



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019

THE CONNECTER

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

PRAYER FREES PASTOR BRUNSON



By CeCe Heil
Senior Counsel, ACLJ
Pastor Brunson's Legal Team

As an international human rights attorney, I know prayer changes everything. I can't guarantee that a certain outcome will be obtained, but I can guarantee that hearts will be touched, evil will be thwarted, and God will be glorified. This can definitely be seen in the case of our client, Pastor Brunson, who was wrongfully arrested and imprisoned in Turkey simply for living out his Christian faith. During the 2 years he spent in prison, there were times of frustration, discouragement, and hopelessness. And although we assisted with the trial in Turkey, worked with the State Department, Congress, Pres. Trump, V.P. Pence, and international bodies, including the UN and European Parliament, we never lost sight of the fact that it is our Lord Jesus Christ who turns the heart of a king, gives hope to the hopeless, makes possible the impossible, and sets the captives free (figuratively and literally).

Although I cannot share the specific details of the legal and political obstacles that were encountered during Pastor Brunson's case, I am convinced that it was only through the prayers of people all over the world that these obstacles were over-

come. I can tell you that Pastor Brunson has repeatedly stated that it was those same prayers that got him through such a trying time. I think that we all hope we would be strong if we were ever imprisoned for our faith, however, I can only imagine that we would have no idea until we actually faced that trial. We might question why we were suffering for simply being obedient to God, wonder if we had done something wrong, all while being desperate to know when God



would intervene on our behalf. Truly, those may be questions we struggle with every day, even if we aren't sitting in a prison. This is why intercessory prayer is so important, and why James not only encourages us to pray for each other, but also tells us that those prayers are powerful and effective. There are times when an individual may be too discouraged to pray or feel overwhelmed, just as Paul did in 1 Cor. 1 and it is in those times that the prayers of many bring deliverance.

There are countless Christians who face death, torture, and imprisonment for their faith every day. Whether it is the Christian genocide by ISIS in Iraq and Syria, forced atheism in China, horrible atrocities in Nigeria, or the constant fear Christians face in Pakistan, or others, there are many brothers and sisters in Christ who would love you to be praying for their deliverance. Therefore, thank you for your faithful prayers for Pastor Brunson, and please never stop praying. ♦

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

Jan. 4 / Feb. 1, 2019

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

CULTURE OF LIFE

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him (Deut 30:19-20). Offer thanksgiving for President Trump's strong pro-life stand, and for his repeated calls that all in our nation would demonstrate a "culture of life." Pray that the Lord grants courage to pro-life members of Congress.

PERSECUTED

Please pray persecuted believers would be encouraged and have access to Bibles. Pray for believers who have been rejected by family and friends, that God would surround them with a new Christian family who loves them and supports them emotionally and physically. Pray for God to be an advocate for those who are vulnerable.

116TH CONGRESS

Affirm the Lordship of Christ over your Senators and Representative, and over all returning and newly elected members of the 116th Congress (Ps 2:1-6; Rev 1:15). Intercede for the hiring and placement of godly, moral men and women into all congressional staff, committee and advisory positions.

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



Melinda Thybault is pictured here with her husband, Denny, and four of their children, all of whom were saved from abortion.

God's Love for the Unborn

By Melinda Thybault,
The Moral Outcry



I woke up shaken from a dream, July, 2016:

I was standing at my kitchen sink. I had something in my left hand, the water was running, and I reached with my right hand to flip on the switch to my garbage disposal and ran my left hand under the water. I instantly knew I had just crushed an embryo! I began to weep deeply. I woke up weeping and heard the Lord say "I'm sorry, I don't know how else to show you how I feel about this. Whether a human life is so small that the human eye cannot see it or an 8 month gestational baby being torn from its mother's womb, I knew them both! I stood before them declaring their plans, purposes, and destinies. I grieve equally for both!"

What was the Lord trying to show me?

My husband and I are pro-life to the core. We have a ministry to awaken the Church to adoption of the newborn as an answer to end abortion; we also educate on the origins of abortion biblically and historically. We know the Lord values life from the moment of conception.

When someone told us that Roe v.

Wade had never been successfully challenged, we began prayer and fasting for strategy. On March 9, 2017, while praying, I kept envisioning William Wilberforce rolling out his petition before Parliament bringing an end to the slave trade.

