



THE End Time News

THE WAKE-UP CALL

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AFGHAN PRESIDENT FLEES COUNTRY AS TALIBAN SEIZE KABUL, TAKE CONTROL

TOP NEWS ▶▶▶▶

FULL STORY ON - 05

NEARLY 70% OF AMERICANS DISAPPROVE OF BIDEN'S HANDLING OF AFGHANISTAN

Nearly 70% of likely American voters disapprove of how President Joe Biden is handling the situation in Afghanistan as the Taliban takes control of the country, according to a recently released poll.

The Trafalgar Group released a poll on Monday which found that 59.5% of respondents strongly disapproved of Biden's handling of Afghanistan while 9.8% disapproved, for a combined 69.3% disapproval.

By contrast, 12.4% of respondents approved of Biden's handling of Afghanistan, 10.7% strongly approve, and 7.5% responded that they have no opinion on the issue.

The poll was conducted Aug. 14-15 and had

a sample of 1,084 "likely general election voters" which had a reported margin of error of 2.98%.

Another finding of the poll was that Democrat respondents were also largely critical of Biden's handling of

Afghanistan, with 48.2% saying they either "strongly disapprove" or "disapprove," while 39.8% saying they either "approve" or "strongly approve."

Mark Meckler, president of conservative group Convention of States Action, which partnered with the Trafalgar Group to release the poll, said in a statement released Monday that the poll showed evidence that "the American people are not buying the lies on Afghanistan." "This is Saigon, and it's far worse. Our nation has watched the same group of leaders in Washington, D.C., flounder and blunder on foreign policy, on COVID-19, on the border, and



ONLY 9% OF GEN Z YOUTH ARE 'BIBLE CENTERED': SURVEY



Fewer than 10% of Generation Z youth say they're committed to reading the Bible regularly, according to a survey that was part of a newly released report by the American Bible Society.

FULL STORY ON - 07

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CAMP DESTROYED BY CALIFORNIA'S DIXIE FIRE: 'HEARTBROKEN'



A prominent Christian camp based in California that averaged around 2,200 visitors a year has been de-

FULL STORY ON - 09

on the economy," stated Meckler.

"After spending more than \$1 trillion dollars and enduring wounded and dead soldiers, we are confronted with a basecamp for terror, a foreign policy nightmare,

FULL STORY ON - 07

In all sense, Psalms are songs to praise God and precisely they are songs the Israelites sang to praise Jehovah, the Lord of the forefather, Abraham. Psalms were sung in the congregations and during the festivals of the Israelites. This indispensable part in a worship and life of the people in Israel is a testament to what the Lord had done and how He has dealt with them. When this is the major thread in most of the Psalms, there is one that stands different. That is Psalm 117.

Psalm 117 actually begins in Psalm 113 and it is part of six psalms called the Egyptian Hallel or just Hallel ("hallel" meaning "praise" in Hebrew language). Psalms 113-118 are recited word for

The God of His People!

Praise the LORD, all nations;
Sing His praises, all peoples!
Psalm 117: 1



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

word by religious Jews on all Jewish holidays, especially Passover feast. Traditionally, the Hallel is sung before and after the Passover meal. So, it's very likely Jesus and the disciples sung this song in the upper room on the night Jesus was arrested (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26).

Psalm 117 begins in verse one with a command to praise the Lord. But the command is not just for the original Jewish reader. The psalmist specifically commands Gentiles to also praise Him. This is called a Global Invitation, and it means God is indicating His salvation

FULL STORY ON - 04



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Pr. Bijo Mathew Panathur.

The cloak of Elijah was common for sure and has no magical powers, but added to the history of Bible with Elijah the man of God. The rushing Waters of river Jordan was stopped by this cloak. This cloak of grace was fallen upon Elisha who had been with the ploughing oxen in the field. It was a cloak of anointing which fallen on Elisha while the charriots of fire splits them apart by whirlwind. It works as a baton which exchanges the ministerial

When Elijah's cloak resembles our triggering faith

anointing in to another era for Elisha. However the cloak of Elijah represents solid faith which can mangle the overwhelming mishaps as if river Jordan that mounts in your life and generate unanticipated ways for you. The eminence of your faith shall be measured by the rugged scenarios you go through. This cloak being witness of the forbearance of Elisha who had been waiting for the double portion. This endurance ignites the long term aspiration for the spirit of God.

