

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



Your Part in God's Symphony in 2023

KEITH GUINTA, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many of those who play a role in changing the shape of history have little awareness of their impact at the time they are doing so. As with a composer who toils through the writing of an epic symphony, the divine orchestration is not fully appreciated until future generations behold the results of the score's progression toward perfection.

Such is the case with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. IFA was established in 1973, the same year the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion. For nearly 50 years since, as both the steadfast opposition and the horrifying body count continued to increase, IFA has faithfully led a national movement of prayer and action to save the lives of babies, helped to support their mothers, and labored tirelessly to see the Supreme Court's unconstitutional ruling overturned.

Starting at IFA's inception, there was immediate consensus among the founders that the sanctity of human life would be a top priority for intercession. Along with devoted prayer and fasting, IFA developed teachings, seminars, publications, and studies to help educate people about the sanctity of life and to promote a spiritual awakening.

IFA has understood from the very beginning that only revival birthed in the Holy Spirit can transform hearts, save lives, and change the course of our nation.

Another foundational tenet of IFA has been the commitment to pray fervently for our governmental leaders. Just consider the innumerable prayers that ultimately brought about the appointments of Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. On June 24, 2022, less than two years after Justice Barrett's appointment, the court ruled 5-4 that *Roe v. Wade* was unconstitu-

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tional and sent the issue of abortion back to the states.

Can you hear the crescendo of the thundering tympani and the clashing cymbals, bursting forth in exultation? As we rejoice and praise God that this righteous ruling has finally been handed down, however, we must also be sure not to put down our instruments just yet, because the musical score is far from complete.

It is estimated that over 64 million babies were murdered since *Roe v. Wade*. That translates to a ghastly average of over 3,500 abortions per day. So as the rulings on abortion now return to the states, we must realize that our call to intercession is no less weighty today than it was 50 years ago.

As Derek Prince wrote in the first IFA newsletter: "Intercession is one of the most profound and powerful ministries available to a Christian. To 'intercede' means literally 'to come in between.' "

May we indeed come in between those who choose to have sex outside of marriage. May we come in between the unborn baby and the abortionist. May we come in between the pro-choice rhetoric and the malleable minds of the masses. May we come in between our unjust leaders and the wrath of God as we call for repentance and revival in this nation.

And may we all continue playing our part in the Father's great symphony as it resounds beyond the confines of time and space. Our intercessory prayers today, rising along with that same incense the IFA founders lifted up 50 years ago, will continue to have great impact until Christ is revealed here again.



Putting Feet to Our Prayers

BY JOHN BECKETT, IFA FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER

In honor of 50 years of ministry, every issue of *The Connector* in 2023 will feature an article from the best of our archives.

Two scriptural truths often seem to be in opposition to each other: faith and action. But these ought not to be seen that way. James calls faith and action *allies*, not *rivals*.

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:17). The J.B. Phillips translation renders it *faith without corresponding actions*.

The need for faith is indisputable. The Bible says faith is *more precious than gold which perishes* (1 Pet. 1:7 NASB), and *that without faith, it is impossible to please God ...* (Heb. 11:6 NIV). The intercessor cannot function apart from faith. The essence of the intercessor's life in prayer is to hear from God concerning a person or an issue and then to **believe God** for His intervention. The intercessor is a co-laborer with our Great Intercessor, Jesus Christ, in seeking the extension of God's kingdom on earth.

But what about works? James, citing Abraham's offering of Isaac, says the patriarch's faith was operating along with his works, and as a result of those works, his faith was perfected, or completed. The message of Scripture is clear: it's faith *and* work. We should not be surprised when, as a result of our interceding, God calls us to action. Peter admonishes us to prepare our minds for action (1 Pet. 1:13).

I joined hundreds of others in sidewalk demonstrations against our local hospital when it was performing abortions. I also met with the hospital board's executive committee to detail my concern. The practice ceased! Through prayer, fasting and action against legalized gambling in our state, we were able to see every effort to establish casino gambling thwarted from 1988 to 2009. In 1994, the Lord impressed

me to resist efforts by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to restrict the freedom of religious expression in the workplace and the unrighteous guidelines were withdrawn.

