



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

JULY / AUGUST 2019

THE CONNECTER

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

We Must Pray About Our Immigration Crisis



By David Kubal,
IFA President / CEO

Look no further than our current immigration system to see a need to pray for our government! Since the last reform was put in place over a decade ago, our immigration system has disintegrated into a massive nightmare. Every day, thousands of immigrants reach our borders and illegally enter into our country as they parrot the words their smugglers have taught them to say.

I saw this firsthand when I joined faith leaders and Trump Administration officials on a trip this spring to the Southern Border. I met with Border Patrol agents, church leaders, and others. I saw the crisis with my own eyes.

Thousands are crossing daily, hopeless souls longing for a piece of the American dream, bringing needs that are impossible to meet. Also, within these caravans of pilgrims are “bad actors” posing as fathers and husbands just to gain entry before they proceed to prearranged posts to commit evil with crime syndicates or gangs. There have been immigrants from over 60 countries already this year, so the perception of all immigrants being Hispanic is incorrect. Many are from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

Smuggling for profit capitalizes on the

hopelessness of people and takes advantage of a broken immigration system. This \$2 billion a year smuggling industry abuses the laws that allow everyone who requests amnesty (or claims that his/her life is in danger) to enter the immigration process. An amnesty request guarantees entrance into U.S., representation by an attorney (paid for by American citizens), and a date for a court hearing (paid for by American citizens).

Our current best estimate is that U.S. courts face a backlog of 400,000 immigration cases. Fewer than 5% of the immigrants actually show up for their hearing after being granted entrance into the country.

The system is broken.

Romans 13 describes the role of government: to punish wrongdoers. Our government is not doing this. Our government encourages wrongdoers by giving smugglers a system to live in luxury at the expense of the poor. Our government also encourages wrong by allowing immigrants who knowingly break the law to enter the U.S. by accompanying a minor.

Thousands a day are being released into our country. Cities are overrun with people who need food, clothing, medical attention,

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FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER **July 5 / August 2, 2019**

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

HOPELESSNESS

Pray for the desperate circumstances in countries across the world. Pray for revitalized government, economies, and opportunities for people there. Pray that the U.S. will work with other governments to improve conditions in their countries. Pray for hope in Christ for the people who are coming to the U.S. to find the American Dream. (Rom 15:13)

CRIMINAL SYNDICATES

Pray for the breakup of the criminal syndicates that are trafficking humans and drugs across the border. Pray for deliverance from the harm of rapists, murderers, and child abusers who are preying upon the immigrants. Pray for evil to be seen for what it is. (Eph 6:12)

BAD LAWS

Pray for revised immigration laws and policies that will allow for manageable, legal, just, and compassionate entry into the United States. Pray for Congress and the Trump Administration to develop new laws that will address the current border crisis. (Eph 3:20; Is 1:17)

California Mayor: "Immigration is Creating a Crisis"

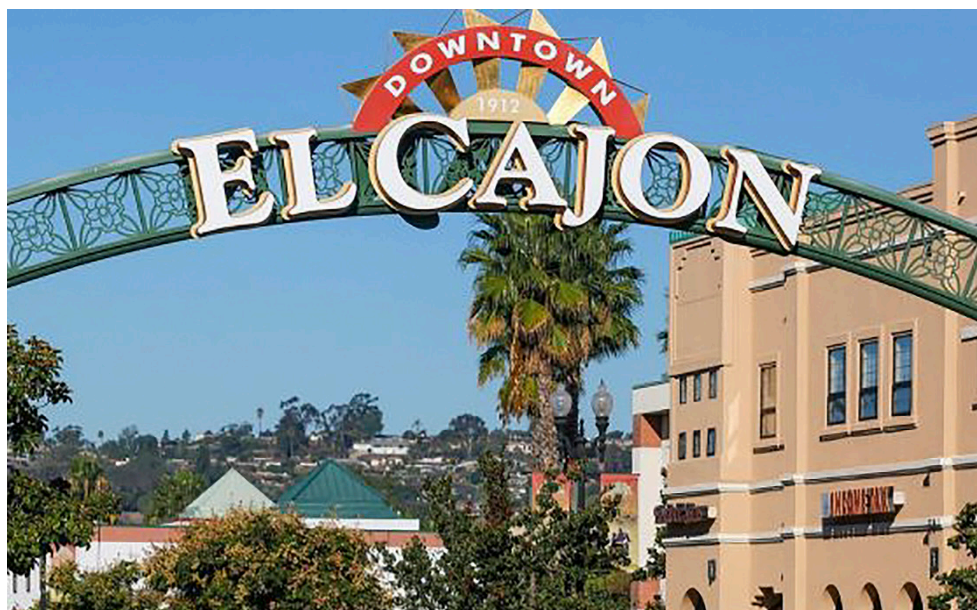


*By Dr. Bill Wells
Mayor
El Cajon, California*

California is at the epicenter of the battle for the control of the world. No? Well, it is.

