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▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 08

PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN GIRL REUNITED WITH FAMILY AFTER KIDNAPPING, FORCED CONVERSION

CHRISTIANS RISK LIVES TO HELP FIGHT CORONAVIRUS IN CHINA AS DEATH TOLL SKYROCKETS



As the death toll from the coronavirus reaches at least 1,383, according to numbers released by the Chinese Communist Party, Christians on the mainland are risking their lives to provide aid to families in cities that have been deemed high risk for the disease. Mark Hogsed, World Help's vice president of international programs, told The

Christian Post that the Christian nongovernmental organization is partnering with local pastors to distribute emergency relief in the provinces surrounding Wuhan, where the infection now known as COVID-19 is thought to have originated last December. "For over 20 years, we'd been working with a network of local

Chinese pastors and church planters doing Bible distribution, church planting, and evangelizing," he said. "So we heard this network is willing to distribute protective masks as well as food to the people they're ministering to. All they needed were the resources. We are actively on the

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 07

PREGNANT WOMAN AND BABY AMONG 30 KILLED, BURNED TO DEATH BY BOKO HARAM



Boko Haram militants are suspected to have burned and killed no less than 30 people and abducted others Sunday night as the extremist faction continues to terrorize northeast Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. A spokesperson for Borno Gov. Babagana Umara Zulum told CNN that at least 30 people, including a pregnant

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 05

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

Should we recite the Lord's Prayer?

Obviously, the reactions will be myriads. Some would strictly stand for it and some against! But what should we do about it then?

Understand Lord's Prayer as a pattern: When Jesus taught a prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11: 2-4), he meant it to be an example and it gave the disciples an understanding about what should be the ingredients of a prayer. We too should understand it that way! Here is how it breaks down. "Our Father in heaven" is teaching us whom to address our prayers to—the Father. "Hallowed be your name" is telling us to worship God, and to praise Him for who He is. The phrase "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is a reminder to us that we are to pray for God's plan in our lives and the world, not our own plan. We are to pray for God's will to be done, not for our desires. We are encouraged to ask God for the things we need in "give us today our daily bread." "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" reminds us to confess our sins to God and to turn from them, and also to forgive others as God has forgiven us. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer,

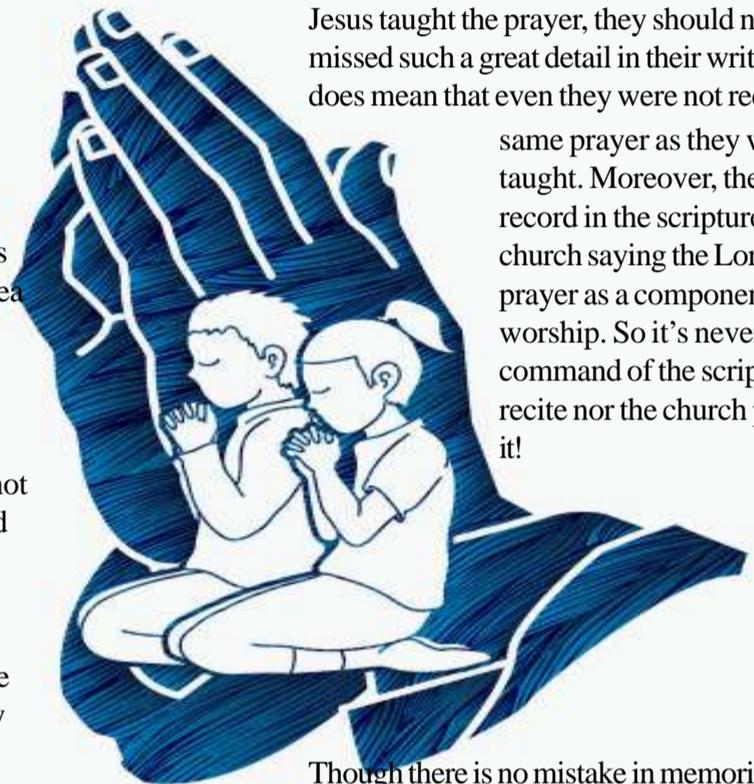


"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" is a plea for help in achieving victory over sin and a request for protection from the attacks of the devil. It's a pattern and not something that we should recite back to God! Understand that none of the disciples asked the church to recite it and the church in the first century never practiced it: After

the ascension of Christ, the apostles took charge of the mission and they were instructed to lead the church to doctrine and holy life. No apostles, in any of their speeches recorded in the Bible or in any of their inspired writings in the scripture, included the Lord's prayer as the

The Lord's Prayer!

