

Crosses Destroyed,  
Christians Attacked in  
Wave of Persecution in  
India--

Kerala, India. April 18

Priests, nuns, and Christian students have been attacked in a wave of persecution in India's Kerala state, which has also included the destruction of burial crosses and vandalism of church property, in recent weeks. Sajan K George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians, told a news agency on Tuesday that the most

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THE WAKE-UP CALL

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MAY 2018



Kim Jong Un makes history, crosses  
border to meet his rival Moon Jae-in

**GOYANG, SOUTH KOREA, APRIL 27**  
With a single step over a weathered, cracked slab of concrete, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made history on Friday by crossing over the world's most heavily armed border to greet his rival, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, for talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons. Mr. Kim then invited Mr. Moon to cross briefly north with him before they returned

to the southern side. This the first time one of the ruling leaders has crossed over the Demilitarized Zone since the Korean War ended in 1953. It was all smiles as Mr. Moon grasped Mr. Kim's hand and led him along a red carpet into South Korean territory, where school children placed flowers and an honor guard stood at attention for inspection.

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King David's City Found Near  
Jerusalem. Excavations Prove  
Bible Events



**Jerusalem April 30**  
Archaeologists in Israel said they discovered a building below the hills of Hebron near Jerusalem that is linked to King David of the Old Testament, with excavations alluding to events described in the Bible. According to an online news portal, the dig was led by Professor Avraham Faust of Bar-Ilan University. Researchers identified the remains of the lost city as Eglon, which is mentioned in Joshua 15:39 in the Bible as one of the cities that fought against

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## Assemblies of God Elects First-Ever Female General Secretary

Apr 25, 2018

The Assemblies of God leadership has unanimously elected the first-ever female general secretary for the

denomination's General Council. The largest Pentecostal denomination announced Monday the election of Donna L. Barrett to the position of general sec-

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NEWS

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## Christian College Student Sang 'Jesus Loves Me' Before She Was Shot Dead.



Tennessee, US, April 30

DeEbony Groves, the 21-year-old Christian Belmont University student who was shot dead along with three others in a mass shooting at a Waffle House in Antioch, Tennessee, sang "Jesus Loves Me" inside the restaurant shortly before she took her final breath. Waffle House CEO Walt Ehmer made the revelation in a short address at Groves' funeral service Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Gallatin where he said his company was grieving for the victims of the massacre.

"We went and visited with the survivors and they talked about the people who were in that restaurant before what happened, and specifically remembered your daughter and spoke of your daughter and her friend, and said that they were singing Gospel songs," Ehmer said, as hundreds of mourners who had gath-

ered to pay their respects shouted "hallelujah" and clapped inside the church. "And everybody was singing and enjoying each other and she said the last thing I remember her saying was, singing 'Jesus Loves Me,'" he continued. "And so I can't offer you many words of encouragement or comfort. All I can tell you is that our Waffle House family is hurting for you and with you. And I know there are so many people in this room that are so close to her [and] will never forget her. And I can promise you this — We will never forget your daughter."

Wearing nothing but a green jacket and naked from the waist down at about 3:25 a.m. on April 22, gunman Travis Reinking, 29, attacked the Waffle House just outside of Nashville, with an AR-15 rifle, starting in the parking lot, authorities said. He killed 29-year-old restaurant employee Taurean C. Sanderlin of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, who was shot while standing outside, according to The Washington Post. Groves was among three Waffle House customers who did not survive the attack.

Juan Rodriguez, pastor at Grace Tabernacle Christian Center, where Groves attended and was a member of the church's choir, said Groves' warmth, and Christian faith was reflected in the support shown at her funeral. "If you look around you, her life speaks for itself," Rodriguez said. Miss Groves was a senior at Belmont University, was a few weeks shy of obtaining her bachelor's degree in social work.

## Supernatural Miracles Are Happening Today More Than Many Realize, John Piper Says



April 30

Divine miracles are not as numerous in the Bible as one might think and more miraculous acts are in fact occurring around the world more often than people realize, according to John Piper.

In a talk show called Ask Pastor John, the Reformed theologian and author responded to an Ivy League freshman whose classmates ask him things like 'Why doesn't God work overt miracles today in twenty-first century America like he did in both the Old and New Testaments? Doesn't it seem convenient that God only worked miracles in the Bible?' This freshman's parents are missionaries in a former Soviet bloc country and the difference between life on the mission field and student life on a secular university campus is "night and day," he explained.

