

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Meet Intercessors Bill and Betsy West

SUNI PIPER, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

More than forty years ago, intercessors Bill and Betsy West became believers in Christ when God supernaturally saved their marriage from the brink of divorce and marked them for eternity. Newly saved and spirit-filled, their hunger for the Lord and His Word grew. "It was like God put us on hyperdrive, we were so hungry for the Lord. That was when... we started going to a prayer meeting (at our local church)," Betsy said.

Their prayer mantle grew over the years. "I never wanted to be an intercessor because I thought intercessors sit in a room and I'm a hyper kind of person. When we connected with Harvest Evangelism, we walked the streets and reached the city. We met politicians, business leaders, pastors and found that that was part of intercession too!," Betsy shared.

After connecting with IFA through receiving a newsletter, they were surprised by a call from an IFA staff member—not asking for money, but simply to bless them. That connection grew and the Wests eventually visited the IFA offices in Purcellville, Virginia. Immediately their hearts were knit together with IFA. They saw, prophetically, the call and future of IFA's ministry. Betsy said, "[IFA] is a special treasure of God that is touching the entire United States." Bill added, "When I think of IFA, I think of efficiency wrapped in humility. It's really amazing what gets done at IFA. And the other thing too that I value more than anything is that IFA values its intercessors...like we just came in the chariot of God."

As they grew in the "frontlines" ministry of intercession, Bill was reminded of words shared by Dave Thompson of Harvest Evangelism, "In your city you (the intercessor) are the prow of the ship, you are the battering ram." Bill explained, "We are the ice breaker; we are the ones that are going to knock the wall down. That is never pretty but the reward is just incredible. And to partner with a ministry like IFA is a rare and precious gift!"

"In business, we focus on return on investments and efficiencies. We know that time is limited and precious so

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when we do something, we want it to count. The bang for your buck with IFA is incredible," Bill said.



Bill and Betsy at IFA's Appealing for Life event.

When asked why they became Monthly Ministry Partners, Bill was quick to answer, "We learned early on to be investors rather than just givers. When you invest your money, you put it where it brings the biggest return. We are generous but very selective. IFA has been a blue-chip stock in the Kingdom. IFA is the gold standard. It's very easy to give to IFA because you know that money is going to a good, good cause."

Bill continued with this charge to intercessors, *"Time is of the essence. We need to understand the season we live in. The enemy understands totally. The Church is reactive, [but] we need to be the aggressor. We are supposed to advance the Kingdom, not allow the Kingdom to back off and hold on. We are advancers, not defenders."* IFA



Persevering Prayer Is Breaking Through

KIM POTTER, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you ever become discouraged about the nation? Have you ever questioned whether your prayers will be answered? Recently God led me to a scripture found in the Old Testament. *Little by little I will drive them out from before you . . .* (Ex 23:31).

God had delivered the children of Israel from Egypt and was leading them to their Promised Land. God let His people know there would be adversaries along the way. There would be battles to fight. Yet, God promised He would deliver the enemy into their hand. God could have removed every single enemy in a day, but He didn't. Instead, He said He would drive them out *little by little*.

As always, God kept His word, and little by little, enemies were driven out and God's people arrived at the Promised Land.

It is easy to look around and see what is happening in our world or listen to the local media and decide things are getting worse, not better. But we must dig deeper. The truth is – change is happening – good change.

This is what I see. Several local politicians changed political parties because they oppose progressive policies. CEOs are resigning in large numbers due to heightened accountability. Parents are changing local school boards through involvement and action.

We are taking back our nation, little by little.

Deuteronomy 7:22 builds on Exodus 23:31, telling us God's people would have a part to play in driving out the enemies. These two verses show us that God will drive back the darkness, but we also have a part to play

removing darkness from our midst.

The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers." James 5:16 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." I love how the Amplified Bible translates it; "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."

Intercessors across the nation have been praying heartfelt, continuous prayers and we are beginning to see the manifestation of the tremendous power that type of intercession brings forth. For this reason, we *must* keep praying. We cannot stop now. It is making a difference. More and more people are beginning to see what is really happening in our world.

People are turning away from what was once mainstream media and are turning instead to platforms like Headline Prayer at IFApray.org. People are seeking truth – real truth. This is all happening because of those who are crying out to God. God's ears *are* open to our prayers. He hears us, and He is responding...our job is to continue to take the land, little by little. Day by day. Month after month.