We conquer the hardships when the power of God Kindles our faith. Elisha never

discouraged by the derisions of his companions, and crosses river Jordan with the cloak which symbolizes our rigid faith. Our faith may encounters plights like Jordan, but strong faith shall vanquish it.

Your faith may examined. These inspections shall make your faith gleaming. You may go through the blazing furnace. Three men were stowed into the furnace literally for their faith. Similarly God shall put our faith in to the furnace of problems. Instead of your faith being consumed, it will become more radiant and strong. This strong faith defeats every problems. Faith always encounters

FULL STORY ON - 05



▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 02**

goes beyond the borders of Israel. The command to Gentiles is a look back at God's original intent for all mankind going back to Adam and Eve. God longs to draw everyone to Himself so there can be divine fellowship with us through an eternal relationship.

Why does the psalmist demand such exalted praise in chapter 117? Because of God's redemptive kindness and His eternal truth. His eternal truth is His faithfulness to complete what He has started, which includes salvation for everyone.

Give Him all the praise He deserves and let us hold back none for He is our God and we His people! Amen!

So there is no surprise in the first verse of the psalm. It is in His plan! The salvation is for all and He is our Lord too, we being not from among the descendants of the Abraham in flesh.

Submissions Invited

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

E-TRACTS

**TAMING
THE
TONGUE**



Tame Your Tongue

A little member a powerful destroyer
Tongue is product of your reasoning
It is the trigger of your boastful spirit
It launches the missile of your mind

Plant does not bear two different fruits
But tongue bears both good and evil fruits
Tongue brings forth guile and honey together
The tongue can build and can tear down

Good proceeds out of man's tongue
Word of peace that soothes the heart
Word of praises that appreciates the Creator
Word of grace that is seasoned with salt

Evil proceeds out of man's tongue
Word of war that destroys the soul
Word of hate that sows seed of discord
Word of curse that demolishes generation

Difficult to control but still subjects to man
Let not your tongue run to bring your ruin
Tame your tongue to pray and praise
Culture your tongue to counsel in grace

By Michael A. Eleyinafe

AFGHAN PRESIDENT FLEES COUNTRY AS TALIBAN SEIZE KABUL, TAKE CONTROL



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani fled the country Sunday for Tajikistan as the Taliban terrorist group moved further into Kabul, a senior Afghan Interior Ministry official said. "The former president of Afghanistan left Afghanistan, leaving the country in this difficult situation. God should hold him accountable," said Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council, in an online video, according to a translation of his comments on social media, The Associated Press reported.

Other videos posted on social media purported to show Ghani and his advisors leaving the country on a plane at around 10 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time.

Taliban militants have taken control of all major cities in Afghanistan and are now seizing its capital city of Kabul.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul lowered its flag as officials moved their diplomatic operations to the city's airport. Some U.S. diplomats and American staff were evacuated by helicopter overnight and taken to the Kabul airport where they await military flights out of the region.

FULL STORY ON -03

problems. Faith may not grow stronger without problems. These problems will accumulate strength and glow of your faith. Healthy faith can win gigantic waves of your life. As if a cloak stopped the waters of Jordan, the faith of a God's man will extinguish the power of blazing hurdles. Let the sharpness of your faith may increase and it may turn as a honed weapon while it goes through the fire.

Although cloak of Elijah a merely object, it is figurative of invisible and intangible strong faith that we hold. It is just a legacy left from the men of faith.

President Biden on Saturday authorized the deployment of about 5,000 U.S. troops to safely evacuate U.S. and allied personnel from the South Asian country.

