



THE End Time News

THE WAKE-UP CALL

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17,000 PEOPLE ACCEPT CHRIST POST GREG LAURIE'S FILM CRUSADE: "A RUSH OF HOPE"

TOP NEWS ▶▶▶▶

More than 1.8 million people tuned into Greg Laurie's new film "A Rush of Hope" over the Labor Day weekend, breaking all attendance records in Harvest Crusades' 30-year history of holding annual outreach events.

"A Rush of Hope" aired over Labor Day weekend on dozens of online streaming and on-demand channels and over 600 radio stations. It will also air on TV in major markets across the US and on cable networks such as the ION network, WGN, and LightTV. The movie will also be released to streaming platforms and on DVD in November.

"We are breaking every record we have ever



set in our history," Laurie, the pastor and founder of the Harvest churches located in California and Hawaii, said in a video posted to social media Sunday.

Most importantly, Laurie said there were over 17,000 professions of faith that the Harvest team received from people who decided to

follow Jesus after watching the movie.

"In a year of never-ending bad news, this is the best news we have heard. It's a reminder that God is greater than a pandemic or any other challenge we are facing. He can do above and beyond anything we can dream,

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 07

CHINA BANS COPYING OF HYMNS, PUNISHES CHRISTIANS WHO PRINT RELIGIOUS MATERIALS



China has been tightening restrictions on the distribution of religious materials in recent months by threatening fines, the closure of printing shops, or even imprisonment for selling Christian books or allowing customers to photocopy hymns. Bitter Winter, a publication that monitors religious liberty violations in China, reports that this month, Chinese Communist Party officials in Luoyang, a prefecture-level city in the central province of Henan, searched a local printing house for banned religious materials.

"Any religious content makes the issue po-

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 08

TYNDALE'S NEW BIBLE STUDY APP MAKES 'BIBLE READING REIMAGINED'



YALI TRIBE THAT ONCE KILLED MISSIONARIES IS NOW SHARING THE GOSPEL, CELEBRATING GIFT OF 2,500 BIBLES

In 1968, the Yali tribe of Papua New Guinea that practiced witchcraft and cannibalism killed two missionaries. Today, they hunger for the Word of God.

In August, the Yali people received 2,500 Bibles delivered by plane from Mission Aviation Fellowship. Some tribe members

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 09

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 06



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

ONLY WITH JESUS!!

In April 1988 the evening news reported on a photographer who was a skydiver. He had jumped from a plane along with numerous other skydivers and filmed the group as they fell and opened their parachutes. On the film shown on the telecast, as the final skydiver opened his chute, the picture went berserk. The announcer reported that the cameraman had fallen to his death, having jumped out of the plane without his parachute. It

wasn't until he reached for the absent ripcord that he realized he was free-falling without a parachute. Until that point, the jump probably seemed exciting and fun. But tragically, he had acted with thoughtless haste and deadly foolishness. Nothing could save him, for his faith was in a parachute never buckled on. Faith in anything but an all-sufficient God can be just as tragic spiritually. Only with faith in Jesus Christ dare we step into the dangerous excitement of

life. Instructing the disciples of this reliance in Him, Jesus taught them saying, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15: 5). It is so true that it is impossible to bear fruit, as God desires, if we do not abide in Christ. He is the seamless strength behind any God glorifying activity done by His servants.

The dependence on Jesus also promises His presence with us. Prior to His ascension, Jesus assured His disciples that He will be with them always until the very end of the age (Matthew 28: 20). He does not leave His own unattended. Only with Jesus Christ and faith in Him dare we step into the excitement of life, for the glory of God!! May God bless!!

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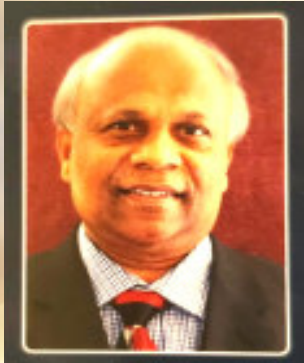
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JOSEPH KURIYAN
HOUSTON

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Prayer is not telling God what to do. Prayer is not going to God with a laundry list of things. Prayer is not a way of making use of God. Prayer is not expecting God to do everything as we sit back and do nothing. Prayer is not merely what we say to God. It is responding to what God has already said and what He is saying to us through His word. God is not a blessing machine.

