

# The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



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## God's Government Increases

DAVE KUBAL, PRESIDENT/CEO

Government is the responsibility of the Lord Jesus Christ (... *the government shall be upon his shoulder* ... [Isaiah 9:6]). Not only that, but also His government is ever increasing (Isaiah 9:7).

As we look through history, we see the counterintuitive manner in which Christ accomplishes this responsibility for government: personal governance and civil governance.

The gospel message is the most compelling in all of human history. Our Creator was willing to limit Himself to the form of a human body, live a spotless life, and then die a criminal's death in order to provide for our forgiveness. This message is still attracting and changing lives today, some 2,000 years later. Christ's governance over individuals' lives does not come through compulsion or external restraint, but rather through the message of sacrifice, love, and forgiveness.

We see this when we look at the sheer number of adherents to the Christian faith, a number that has kept growing through every century since the first. The few hundred believers there were at the beginning have continued to increase, now numbering upwards of 2.5 billion, about one-third of the world's current population. A simple glance at the trend lines will show that there is no other world religion that will eclipse the influence of Christian believers upon the individuals around them. *The individual governance* of this Child continues to increase.

But God's increasing rule is not limited to individuals only. His rule also encompasses *nations*. We know that just as every individual has a God-ordained divine purpose and a destiny, so does every nation. Founding Father Patrick Henry said it best: "There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations."

Through the centuries, earthly rulers and kings have attempted to extend their territory through top-down control, military advancement, and even outright conquest; by contrast, the civil governance of the Christ Child advances through an opposite tactic: the promise of freedom.

The heart cry for freedom is embedded in each of us and is evidence that we are birthed in the image of our Creator. This God-given freedom is divine in its origin and irrevocably endowed to each person. And the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness comes through self-reliance and self-restraint within the moral code of God.

In our own nation, the restlessness created by the longing for a government that protects individual rights and freedoms continued to simmer in human minds right up until the American Revolution. At the core of this revolution was the Christian concept of individual liberty and an eternal moral code superseding the authority of kings. Our Founding Fathers gave birth to the freest nation in the history of the world by declaring independence from Great Britain and then composing and adopting the Constitution of the United States.

Our Constitution, based on the biblical principle that it is *God* who creates laws, enabled the United States to become a beacon of liberty and freedom for the entire globe for centuries. Humankind will forever marvel at the advances freedom made through the United States. The increase of His governance is fueled by our God-given thirst for freedom.

As intercessors, we give thanks for and pray with faith in the increase of His government — through our personal lives *and* in our nation.



## Strategic Answers to Urgent Prayers

JUDY MCDONOUGH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

In the past couple of years, IFA intercessors have prayed about serious potential threats to our national security and about the rescue of thousands of people at risk following the disastrous U.S. pullout from Afghanistan. These urgent prayers, all of which have been answered dramatically, were offered at just the right time. The Lord connected IFA with key players in the national security community, and through their contacts IFA intercessors offered timely and strategic prayers.

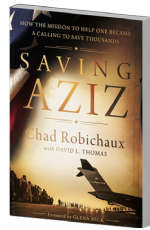


IFA Chief Program Officer Kris Kubal served on a committee praying for persecuted Christians. Also on the committee was Lt. Col. Tommy Waller, a Marine officer involved at a high level in national security challenges. He asked Kris if IFA could pray in advance of a series of vital meetings. These meetings were of the level and type that impact all of us, yet only a few knew about it. Kris made sure IFA published confidential and urgent calls for prayer. God answered. There was a shift in this series of meetings that Waller could only attribute to a supernatural move of God.

Fast-forward to Afghanistan. Since Waller witnessed firsthand the power of prayer and the responsiveness of IFA to pray when asked, he again reached out on behalf of a colleague who was organizing the rescue of Americans

and of Afghan allies marked for execution because of what they had done for America.

This colleague was Chad Robichaux, with Mighty Oaks Foundation and Save Our Allies. Robichaux, a decorated Force Reconnaissance Marine and an MMA star, appeared on an IFA webcast and tells this story in his new book, *Saving Aziz*.



Humanly speaking, the rescue mission was impossible. Diplomacy involving multiple nations, very real dangers on the ground in Afghanistan, and tactical and logistical challenges all made any success a long shot. IFA received near-real-time prayer requests, and answers to our prayers came just as fast.

