

SPIRALING DOWN TOWARDS GRACE



FULL STORY ON -10

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CHRISTIAN LEADERS FACE NEW CHALLENGES AMID INDIA'S NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

Across India, pastors and evangelists serving in rural and more impoverished communities are suffering. For these Christian leaders, dependent on the merger tithes and offerings their congregations collect, India's national lockdown has left them with few resources from which to support themselves, their families, and the congregations they lead.

On March 24, India's Prime Minister announced a 21-day lockdown to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This sudden announcement gave India's 1.3 billion citizens only hours to prepare for the lockdown that is widely considered the largest and strictest in



the world. Among the activities prohibited by the national lockdown are

FULL STORY ON - 08

CHINESE LAWYER WHO DEFENDED PERSECUTED CHRIS- TIANS RELEASED FROM PRISON



Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang has been released from prison and placed into 14 days of quarantine. According to Wang's wife, Li Wenzu, Wang was released on Sunday morning and transported to Shandong province, some 400km from his family in Beijing.

Quanzhang was initially arrested in 2015 as part of a government crackdown on lawyers and human rights defenders - some 300 individuals were detained at the time. In 2019, the attorney was sentenced to four and a half years in prison on charges of "subversion of state power." There were reports that Wang was mis-



FULL STORY ON - 08



JESUS IS NOT A CORONA VACCINE, PEOPLE SHOULD
REPENT: HULK HOGAN



FULL STORY ON - 07

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



In unsettling times, such as a pandemic like the one we have been enduring, where do we find peace? It's definitely in the presence of the Lord!! We live in a not-delivered-yet world that is subjected to all sorts of defilements and tensions. And it is taking us through from one crisis to the next to go through it fearfully. It's almost common that we wake up to a bad news every day: virus pandemics, new flu strains, Ebola, recessions, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods, fires, or any natural disaster, federal or civil issues even the threats and sanctions from other countries. Then there are our own issues relating to financial, physical, relational,

health related and lot more of various kinds that take us by surprise and assault us unarmed. We become helpless and everything takes twists and turns like a kite out of control. Who can help us remain peaceful?

God's timeless Word, the Bible, has all the solutions and answers to keep us composed, unruffled, and collected. He assures us, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). Then God reminds us, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"

(Joshua 1:9). The continual presence of God with us is a guarantee that we will survive any dire situation in our life. Joshua, the assistant of Moses, had no other choice than to be confident about this presence of God with him. He never wavered but occupied the place of Moses and conquered Canaan and divided it among the tribes, the culmination of the promise Abraham received from God (Genesis 12: 1-3). The continual presence of God will keep us peaceful throughout this pandemic.

A child of God can remain peaceful because he has put his future in the capable hands. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your

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TORNADOES, STORMS STRIKE SOUTHERN STATES, KILLING AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE



Strong storms pounded the Deep South on Sunday, killing more than two dozen people, including at least 11 people in south Mississippi and damaging up to 300 homes and other buildings in northern Louisiana.

Storms continued to batter the South overnight, with much of the region under flash flood, tornado and thunderstorm warnings and watches into Monday morning. At least 72,000 are without power.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency director Greg Michel said one person killed was in Walthall County, two were killed in Lawrence County, and three were killed in Jefferson Davis County. All three counties are more than an hour's drive south of Jackson, near the Louisiana state line.

The two people killed in Lawrence County

were a married couple - Lawrence County sheriff's deputy, Robert Ainsworth, and a Walthall County Justice Court deputy clerk, Paula We - a Facebook post from the county sheriff's office said.

"Robert was a United States Marine Corps veteran and a long time employee here," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

"Robert left this world a hero, as he shielded Mrs Paula during the tornado. He was a very valuable employee and will be greatly missed."

The sheriff's office asked locals to remember the family in their prayers following the tragedy.

Soso, Mississippi was also hit, causing some to seek shelter in public buildings.

Candice Pitts hunkered down in a hallway at

the local volunteer firefighters station.

"All I had was my arms to put over my son and mother-in-law," Candice Pitts told CNN. "Was near a solid glass door that blew out and the roof in many places tore off or collapsed. My car was parked under a shed that is now blown over in a yard nearby. It's mangled."

In a video being shared on Twitter, a crying woman is heard describing the damage as the video pans across debris.

"It just wiped everything out around me," the woman said.