Prayer is not "Quick fix" for problems that we should be solving ourselves. God answers prayer in his own way and in his own time (Psalms 40:1-3). He will not grant requests that are against His holy and wise purposes and prayers that are selfish in nature and with impure motives. "He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). When someone does not listen or obey God's voice in the word, yet expects God to answer requests through prayer, it is not real prayer.

Prayer is not asking to achieve our own will, for

WHAT IS PRAYER AND WHAT IS NOT PRAYER?

The Bible says "If we ask anything according to his will, for He hears us". Did God answer that prayer? It was contrary to the great plan of God. So He did not answer Job. Someone once commented. "We know too much about what we want and too little about what God wants".

We need to know how to pray. We need to understand what prayer is and what prayer is not. We must learn how to pray, how long to pray, when to start praying and when to stop praying. The disciples of Jesus were good men and well-versed in Jewish praying. However, when they came in contact with Jesus Christ, they realized that they did not know how to pray at all and asked Jesus, the expert in prayer, "Teach us to pray."

There are many passages in the Bible that we can use in our prayers when we go through different problems in life.

There are many verses and chapters in the word of God that can help and guide us through our spiritual journey smoothly. Obstacles may come when we least expect them, but perseverance in prayer will lead us to a breakthrough. Our God is the one who breaks open the way (Micah 2:13)

Martin Luther stated. "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing, during times of joy as well as sorrow. He wants us to talk to Him. It is very important to approach the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the creator of the universe and the one who controls the entire world, omnipotent, the omniscient and the omnipresent God with specific requests, sincere desire and earnest trust.

Let us have a clear understanding of what prayer is and what prayer is not,

FULL STORY ON - 05



What is in swearing?

Saju J. Mathew

Tom was badly in need of a thousand bucks and requested his church friend Johnny to spare the money if he could. Johnny didn't have the money, so, together they went to Jacob, another member of their church. Jacob offered the money, but insisted on getting it back the next day. Tom said, yes! "I swear, my friend, in the name of our God... that if there is a morrow, I will return the money!" Johnny was a bit upset to hear Tom swearing. "Hey Tom, you return the money tomorrow, but don't swear in the name of God..." Johnny said, "For the Bible prohibits swearing. It says, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain' Ex 20:7 Normally we mention the third commandment of the Decalogue only in relation with swearing. So we attribute lesser importance to it than the first and the second commandments. The Decalogue, or Ten Words (Deut 4:13) was given directly to all Israel by an audible and

terrible voice, the voice of Yahweh, sounding like a trumpet over the multitude (Ex 19:16; 20:18). The Israelites trembled before the voice of the Lord and they begged that God would speak no more directly, but through Moses. The rest of the Law was then given through Moses, but the heart of the Law had already been given in the Decalogue. All the other laws were a Godly explanation of the Decalogue. So, it is necessary to see the Decalogue as a single unit. All commands have equal importance. Nevertheless, the consequence of breaking this law is given more emphasis than the others. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain (Ex 20:7- RSV). Why is God so wrathful when somebody breaks this particular law? May be it is because this is something directly against God himself. Look at the other laws... Remember the Sabbath day, honor your parents, shall not kill, shall not commit

adultery, shall not steal, shall not bear false witness, shall not covet... God is not directly involved in any of these laws. Even in the case of the first two laws, where serving other gods and making of molten images are forbidden, God's name is not directly defamed, even though it is a grave rejection of the eternal truth about God! However, here, the defiler takes up the name of the Lord directly. It is something like a culprit tarnishing the name of the magistrate himself. A severe penalty is pronounced for those who break this law. God himself will be the avenger for the defilers. So, the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. The Jewish Rabbis strictly warned the people of Israel not to break an oath if they made a swearing in the name of the Lord. False swearing is condemned in Lev 19:12 as a profanation of the name of Yahweh. The word prohibits all employment of the name of God in 'vain'. Why is God

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 05**

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 03**

and then talk to God. God will surely answer our prayer and we will experience His awesome power and be victorious in facing any adversities in life and find refuge in prayer. All we have to do is to submit our request, express our faith and trust in Him, confess our sins, praise and give thanks to Him, dedicate to serve Him and others, obey His word and submit our thoughts, deeds and actions to Him. Then we can experience the most powerful God through our prayers. Some times the answer must come within ourselves and our constant prayer will help us find that answer. When we conclude prayer, we normally say "Amen", which comes from a Hebrew word meaning "truly, faithfully or so be it". Remember to understand prayer well and accept His will before approaching God.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 04**