"Based on the recommendations of our diplomatic, military, and intelligence teams, I have authorized the deployment of approximately 5,000 U.S. troops to make sure we can have an orderly and safe drawdown of U.S. personnel and other allied personnel and an orderly and safe evacuation of Afghans who helped our troops during our mission and those at special risk from the Taliban advance," Biden said in a statement.

The president, who held consultations with top advisers at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, added: "I was the fourth President to preside over an American troop presence in Afghanistan — two Republicans, two Democrats. I would not, and will not, pass this war onto a fifth," he said.

The deployment includes 1,000 troops already stationed on the ground as well as the 3,000 U.S. infantry troops — one Army and two Marine Corps units, according to The Wall Street Journal, which reported that Saturday's authorization effectively means there will be an additional 1,000 troops sent from the Gulf region into Kabul.

The president said in Saturday's statement that he had ordered Secretary of State Antony Blinken to back Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and other leaders in their efforts toward a political settlement.

Biden also said Taliban representatives in Doha had been warned against any action on U.S. personnel in Afghanistan which "will be met with a swift and strong U.S. military response," according to the Journal.

The United States is seeking to develop an

"over-the-horizon" capability to mount attacks inside Afghanistan if terrorist groups emerge in that country after U.S. forces are gone — the administration doesn't have access to Central Asian countries yet to do so.

Before their takeover of Kabul on Sunday, the Taliban had said their fighters would remain at the entry points of the capital city to negotiate a peaceful transfer of power, the BBC reported, adding that the chairman of the United Kingdom's Foreign Affairs Committee called the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan Britain's biggest foreign policy disaster. Tory MP Tom Tugendhat said the U.K. has "abandoned the Afghan people." The U.K.'s shadow Foreign secretary Lisa Nandy said there had been a "catastrophic miscalculation" by the U.S. and the U.K., which overestimated the strength of Afghanistan's government. "It beggars belief that in the face of all that, the (U.K.) government has been so slow to respond. What we need to hear now is an actual strategy from the government."

ened by ongoing seasonal hot weather, strong winds and a dry environment.

According to news reports, the Dixie Fire is the largest single wildfire recorded in the history of California.

The Dixie Fire is just one of several wildfires ravaging the western U.S., prompting thousands to flee their homes.

Across the globe, wildfires have impacted three continents, with fires in Russia, Italy, Turkey and Greece.

In California, over 6,347 fires have been reported by Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service in 2021.





Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

The Word of the Lord in My Mouth!

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth (Jeremiah 1:9)

The Lord has given us the word that we may live a successful life and He is watching to see what it accomplishes (Jeremiah 1: 9, 12). Here are four ways in which you must accept the word. First of all, find the word of God for your life! This is to say that you must look for the promises of God in the word and compare them to your life. A good number of reference Bibles and Commentaries will be of great help in this regard. Make this a habit as the psalmist says in Psalm 119: 12, "Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees". Secondly, treasure the word you have learned! Understand it deeply and meditate on it. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law (Psalm 119:18). Meditate

on the word until your heart is filled with it. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119: 11). Thirdly, you must rejoice in the word! Do not read the word casually but rather you must find pleasure and happiness in reading and meditating it. Be satisfied reading it as you are satisfied when you consume your regular food. "For I delight in your commands because I love them" (Ps. 119:47). "Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart (Psalm 119: 111)." "I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word (Psalm 119: 16). Lastly, you must trust in the word! Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens (Psalm 119: 89). You must trust in the word of the Lord that does not change even if heaven and earth pass away. You must immerse yourself in the word that is

never changing."I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word" (Psalm 119: 42). May we be delivered by the word of God!

Prayer: Lord, help me that I may know your word and live by it.

You must trust in the word of the Lord that does not change even if heaven and earth pass away. You must immerse yourself in the word that is never changing. ...



▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 05**

and are now less safe here at home. Time for new leadership.”

Over the past several years, the United States has been slowly reducing troop numbers in Afghanistan; although they had toppled the Taliban regime in 2001 for their connection to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Islamic extremist group maintained a longstanding insurgency.

