



Trump Declares Jerusalem New Capital of Israel



President Donald Trump called on Palestinian and Israeli religious and political leaders Wednesday (6-12-17) to “join us on our quest for everlasting peace” as he announced the United States will officially recognize Jerusalem as the new capital of Israel.

“I have determined it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel,” Trump said. “After more than two decades of waivers, we are no closer to a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.” In his announcement Trump also recommended the State

Department move the U.S. embassy from its current location in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, something that he said would be “a magnificent tribute to peace.” Since Jerusalem remains as one of the main sticking points in efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the move has sparked global

condemnation from world leaders. Following Trump’s announcement, Mahmoud Abbas, the president of Palestine, which seeks to claim Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem as its capital, tweeted that America’s decision is a “deliberate undermining of all efforts to achieve peace” and reaffirmed there is “no Palestinian state without East Jerusalem as its capital.”

Minutes after Trump’s announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a statement and video via Twitter, thanking the president.

“This is a historic day,” the prime minister said in his statement. “We’re profoundly grateful for the President for his courageous and just decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to prepare for the opening of the US embassy here.”

Both Israelis and Palestinians claim the city as their political capital and as a sacred religious site. Israel controls the entirety of the city.

President Trump’s extraordinary Christmas speech

Today’s the day that I’ve been looking very much forward to all year long. It’s one that we have heard and we speak about and we dream about and now as the President of the United States, it’s my tremendous honor to finally wish America and the world a very Merry Christmas.

From the earliest days of our nations, Americans have known Christmas as a time for prayer and worship, for gratitude and good will, for peace and renewal.

For Christians, this is a Holy season – the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christmas story begins 2000 years humanity. Whatever our beliefs, we know that the birth of Jesus Christ and the story of this incredible life forever changed the course of human history.

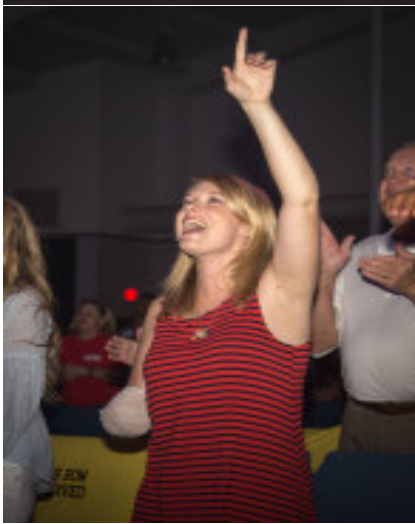
Each and every year at Christmas time we recognize that the real spirit of Christmas is not what we have, it’s about who we are – each one of us is a child of God. So this Christmas we ask for God’s blessings for our

An excerpt of the address given by President Trump at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on Thursday, November 30, 2017.



family, for our nation. And we pray that our country will be a place where every child knows a home filled with love, a community rich with hope, and a nation blest with faith.

God bless you and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. Merry Christmas everybody. Merry Christmas.



Jesus saved me, Mrs Johnson says shark attack survivor

A mother-of-three whose arm was severed below the elbow by a tiger shark said Jesus saved her life during the ordeal.

Tiffany Johnson from Concord in North Carolina revealed how "mountains moved" and she was able to get the medical care she needed. Mrs Johnson was snorkling beside a boat off the coast of the Bahamas in May when the creature appeared and locked its mouth around her right arm. "I look back at my response, and the first thing I said was 'Help, help me Jesus!'"

"That ministers to me; I cried tears about how the first thing that came out was him.

"Thank you, Jesus, that I relied on you when I had nothing else."

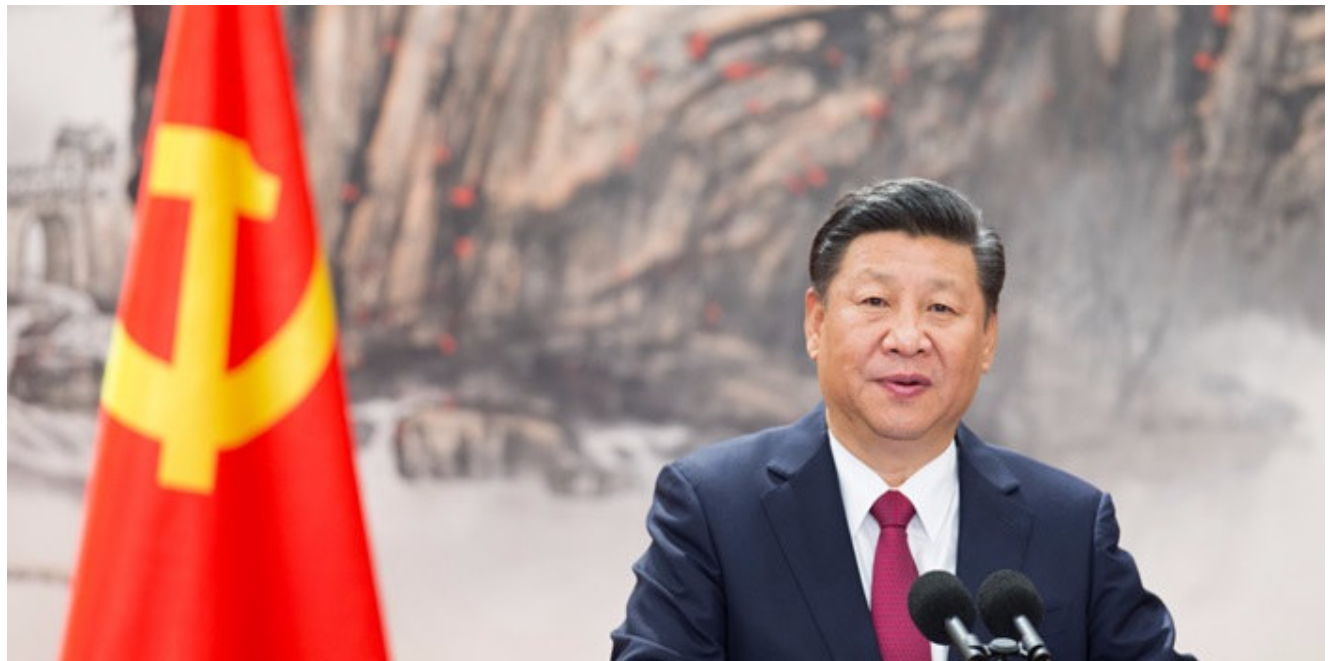
After wrestling with the animal, Mrs Johnson escaped the shark's grip but lost her hand and the lower section of her arm in the attack.

