

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Learning about Intercession from Job

DAVID KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

Our prayers have the power to shape history. One of IFA's founders, Derek Prince, knew this is true, experiencing it many times throughout his life in many nations. My experience leading IFA for more than a dozen years demonstrates as well that God will only do some things through prayer. Yet this is not just experiential, it is biblical.

The story of Job is well known. The Lord allowed a man named Job to be "sifted" by Satan. Job endured incredible torment over years, losing everything -- his wealth, his children, his health. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, three of Job's "friends," sought to bring comfort to Job. However, in actuality, they discouraged him, and, in some sense, attempted to get Job to forsake what he knew to be true about God.

The last chapter of Job provides a master class in theology and intercession.

...the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; for the Lord had accepted Job. And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. (Job 42:7-10 NKJV)

It is vital for us to understand the principles this passage teaches about intercession.

First, God is a God of forgiveness. Though these men spoke against God and what was right, our Lord offered them forgiveness. This very specific

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forgiveness required them to make a sacrifice. Hebrews 9:22 reiterates this principle in the New Testament -- without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. We rejoice today that we can rely on the forgiveness offered to us through the death and resurrection of the Son of God.

Second, some things are only released through prayer. Verse 8 tells us forgiveness would not come to these three men unless Job prayed. Countless blessings from God flow from heaven to the earth ONLY because we pray. We shudder to consider the blessings that are never released because of the lack of intercession.

God blesses us when we pray for our detractors. We can picture the scene as Eliphaz asks Job to pray for him. The men came with all their cattle, so Job knew they were serious. Bitterness and resentment could have caused Job to be unwilling to pray. Instead, Job prayed and received a blessing from the Lord, "And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends."

Blessings come to the intercessor. Most people remember that Job had all that was taken from him restored. Few could describe the role of intercession in Job's restoration, but verse 10 clearly connects Job's willingness to intercede for his detractors with his restoration. In fact, not only was he restored, but he had twice as much as he did before. Who knows what would have happened to Job if he had remained bitter and not interceded for the men? Would he have been restored? We do know he forgave, he prayed, and then he was restored.

As you consider the importance of prayer today, know that God is waiting on you to pray release of His blessings! Those blessings flow through intercessors who are right with God, passing through to those who need forgiveness. Derek Prince said it best in his book, *Secrets of a Prayer Warrior*, "The people who really rule the world are those who know how to pray." IFA



House Chaplain Kibben: 'Instigator for God'

SUNI PIPER, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Margaret Grun Kibben currently serves as the chaplain for the United States House of Representatives. She also served as chief chaplain to the Navy, and earlier as chief chaplain to the United States Marines. Prior to entering the chaplaincy, she retired from the Navy as a highly decorated rear admiral.

The Lord has Chaplain Kibben seated in the heart of our nation, only a few floors below the Capitol rotunda. She has the privilege to open the House in prayer every day they are in session and ministers to House representatives and staff.

There is a rich history to the chaplaincy in this nation. In 1775, the Continental Congress established the Navy and then Navy Chaplain Corps just weeks after. In 1787, Benjamin Franklin asked an Episcopal minister to open the Continental Congress in prayer. A bill in 1789 established chaplains for the Senate and the House. Benjamin Franklin explained the need, "We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by-word down to future ages...I therefore beg leave to move — that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business . . ."

For over 230 years, our nation's leaders have commenced their governmental sessions with opening prayer. The chaplaincy is a daunting responsibility and yet a tremendous privilege. Chaplain Kibben serves as a reminder of the grace given to us by God — she is an "instigator for God."

Chaplain Kibben estimates there are 50-60 active faith

organizations (parachurch as well as brick and mortar institutions) on the Hill, providing prayer, resources, and Bible studies for members, staff, and interns. Both the House and the Senate have member-led, bipartisan, weekly prayer breakfasts. They pray for one another; there is rich fellowship and vulnerability and sacredness about what is shared. Each week, a different member leads the group in prayer; one week a Democrat leads, the following week a Republican leads.

Chaplain Kibben shared her thoughts on prayer with IFA, "I think (prayer) is a weapon we need to use. We need to wield it carefully but it's a weapon we need to recognize that is available to us. And all the more so when we think about it as a country. We are a country that acknowledges a freedom of religion and within that freedom, there is a freedom to pray. Prayer uplifts. The opportunity we have as a country to concentrate our efforts, what a surge that is, a surge of power that we give to ourselves, to our communities and to our country. This is how we can magnify God." IFA



Chaplain Kibben

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

July 1

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.

INTERCEDE FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Pray for the Lord to release His blessings over your friends and family and over this nation. Pray also for those who have hurt you and for the Lord to restore what the enemy has tried to take away. Ask God to keep your heart open to forgiveness and free from bitterness as we press on in prayer.

INTERCEDE FOR PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS SERVING OUR LEADERS

Pray that the Lord would continue to call to ministry faithful men and women to pray for and serve our elected leaders. Ask the Lord to give them strength to continue in the fight against ungodly values and to be peacemakers where there is division. Pray for continued religious freedom in our nation.

INTERCEDE FOR YOUR STATE

Thank God for hearing our prayers for our state and pray that our state leaders would be encouraged by our prayers for them. Pray for believers in your state to take action and that their voices would be heard. Pray for courage and boldness to make an impact on our states as intercessors.



Elected Officials Are Impacted by Our Prayers

KIM POTTER, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you wondered if your voice has been heard?

