



# Deal to build Churches in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has agreed a deal with the Vatican to build churches for Christian worshippers in the Arab country, it is claimed by Middle Eastern media. If confirmed, the supposed agreement between Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran and Mohammed bin Abdel Karim Al-Issa of the Muslim World League would mark a historic first

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## Christians in Nepal Suspect Hindu Extremists in Sudden Attacks on Churches



Christians in Nepal are alarmed after this month's sudden series of arson and bomb attacks on four church buildings, and church leaders suspect authorities are lax in investigating. At the same time, six Christians were arrested for evangelizing while suspected Hindu extremists launched attacks on three church buildings and bombed another. The attacks caused extensive property damage but no casualties.

The Hebron Church building in the eastern hilly region was set on fire on

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## Chinese Government Angers Christians by Banning Sale of Online Bibles



The Chinese government has angered Christians after banning the sale of Bibles at online bookstores across the country amid a continuing crackdown on "foreign" religions. According to Australia's ABC News, copies of the Gospels have been disappearing from online retailers following the release of a "white paper" document: The "China's Policies and Practices on Protecting Freedom of Religious Belief." The new guidance states that Chinese faith communities "should adhere to the direction of localizing the religion,

practice the core values of socialism, develop and expand the fine Chinese tradition and actively explore the religious thought which accords with China's national circumstances."The move has left Chinese Christians speaking out in "confusion and outrage" online, the article said. Warren Wang, a Christian who immigrated to Australia from Shanghai in 2012, said that believers could sense such a move was coming.

"I'm not that surprised that they're

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## Pastor Killed by Crocodile During Mass Baptism

A crocodile attacked and killed a pastor as he was baptizing 80 people near a lake in southern Ethiopia, according to reports. Pastor Docho Eshete was in the middle of baptisms when a crocodile leapt from the water and attacked him on Sunday morning at Lake Abaya in Arba Minch town's MerkebTabaya

district, according to BBC.

The crocodile bit Eshete on his legs, back and hands. Fishermen and residents tried but failed to rescue the pastor. Later, they used fishing nets to stop the reptile from taking the pastor's body away into the lake. "He (the

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## U.S. Embassy Moved to Jerusalem

**WASHINGTON** – The Trump administration held a ceremony in Jerusalem on Monday 14, 2018 to mark the opening of the U.S. Embassy in the city. The event took place on Monday, May 14 at 4 P.M. Jerusalem time (9 A.M. Washington time). Officially, the event is held in honor of the U.S. Embassy's relocation from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Trump administration decided last December to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to begin the process of moving the embassy there. This process could take years, since the construction of the new embassy will be a lengthy. Initially, only a limited number of offices will be moved from the embassy in Tel Aviv to the new location in Jerusalem. These offices will include the office of the U.S. ambassador to

Israel, David Friedman, who will begin working from Jerusalem on a regular basis. However, many other functions of the embassy will remain in Tel Aviv, at the building housing the current embassy on Hayarkon Street. For the Israeli government, even this preliminary move is considered a major diplomatic achievement, mainly for its symbolic significance.

While there is still an open question on where the permanent American Embassy in Jerusalem will be built, the dedication ceremony on Monday happened at the U.S. Consulate in Arnona, a neighborhood in the southern part of the city. The existing consulate building, which has been serving Israeli citizens since 2010, will host

the ambassador's office and the other offices to be moved to Jerusalem initially. It is partially located within the no-man's-land that constituted the border between Israel and Jordan before 1967.

From the Israeli side, the highest-ranking officials attended the function are President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Other government ministers, and leaders of political parties from both the opposition and the coalition, also took part in the celebration. From the Trump administration, the highest-ranking official who attended is Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, and her husband, Jared Kushner, a senior adviser to the president, also attended the dedication ceremony. A large delegation of members of Congress from both parties is also attending the historical ceremony.

Trump chose two evangelical ministers to offer prayers at the dedication of the embassy. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, delivered the invocation. John Hagee, pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, gave the benediction. Both clergymen adhere to dispensationalism, a theology informed by a literal reading of biblical prophecy. Dispensationalists believe Israel will play an important role in end-times prophecy. They teach that the return of the Jews to their homeland will be a sign that the end of the world is near. In most dispensationalist schemes, Jesus Christ will one day descend from heaven to the Mount Olives in Jerusalem, lead an army that will defeat the

**FULL STORY ON - 13**



M K Thomas

All born again people are chosen by God. Why did he choose us? There are many reasons. Main reasons are: 1. To worship the Lord, 2. To go for the Lord and, 3. For the expansion of the boundary of his kingdom. A chosen person has four qualities (Ps. 89: 19).