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

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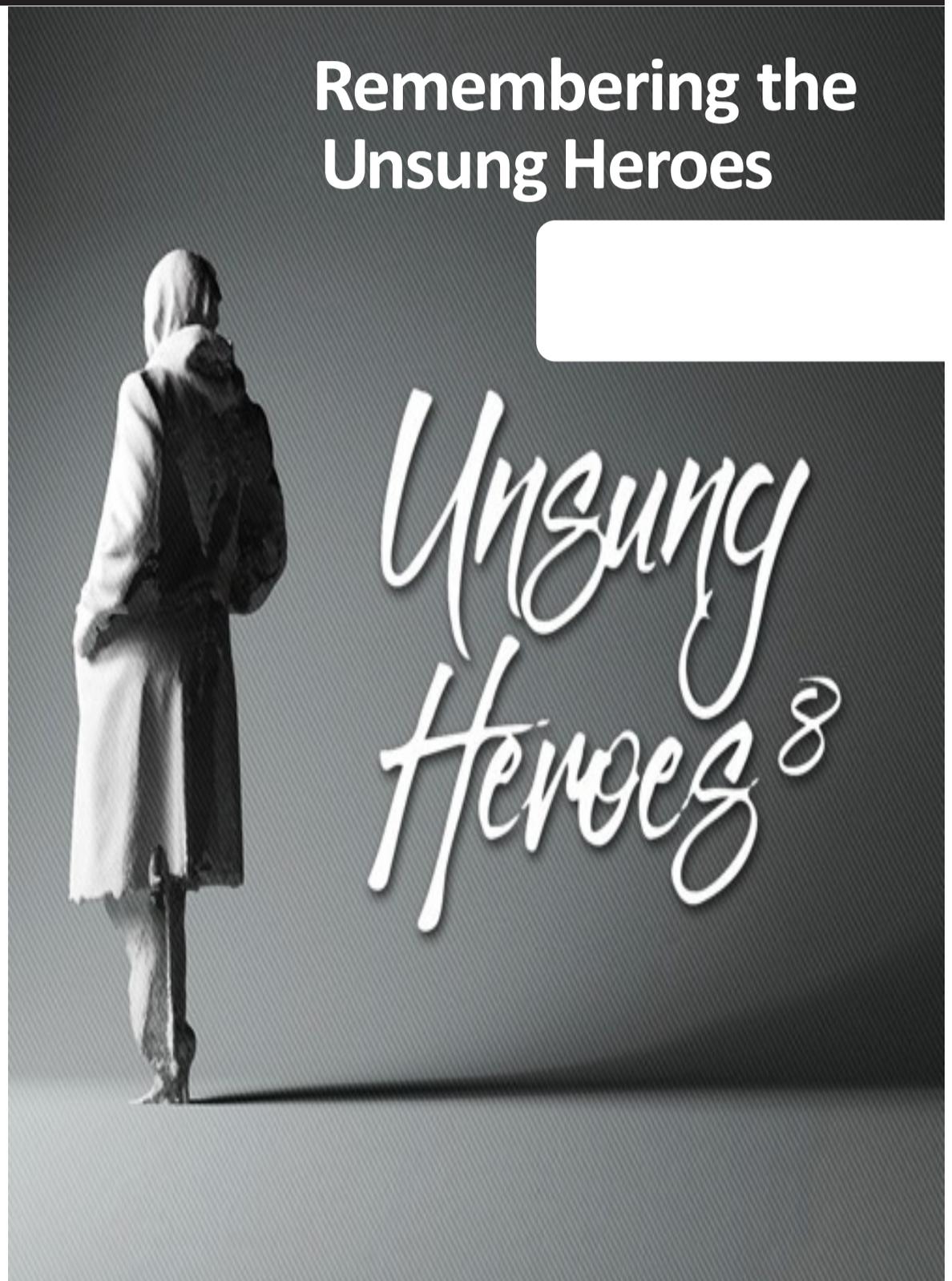




Glory Joseph,
MSN, APRN, AOCNP

The world is facing a pandemic.....
.....in the last few months, the world has been going through perilous times. An invisible enemy has forced children, parents, grandparents, and teachers into their homes. It has shut down schools, colleges, factories, churches, and places of public gathering. It has made people socially distant. No more public gatherings, excitement, or parties. It has also forced another group of people forward, and that is our health care friends, particularly nurses.

