



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

# THE CONNECTER

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.



## Healing the Land — A Testimony

*Aaron Mercer, IFA Contributing Writer*

In our churches, we often hear cries for healing. Our hearts yearn for restoration of peace and health in our homes, neighborhoods, and nation. But are we willing to do the work God wants in preparation for that healing?

Ambassador Sam Brownback did. And he saw God heal the actual land of his state. Brownback recently shared about his experience with IFA — a story fueled by humility, prayer, and repentance.

Growing up on a family farm in Kansas, Brownback has understood the land. One matter particularly important to him is the preservation of the Ogallala Aquifer. This massive underground source of water extends more than 175,000 square miles across 8 states. It is a key reason why western Kansas, which receives relatively little precipitation, can be a breadbasket for the rest of the country.

For years as a state and federal official, Brownback was confronted with alarming statistics about how overuse was depleting the Ogallala. Then, after he became Governor of Kansas, something remarkable happened. “The head of the Kansas Geological Survey comes into my office,” Brownback told IFA. “He said, ‘This is really odd, but that aquifer is recharging faster than we thought.’”

This was supposed to be impossible, but suddenly there was a real chance for farmers to use the aquifer sustainably. Brownback attributed this blessed opportunity to a deeper healing.

“The greed was lifted off of the land,” he said. Brownback came to this conclusion after confronting an unseen but very real — and very deep — stain on our nation. Native American intercessors Jay Swallow and Negiel Bigpond, along with leaders like Cindy Jacobs, had helped him explore the depths of our nation’s wrongs against American Indians, and Brownback had acted.

In the U.S. Senate, Brownback authored an official apology to Native Americans in 2004 (Senate Joint Resolution 37). That

resolution recognized the breaking of treaties, theft of tribal resources, and resulting ongoing social and economic troubles for American Indians. Eventually, after 5 years of building support, Brownback’s resolution was attached as an amendment to a broader legislative package and quietly signed into law by President Barack Obama.

That was a landmark moment, but Brownback wanted more. Once he became Governor, he took the spirit of the apology publicly to key communities of hurt. In 2013 this included the end point of the Potawatomi tribe’s Trail of Death in Kansas. Swallow participated in many of these ceremonies and one day Brownback remembers him saying, “Okay, it’s finished. It’s done.” Swallow’s prophetic word was that these penitent efforts had led to a healing in the land.



Brownback, known more recently for his leadership advancing international religious freedom, is continuing reconciliation efforts with Native Americans nationwide. David Kubal and other IFA staff joined him at one such ceremony on the National Day of Prayer (see “Historic Reconciliation for Americans” in *Headline Prayer*). During a sidebar conversation, Brownback told IFA that the wrongs against Native Americans, African Americans, and prenatal victims of abortion “are three strands of poison” defiling our land. Truly, we need healing.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God told King Solomon, “[I]f my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

God wants to heal our land, but first comes humility, prayerful seeking, and repentance. What will be your next step? **★ IFA**



## Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary God

Gloria Robles, IFA Contributing Writer

Kim Primavera is a wife, mother of six, writer, intercessor, and mayor of her city, Hayes Center, Nebraska, a sanctuary city for the unborn.

In high school, Primavera visited Germany on a school trip. At the Dachau concentration camp, she thought, “Why didn’t anyone do something? How could millions die so easily?” She felt the same way about abortion. She asked herself, “Why is it socially acceptable? Why are millions of babies dying?” This led her to action in more ways than one. Primavera started life chains, held prayer meetings, and joined the board of trustees in her city.

Pastor Mark Lee Dickson’s fight to make sanctuary cities for the unborn in Texas (*The Connector*, May 2021) moved Primavera deeply. After she saw what was accomplished in Carbon, Texas, she asked, “Why can’t we do this in Hayes Center, Nebraska?” After contacting Dickson, she brought the idea to the board of trustees. Because of their harmonious rapport and faith, they worked together to pass an ordinance to make their city a sanctuary city for protection of the unborn.

**Why did she run for the office of mayor?** “It was for community betterment. I wanted to be fresh eyes. I saw potential for new businesses, opportunity for change and growth. The village board’s job is to get things done, be productive, address concerns, keep the town going, and for community involvement.”

