



# THE End time News



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THE WAKE-UP CALL



THE THREE TRUMPETS P.03



The Word Endures P.04

## CHRISTIAN VILLAGE ATTACKED IN PAKISTAN AFTER 4 WOMEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY

An angry Muslim mob in Pakistan displaced about 200 Christian families from their homes after four Christian women were falsely accused of blasphemy last week.

The Christian persecution watchdog group International Christian Concern reported the events that took place last week in the Farooq-e-Azam neighborhood of Pakistan's fifth-most populated city of Karachi. The organization reports that a Muslim woman named Samina Riaz accused four Christian women who ranged in age from 14 to 30 of desecrating the Quran last Tuesday, according to an eyewitness.

The accusation was made after Riaz and her husband were asked by their Christian landlord, Amjad Dildar, in January to vacate a home they were renting because the Muslim couple was "causing trouble among the Christian families in the community."

Last Tuesday, Riaz accused three of Dildar's daughters and another Christian woman of damaging a copy of the Quran, Islam's holy book. Those accused of blasphemy are 22-year-old Sunaina Amjad, 18-year-old Sophia Amjad, 14-year-old Soneha Amjad, and 30-year-old Sophia Qamar.

"She claimed they stole a copy of the Quran and ruined it by submerging it into a basin of

**WORST 50 PLACES FOR CHRISTIANS: INDIA RANKED IN TOP 10 FOR FIRST TIME**



Open Doors USA has published its 2019 World Watch List of the top 50 coun- P.10



dirty water," local witness Aslam Masih told ICC.

News of the accusation spread quickly, which reportedly inspired a mob of enraged Muslim locals to gather in the neighbourhood. According to the witness, the mob attacked several Christian properties in the area and a local church. Dildar's home was among those that were damaged by stones. The armed group also killed pets and livestock.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH SEX ABUSE CRISIS: 5 POSSIBLE VATICAN CHANGES**



The Roman Catholic Church held a four-day summit in Vatican City in response to P.05

In all, about 200 Christian families fled the neighbourhood in search of safety in other areas of the city. Masih told the news agency that after a police investigation, it was learned that Riaz had borrowed the copy of the Quran from a nearby shopkeeper and herself submerged the book underwater

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in the restroom of her home. Riaz and her husband were later arrested. **SOUTH AFRICA: CONTROVERSIAL PASTOR UNDER FIRE AFTER 'RAISING MAN BACK FROM THE DEAD' AT FUNERAL**



A controversial pastor in South Africa who claimed to have performed an "as- P.10



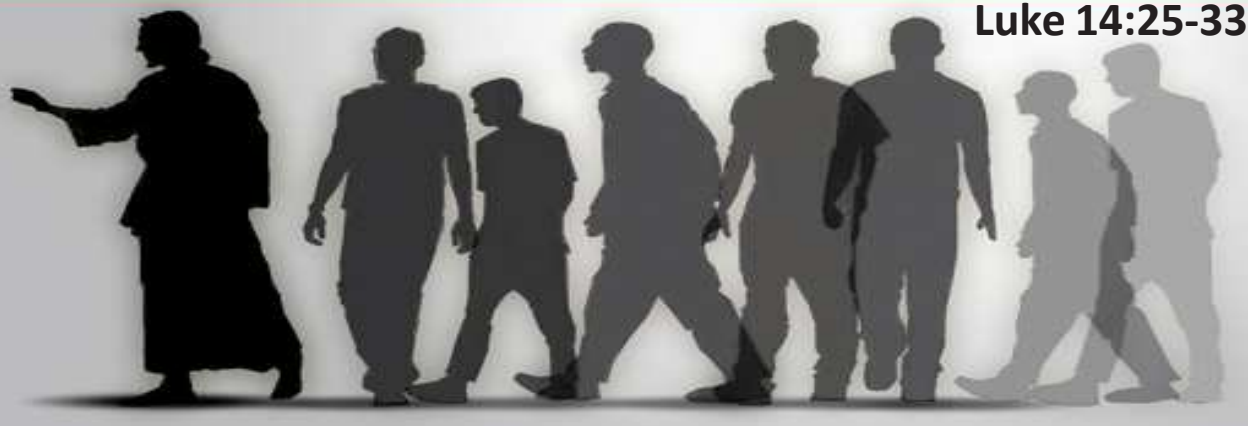


**Rev. Manuel Joseph Th.M.**  
Sub-editor, End-Time News

*The end result will be ridicule from all who see the unfinished structure. Jesus' followers must also be sure they are willing to pay the full price of discipleship. There is no place for quitting!*

## EVERYTHING IN ITS OWN PLACE: A PRINCIPLE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 14:25-33



25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple.

