

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

THE CONNECTER

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.



Have I Done Enough?

David Kubal, IFA President/CEO

A common theme I am hearing from intercessors across the country—and feeling myself—could be summed up in one short question: “Have I done enough?” Do you have a plaguing sense of: Have I prayed enough? Have I spoken up enough? Have I sent enough information to friends? Have I fasted enough? Have I done all that I could to see our nation turn toward God?

My guess is that if you are asking this question of yourself, the answer is “yes.” The simple fact that you have a burden to be used of God to your fullest to shape history through prayer and fasting does in fact give evidence that you have accomplished God’s will.

Let me state the obvious. All of us could have done more. We could have prayed more, fasted more, etc. But the trap of potential guilt from a lack of performance is just that—a trap. This trap can drive us away from the Father and toward empty performance. Performance-oriented intercession quickly loses its life, longevity, and effectiveness.

So, dear intercessor, be encouraged in the faithfulness of your prayers. Do not derive fulfillment through answered prayer. Rather, rest before the Father of your soul, knowing you have been obedient. Don’t rest in answered prayers, rather rest in the One who answers prayers.

We will continue to pray, intercede, and fast for our nation in the months to come, resting upon the promises of Scripture:

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made...for all who are in authority... For this is good...in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved... (1 Tm 2:1-4, NKJV)

This passage reminds us:

- God desires the first topic of our prayers to be government (1 Tm 2:1).
- God desires us to pray for good government that encourages religious freedoms (1 Tm 2:3).
- Good government facilitates the preaching of the Gospel message (1 Tm 2:4).

Prayers for government that go unanswered could also lead to discouragement and criticism: “Truth will never prevail.” “The evildoers go unpunished.” “Things will never straighten out.” These thoughts and feelings give way to a critical heart. Derek Prince reminds us:

“The truth is that Christians are not held responsible by God to criticize their government, but they are held responsible to pray for it. So long as they fail to pray, Christians have no right to criticize... Furthermore, if Christians would seriously begin to intercede, they would soon find less to criticize. I am persuaded that the root of the problem with most Christians is not the lack of will, but the lack of knowledge... Good government is God’s will. This will provide both the faith and the incentive that Christians need to pray effectively for government.” (*Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting*, 56).

2020 was a year of 20/20 vision, revealing the state of our nation, the hearts of our leaders, and those who are part of the true Church. In 2021, we now have the opportunity to pray with greater unity as we know better who is with us. Intercessors for America was birthed with an invitation that remains today: you can shape history through prayer and fasting. We would love to send you the timeless book, *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting*, by Derek Prince. Just give us a call at (800) USA-PRAY (872-7729). ★IFA



IFA: Founded in a Prayer Meeting

John D. Beckett, IFA Founder/Board Member

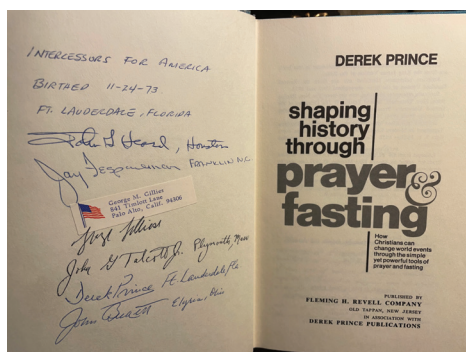
A prized book in my library is a first edition copy of *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting*, inscribed to my wife Wendy and me, “with love to you both,” by the author, Derek Prince. On the day Intercessors for America was founded, November 24, 1973, our small founders’ group of six signed the cover page: John G. Heard, Jay Fesperman, George Gilles, John G. Talcott, Derek Prince, and me.

IFA was born out of a prayer meeting focused on intercession for the nations. Derek Prince, a principal speaker, focused on the recent 350th anniversary of the landing of the pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts. (We have just celebrated the 400th anniversary of that historic event!)

Derek was amazed by the spiritual underpinnings of the pilgrims: “As I studied [William] Bradford’s own firsthand account of the founding of Plymouth Colony and of its early struggles, I developed a strong sense of spiritual kinship with him and his fellow pilgrims. I discovered that their whole way of life was based upon the systematic study and application of the Scriptures.”

So, in a way, seeds that were sown in the landing of the Mayflower sprang forth in the founding of IFA. Other factors underscored the priority of prayer during that year, 1973, chief among them the U.S. Supreme Court’s fateful *Roe v. Wade* decision in January and the emergence of Watergate, the scandal that eventually resulted in the resignation of President Nixon the following year. Oh, how we needed to rekindle a love for God and a dependence on him!

