



# THE End Time News

THE WAKE-UP CALL

Volume 4

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## THE WORLD'S FIRST FREE VIDEO BIBLE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

The Video Bible, which uses a crowdfunded model, is dedicated to sharing the Word, the Good News, and the love of Jesus in, filmed and audio format that allows everyone the young, old, dyslexic, inexperienced, disabled, or otherwise healthy - to engage scripture in an engaging and meaningful way in today's digital age.

and meaningful way in today's digital age. The mission focuses on the creation of the books of The Bible that introduce Jesus to the world with the Book of James, Philipians, and Philemon, followed by the Gospels, the rest of New Testament, & finally, The Old Testament. The Video Bible will be completed in 90 minutes and will become the first fully illustrated Bible to be released in multiple languages. [FULL STORY ON - 07](#)



The Video Bible, a mission-based organization dedicated to spreading the Good News of the Bible far and wide, announced today the release of its world's first free Video book. The video Bible is devoted to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone.

The Video Bible, which uses a crowdfunded model, is dedicated to sharing the Word, the Good News, and the love of Jesus in, filmed and audio format that allows everyone the young, old, dyslexic, inexperienced, disabled, or otherwise healthy - to engage scripture in an engaging

## CHRISTIAN FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE LIBERATION OF SYRIA'S RAS AL-AIN DISTRICT

U.S.-backed Syrian branch YPG occupied northern Syria's Ras al-Ain district, now live in a peaceful



Christians who had to leave their homes after the PKK terrorist group's U.S.-backed Syrian branch YPG occupied northern Syria's Ras al-Ain district, now live in a peaceful environment after Turkey's Operation Peace

[FULL STORY ON - 07](#)



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

## Close and Personal with Jesus!

*Jesus*

### UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

38 long years is not easy for anyone; it neither was for the man! But it was all for that lovely and short encounter with Jesus, the healer!

The setting of the healing is a pool called Bethzatha near the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem (John 5:2). Lying in the porticos around this pool are many sick people — blind, lame, and paralyzed (5:3). The earliest manuscripts of John do not explain why they are there, but later scribes added an explanation that appears in certain manuscripts (5:4). According to this explanation, people believed that an angel of the Lord would come and stir the waters, and that whoever was the first to enter the pool after the waters were stirred would be healed of his or her illness.

When Jesus sees a man who has been there for thirty-eight years lying there (John 5:5), he asks him, "Do you want to be made well?" (5:6). This man suffered from a paralytic condition for a long time, and apparently was frequently at the Pool of Bethesda in

hope of healing. It was a hope that had been long disappointed (thirty-eight years). The man offers a complaint as a reply, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me" (5:7). The crippled man assumed Jesus knew how things worked at the Pool of Bethesda, and he explained to Jesus why it wasn't possible for him to be healed. Quite naturally, the man couldn't think of any other way for his need to be met. Jesus responds to the man's complaint by saying, "Stand up, take your mat and walk" (John 5:8). Jesus told the man to do what he could not do. Being paralyzed, it was impossible for him to rise or to take up his bed-mat or to walk. At this moment, Jesus challenged the man to believe Him for the impossible. Immediately the man is healed and takes up his mat and walks (5:9). This happened as the man responded in faith and did exactly what Jesus told him to do, though a moment before this it was impossible to do it. The fact of his healing was confirmed in that he had the strength to carry his own bed-mat and walk with it.

I do not know why Jesus selected this man among the great multitude of sick people (John 5:3). He was not about to conduct a healing crusade at the Pool of Bethesda, but He was about to miraculously meet this one man's need. In this case, the healing encounter with the man lasted only for few minutes, but he was blessed to be healed for which he had been waiting for 38 years. The encounter with Jesus is always special. He healed the man, not with the water in the pool, but by His word.