Yahweh called "I am who I am?" It is because He cannot be compared with somebody, or something else. When Moses was commissioned by God to reach his people with the message of redemption, to tell them that the "God of their fathers" has sent him to be an agent of the mighty redemption work, he was somewhat skeptic. How would the Israelites respond to the phrase the "God of their fathers"? They were in captivity for more than four centuries. There is no reason to believe that the Israelites as a whole were zealous in their faith. (Remember, the fourth or fifth generation Pentecostals who have all the opportunities for living the faith of their forefathers failed in their race). How then, can we expect this of Jacob's sons, who had never been serious about handing their religion and faith over to the fifteenth or sixteenth generation? May be a minority was holding the faith close to their heart, but the majority was ignorant about the faith of their fathers. I am sure many of the Israelites were idol worshippers, who worshipped the bull god of Egypt. That must be the reason Aaron could easily make a "golden calf" when the mischievous Israelites wanted a god to walk before them. Remember what Joshua said to the people of Israel when they were about to settle in Canaan: "Now fear the LORD and

serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD (Josh 24:14). If Moses goes to the Israelites in the name of the "God of their fathers," they would ask: "God of our fathers? Who is he? What is he like? Is he like the sun god? Moon god? Or, like the bull god that we worship in Egypt?" Then it would be the responsibility of Moses to explain the "God of their fathers". So Moses asked God: please Lord, I know you are the God of my fathers. But when I go to the Israelites who are ignorant about their ancestor's God, how can I reveal you to them? "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Ex 3:13) God looked at Moses... He had pity on him! "That means you want to compare me with somebody, Moses? That is impossible! If you want to compare, you can do it only with me... I am who I am!" God said. God is always "I AM". His being is described always in present tense... All the ages were and will be present tense to Him! God had made known the glory of His nature in His name. God said to Moses; "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you. (Ex 3:14) The name, the great I AM, was not to be abused by His people. When we use it in 'vain', that is, using it without much reverence and fear; you break the commandment of the Lord! The Jewish people took the law literally. They feared to "take the name of the Lord" lightly. However, at a later stage, the Rabbis limited the application of the law only to the use of the name "Yahweh". Hence, they not only tolerated, but also sanctioned the practice of swearing in common conversation as quite harmless, provided the reference to God was not directly expressed. So, instead of taking the name Yahweh, they used other words like heaven, glory and the like. Remember, the prodigal son comes back to his father, saying that he has sinned against 'heaven,' not 'God'! (Also remember our phrases like "good heavens!" and "O my goodness!"). Jesus, however, was not for a compromise. He said, "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even

one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matt 5:33-37. The word 'take' does not mean just "to utter" here. A different meaning is attached to these words by Hengstenberg, who explains them thus: 'Thou shalt not attribute (carry) nothingness to the name of Yahweh thy God. Yahweh, the I AM, who had revealed Himself as such to Israel, must not be confounded with nothingness.' The commandment, in his view, is directed against hypocrisy in general, of which the essence is falsehood. When a hypocrite uses the name of the Lord to show his false piety, he is putting God to 'nothingness,' where no real piety exists! He is a pretender. He is not real. He is using the name of the Lord 'in vain'. The hypocrite makes a profession of God's name, but doesn't live up to that profession. Those that name the name of God, hail the name of Jesus and say big "praise the Lord", but do not depart from iniquity, as that name binds them to do, name it in vain. What they say with their mouth doesn't mean anything to them. Their worship is worthless. Jesus is scolding them for their vain talking. "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" (Matt. 15:7-9) So the third commandment asks you to mean what you speak! When we pray, more often than not, we pray without even thinking what we pray. We just 'heap up empty words' as the gentiles do (Matthew 6.7). The words we utter do not come to our mind, or in our heart. We utter many words which are meaningless to us. It doesn't arouse our emotions. We call Jesus 'Lord' 'Lord', but we do not know what the word 'Lord' means! Lord is somebody who rules over! Even though we call Jesus Lord, we seldom obey Him. If you call him Lord, you are His slave. Then how can you disobey him. So, if a disobeying man takes the name of the Lord, even in his prayers, he is profaning the name of the Lord! Many people think they can manipulate God through their oblations. That is an Eastern thinking, not a Biblical one. Religious observances are worthless, if we fail to observe the commandments of the Lord. A sinful man cannot manipulate God, even with long fasting and prayers. The Israelites always came to the temple of God with many

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 07**



Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

Isaiah 12: 1-6 say, In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known

READ - MEDITATE – GLORIFY THE LORD!

