

The Connector

NEWS. PRAYER. ACTION.



IFA's 50th: Heaven and Earth Moved

KEITH GUINTA, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

IFA's 50th anniversary celebration was among the most heaven-and-earth-moving conferences I've ever attended. Though we can appreciate the role that video conferencing plays in our time, nothing substitutes for the physical gathering of some 500-plus intercessors for worship, prayer, and spiritual activation.

There are three types of conferences. The first could be described as a meat-and-potatoes meal of rousing moments and smatterings of applause. Unfortunately, when the meat ends, you can't remember a thing about the potatoes. The next sort of conference sows seeds within expectant hearts and minds, but the fruit dies on the vine shortly after. Third, we have the most fruitful and eternal sort: Prayer has prepared hearts; worship and adoration usher in God's presence; trees of life take root; and a future "forest" of good fruit testifies that a seismic shift occurred and that nothing will ever be the same. IFA's conference was one of this rare variety.

The speakers exceeded expectations, rousing the faith-filled attendees to lift their eyes and prayers — perhaps higher than ever.

On the first day, a group of IFA leaders went to the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Senate Office Building to hear Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi and Steve Daines of Montana. These articulate senators spoke about their faith, the Scriptures, and how the kingdom of God informs their politics — leaving me with confidence that many strong believers serve in the highest offices of our land.

Back at the conference center, author and speaker Richard Blackaby shared a deeply moving and humorous talk about how to experience a relationship with God. We also heard from national heroes waging war and winning battles. I leaped to my feet when True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht, a leading champion in the fight for election integrity, took the stage. Gerald Groff gave glory to God for the Supreme Court ruling in his favor that no Christian may be forced to work on the Sabbath.

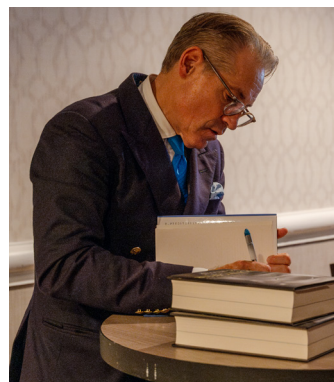
IN THIS ISSUE

- 01 - *IFA's 50th: Heaven and Earth Moved*
- 02 - *When We Dwell Together in Unity*
- 03 - *The Joy of Being Together*

Next, paragon of heroism Chad Robichaux described his work rescuing people from dangerous places like Afghanistan, Ukraine, and our southern border — even when our own government will not. The entire room was breathless.

Author and speaker Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright, granddaughter of Billy Graham, shared some profound and practical ways to speak God's Word over the next generation and to call youth into their kingdom identity. Her presentation was so captivating that it's no wonder some members of her family call her the best preacher in the Graham clan.

The following day, former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann delivered an impassioned address on the importance of unwavering support for Israel, after which corporate intercession in the room erupted like a geyser. Pastor and author Dutch Sheets spoke next. Though his soothing, dulcet voice instills peace and comfort in his listeners, on this day it carried an intensity especially fit for the dark hour in which we live. His teaching on the meaning of intercession ignited the room in yet another round of eruptive prayer.



The keynote speaker was author and radio host Eric Metaxas, whose speech was side-splittingly hilarious, Spirit-breathed, and urgently holy. His message synthesized the preceding ones and identified the only agency equipped to defeat the powers of darkness: the American Church.

May we all take our place on the wall and begin pleading for this nation.



When We Dwell Together in Unity

JAMIE ROHRBAUGH, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing — life forevermore (Ps. 133:1–3).

Have you gathered together in unity with like-minded believers recently? If so, did you notice anything special about your time or about the fruit of your fellowship? Hundreds of IFA readers gathered together recently in our nation's capital for IFA's 50th anniversary celebration. We prayed, encouraged one another, and grew in the Lord together. But you know what happened? *Relationships*.

Relationships happened.

People whose names we have only seen online suddenly became real to us. Those people stood in front of one another and greeted one another enthusiastically (and they were a hugging bunch too!). People who have read one another's comments, who have prayed and agreed together online, and who have been blessed by the same materials and areas of prayer focus suddenly became friends in person.

And *the Lord commanded* the blessing.

Why? Because He always commands the blessing upon His people when brethren (and sistren!) dwell together in unity. In fact, Psalm 133 tells us that not only is it good and pleasant for us to dwell together in unity, but that in the place of united togetherness, the Lord actually bestows *life forevermore*.

Yes, the blessing of the Lord brings



life. More specifically, the gathering together of the saints to dwell in unity brings the *commanded blessing* of God down on our heads — and His commanded blessing produces *life forevermore*.

