

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Why Christians Must Get Involved in Politics Now

DAVID KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

Christians — now awake to the threats to freedom of religion and attacks on the very foundation of America — are involved to a degree not seen in decades.

Political leaders and mainstream media attack the free-market principles and Judeo-Christian foundations of our nation day after day, all while leaders brand everyday Americans advocating for these principles as dangerous radicals.

These critical issues require a moral response and a wave of thoughtful Christians becoming involved in civic issues, speaking out at school board meetings, running for local office, challenging vaccine mandates as well as religious freedom violations through lawsuits.

The Moral Majority in the 1980s helped usher in the rise of the Christian voter, who influenced national and local elections as they focused on promoting candidates who advocated for pro-life and family values. Increased civic engagement and the promotion of biblically friendly public policy became a potent combination that helped sweep Ronald Reagan into office.

As it grew it brought great results and gave a new sense of empowerment to Christians to speak into politics and governance. Yet even before that, Christians had even greater success in civic engagement. While many Americans of faith are not familiar with the 19th century group the Clapham Circle — they certainly are familiar with William Wilberforce.

The Clapham Circle was an informal group of acquaintances centered in Clapham, England, who came together to promote Mr. Wilberforce's bill in Parliament to prohibit slavery. This group of believers felt their conviction so deeply that over the next 20 years they worked to end the slave trade in England and abolish slavery in the British Empire.

This small, dedicated group of citizen leaders fueled dramatic changes in British society: improving conditions for factory workers, banning animal cruelty in sports,

reforming prisons, and more. The Clapham Circle's efforts went beyond legislation. Their efforts influenced culture, fixed systems, and changed hearts. It is that type of change we need to see in our nation for lasting and meaningful results.

And it couldn't come at a more important time. A recent poll from the Trafalgar Group and Convention of States found that nearly 80% of Americans, from all political backgrounds, say that our country's society and culture are in decline. The Gospel and our Judeo-Christian values are the solutions to this decline. What's more, most Americans agree — a recent poll from Summit.org found that 73% of Americans believe biblical values are important to a healthy society.

Change will come when Christians are fully engaged, well beyond election season and into everyday life, praying for our communities, schools, and churches, and then acting.

Indeed, as John Hancock challenged his fellow Americans at the start of our nation, "I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only that ye pray but that ye act."

The Clapham Circle understood and lived this. As Christians with a collection of different talents, abilities, and perspectives, but unified in their mission and obedience to God, they were able to magnify their effectiveness. They were world-changers who started in their own backyard.

That is what we need in America right now. IFA is a prayer ministry and we consistently hear stories of people being moved to action as a result of their prayers. I believe this is a move of the Holy Spirit and encourage all to listen to His voice.

Adapted from op-ed originally published in The Washington Times. IFA

IN THIS ISSUE

Why Christians Must Get Involved in Politics Now

Congressman Challenges You to Engage in Public Life

When the Intercessor Acts



Congressman Challenges You to Engage in Public Life

GLORIA ROBLES, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

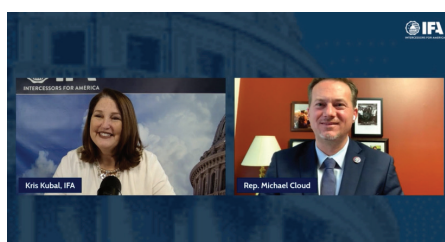
Representative Michael Cloud spoke at IFA's Congressional Prayer Breakfast at the March for Life and appeared on IFA's Pray with America's Leaders webcast. Representing the 27th district in Texas, Rep. Cloud is a man of faith, a staunch defender of American values, and a constitutional conservative.

Rep. Cloud encourages Christians to become engaged in civic life through serving on the board of Christians Engaged. He explained his passion for civic involvement. "It comes down to 2 things. First, our perspective as a citizen. We are a nation of the people, by the people, for the people. We are not defined by a government with the people, but as a people with a government. That requires something out of us. Our form of government requires our participation. From a faith perspective, our faith requires everything out of us. It requires us not to live only for our own gain or comfort but for us to be looking around to see how we can make a difference in the world and be salt and light."

We vote for elected officials to do their part, and often we blame them for not doing enough. But Rep. Cloud asks us to reflect on our part in making a difference in our nation. He said, "[Civic engagement] is really a requirement for us to have the nation we are supposed to have. We have an obligation and a responsibility to play a role in the federal government to protect and preserve the liberties that we share."

