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PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN MAN FACES BLASPHEMY CHARGE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OVER FACEBOOK POST

A Christian man charged with blasphemy for making a theological argument on Facebook that Muslims deemed insulting toward the Islamic prophet Muhammad is now facing a potential death sentence for the post.

The London-based Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement, an interdenominational aid agency serving persecuted Christians in Muslim-majority Pakistan, reports that SohailMasih in the NowsheraVirkan in Punjab province was arrested on Aug. 5.

Following a protest by a crowd of enraged Muslims who heard about Masih's comment online, police officially charged Masih under sections 295-A and 295-C of the Pakistani Penal Code.

Section 295-C prohibits the use of derogatory remarks toward Islam or Muhammad and makes violations punishable by death. It is the same charge leveled against Christian mother Asia Bibi, who was sentenced to death and spent over a decade in prison before her acquittal in 2018.

"This is not the first case of its kind, and several Christians like Imran Nadeem, NabeelMasih and Patras, Kaleem and Qamar David [died in Jail] have been charged with



blasphemy for sharing or having blasphemous contents either on their phone or on their computers," CLAAS-UK Director Nasir Saeed said in a statement shared with The Christian Post.

"It is difficult to prevent the abuse of social media platforms like WhatsApp when others

can easily harass Christians and 'plant evidence' on them," he added. "An example: if someone shares blasphemous content to a Christian's page, this could result in blasphemy charges against the Christian, even if the Christian did not directly interact with

►►► FULL STORY ON - 07

US CHRISTIANS INCREASINGLY DEPARTING FROM CORE TRUTHS OF CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, SURVEY FINDS



A new survey shows that the majority of Americans no longer believe that Jesus is the path to salvation and instead believe that being a good person is sufficient.

As part of the ongoing release of the Arizona

Christian University-based Cultural Research Center's American Worldview Inventory, the latest findings — exploring perceptions of sin and salvation — from George Barna, the group's director, show that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that having some kind of faith is more important than the particular faith with

which someone aligns.

Sixty-eight percent who embrace that notion identify as Christians, including 56% of self-described evangelicals and 62% of those who

FULL STORY ON - 07

JOHN MACARTHUR ON SUN-DAY IN CALIFORNIA CHURCH SERVICEPREACHES ON OBEDI-ENCE TO SCRIPTURE



Pastor John MacArthur, whose California church is holding in-person services in violation of the state's COVID-19 health orders,

►►► FULL STORY ON - 11

Editorial

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

The Islamic republic of Pakistan is known for its rampant persecution of religious minorities. An incident that shocked the world recently had the Lahore High Court involved. The court administrated a judgement in favor of a Muslim abductor who kidnapped, by force converted to Islam and married a minor Christian girl named Maria Shahbaz.

Maria Shahbaz, a 14-year-old girl, was on her way to work in April 2020 when she was abducted by Muhammad Naqash and his accomplice. The assailants were armed and the eyewitnesses reported that they fired shots in the air. The girl

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resisted, but was abducted in the broad daylight. The eyewitness could not help the girl too as the kidnapers had weapons in their hands. Later, she was converted to Islam, was married to her abductor with the help of fake certificates that said her age to be 18, the legal age for a girl to be married in Pakistan.

A case was registered in Faisalabad and the family of the girl expressed their fear of rape and murder. Following the investigation, the lower court, Sessions Court in Faisalabad, found out that the girl is a minor and needed to be rehabilitated in a woman's shelter. The kidnapper moved an appeal to the High Court in Lahore

and surprisingly it overturned the verdict of the lower court and asked the girl to go with her abductor. The verdict came as a surprise as the High Court never bothered to care the false documents made and produced by the kidnapper in the case. Hearing the verdict, Maria Shahbaz screamed in fear and agony while she was still standing in the court. Then, the judge said, "be a good wife". This is not the first time that such a case has emerged. Formerly, Huma Younus, a Christian girl who was kidnapped from her home in Karachi on October 10 last year, was reported to have become preg-

►►► FULL STORY ON - 06

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News

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LEBANON'S PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS AMID PROTESTS AFTER DEADLY BEIRUT EXPLOSION



reported, adding that they were referring to the Iran-backed Shi'ite Muslim terrorist organization. "They feel that international money [for recovery] should not be going to this government," news reported days before the resignation was announced." Many

Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced his government's resignation Monday following last week's massive explosion in Beirut that killed at least 163 people and resulted in over 6,000 injuries.

"I declare today the resignation of this government," said Diab, who cited "huge corruption" as a problem at a press conference amid large-scale public protests in response to the explosion, News reported. "May Allah protect Lebanon." Diab tendered his resignation to Lebanese Christian President Michel Aoun who will remain in his office for the time being in what News dubbed a "caretaker capacity."