HE SHOULD BE A MAN OF GODLINESS

Godliness means one who is strictly adhered with the apostolic doctrines and he or she does not backslide from statutes of God. He seems to be a foolish man in the sight of secular people or unsaved people. He would say no to ungodliness and worldly passions. A man of godliness has two specific qualities. Firstly, the Lord will reveal His secrets to such a man (Ps. 25: 12-14). Due to this reason, God spoke to Abraham about the destruction of Sodom. Secondly, he will have visions from God. Once Jesus said to Ananias "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his



## Qualified Servant of God

sight." (Acts 9:10-12).

HE NEEDS TO BE A MIGHTY MAN. David had a group of mighty men with him. Of those, there was a mighty man among them named Shammah. When Philistines came to destroy the lentils field, Israel's troop fled away. But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field with courage. The enemy should not take away anything from us from our as-

sembly that we have sown. Be a mighty man in connections with enemy.

HE SHOULD BE A HOLY MAN.

God wants us to be holy and separated from all filthiness and impurities. Paul says let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminate our body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God (2 Cor. 2:17). In





order to address the question of how to live a holy life, we must first understand what “holy” means. To be holy means to be set apart or separate from sin and evil. God is holy—completely separate from everything that is evil (1 John 1:5). God calls us to be holy, just as He is (1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 19:2), but it’s vital to understand that apart from God this is impossible. We must have the Holy Spirit indwelling us and filling us with His holiness. We can only live a holy life through the power of the Spirit. Here is the mindset we should have: “Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ

Jesus” (Romans 6:11). Any time we face temptation, we should say, “I’m dead to that! That was part of my old life! I am a new creation in Christ!” (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). To live a holy life, to separate ourselves from sin, we must see ourselves as God does—as born-again children of the Most High, clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

