



Better to be an atheist than a churchgoing Christian who hates others: Pope Francis

Rome:Pope Francis said in his first General Audience of 2019 that it is better to be an atheist than a churchgoing Christian who hates other people."How many times do we see the scandal of those people who go to church, and are there all day or go every day, and then they live hating others or talking badly about people.

[FULL STORY ON - 05](#)

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THE WAKE-UP CALL

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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Mass grave of 34 Ethiopian Christians executed by ISIS found in Libya



revealed that the bodies of 34 Ethiopian Christians were found on what drone images show is a farm near the coastal city of Sirte, as a news agency confirms.

Sirte was controlled by the Islamic State's Libyan offshoot in 2015 but the terror group was later pushed out of the city by United Nations-backed forces in 2016. In April 2015, however, the Islamic State

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Asian Country Laos to crackdown 'Christianity'

Libya:Libyan authorities have announced that a mass grave containing the remains of 34 Christians mur-

dered by the Islamic State in 2015 has been found.The interior ministry's Criminal Investigation Department



Chinese church forced to take down first commandment

China:Chinese communist authorities forced a church in China's Henan

[FULL STORY ON - 05](#)



Laos:Authorities in the Asian nation of Laos cracked down on worshipping Chris-

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THE CHURCH AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA

Do You Really Need It?

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



The Social Media, in fact, is one of the most important and personal facades of technology that has invaded into our private lives post the incredible revolution of the Internet. As far as I am concerned, it is not wise for the church to elude from it as it is such an influential media to touch the lives of the unchurched, especially the young generation, and at the same time it does help maintain the good relationship with the church members. So let's, now, consider what the church in the modern times should and should not do with the Social Media.

Since the Social Media is a public domain, it is not sensible, first of all, to give out sensitive personal data that

may reach wrong hands resulting in further troubles. It's better to avoid writing Date of Birth, Personal and Work Emails, Personal Phone Numbers, Banking Information, and any other sensitive data that can be misused. Anyone requiring such data should be contacted in person or with a confidential email, to be safe, and the common phone numbers and the email addresses of the church can be given instead.

Another thing to avoid in the public interaction is the confidential information regarding the church members and the church affairs. I have always noticed some churches publishing the prayer requests along with the names of their members. Though it does not sound to be too

problematic, everyone may not approve it. Moreover, every Church has a set of confidential information that should not be taken to public. For instance, pastor's salary and other allowances can be a secret of the church, forever. Another example for such private information could be the financial commitments or the donations of the individual believers.

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Let's rewind to see the life of an individual named Phineas. Phineas was the epitome of success and was a person to be envied. He had it all; loved by his family and adored by his friends. He was on top of his game. He had an amazing career and was well respected everywhere and he was living life out loud in a populous city of Samaria and enjoying it. Now let's fast forward to the present. His head is still reeling from the sudden turn of events in his life. He became an outcast, his family distanced themselves and his friends deserted him. He lost his job and his life was in shambles. He was hopeless and desperate and to make things worse he was labeled by his priest and society as "unclean". He was marred for life. His appearance was pathetic. His clothes were torn, hair unkempt, bandages all over his body. His body was covered with open sores; the stench of the sores reeked when he passed by: He was disfigured and spoke in a low raspy voice. He had the dreadful disease of leprosy; a bacterial infection that resulted in granulomas (tumors) all over his body and it affected the nerves, skin, eyes, respiratory tract and vocal chords. He had decreased ability to feel pain which led to loss of his

extremities due to repeated trauma. The opensors decayed and the skin and bones fell off hence Phineas bandaged a large portion of his body. The priest had diagnosed and confirmed this incurable disease and Phineas was forever banned to the leper colony outside of the city of Samaria. He felt shame and was hopeless. Samaritans were people who were half Jew and half Gentile. He had a double whammy he had leprosy and was a Samaritan. Jews did not associate with Samaritans but the commonality of the disease made no distinction between Jew and Samaritans. In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus was passing by with his disciples along the border of Galilee and

Dr. Sarah J John

"unclean unclean". The ten lepers stood at a distance and cried out in a loud raspy voice "Jesus, Master have pity on us". Maybe the ten lepers recognized Jesus to be teacher, healer, or someone with authority. Maybe they wanted food, compassion or alms; whatever the real reason they came out of their known surrounding to gain something. It was a matter of perspective for them!! They hoped for something better.