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.
(Isaiah 12: 1)

to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Dear ones, the wrath of God on the man, who committed sin and became an object of God's anger, has passed away with the death of Jesus on the cross. Now the Lord has comforted us with the embrace of eternal love. So give him glory honor and praise on end. God has become our salvation and our immeasurable strength. So do not be afraid, trust Him completely. From the fountain of salvation oozes out love, joy, peace, prosperity and comfort as a river flows. Drink from it and quench your thirst. He is the owner of all that we need for our life and faith. You just have to receive Him and glorify Him.

Prayer – Dear God, you are my strength and fortress. May I find rest in the fountain of your love. Amen!

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

walked an entire day's journey to reach the villages where the Bibles were being handed out. Before the plane landed, women swayed and chanted to celebrate the arrival of the Bibles. "It felt like we were on holy ground. It was a holy moment — one to be remembered," said Dave Ringenberg, the MAF instructor pilot and director of Papua operations, told [MAF](#). Among the Bibles delivered, 1,400 were children's Bibles brought by one of MAF's eight Papua New Guinea-based aircraft. "After 20 years of heat, humidity and use, these Bibles wear out," MAF corporate communications director Brad Hoaglund told The Christian Post. "Like any object that's heavily used, it has to be replaced." The arrival of the Bibles was marked by a celebration complete with dancing, songs, and speeches. Many people might have thought this scene impossible just 52 years ago. The Yali were once known as the most feared tribe in Indonesia's

Snow Mountains. Short and aggressive, they used their bows to kill other tribesmen and eat them. Even when the tribe wasn't at war, they hunted people for meat. Few who entered their mountains returned. The tribe didn't know people existed outside the mountains of Papua New Guinea, or of a way to live without killing each other. Bottom of Form

"I still remember the day when the first missionary arrived here," an elder said in a [MAF video](#). "It made a big impact. Without MAF, we might still live in our old way of life."

Hoaglund said that when the Gospel arrives in a new tribe, it changes everything. The Bible frees people from the fear of powerful spirits and from cruel cultural practices. They find hope and peace from faith in Jesus. "It's transforming to people," he said. "There are missiological debates about leaving them as untouched as possible. But when you realize how people treat their

children, their spouses, it's not acceptable. Having a message of God's love changes everyone's life." Often, the Gospel means so much to tribes that members travel to nearby villages to tell people about their new faith.

Missionaries Stan Dale and Phil Masters started to reach the Yali tribe with the Gospel. In the 1960s, Dale [visited the Yali](#) to share the Gospel. Along with the first Yali Christian, a man named Luliap Pahabol, Dale translated the New Testament book of Mark into Yali. It was the first step in a Yali Bible translation that took 30 years to complete, and which the Yali read today.

In 1968, Dale, Masters, Pahabol and a group of porters from the nearby Dani tribe walked into Yali's territory to tell them about Jesus. The Yali threatened the group and told them they would kill them. The group left. Then the Yali pursued them to an open river beach, bent their bows and sent volleys of arrows into the missionaries and their porters.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

sacrifices. However, God was displeased with their offerings: "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me....(Isaiah 1. 11-13) God says He cannot bear their evil assemblies. "They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen." He said. Why was God reluctant to receive the sacrifices and offerings of the Israelites? He gives the reason: "When you spread out your hands in prayer... Your hands are full of blood" (Isaiah 1:15). When you stretch your hands towards heavens, it should be clean; or, you are taking the name of the Lord in vain. Your prayers would be unheard! Isaiah again tells about the people who thought they could manipulate God through fasting: 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. (Isaiah 58:3-5). So God asks Israel to "wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. (Isaiah 1:16, 17). He also asks people to go to Him for 'reasoning!' The verse can be better translated like this- "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool" v. 18. So, when you call Jesus 'Lord', 'Lord' without "settling the matter" with Him, you are taking the name of the Lord in vain. If you take the name of the Lord in vain, your worship is in vain, your prayers are in vain and even your fasting is in vain! So, when some one pretends to be spiritual, where in reality he is worldly, he is taking the name of the Lord in vain. Even without uttering, you can

