



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

THE CONNECTER

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.



Wisdom from a Seasoned Intercessor

Gloria Robles, IFA Contributing Writer

Nancy Rife has been with Intercessors for America since the very beginning. In 1973, Nancy heard about a conference held by New Wine Magazine with Derek Prince and other Christian leaders. She and her husband Curt felt compelled to be there. They drove to Florida with a small group from their church.



Nancy and Curt Rife

In 1973, the nation was reeling. Something unthinkable happened that shook the heart of every believer. Roe v. Wade was decided—legal grounds were given to kill the most innocent and vulnerable, the unborn. At the conference, Derek Prince issued a challenge to the body of Christ, “Who will pray for the leaders of this nation?” And so, IFA was born.

Back in Michigan, Nancy and Curt took the challenge seriously to pray for our nation and leaders. They immediately felt led to partner with IFA and have partnered with us ever since then.

When asked if she has ever seen such distress in the body of Christ as there is in our nation today, she responded, “In 1973 after Roe v. Wade we felt a collective shock.”

Now, Nancy explained, “During the pandemic we see the mobilization of prayer like never before.” Even in the most uncertain and chaotic times, God is always inviting us to partner with Him in prayer, and we can invite others to do the same.

Nancy shared a powerful word of encouragement for national intercessors, “When you intercede for big things (like government or other needs) your personal walk can get dry at times. Remember to worship the Lord! Worship is the key! He’s the King! He’s the Lord! Remember who He is and declare what’s on His heart. Don’t pay attention to the news, because we aren’t getting the truth there. Worship the Lord and keep your eyes there and you will see the results. Don’t give up! He hasn’t brought us this far to abandon us.”

Nancy is an expert in how to use IFA resources for intercession. She prints out the IFA downloadable prayer guides and shares them with her prayer group where she and others pray over them together. She also hosts a prayer phone call once a week—healings and miracles have happened through this small phone prayer group.



Nancy believes small groups are crucial, “If you can, gather a group to pray even if it’s by phone. There is synergy and power when you come into agreement in prayer (Dt 32:30). Make your prayer group a priority. It’s good to have a group of people to pray with you. We need to hold each other accountable.”

Nancy shared this closing message for intercessors: “No one I know ever started out wanting to be an intercessor. It’s a calling that comes from God. He gives you that desire for prayer. When you feel that urge to pray, when something or someone comes to your mind, follow through. Be an encouragement to others in any way that you can.” 



How Did Wedding Month Become Pride Month?

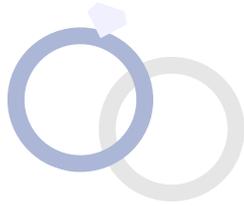
Judy McDonough, IFA Communications Director

June used to be the most common month for weddings, with brides and grooms everywhere.

Now, June means gay pride images and advertisements championing the LGBTQ+ community. To understand the magnitude of impact the LGBTQ+ agenda has in our nation today, we need to look at how we got here in the first place, culturally and politically.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 80's severely damaged the image of the LGBTQ+ community. By the early 90's the LGBTQ+ "rebranding" and "victimhood" marketing propaganda was underway, led by Hollywood, music and advertising industry as well as big tech, corporations, and higher education soon after. The constant bombardment of positive messages and portrayals of LGBTQ+ life and characters by the media permanently positioned the LGBTQ+ community in the mainstream culture. This resulted in a surge of both the LGBTQ+ population and their supporters and sympathizers. The LGBTQ+ activists understood the power of numbers to affect public policy.

No other administration contributed to the historic advancement of the LGBTQ+ policies than the Obama Administration. The LGBTQ+ marketing propaganda and the administration's marketing line "to promote the equal rights of all Americans — no matter who they are or who they love" were major contributing factors for the passing of laws, the shaping of legislation, and the signing of executive orders on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. It was unprecedented for the Department of Justice (and later the



Supreme Court) to conclude that the protection of "sex" from discrimination in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also extends to "gender identity and transgender status." The LGBTQ+ bullying campaign targeted schools and a joint issuance of guidance was released to educators by the Departments of Education and Justice, ensuring protection of transgender students from discrimination.

The federal Equality Act bill, and any similar state laws, would give special protection for LGBTQ+ behavior and according to Family Research Council "would create a massive overhaul of our federal civil rights framework by making almost 60 amendments to nearly 10 different laws." This bill would redefine "sexual discrimination" and expand what constitutes a "public accommodation" in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, adding categories of "sexual orientation and gender identity" (SOGI), which are changeable and fluid, to civil rights statutes based on immutable characteristics (such as age, race, and national origin) and to rights protected in the Constitution (such as religion). This bill would weaken religious freedom protections and require the faith community to accept sexual ideologies antithetical to core beliefs.