THE PERSPECTIVE MATTERS!!

Samaria and ten lepers met him. Phineas was one among them. Jesus being a Jew knew the Judaic Law and the regulations concerning these lepers. Leviticus 13:45 states that anyone with such a defiling disease of leprosy had to distance themselves from "clean" people, they had to wear torn clothes, keep their hair unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out

Jesus responded to their genuine effort and said "go show yourselves to the priests". Jesus did not touch them because the priest had to verify their cleansing (healing). Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets so he bid them to go and get confirmation of their healing. As they went they were cleansed. Each step of obedience led to their

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healing. As they walked and talked amongst themselves they saw and felt their skin being renewed and their deformities made whole. They were so joyful and they may have gotten lost in the moment; their minds were racing about being restored to society, family and normalcy. All that was lost was regained. So their decision to cry out to Jesus paid off.

Luke 17 Verse 15 states one of them when he saw he was healed came back to Jesus praising God in a loud voice not the raspy voice he had. He threw himself down at Jesus's feet and thanked him. Here he recognized Jesus to be God because he prostrated himself which is an act of worship. He was a Samaritan. Jesus asked him were there not ten lepers cleansed, where are the other nine? No one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner? Jesus said "RISE and go your FAITH has made you WELL". There is a profound truth in this statement. The Greek word used for Well or Whole is "Sozo". "Sozo" means salvation. HE was healed physically when he obeyed the Lord's command the first time but when he came back to thank and worship he was made whole spiritually. Phinehas's perspective was different than the other nine. The ten lepers recognized Jesus at first to be Master. They cried out, obeyed Jesus and they were healed. They received more than they could have expected or imagined. Only one came back grateful, worshiped and received salvation and eternal life. His perspective was greater than the other nine.

What is our perspective? We all have leprosy; leprosy of Sin. Sin is missing the mark (standard) the Lord has set for us. We can never achieve ablution of sin on our own. Sin deformed us in our thinking and our actions, alienated us from God and like the leper we are labeled as sinner. We cannot approach Holy God with the label of sinner. There is no distinction between us we are all sinners and we have ALL fallen short the glory of God.

By the grace and mercy of God we cried out in our own desperate voices to the Lord to save us and the Lord Jesus lovingly turned to us and gave us salvation and eternal life. What is our perspective after we received such a benevolent gift of eternal life and oneness with the Lord? Are we thankful and do we give the Lord rightful worship? Do we worship and adore Him with a loud voice? Thankfulness is an act of humility and

Jesus is Superhero in DC Comics: But he is not Omnipotent

USA: DC Vertigo will star Christ Himself in an upcoming comic series called Second Coming, which features Jesus returning to earth on a mission to "set the gospel straight," the plot summary reads. The series, written by Mark Russell and illustrated by Richard Pace, will debut in March 2019.

But Second Coming is closer to blasphemous than biblical. Instead of a biblical account of Christ's return, it depicts Jesus as a failure who disappointed God by getting crucified when he first walked the earth. He is sent back to learn how to be a real Messiah by learning from the superhero "Sun-Man."

"An all-powerful superhero, named Sun-Man, has to share a two-bedroom apartment with Jesus Christ. The conceit is that God was so upset with Jesus's performance the first time he came to Earth, since he was arrested so soon and crucified shortly after, that he has kept him locked-up since then," Mark Russell said. While announcing the series' debut last year, illustrator Richard Pace said Sun-Man "is like the varsity quarterback son God never had."

Jesus is not omniscient in this series, but is totally clueless about what has happened on earth since he left. "God was so upset with the fact that he got crucified last time that he wouldn't even let him look through the celestial keyhole at earth to keep up,". "He doesn't know how sideways things have gone until he's come down to Earth and sees it himself" said Russell.