We saw that at the IFA 50th anniversary gala. However, more importantly, you can see that today, yourself, no matter where you are.

I know people are busy. I know many suffer from church wounds. But despite the obstacles in our lives and schedules, *we need one another*. Proverbs says: *A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment (Prov. 18:1).*

Beloved, that verse applies to all of us. It is not good for man or woman to be alone. God created us to dwell in community. And regardless of what's going on in our lives and hearts, we need one another.

Whatever your gathering together in unity might look like, we all need life — and life more abundantly. If community is missing from your life, won't you contact some friends today? Schedule some "together time." If you have no friends, find someone else who also doesn't have any friends *and be their friend*. When we gather together in unity, the Lord will command the blessing — *life forevermore*.

First Friday

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

January 5, 2024

12:15 PM ET

CALL (667) 771-7910, CODE 2452#

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

YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Pray for the Lord's purposes to stand. All the nations belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is King of kings. Seek the peace of Jerusalem, the security of Israel, and the protection and salvation of the Jewish people. Pray God's blessings of mercy, grace, and forgiveness over America going into this year. Ahead of the coming elections ask Him to raise up godly leaders in government, and to remove those who defy His rule.

DWELLING IN UNITY

Seek God for ways we can begin dwelling with like-minded believers in Holy Spirit unity. Pray for the Church to be one in mind, heart and spirit in Christ. Pray for Him to deliver us from falsehood and disunity. As we await His return, ask that He make us vessels of grace to reach this generation.

PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE

We are a nation of 50 states and territories and 52 IFA prayer groups gather in prayer every week. May God grant these groups and their leaders fresh direction, discernment, and grace to persist in their prayers. Offer Him the sacrifice of gratitude and thanksgiving for His faithful answers to those prayers.



The Joy of Being Together

NANCY HUFF, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even before attending the IFA Shaping HIStory celebration, I anticipated that it would be a great event. I was looking forward to hearing great speakers, meeting the outstanding IFA staff face-to-face, and enjoying time with a friend who would also be in attendance. But little did I realize the spiritual impact this conference would have on me as I experienced the joys of being together in person with over 500 intercessors praying for this nation.

I had the pleasure of reconnecting with many praying friends, which never would have happened had we not come together in person for this event. Over the past 20 years, I've taken groups to D.C. to pray for our nation. At those times, I always tried to honor the intercessors who live and pray in Washington D.C. Now here I was, laughing and crying joyfully as I told them how much I've appreciated knowing and praying with them through the years, and how much respect I have for their faithfulness to their prayer assignments.

To help us meet new intercessors at the conference, the IFA staff prepared name tags for each of us, with the name of an intercessor in attendance written on the back of the tag. *I immediately located my name-tag intercessor on the elevator* — and it was a joy to pray with her several times during the conference. The presence of so many intercessors in one location prompted immediate joy as we made new friends and formed bonds of prayer that will not be broken. And we all know that these new friends are praying for America, just as we are!

John Beckett, one of the founders of IFA, shared how he, Derek Prince,



Dave and Kris Kubal

and several other ministers met in the 1970s with a desire to see intercession for America go beyond their initial meetings. Many of those men have now passed from this earth. But I could imagine them as part of that great biblical cloud of heavenly witnesses, cheering this gathering of intercessors on toward victory for our nation. Later, IFA President and CEO Dave Kubal described a fresh vision for IFA that builds on the founders' original vision; he shared a plan for exponentially increasing the number of American intercessors to *multiplied millions*.

And so, today, mere weeks after the close of the conference, I remain very joyful. I'm joyful that I could be there in person to hear what the future holds for those of us who will keep on praying. Victory is ours!

The joy of our being together in person for united prayer, praise, and worship is almost impossible to describe. Imagine hearing the soft roar of hundreds of intercessors praying together with one purpose: to see revival and reformation in America. That is a unique experience. I was so blessed to be part of IFA's Shaping HIStory event.

TEAR-OFF

SHAPING HIStory

A Daily Prayer For 2024

By the Word of God, the heavens and the earth were made. Let all the people revere God. Father, thank You for foiling the plans of the Enemy. Thwart the evil plans of Your foes, and make Your own plans and purposes prevail. The plans of the Lord stand forever, and the purposes of Your heart for Your people are established through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Our nation is blessed because of You and the prayers of Your people. Thank You for Your faithfulness to Your people (see Ps. 33:6–12).

We humble ourselves before You. We pray and we seek Your face. We cry out for mercy! Forgive the many sins of this nation and heal our land. This we ask in Jesus' name (see 2 Chron. 7:14).

