



Millennium Rule of Jesus Christ



FULL STORY ON -04

CHRISTIAN NEWS

August 2019



THE End time News THE WAKE-UP CALL

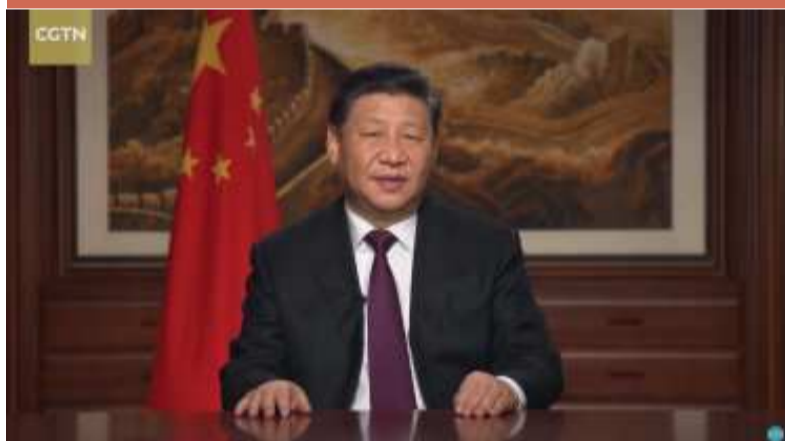
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CHRISTIAN WORDS REMOVED FROM SCHOOL TEXTS IN CHINA



In efforts to bring Christianity further under government control, authorities in China have erased the words "Bible," "God" and "Christ" from classic children's stories, including Robinson Crusoe.

China's Ministry of Education recently introduced a new school textbook to help fifth-grade students "understand other cultures," according to a reputed news agency. Included in the textbook are four popular stories by foreign writers, including Robinson Crusoe, The Little Match Girl, and Vanka.

However, each story is censored to remove any religious reference.

In Daniel Defoe's 18th century classic novel, castaway Robinson Crusoe discovers three Bibles inside a shipwreck, which he then uses as his moral compass while stranded on the island. However, the Chinese version

eliminates the word "Bible," instead noting that Crusoe happened upon "a few books." The original The Little Match Girl, written by Danish author Hans Christian Anderson, includes the line, "when a star falls, a soul goes to be with God." The redacted Chinese version, however, reads, "when a star falls, a person leaves this world."

Anton Chekhov's story Vanka includes a passage where a prayer is said inside a church, during which the word "Christ" is mentioned

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BURMESE CHRISTIANS RELEASED AFTER 6 MONTHS OF DETENTION



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HILLSONG FAME CHRISTIAN LYRICIST MARTY SAMPSON RENOUNCES FAITH



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CHURCH BUILDING LICENSE DENIED IN INDONESIA DUE TO STRIKES FROM MUSLIM RADICALS



▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 10

A newly issued license for a Christian church in Indonesia's unique district of Yogyakarta has allegedly been denied following the agitations from radical Muslim gatherings in the zone.

A well-known news agency reports that the license for a Pentecostal church that was issued in January was dropped by the Bantul locale boss, who passes by the name Suharsono, through an official letter sent on July 26. Suharsono justified the incident by saying that the license

issued to the congregation toward the start of the year did not meet prerequisites built up by a 2006 joint pastoral announcement controlling places of worship in the Muslim-greater part nation. The revocation of the church's permit comes just days after radical Muslim groups vowed to oppose the church's existence in the town.

PalitPanjaitan, who chairs the



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

There are two priorities for this race. The first is to finish it and the second is to win the prize. Unlike competitions in the world, this is not the one that the contestant can quit in between. Anyone starts this race must finish it and that's the desire of the Lord.

Christian life has been likened to running a race. This is one of the many athletic metaphors used in the scriptures. Paul, the apostle, has used this analogy a number of times and the most prominent one is found in 1 Corinthians 9: 24-26.

There are two priorities for this race. The first is to finish it and the second is to win the prize. Unlike competitions in the world, this is not the one that the contestant can quit in between. Anyone starts this race must finish it and that's the desire of the Lord. Paul in his final exhortation to the church at Ephesus, as mentioned in Acts 20:24, expressed his firm commitment to the gospel preaching by stating that he was never bothered about the afflictions lurking in wait ahead of him in the mission fields, rather he was driven with the ultimate intention to complete the race with joy. To reach the finishing point with a joyful heart meant a lot to the apostle. Our intention too must not be any less than this! Indeed, the Lord will help us complete it as the Paul himself confirmed this in

Philippians 1:6. How unfortunate can be the case of people who abandon the race in the middle. Paul mentions a few of them in his epistles, Demas in one to remember (2 Timothy 4:10).

