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THE WAKE-UP CALL

# Explosions in Sri Lanka target churches, at least 290 dead on Easter Sunday

Three churches were attacked in Sri Lanka, with explosions killing dozens of Christians as they celebrated Easter Sunday morning. Three hotels — Shangri-La Colombo, Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo and the Cinnamon Grand Colombo — that were holding Easter breakfast buffets were also targeted in the attacks. Two additional explosions were confirmed by media in Dehiwela and Dematagoda areas.

Police and hospital sources say at least 185 people, including children, have been killed and 469 have been injured in the attacks.

At least 81 people are reported to have died at St. Sebastian's church in Negombo. St. Sebastian's posted photos of the carnage to its Facebook page showing distressed and



injured worshipers and extensive damage to the building. Officials from the church re-

ported that there were 500 people attending Mass at the time of the explosion.

Local media reports say at least 27 people died at Zion Church in Batticaloa in Eastern Province; 24 people were killed at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade.

The first of the explosions was reported to have occurred around 8:30 a.m.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe condemned the violence and has ordered the military and police to launch an urgent investigation into the attacks.

"I strongly condemn the cowardly attacks on our people today. I call upon all Sri Lankans during this tragic time to remain united and strong," he said in a tweet. "Please avoid propagating unveri-

fied reports and *FULL STORY ON - 10* speculation. The

government is taking immediate steps to con-

EXPLOSIONS IN SRI LANKAN CHURCHES AND HOTELS ON EASTER SUNDAY KILLS OVER 200.



## 1,000-MEMBER SHOUWANG CHURCH IN BEIJING, CHINA CLOSED DOWN



worship as a congregation again. China's crackdown against underground house churches continued last Saturday with the forced closure of Beijing's Shouwang Church.

congregants vow never to

Shouwang Church is one of the most prominent among thousands of unregistered

house churches in the city and is said to be attended by over 1,000 people. As the congregation has suffered through years of challenges and persecution at the hands FULL STORY ON -05

An influential house church in Beijing was shut down Saturday (24 March) after 20 government and police officials raided Bible classes at two different locations, changed the locks and demanded

#### PEACE IN JESUS CHRIST



## UNIQUENESS OF THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS



**Editorial** 







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

This statement is to be very true! It doesn't matter how physically strong, financially rich, fancially rich, fanctastically popular or overwhelmingly powerful a person is, the death will never step aside for him.

CHIEF EDITOR

Baiju Yacob Edavila USA

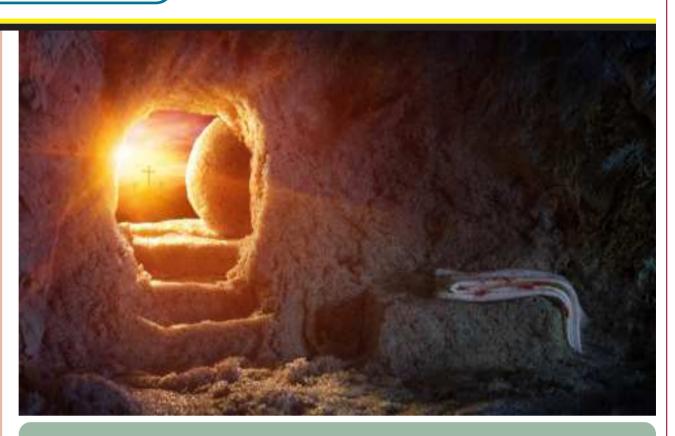
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#### HE IS RISEN AND SO WE WILL BE!!

In Rudyard Kipling's, The Jungle Book: Mowgli, the man cub, asks the animals what's the most feared thing in the jungle. He's told that when two animals meet on a narrow path that one must step aside and let the other pass. The animal that steps aside for no one would then be the most feared. Mowgli wants to know what kind of animal would that be? One tells him it's an elephant. Another tells him it's a lion. Finally, the wise old owl exclaims, "The most

feared thing in the jungle is DEATH. It steps aside for no one." This statement is to be very true! It doesn't matter how physically strong, financially rich, fantastically popular or overwhelmingly powerful a person is, the death will never step aside for him. Death is an absolute truth for all of us! No one is exempt from death. It is appointed to all men once

FULL STORY ON - 11

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Meditation







**G**ospel is the goodness of Jesus Christ, the son of God, and it should be preached in all continents. It has the light to transform the lives of the people. When we discuss about the soldiers of certain countries, it is a fact that they are ready to die for their country. They are willing to deny their selfish motives. In such a way, an evangelist is an urgent messenger who must be willing to do the same! He represents the unchanging word of God. It's a privilege to hold the torch of the truth of the gospel. Here, from the instance of Jonah, the great prophet, we must realize the significance of the gospel, repentance and redemption.

