



THE End Time News

THE WAKE-UP CALL

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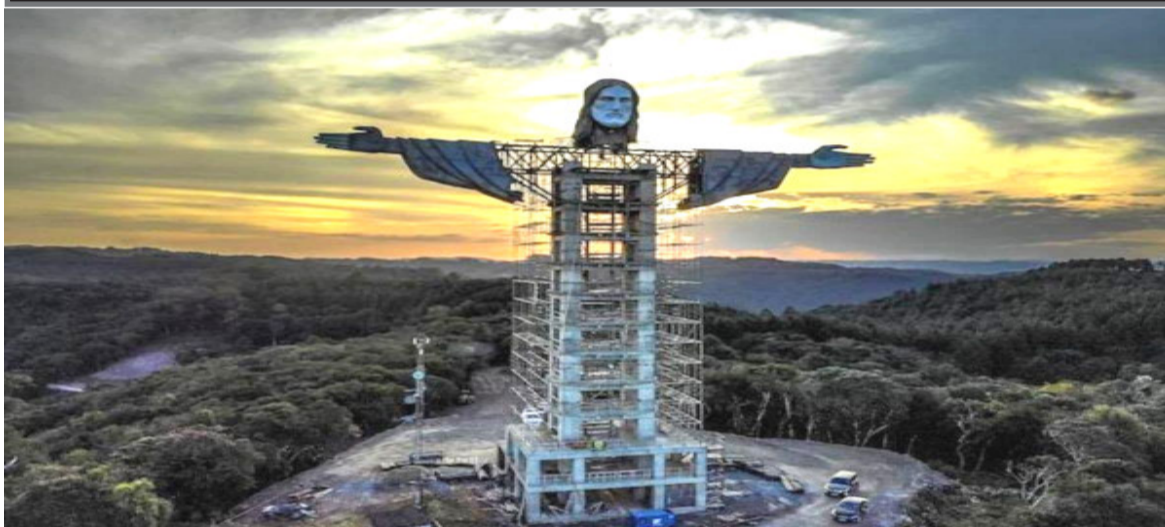
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PAKISTAN BANS SOCIAL MEDIA SUCH AS WHATSAPP, YOUTUBE, TWITTER, TELEGRAM AND FACEBOOK



FULL STORY ON - 07

PAK GOVERNMENT POSTHUMOUSLY HONORS NUN WHO GAVE HER LIFE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



Karachi – “We are pleased and proud that the Pakistani government has bestowed Sister Ruth Lewis ‘posthumously’ with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) for her services to the society of this country. This award is among the highest civil honors in the Pakistani State and is awarded for special service to the nation in the field of culture and public life”, said Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Archbishop Emeritus of Karachi, speaking with Agenzia Fides, and expresses appreciation to the Pakistani government for having rewarded a Catholic nun, who passed away in



FULL STORY ON -10

Daily COVID-19 cases double in 10 days; hospitals and crematoriums running out of space



India has seen over 2,00,000 COVID-19 cases, with over 1,000 deaths in just 24 hours, breaking all previous records since the outbreak started in March 2020.

The second wave of infection is causing more concern because it is spreading more rapidly than the first wave, with various strains now affecting babies and children as well.

As more people test positive, the demand for health-care services is growing. Hospitals are rapidly becoming overcrowded. Long queues of patients are forming outside of emergency departments waiting to get treated. There aren't enough beds. Oxygen is in short supply in intensive care units. Ambulances are unable to respond to emergency situations because they are already full.



FULL STORY ON - 12

TESTIFYING JESUS!

Evangelism is the worldwide work for all the Christians. It is not restricted to only the pastors, evangelists, church officials and the mission departments. This is made clear by Jesus when he said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Though it is primarily a command given to his disciples, it is ultimately applicable to all the individual believers as they are His disciples as the twelve.

Sharing Jesus Christ should be a way of life. A testimony must be accompanied with the message of the gospel we preach. It is because the validation of the message comes from the life lived. Apostle Paul says to the Colossians (1:28-29) "So everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen, warning them and teaching them as well as we know how. We want to be able to present each one to God, perfect because of what Christ has done for each of them. This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me."

The good news of salvation must be preached across the globe before Jesus will come. This is the will of God and this should be given the prominence. No one can be slothful in this business of preaching Christ. Every opportunity given must be used. Every occasion should be thoroughly utilized with caution. Matthew 24:14 says "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Your education or financial status does not matter when it comes to sharing Jesus. Paul explains his condition in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 saying "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." It is not the wisdom of the man or his status does bring change to the heart of the people but the work of the Holy Spirit and that's why when you are



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

an instrument in the hand of God, you do not have to be the most educated one.