The second concern in the race is to win the prize. This aspect is mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 9: 24-26. The background, undoubtedly, must have been the Isthmian Games, second in fame only to Olympic Games, held at Corinth every alternative year. He himself must have witnessed the games while his long stay at the city in his second missionary journey. His readers were familiar with the race Paul has in mind, especially the winning part of it. In fact, everyone competes for a prize, but the prize is secured for one person, the winner of the race. Paul urges us to be that winner! Everyone who runs the race diligently wins the prize. The rewards, unlike the game then, we get at the finish line are incorruptible. Paul himself became the best example by pressing towards the goal to get the prize (Philippians 3:14). Do not hesitate, there is a prize for everyone!! **Amen.**

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST PERSECUTED GROUP: PEW RESEARCH

Government restrictions on religion have increased across the globe — and Christians and Muslims are persecuted in more countries than any other religious group, Pew Research Center has found. Pew's report, titled "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World," covered a 10-year span, from 2007 to 2017, and studied 198 countries.

The study, released recently, reveals that Christians are the most-harassed religious group in the world, facing persecution in 143 countries. Muslims are not far behind, with reports of religious persecution in 140 countries in 2017. Jews, the third-most targeted group, were persecuted in 87 countries.

"Over the decade from 2007 to 2017, government restrictions on religion—laws, policies and actions by state officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices—increased markedly around the world," stated the researchers. "And social hostilities involving religion—including violence and harassment by private individuals, organizations or groups—also have risen since

2007."

Unsurprisingly, Christians and Muslims suffered the most harassment in the Middle East-North Africa region, while the Asia-Pacific region showed the second-highest levels of Christian persecution. The number of highly-populated countries, like China and Russia, that impose "high" or "very high" levels of restriction rose from 40 to 52 over the decade.

But government restrictions on religion have also increased in democracies: Overall, Europe saw the biggest increase in restrictions, with its score doubling over the decade of the study. Pew found that a growing number of European countries have placed restrictions on religious dress, while countries like Spain have restricted public preaching and proselytizing by various religious groups.

While the Americas was the region with the fewest restrictions and hostilities, government limits on religious activities still saw a significant increase. Over the period of the study, the number of countries in the Americas with government restrictions on religious activities jumped from 16 to 28. The U.S. score

on hostilities related to religious norms, which had been 0.0 in 2007, increased to 4.0 by 2017. The report noted, "The U.S. also ranked among the highest-scoring countries in this category (individual and social group harassment) in 2017, in part because of the 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists were protesting the removal of a Confederate statue from a park. Protesters expressed anti-Semitic and racist sentiments, displaying swastika flags and chanting 'Jews will not replace us!'"