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# God is my Strength

To please others, we are ready to anything! We all thrive for respect and fame, by hook or by crook. However, there are no shortcuts to receiving the favor from the Lord. There is only one way. It is fearing the Lord and walking in His ways. Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— (Psalm 119: 1-2). When we obey the



**Pr. Shibu Thomas, USA**

*It will no longer be said  
to you, "Forsaken,"  
Nor to your land will it  
any longer be said,  
"Desolate";  
But you will be called,  
"My delight is in her,"  
And your land,  
"Married";  
For the LORD delights in  
you,  
And to Him your land  
will be married.*

*Isaiah 62: 4*

**God  
is my  
STRENGTH**

commandments of the Lord, we become the people dear to Him. Those who love God will indeed obey His words. They are loving children of the Lord and He will intervene in their matters within no time. In the Gospel of John chapter 11, we see the Lazarus' sisters sending word to Jesus

saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick." The Lord is someone who delivers those whom He loves (Psalm 60: 5). When Jesus finally reached the house of his beloved brother, he could not help but weep bitterly beside the tomb where the body was laid a few days ago. He brought back Lazarus back to life having removed a blocking tombstone. Then the Jews said,

"See how He loved him!" (John 11: 36). Dear child of God, you are precious in the sight of the Lord, and no matter where you are and in what condition you are, He will bring you out as he did with Lazarus. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall never be shaken. How long will you assault me? Would all of you throw me down—this leaning wall, this tottering fence? Surely they intend to topple me from my lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse (Isaiah 62: 2-4).



## Attest your Character

Reading: Gen 5. 19-23



Saju John Mathew

Usually, we only speak good of departed souls. Once, a filthy, arrogant and wicked miser died. Not wanting to hurt the sentiments of the bereaved with their 'truth', everybody at the funeral praised him as generous and compassionate. Listening to all the false appraisals, the widow beckoned to her son and said; "son, did you hear what they said about your dad? Go to the casket, watch closely and make sure it's your dad indeed!" If you live a good life, people will certainly praise you when you die. The real testimony you get for your life, however, is not at death but while you are still alive.

Enoch lived a life of faith. What does it mean? He lived a life totally surrendered to God. He was always pleasing God. Somehow, he wanted to bring a smile upon God's face! He always sought God's will and obeyed. He pleased God by keeping himself holy enough

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God."

Heb 11:5

# CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD ARE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH; QUEEN ELIZABETH REMEMBERS IN PRAYER

from death to life has so richly nourished the Church. Water can deal death and wash away dirt, and at the same time it gives new life, just as it does in baptism. The grace of this great sacrament is what we see displayed in the lives of the martyrs who inspire us to live out that same grace in our lives."

"This is why our friendship is so important. It is not just a human friendship but a coming together in Christ. Not only does each growth in friendship take a step towards a more united world, but it increases Christ's influence in the world.

"May all of us, united in our faith in Jesus Christ, increase in the relationship of love He wants us to have with each other. Our prayers will be strengthened and

our witness more effective."

In his message, the Prime Minister said the Government was committed to respecting religious freedom and belief: "As you commemorate the lives of so many Christians and people of all faiths and none who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their faith or belief, it is important for us all to remember that faith and minority groups continue to suffer persecution around the world. Respect for people of faiths is of fundamental importance to Her Majesty's Government."

"I hope that these celebrations usher in a blessed and peaceful year for the Coptic Orthodox Church community both here in Britain and worldwide."

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon gave a concluding address, raising awareness of a number of religious freedom issues around the world. He said the greatest test of anyone's faith is the willingness and conviction to safeguard the faith of others.



The Queen has sent a message of support to Coptic Christians at the annual Coptic New Year service in London. In a statement read at St Margaret's Church in Westminster, the Queen said it was an "opportunity to remember all those around the world who suffer hardship on account of their faith, especially in recent times. They remain in our thoughts and prayers."

The service, to celebrate the Feast of Nayrouz, the beginning of the Coptic New Year, drew attention to the persecution of people for their faith and the importance of standing firm for the right to freedom of religion and belief.

The Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister also sent messages to the service which was attended by members of government as well as humanitarian organisations and ecumenical and inter-religious guests. The service was held later than usual because of the pandemic.

Prince Charles' message reflected the importance of gathering together as "an essential part of religious and commu-

nity life. It helps us feel connected, not just at an individual level but, importantly, to something larger than ourselves".