The resignation decision came after days of protests against the regime, with protesters arguing that the government was guilty of negligent handling of the explosives that triggered the blast. Last Tuesday, an explosion caused by an estimated 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilizers and bombs, occurred at a warehouse in a port in Beirut, a major metropolitan city in the country of 6 million people, many from Muslims Christian faiths.

The exact cause of the explosion remains unknown. However, soon after the blast, the government put several port officials under house arrest as part of its investigation. French President Emmanuel Macron visited the country once controlled by France on Thursday, expressing solidarity with the victims of the explosion.

During his visit to one damaged neighborhood, Macron was met with a large crowd demanding government reforms and an end to the current Lebanese regime.

As he walked the streets of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, Christians shouted: "Mr. Macron, free us from Hezbollah," a news agency

people who have been protesting for the last nine months, they say that this government will not spend it on the things that people actually need."

Cardinal Bechara Boutros Rai, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, whose denomination has a strong presence in the country, called the devastation of the explosion "a war scene without war." "Beirut is a devastated city. A catastrophe struck there because of the mysterious explosion which occurred in its port," said the cardinal, as reported by the Catholic Telegraph.

"The Church, which has set up a relief network throughout Lebanese territory, today finds itself faced with a new great duty which it is unable to assume on its own."

BEIRUT EXPLOSION

A massive explosion rocked Beirut on Tuesday (4th August 2020), flattening much of the city's port, damaging buildings across the capital and sending a giant mushroom cloud into the sky. More than 70 people were killed and 3,000 injured, with bodies buried in the rubble, officials said.

It was not clear what caused the blast, which struck with the force of a 3.5 magnitude earthquake, according to Germany's geosciences center GFZ, and was heard and felt as far away as Cyprus more than 200 kilometers (180 miles) across the Mediterranean. Lebanon's interior minister said it appeared that a large cache of ammonium nitrate in the port had detonated.

The disaster was preceded by a large fire at the Port of Beirut, on the city's northern Mediterranean coast. In videos posted on social media white smoke could be seen billowing from Warehouse 12, next to the port's huge grain silos. Shortly after 18:00 (15:00 GMT), the roof of the warehouse caught alight and there was a large initial explosion, followed by a series of smaller blasts that some witnesses said sounded like fireworks going off. About 30 seconds later, there was a colossal explosion that sent a mushroom cloud into the air and a supersonic blastwave radiating through the city. That blast wave levelled buildings near the port and caused extensive damage over much of the rest of the capital, which is home to two million people. Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed."What we are witnessing is a huge catastrophe," said the head of the Lebanese Red Cross, George Kettani. "There are victims and casualties everywhere."Beirut Governor Marwan Abboud said as many as 300,000 people had been made temporarily homeless and that collective losses might reach \$10-15bn (£8-11bn).

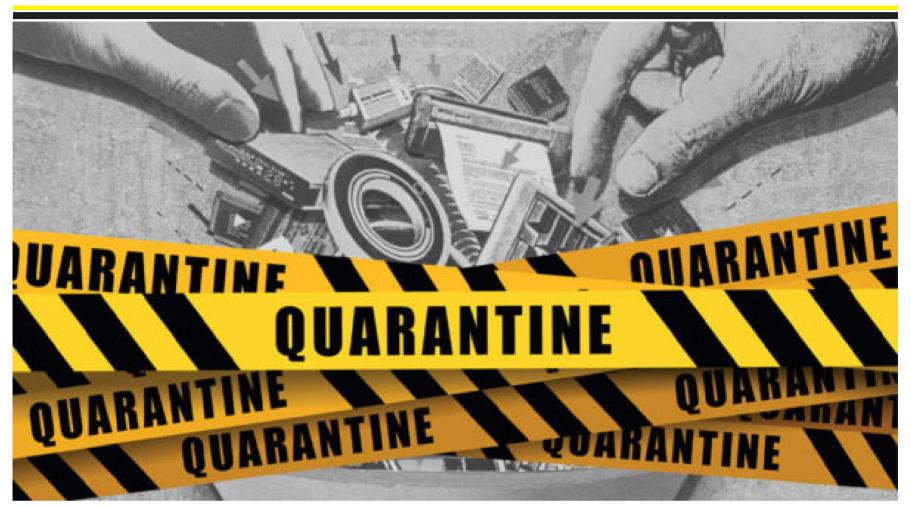
The blast destroyed the immediate dockside area, creating a crater approximately 140m (460ft) wide, which flooded with seawater. The warehouse where the initial fire and explosions were observed was obliterated and an adjacent grain silo was heavily damaged. Satellite images show complete devastation in the port area, with one ship apparently blown out of the water and onto the dockside. The explosion's shockwave blew out windows at Beirut International Airport's passenger terminal, about 9km (5 miles) away from the port.