profane the name of the Lord! Your life may be a profanation to the name of the Lord, if you are living it in an unworthy manner. We are supposed to live a life that is worthy of our calling. Paul is pleading with us to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Eph 4:1-3. When we fail to live a life that is "worthy of the call" that we received, either by rebellion or by carelessness, we are profaning the name of the Lord! Do not be deceived, thinking that

the third command speaks only on uttering the name of the Lord in swearing. It is calling Him Lord, Lord, when your heart is empty. When a believer finds no yes in his yes, he is profaning the name of the Lord. It is also offering oblations without purity in life! If you do that, your sacrifice would be like Cain's sacrifice! God hates pretenders. When you act religious where in reality your piety is void, you put God's name in nothingness. Remember, our God is a zealous God. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ○

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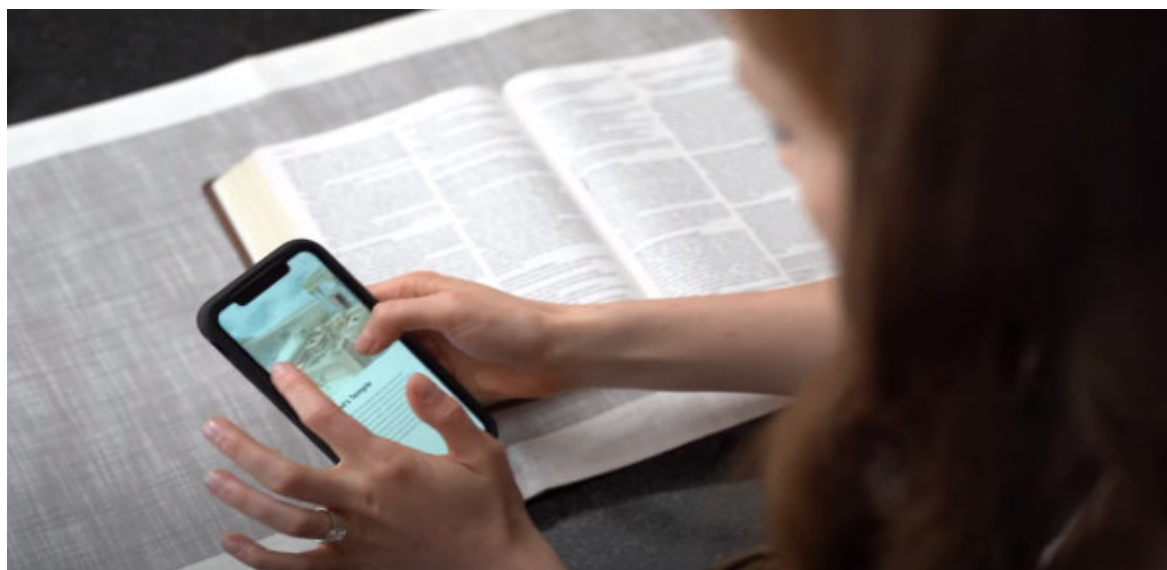
TYNDALE'S NEW BIBLE STUDY APP MAKES 'BIBLE READING REIMAGINED'

As the way people digest media has changed, a leading Bible publisher has partnered with an app development company that worked on the popular stock-trading app Robinhood to create a new line of Bibles compatible with its own "game-changing" mobile app.

While there are countless mobile Bible apps as well as many print study Bibles available today, Tyndale House Publishers, one of the largest independent Christian publishing companies in the world, has released a new line of Bibles that seeks to blend the two concepts. Last month, the publishing house unveiled its Filament Bible Collection, which claims on its website to be "Bible Reading Reimagined." "It's the future of Bibles: Learn more without carrying more," the collection's webpage states.

While many study Bibles have analysis on the Scripture included in the margins of Bible pages, the new Filament Bible Collection compiles all Scripture-related notes, passage reflections, interactive maps and videos related to each page of the Bible on the Filament mobile app for users to reference as they read along in their print Bible. In the last month, the app has been used by 9,000 people.