27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider

whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Using two illustrations (parables), Jesus here taught that discipleship must include planning and sacrifice. The first illustration is about building a tower (vv. 28-30). The main point here is that before a person begins to build, he should be sure he will be able to pay the full cost of the project. If the land-

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PO.box 125

Wheat land,6920.S. manin st  
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PH-(405) 745-786(H)

Mob-001(405)778-4341(Whats app)

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## THE THREE TRUMPETS



Rev. Dr. O. M. Rajukutty

The process of the glorification of the saved saints will be kicked off with the blowing of three important trumpets in the heavens. Paul says, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them

in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"- 1Thess. 4: 13-17.

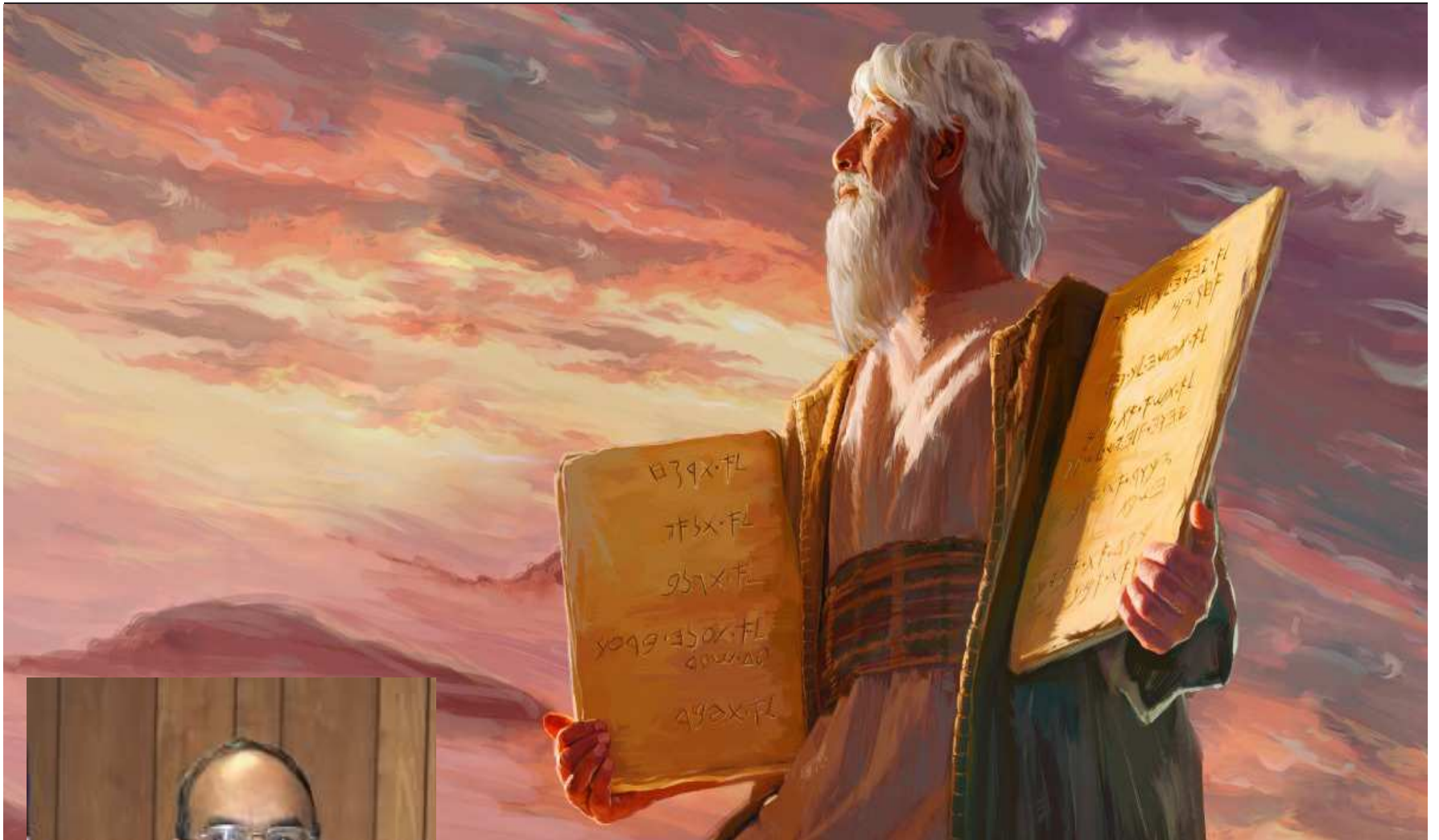
The first trumpet is a 'Big Shout'. It is the same voice of the Lord that created the universe, the heavens and the earth 'in the beginning'. Science tells about this first voice as the "Big Bang" (Big Bang Theory). The same shout we hear at the tomb of Lazarus: "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes"- John. 11: 43, 44. The shout of the Lord will resurrect the dead in Christ or the sleeping saints.

