

# Influencer Monthly

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.



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## Persist in Prayer for Israel

*Tanya Ditty, Vice President of Field Operations*



As the leader of the free world, the United States has a unique role in standing in solidarity with the nation of Israel. This could not be more true than right now, as Israel faces their enemies from all sides after the brutality that took place on October 7, 2023, on their southern border.

God said this of His relationship with Israel when He spoke through the prophet Zechariah, "He who touches you [Israel] touches the apple of His eye." (Zechariah 2:8) And we understand that God blesses those who bless His people. That's why in this month's *Influencer Monthly*, we are committing a portion of the publication to materials supporting Israel, including prayer points, scriptures, and resources that can be used in your Prayer/Action Chapter meetings and shared with like-minded family and friends. We hope you find them beneficial in praying for and supporting God's people and His land.

### Prayer Points and Scripture

- ◆ **Pray for the protection of Israeli citizens who are now living in a war zone.** "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2
- ◆ **Pray for the safety of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).** "Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me." Psalms 59:1
- ◆ **Pray wisdom for Israel's leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.** "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6
- ◆ **Pray for the comfort of the families who have lost loved ones in the carnage of war.** "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3
- ◆ **Pray for safety and strength for the hostages.** "You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with



**FYI:** There will not be a December *Influencer Monthly* due to most chapters not meeting in December. We encourage you to consider having a Christmas party.

songs of deliverance.” Psalm 32:7

- ♦ **Pray for gospel access.** Pray for the believers who are living in Israel that they will find opportunities to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

- ♦ **Pray for Israel’s enemies who rage against God.** Pray that in the midst of the chaos and destruction of war, they see the light of Jesus and repent and turn to Jesus for salvation. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
- ♦ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.** “May those who love you be secure.” Psalm 122:6

**“Stand With Israel” is now one of our *Trending Issues* on our [website](#). Review the excellent resources on the page and be sure to share.**



## LEGISLATIVE INSIGHTS

### Meet Our New Speaker of the House

Valerie Bynog, Legislative Strategist



The past 23 days have been unprecedented, chaotic, and, at times, maddening, but on October 25,

the House elected its 56<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House, Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana). The House had a tumultuous time in finding its newest Speaker, as it went through numerous candidates, a handful of internal elections, four

Speaker-designates, and multiple House floor votes. By all accounts, Rep. Johnson should have never been in this position, but God uses all circumstances and all people to bring about His perfect plan. And we wouldn’t have it any other way!

Speaker Johnson is a godly man and we are confident he will serve our country well. He was first elected to Congress in 2016 after serving in the Louisiana Legislature from 2015-2017. However, he spent the majority of his career practicing constitutional law. In that role, he protected traditional marriage, babies in the womb, and religious freedom at places like

Alliance Defending Freedom and Louisiana Right to Life. Rep. Johnson has never shied away from his faith.

Just recently, the Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) Government Relations team was attending a House Values Action Team (VAT) Coalition meeting where he shared that his favorite work is done among the values coalition, especially as his faith is his North Star.

Speaker Johnson never shies away from hard conversations, either. Take, for example, how he led his Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government in a



REP. MIKE JOHNSON  
R-Louisiana, 4th District  
Shreveport, Bossier City, Natchitoches

C-SPAN





hearing titled “The Dangers and Due Process Violations of ‘Gender-Affirming Care.’” There, he showed sex is immutable and argued even parents do not have the right to harm their children through egregious mutilation practices. Rep. Johnson knows that every individual is created intentionally by our Creator and that telling children otherwise is dangerous for all, but especially the child.

We especially like that Speaker Johnson always shares the truth in grace. Following his election as Speaker of the House, he gave a

speech that shows just how much his faith permeates everything he does. From the Speaker’s Dais, he said, “I don’t believe there are any coincidences. I believe that God has ordained and allowed each one of us to be brought here for this specific moment in this time. This is my belief.” Concerned Women for America could not agree more with Speaker Johnson. We know that the Lord has called him for this moment.

**ACTION:** Watch Speaker Johnson’s remarks after becoming Speaker [here](#).

## WAYS TO PRAY FOR SPEAKER JOHNSON:

- ◆ Pray that the Lord would provide him wisdom and discernment as he leads the wide-ranging Republican Party
- ◆ Pray for his wife, Kelly, as this will drastically change how their day-to-day lives look.
- ◆ Pray for their children.
- ◆ Pray that his testimony will bring members of Congress to know the Lord.