Finally, the Christians should personally be responsible to pass on the gospel to the unreached. Matthew 9:37-38 says that, "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" This statement or a request from Jesus help us understand how personally responsible we are when it comes to evangelism. We are responsible to pray and to act. May the good Lord bless you all.

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K. Babu

“READ THIS PASSAGE, IT WILL REVOLUTIONISE YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE...“THIS JOURNEY HELPS YOU TO UNVEIL THE TRUTH TO DISCOVER YOU ARE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU DON’T NEED TO BE AFRAID.....IT IS NOWHERE ELSE BUT PSALM 91.....“• God wants to keep you and protect you differently as He did in the land of Goshen where people of Israel dwelt“• God wants to make a distinction between His people and the people of this world....“• Exodus 8v22-24 “But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen,(A) where my people live;(B) no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know(C) that I, the Lord, am in this land. 23 I will make a distinction[a] between my people and your people.(D)“•

GOSHEN DRAW NEAR TO GOD

There was a supernatural hatred against Jewish people.....“• They were not good people not all of them were perfect, but many of them.“• God showed His grace by choosing Israel who were weak...“• People who are nothing in themselves, God showed His glory to them... “THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED IN GOSHEN....Exodus 8:22-24“22) That no swarms of flies shall be there in order that you may know that I am the Lord of the land (Goshen)..“23) I will make a difference between my people and your people..tomorrow this sign shall be“24) And the Lord did this. Dense swarms of flies poured in to Pharaoh’s palace and in to the houses of his officials, and through out Egypt the land was ruined by the flies....“• Don’t fear the things the people of this world fear.... “• You have a God you have a Savior “• Human beings are running around, they are so worried and stressful “• We have a father to tend and feed us“Exodus 10:21-23“21) Then the Lord said to Moses “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the

land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt...“22) Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.“23) They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings...“• The light the people of Israel had all these three days were not the light by the oil, it was supernatural light...“• The Egyptian had oil with them, but they could not rise from their place and light it ... because it was supernatural darkness....“• What we are facing today is supernatural...no one is able to find remedy....“• The word dwellings are referring to our families....“• There will be supernatural light in our dwellings....“• No plague shall come near our dwellings.....“• Goshen is referred to as a temporal habitat for the Israelites. ...Genesis 46v3-4“• For chosen people like us (born again) this land where we live today is a temporal shelter.“• God promised Jacob “I will go down to Egypt with you, And surely will bring you back to

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

Canaan....Genesis 46v3-4"• Jesus said"and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also....John 14v3"• Joseph (Shadow of Jesus Christ) the ruler of the land Egypt settled Israel, his children and grand children in the region of Goshen in Egypt...Genesis 46v28-29"• When there were plagues and pestilences all over ancient Egypt because Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, look at what God said about the children of Israel: "I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell...I will make a difference between My people and your people." The Bible records that although Egypt was plagued by swarms of flies and other pestilences, the Israelites were safe in Goshen, completely untouched and unharmed by the troubles!"• Goshen is the region of land in Egypt where people of Israel lived and multiplied....Genesis 46v3-4"• Goshen was a temporal habitat for the people of Israelites...as this land is temporal habitat for us..."• Joseph, the son of Israel, or the shadow of our lovely Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ only gave them this Land to live when they (Jacob/Israel) visited Joseph during the time of famine"• The word Goshen means draw near to God... the blood of Jesus draws us near to God.."• Don't be afraid when you hear or read of terrible diseases in the world. As God's beloved child, you are in the world, but not of the world. "• And as the children of Israel were kept safe and protected in Goshen, so will the Lord keep you safe in the secret place of the Most High.....,



Dear God,
Mold me into who
You want me to be



YOU ARE SET APART... FOR GOD HIMSELF

"Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself" Ps 4:3

We know that we are a separated people, called out of darkness... We say, we were in a deep pit, miry clay, without hope... We only speak of the places we were in, in our fallen stage; and of the cry we made...We just wanted to be freed from the bondage to any other place... and Jesus redeemed us. However, is that the whole story? Here, the Psalmist says, the Lord has not just redeemed us, but He set us apart for Himself. He begins the statement by, "know that...", because, we forget this truth so often!



Saju John Mathew

am an orphan. I am not safe... Therefore, what I do is to live so close to Him that nothing would separate me from His everlasting love!