He said: "As communities around the world continue to face persecution and endure dreadful hardship for their faith, I join you today in prayer for all those who continue to suffer injustice and religious persecution." The Queen's message was addressed to Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church:

"Occasions such as this provide an opportunity to remember all those around the world who suffer hardship on account of their faith, especially in recent times. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

"At this time of reflection as you remember and honour the faithful witness and resilience of Coptic Christians throughout the ages, I wish all in the Coptic community a peaceful and blessed year ahead."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby wrote:

"Nayrouz, or New Year, which takes place when normally the waters of the Nile rise, is a good time both to think of transitions and of the martyrs whose transition

## DISCOVERS A 600-YEAR-OLD MINIATURE GOLDEN "BIBLE" WORTH OVER \$130,000 WITH A METAL DETECTOR

*"I dug down five inches and it was just there—I still didn't believe it was anything special,"*

British nurse and metal detector enthusiast Buffy Bailey struck gold during her latest outing in northern England—literally. While foraging farmland in York with her husband, the 48-year-old unearthed a miniature golden artifact cast in the shape of an open book or Bible. It is believed to be around 600 years old.

"I dug down five inches and it was just there—I still didn't believe it was anything special," Bailey said. At about a half-inch long, the tiny object is easily overlooked. In spite of its small size, however, the item features incredibly intricate engravings of a man and woman, believed to be the images of Saint Leonard and Saint Margaret, patron saints of childbirth. At the top of the piece is a small hole, indicating that the charm could be used as a pendant or necklace bead. It is made of 22 or 24-carat gold and weighs about 0.2 ounces. "It was so heavy and shiny—



just absolutely beautiful," says Bailey.

King Richard III (1452–1485) used to own land near the location of the object's discovery, leading historians to believe that the artifact could have been owned by a female relative of his. Furthermore, the level of detail in the miniature bible has been compared to another gold pendant found in the area, called



the Middleham Jewel. Some believe that these two pieces could have been made by the same anonymous artist in the 15th century. The Yorkshire Museum is currently appraising Bailey's discovery, but it is predicted to be worth at least £100,000 (approximately \$134,150).

## US SHOULD INCLUDE INDIA IN COUNTRIES PLAGUED BY RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION: US COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A month before the US State Department releases its religious freedom rights rankings, a US human rights body has recommended that it should put four more countries, including India, on its Red List or Countries of Particular Concern (CPC).

The MEA has frequently slammed the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), the body which has made the recommendations. MEA spokespersons have said the USCIRF is biased and has a limited understanding of India and its Constitution. No US Secretary of State has acted on its recommendations as far as India is concerned.

**FULL STORY ON-08**



**FULL STORY ON - 01**

The Video Bible has been praised worldwide by YouVersion, with over 600 million app downloads worldwide, The Gospel Coalition, which has over 16 million yearly website visits, and Biblica has pledged to use the NIV audio Bible, narrated by Max McLean. The God-ordained mission has received initial support from pastors, Bible publishers, artists, and theological friends to begin the creation of the Book of James, the first book.

The Video Bible invites everyone to download it for free on YouTube, while also promoting the “donate what you can” approach for those who are passionate about joining the mission to spread the Good News and love of Jesus. “We’re not replacing the written Word,” said Josh Yates, the pastor of The Video Bible. “Rather, we are introducing greater on-ramps to help people engage with the Bible by supporting this ministry, it’s a great way for people to send the Gospel in audiovisual form to the ends of the earth.”

75 million people, or 20% of the US population, are unable to read and 35 million are dyslexic, making the written word difficult to process. Furthermore, reading has become increasingly difficult for 54,1 million older people. Nearly one-third of the population in the United States is unable to comprehend the written Bible. The Video Bible will not only meet this demand in America, but also around the world.

The Video Bible is a mission-based organization that aims to spread the good news of the Bible far and wide, by putting the entire written Word into video and audio format. The Video Bible, created by believers of the Bible and artists, is available for free on YouTube and the YouVersion Bible App, which is accessible to anyone at any time. The Video Bible is aimed at providing those who may find it difficult to read with a clear way to understand The Bible. The

Video Bible is the world’s first cover-to-cover, audio + visual representation of the entire Bible that makes it as easy as opening an App and pressing play. Visit [www.videobible.com](http://www.videobible.com) for more information.

**FULL STORY ON - 01**

Spring cleared the region of terrorists and provided secure conditions for different ethnic and religious groups to live together.

