

# The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



## Inspired Stories

DAVE KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12 NIV).*

This well-known verse describes the spiritual reality we're now seeing in our nation and in our lives. Fifty years ago, in 1973, a group of leaders who understood that reality met together and called a nation to prayer. This was the birth of Intercessors for America (IFA), and for half a century since, a growing number of Christians have joined together through this organization to pray for the nation.

National and governmental intercession is a *marathon*, not a *sprint*. Yes, there are times when the wind is at your back and you feel light on your feet. Other times, though, your legs feel heavy and are slow to move. And sometimes the winds and the rain powerfully oppose you.

When I took the helm of IFA in 2008, the economic recession then gripping the nation was a physical manifestation of the malaise of the church. Our government resisted the things of God, and people felt discouraged. Motivating souls to intercede for the nation was difficult.

Then, in 2016, the Lord began moving upon hundreds of thousands of hearts, burdening them to commit to praying for this nation. During this whole time, there have been great answers to those prayers, and there has also been an emergence of great evils.

In preparation for the celebration of our 50th anniversary, IFA's staff began doing research through our archives. And it turns out we've discovered overwhelming evidence that God has truly been answering prayers—in large ways and small, and in good times and bad.

We found some stories that made us cry tears of joy, and we came across others that reminded us there's nothing new under the sun.

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Prayer has been at the heart of major world and national events and of profound movements of God in cities and communities. Intercessors, therefore, have been instrumental in saving lives after the fall of Afghanistan, in preventing terrorist attacks at the nation's bicentennial, in reversing *Roe v. Wade*, and in many, many other events.



So, we've created a book that tells the stories of how God has been moving, the stories of *people who were inspired to pray*, and the blessed results of their intercession. The book, *Inspired Stories: 50 Years of Answered Prayer*, recounts some of the answered-prayer stories from the history of IFA. We've added engagement questions to each

story for you to reflect on personally or share with a group. It's my own heart's prayer that your faith will be renewed and bolstered by these powerful stories and testimonies that you won't find in today's headlines or in the history books.

*Inspired Stories: 50 Years of Answered Prayer* is actually just the first volume in a series. We unearthed many more stories than can fit in one book, so two more volumes are already in the works!

Order this book today and be encouraged by what God has already done and what He continues to do. See page 4 for details.



## Portrait of an IFA Intercessor

KEITH GUINTA, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine being a prayer warrior in northern Michigan in the early 1970s, during the heart of the Jesus Movement, and hearing that Derek Prince would be speaking at a conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Nancy Rife and her husband, Curt, sensed that the Lord wanted them to attend this conference, advertised as being “for men called into positions of leadership and responsibility in the body of Christ.” The meeting was also intended to help attendees deal with “the problems and challenges that are unique to leadership in our day.” Nancy knew right away in her spirit that the flames of revival were going to begin burning brightly in Florida, and she was not about to miss that.

“I just *knew* we had to go!” she explains whenever she recounts the story. So, on a frigid Michigan day in November 1973, the Rifés and an expectant band of bundled-up believers all piled into a rickety VW bus with no heat, intent on braving a 23-hour drive in the grip of the cold to attend the conference. Nancy exuberantly describes that meeting as if it were yesterday: “*There were 1,000 people there! We could all feel the power and presence of God in the room. The speakers were anointed, the prayer was transcendent, and the gifts of the Spirit were flowing from the platform. In the very first meeting, there were tongues and interpretation!*”

One of the men with whom Nancy and Curt had come to the conference was a train engineer from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Before he was saved, this man had sold drugs on the side. After he was saved, he began sharing the gospel with the people who had bought drugs from him. During this time of the Jesus Movement, these kinds of stories were not unusual. Another man who came with the Rifés worked at an air base in Michigan. He was delivered from demonic oppression at the conference. When they asked him about it, they found out he had never been saved. So, he received Christ and was baptized right then on the beach in Miami, in front of the Deauville hotel.

Given that the conference speakers wanted to deal with the national challenges of the day, it’s perhaps no wonder that Derek Prince gathered all the leaders on the second night of the conference and urged them to do something about Roe v. Wade. That night led to the launch of IFA, and Nancy was all in.