God doesn't just save you and then leaving you alone, somewhere on the bank of the pit you were rescued from. He makes you His own! Why does God set us apart for Himself? Because it is from Him that we have fallen. It is from Him that we have fallen in to sin, darkness, hopelessness and death! Away from Him, we are victims of Satan. Severed from His love, we entered into the world of God's wrath... Therefore, even for our salvation, we need to be restored to Him. If we fail to be set apart for God, our salvation is not complete!

Once His property, we were lost for some time. Now we are restored... Now I am not an orphan. I have come back to my Fathers' house! And now, I need to live with my father. I understand, away from Him, I

When God wanted to appoint a few people to help Moses in administrative affairs, He asked Moses to "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel" (Num 11:16). Even when Jesus appointed the twelve, it was to be with him, and to be sent out to preach (Mark 3:14).

"You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God," declares the Sovereign LORD (Ezek 34:31). Yes, "you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). Let's remember, each moment of our life, we are His own.

Prayer: Restore us to thyself, O LORD, that we may be restored! (Lam 5:21)

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



BRAZIL'S NEW JESUS STATUE WILL SURPASS HEIGHT OF RIO'S ICONIC CHRIST THE REDEEMER



A new statue of Jesus Christ is under construction in southern Brazil and will surpass the height of the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro. Christianity is the largest religion in the world with 2.3 billion people professing their faith in Jesus Christ. Many cities throughout the world are known for their ancient churches, historic cathedrals and images of Jesus and the saints that draw tourists. And in Brazil, where people flock to see the Christ the Redeemer statue, many are gearing up for the completion of its second world-famous statue representing Jesus, called Christ the Protector. Builders began construction on the statue in

the city of Encantado in 2019. It's expected to be bigger than Christ the Redeemer which was completed nearly 90 years ago. Christ the Redeemer measures more than 124 feet high and spans more than 91 feet hand to hand. Christ the Protector will measure more than 118 feet from hand to hand and will stand more than 141 feet tall. The structure will house an internal elevator that tourists can use to access the observation deck near the top of the figure. According to France 24, the idea for the statue was first conceived by Brazilian politician Adroaldo Conzatti, who died in March of complications from COVID-19. His son,

Gilson Conzatti, said the day of the statue's public unveiling will be "a day for celebration, for devotion." The project's budget is listed at \$350,000 and is funded solely by donations. With the completion of the head and outstretched arms, the rest of the statue is expected to be finished later this year. Once completed, Christ the Protector will be the world's third tallest Jesus statue. Current title holders go to both the Jesus BuntuBurake statue in Sulawesi, Indonesia, and Christ the King in Swiebodzin, Poland, which stands at 172 feet. According to Mexico News Daily, popular Mexican actor and devout Catholic, Eduardo Verástegui Córdoba, hired architect Fernando Romero to erect the tallest statue of Christ ever built which will stand in Tamaulipas' state capital, Ciudad Victoria. The capital is described as one of the most dangerous areas of Mexico, with a reported "83.32 homicides per every 100,000 people." Named "Christ of Peace," Verástegui Córdoba's hope is to have the statue built at a towering 252 feet, which is nearly twice the size of Christ the Redeemer. Further information has not been released on the status of the project.

ക്രിസ്തീയ ക്രൈസ്തവ ഗാനങ്ങൾ,
 ക്രൈസ്തവ മതാചാര്യർ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം പരിപാടി
 പരസ്യങ്ങൾ തടയുന്നതിനായി സഹായം
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24X7 CHRISTIAN RADIO



ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ഡൗൺലോഡ് ചെയ്യുക



f EndTime Radio 24x7





Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)

The human beings, sometimes, do not understand each other. At times, they are not conscious of who they are. They have neglected the knowledge of God while gathering in a hurry all the knowledge of the world. If you read through Isaiah 11: 6-9, (read the verses), you can see the changes and the specialties as to what happens when the world is covered by the knowledge of God. "In that day the wolf that devours will live together with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the

THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD



bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 11: 6-9). When the human race is filled with the knowledge of God, the hatred and the bitterness that we see around, and the cries of tension between the people will come to an end. How can we acquire this knowledge? The answer is obvious, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and those fear God have good understanding. The word of God will make the simple wise. Concentrate your heart in the presence of the Lord forsaking the vulgar thoughts.