Nineveh was s a city that has been read with Jonah, prophet. The city and the giant fish tell us some important things. God uses a fish to carry out the history of the divine plan. A fish becomes prophet's vehicle! Jonah was called upon by God to

travel to Nineveh, but he boards a ship to Tarshish. Caught in a storm, he orders the ship crew to cast him overboard, whereupon he is swallowed by a giant fish. Three days later, it vomits him out onto the shore. God's purpose is entirely different from the strategies of human beings. A creature in the sea obeys the order of God, but Jonah fails to recognize God's will for him. Here is an important thing to remember. It is the ship to Tarshish. They are always ready to set off. Tarshish symbolizes the pleasure and the joy of our selfish desires. Repentance of the people of Nineveh is the most important plan of God. Humans have their own ways and likes. But God's plan is perfect. Evangelists should have the burning light in themselves and it should be applied to change the mind and the desire of the ungodly behavior of sinners. Nineveh's experience has relevance even now. The city is taken as a symbolic form of sin and death. People are about to perish

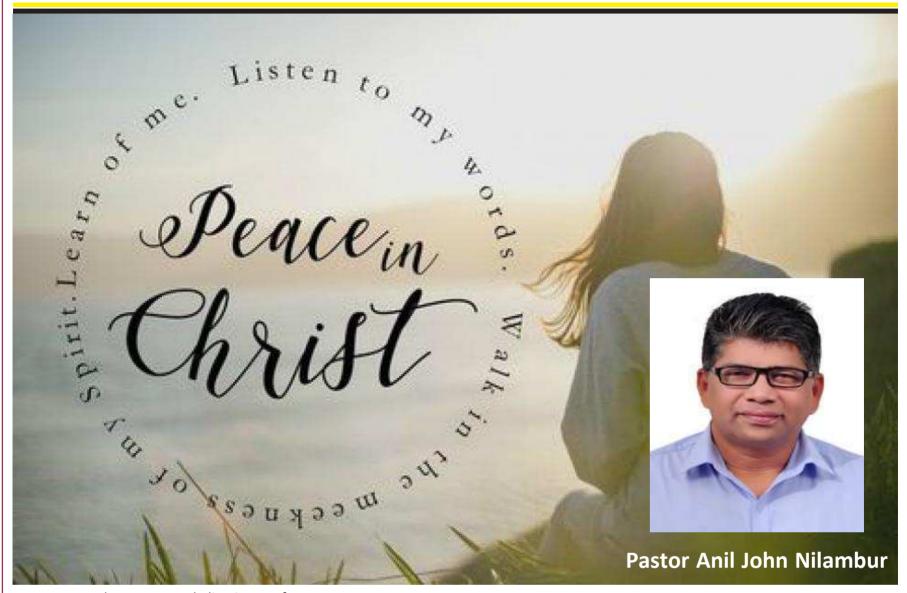
#### PASTOR ANIL KURICHIMUTTOM

and it is Jonah's duty to preach the powerful message there. He had a message and he is not in the right place. Are we really following the plan of God? We have the message, but we often fail to take the message to the places where we should take them. Do not go away from God as it is very dangerous. Nineveh is a symbol of impending punishment and a city controlled by the power of darkness. We have seen that Nineveh was ready to listen to the voice of God. It is a lesson of positivity. They cried unto the Lord and He heard their prayers. There was a change everywhere, the people got transformed and there was a renewal of understanding of the love of God. The light of the gospel is significant in today's context of sinful life and evil ways. So let's take up the torch of truth and be witnesses of the love of Christ.



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Nowadays, we mostly live in unsafe circumstances anywhere we are! Safety is an issue and the absence of peace all across the world is attested by the news we read every day. Most people in our world today do not understand peace as a positive concept. All they know is the normalfeature of peace, which is merely the absence of trouble.