When Jesus returns, He is shocked at how

worship (worthship). Do we share this treasure of salvation to the lost? Do we recognize Jesus as Lord and obey His commands and also allow Him to rearrange our lives in order to become like Him? Only the one who has experienced great transformation will shout the anthems of victory, thankfulness and fulfill the great commission. It is all a matter of perspective. The more we gain the Lord's perspective it is only then we understand the meaning of abundant life. Jesus said I came to give you life and it more abundantly (John 10:10). I pray that your perspective will be the right one just like our Lord Jesus!



Christians have misinterpreted the gospel, Russell explains. " [Second Coming] is about Jesus coming down and being appalled by what he sees has been done in his name by Christianity in the last two thousand years. He goes by a megachurch and they have a billboard of this Tom Brady-looking Jesus Christ throwing a football and he doesn't even recognize himself which is a metaphor for him not recognizing what's been done with the religion that bears his name," he said in the interview. The series depicts Jesus "setting the gospel straight" by teaching Christians who He really is – an identity that Russell never fully explains himself in the interview.

Russell believes Christianity's got it all wrong. "The Christian religion doesn't really base itself on what he taught, particularly in the modern Evangelical megachurches. They have him more as a mascot on t-shirts to prove they're on the winning team," he said. The series is expected to have six issues.



<http://theendtimenews.com/>

FULL STORY ON - 01

released a video showing two groups of Ethiopian Christians in Orange jumpsuits being killed on a Libyan beach. One group was shot to death while the others were beheaded. The murdered Christians were in Libya looking for jobs as migrant workers. In the 30-minute video, the Islamic State warned the “nation of the cross” that more killings were to come in revenge for the “shed [of] Muslim blood.”

The mass murder of the Ethiopians came just about two months after the Islamic State beheaded 21 Coptic Christian migrant workers from Egypt on a Libyan beach. That mass killing was also broadcast in a propaganda video produced by the terrorist group’s media arm. The mass grave containing the bodies of the 21 Coptic Christians was found in Sirte by Libya’s Interior Ministry in October 2017. According to the government, the bodies were found with their heads decapitated and hands bound behind the backs.

Libya is being run by the interim Government of National Accord, which was formed by a United Nations-led initiative signed in December 2015. Unrest in Libya has caused the delay of a much anticipated presidential election that was supposed to take place in December. Former US President Obama has said that his decision in 2011 to authorize a military intervention in Libya that led to the execution of Muammar al-Qaddafi and the destabilization of the country was his worst mistake as president.

The Libyan government said that the discovered bodies will be repatriated to Ethiopia after “domestic and international legal procedures are completed.”

7 Nigerian Christians killed the day after Christmas



Nigeria: Islamic Fulani radicals murdered seven Christians in a Nigerian town the day after Christmas, according to persecution watchdog group International Christian Concern. The ICC, which has been documenting the targeted killings of believers in Nigeria, said that armed Fulani militants attacked

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Province to take down the first of the Ten Commandments given to Moses, as it was deemed offensive. A news agency, which reports on religious freedom violations in China, said that the incident occurred in November, when 30 officials conducted an inspection of a government-approved Three-Self church in Henan’s Luoning county. Inside the church, they saw the Ten Commandments displayed on the wall, and declared that the first commandment must be removed and proceeded to wipe it off.

The Ten Commandments, given by God to the Jewish people through Moses, became the bedrock of morality in the Abrahamic faiths, including Christianity. The first commandment, recorded in the book of Exodus, quotes God’s words directly: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

The leaders of the church, which wasn’t named, reportedly strongly opposed the action of the government officials. “This isn’t appropriate. They’re falsifying the words of God! It’s resisting the Lord!” one believer said.

One of the officials explained, however, that Chinese President Xi Jinping “opposes the statement,” referring to the first commandment. “Who dares not to cooperate? If anyone doesn’t agree, they are fighting against the country,” the official warned. “This is a national policy. You should have a

clear understanding of the situation. Don’t go against the government.” The church was forced to take down the Ten Commandments sign that day. Numerous stories of Communist officials shutting down churches, arresting congregations, and even trying to rewrite the Bible emerged throughout 2018, following the implementation of revised religious regulation rules in February. Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, said at a U.S. House of Representatives hearing in September that part of the initiative to “Sincize” Christianity, or make it more compatible with the state ideology, include retranslating the Old Testament. The Chinese government also plans to provide new commentary for the New Testament, using Buddhist scripture and Confucian teachings to champion socialist ideals. “There are outlines that the new Bible should not look westernized and [should look] Chinese and reflect Chinese ethics of Confucianism and socialism,” Fu told The Christian Post at the time. “The Old Testament will be messed up. The New Testament will have new commentaries to interpret it.” Persecution watchdog groups, such as Open Doors USA, have condemned the proposed plans. “The Church in China needs to move out of the passive zone and be actively integrating their faith into every part of their walk in China, including standing up if the Chinese government decides it wants to edit the Bible,” Open Doors CEO David Curry said in October.