The blast was also heard as far away as Cyprus, about 200km across the Mediterranean Sea, and seismologists at the United States Geological Survey said it was the equivalent of a 3.3-magnitude earthquake.Based on an analysis of videos, a team from the University of Sheffield estimated that the explosion was the equivalent of 1,000 to 1,500 tonnes of TNT - about a 10th of the intensity of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. "Whatever the precise charge size, this is unquestionably one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history, far bigger than any conventional weapon," said Professor Andy Tyas, an expert on blast protection engineering.

Lebanon's Prime Minister, Hassan Diab, blamed the detonation on 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that he said had been stored unsafely at a warehouse in the port.









Laxmi Francis

Quarantine/Isolation has gotten the best of us, its been rough and tough but God has been so so good and He has been with us thus far! I hope you are doing well, hang in there friend.

With the illusion of extra time in hand, I have tried to revisit my hobbies and I have developed some new ones too. One of which is gardening and growing produce. I like to learn about pruning, natural fertilizers, a lot of trials with different stuff, etc. We happen to have a pear tree in our backyard yay! I have been looking forward to new pears after applying all my acquired knowledge from Google. Last year,

the tree, being fairly new, produced a good number of pears hence I've been eagerly waiting for some more this year as I had worked on its upkeep. Sadly, I was kind of bummed to find just 1 pear produced thus far and no signs of more. :(

While I got over this, I asked myself: what did I do wrong? Did I miss out on something? Since Google has been my teacher, I researched what could possibly be wrong. I learned that pear trees only bear their first fruits for the first 3 years of being planted and they don't bear full crops until the next 5 to 6 years. It didn't make sense to me but I was happy to

Quarantine | Isolation | know, the tree was programmed that way.

With all that being said, the Holy Spirit pointed something out as I was trying to "figure it out". Aren't we like this pear tree? We are the dwelling place of our Lord and when the Holy Spirit is within us, we bear

fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 AMP says,

But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

How are the fruits of the Spirit displayed? It is by how we exercise these fruits. Like that tree, we work on it, prune ourselves,

News

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TURKEY CONVERTS ANOTHER RENOWNED CHURCH INTO

A MOSQUE

THE WAKE UP CALL FOR SOULS

International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on August 21, 2020, Turkish President RecepTayyipErdogan issued an official order converting the Byzantine Holy Savior Chora Church into a mosque. This presidential order was issued nearly one month after Turkey converted the Hagia Sophia Cathedral into a mosque, and nine months after the Turkish Council of State approved changing the Chora Church into a mosque. The Chora Church, located in Istanbul, is considered second in renown compared to the Hagia Sophia.

nd Time News

The Chora Church was originally built in 534 AD and converted into a mosque during the Ottoman conquest. It was later converted into the Kariye Museum following World War II. However, a lawsuit filed in 2005 challenged this decision. The lawsuit was based



get right with God and slowly but surely fruit will appear. As these fruits bear, I encourage you to wait upon the Lord, that what He has begun in you, He will finish and when He finishes, it's beautiful and pleasing to God and for His glory!

In this season of waiting and unknowns, I pray for hope over your life and circumstances; that we bear fruit of the Spirit; that we grow closer to the Lord and we keep searching Him in us and others. I pray we

love without wanting anything in return; that we have inner peace during these uncertain times and we share the reason for this peace in any means we can; that we rejoice in today. I pray that we refine our waiting; we show kindness to our fellow believers and to strangers and to families because that may give them hope. I pray that we are faithful wherever we are and whatever we are called to; that our gentleness and self-control show more of Jesus and less of us. That we always remember our Lord is merciful, wonderful, mighty and His mercies are new each day. Reflect on that with Him and all this and more is possible



on the law of immovables, which states that once a building becomes a mosque, it cannot become anything else. This argument was affirmed by Turkey's Council of State in November 2019.

A unique aspect of the Chora Church is the vast amount of medieval mosaics and frescos covering most of the church's walls and domes which feature Biblical scenes. According to the precedent set by Turkey, the Christian artwork of churches which have been converted into mosques are covered. How this will look for the Chora Church is unclear. During the Ottoman conquest, the artwork was hidden under a layer of plaster.