When readers scan the page number of the passage they are reading or studying into the app, they are given the option to read an easy-to-understand summary of the passage and any additional contextual information as well as devotional essays, maps and summary videos related to the passage. The app



contains a total of over 1,200 devotions written by various curated Christian authors. "There is something really important about having a print Bible that is the center of how you engage with God's word. But you don't want to get rid of all these digital tools because they also have tremendous value. We bring in that digital app to provide that supplementary information that really helps you engage and understand what you are reading in that print Bible. There are print Bibles that do this — study Bibles and that sort of thing. But what happens is that you try to fit all that stuff on a page and you end up with a huge book and in some cases, the Scripture text itself is squeezed off the page almost because there is so much distracting yours from it. We are able to take all that and put it in the app."

Keith Williams, the app project director and senior editor at Tyndale House told that the

app allows users to bring in the analysis and extra content of a study Bible when they want and not worry about having to haul around a giant book. "It allows you to have that portable Bible you can take anywhere and allows you to study on your own, at lunch, on a train or whatever," he said. "Or if you are at a small group or talking to someone about the Bible and there are questions that come up, you have access to tools that help you answer those questions."

The idea for the Filament Bible was first hatched in 2016. The first Filament Bible was published in October 2018. But last month, Tyndale announced the launch of the Filament Bible Collection, giving users an option of four different Bibles in New Living Translation or King James Version that are compatible with its now expanded mobile app.

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▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 12

litical, not religious. Although banners on the streets say people are allowed religious beliefs, the only faith they can practice freely is that in the Communist Party," a store manager told Bitter Winter. Because inspections are "too rigorous," the manager said he refuses to print religious materials. "They checked my storehouse, scrutinized all records, and even looked at paper sheets on the floor, to see if they have prohibited content," the manager told Bitter Winter. "If any such content is found, I'll be fined, or worse, my business will be closed."

A worker at a second photocopying business in Luoyang revealed that the ban on illegal religious materials applies to the photocopying of hymns. Those who print religious materials face harsh repercussions, including fines, and in some cases, imprisonment. "I don't even dare to make copies of two sheets with religious hymns because of strict investigations," the worker said. "I was told to report anyone who comes to copy religious materials."

A worker at another shop told Bitter Winter, "If we are not sure if a text is religious, we must keep its copy and report it to authorities." Unapproved religious publications imported from other countries are labeled as "contraband." "The government exerts strict control over mailed goods this year," a staff member at a courier company in Luoyang said. "Only the mailing of government-approved books is allowed. All books with 'bad information,' including religion, are not allowed to be dispatched. If public security authorities discover violations of these regulations, the company will be fined and closed down."

Last month, Chen Yu, a Christian who operated his online bookstore in Zhejiang province's Taizhou city, was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined 200,000 RMB (\$29,450) for selling unapproved religious publications.

Police also reportedly launched a nationwide investigation to track down the bookstore's customers through sale records and confiscate their purchased books. A house church preacher from Shandong also told Bitter Winter that the police investigated him after discovering that he had purchased religious materials on Taobao.com, a Chinese online shopping website.

"It seems to me that the government can

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 10

Sparkling Wisdom!

❖ "Forgive me for being so ordinary while claiming to know so extraordinary a God."

- Jim Elliot

❖ "What are you planting today to harvest tomorrow?"

- Lailah Gifty Akita

❖ "A moderately bad man knows he is not very good; a thoroughly bad man thinks he is all right."

- C.S. Lewis

❖ "But where we see trash, God sees potential. The Master Artist, with His tender touch, can rework our suffering into a pattern of good."

- Tessa Emily Hall

❖ "Being a christian is not about being Christ-fearing, it's about being Christ-like."

- Abhijit Naskar

❖ "Because of Jesus, we can walk the path of loss knowing He is always in front, lighting the way."

- Lisa Kibler

❖ "The best way to develop a grateful heart is to learn how to walk in step with God."

- Linda Evans Shepherd

❖ "People often ask me how I stay so motivated and energized. I could tell you I try to eat healthy foods and sleep well at night, but the real answer is grace."

- Lara Casey

❖ "Love was the early Christians' marketing plan and their business card was joy."

- Chip Ingram

❖ "To be a good ruler one must be the best of servants."