"Don't stop praying! Don't stop fasting! Don't stop interceding. Hope and change are possible," Pastor Jim Domen told IFA. After years of living a homosexual lifestyle, Jesus saved him. Now he is on the forefront of fighting to share his message of hope and truth about identity and sexuality. "Whatever happens, I do know this," Domen said, "The Church will never cease to exist. We have that hope and we also have the opportunity to speak truth into our government." ★ IFA

FIRST FRIDAY prayer

JUNE 4, 2021

On the first Friday of every month we encourage intercessors to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

PERSISTENT PRAYER

Pray for persistent prayers among the faithful. Pray for courage, for strengthening, for hope, and for victory. Pray for earnest, heartfelt, continued prayer to be offered on behalf of our local government, states, and nation. Pray for a growing number of small groups for governmental intercession across this country.

LGBTQ+

Pray for Christian parents with LGBTQ+ children. May they be strengthened, encouraged, and comforted in Christ and know that their prayers are being heard. Pray for all those who are struggling and considering an LGBTQ+ lifestyle—pray for godly older men and women to walk alongside them. Pray for repentance, revival, and awakening in America that would spread across the world.

EDUCATION

Father, I ask You to reveal to intercessors the information they need to pray informed prayers for America's public education. We ask You to reform and transform our schools so that our students learn life skills, love America, and honor and reverence You. In the month of June, with graduation celebrations happening, we pray for our children and grandchildren to have the wisdom and knowledge of God and to hunger and thirst for the Word of God rather than things of this world.



Why We Must Pray for Education Now!

Nancy Huff, IFA Contributing Writer

As another pandemic school year ends and preparations begin for the next, we have an opportunity to pray strategically for education as it is now. For years, schools opened their doors and “educated” our nation’s children in relative obscurity. COVID-19 changed everything. The pandemic revealed a dark side of education in America, which could turn out to be a good thing for those of us who have prayed for educational reformation.

With a front-row seat to teacher’s classroom presentations, some parents were shocked at what was taught and began to speak out. Many found alternative means of schooling children, others discovered a call to activism. Prayer is the necessary ingredient to any move for change in education in America.

Pray for those in the political arena to pass legislation for new programs giving parents more control of their child’s education. In March, Senator Rand Paul reintroduced his Support Children Having Open Opportunities for Learning. This act allows certain funds authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to follow a child. More programs and initiatives like this are needed.

Pray the money allocated to educate a child will follow the child and not the school. Horace Mann founded the first public school in the 1830’s using taxpayer funds to provide secular education. No religious school was to receive any taxpayer money. In 2019, the average cost per student in America was \$14,439. If that money were to follow the child, the parents, not the government, would be the ones to use the money for the best schooling for their children.

Pray for school choice. President Trump came into office promoting school choice as a civil rights issue. His willingness to open a discussion on school choice brought the nation an open debate on alternatives to public schools. COVID-19 opened the door even further and prompted discussions never before considered, including School Choice,

Vouchers, Virtual Schools, Specialized Schools, and Charter Schools. Under the Biden Administration, this is at risk.

Pray to break the stronghold of the educational labor unions. The National Education Association (NEA) began as a teachers’ professional organization but became a powerful lobby and labor union. As a union, the NEA operated as a master puppeteer working behind the curtain, pulling educators’ strings toward a socialist anti-American agenda. In the past, not many people knew about the far-left agenda of the NEA. COVID-19 gave a front row seat to their enormous influence as the NEA demanded billions in relief funds before they would allow teachers to return to their classrooms after massive shutdowns. Their socialist agenda for public schools is outlined in their *Playbook for the Biden Administration and Congress*.

Pray for Christians to work with other like-minded groups to transform education. When California adopted an Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum for High Schools, the American Jewish Committee immediately issued a dissenting statement. We are not alone. There are other organizations with whom we can work to accomplish the goal of reformation.

Pray for boldness in men and women of faith who will speak out against evil. Some men and women have spoken out throughout the years on the evils in public education. As the public has become increasingly aware of the leftist/socialist/communist agenda pushed in our public schools, many more have joined them. We honor educational reformers like Thomas Sowell, Samuel Blumenfeld, John Taylor Gatto, Rebecca Friedrichs, Heather MacDonald, and John Ellis.