As a Christian and an elected official, Rep. Cloud understands how who we are as citizens impacts what

America is. "Even if by some miracle we were able to pass perfect laws out of [Congress], if the hearts of the people of our nation were corrupt, we'd still have a poor nation. We need the hearts of the people to be where they need to be to have a free and prosperous nation."



IFA's Kris Kubal with Rep. Cloud.

Even a small group can make a difference. "In most communities, if two churches got together, they could have a major influence in what's happening. It's not just watching the news or reading tweets . . . but asking God, 'What should I do? How should I get involved?' and showing up for elections." We should participate in all elections because a lot of decisions are made on the state and local level.

Rep. Cloud shared how IFA intercessors can pray for him: "More and more members are understanding the critical time we are in and are beginning to read their Bible on a regular basis, . . . with a new sense of 'I'm really here for such a time as this.' There is also a prayer meeting just for representatives—we are praying with you. Please hold up members' hearts and ask God to move on them."

Let's join Rep. Cloud in praying for a mighty move of God in Congress and in the citizens of this nation. IFA

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

April 1

12:15 PM ET

CALL (667) 771-7910, CODE 2452#
WEBCAST [IFApay.org/watch](https://www.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.

CHRISTIAN INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Pray for Christians to ask the Lord how they should use their gifts to get involved in local, state, and national government. Intercede for the course of our nation and ask the Lord how you can take action. Pray for those in leadership, and for future leaders with biblical values to rise up.

ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE

Thank God for leaders who are seeking Him to guide them as they serve in public office. Pray for a new sense of purpose for faithful leaders who have grown weary and pray that hearts are completely surrendered to Christ. Pray for Christians to have a kingdom perspective and to ask how they can make a difference.

INTERCESSORS TAKING ACTION

Pray for intercessors to stand strong in the face of opposition and to remember the intercessors of the past who changed history. Pray for intercessors to stay focused on Christ and His victory as they seek the Lord and step out in faith to obey His commands.



When the Intercessor Acts

JOYCE SWINGLE, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Intercessors stand on the shoulders of many who unselfishly expended their words and energies to change the course of world events and redirect eternal destiny.

Though Jesus is the greatest intercessor, He was not the only one in biblical history to mix things up on earth.

Moses' lengthy exchange with Pharaoh was a picture of intercession — one in which every encounter resulted in action — often lifting the staff — that moved the course of Egyptian and Israelite history. In a couple of chapters in our Bibles, we see summarized an intercession that took anywhere from 40 days to almost half a year. During that showdown between good and evil, the Israelites suffered greater misery under Pharaoh's wrath.

In the midst of our own intercessions, we can find hope remembering deliverance often follows a long travail and circumstances may get worse before they improve. Born in the aftermath of Roe v. Wade, IFA intercessors have struggled with repeated blows — even reverses — in the fight against abortion. You have shared

in the bitter tears shed by the Israelites who lost their baby boys under Pharaoh's infanticide decree.

But IFA intercessors have known victory as well. Victory who wore jewels made of vicious thorns while hanging on a bloody tree. His life is the ultimate picture of One given over to the task of intercession. Not content to stay in His prayer closet — at the right hand of the Father — Jesus' choice to step into time and history changed and still changes utterly and completely the destiny of His people.

You at IFA hold a place of honor among the intercessors of the ages. You join Moses, Mary, Stephen, and Paul. You join Rees Howells, Derek Prince, Martin Luther King Jr., and Governor Phil Bryant. You join the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit when you step into history to join the King's cause — to listen to the Lord, to educate yourself so you can pray with specificity and to act in God-honoring ways, including through IFA's Action center.

This remains the call of the intercessor — to join with Jesus through Holy Spirit — to step into time and act. These are the greater works of which Jesus spoke in John 14:12-14.

Can there be a greater calling? Can there be a greater purpose? Come, intercessors, let us step out and act!

*Lord, Thank You for this great calling.
Lead us by Your Spirit to act at the appropriate moments in order to bring Your Kingdom to Earth even as it is in heaven. In Jesus' Name. Amen. IFA*

TEAR-OFF

God has a destiny and purpose for our nation and for each state. The Tenth Amendment expresses the founders' desire for most of the power to rest with the states. This assigned power to the states underscores the importance of praying over and for our states. As intercessors we pray for the leaders, legislation, and God-ordained destiny of each state.