## As You Pray for Israel, Remember Our U.S. Ambassador

Maggie McKneely, Legislative Strategists



After the horrific attack on the Israeli people on October 7, the Senate added a crucial item

to its agenda: confirm the next ambassador to Israel.

The high-stakes post has been empty since July when

Ambassador Tom Nides left. In September, President Joe Biden nominated former Obama Treasury Secretary Jack Lew for the position, but the brutal attack on Israel has senators pushing for a prompt confirmation.

On the surface, Lew seems like a natural pick for the job. He’s a Washington veteran, serving as Treasury Secretary under President Obama. Prior to that, he was White House Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Management and Budget for both the Clinton and Obama Administrations. Lew is also an orthodox Jew with extensive

connections within the Jewish community.

However, Lew’s resume contains several notable red flags. Chief among them is that Lew was a key player in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), more commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, which Concerned Women for America (CWA) has [opposed](#) every [step](#) of the [way](#). At a [2015 conference](#) hosted by the *Jerusalem Post*, Lew promised the Jewish community that the Obama administration’s goal with the JCPOA was to “guarantee that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon.”



The [JCPOA](#) was supposed to do that by placing restrictions on Iran's nuclear development program. In exchange for their compliance with those limitations, the world's largest state-sponsor of terror (who is [believed](#) to have also played a role in the most recent attack against Israel) received \$150 billion of sanctions relief. The deal also included sunset provisions on those restrictions, allowing Iran to return to normal operations within five years.

Lew also advised President Obama not to veto UN Security Council Resolution 2334. The resolution was a radically anti-Israel statement that claimed all of East Jerusalem, which contains the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter, Judea/Samaria, and the Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery as occupied territory. It condemned any Israeli settlements there and in other Palestinian-controlled areas, saying that those communities have "no legal validity and [constitute] a flagrant violation of international law." Lew argued that the UNSC 2334 was in line with American policy, but Congress overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan H. Res. 11, condemning the UNSC 2334. It is concerning that his views are so out of step with the American people's representatives from both sides of the aisle.

Lew's tenure as Treasury Secretary oversaw several

egregious missteps regarding Middle East policy, such as the Obama administration's transfer of \$1.7 billion in cash to the Iranian regime in 2017 and the release of [\\$221 million](#) to the Palestinian Authority, a group known to incentivize [terrorist activities through](#) its "pay to slay" program. All this while, Lew ludicrously claimed that "no administration has done more for Israel's security than [the Obama administration]."

In a time of such turbulence, America needs an ambassador who will stand by its ally Israel, someone capable of pursuing a Middle Eastern policy that leads to peace. Lew was voted out of committee on October 25 and is now headed for a floor vote.

**ACTION:** Click [here](#) to contact your Senators. Ask them to oppose Jack Lew's nomination to be the next Ambassador to Israel.

**PRAYER:** Pray for the vote and also for the next ambassador. Though there is strong opposition to Lew, a majority in a Democrat-controlled Senate is likely to confirm him. So let us pray that if he becomes the next ambassador, Jack Lew will staunchly support Israel and faithfully serve in the best interest of the American people.



## Thanksgiving & Praise

Give thanks to our God for America and the freedoms we still enjoy.

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*  
2 Corinthians 9:15

Shout praises to our God, who has no equal and who is the God of all gods and the King of all kings.

*"Let's come before Him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to Him! The Lord is a great God, the great King over all other gods."*  
Psalm 95:2-3



From the  
Field Operations Department

*Tanya Pettit*  
*Michelle Menon*

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."  
Philippians 1:3-6

## GAVEL WATCH

# We Must Face It: We Have an Antisemitism Problem in America

Mario Diaz, Esq., COO and General Counsel



If you had told me, not years ago, but mere days before Hamas' horrific attack on Israel on October 7, that the attack would spark the sort of movement *supporting* Hamas that we have seen in recent weeks, I would not have believed you. It would have been unconscionable.

It seemed to me that the phrase "never again" was engrained in the nation's soul after the atrocities of the Holocaust. But what we have experienced these last several weeks should shock us. This inexplicable disdain that constantly seeks to diminish Jewish suffering while revering Palestinian grievances (to the point of condoning acts of terrorism!) feels spiritual and has become widespread.

We are not talking about radical extremist groups on the fringes of our society. We are talking about top minds at America's most [elite universities](#). We are talking about the White House.

Though President Joe Biden initially came out [strong](#) in support of Israel, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre was fumbling on a simple question just days later. She was asked how concerned the Administration was about increasing antisemitism after Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel on October 7.