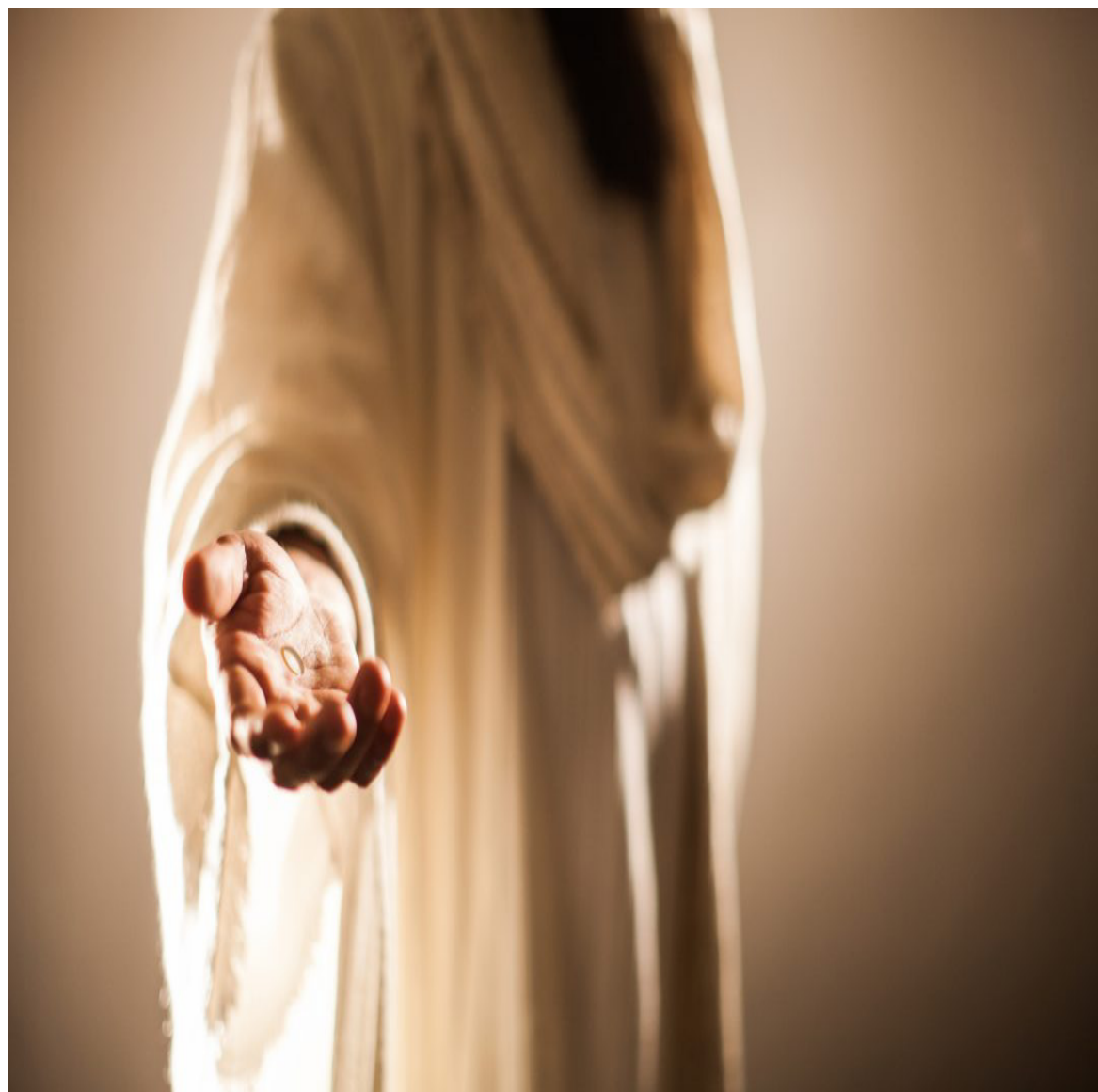
#### **HE SHOULD BE A SERVANT OF GOD**

Servanthood indicates meekness or humility. Jesus Himself became the perfect example. Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). The apostle Paul added to this focus when he wrote, “Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but the interests of others as well” (Phil. 1:4). But then pointing to the Savior as our great example, he quickly added, “You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.” Paul then followed this exhortation with a strong reminder of the humiliation of Christ (Phil. 2:6ff) who, though being God of very God, emptied himself by taking the form of a slave. There is no question that if we as Christians are going to grow and mature into Christ-like character, we must experience progress in giving of ourselves in ministry to and for others. While we can and should find comfort and encouragement in Christ (Phil. 2:1), when properly grasped, that comfort should propel us into servants of the Savior and one another. Jesus took the very nature of a servant albeit he was a king being made in the human likeness. So he was exalted above all names. He will exalt you in the time if you humble yourself in the mighty name of the Lord.

In short, let’s be a man of godliness in connection with God, a mighty man in connection with enemies, a holy man in connection with our everyday performance, and a servant of God in the midst of His people.

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## THE MASTER HAS COME! HE IS CALLING YOU!



*But I want to encourage you, “The Master has come; He is calling you.” Jesus responded in a very cool manner when he heard about the illness of Lazarus. He said, “This illness isn’t meant to end in death. It’s for God’s glory, so that the son of God may be glorified through it.” Be of good courage! He does everything for our good.*

troubles only in life. No healing in body; no peace of mind; obstacles in job, business, ministry and everywhere. There are defeats, challenges, crashes and threats. Many a time, we lose our heart. But I want to encourage you, “The Master has come; He is calling you.”

Jesus responded in a very cool manner when he heard about the illness of Lazarus. He said, “This illness isn’t meant to end in death. It’s for God’s glory, so that the son of God may be glorified through it.” Be of good courage! He does everything for our good. All our circumstances are for good, for a resurrection and His glory so that many can believe in Jesus Christ.

We are never alone along our paths of tears. Mary and Martha cried; the Jews with them too cried. When Jesus saw them cry, He too groaned

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The title of this article is quite familiar to us. Martha said these words to her sister Mary when they were going through the biggest trouble in their life (John 11:28). You may be in trials, troubles, pain, tears or in temptations. But I would like to encourage you through these words, “The Master has come; He is calling you.”  
Theirs was a blessed “Christian”

family and they were probably Jews by origin. Jesus always had great social esteem. Martha served him a lot; Mary always heard his words sitting at his feet; Jesus loved Lazarus very much. Lazarus fell ill and died having succumbed to the illness. We too go through similar circumstances in our life. We may be lacking in nothing. There is prayer, worship, fellowship, meditation, evangelization, fasting and all sorts of spiritual things that we can do. Never went in the ways of sin and iniquities. Always gave priority to the will of God. Still there are troubles and





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in spirit and he too cried. In every situation, be it good or bad, our Master is with us. He experiences the pain that we are going through. He will wipe out our tears. "The Master has come; He is calling you." When Jesus reached the tomb where Lazarus was laid, and when he asked the tomb stone to be removed, Lazarus' sister Mary said that her brother had been in the tomb for four days. There must be a stench by now, she added. The Jews who had gathered together felt that Jesus was really late. There was no hope. None had believed that Lazarus would come back alive after several days of his death. Sometimes, it is our plight too. Everything is over; nothing more can be done now; there is no more hope; a healing seems impossible now; no way seems to open to get through- we have often said these words to ourselves many a times. Don't worry. "The Master has

come; He is calling you." Listen to His words; go to him. He has something for you.

When Jesus said that her brother would rise again, Martha had no doubts. She had a great hope for the future. She said she knew that Lazarus would again rise in the resurrection on the last day. But Jesus was speaking about a resurrection on the very same day. If Lazarus had deliverance in this world, why can't we expect the same from our Master? The power of resurrection is still at work. It is the same power that leads and guides us every day. You may not be seeing anything good; deliverance is not being seen around; certain situations may be nothing less than death. But be of good cheer. "The Master has come; He is calling you." Our master is able to open a way. Let us go to the shut doors and closed tombs with him. It has been a long since your situations are dead; things may be stink-

ing; you may be shedding tears thinking that there is no way out. But if the Master is there, life will come out of nowhere. If you believe, you will see His glory. Martha and Mary had to remove the stone from the mouth of the cave that could have stopped live Lazarus from coming out. We find many obstacles in spiritual realm too. The spiritual life of many believers is in a dead state. Yes, we need to remove many obstacles that may come in between God and us. We must get rid of the inequities and ungodliness. Disbelief, unholy dealings and relations, sin, unholy thoughts- everything needs to go away from our life. People will start believing in Jesus when they see what happens in your life. Only believe; the resurrection is at hand. The Master will bring life in place of death. Indeed, "The Master has come; He is calling you."

