



DECEMBER 2019

THE CONNECTER

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



God's Three Gifts



*By David Kubal,
IFA President/CEO*

Our Lord's gracious love for us is expressed in many ways. During the Christmas season we are reminded that the birth of our Redeemer, Jesus, offers the potential for redemption and the release from bondage for all.

This message of hope and its supernatural effect have the potential to transform the three institutions created by God to care for our personal needs, our need to be in community, and our need to function in society. God, in His gracious love, supernaturally created the family, the Church, and government as divine entities to meet our needs, but all must be redeemed.

At the most basic level, God created us male and female (Gen 1:27). Regardless of the LGBTQ+ talking points, each of us has a chromosomal code dictating either XY (male) or XX (female). The Genesis 2 account of the creation of the woman immediately connects the creation of the second sex to the creation of the family. As you will read in this issue, family brokenness is wreaking havoc in our nation. We must continue to fight for what is best for us and our children, praying for redemption of our culture's concept of marriage and family.

God has also created us to be in com-

munity—to be in relationships with others to foster our development, allow opportunities for encouragement, and challenge us to be all God has designed us to be. Community originated in the Old Testament with the Israelites and continues on today through the Church. We live in a day where this too requires redemption. There are many groups of people who call themselves “church,” yet their lives and theology clash with the true God of the Bible. In this issue, you will read about how we can be praying for redemption in the Church today.

Finally, the last of the three divine institutions created by God to care for us is government. Attaching the word divine to government is difficult for people to accept these days, but Romans 13:1 clearly states that there is “no authority except that which God established.” And yet, most people, even Christian people, consider government only a secular institution created by power-hungry politicians. Our Founding Fathers did not believe this. They used the wisdom of God, expressed through the Scriptures, to build the foundation of our nation through the Constitution.

Throughout my ten years leading IFA, I have seen the wisdom of God brought to bear in the

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FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER December 6, 2019

Please join our First Friday Prayer
Conference Call.
See page 4 for details.

FAMILY

Pray for parents and children to know their true identities. Pray for emotional maturity and strength for families. Ask the Lord to bring freedom and healing where there is brokenness and instability. Pray for breakthrough for orphans and people carrying an orphan spirit.

CHURCH

Pray for churches to truly be houses of prayer (Mt 21:13). Pray for pastors to devote themselves to prayer, for elder bodies to cover pastors and churches in prayer, and for Christians to be passionate about the necessity and power of intercessory prayer. Pray for revival (2 Chr 7:14).

GOVERNMENT

Thank the Lord Jesus that the “government will be on His shoulders” (Is 9:6). Pray for the leaders in our government. Pray that God would draw them to Himself, that He would help them to function biblically as leaders so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness (1 Tm 2: 2).



Fractured Families of Today Need Focused Prayer

By Judy McDonough, Director of Communications

The first institution that God created was the family. IFA asked 3 prayerful ministry leaders how intercessors can be praying for the American family at this time in history.

Joy Chickonoski is a national leader with Heartland Apostolic Prayer Network and Real Living Ministries, and executive director of UnLeashed Healing Center: “Pray for emotional intelligence. Our families are often conceived in brokenness and grow in brokenness without relief. Convinced that separation is what is needed to heal, divorce fractures the heart of our families again and again. Emotional brokenness leads to illness, infertility, stress, and instability, all of which affect our ability to properly educate the next generation, who do not have the emotional stability for learning. This deepens financial burdens for the generations to come, and the cycle of stress and lack of coping skills continues.

The brokenness of the home has created a culture of orphans. The more we plead for belonging, with sanctions that control how people need to speak and act, the deeper into emotional isolation we find ourselves. The way out is to teach people that love comes from God and is felt first on the inside through repentance. Repentance and forgiveness heal the wounds, but that is a tough sell in our orphan culture. It will take prayer, and breakthrough, for

cultural orphans to receive accountability as protection rather than control and hatred.”

