

The Connector

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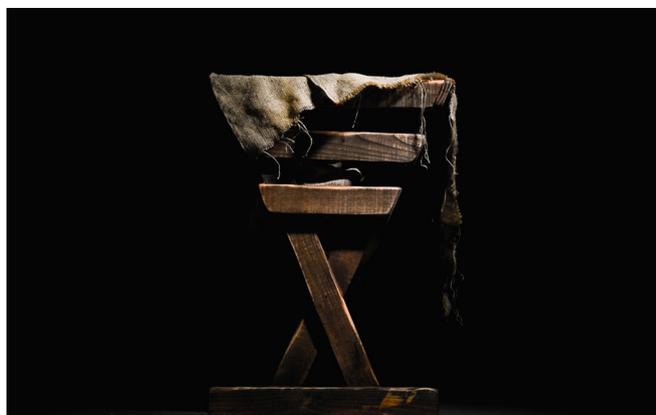


Praying for a Miracle of Life this Christmas

DAVE KUBAL, IFA PRESIDENT/CEO

Isn't it interesting that the first person to recognize our preborn Savior was a preborn child?

You probably know the story. Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, traveled some distance to visit with her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. The scriptures recount an amazing welcome. Mary arrived, Elizabeth heard Mary's greetings from across the house, Elizabeth's "unborn child in leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit" (Lk 1:41).



The preborn Savior was recognized by the preborn John the Baptist and he leaped! They often talk of a mother recognizing the movement of her baby in the womb as butterfly wings moving, but I bet John's leap probably took Elizabeth's breath away.

The presence of the preborn Savior not only caused a physical reaction in John, but also the Savior's presence caused a spiritual reaction in Elizabeth as she was "filled with the Holy Spirit." The filling of the Holy Spirit is very limited before Christ's crucifixion and should be noted as extremely special. We don't know much about Elizabeth and the effect this filling had, but we do know that she raised John the Baptist, who turned out to be a world changer.

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Elizabeth's filling of the Holy Spirit while pregnant was likely instrumental in John's future impact!

The importance of the preborn Savior being recognized by the preborn John the Baptist is especially poignant this Christmas season. This year, for the first time in decades, we celebrate Christmas with the reasonable hope of Roe v. Wade being overturned by our Supreme Court. We are celebrating the birth of our Savior as we are praying for the protection of untold millions of preborn babies for years to come.

On November 1, 2021, the Supreme Court heard the case of the Biden Administration's lawsuit brought against the pro-life law passed by the state of Texas. This Texas law protects all preborn children from six weeks gestation. On December 1, 2021, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This case could result in the Court determining that states have the individual power to establish abortion limitations.

During this Christmas season, as you see things that remind you of the baby Jesus, could I ask you to pray for the Supreme Court and their hearing, deliberating, and writing opinions concerning life in the womb? Pray they would be captured by the preciousness of life. Pray they would be convinced of the impossibility of drawing an arbitrary conclusion of the beginning of life. And pray the justices of the Supreme Court would determine that states can make these decisions themselves.

The agreement our Supreme Court has made to allow legal abortion on demand could not be in greater contrast with the story found in Luke 1, where the preborn Savior was recognized by the preborn John the Baptist. The preborn are precious and wonderfully made. Christmas reminds us of this truth. **IFA**



The Legal Minds Behind IFA's Appealing for Life

JOYCE SWINGLE, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Lord is using two attorneys, IFA, and a southern state to deliver a Word about abortion to the U.S. Supreme Court. William J. Olson (www.LawAndFreedom.com) Phillip Jauregui (www.JudicialActionGroup.com) crafted IFA's distinctive brief in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The brief uncovers the pagan foundation undergirding *Roe v. Wade*, and it warns the Court that it is imperiling Americans by subjecting the nation to judgment. To make these arguments, a case like *Dobbs* was essential. "If you go to the Supreme Court to get *Roe v. Wade* overturned, you have to—as a pre-condition—ask that *Roe v. Wade* be overturned," Olson told IFA. "So it was exciting to study the case, to realize we finally had a vehicle we could be hopeful about. We wanted to say some things other people would not say.... And [IFA] had the boldness to agree."

According to Jauregui, the Holy Spirit instigated the partnership. He and Olson had talked about the need for someone to make these points in a brief. "Less than 24 hours later, Dave Kubal reached out to me, not knowing I had spoken to Bill Olson, not knowing we wanted to make this argument," said Jauregui. "I talked to him about the topic and he said, 'That's the topic we want to talk about'.... Independently, the client and the attorney heard from the Holy Spirit that this argument needed to be made."

The Lord chose power teammates in Olson and Jauregui. Olson has written hundreds of briefs supporting

Christian values and served in the Nixon and Reagan administrations during his political career. His conservative credentials stem from his teens when he attended a "Draft Goldwater" rally, throwing himself into the campaign. With similar enthusiasm, he and his wife searched for the Lord after having their first child. "We figured now we have another life in the world we're responsible for, we better find out what's true," said Olson. Six months after the birth of their son, they were saved.