Despite earlier concerns about locating their passports, managing their travel insurance provision and arrange emergency travel back to the United States, Mrs Johnson was flown to cosmetic surgeons in Charlotte for treatment.

Remembering the attack, she added: "When the Lord says a peace that surpasses all understanding, that was it; I was living that."

Mrs Johnson shared about her experience as a guest speaker at New Life Church in Huntington, West Virginia last weekend..

China Tells Christians to Replace Images of Jesus with Communist President Xi Jinping.



Thousands of Christian villagers in China have been told to take down displays of Jesus, crosses, and gospel passages from their homes as part of a government propaganda effort to "transform believers in religion into believers in the party." The South China Morning Post reports that Communist Party of China officials visited believers' homes in Yugan county of Jiangxi province—where about 10 percent of the population is Christian. They urged residents to replace personal religious displays with posters of President Xi Jinping; more than 600

removed Christian symbols from their living rooms, and 453 hung portraits of the Communist leader, according to SCMP.

The efforts were part of a government campaign to alleviate poverty in the region, since some CPC members believe families' faith is to blame for their financial woes, according to SCMP. The poster swaps in villagers' homes represent the party's desire to have residents look to their leaders, rather than their Savior, for assistance.

"Many poor households have

plunged into poverty because of illness in the family.

Some resorted to believing in Jesus to cure their illnesses," the head of the government campaign told SCMP. "But we tried to tell them that getting ill is a physical thing, and that the people who can really help them are the Communist Party and General Secretary Xi."

Though the party denies the claim, some Christians in Yugan county say they were told they would not be eligible for government assistance unless their posters were removed.

10 Churches Banned From Holding Worship Services in India

Local authorities in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu have banned 10 churches from holding worship services in the last two months. Local government officials have ordered churches in the state's Coimbatore district to stop worshipping unless they are given permission from a government collector's office.

Local Christian leaders, however, are warning that it could take years for Christians to be granted such an approval to worship.

"It is a well-planned conspiracy against the Christian community, as the Hindu extremists know that it is not easy to approach the collector's office for such permissions," Johnson Sathyanathan, the presi-



dent of the Synod of Pentecostal Churches of Coimbatore, told the persecution media watchdog. "The time to get such approvals can stretch from a year-and-a-half to many more years."

Although just 10 churches have thus

far been banned from holding worship, Sathyanathan believes that Hindu extremists plan to target about 20 other churches as well.

"Altogether there are 10 churches that have been directly affected in the last two months," Sathyanathan

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Editor's Notes

Harvesting Souls mission was established in 2013 both in United States and in India. We are fully convinced of the responsibility of taking the gospel to each and every nook and corner for our country India. We also want to extend our hands to the people of India living in its lowest social stratum.

Jesus came into the world to save sinners. His birth, life, substitutionary death on the cross of Calvary, His burial and the resurrection were all God's demonstration of love towards the humanity. God gave me vision to propagate this message of the gospel to the untold millions in India

I dream of thousands of dedicated men and women working in different parts of India doing church planting, evangelizing and changing lives of many. I dream of millions of people getting saved and getting added to the church in every village, town or city. I crave for a great harvest of souls and a great revival throughout

who are yet to hear the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. I dream of thousands of dedicated men and women working in different parts of India doing church planting, evangelizing and changing lives of many. I dream of millions of people getting saved and getting added to the church in every village, town or city. I crave for a great harvest of souls and a great

revival throughout India. I am praying for using me to win souls for Christ and build His kingdom. I also want to train, equip and support dedicated men and women for the great task of God. First of all, I thank God for giving me an opportunity to lead this great mission. I also want to extend thanks to my spiritual father Pr. AnilkumarThozhuvankodu and the pastor of OK, Hebron Church, PastorShibu Thomas. Finally I thank everyone who has worked hard to make it possible. May God bless us and help us take the life-changing gospel to the untold millions across the globe.

Amen!

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Hindu Radicals Tore, Burned Christian Posters; Stopped Church Meeting



Posters and banners of church meeting in Bhilai Charoda of Durg district, Chhattisgarh, were torn by members of Bajrang Dal and Dharma Jagran Manch on Nov. 16. According to Evangelical Fellowship India, the New Life AG Church, Indian Pentecostal Church and Gap Foundation had organized a three day Good News Festival from Nov. 16 to 18 at the Railway Ground. Permissions were granted by the respective authorities. How-

ever, the Hindu radical group opposed over the program.

The Hindutva activists raised concerns over erecting posters and banners for the church meeting, alleging that conversions may take place in the meeting.

The activists allegedly tore down and burned the church posters. The situation worsened and eventually the police ordered that the meetings be brought to an end with immediate effect.