Together with attorney Allan Parker, President of The Justice Foundation, we wrote a petition to the Supreme Court of the United States to reverse, overturn, cancel, and annul Roe v. Wade, Doe v. Bolton, and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, and restore the right to life as written in the United States Constitution for persons in the womb. Just as William Wilberforce petitioned Parliament to abolish the slave trade, the purpose of the petition is to provide an outlet for people to reject the government's decisions on abortion.

All Americans can and should join this petition to the Supreme Court. Why petition the Court? It is the Supreme Court which must be petitioned by the people to change its decision. It is also right and just to give the Court the opportunity to correct their own error.

We view this petition as a holy document—a Joel 2 call to the nation. No matter where we find ourselves in the storyline of the past 45 years, if we repent on behalf of the innocent blood that has been shed, and believe God's Word that He forms each life in the womb of its mother, God will once again show mercy and we

will see this atrocity of abortion abolished.

Join us in praying that the Nation will raise their voice for the moral outcry to be heard! To sign the petition, visit TheMoralOutCry.com. ♦



PERSECUTED!

By Frank Gaffney
Save The Persecuted Christians



Unfortunately, too few people know that today there are more than 215 million Christians experiencing brutal persecution, including torture, rape, kidnappings, forced marriages, loss of property, exile, murder, and genocidal violence in a record number of countries worldwide.

While many are working tirelessly to relieve the suffering of such believers through prayer and often courageous good works, clearly we must do more. Specifically, millions of American Christians and others committed to religious freedom have to become informed, equipped, and engaged in the cause of protecting those being harmed for their faith. Together, we can make a real difference by holding the persecutors accountable and creating significant costs for their crimes against humanity.

For this purpose, a new, non-partisan alliance has been established called Save the Persecuted Christians. It draws upon the experience and skills of a growing number of remarkable individuals and nonprofit organizations. We are utilizing targeted awareness-raising campaigns, education-

al events, social media, briefings, TV and radio appearances, and other initiatives to encourage and support much-needed official and private-sector measures.

By so doing, we hope to protect those like Leah Sharibu, a 15-year-old Nigerian school girl kidnapped and held as a “slave for life” by Boko Haram terrorists just because she refused to denounce Christ, and missionary Pastor John Cao, whom the Communist Chinese have imprisoned in harsh conditions simply because he is a Christian.

EACH MONTH

255 CHRISTIANS ARE **KILLED**
AND **104** ARE **ABDUCTED**
FOR THEIR FAITH



215 MILLION CHRISTIANS EXPERIENCE HIGH LEVELS OF PERSECUTION WORLDWIDE.

Source: 2018 Open Doors World Watch List

We invite Americans from all faiths and backgrounds to join us in standing in the gap for Christians being harmed for their faith. Together, in prayer and in deed, we can keep hope alive and bring peace to nations.

Visit SaveThePersecutedChristians.org and join the *SaveUs Movement* by signing up as a member. Together we can save lives and save souls! ♦

Adopted and Loved

By Ryan Bomberger
The Radiance Foundation



I should have been aborted.
At least that's what the world thinks.
My birthmom was raped yet bravely rejected the violence of abortion, choosing life and adoption instead. I grew up in a multiracial family of fifteen. Nine of my twelve siblings were adopted and loved too. My parents shattered the myth of the “unwanted” child, and knew, so deeply, the profound truth of Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Yes. The same Christ who was humanly “unplanned.” In Matthew 1:1-16, we see that it's not Mary's genealogy that's detailed in the opening chapter; it's the genealogy of Jesus' adoptive father

—Joseph—who wasn't genetically related, at all! God's paradigm of adoption was revealed in a courageous teen mother with a humanly unplanned pregnancy (certainly divinely planned), a father who chose to love rather than to leave, and a Savior who would radically and beautifully change the world.

There is no salvation without adoption. It was God's plan to reconcile us to Himself as evidenced in Ephesians 1:4-5: *For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship (or daughtership) through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.*

But the Christian Church still doesn't fully grasp what adoption is in the natural and supernatural. Perhaps it explains why there were only 110,373 adoptions in 2014 (the latest year reported by the National Council for Adoption, or NCA), yet 926,200 abortions.

As people of God, we must do better. What we don't see from a human perspective, God knows from a divine perspective.