The second trumpet, "Voice of the Archangel", will be blown to help the resurrection process. It will remove all obstacles and hurdles in the way of resurrection. There is the possibility of Satan raising so many objections against the resurrection of many. Apostle Jude refers to the argument of the devil about the resurrection of Moses: "Yet

Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee"- Jude. 1: 9. We see Moses in the Mount of Transfiguration, which means, Moses is resurrected. Jude says, at the resurrection of Moses, the Satan came with several arguments to stop him from being resurrected. But Michael the archangel appears there and helps the resurrection by commanding that the Lord rebuke the devil. The Satan is always our accuser (Rev. 12: 10; Zech. 3: 1). He will come on the way of the future resurrection also to resist and accuse us. But the voice of the archangel will diffuse his power and subdue him.

The third and the final trumpet for resurrection is the 'Trump of God'. It is referred to as





**Rev. Dr. Mathukutty  
Samuel**

**W**e live in a world which is changing rapidly. Computers and mobile phone technology being two examples. How often have we heard someone say, “Things are not what they used to be” Society, attitudes, beliefs, the sense of right and wrong; these all seems to be changing before our eyes. Scottish author Henry Francis Lyte wrote a beautiful poem “Abide with Me” in 1847 which says “Change and decay in all around

## The Word Endures

**Cultures Drift, Circumstances Change, Contracts are Violated, but the Word of God Endures**

I see; O Thou who changest not abide with me” “And the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 pet. 1:23). Since God never changes, it is certain that the eternal Revelation need never be altered. Skeptical men peer through telescopes and microscopes and discredit the Bible as being out of date in a modern world. Later, other discoveries discredit the skeptics and prove the Bible true. This is not surprising because “the word of the Lord endureth for ever” (1 pet. 1:25).

Have you ever hunted for a book only to be told, “Sorry, that book is out of print”? It is a different story when the Book you want is the Bible. Yes, the Bible, even though centuries old, is readily available. Today’s best seller is soon replaced by another because the first has lost its appeal to a changing world. But the Bible is divinely inspired Book applicable to all men throughout all ages.

From the simplest to the wisest they have found in its pages the ultimate answers to their souls’ hardest questions—profound questions of guilt and death and eternity. A new discovery in medicine today may be outdated by another tomorrow. But the God of the Bible still “health the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds” (Psalms. 147:3). Great advances are made in education, but “the fear of the Lord is (still) the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs.1:7). Newer and better methods are used in preserving food, but only the Bread sent down from Heaven can sustain the eternal life of the soul (John 6:58). Fashions change, but the white robes of righteousness will always be in style for the saints of God (Revelation. 3:18). The editor of the Journal of education lately affirmed that science textbooks over eight years old were either comedy or

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**FULL STORY ON - 01**

tries in the world where Christians face the most extreme persecution for their faith. While many of the top 10 countries listed this year were also on 2018's list, a significant addition was India, due to the rise in Hindu radical attacks on Christians. "The world's two most highly populated countries rise on the World Watch List. For the first time since the start of the World Watch List, India has entered the top 10. Additionally, China jumped 16 spots, from 43 to 27," the persecution watchdog group observed.

"Each of these countries is home to more than a billion people, so these trends are distressing. Hindu nationalists in India continue to attack Christians with what seems like no consequences, and in China, the increased power of the government and the rule of Xi Jinping continue to make open worship difficult in some parts of the country," it added. Looking at the numbers, 245 million Christians in the top 50 countries in the World Watch List are expected to face high levels of persecution in the coming year, which is an increase from the 215 million projected last year. As many as 4,136 Christians were murdered last year because of their faith, while 1,266 churches or Christian buildings were attacked.

North Korea was listed at the very top of the World Watch List for the 17th-consecutive year, with Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, and India rounding up the top 10.

Among some of the main trends, Open Doors observed what it called the "shocking reality of persecution against women." "In many places, they experience a 'double persecution' — one for being a Christian and one for being a woman. Even in the most restricted circumstances, gender-specific persecution is a key means of destroying the minority Christian community. This kind of persecution is difficult to assess because it is complex, violent and hidden — in many cultures where women are specifically targeted, it is difficult if not impossible to report accurate numbers," the watchdog group writes.

It also noted that seven out of the top 10 World Watch List countries suffer from Islamic oppression, which is the main cause of persecution. It explained that this poses great challenges for millions of Christians who were born into Muslim families but converted and face heavy discrimination for deciding to follow Jesus Christ.

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decades of sexual abuse cover-ups that have garnered renewed attention following revelations detailing extensive clergy abuse and the protection of predatory priests. Around 200 church leaders from across the world attended the summit that titled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

On opening day, Pope Francis gave introductory remarks in which he implored leaders to find ways to fight what he called "this evil afflicting the Church and humanity." "I wanted to consult you, patriarchs, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and religious superiors and leaders, so that together we might listen to the Holy Spirit and, in docility to his guidance, hear the cry of the little ones who plead for justice," said the pontiff, according to a transcript provided by the Vatican.

