencies in these states can place children with traditional families without fear of government coercion. (CPCF)

REAGAN-ERA RULES RESTORED

The Trump administration announced a measure that pro-life advocates have been seeking since the Clinton administration — restoration of Reagan-era rules that "require a 'bright line' of physical and financial separation between Title X services and providers that perform, support, or refer to abortion as a method of family planning." (NR)

SOME GOOD NEWS HEADLINES

- Abortions in the U.S. are at their lowest rate since 1976.
- Violent crime has hit a 20-year low.
- Globally, absolute poverty has reached the lowest level in recorded history.
- Deaths from wars in this century are fewer than at any comparable period in the twentieth century.
- Life expectancy continues to rise, reaching 78 in the U.S.
- Child mortality rates have dropped dramatically in the last forty years. (CT)

Issues for Prayer

WHAT IS THE ASIAN NIPAH VIRUS?

The virus is thought to naturally infect fruit bats, but it can also infect humans, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Nipah virus can cause an inflammation of the brain known as encephalitis. The virus can be highly lethal, with an average fatality rate of around 75 percent, according to the WHO. Currently there's no drug to treat the illness and no vaccine to prevent it. (LS)

68% OF ISRAELIS FACE ANTI-SEMITISM



A poll carried out for the US-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has found that over two-thirds of Israeli teens said they were exposed to anti-Semitic content online, with Facebook remaining the platform with the most reported hate speech against Jews. But the results marked a decrease compared to previous surveys held in 2016 and 2014, with an ADL official saying that was "encouraging news" but there is still "much work to do." (TOI)

Events

CALL2FALL
JULY 1, 2018

Churches are encouraged to invite people during worship services to get on their knees in repentant prayer for revival in our nation. Find helpful resources at www.call2fall.com.

Join believers in praying for our elected officials at PrayforAmericasLeaders.com • IFApray.org



FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Please plan on setting these important 30 minutes aside to join with hundreds across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on **July 6 / August 3, 2018 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**

Call: (712) 432-0075 Access Code: 1412452#

Publication index: CH=Christian Headlines; CP=Christian Post; CL=Caroline C. Lewis; CPCF=Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation; CT=Christianity Today; LS=Live Science; NR=National Review; TOI=Times of Israel

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