Many of our sisters have been going to their places of their work holding on to the promise given in Isaiah 41:13 "For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." They draw their strength from the Lord as they step into their institutions of work. They put their own safety at risk. They may question themselves, may question their judgments, may question their fear, and may even question their faith. They may be victimized with fear.



The Bible teaches us to remember those who work for His church. "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:" (Romans 16:1, KJV). It is noteworthy that Paul took the time to remember Phebe, a sister who contributed to the ministry. Neither the years of service, nor the age of the person determines the value of the contribution of an individual. The dedication of individuals at the time

of critical need cannot be forgotten. Many physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists are in the fore front of this crisis. They have given up important celebrations, gatherings, birthdays, and even funerals for the sake of their patients. The true love of Jesus is put into practice by showing love to our "neighbors". Actions always speak louder than words.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 04**

During these tough times, nurses have provided comfort for many patients who cannot have their loved ones close to them. This virus has prematurely taken away the lives of young and old alike. Our sisters who are working as nurses have been offering their support and compassion to staff, patients, and patient's family. They are there to lean on in times of grief. Compassion, kindness, and love is shown through their actions. Their confidence and commitment cannot be ignored. They are truly glorifying the Lord through their dedication and service. Through their service they are serving as the hands and feet of the Lord.

Nurses have no guarantee about what kind of work load they will take on in a single day. They must stay prepared to face the unknown. As some care for COVID 19 patients, it may be hard for them to believe that there is light at the end of the tunnel. May the word of God penetrate the darkness in their soul. May they come to the light through their savior. Darkness must be lit with light from above. May they regain their strength as they continuously and tirelessly serve their patients. They must maintain their energy today, and be even more energized for tomorrow.

We must pray for and recognize the nurses and healthcare workers that are struggling every day. They may be your grandmother, mother, aunt, or sister. They have chosen this profession to meet the needs of their family and at the same time to serve others. It is our responsibility to uphold each of our nurses in our prayers and recognize them as heroes during this critical time. History books may not contain

their names, but they are writing history for their families.

Let us take a moment to remember the thousands of unsung heroes who put their lives on the line to protect others. Their compassion, courage, confidence, and

commitment must be remembered and recognized by us as a community. Let us be proud of their accomplishments and continue to remember them during this unprecedented time in history.

.....your sister in Christ,

US denounces Pakistani refusal of food for Christians and Hindus



The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has stated that it was "troubled by reports of food aid being denied to the minority Hindus and Christians in Pakistan" following the coronavirus outbreak.

"These actions are simply reprehensible. As COVID-19 continues to spread, vulnerable communities within Pakistan are fighting hunger and to keep their families safe and healthy. Food aid must not be denied because of one's faith," said USCIRF Commissioner Anurima Bhargava.

The Commissioner requested the Pakistan government to "ensure that food aid from distributing organisations is shared equally" with Hindus, Christians, and other religious minorities.

The Hindu community in Pakistan has been allegedly denied human rights for years. The USCIRF stated in Karachi there have been reports that the Saylani Welfare International Trust, a non-government organisation established to assist the homeless and seasonal workers, has been

refusing food assistance to Hindus and Christians, arguing that the aid is "reserved for Muslims alone".

USCIRF Commissioner Johnnie Moore said, "In a recent address by Prime Minister Imran Khan to the international community, he highlighted that the challenge facing governments in the developing world is to save people from dying of hunger while also trying to halt the spread of COVID-19." "This is a monumental task laying before many countries. Prime Minister Khan's government has the opportunity to lead the way but they must not leave religious minorities behind. Otherwise, they may add on top of it all one more crisis, created by religious discrimination and inter-communal strife."

In its 2019 Annual Report, USCIRF had noted that Hindus and Christians in Pakistan "face continued threats to their security and are subjected to various forms of harassment and social exclusion." Pakistan has often been criticised internationally for cracking down on the minorities in the country.



Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

I REALIZE THAT YOU ARE PLEASED WITH THOSE WHO LIVE ON THIS EARTH IN HOLINESS AND PURITY. THE WORSHIP OF THE GODS WILL END UP IN PAIN AND AGONY. LORD, YOU ALONE ARE MY SHARE AND PORTION FOR BLESSINGS. LIKEWISE, YOU ARE WITH ME AS I TRAVERSE THROUGH EXPERIENCES SUCH AS BITTERNESS, PAIN, AND FEARS. YOU ALONE CAN KEEP ME AND SUSTAIN ME GIVING ME THE SHARE AND PORTION OF MY BLESSINGS. MY GREATEST RIGHT OF PROMISE IS THE PLACE, THE NEW

JERUSALEM, THE LAND OF THE HOLY ONES, THE CITY YOU HAVE BUILT, OH, LORD! IT IS THE LORD WHO GIVES ME HIS COUNSELS AND SINCE I HAVE INTERNALIZED THEM, MY HEART EXHORTS ME WHEN I GO THROUGH THE DARKEST SITUATIONS IN MY LIFE. WHEN THE FRIGHTENING STORM HITS AND WHEN TIDES OF THE SEA CALLED LIFE HIT FAST AT THE SHORE, I DO NOT WAVER BECAUSE I HAVE KEPT THE LORD ALWAYS IN FRONT OF ME AND HE IS WITH ME ALL THE TIMES AS SHADOW AT MY RIGHT SIDE. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CONTEMPT MIND AND A REJOICING HEART. THE PROMISE THAT GIVES

THE STRENGTH TO GO FORWARD IS "I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IT THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; WILL COUNSEL YOU WITH MY LOVING EYE ON YOU (PSALM 32: 8). YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE; IN YOUR PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY: AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE (PSALM 16: 11). I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HOW BLESSED I AM ON THE SURFACE OF THIS EARTH!!

PRAYER: LORD, YOU ARE MY REFUGE AND I AM THANKFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR PROMISES UNTO ME. FILL ME WITH THE JOY FROM ABOVE!!

A Meditation on Psalm 16

*Lord, have mercy on me as you are my stronghold and my refuge.
Lord, I know that apart from you, I have no good thing (Psalm 16:2).*

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

JESUS IS NOT A CORONA VACCINE, PEOPLE SHOULD REPENT: HULK HOGAN



Hulk Hogan has caused controversy by suggesting the world may not need a vaccination for coronavirus and claiming the pandemic is an act of God. The deadly COVID-19 outbreak has afflicted 1.4 million people across the globe. But the outspoken WWE Hall of Famer, 66, has compared the crisis to the “plagues of Egypt” and says God has “taken away everything we worship.”

The wrestling icon, who has had a lengthy list of personal problems, bizarrely made the claims in a long Instagram post. “Word up, can you handle the truth my brother only love HH,” wrote Hogan, who has 1.5 million followers on Instagram. “In three short months, just like He did with the plagues of Egypt, God has taken away everything we worship.”

“God said, ‘you want to worship athletes, I will shut down the stadiums. You want to worship musicians, I will shut down Civic Centers. You want to worship actors, I will shut down theaters. You want to worship money, I will shut down the economy and collapse the stock market. You don’t want to go to church and worship Me, I will make it where you can’t go to church.”

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Hogan, who recently suffered a bicep tear, went on to suggest we did not need a vac-

cine for the virus, with medical and scientific experts working on developing the best way to combat the coronavirus.

“Maybe we don’t need a vaccine,” he wrote. “Maybe we need to take this time of isolation from the distractions of the world and have a personal revival where we focus on the ONLY thing in the world that really matters. Jesus.”

It is the second time within a week Hogan has gotten religious over the coronavirus on social media. A few days before, the former WWE champion, who last month reached a confidential settlement in his \$110 million lawsuit against those he accused of conspiring to leak a sex tape, highlighted a Bible passage.

Hogan, real name Terry Bollea, wrote on Instagram: “Whenever I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops or send an epidemic on my people, if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again.”

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▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 02**

ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Psalmist says, those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him (Psalm 91:1-2, NLT). The future of a child of God is safe and intact in the hands of God. None can alter those plans. So fear of future has no place in the lives of God's children. The same is the case when we face this pandemic, no place for worry anywhere!

Whatever be the time and season, be it good or bad, in the presence of the Lord, there is peace, unspeakable! Let's keep in prayer the worst-hit countries in the world such as USA, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, UK, China and several other countries in Europe. May the good Lord help the countries flatten the curves and may He put an end to this pandemic immediately!!

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

religious gatherings of all faiths.