There are countless opportunities to express our faith in action:

- testifying to an unbeliever;
- showing kindness and care to those in need;
- writing to congressional representatives, broadcast networks, or corporate sponsors;
- political precinct involvement and support for candidates with our time, finances, and votes;
- following the Lord's leading to serve on local commissions or to get involved with civic projects;
- refusing to watch a particular television program or movie for conscientious reasons;
- involving ourselves in worthy boycotts;
- caring for the resources entrusted to us: children, finances, possessions, employees, natural resources, and opportunities.

In each case, and often in proportion to the sacrifice involved, our act of *doing* actually *builds* our faith; it does not diminish it. **This puts feet to our prayers.**

There is a different sound in the air now: It is the sound of actually knowing our mission and moving into it in faith; it is the sound of venturing out, of taking risks for the kingdom of God. With our eyes fixed on that kingdom and our confidence firmly rooted in Jesus Christ, we can join the saints who preceded us in doing great and mighty exploits — not only on our knees, but also through sanctified, Spirit-directed actions.

First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

January 6 & February 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.

INTERCESSION: A KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT

Thank God for the overturn of Roe v. Wade and the answer to 50 years of prayer. Ask Him to illuminate your prayer assignment in the kingdom. Thank Him for answered prayer and for the gift of the profound ministry of intercession.

TAKING ACTION

Thank God for the millions of messages sent to elected officials through IFA's Action Center and for the Christians serving in government and public service. Pray that Bible-believing Christians will be stirred to put feet to their prayers as the Lord leads. Pray that many would hear and obey the Lord.

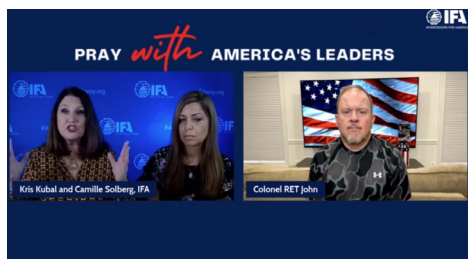
GOVERNMENT

Thank God for the surge of new interest among Christians in serving in local and state offices. Pray for Christians to be stirred to involvement in the important local positions that impact schools, communities, and especially elections. Pray for all those combating corruption in government.



Dismantling the Deep State

BY GLORIA ROBLES, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER



On Pray with America's Leaders, IFA featured retired Col. John Mills, a former Defense Department official. Mills shared inside information about why China — specifically, the CCP — is such a looming threat to the United States. He also discussed ways that citizens and patriots can take on the deep state.

Mills had this message for intercessors: "Citizens, patriots, and believers, if you don't like what you see in the nation, the swamp and deep state, then we can work to remove them from their position. It's on us to remove them."

The deep state infiltrates our nation beginning in our counties, Mills asserted. "In 3,300 counties, there are seven common functions: There's the election board, registrars, county council, school boards, judges, sheriffs, and prosecutors." Starting from those seven listed functions, he explained, we can accomplish much; we can go to school board meetings; we can get to know school board members, sheriffs, and other local officials, and work to influence them.

"If we can dominate our counties, the nation will follow," said Mills. "The challenge is for all believers and patriots who have in the past sat back and let someone else take care of those functions — somebody did, and it was somebody who didn't hold our worldviews or beliefs.

It's time to rise up and get involved. You can start by influencing your county. The foundation of deep state on a national level began in the county. It's time to get off the couch and get in the game."

IFA Chief Program Officer Kris Kubal agreed, noting: "We can all do something about our local area. If we all take up the issues in our own backyard, we can clean house, for the good of the nation. We can see big change come from the grassroots."

Mills reiterated the crucial importance of the county level: "Dominate your county. It all starts in your county. Pick one of the seven functions and get involved somehow. Everything is built upon your county. If something's cancerous or toxic in this nation, it began in our counties."

Though the deep state is large and seems to have infiltrated everything, we serve a God who uses underdogs and rewrites history. My faith is in the God who used a boy named David to slay a giant. He also used an 80-year-old named Caleb to defeat the Canaanite giants as the means of gaining a promised inheritance. He used a frightened man named Gideon, who hid while his nation was being plundered, to come out, grow strong, lead his people into battle, and emerge victorious.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms (Eph. 1:19–20).