Can we pray it today?



command to recite. Being the disciples whom Jesus taught the prayer, they should not have missed such a great detail in their writing. It does mean that even they were not reciting the

same prayer as they were taught. Moreover, there is no record in the scripture of any church saying the Lord's prayer as a component in their worship. So it's never a command of the scripture to recite nor the church practiced it!

Though there is no mistake in memorizing and reciting the Lord's Prayer, we should realize that the Lord is concerned more about what is in our hearts and not the words we speak. The Lord listens to our prayers as we submit them to Him with thanksgiving and He answers them in His time (Philippians 4: 6-7).

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CHINA APPOINTS NEW HONG KONG CHIEF KNOWN FOR PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS

China has appointed a hardliner, who is known for removing hundreds of crosses from churches in the eastern province of Zhejiang, to take charge of its office overseeing matters in Hong Kong, which might raise concerns among pro-democracy protesters and residents in the semi-autonomous city.

Xia Baolong, the vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference who was a close aide to Chinese Premier Xi Jinping from 2003 to 2007 when he was Communist Party secretary of Zhejiang Province, will serve as the director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, China’s Human Resources Ministry has announced, according to Reuters.

The CPPCC effectively acts as an advisory upper house. Baolong replaces Zhang Xiaoming, who will now become a vice director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office.

When Xia later became the Communist Party chief of Zhejiang, he oversaw a campaign to destroy crosses from churches in the province. He was appointed provincial party head after Xi became the country’s supreme leader. Xia personally led the campaign against religious freedom in Zhejiang in 2015, when more than 1,000 crosses were removed from church roofs and entire church buildings were destroyed across the province, according to [South China Morning Post](#).

The Post quotes Wen Kejian, an independent political analyst from Hangzhou, as saying that many were unhappy with Xia in Zhejiang — including government officials — because of his heavy-handed dealing with dissent and Christian churches. “A lot of people celebrated when he left Zhejiang three years ago.” A pastor in Zhejiang, who was not named due to security concerns, told the U.S.-based group [International Christian Concern](#), “This shift [from Zhang to Xia] is not a good situation. It is possible that Xia will oppress the churches in Hong Kong.”

Hong Kong, a former British colony, has been a scene of protests led by university students and others for over seven months, against the increasing Chinese interference



and influence.” Xi now has his proteges in place over Hong Kong for the first time,” Jean-Pierre Cabestan, a professor of political science at the Hong Kong Baptist University, was quoted as saying. “While that may give Hong Kong ‘face,’ it is certainly going to put Hong Kong under more political pressure.” Cabestan added, “Xia is not a moderate and he has shown himself to be a zealous servant of Xi Jinping. We can expect that to continue.”

Last month, Beijing appointed Luo Huining, a Communist Party cadre and who was also a close aide to Xi, to head China’s Liaison Office in Hong Kong. “The reshuffling at this interesting moment may point to a deep distrust from Xi Jinping toward the former faction dealing with Hong Kong affairs,” [Time magazine](#) quoted Sonny Lo, a Hong Kong-based academic and political commentator, as saying. “It’s clear that Xi Jinping wants to have a clear grasp of the situation in Hong Kong — that’s the major point. We’ll probably see some adjustment in Chinese policy toward Hong Kong.”

When Xia was elected as vice chairman and secretary-general of the CPPCC in 2018, professor Ying Fuk-tsang, director of the divinity school of Chung Chi College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, told UCANews, “Though Xia’s post now will not have a direct influence on religious policy, the CPPCC as a united front institution is governed by someone who is hostile to Christianity. It is unavoidable to regard this as a setback.”

