



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

NOVEMBER 2019

THE CONNECTER

CONNECTING HEARTS OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION TO GOD AND EACH OTHER!

Why We Should Care About The 2020 Elections Now



By David Kubal, IFA President/CEO

I want to encourage you to engage in the 2020 election now. Why should you care about an election 12 months away? Why should you pray and intercede? Let me give you three reasons why it is critical to pray for the upcoming election NOW.

1. We desire to see godly candidates who legislate with a fear of the Lord. These candidates decide to run for office months, if not years, before the election. We need to be praying that God-fearing men and women around the country would be compelled to run for office. I love to ask elected officials what encouraged them to enter politics. I have heard the most amazing stories. Most of the time there was a reluctance followed by some kind of miraculous confirmation of God's call to run for office. One of my favorite stories is about a man who was "minding his own business" until his wife had a dream that he should run for office. As they prayed about the dream, it became clear that this was God's plan. He ran for, and won, a county seat position, then he was miraculously appointed to the vacated mayoral seat. He won re-election as mayor handedly; now he is running for Congress. We need to pray now that we will have godly candidates to choose from—we can't have God-fearing elected officials if they do not run for office. Pray for God to inspire thousands of His people to run for the 17,000 public offices around the nation.

2. As famously said by Ohio Senator Mark Hanna in 1895, "The most important thing in an election is money, and I can't remember the second." Without a doubt, there will be more money spent on the 2020 election than any other in history, likely exceeding \$3 billion. In the natural, the greatest need godly candidates have is money to run their campaigns. We need to pray that God would sovereignly cause dollars to flow to those candidates so they would have the opportunity to accomplish His purpose in our nation.

3. We need to pray that Christians engage in the voting process. There are 90 million Christians in America, making us the largest voting bloc. About half don't vote, and about one-quarter are not even registered. The Church is the only force in the world with the power to preserve society. It is the role that we are called to—to be salt and light; to preserve and direct. The Church has been and will be the only hope for the world. The simplest thing each individual Christian can do to accomplish this is to vote for the best candidates and the best platforms.

In the coming months, you will hear about an initiative we are embarking on called **Vote Your Values 2020**. It is an effort to mobilize an army of intercessors to pray specifically and strategically for the Church to be engaged in the election process. You will be amazed at how the Lord has given us wisdom to harness technology to release all of you to pray. 

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER November 1, 2019

Please join our Conference Call to pray with election experts about the 2020 presidential election and how the Church can prepare. See page 4 for details.

CHURCH

Pray for God to stir the Church to become what God desires to impact our world today. Pray for mercy, compassion, and truth to grow in the hearts of believers. Ask God for sanctification, purification, and a growing fear of the Lord for His people.

ELECTION 2020

Pray for godly candidates to run for office. Pray for Christians to engage in the campaign process—giving, volunteering, and voting. Pray that the largest voting bloc in America, the Church, would have the greatest percentage turnout in the election.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive us for the times we have not been actively involved in that for which we have prayed. We repent. We ask that You would help us to not only pray for our country, but also help those who are in a position to run for office and implement the changes for which we pray. We pray for more candidates, called by Your name, who will say, "I'm willing to run."

To see God's purposes for America fulfilled through sustained prayer and Spirit-led obedience

Preparing the Church for Election 2020



By Wanda Alger, IFA Field Correspondent

Anticipating what the 2020 election cycle will be like on the national landscape can be overwhelming. We are not in a war of parties but of principles. Whether Republican Christians like it or not, there are many Jesus followers who feel strongly about supporting the Democratic ticket. Why?

I have observed that many who sympathize with the Democratic platform are focused on helping others. They value loving their neighbor, serving the poor, and aiding the disenfranchised. Their heart of mercy pulls them towards those who have been victimized—this value supersedes any other value or truth. Relationship is priority.

Those who stand by the Republican ticket repeatedly call for truth. They are focused on what is right, looking for the facts, and holding to the law. They look for justice, because they believe that truth is freedom. Even if it means a few relationships are negatively affected, they believe any temporary cost will be for the greater good.

Obviously, these are gross generalities, yet both principles are biblical values, and thus the great divide within the Church. Our battle cannot simply be between political parties. There are deeper spiritual realities

at war. If we truly believe that the Church has spiritual authority in this land, it is this battle for mercy and truth walking and working together that we must face. When these two marks of heaven come together, we will see the needed breakthrough in our government, as well as unity of heart and purpose within the Church. When believers stand together for something greater, we will experience the shift we so desperately need.

Scripture tells us how to bridge the gap between mercy and truth—the fear of the Lord (Lk 1:50 ESV). God promises His steadfast love and mercy to those who fear him and keep his commandments (Dt 5:10, 7:9; Ps 103:17). He is compassionate, but also a holy God who requires a holy people.

Without the fear of the Lord, mercy can become self-serving, victim-minded, and limited in long-term vision. Likewise, truth can become religious and overbearing unless tempered with compassion. The fact is, there is no true mercy apart from God's truth. Nor can we walk in absolute truth apart from His mercy. Walking in the fear of the Lord keeps our hearts in check and our motives pure (Heb 10:28-31).

For those who want truth to prevail in

the land, we must show compassion to others. We must demonstrate it in our conversation and in our Facebook posts. We cannot allow the world's hostility and rebel influence to stain our witness. For those who want mercy to be shown, we must recognize all the facts and be willing to confront some hard truths. It may require some tough love, recognizing the hand of a loving Heavenly Father disciplining His children for their ultimate well-being.

I believe it is time to clean up our act. Weary or not, we must continue to persevere, not simply for another election, but for a sanctification of hearts and purification of motives. We must clean up our conversation and learn to process together and not simply shout sound bites over social media.