In the beginning, when God created man, there was peace and Adam and Eve were at peace. Even the wild animals were their friends in Eden. When Adam fell into sin, the result was every one of his descendants also being "infected" with sin. Adam's elder son Cain killed his brother Abel proving enmity in the world because of sin. Everyone inherited sin from Adam. Sin is described as the transgression against the law of God a rebellion against Him. Through Adam sin entered the world and death was passed on to all men as all have sinned in Adam. This passed-on sin is known as "inherited sin". Just as we inherit physical characteristics from our parents, we have inherited our sinful nature from

Mankind now whether it be an individual, a

# PEACE IN JESUS CHRIST

family, a society or a country is struggling to find peace in life. They are angry, frustrated and have a disbelieving attitude towards life. They believe this life is pointless and hence need a reason, a point to being here.

How do we find the peace God promisedthe peace that overcomes our natural frustrations and troubling anxieties? This is possible only through the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus loves you. He wants to give you and your family divine peace. Christ Jesus came in to the world to save sinnersof whom I and you are the worst. But for that very reason we were shown mercy so that in us, the worst of sinners, Jesus Christ might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe

on him and receive eternal life. "Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). "There is no peace" says God, "for the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22). Prophecy about Jesus says, He is our prince of peace. In a world filled with war and violence, Jesus is the powerful God who acts in human history and is the embodiment of peace. But physical safety and political harmony do not necessarily reflect the kind of peace He is talking about. The Hebrew word for peace "shalom", is often used in reference to an appearance of calm and tranquility of individuals, groups,

nations. The FULL STORY ON - 06



# 5

#### TURKISH PRESIDENT'S PLANS TO TURN FAMOUS CA-THEDRAL INTO GIANT MOSQUE: CHRISTIANS OPPOSE



Time News

Turkish President Recep Erdogan announced he may turn a former Byzantine cathedral into an enormous mosque, prompting widespread outrage from the Orthodox Christian community.

THE WAKE UP CALL FOR SOULS

After construction was completed in the year 537, the Hagia Sophia (Greek for "Holy Wisdom") functioned as an Eastern Orthodox cathedral and the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople for almost a thousand years. Then, in 1453, following the fall of Constantinople at the hands of the

Ottomans, Mehmed the Conqueror immediately ordered that the building be converted into a mosque. Tragically, the bells, altar, iconostasis and other precious relics were destroyed and beautiful mosaics depicting Jesus and other central biblical characters were destroyed or plastered over.

The ancient place of worship, located in Turkey's capital of Istanbul, was converted into a museum back in 1935, but still remains a uniquely special place to many of the Greek Orthodox tradition.

Last year, President Erdogan recited an Islamic prayer in the Hagia Sophia, dedicating the "souls of all who left us this work as inheritance, especially Istanbul's conqueror," referring to Mehmed, who is historically noted as being an extremely violent and brutal leader with a penchant for having sex with underage boys.

Skimming over these indiscretions, on Sunday, Erdogan explicitly said that the building may well be converted into a functioning mosque, just as Mehmed himself would have wanted. "As you know, the mosque was converted to a museum in 1935, as a reflection of the CHP mentality. We may as well take a step and change that," Erdogan was quoted

Greek Foreign Minister George Katrougalos immediately snapped back at the president's controversial statement. "It is not only a great temple of Christendom — the largest for many centuries — it also belongs to humanity," Katrougalos implored. "It has been recognized by UNESCO , as part of our global cultural heritage." "So any questioning of this status is not just an insult to the sentiments of Christians, it is an insult to the international community and international law," he

## 'DEEPLY REGRET' JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE, THERESA MAY TELLS BRITISH PARLIAMENT



British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday expressed "deep regret" for the 1919 JallianwalaBagh massacre, carried out by British colonial troops in India. While May did not offer an absolute apology, she told the British parliament: "We deeply regret what happened and the suffering caused by the massacre." May's comment come at a time when India prepares to mark the 100th anniversary of the massacre on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the op-

position Labour Party, asked May for a full, clear and unequivocal apology. During the debate on April 9 on the matter in the British Parliament, Bob Blackman insisted this to be the right time for an apology to be issued.

At the time expressing deep regret over the massacre, Mark Field, Foreign Office Minister of Britain said, We perhaps need to go little more than even the deep regrets that I have set out today. This was in response to the mo-

tion moved in the parliament by Bob Blackman, Tory MP for Harrow East, London. On the floors of the parliament, this debate was attended by over 20 MP's from across the party who passionately supported the need for an apology on the centenary of the tragedy this year. Demands like this have been made not only by the diaspora, but also members of parliament. However, every time the narrative ends just short of an apology. On her visit to the site of JallianwalaBagh eight years ago, the Queen

had removed her shoes.