Christians in Jharkhand Continue to Praise God Despite Imprisonment



Several Christians in Jharkhand have remained faithful to God despite police brutality and month-long imprisonment they endured over false charges which stemmed from their praying for the healing of a sick woman in the district of Simdega. Six Christians were attacked by tribal Gondi villagers after they were in-

involved in healing prayer for an ill woman on Sept. 16. Mistaken for sorcery and forced conversion, the villagers assaulted the believers. With the help of the local police, they threw them in jail for a month, and police beat them brutally, Morning Star News explained.

On their bail, Dasrath Karketta, one

Texas Massacre Prompts Some Churches to Consider Concealed Guns, Armed Security

After one of the nation's deadliest mass shootings unfolded on their doorstep, pastors and parishioners around the tiny Texas hamlet of Sutherland Springs have begun asking whether guns have a rightful place inside their houses of worship.

It is a debate that is echoing across the United States as security experts and some politi-

deadly rampage at the First Baptist Church.

Barbara Burdette, who knew the 26 people killed in the massacre and as well as the 20 wounded, is ready to see her church hire armed security, or allow congregants to carry their own concealed firearms for self-defense.

"God is our protector," said Burdette, 62, "but I do still think that we need to have people with



cians ask churches to consider a wide range of enhanced measures to thwart tragedies like Sunday's

conceal carry." Her pastor at the First Baptist Church of La Vernia, a one-story brick sanctuary 7 miles from the shooting scene, said the issue of guns in church requires a delicate balance between providing safety instead of fear.

Arming parishioners is not the only option. At the historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, where a white gunman killed nine at a June 2015 bible study session, uniformed police officers now attend regular worship services.

"It's part of our new normal," said Reverend Eric Manning at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, by phone. He said the church also created in-house security, as have most black churches in the region.

Muslim and Jewish institutions for years have added security measures to address the threat of violence and hate crimes. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) stresses the importance of security cameras, strong doors and clearing brush away from buildings so attackers have no place to hide.

of the arrested Christians, said the police officers beat Sajan Majhi and Kalender Majhi. He added that the police did not listen to any explanation from their side.

Karketta, a believer who has been healed of his cancer, had amazed a Hindu named Bikhru Majhi by sharing his testimony. The latter had invited the believers to his home to pray for Nitu Devi, his wife.

Attacked in the middle of the prayer, the six Christians were reportedly charged with insulting Hindu religion and promoting religious enmity. They spent month-long in jail before they were able to post bail, but Karketta said their time inside was spent in joyous worship and prayer.

"We spent one month in jail joyously — we sang hymns, read the Bible, prayed and worshipped together in jail," said Karketta.

"We shared the gospel with other inmates in the district jail. There also, people came to Christ. We strongly felt the Lord was using us for His work and were happy about it," he added.



BENOY P. J.
Rajasthan, India

Holy living is not so easy. It is a war. In our struggle against sin, we need to resist to the point of shedding our blood, as it says in Hebrews 12:4. The devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Satan makes efforts to establish 'peace' with us. He never starts a fight in the very beginning. He makes all efforts possible to make a peaceful deal with us. But remember that we are not to enter into a peace treaty with him. As 2 Tim. 3:12 states, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted. Christ's war against Satan is still continuing. And the biggest and final war is yet to be fought.

Tempting people in the enemy camp is a historical warfare strategy and Satan is an expert. That is the reason why he tries to compromise with us, the warriors of Christ. Either with Jesus, or with Satan; there is never a middle path. We may sometimes feel it is wiser to avoid confrontations with Satan. He makes us think so. Beware that we shouldn't fall prey to his efforts of compromise.

God's commandment to Israel through Moses was to take a three days journey into the desert and worship him. But Pharaoh suggests an easy way. Go and worship your god; but you need not go so far for that. You can do it in this land. But Moses didn't agree. They were in the



slavery till then and he couldn't worship in slavery. It is not Pharaoh who decides the venue of worshipping God but God himself. Moses had to go far from the land of slavery. Satan always suggests middle paths. "You can worship God still while doing all these. You can continue in your old relations and still worship God. You can lead a Christian life without having fellowship with your brethren." Leave the things that you must. End those relations that you must. Avoid unjust means of earning. Say no to engagements that plunder your time for family prayer, Bible study and fellowships. Yes, we need to keep a certain distance from sin. Leave it and flee from it. We have no peace with sin till the last breath, though we may have to shed our blood.

When Moses refused the offer to worship in the land, Pharaoh tried his next plan. "I will let you go to sacrifice to your Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away." Sacrificing to God is not Pharaoh's favour; it is God's commandment. It is not Pharaoh

but God only decides the place and distance. A distance from the sin less than that is commanded by the word of God is not going to do any good. Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Let

"You can worship God still while doing all these. You can continue in your old relations and still worship God. You can lead a Christian life without having fellowship with your brethren." L

us run with perseverance the race marked for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

When the second effort of compromise failed, Pharaoh tries the third trick; "All of you don't go; the men among only go and serve the Lord." Most families and churches are in such

a compromise with satan these days; the notion that everybody needn't go/do. Churches are filled with people on Sundays and special days. But on days of fasting and Bible study, very few are seen. Many parents may go but the children don't. There are people who spend time unfruitfully when there is a prayer meeting in the church. They think it is not necessary even if they have time. They seem to have agreed to satan's conditions; all of you don't go; only a few are enough.

But it too was not acceptable to Moses. He wanted to take all, leaving none behind since it was God's commandment. He didn't bow his head before the Egyptian authority that tried to stop people from worshipping God. Pharaoh still didn't withdraw. He had yet another plan. "Go, serve the Lord your God; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." This plan is still at work. Satan will say- go, worship, preach, fast and teach. But a

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Manuel Joseph Th.M

and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9).