Like the Hagia Sophia, the Chora Church is registered as a UNESCO heritage site. It is unclear how UNESCO will respond to the conversion of these churches into mosques. On its website, UNESCO describes the Chora Church as one of Istanbul's "masterpieces." According to the November decision made by Turkey's State Council, a mosque "cannot be used except for its essential function." Critics have pointed out that that this language implies that "Turkish authorities appear to think that the original function of the former churches/museums was to serve as mosques. They thus completely ignore the Christian roots of the Chora Church and countless other churches in the region, as well as the Christian history of Constantinople [Istanbul]."

Turkey is recommended for a special watch list by the United States Commission on In-

ternational Religious Freedom, the only member of NATO to appear on the list. Religious freedom in Turkey has significantly deteriorated since the 2016 coup attempt, with the ruling AK Party leaning even more heavily into Islamic nationalism. Turkey is currently facing a number of domestic crises impacting approval ratings. It is common for Turkey to pursue religious freedom violations in an attempt to distract and control the public narrative.

Claire Evans, ICC's Regional Manager for the Middle East, said, "Unfortunately, today's announcement was not surprising. We have been waiting for the implementation of the Council of State's decision regarding the Chora Church for many months now. The mindset and logic used to justify the conversion of historic churches into mosques is alarming. In many ways, we are looking at the tip of an iceberg. These conversions are an expression of a larger disregard for religious freedom by the authorities. They are the consequence of Turkey's attempt to erase Christianity from the country's history. We must keep the Church in prayer, as these actions signal a disregard for freedom of conscience."

Submissions Invited





Meditation





Pastor Shibu Thomas Oklahoma, USA

THE BIBLICAL WAY OF RAISING CHILDREN!

Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Isaiah 8: 18



Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. It is the responsibility of the parents to bring up the children in the fear of the Lord and in sound doctrine. The parents have the obligation to lead their children in their Christian life so that they will not confirm themselves to the behavior and customs of this world, but will learn to know

God's will for them, which is good, pleasing and perfect. The Bible says of the such kids who are brought up according to the will of God that "they are like arrows in the hand of a warrior" (Psalm 127: 4). Yes, the weapons that destroy the enemy and the weapons that trample enemy's schemes. This is not a

weapon of offence as per the world, but a spiritual weapon Satan is sacred of. When our churches and families are filled with children and youngsters who are wrapped by the grace of God, who are rooted in the word of God and who also grow spiritually, then Satan and his army will shrink in number and power and ultimately will become ineffective!

So build up your families fearing Him and by obeying His commandments. Train your children in the way they should walk and bring them up in obedience in order to hold your head up high. Live in front of them showing an example in holiness and demonstrating the real faith on God. They will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate (Psalm 127: 5). Then, we can say that Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion (Isaiah 8: 18). The family that is blessed of God is a symbol of heavenly peace and joy. Such families will praise God forever! Prayer – Dear God, make me and my family to serve you only through our life. Amen!

►►► FULL STORY ON - 02

nant due to the continuous sexual violence carried out by her abductor Abdul Jabbar. As per the report, she was confined to the four walls of one room in the abductor's house and was not allowed to meet her parents.

What can we do for these "good wives" of Pakistan? Obviously, we can pray for them earnestly! We need to pray for the country so that the people of the religious minority there will have religious freedom and acceptance. The country has always been hostile to other religions as it has been in the case of AssiaBeevi who had to seek asylum in Canada after she was freed from prison. The people got out into the road in protest and vandalized the public property. Unless there is religious liberty, the country will continue to witness incidents such as this more often.



FULL STORY

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►►► FULL STORY ON - 01

the content."

According to the Union of Catholic Asia News, Masih's Facebook comment stems from a discussion online about the Islamic sacrifice tradition of Eid-al-Adha, which took place on July 30-31.

"It is not possible that the blood of goats and bulls can wash away sins," Masih was quoted as writing in a post. "The incident of Miraj [an Islamic belief that Muhammad ascended to Heaven to talk with the prophets] is based on a lie."

►►► FULL STORY ON - 01

identify as Pentecostals. Sixty-seven percent of mainline Protestants and 77% of Catholics also embraced that idea, the findings show.

Slightly over half of Christian respondents said they believe someone can attain salvation by "being or doing good," a figure that includes, 46% of Pentecostals, 44% of mainline Protestants, 41% of evangelicals, and 70% of Catholics.

In addition to the viewpoint that eternal salvation can be earned, survey results show that 58% of Americans believe that no absolute moral truth exists and that the basis of truth are factors or sources other than God. Seventy-seven percent said that right and wrong is determined by factors other than the Bible. Fifty-nine percent said that the Bible is not God's authoritative and true Word and 69% said people are basically good.