When the terrorist organization YPG/PKK invaded the Ras al-Ain district in Syria, across from the Ceylanpinar district of Turkey's southeastern border province Sanliurfa, in July 2013, the Melki brothers, from the minority Christian community living in the district, suffered the most.

After the invasion, the Melki brothers took refuge in Turkey, leaving their sisters behind. The brothers, who fled the persecution of the YPG/PKK, started to live in a tent camp set up for Syrian refugees in the Midyat district of southeastern Mardin province.

Naum, 56, returned to Ras al-Ain district in May 2016 after YPG/PKK terrorists abducted his sisters and stole their home. However, the terrorist organization detained Naum for about three months. After the Ras al-Ain district was liberated from terrorism in October 2019, 58-year-old Ziyad Melki returned to his home in the district from Turkey, where he had stayed for six years.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA), Naum said: "The Turkish brothers welcomed us. From the time we entered the district, they helped us with whatever we needed. AFAD (Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority) and Kizilay (Turkish Red Crescent) have always helped us."

Stating that some Christian clergy living in Turkey made offers to send them to Europe, Melki said: "We did not go to Europe because we have rights and land. We refused. We always dreamed of returning to Ras al-Ain one day. Even though there was a tent life, our Turkish brothers have always been good to us."

Naum Melki said that just before the agreement signed between the U.S. and Turkey on Oct. 17, 2019, he was detained by YPG/PKK terrorists for 43 days and returned to Ras al-Ain after he was released.

Expressing that he was very happy because the district was cleared of YPG/PKK terrorists, Melki said: "When the Turkish army-

backed Syrian National Army (SNA) liberated our district, I kissed the land, the SNA group that saved me, the church and my house."

In 2019, Turkey carried out Operation Peace Spring against the PKK terrorist group's Syrian branch, the YPG, which is mainly backed by the U.S. in northern Syria, to prevent a terror corridor from being created along its southern border, as well as to bring peace and tranquility to the region.

The operation, conducted in line with the country's right to self-defense borne out of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions, aimed to establish a terrorism-free safe zone for Syrians to return to the area east of the Euphrates, which was then controlled by the U.S.-backed YPG/PKK terrorists.

Since the launch of the operation, Turkey has been supporting every aspect of life in the region, from health to education, security to agriculture. In this respect, efforts to clear bombs and improvised explosive devices were launched and administration duties were given to local councils.

The country also rolled up its sleeves to reconstruct hospitals, schools, mosques and roads destroyed by the YPG/PKK. Within the scope of ameliorating the region's social infrastructure, people were given food and clothing by several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) while roads and buildings were rebuilt. These efforts paid off as hundreds of displaced Syrians started to return to the liberated areas.

After the completion of the operation, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and the Syrian National Army (SNA) units focused on ensuring the security of the region and creating the necessary conditions for the return of civilians displaced by terrorism. Thanks to Turkey's intense contributions in the fields of health, education and service to return life to normal, the population of the region is now around 250,000.

Locals living in areas held by the YPG have long suffered from its atrocities as the terrorist organization has a notorious record of human rights abuses, ranging from kidnappings, recruitment of child soldiers, torture, ethnic cleansing and



**FULL STORY ON - 06**

Last year, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had declined the USCIRF's recommendation to list India as a CPC. He had not even accepted USCIRF's recommendation to put Uzbekistan on the Red List as the country is deemed strategically important for US foreign policy interests. India is of far greater value in its economic and military heft.

Three of India's neighbours – Pakistan, China and Myanmar -- are on the US State Department's CPC list along with North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Nigeria. The USCIRF wants the State Department to add India, Russia, Syria and Vietnam to the list.

Successive US Ambassadors for Religious Freedom have drawn a sharp distinction between India and Pakistan, though both are accused of state violence on its citizens. Some of the violence in India was carried out by the government but a "lot of the actions are by the government in Pakistan" and half of the world's people that are locked up for apostasy or blasphemy are in Pakistan, the US Ambassador for Religious Freedom Senator Sam Brownback had said last year when asked why Pakistan was on CPC and India wasn't.