No party or president can fix our deeper issues. We, the people of God, must guard our hearts and minds and learn to cross the aisles of political rhetoric and personal opinion in order to form a more perfect union of a heavenly kind. I pray we have the grace to walk it out and come out, not only on the right side of history, but on the right side of eternity.

Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good. (Prv 14:22 NKJ) 🏛️

Why Progressives Have an Edge Over Conservatives

By Karen Hardin

Have you wondered how we got to this place in America where we are just one election shy of losing our nation?

I know I have.

As I ponder and pray for insight regarding the increasing division in our land, and the push toward policies that continue to remove God from our nation, there are some hard facts that, as Christians, I believe we must face in order to see the change we say we desire.

Giving. Prior to two years ago, I had never given to a political campaign financially. I tithe. I give to our church and other non-profit organizations, but I had never even thought about the importance of financially supporting a candidate to help get them elected, so as to bring about the change for which I prayed.

Right now numerous liberal-leaning millionaires are giving away their fortunes to see America turn socialist. What about us? Average citizens who just want to honor God and live our lives? Do we put our money where our mouth is? Or do we simply say, "I will pray?"

Prayer is imperative. It is the prerequisite of any change. But how can we say we will pray and then take no action to help implement that for which we have prayed?

A new friend of mine running for a seat

in New York told me recently, "I can get Christians to pray for me, but that's not the only thing I need. People have no idea how expensive it is just to get a website up and do all the administrative part just to get started, and that is before we can even launch our campaign which includes expensive television and radio ads. I need their prayers, but I also need their help financially."

If we want to see the change we are praying for, we have to help make that happen. If candidates are willing to throw their hats in the ring and take on the abuse that comes from the liberal media and other candidates—which has unfortunately become commonplace in elections today—then we should be willing to help them in whatever way possible.

Volunteering. I have always volunteered at my church, food banks, and other nonprofits. But up until a couple of years ago, I had never volunteered for a political campaign to get a godly candidate elected. Sadly, up until then it had never really hit my radar. How about you?

If it did, it was easy to push it aside. I mean, I'm a busy person. I run a business. I homeschooled my kids. I help my husband run a ministry. In my mind, I was doing my part...But was I really?

Volunteering for a campaign is an area that really gets me out of my comfort zone. Making phone calls. Going door to door. I'm an introvert and those things are hard for me. But guess what? There are all kinds of necessary tasks, like stuffing envelopes, putting up signs, or spreading the word through social media. I just have to make the decision to do it.

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Tear-off Prayer Guide

GOVERNMENT IS ORDAINED BY GOD

God

God established government and delegates this authority to mankind to accomplish His will on earth. (Rom 13:1)

He holds nations accountable for their collective actions. (Mi 5:15)

Government

Godly government should reflect Kingdom values. (Mt 6:10)

Civil government is called to protect law-abiding citizens and punish lawbreakers. (Rom 13:3)

Believers

We pray for God-fearing leaders to promote peace and order in society. (Ex 18:21)

We influence government officials through our involvement, witness, and prayer. (1 Tm 2:1-2)



Biblical Examples of Intercessory Activism

Daniel interceded and spoke to kings concerning national matters (Daniel 1:17-2:45).

Jeremiah spoke God's word for the nation to government officials (Jeremiah 36:27-32).

Jesus publically demonstrated zeal for His Father's house of prayer (Matthew 21:12-13).

The disciples prayed for greater boldness in the face of opposition and threats (Acts 4:29).

Paul reached officials with the kingdom message while appealing to Caesar (Acts 26-27).

The Goal of Intercessory Activism

Positioning intercessors alongside thousands of elected officials and national leaders to support them in prayer, impart God's Word, and be a witness for Christ.

Intercessors For America
800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

Progressives vs. Conservatives

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Voting. It is no longer an option to stay home and not vote. Christians, one of the largest voting blocs, are a majority that acts like a minority. We are divided and complacent, which has brought us to where we are now.

It really doesn't matter if we don't like either candidate. It's not about liking a candidate. It's about supporting a party platform that best represents our values and biblical beliefs. As we head toward another election, we all need to pray about whether the values we vote for are in alignment with biblical mandates. Or have we inadvertently taken our eyes off of what is on God's heart based on His Word?

Speaking Up. Prior to 2016, I was pretty silent about my political views. My friends knew I was a conservative, but we didn't discuss politics. I certainly didn't write or post about it. But that changed in 2016 when it became clear that the election was far more than a choice between two candidates. It had become a choice on whether our nation would continue to exist with the freedoms on which it was founded.

The upcoming 2020 election is no different. The answer to that question still hangs in the balance.

Will you join me as we all leave our comfort zones and choose to do what most of us have not done before, which is to engage? We need to engage prayerfully, but we need to also begin to engage financially, actively, and vocally. 🏛️

—Karen Hardin is an intercessor, author, minister, and literary agent (www.prioritypr.org or www.karenhardin.com).

Here's how IFA intercessors are preparing for the 2020 elections:

The elections are critical, and need dedicated watchmen on the walls to pray for God's will to be done.

I am praying that the church in America would understand and pray for this country and those who govern it. We are called on to be active participants and not just bystanders.

I will distribute 40,000 Christian voter guides, hold voter registration in my church, and provide assistance at the polls or call centers.

I will vote and make sure my family votes.

I will share information and encourage those around me to use God's Word as a measuring tool when considering the issues and candidates.

I will pray for those in office, those running for office, and for God's will to be performed above our understanding.

I research state and national candidates to find those who believe in pro-life, pro-family, and less government, then encourage friends and neighbors to vote.

I also coordinate prayer for each voting site in our city. 🏛️



FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Please plan on setting these important 30 minutes aside to join with hundreds across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on **November 1, 2019 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**
Call: (712) 775-7430