Here are five of the proposed changes that will likely be enforced by the Catholic Church. They include changing the minimum age for marriage and requiring clergy to undergo psychological evaluations.

**Raising the minimum age for marriage**  
According to the Vatican, Pope Francis plans to raise the minimum marrying age for girls to 16, which is already the minimum marrying age for boys. Currently, girls as young as 14 can marry. This change to canon law has already been enacted in some dioceses and parishes within the Catholic Church, according to CNN.

**Psychological evaluations**  
According to a "Reflection points" document, Church leaders are to consider proposals meant to better understand the mental health of those wishing to become priests. "Be sure to have psychological evaluations by qualified and accredited experts for candidates for the priesthood and consecrated life," noted reflection point No. 17.

**Expanding victim reporting options**  
Reflection Point 21 on the Vatican document includes a call for the Church to establish groups to aid victims in reporting any alleged sexual abuse. "Where it has not yet been in place, establish a group easily accessible for victims who want to report any crimes," stated the point.

"Such an organization should have a certain autonomy with respect to the local ecclesiastical authority and include expert persons (clerics and laity) who know how to express the Church's attention to those who have been offended by improper attitudes on the part of clerics."

**Ending 'clericalism,' taking immediate action**  
In a speech on the first day of the meeting, Cardinal Rubén Salazar Gómez, president of the Latin American Episcopal Council, called for an end to what he called "clericalism." "We encounter a mistaken understanding of how to exercise ministry that has led to serious errors of authority which have increased the severity of the crisis. This has a name: clericalism," he explained, as reported by Vatican News.

**Protecting victims and the accused**  
As part of the "Reflection points" document, multiple points stress the need to have in place measures that protect both victims of abuse and accused clergy. "Implement shared procedures for the examination of the charges, the protection of the victims and the right of defence of the accused," explained the document.

"The right to defence: the principle of natural and canon law of presumption of innocence must also be safeguarded until the guilt of the accused is proven." Point 14 in particular states that "it is necessary to prevent the lists of the accused" from being "published, even by the dioceses, before the preliminary investigation and the definitive condemnation." Point 8 calls for giving protection and treatment to victims of clergy sexual abuse, "offering them all the necessary support for a complete recovery."

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the "Last Trumpet" in 1Cor. 15: 52; but it is not the seventh trumpet spoken of in Revelation 11: 15. At the sound of the Trump of God, the living saints will be transfigured and transformed and caught up in the clouds. All these procedures will take place within the twinkling of an eye- "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"- 1Cor. 15: 52. Jesus will appear in the mid air in great glory. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory"- Colo. 3: 4. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ"- 2Cor. 5: 10. Jesus, the Son of Man, will sit on the judgment seat- Dan. 7: 13, 14. There will be fiery stream coming forth from before the Father- Dan. 7: 10. We all will have to cross that fiery river of judgment. Our works will be judged with fire. The works of wood, hay and stubble will be consumed. But if we build upon gold, silver and precious stone, our works will survive the test and will be honored with rewards- 1Cor. 3: 12.



## 60,000 CHRISTIANS GATHER IN ORLANDO FOR 'JESUS MOVEMENT' OF THIS GENERATION

**ORLANDO** – 60,000 Christians from across the United States gathered Saturday (23 Feb'19) to be part of a "new Jesus movement." "The Send," was a 10-hour event organized by Youth With A Mission, Christ for All Nations, and Lou Engle of Lou Engle Ministries. The Orlando, Florida event at Camping World Stadium featured several collaborators from various national ministries who hoped to motivate Christians to fulfil their God-given call.

According to Engle, the live-streamed event was inspired by a conversation in 2011 with YWAM members hoping missionaries would rise up following the death of Rev. Billy Graham.

As the day went on, The Send featured pastors and evangelists such as Bill Johnson, Daniel Kolenda and Francis Chan, along with worship teams such as Hillsong Young & Free, Jesus Culture, Tasha Cobbs-Leonard and Bethel Music.

While at The Send 2019, the two of the events collaborators, former professional ice hockey player turned evangelist Todd White and evangelist and founder of Jesus Image, Michael Koulianos spoke about the The Send. The following was their reactions to several questions that were asked!

What is The Send?

Koulianos: The send is ultimately a war on inaction. It's to me a twofold beautiful experience. Number one, we're gathering here to be in the presence of Jesus to truly encounter Him and then be sent from His presence, to take His actual person, to our cities, to our towns, to our neighborhoods, to our families, to our marriages. Some to the mission



field and some to their own workplace. The Send is an ascending movement from the presence to the world, unto the glory of Jesus.