Open your mouth to speak with grace forsaking the despicable. As the Bible says, "if any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you". (James 1: 5). Our discernment will protect us. The wisdom will keep us safe. Come running to the fountain of God, the source of all knowledge. May the Lord fill us with His knowledge and wisdom! Covet earnestly for a change, and receive it praying in tears.
Prayer – Dear omniscient God, may the whole world be filled with your knowledge. Help me Lord to be filled with it daily! Amen!

POLICE IN HAITI FIRE TEAR GAS AT CATHOLIC MASS PROTESTING ABDUCTION OF PRIESTS AND OTHERS



Haiti -Police in Haiti reportedly fired tear gas as dozens were participating in a "Mass for the freedom of Haiti" led by Catholic bishops on Thursday as part of an ongoing national protest against recent kidnappings of priests and others in the Caribbean nation. Nearly a dozen Catholic bishops and

dozens of people were attending the mass at the Church of St. Peter in Pétiion-Ville, a suburb of the capital, Port-au-Prince. According to Miami Herald, the crowd had overflowed onto the streets when police fired tear gas and gunshots. Parishioners could be seen running, screaming "tear gas" and "We need help." Some attendees passed out in the pews, the newspaper reported. The mass had been organized as part of a national strike in response to the recent kidnapping of five Catholic priests, two nuns and three laypeople amid growing lawless-

ness, a spike in kidnapping and gang violence in the country.

The Catholic Church is seeking to play an active role in addressing the challenges facing the impoverished nation. "The Catholic Church can help bring about change. The country needs it," Andre Michel, a leading opposition member present at the church, was quoted as saying by AFP. According to The Miami Herald, 11 bishops led by Port-au-Prince Archbishop Max Leroy Mésidor walked into the church around 12 p.m. as church bells were ringing and banging could be heard as far as a nearby mountainside. The people gathered in the church repeatedly chanted, "NouBouke." which means "We are fed up." They also chanted for the out-

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

PAKISTAN BANS SOCIAL MEDIA SUCH AS WHATSAPP, YOUTUBE, TWITTER, TELEGRAM AND FACEBOOK



Pakistan -Pakistan has temporarily blocked several social media services in the South Asian nation, according to users and a government-issued notice reviewed by TechCrunch.

In an order titled "Complete Blocking of Social Media Platforms," the Pakistani government ordered Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to block social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Telegram from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time (06.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. GMT) Friday.

The move comes as Pakistan looks to crack down against a violent terrorist group and prevent troublemakers from disrupting Friday prayer congregations following days of violent protests.

Earlier this week Pakistan banned the Islam-

ist group Tehrik-i-Labaik Pakistan after arresting its leader, which prompted protests, according to local media reports.

An entrepreneur based in Pakistan told TechCrunch that even though the order is supposed to expire at 3 p.m. local time, similar past moves by the government suggests that the disruption will likely last longer.

Though Pakistan, like its neighbor India, has temporarily cut phone call access in the nation in the past, this is the first time Islamabad has issued a blanket ban on social media in the country.

Pakistan has explored ways to assume more control over content on digital services operating in the country in recent years. Some activists said the country was taking extreme measures without much explanation.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON -06**

ing of Haiti President JovenelMoise."It was no longer a mass. It was truly a spontaneous political demonstration against the power, against kidnapping," Michel told The Miami Herald. "When the Mass ended, the police fired tear gas. I almost died from asphyxiation inside."

A spokesperson for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Haiti told the newspaper that police had offered various reasons for why tear gas was deployed. One reason church officials were told was that the authorities wanted to prevent protests. Another reason given was that some demonstrators began to set cars ablaze, The Miami Herald noted. As most Haitian people are Catholic, Haitian Cardinal ChiblyLanglois told the AFP that the church enjoys "great confidence" among the majority of the Haitian population. When the nation goes through difficult times, people expect "a word from the Catholic Church."

Days before the mass, the Catholic Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince issued a statement criticizing "the descent into hell of Haitian society" and against the "violence of armed gangs." "Public authorities" are not "immune from suspicion," the statement added. Fiammetta Cappellini, a Haiti-based country representative for the Italy-based charity AVSI, told Catholic News Service that "the violence has reached a high point." "We see that this is the deepest point ever reached in this country and we cannot go deeper," said Cappellini, whose organization began operations in Haiti in 1999.

Kidnapping has become common in Haiti. According to The Associated Press, radio stations often broadcast pleas for help raising ransom money or help to find a body. Last month, four police officers were killed as they attempted to raid a criminal gang's stronghold.

The United Nations 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, according to AP. According to the watchdog group Fondasyon Je Klere, over 150 gangs operate in Haiti.

