

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



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Monumental Prayers

JUDY MCDONOUGH, IFA COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

When Dave Kubal became president of IFA in 2009, he began telephoning every supporter of the ministry to offer our thanks for their gifts. Over the years, as IFA has grown, this effort has continued, with the calls now being made by a team of people, not just Dave.

One of these team callers is Tom Sampley, who is also Dave's father-in-law. As Tom proceeded through his supporter list one day, he wound up phoning Michelle Gallagher, of Plymouth, Massachusetts. "How can I pray for you?" Tom asked. Many IFA supporters are hesitant about disclosing personal needs, and Michelle is no exception. But that day, she had a pressing need related to a book she had written, so she decided to share her concern. Michelle was deeply touched and encouraged by Tom's Spirit-led, heartfelt prayer for her book project.



Judith Powell, Michelle and Dan Gallagher, in front of the Forefathers Monument.

Michelle; her husband, Dan; and her mother, Judith Powell, are all IFA intercessors who live in Plymouth. After visiting the Forefathers Monument frequently in her neighborhood, Michelle felt inspired to create a high-quality guidebook explaining the Christian basis of the monument to interested tourists. She had never written or

designed a book before, but when God calls, He equips. The guidebook is impressive. In fact, Kirk Cameron, who starred in the 2012 documentary, *Monumental: In Search of America's National Treasure*, has personally endorsed it.

Michelle was also inspired to explain and pray through the essential biblical principles celebrated in the Forefathers Monument. So, shortly after the *Forefathers Monument Guidebook* was released, she wrote another book, *Monumental Prayers*, a devotional. She sent copies of both books to Tom in gratitude for his prayers and interest.

Tom showed these books to Dave — who knew immediately that he had to find a way to get *Monumental Prayers* into the hands of IFA intercessors.

IFA has deep roots in Plymouth, and a strong connection to the history of the Pilgrims. Derek Prince was invited to speak at the 350th anniversary of the Mayflower landing. He had never really studied the Pilgrims as a student in British schools. He was amazed at their story, which he recounted in his book, *Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting*. This book, in turn, inspired his teaching at the conference that birthed IFA. The organization was incorporated in Plymouth, and for several years was headquartered there while John Talcott, a founder of the Plymouth Rock Foundation, was president of IFA.

As part of the celebration of IFA's 50th anniversary, IFA partnered with Michelle and Proclamation House to offer an expanded, special edition of the *Monumental Prayers* devotional — inspired by the faith and godly legacy of the Pilgrims.



Why IFA Cares About Israel

LORI MEED, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“In the eternal counsel of God, He has determined to make Jerusalem the decisive issue by which He will deal with the nations. Those nations who align themselves with God’s purposes for Jerusalem will receive His blessing. But those who follow a policy in opposition to God’s purposes will be severely dealt with.” — Derek Prince, IFA Co-Founder.

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth (Isaiah 62:6–7).



Photo by Jonny Gios on Unsplash

The miraculous “rebirth” of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948, has shaped world history since then, more than any other single event. This year marks the 75th anniversary of that rebirth, and so, despite current anti-government protests, and a recent wave of internal terror attacks in Israel, its people have much to celebrate. God loves Israel eternally (see Jer. 31:2–4), and now, following a season of discipline, He is restoring her in His everlasting love. The hatred of Israel’s enemies, meanwhile, described presciently in Psalm 83, only *increases* as the end of the age draws near.

None of this should surprise us as intercessors. Indeed, it is what we pray for, and the predictions in Scripture are made manifest in current events, so that we are led to fix our minds and hearts on the culminating event: the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in great power and glory. And the drama that is to unfold on the Mount of Olives (see Zech. 14:4) will ensure that *“all Israel will be saved”* (Rom. 11:26).

A subsequent event — God’s judging of the nations (see Joel 3:1–2), in accordance with how they have treated Israel and the Jews — will ultimately draw a distinction between righteous and unrighteous nations (see Matt. 25:32).

God has testified that His heart and eyes are upon the house of the LORD (see 1 Kings 9:3) and that His name is upon Jerusalem (see 2 Chron. 6:6). Thus, God’s own reputation rests upon His faithfulness to keep Israel as a nation and to return its exiled people to His land (see Ezek. 36:20–23).

As “intercessors for America,” our desire is that our own nation would bless the Abrahamic nation of Israel and thus, in turn, *be blessed* (Gen. 12:3). But more vitally, we partner with God in calling forth the “restoration of all things” that culminates in the return of the Lord (see Acts 3:21). God has called and commanded us, His appointed watchmen who profess His name, to give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem as an object of praise in all the earth — an event that is yet to come. He is seeking His own special people, both Jew and Gentile, zealous for His glory and ready to join Him in calling forth His purposes on earth.

We are those people.

First Friday

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

May 5

12:15 PM ET

CALL (667) 771-7910, CODE 2452#

WEBCAST [IFApray.org/watch](https://www.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.

PILGRIM LEGACY

Pray that America might return to the personal holiness of our Pilgrim forebears, and that the Forefathers Monument would remain a glowing national witness to God’s holiness and saving grace. Ask the Lord to bless the new edition of the *Monumental Prayers* book, so that readers will grow mightily in their intercessory callings and in the knowledge of the One who calls. Let’s commit the IFA Prayer Team to the grace of God.