- J. Aaron Gruben



Abigail Thyvilayil John

30 BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECTS SUSPENDED IN NIGERIA AMID PANDEMIC, TERRORISM



Nigerian Bible translators are seeking help after having to suspend translation projects in 30 languages due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing terrorist violence throughout the country. Wycliffe Associates, an Orlando-based nonprofit that works with national Bible translators across the globe on over 700 translation projects, announced that the global pandemic, terrorism and economic collapse in Nigeria have “brought Bible translation to a halt in the most populous nation on the African continent.” The organization, which was founded in 1967 and partners with the local churches to direct and guard translation work in their communities, partners with an organization called Nigerian Bible Translation Trust. The trust works on several Old and New Testament translation projects in a country where there are over 200 million people and over 500 languages. However, in 2020, translators have not been able to gather in

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 09**

access anything; I feel like I am running naked,” the preacher said.

In April 2018, the Chinese government banned online retailers from selling the Bible. Legally, the Bible can only be distributed by government-approved agencies that supervise the Christian churches in China.

In recent years, religious persecution by China's communist party has intensified. In efforts to bring Christianity under Chinese influence, government officials force believers to follow specific rules and regulations and have imposed further restrictions on unregistered church gatherings.

central locations as they would normally to check each other's translation work.

Along with the pandemic, Nigeria has been marred by increasing trends of violence carried out in recent years by various actors — including Islamic terrorist groups, radical herdsmen and bandits. It's estimated that [thousands](#) are reportedly killed by systemic acts of violence each year, including many Christians. “With the pandemic, the issues of terrorist attacks and thievery, and the amount of starvation that is going on in the country, makes people desperate. There is a fear that drives that,” Wycliffe Associates Vice President of Translation Services Tabitha Price told a news agency. “Travel is becoming more difficult. There is a lack of infrastructure already. And then to be concerned about the corruption and violence and terrorism that they are going to face when they try to travel, those challenges have really kept translators from being able to get together.”

Price said that translators working on the same projects often do not live in the same village. Bottom of Form

“And the only way they can work together and check each other's work and continue with the project is to come together in a central location,” she said. “With the pandemic and travel restrictions, besides all the dangers that have intensified, they really haven't been able to do that.” It's varying degrees of the pandemic and violent militant and terrorist groups and kidnappings that have happened. Of course, situations like that are always exacerbated by something like this pandemic so those who are violently opposed to Christianity will take every opportunity to express it.”

Wycliffe has been working with the Nigerian Bible Translation Trust to train translators and provide them with resources. But restrictions on travel have made it difficult to be able to start on projects they planned to begin in 2020.

In the spring, Wycliffe Associates tentatively scheduled a two-week training conference for Nigerian Bible translators for September. But that was scheduled before the organization knew how COVID-19 was going to impact travel in the fall and has since been canceled. “We knew that we needed to do training and we made plans to schedule it in the fall,” she said. “It was for them to get everything they needed to go work with these other languages that are waiting and training them in the methodology and the whole process. We had to cancel that training event not only because we couldn't travel but also because of the travel restrictions all across Africa.”

She said the translation partners are “not prepared” to start the new projects they were planning to work on as they themselves have struggled with hunger and finances. “They haven't been able to work to save themselves. They don't have the resources then to take the time and be able to work on the translation,” Price explained. “Wycliffe Associates has an [emergency fundraising campaign](#) going and we have had generous donors send finances for us to be able to help situations. We were able to send Nigerian Bible Translation Trust money to not only provide for their immediate needs but also to reach out and help some of the translators in the community.”

For many of the 30 projects that have been halted, Price said that some of the languages haven't had translations started yet but were “in the queue,” meaning some of the training had been done and are in the process of preparing to begin translation. “We say it is halted because we had a plan to move forward with them this year and then with COVID and other emergencies going on in that country and emergencies worldwide. We're not actually expecting — barring a miracle of God — that we will be able to serve that region the way we expected to before with training. But having said that, we are always looking for ways to continue to grow partnerships. We have team members there in Nigeria that are at the ready when things begin to open back up.”

NETHERLANDS TO EXPAND EUTHANASIA LAW, ALLOWING DOCTORS TO END LIVES OF CHILDREN UNDER 12

The Netherlands is set to pave the way for legalized euthanasia of very young children.

According to the NLTimes Tuesday, the northwestern European nation, which already has some of the most liberal euthanasia policies in the world, is likely to expand its law to permit children ages 1-12 to be euthanized in certain circumstances. The practice is already legal for youth 12 and older and was already possible for infants in their first year of life.

The expansion requires the child being euthanized to be terminally ill.