As we search through the pages of the Bible, we see the awesome results of prayer. These are not just words on a page – they are the manifested power of God. They are the answers to heartfelt prayers of God's people. He is the same God, yesterday, today, and forever. He hears our prayers today and He is answering. Can you see it? If not, ask Him to open your eyes and allow you to see all He is doing – and whatever you do – don't stop praying. **IFA**

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

March 4

12:15 PM ET

CALL (667) 771-7910, CODE 2452#
WEBCAST IFApray.org/watch

Join with thousands across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on the first Friday of every month. We encourage intercessors to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

FRONTLINE INTERCESSION

Pray for the intercessors on the frontlines of the spiritual battle for this nation. Pray for their protection, wisdom to hear only God's voice, and for discernment to know how to pray. Thank God for those willing to step out in faith to use their time to advance the kingdom of God and boldly be the "battering rams" to dispel the kingdom of darkness.

PERSEVERING PRAYER

Pray for persistence in praying for the nation. Ask the Lord to give you renewed stamina and greater faith as you intercede for elected officials and for biblical values in our government and culture. Pray for eyes to see God at work as He drives out the enemy "little by little." Ask God to show you the part He wants you to play in His work in your community, state, and the nation.

HEALING THROUGH PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Pray for worshippers to rise up and sing praises to the Father in the midst of the battle for the hearts and minds of believers. Ask the Lord to give His people a new song, to be overcomers and a light in the darkness. *Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world (Is 12:5).*



Finding Healing in Worship

JOYCE SWINGLE, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Lord sings healing harmony through Natasha Owens. The Louisiana-based recording artist (www.NatashaOwensMusic.com) led intercessors into worship at IFA's Dec. 1, 2021, Appealing for Life prayer march in Washington, D.C. and at IFA's event at the March for Life. Owens first connected with IFA through her friendship with Dr. Alveda King (www.alvedaking.com), a guest at the Champions for Life banquet on Nov. 30.



Natasha Owens at the Appealing for Life prayer march on Washington, D.C. Dec 1st, 2021.

Always musical, Owens shunned the limelight until her father's accidental death plunged her into despair. "I tried to stay strong for everybody and delayed my grief. About the year mark, I started questioning 'Why?'," Owens told IFA. "When I didn't [get an answer], I got very angry. And Proverbs tells us we have the power of life and death in our tongue. I did not choose life." Instead, she spiraled into depression.

Undaunted by Owens' turmoil, her pastor urged her to become the church's music minister. "He said, 'You just have to get...out of your circumstance and as you minister, God will heal you in return....I feel this is your last lifeline.'"

Owens grabbed the rope offered, and the Lord indeed healed her.

"Even though I couldn't pray or read my Bible at that point, I would turn on a song I was thinking of for the week. Two minutes later, I would be out of bed; I would use that music to get me stronger. Every song was a restoration."

The Lord then led Owens into her first CD – *I Made It Through*, which marked the healing from her initial grief. This CD scored her a concert gig, opening for Michael W. Smith (www.MichaelWSmith.com). Owens initially declined, citing anxiety, but reversed course immediately upon learning the event would be on Oct. 3 – her father's birthday. She knew her Heavenly Father arranged this event for her continued healing.

Her second CD, *We Will Rise*, came after a friend from a former church called to relate a dream in which she saw Owens at an altar, ascending on wings. The dreamer heard God say, "*I Made It Through* is not the true message. Rising above is and I will bring you there on wings." Said Owens, "A lot of times people stop once they make it through the trauma.... But we have to turn and we have to help others. It's the difference between surviving and thriving."

Her third CD, *Warrior*, focused on survival, strength, and overcoming. Owens said, "When you look back at all my projects, every CD is a chapter in my recovery. Just when I think I've learned everything there is to learn, He brings me to a different level." Owens' current release, *Stand*, highlights her emergence as a leader, responding to the full-term abortion laws passed by New York and Virginia. "It's an anthem for Christians to stand and be a light in the midst of the darkness," said Owens. "Stand for what we believe in."

That is music to IFA intercessors' ears, even as Owens' songs are balm to our souls. **IFA**

TEAR-OFF

Praying FOR THE
Biden
Administration

Pray for these leaders to recognize their own inadequacy and seek the will of God (Prv 3:5-8).

Pray that they would fear God and that God would be glorified through their actions (Prv 9:10).

Pray that the idols of Washington, DC would be struck down, and only the one true God would be honored (Is 42:8-9).