Giving place to God's anger or wrath, instead of ours, is another means to get rid of unrighteous anger from our lives. Even when we are wronged we are not to offend the wrongdoer, but we must abandon him or her to the more tremendous vengeance of God as God is judge of all the earth who can do all things justly (Romans 12:19). We are not supposed to harm anyone.

Converting our anger into love is yet another way to overcome it. Romans 12: 21 says "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". Even when you are a victim of an assault of any kind, you are not to pay it back in the same coin, but instead, that must be considered to be a chance to do a good work. In fact, we are called to do good works and doing them even to someone who has wronged us will yield many fruits. We must repay good for evil (Matthew 5:43-48).

To cast away the uncontrolled and sinful anger, we must start speaking befitting to a Christian. Proverbs 15: 1 says, "a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Ephesians 4: 29 and 31 confirms the same truth of the scripture. Our word, in most cases, becomes a cause of irritation and anger. We must choose our words carefully and avoid loose talks. Abusive words are commonly used by people when they are angry. There is no place for such words in our heart or mouth. Our speech must always be with grace and seasoned with salt, as Paul puts it in Colossians 4: 6.

"Be angry, and do not sin". Exercise lawful anger and give up the unlawful!!

Overcoming Sinful Anger!!

One of my close friends, a Christian Counselor, recently told me that a lot of the people approaching him for counseling have problems dealing with their anger. He testifies that this hard to tame emotion has brought many relationships to shipwreck and most unfortunately has ruined the joy and happiness of many hearts. Anger is defined in such a way that you, with no doubt whatsoever, would have to believe that it is such a catastrophic feeling. Cambridge English Dictionary defines that anger is "a strong feeling that makes you want to hurt someone or be unpleasant because of something unfair or unkind that has happened". No matter who or what a person is, everyone fights with anger, in various degrees, that's it. Is anger lawful? Yes, it is! The Bible says that Anger is a legitimate emotion expressed even by God Himself. Psalm 7: 11 says, "*God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*" Jesus Himself became so angry twice when the people changed His Father's house a house of merchandise (John 2: 13-18; Matthew 21: 12-13). A man after

God's own heart, David, became very angry when the prophet Nathan narrated an injustice to him (2 Samuel 12 1-6). In opposition to the righteous anger we have seen so far, the Bible also identifies to a sinful anger. When Apostle Paul commands the believers to be angry, he also says that it should never lead to sin (Ephesians 4: 26). It can become sinful is the worst thing about this legitimate emotion. How can anger lead to sin? First and foremost, anger becomes sinful when it does not do the righteousness of God. James 1: 19-20 says, "*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*" Human anger and divine righteousness are typically at odds with each other. A person acting by the former does not carry out or produce the latter. Secondly, if anger is not for the glory of God, it can become sinful. *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10: 31). God's glory must be the prime motive of every activity of all the children of God and anger, if not

leading to God's glory, can be termed as sinful anger. Thirdly, when anger persists for a long time than approved of the scripture, it is sinful. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil (Ephesians 4: 26-27). To forgive any wrongdoer almost instantly is God's will for us and if anger lingers for a long time, it can become sinful. In the light of the scripture, it is very acceptable that it is almost impossible for a man to be angry and not to sin.

How can we overcome the sinful anger? The Bible contains admonitions that will help us overcome it. The remedies the world offers are futile in respect to what we can do based on the scripture. To overcome unlawful anger, we must admit it first. If you have become angry to somebody, you must admit that it was a wrong doing and you are liable to ask forgiveness to the person and to God Himself. Ignoring the incident and blame-shifting will do no justice to the word of God and God's righteousness. Admit it, confess it and get over it. Our God is faithful


Saji Yacob


The Legend of Santa Claus

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back to hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best known of the St. Nicholas stories is that he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6.

St. Nicholas made his first inroads into American popular culture towards the end of the 18th century. The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas). In 1804, John Pintard, a member of the New York Historical Society, distributed woodcuts of St. Nicholas at the society's annual meeting. In 1809, Washington Irving helped to popularize the Sinter Klaas stories when he referred to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New York in his book, *The History of New York*. As his prominence grew, Sinter Klaas was described as everything from a "rascal" with a blue

three-cornered hat, red waistcoat, and yellow stockings to a man wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a "huge pair of Flemish trunk hose." Gift-giving, mainly centered on children, has been an important part of

newly-popular Santa Claus. In 1841, thousands of children visited a Philadelphia shop to see a life-size Santa Claus model. It was only a matter of time before stores began to attract children, and their

have been ringing bells on the street corners of American cities ever since.

Santa Claus' Pagan Origins: 5 Influences behind Father Christmas

St. Nicholas

Santa Claus is primarily linked to St. Nicholas, the Greek bishop of Myra, a Roman town in Turkey. St. Nicholas lived during the third and fourth centuries. He defended Christianity while followers were being persecuted. He was imprisoned for many years until Constantine came to power and made Christianity the dominant religion in the Roman Empire. After his death, St. Nicholas became the patron saint of many groups, including sailors and entire nations. However, two tales of his life led him to become the patron saint of children and a magical gift giver. One involves Bishop Nicholas giving three bags of gold to a father to save his daughters from prostitution. The other involves three boys who were murdered, dismembered and pickled by their killer, an innkeeper: Nicholas prayed to God and brought them back to life. Between 1200 and 1500, gift-giving celebrations took place on St. Nicholas' Day, Dec. 6. After the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic saint lost prominence, but the

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the Christmas celebration since the holiday's rejuvenation in the early 19th century. Stores began to advertise Christmas shopping in 1820, and by the 1840s, newspapers were creating separate sections for holiday advertisements, which often featured images of the

parents, with the lure of a peek at a "live" Santa Claus. In the early 1890s, the Salvation Army needed money to pay for the free Christmas meals they provided to needy families. They began dressing up unemployed men in Santa Claus suits and sending them into the streets of New York to solicit donations. Those familiar Salvation Army Santas

◀▶5 UNCOMPROMISING...

little 'adjustment' in financial matters, worldly pleasures and relations and so on are alright. There are people who worship today and accept bribe the other day. Doctors who worship abort babies. Preachers preach in crusades and then move in unholy ways. Youngsters decide today to live for Jesus; the other day they are dating with someone. We do all spiritual activities; but a lot of our properties, wealth and belongings are still in Egypt under Pharaoh. We return there every now and then.