"Once death is in the driver's seat, it never hits the brakes," commented scholar Wesley J. Smith of the Discovery Institute in a Tuesday National Review blog post, noting that he does not believe the "terminally ill" requirement will last and that the law is already murky enough given how pro-euthanasia doctors exploit the "gray area" in practice.

The Dutch outlet went on to describe how in the new policy doctors are only permitted to permanently sedate or withhold nutrients from children until they die, calling the practice "palliative care."

Under what is known as the Groningen Protocol — a 2004 set of Dutch medical directives with criteria under which doctors are allowed to perform "active ending of life on infants" without fear of legal repercussions — babies in the Netherlands can be euthanized for serious disability and terminal illness. Dutch Health Minister Hugo de Jonge told Parliament this week that child euthanasia should be allowed to help "a small group of terminally ill children who agonize with no hope, and unbearable suffering." The proposal will affect between five and 10 children annually who suffer "as a result in some cases



unnecessarily, for a long time, without any prospect of improvement."

The proposal has divided politicians with Prime Minister Mark Rutte's VVD party and the centrist D66 party backing the expansion and De Jonge's Christian Democratic Appeal party and the Christian Union opposing it. Parental groups and the Dutch Paediatric Association, the NVK, are also reportedly supporting the plan.

Bottom of Form

In 2002, the Netherlands became the first European country to legally authorize euthanasia, and statutes permitting when people can opt to end their lives have loosened over time. According to the European bioethics association AllianceVita, in the first decade of its legalization, the number of euthanasia cases doubled; in the first 15 years the rates had tripled. By 2016, an average of 16 people was being euthanized daily and accounted for 4% of all annual deaths in the Netherlands.

"The majority of these euthanasia cases (83%) were performed on patients suffering from incurable diseases, another 10% for multiple pathologies, 4% for disabilities related to old age, 2% for psychiatric disorders and 1% for dementia," the group reported.



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TEACHER 'BEHEADED' IN FRANCE AFTER FREE SPEECH LESSON SHOWING CARICATURE OF ISLAMIC PROPHET MUHAMMAD

France has launched a terror investigation into the murder of a teacher who was shot dead and decapitated near Paris after he showed his class a caricature of the Islamic prophet Muhammad from the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo as part of a lesson on free speech.

In a statement about the murder, French President Emmanuel Macron said the battle against Islamic terrorism is "existential."

The suspect, a man who was seen carrying a knife near the scene, was shot dead by police in Conflans Sainte-Honorine, northwest of Paris, Friday evening, according to DW, which said police had detained nine others — including the grandparents, parents and 17-year-old brother of the suspect — by Friday night. Some reports said the suspect beheaded the teacher.

The victim has been identified in the media as a 47-year-old history and geography professor who also taught "moral and civil education." Some parents had complained that he showed his students caricatures of the Islamic prophet Muhammad in the class.

The suspect, who refused to surrender after police chased him following the attack, is believed to be an 18-year-old man who was born in Moscow and whose family was originally from Chechnya.

Macron visited the site and called the killing an attack on "the republic and its values." "This is our battle and it is existential. They [terrorists] will not



succeed. ... They will not divide us," he said, according to The Guardian. "One of our compatriots was assassinated today because he taught. He taught his students about freedom of expression, freedom to believe or not believe. It was a cowardly attack. He was the victim of a terrorist Islamist attack," Macron said. "This evening I want to say to teachers all over France, we are with them, the whole nation is with them today and tomorrow. We must protect them, defend them, allow them to do their job and educate the citizens of tomorrow."

France's National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office said the investigation was "in relation to a terrorist enterprise" and "criminal terrorist association," Le Monde reported, according to The Epoch Times, which noted that French Interior

Minister Gerald Darmani had said a few weeks ago that the country's terrorism risk was "extremely high." "The risk of terror of Sunni origin is the main threat our country is facing," he said, noting that 32 planned terrorist attacks had been thwarted since around 2017.

In January 2015, the Charlie Hebdo newspaper suffered an attack at its Paris offices, where 12 people were killed. Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen took responsibility for the killings, blaming the magazine's controversial drawings of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, which is considered offensive to Muslims. Nine months later, a cartoonist for Charlie Hebdo responded to the Islamic State's massacre in Paris in November that year, where gunmen and suicide bombers killed 129 people, by declaring that if God exists, he hates terror.

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