I distinctly recall the pervasive surfacing of 2 Chronicles 7:14 on the hearts of believers that year. It was as though this passage, originally



impressed on King Solomon immediately following the dedication of the Temple, sprang to life from the pages of the Old Testament in our time of national need. Jimmy and Carol Owens (Jimmy was an IFA board member), wrote the remarkable music production “If My People...” in 1974. The hearts of millions were captivated! Prayer, always essential in any time of spiritual transformation, began to saturate the Christian landscape. It was God’s doing, and we, as IFA’s founders, were privileged to be contributors.

Did we ever think we’d be flourishing as a prayer catalyst 47 years later? Not in our wildest dreams. Our vision was to mobilize prayer through the nation’s bicentennial year, 1976, and then fade away. But God had other plans, and we’ve watched in wonder as he has taken us to a level of engagement and spiritual influence that we never imagined. In fact, we are currently seeing a crescendo of prayer through IFA that greatly encourages us. Our faithful God is giving us this opportunity.

Yes, our little band of six may be considered the founders. Jay Fesperman’s wife Sally has succeeded Jay on our board. The remaining founders have gone to glory. But it is those who carry on—you, intercessors for our nation, who keep this work alive and relevant. Thank you. This is an endeavor worthy of our effort, our resources, and our hearts. ★ IFA

FIRST FRIDAY *prayer*

**JANUARY 1, 2021
FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

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

THE CHURCH

We pray for redemption through the blood of Christ and sanctification by God’s Word. We pray for a Church permeated by God’s glory, the personal presence of God (Eph 5:27). We pray that the Church will be united in Christ. We pray that the Church will be what God wants us to be, that the world may know who Jesus Christ is. (Jn 17:22-23)

GODLY LEADERSHIP

We pray for leaders who are just and who lead in the fear of the Lord. We pray that we would experience the blessings of God’s promises, that their governance would be like the rising sun, a cloudless morning, and tender grass growing (2 Sm 23:2-4). We pray for God’s will and plan for America and our leaders to come to pass.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

Thank God for all leaders in authority over us. We pray for them, that their actions and policies would result in our ability to lead quiet, peaceful lives in godliness and dignity (1 Tm 2:1-4). Thank God that He invites us to participate with Him in shaping history through prayer and fasting. Ask God for strength, vision, and endurance to continue interceding for America and America’s leaders.



How Then Shall We Go on Living?

Suni Piper, IFA Contributing Writer

When our King stepped onto the scene over 2000 years ago, it was to reestablish a Kingdom reign that had been overturned in the Garden – to take back His rightful territory. While this reign won't be fully established until the end of days, He has given power and authority back to His people. In His death, we were given access to the throne room, invited back into an intimate relationship with our Creator.

No matter what 2020 brought, this reality has not changed.

The perpetuation of these unprecedented times lingers – where up is down, black is white, good is evil. We, of course, are praying for *shalom* in this nation – for a peace that surpasses all understanding, for truth to reign and for those who are perishing to find the light and the reason for the hope that we have.

How then shall we go on living?

We must settle into the assurance we have as believers in Christ. We have been called back from the brink of death. We were once dead but are now ALIVE in Christ Jesus! We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

Our prayers are powerful and effective! Our faith is formidable—it can throw mountains into the sea, demolish strongholds, and set captives free! Our actions matter!

Will we waver and be consumed by circumstances surrounding us or will we stand on the NAME that carries the victory? Our battle is NOT against people (as volatile as some situations



may seem), it is against the powers and worldly forces of darkness (Eph 6:12).

We must fight on our knees, remembering whose NAME carries the VICTORY! Jesus—there is no other name! His promises are true and yes and amen in Christ Jesus! He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

Pray for the Church to be bold, resolute, firm, and passionate about sharing the love and truth of Christ. Pray we would do our part to establish His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven! Pray for those who are perishing, that our light of a city on a hill would win many to the Kingdom. Pray for courage, as well as grace, to carry the reason for the hope that we have. Life and death are at stake. Know when it is time to put on our battle attire and time to lay our weapons down.

We are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, we are those who have faith and are saved (Heb 10:39) Remember WHO our battle is with and whose Name we carry – the ONE who has the final word! ★ IFA

TEAR-OFF

INTERCESSORS
FOR
AMERICA

A DOZEN STEPS to a Good NEW YEAR

Happy New Year! We say that each January 1, but what steps are we taking to make the coming year a good one? The book of Hebrews outlines twelve steps to take that can ensure benefit and blessing.

1. Let us rest in Christ. The promise of God's rest—His peace, confidence, and salvation—is there for those of us who consider the condition of our own heart, and see our need for a Savior (Heb 4:1).