**Did you feel the Lord prompting you to run?** “Yes. When we take time and listen to God, He gives us ideas. Then we become comfortable with it and are at peace with it and with God. We have a very healthy board, and it is a positive experience. There is harmony. We agree about what we want for our community.”

**What fruit have you seen from the ordinance?** “There are people who complain and ridicule, but there is more good fruit. Even those who have moved away from Hayes Center are telling us

how blessed and proud they are that the ordinance was passed. They have pride in the city, which is important. Also, a town two hours east of us called Blue Hill heard about the ordinance being passed and passed their own ordinance a week after ours. That’s fruit that we know of, we may never know the full impact this has made.

“This is setting an example for young people. The next generation are learning when life begins, what abortion is and does. They are not turning a blind eye to reality and humanity.”

**Do you have any advice for the intercessors?** “There is power in prayer and unity. I believe the ordinance passed so easily because of our prayer meetings. Once a month, we committed to pray for an hour. All denominations joined together. We were united; we had a focus. I believe God honored the prayers and unity.” (In Lubbock, Texas similar unified prayer efforts preceded their vote to become a sanctuary city for the unborn.)

“Also, be willing to set aside time with God or you will be overcome with busyness. If you are obedient, He will put things in front of you that require your talents. Follow Him closely and be willing to do what He asks. Take time to listen and pray.”



Kim Primavera and her family

Kim Primavera is an everyday woman, wife, mother, and mayor. Primavera believes that she was in the right place in her life to use her time and God-given talents on the board. I thank God for her, and I pray He would raise up thousands more like her. ★ IFA

## FIRST FRIDAY prayer

**JULY 2, 2021  
AUGUST 6, 2021**

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

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chr 7:14)*

### HEALING IN THE LAND

Pray that the Lord’s people would humble themselves and pray. Pray for earnest seeking of the face of God and complete turning from wicked ways. Ask God to hear our cry, forgive our sin, and heal our land. Pray that as we repent and confess the sins of the past, the physical ground would be restored. Ask God to open our eyes and give us courage to make way for that healing.

### LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Pray for courage, that leaders would not allow themselves to be scared or bullied by others when it comes to standing for biblical principles. Pray for listening ears, that they would truly hear their constituents. Pray for board members and leaders to realize ALL citizens must be protected, including the unborn. Pray for them to realize they have the power to do something.

### INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

Pray for government corruption to be exposed and for good fruit to result from the leadership of our nation. Pray that the Church would rise and act, and for God to give Christians who work in the government courage to stand in the face of persecution.





## Encouragement from a Swamp Drainer

*Judy McDonough, IFA Communications Director*

Alaska's U.S. Senate GOP candidate Kelly Tshibaka appeared on IFA's Pray for America's Leaders Live, powerfully praying for righteous government. Tshibaka has a deep well of wisdom and experience to guide us as we intercede for good government. As a mother of five, Tshibaka shared about her role



*Kelly Tshibaka*

as a church-planter and co-pastor while also working at the federal government to bring about light, or what she calls "direction of goodness," to guide decisions and policies.

Tshibaka is an expert at draining the D.C. swamp and running cost-effective and efficient government. Tshibaka helped to expose government fraud, waste, and abuse during her 16 years of service in the federal government. Prior to her position as commissioner for the state of Alaska in early 2019, Tshibaka was the chief data officer at the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General where her analytics team produced more than \$920 million in audit findings and returned hundreds of millions of dollars to American taxpayers.

We recently caught up with Tshibaka to talk about the widespread government corruption. As one who dedicated herself to draining the swamp, she said, "Once you see, you can't unsee and it can be discouraging." She encouraged intercessors to read the Sermon on the Mount and to think about our own "planks" rather than the specks in others. She has learned "it's more important for us to engage in obedience and to know the tree by its fruits; the world can become a slippery place." To Tshibaka, integrity is like a sheet of paper. Each questionable decision is like tearing a tiny

edge of the paper. As a little shredding here and there continues, eventually there is no more paper left to shred. Similarly, small choices can eventually destroy integrity. It is humbling to realize that we all have the potential to produce bad fruits as well as good.

Since government corruption has been happening for a long time, we need to be grateful whenever God brings light to expose darkness because these are answers to our prayer. Tshibaka reminded us that "we have to go through Gethsemane to get resurrection, we have to go to the Red Sea to get to the Promised Land, we have to go through the gut-wrenching moments to see the hand of God." She urges intercessors to be grateful. We know that it is through persecution that more people believe in Jesus and that what is meant for evil, God means it for good (Gen 50). God is still in this (Ps 27).