Piper explained that "there were fewer miracles in the Bible than

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## THE BIBLICAL WAY TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST

Leading a child to Christ can be considered as one of the adventures you would ever do in your Christian life. The Bible, from its beginning to the end, speaks about the importance of children. The Psalmist declares that children are a heritage from the Lord (Psalms 127: 3-5). Proverbs 13: 24 states that Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them. Jesus Himself used the analogies connecting to children to explain the truths of the scripture. Moreover, He used to bless children whenever they were brought to him. Once the disciples became so unhappy and they rebuked the people who brought children to Jesus. Seeing this, He was disappointed and He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell

you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16). Apostle Paul instructed the parents not to provoke the children. Peter advised the children to live in submission (1 Peter 5:5) and in great affection, Apostle John addressed his readers as "Little Children" (1 John 2: 1, 18, 28). There are a good number of such instances in the scripture that evidently articulate the importance of little ones. Subsequently, it becomes a very vital part of any Christian mission to care for the spiritual needs of the children. How can we lead children to Christ? What is the biblical way to lead a child to Christ? There are four elements that are essential in order to help a child start a new relationship with Jesus. If we consider them in

terms of steps, the first is always, the PRAYER, the second is a PROPER LIFE the third is PROPER INSTRUCTIONS and the last one is PROPER CHURCH SUPPORT. Once a child goes through these steps, it can be assured that the little girl or the boy will start loving Jesus, with the help of the working of the Holy Spirit. PRAYER

The prominence of prayer in the procedure of evangelizing kids cannot be exaggerated. The prayer should take precedence even before conception! A godly couple must seek His favor to grant them children who would also follow their

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**FULL STORY ON - 03**

## THE BIBLICAL WAY TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST

God. In conception and thereafter, they should ask God's counsel in all aspects of parenting and most importantly in the spiritual matters (James 1:5). Parents must pray for their children at all times. The age of the child is not at all significant, but continuous prayer for his or her salvation is. Prayer must be made not only for our children, but for the all the children that we come in contact with. For there is no other greater reason why we met them! More precisely, when you pray, ask God, that the Holy Spirit would prepare your child, that He would help you present the gospel clearly, that He would give your child understanding, and that He would convince your child of the truth of the gospel.

### PROPER LIFE

The perfect example that any Christian can set is by becoming one. Seeing a typical life, the children must long to follow our God. We must set an example in prayer. When our children see us praying to God daily, they will start acknowledging the importance of prayer. Reading the Bible daily would teach them that the book is essential for God's counsel. Our orderly dealing with others will demonstrate the Christian conduct which is of peace and harmony. Parents must order their lives in such a way their children must realize that they love God and would love to live according to what He says. It's foolishness, in the first place, to expect that the pastor or the Sunday School teacher will be the perfect examples. Of course, they also may exhibit a God-honoring life, but who is better than a father, a mother, an elder sister or a brother who can influence a child

than anyone else in the world. It must be kept in mind that the kids are very good at spotting a Sunday Christian who behaves very differently on the other days of the week and that might turn them away from church or even Jesus permanently. It's disastrous to be a two-faced role model. The scripture warns us that the end times will be characterized by children who will be disobedient to their parents. Keeping this in mind, how diligently we must be laying out an exemplary life for our children.

### PROPER INSTRUCTION

While leading children to Christ, we must affirm that we share age-appropriate instructions concerning spiritual matters. Speak to a child knowing his or her age so that we can choose appropriate words and terms a child of that age would understand. There are myriads of books and resources available to aid us in this regard. Children's Bible is a good resource to mention. While sharing the gospel, it is recommended that you speak to your child alone, in a place where he or she is very comfortable. Never rush through the message. Take time and explain clearly. Use the simple words and phrases your child would understand. Give them examples. They must realize that they need Jesus who alone can forgive their wrong doings. Do not forget to ask the questions to make sure that your son or daughter understands all what you say. Most importantly, do not insist your child to make a deci-

sion. The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces the child. You may have to make this conversation often or several times and at the right time your boy or girl will confess Jesus as his or her savior.

### PROPER CHURCH SUPPORT

Apart from home, the church is the best place to train a child in the spiritual matters. Without proper support from church, this feat is not achievable. Any child who has accepted Christ must be trained in the word, in worship and in all other spiritual and social aspects of his life. He must learn how to sing and worship, how to read and understand the Bible, how to become a witness of Christ, how to give to God and children must be exposed to everything related to his or her spiritual and physical life. They must be instructed that the real Christian life begins with salvation and gets perfected through a continuous growing in the Lord. The Sunday School teachers, Pastors, Servants of God, the Church-Office Bearers and even the layman must make every effort that the children are going through a discipleship program after their salvation. The spiritual growth of the kids is the responsibility of the older folks in the church.

Each and every child is a mission field. Share the gospel passionately until they understand and accept Jesus. Do not give into your fears. It's the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of your children. Start with prayer, live an exemplary life, share the good news of the gospel to your offspring and make sure that they are discipled in a church.