Separation and holiness are applicable to us and all that belongs to us. Moving at the same time in two boats or serving both God and mammon is not our principle. Either in Egypt or at a distance that God has fixed. Complete separation and holiness is what we need. It is only when they separated themselves completely and left everything behind forever that their ways were opened across the Red Sea and the enemies were devastated. The reason for many of our troubles, pains and afflictions is that we are still in connection with those things which we should have renounced much earlier. Never think about entering into a treaty with him. Leave all that is under his authority and run the race that God has set before us. If not, all that we do would be in vain and we shall have to bow our head in shame on the Day of Judgment before the large host of saints.

◀▶2.Churches Banned....

said. "They are all residents of the area, and people have never had trouble with these churches before. These pastors have been doing ministry for many years now."

According to Sathyanathan, a group of Christian leaders met with the Tamil Nadu's minister of internal affairs last week to address the no-

◀▶7 The legend of Santa Claus.....



tradition continued. This time, the gift giving was attributed to baby Jesus. Since the infant could carry only so many presents, he was given a helper who encouraged good behavior from children — and threatened them with kidnappings or whippings otherwise. These sidekicks were based on St. Nicholas and are known by Germanic names, including Ru-klaus (Rough Nicholas), Aschenklas (Ashy Nicholas) and Pelznickel (Furry Nicholas).

Odin

St. Nicholas is commonly linked to Odin, the ruler of Asgard, one of the major gods in Germanic mythology who was depicted as a white-bearded man with magical powers. The winter solstice, also known as Yule, was a time when Odin led a hunting party, known as the Wild Hunt, in the sky with an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir. The mythical horse could leap great distances — a trait reindeer possess. Legend has it that whenever Odin flew by he would leave gifts by their boots. After Christianity took

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tices the churches received informing them of the worship ban.

The state official has reportedly called on the Coimbatore deputy superintendent of police and a local lawmaker to investigate the issue and ensure that the Christian community in Coimbatore can continue their worship services.

A government official reportedly told church leaders that at least six of the churches affected by the worship ban were subjects of a

hold, this practice was later adopted in relation to St. Nicholas. Children would leave their shoes on the windowsill or bedroom door on the evening of Dec. 5 for the saint to reward them with nuts, fruits and sweets.

Frau Holda

Frau Holda is the Germanic goddess of winter. In German folk legends, she is depicted as a beautiful blonde who is the protector of children's souls. Like Odin, she would fly through the night and give gifts to children. In some depictions, Holda is dressed in red and uses chimneys to deliver gifts.

Le Befana

Le Befana is an Italian legend dating to the 13th century. The old soot-covered woman is believed to fly on a broomstick and enter children's homes through chimneys to offer candy and presents. For children who have misbehaved, Befana leaves a lump of coal. Her significance stems from a Christian story that sees her approached by the Three Wise Men while on their way to see baby Jesus. They asked her

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complaint from the Hindu nationalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. RSS is believed to be linked to India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Meanwhile, one church was the subject of a complaint brought by a new Hindu extremist group called Hanuman Sena. Over 500 Christians protested the district sub-collector and the police superintendent and called for the ban against their worship to be lifted on Oct. 11.

to lead them to the site, but she refused. Shortly afterward, she had a change of heart and went after the three men with a bag full of gifts to give to the infant. While she followed the star of the Magi, she never found the manger, according to the legend. To this day she continues to travel the world and search each house for Christ. Befana comes on the Day of the Epiphany, Jan. 6. During the feast day, children are given gifts, while traditional Italian foods are served to mark the end of the holiday season.

Clement Clarke Moore's

Poem Santa Claus came to the New World in the 1821 thanks to the first lithographed book in the U.S., "The Children's Friend,". He was described as a bearded man from the north whose sleigh was powered by flying reindeer. Santa Claus rewarded well-behaved children and punished naughty ones. However, it was Clement Clarke Moore's poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (now known as "The Night Before Christmas") that cemented Santa Claus' role in America's Christmas tradition.

If Santa Claus has taken the glory from Jesus Christ in the celebration of Christmas these days, maybe it is time to seriously consider changing the emphasis. The Bible says nothing about Santa Claus and this tradition has anything whatsoever to do with the Bible.

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According to Sathyanathan, the superintendent of police rejected the protesters' demands.

"They said that they can do nothing about it, and why should we create unnecessary trouble, that instead we should go ahead and get legal permission for our churches," the pastor explained. "We had organized a day of silent protest on Oct. 21, but we were denied permission to carry it out, as they said that it was a law-and-order situation."



I would **like** to share

Hello Friends,

I am Amal, I would like to share my testimony to strengthen, inspire and to motivate everyone reading this short testimony. It can even be a hope for someone suffering from the deadly disease, by its sweet name “CANCER”. I was born in a middle class Jacobite family. As the life was going on in its usual pace, I was diagnosed with cancer. I was just ten years old (2007) and it was leukemia or blood cancer, the uninvited guest. It was in its most difficult stage where survival is impossible, unless there was a miracle from God.

