

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Roe Will Finally Go

DAVID KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

We will always remember May 2, 2022, the day we learned that *Roe v. Wade* would be completely reversed and all of its false principles totally repudiated. On the morning that I heard the news, I was in Washington, DC at the Supreme Court. I sensed a cloud lifting over the nation. It seemed to me that a judgment over the nation was lifted that day.

At the time of the printing this prayer letter, we anticipate a final decision based on the leaked draft opinion written by Justice Alito (dated February 2022). We believe that God has heard and answered our prayers, that *Roe v. Wade* is finished.

IFA began in part as a response to *Roe v. Wade*. We have prayed consistently for the overturn of that decision on moral and constitutional grounds. It seems such an understatement to call this answered prayer. We could not have asked for more specific answers to our prayer.

In one opinion, Justice Alito corrected everything wrong about *Roe*. First, he pronounced that it was an unconstitutional decision, that the Constitution does not establish a right to abortion. IFA has prayed to uphold the Constitution throughout our history. This decision restores some of what has been lost through the judicial activism of progressive justices and their decisions.

Second, he clearly explained that there was no history of legal abortion in America to justify *Roe*. As Christians who regularly pray into the biblical principles that were part of our nation's founding, we were deeply encouraged by this important correction.

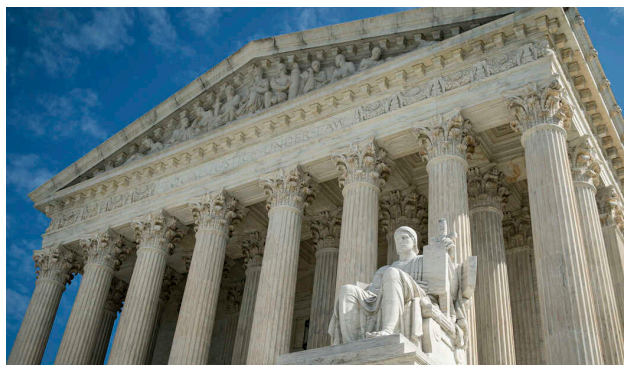
Third, he rejected the false definition of viability that became the basis of *Roe*. We know that life begins at conception. We

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have always rejected the notion that the Supreme Court could determine when life begins, and the way *Roe* tied this to some ever-changing time based on whether a baby can survive outside the womb. In fact, we are proud that the IFA amicus brief made the point that even a full-term baby cannot survive outside the womb independent of care and attention. Viability is, and always has been, a false distinction.

Fourth, the draft opinion rightly puts the abortion law debate where it belongs—in the states. In this, *Dobbs* will begin to restore the federalism that is an integral part of our constitutional republic. Part of the dysfunction of our government has been the Supreme Court legislating morality for the entire nation. With the abortion debate in the states, “we the people” will exercise the power and authority that the Constitution intended to afford us. There will be much work to do, and prayer needed, in our states. We believe that it is no coincidence that IFA launched state prayer groups in 2022.

I had anticipated the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and I sensed the *Dobbs* case would do it. Even so, I am amazed by the way the draft decision addresses our prayers so fully. I believe we could not have asked for a better answer to our prayers for life. **IFA**



Senator Ted Cruz on the Power of Prayer

JUDY MCDONOUGH, IFA COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



IFA's Dave Kubal with Sen. Cruz.

IFA intercessors pray for America's leaders daily, and we experience great joy when we can pray *with* America's leaders. Recently, Senator Ted Cruz joined IFA President/CEO Dave Kubal on the Pray with America's Leaders webcast to talk and pray about the challenges facing the nation and Christian leaders.

Dave asked Senator Cruz how we can pray for our Constitution. He responded, "I think the Constitution very much hangs in the balance. The Supreme Court is closely divided. A couple of years ago I wrote *One Vote Away: How a Single Supreme Court Seat Can Change History*, a book of war stories from landmark cases that I have argued or litigated before the Supreme Court on different constitutional rights. Over and over, those landmark cases are decided by one vote. When we see radical [justices] nominated to the Supreme Court – that's how we lose our rights."

Senator Cruz encouraged intercessors to pray for the health of the Supreme Court justices, especially those who are committed to upholding the original meaning of the Constitution. He emphasized the importance of praying not only for wisdom and discernment, but also for courage. "Courage is a singularly rare characteristic among Supreme Court justices and elected officials in Congress—courage to do the right thing in today's corrupted culture and media. Doing the right thing means almost inevitably you will be vilified; you will be demonized; you will have all sorts of horrible, hateful slurs thrown at you. Pray that the

justices have the courage to follow the Constitution and do the right thing."