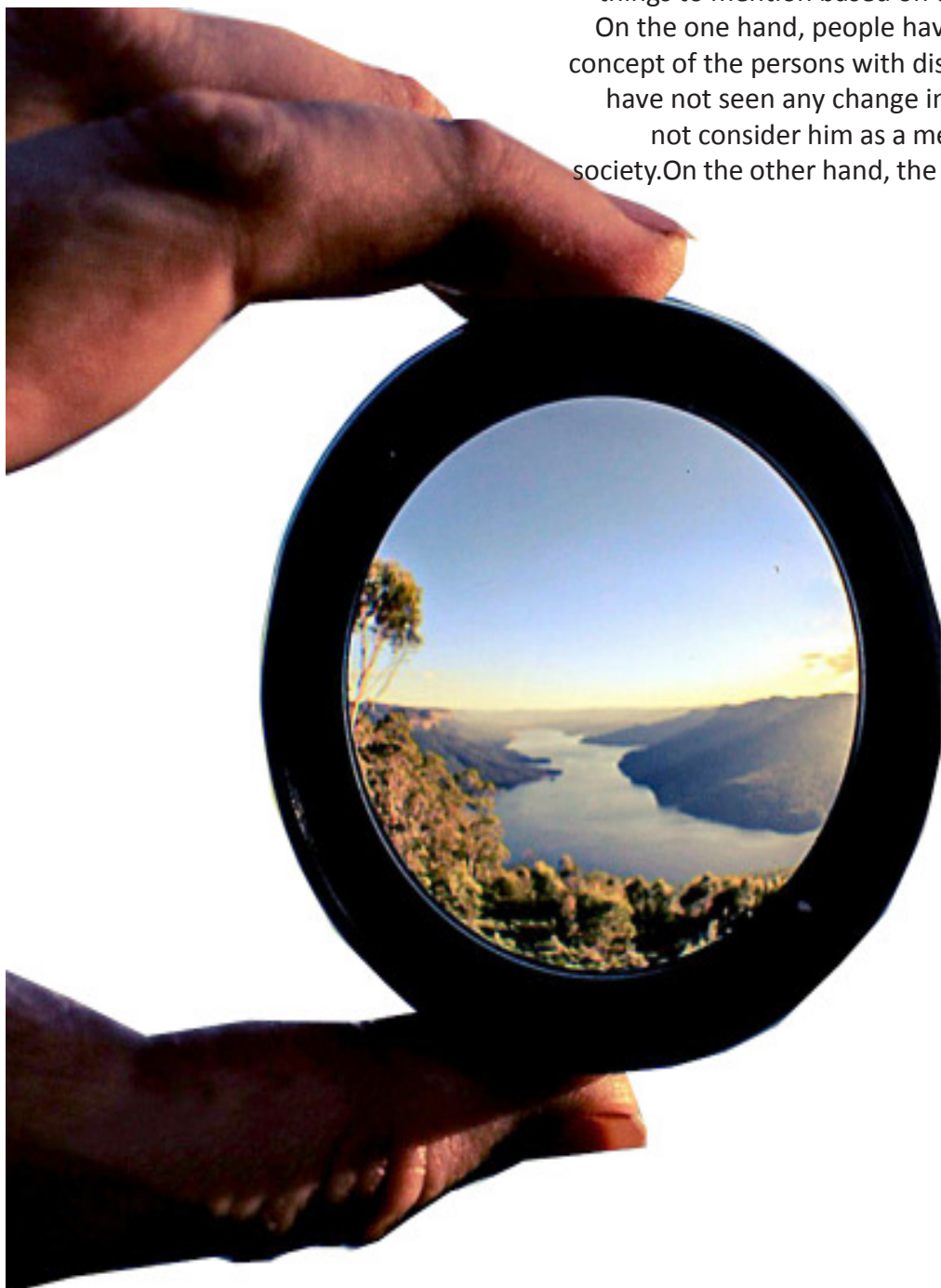
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Pr. Anil Kurichimuttom

People with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups in the World. The simplest definition of a disabled person is “the one who in her/his society is regarded as disabled because of a difference in appearance or behavior”. They are often denied social opportunities and are considered as unequal and ‘abnormal’. Jesus healed Bartimaeus, a blind man who was sitting



by the roadside in Jericho though the crowd had silenced his voice. There are two things to mention based on this incident. On the one hand, people have a negative concept of the persons with disability. They have not seen any change in him and do not consider him as a member in the society. On the other hand, the people deny

his possibilities to be healed by Jesus. The people like him are alienated and estranged from the people, things and the even the system of this world. On the contrary, the Bible has a different take on this subject. Jesus, in his ministry, has always tried to reach out for the handicapped and fulfil their needs. His main

intention was the salvation of their souls along with their physical healing!

It is evident from the Nazareth Manifesto (Luke.4:18-19) that Jesus is very clear about the focus of his ministry. His mission is “to proclaim the good news to the poor, to declare the freedom for the prisoners, and to recover the sight for the blind and to set the oppressed free.” His focus is to find out the needy and uplift them and thus their voices are given proper attention. Jesus saw the disabled as people. He touched them and healed them. In Luke. 5:12-13, we see Jesus healing a leper, who became an untouchable by the law. As touching a leper would pollute the person, no one was willing to go near to lepers. They were kept away from the mainstream of the society. Dalits in India and Blacks in America had undergone through the same situation decades ago. They still remain untouchables in many ways. In India, the atrocities against Dalits are being reported every day with an alarming increase in its percentage.