the town of Rawuru in BarkinLadi Local Government Area of Plateau State on Wednesday. The village suffered another deadly incident in June, when 230 Christians were murdered by militants. “The size and coordination of those attacks showed that this could not just be another

small local clash. It was clearly a well thought out and preplanned attack meant to kill as many people as possible,” ICC said. “These types of attacks are not the normal farmer-herder conflict that the Nigerian government has been

trying to claim they **FULL STORY ON - 12**

US Army exit and the persecution of Christians in Syria.



Syria: The Syriac National Council of Syria released an open letter to Christians in the United States and other Western countries to preserve Christianity in the Middle East. These Syrian Christians are deeply concerned about the impact of President Trump's decision to remove US troops out of northeastern Syria. They say Turkey is threatening them daily "to invade, and kill us. They are calling us 'infidels'." They point to the Turkish offensive in March of 2018 – wrongly named "Operation Olive Branch" – that drove both Kurds and Christians out of northeastern Syria as an example of what will happen to them.

"When Turkey was allowed to enter Afrin by the West, Turkey committed war crimes and ethnic cleansing against the religious minorities. All the Christians had to flee the area as Turkey's jihadi troops conducted door to door searches to hunt the Christians down, to kill them and destroyed all of Afrin's churches. They had to flee with nothing, and take refuge in the area that Turkey is now threatening to invade; north and east Syria," the letter explains.

They cite the long view of history including their collective memory of the Ottoman Empire's Caliphate and how

Christians were treated as "second class citizens, (forced to pay) extortion taxes for being Christians, and (suffered) oppression, persecution, ethnic cleansing and genocide." Ironically, these Christians are the descendants who suffered under the 1915 genocide during the rule of the Ottoman Empire. They are warning what a US pullout would mean: "An abrupt American withdrawal would mean chaos and war throughout the region. We need time to develop alternative and lasting security arrangements that keep north and east Syria free to follow a model of democracy and freedom for all."

The decision by President Trump on Dec. 19 surprised a number of people in the area and led to the resignation of US Defense Secretary James Mattis. The letter ends with a practical call for a no-fly zone and a personal appeal to Christians in the US and Western countries: "Without protection, Christians will be the first target of Turkey's jihadist groups—just as we were in Afrin. We hope you can join us in our appeal to the International Coalition not to leave us unprotected and without guarantees. Without your support we fear that when Turkey invades we will see the end of Christianity in north and east Syria."

Rev. Johnnie Moore speaks about a Global Religious Shift in 2019



USA: A strong voice for evangelicals around the world says Christians should expect some big changes in the world's religious landscape this year. Rev. Johnnie Moore has worked behind the scenes with the US administration and other world leaders, including recent meetings with Saudi Arabia's crown prince and other leaders in Muslim countries.

Moore, who's been called "a modern-day Dietrich Bonhoeffer," serves as a commissioner on the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, president of the Congress of Christian Leaders and an informal spokesperson for the evangelicals who advise the Trump administration. He is the founder of the KAIROS Company, a media relations company representing many influential Christian leaders and organizations.

In an interview with a news agency, Moore highlighted the transition of power taking place in multiple historic institutions. Whether politically, academically, or theologically, Moore recognizes the power dynamic shift as "many older millennials will jump their Generation X siblings in being selected for those positions." He even feels historic institutions no longer carry the level of dominance they once had, citing the "digital age" as the cause for the major shifts. "The organizations will continue to hold major sway but a different type of sway, which will largely be determined by how they adapt," Moore said.