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron has also called the JallianwalaBagh massacre a "deeply shameful" incident during his visit to India in 2013. However, even Cameron did not offer an absolute apology.

Whatever be the side of the debate, the incident has not made its way to the text books in the UK. Along with an apology, this is another demand that people of Indian diaspora have been asking the UK government to formalise.

Along with an apology, Bob Blackman has also proposed for the planned museum on the sight to be funded by the British government.

The JallianwalaBagh massacre on April 13, 1919, where British troops fired mercilessly on innocent protestors, is a reminder of the oppression of Indian people during the British colonial era.

While official Colonial-era records show that about 400 people died in the massacre in the northern city of Amritsar, the Indian count pegged the death toll closer to 1,000 people, including men, women, and children.



# BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WINS RE-ELECTION, BECOMES ISRAEL'S LONGEST-SERVING PRIME MINISTER

Time News



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won re-election on Wednesday with his ruling Likud Party, and promised to promptly form a new government to address the challenges facing his nation.

THE WAKE UP CALL FOR SOULS

"Our country's everyday reality doesn't give us the luxury for delay," Netanyahu said in a statement.

"The citizens of Israel rightfully expect that we will act quickly and responsibly to establish a leadership that will work for them in areas of defense, the economy and society just as we promised in this campaign — and just like we will now set ourselves toward doing," he added.

A news agency noted that although exit polls had predicted a close contest between Likud and the center-left Zionist Union, the former established a clear lead over its rivals with almost all the votes counted. Likud is expected to receive 30 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament, allowing a coalition to take a majority of 67 seats, while the Zionist Union is projected to get 24 seats.

Netanyahu now looks set to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister in his fourth

term, which comes as a surprise to some, given than opinion polls said that Likud trailed the Zionist Union in the run-up to the election. "In the end Israeli opinion polls told the wrong story, yet again. Benjamin Netanyahu scored a much bigger victory than the exit polls had suggested," BBC's Middle East editor Jeremy Bowen

said. "In the last few days of the campaign he demonstrated yet again why he is such a formidable politician. The prime minister narrowed the gap with Herzog's Zionist Union, and then overhauled it, by turning sharply toward the ultra-nationalist Israeli right."

Zionist Union leader Yitzhak Herzog congratulated Netanyahu on his victory, but said that his party will not be giving up. "Nothing has changed, we will keep fighting for a just society," Herzog said.

Despite facing the possibility of being indicted on charges of corruption, fraud and breach of trust in three cases, Netanyahu is now set to embark on a record fifth term in office and will also become Israel's longest-serving prime minister.

His previous terms have been marked by a rightward shift in Israeli policy towards the occupied Palestinian territories, as peace talks with the Palestinians have collapsed and the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank had accelerated. In the run-up to the election, he said he would annex Israeli settlements if he won a fifth term.

FULL STORY ON - 04

Greekword "irene" means "unity and accord"; but the deeper, more foundational meaning of peace is "the spiritual harmony brought about by and individuals' restorations with God". The biblical concept of peace does not focus on the absence of trouble. Biblical peace is unrelated to circumstances. You may be in the midst of great trials, and still have the peace of God in your heart.

God, the giver of peace, is knocking at your door for you to receive His unconditional peace. He was crucified on the cross for our transgression; he was punished so that

we might have peace with God. True peace is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Accept Jesus as your personal savior by placing your own personal faith and trust in him. No one is saved by the faith of others. No one is forgiven by doing certain good deeds. The only way to be saved is to personally accept Jesus as your savior, trusting His death as the payment for your sins and His resurrection as your guarantee of eternal life. Is Jesus personally your savior? Will you accept him today for your peace?

# ISRAEL FINDS WORLD'S LONGEST SALT CAVE UNDER MOUNT SODOM, NEAR WHERE BIBLE SAYS LOT'S WIFE FROZE



Cave explorers in Israel believe they have discovered the world's longest salt cave, larger than the previous record-holding cave in Iran. The Malham cave, first partially mapped in the 1980s, is now known to stretch for over 10 kilometres (6.25 miles), through Mount Sodom, Israel's largest mountain.

The cave is adorned with glittering stalactites and stalagmites formed from salt crystals, and it is close to where the Bible claims Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt upon the "sight of God", who had descended to Earth to bring destruction upon Sodom and Gomorrah.Indeed, the cave's main outlet is close to a salt pillar nicknamed "Lot's wife," after the biblical character.