"Tears roll down my cheeks when I start praying for my congregation during this lockdown," Pastor Moses told International Christian Concern (ICC). "The only thing I can do for my congregation now is to pray for them." Pastor Moses, who goes by a single name, leads a Baptist congregation in India's Telangana state. He fears that the COVID-19 lockdown may have irreversible effects on his congregation. "As a shepherd of my congregation, I know my sheep and their needs," Pastor Moses explained to ICC. "When I think of the weaker members of my congregation and people who are new to the faith, I am troubled and pained. How will these individuals survive in the absence of spiritual nurturing and fellowship?"

According to Pastor Moses, it's been nearly four weeks since the doors of his church in Madanapuram village have been opened. He is concerned that the national lockdown may continue to stretch several more weeks.

"So far, it has been a miracle of how God has provided for us," Pastor Ratnam, head of a small independent church, told ICC. "The road ahead is not going to be easy for us, but we must trust in God for our next meal."

Pastor Ratnam, age 60, lives with his widowed daughter and grandchildren in Potireddypeta village, located in Telangana, and leads a small church of 30 people. Before the national lockdown, Pastor Ratnam's weekly routine included visiting six other villages on a bicycle provided by ICC nearly a year ago. The nationwide lockdown has put a stop to all of these weekly activities. However, Pastor Ratnam continues to work hard to provide spiritual leadership for his congregation.

"I am able to pray and exhort my congregation on the phone calls," Pastor Ratnam said. "Hopefully, their faith will survive this lockdown."

"However, the most challenging situation is meeting the needs of the family," Pastor Ratnam explained. "There have been no church gatherings for more than three weeks. The little income I used to get from the church offering and tithes has stopped."

The Lockdown was further extended to May 3rd 2020 as the infection rates in some of the states in India is becoming flattened. The pastors and believers have to wait a few more weeks to finally meet in a church together to worship in India.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

treated while detained, with several others who were arrested at the same time recounting incidences of physical and psychological torture. Wang himself suffered the onset of serious health issues while imprisoned, including hearing loss.

Upon the lawyer's release, a European

Union Spokesperson said that it "considers that his rights under China's legislation and international commitments were not respected during trial and detention" and urged the authorities to investigate claims that he was mistreated while in custody.

The release of Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang, however we reiterate that he should never have been detained in the first place, and are deeply concerned that he is still being denied his freedom. Wang has devoted years of his life to defending the rights of the most vulnerable, and the Chinese government must now ensure that he is truly free and allowed to reunite with his family, and not subject to house arrest or any restrictions on his rights and freedoms.

"CSW calls on the international community to carefully monitor Wang Quanzhang's case, and to make use of bilateral and multilateral engagements to press China to allow him and his family full freedom. We also continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those detained in connection with the defence of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief, in China." To combat the COVID-19 pandemic in India, Christians, including pastors and evangelists, are doing their part by staying home and not holding regular religious gatherings. However, the national lockdown is creating many new challenges for pastors and evangelists in rural and more impoverished communities. Among these new challenges is the lack of income these leaders receive to support themselves and their families. Please remember these Christian leaders in prayer.

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 12

Mervyn Thomas said. “Ms. Bakhteri has spent a year away from her loved ones for discussing Christian doctrine with fellow Christians, which is not illegal,” Thomas added. “She is amongst many Iranians who are being penalized for adopting a religion of their choice.”

Bakhteri was one of over 85,000 prisoners serving short-term prison sentences who were released around March in an attempt by the Iranian regime to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Around the same time, a 35-year-old Iranian Christian, Ramiel Bet Tamraz, was also released three months early from his four-month prison sentence for participating in house churches.

Tamraz had been in prison since early January and was released in late February. “We are very happy and excited that Ramiel is safe and back home. This was a big surprise and a miracle for our family,” his sister, Assyrian Christian Dabrina Bet-Tamraz, told Al Arabiya English. “We still pray for those who are in prison, for God’s protection over their health.”

Dabrina had met with President Trump at the White House last July. Many who have gained their freedom in the mass release will only be released temporarily and will have to go back to prison at a later date. But Tamraz will not have to serve the remainder of his time. Iran has for years been designated by the U.S. State Department as a “country of particular concern” for religious freedom violations. Last December, nine Christians, who were arrested in January and February 2019, were sentenced to a combined total of 45 years in prison by Iran’s Revolutionary Court. In Iran, it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to Christianity.