In February 2020, at a speech before the Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland, then President Donald Trump announced an agreement with the Taliban and the Afghan government as a means of ending the war in Afghanistan.

“Today, the United States signed a deal with the Taliban, so that we can hopefully begin the immediate process of finally bringing our troops back home,” Trump told CPAC.

“I want to just thank our military because we’ve been really a police force there for the last long time. We’re not supposed to be a police force, we’re supposed to be fighting soldiers.”

Earlier this year, Biden announced that he planned to withdraw the last of the U.S. forces by the beginning of September, reportedly against the wishes of his military advisors.

Recently, with the American withdrawal largely complete, the Taliban went on the offensive, retaking large parts of Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, with surprising speed.

The result has been a rushed evacuation of Western sympathizers and others from the country, which many have compared to when the U.S. hastily evacuated Saigon in 1975 at the close of the Vietnam War.

In response to the situation, Biden announced that 5,000 U.S. troops would be deployed to evacuate Americans. The Pentagon announced Sunday that an additional 1,000 troops would be deployed to provide security for evacuations after the U.S. State Department reported gunfire at the Kabul international airport and told Americans to “shelter in place.”

Biden also ordered “our Armed Forces and our Intelligence Community to ensure that we will maintain the capability and the vigilance to address future terrorist threats from Afghanistan.”

“America went to Afghanistan 20 years ago to defeat the forces that attacked this country on September 11th. That mission resulted

in the death of Osama bin Laden over a decade ago and the degradation of al Qaeda,” Biden said in a statement on Saturday.

“I was the fourth President to preside over an American troop presence in Afghanistan—two Republicans, two Democrats. I would not, and will not, pass this war onto a fifth.”

FULL STORY ON - 01

In their “State of the Bible – USA 2021” report released Tuesday, ABS concluded that Gen Z, defined as being between ages 9 and 24, have a “precarious relationship with the Bible.”

Researchers polled individuals as young as 15 and split the generation between “Gen Z youth,” aged 15-17, to separate them from “Gen Z adults,” aged 18 to 24.

ABS found that only 9% of Gen Z youth were classified as “Scripture Engaged,” which means being centered on reading the Bible. By comparison, 14% of Gen Z adults and 23% of millennials were classified as “Scripture Engaged.” Additionally, 47% of Gen Z youth were labeled “Bible Disengaged.”

“Half of all American adults qualify as a Bible User today — those who use the Bible at least three to four times per year,” stated the report.

“However, only one-third of Gen Z youth (34%) are Bible Users, while 43 percent of Gen Z adults qualify. Compared with Gen Z, millennials have a much higher percentage of Bible Users, approaching the national average (49%).”

ABS also found that, during the pandemic and widespread protests over racial injustice in 2020, Gen Z youth were the most likely to report decreasing their reading of the Bible. “The turmoil of 2020 did not spark greater Bible use among teenagers. Gen Z youth (27%) are more likely than Gen Z adults (19%) or millennials (9%) to say they decreased their Bible use in the past year,” continued the report.

“Millennials, on the other hand, are more likely to say their Bible use has increased in the past year (29%) compared with Gen Z adults (27%) and Gen Z youth (21%).”

ABS drew from a survey conducted Jan. 4-29 of a national representative sample of 3,354 responses from adults aged 18 and older, as well as 91 youth aged 15-17, with a margin of error of +/- 1.692 percent.

An additional finding of the report was that Gen Z, in general, had a “significant uncer-

tainty about Scripture’s value” in addition to the “lower-than-average Bible engagement.” “When asked about the Bible’s importance to sustaining key American ideals, youth in Gen Z (ages 15–17) were more likely than adult members of their generation, and far more likely than older adults, to be undecided,” the report added.

“Gen Z youth may continue to form their opinions as they age into adulthood, but Gen Z as a whole are still more likely than millennials to question the Bible’s relevance to issues like liberty (37% vs. 27%) and unity (29% vs. 20%).”

As they begin to enter adulthood, Gen Z has become a major focal point for research, and, according to multiple polls by Christian groups, a point of great spiritual concern.