In spite of all the issues in the society, Jesus was responsible and authoritative in maintaining a warm relationship with the persons with disability. He talked lovely to them.

Through His words, He comforted and healed them. He called the paralyzed man in Luke.5:20, “friend” and another paralyzed man “son” in Matt.9: 2-3. Jesus gave them the dignity the society around them did not. Jesus was ready to hear the voices that have been silenced by the system and the crowd. Crowd rebuked Bartimaeus to be silent (Mk.10: 46-52). But Jesus was vigilant in listening to the voices of the marginalized. Jesus heard him above the noisy crowd and attended to his need.

FULL STORY ON - 09

## Disability: A Christian Perspective!

Jesus was compassionate to disabled people. In Matt.4:23-25, we see Jesus healed "all" that were brought to him. When a crowd of 4,000 were miraculously fed by Jesus and many lame, blind, mute and crippled were laid at Jesus' feet and he healed them all. In another instance, Jesus healed a demon possessed man (Matt. 9:32-34). Jesus was concerned for the spirituality of the disabled. Jesus speaks of the Centurion's faith (Matt. 8:5-13) as he told him of his paralyzed servant back home. He recognizes the faith of two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31) before he healed them. He acknowledges the faith of all four friends who lowered the paralyzed man through the roof and the man was healed (Mark 2: 1-12). To Jesus, spiritual death was certainly a much greater loss than a disability. In Matt. 5: 29-30, Jesus said it is better to go through life handicapped- lose an eye or a hand- than for a person to go to hell.



As a true Christian, it is our duty to look after the need of the disabled and marginalized people. We should not only pray for the disabled but to act accordingly for their betterment. It is important that we have a very kind heart for anyone who is suffering with a disability of any sort. I, here, assume that some serious questions are worth mentioning! Do we (Protestant Christians) have schools for disabled children? Do we have care homes for the Mentally Retarded persons? Do we have hospitals for nursing them? Then, how does our theology work out? Theological reflections get valued when they remain praxis (action) oriented. Sadly, we speak much and do less! We pray much and act less! We perform much and realize less! So let us open our eyes wide and see and act like Jesus did! Let's start caring for the spiritual needs of the disabled as a priority and run programs that would support and gratify their spiritual needs.

## Sparkling Wisdom!



- ❖ Anticipated sorrows are harder to bear than real ones, because Christ does not support us under them. **Edward Payson**
- ❖ Grace puts its hand on the boasting mouth, and shuts it once for all. **Charles Spurgeon**
- ❖ Praying without faith is like trying to cut with a blunt knife—much labor expended to little purpose. For the work accomplished by labor in prayer depends on our faith: "According to your faith," not labor, "be it unto you." **J.O. Fraser**
- ❖ I have given God countless reasons not to love me. None of them has been strong enough to change Him. **Paul Washer**
- ❖ A cleansed conscience is not a conscience that managed to forget guilt, it's a conscience that has experienced guilt dealt with by the price being fully paid at the Cross. **Ryan Fullerton**
- ❖ Ask God for anything, but let Him judge as to the manner, measure, and timing of the giving. **Andrew Bonar**
- ❖ One of the awful things about pride is that it deceives us; we may think we are serving God and others, but in reality we are serving ourselves only. **Alexander Strauch**
- ❖ My aim never was, how much I could obtain, but rather how much I could give. **George Müller**
- ❖ Ironically, a weak conscience is more likely to accuse than a strong conscience. Scripture calls this a weak conscience because it is too easily wounded. **John MacArthur**
- ❖ Humility leads the Christian to treat others that are in fault with meekness and gentleness, as Christ did His disciples, and particularly Peter, when he had shamefully denied Him. **Jonathan Edwards**

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# DO NOT WORRY

**M**artha and Mary were two sisters in a village called Bethany. They had a brother called Lazarus (John 11:1-2). Their parents must have been no more. The Scripture shows that these three people were of different natures. Martha was distracted, complaining and worrying type (Luke 10:39-41), while Mary sitting beside the Lord Jesus was very interested in hearing His word. Lazarus is seen as an ordinary man with no special characteristics. But Lord Jesus who knows the frame (nature) of all (Ps. 103:14) and loved all the three (John 11:5) equally.

When Martha expressed her complaint and worry, Jesus answered her and said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed and Mary has chosen that good part

which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41,42).

In His message on the mount (Matthew 5-7) Jesus said to the multitudes (Matt. 5:1) "Therefore I say to you do not worry about your life, what you will eat, what you will drink, nor about your body, what you put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing" (Matt. 6:25). Jesus continued "which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature. So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the Lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin . . . therefore do not worry. For your heavenly father knows that you need all these things" (Matt. 6:27-32).

Modern medical research has proved that worry affects our nervous system, digestive system and even the functions of the heart.