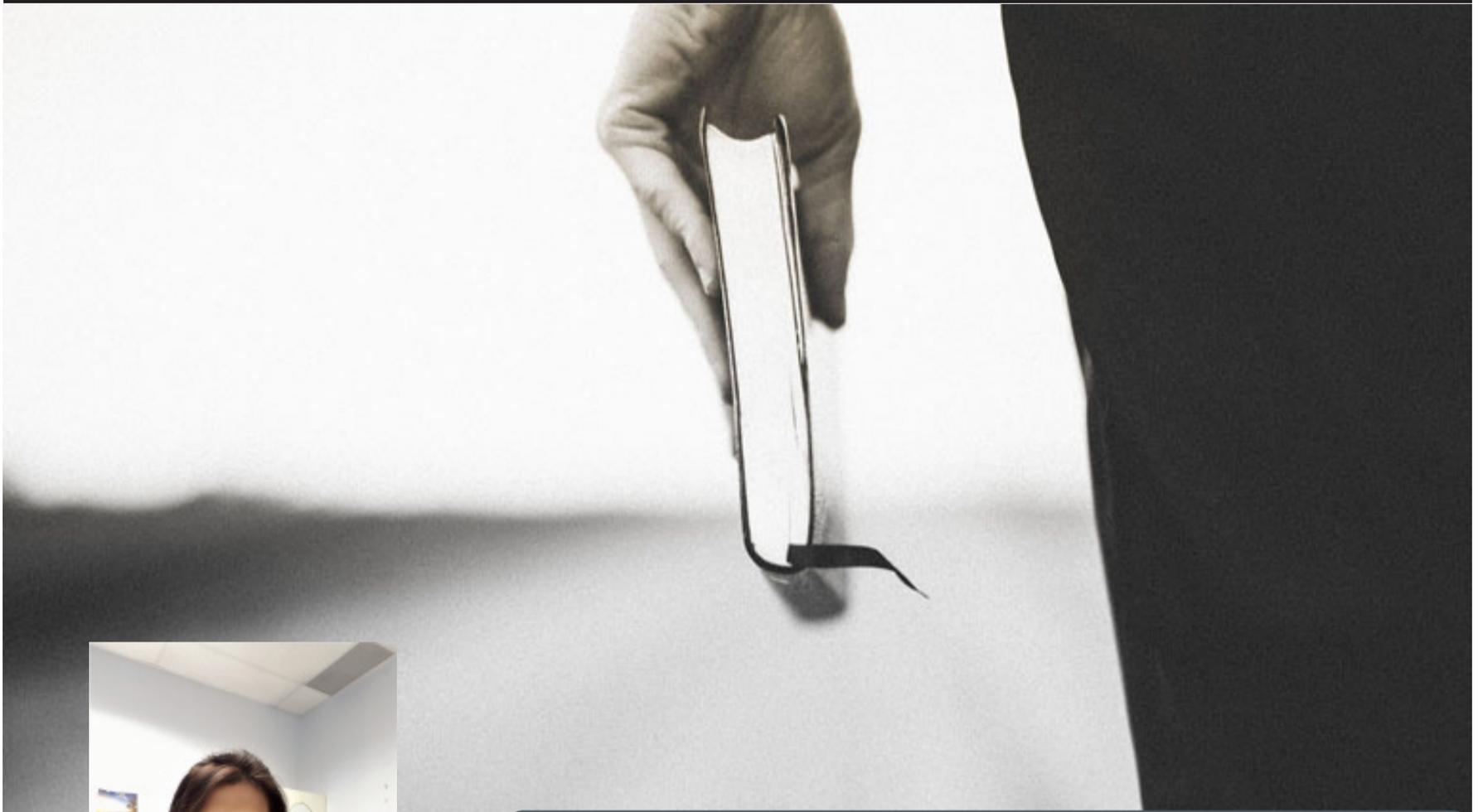
Iran ranks as the ninth-worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on Open Doors USA’s 2020 World Watch List. At least 169 Christians were arrested in Iran during the organization’s 2019 reporting period — Nov. 1, 2018, to Oct. 31, 2019.

Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖ Faith is believing BEFORE what will only make sense AFTER. – **Steven Furtick**
- ❖ Stop worrying about what you aren’t and start being happy about who you are. – **John Hagee**
- ❖ There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind. – **C.S. Lewis**
- ❖ Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. – **Mother Teresa**
- ❖ True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. – **Rick Warren**
- ❖ Peace is so important. It’s a gift God gives us, and it grows in us just like fruit grows on trees—with time and nurturing. The key to living in peace begins with pursuing God and the peace only He can give. – **Joyce Meyer**
- ❖ Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has. – **Billy Graham**
- ❖ A woman’s heart should be so hidden in God that a man has to seek Him just to find her. – **Max Lucado**
- ❖ God can part the Red Sea for you, but you have to walk into it to make it happen. – **John Hagee**



Abigail Thyvilayil John



Dr. Sarah J John

He heard the call of GOD and did not like his itinerary so he ran and planned a getaway and went down, down, down, and down!!! Would he get a second chance to redeem himself ?

Let us see what Jonah 3:1 says “ Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. Go to Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.

We see in this illustration the distance between the two paths that Jonah took.

Tarshish <-----2000miles----->
--> Jonah <-----500miles----->
Nineveh (modern day Iraq)
There is a 2500 miles gap between

SPIRALING DOWN TOWARDS GRACE

God's call and Jonah's desire. The initial call was given in Jonah 1:1 “ The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because the wickedness has come up before me. Jonah had other plans. He decided to go to Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, paid his fare for the ship and went away from the Lord.

Book of Jonah is about the Outrageous Grace of God. Grace is defined as God's Riches At Christ's Expense. It is unmerited meaning it is not earned by anything we do. It is free and undeserved bounty.

Expression of Grace

We often say grace and thank God for food. We are grateful for kindness done by another person. To show thanks for great service we of-

fer gratuity. Something offered at no charge is gratis. We sing about grace, write poems, name our churches and children Grace. Outside of worship we rarely use this word on our lips. Grace is hard to Accept. Grace is hard to Believe. Grace is hard to Receive. Grace teaches us what God does for others. We would never do for people God does for them. We would save the not so bad, but God starts from downward (drug addicts, prostitutes, etc) and works from there. It is a gift that costs everything to the giver and nothing to the receiver. God's grace is beyond our finite minds and lavishes it on anyone He chooses and wills to give it.

Application of Grace

Doctrine of grace is the hardest to accept and hard to apply. Problem lies in

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 10

the application. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. If God does not save us we will never be saved. Jonah 2:9 states "Salvation is of the Lord". Jonah was one of the worst missionaries. He was not the hero. God is !!!! Fish is mentioned 4 times, City 9 times, Jonah 18 times and God 38 times. Book of Jonah reveals how great God is and his love toward the prodigal sons and daughters who run away from Him. God never gives up on Jonah. We are so much like Jonah it is a bit scary. There is a little Jonah in all of us and a whole lot of Jonah in most of us. This is a true story and it is very relevant to us because it reveals our true characteristics. In chapter 1, Jonah flees from his assignment. Chapter 2 Jonah prays. Chapter 3 Jonah preaches. Chapter 4 Jonah pouts. God's grace was extended to an atrocious and idolatrous nation of Assyria the people of Nineveh. Their deeds were like to Nero if not worse. Jonah being a Jew found that to extend

grace to them was repugnant. Jonah's idea was to annihilate them and let them go to hell. Nineveh has relevance in our lives. It is a place where God wants you to go and you do not. It's a place that pulls you out of your comfort zone. It is what you hate but it is what God loves deeply.

Finding Grace

Jonah's decision took him into a downward spiral. In Jonah chapter 1 verse 3, he went down to Joppa and he went down into the ship. In verse 15, he went down into the sea and verse 17 he went down in to the belly of the fish. It is a very sad state of affair. When you run from God, you will never go up, rather always down. Jonah's problem was with God, with God's outrageous grace. Jonah chapter 4:2 states I know you are a gracious and compassionate God slow to anger and abounding in love and God who relents from sending calamity. God's desire is that no one perish and all should come to repentance. God character

is love. Jonah felt that grace should be exhibited to those he considers worthy.

Question we may ask ourselves is did Jonah have to be swallowed by the big fish? Yes God had to deal with the rebellious prophet. Three days in the belly of the fish gave him time to think, there was no escape hatch. God's relentless pursuit of love for Jonah benefited him and the city of Nineveh. Both Nineveh and Jonah repented. Repentance produces a change of direction and action towards what is right in the sight of God.