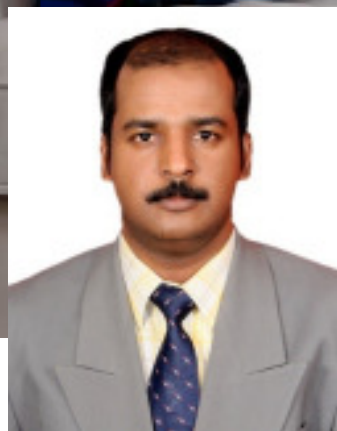
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## Sparkling Wisdom!



- ❖ "The Bible is the story of two gardens: Eden and Gethsemane. In the first, Adam took a fall. In the second, Jesus took a stand. In the first, God sought Adam. In the second, Jesus sought God. In Eden, Adam hid from God. In Gethsemane, Jesus emerged from the tomb. In Eden, Satan led Adam to a tree that led to his death. From Gethsemane, Jesus went to a tree that led to our life." Max Lucado
- ❖ "I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me – he's got judo I never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united; he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature." A. W. Tozer
- ❖ "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." John Wesley
- ❖ "I've read the last page of the Bible. It's all going to turn out all right." Billy Graham
- ❖ "We never grow closer to God when we just live life. It takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness." Francis Chan
- ❖ "The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." Martin Luther
- ❖ "The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals." Charles C. Ryrie
- ❖ "Anything under God's control is never out of control." Charles R. Swindoll
- ❖ "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." Kevin Max
- ❖ "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" Corrie ten Boom

**Abigail Thyvilayil John**



**Douglas Joseph**

*( Douglas Joseph is a prolific writer on Social, Educational and Parenting issues in newspapers, magazines and online portals. Conducting counseling sessions and seminars on teenage, career guidance and educational issues. Faculty at Gems Our Own English School Fujairah. Former faculty at Ministry of Education Maldives.)*

These days newspapers and TV channels are flooded with the tragedies of “Blue Whale Game” which claimed the lives of hundreds of young people around the world. Parents are in utter state of confusion and spend sleepless nights pondering over the issue. Newspapers reported that more than six children across India in the age group of 12-19 years have taken their lives playing this game within a span of two weeks. Deaths of teenagers have been reported from other countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Argentina, Bulgaria, Chile and Italy.

**“Blue Whale Game” tragedy an eye opener**

## Save Our Children from Internet Traps

The family of a 22-year-old man, who had committed suicide by hanging himself inside his home, said they suspected that it was a case of 'Blue Whale Challenge' addiction. The mother of one Sawant, an Industrial Training Institute student, said he had slashed his arms with a blade and the family had then thought that it was due to some depression. He was taken for counselling many times, but his behaviour continued to be abnormal, his mother told television channels. Sawant was addicted to some computer games for the past few months and he used to always play some games on his mobile and laptop and used to sleep in the morning after playing computer games the whole night, she said. He used to watch horror films on his laptop and had slashed his wrists with a blade. He had also carved out 'SA' on his chest using a compass.

### **Dangers of the Internet for Kids**

However, Blue Whale Game is only a tip of the iceberg. There are hundreds of other dan-

gers lurking in the cyber world where our children are active 24x7. In a recent incident, Facebook friend rapes 13-year-old after luring her to elope with him. Charmed by the 21-year-old youth's sweet-talk, the teenager ran away with him and she was sexually abused for two days. In another classical example of internet danger, an 18 year Houston-area high school student committed suicide due to cyber bullying. Her family said she had been receiving abusive text messages for months from bullies using an untraceable smartphone application. Her father said someone made a fake Facebook page of her, creating another cyberbullying medium. In another stunning case, a 12-year-old boy repeatedly abused his four-year-old half-sister whilst playing hide-and-seek. The boy was addicted to pornography and regularly visited porn websites.

**How to ensure online safety of our children?**

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How can we teach our children to use the internet safely is a billion dollar question. Many parents who talked me are clue less and in utter state of despair resorted to threat and beat their children. Some parents imposed a ban on internet usage at home by disconnecting Wi-Fi and taken away mobiles from their children. However, psychologists say such moves from parents create rebellion in young children. Moreover our internet savvy new generation is smarter than us and they can easily hoodwink parents by using internet without any suspicion. Here I try to provide some practical tips for parents, teachers and elders to protect the children from the multitude of Internet dangers.