Amos Frumkin, the founder and director of the Hebrew University's Cave Research Centre, mapped the first five kilometres in the 80s, but two years ago, Israeli spelunker Yoav Negev, the founder of the Israeli Cave Explorer's club, decided he wanted to complete the exploration.

Last year a team of *FULL STORY ON* - 08 local spelunkers spent 10 days mapping the cave, and then a second 10-day expedition

#### FULL STORY ON - 07

- 8. He sacrifices for the development of the flock: He is willing to sacrifice and suffer for the sake of the salvation anddevelopment of the people (John 10:11).
- 9. They have a message from God: They do not have any message of theirown. Their message is drawn from God. They boldly speak it.
- 10. They are with a mission: Their mission is making people as disciples and make them good citizens in the kingdom of Godand the good citizens in their own country.

**Bible Study** 

7





**REV. JOSEPH CHACKO** 

A Christian is a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ. A leader is a person who has influence over others. The question is what is unique about a person who is a Christian who serves in leadership? How is Christian leadership different from leadership in general?

The teachings and life of Jesus offer an important answer to this question. He came to seek and to save the lost, to serve others rather than to be served. Further, Jesus left heaven to live among sinful humanity and minister to the needs of people. These traits of service, love, and compassion are to likewise mark those who seek to be effective Christian leaders. In addition, Jesus presented Himself as a shepherd of sheep, even noting that the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). A Christian leader can learn much from this analogy of a shep-

herd. The shepherd in Jesus' culture was a person who cared for the sheep, met their needs, and protected them from harm. The sheep "knew the voice" of the good shepherd, indicating a personal relationship that made followers desire to respond to

The apostle Paul also provides important instructions for Christian leaders. Most of his letters begin with reference to himself as a servant or slave of Christ Jesus.

the shepherd.

Today's leaders are also called to identify themselves first as servants of Jesus. The service of the Christian leader is to be as a person under Christ's authority, genuinely concerned with living a life that reflects the values of Jesus, a life of integrity that leads by example.

The following are the unique characteristics of the spiritual leaders.

1. They are chosen by God: They are chosen by God to build God's kingdom on this earth by evangelism, church planting and makingdisciples according to the word of God.

2. Burdened with care of people: They have God's heart for the souls in the world without Jesus and hissalvation.

**LEADERS** 

- 3. They always communicate with God in personal prayer: A spiritual leader cannot survive without talking to God and hearing from Godon a daily basis. They become men of prayer.
- 4. They follow the constitution of the kingdom of God: His decisions are always on the basis of the oracles of GOD, the divine word of God.
- 5. They are visionaries: They always have a vision from God to fulfill the holistic development of the people.
- 6. They have a mind of Jesus Christ: They know that they are the representative of the kingdom of God on earth. God will givethem his character and mind to do the work. Theydemonstrate the character of Christ in his practical life.
- 7. They are servants: He is a servant to win the people and tomake them as Jesus disciple (I Corinthian 9: 19-13. Luke 22: 27).

FULL STORY ON -06

#### Sparkling Wisdom!



#### FULL STORY ON - 06

this year with 80 local and international spelunkers finished measuring and mapping the cave with lasers.

Boaz Langford, a researcher at the university's Caves Research Centre, and Antoniya Vlaykova, a Bulgarian cave explorer from the European Speleological Federation, led the expedition. "What's unique about this cave, as opposed to other salt caves in the world, is that it's the longest in the world," Mr Langford said. They plan to publish the complete map of the cave in a professional publication in the coming months. One of the chambers of the cave has been named the "Wedding Hall" due to its spectacular salt stalactites. There is no official record for the longest salt cave, and such designations are generally decided by consensus among cave researchers after an underground chamber is mapped and published.

Iran's Namakdan cave, which is about 6 kilometres in length, was identified as the longest salt cave after a study by Czech and Iranian scientists in 2006.

The relationship between the Malham cave and Mount Sodom is closely linked, as the mountain is essentially a large salt block, formed by the shifting of the Earth's plates at the northern end of the 4,000-mile Afro-Arabian Rift Valley.