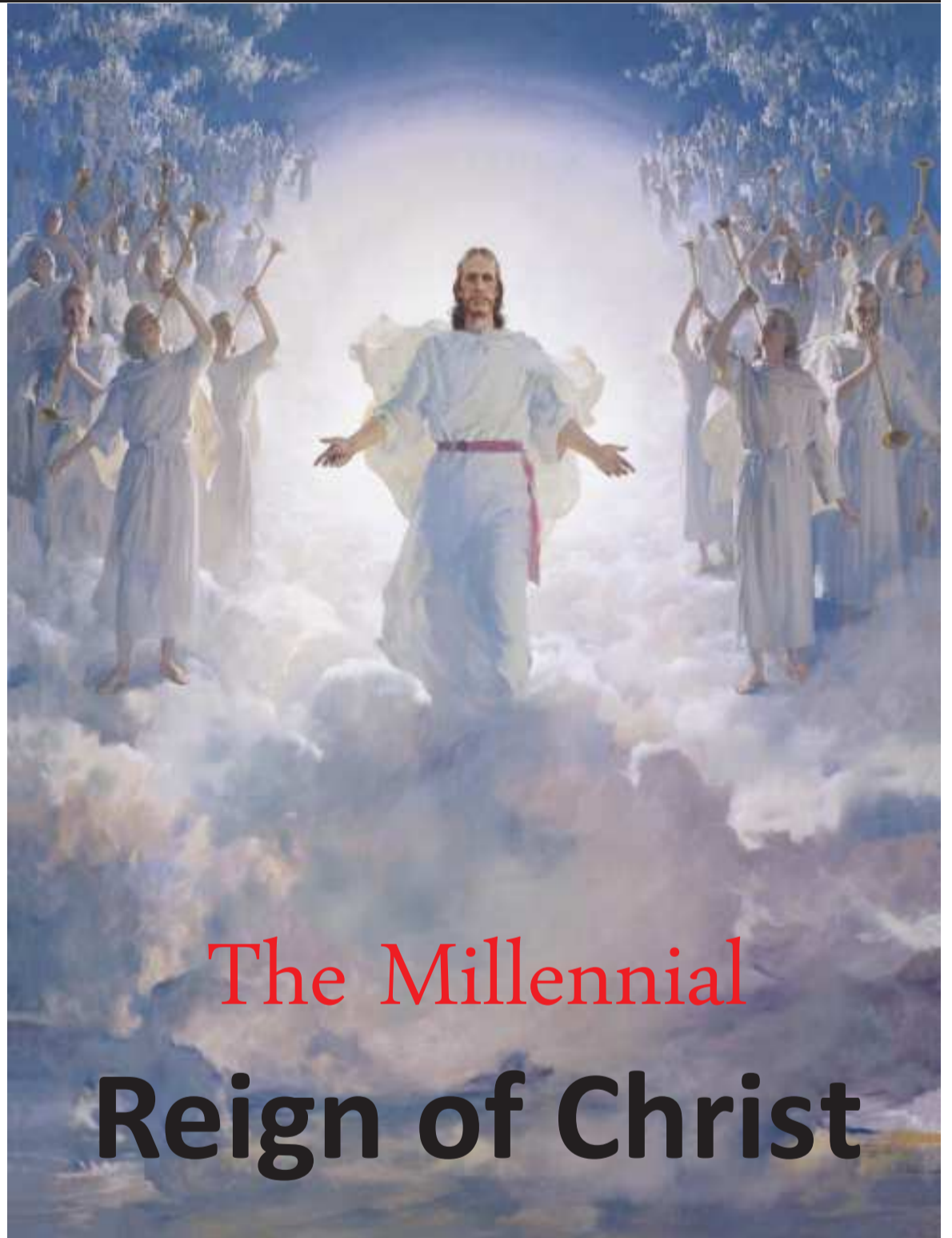
Overall, countries with the highest levels of restrictions were China, Iran, Russia, Egypt and Indonesia. Countries with the lowest levels were South Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Brazil and South Korea. According to Pew, in only 26 countries (13%) are all religious groups "generally treated the same."

The Pew report came as the U.S. State Department hosted a three-day Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C. Attended by government officials, religious leaders, and other participants from regions around the world, the summit was touted as the largest of its kind ever held.



**Rev. Dr. VICTOR SOLOMON
ISAAC**

Our Lord Jesus Christ will be the supreme ruler and King of King and Lord of Lords. All the nations of the world will serve and worship only Jesus Christ.



The Millennial Reign of Christ

The magnificent coming of Jesus, the Messiah, has been prophesied by almost every prophet in the Bible (Jude 15, Matthew 24:30,31; Daniel 7:13,14; Zechariah 12:10, 13:1, 14:4). After the last bowl judgment is given by God Almighty to the earth (the Battle of Armageddon), the Lord Jesus Christ will come back to earth to put an end to Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet. They will be throw into the lake of fire with fire and brimstone.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will be the supreme ruler and King of King and Lord of Lords. All the nations of the world will serve and worship only Jesus Christ. His Kingdom will

never be broken or destroyed because His Kingdom which will be established in the earth will put an end to all Kingdoms and power.

The character of His Kingdom will be Holiness (refer to Zechariah 14:20, Daniel 7:13, 14 and Daniel 2:44). At this point of a thousand year's rule of our Lord Jesus Christ, this will be literally heaven on earth. His Kingdom will be justice, righteousness, and peace (no more wars). His government will be a government which the world has never seen before (refer of Isaiah 9:6,7). "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be



Those who carried him stood still

This procession is the story of a mother's never ending grief. There are people thronging around. Her only son, a young man, the joy and the comfort of a family, is no more! When her husband died at her young age, making her a widow, she had grounded all her aspirations and expectations on him. But all hopes vanished as the angel of death snatched him away from her hands. We read this tale of sorrow in Luke 7: 11-17.

Behold, little afar, on the other end of the road, there is another procession closing against. This one is not a lamenting one, rather one of celebration, hope and deliverance. Jesus is the leader of the crowd. The disciples are walking alongside him too. When they reached near the

funeral procession, Jesus noticed the body of the boy carried on the casket and his weeping mother. He comforted her and said "do not weep". Then he moved towards the bier and those who carried it stood still. Those who rushed the body to the graveyard, those who mourned along the road, those who accompanied in sorrow, had to remain still when Jesus touched. Jesus raised the young man from the dead and handed him over to his mother alive.