There is a saying, "As goes California, so goes the world," which is eerily true. California is the size of most countries, with the fifth largest economy in the world. It is monolithically led by one ubiquitous leftist control. The Democrats control the entirety of the legislature, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and most of the municipalities. California has led the way in normalizing homelessness, prison realignment (reclassifying crimes in a way that sets prisoners free), labor union control of the schools, municipalities and government expansion, mind boggling taxation, unilateral self-flagellation for climate change taxes, Orwellian regulation and control, and, most importantly, border policy.

Leftist and globalists are marching forward in their quest for open borders. Even though the policy of the U.S. is moving towards enforcement of long lax immigration law, California is pushing the federal government to dissolve not only the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) department, but the border itself. Although politics predominate the debate, as the



policy arguments are being battled out there is another thing happening on the California/Mexico border—a spiritual and humanitarian battle.

I live in the city of El Cajon, where I serve as Mayor. To the west of my city is the beautiful and dynamic city of San Diego and to the South the most dangerous city in the world, Tijuana. These two cities are close enough to share a weather report but have about as much in common as Canada and Somalia. It is here where the hoards of refugees amass to try and get asylum in the U.S. via California. Since September, 2018, more than 1% of the population of Honduras and Guatemala have made the trip to our border. They make the dangerous and

***Leftists and globalists
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violent trip knowing that many will die of exposure or murder, and that up to 80% of the women and girls will be raped. Still, they come to escape violence, poverty, and persecution. They come for a better life.

Mixed into their ranks, however, are rapists, murderers, drug pushers, smugglers, child abusers, organized crime soldiers, and sex traffickers. They come to kill and plunder. They prey upon the caravans along the way and then slip across the border to join their brethren who are deeply rooted in crime and violence throughout the country, but with a high concentration in Southern California. It is this group that is at the center of the angry divide between cities, counties, law enforcement, and local elected officials. It is this group that defines the battle lines in the sanctuary city and sanctuary state debates. These political battles have unintended consequences that are endangering communities like mine and keep the focus from solving real problems. For example, when the controversy of separating children from their parents at the border came into view, it was easy to attack the Trump administration. A closer, and more honest, look, however, unearthed the problem that many of these children were used as pawns so that criminals could pose as parents in order to game the system.

Political consequences are so great that the people are ignored. This should not be surprising because government is often inept in jettisoning politics when the needs of

the poor and oppressed are concerned. For this reason I ask you to pray. The best book on prayer that I have read, *Destined for the Throne*, said: "God will not act without prayer." We need God to act to save California and the United States. Just as importantly, we need solutions to the suffering of the people stranded on the border. We need healing for our states and nation in regard to the people who have already made a home in America in violation of the laws of both state and nation.

I believe that California, and the U.S., can be saved. The extreme views of the hard left are inculcated into the government at all levels, but I do not believe they represent the majority of the people. It's true that churches have seen decreasing attendance and the state is more hostile to religion and people of faith, but I see hope, and not defeat, when I talk to believers I meet. I would encourage all the people of the nation to pray for California. Pray for the people and pray for the government. Pray for those trapped in poverty, drug addiction, homelessness, sex trafficking, violence, pain, and despair. Pray for leaders who still honor God, and pray, most of all, for a revival. Revivals have happened in California before; why not now? And pray that good and godly change in California would impact the world.

—Dr. Bill Wells is the Mayor of the City of El Cajon, California, not a sanctuary city. Currently he is running for the U.S. Congress in California's 50th District. Pray with him on our July 5 First Friday Prayer Conference Call. ♦

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OPERATION BORDER BLESSING



By Todd Lamphere

Let me state the obvious—there is a humanitarian crisis at the border. The President is spot on with his assessment about the border and the numbers verify it. Since Oct. 1, 2018 (the start of the fiscal year), there have been over 520,000 apprehensions on the southern border. In April and May, there were over 200,000 apprehensions, and the first part of May saw a record-shattering 4,500 migrants apprehended every day! The sea of humanity that is flocking to our borders is unprecedented, and the needs overwhelming. We recognize the need for physical barriers. We acknowledge the need for Congress to repeal and replace outdated immigration laws. We also believe that each immigrant is made in the image of God and worthy of respect and dignity.