The digital age – fueled more and more by

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P. J. Benoy
Rajasthan, India

THE RIGHTEOUS OF GOD

The Book of Psalms is subdivided into 5 parts. Psalm 1 is found in the first part, which includes Psalms 1 through 41. As it opens the Psalter, it is of immense importance. A meditation of this Psalm will take us deep into the spiritual realms of the word of God. This psalm describes in vivid frames our spiritual status in the eyes of God, our relation with God and God's noble purpose for our life.

The Don'ts

This small but beautiful song begins with the three 'don'ts' in the life of a child of God. That is the uniqueness of this psalm. In all matters, everybody knows what to do.

But the knowledge of what not to do is equally important. Without this, anyone will end up in failure and destruction. Wickedness, sin, scornfulness, things against the will of God which are evil and painful for others, falsehood, unrighteousness, immorality and evils of any kind must never be in the life of a child of God. Sometimes we neglect certain weaknesses in our lives. But for God, sin is sin; there is no mild and intense sin. But it will be a blessing if we confess them and renounce them (Prov. 28:13).

The Dos

Then the psalmist speaks about the things that a child of God needs to do. One must always find delight in the law of the Lord and meditate it day and night. Most of the people fail to find happiness in the law of the Lord (Bible) as a result of the pleasures of life, other sources of delight, and as a

result of being busy in many other things. They find delight in cricket, serials and films, reality shows, channel debates, WhatsApp, Facebook, innumerable websites, friendly chats, etc. The word of God is something unpleasant and boring for them.

The Blessings

But the blessings of people who find delight in the word of God are clearly enlisted in the third part of psalm one. "He shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, and whose leaf doth not wither." Though all people desire to have this blessed state of life, wickedness, sin and scornfulness are a hindrance on their way. Those who meditate on the word of God alone are so blessed. "It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always

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the proliferation of mobile devices and other forms of technology – is catapulting the world to another dimension of independent thinking and expression. Of course, social media has played a significant role in institutions such as religion and politics. With individuals having access to more knowledge and methods of expressing their own views, Moore sees a growth in dynamic alliances as many move outside of cultural and institutional norms.

He's expecting increased interfaith exchanges between Christians, Muslims and Jews, and even the Hindu community, stating efforts may even include "the very real possibility that 2019 will likely be the year one or more majority-Muslim, and even Arab, countries — while remaining ever supportive of a Palestinian state — will decide that a resolution to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict is not a mandatory prerequisite for detente if not full-on diplomatic relations with the State of Israel."

Other predictions include evangelicalism becoming the second largest stream of global Christianity and Trump utilizing his Senate Republican majority "to stack the courts in the United States with originalist judges."



Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖ "When you are running toward Christ, you are freed up to serve, love, and give thanks without guilt, worry or fear. As long as you are running, you're safe." - **Francis Chan**
- ❖ "The Bible is the story of two gardens: Eden and Gethsemane. In the first, Adam took a fall. In the second, Jesus took a stand. In the first, God sought Adam. In the second, Jesus sought God. In Eden, Adam hid from God. In Gethsemane, Jesus emerged from the tomb. In Eden, Satan led Adam to a tree that led to his death. From Gethsemane, Jesus went to a tree that led to our life." - **Max Lucado**
- ❖ "Spending time with God is the key to our strength and success in all areas of life. Be sure that you never try to work God into your schedule, but always work your schedule around Him." - **Joyce Meyer**
- ❖ "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." **John Wesley**
- ❖ "We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and He saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love." - **Peter Kreeft**
- ❖ "But whatever you do, find the God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find your way to say it and live for it and die for it. And you will make a difference that lasts. You will not waste your life." - **John Piper**
- ❖ "The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals." - **Charles C. Ryrie**
- ❖ "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." - **Kevin Max**
- ❖ "Hungry for love, He looks at you. Thirsty for kindness, He begs of you. Naked for loyalty, He hopes in you. Homeless for shelter in your heart, He asks of you. Will you be that one to Him?" - **Mother Teresa**
- ❖ "Let God's promises shine on your problems." - **Corrie Ten Boom**



Abigail Thyvilayil John

FULL STORY ON - 02

Then what should be on the social media? The church can share the social events and the programs (apart from that are confidential) they are conducting on the social media. A poster with the event and the timing can help many to find time and attend it. Any church conducting seeker sensitive services for youngsters can announce the programs well in advance and can have a good number of people to turn in. There can be such online services too and reach in terms of hundreds or thousands of people. The church should share programs that will lead to the salvation of the souls, which is one of the most important concerns! Additionally, the church can promote any social or environmental causes with the help of social media. This will help the church bring awareness to masses outside the church too. It is undeniable that when a church stands for a cause, it will be convincing for laymen to take it up and do the needful. In addition to these, publishing the address and the location of the church is also important as this would help someone find the church online. This will definitely increase the number of visitors.