What does it take for Christians to win political campaigns? Votes and money. Christians have a spotty history of voting and they tend not to spend their money on politics. This is unfortunate because opponents of Christian conservative candidates receive millions of dollars funded by interest groups, individuals, and billionaires like George Soros to mobilize votes.

Tshibaka hopes Christians are willing to invest their dollars in the direction of our country, the way followers of Jesus did to birth our nation with Judeo-Christian values and recognition of unalienable rights. They gave up everything, including their lives, for a nation like no other. Tshibaka said that she and her family are totally invested for her state, for our churches, and for our country. She hopes Christians realize that God has put us in charge of this country, to take care of it, and to be in decision-making positions that impact our nation's direction. ★ IFA

TEAR-OFF

## CIVIC ACTION for Intercessors: Exercise the Freedoms the Founders Fought and Died For

1. Speak up about important issues.
2. Attend civic and governmental meetings and participate.
3. Call and write letters to your elected officials about the issues you care about.
4. Write letters to officials you support to encourage them.
5. Share with your friends about what is going on in your community.
6. Take pride in your community. When people care about their community, they are more likely to become involved.
7. Pray for your officials.

INTERCESSORS  
FOR AMERICA

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# 4th of July Prayer Points for ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Pray that they would seek God, His plans, and His purposes for our nation (Rom 13:1, Eph 3:10-11).
2. Pray for strength to do what is right even if it is not popular (2 Tm 1:7).
3. Pray for humility to recognize that God places authorities in power (Rom 13:1).
4. Pray for clear thinking, wise understanding, and insight *from* God on all issues (Ps 37:23-24).
5. Pray for a strong network of intercessors to pray for every leader (Jas 5:16).
6. Pray for godly influences to surround leaders (Is 33:6).

INTERCESSORS  
FOR  
AMERICA



TEAR-OFF

## answered PRAYER



### GOD PROVIDES FOR AN INTERCESSOR

Ellen, an IFA intercessor, received a call in February from Jim, an IFA staff member, to see how we could pray for her. She shared that her son-in-law, Jeff, needed a job. Jim "prayed powerfully for him with me on the phone," Ellen wrote. Jeff began a wonderful new job on May 1. "Please join me in praise and thanksgiving for God's amazing, abundant provision—just in the nick of time. I've never experienced giving to a ministry that is as personally responsive as IFA and I am so very grateful for your mission and your amazing, praying staff."

### CITIZENS CREATE SANCTUARY CITY IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Pastor Mark Lee Dickson shared a critical and time-sensitive prayer request with the IFA community during Pray for America's Leaders Live. Although the mayor and town council of Lubbock, Texas were not willing to outlaw abortion within city limits, the people brought it to a vote. Following Dickson's appearance, the citizens of Lubbock, Texas, voted to make their town a Sanctuary City for the Unborn, banning abortion within city limits. Lubbock is by far the largest city yet to pass this life-saving ordinance.

### SCHOOL BOARD CORRUPTION

In May 2020, we asked you to pray this about schools: *Father, we come to you in the Name of Jesus and ask for a revival in America's local communities. Give Your people a voice in their local schools as they take their place as the leaders You called them to be. Let those who stand for righteousness not back down but grant them larger platforms to declare your freedom for the children in their local public schools. God heard and answered. Across the country, parents have been inspired to challenge and unseat school board members. National news outlets have highlighted the efforts of parents opposing onerous COVID-19 restrictions in schools, Critical Race Theory, and other problems.*

### FIRST SANCTUARY CITY FOR THE UNBORN IN OHIO

The Lebanon City Council voted unanimously to enact an ordinance making it the first city in Ohio to become a sanctuary for the unborn. The ordinance outlaws obtaining or assisting in abortion. It also bans providing money or assistance to anyone seeking an abortion, even if the abortion takes place outside of the city limits. For more information about sanctuary cities for the unborn, visit [sanctuarycitiesfortheunborn.org](http://sanctuarycitiesfortheunborn.org).

## FIRST FRIDAY prayer

### CONFERENCE CALL

**JULY 2, 2021**

**AUGUST 6, 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](http://IFApray.org/live)**

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*