Radiocarbon dating of wood fragments found inside the cave have helped date its formation to around 7,000 years ago, making it extremely young by speleological standards. "The reason why it's so young is because it's made of salt," Frumkin said. "Limestone caves are much slower to form. They are usually much older. But this one is developing very fast so it's one of the youngest caves in the world."

http://theendtimenews.com/

http://
www.harvestingsouls
missioninc.org

## Sparkling Wisdom!

- \*. "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
- \*. "He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures.

  To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain." Randy Alcorn
- \* "God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile." Max Lucado
- "Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong." Watchmen Nee
- "The gospel declares that no matter how dutiful or prayerful we are, we can't save ourselves. What Jesus did was sufficient." Brennan Manning
- \* "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
- "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" Corrie ten Boom
- "If you obey God with your whole heart, you'll usually scare off the folks who want you to obey them." Meg Moseley
- "Good work is giving to the poor and the helpless, but divine work is showing them their worth to the One who matters." Criss Jami

**Abigail Thyvilayil John** 



**NEWS** 

9

#### NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL FIRE, BURNING AND COLLAPSE IN PARIS

l Time News

THE WAKE UP CALL FOR SOULS



Parisians raised their voices in song Monday night outside Notre Dame Cathedral as a massive blaze engulfed one of the city's most revered historic sites. The fire burned for several hours Monday, causing the collapse of the cathedral's iconic spire and the destruction of its roof structure, which dated back to the 13th century. Consumed by flames, the spire leaned to one side and fell onto the burning roof as horrified onlookers watched.

By early Tuesday morning, officials said the fire was under control and several invaluable artefacts had been rescued from the burning cathedral.French President Emmanuel Macron praised firefighters for saving the cathedral's iconic facade and towers, saying "the worst has been avoided."Yet he lamented the damage already done to "the cathedral of all French people." He pledged to launch an international fundraising campaign to rebuild the cathedral."Notre Dame is our history, it's our literature, it's our imagery. It's the place where we live our greatest moments, from wars to pandemics to liberations," he said. "This history is ours. And it burns. It burns and I know the sadness so many of our fellow French feel."

For much of the day, flames and thick plumes

of smoke billowed from the cathedral, including the bell tower and the spire. Rescue workers rushed to evacuate artworks.

It was not immediately known what caused the fire. The cathedral is surrounded by scaffolding amid construction work. Paris Fire Brigade Commander General Jean-Claude Gallet said the initial call to emergency services notified authorities of a fire in the attic of the cathedral.

About 400 firefighters were mobilized to deal with the blaze, the French Interior Ministry said. Firetrucks had difficulty accessing the scene, located on an island in Paris, amid the daily afternoon rush hour. Police urged the public to avoid the area. Firefighters atop cherry-picker cranes sprayed water onto the church in an attempt to calm the flames.

The cathedral also houses the grand organ, one of the world's most famous musical instruments, as well as the Crown of Thorns, a relic of the passion of Christ.Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Notre Dame "is not only a majestic church, it is also a world treasure," he said. "Noble in architecture and art, it has long been a symbol of the transcendent human spirit as well as our longing for God," he said.

#### Submissions Invited

You are cordially invited to send submissions to The End Time News magazine, including articles, short stories, poems, cartoons, etc. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at our email address:

harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com

# CHINESE CITY GUANGZHOU OFFERS CASH PRIZES TO PEOPLE WHO BETRAY THEIR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOURS



Guangzhou is the first major city in China to offer money to anyone who informs on church activity in their neighbourhood that hasn't got the government stamp of approval. Gossipy neighbours could pocket up to 10,000 yuan for whispered tip-offs about "illegal religious activities".

"This will compress the survival space of house churches. Not only will they have to deal with the official crackdown but now also the threat from their neighbours," said Ying Fuk Tsang, director of the Divinity School at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The biggest reward of between 5,000 and 10,000 yuan is offered if a foreign pastor is snared. Between 3,000 and 5,000 yuan will be paid if information leads to an unregistered foreign religious group being shut down, and from 100 to 3,000 yuan will be paid to tongue-waggers who inform on local church gatherings and pastors.





# FULL STORY 10

#### FULL STORY ON - 01

tain this situation."

No group has come forward yet to claim responsibility. Police found a suspicious package in Colombo as well as explosive materials in a house near the Dematagoda blast site.

"Heartfelt condolences from the people of the United States to the people of Sri Lanka on the horrible terrorist attacks on churches and hotels that have killed at least 138 people and badly injured 600 more," said President Donald Trump in a tweet. "We stand ready to help!"