Well, there are risks involved in using the social media, but if the church has necessary policies (Social Media Policy) in place, then nothing would go wrong! Policies are to be reviewed in prescribed intervals too. Use the Social Media to reach more people with the gospel, especially the young generation and share what is sensible and appropriate for the well-being of the church and the society!

[http://
www.harvestingsouls
missioninc.org](http://www.harvestingsoulsmissioninc.org)

UK Plan to Deport Pakistani Christian



London: Asher Samson, a Pakistani Christian, is fighting to stay in the UK after being threatened with execution by Islamic extremists in his home country. Now, there's word that British authorities have detained him once again. Samson's pastor, Lorraine Shorten, told a news agency that he was released from a UK detention center last week on bail, but when he went to his regular sign-in Friday morning, authorities took him into custody.

The 41-year-old arrived in the UK in 2004 to finish theology school to become a pastor. He later applied for asylum after receiving threats from extremists during his visits home. The United Kingdom denied his request this past year, causing British authorities to detain him during his weekly signing event with the Home Office. Now, once again in the custody of UK authorities, Samson is "terrified of being sent back to Pakistan," according to an interview with a newspaper.

Samson stated he has "no one and nowhere to go" in his home city of Abbottabad. "If they do send me back my life will be really in danger. I'm so scared," stated Samson. "People know who I am, they know I am a Christian and they have seen me on social media."

Samson and his family have been active members of the Christian community in Hall Green, Birmingham. The members of the community were shocked by the government's decision, causing them to start

a petition. He was originally scheduled to fly back home on Dec. 14. Samson shared, "They told me they had booked me a flight and I refused to go. They said next time they will take me by force."

In the interview, Samson has shared he is battling depression and the fear of never seeing his family again. Religious persecution has split his family before. According to Samson, one sister had to flee to New Zealand while his other two siblings, who both have spousal and unmarried partner visas, have settled in the UK.

"The last five years I feel like a wasted person. I'm depending on my family to fulfill my daily needs. They've stalled my life; I can't do anything. And now they are trying to send me to a place where I will be at risk," stated Samson.

Samson's pastor, Rev. Lorraine Shorten, considers him a "well-thought-of" member of the community. "It's shameful – we are a Christian country yet we can't help them. It's terrifying to send him back there with the situation for Christians in Pakistan," she said.

"They are a part of this community. They want to live and work and remain here. They are not a risk to anybody. The Home Office just sees them as a number."

When reached for comments, the UK's Home Office said it would not comment on individual cases.

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This is a scandal," Francis declared from the Paul VI Audience Hall, Rome. "It is better not to go to church if you live like that, like an atheist. But if you go to church, live like a child, like a sibling, and give a true testimony, not a false testimony," he added.

The Roman Catholic Church leader preached on Jesus, the "Our Father" prayer, and the Beatitudes, which he said represent an authentic revolution for believers. "This is the revolution of the Gospel. Where the Gospel is, there is revolution. It is as if Jesus said, continue on, you who carry in your heart the mystery of a God, who has revealed His omnipotence in love and in forgiveness!" Francis said.

He also warned that some people in church may be praying to God "like parrots" rather than as if they were genuinely talking to a father. "The pagans think that by speaking, speaking, speaking and speaking they are praying. I also think of many Christians who pray, forgive me, speaking to God as if they were a parrot. No, praying is done from the heart, from within," he positioned.

Francis has made similar comments throughout his papacy, sometimes criticizing his own Catholic Church members. In 2017, he suggested it was better for one to be an atheist than a Catholic who leads a hypocritical double life.

