



DECEMBER 2018

THE CONNECTER

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

Thankful for our Constitutional Republic

We the People
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution
Article 1
Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.



By David Kubal
President and CEO
Intercessors For America

Isaiah 9 reminds us that the government (or authority) of heaven will be upon the shoulders of Christ and it shall have no end. It is within this simple promise of God that we, as intercessors, spend our lives: cooperating with God through prayer to see His authority expand in our nation and across the globe.

**"For to us a child is born . . .
and the government will be on his shoulders.
. . . Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end."** Isaiah 9:6-7

Did we ever think this would be easy? As we look back over this past year, we had great hopes looking forward to the midterm elections to further establish the rule and authority of God-fearing leaders holding both chambers of our government. Instead, a few hundred thousand votes spread across about twenty districts put in place a House of Representatives majority in favor of abortion, limited religious freedom, free health care and college for all, a two-state solution to Israel's tension, and more.

We must be more resolute than ever,

realizing this is a marathon and not a sprint.

Our nation is a constitutional republic, meaning our government is based upon the law of the Constitution, with the general population represented through elected officials.

There is now a tremendous opportunity to rejoice in God's authority expanding through law and judges who support the moral values of our Constitution and what our founders called the "laws of Nature." The nomination of judges at the federal level and at the Supreme Court level starts with our president and is carried out by the Senate. During the presidency of Donald Trump, the Senate has appointed 82 judges, including Supreme Court Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, with 146 openings yet to be filled between now and the end of President Trump's current term. This is out of a total of 870 judgeships, all with lifetime appointments. We potentially—and prayerfully—will watch our judiciary be transformed in front of our very eyes.

The leadership of the Senate, with added

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FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

December 7, 2018

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

CHRIST: THE ETERNAL GIFT

Christ is "the image of the invisible God" and "Christ is all, and is in all" (Col 1:15-20, 3:11). Worshipfully reflect upon these glorious truths. Christmas is a time to reflect upon this incredible gift of love that God has offered to a world that so desperately needs redeeming. Offer thanksgiving for the incarnation and birth of Jesus. Praise Him for His lordship over all.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Affirm the Lordship of Christ over all elected and appointed officials, their advisors, staff, and associates (Ps 2:1-6; Rev 1:15). Intercede for the hiring and placement of godly, moral, and wise men and women into all staff and advisory positions. Pray that all security clearance procedures be followed.

DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

Offer thanksgiving for another round of free and open midterm elections, for protection from terrorist attacks, and for the incredible liberty, blessing, and prosperity we still enjoy. Intercede for the reconciling of political animosity and healing of divisions in the body of Christ, and across the nation. Pray for working harmony among believers, and for domestic tranquility across the USA.

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



By Wanda Alger
IFA Field Correspondent

At a recent national prayer conference right before this year's midterm election, Pastor Sergio Scataglini shared a word he received from the Lord for the body of Christ in this nation: "Confident saints!" He said this was not something he expected to hear from the Lord, given that his life message has focused on holiness, humility, repentance, and brokenness. Yet, he was impressed by the Lord, "A holy self-confidence is the key to victory and revival in America."

Why would the Lord say this? Is it possible to look at this last year's journey as a nation to see what God is doing in the Church? Is there something deeper that He is accomplishing beyond transforming our government structures? Can we see any pattern of God's intervention that should cause us to become more confident and trusting in God's plans?

For those who have followed President Trump's activities, there is a viable track record in keeping his campaign promises. He has championed the faith community and stood for religious freedom, consistently inviting evangelical leaders to

the table. He has been pro-Israel and the only president to recognize the capital of Israel by moving the American embassy to Jerusalem. He has appointed two conservative Supreme Court justices and is likely to appoint a third. He has boosted our economy and has been outspoken about this nation's trust in God, publicly declaring the saving grace of Jesus Christ from the Rose Garden.