Worry is like cancer which destroys the effectiveness of the human body. Worry is also a sin not only against God but against oneself too. Thousands have shortened their lives by it and millions have made their lives bitter by dropping this gall into their souls every day.

You might have heard about the businessman who used to worry much. Once, he drew a chart of the matters that cause worry to him. He discovered from his own worry chart that 40% of his worries are about things that would not happen, 30% are based on happenings in the past which could not be undone, 12% are based on the opinions of other people. 10% on matters which can be solved with simple measures. Only 8% are for legitimate reasons. Maybe we also can write down our version of the chart and analyze.

The best method to tackle

worry is to handle situations arising in life with an attitude that of a Christian. I read about the great scientist Thomas Edison who invented a lot of things. He had a big laboratory in New York where he used to conduct all his experiments and did research work. One day his lab caught fire accidentally. The fire was blazing with a loud sound. He stood at a distance, called his wife. "My dear, come quickly and see the sight. Is it not unique? Have you ever seen such a marvelous sight anywhere in America before? See and enjoy." Edison faced something that can be called a catastrophe in the career "a marvelous sight" and didn't consider the incident the end of all. That's the attitude!

The following are the ten suggestions seen in a Medical Bulletin, to avoid the

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worrying habit.

- 1) Do not say the word 'worry' hereafter.
- 2) Try to avoid constant association with those who repeatedly use the word 'tension.'
- 3) Avoid finding fault of others.
- 4) Walk at least one hour every day.
- 5) Set apart some time every day to relax.
- 6) Keep a regular schedule for sleeping and waking up.
- 7) Talk always about pleasant things.
- 8) Fill your mind with good and holy thoughts.
- 9) Take vacation with members of your family at least once a year.
- 10) Pray daily.

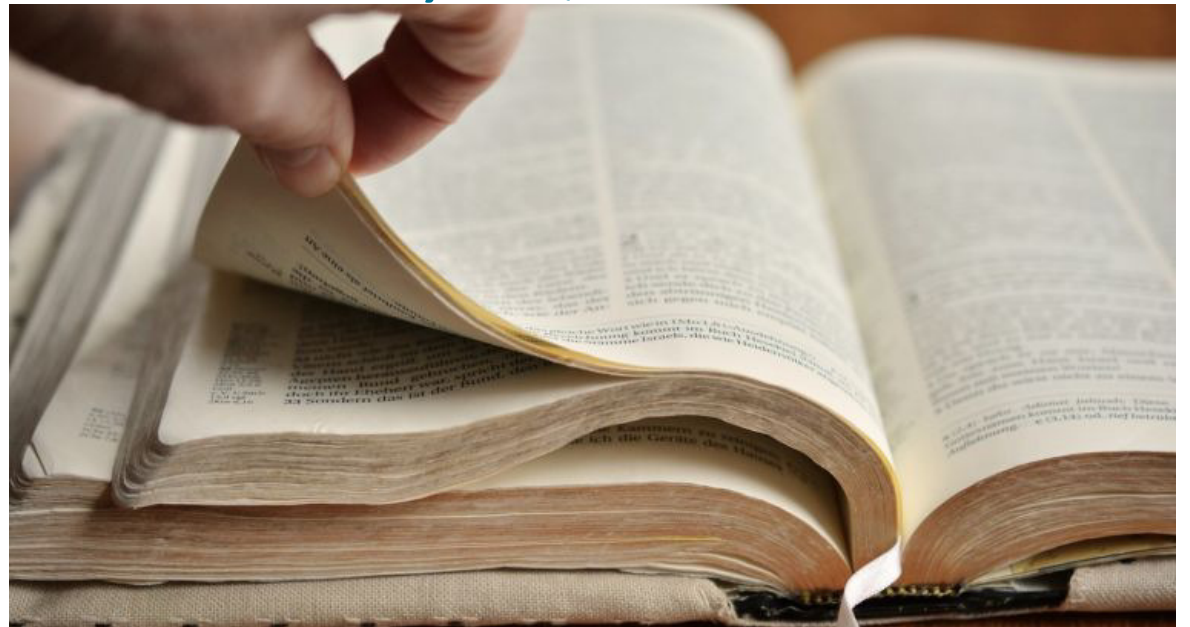
These are good suggestions from great men of this world. Yet, they do not always yield the desired results or a worry free life!! But let us look into the Bible to see what the great men of God have to say. Peter advises, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you" (1 Pet. 5:6,7). The author of the Hebrews recommends, "Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have. For He himself has said 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So, we may boldly say 'The Lord is my Helper, I will not fear. What man can do to me'" (Heb. 13:5,6).