#### 12 Tips for the internet safety of children

1. In order to guide and advice children about online safety, parents and teachers must be equipped with the working knowledge of smart phones, social media platforms, internet applications and various internet dangers. Many parents shy away from learning the operation of new gadgets and internet applications. Children misuse the ignorance of their parents. Keep an open mind and enthusiasm to learn new things.
2. You may be starting to think your child knows more about using technology than you do, and you may be right. Make it your business to keep up to date and discuss what you know with your child. Remember children lacks maturity and wisdom.
3. Remind the children that once they have written something they can't delete it. What you post in internet will have a permanent foot print. Therefore advice and monitor your child's internet interaction. Discourage the postings of private photos and feeling or mood updates such as feeling sad, bored, and scared. Internet fraudsters may misuse the photos and strangers may try to connect you seeing the mood or feeling you have updated.
4. "Make sure your children only message and accept friend and contact requests from people they know. Strictly forbid your

children's interaction with strangers and never agree to a private chat with a stranger. # On computers and any other devices your child has access to, set the parental controls to the appropriate age, and enabling access to only appropriate content. Buy or download parental control software, switch it on and

7. Monitor your child whether he or she use internet late-night. Many teenagers spend sleepless night chatting with strangers or class mate Romeos. Sexual predators are active on internet late night hours targeting children.

8. Communication is key to develop understanding between parents and children. Let the child know that you are interested and involved and that you will help when needed. Listen carefully and politely. Don't interrupt the child when he is trying to tell his story.

9. Tell your child not use the social media platforms to hurt others, bullying, threatening and breaching privacy.

10. Explain to your child that being online doesn't give them anonymity or protection, and that they shouldn't do anything online that they wouldn't do face-to-face.

11. Children are unaware of the legal restrictions and copy right issues. For example I have found some children tried to access banned web sites and applications by installing Virtual Private Network (VPN). Parents should aware that children may access via VPN the websites and applications, you try to prevent by installing Parental control soft-

ware.

12. Monitor your child whether they access to inappropriate content online such as pornography, racist, violent, extremist or other harmful material.

Buy or download only apps, games, online TV and films which have age ratings, which you should check before allowing your child to play with or watch them.

In short Today's children are born into a technology-based society and expert the usage Internet at an early age. As parents and teachers, it's our responsibility to talk to them about the hidden dangers of the Internet, teach them safe Internet habits, and implement practical strategies like the above steps to help them do so safely.



keep it updated. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) also give their customers free parental controls which can be activated at any time. Check them out and take advantage of them.

5. Warn your children about the dangers of posting private information online. Don't give out personal information such as mobile phone number or home address online for all to see.

6. Children have a tendency to download games, films, videos and other applications and often such downloads seriously affect child safety. Sexual predators and other criminals often target kids through this download. Children may expose to sexual contents and personal information may be stolen.





**FULL STORY ON - 01**

in Saudi history.

The cardinal has visited Saudi Arabia this year and met the royal family, urging the Muslim country to treat its citizens equally. Under the alleged agreement the churches will be built alongside the establishment of a committee to improve relations between the two, Egypt Independent reports. There was no immediate confirmation from the Vatican. MailOnline has approached Vatican and Saudi authorities for comment but they have not yet responded.

Saudi Arabia's anti-extremism Etidalcentre hosted Cardinal Tauran last month as the crown prince pushes for inter-religious exchange in the ultra-conservative Sunni kingdom. There are no Christian churches in Saudi Arabia, the only country in the region without one. The Vatican has previously spoken of its wish to provide the Christian population of Saudi Arabia with the ability to worship. During the visit earlier this year Riyadh-based Etidal, the Arabic acronym for the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology, discussed with the cardinal its use of media and technology to 'disrupt extremist recruitment and promote tolerance', a government statement said. 'I think we have two enemies: extremism and ignorance,' Tauran was quoted as saying in the statement, while lauding the centre that was established in 2017.

The reformist prince has announced the lifting of a ban on women driving and has authorised cinemas for the first time in over three decades as part of his pledge to spread a more moderate version of Islam.

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taking the Bible off the shelves now," Wang said.

"This is a lot like something China would do - the Communist Party teaches atheism and since Xi Jinping is becoming increasingly powerful - this is expected," he added, referring to the Chinese president.

William Nee, China researcher at Amnesty International, said the Chinese Government should immediately reverse its ban on the sale of Bibles, and ensure all Christians and people of other regions could exercise their faith without government interference or intimidation. "The Chinese Government under President Xi Jinping has taken a much harder approach towards Christianity while reinforcing atheism among Communist Party cadres," he said. "Most likely this ban on the Bible is an attempt to limit the spread of what the Government fears is an alternative belief system." Nee pointed out that while China claims that it allows religious freedom, it has been carrying out a crackdown on underground churches and Christian activists for years. Still, he acknowledged that despite all the pressure put on Christians, "China is seeing a surge of religious belief."