2. Let us be diligent. For those of us who have heard the Word of God comes responsibility—deliberate obedience in our decision to follow Christ (Heb 4:11).

3. Let us hold fast. Recognize the ultimate priesthood of Christ and His position of authority and complete inherent holiness (Heb 4:14).

4. Let us draw near to the throne of grace. The atonement by the High Priest Christ gives us the standing to boldly draw near to the holy throne of God to receive grace and mercy—dispensed for our benefit (Heb 4:16).

5. Let us press on to maturity. Our salvation grows ever more all-encompassing, as we progress from the starting point of our salvation, to the perfection of our salvation through the Holy Spirit working in us (Heb 6:1).

continued on next side

6. Let us draw near to the Most Holy Place. God's complete sacrifice through Christ gives us the confidence that we are clean before Him and can draw near to Him. He created this path for us to draw near because He desires relationship with us (Heb 10:22).

7. Let us hold fast without wavering. God has given us complete secure salvation—let us be faithful in living in it fully (Heb 10:23).

8. Let us consider one another. Our relationship with Christ is both individual and corporate—let us remember that God has ordained a Body for the outworking of our faith (Heb 10:24).

9. Let us run with endurance the race. As we "run the race" in our faith life, like a runner who sheds anything unnecessary that would keep them from a successful race, let us put off the weights, the sins, and the mindsets that cause us to lose our focus, which is Christ (Heb 12:1).

10. Let us show gratitude. We are overwhelmed with the blessing of His Kingdom, so let us serve Him in gratitude and with holy fear (Heb 12:28).

11. Let us go out to Him outside the camp. Our salvation in Christ brings our focus and allegiance outside of the worldly system and into the camp of the Lord. We need to daily choose to walk away from the world and toward the camp of Christ as we live (Heb 13:13).

12. Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise. Instead of the Old Testament animal sacrifices, God calls us to offer up our praises as a sacrifice in the New Covenant. Let us incorporate a constant stream of praise to the Lord in our lives (Heb 13:15).

*Excerpted from IFA Daily Devotional.
Sign up online at IFAPray.org.*

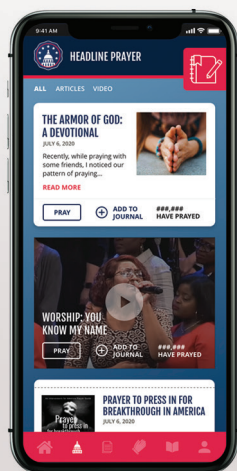
What's new at IFA?

COMING SOON:



My
AMERICAN
PRAYER JOURNAL

Look for IFA's new app on
iTunes and Google Play

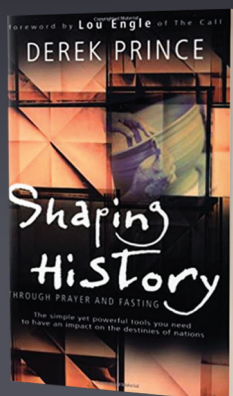


READ THE BOOK THAT
STARTED A MOVEMENT

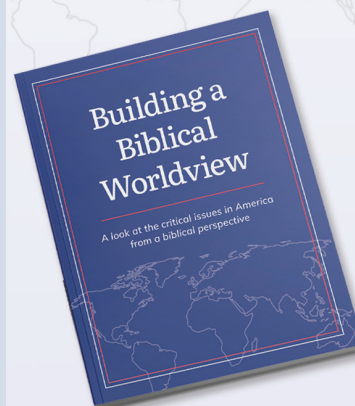
**CALL (800) USA-PRAY
(872-7729)**

OR EMAIL IFA@IFAPRAY.ORG

COPIES AVAILABLE FOR A
DONATION OF ANY AMOUNT



Understand what the Bible
says about key issues in
America today. Get copies
for yourself and to share.



**Call (800) USA-PRAY
(872-7729) or email
IFA@ifapray.org**

FIRST FRIDAY *prayer* CONFERENCE CALL

**JANUARY 1, 2021
FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

12:15 PM ET

Join with thousands across the
U.S. in praying for America, its
leaders, and its citizens.

Call: (712) 775-7430
Webcast: IFAPray.org/live

This First Friday Prayer Letter, provided on request, is published 10 times annually. IFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All Scripture references are ESV unless otherwise noted. Contents may be reproduced, except for items separately copyrighted; please credit IFA.

IFA Office: PO Box 915,
Purcellville, VA 20134;

Tel: 800-USA-PRAY;

e-mail: IFA@IFAPray.org

IFA Websites: IFAPray.org,
HeadlinePrayer.org, and
VoteYourValues2020.com



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*