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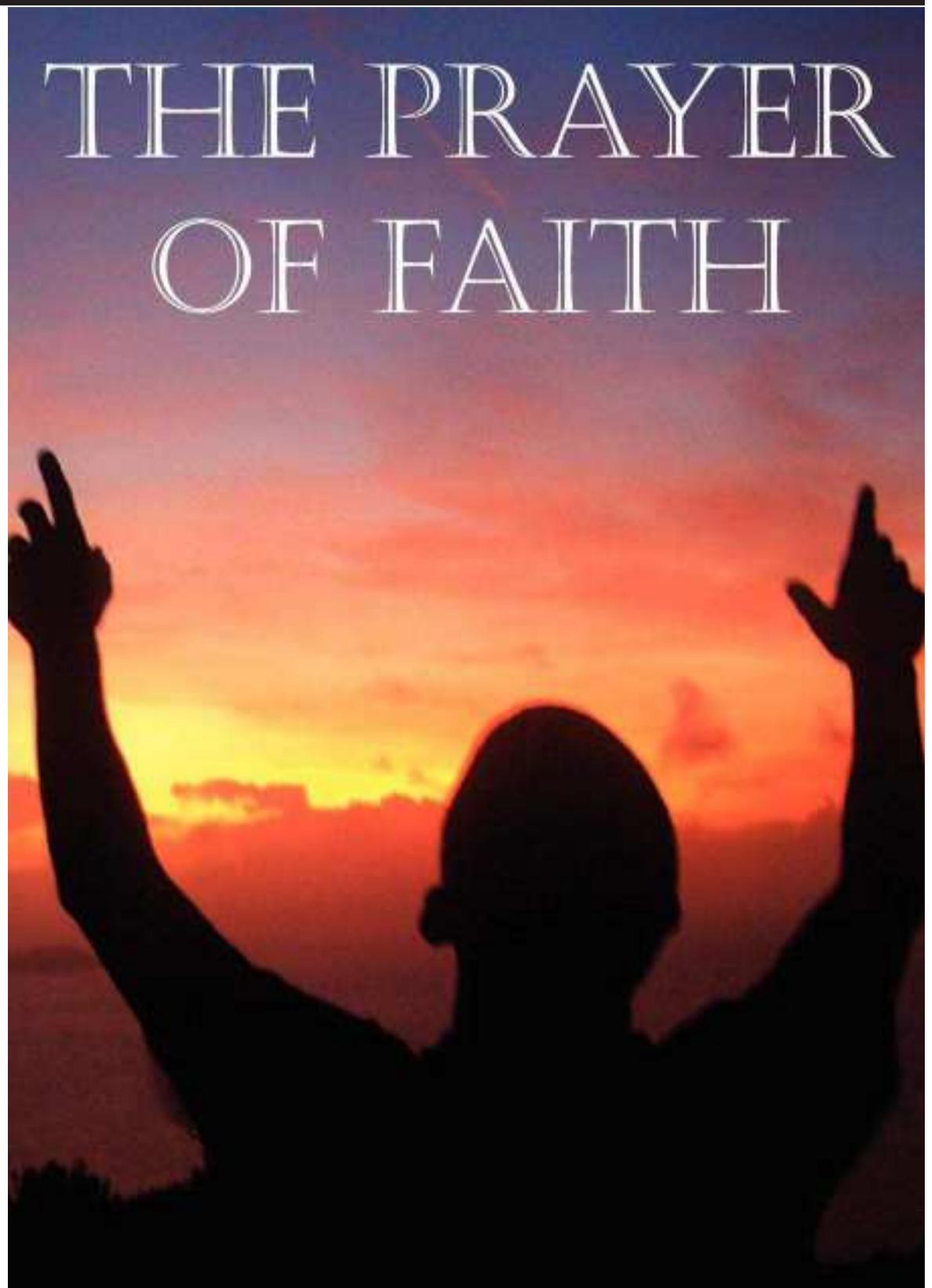
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Rev. Dr. Mathukutty Samuel

“Increase our Faith” Luke 17:5 Ask God to enlarge our faith in 2020. Faith is capable of expansion and growth. A growing faith is the safeguard against spiritual blackout. A growing faith will ignite the coals on the altar of the heart. Growing faith is the best antibiotic for the bacteria of doubt. So if we pray and believe we will receive. The prayer of faith can change the spiritual complexion of a church, community or individual. It is the prayer of faith that produces the spiritual climate in which the Spirit can work. The prayer of faith is the formula. This is the secret of power. This is the way to get result. Ask God to enlarge our faith.

The prayer of faith can save. The prayer of faith can cleanse. The prayer of faith can restore. The prayer of faith makes men strong for God. The prayer of faith gives substance to things hoped for. The power of faith can subdue the powers of darkness. The prayer of faith brings Heaven and earth together. The prayer of faith sees the unseen. The prayer of faith removes fear. Yes pray and know that our bridge of faith will hold us as we walk across the perilous waters of life. Prayer without faith is like fire that will not burn, water that is not wet, sugar that is not



sweet, salt that has lost its savor. Prayer is asking for rain and faith is carrying an umbrella.

Prayer is the seed and faith is the harvest. Prayer is the request and faith is the result. Prayer is the chariot and faith is the wheels. Prayer is the door and faith is the key. Prayer is the candle and faith is the flame. Prayer is the tree and faith is the fruit. Prayer is the promise and faith is the fulfillment. Prayer is asking and faith is receiving. Oh, my dear one why

you linger at a distance from God? Draw nigh unto Him. Draw near-so very near-to Him and dare to pray. Come knowing that the armor of faith will protect you as you walk through the fiery furnace of tribulation. Come knowing that your shield of faith will guard your heart against the Devil’s darts of doubt. Come knowing that His arms are outstretched to welcome you and His ear is open to your cry. Come knowing that prayer is the pulley that moves the arm of God with power. Come knowing that as you walk toward Him, He is running toward you.