**FULL STORY ON - 01**

May 9, Emmanuel Church's building in western Nepal's Doti District was burned on May 10, and the Kanchanpur Emmanuel Church building in the midwest hilly region was set ablaze on May 11. Before midnight on May 12, the Mahima Church building in Dhangadhi, in western Nepal, was bombed.

Neither government officials nor police have issued a formal statement on suspects, though police have attributed the attacks to the Nepal Communist Party, known as the Biplab Group. But Christian leaders in Nepal suspect a coordinated campaign by Hindu extremists.

Police are cooperating with church leaders and taking their complaints, but officers have not made any arrests, Tanka Subedi, chair of the Religious Liberty Forum Nepal (RLFN), told Morning Star News. He suspects officials have told police to proceed slowly.

"They have not made any arrests yet, as it seems that they have been clearly notified to not carry out arrests in these cases," Subedi said.

The Mahima Church building in Dhangadhi was partially damaged around 11 p.m. on May 12 after an unknown assailant hurled a bomb

into it after others broke a window. Doors, furniture, carpeting, electric appliances, the roof and windows were reported damaged.

Mahima Church pastor Birendra Kariya told Morning Star News he has faced no threats since he began leading the church in 1999. Police promised that they will investigate, but church leaders have received no response from officers about the cases, Pastor Kariya said.

Pastor B.P. Khanal of The Lord's Assembly told Morning Star News the similarity of the attacks indicated they were coordinated by a single entity. "Though it might appear that these attacks have been carried out by the same person, geographically this is not possible," he said. "Which means that these are performed by people who are in a network and are well connected to each other."

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## 'Come Back' to Jesus and Stop Wandering Away' says, Anglican Archbishop!



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who is the leader of the Anglican communion, urged people to stop "wandering away" from Jesus Christ as he launched the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, which Christians around the world are joining. "Come back to Him today. Turn around if you've been facing the wrong direction; turn that walk into a run if you're already heading towards Him," Welby said on Thursday, Ascension Day, which marked the beginning of the 10-day initiative. "Now, pray for those friends whose lives would be utterly different if they joined you in running to Jesus, instead of wandering away from Him."

Churches from various denominations, along with individual believers, are being urged to join the global prayer movement in the days leading to Pentecost. Participants are specifically called to pray "for more people to come to know Jesus Christ." The initiative, which began in 2016, has three main hopes, namely that "people will commit to pray with God's worldwide family — as a church, individually or as a family;" that churches will hold "24-7 prayer, prayer stations and

prayer walks, across the U.K. and in other parts of the world;" and that "people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ."

Talking about the success of the prayer initiative, Welby said: "I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit." "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities," the archbishop added.

The website features material and videos that both inspire people to share and grow in their faith, as well as advice on how to reach out to others and get them involved. It also states that God will use people to help answer the prayer of sharing Jesus with others. "He will give us opportunities to witness to Him with the people we have been praying for. He will use us to invite people to know and experience the goodness of His Kingdom and to join His family. But we also know that most of us find speaking of our faith daunting," it says. "We feel

ill equipped. We assume someone else, maybe anyone else, is better suited, or we think that sharing faith is someone else's job. All Christians are appointed as God's witnesses. It is not a choice. The only choice is whether we are good witnesses or bad ones."

This year's prayer movement comes as many American churchgoers (51 percent) say they are not familiar with the term "Great Commission," according to a study conducted by the Barna Group and the Seed Company. The "Great Commission" is a term used to describe Jesus' call to evangelism in Matthew 28:18-20.

## Violence against Nigeria's Christians hits record high



Violence attributed to militant Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria has reached a record high this year, according to World Watch Monitor. In the central state of Benue alone, 492 people have been killed this year. Speaking at the burial last week of 19 Catholics, including two priests, killed at St Ignatius Church, Nigeria's vice-president Yemi Osinbajo pledged that the killings would not go unpunished.

A controversial law was passed in November 2017 banning herdsmen from open grazing in the state. Following this, attacks have been carried out on an almost daily basis. However, Benue state governor Samuel Ortom appeared to blame the killings on religion, saying at the funeral: "The reverend fathers are not farmers. The church...has no grass. It is therefore curious why parishioners...who were worshipping God would be killed by herdsmen in the church. By so doing, the armed herdsmen have moved the narrative of the current crisis from



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search of grass to other obvious motives.' The killings have had a devastating effect on local people, who have deserted their villages in large numbers. According to Ortom, more than 180,000 people live in eight camps, 80,000 of them children of school age receiving no education. More than 500,000 other people are living with relatives or in uncompleted buildings.

Other mainly-Christian states such as Taraba, Plateau, and Nasarawa, and the southern part of Kaduna state also have been affected by militant Fulani attacks. The mass burial on May 22 coincided with a nationwide protest organised by Catholics. Clerics across the country urged President Muhammadu Buhari to take urgent steps to end the killing of Christians.