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Submissions Invited

BIDEN CALLS BORDER A 'CRISIS' AFTER STATE OFFICIALS RAISE CONCERNS OVER NATIONAL SECURITY, TRAFFICKING

President Joe Biden has for the first time described the surge of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border as a "crisis," days after nearly 300 sheriffs in 39 states sent him a letter urging him to change his policies due to a rise in sex trafficking and concerns about national security threats.

On Saturday, Biden was asked by a reporter in Delaware about his reversal on the refugee admissions cap after his administration released a memo to keep in place the Trump-era 15,000 cap on refugees who can be allowed into the United States. "We're going to increase the number. The problem was that the refugee part was working on the crisis that ended up on the border with young people," Biden said in response. "We couldn't do two things at once. But now we are going to increase the number."

Earlier this month, the sheriffs sent a letter spearheaded by Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson of Bristol County, Mass., accusing the president of exposing the nation to cartel trafficking and potential terror threats by enabling mass illegal immigration and overwhelming Border Patrol agents. "President Biden is knowingly and intentionally undermining America's Sheriffs and our collaborative efforts with our local, state and federal public safety partners to enforce the rule of law," Hodgson said, according to the Sun Chronicle. "He and the policies of his administration are placing our citizens, neighborhoods and our nation in public safety and public health danger."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents apprehended 172,331 migrants along the border in March, which is a 71% increase from February. That number included 18,890 teenagers and unaccompanied children, which is a 100% increase since February and has led to massive overcrowding at border facilities.

Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, described it as "the biggest surge that we've ever seen in the history of the Border Patrol," during a roundtable with Republican members of Congress, Texas landowners, and law enforcement on April 7, as reported by The Epoch Times.

In the letter to Biden, Hodgson and over 270 sheriffs noted how both the Trump and Obama administrations recognized the threat



posed by illegal immigration and said it's critical that he respond. "You must act now before our nation's public safety resources are overwhelmed with the criminal side effects of unchecked illegal immigration, including transnational gangs, guns, dangerous drugs and human trafficking," the sheriffs added in the letter. "America's Sheriffs urge you, Mr. President, to reverse course and help us protect our communities by securing the southern border."

Prominent evangelical leader and president of Samaritan's Purse, Franklin Graham, posted a portion of the letter on Facebook last Monday, sharing the sheriffs' concerns. "I appreciate the boldness of this group of law enforcement leaders—they are right," Graham wrote. "Let's pray together that President Biden will heed this warning, and that God would give him wisdom and strength to do the right thing and find solutions to this crisis quickly. We need a safe process for legal immigration that works."

Hodgson appeared on "Fox and Friends" after sending the letter to discuss the impact of the border crisis on the rest of the nation in greater detail. "Sheriffs across this country are mobilizing. ...," Hodgson said. "Open borders don't work and they are exposing our citizens to more transnational gangs, violence in our communities, more drugs pouring into our communities, sex and human trafficking out of control and national security threats." This comes after several Republican states have filed lawsuits against the Biden administration's border and immigration policies.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton an-

nounced a lawsuit Tuesday, which asked a federal judge to order the Biden administration restart the "Remain in Mexico" policy, The Washington Times reported.

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich also filed a lawsuit arguing that the relaxed immigration policies caused the surge and an environmental disaster, which violated the National Environmental Policy Act.

Former Trump officials have also called on the Biden administration to respond to the crisis. "I'd say the vice president (Kamala Harris) ... needs to go to the border, needs to understand the conditions that are being experienced, needs to understand and talk to the men and women of the Border Patrol ... because it's all interrelated," former acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf said at a Heritage Foundation news briefing, Fox News reported.

Biden appointed Vice President Kamala Harris to lead the charge in responding to the border crisis through diplomatic efforts. Since being tasked with this on March 24, Harris has not visited the southern border, which has sparked heavy criticism. Harris said, "plans are in the works" to travel to Guatemala and Mexico soon to address the "root causes" of immigration, she said at a Northern Triangle security roundtable on Wednesday, Fox News reported.

MIKE PENCE LAUNCHES NEW CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATION TO ADVANCE TRUMP-ERA POLICIES



Former Vice President Mike Pence has created a conservative advocacy group to advance policies that were championed during the Trump administration.