There are thousands of people gathered here worshiping Jesus what's your reaction?

White: I think it's amazing. It's God's waking up a sleeping giant, His church to come together and being in unity of faith and not say, "I prefer my ministry before yours" but we actually prefer each other. What we've done is a collaboration of ministries coming together saying, "Let's all go forward in one purpose, one mind, and let's go purpose, Jesus everywhere we go."

Koulianos: I think if we tried this a year ago it probably would not have worked, we just

think it's the Holy Spirit. Before anybody knew who we were, we were all friends and its God knitting hearts very authentically because of common passion and love for Jesus.

It's the Holy Spirit moving and our city has been buzzing. People are getting saved on the streets, they're getting healed on the streets. The pre-rally meetings were ridiculous. It's been an amazing, amazing time and a real privilege. I told Todd this morning, "There's 7 billion people on the earth and the fact that we get to be here today is a true honor and privilege."

According to The Send's website, the successful event was "a call to action, a call to repentance and a call to service."

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of good intentions for tomorrow does not count. It is merely building a bridge of escape of his future conduct. He does tomorrow what he has schooled himself to do today.

Look into the Bible and learn from it. It says, "redeem your time" (Eph. 5:16 KJV) (NIV - "making the most of every opportunity). And we read again in 2 Cor. 6:2, "This is the day, the day of salvation."

This idea is made clear in the prayer

of Moses when he prays "teach us to remember our days aright" (Psalms 90:12). The time span allotted by God to human being, according to Moses is mere 70 or 80 years which would pass quickly. The time elapsed is elapsed for ever. The opportunities lost are lost for ever. There is no point in being anxious about the lost time and opportunity. They are irretrievably lost. What can be done is to learn from the past and move forward with renewed energy because our finishing point is already set in the divine calender.

Tomorrow does not exist. There is only today, that is a reality. If we are to dream of having success and happiness, we must do **today and only today** that which makes such success and happiness.

Listen to this saying:

Yesterday is dead, forget it.

Tomorrow doesn't exist, don't worry about it.

Today is here, use it

Eternity is here, think of it.



## TODAY AND ONLY TODAY

Rev. Jiji Paul, Win India

Long time back in a countryside there lived a family, comprising of five members, Father, mother, and three daughters. One day the father received an invitation from one of his relatives to attend a wedding ceremony. For that purpose he sewed a shirt and pants. When he brought them to his house, he had a strong desire to try them on. He tried on the trousers and found that they were too long (almost 2 inches). He felt extremely bad, he held his head and started grumbling and murmuring curses against the tailor. As it was already late evening, he could not take it back to the shop for the alteration.

Meanwhile, his wife had also arrived from her work. He thought of asking her to shorten the pants. He approached her with the request, but she said, "I'm too tired. Moreover, I have to cook dinner. Why can't you entrust this simple work to our eldest daughter?" His wife wisely escaped from her responsibility.

He comforted himself, thinking that he would ask the eldest daughter. He called her and conveyed the matter, but she said, "Dad, tomorrow I have to write my class test. I am busy; why can't you ask my sister?"

Then he turned to his second daughter and explained the same matter. In reply she said, "Dad, I am extremely sorry; tomorrow I have to submit all my assignments. I'm doing the finalcut, so why can't you ask my younger sister?"

He tried with his third daughter, but to his grief she too evaded the responsibility with vague excuses. He felt extremely frustrated.

Then he encouraged and motivated himself by deciding to fold the edge of his pants and go for the ceremony.

At dinner everybody came together, had dinner, and returned to their respective rooms for the night.

After sometime the mother got up from her bed, thinking, "This evening my husband asked me a help, but I couldn't do

that, so right now I'll do it." She went to his table, took the trousers, cut 2 inches off, re-stitched and pressed them very well and kept the pants where they were. She came back to her bed and slept. She was very content with herself and couldn't wait to see the surprise on her husbands' face in the morning.

Later that night, the eldest daughter got up from her bed telling herself, "This evening my dad told me to do a simple task, but I failed." She felt extremely guilty and went to her fathers' wardrobe, altered the length of the trousers and happily went back to sleep.

The second and third daughters also did the same.

Early in the morning father got up to a bright day, hearing the birds chirping and the roosters crowing. He took a bath and combed his hair to get ready for the ceremony. With much expectation he put on the shirt. It looked very nice on him. Then he turned to put on the pants. He took them out, and was utterly shocked to find the trousers so short. They looked just like shorts.

In the above story everybody obeyed the father though it caused an adverse result. The reason is none other than wrong timing. They all failed to obey the father in the right time. Doing things in right time is an important thing.

Alvin H. Goeser says, "Man acts as if he had unlimited time. The real fact is that he has very little of it. Time is a gift that embraces an instant. There is no chance of its extension even for a moment. The only time man actually has to make something of himself is right now. If he wants to assure himself that his life will be what he wants it to be, he must make it so at this moment - not tomorrow or a year from now".