Cardinal John Onaiyekan, archbishop of the capital Abuja's diocese, called on Nigerians to rise above religious, political and ethnic divides. 'The nation is in a state of emergency,' he said. "We demand for synergy; division, especially on tribal lines, will only throw our nation to anarchy.' In an open letter to Buhari, the Archbishop of Lagos, Alfred Adewale Martins, wrote: 'We are very saddened by the fact that our security agencies have not been able to put measures in place to bring the situation under control. Instead, the signals we are getting are that we do not have enough personnel to secure all the people of Nigeria.'

## Christians in Nepal Suspect Hindu Extremists in Sudden Attacks on Churches

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Neither government officials nor police have issued a formal statement on suspects, though police have attributed the attacks to the Nepal Communist Party, known as the Biplab Group. But Christian leaders in Nepal suspect a coordinated campaign by Hindu extremists. Police are cooperating with church leaders and taking their complaints, but officers have not made any arrests, Tanka Subedi, chair of the Religious Liberty Forum Nepal (RLFN), told Morning Star News. He suspects officials have told police to proceed slowly.

"They have not made any arrests yet, as it seems that they have been clearly notified to not carry out arrests in these cases," Subedi said.

The Mahima Church building in Dhangadhi was partially damaged around 11 p.m. on May 12 after an unknown assailant hurled a bomb into it after others broke a window. Doors, furniture, carpeting, electric appliances, the roof and windows were reported damaged. Mahima Church pastor Birendra Kariya told Morning Star News he has faced no threats since he began leading the church in 1999. Police promised that they will investigate, but church leaders have received no response from officers about the cases, Pastor Kariya said.

Pastor B.P. Khanal of The Lord's Assembly told Morning Star News the similarity of the attacks indicated they were coordinated by a single entity. "Though it might appear that these attacks have been carried out by the same person, geographically this is not possible," he said. "Which means that these are performed by people who are in a network and are well connected to each other."

At the same time, six Christians are under police custody in Tehrathum District, eastern Nepal, under allegations of evangelizing.

On May 9 two of them were arrested while singing worship songs on the street and allegedly proclaiming Christ, while four were arrested at their homes, Subedi said. They appeared in court on Thursday (May 17), when their remand to jail was extended for seven more days.



**Submissions Invited**

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**Dr. Achoy Mathews**

The walls of Jericho did not fall until Joshua marched around them and blew the trumpet, as God had instructed him. Abraham received what had been promised only when he obeyed. The Red Sea parted only when Moses stretched out his rod. Naaman was cured of his leprosy as he obeyed by dipping himself in the Jordan seven times. The ten lepers were on their way to show themselves to the priests when their leprosy disappeared. The man with the withered hand was healed as he stretched it out. The woman with the issue of blood was cured as she pushed her way through the crowd. The servants had filled the water pots, as Mary had instructed them; Whatever He says to you, do it (John 2:5). Faith is action. If your faith is not followed by deeds, it is dead. If you are standing in faith for God to do a miracle in your life, you must act as though you believe it to be true. If you act contrary to what you believe, your action reveals that you are not really trusting God.

In this world, however, you live within the confines of time, and what God says does not always happen immediately. Miracles are not always instantaneous, nor are all healings, always immediate, but this does not mean to say that they are any less supernatural. When things take time to happen, however, we can easily become impatient and lose heart. The enemy loves to work on us in this area. If he cannot stop our miracle from coming, he will at least try to delay it. Attempting to make us run out of patience and lose faith. But in Mark 11:24 Jesus says, believe that you stand against them when they come. You will never be



tempted, tested or attacked beyond your ability. And what is your ability? It has nothing to do with your physical strength or will power, nor is it your intellectual or emotional capacity. Your ability is your faith, the faith in your heart, in the measure that God has given you, that you must put to use. This faith is your shield which quenches all the fiery darts of the enemy and enables you to hold your ground triumphantly.

The world is full of attacks and opposition and is in a constant state of change. Faith, on the other hand, has the capacity to conquer and overcome the world (1 John 5:4,5), and coupled with patience, it helps you go forth with God, in spite of your circumstance. Hebrews 10:36 says, for you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. Galatians 5:6 says, For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. Faith is made active, operational, and functional through love. Without love, faith is useless. Irrespective of how much knowledge or will power you may have, without love you will see no results. It is impossible to stand in faith for

something and bless God while at the same time cursing your fellow man (see James 3:8-12). If you trouble receiving an answer to prayer, check to make sure that you are walking in love.

One challenge we face in this area is that our concept of love has often been confused. Being loving has usually meant

no more than being kind, well-mannered, and refined, with an all-around pleasant manner. But with such outward kindness and good manners the most heinous doctrines and faithless teachings have been spread, and their pleasant presentation has only made them easier to swallow.