Dear friend, when you lose all your hopes, when the future of your children move towards the graveyard of helplessness, when you are tired and desperate, unable to be comforted by anyone, you must look at Jesus who can stretch His wonder working hands towards you! Those who are carrying you will



Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

stop. The dead will rise. Everything taken away from you will cease to move another step and the Lord will transform the processions of lamentations in your family into the processions of joy unspeakable! May the wonder working God move His Mighty hands for you!!

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one LORD, and his name one". - Zechariah 14:9(KJV) "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divide his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" Mathew 25:31-34, 41 and 46 (KJV).

It would be terrible and outrageous to be cast into the Hell even after undergoing seven years of Tribulation. Salvation will no more be offered to those who have accepted the mark of the Beast. Unquestionably, there is no way to flee for those who refuse to accept the Lord's way. Many prophets told of this blessed millennial time. "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house." Ezekiel 43:2,5 (KJV). "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the king, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" Zechariah 14:9, 16 (KJV). "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem". Isaiah 2:2,3,

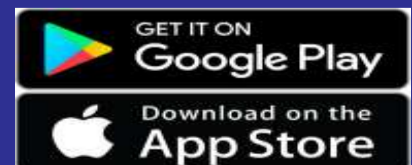
11:9 (KJV). "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imaginations of their evil heart". Jeremiah 3:17 (KJV).

The kingdom that will be set up by the God of heaven will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44) Jesus Christ will rule from Jerusalem and His Kingdom will last forever. Zachariah 14 defines there will be one Lord and His name will be one. He will rule the earth entirely. No more it is man managed but this completely established by our Lord Jesus Christ will be the supreme King, ruler of all people. All the nations will serve Jesus Christ and will worship Jesus Christ. "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" Daniel 7:13,14 (NIV-UK).

According to Isaiah 9:6,7, this will be the time of heaven established on the earth and it is entirely controlled by the Lord Jesus himself. Justice, righteousness, peace (no more wars) will be established and the whole government system in this world will be shouldered by our Lord Jesus. According to Zechariah 8:3, literally the Lord Jesus will be dwelling in the midst of Jerusalem and Jerusalem will be called the holy city/ mountain of God. Once again, I repeat, literally Lord Jesus will rule this earth from Jerusalem and not from heaven. Those who died as martyrs at tribulation period will come to life, and have an exceptional position in the Kingdom and reign with Christ a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4,5). This Kingdom on earth will carry on for 1000 years, following which the earth will be destroyed and new heaven and earth will be formed by God. Satan will be thrown into the Lake of fire, to be tormented everlastingly.

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





Sis. Glory Joseph



Uprooting stump of bitterness

Stump is the part of a plant and especially a tree remaining attached to the root after the trunk is cut off. It may not be visible from a distance but tends to sprout back up in favorable condition. So, is the case with bitterness. Stump of bitterness may sprout back up in our lives. Like other toxic behaviors such as anger, unforgiveness, jealousy, bitterness is on the rise among Christian community. If left unchecked, it could cause mental, emotional and physical consequences.

Stump of bitterness may be caused due to something someone said to you, done to you, or could be result of your perception. All of us have encountered this experience at some time in our life. Person sitting in the pew in front of you in the church may have a stump of bitterness. Bitterness is caused due to unforgiveness. It does not happen overnight. Unforgiveness leads to anger which turns into bitterness. Asking forgiveness or apologizing superficially will make the trunk of bitterness disappear in the eyes of others. Forced and fake apologies are on the rise. This may lead an outward fixing of a problem. If the apology is not genuine, the stump is left behind.

Mental consequences of bitterness include isolation, loneliness. Believers pull away from assemblies, gatherings as they don't want to face the other person. Their courage may be drained that they don't have the strength to face others. They may behave irrationally. They find fault in others and are very critical of others. They may also feel emotionally drained. Sadness, tears, feeling of pity may overtake them. They may live with a heavy heart. Weight of bitterness is so heavy that they toss and turn at night and have disturbed sleep. They get accustomed

to this feeling. They take this feeling for granted and live with it. A believer's face that is supposed to emit fragrance of love, joy and peace is now covered with sadness. Or, they may walk around with a mask of happiness. Physical consequences of leaving a stump of bitterness in our lives could cause insomnia, higher blood pressure, and weaker immune system.