The sickness had exaggerated so much; that it was too late before the medical team could ever help. In no time the disease crept into its final stage and there was none to help or to say a good word. In fact, none proved to be helpful in this situation. Though I was admitted in one of the best hospitals in India, it was a great despair that the doctors

my **testimony**

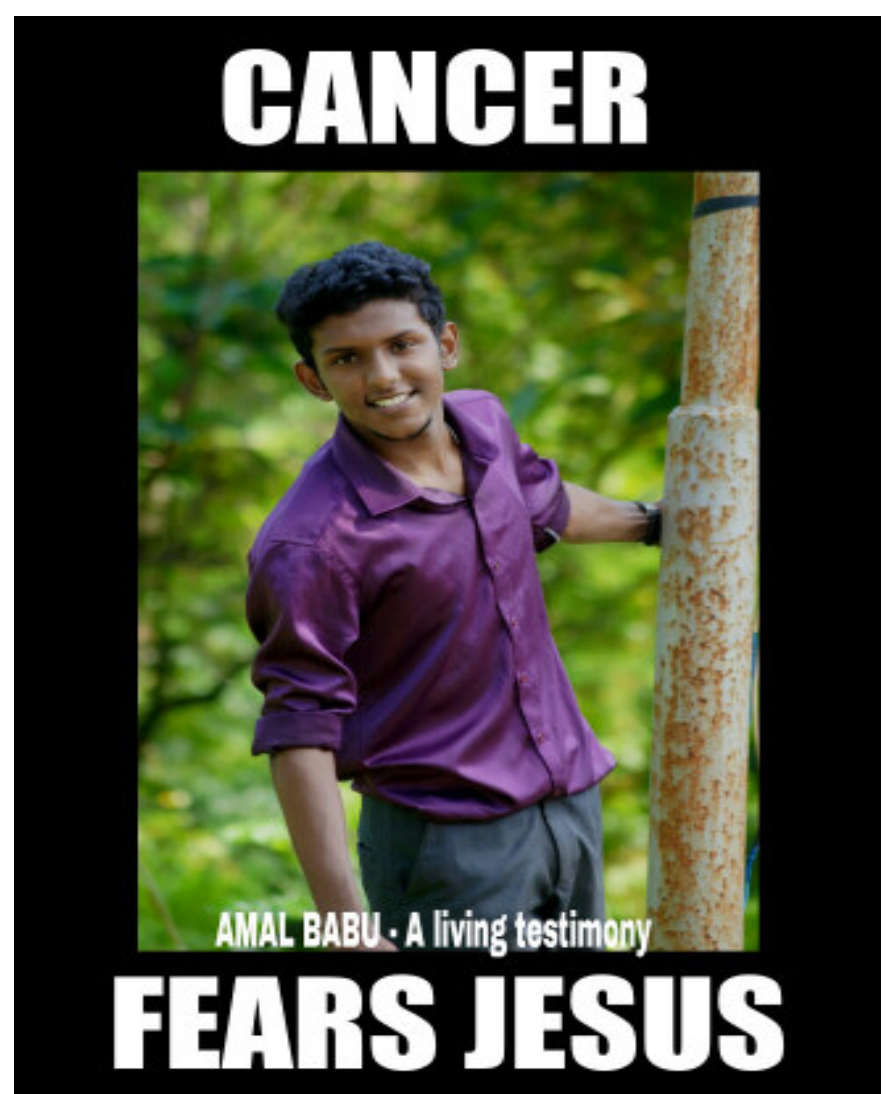
had given up their hopes on me. They were sure that I wouldn't make it. Being so gracious, they didn't want me go through chemotherapy in order to save me from the pain it can inflict on my tiny body. They really wanted me to leave this earth without much pain.

I just can't figure out how quickly the happiness of my family turned to tears. There was never a day or night that my parents didn't weep or cry over my fate. There was no other hope and none to come in for any aid. The only hope in such disappointment was GOD. Trying their last ray of hope, my family committed their lives to JESUS asking him just one thing “my life”.

Usually, the nights were tormenting and painful for me. It was really difficult for me to sleep well. But sooner I realized that I could sleep better at each passing day. The pain was subsiding. Then

the day had come for the doctor's appointment. As usual the medical records were flipped and tests were repeated; but this time results weren't the same as expected. The doctors were astonished by the fact that they could not find any cancer cells on my body.

Praise be to Jesus' name alone. And from that day, I realized that medical science may fail, but Jesus never. If you are someone suffering from this deadly disease or if you have anyone battling with it, tell them about Jesus as cancer fears Him. Like mine, yours could be a hopeless condition and you have no one to help, let me remind you that JESUS IS THE ONLY ANSWER. Yes, Jesus loves you my friend and he cares for you more than anyone else could ever. From that day to this very moment, I experience his everlasting love in my life. God bless you all!



Rev. Dr. Mathukutty Samuel

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

"Bless the Lord O my soul. O lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty."



anything made that was made." John 1:1-3

The written Word, the Bible is the living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. John 1:14 says "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

The truth is that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator and also the

Consummator. He is very great; that is, great enough to speak the world and all that He created into existence. Ephesians 3:9 tells us of "God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

3. He is Great Enough to Love the Whole World

Love brought Him to earth, love sent Him to Calvary, and love held Him to the cross until His work was finished. The Roman spikes did not hold Jesus on that cruel tree; it was His immeasurable love that held Him there. "For God so loved the world——but have everlasting life." John 3:16 cf. 1 John 4:10.