For the 2020 reporting period, USCIRF has also recommended the expansion of "Yellow List" or the Special Watch List to include Af-

ghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

**CHRISTIAN STUDENTS IN EGYPT BEATEN AT SCHOOL, ORDERED BY TEACHERS TO REMOVE ALL JEWELRY BEARING A CROSS**



Coptic students at an elementary and middle school in Egypt's Minya Governorate were beaten up by teachers and fellow students after the headmaster ordered all Christian students to remove any jewelry bearing a cross.

Believers in the Coptic community in Egypt often tattoo a cross on their wrist or wear necklaces or bracelets with a cross, but the

headmaster of Al-Thawra school in EzbatBeshri area ordered all Christian students to remove any such jewelry, according to the U.S.-based persecution watchdog International Christian Concern. When some Coptic students refused to remove their jewelry, they were beaten up

ക്രിസ്തീയ ഭക്തരീയ ഗാനങ്ങൾ,  
ഭക്താദിന് ഉത്തരനം പകരുന്ന  
പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ തടജ്ജീവന ഷുഭശാധ  
നിയ്യുജ്ജ്വല ദീരൻതരവിൽ !!!

**24X7 CHRISTIAN RADIO**



ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ  
ഡൗൺലോഡ് ചെയ്യുക



f EndTime Radio 24x7





**FULL STORY ON - 10**

The law states that no one is allowed to use the “threat” of “divine displeasure,” meaning Christians cannot talk about Heaven or Hell, as that would be seen as “forcing” someone to convert. And if snacks or meals are served to Hindus after an evangelistic meeting, that could be seen as an “inducement.”

While Christians make up only 2.3% of India’s population and Hindus comprise about 80%, radical Hindu nationalists have been carrying out attacks on Christians under the pretext of punishing the minority for using force or monetary rewards to convert Hindus to Christianity.

India ranks as the 10th worst country globally when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA’s 2021 World Watch List. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has urged the U.S. State Department to label India as a “country of particular concern” for engaging in or tolerating severe religious freedom violations.

Open Doors USA warns that since the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party took power in 2014, persecution against Christians and other religious minorities has increased.

The group reports that “Hindu radicals often attack Christians with little to no consequences.”

“Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam,” an Open Doors fact sheet on India explains. “They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background. Christians are accused of following a ‘foreign faith’ and blamed for bad luck in their communities.” Human rights groups in India said last month they had documented over 300 incidents of Christian persecution in just the first nine months of 2021, warning that this year might be the worst in terms of the number of such incidents in the country’s history.

# Sparkling Wisdom!

1. “When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.”  
— James Hudson Taylor
2. “In the midst of your battles, never forget that God loves you and He has a plan for you.”  
— Joyce Meyer
3. “Your life as a Christian should make non believers question their disbelief in God.”  
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer
4. “If I walk with the world, I can’t walk with God.”  
— D.L. Moody
5. “Trust God for the impossible-miracles are His department. Our job is to do our best, letting the Lord do the rest.”  
— David Jeremiah
6. “Moses spent forty years thinking he was somebody; forty years learning he was nobody; and forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody.”  
— D.L. Moody
7. “You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.”  
— Rick Warren
8. “Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.”  
— Saint Augustine
9. “Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.”  
— D.L. Moody
10. “He must increase, but I must decrease.”  
— John the Baptist



**Abigail Thyvilayil John**

*FULL STORY ON - 04*

to walk with Him.

This doesn't mean that everyone was pleased with Enoch. I am sure Enoch displeased many of his contemporaries. You cannot please God and men at the same time. ('Men', here, means people with human understanding... people without Godly insight!) Even when people disliked Enoch for his piety, he stood alone and pleased God. However, even people who did not appreciate him attested to one thing from their heart: "This guy only has one thing in his mind... somehow to please his God!"

Maybe people of his time considered Enoch crazy, a misfit for earthly living... Yes! May be that's the reason why God said, "come on boy, I will put you in a place fit for you!"

Do you want to live a life that will bring a smile upon the face of your God? That would be costly, but worth it. Will people around you... your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, fellow travellers in a metro, grocery shop attendant... attest your life as one pleasing only your God?

Prayer: Lord, help me bring a smile upon your face, Amen!