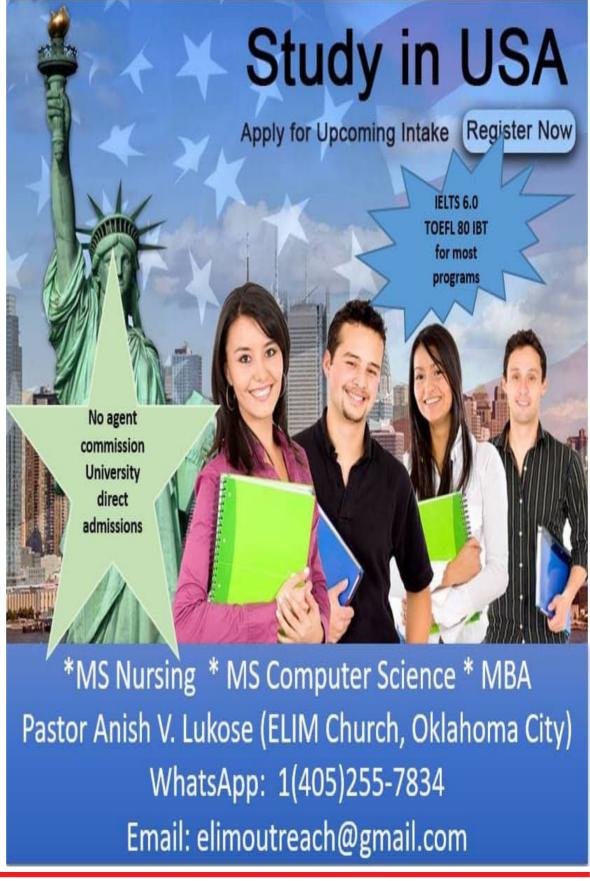
"If you look at some of the dominant elements in the American mind and heart today, as illuminated by the Inventory, most people believe that the purpose of life is feeling good about yourself," Barna said in a statement sent to The Christian Post.

"Most people contend that all faiths are of equal value, that entry into God's eternal presence is determined by one's personal means of choice and that there are no absolutes to guide or grow us morally.

"That philosophy of life contradicts a fundamental basis of what may be the two most significant documents to the longevity and success of America – the Bible and the Constitution of the United States. Those documents agree that this nation will only be healthy and fruitful if it is populated by moral people. By abandoning our moral standards and traditions, and replacing them with inclusive and conditional preferences, we're

losing the foundations that have enabled the 'American experiment' to succeed for more than two centuries. We can only hope that our critical moral institutions — particularly the family and the church — will wake up and help the nation to get back on track." The results are from a January 2020 survey among a nationally representative sample of 2,000 adults, with a maximum sampling error of approximately plus or minus 2 percentage points, based on the 95% confidence interval.







CHRISTIAN APP LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST ARTIFICIAL **INTELLIGENCE AUDIO BIBLE**

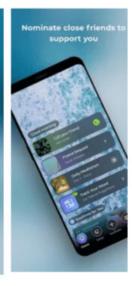




nd Time News

THE WAKE UP CALL FOR SOULS





The makers of the Christian meditation app Soultime have announced the development and release of the world's first-ever audio version of the Bible read in its entirety by an artificial intelligence voice amounting to 100 hours of audible scripture.

Soultime said in a statement that it "evaluated a range of text-to-speech platforms but found Google's Wavenet the most natural sounding," however, because "the Bible text is extremely complex" it had to "work hard to modify the basic reading to create something that both sounded natural and was truly enjoyable to listen to."

Citing an example, the statement said Wavenet for some reason couldn't pronounce "for His name's sake," as found in the most famous of all Psalms, Psalm 23, according to Premier. The Google platform insisted on saying "for His name's saké," like the alcoholic beverage.

"Al readings have some great advantages," the makers of the Christian app added. "Having developed the initial version, further Bible reading versions can be easily produced in different accents, genders or languages. Also as text-to-speech voices improve over time, the readings can be easily updated."

Founded by London-based Mark Wagner, Soultime is an app for Christian meditation."This is not an intellectual process so much as a spiritual and emotional process of trying to

understand what it is that our hearts are believing," Wagner told Premier Christian Radio last year. "To do that, we need a certain amount of calm, a certain amount of peace, we need a certain amount of time."

Soultime helps believers do that through music, graphics and a series of guided meditations with various themes, including "Jesus carries our anxieties away," "Freedom with Forgiveness," and "Exploring the Lord's Prayer."

The app has been endorsed by Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Soultime is a wonderful app. I warmly recommend it," he was quoted as saying.