If anyone wishes to be successful in the future, in his study or ministry or profession he must acquire the knowledge, develop the skills and perform the activities, today, that would lead to his success tomorrow. To escape from these, by way



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tragedy. Compare this statement with the utterance of our Lord. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31).

We are solemnly warned against any subtractions or additions to this Book of the Ages. Woe to him who substitutes his knowledge for God's wisdom. "ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy. 4:2). Canon Hague wrote, therefore, think not of it as a good book, or even as a better book, but lift it in heart and mind and faith and love far, far above all, and ever regard it not as the word of man, but, as it is in truth, the Word of God. It is the living Word of the living God, supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, human in penmanship, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application and, as Paul declared, inspired in totality.

The doctrine of the divine authority of the Scriptures has always been fully sustained by the proofs from fulfilled prophecy, from the inexhaustible depths of truth revealed from its matchless power over the lives of men, from the indestructibility and from the testimony of God the Son.

Every significant subject that has engaged the attention of man has been discussed in the Bible: law, love, lust, life, philosophy, psychology, political science, prophecy, astronomy, biography, medicine, geography, history, civilization, art, poetry, architecture, music. "What a Book!" wrote Heinrich Hein. "Vast and wide as the world, rooted in the abysses for creation and towering up behind the blue secrets of Heaven-sunset and sunrise, promise and fulfillment, birth and death, the whole drama of humanity all in this Book!"

The Christian faces change with quiet confidence in the enduring Word, for he knows the one who said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

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# Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖ "God has a purpose behind every problem. He uses circumstances to develop our character. In fact, he depends more on circumstances to make us like Jesus than he depends on our reading the Bible." **Rick Warren**
- ❖ "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**
- ❖ "The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." **C.S. Lewis**
- ❖ "We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts." **A.W. Tozer**
- ❖ "We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and He saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love." **Peter Kreeft**
- ❖ "I've read the last page of the Bible. It's all going to turn out all right." **Billy Graham**
- ❖ "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**
- ❖ "If you obey God with your whole heart, you'll usually scare off the folks who want you to obey them." **Meg Moseley**
- ❖ "Jesus first, others next, and yourself last spells J-O-Y." **Linda Byler**
- ❖ "The point of your life is to point to Him. Whatever you are doing, God wants to be glorified, because this whole thing is His." **Francis Chan**

**Abigail Thyvilayil John**





# FIVE IMPORTANT FACTS FROM NORTH KOREA SUMMIT

United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in Hanoi, Vietnam as part of a summit meant to pursue denuclearization and a lifting of sanctions. While President Trump expressed optimism going into the summit that a deal would be reached of denuclearization in return for a removal of sanctions, eventually the meeting ended without such a deal being reached.

Here are five important things to know about the Hanoi meeting between Trump and Kim.

## **The Meeting was cut short by Trump**

The summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un ended earlier than planned on Thursday, without an apparent agreement on sanctions being lifted on the Communist nation. "Sometimes you have to walk," said President Trump at a news conference, as reported by a news agency. "This was just one of those times."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also took part in the news conference, expressed optimism that while an agreement was not reached, progress was still made in the relations between the two nations.

## **Trump defended Kim over Warmbier tragedy**

President Donald Trump defended Kim Jong-Un over the death of American student Otto Warmbier, saying that he believed the North Korean dictator when he said that he was unaware of Warmbier's poor treatment.

Warmbier was arrested by North Korean officials in 2016 for stealing a sign featuring former dictator Kim Jong II. He served 17 months of imprisonment and ended up in a coma. He died in June 2017, soon after being released.

## **No deal better than bad deal?**

Since news of the summit ending abruptly broke, many have argued that President Donald Trump's failure to reach a deal with North Korea was still better than reaching a bad deal.

## **This was the second summit between the two**

The meeting in Hanoi marked the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the first being last June (2018) in Singapore.



Considered a "historic" meeting, the Singapore summit involved the two leaders agreeing to pursue denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, returning the bodies of American soldiers killed during the Korean War, and a maintaining of sanctions until the regime begins to reduce its nuclear weapons stockpile.

## **Overshadowed by Michael Cohen testimony**

Evidence indicates that despite the significance of the Hanoi meeting, the attention for it was dwarfed by the American public's interest in former Trump attorney Michael Cohen's testimony before Congress. Cohen testified before the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday, with Google Trends noting that searches for Cohen on Feb. 27 greatly outnumbered searches on the Hanoi summit.

## **SHOCKING LEVELS OF SEX ABUSE IN NORTH KOREA: WOMEN TREATED 'LIKE SEX TOYS, AT THE MERCY OF MEN'**



A detailed report by a human rights agency has revealed that shocking levels of sexual abuse against women in North Korea are so common that they are considered the norm. Oh Jung-hee, one of several women to escape the North Korean regime who spoke

with Human Rights Watch, said that she was coerced into sexual acts or intercourse by guards at the marketplace she worked at on many occasions.