I surely do not know any other power that can do that, do you? In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen 1:1.

"Bless the Lord O my soul. O lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty." Ps. 104:1; "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." Ps. 147:5; "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praise." Ps. 48:1.

I can only attempt to tell you of His greatness through some of the great things that He has done, is doing and will do. He is great; He is very great in fact,, He is too great to comprehend fully this side of glory. The true God of the Word of God is greater than all. He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent in His magnificent sovereignty and majesty. Truly, the half cannot be told by man;

but may we attempt to learn more of His greatness that we may have a greater understanding and appreciation.

1. He is Great Enough to Answer Prayer

When His very own children meet His conditions, he hears and honors and answers prayer. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Ps. 66:18. He exhorts the believers: "let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.: Heb. 4:16 " Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Time and again Jesus made prayer promises.

"Ask, and it shall given you: seek, ye shall receive " Matt 7:7,8. Cf. Matt 21:22: Jn. 14:13,14; 15:7. These are genuine prayer promises which say He can and will answer. James 5:16 says, "The effecutual fervent prayer of righteous man availeth much."

2. He is Great enough to create the Heaven and the Earth

I surely do not know any other power that can do that, do you? In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without him was not

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4. He is Great Enough to Write a Perfect Book
The Bible is the written Word; Jesus is the living Word. An outstanding Bible

the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

putenmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her see, it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15

"The Word is a replica of Jesus, and Jesus is a replica of the Word." The Lord has not only written this Book that is without error and contradiction in the original languages in which He gave it, but He has preserved this Book through the ages and shall continue to maintain it regardless of attacks and onslaughts of men.

teacher, Dr. Bob Ketcham, once said, "The Word is a replica of Jesus, and Jesus is a replica of the Word." The Lord has not only written this Book that is without error and contradiction in the original languages in which He gave it, but He has preserved this Book through the ages and shall continue to maintain it regardless of attacks and onslaughts of men. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by

righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. What we need to do is preach it, teach it, believe it and practice it.

5. He is Great Enough to Defeat the Devil
He is not only great enough to defeat Satan, but one of these days, He will join him to the chain for one thousand years. Then, after that, He will cast him into the lake of fire. It takes a power greater than Devil to do that. " And I will

6. He is Great Enough to Save a Lost Soul
Yes , the Savior is the only one who can save, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 cf; Acts 10:43 John 14:6 says "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." "that his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10: 43

The church cannot save. Ordinances cannot save. Institutions or secret orders cannot save. Good works cannot save. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Savior, and He saves those who implicitly and unreservedly trust Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13. If you will do it, the Lord will keep his promise. He will make you what you ought to be-from a child of the Devil to a child of God to a friend of God, from the penalty of sin to the legacy of a son, from a candidate for hell to a citizen of Heaven, from a condemned sinner to a converted person. Indeed, he is very great!

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was my responsibility to share that hope with others as my parents had shared it with me.
Warmness enveloped me just as my alarm began to ring. I jumped out of my bed hurriedly to start my day. A small smile played around my place as I recalled the debate I had just witnessed. With renewed hope I began to think and consider my life, and I hope you will too.

My Comfort and my Inner Voice



Sis. Glory Joseph

It's has been so long since I have written to you, but I wanted to share one of my dreams. After a busy day I dozed off and I experienced one of the most vivid dreams of my life. It has deeply imprinted into my subconscious and I get goosebumps just recalling my dream.

As my dream began I was approached by a figure that identified himself as "Comfort". Comfort began to recount the most positive aspects of my personality and the high points in my life. He complimented my intelligence, loyalty, capability, work ethic, generosity and talents he identified in me. Comfort pointed to pivotal moments in my life where I chose what was right, to prove my character. He even delved into my past, citing my solid upbringing, supportive family, and reverent church.

After being awash with positivity and compliments, I was left suspicious at his intentions and his insight into my life.

In the midst of the conversation another voice arose, this one my inner voice. All that Comfort had spoken my inner voice spoke to the contrary. My inner voice highlighted my failures, my lack of talent, and the facade I wear around my friends and family. My inner voice also revealed that I feel "stuck", like a prisoner in my own life. My mask of social acuity slipped and my inner voice revealed my deep resentment for even those little conversations with those I hold most dear.

As the examination of my life continued my inner voice began to tell a different story of my past. Memories of those who I have spoken ill of, those I

have bullied and tormented, and even those painful words I said to those I love, that can never be taken back were exposed to me.

My inner voice began to crescendo as it reached the final adjudication of my character. It concluded that I not only had a past marred with sin and blame, but I hated others as much as my own self. That I merely saw others as a means to an end, and it was by my own cleverness that I had gotten so far. I then should sink into my cozy web of self-righteousness and material possession looking out only to judge the passerby, or draw them to me.

After the echoes of my inner voice had finally dissipated, my Comfort began to speak again. He gently explained that who I am is the truth of what it can mean to be human, that we are petty,

selfish, and abusive to one another. We take one another for granted, and treat the world as a twisted paradise. However, he explained, with a little guidance, and a touch of grace, we can be more. There exists a truth that can turn our sorrows into joy, a heavy heart into a happy heart, and our imperfections into perfection. This truth can make us more than the sum of our past and personality. My eyes began to widen as I realized the truth of Comfort's words. My inner voice began to cry out objections, but I could no longer hear them over the admissions of blessed hope and truth.

I began to recall why Comfort's narrative of my past rang true. The hopefulness, the rich tradition, the love, it all came from my forebears who knew of the truth my Comfort espoused. It was because of that truth I had hope for the future, and it

FULL STORY ON - 11

No man in the world can come to the presence of God and pray without the power and help of the Holy Spirit, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father" (Ephesians 2:18). Paul says, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered". "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27). In these verses, it is said that an individual is not able to pray without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us think certain things briefly about these verses.