Similar to other meditation apps that are popular, the Soultime app when it's opened plays sounds of nature such as the wind and birds chirping. It includes a daily "mood check" and features calming music and voices who guide users through themed meditations.

Silk, one of the "guides" featured in the app who help users through a meditation, explained, "Soultime is very much about building a hunger for the presence of God, the voice of God, the person of Jesus Christ."

It seeks to "build, strengthen, tune your heart with the Word of God with the voice of God, the presence of God. It's going to be focused on Jesus, the focus on the presence of God, the focus on the Bible. No other apps are focused on that."

A New Mexico-based ministry, Faith Comes By Hearing, provides audio versions of New Testaments. Scripture recordings are available in 1,354 languages with the potential of reaching over 85 million people with the Gospel. The ministry, which seeks to help fulfill the Great Commission in this generation by providing access to the Word of God in every translated language, offers free access to its digital resources.

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

harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com



Sparkling Wisdom!



►►► FULL STORY ON - 12

that he said he was serious about providing assistance to Christian families and solving their problems.

"We are glad that Christians will return to Iraq and contribute to its reconstruction. Iraqis of all sects are yearning for a new Iraq that believes in peace and rejects violence," said the prime minister, who assumed office May 7.

The Christian community in Iraq has been under pressure for years, but the invasion of the Islamic State group in 2014 made things even worse. Aid to the Church in need recently issued a report warning that the Christian population could dwindle to 23,000 in the next four years. Many fear that ISIS is planning a comeback and are hesitant to return to their homes.

►►► FULL STORY ON - 12

word "Allah" is exclusive to Islam and that its use in Christian publications is likely to confuse Muslims and draw them to Christianity.

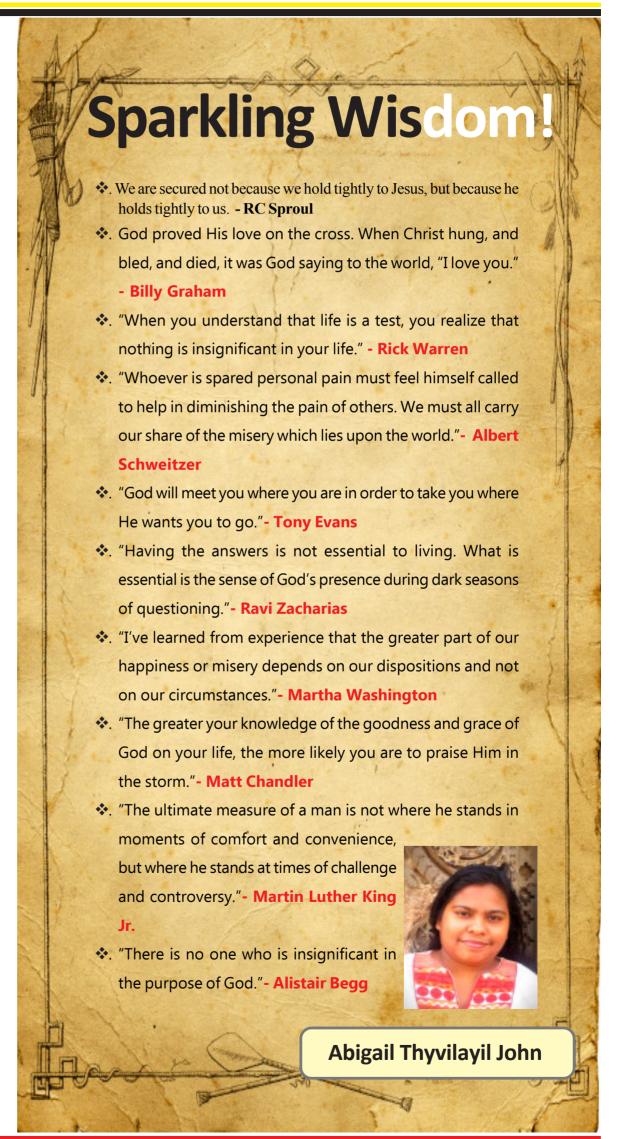
Among the Bibles confiscated were the Malay-language ones that the Bible Society of Malaysia had imported from Indonesia. Approximately 10,000 others also were confiscated from Gideons International, which places free copies in hotel rooms and elsewhere.

While ethnic Chinese Malaysian Christians can obtain Bibles in Mandarin without difficulties, historically the government has placed more red tape around the Malay Bibles.