**Further reading: Job. 1: 1-8; Lu ke 7. 2-11**

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](mailto:harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com)

## INDIA: OVER 50 CHURCHES STOP HOLDING WORSHIP SERVICES

**AFTER AUTHORITIES IMPOSE BAN ON CHRISTIAN GATHERINGS**



Dozens of churches in India were not allowed to hold worship services for a third consecutive Sunday after authorities imposed a complete ban on Christian religious gatherings at the behest of radical Hindu nationalist groups, according to a report.

More than 50 house churches in the Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh state were not allowed to gather for worship on Sundays due to the Sub-Divisional Officer issuing a circular to police stations in the Thandla and Megnagar blocks declaring a complete ban on Christian gatherings that do not have permission from the local magistrate, the U.S.-based persecution watchdog International Christian Concern reported.

The circular was distributed at the behest of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and other radical Hindu nationalist groups, ICC said, quoting local sources, adding that Christians are concerned they will no longer be allowed to exercise their religious freedom rights, guaranteed to them by India's constitution.

"I read the circular last Friday and decided not to have worship on Sunday," a local pastor was quoted as saying. "The last five months have been difficult. Our congregation has been reduced from 40 members to 15. Even these 15 are now scared.

"I know as a pastor that I need to endure hardships and persecution for my faith. But I

*"The last five months have been difficult. Our congregation has been reduced from 40 members to 15. Even these 15 are now scared."*

am worried about those who are showing interest and coming newly to worship with us."

Local authorities have also previously sent out similar notices to Christian leaders in the district, demanding they show evidence of their legal conversion to Christianity.

Over 300 pastors and Christian leaders have met with authorities and submitted a memorandum to defuse the situation, but little has changed.

Madhya Pradesh is one of the several Indian states that have "anti-conversion" laws, which presume that Christians "force" or give financial benefits to Hindus to convert them to Christianity.

While some of these laws have been in place for decades in some states, no Christian has been convicted of "forcibly" converting anyone to Christianity. These laws, however, allow Hindu nationalist groups to make false charges against Christians and launch attacks on them under the pretext of the alleged forced conversion.

*FULL STORY ON - 05*

## 2 KIDNAPPED MISSIONARIES FREED IN HAITI, CHRISTIAN AID MINISTRIES SAYS

Two of the 17 members of a missionary group — comprising mostly Americans and five children — who were kidnapped in Haiti more than a month ago have been released, says the Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries, which sent them on the mission trip.

The two who've been freed are "in good spirits, and being cared for," the ministry said in a statement Sunday while withholding their names, current location or the reasons for their release.

"We praise God for this! Only limited information can be provided," CAM continued, requesting that those who might have more specific information about the release to "safeguard that information."

Read the full statement below:

*We have learned that two of the hostages in Haiti were released. We praise God for this! Only limited information can be provided, but we are able to report that the two hostages who were released are safe, in good spirits, and being cared for. We cannot provide or confirm the names of those released, the reasons for their release, where they are from, or their current location. We ask that those who have more specific information about the*



*release and the individuals involved would safeguard that information.*

*We encourage you to continue to pray for the full resolution of this situation. While we rejoice at this release, our hearts are with the fifteen people who are still being held. Continue to lift up the remaining hostages before the Lord.*

*"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" (Psalm 145:3).*

The group of missionaries, including six men, six women and five children, were kidnapped on Oct. 16 by the 400 Mawozo gang, which is demanding a \$17 million ransom for their release.

Since the kidnapping of the missionaries, Wilson Joseph, leader of the gang, has threatened to "put a bullet in their heads" if his \$17 million ransom demand for their release isn't met.

"We encourage you to continue to pray for the full resolution of this situation," CAM added.

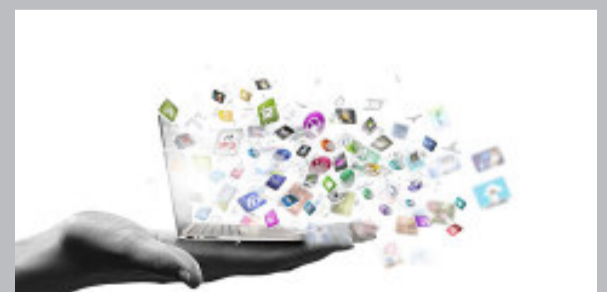
The kidnapped Christians range in age from an 8-month-old baby to a 48-year-old.