One of the most poignant and direct answers to prayer happened after the rescue of 17,000. Robichaux headed back to Afghanistan to create escape routes through Tajikistan, an area crawling with Russian and Chinese forces. On the flight over, Robichaux was gripped with fear. He reached out through Waller for prayer from IFA. We published an urgent request. Untold thousands in our community went to prayer. Robichaux was overcome with a peace that persisted throughout the perilous mission.

*Meet American heroes and find out more about how IFA prayers are needed in national security. Waller, who is with the Center for Security Policy, will be a keynote speaker at IFA's Policy & Prayer Event on March 28–29, 2023, in Washington, D.C. See page 4 for details and to sign up.*

### First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

## March 3

12:15 PM ET

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

### GOD'S GOVERNMENT

Thank God that *He* has established government. Praise Him that the government does rest upon His shoulders. Ask Him to open our eyes to the ways that His government is increasing in individual lives and among the nations. Pray for biblical government in America.

### STRATEGIC PRAYER

Thank our God for using IFA intercessors to pray about crises in our nation and around the world, and also for using them to encourage the people on the frontlines of those crises. Pray for more opportunities to intercede strategically for this nation's needs.

### POLICY & PRAYER

Thank God for giving IFA the vision for the Policy & Prayer events. Pray for the policymakers who are leading the way in promoting biblical values and actions in our nation. Ask the Lord to open the way for many intercessors to attend these events.





## Policy & Prayer Exceeds Expectations

RICH SWINGLE, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

IFA's inaugural Policy & Prayer event exceeded expectations, combining intercession and presentations from notable policy experts. IFA President/CEO Dave Kubal set the tone, explaining that the event was "all about connecting policymakers with intercessors to see our nation transformed" and was also intended to provide opportunity for intercessors "to connect with each other to build the fabric of IFA, build the fabric of the kingdom."



Zelden, King, and Kubal pray at the event.

Kubal noted that IFA Chairman of the Board Jeffrey Coors inspired the event and its name, because Coors is dedicated to policy *and* prayer. Coors responded: "IFA is blessed to have people who are not afraid of the battle — that's what it's all about." Board members then prayed specifically and personally with each IFA state prayer leader present, commissioning them for this new endeavor.

Kubal challenged the state prayer leaders to have the boldness and confidence of David facing Goliath. "Everything had prepared us for this day," Kubal said. "Our successes, our failures, our God-given personalities have been chiseled over years of experience, preparing us for this moment in time," he added. "We consider it a privilege to be called and used by our powerful Creator. [This is] a recognition of how God has prepared you for this moment."

The next day, a seasoned D.C. prayer-walker led participants around the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court. Intercessors shared their impressions from this strategic prayer action, which encouraged all. IFA staff members addressed the assembly, and one highlight was the fiery constitutional law tutorial offered by Board Member Cynthia Dunbar.

Day 3 featured a rich round of policy seminars at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). Mark Zelden, senior adviser of the Center for American Values at the institute, kicked off the day. Dunbar further instructed the group on constitutional and faith matters. Ambassador Sam Brownback focused on the battle for religious freedom from his vantage point as founder and chairman of the National Center for Religious Freedom. Dr. Ralph Reed, Dr. Alveda King, and Zelden participated in a panel discussion about the sanctity of life. Reed later followed up with a discussion about the importance of prayer in elections, based on decades of experience through the Faith & Freedom Coalition. Frank Gaffney Jr., founder and executive chairman of the Center for Security Policy, spoke in detail about China's seemingly "hidden" war against America. Bill Koenig, a journalist and the publisher of *Koenig World Watch Daily*, spoke about recent events in the Middle East, including Israel's latest election. Pastor Todd Lamphere of City of Destiny Church, in Florida, closed things with a motivational call to the intercessors to stay the course.

Join IFA's next Policy & Prayer event, in Washington, on March 28–29, 2023. Visit [IFApray.org](https://IFApray.org) for details.

TEAR-OFF

## Praying for NATIONAL DELIVERANCE from Deception

### 1. Personally pray that God would reveal the truth to you.

Scripture is clear: A structured authority of spiritual forces is at work to bring us into captivity. The power of God can protect us from these forces and reveal the truth to us. We can choose to cooperate with the work of the Spirit, who leads us into all truth (John 16:13).

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ (Col. 2:8 NIV).*

### 2. Pray for release from spirits that desire to control.

As we pray for protection, individually and for our nation as a whole, let's pray for the release from deceiving spiritual powers that are out to control us.