Is there hope for an educational transformation? Yes. In the middle of chaos, intercessors have reasons to be encouraged. As believers, we see the signs of entropy in the system and realize that public schools are poised for a significant change, if not a complete overhaul. ★ IFA

TEAR-OFF



BLESSINGS & CURSES

Find and Keep FREEDOM in Christ

7 STEPS TO FINDING FREEDOM

- 1. Confess your faith in Christ and His sacrifice on your behalf.** *(Rom 10:9-10 and Heb 3:1)*
- 2. Repent of rebellion and sin.** *I give up all my rebellion, and all my sin, and I submit myself to you as Lord.*
- 3. Receive forgiveness of all sins from God.**
- 4. Forgive others who have harmed you or wronged you.** *Lord, in Your name, I forgive _____.*
- 5. Renounce all contact with the occult and/or satanic practices.**
- 6. Pray the prayer of release from any curse.** *Acknowledge that the work of the cross has the power to cancel every curse in your life and by faith you receive release from Jesus.*
- 7. Believe in your release and move forward in God’s blessing.**

Thank God for the release and freedom He has given you.

continued on next side

PROCLAIM YOUR FREEDOM

Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham, whom God blessed in all things. *(adapted from Gal 3:13-14)*

No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue that rises against me in judgment I do now condemn. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord, and my righteousness is from You, O Lord. *(adapted from Is 54:17)*

I am in Christ, and therefore I am a new creation. All those old things have passed away. Everything in my life has become new, and everything is from God. *(adapted from 2 Cor 5:17-18)*

I will not die but live and will proclaim what the Lord has done. *(adapted from Ps 118:17)*

Jesus Himself bore my sins in His own body on the tree, that I, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by His stripes I am healed. *(adapted from 1 Pt 2:24)*

The bolts of our gates will be iron and bronze, and our strength will equal our days. There is no one like our God, who rides on the heavens to help us and on the clouds in His majesty. The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out our enemy before us, saying, "Destroy him!" *(adapted from Dt 33:25-27)*

The weapons of our warfare are mighty in God. With them I pull down the strongholds that Satan has built in my mind. I bring all my thoughts into obedience to Christ. Three of the mightiest weapons are proclamation, thanksgiving, and praise. *(adapted from 2 Cor 10:4-5)*

From the Derek Prince booklet, *From Curse to Blessing*. Receive this book for a donation of any amount. Call 1-800-USA-PRAY.

TEAR-OFF

answered PRAYER

12 STATES NOW HAVE HEARTBEAT LAWS

In one week, joining a growing number of states, Oklahoma Gov. Stitt and Idaho Gov.

Little signed heartbeat bills banning abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected. Now 12 states have enacted these laws. Some pro-lifers have great hope that recent changes on the Supreme Court will allow these laws to be enforced.

ARIZONA BANS DOWN SYNDROME ABORTIONS

Arizona banned providers from performing abortions "knowing that the abortion is sought because of a genetic abnormality of the child." Governor Doug Ducey tweeted this: "Every life holds immeasurable value — regardless of genetic makeup. Today I signed legislation to prioritize life in our preborn children and protect those with genetic abnormalities."

ARKANSAS IS FIRST TO KEEP KIDS "SAFE"

Leading the nation, the Arkansas General Assembly passed the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act and was adopted into law after overriding Governor Asa Hutchinson's veto. This is the first state to ban gender "experimentation" on children (medical and surgical gender "change"). The author of the bill, Rep. Robin Lundstrom, joined IFA's Pray for Americas Leaders webcast. She shared, "I didn't know when I filed the bill that we would be first in the nation. I am proud of that. I am hoping we put down a marker."

INDIANA LAW: CHURCHES ARE ESSENTIAL

In Indiana, the state government is now prohibited from treating religious bodies differently than secular agencies in a public health emergency. "Religious organizations provide essential services that are necessary for the health and welfare of the public during a disaster emergency," the law states.

MONTANA TAKES ACTION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte explained that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was necessary "to protect Montanans' right to freely exercise their religion." Alliance Defending Freedom praised the new law: "The law doesn't automatically decide who will win every disagreement, but it does ensure that every Montanan — regardless of belief system or political power — receives a fair hearing when government action forces a person to violate his or her religious beliefs."

FIRST FRIDAY

prayer

CONFERENCE CALL

JUNE 4, 2021, 12:15 PM ET

Join with thousands across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens.

Call: **(712) 775-7430**
Webcast: IFApray.org/live

This First Friday Prayer Letter, provided on request, is published 10 times annually. IFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All Scripture references are ESV 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.*