Protestant pastors have also made calls on their churches to shed the hypocrisy. Life.Church pastor Craig Groeschel wrote a book in 2010 titled *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living As If He Doesn't Exist*, in which he argued that though many Christians look the part, they actually do not reflect God in their lives and live however they want. Christian atheism, he explained, plays out like this: "I want enough of God to keep me out of Hell and enough of God to get me into Heaven but I don't want so much of God that it makes me change my lifestyle because at its root I believe in God but I do not fear Him."

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tians this Christmas season. Several Christians were arrested on the days before and after Christmas in separate incidents that took place in the country's southern Savannakhet province.

Most recently, as many as seven Christians were reportedly arrested while worshipping at a Christmas church service in the Nakanong Village. According to the Human Rights Watcher for Lao Religious Freedom, a group of nine police officers raided the Nakanong Village Christmas service around 6 p.m. last Saturday and initially arrested three church leaders. The church leaders were taken to the Phin district police headquarters. The police later returned to the village about two hours later and arrested four more Christians, who were also taken to the Phin police headquarters.

The arrested Christians were reportedly detained for illegally gathering for worship without the government's permission. Around 10 p.m., according to the human rights group, police officers again returned to the village church and destroyed the stage and church's sound system. The police cut off power to the church and confiscated three cell phones. Radio Free Asia (RFA) reports that the seven Christians arrested on Dec. 29 were freed and allowed to go home on Wednesday. Earlier in December, RFA reported that five other Christians were arrested by authorities in the Non Soung village of the Phin district.

The arrests were made after a group of Christians in one village invited a pastor from a

neighboring village to organize a Christmas celebration, according to a local resident. The source, who spoke to RFA on the condition of anonymity, stated that the Christians were arrested for breaching rules designed specifically to restrict Christianity in the Phin district.

"Early last week, as Christians in the Non Soung village of Phin district, were preparing for Christmas celebrations, a Christian pastor from another village in the same district came to help organize the festivities," the source explained. "A couple of days later, district security guards arrested five Christians — four from Non Soung village and the pastor who had come from the other village nearby." The source said that regulations allow Christians to only hold and participate in Christmas celebrations in their own village. A district official refused to comment on the case but told RFA that Christian celebrations in the district are subject to various government controls. "In general, Christians are still restricted in this district," the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said. "They are not allowed to teach from the Bible or to spread their religion to others because Christianity is the religion of the Europeans and Americans."

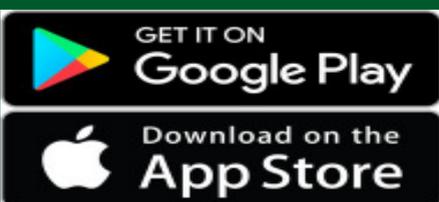
Hostility toward Christianity is not just confined to the Phin district or the Savannakhet province. The nation ranks as the 20th worst nation in the world when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA's 2018 World Watch List. Christians comprise about 3 percent of the population in Laos.



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

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SARAH GEORGE KOVOOR,
FLORIDA

“This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.” Psalm 24:6

The Father is seeking a generation who seeks His face. The time and season that we live in and the events that are happening all around us are telling one thing that the coming of our Lord to receive His own very near. Satan who is the fallen angel and the enemy of God’s children knows this very well. He is waging an unprecedented war against God’s saints because his time is limited. So it is time for the children of God to be alert and get into action. It is the moment to believe great things from God. We are like the Tribe of Issachar (I Chronicles. 12:32 — “from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do”) appointed by God to root out (Jeremiah 1:10 -See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant”). Yes, we are in a battle with a mandate from Heaven.

As you and I are engaged in the battle, we do not use the same kind of weapons that the enemy might be using. Since it is a supernatural battle, we need to be “armed” with the supernatural weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3 – 4, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds). We do not war according to the flesh and our weapons are not carnal. We are in the army of God. So in the battles that we are engaged, we might be quickly losing since we are using the same weapons and armor as of our enemy.