Breaking out in small groups, sessions give opportunities to speak your heart. Sharing your stories, experiences with others give you opportunity to open. It opens your eyes and hearts to see others who are in similar situations, predicament. It allows us to see the imperfections in others. Are we ready to forgive the imperfections, shortcomings of your brother, sister or a young person? May God grant us the humbleness towards them with gratitude and joy. Let us embrace them with joy as the peace of God fill their hearts. Let their hearts enjoy a season of peace. Let the holy spirit erase their memories of bitterness. If you are carrying a stump of bitterness in your heart, recognize it, and take time to ask for forgiveness. Let this be a sincere move.

Let us work together to uproot the stumps of bitterness from our families, schools, colleges and our churches. God wants to set us free from this bitterness. If left unchecked, it will sprout and grow into a big tree that cannot be uprooted easily. It

Person sitting in the pew in front of you in the church may have a stump of bitterness. Bitterness is caused due to unforgiveness. It does not happen overnight.

takes a joint effort to uproot the stumps of bitterness. Use the shovel of love, kindness, forgiveness to uproot it. Uproot it before it starts to put out shoots. Use the pattern of Jesus while forgiving others. If God of Heaven, Creator of this universe chose to forgive you, and adopt you into his family, what stops you from forgiving another mortal like you.

Let us work together to remove stumps of bitterness from our siblings, children, families, loved ones, friends, co-workers and our fellow believers. Let the sweetness of our Christian love help dilute the bitterness out. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled. (Hebrews 12:14-15).

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Cetin, also saying that “everyone’s hearts beat for our Turkey.” The Syriac Christian community will be paying for the building, which is expected to have a sanctuary with space for approximately 700 believers.

Erdogan has a controversial record when it comes to religious freedom for the Islamic country’s small Christian minority. Last year, the Erdogan government garnered negative international attention for its detaining of American pastor Andrew Brunson under allegations that he was connected to a terrorist group that engaged in a failed coup in 2016. Brunson, who had lived in Turkey for more than 20 years, was eventually freed and returned to the United States after the Trump administration demanded his release.

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tuary church. “The word ‘sanctuary’ is not well-defined and that the Assembly does not have the authority to push Synods and congregations of the Church to take on the actions that many perceive a sanctuary to entail,” Askegaard said. “This puts us as a Church in the position of having the title of a sanctuary while not all parts of the body are willing to participate as a sanctuary facility.”

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar of the Oregon Synod defended the memorial, noting that her synod had already declared themselves a sanctuary body three years ago and had debated the many ways to define “sanctuary.” “Finally, we decided adaptive leadership requires us to step out in faith and boldness for the sake of a gospel of liberating love, even when we can’t define precisely or legally what that means,” stated Bishop Caesar, adding that “there have been very few negative ramifications.”

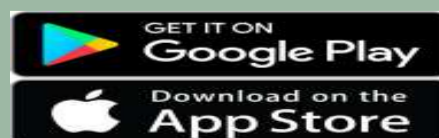
The ELCA’s move to become a sanctuary body comes amid increased crackdowns on those living in the United States illegally by the Trump administration.

Last week, ICE raids took place across six cities in Mississippi, resulting in the arrests of an estimated 680 undocumented immigrants. Nearly half were released. U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi Mike Hurst explained to the media that he believed the raids to be “the largest single-state immigration enforcement operation in our nation’s history.”

Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖ “When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life.” — *Rick Warren*
- ❖ “God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.”
— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- ❖ “God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go.”
— *Tony Evans*
- ❖ “Having the answers is not essential to living. What is essential is the sense of God’s presence during dark seasons of questioning.”
— *Ravi Zacharias*
- ❖ “Remember who you are. Don’t compromise for anyone, for any reason. You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth.”
— *Lysa Terkeurst*
- ❖ “The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.”
— *Mother Teresa*
- ❖ “We don’t think there’s something wrong with one-year-old children because they can’t walk perfectly. They fall down frequently, but we pick them up, love them, bandage them if necessary, and keep working with them. Surely our heavenly Father can do even more for us than we do for our children.”
— *Joyce Meyer*
- ❖ “Whatever makes men good Christians; makes them good citizens.”
— *Daniel Webster*
- ❖ “Your potential is the sum of all the possibilities God has for your life.” — *Charles Stanley*
- ❖ “He said ‘Love...as I have loved you.’ We cannot love too much.” — *Amy Carmichael*

Abigail Thyvilayil John



FULL STORY ON - 01

several times. In the Chinese version, that section is left out and every mention of the word Christ has been erased.