BLESSING ISRAEL

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and of all Israel. Intercede for the repentance of the Israeli nation. Pray fervently that America would take seriously the call to bless Israel and thus be blessed ourselves. Ask our God to bring us into holy partnership with Himself for the restoration of all things, so that our obedience might help bring light to the nations and hasten the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NATIONAL PRAYERS

Let’s pray that this year’s National Day of Prayer might reach depths of repentance and heights of faith such as we have never seen before in our history. In these days of such national and global disquiet and distress, pray that the Day of Prayer will finally bring the salvation and the showers of blessing that God has always wanted to bestow.



Participate in the National Day of Prayer

KATHY BRANZELL, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
TASK FORCE

One of the most significant days in our calendar year is the National Day of Prayer — the only day of prayer established in our nation's public law. It is on this day, the first Thursday of May, that men and women of faith from every walk of life pause to reflect and to cry out to our heavenly Father on behalf of our nation.

We pray because we believe God when He tells us in Scripture: ... *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*" (James 5:16 NKJV). To *avail* means to be able. Our humble, fervent, heartfelt, and passionate prayers put God's abilities into action. These are the prayers we want to pray with our eyes wide open so that we don't miss a moment of God's heart and hands moving. Even as our words hang in the air, He is already answering— touched, as Jesus was on earth, by the faith with which someone asks and believes. We delight the Father when we exalt Him, adore Him, love Him, thank Him, and, in respect for His power and submission to His authority, intercede in the knowledge that His answer is always best. His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, and His love is always for us as His children.

We cling to the truth that our prayers avail much. Though at first I wrestled a bit with the word *much* (How do we measure "much"? How do we explain or even begin to explore "much"?), I went back to the original language and found that the same word is also translated *great* and *many*. For example, Paul wrote: *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved*

us ... (Eph. 2:4). In the gospels, we're told: ... there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they were written in detail, I expect that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written (John 21:25 NASB). And Peter tells us: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... (1 Peter 1:3 NASB).

God takes my "little" and makes it *much*! He takes our intercession and impacts not just the course of time, but also that of human souls and of the kingdom. God uses our prayers to write the history books of tomorrow. What will history books be saying in the future as a result of the prayers you and I pray for our community and country? What *much* is God about to unveil and avail? What victories are on their way because we prayed fervently to the King of kings, Who has brought us victory over the enemy and in all the battles we have fought upon our knees?

The battle for the soul of America is real, and the stakes are high. Join us on Thursday, May 4, at a National Day of Prayer event in your local community, and for our national broadcast at 8 p.m. EST. You will be able to watch or listen on many of your favorite Christian television and radio networks, as well as online. We look forward to joining with you as we all gather to pray fervently in righteousness and to avail much!

TEAR-OFF

2023 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR *America*

We come with fervent hearts to praise You Lord. You are the Word, the Way, Truth and Life. The Alpha and Omega, Lion of Judah, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come. You clothed Yourself in flesh and dwelt among us, to remove our sin and clothe us in Your righteousness that we might dwell with You forever and ever.

With broken, humbled hearts we repent of our sins. Confessing to You our faithlessness, prayerlessness, and disobedience. Forgive us for our doubt, our prideful and quarrelsome words that reveal our unclean hearts. Cleanse us and renew a right and steadfast spirit within us we pray.

With grateful hearts we thank You fervently for the blessings in our life and throughout America; they are more than we are able to count. We will remember Your grace and testify to Your goodness in all generations. Help us to refrain from complaining, but instead be prompted to pray faithfully in every circumstance. Teach us to have a content heart knowing You are always enough for our every need.

IFApray.org

As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our reputation in this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit, work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character, conversations, and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.

With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved. With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, "Jesus is Lord" and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, silence hate, and that You will heal our land.

Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised, we pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen!

Kathy Branzell

President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Used with permission.

TEAR-OFF

Answered Prayers

Pushback on Trans

Nineteen states now ban biological boys from competing in girls' and women's scholastic sports. Several high-profile lawsuits have been filed by women against health care providers that performed irreversible surgery on them as teens. Elon Musk weighed in, tweeting: "We shouldn't allow severe, irreversible surgery or sterilizing drugs that they may regret until at least age 18." Famed atheist Richard Dawkins publicly decried the "bullying" of J.K. Rowling by trans supporters, saying: "As a biologist, there are two sexes and that's all there is to it."

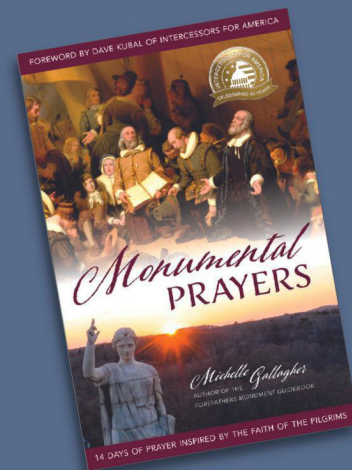
Israel is 75

The modern nation-state of Israel celebrates 75 years on May 15, 2023. IFA co-founder Derek Prince played a vital role in teaching the Church what a privilege it is for all of us to live during this time in history that is a fulfillment of scripture. *"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,' says the Lord"* (Jer. 30:2-3).

The Bible on TikTok

Influencer Destiny Albritton uses TikTok for good. What garnered her 600,000 followers and 12 million likes? Bible reading. Albritton posts videos showing highlighted Bible verses that she reads aloud. *It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it* (Isa. 55:11 NLT).

NEW!



Discover how God used the Pilgrims to change history and how He wants to use you too.



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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