My amazing wife, Bethany, and I are adoptive parents. Our kiddos—biological and adopted—are loved like crazy. Our organization, The Radiance Foundation (theradiancefoundation.org) is predicated on this simple truth: life has purpose. We are passionate about illuminating how adoption is a powerful and culture-shifting way to turn the unplanned into a loving plan. ♦

160 CHRISTIANS ARE
DETAINED AND **IMPRISONED**
WITHOUT TRIAL



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UPHOLDING LIFE IN PRAYER

PRAYER TO BIND THE ABORTION POWER

Lord, in the Name of Jesus and by His blood, please forgive our nation of the terrible sin of legalized abortion. Nothing is worse than the shedding of innocent blood. It is written, "Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world," so we ask you to bind the enemy's stronghold on our legal system. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood (those who support legal abortion), but we ask that you would make the powers behind abortion powerless. We pray the covenant with death our country has made would be broken and Roe v. Wade would be reversed. May you deliver us from this evil. In Jesus' Name.

PRAYER POINTS FOR DAILY PRAYER

- Repent for our nation's legalized abortion and pray that Roe v. Wade would be reversed.
- Pray that more and more people would value life at every stage.
- Pray for the Supreme Court justices who have the power to change the law.
- Pray for legislators to advance state and federal laws for life.
- Pray for believers to embrace God's heart for all life and live out these principles.
- Pray for pro-life groups, for pregnant women to choose life, and for adoption of the vulnerable.



800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

What's New?



BECOME AN iPRAYforLIFE PRAYER TENT VIP

On-site, in Washington, D.C. at the world's largest pro-life event, a strategically-placed prayer tent will host intercession for the March for Life and the events surrounding it. Staffed with prayer volunteers from all across the nation, this VIP access to pray behind the scenes is an honor and privilege. iPRAYforLIFE Prayer Tent participants receive free devotions, free prayer resources, VIP Prayer Tent access, and exclusive iPRAYforLIFE promotional items as well as the opportunity to prayer walk the Nation's Capital.

Even if you can't make it to Washington, D.C., you can commit to pray at home and receive helpful life devotionals and other prayer resources.

Find out more at iPRAYforLIFE.com.

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

IFApray.org

What Are People Saying?

"I met L. during an IFA prayer gathering. From the minute we exchanged greetings I sensed Jesus had more in store for the two of us. We returned to our homes and...sensed a calling to plan a prayer trip to the US/Mexico border. We went, declaring a powerful reformation and transformation by a visitation of God!"

—On-site prayer in D.C.

★★★★

"I am so grateful for IFA. I am among like-minded believers when I read the prayers and thoughts on [IFApray.org]. It is good."

—Informer email

★★★★

"I am thankful for the faithfulness of IFA. In 1978, when I was 27, I first started receiving the IFA newsletter...Forty years later, I continue to pray for our nation and ask the Father to overturn the strongholds that Satan has built. At 67, I have learned a measure of persistence...We are persisting in asking for the rain of righteousness...I tune in for the first Friday calls, and am delighted in how God has enabled IFA to use current-day communications technology to get all focused together at one time on one topic." —First Friday Prayer Conference Call

★★★★

"Hi J. I live in your area. I found you and several others in our area from the interactive map on the IFA website. I am holding a special prayer call TONIGHT to pray for the Georgia elections outcome. Would you like to join us?" —Prayer Map



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 **Jan. 4 & Feb. 1, 2019 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**
Call: (712) 432-0075 Access Code: 1412452#



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2019: A RENEWED CALL TO FASTING

By David Kubal

As Intercessors for America (IFA) celebrates 45 years of ministry, we feel called to emphasize our founding principles. This ministry was birthed with prayer and fasting—together they have been the cornerstone of our ministry for 45 years. Fasting, some form of depriving your body, adds supernatural power to intercession and your personal walk with the Lord. We have encouraged fasting on the first Friday of every month. Our newsletter and monthly prayer conference call are some of the tools we offer to encourage the Church in this spiritual discipline.

In 2019, I am asking you to take up this calling—to supercharge your prayers and encourage your soul by fasting on the first Friday of the month. For those who desire more, join me in fasting every Friday.

Derek Prince was instrumental in the formation of IFA. He taught extensively on the importance and power of fasting. His words, written decades ago, are just as timely today:

"Today the American people and nation are in desperate need of healing, and God's word has the answer. [I]f my people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chr 7:14). God will hear and respond to our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

But we must first humble our soul. The soul is the ego, which is self-assertive, demanding, and self-centered. It is a tremendous barrier between us and the answer to our prayers—between us and a right relationship to God.