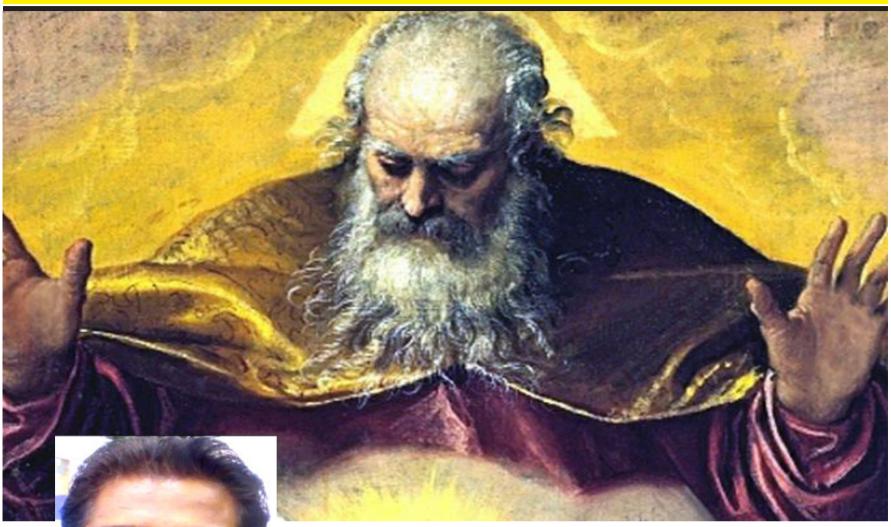
Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi clarified in April 2005 that there was no ban on Bibles translated into Malay. However, they are required to be stamped with a disclaimer: "Not for Muslims." The word translated in English as "God" is translated as "Allah" in some Malay Bibles, which is illegal as non-Muslims are prohibited from using the term "Allah."

In 2007, customs officers and Home Ministry officials detained the Alkitab (Malay Bible) at ports of entry and confiscated the publications, Sunday school children's books, and CDs. This has led to SidangInjil Borneo Dec 2007 and Jill Ireland Binti Lawrence Bill in July 2008 initiating a judicial review against the power of the Home Minister.

In March 2010, the Malaysian Home Ministry seized 30,000, and in March 2011 another 5,000 Malay Bibles from a port in Kuching, Sarawak.







FATHERHOOD IS GOD'S PLAN

Asokan P.K

Fatherhood presupposes offsprings.

Becoming father is one of the most Godlike things a man can do, for we share some of God's creative power in our own procreation. Power of procreation is God's gift to man.

Fatherhood on earth represents the fatherhood of God, the heavenly Father.

Paul said in Eph 3:14,15 " For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

Its from Heavenly Father only all fatherhood on earth takes its title and derives it's name.

Fatherhood is a parcipation in the nature of God, for He was revealed Himself as our heavenly Father. Throughout the Bible, we are we are called His children, and He exercises care and offers provision for us ares our Father.

Fatherhood is a blessing from God. Children are not biological accident, they are not liabilities but are assets. They are a gift from our Father.

The Best way to become a best father is to copy only the heavenly Father.

Fathers are to reflect the nature and charector of our heavenly father before the children in providing ,caring, forgiving, protecting and standing with them in all situations with all capacity till the last breath with unfathomable compassion, because You are the Father of your children

You have a great reward from the Father in heaven for representing and reflecting your heavenly father on earth. God bless.



Fullstory



►►► FULL STORY ON - 01

opened his most recent sermon by welcoming his congregation to "the Grace Community Church peaceful protest."

"Good morning, everyone. I'm so happy to welcome you to the Grace Community Church peaceful protest," MacArthur, senior pastor of Grace Community Church, a megachurch in Sun Valley, California, said Sunday morning, drawing cheers and applause from worshipers.

MacArthur went on to explain that, "based on the Word of God," his church is "pro-life, pro-family, pro-law and order, and pro-church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

The preacher then invited a chaplain from the Los Angeles Police Department to deliver the service's opening prayer. The chaplain prayed that MacArthur and his congregation would have the "wisdom and faith to weather all of the things going on in church and outside church."

MacArthur preached from 1 Corinthians 1, which reads in part, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." "We are here in obedience to our Lord, we are here because He has given us commands, not in a personal esoteric way, not through some vision or dream, not because I hear voices from Heaven, I don't, but because I have a Bible," he said. "Grace Church is defined by its commitment to Holy Scripture. For true Christians, the Bible is our

greatest treasure."

The mark of a true Christian is the love of Scripture, MacArthur said, adding: "God's true church has always been a place where people hunger for the truth from the Bible. That's why we're here." "If this pulpit was not the place for the proclamation of the Word of God, this place would begin to be empty," he added. "That's why you're here ... it's clear to me that you love the word of God. That's why you're here.""We're not smarter than anybody else," MacArthur stressed. "We're not more spiritual. We're not better people. We're as wretched as any and all sinners are. But we've been chosen. And then we've been called. And then we are being saved, sovereignly, supernaturally."