"I was a victim many times ... On the days they felt like it, market guards or police officials could ask me to follow them to an empty room outside the market, or some other place they'd pick," she said. "What can we do? They consider us [sex] toys ... We [women] are at the mercy of men. Now, women cannot survive without having men

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**FULL STORY ON - 01**

tounding miracle," resurrecting a dead man in Jesus' name, has retracted his story after undertakers threatened to sue him for "malicious damage to our image." Congolese televangelist AlphLukau, pastor of Alleluia Ministries International church, made headlines over the weekend after footage of a funeral he officiated went viral.

In the video, a man dressed in a white suite can be seen lying still in a coffin, surrounded by dozens of people, as the pastor prays over him. After the pastor calls out Jesus' name and waves his hands, the man, identified as Elliot, bolts upright, looking astounded by what had happened. According to the family, Elliot had died two days prior to the incident.

At the time, the pastor insisted the resurrection was real, declaring: "An astounding miracle took place in the House of God this morning. A dead man came back to life as the church of God prayed."

But the stunt sparked backlash, with Kings and Queens Funerals, the funeral parlour which transported the man's presumed dead body at the time, vowing to take legal action. "We would like to distance ourselves from the supposed resurrection of a deceased man by Alleluia Ministries who allegedly was at our mortuary," the company said in a statement, Daily Mail reports.

"We did not supply the coffin neither did we store the deceased at our mortuary and no paperwork was processed by Kings and Queens Funerals," the parlor said. "As a funeral services provider we do not offer services without documentation neither do we repatriate bodies without any paperwork. We are in the process of taking legal action for this malicious damage to our image."

At the same time, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities also said it would be investigating the incident.

Amid criticism, the church's spokesperson BusiGaca claimed that Elliot's family had noticed movement in the coffin after stopping at the church while on their way to Zimbabwe for the burial.

Established in 2002, Alleluia Ministries International "houses thousands of people across the country, the continent, and the world," according to the church website, with branches in various parts of South Africa, Zambia, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Europe and in South America.

AlphLukau, who claims to possess the power to heal HIV/Aids, TB and other illnesses, has previously come under scrutiny for his lavish lifestyle. In addition to wearing Armani suits, the pastor owns a 12-seater jet, Range Rover, a Bentley, a Lamborghini, a Rolls Royce, a Ferrari, and a three-wheeler custom bike. A "prosperity gospel" preacher, Lukau regularly flaunts his wealth on his Instagram page.

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with power near them."

Park Young Hee, a former farmer in her 40s, said that she was captured by secret police and put in the pre-trial detention facility near Musan city in North Hamgyong after attempting to flee to China in 2011. During detention she was repeatedly sexually abused, she says. "My life was in his hands, so I did everything he wanted and told him everything he asked. How could I do anything else? ... Everything we do in North Korea can be considered illegal, so everything can depend on the perception or attitude of who is looking into your life," the victim explained.

As many as 54 North Koreans who fled the country after 2011 spoke with HRW in the report, explaining how government officials regularly picked women and forced them into sex. Any kind of refusal would risk further sexual violence, beatings, forced labor, and other mistreatment.

"The North Koreans we spoke with told us that unwanted sexual contact and violence is so common that it has come to be accepted as part of ordinary life: sexual abuse by officials, and the impunity they enjoy, is linked to larger patterns of sexual abuse and impunity in the country," HRW reported.

"The precise number of women and girls who experience sexual violence in North Korea, however, is unknown. Survivors rarely report cases, and the North Korean government rarely publishes data on any aspect of life in the country."

The human rights group urged the North Ko-

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rean government to issue clear orders for all public serving members to investigate and prosecute rape and other acts of sexual violence. It also called on the international community to put pressure on the North Korean government to implement such initiatives.

Beside women's rights, North Korea also remains one of the worst places in the world for religious minorities, including Christians. Not only is practice of the faith banned in the country, but finding a believer with a Bible can lead to prison, and even execution.

**Submissions Invited**



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## A NEW BOOK SLAMMING PROSPERITY GOSPEL: BY BENNY HINN'S NEP

CostiHinn, nephew of televangelist Benny Hinn, has announced he's releasing a book critiquing the prosperity gospel. All proceeds from the book will be used to provide theological training for those who've been exploited by the controversial teaching. In a recent blog post, Hinn, pastor at The Mission Bible Church in Orange County, California, announced that this July, Zondervan will release his new book, titled *God, Greed, and the (Prosperity) Gospel: How Truth Overwhelms a Life Built on Lies*.