The brokenness Joy described is evident in foster children. Many Christians are being called to care for foster children, but are they obeying? Kendra Evans is a foster mother and leader of Woven Ministries in Virginia:


“Many people will not choose to foster because at some level they do not want their current lifestyle to be inconvenienced. It might be hard, messy and painful. Guess what? It IS hard, messy and painful! Jesus didn't say meet me in a tidy, organized, effortless, only-take-up-a-couple-hours-of-your-week place. He is in the mess, this mess. As mature, believing adults we can deal with the hardships. Our hurt, our attachment, and our own issues pale in comparison to the magnitude of hurt these kids face every day.

As you pray for people in the foster care system, please pray for clarity to stay focused on the best interests of the child, for endurance and patience of families and workers, and for support—all need more support. Foster families and bio families need support, social workers and government agencies need support as well as monetary funding to properly oversee and care for the kids in the system. Fostering is not a distant, far-fetched need, fostering is a 24/7 mission field everywhere

in America, yet gets very little attention in the church.”

Victoria Jakelsky is the NJ Parental Rights State Coordinator with Parentalrights.org. Working with the NJ child and family services sparked her passion for the rights of parents and children. Here is her challenge to parents and her prayers for families:

“In today's world, children are hearing more lies than truth. They need to know God's WORD and trust that their parents will defend them if they refuse to compromise their faith. Prayer, time, support, and the Word of God must be evident in your family's daily life. Your children need to know that you will support them if they stand apart and speak the truth even when they are the only ones saying it. Please do not be afraid to sacrifice money to give your child what they truly need—time and love.

Father God, please show each parent how to show their children that they love them and are proud of them. Lord, please help the fathers be leaders, prayer warriors, defenders, and disciplinarians in their homes. Heavenly Father, please show the families how to make time to talk. Help parents find ways to help children share their fears, their pain, and their problems. Lord God, raise up true churches that will teach your Word without compromise, so families will have a place to grow, be challenged, and fellowship with others who are striving to live holy separate lives (2 Cor 6:16-18).” 

How Do We Intercede for the Church?

By Larry Tomczak, IFA Board Member and Cultural Commentator

My house will be called a house of prayer (Mt 21:13). Is our local church household of faith (Gal 6:10) a house of prayer? Three guidelines may help us on our journey.

The first step for intercessors is to ask God to instill in people an inclination and recognition of the priority of prayer. Knowing we have not, because we ask not (Jas 4:2), align with Jesus and humbly petition for divine intervention since He always lives to intercede for us (Heb 7:25).

Paul exhorted churches to pray like the Colossian church, to be devoted to prayer (Col 4:2). We need to appeal to heaven for a God-given impartation of a spirit of prayer so we're motivated by grace, and not condemnation, comparison, or legalism.

Jesus said, "Watch and pray...the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt 26:41). A nucleus of intercessors within the Church can together invite the Holy Spirit to send a Spirit-born conviction to overcome procrastination and laziness in order to engage in prayer.

The second step is to intercede for pastors to set the example in prayer and teach on its priority. From 47 years of pastoring and planting churches, I know the challenge of vocational ministry. Many pastors identify with the plight of early church leaders needing to delegate more responsibilities so they could give their attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4).

Legendary leader and founder of the

Vineyard Church movement, the late John Wimber, traveled all over the globe. He said repeatedly, "I found there are two things that pastors do not do consistently. They don't evangelize or pray." May that not be the case in our local church.

Many years ago, our pastoral team spent time at the world's largest church in Seoul, Korea (over 700,000 members). Pastor Yonggi Cho told us, "Much prayer—much power. Little prayer—little power. No prayer—no power."

When we returned, the first thing we did was repent before the church for our prayerlessness and poor example. We pledged to make concrete changes in our lives. When we had made significant progress we would share prayer strategies to help us truly become a praying community.

At the Brownsville Revival, I had the privilege of periodically leading a weekly prayer meeting. We targeted these areas: government, ministries of the church, families, children, youth, the lost and backslidden, church leaders, healing, unity and purity, Israel, revival and awakening.

The spirit of prayer that permeated that remarkable revival drew over 3 million people and saw 200,000 conversions. The prayer meetings at the heart of Brownsville were similar to gatherings at the International House of Prayer: God-centered praise and worship; anointed, directive leadership; opportunities for participation; and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.