Asia News notes that the censorship of Christian religious elements isn't isolated to elementary schools. Several college professors also condemn classics containing religious words and confiscate them. Among these are *The Count of Montecristo* by A. Dumas, *Resurrection* by Lev Tolstoy, and *Notre-Dame de Paris* by Victor Hugo.

In 2018, China's ruling Communist Party implemented rules on religious practice and announced a five-year plan to make Christianity more compatible with socialism. Efforts to make the faith more "Chinese" reportedly included a rewrite of the New Testament using Buddhist scripture and Confucian teachings to establish a "correct understanding" of the text.

Recently, Vice President of America, Mike Pence, met with an interfaith coalition of religious freedom advocates to discuss what the United States can do to hold China accountable as it continues to persecute religious believers.

"Up until this point, the United States never had a strategy against China's violations of human rights," David Curry, head of the international Christian persecution advocacy group Open Doors USA, said. "They've recognized them as a country particular concern, but it's not escalated. And there haven't been any punishments directly associated with it. So we think that might be something they would consider, as far as punishments go." Open Doors USA ranks China as the 27th worst nation in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on its 2019 World Watch List.

BURMESE CHRISTIANS RELEASED AFTER 6 MONTHS OF DETENTION



The rebel faction Arakan Army in Myanmar has released 52 villagers from the predominantly Christian Khumi community in the Western Chin state after they were detained for six months in a border camp.

A Christian Radio reported the release last week, citing a local pastor and the Arakan Army. The Khumi villagers were abducted in February from their communities following a battle with Myanmar's military troops. Although the Khumi Affairs Consultative Council accused the Arakan Army of taking the villagers by force, the rebel group vehemently denied that accusation.

In April, a spokesperson for the rebel faction said the Arakan Army helped the villagers flee to safety after fighting in Chin's Paletwa township. The spokesperson claimed that the Arakan Army did not take the villagers by force. Fifty-four villagers were initially said to have been detained by the Arakan Army but two villagers were able to escape. KACC chairman Kyaw Nyein said in April that the villagers who escaped said the rest of the

villagers were being held at an Arakan Army outpost along the border of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh.

As per the radio news, the Arakan Army released the Khumi villagers and sent them to community leaders in the OhntheeWa village. The released villag-

ers are expected to stay at an internally displaced persons camp in Meezar. "They said that all have been released," Pastor Moses told Radio Free Asia.

The release of the villagers was praised by the U.S.-based persecution watchdog and charity International Christian Concern.

"For the Chin captives who were held against their will for months, this is definitely encouraging news that they could finally return home," ICC Regional Manager Gina Goh said in a statement. "We rejoice with them and their loved ones. However, the AA should not have taken them in the first place. Civilians have the right to live without fear despite ongoing armed conflicts between the AA and Tatmadaw According to the Joshua Project, the Khumi community in Myanmar is about 66,000 in population with 80 percent being Christian".

Myanmar, a Buddhist-majority country, ranks as the 18th-worst persecutor of Christians in the world, according to Open Doors USA's 2019 World Watch List.

HILLSONG FAME CHRISTIAN LYRICIST MARTY SAMPSON RENOUNCES FAITH



Marty Sampson, a prolific worship music writer known for his work with Hillsong Worship, Hillsong United, Delirious and Young & Free, revealed he is losing his faith and believes Christianity is "just another religion."

"Time for some real talk," the Australian writer wrote in a since-deleted post on Instagram. "I'm genuinely losing my faith, and it doesn't bother me. Like, what bothers me now is nothing. I am so happy now, so at peace with the world. It's crazy."

"This is a soapbox moment so here I go ... How many preachers fall? Many," he continued. "No one talks about it. How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one

THE FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR NEW CHURCH IN TURKEY SINCE 1923; PRESIDENT OVERSEES!

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan oversaw a ceremonial laying of the foundation stone for the construction of the first new church building in Turkey in nearly a century. In a ceremony held Saturday in Istanbul, Erdogan celebrated the beginning of construction for the new church, which will serve the local Syriac Christian community and will be the first new church built in Turkey since the nation became a republic in 1923.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Erdogan championed tolerance for minority communities in the Muslim-majority nation, declaring that "this country, this state belongs to everyone." "It is the Turkish republic's duty to meet the need for space to worship for the Syriac community, who are the ancient children of this geography," stated Erdogan. "Anyone who has affection for, contributes to and is loyal to Turkey is a first-class citizen. There are no barriers to anyone in politics, trade or any other area."