*The truth is that, although of course we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds (2 Cor. 10:5 PHILLIPS).*

[IFApray.org](https://IFApray.org)

### 3. Fuel your mind with God's truth, which displaces deception.

The more familiar we are with God's word, the more we can instantly arm ourselves with truth whenever lies and deception come our way. Speak the truth. Proclaim those scriptures that defeat the lies and deception we see around us. There is power in proclaiming God's word aloud.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:10–11 NIV).*

### 4. Fast and pray for our nation.

Daniel provides a great example for us as we pray for a nation under spiritual oppression. He was deeply concerned about a vision so he prayed and fasted for an extended time, and then experienced breakthrough when an angel appeared to him:

*"from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." ... the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me, I was strengthened ...*  
(Dan. 10:12–13, 18–19).

- 1) SET YOUR HEART TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WAYS.
- 2) HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD.
- 3) FAST.
- 4) PRAY WITH PERSEVERANCE.
- 5) RECEIVE STRENGTH FROM THE LORD.

TEAR-OFF

## Answered Prayers



### Christian Colleges Grow

Enrollment continues to increase at Christian colleges and universities, while overall college enrollment is declining across the nation. "Students are drawn to colleges with a clear, distinct identity," said Adam Kissel, a visiting fellow on higher-education reform at the Heritage Foundation. "Devoutly Christian colleges out-compete colleges that are Christian in name only."



### Victory for Christian Colleges

A judge in Oregon dismissed an LGBT group's lawsuit targeting a key religious-liberty protection in federal civil-rights law. Forty LGBT individuals organized by a group known as the Religious Exemption Accountability Project filed suit against the U.S. Department of Education in an attempt to push the administration to eliminate Title IX religious protections for faith-based schools. For now, students can continue to receive federal financial aid to attend Christian colleges.



### Revival in Ukraine Continues

*"The revival that started with the war is still going on. All over Ukraine, even near the frontline, people are hungry for Christ, and churches are experiencing strong responses to altar calls, with many people saved and counseled. One striking thing is that their faces show hunger for God, which reflects the book of Acts, where Peter saw faith in the eyes of the paralyzed man. We see faith during each altar call for salvation." — Pastor Maxim Belousov, Intercessors for Ukraine*



### Medical Freedom Win

The Biden administration gave up seeking Supreme Court review of a legal challenge to its transgender mandate requiring doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition surgeries — even against the individual conscience and medical judgment of dissenting health professionals. Similar suits continue in the courts, but this is a step in the right direction.

## POLICY & prayer

**March 28-29, 2023**

**A two-day IFA interactive prayer event in Washington, D.C.**

More Information



*Join our next group of policy experts for briefings and powerful prayer.*



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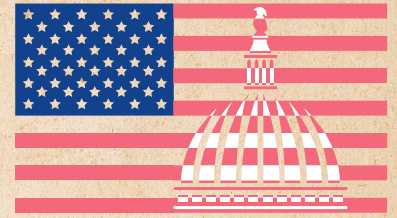
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Then . . .

# From our archives 1987

## INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA



# Who Will Stand in the Gap?

By Wendy Beckett, wife of IFA co-founder/board member John Beckett

*And I sought for a man among them, that should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none (Ezek. 22:30 ASV).*

The Lord's pathos, expressed in this verse, has created in me a new priority: to pray for many more intercessors. I keep seeing little glimpses of the burden of the Lord.

It began just a year ago, as I read the strong statement by Dr. Charles Stanley in the IFA newsletter: "We need *hundreds of thousands* of people who are hearing God and praying for America." At that time, I wrote a prayer in my notebook asking God to raise up hundreds of thousands of true intercessors.

Months later, the Lord reemphasized this priority through a prophetic challenge by Paul Yonggi Cho: "When America really gives itself to prayer, nations are going to come into the Kingdom in a day." Like a haunting melody, Dr. Cho's remarkable vision began to reverberate in my mind and spirit. I considered the Korean Christians who, according to Dr. Cho, "have so faithfully and consistently prayed that they have broken the power of the enemy in their country." Surely, I thought, we who have been given so much could do likewise.

Further reinforcement for the vision came in [the December 1986] IFA newsletter ... which carried the account of the revival that spread across the whole of America in the 1850s because of Jeremiah Lanphier's obedience in prayer — one man — and the resulting prayer explosion.

Often, we feel so helpless and frustrated with the evil in our midst. The issues in prayer seem so overwhelming.

While I can't tackle these monster forces in my individual prayer time, I believe the Lord has shown me His strategy. That strategy is to ask God to raise up many thousands of intercessors who will pray not only

individually, but also corporately, with great authority.