"POTUS and I are monitoring the horrific attacks on those celebrating Easter in Sri Lanka. Our hearts & prayers are with the victims & their families," said Vice President Mike Pence in a tweet. "This atrocity is an attack on Christianity & religious freedom everywhere. No one should ever be in fear in a house of worship."

Christians in Sri Lanka have experienced a sharp increase in attacks since last year, with 67 reported cases between January and September, according to the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka.

The NCEASL said it "deplores" the attacks and is urging the government to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. It has also called on the global Church to pray for the victims.

Evening services in Catholic churches in the Colombo district have been canceled. All government schools will be closed for the next two days, the Ministry of Education announced.

#### FULL STORY ON - 01

of the government for refusing to join the state-sanctioned church, it was accused of refusing to register with the government as a "social organization."

But according to the Chinese human rights leader Bob Fu, the church had previously submitted an application to the Haidian District Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau in 2006 but was rejected because founding Pastor JinTianming was not officially ordained by the state.

Christians attending the Bible classes had planned to meet around 1 p.m. but instead were taken by policy to a nearby school where they were held for hours, questioned and told that the church had been shut down. The nonprofit NGO International Christian Concern reports that another group of Christians affiliated with the

church were detained from another location and also taken to the school. Officials reportedly switched out the locks at both locations of the raids.

The number of Christians detained by police for hours before being released is believed to be between 20 and 30, reports. According to ICC, officials read out a document formally banning Shouwang Church and demanded that those in attendance sign a letter vowing that they will no longer attend the church. However, the detainees reportedly refused.

Additionally, authorities were said to have demanded that Pastor Zhang Xiaofeng sign a document admitting that the church conducted activities as an organization without registering with the government.

The closing of Shouwang Church comes after authorities made headlines last September for banning Beijing's largest house church, Zion Church, and confiscating "illegal promotional materials." Zion Church had previously rejected requests from government authorities to install closed-circuit cameras. Officials in Beijing argued that the church had held events without registering.

Shouwang Church in the past has been forced to meet in outdoor locations as government pressure made it difficult for the congregation to secure rented or purchased space. As previously reported, the church's founding pastor was placed under house arrest in 2011 and many church members were arrested after the church began worshiping outdoors after its eviction from a building.

Last July, at least 34 house churches in Beijing signed a joint statement to China's Communist Party officials decrying what they called an ongoing and worsening crackdown against believers.

"The normal religious lives of believers have been violated and obstructed, causing serious emotional harm and damage to their sense of patriotism, as well as causing social conflict," the statement read.

China ranks as the 27th worst nation in the world when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA's World Watch List. This ranking reflects the increasing implementation of regulations on religion in China that are now "much harsher across the country."

#### **Submissions Invited**

You are cordially invited to send submissions to The End Time News magazine, including articles, short stories, poems, cartoons, etc. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at our email address:

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#### FULL STORY ON - 11

ernment is taking immediate steps to contain this situation."

No group has come forward yet to claim responsibility. Police found a suspicious package in Colombo as well as explosive materials in a house near the Dematagoda blast site.

"Heartfelt condolences from the people of the United States to the people of Sri Lanka on the horrible terrorist attacks on churches and hotels that have killed at least 138 people and badly injured 600 more," said President Donald Trump in a tweet. "We stand ready to help!""POTUS and I are monitoring the horrific attacks on those celebrating Easter in Sri Lanka. Our hearts & prayers are with the victims & their families," said Vice President Mike Pence in a tweet. "This atrocity is an attack on Christianity & religious freedom everywhere. No one should ever be in fear in a house of worship."

Christians in Sri Lanka have experienced a sharp increase in attacks since last year, with 67 reported cases between January and September, according to the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka.

Evening services in Catholic churches in the Colombo district have been canceled. All government schools will be closed for the next two days, the Ministry of Education announced.





#### FULL STORY ON - 02S

to die and after that the judgment (Hebrews. 9:27; Ecclesiastes 7:2).

But death was not the destiny of Jesus Christ. Since He was God in the flesh, death had to step aside for him. Jesus died and rose again on the third day! Like a coward who steps aside for the brave, death stepped aside for Christ.

Luke. 24:1-8 — On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women

took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone

rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the

Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes

that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women howed

down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look

for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he

told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised

again.' " Then they remembered his words.

Why Jesus' resurrection is the most important and crucial part of our faith?