In January 2018, the Barna Group released a report concluding that Gen Z teenagers were more likely than older generations to identify as atheist, agnostic or religious unaffiliated.

The 2018 study indicated that 35% of Gen Z teenagers considered themselves atheist, agnostic or unaffiliated, while only 30% of millennials, 30% of Generation X and 26% of Baby Boomers responded the same.

However, a Religious Freedom Index report from Becket released last November found that Gen Z members were more likely than older generations to rely on faith during the pandemic.

The report found that 74% of Gen Z respondents felt that faith was “at least somewhat important” during the pandemic, which was above the 62% average of all generations.

Furthermore, Gen Z respondents were also the generation most likely to consider faith “extremely or very important,” with 51% saying so. By contrast, millennials were the lowest for this at 31%.

Submissions Invited

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harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com

I still remember the night I made my personal commitment to Jesus Christ, around the time of my 17th birthday. A visiting evangelist was preaching in our town in a large temporary structure built for that purpose. At first I wanted nothing to do with those meetings, but finally a friend persuaded me to go, and I found myself transfixed by the evangelist's message (and his colorful way of presenting it).

Although thousands were present, he seemed to be speaking directly to me—even when I hid behind the large hat of the woman in front of me! I realize now that God's Spirit was working in my heart, convicting me of my sins and convincing me of my need for Christ.

One night as he gave the invitation for people to commit their lives to Christ, I knew I had resisted long enough, and I finally went forward (although I held out until the final verse of the last hymn). A kindly man explained how I could invite Christ into my life, and at his suggestion I prayed a simple but sincere prayer of repentance.

When I got home, I went upstairs to my room, sensing something important had happened to me—although I wasn't exactly sure what. I didn't feel any strong emotion or dramatic change, but looking out over the moonlit fields of my father's

farm, I thought about the step I had just taken. Then for the first time in my life, I spontaneously got down on my knees and prayed: "Lord, I don't know what happened to me tonight, but You know."

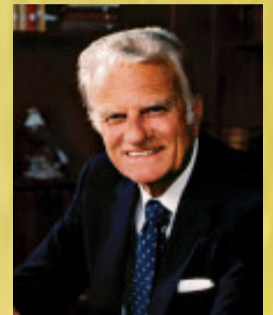
Only gradually would I understand my commitment and what it meant. Decades later I am still learning, for the Christian life is one of constant growth.

What really happens to us when we believe in Christ? Let me list seven gifts God gives you when you commit your life to Christ.
A New Relationship

The first thing that happens when we give our lives to Christ is that God gives us a new relationship.

Once we were separated from God because of our sins—and not just separated, but alienated from Him. The Bible says we were "excluded. ... without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

But Christ took away all our sins—not just part of them, but all of them! You are forgiven! The one thing that separated you from God—your sin—has now been removed, and therefore you are reconciled to Him. Instead of being God's enemy, you are now His friend. The Bible says, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus



Dr. Billy Graham

Christ" (Romans 5:1). We aren't only His friends, however. We are also His children.

The Bible uses two vivid images to illustrate this. First, it tells us we have been born again. A second image the Bible uses is adoption. If we have given our lives to Christ, God has adopted us into His family. He is now your loving heavenly Father, and you are now His child, spiritually born into His family.

A New Citizenship

The second thing God gives you when you commit your life to Christ is a new citizenship. You are still a citizen of a particular country—but now you are also a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

In Jesus' day, one of the most coveted privileges a person could have was Roman citizenship. A Roman citizen paid fewer taxes, and if he went into the army, he automatically became an officer. A Roman citizen couldn't be flogged or put to death by crucifixion (except in very rare cases, such as treason). If found guilty in a Roman court, he had the right to appeal directly to Caesar.

But Jesus said His followers possessed something far greater than Roman citizenship—and that was citizenship in the

FULL STORY ON - 10



NEW Beginnings

FULL STORY ON - 08

stroyed by the Dixie Fire, reportedly one of the worst fires in the state's history.