How does the body of Christ address these immigration issues? Certainly we pray for wisdom and discernment for our president and his administration. President Trump is tackling a problem that has been a political hot button that no modern-day president dared to touch. We also pray that our lawmakers would put aside partisan politics and do what is right for America and what is right for the immigrant crossing our border illegally. Our inactivity to move this ball forward only puts hundreds of thousands of desperate foreigners in grave danger and places an overwhelming burden on our economy, and on our small border towns especially.

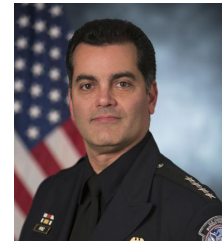
One tangible way the Body of Christ

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PRAY FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING AND SOLVING THE BORDER CRISIS



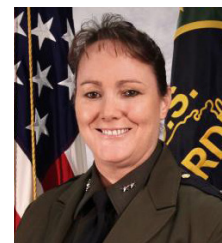
Kevin McAleenan
Acting
Secretary Department
Homeland Security



Robert Perez
U.S. Customs &
Border Protection



Mark Morgan
Acting
Director Immigration &
Customs Enforcement



Carla Provost
Chief of U.S.
Border Patrol

Find more resources at
IFApray.org.



PRAYING ABOUT THE BORDER CRISIS

1. Pray for the rule of law.
(Ex 18:20)
2. Pray our lawmakers would have wisdom to correct the problems with our current immigration system.
(Prv 19:20)
3. Pray for solutions to the difficult and dangerous problem of hundreds of thousands of people trying to enter our country at the southern border.
(Ps 34: 6-7)
4. Pray for the protection of children.
(Ps 50:15)
5. Pray for the border patrol agents.
(Mic 6:8)
6. Pray for the media to report the truth.
(Prv 12:22)
7. Pray for efforts by Christians to interject Christ and hope to the border situation.
(Mt 25:37-40)

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OPERATION BORDER BLESSING

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can engage in the immigration landscape is to become part of a movement called *Operation Border Blessing*. Operation Border Blessing has three initiatives designed to bring the heart of God to those who protect our borders and to those crossing our borders. Let me lay out the three purposeful initiatives and a plan for you to get involved.

- The **first initiative** is the creation of **Welcome Zones** along the border. Welcome Zones are churches who open up their facilities for ICE to drop off already apprehended and processed migrants. These churches give the migrants a meal, a shower, a call to their sponsor in the United States, a bed for the night, and a ride to the bus station. Welcome Zone churches create additional bed space, alleviating overcrowding in the Customs and Border Patrol stations.

- The **second initiative** is **Hospital Care**. Every day 60 migrants are admitted to the hospital, and most never receive prayer or a visit from a pastor or church.

- The **third initiative** is the **Homeland Security Family Network Appreciation Tour**. Our border patrol agents, along with ICE agents, are the most vilified and demonized people in our country—all because they have a job that protects us. The Appreciation Tour is a one-day Family Fun Day for agents and their families. It is a massive block party on steroids. It is a way for the silent majority to say thank you.

The people of God, along with God's living vibrant Church, are asked to join the movement. **Pray:** Pray for everyone connected to the border crisis. Pray that a mighty move of God ignites on the border. **Participate:** If you live on the

border, consider becoming a Welcome Zone and be the physical touch of Jesus to these migrants. **Partner:** If you don't live on the border, partner with a ministry that is doing Kingdom work with the migrants. They could use your mission teams to come alongside of them. Churches are handling the financial load of this border ministry, so a partner-in-ministry would bring relief and encouragement. **Provide:** All churches serving the migrant population need resources—food is critical, medicine is a must, and diapers and other baby supplies are constantly needed.

God's Word tells us that when one member is in need, we all are in need. Operation Border Blessing is an amazing way for you to get into the immigration playing field and help meet the need. Visit OperationBorderBlessing.org. ♦

We Must Pray About Our Immigration Crisis

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and shelter. In many cities, the Church has correctly seen this as an opportunity for ministry. They have decided to meet the most basic needs of the staggering number of people crossing the border, using the opportunity to share the Gospel. The results have been dramatic. A "cup of cold water" can open a person's heart to receiving the saving message of Jesus Christ.

So, we must pray. We pray for U.S. laws to discourage human smuggling and illegal immigration. We pray that those with real amnesty claims would have their day in court. We pray that our court system would be effective. We pray for the thousands of souls that are here illegally to embrace the Gospel and choose to do right. ♦



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 **July 5 / Aug 2, 2019 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**
Call: (712) 775-7430