First of all, 1 Corinthians 15:17 says, If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for you sins. The resurrection validates our faith. Secondly, it witnesses to the immense power of God Himself. To believe in the resurrection is to be lieve in God. Only He who created life can resurrect it after death, only He can reverse the hideousness that is death itself, and only He can remove the sting that is death and the victory that is the grave's (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). Lastly, the resurrection of Jesus is a testimony to

## EXPLOSIONS IN SRI LANKAN CHURCHES AND HOTELS ON EASTER SUNDAY KILLS OVER 200.



Three churches were attacked in Sri Lanka, with explosions killing dozens of Christians as they celebrated Easter Sunday morning. Three hotels — Shangri-La Colombo, Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo and the Cinnamon Grand Colombo — that were holding Easter breakfast buffets were also targeted in the attacks. Two additional explosions were confirmed by media in Dehiwela and Dematagoda areas. Police and hospital sources say at least 209 people, including children, have been killed and 469 have been

the resurrection of human beings, which is a basic tenet of the Christian faith. Unlike all other religions, Christianity alone possesses a founder who transcends death and who promises that His followers will do the same.

The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer. Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose the third day according to the Scripture. And, He is coming again! The dead in Christ will be raised up, and those who remain and are alive at His coming will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Celebrate his resurrection!! Happy Easter!

injured in the attacks. The first of the explosions was reported to have occurred around 8:30 a.m.

At least 81 people are reported to have died at St. Sebastian's church in Negombo. St. Sebastian's posted photos of the carnage to its Facebook page showing distressed and injured worshipers and extensive damage to the building. Officials from the church reported that there were 500 people attending Mass at the time of the explosion. Local media reports say at least 27 people died at Zion Church in Batticaloa in Eastern Province; 24 people were killed at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade.

Prime Minister RanilWickremesinghe condemned the violence and has ordered the military and police to launch an urgent investigation into the attacks. "I strongly condemn the cowardly attacks on our people today. I call upon all Sri Lankans during this tragic time to remain united and strong," he said in a tweet. "Please avoid propagating unverified reports and speculation. The gov-

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## AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN PARAGUAY SHOT DEAD BY SUSPECTED ROBBERS.

An American Christian missionary in Paraguay was killed in his own home last week by a suspected robber after serving as a missionary for over 25 years, according to his sponsoring agency.

Ethnos360, founded in 1942 as New Tribes Mission, announced on Friday that it lost one of its own, 50-year-old Wayne Goddard. Goddard served the people in Paraguay for over two decades before he was gunned down during an apparent robbery attempt. According to Ethnos360, Goddard was assaulted by armed men while serving the Ava Guaraní and PaiTavyterã tribes.

Goddard served as a cross-cultural worker for Ethnos360, which operates in various countries around the world to help local churches train and send missionaries to reach the unreached people groups in their regions. Goddard worked hands-on with the mission agency's partner Misión a Nuevas Tribusen el Paraguay since 1994. He is survived by his brother and father.

"As news of his death has reached the world, it's our desire to recognize the sacrifice Wayne made as he followed our Lord in willing service," an Ethnos360 Facebook post

reads. "Please join us in prayer for his family and the people he served and loved in Paraguay."

According to Goddard's family, he was killed last Tuesday. Ethnos360 didn't make the announcement until days later to give his family days to grieve in silence. In a family blog post, Goddard's cousin, Mike Goddard, explained that Goddard grew up in Paraguay and was a third-generation missionary. Goddard's memorial was on Sunday in Asunciòn."He was a faithful man of God and will be dearly missed," the blog post reads. "We are very thankful for the precious memories that we have with him as well as the time this past Christmas holiday, where Wayne participated and we could also celebrate his 50th birthday. We know that he is with our Savior, which has strengthened our hearts and has given us courage to continue moving forward."

As reported by a news agency, Goddard was wounded by gunshots in his home in the indigenous colony of Mboijagua, which is about 12 miles from the Paraguayan Villa Ygatimi district. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he died.



An investigation on Goddard's death was opened and a search was put on for the killer. Officer Sergio Servian told the agency that Goddard's house was located thousands of meters away from the last available dirt road in a location that was hidden and dark. The Paraguay-based newspaper Ultima Hora reports that police have taken one suspect, who is believed to be the man who killed Goddard, into custody. The suspect is 42-year-old Atanacio Godoy Fernández. The newspaper also notes that it is believed that as many as five people entered Goddard's home Tuesday night with the express purpose of robbery.