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talks about it. How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all 'coz they don't believe? No one talks about it. Christians can be the most judgmental people on the planet—they can also be some of the most beautiful and loving people. But it's not for me."

The "All I Need Is You" writer said he's "not in" anymore and desires "genuine truth." "Not the 'I just believe it' kind of truth," he wrote. "Science keeps piercing the truth of every religion. Lots of things help people change their lives, not just one version of God. Got so much more to say, but for me, I keeping it real. Unfollow if you want, I've never been about living my life for others."

Christianity "just seems to me like another religion at this point," Sampson said.

"I could go on, but I won't," he wrote. "Love and forgive absolutely. Be kind absolutely. Be generous and do good to others absolutely. Some things are good no matter what you believe. Let the rain fall, the sun will come up tomorrow."

Sampson's announcement, accompanied by a picture of Sampson pulling down the temple pillars as described in the Bible, sparked an outpouring of responses on social media.



The church will be constructed in the Istanbul neighborhood of Yesilkoy, located in the Bakirköy municipality. According to Erdogan, the church should be completed within the next two years. Plans to construct the church were first announced in January, with Yusuf

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

group Solidarity of Victims of Violations of Freedom of Religion and Beliefs, told the news agency that permit revocation is an indication that "the state is defenseless against pressure by intolerant groups." The church's pastor, Tigor Yunus Sitorus, told that he asked members to attend services at other churches. He did not want to issue a statement in order to avoid worsening the atmosphere for the community's Christians.

According to the Christian persecution watchdog Open Doors USA, Christians make up about 12 percent of Indonesia's 266 million majority-Muslim population. The country ranks as the 30th worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA's 2019 World Watch List. "Although Indonesia's constitution promotes religious freedom, Islamic extremist groups are becoming more influential in pushing for an Islamic nation," an Open Doors factsheet on Indonesia states. "Some regions of Indonesia already operate under Islamic law (Sharia), which poses a threat to Christians and other religious minorities."

Cetin, the Syriac Orthodox Church's metropolitan for Istanbul and the capital Ankara, supporting the decision. "We're proud of living under the Turkish flag in this land," stated

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In addition to extreme persecution against Muslim converts to Christianity and discrimination against Christian children in schools, Open Doors notes that churches in Indonesia are "hard to build." "[E]ven if congregations manage to fulfill all the legal requirements, local authorities can still deny them permission," the fact sheet reads.

As Christians face various forms of persecution in Indonesia, a number of Christians have been jailed on claims they violated blasphemy laws by insulting Islam or its prophet, Muhammad. In 2017, the then-sitting governor of Jakarta, who is Christian, was jailed on the false charge that he insulted Islam during a campaign visit. The accusation is related to a doctored video that came during the middle of his hotly-contested re-election campaign.

In its 2018 annual report, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom criticized the federal government of Indonesia for not intervening whenever "provincial and local governments enact unconstitutional regulations or policies that exacerbate religious divisions."

BELIEVER WIFE CHANGED ME: CHANCE THE RAPPER

Chance the Rapper, whose real name is Chancelor Jonathan Bennett, says his wife's decision to get baptized and abstain from sex during a separation before they got married saved his life. The Chicago native was a guest on Queen Radio on Apple Music's Beats 1 hosted by Nicki Minaj to discuss his new album *The Big Day*. In the interview he opened up about his relationship with his long time love, Kirsten Corley, who he recently married.

During the interview, Minaj lauded Chance and Kanye West for publicly sharing their Christian faith. She also revealed that she was recently with West who told her that he's a "born-again Christian." Chance then got candid with Minaj and said his wife "saved" him by abstaining from sex. "I need you to hear one song on my album that has my best verse that I written in my life,"

he said. "It's called 'we go high.'" "I explain that my wife literally saved my life by becoming celibate and going and getting baptized," he said, admitting that before he



witnessed her commitment to faith he never really knew where his strength came from. "It changed her life, obviously. But we talking about me right now. It changed my life, for real. Now I know exactly where my strength comes from," he declared. Chance's awakening came after he completed his Grammy Award-winning album *Coloring*

Book while he and Kirsten were separated. "This is all after *Coloring Book*, after I proclaimed that I love Jesus, and all that stuff," he revealed. "You're never fully, fully sanctified, so I had to keep figuring it out. I had to do the Grammy's by myself. I had to do a lot by myself. Then when my girl was gracious enough to have me back, it changed my whole life." The 26 year old declared that he's now discovered who to turn to when he's in despair.