Here's the deal: The apostles never asked Jesus "teach us to preach," but asked, "teach us to pray," because they recognized prayer as the source of His power. May we heed the Holy Spirit's call to prayer in these turbulent yet thrilling times! 🏰

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Tear-off Prayer Guide

10 WAYS FOR YOUR PRAYER TO BE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Your prayer for others can be a gift. As Christmas season brings opportunities and challenges for many, interceding on behalf of others is one way you can silently bless those around you. Take time to add one or more of these "gifts of prayer" to your personal prayer time this Christmas season. ❄️

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1. Pray for food pantries who are often low on funds and supplies this time of year.
Mt 25:35

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2. Pray for those who are incarcerated, families who suffer, and ministries who reach out to the hurting.
Eph 1:7

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3. Pray for family who are unbelievers.
Jn 3:17

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4. Pray for those in our nation who have experienced tragedy.
Ps 147:3

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5. Pray for deployed military members and their families.
Rom 8:35



10 WAYS FOR YOUR PRAYER TO BE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

6. Pray for churches
and pastors.
Eph 2:13



7. Pray for those who
are alone or lonely
this season.
Mt 5:3-4



8. Pray for people who
work on Christmas.
Phil 2:4



9. Pray for those who
despise Christmas.
Jn 1:12



10. Pray for children
who may not know the
true meaning of
Christmas.
Mt 1:21



*Lord, there are some among us
who do not recognize Your pres-
ence. May You draw them to You.
Open their eyes so that they may
know You personally. Bring Your
sons and daughters to lovingly
share Your story with them.*



Intercessors For America
800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

How Can IFA Help You Intercede for the Nation?


By IFA Staff

Did you know that you can engage with IFA and our resources without using a computer or smart phone?

Join our First Friday Prayer Conference Call every month (details below). These calls are incredible times of corporate prayer. Missed the call? Call our replay line (712-775-7432, access code 2452#) to listen to the call. The replay is available until the next call occurs.

You can order IFA resources by mail. New resources are added constantly. Two resources especially helpful in praying for the nation, and suitable for sharing, are *31 Days of Strategic Intercession* and our *Praying for the Government* bookmark. Call 1-800-USA-PRAY (872-7729) to order copies. There is no charge, but donations are welcome to defray our expenses.

Pray on-site with insight with IFA. Our prayer tours occur in Washington, D.C. several times every year. Watch for information in future issues of *The Connector*. Participants are amazed at the power of praying in person in our Capital with others who are sensitive to the Spirit and passionate about intercession for the nation. A recent participant shared, "Bless you for your faithfulness and great faith! The joy in your staff is contagious! The Prayer Tour was again WONDERFUL!"


If you have questions, please call our office. We would love to provide you with free prayer resources to help you intercede for our nation's leaders. 

God's Three Gifts to Care for Us

Continued from Page 1

lives of our elected officials and in the work that they are doing. I have listened to lawmakers and candidates telling me about the challenge of balancing family life with the demands of public service. I have been asked to pray in confidence about discerning God's call to run for office, about an action in Congress, or about policies in the highest levels of the Executive branch. I have been asked to pray about behind the scenes events on Capitol Hill that you will never see on the news. Every time I tell leaders that I am praying, and that you, IFA intercessors, are praying, I am told how very much it means, personally and professionally.

Praying for our government leaders is crucial, and letting them know they are being prayed for is almost as important. Our government will thrive with the infusion of God-seeking people, following God-outlined principles, upheld in prayer by God-directed intercessors. Since God is the author of this institution, we cannot remove Him from the institution and expect it to function well—or at all. I am convinced that your role—intercessor—is not only a critical assignment, but a redemptive act of hope as we invite God anew into our nation.

I want to bring you, our trusted intercessors, a message of the hope of redemption during this Christmas season, a hope that our Redeemer has the power to redeem the three divine institutions. We must hold on to our hope and take a "stand" upon our knees as we battle for God's best in our nation. 



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 6, 2019 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**
Call: (712) 775-7430 Replay: (712) 775-7432 access code: 2452#