

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Prayer Changes History

DAVID KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

Our nation is desperate for a change that will overcome the influences that have shaken the economy, weakened the border, disrupted supply chains, and undermined the moral fabric of our society. Although elections can *influence* the direction of a nation, only prayer can *change and stabilize* the direction of a nation.

We can learn from a small group of persecuted European Christian dissidents who turned to prayer in 1722 and changed the world.

The Moravian Brethren believed that Christianity should be a religion of the heart. This went against the grain of the growing acceptance of Enlightenment beliefs, similar to the tension between biblical Christianity and woke dogma we see today. They fled persecution and found asylum on the estate of Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf.

In 1727, differences emerged among this small community that threatened its peace. Count Zinzendorf then adopted what was called the Brotherly Agreement, which set rules for operating in effective community. "There can be no Christianity without community," Zinzendorf stated. These rules emphasized the experience of faith and love over doctrine, and thus promoted unity over denominational differences.

Most importantly, the Moravians devoted themselves to 24/7 prayer! Twelve men and twelve women committed to praying around the clock. This prayer movement continued without interruption for the next 100 years! You read that correctly: *100 years of uninterrupted*

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prayer, 24 hours each day, seven days each week.

This community of Moravian Brethren became the first to send Protestant missionaries around the world. Over the next 50 years, they sent out 300 missionaries. In 1738, one of these missionaries preached at a place called Aldersgate, in London, where a young man named Charles Wesley happened to be listening. When Charles Wesley came to Christ on May 24, 1738, he had an experience with the Holy Spirit in which he was "strangely warmed." His brother John Wesley had a similar experience just three days later. These two men traveled to America, lighting the fires for the first Great Awakening. Their message was simple: *All men are sinful, and salvation is in Christ alone.*

The Great Awakening influenced the Founding Fathers who established our nation. That first Great Awakening in America was fueled by an anti-establishment blue-collar gospel that emphasized spiritual equality. Similarly, the Founding Fathers embodied the heritage of those who came to America to seek religious liberty and rejected the tyranny of big government. These same values underpin the efforts of IFA to mobilize prayer and action today.

True change, as documented in the history of the Moravians, happens through prayer and fasting in community. We can apply their wisdom in every community we call home by dedicating ourselves to prayer and fasting without interruption among a loving community of believers. I encourage you to redouble your commitment to prayer and community as you seek to overcome the challenges we face in our nation.



You Can Have Confidence in Your Vote

BY DEBBIE WUTHNOW, IVOTERGUIDE

You can know which candidates think as you do and are most likely to cast votes consistent with your biblical beliefs and values. iVoterGuide (iVoterGuide.com) spends thousands of hours researching the candidates on your ballot. For those who have previously held office, it looks at how they have voted on legislation important to conservatives, who has supported them financially, who has endorsed their candidacy, and how they answer the extensive issue questionnaire. All this will produce ratings for over 12,000 candidates this year!

But even if you know nothing about a candidate other than his or her political party, that by itself can tell you a lot. What each party believes on the issues you care about — its “mission statement” — is set forth in its party platform. Your member of Congress is likely to vote with his or her party 70% of the time, so it is crucial to know what that party stands for and against. Since most candidates run as either Republicans or Democrats, let’s take a look at those two platforms in light of biblical principles. Here are just a few contrasted issues of great significance (read the full comparison at iVoterGuide.com and find more information about the candidates on your ballot).

Right to Life

The Republican platform affirms the right to life for the unborn and opposes federal funding for abortion. It also opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide (page 13).

The Democratic platform supports the legalization of abortion and commits to fighting against pro-life

federal and state laws (page 32).

Biblical Perspective: The Bible teaches that the unborn are human beings, that human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and that the government must protect innocent life (Luke 1:36, 41–44, Pss. 22:10, 51:5, Gen. 9:6).

Religious Liberty

The Republican platform pledges “to defend the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard religious institutions against government control” (page 11).

The Democratic platform rejects the use of “broad religious exemptions to allow businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and others to discriminate” (page 48).

It is also worth noting that the Republican platform mentions God 15 times. The Democratic platform mentions God one time.

Biblical Perspective: Jesus taught that we should “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21). The Scriptures also make clear that the things of God take precedence whenever they come into conflict with the things of men (Acts 5:28–29, 1 Pet. 3:13–17). Government is ordained of God, but government cannot become God (Ps. 2, Rom. 13:1–7).

Would you like similar comparisons on 12 key topics for this election? Call 1-800-USA-PRAY (872-7729) for the IFA booklet, *Praying for the Political Parties: A Prayer Guide for Government, Voting, and Civil Engagement*.

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

November 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.

UNITY IN PRAYER

We pray for concerted, unified, constant prayer leading up to and continuing through the midterm elections. May the Church rise up to intercede fervently and to act diligently, and may all Christians faithfully exercise their rights and duties as citizens.

ELECTIONS 2022

Let us pray for secure elections that will put into office godly men and women who will stand up for life, for freedom, and, above all, for our Creator. We pray for voter wisdom and understanding, and for the confidence that we can make meaningful change when we all show up!

DISCERNMENT

Pray that the Lord’s people will grow in the gift of discernment, and that we would have the courage and soundness of mind to exercise that gift properly. Pray for fresh revelation and boldness in the Church, especially as regards voting and civic action.