THE SEASON TO SEEK HIS FACE



We also need to be concerned about the type of warfare that we are engaged in. Since we are having the high heavenly holy calling, we cannot engage with battles of divisions, fear, worry, slander, offense and hurts. We need to disengage it completely. Wrong battle to get involved. So, ditch and drop these battles. Those who battle fire with fire will be another distraction (Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”). What is this battle all about? It is meant to destroy your destiny by distracting you from your race. Through our thoughts, Satan makes us feel like we need to react upon what we see or hear. Otherwise, we feel like we may lose our ground. So, we try to prove to others that we are right by debating and stating our opinion. By doing so, we are creating more enemies and

adding fires of confusion. We are not designed for such battles. In reality, this will get our eyes off the real battle, which is what we are really anointed and trained for.

What are we anointed for? To bring the King of Glory into our battles. God is seeking a generation for that. The requirement to be recruited for this army is having clean hands (in our dealings) and a pure heart (thoughts). Everything starts at the heart (Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God). They can ascend upon the holy hill to the very presence of the King of Glory and unleash His power throughout the earth. This is why Jesus often went up on mountains to pray and hear the instructions from the Father (Matthew 14:23). The battle belongs to the Lord. So, let us ascend to the Holy Hill, the mountain of God, a higher ground, for the King of glory to come in to this earth to do battle for us.

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green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jer. 17:8) Whatever adversities, troubles, heat and drought may come, such a man stands upright. It is not by our might but by the grace of God. Many have withered away; they have stopped giving out fruits; but it is our delight in the word of God and meditating it has sustained us till today. We are a tree planted by the streams of water. There is always water. We need not fear the heat when we are by the stream of the law of God. We only need to run our roots deep down into the stream. We are "planted", not grown by chance or accidentally from a seed that came floating on the water. If we are planted, he will protect us too. He protects us from dangers and will never let us go malnourished. No adversities can harm us. He is our refuge and strength. Our Master has planted us with a purpose. We are useful to Him. We should not underestimate ourselves in anything. If we submit ourselves into His mighty hand, he will make us grow and when the growth is complete, the fruits that God wants to see in us will be seen. Let us preserve ourselves from wickedness, sin and scornfulness. Let us meditate the word of God day and night. Let's be blessed! Our conviction that "whatever we do prosper" is our courage. Jehovah who fulfils all things for us is with us.

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By the thunder of His voice, He does marvelous works. (Job 37:4-5). Thunder which we can't comprehend. His thunderous voice represents authority/power to cause the earth to shake and the enemy's camp to tremble. Let us partner with God and use His voice to see families, cities, regions, and nations restored by the manifestation of His glory. This is the hour of your victory. Are you tired of waiting to see the victory? It is time for action! King of Glory will perform it and remove all the obstacles so that we may receive the promises which are due to us from the Holy Hill. Let us receive power and strength to soar like an eagle over the storm and command the winds to stand still to reach our destiny.

Psalm 24:8

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

FULL STORY ON - 05

are," they continued, referring to both government and international mainstream media reports attempting to portray the murders as a result of clashes between nomadic Fulani herdsmen and Christian farmers. "They are clearly meant to kill, terrify, and displace local villagers from their land. If the Nigerian government does not end this conflict sometime soon, there could be continued violent conflict which turns into a civil war." State police spokesman Tyopeve Terna said the victims were returning home late Wednesday from a birthday party in the neighboring Pugu village when they were ambushed. Terna vowed that police will hunt down the killers and bring them to justice. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, who is preparing for elections in February, has been criticized by Christian leaders in the country for failing to protect citizens and stand up to the Fulani militants. The Rev. Dacholom Datiri, president of the Church of

Christ in Nigeria, revealed that he delivered a report to Buhari in November highlighting the slaughter of 646 Christians in Plateau state between March and October.

"The devastation in terms of massacre of lives and destruction of property is unimaginable. Pastors and members in their thousands have been killed in cold blood, either shot dead or slaughtered like animals or burned to death. Houses and businesses have been burned or looted and farmlands have been destroyed," Datiri said, reflecting on years of attacks.

"The proficiency and mode of operation in all of these attacks, as testified by the surviving victims, leaves us in no doubt of the complicity of the military being used as hired mercenaries by the Fulani militias," he added. The watchdog group said that the 1,700 number alone is already three times as many deaths as those committed by Boko Haram, the terror group that has been killing Christians and other civilians en masse since 2009.

Harvesting souls mission

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- 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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