We hardly know what we should pray about, to whom to pray to and what the things we should pray for. None of these things can be known without the help and power of the Holy Spirit. Shall we pray through Christ for the fellowship with God? Shall we pray for faith or for justification? None of these things we do know. "For what man knows the things of a man except the Spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Here Apostle Paul speaks about the internal and the



spiritual matters which the world is totally unaware of. Just like being not able to know the subject of prayer without the help of the Spirit, we sometimes do not know how to pray. That is

be spoken out. In that they rejoiced also. If we do not pray without realizing this truth of the scripture or if we neglect to pray in the manner revealed in the scripture, we will never be

doing a thing which is commanded to him, as he ought to do. Many are not receiving what they pray for because they are not praying as they ought to. But when the Spirit makes

We hardly know what we should pray about, to whom to pray to and what the things we should pray for. None of these things can be known without the help and power of the Holy Spirit. Shall we pray through Christ for the fellowship with God? Shall we pray for faith or for justification?

why it is said, "we do not know what we shall pray for as we ought". Along with that it is also said that, "the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered". Here is a thing which must be noted specially. As the Holy Spirit was helping, the Apostles gained the closest experience with God in prayer. In such experiences, even though they could not express the whole feelings in their mind, they prayed through groaning and with sigh which cannot

truly praying in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul says we shall pray in the way it should be. It is not possible for us to pray in the customary manner of man and in the capacity of angels. "We do not know what we shall pray for as we ought", but the Spirit Himself helps in our weaknesses. The Spirit and the desires of the flesh are not one and the same. There is difference between man doing a thing according to his own way of thinking (or the counsel of his understanding), and

intercession for the saints according to the will of God. He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is. Here 'knows' means, God only accepts the sense or meaning which the Spirit gives to this prayer. In that prayer, what according to the will of God is, only will be heard. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to make supplication in this manner. The Holy Spirit is only able to seek everything, even the depths of God.



8 ReactionstoTrump Reconizing Jerusa- lem as Israel'sCapital:From Biblical Prophecy to 'Day of Rage'



U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement on Wednesday that America is to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has sparked both "day of rage" outcry and praise around the world.

Some have hailed the president for keeping his promise, while others have warned it will obstruct peace efforts in the Middle East.

Trump's administration has said the move is not intended to come on the side of Israel when it comes to territory dispute with Palestine, with the White House stating that it simply reflects the

"fundamental truth" of Jerusalem's status.

"The president believes this is a recognition of reality," a White House official told reporters on Tuesday, according to Reuters. "We're going forward on the basis of a truth that is undeniable. It's just a fact."

Some evangelicals have hailed Trump's decision; many Islamic leaders have condemned it with grave warnings, while church leaders, such as Pope Francis, have expressed concern.

Here are eight reactions from world leaders, organizations, and faith figures.



PM Narendra Modi Responds to Archbishop's Letter; Lists Christians his Govt Rescued

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Dec. 3 has said "rashtra bhakti" (nationalism) was the basis for his government to help Indians of diverse faiths, while responding to a letter by an archbishop that was critical about "nationalist forces".

Archbishop Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar had issued the letter on Nov. 21 urging Christians to pray for the upcoming Gujarat elections to ensure the victory of people "who would remain faithful to our Indian Constitution and respect every human being without any sort of discrimination," and also to save the country from "nationalist forces".

"I was shocked to see a religious person releasing a fatwa (edict) saying, 'Uproot the nationalist forces'. It is rashtra bhakti that guides us to help

every Indian in any part of the world," said Modi.

Modi said his government had liberated Indians of different faiths from terrorists. He cited several examples of Christian missionaries and nurses being secured from foreign terror zones.

Modi pointed out to the recent rescue of Fr Tom Uzhunnalil from 18 months' Islamic State captivity in Yemen and Fr Alexis Prem Kumar from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"Along with Indians, we rescued citizens of almost 40 countries from (war-torn) Yemen. We did not ask their religion or what language they spoke," he said, according to Telegraph.

"It was our nationalism and humanitarian values that guided us," he added.

In his letter, the archbishop also mentioned that India's "democratic fabric" was at stake amid a growing "sense of insecurity" among the minorities.

"Our nurses from Kerala, mostly Christians, were stranded in Iraq in the custody of terrorists. Can the Prime Minister or any citizen of India sleep in such a situation?" Modi asked.

"Father Tom, also a Keralite, was abducted by terrorists in Yemen last year. He had gone there to spread the message of Jesus Christ. We employed all our resources to bring him back as he is the son of this country," he said.

"Another Christian, Judith D'Souza of West Bengal, was kidnapped in Afghanistan. We applied every trick in the book and brought her back alive from the clutches of terrorists. We were able to do all this humanitarian work because of our rashtra bhakti," he added.

In 2014, some 46 Indian nurses, held by the militants in Iraq for about a month, were secured by Modi government, he mentioned.



Harvesting souls mission

Our Vision

- To establish indigenous healthy growing churches that will make a significant gospel impact within the culture, people groups, communities, multiple generations in India.
- To establish strategic partnership with existing ministries to facilitate more and more better church planting movements in various regions of India.
- To grow our churches through effective evangelism and gospel centered discipleship that produces both born again experiences and subsequent transformation of the whole person, whole families and whole culture.
- To recruit, train, and send native workers who have a definite call from the Lord and intense commitment for the end time Harvesting of Souls.

The Great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is carried out through preaching the glorious gospel of the blessed God in villages and streets, city and nation-wide.

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