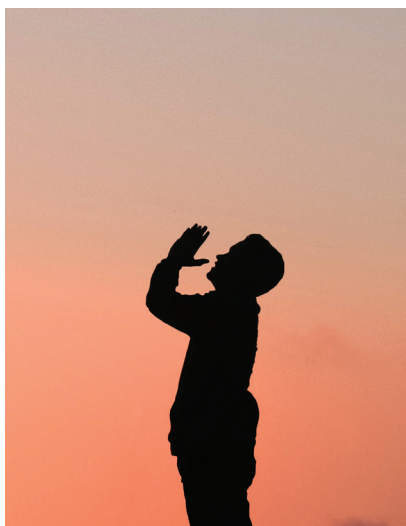
Proclaim God's purposes to be fulfilled for your state. (Eph 2:10)

Pray to maintain proper governmental boundaries with the federal government. Where the federal government exceeds its authority, pray your state would protect its citizens from unconstitutional orders or overreach. (Acts 17:26)

Pray over your state's motto — where it agrees with Scripture, pray into it.

Pray about the history of your state, how it was founded, early settlers, and historical problems. Ask God to reveal issues to you.

continued on next side
FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT
IFApray.org



TEAR-OFF

Pray to cancel any curses that may have been spoken on your state or state lands. As a resident of the state, you have authority to speak and pray about this. Use it! (Dt 28)

Pray blessings on your state: for families, religious freedom, schools, government, economy, churches, arts and culture, and media. (Gen 22:15-18, Gal 3:13-14)

Pray for leaders at all levels—from school board to mayor to state elected officials. (1 Thes 5:18)

Pray about strongholds in your state. Are there recurring problems in your state that are strongholds? Ask God to send leaders and authority figures who can break those strongholds—it may even be you.

Pray that anti-biblical agreements or proclamations would fall away and those that support biblical values would take root and be strengthened. (Ex 23:32)

Pray that as the Tenth Amendment states, authority in the states also rests with the people. Pray for an engaged citizenry in your state.

Thank God for your state—appeal to the Lord for a spiritual move in your state that would bring revival and transformation. Praise Him in advance for the work He will do, in faith and with hope.

FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org



ANSWERED PRAYER

School Board Turnover

San Francisco recalled 3 progressive school board members in a landslide election. Parents and voters fired these school board members because they fixated on their pet political issues instead of improving conditions for students in the pandemic. IFA reported this in May, 2020: "Today's school boards suffer from extinction, lack of accountability, corruption, liberal takeovers, and low voter turnout for elections. Prayer can breathe life into local school boards, so the people have a say in their local community's public schools." Thank God and pray for righteous replacements in San Francisco.

Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Jewett, Texas became the 44th city in America to pass a Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinance, banning all abortions within city limits. Efforts continue to move forward in more cities as well.

Encouraging Trends in Christianity

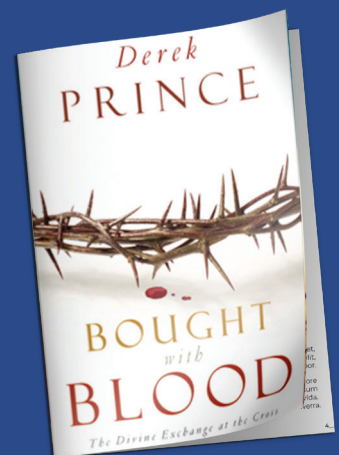
The Center for the Study of Global Christianity released good news in their 2022 Status of Global Christianity report. Religious faith is growing faster than the irreligious. Christianity continues to grow, with the fastest in the global South. The percentage of non-Christians who know a Christian is climbing. More than 90 million Bibles will be printed this year. Fewer Christians are dying for their faith. Christianity is growing. No matter how much the enemy tries to come against the Church, we will prevail! JESUS is the name above all other names!

Progress in the Durham Investigation

John Durham's filing in the criminal case against Clinton Campaign attorney Michael Sussmann gives more hope that justice will actually be done, and the hidden corruption uncovered. The filing indicates that servers in Trump Tower and the White House were infiltrated to establish a false narrative linking former President Trump to Russia.

This Easter discover God's extravagant provision for all your needs. Call today to receive a complimentary copy by becoming a

MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER



If you are already a Monthly Ministry Partner, we'd be happy to send you a copy at no additional cost.



Call IFA :

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

The Connector, 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
PrayforAmericasLeaders.com



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.