Recently, I reached into the mailbox and pulled out a heavy package. To my surprise, it was from the State of Tennessee. I opened it and read the letter inside. I was shocked. My voice had been heard!

The letter was from Tre Hargett, Secretary of State for Tennessee.

Thank you for your recent email regarding ensuring the integrity of elections in Tennessee. In my reply to you, I outlined many of the ways that our office works to make sure our great state is one where it is easy to vote and hard to cheat. . . .

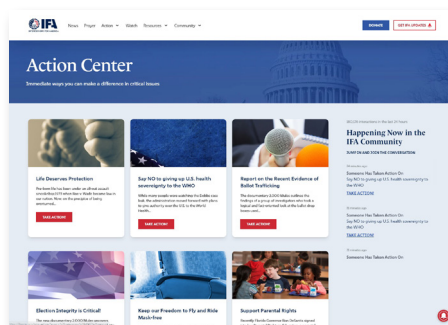
I am especially grateful for your prayers. They are the greatest gift given to any elected official, and I am humbled you would take the time to lift me up to Him.

Along with the letter, Mr. Hargett had enclosed a book, The Tennessee Blue Book for 2021-2022.

Oh, my goodness! My heart was overwhelmed with thankfulness for the letter, the gift enclosed, but mostly because this man, a leader in our state, acknowledged those who were praying for him. He understood that the greatest gift we can give any elected official is, indeed, prayer.

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. (Jas 5:16 AMP) Our prayers are working. Our voices are being heard. We are gaining momentum and we cannot stop now.

The book is packed full of information about the leaders and departments of Tennessee. With over 900 pages, it gives



me detailed guidance in praying more effectively and accurately.

This, however, didn't happen without action on my part. Thanks to IFA, I have contacted my governor and state leaders many times. Each time I receive a call to action from IFA I respond. Time and again, I send letters and emails.

As I held the Tennessee Blue Book in my hand it stirred a question: What are we willing to do to make an impact in our state? Are we willing to send emails to the state governing officials? Are we willing to take time to pray and fast for our state? If we want to see change in our state, it will take some sacrifice and action on our part. Mainly the sacrifice of our time. Are we willing to do that? I believe we are.

Today, I want to encourage those of you who have been praying and seeking the Lord on behalf of our states and our nation. God is hearing our prayers. The leaders of this nation are hearing our prayers. Many of them covet our prayers. It is, after all, the very best gift we can give an elected government leader. May we keep up the good work. May we continue to pray over our leaders. May we continue to see real change, and may we reap the benefits of one nation under God once again as we all take action. **IFA**

TEAR-OFF



Encouraging Reminders FOR THE National Intercessor

1. God is the One who raises up kings and brings them down. **You can ask God to raise up godly leaders and bring down wicked leaders, and He will.** (See Psalm 75.)

2. Every political leader's heart is in the hand of the Lord; **God is able to turn each one's heart wherever He wishes as we pray.** (See Proverbs 21:1.)

3. We have God's promise to heal our land if we, God's people, humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. **The destiny of our nation is in our hands, not in the hands of the wicked.** (See 2 Chronicles 7:14.)

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FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org

TEAR-OFF

4. Sometimes it takes a lot of prayer before God comes suddenly with His answer, but **God will always move in response to your prayer if you persevere in faith.** (See Acts 2:1-4.)

5. God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name through your intercession. (See Hebrews 6:10.) **God will never fail to reward you.**

6. God will reward you as you prepare the way for His people. His salvation, Jesus Christ, is coming, and **He is bringing your reward with Him.** (See Isaiah 62:11.)

7. Never forget that the sword of the wicked “shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.” (See Psalm 37:15.) **Wickedness shall not last forever.** Righteousness and justice are the foundations of God’s throne.

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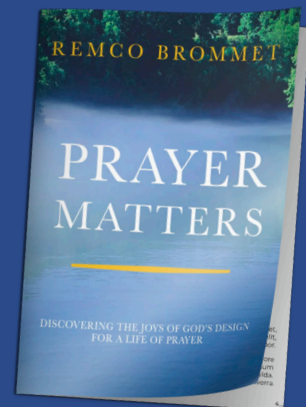
ANSWERED PRAYER

States Stand with Parents
Twenty-three state school board associations have broken ties with the National School Boards Association after the NSBA colluded with the Biden Administration to treat concerned parents as “domestic terrorists.” Thank God for this movement away from agenda-driven national organizations to community-oriented education.

Conservatives Unseat School Boards
School board seats went to conservatives nationwide, with significant wins in Texas, Wisconsin, and Colorado. According to Ballotpedia, the U.S. has approximately 14,000 school districts elect their board members. This year voters in those districts will vote to fill approximately 1200 school board positions. During this election cycle, many parents and grandparents who stepped out and ran for school board positions could be considered ordinary people who saw a need and felt God asked them to run.

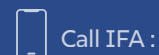
Biden Tables Disinformation Board
Following heavy criticism and the resignation of its leader, the Department of Homeland Security decided to pause the Disinformation Board. Mocked as a ‘Ministry of Truth’ straight from the pages of George Orwell’s 1984, the board faced almost universal disapproval. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said they could “have done a better job of communicating what it is and what it isn’t....” However, it seems citizens understood what it is and effectively rejected it.

Every Monthly Ministry Partner is invited to join a special webinar led by IFA Contributing Writer Remco Brommet to pray through and discuss his latest book.



MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER

Please consider becoming a Monthly Ministry Partner and receiving special benefits like this.



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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.*