Simple enough, right? Of course, she should be prepared to address the issue. A simple statement of support for the Jewish people would have sufficed. They do it for every other group (except Christian conservatives, of course). But no. The White House said they had "not seen any credible threats."

She then proceeded to address the more critical issue to the White House. "Look, Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim have endured a disproportionate number of hate-fueled attacks," she said. "Certainly, President Biden understands that many of our Muslim, Arab Americans' and Palestinian Americans' loved ones and neighbors are worried about the hate being directed at their community."

I am not making it up. That was the response—in *that context*. To be fair, after considerable backlash, she tried to reel it back, but you

would have expected a strong apology and clarification, yes? No. She claims she misunderstood the question.

The pro-Hamas message is trickling down to our streets. The emboldened chants of "From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free" are heard daily. That phrase speaks of the complete destruction of the Israeli state. The Jewish people, Israel, are what lies between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

It was a joy to hear the newly-elected Speaker of the House, Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana), announce his first action as Speaker would be a resolution condemning the attack and supporting Israel. I am happy to report that it was overwhelmingly passed. But not close to unanimous. *Ten* members, including Reprs. [Rashida Tlaib](#) (D-Michigan), [Cori Bush](#) (D-Missouri), and [Ilhan Omar](#) (D-Minnesota) voted against it.

**ACTION:** CWA is fighting against antisemitism on college campuses with several rallies through our Young Women for America chapters. [Watch](#) our first rally held at Liberty University and stay tuned to our [website](#) for others to come.

**PRAYER:** Pray for these rallies and against this rise in antisemitism.



HARVARD STUDENT ORGS FACE BACKLASH FOR ANTI-ISRAEL STANCE  
ISRAEL AT WAR



## CWA IN THE NEWS Standing Strong

CWA media hits are a good resource for your Chapter meetings (listen to the podcasts, watch the videos, print off articles, and discuss/share.)

### Concerned Women Today Podcasts

September 15: **For Such a Time as This with Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears** – CWA CEO and President Penny Nance sat down with Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears to learn about her faith journey and how that has impacted where she is now. [This special episode](#) was recorded at the 2023 CWA Summit.

October 12: **Pray for Peace in Israel with Special Guest Joel Rosenberg** – Penny is joined by Joel Rosenberg, American-Israeli communications strategist, author, and non-profit executive, [to discuss](#) the October 7 attack on Israel and to pray for the country.

October 19: **Why Should Christians Stand with Israel?** – Penny is joined by the Deputy Director of the Philos Project, Luke Moon, [to take a look behind the scenes](#) at what has happened in Israel and how Christians can pray.

### Television/Online Media/Radio

October 9: **KWTO 93.3 FM/560 AM - The Elijah Haahr Show** - In the aftermath of the attacks on Israel, Penny [was interviewed](#) by a prominent show with Jewish and Christian communities to discuss the situation.

October 13: **Newsmax–Newsline with Bianca de la Garza** - Penny [discussed her op-ed](#) and the situation in Israel, including the Biden Administration’s foreign policy problems.

October 16: **KNRS NBC News Radio—The Rod Arquette Show** - Penny [provide insight](#) into the tragic situation in Israel and the importance of Christians supporting their ability to defend their people against terrorism.

October 25: **CWA and YWA Stand with Israel Prayer Vigil at Liberty University** – CWA joined Liberty University in holding an on-campus prayer vigil for Israel to show support for Israel as it takes on the terrorists and moves to its multilateral operation to destroy Hamas. Watch the prayer vigil [here](#).

### Print Media

October 3: **The Washington Examiner – Athletic Leaders and Coaches Need to Stand up For the Truth** – YWA Leader Macy Petty [shares about](#) her experience competing against a biological male in volleyball and how CWA has given her a voice to stand up for fairness in women’s sports.

October 12: **Daily Caller – Biden’s Failures Paved the Way for Hamas Massacres** – [Penny’s hard-hitting op-ed](#) takes on President Biden’s feckless and feeble foreign policy that led to the attacks on Israel.

October 16: **One America News Network - Evangelical Christian Organizations Donate** - CWA [was included](#) in a story of evangelical groups supporting first responders in Israel.

October 24: **FOX News.com - NCAA Leader’s Callous Indifference to Female Athletes** - Doreen Denny’s [latest op-ed](#) takes new NCAA president Charlie Baker to task for his lack of leadership in protecting women’s sports.