We pray for those who are in authority. According to Your Word, when we pray fervently for our nation, we can live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. Give attention to our prayers and pleas for mercy, Lord, as we come into Your presence daily (see 1 Tim. 2:1–2; 1 Kings 8:28).

Father, today we put on Your full armor. You have given us authority over all the power of the Enemy. We come against every ruler of wickedness, against this present darkness, and against all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. We proclaim Your victory in our nation and in the Church, in Jesus' name (see Eph. 6:11–13; Luke 10:19).

We ask You to cause the enemies who rise up against the U.S. to be defeated before our eyes. When they come against us one way, make them flee before us seven ways (see Deut. 28:7).

You alone enlarge nations and You rule over all the nations. We seek Your hand of favor upon the U.S. in Jesus' name. Remove leaders who do evil and set in their places God-fearing leadership all across this land (see Job 12:23–24; Ps. 22:27–28).

Our Father, You have marked out and appointed our times in history. We declare that the Enemy will be unable to change our times or seasons! May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (see Acts 17:26).

Help us to see things clearly and to hear clearly what the Spirit of the Lord is saying. Thank You for helping us to be diligent and prayerful. We are thankful that we have already overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony! (see 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:11).

Father, today we seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which You have carried us. We pray this knowing that when our cities prosper, we too will prosper, according to Your Word (see Jer. 29:7).

Cause Your light to shine so brightly within us that people will see it and have to glorify You. This is the cry of our hearts, in Jesus' name (see Matt. 5:16).



FIND MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS AT IFAPRAY.ORG

TEAR-OFF

Answered Prayer

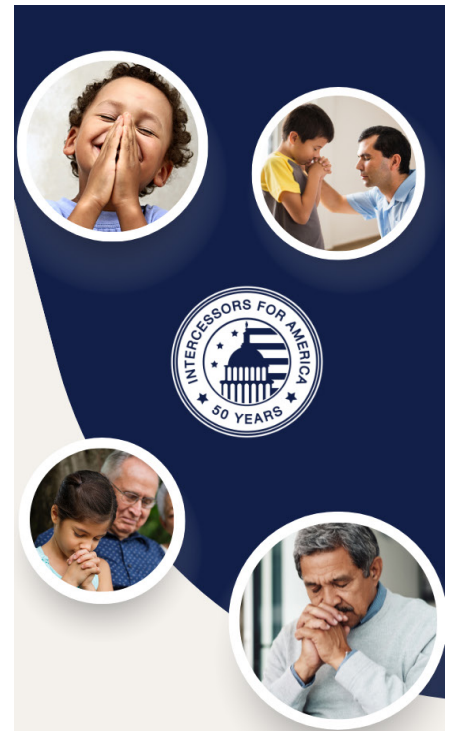
IFA North Dakota Reports Praises

We have watched the hand of God move as we continue to pray. Some of our intercessors have anointed monuments, rivers, and the borders of our state. Evil has been exposed, and justice has been served as we have cried out to God concerning drug and human trafficking. The CO2 pipeline has been stalled because of the prayers of many. This project is supposed to be the largest in the world, with a plan to allow five states to drain this hazardous material into North Dakota. We continue to stand against this giant, as others do as well. We have spoken blessings during our prayer time over our First Nations peoples, that healing would prevail over broken hearts.

—*Donna Hinton, IFA North Dakota State Prayer Leader*

Being a part of the IFA North Dakota intercessory group was such a blessing, as God called me to testify on several bills during our legislative session, January through April of 2023. The IFA intercessors faithfully interceded during committee presentations, floor debates, and voting on crucial bills affecting children, families, education, and many more topics. An example was House bills 1249 and 1489, concerning female sports in high schools and colleges. God gave me the words, and the intercessors faithfully prayed. Together, that Holy Spirit-led team stormed heaven for a successful intervention that passed those bills. Now, North Dakota's female athletes don't have to worry about having to compete with and against the opposite sex. All glory to Jesus!

—*Patricia A. Leno, IFA North Dakota State Prayer Member*



**Impact
generations
in prayer.**

**Become a
MONTHLY
MINISTRY
PARTNER**

**Receive a free gift for
signing up!**

**Call
1 (800) USA-PRAY**

The Connector, provided on request, is published 10 times annually. IFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All Scripture references are NKJV unless otherwise noted. Contents may be reproduced, except for items separately copyrighted; please credit IFA.

IFA Office: PO Box 915,
Purcellville, VA 20134;

Tel: 800-USA-PRAY;

e-mail: IFA@ifapray.org

IFA Websites: IFAPray.org,
HeadlinePrayer.org, and
PrayforAmericasLeaders.com



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.