Jauregui, too, is all in for Jesus. "I didn't know Jesus as my Lord and Savior until a friend at the age of 11 shared with me what it meant to be born-again," he said. "So we both became born again. We both bought little children's Bibles and shared the gospel with many, many, many of our friends." When Jauregui was 19, the Lord called him into His service, saying, "There's so much more joy walking with me than there is trying to do it another way." Leading Jauregui to law school, the Lord promised he would use the schooling for the Kingdom. "Thankfully, the Lord has positioned me to do that. My entire life I've been able to practice law and use it in Kingdom endeavors," he said.

The Lord has positioned IFA, too, to bring His word to the Court. Let us pray the justices heed His message. **IFA**

There is still time to join this historic effort. Visit & share appealingforlife.org.



First Friday Prayer

NEXT CALL IS FRIDAY

December 3

12:15 PM ET | CALL (712) 775-7430
WEBCAST IFApray.org/live

Join with thousands across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on the first Friday of every month. We encourage intercessors to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

VALUE OF LIFE

Pray that the leaders of our nation would have a deep understanding and revelation of the value of life at all stages. Thank God for those on the front lines who are fighting for justice for the unborn. Pray their voices will be heard and that our government will see life as our Father in heaven sees it.

PROTECTION OF LIFE

Pray for hearts to turn and be softened toward the unborn, so they are protected from conception and cherished as they grow. Pray for support systems for unplanned pregnancies and mentors to help unwed mothers navigate the challenges they face. Ask God to stop the enemy's plans to take life and to pour out His Spirit on this nation to preserve life.

HOPE IN THIS SEASON

Pray for hope as we wait on the Lord. Pray to be steadfast and bold to proclaim His goodness and mercy in this season. Thank Him for the greatest gift of His Son, and for every life that He creates and knows before birth. (Jer 1:5)



Hope for the National Intercessor

SUNI PIPER, IFA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you lost your hope? When we are wavering in our emotions and in the turmoil of our world today, turn to the One whose name is above all other names. When anxious thoughts threaten to overtake us in the dark of the night, press into the One who placed the star to announce His coming. His purposes and plans will prevail.



There is a purpose and a plan in the continued wait. We must be steadfast, unwavering, and fully confident that God is not slow in answering as we perceive slowness, but right on time (think of Lazarus).

We are commanded to be ready to share the reason for the hope that we have, and we pray that our actions and words also point to the reality that we are set apart and different from those around us. May we be a people filled with peace, joy, and assurance which confounds those in the world around us.

Now may God, the inspiration and fountain of hope, fill you to overflowing with uncontainable joy and perfect peace as you trust in him. And may the power of the Holy Spirit continually surround your life with his super-abundance until you radiate with hope! (Rom 15:13 TPT)

As we prepare for this Christmas season, remember that God already knew the Way when sin first entered the world.

He convinced a man to build an ark (a vessel the length of 1 ½ football fields and 7 stories high) with no rain nor water for miles.

He parted the Red Sea to make a way for the entire Israelite population to

escape their oppressors (2-3 million people crossing a stretch of dry land possibly 8 miles in width).

He had a man swallowed in the belly of a fish for three days – to make a point.

He caused a virgin to conceive a son and allowed the Son of God to enter this world as a baby.

This same God allowed His Son to be ridiculed, spat upon, and crucified, to carry the full weight of our sin. Then God did the ultimate—His Son emerged from His earthly tomb fully alive three days later!

When fear or anxiety threaten your peace, consider the simplicity of who our God is. Turn off the media, listen to worship, read the Word, and get in His presence. Settle in the peace and the assurance of knowing the One who is all-knowing and calls you by name. We are by no means beyond His reach.

He is in the wait. Our confidence, our hope, and our assurance lie in one name—Jesus, the reason for the season. **IFA**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Josh 1:9 NIV)

TEAR-OFF



PRAYING THROUGH

the

Christmas

Story

THE KINGLY LINE OF JUDAH

Jesus descended from the house of David, the kingly line of Judah (Lk 2:1-5). We celebrate the gift God gave to us in being co-heirs with Jesus in His eternal kingdom (Rom 8:17).

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your one and only Son, Jesus, to this earth. Thank You for making Him rightful King, and for making us co-heirs to rule and reign with Him. We pray for those who do not have a place to call home, and pray that they would find You this season and know that they belong to You.

THE TIME FOR HABITATION

Jesus is continually revealing Himself to us and looking for a place to dwell (Lk 2:6-7).

Lord Jesus, we welcome You in this place! We desire to be a habitation of Your presence, and a people who make room for You in our lives. May we be a family, a community, and a nation who acknowledges Your Name and invites You to come and be with us, Emmanuel.