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

woman and her baby, are now dead after suspected Boko Haram militants set sleeping travelers on fire in the Auno village of the Borno state. The travelers were camping out in the village for the night as they missed a 5 p.m. curfew in the state capital of Maiduguri, about 10 miles away.

Sources reported to Vanguard that while most counts say that at least 30 have died, the death toll could be as high as 40. That would include the death of six militants. According to the state government, militants burned 18 vehicles. Some of the destroyed vehicles included trucks loaded up with food to be taken to the markets the following day. State government spokesman Ahmad Abdurrahman Bundi told AFP that militants stormed Auno village with trucks and mounted weapons. The militants killed, looted and burned.

Village resident Shehu Tanko told CNN that the bodies of the pregnant woman and her baby were among the corpses recovered. "They burn everywhere. The fire was still on till this morning," Tanko explained. "We are still looking for many people around here." A source told Vanguard that the pregnant woman was likely raped before she was burned to death and that the baby's head was crushed.

Boko Haram is an Islamic militant insurgency responsible for killing tens of thousands and displacing millions in the last decade-plus.

The terrorist group pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2016 but soon splintered after Islamic State leadership tried to replace Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau.

Although the Nigerian government claims to have defeated Boko Haram militarily, Boko Haram and its offshoot Islamic State West Africa Province continue to carry out attacks in Borno.

"We have to be brutal in telling the truth. I am pushed to the wall to say the truth. Since I was inaugurated as governor of Borno State, Boko Haram has attacked Auno six times," Zulum said in a statement, according to Vanguard. "Another thing is that the military has been withdrawn from Auno town. I am not undermining the capacity of the military but we have made repeated appeals for the military to establish their unit in Auno."

Boko Haram over the years has abducted hundreds of school girls. The group has also abducted pastors and others in attempts to raise funds through ransom payments. Last month, Boko Haram executed Rev. Lawan Andimi, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria's chapter in the Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND OFFICIALLY APOLOGIZES FOR RACIST PAST



Leaders of the Church of England unanimously passed a motion apologizing for past racism, in particular regarding the treatment of African and Asian immigrants.

The General Synod passed the motion on Tuesday, with the motion focusing on a group of immigrants known as "Windrush Generation." The generation were minority British citizens from the Caribbean who immigrated to the United Kingdom between the years 1948 and 1971. They were named after the ship Empire Windrush, which brought 500 of them in 1948.

According to the motion, the Synod offered a "lament" and apology for "the conscious and unconscious racism experienced by countless black,

Also in January, the Islamic State released a propaganda video purporting to show the killing of a Nigerian Christian university student by a child soldier. In December, the Islamic State faction claimed to have killed 11 Christian aid workers in Nigeria in retaliation for the killing of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In a statement Monday, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari declared that the Nigerian government is "combating frontally the dreadful activities of terrorist groups like Boko Haram and the so-called Islamic State."

Buhari and his administration have faced international scrutiny over their inability to thwart extremist attacks by Boko Haram, ISWAP and radical Fulani herdsmen in the country's Middle Belt. Last December, the U.S. State Department listed Nigeria for the first time on its special watch list for countries that engage or tolerate severe religious freedom violations. Nigeria was placed on the list because of the "lack of effective government response" to increasing violence.

Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Anglicans in 1948 and subsequent years, when seeking to find a spiritual home in their local Church of England parish churches . . ."