Sierra Bible Camp, founded in 1952 and based in the northeastern part of the state on the banks of Lake Almanor, suffered the destruction of all 23 of its buildings.

The camp advertises itself as a "summer Bible camp for the youth where everybody can get to know more about the Savior as well as connect with peers of the same faith." The camp confirmed the destruction in an Aug. 7 Facebook post. The camp's leadership expressed gratitude for a successful evacuation in which no lives were lost.

"We have enjoyed so many years there and have come to know the communities around the lake as a part of our Christian family," the post reads. "Yet, as we mourn the loss of our facility, we realize how blessed we are that we were able to evacuate early and no life was or has been lost. We have a loving Christian family that ministers to us, and a Loving God, who blesses us in so many ways."

Mike Vincelli, a Sierra Bible Camp board member, told The Christian Post that he is "hurt" by seeing the damage, an experience he called "heart-wrenching."

"So many people and so many kids had gone through camp and had found Christ there," said Vincelli, who noted that about 1,500 of the 2,200 annual visitors are children. "For it to be just gone ... we just all felt very sad and just heartbroken."

Vincelli said the camp is "starting to raise funds" for rebuilding, adding that the camp is insured.

"But that it's not going to cover everything," he said.

"So, we are planning on rebuilding, and we are starting our outreach program probably with a couple of weeks on that."

Vincelli said that contributions can be sent to 2042 TrailviewCout in Redding, California, 96003.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Dixie Fire began in July and destroyed over 570,000 acres and more than 1,000 buildings as of Monday.

The major blaze is presently 31% contained and spans across four counties. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to the state fire department.

The Dixie Fire continues to threaten thousands of homes. The fire is being strength-

FULL STORY ON - 05

Sparkling Wisdom!

❖ "The prime reason the Savior personally acts as the gatekeeper of the celestial kingdom is not to exclude people, but to personally welcome and embrace those who have made it back home." **Tad R. Callister**

❖ "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**

❖ "I realized that all my life, my values were based upon typical middle-class American values: hard work, doing good, living well, owning things, following the rules & being the best I can be... but God clearly says, 'those are not MY values. I value justice, mercy, and humility.'" **John Green**

❖ "Sometimes you must stand still in order to get moving to where God wants you to go." **D.A. McBride**

❖ "Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us." **David Platt**

❖ "He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain." **Randy Alcorn**

❖ "If your life is Christ, then your death will be only more of Christ, forever. If your life is only Christlessness, then your death will be only more Christlessness, forever. That's not fundamentalism, that's the law of non-contradiction." **Peter Kreeft**

❖ "It is not great faith, but true faith, that saves; and the salvation lies not in the faith, but in the Christ in whom faith trusts... It is not the measure of faith, but the sincerity of faith, which is the point to be considered." **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

❖ "The gospel declares that no matter how dutiful or prayerful we are, we can't save ourselves. What Jesus did was sufficient." **Brennan Manning**

❖ "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**



Abigail Thyvilayil John

FULL STORY ON - 08

Kingdom of God. In His first recorded sermon, Jesus declared, “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15). God’s Kingdom, He made clear, wasn’t an earthly political kingdom, but a heavenly spiritual kingdom—the realm over which God rules. The Bible says, “Our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).

As long as we are on this Earth, we possess dual citizenship. On one hand we owe allegiance to our nation and are called to be good citizens. But we are also citizens of the Kingdom of God, that invisible Kingdom of which Christ is the head. Our supreme loyalty is to Him, and if someone demands we do wrong, “we must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29). And someday, the Bible tells us, this world’s kingdoms will become “the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

A New Family

God also gives us a new family.

the barriers that separated us, and we enjoyed fellowship as members of God’s family.

A New Purpose

When we come to Christ, God gives us a new purpose. Now we want to live for Christ and not just ourselves. We begin to see other people differently—not for what they can do for us, but for what we can do for them. The Bible says, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

When I came to Christ, I had little inkling of what I might do with my life, but I knew something was different. Before my conversion, for example, I tended to be touchy and irritable. Now I deliberately tried to be considerate and courteous. Some may not have noticed, but my parents did—and so did I. Little by little I was beginning to have a new purpose in life: a desire to live for Christ. I was learning that “those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

A New Power

One of the Bible’s most comforting truths is that when we come to Christ, God Himself comes to live within us by His Holy Spirit. We are not alone; God is with us!