Paul encourages, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6,7). He asserts, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). David assures, "But I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinks upon

me" (Ps. 40:17). Become a child of God, believe the word of God and appropriate His promises and avoid

worry so that you can lead a peaceful and healthy life. ♦

## The Bible is a foolish book you don't have to read, GQ Editors.



GQ magazine editors have published a list of 21 books they say aren't worth reading despite them being seen as the great books. The Bible is listed at No. 12 because, they claim, it's "not the finest thing that man has ever produced," and it's "self-contradictory" and "foolish." "The Holy Bible is rated very highly by all the people who supposedly live by it but who in actuality have not read it," the editors write in an article titled, "21 Books You Don't Have to Read," published this week. "Those who have read it know there are some good parts, but overall it is certainly not the finest thing that man has ever produced," they continue. "It is repetitive, self-contradictory, sententious, foolish, and even at times ill-

intentioned," claim the editors of the international monthly men's magazine based in New York City.

Introducing the list, the editors write, "Some are racist and some are sexist, but most are just really, really boring. So we — and a group of un-boring writers — give you permission to strike these books from the canon." The other books on the list include Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry, The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger, Goodbye to All That by Robert Graves, The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway, The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, and The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien.

### 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



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retary, noting that she is also the first woman to serve on the Assemblies' executive leadership team.

General Superintendent Doug Clay said in a statement that he was supportive of Barrett's election to the high-ranking post. "Through her service as a church planter, district leader, and general presbyter, Donna has shown humility paired with a special gifting for leadership," stated Clay. "I've seen God use her time and time again to speak wisdom into difficult circumstances at the district and national level," he continued. The Assemblies of God has recognized female ordination since 1914. At present, the denomination estimates that about one quarter of its ministers are women.

Barrett became an Assemblies of God minister in 1988

and has previously served on the Executive Presbytery of the Ohio Ministry Network and on the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. Barrett will be replacing James T. Bradford, who announced his resignation earlier this month in order to better pursue pastoral ministry.

As a result of her election, Barrett will be stepping down from her current position as lead pastor of Rockside Church of Independence, Ohio. Her last Sunday will be May 20. "What a great group of Christ followers with a strong staff and capable board leading this church forward to collectively discover God's will for this next season. Thank you, Rockside Church, for allowing me the honor of being your pastor," stated Barrett in her announcement to the church.

## Baptist pastors freed from prison in Myanmar

Two Baptist pastors from Myanmar arrested for leading journalists to a church reportedly destroyed by military air strikes in 2016 reportedly have been released from prison.

According to local media, DumdawNawngLatt and his nephew Langjaw Gam Seng, both pastors in the Kachin Baptist Convention, were among more than 8,500 prisoners ordered released by newly elected President Win Myint. The release followed a tradition of releasing prisoners on the first day of the Myanmar New Year. Fifty-one of the 8,541 pardoned prisoners are foreigners and 36 are political prisoners, but not all of Myanmar's political

The two Baptist pastors were sentenced to prison last October

under the country's Unlawful Associations Act, the law used most often to arrest individuals accused of association with ethnic armed groups opposing the government. The men disappeared on Christmas Eve 2016 after being summoned to an army base in northeastern Burma to assist with release of civilians detained there. Police waited a month before confirming they were in custody.

Their arrest appeared to be reprisal for their role in helping journalists document air strikes by the Burma Air Force that destroyed civilian structures in MongKo in the Northern Shan State bordering China, Laos and Thailand in November and December 2016.

## **P-02 Supernatural Miracles Are Happening Today More Than Many Realize, John Piper Says**

you probably think, and there are more miracles today than you probably know, and there is a good biblical reason for why there would be a certain kind of prevalence of miracles in the Bible that is different from today. "It's simply a great mistake to think that there are miracles running all through the history of God's people as the Bible records it. They were not running all through the history of God's people. They sprung up around certain periods of time like the

exodus and like the ministries of Elijah and Elisha," he said of the miraculous interventions in the Old Testament.

Most of the heroes of the faith before the time of Christ lived by faith in God's promises that they never saw come to fruition, a faith grounded in what God had done in the past, he went on to say. Such is life today, he continued, as Christians await a coming Kingdom "that's yet to be consummated, by looking back to the decisive work of Jesus Christ in the Bible."

"When it comes to the New Testament, it is gloriously true that Jesus did miracles perfectly and consistently, though even he raised only three people from the dead and didn't heal people in many places where he traveled or where he didn't travel," he said. "Not only that, but Jesus himself explains his own miracles as pointing to his divinity. In other words, something about these miracles attached to him and you wouldn't expect them to attach to other people in the same way."

"When you turn to the

book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament, it's obvious that the apostles did some astonishing miracles, but it's also true that they suffered much and their colleagues got sick. Paul carried a doctor around with him. They got thrown into prison. They got killed."

Piper holds to a view that is known as continuationism, that miracles did not cease with the death of the last apostle or the closing of the canon of Scripture and that they continue to happen today. What are known as cessationists believe the opposite perspective.

## Tamil Nadu continues to lead the way in violent attacks on Christians



**Tamil Nadu, India. April 17**

Thousands of Christians took to the streets during protests across the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on April 17 to demand government action to stop what they call increasing harassment and violence against Christians.