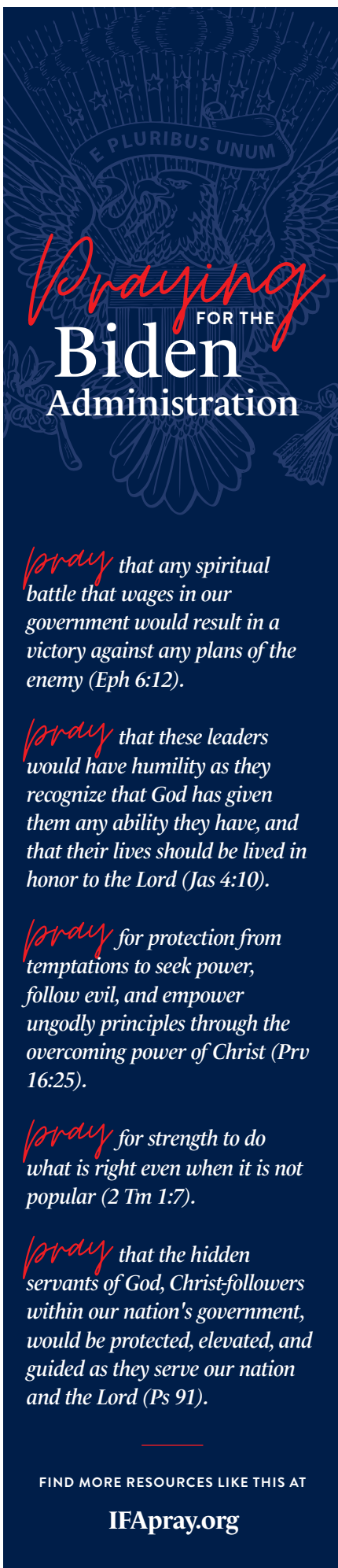
Pray for God's will to be done in our nation, and that our leaders would honor biblical values in their rulings, laws, and decisions (Mt 6:10).

Pray that any hidden agenda, deception, or subversive action would be brought to light and not profit (Jer 7:8).

Pray for God's glory and presence to affect Washington, DC and our government in greater measure, that light will displace the darkness (Is 60:1-2).

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FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT
IFAPray.org

TEAR-OFF



Pray that any spiritual battle that wages in our government would result in a victory against any plans of the enemy (Eph 6:12).

Pray that these leaders would have humility as they recognize that God has given them any ability they have, and that their lives should be lived in honor to the Lord (Jas 4:10).

Pray for protection from temptations to seek power, follow evil, and empower ungodly principles through the overcoming power of Christ (1 Prv 16:25).

Pray for strength to do what is right even when it is not popular (2 Tm 1:7).

Pray that the hidden servants of God, Christ-followers within our nation's government, would be protected, elevated, and guided as they serve our nation and the Lord (Ps 91).

FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT **IFApray.org**



ANSWERED PRAYER

FL First Lady DeSantis Thanks You
 Thank God that First Lady Casey DeSantis of Florida has finished treatment for breast cancer. IFA intercessors sent Mrs. DeSantis nearly 15,000 prayer messages during her treatment. In response, she personally thanked IFA in her own handwriting: "Thank you so much for all the prayers – I am truly blessed! I greatly appreciate the encouragement." IFA intercessors' prayers were answered in her treatment! We receive the added blessing of knowing that our prayers were an encouragement to her during a difficult time.

Truth Holds On
 Despite what mainstream media, entertainment, and advertising portray, many Americans still hold to the biblical truth of two genders. A Rasmussen survey reported 75% of Americans agreed that only two genders exist. Perhaps more important, 68% opposed gender counseling without the knowledge of parents.

Tide Change in Virginia
 Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, and Attorney General Jason Miyares took office in January, starting with prayer. In a touching show of humility and unity, the three Christians held hands with their spouses and called on the Maker of Heaven and Earth for help as they lead the Commonwealth of Virginia.

More Evidence of Election Fraud
 In an appearance on an IFA First Friday Prayer Conference Call, Catherine Engelbrecht of True the Vote described their investigations that found evidence of an illegal ballot trafficking operation in Georgia, impacting the presidential and state elections. In response to this evidence, Sec. of State Raffensperger initiated a statewide investigation.

Become a **MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER**

And receive a collection of IFA's bookmark prayer guides



If you are already a Monthly Ministry Partner, we'd be happy to send these resources to you.

Call IFA :

1-800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

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