The Difference Between Good and God

BY GLORIA ROBLES, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

These days will require a great deal from us. Intercessors need discernment. In simplest terms, discernment is the ability to perceive beyond what is seen, heard, or spoken and transcends earthly thinking and comprehension. Discerning individuals possess deep wisdom and insight and render wise judgments.

Last May, an important congressional seat opened in Texas and the race was very close. The candidates, one male and one female, were both Democrats who claimed to be pro-life and to honor traditional values. The female candidate's paid advertisements certainly made those claims. However, I found nothing on her website about fighting for life. I was puzzled.

A few weeks before the election, something shifted radically. That candidate grew in popularity to such a degree that it seemed she would defeat her opponent. At this point, her whole demeanor changed. Her messages became boldly pro-choice and displayed the antithesis of traditional values. I realized then that she had never really been pro-life. She was actually a progressive Democrat who was using deliberately deceitful tactics to win votes. Thankfully, in the end she did not win the seat.

This is nothing new. Project Veritas released leaked audio in June of U.S. Senate candidate Krystle Matthews calling for "secret sleepers" to infiltrate the South Carolina Republican Party. This, I believe, is what I saw taking place in my city. Now, with the midterm elections just around the corner, we must all become discerners who can identify what is good



and what is evil. *But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil* (Heb. 5:14).

Discernment will give us eyes to see the difference between what is merely good and what is God. Not everything that *looks* good is beneficial — nor is it even of God: Some of that is a trap set by Satan to deceive us. We avoid these traps by learning to exercise our discernment. The spiritual gifts of God are meant to be exercised; in other words, use what God has given you. This is a process of learning and growing.

We can take practical steps to help us grow in the gift of discernment.

• **Pursue, then pray.** Make spending time alone with the Lord a priority.

• **Ask.** If you feel you are lacking in discernment, all you have to do is ask. In 1 Kings 3, Solomon prayed for wisdom and discernment. The Lord was pleased with that request, and He granted it.

• **Seek.** Seek God, His will and His kingdom first of all (Matthew 6:33).

• **Expect with hope.** Believe God will answer as you persist in prayer.

TEAR-OFF



Prayer-walk through your polling place in advance of Election Day. Then, while you vote, pray. *Every place where you set your foot will be yours ...* (Deut. 11:24 NIV).

• Proclaim the blood of Jesus Christ over the area where you are prayer-walking (Eph. 2:13).

• Speak peace wherever you go: *"... Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them"* (Isa. 57:19 NIV).

• Pray that believers would exercise their civic duty and vote biblical values (Mark 12:17).

• Pray for the citizens who live in your precinct to recognize and accept God's design for government (Rom. 13:1-4).

• Pray that candidates will take a brave stand for righteousness, even when that may not be well received (Prov. 28:1).

• Pray for citizens to have their eyes opened to see good as God sees it, and to define evil as God defines it (Amos 5:14-15).

• Pray that no plan of the Enemy will be able to circumvent the election process (Isa. 54:17).

• Pray for believers to turn out in greater numbers than ever before to vote in this election (Ps. 37:10-11).

• Release blessing for godly authorities to occupy the seats of office in the upcoming election (Prov. 29:2).





TEAR-OFF

Lord, as I vote,
I recognize that You
appointed government
for Your own glory. All
aspects of earthly life,
including government,
should be places where
Your kingdom values rule.
I desire leaders who fear
You and who choose to
support issues reflecting
Your heart, for You alone
are sovereign, and You
are the solution to all
our nation's problems.
I dedicate my voting to
You as a holy obligation
toward my community and
nation. Let Your presence
fill our nation. I pray this in
the mighty and powerful
name of Jesus. Amen.



FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org



ANSWERED PRAYERS

**Governor Proclaims Day
of Fasting**

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee officially declared Sept. 30, 2022, a day of prayer, humility, and fasting. In a wholly biblical proclamation, Lee wrote: "The people of Tennessee acknowledge our rich blessings, our deep transgressions, the complex challenges ahead, and the need to pause, to humble ourselves and to seek God's guidance for the days ahead."

Navy Rescinds Mandate

Quietly and without fanfare, the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command ended the order mandating COVID vaccinations for SEALs and other special operations forces. The Navy rescinded the original order that designated unvaccinated troops impossible to deploy and medically disqualified.

Pro-Life Movie Success

Featured on a special IFA webcast, the pro-life movie *Lifemark* set records as a Fathom event in theaters. Intercessors prayed for its beautiful message to be viewed by many, and God answered yes, even extending the film's one-week run in most theaters.

Another Million Meals

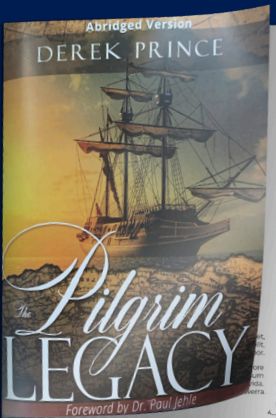
IFA, in partnership with other organizations and because of your generosity, helped provide 2 million meals to Ukraine, with an additional million on the way. These meals have been distributed through churches and with a gospel message.

In all the history of the world, the founding of America is unique.

This story must be told.

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MINISTRY
PARTNER**



Call Today

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)

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*