Some 20,000 Christians from various denominations filled roads in at least 16 cities and towns shouting slogans against government inaction to check anti-Christian activities allegedly carried out by upper-caste Hindu groups.

The Synod of Pentecostal Churches in Tamil Nadu organized the protest as Christians have been subjected to at least 15 cases of violence in the first three months of this year. Incidents include the mysterious death of a pastor who was found dead a week after he complained to police about harassment from hardline Hindus.

"We are facing lot of persecution in our state," synod general secretary K.B. Edison reported.

The peaceful protest was to get the attention of the state and federal government about the serious need

for security and protection of the Christian minority." In the past four years we have faced many challenges. Our churches are being attacked, they are being burned, pastors' lives are under threat. We are not able to bear these atrocities. They are even burning Bibles.

"We have approached the state government several times but disappointingly no action has been taken."

Nehemiah Christie, the synod's director of legislation and regulations, told that both Protestant and Catholic denominations joined the protest.

He said administrative bodies — including the police — have been apathetic to act against violence committed by Hindu groups because of the strong religious and caste biases in the state.

Tamil Nadu is not ruled by the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But the local political party — named All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam — which runs the government "is depending on the BJP for policy and advice on the affairs of the state. Naturally, the local

Hindu forces feel emboldened to attack Christians," he said.

Published data shows violence against Christians has increased across India since the BJP came to power in New Delhi in 2014 in a landslide victory. Hindu groups took the BJP's victory as a mandate to step up violence against religious minorities in their push to establish a nation ruled by a Hindu upper-caste hegemony.

Christians are the largest minority in the state, forming 4.5 million or some 6 percent of its 72 million people. A majority of them — plus the state's 4.2 million Muslims — come from castes considered low in the social hierarchy.

## US Govt Report Says Religious Freedom in India on a 'Downward Trend', Names RSS and VHP



April 27, Washington

Religious freedom conditions continued a "downward trend" in India last year as Hindu nationalist groups sought to "saffronise" it through violence, intimidation, and harassment of non-Hindus and Hindu Dalits, a US federal government appointed commission has alleged.

The US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its latest report has placed India in the Tier 2 countries of particular concern along with Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia and Turkey.

"Conditions for religious minorities have deteriorated over the last decade due to a multifaceted campaign by Hindu-nationalist groups like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS),



## Christians Face 2 Years in Prison for Evangelism in 8th India State to Pass 'Anti-Conversion' Law



**Uttarakhand, India. April 28**

The North Indian state of Uttarakhand is now the eighth state in the country to pass legislation that is officially named the "Freedom of Religion Act" but has the allegedly hidden intent to punish those who facilitate religious conversions, especially conversions from Hinduism to Christianity. The latest law carries a jail term of up to two years. The Governor of Uttarakhand, Krishna Kant Paul, signed the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Bill of 2018 into law this month, according to local media reports. The law will be in force as soon as the state government, governed by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, drafts its rules.

The bill was passed in the state assembly last month. On paper, the legislation claims to ban conversion by the use of force, fraud or inducement, but

these terms are defined loosely to include social work, praying for the sick or even evangelism. It is commonly referred to as an "anti-conversion" law.

The eastern state of Odisha, the central states of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh, the northern state of Himachal Pradesh and the western state of Gujarat also have similar laws in force. The northern state of Rajasthan, too, has an anti-conversion law on paper, but the bill is pending with the president of India. In the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, it is awaiting implementation.

This week, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that the U.S. government call on the Indian government to repeal anti-conversion laws. The commission noted that nearly one-third of India's states were enforcing anti-conver-

sion and/or anti-cow slaughter laws against "non-Hindus." Cows are considered holy by sections of the majority Hindu community.

While hardly any Christian worker has been convicted by a court under the law, members of the minority community are routinely accused of and charged with "forcible" conversions of Hindus. Christians and rights groups say the law is used as a tool by right-wing Hindu groups to harass and persecute Christians and to restrict Hindus from converting away from their religion.

Current religious tensions make the enactment of the law highly suspect for the minorities, including Christians and Muslims. Christian persecution, which includes violent attacks, destruction of Christian property and false accusations, has risen since the BJP won the general election in 2014. ♦

SanghParivar, and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) to alienate non-Hindus or lowercasteHindus," the USCIRF said.

The victims of this campaign include Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains, as well as Dalit Hindus, who belong to the lowest rung in the Hindu caste system, the USCIRF said in its latest annual report on international religious freedom.

"These groups face challenges ranging from acts of violence or intimidation, to the loss of political power, to increasing feelings of disenfranchisement and otherness," it said. "In 2017, religious freedom conditions continued a downward trend in India. India's history as a multicultural and multi-religious society remained threatened by an increasingly exclusionary conception of national identity based on religion. During the year, Hindu nationalist groups sought to 'saffronise' India through violence, intimidation, and harassment against non-Hindus and Hindu Dalits," it said.