Senator Cruz answered a question we have asked at IFA many times. Why do Republican-nominated justices become liberal on the Court? "Supreme Court justices evolve, and they always evolve to the left. And the reason for that is because they get praised in the press. For example, when Justices O'Connor, Souter, and Kennedy voted to reaffirm *Roe v. Wade*, they were praised effusively in the press. That can be seductive."

As one of the members of the important Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Cruz explained what he looks for when evaluating a potential Supreme Court justice (or any elected official), "What I am most interested in is a record of when they have fought for principle and when they've been vilified [for doing the right thing]. How they handle the heat and the criticism is incredibly important."

Senator Cruz expressed deep gratitude for IFA intercessors, "Thank you for answering the scriptural command to lift up our leaders in prayer. It makes a real difference. I thank you personally for praying for me and praying for my family. We are lifted up by your prayers. The Senate is like a modern Roman coliseum. You strap on a breastplate and go in and fight the barbarians. Some days you feel like you're the Christians being fed to the lions. Some days they give you a sword and you get to fight back. Every day, going into those battles, I am lifted up by your intercession. The hedge of protection around me and my family is real and we feel it. Politics right now is nasty, personal, and bitter – it has a real price on our children. So, we are grateful for your prayers."

Intercessors impact the nation. As Senator Cruz put it, "Your prayers for our nation are holding this country back from the abyss." **IFA**

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

June 3

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.

CHRISTIANS IN GOVERNMENT

Thank God for the many Christians serving in all levels of government. Pray that they will grow stronger in faith and in relationship with Jesus. Pray for protection from temptation and evil.

Heavenly Father, encourage Your children who serve You in our government. Surround them with godly advisors and keep them close to You. May they govern from a proper understanding of who they are in You and what You require of them.

LIFE IN AMERICA

Pray for pro-life laws to advance in every state across the country. Pray that the Dobbs decision will lift the judgment of God from America and open the way for revival in the Church and a huge harvest of the lost coming to know Christ. Pray for life to be treasured and honored.

Lord God, we pray that the draft Dobbs decision would stand and it would pave the way for pro-life laws in Congress and in each state and territory. We pray for revival and for Your value of every life to be reflected in our hearts, our lives, and our laws.

HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE

Pray to abide; pray for Jesus's life; pray for His love; pray for His obedience. Pray to surrender to the Lord...daily.

Lord, please help us abide in You that Your love and joy flow through us. Let the very love of God power our prayers so mountains move, the oppressed are released, and millions upon millions saved unto eternal Life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



A Secret to Answered Prayer

JOYCE SWINGLE, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Years ago, my prayer mentor — a dynamic, older southern woman — asked the Lord why He honored our little prayer team with answers to our prayers. The Lord spoke to her, saying in a Spirit-blown whisper, “Because you love each other unconditionally as I love My Son and He loves you.”

It was true we loved each other deeply, caring for each other’s needs — especially spiritual and emotional issues — even while we warred for our community and the larger metropolitan area. Though aware of each other’s foibles, we overlooked them in the messy, joyful business of doing life together.

This word from the Lord about the love we demonstrated for each other reminded me of the gospel of John. Rather than a legacy of thunder, John left — through his lyrical writings — one of love. Specifically, I thought of the vine and the branches when I heard the Lord’s whisper about our prayer group.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing . . . If you abide in me, and my words

abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you . . . As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (Jn 15:5,7,9).

Abiding is drawing upon the life of Jesus for our own lives. We share Christ’s life through the Holy Spirit’s indwelling (1 Cor 2:15-16) and renew our minds so we can know the perfect will of God (Rom 12:2). It is possible — and for an intercessor and a disciple, essential — to abide in Jesus’s life and in His love.

Jesus’s love flows from His life, which flows from abiding in Him. Love isn’t an emotion; love is the person of Jesus. We receive that love — Him — by abiding in Him and allowing His Word and His Person in the form of Holy Spirit to abide in us. When we receive the person of Jesus and grow in intimacy with Him, we receive His love. We train in His obedience. We share in His joy.

One result of this precious abiding is answered prayer.

This abiding is beyond us... beyond me. So we pray to abide; we pray for Jesus’s life; we pray for His love; we pray for His obedience. And we surrender ourselves to the Lord...daily.