We must pray out of humility and brokenness, with a humble dependence on God that acknowledges our desperate need of Him. If He doesn't come to our aid, there is no other source of help that can meet our needs. Praying out of arrogance, self-righteousness, or self-sufficiency will not move the arm of Almighty God.

But God doesn't make us humble. We have to humble ourselves; it's a decision of our will. And God tells us how to do it. The appointed Scriptural way to humble ourselves is by fasting. That is deliberately abstaining from food for spiritual purposes. Sometimes it's from food and water, but normally from food. That's an unfamiliar word to many Christians today, but the Old Testament shows us the importance of fasting.

Consider David in Psalm 35:13: *I humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer kept returning to my bosom.* Humbling his soul with fasting made his prayer more intense and more effective. That's how it should be. Fasting intensifies prayer.

Next, we have Ezra and the returning exiles from the Babylonian captivity, carrying the sacred vessels of the temple back to

2019 Strategic Initiatives

The IFA Board sought the Lord and approved our strategic plan for 2019. We are depending on the generosity of individuals to provide the \$1,150,000 needed to accomplish the plan. In addition to the existing ministry activities we do, here are some of the key initiatives we will be emphasizing:



iPRAYforLIFE.com

– This prayer initiative will mobilize the Church to pray for the reversal of

Roe v. Wade and the protection of the unborn focusing prayers around the March for Life event January 17-18, and will include a prayer tent at the event.

Local Legislative Prayer – We will encourage local legislators to develop a lifestyle of prayer and utilize the IFA network for specific prayer support.

Praying On-site with Insight – We will host at least four opportunities for people to come to D.C. to pray at strategic sites.

IU Intercessors University – We will continue to create resources in the form of devotions to train believers how to pray for the nation. In 2019, we will solidify a "core curriculum" of teachings on prayer.

2019: A CALL TO FASTING

continued on page 1

Jerusalem (Ez 8). They were embarking on a long and dangerous journey through country infested by enemies and brigands, and in order to obtain safe passage, they sought God with humility and fasting. God heard them and granted them a safe journey.

Then we have to seek God's face—*break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the LORD until He comes to rain righteousness on you* (Hos 10:12 KJV). This is not a short prayer meeting; it means seeking the Lord until He comes, until there's a definite, specific response from God, until we see His arm stretched forth, and there is clear evidence that God is moving to answer

our prayers.

Fasting "breaks up fallow ground." These are areas of our lives that haven't been cultivated, not bringing forth fruit for God, no real results, no real work of the Holy Spirit. Breaking up the fallow ground in our lives is the only hope for our nation.

'Turn from their wicked ways,' may raise questions. 'What wicked ways? I go to church, say my prayers, read my Bible, pay my taxes, harm no one. Wait a minute! Who's right? You or God? Paul said, 'Who are you to reply against God?' (Rom 9:20). Are you arguing with God? Are you saying to God that you or I don't have any wicked ways? God says it's our wicked ways that have brought the problems on our nation.

We must face our sins of omission. It's a sin not to do the right thing when you can. *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and*

does not do it, to him it is sin (Jas 4:17 NKJV). It may not be the things you are doing, but the things you're not doing that God is concerned about. For instance, if fasting is God's appointed way, and you know it, but you're not doing it—then that is sin in your life. God requires you to change that."

—Derek Prince (1915-2003) was an internationally known Bible teacher and a founder of *Intercessors for America*. Born in India of British parents, he became an American citizen primarily due to his unwavering belief that our biblical heritage made America the strongest hope to ignite a revival for the restoration of godly government and a restoration of biblical standards before the return of Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church. For more excellent teaching like this, visit <https://www.ifapray.org/daily-devotional/>. ♦

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA 2018 Review (through November)



**36,000,000 impressions
across all platforms**



**2,500,000 forms of
engagement**



**1,350,000 page views
of website**



**1,010,000 emails sent
monthly**



**86,000 resources
downloaded**



**81,000 resources
mailed**



**60,000 prayer notices
sent to officials**



54,000 Facebook fans



**11,000 subscriptions to
devotions**



**7,500 receiving
The Connector**



**4,200 people praying on
24/7 Prayer Wall**



**1,500 participants monthly on
First Friday Prayer Call**