## GENDER IDEOLOGY

# Petition to FDA Urges Action on Puberty Blockers

Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor



A coalition of concerned physicians, health care professionals, detransitioners, and parents has

launched a [Citizen Petition to the Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) urging action to address the alarming increase in off-label use of powerful puberty-blocking drugs for minors experiencing gender dysphoria.

A Citizen Petition is an official avenue for citizens to influence actions of agencies like the FDA. It differs from a grassroots petition because it follows specific agency rules for submission and requires the agency to respond. Concerned Women for America (CWA) was instrumental in filing a [Citizen Petition in 2002](#) asking the FDA to withdraw its approval of the abortion drug Mifeprex (RU-486).

The current petition filed in September cites the growing international consensus against the use of a class of drugs called

GnRH agonists in treating children wrestling with gender identity. Countries like Sweden, Finland, and the United Kingdom who led the way in using these experimental drugs that interfere with natural development are now greatly restricting their use. Meanwhile, U.S. medical associations have ignored the dangers and continue to promote drugs and surgeries for minors as “gender-affirming care.”

Puberty blockers have never been approved by the FDA to treat gender dysphoria and directly harm bone density, brain development, and sexual functioning impacting fertility. The FDA also has received reports of vision loss and brain swelling, but it continues to ignore the growing evidence of harm and the deceptive, unproven claims that puberty blockers are effective in addressing gender dysphoria.

As a first-of-its-kind challenge, this petition urges transparency – it seeks to shine the light on the use

and abuse of powerful drugs being prescribed to children wrestling with confusion and uncertainty about their identity.

Petitioners urge the FDA to take immediate steps to hold itself and the medical industry accountable and to inform the public. Specifically, it requests a systematic review of off-label use, long term registry studies, a dedicated webpage about off-label use, and a crackdown on unlawful promotion. The FDA is required to provide a response to this petition within 90 days.

**ACT NOW:** CWA can support this petition and encourage FDA action. Send a comment through our [Action Center](#) before December 1 urging the FDA to undertake all actions requested and to take immediate steps to protect vulnerable children from medical harm.

**PRAY:** Ephesians 5:11 13 “<sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them ... <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible ...”





## CWA is Co-sponsor of the [Answers for Women 2024: Reclaim](#) → April 1-3, 2024

Hosted by [Answers in Genesis](#), the event will be held at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. The theme is “Overcoming the War on Women for the Glory of God.” Speakers are CWA’s Penny Nance along with many others. The cost is \$199 (early bird price is \$139 until 10/4 noon). Includes a weeklong pass to the Ark and the Creation Museum.

### YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

## YWA Stands with Israel and Female Athletes

Morgan Schlesselman, YWA National Director



It has been so exciting to see our leaders return to their campuses and chapters following our Young Women for America (YWA) Leadership Training and jump into hosting events, meetings, and participating in press conferences. Our YWA Rutherford County, Tennessee chapter hosted a [“Feminine Not Feminist” panel](#) where they discussed Biblical femininity. Our [YWA Clemson](#) chapter hosted staff members from their local pregnancy resource center to share their stories and their amazing work. Our [YWA Texas A&M](#) University chapter hosted a staff member from *Unbound Now* to share what their organization does to fight against human trafficking through education, support for victims, and advocacy.

In early October, members from

our YWA Liberty University and Patrick Henry College chapters joined Concerned Women for America of Virginia for a press conference at Roanoke College led by the college’s women’s swim team as they united against a male athlete who wished to join their women’s team. YWA is proud to stand with these brave athletes. YWA Ambassador Halli Gravley, a Virginia collegiate athlete, also spoke at the press conference.

The evil terrorist attacks against Israel [stirred our leaders](#) into action. Among many verses, Psalm 122:6, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you be secure,” has inspired us. From the Inland Empire of California chapter on the West Coast to our Patrick Henry College chapter on the East Coast, our leaders have gathered as the body of Christ to pray for Israel, military members, government leaders, and innocent civilians impacted by the war in Israel. They have

studied our *YWA Support for Israel* booklet and had thoughtful, important conversations with their peers. We gathered via Zoom with YWA leaders from across the country to pray for Israel, and many of the leaders who have visited Israel led us in prayer.

**PRAY:** As we’ve seen in the news, college campuses can be a place with hostility towards pro-Israel sentiments. As our YWA leaders continue to express support for Israel on their campuses, please pray for safety and courage for them.

**ACT:** Macy Petty, YWA Ambassador at Lee University, wrote an [article](#) sharing her experience this summer in Israel and the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority and how it’s impacted her heart for justice for what’s going on with the war in Israel. I highly recommend reading it.