Regardless of one's personal feelings about this president, his actions have spoken loudly. Many believe his own journey as president is being formed by the prayers of the saints. Using a flawed man with obvious imperfections to lead a nation into a season of prosperity and hope should encourage all of us. Perhaps God is giving us a visible illustration of what can happen when we put our faith solely in Him, not in our past accomplishments, our natural skills or abilities, or even our reputation. Rather, it has been God's grace at work to demonstrate His sovereign ability to redeem and restore that which is broken.

There has been plenty of room for doubt and fear. The ongoing battles with those who are opposed to a nation under God have caused many believers to worry about the future. Open hostility and rage against conservatives are now publicly displayed with riots and demonstrations

in city streets. Mainstream media has become more cynical and negative regarding any policies and agenda of the current administration that is counter to progressive thought. Freedom of speech is being constantly threatened and challenged.

It would appear there is reason for the Lord to call upon the saints of God to be fearless in the face of these threats. Even as we have been praying for a much needed turnaround in this nation, we must acknowledge the long journey ahead and the need for courage. The early disciples praised God for the opposition they encountered, asking for even greater boldness to declare the Kingdom of God (Acts 4:29). When the Israelites went into the Promised Land, they had to be "bold and courageous" in order to take out the giants (Dt 31:6). The Psalmist tells us to rule in the midst of our enemies (110:2).

The Lord has been deeply at work this past year, not only within the foundations of our government, but within us as His people. This is not about one election, or even one president, but about a people rising up to show forth the glory of the Lord (Mt 5:16, 1 Pt 2:9). He is taking us from doubt into trust. From the negative to the positive. From fear into faith.

Let us be confident saints, for the Lord is with us! ♦



THANKFUL FOR OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

Continued from Page 1

authority after the midterms, has a priority above all others—to confirm conservative judges who will shape the history of our nation for decades to come.

As we celebrate the first coming of our Lord Jesus, let's thank and praise Him for the great things He is doing in our nation! ♦

Powerful Praises from Prayer Tours

One of the highlights of 2018 for Intercessors for America was praying with groups of intercessors on-site in Washington, D.C. People came from all over the country to pray with us for our nation at the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and outside of the White House. Here is what some of the intercessors have to say about these special events.

"Years of intercession concerning America consistently burdens my heart. My spirit was overcome with tears. I was on my knees asking God that Washington D.C. would no longer be forgotten. That history would no longer be silent. That it would speak loud of "One Nation under God" and "In God we Trust." I thank God for the opportunity of allowing me to be with people with the same urgency in prayer, and to stand in the gap for what we believe and all that is written in the Word of God." —**Gloria H.**

"Over many years our passion has been consistently to pray for America and the turning back to our Biblical roots—religious freedom, the sacredness of all life and creation, our right standing in the world, a Nation that shares our goodness with others in the world. We honor and value our God-given right

to do on-site prayer. We have come to Washington over many years to prayer walk. This Prayer Tour with IFA has been our best and most helpful time of group intercession ever! Being with the wonderful IFA staff, and other intercessors from around the country, gave us a sense of empowerment in all we experienced. We could almost sense the 'unbroken prayer roots' for our Nation that have been taking place since the beginning. Even the meals together were times to share in a strong community of faith with others who value our freedoms in this land. Our greatest blessing has been to now know and honor the actual people who produce all of these powerful tools for us who live, love, and cry out to our GOD in grassroots America! Together asking God to bless and protect our divinely-inspired government form, as well as praying that HE grant HIS protection for our freedoms that we now enjoy, made this Prayer Tour a tremendous experience!" —**Jim and Sally M.**

"I was so moved by the knowledge and research IFA had. I was made more aware of the significance that even one person makes. I realized my being there made an impact. When we prayed in the Senate buildings, I understood that GOD

was making a huge difference in our prayers. I wondered how many people actually go to the doors of the senators for each state and pray. This was a big reality check." —**Erin S.**