If we have truly experienced this outrageous grace through Jesus Christ, we need to give it out liberally and to deal with the Nineveh's of our life. Powerfully and passionately make Jesus known to others by our actions and words. Always be aware that it is a privilege to know this outrageous grace of GOD and to be intentional in giving it out to those who need it. ".....freely you have received, freely you give". Matthew 10:8)

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- * To recruit, train, and send native workers who have a definite call from the lord and intense commitment for the end time harvesting of souls
- * The Great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is carried out through preaching the glorious gospel of the blessed God in villages and streets, city and nation-wide

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A YEAR LATER, THE BELL RANG AT NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL



On Wednesday, the first anniversary of the devastating fire that ripped through Notre Dame, the famous 17th century bell in the cathedral's south tower, known as "le bourdon," rang out at 8 p.m.

Brice de Malherbe, a priest at Notre Dame, came out on the warm, sunny evening to listen to the bell toll for the first time since the fire. "My feeling today is mainly hope because the cathedral is still there," he said. "We don't have the blazing flames we had a year ago. Of course, the cathedral is hurt, but it seems nearly serene."

Notre Dame is still in danger, but the work to restore it has come to a stop because of the coronavirus pandemic. The construction site surrounding the cathedral stands silent. The engineers, architects, archaeologists and stonemasons are gone.

"The workers were protected from lead, but not COVID-19," Rémi Fromont, the chief architect of historic monuments, told French television on Monday. "To impose a 3-meter [9-ft.] distance between people was impossible. And the humidity would make it hard to properly disinfect."

Fromont warns Notre Dame's vaulted ceiling is still in danger of collapse. It is weighed down by 300 tons of charred timbers and mangled scaffolding soldered together by the fire. Originally in place to repair the roof, the scaffolding's twisted metal now threatens to destabilize Notre-Dame's structure, if it falls on any of the weakened walls.

The months-long task of cutting the debris apart and bringing it down bit by bit was to have begun in March, when the virus outbreak

struck and France went into confinement.

Scores of motion detectors have been installed amid the rubble to detect even the slightest movement. Jean-Louis Georgelin, the French army general appointed by President Emmanuel Macron to oversee Notre Dame's restoration, told French media the work would begin again as soon as possible, but that coronavirus protection measures would have to be assessed carefully to protect employees and experts from across France who are working on the reconstruction.

Before France's lockdown began on March 17, around 100 workers were present at the site. Now only a security team guards the entrance and officials visit once a week to make sure things are in order. On Monday, Macron extended France's strict confinement measures until May 11.

On Wednesday, the French president posted a hopeful video message on his Twitter account, saying the cathedral would be rebuilt in five years, as promised. "The restoration of Notre Dame is a symbol of the resilience of our people and our capacity to overcome great trials," he said.

In a five-minute message, Macron thanked those who worked to save Notre Dame from the fire, those who are rebuilding the cathedral and those from around the world who donated money to save this Paris monument. "You pave the way for better days," he said, "when we will find the joy of being together again and the spire of Notre Dame once again reaches to the sky."

IRAN FINALLY FREES CHRISTIAN WOMAN IMPRISONED FOR TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY



An Iranian Christian woman, who was sent to prison in 2018 after being convicted of "spreading propaganda against the regime" for discussing Christian doctrine inside a house church has been released, according to the U.K.-based group Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Fatemeh Bakhteri, who was sentenced to 12 months in prison on Sept. 22, 2018, after being found guilty of her charges, was released earlier this month, CSW said in a statement.

The Iranian Christian convert, from the Church of Iran denomination, was granted temporary release from the infamous Evin prison on March 15 due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the Islamic country's overcrowded prisons, CSW explained. On April 12, Bakhteri was told by prison authorities that she doesn't have to return to prison.

Bakhteri was arrested along with another Christian, Saheb Fadaie, on the same charges. Fadaie was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Local sources told CSW that the verdict against them claimed that they discussed Christian doctrine in house churches which was considered an attack on Islam.

"We welcome Fatemeh Bakhteri's release, but note that the charges against her were unfounded and amount to criminalizing Christian activities," CSW's Chief Executive



Sing praises to God,
sing praises! Sing praises to
our King, sing praises!
Psalm 47:6



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