Known as Advancing American Freedom, the launch of the conservative policy group was announced last week, with Pence explaining in a statement that its goal is to "build on the success of the last four years by promoting traditional Conservative values and promoting the successful policies of the Trump Administration." "Conservatives will not stand idly by as the radical Left and the new administration attempt to threaten America's standing as the greatest Nation in the world with their destructive policies," stated Pence in the announcement. Advancing American Freedom will engage in policy discussions and issue advocacy at both the state and federal level by proposing conservative policy solutions. Among many policy focuses, the group will try to "stop taxpayer dollars from funding abortions domestically and globally" and "defend religious liberty, including the conscience rights of doctors, nurses, teachers, and religious charities." The announcement also listed the Advancing American Freedom Advisory Board members, which comprises several leading conservative activists and public figures.

Advisory board members include former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, Texas megachurch Pastor Robert Jeffress, former Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway, former Heritage Foundation President Kay James, former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, and Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser, among others.

Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖. We are secured not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because he holds tightly to us. **RC Sproul**
- ❖. You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. **C.S. Lewis**
- ❖. We are all ill-taught if we look for results only in the earthlies when we pray. A praying saint performs far more havoc among the unseen forces of darkness than we have the slightest notion of. **Oswald Chambers**
- ❖. God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you." **Billy Graham**
- ❖. The best news of the Christian gospel is that the supremely glorious Creator of the universe has acted in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection to remove every obstacle between us and himself so that we may find everlasting joy in seeing and savoring his infinite beauty. **John Piper**
- ❖. I'm not perfect. I'm never going to be. And that's the great thing about living the Christian life and trying to live by faith, is you're trying to get better every day. You're trying to improve. **Tim Tebow**
- ❖. To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing. **Martin Luther**
- ❖. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us whereby our inner being is progressively changed, freeing us more and more from sinful traits and developing within us over time the virtues of Christ like character. **Jerry Bridges**
- ❖. The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried. **Gilbert K. Chesterton**
- ❖. The bottom line in the Christian life is obedience and most people don't even like the word. **Charles Stanley**



Abigail Thyvilayil John

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2020, who dedicated 52 years of her life to the abandoned and marginalized children in Pakistan.

Cardinal Joseph Coutts states: "We thank Sister Ruth Lewis and the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Christ the King (FMCK) for their great work with children", said Cardinal Joseph Coutts. "In 1959, the FMCK sisters responded to the growing demand in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi and agreed to accompany and care for children with mental and physical disabilities. After the death of the nursing home's founder, Sister Gertrude Lemmens, Sister Ruth Lewis assumed responsibility for running the home, which was dependent on donations. Thanks to her patient and constant work, Dar-ul-Sukun, i.e. the 'House of Peace and Love' has become the largest institution of its kind in the city with over 21 million inhabitants". Recalling her faithful service at a service in memory of Sister Ruth, Cardinal Joseph Coutts remarked: "Sister Ruth Lewis was a very calm and humble person, she developed tremendous strength in serving these mentally and physically challenged children. She was known in civil society and among civil society NGOs in Karachi. The government of Sindh Province (whose capital is Karachi) valued her and the good works she did for 52 years. In the city she was known as the "mother of the Forgotten" and she lived up to her right to the last breath".

Sister Ruth Lewis lost the fight against the consequences of an infection with the coronavirus on July 20, 2020 (see Fides, 22/7/20). She had been on treatment since July 8 after testing positive for Covid-19. She was infected during her tireless services in the home where 21 children were found positive for Covid-19 in June 2020. The Pakistani government awarded her the posthumous award on March 23, 2021 on the occasion of "Pakistan Day". The award was received by Cookie, a former foster child of the home, who is now an employee of Dar-ul-Sukun. Cookie remembered the deceased Catholic nun as "her mother" and said: "Sister Ruth was the mother of all the children of Dar-ul-Sukun. She took care of all of us like a mother takes care of her children".

For her selfless and passionate service to "special children" Ruth Lewis was awarded the "Pride of Karachi" award on January 18, 2014. In 2018 she was awarded the "Hakim Mohammad Saeed" award by the governor of Sindh for her service to humanity. As a sign of gratitude for the social work done, the Sindh government financed the construction of a three-story building on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Dar-ul-Sukun to meet the growing number of children in need.

TWO CHRISTIAN NURSES IN PAKISTAN FALSELY ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY BY MUSLIM COWORKER



International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that two Christian nurses in Pakistan have been formally accused of committing blasphemy against Islam. According to local sources, the Christians were accused by a Muslim coworker of desecrating wall hangings that contained Quranic verses.