"We're the nobodies, we get it," he concluded. "We're the nothings. We're nonexistent. We're the low of the low. But we have the wisdom of God, because God in His grace and mercy, called us."

MacArthur has made headlines in recent weeks after his church opted to meet in defiance of Gov. Gavin Newsom's second round of lockdown orders affecting church gatherings.

"We are a church that has a reputation for the last 50 years of obeying the government," the pastor said in a recent interview with Fox News' Shannon Bream. "We are a friend to this society, to every level of this society. We have been given awards and accolades and plaques from the city government, the police department, all in authority, because they recognize what an honorable congregation this church has been," he said.

"But never before has the government invaded the territory the belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ and told us we can't meet, we can't worship, we can't sing," the pastor continued. "There's no power given to the government to make those kinds of calls against us. ... We love our neighbors. We're not spreading anything but the Gospel," MacArthur said, noting that out of 7,000 church members, "no one has had any effect if they've had COVID."

Officials from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reportedly threatened MacArthur with "repercussions such as fines and even possible arrest" if his church doesn't comply with state orders.

MacArthur and Grace Community Church have since received special counsel from President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Jenna Ellis, and religious freedom expert Charles LiMandri.









ISRAEL-UAE SIGN HISTORIC DEAL TO BEGIN DIPLOMATIC TIES



Israel and the United Arab Emirates will establish full diplomatic ties after the two countries reached an historic peace deal. The announcement makes the UAE the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to have active diplomatic ties to Israel

US president Donald Trump said Israel will halt planned annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state as part of the agreement. Speaking in

the Oval Office, Mr Trump described the agreement as a "truly historic moment". The deal marks a diplomatic win for Trump ahead of November's election, with the UAE and Israel being among Trump's closest foreign allies during his term in office.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had sought to build settlements on lands sought by

the Palestinians and embraced a Trump proposal that would allow him to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank while granting Palestinians limited autonomy in other areas. For Palestine, it marks both a win and a setback.

While Thursday's deal halts Israeli annexation plans, the Palestinians have repeatedly urged Arab governments not to normalize relations with Israel until a peace agreement establishing an independent Palestinian

state is reached. Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi wrote on Twitter: "Israel got rewarded for not declaring openly what it's been doing to Palestine illegally & persistently since the beginning of the occupation. "Please don't do us a favor. We are nobody's fig leaf!"

A joint statement by the leaders of the UAE, Israel and the US said: "Opening direct ties between two of the Middle East's most dynamic societies and advanced economics will transform the region by spurring economic growth, enhancing technological innovation and forging closer people-to-people relations." It said delegations will meet in the coming weeks to sign deals on direct flights, security, telecommunications, energy, tourism and healthcare. The two countries also will also partner on fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

Among Arab nations, only Egypt and Jordan have active diplomatic ties with Israel. Egypt made a peace deal with Israel in 1979, followed by Jordan in 1994. Mauritania recognised Israel in 1999 but later ended relations in 2009 over the Israel's war in Gaza at the time.

CALL FOR CHRISTIANS TO RETURN HOME TO IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER MUSTAFA AL-KAZEMI.

Christians are the "original children of the country," said the Prime Minister of Iraq,

Mustafa Al-Kazemi.Al-Kazemi encouraged Christians who left Iraq in recent years to return to their homeland, Vatican News said, citing a report in the Assyrian International News Agency.

Al-Kazemi on Sunday met with Cardinal Louis Raphael I Sako, the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch, and a number of other bishops in

Baghdad. The patriarch said there are a large number of Christians who want to return.

"The Church supports Al-Kazemi's steps towards achieving security and stability throughout Iraq," said Patriarch Sako. "Christians are proud of their Iraqi identity, and they feel more reassured, in light of the serious handling of the Al-Kazemi government with the Christian file."



According to a government statement, the prime minister said that "Iraq is the country for everyone, and that Christians are the original children of the country, and there is no difference between the people of the same country, as everyone is a partner in building the future of Iraq." AINA reported

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THE BIBLE BAN IN MALAYSIA



In Malaysia, the Bahasa language, which is spoken by the majority, does not have a Bible readily available. The authorities in Malaysia have seized more than 20,000 Bibles in recent years, as the reference made to God in these Bibles are printed as "Allah," a term considered offensive in the Muslim-majority country.

These Bibles were written in the country's official language, Malay – in which the word for God is "Allah," as it is in Arabic. However, the Malaysian government claims the

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