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**NORTH AMERICAN CHURCH OF GOD**

**FAMILY CONFERENCE**

**WOMEN'S SESSION**

**NACOG OKLAHOMA 2018**  
5750 WILL ROGERS RD, MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110

**2018 JULY 19 | 20 | 21 | 22**

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Blessy Kanjachen

  
Safia Thomas

  
Jasmin Oommen

**SPEAKER**

  
**Sarah George**

  
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### FULL STORY ON - 02

Love speaks the truth, and the "Word of God is truth. When people nullify what God has said under the guise of love and forgiveness, rebellion and backsliding are the result, regardless of how subtly the error may have been presented.

When an answer to prayer seems to take a long time in coming, the devil wants us to become introspective and full of self-doubt. We might even become so inward-looking that we start believing that something from deep in our past is the source of our problem. Sometimes this is the case, but it is far more likely that you are simply neglecting to walk in love in your daily life. If you pray for revival but speak ill of all those who disagree with you, your answer will never come. If you have personal needs, but persist in slandering an individual every time you get together with your friends, you might as well forget about getting your prayers answered. If you pray for healing and hold feelings of resentment, bitterness, and disappointment towards others you need to forgive them. In Mark 11:25,26 Jesus says, And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your father in heaven forgive your trespasses. In other words, forgiveness is a condition for answered prayer, while not forgiving is a hindrance. It makes no difference what others may have done to you or how right you are in bearing a grudge. Your obligation is always to forgive. And you are able to forgive because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Rom 5:5).

Some people forgive merely because they know they have a duty to do so, but they never really forget the wrong done to them. They remember it well and keep a careful account of how others have wronged them. They may be right about the fact that they have been wronged, but they are very wrong in keeping an account of it. They add up the wrongs done to them, meditate over them, and allow disappointment and bitterness to find a root in their hearts.

God wants you to use the supernatural ability He has given you to love your enemies and forgive those who have wronged you. To

forgive is to forget. This is how God forgive you. He covers over, blots out, and totally forgets your sins, as if you had never done anything wrong (Heb 10:17). This is the extent to which God forgives and He expects you to forgive in the same manner.

### FULL STORY ON - 02

forces of the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon and establish a 1,000-year reign on the earth. The Palestinian Authority has strongly denounced the Trump administration's decision on Jerusalem, and has refused to engage with it ever since the president's speech last December. Public opinion polls have shown that the embassy move is unpopular on the Palestinian street, and has led to accusations that the Trump administration is biased toward Israel, and therefore cannot be trusted as an "honest broker" in peace talks between the two sides. Other Arab nations have also criticized Trump's move, and the Arab League published a joint statement emphasizing that East Jerusalem should become the capital of Palestine. However, most Arab countries didn't express as strong a criticism of the administration as the Palestinians, and none of those countries cut its ties with the administration. Jordan, which is considered the custodian of the holy Islamic sites in Jerusalem, denounced the move, but later stated that it still believes the United States should have a leading role in peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Trump had discussed the embassy move in a joint meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel last April.

He said the original plan for building an entirely new embassy in Jerusalem would have cost \$1 billion, but that his ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, told him it was possible to move the embassy to the existing consulate building in Arnona for a much lower price – perhaps as low as \$150,000. Trump added that he eventually "settled" for investing somewhere between \$300,000 to \$400,000 in the move.

Many countries have consulates located in Jerusalem, but up until last month no country had had its embassy in the city for more than a decade. But Trump's speech last December led at least one country, Guatemala, to move its embassy to Jerusalem. It should be noted that Guatemala had an embassy in the city in the past, but it moved that embassy to Tel Aviv in 2006. Honduras has announced it will also move its embassy, which was previously located in Jerusalem, back to the city. Paraguay is the latest country to announce it will move its embassy to Jerusalem. Other countries have expressed openness toward such a move, but have not officially authorized or announced it.

### FULL STORY ON - 02

pastor) baptized the first person and he passed on to another one," a resident of nearby Arba Minch told the BBC. "All of a sudden, a crocodile jumped out of the lake and grabbed the pastor."

Lake Abaya is known for having a large crocodile population which also said reptiles are increasingly attacking humans in the lake because the number of fish are declining. And because the water is muddy, visitors find it difficult to spot a crocodile until it jumps out of the lake. However, despite the risk, many pastors in Africa conduct baptism ceremonies in lakes and rivers, just as Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.

"Critics of Christianity might wonder what good our faith does in a world where a baptizing pastor can be killed by a crocodile. The answer is simple: faith in Jesus doesn't always prevent death, but it always redeems it.

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**THE ENDTIME NEWS** is pleased to announce the launch of our new website that aims to create a user-friendly browsing experience for our trusted and valued readers. The new website launch coincides with our expanding role as a major player in delivering Christian News worldwide.

The website will be launched by **Rev. Pastor Baby Varghese** on 20th July, at Dallas during the 16th IPC North American Family Conference in the year of our Lord, 2018. We are also extremely happy to roll out our Android and iOS Applications the same day.

## Inauguration



**DrBaby Varghese**





# 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 facilitates 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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