Approximately one-third of state governments enforced anti-conversion and/or anti-cow slaughter laws against non-Hindus, and mobs engaged in violence against Muslims or Dalits whose families have been engaged in the dairy, leather, or beef trades for generations, and against Christians for proselytizing, it said.

"Cow protection" lynch mobs killed at least 10 victims in 2017. Forced conversions of non-Hindus to Hinduism through "homecoming" ceremonies (gharwapsi) were reported, and rules on the registration of foreign-funded NGOs were used discriminatorily against religious minority groups, the report said.

It also urged the US Government to press the Indian government to allow the USCIRF to visit the country and to invite the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit India. ♦

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recent attack occurred at the cemetery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ in Ukkinadka on Monday. Unknown vandals destroyed the cross at the burial place, and damaged another seven tombs. George explained that another incident took place at the "Logos Pastoral Center" in the diocese of Neyyattinkara last week, when around 150 Christian students, accompanied by a priest and two nuns, were residing there for a retreat. As many as 500 attackers who were "disturbed" by the religious songs at the center attacked the Christians,

throwing stones at the building, shattering windows and doors. The GCIC president did not clarify if any of the Christians were injured in the attack. Earlier on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, the Orthodox church of St. Greogrios of Punnamoodu in Alappuzha was targeted. The vicar, Fr. MK Varghese, was prevented by a group of criminals from entering the church. After insulting him, they went on to vandalize the church hall, breaking windows and kicking down the door. The incident led to the arrests of three people. George said that the "the surge in hostile acts

and intolerance towards Christians is alarming."

"Although it appears that the attacks are not directed specifically against the faith, there is a certain intolerance towards everything that is related to Christians. This is harmful for the democratic and secular India, while the social fabric of our country is damaged by insensitive comments or provocative statements, false and without foundation against the missionary work of Christians," he stated. Believers in Kerala have been attacked on a number of occasions in recent years.



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the Israelites as part of the five Amorite king's coalition.

Faust explained that the dig was aided by burrowing mole rats, which brought earth to the surface, offering initial clues as to what is buried underneath. Radiocarbon dating has since confirmed that the Eglon ruins date back to around 1,000 B.C., which aligns with the period of King David's time. The archaeological dig director pointed out that some researchers had placed doubt on the historical existence of David for the past 25 years, including the size of his kingdom. He reflected that the latest discovery provides new insight into the biblical figure, however, and that it follows "part of the events in the Bible ascribed to the Kingdom of David."

Faust clarified that although no artifacts bearing the actual name of King David have been discovered, the researchers did find "signs of a social transformation in the region which are consistent with a change from Canaanite culture to a Judean culture." "Hundreds of artifacts were unearthed within the debris, including a wide range of pottery vessels, loom weights, many metal objects, botanical remains, as well as many arrowheads, evidence of the battle which accompanied the conquest of the site by the Assyrians," he told the news portal.

In January 2017, archaeologists discovered an ancient wall dating back to the 10th century B.C. in southern Israel's Arava desert region, with some experts insisting that it alludes to David's capture of Edom as found in 2 Samuel 8:13. Erez Ben-Yosef of Tel Aviv University, head of the team that discovered the structure, said at the time that the wall is further evidence of a hierarchical society that interacted with its neighbors in the time period, which he said "matches up with texts from the Bible and other sources."



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Mr. Kim's news agency said that the leader would "open-heartedly" discuss "all the issues arising in improving inter-Korean relations and achieving peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula" in a "historic" summit. It's the first time one of the ruling leaders has crossed over to the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone since the Korean War ended in 1953. The greeting of the two leaders was planned to the last detail. Thousands of journalists were kept in a

huge conference center well away from the summit, except for a small group of tightly-controlled pool reporters at the border. Mr. Moon stood near the Koreas' dividing line, moving forward the moment he glimpsed Kim appearing in front of a building on the northern side. They shook hands with the border line between them. Mr. Moon then invited Mr. Kim to cross into the South; Mr. Kim invited Mr. Moon into the North, and they then took a ceremonial photo

facing the North and then another photo facing the South.

Nuclear weapons will top the agenda, and Friday's summit will be the clearest sign yet of whether it's possible to peacefully negotiate those weapons away from a country that has spent decades doggedly building its bombs despite crippling sanctions and near-constant international opprobrium.



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## Inauguration



DrBaby Varghese





# Harvesting souls mission



**Our Vision**

- To establish indigenous healthy growing churches that will make a significant gospel impact within the culture, people groups, communities, multiple generations in India.
- To establish strategic partnership with existing ministries to facilitate more and more better church planting movements in various regions of India.
- To grow our churches through effective evangelism and gospel centered discipleship that produces both born again experiences and subsequent transformation of the whole person, whole families and whole culture.
- To recruit, train, and send native workers who have a definite call from the Lord and intense commitment for the end time Harvesting of Souls.

The Great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is carried out through preaching the glorious gospel of the blessed God in villages and streets, city and nation-wide.

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