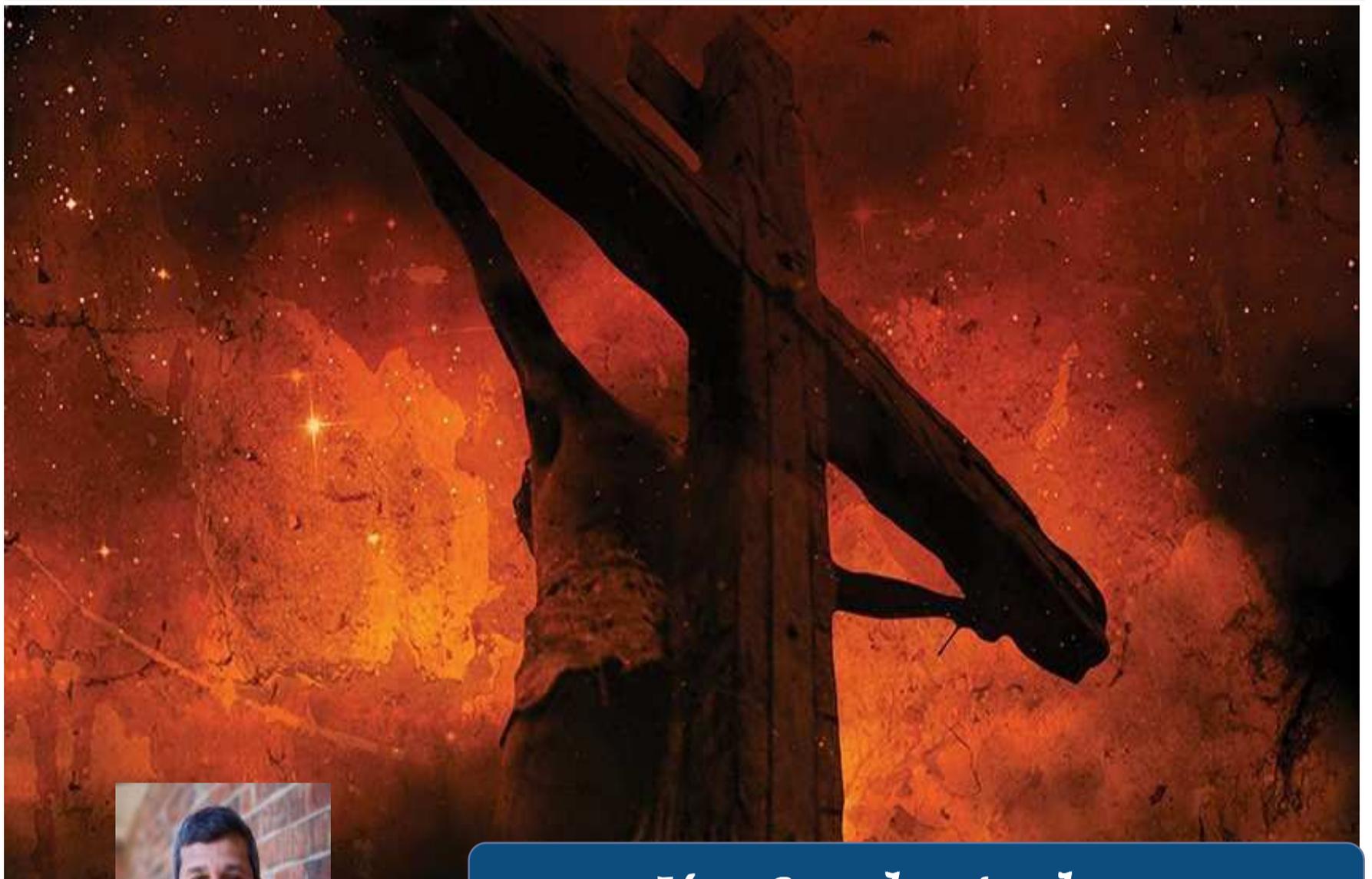
The motion also called for, among other things, the Archbishops' Council to research the impact of discrimination, gratitude for the contributions racial minorities have made to the Church, and

for an "independent person external to the Church" to investigate how the ecclesiastical body can better achieve racial reconciliation.

The General Synod also called on the church body to "resolve to continue, with great effort and urgency, to stamp out all forms of conscious or unconscious racism." Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby delivered a speech before the General Synod, informing them that the problem of racism still remained. "I'm ashamed of our history and I'm ashamed of our failure. There is no doubt when we look at our own Church that we are still deeply institutionally racist," stated Archbishop Welby, as reported by the BBC. "I said it to the College of Bishops a couple of years ago and it's [still] true," he added, calling upon the church body to change its "hostile environment" to a "hospitable, welcoming one."

The motion was championed by Synod member the Rev. Andrew Moughtin-Mumby, who said in [comments reported by The Guardian last month](#) that he believed the church body needed to "get our house in order." "We know that many people did not find a home and simply left the C of E – a scandal for us," stated Moughtin-Mumby, who added that while some Windrush generation did find acceptance in the Church, others experienced bigotry.

"We need to admit that the church is in some ways institutionally racist because we have not managed to create a space in which everyone can flourish." The motion was part of the official meeting of the General Synod, which began on Monday and is scheduled to conclude on Thursday. Considered the national assembly of the Church of England, the General Synod debates church legislation, worship forms, the budget, and other matters. The leadership body has [483 members](#) divided among three branches: the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy, and the House of Laity.



Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

No one can understand my issues no matter how much they think! How can I bear these burdens alone? The hospitals are bursting with the clamors of those people who are suffering with various kinds of diseases from head to toe! There are a lot of people who are not comforted from the passing of a loved one, yet there is another group who stoops down, with a heart full of grief, bearing the shame of accusations and ill words flashed on them! Sometimes I wonder, if human life is such a heap of pain interminable from its beginning to the end. A mother delivers her child with intense pain. She

rears them up fighting with hardships life throws at her at different junctures. However, towards the end of her life, she, sometimes, ends up without getting back the care and love once she passed to her kids, then she is forced to continue her life in that deep agony and pain, waiting for her passing! Is there any solution for this?

Dear ones, here is a good news: there is one who can bear our pain! He, indeed, was manifested to do that! His name is Jesus! He became a sacrifice at the cross of Calvary in order to bring to an end the sorrows of men passed on to them as a consequence to the sin of disobedience in the garden of Eden. The holy word expounds how the begotten Son of God, the crown of God's glory,

bore our pain in His body by enduring physical abuse, by being despised, and by dying on a cross! He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53: 3-5)

Prayer: Lord, I know that you take up my pain. I come to your throne of grace with a heart full of praise and thanks!

He, Surely, took up Our Pain!!

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted (Isaiah 53: 4)

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

ground right now, providing masks and food to as many people as they can to help prevent the virus.”

Over 1,700 medical workers have been infected by the virus, and six have died, Reuters reports. Additionally, hospitals are experiencing a severe shortage of face masks and other supplies.

While the pastors and other aid workers partnering with World Help are “taking preventive measures,” they are risking their lives to provide aid to those in need a news agency reported. “Our partners are being as safe as possible, they’re taking every precaution they can, but they feel this is a calling and a time to step up,” he said. “One of the effects of the virus is people are staying inside. They’re not going outside if they don’t have to, so these pastors are choosing to go out into their communities out of love for the people and as a practical way to spread the Gospel.” “We feel strongly that we can be an example of a very practical Gospel,” he added. “This is one way that Christians on the ground can practically help those who need it, even in the face of danger.”

In Hubei province numerous areas are under quarantine. Last week, the government ordered officials in Wuhan to “round up everyone who should be rounded up,” as part of a “wartime” campaign to contain the outbreak, reports The New York Times. On Friday, Chinese state-run television announced that everyone returning to Beijing would be required to isolate themselves for 14 days. Anyone who does not comply “shall be held accountable according to law,” according to a text of the order released by state television.

The coronavirus is now a global concern: At least 25 countries have confirmed cases and three deaths have been recorded outside mainland China — one in Hong Kong, one in the Philippines, and one in Japan.

The World Health Organization has warned the virus poses a “grave threat” to the world. Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the virus could have “more powerful consequences than any terrorist action.”

As the number of novel coronavirus cases rises, Christians are on the frontlines sharing the Gospel and practical aid to those in need. God, he stressed, is present even in the darkest of times. “It is an awful, awful tragedy and it’s hard to find any good that would come of this,” he said. “But

hopefully, those that are being ministered to in a practical way will see that this is what Jesus has commanded us to do, to help those in need of help. Hopefully, that will in turn into the spread of the Gospel.”

The Gospel has been “rapidly spreading” throughout China throughout the last several decades despite severe persecution, adding that God continues to “bless the efforts of those who are so dedicated to reaching China for Christ, even at risk to themselves.” Christians are encouraged to pray for those affected by the coronavirus, stressing, “We need to pray for those who have been affected and for those who have lost loved ones to it.” “They’re saying a vaccine is months away, so pray for a quick vaccination for this deadly disease.”

Believers are asked to donate to World Help, revealing that just \$20 can provide one person a week’s worth of food and a protective mask to help stop the spread of the illness. “When we’re providing practical, tangible help like this, it’s with the goal that physical aid will translate into spreading the Gospel and everyone is helped will come to know Jesus.”

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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▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

**PAKISTANI
CHRISTIAN GIRL
REUNITED WITH
FAMILY AFTER
KIDNAPPING,
FORCED
CONVERSION**

A 14-year-old Christian girl, who had been kidnapped, gang-raped and forcibly converted to Islam on paper and married off to a Muslim man, was rescued and brought back to her home in the city of Lahore in Pakistan.

The Christian girl, Sneha, who lives in the Bahar area of Lahore and is a Class 9 student at Franciscan Girls High School, is back with her family, according to the Center for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement, one of the groups that helped her family.

Sneha says that a Muslim man, identified as Zeeshan, proposed to her but she refused. On the evening of Jan. 14, he pushed her into a vehicle while she was returning home from tuition. Six other men joined in, beat her and took her to a location unknown to her where she was once again beaten and repeatedly raped.