On April 9, Mariyum Lal and NewshArooj, two Christian nurses working at Civil Hospital in Faisalabad, were falsely accused of committing blasphemy. Local sources report that Lal was directed to remove old wall hangings and stickers from a wall by Rukhsana, a senior nurse at the hospital. Following Rukhsana's instructions, Lal removed the wall-hangings and stickers.

Rukhsana, who reportedly holds a grudge against Lal, provoked other Muslim staffers at Civil Hospital by claiming Lal desecrated wall hangings that contained Quranic verses. In response, a Muslim staffer at the hospital's pharmacy, named Waqas, attacked Lal with a knife as she was attending a patient in the hospital's medical ward. Lal received several injuries to her arm but survived the attack.

The false blasphemy allegation against Lal soon spread to the broader community and a mob of enraged Muslims staged a protest outside of Civil Hospital. Members of the mob demanded Lal be arrested and hanged for committing blasphemy. "This is an alarming situation for the weaker segments of society," Asif Munawar, a member of the Ministry of Human Rights and Minority Affairs Punjab, told ICC. "This is the second case within three months where a nurse is being accused of committing blasphemy." "The authorities must take notice of these practices,"

Munawar continued. "Mariyum Lal must be protected in police custody for a fair investigation to take place."

Police registered a First Information Report (FIR # 347/21) in connection with the blasphemy allegation. According to the FIR, Mariyum Lal and

NewshArooj are both accused of violating Pakistan's blasphemy laws under Section 295-B.

In Pakistan, false accusations of blasphemy are widespread and often motivated by personal vendettas or religious hatred. Accusations are highly inflammatory and have the potential to spark mob lynchings, vigilante murders, and mass protests.

Since Pakistan added Section 295-B and 295-C to the country's blasphemy laws in 1987, the number of blasphemy accusations have skyrocketed. Between 1987 and 2017, 1,534 individuals in Pakistan have been accused of blasphemy. Out of that 1,534, 829 accusations (54%), were made against religious minorities. With Christians only making up 1.6% of Pakistan's total population, the 238 accusations (15.5%) made against Christians is highly disproportionate.

ICC's Regional Manager, William Stark, said, "We here at International Christian Concern condemn the false blasphemy accusation that has been leveled against Mariyum Lal and NewshArooj. In Pakistan, blasphemy allegations ruin the lives of the accused, even if proved to be false. We call on Pakistani authorities to thoroughly and fairly investigate this false allegation and bring the false accuser to justice. Pakistan's blasphemy laws must no longer be allowed to settle personal scores or incite religious hatred. Too often these laws have been a tool in the hands of extremists seeking to stir up religiously motivated violence against minorities."

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY PASSES 'LOVE JIHAD' LAW TO PREVENT CONVERSION



The Gujarat Assembly on Thursday passed the Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 amendment Bill that seeks to penalise forcible or fraudulent religious conversion by marriage or "love jihad", bringing in stringent provisions against forcible conversion through marriage or allurement. The Bill has provisions for 3-10 years in jail and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh if the accused is found guilty.

The Bill amends a 2003 Act, and seeks to curb the "emerging trend in which women are lured to marriage for the purpose of religious conversion" as per its "statement of object." The Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003, deals with religious conversion "through allurement, force or by misrepresentation or by any other fraudulent means". The Gujarat amendment Bill says it is necessary to prohibit "forcible conversion by marriage or by getting a person married or by

aiding a person to get married", and hence the amendment is being carried out in the law. "However, there are episodes of religious conversion promising better lifestyle, divine blessings and impersonation. There is an emerging trend in which women are lured to marriage for the purpose of religious conversion," the Bill says. The amendment also defines "allurement" as promising "better lifestyle, divine blessings, or otherwise".

Piloting the amendment Bill in the house, Gujarat's Minister of State for Home Pradipsinh Jadeja said "the amendment was required to stop people from luring Hindu girls into marriage with the intention of religious conversion" and added that "there is international finance being channelised to lure Hindu girls into marriage and then their conversion."

During the marathon debate on the Bill, Con-

gress legislator Imran Khedavala, while opposing the amendment, tore the copy of the Bill and subsequently apologised for it.

Opposition party members opposed the amendment calling the BJP's plank communal plank while senior Congress legislator Gyasuddin Sheikh even produced over a dozen marriage certificates or affidavits of Hindu boys marrying Muslim girls.

Gujarat's Deputy CM Nitin Patel contended that the amendment was not to target any specific community and if Hindu boys forced girls of other communities, they would also face the same law and rules.