THE WATCH BRINGS THE GLORY OF THE LORD

As we watch and wait for His coming, His glory is revealed and displaces all our fears (Lk 2:8-10).

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us joy instead of fear, gladness instead of mourning. We acknowledge the heavenly host that announces Your word, which brings us hope and a future. Help us to keep watch and recognize Your workings in our lives. May our fears and doubts give way to joy as we acknowledge Your activity all around us.



PRAYING
THROUGH

the Christmas Story

HEAVEN ANNOUNCES GOD'S PEACE

Our praises declare to the world that Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Lk 2:11-14).

Father, we join with the angels and say, "Glory to God in the highest!" May we be carriers of Your praise, and may we boldly declare Your Lordship to a world that is looking for a Redeemer. May our praises usher in Your presence to bring peace to a world at war with itself, and may all men come to know You as the Prince of Peace.

WE ANNOUNCE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Those who see the Savior do not hesitate to spread the good news of His coming (Lk 2:15-18).

Lord Jesus, just as the shepherds heeded Your word, may we also faithfully follow where You lead us. May we share the good news of Your presence with the joy and excitement of the shepherds on the very first night of Your birth. May all who hear of Your saving grace this season be filled with wonder and awe as we worship You.

ANCHORED IN FAITH, SECURE IN THE PROMISE

Our encounters with Christ will secure our faith and embolden our witness (Lk 2:19-20).

Lord Jesus, we thank You for coming in the flesh and revealing the Father's love to us. Draw us into closer communion with You so that we will testify to others from a first-hand experience and knowledge of Your grace and goodness. May we, as Your people, continue to speak with boldness and share with those who are hurting so that all men may be saved.

TEAR-OFF



ANSWERED PRAYER

Appealing for Life

Tens of thousands of Americans have signed the IFA amicus brief and prayer for life, adding their names to the Supreme Court record as standing for life. Most have also added their own prayers for life. Visit appealingforlife.org to sign, read the brief, and agree in prayer with other intercessors.

Supreme Court Tackles Abortion

The Supreme Court is hearing not one, but two, monumental abortion cases. On December 1, 2021, they will hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and on November 1, 2021, they heard arguments on the question of whether the DOJ has a right to sue a state because of their abortion law. Meanwhile, hundreds of intercessors have joined IFA every weekday for 50 days to pray for life to be upheld in America, praying for the justices, their clerks, and the attorneys in the *Dobbs* case by name.

'Extinct' Israeli Tree Bears Fruit

Discovered in a cave in Qumran, Judean date palm seeds have been cultivated, are growing, and producing fruit! This tree disappeared centuries ago, considered extinct—the seeds dated at 2,000 years old. The Lord has preserved these seeds, caused them to be discovered, and now they are carefully tended by those whose passion is to see native species brought back to the land of Israel. We believe that the Lord wants us to know that there are seeds of destiny, seeds of inheritance in our bloodlines, families, and in us, that are not dead though they may, like the Qumran seeds, be thought long lost and extinct. Did you know that in the deserts of Israel there are seeds and roots of plants that lay dormant until just the right conditions and then the desert blooms? It is often a cataclysmic event that causes the seeds to rupture and bring forth their full glory and beauty (Is 35:1).

Dads on Duty

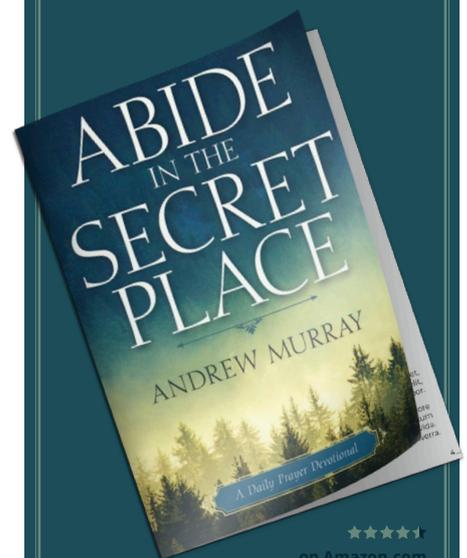
After 3 days of violent fights resulted in dozens of student arrests at Southwood High School in Shreveport, Louisiana, a group of dads decided to do something. They formed Dads on Duty and their presence at the school has shut down the violence. But it did even more. They have transformed →

the school. "The school has been really happy, and you can feel it," said one student. "Not everyone has a father," said one dad, while another added, "Or any male presence in their lives." This is biblical truth in action. The dads hope to start groups throughout Louisiana and then the nation.

Join Other Intercessors Studying God's Word

TOGETHER IN 2022

Call today to receive a complimentary copy for a donation of \$25 or more.



★★★★★
on Amazon.com

Abide in the Secret Place:
A Daily Prayer Devotional
by Andrew Murray



To give over the phone call:

1-800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

or visit IFApray.org/donate

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*