The men tortured and forced her to sign some blank sheets of paper, which were later turned into a marriage certificate and a certificate of conversion to Islam. The kidnapers also threatened that she would face serious consequences and her sisters would suffer the same violence if she told her family about the attack.

Sneha is the youngest daughter of Sabir Masih, and has two sisters and a brother. The family reported her disappearance to the police, and a court ordered the police to investigate. Five days later, the police rescued her. However, the kidnapers remain at large.



Muslim-majority Pakistan ranks as the fifth-worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on Open Doors USA's 2020 World Watch List.

As the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports, it's estimated that as many as 1,000 women and girls are forcibly converted to Islam each year in Pakistan, many of whom are kidnapped, married, and subject to rape. Earlier this month, a court ruled against the family of a kidnapped Christian girl who was forced into an Islamic marriage, saying that no law was broken if the girl had already had her first period.

The Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need-Italy reported that the Sindh High Court in Karachi issued the Feb. 3 ruling in the case of 14-year-old Huma Younus, who was taken from her home on Oct. 10, 2019, and later married to a radical Muslim man.

Judge Muhammad Iqbal Kalhor and Irshad Ali Shah ruled that the Catholic girl's marriage to her alleged abductor, Abdul Jabbar, was valid under Sharia law because the child had already had her first menstrual cycle. "Once again justice has been defeated and once again has been proved that our state does not consider Christians to be Pakistani citizens," the mother, Nagheena Younus, was quoted as saying after the hearing. Last year, Pakistani lawmakers rejected a national bill that would have raised the child marriage age to 18, after it was opposed by Minister for Religious Affairs NoorulHaq Qadari and other officials.

**CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY IN
OREGON TO CLOSE AFTER
115 YEARS; STUDENT TO FILE
CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT**



After 115 years, Concordia University in Oregon will close its doors following the end of the 2020 spring semester and faces a potential class-action lawsuit launched by a student who claims he was misled about the institution's financial struggles. In a statement, the private Lutheran institution with about 5,700 students explained that its board of regents voted after much prayer and consideration of all options to cease operations of the school in a resolution approved on Feb. 7. The board's vote follows "years of mounting financial challenges and a challenging and changing educational landscape."

Interim President Tom Ries said the board concluded that it's "impossible to pursue" the school's mission considering the current and projected enrollment and finances of the school. "The board has come to this difficult decision recognizing that it is in the best interest of our students, our faculty, our staff, and our partners," Ries said. He pledged to share more information as it becomes available.

According to Oregon Live, the closure will result in over 1,500 layoffs that will occur by September.

Concordia says it is in "active discussions" with accrediting bodies to provide students with opportunities to continue their education at other higher education institutions. Concordia is also in talks about how to help faculty and staff transition to the next phase of their careers.

The university's 24-acre, Northeast Portland campus will return to the ownership of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, one of the campus' lenders. The institutions will be looking to sell the property. One Concordia student said that he plans to sue the school on grounds that it misled students about its financial condition and left them without a way to graduate or transfer to another school.



▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 08

Student William Spaulding told Oregon Live that he hired an attorney Monday to draft a class-action lawsuit in state court accusing the school of unlawful business practices. Spaulding is requesting a jury trial. Spaulding claims that he and other students would not have paid for the 2020 semester had they been informed about the schools struggling finances.

According to the College Board, the average annual tuition costs for first-year students at Concordia is \$29,480. Including room and board and other expenses, the average cost is \$45,360. "Concordia University misrepresented the qualities and characteristics of its education services and the value of its tuition credits," the complaint claims.

The lawsuit does not specify how much Spaulding is seeking in monetary damages but does request injunctive relief to require the university to disclose how much it profited from tuition in 2020. The lawsuit can be amended later to reflect the value of damages.

According to Spaulding's lawsuit, the first time Concordia students were told about the financial struggles of the school was the same day the school announced it would close."Upon information and belief, the high-paid executives at Concordia University knew since 2019 that the University was in dire financial condition and that the University's closure in 2020 was looming," the lawsuit argues.

The lawsuit further complains that the university advertised programs through late 2019 and early 2020 and even promised students that by 2024 the university would have a "strong national reputation."

"Relying on Concordia University's advertisements and representations, plaintiff paid Concordia University thousands of dollars for educational services and tuition credits in 2020," the lawsuit adds.



Sparkling Wisdom!