You aren’t just related to God; you are now related to other believers. Everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ is now your spiritual brother or sister. We are bound together in God’s family, not by an organization but by a spiritual relationship. The Bible calls us “members of God’s household” (Ephesians 2:19). One of the most frequent terms for Christians in the Bible is “brothers,” underlining our family relationship.

In my travels, I have often met men and women who were very different from me. And yet after a few minutes it was almost as if we had known each other all our lives. Why? Because we both knew Christ. Our common spiritual bond cut through

The Bible says, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9). If you know Christ, you don’t need to beg for the Holy Spirit to come into your life; He is already there—whether you “feel” His presence or not.

But why has God given us the Holy Spirit? One reason is to help us live the way we should. God has given us a new purpose—but without a new power we’ll never be able to achieve it. We are too weak!

But the Bible says, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26). Jesus promised, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8). We aren’t

meant to live the Christian life in our own strength. God has provided His Spirit to help us.

A New Destiny

The word conversion means “change” — and the most radical change of all when we come to Christ is that God gives us a new destiny. Once we were headed for hell; now we are headed for Heaven. Once we were bound for eternal separation from God; now we will live with Him forever. Once we had no hope of eternal life; now we do. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Note carefully what this verse says: Eternal life is a gift. Many misunderstand this (even some Christians). They still think they must earn their salvation by their own good works.

But we can never be good enough to earn our way into Heaven, because God’s standard is perfection. Our only hope is Christ, who purchased our salvation at the cost of His own blood and now offers it to us as a free gift. The Bible says, “In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3–4). What a gift!

A New Journey

God gives us one final gift: a new journey—a whole new path to follow until the day He takes us to Heaven.

In other words, your decision for Christ isn’t an end but a beginning—the beginning of a whole new life. We aren’t only called to become Christians; we are also called to be Christians. Don’t ever think that faith in Christ is just a type of “spiritual life insurance,” something we obtain and then put away until we need it to get into Heaven. The Christian life is a new journey—one that will take us the rest of our lives.

And the best part is this: We never walk it alone, for Christ walks with us.

PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN COUPLE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR BLASPHEMY RECEIVES ASYLUM



Pakistan – According to Eternity, Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel, a Christian couple who were sentenced to death for allegedly committing blasphemy in Pakistan, have safely arrived in Europe where they have received asylum. The couple's death sentences were cleared in June after the Lahore High Court acquitted them on all charges.

"We are delighted Shagufta and Shafqat have, at long last, been released and have reached safety," Tehmina Arora, Director of Advocacy, Asia with ADF International, told Eternity. "Sadly, their case is not an isolated incident but testifies to the plight that many Christians and other religious minorities ex-

perience in Pakistan today."

"We are so relieved to finally be free," Shafqat Emmanuel said. "The last eight years have been incredibly hard, but we are so happy to be reunited with our children. Although we will miss our country, we are happy to finally be somewhere safe."

On June 3, Justice Syed Shehbaz Rizvi and Justice Anwar-ul-Haq of Lahore High Court acquitted Shafqat and Shagufta after spending almost eight years in prison for allegedly committing blasphemy through text message. On June 18, 2013, Muhammad Hussain, a Muslim cleric at a mosque in Gojra received blasphemous text messages from a phone

number allegedly registered to Shagufta. Hussain reportedly showed these text messages to his lawyer, Anwar Mansoor Goraya, who claimed to later receive further blasphemous messages from Shagufta, written in English.

On July 21, 2013, Shagufta and Shafqat were arrested and charged with blasphemy under Sections 295-B and 295-C of Pakistan's Penal Code. To extract a false confession, Shafqat claims Gojra City Police tortured him in front of his wife and children.