Nancy Rife with IFA Co-Founder and Board Member John Beckett

This is the eternally immutable characteristic that has sustained 50 years of ministry: a yielding to the prominence of the Holy Spirit to preside with power and freedom upon IFA. Said Nancy: “*In 1973, when Roe v. Wade was decided, I knew that we must pray because God would surely judge our nation harshly. And as fierce as the opposition was back in the ‘70s, it was nothing compared to what is happening today.*”

In December 2020, Nancy’s dear husband died of COVID, but her ministry of prayer continues. She had repeatedly heard the Lord tell her, “*Others may do what they will, but it is imperative you raise up a house of prayer.*” Nancy’s vision helped her start a prayer room in her home state of Michigan.

Clearly, Nancy has filled many of heaven’s bowls with the incense of intercession for our country. She is a monthly guest on IFA’s Headline Prayer Live webcast, and she says she’s deeply grateful for how IFA’s resources have informed and fueled her prayers through these many years. And yet, she believes that the greatest answers to her prayers and ours are just ahead.

## First Friday

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

November 3, 2023

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.*

## HE WILL ANSWER

Whether we have another 50 years ahead before our Lord returns, we do not know. We do know that the God who so faithfully answered prayers through 50 years of IFA’s ministry is still alive to hear and still powerful to answer prayer, and He will answer our petitions for the next 50 days, 50 weeks, or 50 months. Ask Him to complete the work of mercy and grace He has started in this nation.

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

We must intercede for our fellow intercessors and for their homes and families—for those we know and for those we don’t know. Let’s seek divine protection for all these families against assaults on spirits, minds, and bodies. Let’s ask our Lord to do works of grace in the hearts of straying children and grandchildren and of suffering parents, so that the hearts of the fathers will be turned to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.

## CHRIST RULES

Lift up world events to God in light of His power and authority. Confess this truth: The nations belong to Jesus Christ—all of them—even if for now it does not yet seem to be so. Pray that those who study the *Shaping History* books will be inspired and encouraged to pray Daniel prayers, Nehemiah prayers, and Ezra prayers.

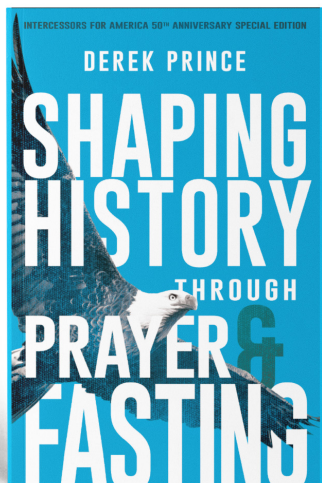




## Christians Can Change World Events

JOHN BECKETT, IFA CO-FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER

If any single document was central to the founding of Intercessors for America in 1973, it was *Shaping History Through Prayer & Fasting*.



That book's author, Derek Prince, had been invited as a principal speaker to a men's conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In preparation, he conversed with another of the main speakers, Ern Baxter, a Canadian living near Vancouver, Canada. The two had never met personally, but through their conversation, they determined that each man was, for different reasons, carrying a burden for his respective nation. They further concluded that the Lord was directing them to speak on our responsibility as believers to help shape the destinies of nations and governments through prayer and fasting.

Prince was born in 1915 and raised and educated in England, where he graduated with honors from King's College, Cambridge University. Understandably, his initial view of America's founding and early development, including the War of Independence, favored the British perspective—a rebellious people had defied their king in a most unbiblical way.

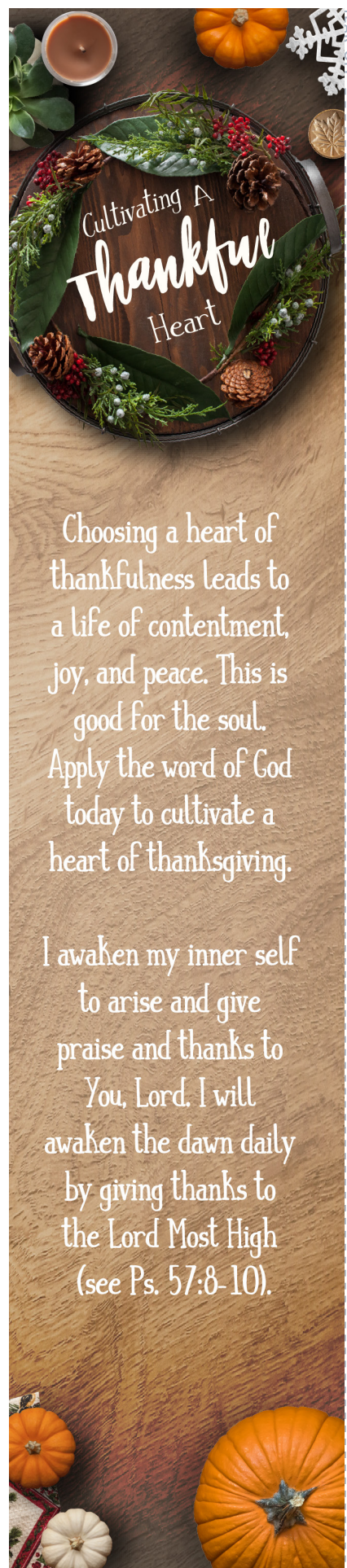
To Prince's surprise, that view was turned upside down in 1970. John Talcott, a great patriot and student of the history of the Pilgrims, had asked Prince to speak in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the 350th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing. Delving into the history of our earliest settlers, Prince discovered that they had fervently sought the Lord and were governed by Him as they struck out for freedom and away from persecution.