TEAR-OFF

Five Prayers FOR PROTECTION as You Intercede in 2023

1. Lord, surround me with favor today as with a shield (Ps. 5:12).

2. Let no evil befall me, and do not allow any plague to come near my dwelling, my family, or anything that pertains to me (Ps. 91).

3. Lord, I put on Your armor today. I gird my loins with truth. I put on the breastplate of righteousness. I fit my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. I put on the helmet of salvation. I hold up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Eph. 6:14–18).

4. I submit to You, my God, and I resist the devil, that he may flee from me (James 4:7). Help me to live a holy and pure life. Keep me from sinning against You so that I may open no door to the enemy in my life — for a curse without a cause cannot alight (Prov. 26:2). If I do not allow the enemy to gain a foothold in my life, he cannot harm me.

5. Let praise be my weapon. As I praise and thank You for Your work and Your answers to prayer, You will go before me and consume Your adversaries (2 Chron. 20:20–30).

FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org

Daily Prayer FOR PROTECTION

Dear heavenly Father, I come to You in Jesus' name. Thank You that Your word says You will protect me if I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. Thank You for granting me immunity in Christ Jesus — so that no weapon formed against me may prosper, and so that every tongue that rises against me in judgment I shall condemn. I praise You for Your mercy and kindness.

I claim Your promises today to defend me and my family. Surround us with Your favor as with a shield. Keep us from opening any doors to the enemy so that we may block any curses from alighting upon us. Keep us completely safe from demonic retribution as we pray and intercede for Your kingdom to come and Your will to be done here in America.

Father, my best weapon is my relationship with You. Please help me to be holy, for You are holy. Help me draw near to You and seek You every day with all of my heart. As I seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness, all the things I need will be added to me.

I clothe myself with Your armor today, Lord. I choose to praise You without ceasing. I thank You and praise You that, having done all, I can stand in You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT

IFApray.org

TEAR-OFF

Answered Prayers

Major Spikes in Online Bible Use

During the war in Ukraine, online Bible usage has skyrocketed, with Ukraine-language Bible engagement increasing by 241% in Poland, 733% in Germany, and 55% overall. At the beginning of the war, such terms as "war" and "fear" were searched, but as the war progressed, "love" became a top searched term. Also, the nation with the greatest increase in Bible engagement in 2022 was Cuba.

Victory for Life

On Election Day 2022, nine municipalities became "Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn" as a result of local ballot initiatives. These cities have outlawed abortion within their jurisdictions. As of this printing, there are 61 sanctuary cities in this country.

Religious Liberty Wins

Christian Medical & Dental Associations finally won its six-year battle against an Obama-era federal mandate that would have required its members to perform abortions and gender-transition procedures against their conscience and medical judgment. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the mandate, and the Biden administration has declined to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Sixth Circuit unanimously upheld a class-action suit on behalf of Air Force personnel seeking religious exemption from the COVID shots. "This is a great decision," said Liberty Counsel founder and Chairman Mat Staver. "No service member should be required to choose between service to the country and service to God."

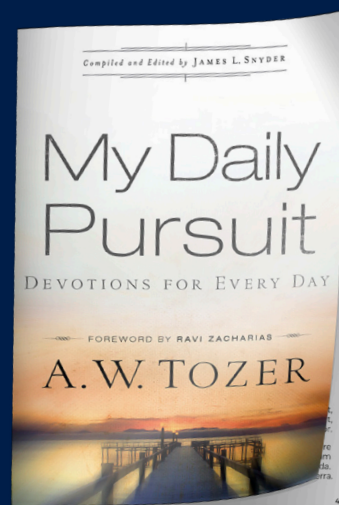
IFA Intercessors Act!

Intercessors of IFA sent some 4 million messages to elected officials and other decision makers in 2022 — double the number sent in 2021. Every one of these messages on key issues facing our nation includes prayer. IFA intercessors are fearlessly and boldly praying and taking action.

IFA is offering this powerful, prophetic daily devotional.

For 2023

Please call today and receive this book for a gift of any amount.



CALL IFA :

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

Or scan to order online.



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*