- ❖ "God has a purpose behind every problem. He uses circumstances to develop our character. In fact, he depends more on circumstances to make us like Jesus than he depends on our reading the Bible."—**Rick Warren**
- ❖ "One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organization do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team."—**AW Tozer**
- ❖ "Relying on God has to start all over everyday, as if nothing has yet been done."—**C.S. Lewis**
- ❖ "God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible — what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves."—**AW Tozer**
- ❖ Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither. — **CS Lewis**
- ❖ My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it. - **Brennan Manning**
- ❖ Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light. - **Brené Brown**
- ❖ If through a broken heart God can bring His purposes to pass in the world, then thank Him for breaking your heart. - **Oswald Chambers**
- ❖ I have one desire now – to live a life of reckless abandon for the Lord, putting all my energy and strength into it. - **Elisabeth Elliot**
- ❖ If to be feelingly alive to the sufferings of my fellow-creatures is to be a fanatic, I am one of the most incurable fanatics ever permitted to be at large. - **William Wilberforce**



Abigail Thyvilayil John





Glory Joseph

Judging stares, harsh words, and avoidance from other human beings does not make me any less human. Every wrinkle on my face tells a story of my struggle and survival. The grey hairs on my head point to the number of days I laid awake in bed worrying about putting another meal on the table. My leathery hands and thick nails show the hard work I have done for last 75 years. My sunburnt, tanned, and freckled face speaks volumes about the work I've done outside. My knuckles appear swollen, and I am stooped over. My skin is paper thin, not at all attractive. I am wearing outdated clothes. I am not popular in the community. Many people do not know my name. I have an old, striped sweater on with

A Cry from an Elder in Need

a scarf over my head. Beneath all the above attire, is a real person. This person was admired, loved and respected by the society. The unavoidable progress of time has aged me, and society has pushed me to the side. This is the unavoidable reality of this world.

I was born to parents who loved me much. They cared for me and provided me with everything I needed in my life. They clothed me with the best clothing they could afford, and gave me the best food they could make, and took me to as many vacations they could manage. To their credit they also took me to church regularly. I was a normal young girl until the age of twenty-five, but my life turned upside down after that. I lost my husband to cancer.

This tragedy left an unrepairable scar in my heart. I had two sons, three years apart. My parents asked me to re-marry, but I refused. Afterwards, my parents paid very little attention to me. I spent long hours working to meet the needs of my family.

I was so busy raising these boys, that I did not have much time to make or keep friends. I felt isolated from my community, and I didn't have anyone to share my story with. I remember the days when I would lay staring at the ceiling at night. "Why me, why me?" This was the unanswerable question. Thoughts about my husband would make me sadder. I could not understand why I lost my husband at a young age. "Where could I go, where could I

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go?” This was a question that haunted me.

At the age of 30, I went to school and finished my degree in Nursing. I started working as a nurse at a local hospital. I felt much better about myself and was able to support my family. I was a very strong person and worked long hours. I raised my children, worked full time, and had beautiful house and cars. I felt that the Lord blessed me twice what I deserved, and I was grateful for it. I made many friends and attended a faith-based church. I was a happy person.

I took retirement at the age of 65. I could not work anymore due to my different health issues. I continued to attend church, visited friends, and did whatever I could. As I was getting up from the recliner at my friend's house, I felt my right side getting weaker, and I had difficulty moving my right leg. To my surprise, I was afflicted with a stroke. My face was

twisted to one side. I was finally back home after one month of a hospital stay. I decided to go to church after a few months. I was shocked at the way I was welcomed back into church. Young children commented about my distorted mouth, teenagers kept looking at the bald spots on my head, and young women commented about my attire.

“What did I do wrong”, “what happened to me”? I am still the same person, but the world does not see me as the same person anymore. The groanings and the cries from within me are too deep for words. Why is the world looking at me differently? I came to my senses. I am not young anymore. I have come to the sunset of my life.

God has called us to love everyone. Our situations may look ideal at this time. Everything may be going as expected. Remember that God may bring us a person that has aged, is battling sickness, has financial burdens, and other hardships

into our life. Do not waste any opportunity to make a difference. We may come across older people who are run down by tragedies in their lives. Those who are mis-labelled, depressed, who have no love in their hearts, and even some who are not being loved. Whatever be the reason, this person is precious to the creator. Let's pray that the Lord would bring the struggling, broken-hearted, less fortunate and older people across our paths. Let us recognize them as God's very own children. He brings them to you for a reason. Make a difference in one person's life. Let every person we meet feel loved. Give them a sense of belonging and love them unconditionally. Each of us will be in the same shoes someday. Psalm 71:18-19 Now that I am old and my hair is gray, don't leave me, God. I must tell the next generation about your power and greatness. God, your goodness reaches far above the skies. You have done wonderful things. God, there is no one like you.

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- * To establish indigenous healthy growing churches that will make a significant gospel impact within the culture, People groups, communities, multiple generations in India
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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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