"One thing that we felt was valuable to us and also to the senators whose offices we were able to visit, was to let the senators and their staff know that we appreciated all that they do and that we are praying for them." —**Sarah K.**

"Praying with other intercessors in strategic places in government buildings was so powerful. As intercessors, we were reclaiming what had been lost, and proclaiming God's righteousness being restored in this nation. Standing in front of the room where the Supreme Court convenes and praying for that 9th chair, reminded me of Jericho, the battle cry was our prayers." —**Sylvia B.** ♦

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Answered Prayer

PASTOR BRUNSON RETURNS HOME



Pastor Andrew Brunson returned to the United States after two years of imprisonment and detention in Turkey.

President Trump welcomed him home at the White House after helping secure his release. Brunson prayed for the commander-in-chief in the Oval Office saying, "I ask that you give him strength. I ask you to protect him... make him a great blessing to this country and fill him with your wisdom and strength." "We pray for you often as a family, my wife and I pray for you," the pastor told the president. The Turkish court upheld its terrorism conviction of the Christian pastor but sentenced him to time served, allowing him to leave. Pastor Brunson was arrested and detained in Turkey since 2016. Brunson was facing up to 35 years in prison if convicted of espionage, but those charges were dropped. (CBN)

NEW FEDERAL JUDGES MAKING AN IMPACT

Federal judges sit on the bench for life and can either uphold the law or rule like tyrants. This puts judicial appointments right near the top of the most important things a president can do. The good news is that President Trump understands the gravity of his opportunity. Since taking office, he seated 29 appeals court judges, breaking a presidential record. So far, he has seated 84 total judges, including Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh with an additional 40 pending confirmations, and another 79 vacancies on top of that. Our judiciary is being transformed. (WT and us.courts.gov)

'GAY CONVERSION THERAPY BAN' DROPPED

Assembly Bill 2943 would have made it illegal to sell any service intended to change an individual's sexuality or gender identity. Assembly member Evan Low withdrew the bill: "I knew this was an emotionally charged issue, so I spent the past few months meeting with a wide variety of faith leaders. I was heartened by the conversations... With a hopeful eye toward the future, I share with you that, despite the support the bill received in the Assembly and Senate, I will not be sending AB 2943 to the governor this year." Low's unprecedented meetings with faith leaders, listening to their concerns, was a huge answer to prayer, in addition to the bill being withdrawn. Thank God for this and pray that He would use further dialogue on this issue to show His love through faith leaders. (CBN)

Issues for Prayer



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

People pack shoebox gifts every Christmas to bless children around the world. In December, the boxes will be distributed with a Gospel message. Pray for the children all over the world who will be receiving the boxes to accept and embrace Christ. Learn more at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

57% OF MILLENNIALS: ABORTION IS A SIN



Surprising findings about the beliefs of 18-34 year-old evangelicals have been released. Millennials hold more conservative views than older adults in several areas, as revealed by Ligonier Ministries' 2018 State of Theology survey. For example, 57 percent of millennials agreed that abortion is a sin—the strongest opposition of any age group. Likewise, 18-34 year-olds were most likely to disagree with sexual relations outside of marriage, with 54 percent agreeing that sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin. These trends will need to be monitored in future years. Millennials overall may not be as secular as is generally thought. What millennials believe about theology will have a profound impact on the future of America. Pray for Christians to embrace biblically accurate beliefs. (CNW)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE



Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that connects parents in prison with their children through the

delivery of Christmas gifts. In most cases, local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the Gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent. Pray that the love of Jesus will transform the families who are touched by the Angel Tree ministry. Pray for an outpouring of support for this wonderful Christmas outreach. Learn more at <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/>.

Publication index: CBN=Christian Broadcasting Network; CNW=Christian News Wire; WT=The Washington Times

To place orders with Intercessors for America, call (812) 814-9690 or visit IFAresources.com.

CONNECTING TO GOD



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 **December 7, 2018 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**
Call: (712) 432-0075 Access Code: 1412452#