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan previously said President Joe Biden continues to be briefed daily about the kidnapping of the missionaries and



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**FULL STORY ON - 11**

noted that he was particularly concerned about the five children in the group.

"I personally give an update on this issue every single day to the president, who is taking a deep interest in making sure we get every single one of those people home safely," Sullivan said.

Joseph, who is believed to be the leader of the 400 Mawozo gang, was the subject of a wanted-poster campaign launched by police last year. Joseph faces charges, including murder, kidnapping, auto theft and hijacking trucks.

Wilson's nickname is "LanmòSanjou," which means "death doesn't know which day it's coming."

The gang was also blamed for kidnapping five priests and two nuns earlier this year. They're also responsible for 80% of abductions in the country between June and September, Gédéon Jean, director of the Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights in Port-au-Prince, told The Washington Post earlier.

The impoverished Caribbean nation is struggling in the social and political aftermath of the assassination of President Jovenal Moïse in July. And Haiti has yet to recover from a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 2,200 people in August.

At least 628 kidnappings have been reported in Haiti since January, data released last month by the Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights shows. Twenty-nine of those kidnapped have been foreigners.

The Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights reported that kidnappings have increased 300% between July and September, with over 221 kidnappings during that time.

The U.N.'s Integrated Office in Haiti stated in a February report that there were 234 kidnappings in the previous 12 months, an increase of 200% from the previous year. Authorities in Haiti reported 1,380 killings in 2020.

Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department urged Americans to "depart Haiti now."

"The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to make plans to depart Haiti now via commercial means. U.S. citizens should carefully consider the risks of traveling to or

remaining in Haiti in light of the current security situation and infrastructure challenges," a statement from the U.S. Embassy in Haiti said.

## MAN VOWS TO STAND GUARD EVERY DAY AT BALTIMORE CHURCH AFTER GRANDMOTHER IS MURDERED INSIDE

A 53-year-old Baltimore man who says he's dissatisfied with the mayor's crime plan has vowed to stand guard outside the Southern Baptist Church where Evelyn Player, a 69-year-old church worker, was murdered last Tuesday, to ensure it doesn't happen again.

"I can't, I won't, I'm not going to sit back and let this happen to

anybody else in this church," Kimkur Lee, who called Player his "church mother," told Fox 45 in Baltimore.

"I'm going to do every day. That's helping me. That's therapy for me 'cause it hurt when this happened to Ms. Player. It hurt," he said, noting that the murdered church worker is "definitely a candidate for sainthood."

Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael S. Harrison said at a press conference on Nov. 16 that Player, who was both a member and employee at Southern Baptist Church where her family worshiped for four generations, entered the church at around 6 a.m. She unlocked the doors, as usual, to allow contractors renovating the church to enter. At around 6:50 a.m., she was discovered dead in the church's bathroom in her work area.

Southern Baptist Church's pastor, Bishop Donte Hickman, told 11 News that days before her killing, Player had been intensely praying at the church and said she was perhaps at the church early last Tuesday for similar devotion.

"Typically, Evelyn would not come as early. We have other male sextons that come to the church, she just beat everybody here," he said. "She had been praying all week, praying and crying, and she may have come to the church early to have some time to pray by herself."



He further told the AFRO that Player's murder has shocked the church and the wider community.

"We were very distraught, shocked and we especially didn't believe it would happen in the house of God. But we just thank and praise God that even through this, God's will and greater purpose will be accomplished," he said.

Last Tuesday, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott called Player's death inside the independent multi-campus church an "unspeakable, cowardly murder." He described her as a "dedicated member and staff member" of Southern Baptist Church, called her killer "cowardice scum," and vowed to make solving her murder "priority No. 1 for the Baltimore Police Department."

A day later, the murder of a 5-year-old girl in Baltimore marked the city's 300th murder, according to FOX 45. That crime was followed by another murder of a child on Thursday, with the fatal shooting of a 13-year-old girl outside a recreation center.

Lee is now standing guard at the church because he doesn't think Scott's crime plan is working.

Last Wednesday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan offered a \$100,000 reward to help



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