The book aims to dispel the teachings of the prosperity gospel, which posits that believers have a right to the blessings of health and wealth and that they can obtain these blessings through positive confessions of faith and the "sowing of seeds" through the faithful payments of tithes and offerings. "I am eager to see this book used as a tool for God's glory — not for sordid gain," Hinn said. "Here is a sobering thought: In a rat-race effort to sell books, it's easy to become the very dragon that we're attempting to slay."

The pastor went on to identify what readers can expect from a book that "seeks to charge the prosperity gospel with the grit of a bull while displaying the grace becoming of servants of Christ." Operating under the belief that "A prosperity gospel book should give more than it takes," Hinn said that he plans to "give away thousands of dollars in books and resources to those who pre-order in the coming months as well as pastors around the world."

"In just the first month since pre-orders began, 100 books were donated to The Central Africa Baptist College and Seminary to support pastors who are training for ministry," he said. "Africa is one of the most plagued countries in the world when it comes to prosperity theology."

The pastor said that while his book will



upheave people's bad theology, it is also designed to help with the theological rebuilding process. "After the initial wrecking ball tears down exploitive and abusive theology, there will be a hopeful and upward trajectory," he said, adding that the book "contains numerous recommended resources for those who will need an ongoing roadmap." "The goal of this book is to destroy 'speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God' (2 Corinthians 10:5) and shed the light of truth into dark places," he said.

Benny Hinn, who was born into a Christian family in Israel, is frequently accused of being a fraud and criticized for living extravagantly — all while leading a ministry that rakes in more than \$100 million annually.

Hinn, who rejected the teaching of his "Uncle Benny" after working alongside him for years, often writes and preaches against prosperity preachers and their damaging beliefs.

### FULL STORY ON - 12

owner has not estimated how much the tower will cost, it is possible that the project will remain unfinished due to lack of funds. The end result will be ridicule from all who see the unfinished structure. Jesus' followers must also be sure they are willing to pay the full price of discipleship. There is no place for quitting!

The second story is about a king who assesses the number of his troops in light of the greater number that his enemy possesses (14:31-32). If he cannot win with the number of soldiers he has, the only wise course will be to negotiate with his enemy long before they meet in battle. This principle of sacrifice is also important in the realm of discipleship: one must be willing to give up everything for Jesus.

The concluding summary makes the connections clear: "none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions" (14:33). The verb translated "give up" explains the philosophy of a disciple of Christ. The word "give up" is *apotássomai* derived from *apó*, "from, or away from oneself," and *tássomai* which means "to place in the proper category." Jesus does not teach the reckless abandonment of self, relatives, or possession. He wants us as believers to put them where they belong. Christ should come first and others follow. We should never love God with the love which belongs to self, family, and possessions. The love we have for Him should be unique and it should not be given to any. When we give Him the love He deserves, then our love for others and temporary possessions will fall into its proper place. Jesus uses these two stories to illustrate the necessity of "counting the cost" of discipleship. Discipleship is serious business to Jesus. To be a disciple and complete the task, we must count the cost.



## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UPHOLDS POSITION AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



February 26: The United Methodist Church will maintain its official position that homosexuality is contrary to Christian teaching, in a decision following days of contentious debate over the issue. For the past several years, the UMC has been embroiled in an emotional debate over whether to change its stance, as outlined in its Book of Discipline, labelling homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Delegates at the UMC special session of General Conference, representing all of the global denomination, voted Tuesday to reject a measure called the "One Church Plan," which would have allowed regional bodies of the

denomination to determine their position on homosexuality. Instead, delegates approved the "Traditional Plan" in a vote of 438-384. The Plan maintains the denomination's stance against homosexuality, gay marriage, and the ordination of noncelibate homosexuals while promising to better enforce those rules. Mark Tooley, president of the theologically conservative Institute on Religion & Democracy in Washington, D.C., celebrated the vote result against the "One Church Plan" on Twitter. "African, Filipino, Euro delegates crucial. They saved growing global church from plight of imploding USA Mainline Protestants. Thank you!" tweeted

At the 2016 General Conference, delegates passed a recommendation creating a "Commission on a Way Forward," which was meant to analyze the denomination's position on LGBT issues. Made up of a theologically diverse group of UMC leaders, the commission sought to create suggested proposals aimed at ending the divisive debate and possibly avoid a schism.

In April 2017, the UMC Council of Bishops announced that there was going to be a special session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, on Feb. 23–26. "The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward," explained the Bishops in an official letter.

The two major plans that the commission recommended that were among those considered by the UMC delegates were the "One Church Plan" and the "Traditional Plan."

The One Church Plan would allow regional bodies and congregations to determine their own stance on homosexuality. This plan was supported by a majority of the Council of Bishops.

The Traditional Plan would maintain the UMC's position against homosexuality, while offering stricter enforcement and possibly a "gracious exit" for pro-LGBT congregations.

# 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.

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