"The other day I was lower than I ever been. I know the caricature of me is super positive. I was lower than I ever felt in my life, and I really had to get down on [my] knees and be like, 'I know I can't solve this problem by myself.' So I'm here right now happier than I ever been." Chance and his wife are now happier than ever, he said. The couple have a 3-year-old daughter together and another child on the way.

LUTHERAN DENOMINATION DECLARES ITSELF A 'SANCTUARY CHURCH' FOR MIGRANTS



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America passed a measure declaring their entire denomination a "sanctuary church" for migrants, including those who entered the United States illegally. At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly on 07-08-19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the 3.4 million-member mainline Protestant denomination approved a resolution, or "memorial," making themselves a "sanctuary church." The vote came by a clear majority of the voting delegates raising green cards and reportedly made the

ELCA the first denomination in North America to identify as a sanctuary body.

In a press release announcing the result of the memorial, the ELCA noted that earlier in the day, Presiding Bishop the Reverend Elizabeth Eaton and about 700 Assembly members held a march and prayer vigil

outside the nearby Milwaukee Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. "The march addressed concerns about the human rights of migrant children and families entering the U.S. along the southern border," stated the ELCA. "Through the ELCA's initiative, Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), this church is committed to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside

the U.S."

The memorial was not without its critics. David Tindell of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin spoke against the measure, arguing that they should be mindful of "the rule of law" and that there are better venues for change in immigration reform. "The rule of law is clear when it comes to immigration. It may not be the law that we necessarily like and it may not be enforced the way we would necessarily like, but it is still the law. We must be mindful of that," said Tindell. "When we want something to be changed in this country in terms of a law, we have the means to do that through our elected representatives."

Thomas Askegaard of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod explained that he believed the memorial failed to go far enough in its goal to make the denomination a sanc-

SPEND MORE TIME IN PRAYER THAN ONLINE: US VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE



Vice President Mike Pence is urging people to spend more time on their knees in prayer than they do online, particularly when faced with challenges.

Speaking at Alliance Defending Freedom's fire-side chat Tuesday, the vice president addressed the controversy that surrounded his wife, second lady Karen Pence, earlier this year when it became known that she was returning to teaching art part-time at a Christian school in northern Virginia where she previously taught when he was a Congressman. Immanuel Christian School in Annandale, Virginia requires adherence to a statement of faith belief that includes the historic Christian teaching on marriage and sexual ethics. Faculty must maintain "a lifestyle based on biblical standards of moral conduct." Much of the secular media reported this as yet another example of the Pence's supposed disdain for LGBT persons.

Meanwhile, the Pence's had no idea it would

be considered newsworthy.

"We honestly didn't see that one coming. Our kids went to this school," Pence told the crowd Tuesday during a sit-down exchange with ADF President Michael Farris, referencing a television commentator who said Pence should have assumed that his wife teaching at a Christian school would be controversial.

He offered, when asked how he deals with critics: "Number one is spend more time on your knees than on the internet."

"As a Christian believer, we're charged to pray for our loved ones, but also pray for our enemies. You have lots of opportunities in politics to do that," he said, receiving chuckles from the crowd. "Forgiveness is a great gift" he said.

The ADF event highlighted religious liberty and sanctity of human life issues. As he has said many times since taking office, Pence explained that the greatest honor of his life was to serve alongside a president who "stands without apology" for the unborn, and praised the work of his administration and Congressional allies to pass and institute various pro-life policies.

The vice president concluded his remarks recounting how the greatest day of his life was the day in 1978 when he received Christ, and his gratitude for the United States. "His grace

has sustained me, my wife, my family and does every day," the vice president said. "Make time for renewing your mind," he added.

While the country is facing several challenges, "I never lose sight of how blessed we are to be Americans," he said. "There is nowhere like America. We're always striving for a more perfect union." "I really do believe that He who planted this miracle of democracy on these wilderness shores centuries ago, He's blessed America throughout our history and has blessed the world. And He will still bless America in the days ahead."

Mathew John (93), son of late Mathai Yohannan, Pathallil House (Madappallil), was promoted to glory on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. Mathew was born on January 10, 1926 to late Mathai and Rachel Yohannan in Puthenpeedika North, Omalloor P.O.,



Pathanamthitta, Kerala. He married late Annamma M. John on February 10, 1949. He immigrated to the United States in 1983 He resettled in Yukon, OK shortly after coming to American to be closer to his siblings and extended family. He is survived by his five children Mathew, Sam, Rachel, Lizy, and Joe and their families



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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 facilitates more and more batter 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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