By 1973, Prince had become well versed in the role that prayer and fasting had played in our nation's earliest days. He came to believe that no less determined a focus was needed in our day to rescue America from the perils confronting us on so many fronts. Prime evidence of our national vulnerability was the Supreme Court's fateful Roe v. Wade decision in January of that year.

With great passion, conference speakers Prince and Baxter wove the themes of repentance, fasting, and prayer for nations into their presentations. Prince believed strongly in coupling action with prayer. As the conference concluded, he and others in the leadership asked those in attendance whether any of them would be willing to follow up. From there, Intercessors for America was born.

*Shaping History Through Prayer & Fasting* became an immediate classic. For 50 years, this work has been uniquely influential in stirring Christians worldwide to reach up broadly and deeply in prayer for their nations. Now, an IFA 50th anniversary special edition is available, and the book's timeless teaching is being made even more accessible through a companion study guide. By means of these, you can study alone or gather with praying friends to put the powerful biblical principles into practice. Both books are available through IFA. See page 4 for details.

TEAR-OFF





I purpose in my heart  
to be steadfast in my  
prayer life, to continue  
in praise, and to be  
intent in giving You  
thanks in all situations  
(see Col. 4:2).

I will let my roots grow  
down into You, Lord, and  
my life be built upon You.  
Then my faith will grow  
strong as I overflow with  
thankfulness  
(see Col. 2:7).

I enter Your gates with  
thanksgiving and Your  
courts with praise. I bless  
Your name, for You are  
good and faithful to me  
(see Ps. 100:4-5).



Find more resources like this  
at IFApray.org

TEAR-OFF

## Answered Prayers

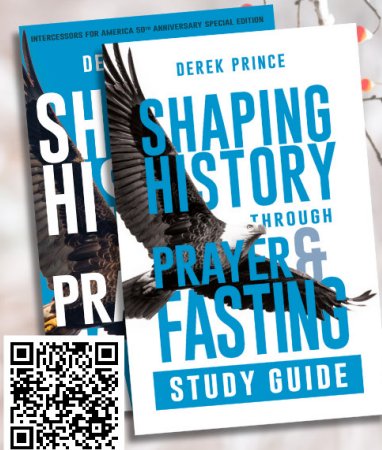
**School Pays Mom After Secret Sex Change.** A California mother, Jessica Konen, learned that the school had secretly fostered her daughter Alicia's identification as a boy through a so-called "gender support plan." Only after many months did these officials tell Jessica what they'd done—"socially transitioned" the girl behind her mother's back. Then they demanded that Jessica refer to her daughter by her male name and pronouns. Jessica sued the school district and was awarded \$100,000 in damages.

**IFA Prayer Call Interrupts Active Shooter Incident.** The IFA Ohio state prayer call was about to begin when an intercessor, Cookie, joined and said, "I am at Easton Mall in Columbus, and I am in the middle of an active shooter situation; one person is dead, one person is wounded. The shooter has not been caught, and no one is allowed to leave **we need prayer.**" God inspired this word of direction for the call: "Sunday's prayer call is going to be different. We will have only one item of business, and then we will move into an open time of worship and prayer. We will surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit." The shooter was a 13-year-old. "If we hadn't been praying, who knows what the outcome would have been ... Easton was PACKED with people," Cookie said.

**Intercessors 'Lock the Shields.'** IFA published a story about Lock the Shields, a ministry mobilizing intercession for schools. Founder Keli Caraveo said: "I had been praying that our intercession would extend to greater territory. I assumed after the IFA article we might have a few other cities join. I had no idea we would have people jump in from cities in 20 other states and more than 100 schools."

## New IFA exclusives!

PERFECT FOR  
HOLIDAY GIVING



Scan codes or call  
800-USA-PRAY

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*