My husband, John, suggested that I share how I have been praying about this matter, in the hope that others might join in.



*John and Wendy Beckett around the time of this article.*

Sometimes I find myself lifting the burden up to the Lord while I'm driving the car, cleaning, or washing. On certain days, I'm able to set aside longer and more concentrated times for intercession. The prayer for more intercessors is a very key part of that time. Often, I can't even verbalize all that I feel in my spirit, but I have a sense that I'm joined with the Lord in a prayer that He's praying. Usually, these are not elaborate or lengthy prayers. They're more of a heart cry, in which I visualize the Lord stirring many thousands of us to intercede, resulting in waves of prayer bombarding the heavens, demolishing enemy strongholds, and releasing God's redeeming grace toward America.

May we ask the Lord to pour upon us the Spirit of grace and supplication and to send forth more prayer laborers into His harvest. May we each reply, "Lord, here I am, send me!"



# We Are Standing in the Gap

*By Betsy West, Pennsylvania State Prayer Leader*

Who could have known? In 1986 an IFA article by Charles Stanley inspired Wendy Beckett, and months later she sensed an affirmation of that message through a prophetic challenge from Paul Yonggi Cho. Who knew that a divine connection from the heart of God had thus planted a seed that would change history?

I had followed IFA for several years and always found the newsletter an outstanding way to stay informed about events in our nation that required prayer. However, I never considered myself one of those who carried the title of “intercessor.” I was just a mom who was, along with my husband, Bill, raising two young boys and trying to juggle the demands of every day. Who knew that the Lord was calling me into His service to stand in the gap — especially for unborn babies? Wendy Beckett knew.

One of the prayer targets that always captured my attention was the sin of abortion — and the legal justification our Supreme Court wrongly provided through the *Roe v. Wade* ruling of 1973. My heart was broken as the numbers of abortions in our country continued to escalate. Each year the March for Life would take place, and each year I believed that one day this dreadful scourge would be forever behind us. And so, I prayed.

Being raised in a denominational church, I had never heard reference to the term *intercessor*. I thought that was an Old Testament office and part of ancient history. However, reading my IFA newsletter each month, I began to ponder: “Who are these prayer warriors, and how can one train to be among them?” The Lord was wooing me to become one of the “hundreds of thousands” Wendy Beckett had prayed for.

Well, my “education” went into hyperdrive. I learned quickly that when you ask the Holy Spirit to teach you, you had better be ready for the divine download. God began to lift the veil and to show both my husband, Bill, and me the reality of spiritual warfare, and to affirm the call to intercession that had been placed on our lives.

We were part of the Lighthouse of Prayer movement, walking through our neighborhood and our city while praying. We worked with Harvest Evangelism and facil-

itated mission trips to Argentina, and we witnessed the outpouring of the Spirit as a result of prayer and connection with government leaders. God sent intercessors from across the U.S. to our home, and He thus taught us the aspects of prayer evangelism and of praying for inner healing and deliverance for all who came for ministry.

Then, on a winter day in about 2006, during an ice storm, my phone rang. Had there not been an ice storm, I would not have been home at that moment. It was IFA calling to thank us for our financial partnership and to ask how they could pray for us. The Holy Spirit in me had a party, as it were, with the Holy Spirit in IFA. This connection was an instant welding of our hearts with the purposes of IFA.

After years of following closely with the growth of IFA as a ministry, we were invited to join a very special event in 2021 to pray with Intercessors for America at the Supreme Court when the challenge to *Roe v. Wade* in the Dobbs case was presented. As we stood shoulder to shoulder with hundreds and hundreds of fellow intercessors from all over the nation and prayed for God to move swiftly on the hearts of the justices and allow this case to be presented in the most excellent way, I began to sense that this battle was going to be more intense than we ever imagined. We would need thousands and thousands of additional prayer warriors. The battle lines were drawn! As we prayer-walked around the Supreme Court building and came to the bridge from the Capitol, we saw hundreds of young people all dressed in red-and-blue shirts. Who could they be? Additional protestors? As they approached, we saw their leaders in the front. They were students from Liberty University! Answered prayers!

Thank you, Wendy Beckett, for praying in agreement for God to increase our numbers. As one of your early recruits and feeling like an old “warhorse” your prayer has transcended to the next generation; the cavalry has arrived. Young, educated in Biblical principles, fit and ready for battle, all evidence of the agreement “on earth as it is in heaven.”

What is an intercessor? I have discovered it is someone who will listen to the dreams of God and answer the call with the simple statement, “Lord, here am I, send me.”