The Christian couple claims Hussain's accusation is motivated by a minor quarrel between the couple's children and their neighbors, which took place six months before the accusation. Shagufta claims Hussain conspired with a friend to steal her National Identity Card and use it to purchase a SIM card in her name. Using this SIM card, Hussain sent blasphemous text messages to himself.

Throughout the investigation, little evidence was produced against the Christian couple. Police were unable to recover the SIM or the phone allegedly used by Shagufta to send the blasphemous text messages. The blasphemous messages were also written in English, a language which neither Shagufta nor Shafqat speak.

Despite this lack of evidence, the Sessions Court of Toba Tek Singh sentenced both Shagufta and Shafqat to death on April 4, 2014. Since 2014, the couple was jailed separately with Shafqat in Faisalabad District Jail and Shagufta in Multan Jail. In prison, Shafqat's health quickly deteriorated due to lack of medical care he received for a spinal injury he sustained in 2004.

In Pakistan, false accusations of blasphemy are common 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.



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SMALL CHRISTIAN COLLEGES SET ATTENDANCE RECORDS DESPITE PANDEMIC



Five of the 10 Church of Christ-affiliated universities have record enrollments this fall, as do several other primarily undergraduate United States schools emphasizing on-campus instruction while upholding biblical inerrancy.

The schools are distant outliers in the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center data for four-year private higher education, which showed that sector's student body down 2% from last fall. The institutions hemorrhaged the worst with first-time students of traditional age — 11.1% lower for those 18-20 and 29.9% among enrollees 21-24. However, the Church of Christ universities gained up to 26%, all having a majority of students on campus. They averaged 1,895 students this fall.

Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, reported a 3% jump to 2,188, typical of the Church of Christ institutions.

"Our students come from the same basic faith; the geography of our schools makes us different," Dave Clouse, the school's vice president for community engagement, told *The Christian Post*. "We don't really compete with each other and have very little overlap." Also reporting record enrollments were Dordt College (Christian Reformed Church), Bethany Lutheran College (Evangelical Lutheran Synod-Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod), Milligan University (Independent Christian Churches), California Baptist University (Southern Baptist), Carson-Newman University (Southern Baptist), Samford University (Southern Baptist), Arizona Christian University (nondenominational) and Colorado Christian University

(nondenominational).

Only CBU and CCU exceed 6,000 students.

"Students, whether they realize it or not, are looking for a place where they can belong," Clouse explained to CP about smaller schools

dominating the lists. "It's a lot easier to belong where they fit in and know people. ... With a more intimate relationship in a smaller campus environment, you're not going to get lost."

Freed-Hardeman also has put donor advancement and student recruitment together under Clouse, and he took the university's president, David Shannon, on the road to meet with both groups. "The personal contact created a lot of momentum that's begun to feed on itself," Clouse said, adding he ramped up social media in "a huge way."

"If you boil it all down, it's about building relationships," he summed up.

York College of Nebraska, a school now of 640 in a town of 7,700, led the Church of Christ in percentage increase. Staffers have been busy checking temperatures, maintaining social distancing, and otherwise keeping COVID-19 away while welcoming 132 more students.

"We can face this year with boldness because the same amazing God who spoke the universe into existence is actively at work in and through us at York College," York College President Sam Smith said in a statement. Samford University set an enrollment record for the 12th straight year, with 5,729 students in fall classes.

R. Philip Kimrey, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, credited his admissions team with great creativity in its virtual adaptation of spring recruitment events such as Admitted Student Day, campus visits and college fairs.

Staffers also had a series of webinar-style

topical conversations and offered personalized individual meetings and appointments. Virtual Bulldog Days, Samford's new student orientation, attracted more than 1,000 families, a record.

At the Alabama school, 86% of fall courses include some elements of in-person learning. Approximately 52% of courses are face-to-face, and 34% of courses are hybrid, having online modules along with in-person classes.

"It is gratifying to see the hard work and resilience of our faculty and staff and their steadfast commitment to making this a place of superior learning and extraordinary personal development," Kimrey said.





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