Come, intercessors, abide in the deep lovely places with the Lord and watch with wondrous joy as He answers your prayers for yourselves, your families, your community and your beloved America. **IFA**

TEAR-OFF

COUNTERING
THE ATTACK ON

Identity

WITH

Prayer

June used to be wedding month but in recent years rainbow flags and signs everywhere declare June as Pride month. We can counter the enemy’s lies with targeted intercession and praying God’s Word.

1. Pray for Christians to understand and live out our true identities.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27)

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb... my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (Ps 139: 13, 15)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1Pt 2:9)

2. Pray that Christians would have compassion for those who are experiencing gender and/or sexuality confusion, and would lovingly show them truth, pointing them to Jesus, where healing is found.

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience ... (Col 3:12)

Now if you feel inclined to set yourself up as a judge of those who sin, let me assure you, whoever you are, that you are in no position to do so. For at whatever point you condemn others you automatically condemn yourself, since you, the judge, commit the same sins. God’s judgment, we know, is utterly impartial in its action against such evil-doers. What makes you think that you who so readily judge the sins of others, can consider yourself beyond the judgment of God? Are you, perhaps, misinterpreting God’s generosity and patient mercy towards you as weakness on his part? Don’t you realise that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (Rom 2:4 Phillips)

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FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org

3. Pray for people living the LGBTQ lifestyle to be set free and experience God's unconditional love and purpose for their life.

... and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (Jn 8:32).

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Cor 5:17)

4. Pray for lawmakers and judges who are dealing with proposals to advance pro-LGBTQ standards in schools, rules, laws, and legislation—local, state, and federal level leaders need your prayer.

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. (Prv 3:13)

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Prv 18:15)

Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed. (Eccl 8:1)

5. Pray for an end to governmental action advancing LGBTQ rights at the expense of parental and religious rights.

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. (Prv 19:21)

But it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. (Ps 75:7)

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. (Prv 8:15-16)

6. Pray for those who are being persecuted for standing firm for godly values through lawsuits, fines, boycotts, cancelling, and other intimidation.

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel ... (Eph 6:19)

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. (2 Cor 1:7-8)

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Lk 6:27-28)

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ANSWERED PRAYER

National Day of Prayer in Public School

The Miami-Dade County School Board unanimously voted to recognize the 2022 National Day of Prayer (NDP) in their schools. The Board empowered students to create, organize, and mobilize activities to honor the NDP. "My belief is that this is one step in the right direction to restoring certain values in our education system that have been ripped away from our students," Christi Fraga, School Board representative for District 5 and the person behind the proposal, explained.

Derek Prince Ministries Celebrates 50 Years

IFA and Derek Prince Ministries (DPM) share a close relationship, developed over half a century of ministry. We thank God for Derek Prince, for his seminal book, *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting*, for his leadership in the founding of IFA. We thank God that his sound, biblical teaching on the importance of national intercession continues to inspire intercessors today.

Pro-life Protections Increase in States

In 2022, 42 states considered at least 417 pro-life laws. Twelve states enacted 15 pro-life laws. Oklahoma banned all abortions except in the case of medical emergency. Idaho passed a heartbeat law, banning abortion after a heartbeat is detected. States banning abortion after 15 weeks gestation include Arizona, Florida, and Kentucky. West Virginia banned abortions because of a baby's disability. Several states also provided or increased funding for pro-life pregnancy centers. Marylanders defeated a laws allowing abortion and infanticide even after birth.

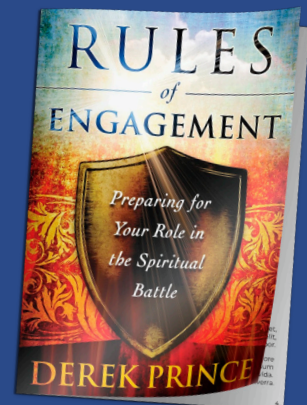
Victory for Christian Professor

Shawnee State University in Ohio disciplined Dr. Nicholas Meriwether after he offered several different ways to accommodate a transgender student's pronoun preferences while remaining true to his conscience. Shawnee State demanded Dr. Meriwether use the student's preferred pronouns or eliminate all sex-referencing terms from his vocabulary—for all students, at all times. In settlement of a legal case filed by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), university officials agreed they may not dictate Dr. Meriwether's use of pronouns in the classroom. They will also rescind their written warning in his file and pay \$400,000 in damages, plus attorney fees. (From Center for Civic Virtue.)

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A higher purpose.*