As per the provisions of the Bill, "Forcible conversion by marriage or by getting a person married" shall invite imprisonment of 3-5 years and up to ₹2 lakh fine. If the victim is a minor, a woman, a Dalit or tribal, then the offenders may be punished with a jail term of 4-7 years and a fine of not less than ₹3 lakh.

If any organisation is found violating the law, the person in-charge can be sentenced to between three years and 10 years in jail and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh can be imposed. Additionally, marriages solemnised for the purpose of such conversion will be declared void and the burden of proof shall lie on the accused. Parents, siblings or any other person related by blood, marriage or adoption to the victim can lodge the complaint and the offences shall be non-bailable.



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“Our hospitals do not have space for fresh admissions,” said Bishop Jose Chittooparambil of Rajkot in Gujarat, one of the worst-hit regions.

“The situation is very bad here. Our hospital beds reserved for COVID patients are full and we are trying to add more beds to accommodate critical patients.”

According to Father George Kannanthanam, national secretary of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), “People have lost their confidence.”

He told UCA News that “The situation seems to be more critical than the earlier outbreak and we can defeat it only with strong will-power.”

A health worker from a Catholic hospital in Madhya Pradesh, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the “Situation in many parts of the country is such that hospitals are full and ordinary people have no one to look for other than God.”

Although hospitals struggle to cope with the influx of patients, crematoriums are no exception. In most of the affected areas, cremation facilities are unable to meet the demand. The long wait is exacerbating the grief of families and friends who have already lost their loved ones.

Approximately 114 million citizens have been vaccinated so far. According to current estimates, the Serum Institute in Pune and Bharat Biotech produce 2.4 million doses of vaccine per day. To meet the rising demand, India will import Sputnik V vaccine from Russian, which is expected to be available after mid-May.

Despite the surge in infections, people are ignoring COVID-19 protocols and attending mass religious festivals and political rallies. The Kumbh Mela festival has drawn hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Haridwar. According to the most recent reports, COVID-19 has taken the life of a seer, and 80 other holy men have tested positive for the virus. Negligence at a time when the infection rate is at its peak is inevitable. The question of what will happen when all of the pilgrims return home has become a matter of concern to many.

CHRISTIAN PASTOR RELEASED FROM PRISON IN LAOS



A Laotian pastor who was kept in police detention for more than a year for conducting religious activities related to his Christian faith is a free man again. Sithon Thippavong, 35, a Christian leader from the southern province of Savannakhet, was convicted on April 6 by a provincial court on charges of “disrupting unity” and “creating disorder.” The court sentenced him to one year in prison but Sithon was released three days later on account of time served in jail awaiting trial. His release was hailed as a welcome development for the long-suffering Christian minority in the communist nation. Sithon was also slapped with a fine of 4 million kip (US\$426) over the two charges.

In the communist nation, where most people are Buddhists and animists, Christians are allowed by law to practice their faith, within certain limits, yet many local authorities across the country continue to view Christianity as a subversive alien religion.

Sithon was arrested on March 15 last year after local authorities accused him of conducting religious services without permission.

On the day of his arrest, the pastor was preparing to hold a religious service when seven police officers showed up and told him to cancel it. The officers reportedly asked the Christian man to sign a document renouncing his faith and when Sithon refused, they detained him.

The pastor’s case became a cause célèbre among some rights advocates as it highlighted the routine discrimination that Christians in Laos, who number around 150,000 in a country of 7 million, continue to endure at the hands of communist officials and some hostile locals.

Late last month Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch deputy director for the Asia-Pacific region, called Sithon’s arrest and year-long detention “a serious human rights violation.”

“Lao authorities should release Pastor Sithon and apologize for arresting and detaining him,” Robertson stressed. “The authorities should not violate the rights and freedom of those who believe in religion.”

Several foreign Christian organizations also demanded that Sithon be released and allowed to freely practice his faith.

Eric Blievernicht, who works for Vision Beyond Borders, a Christian organization based in the United States, expressed dismay at the pastor’s “extrajudicial imprisonment by the Lao government.” “[We] are concerned he is not being treated well or fairly by his jailers,” Blievernicht said. “We ask for prayers for Pastor Thippavong and call upon the Lao government to release him and respect religious liberty for all its citizens.”

Christian villagers in Sithon’s rural community were delighted at the pastor’s release. “I’m glad, very glad, that he has been released. We prayed for Pastor Sithon for more than a year now,” a Laotian Christian told Radio Free Asia’s Lao service. “We’re very excited that he’s still alive and was finally saved by God. He may have been sick and frail in prison, but now he’ll be very happy to be able to serve God again.”

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