

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT
CHURCH (GCEPC)®,
LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL
PROTESTANT CHURCH (LEPC)

BREAKING NEWS!

MATTHEW 24:36-37
GW "NO ONE
KNOWS WHEN THAT
DAY OR HOUR WILL
COME. EVEN THE
ANGELS IN HEAVEN
AND THE SON DON'T
KNOW. ONLY THE
FATHER KNOWS.
(37) "WHEN THE
SON OF MAN COMES
AGAIN, IT WILL BE
EXACTLY LIKE THE
DAYS OF NOAH.

STORMY WEATHER
AHEAD

FILM AT ELEVEN, ED!

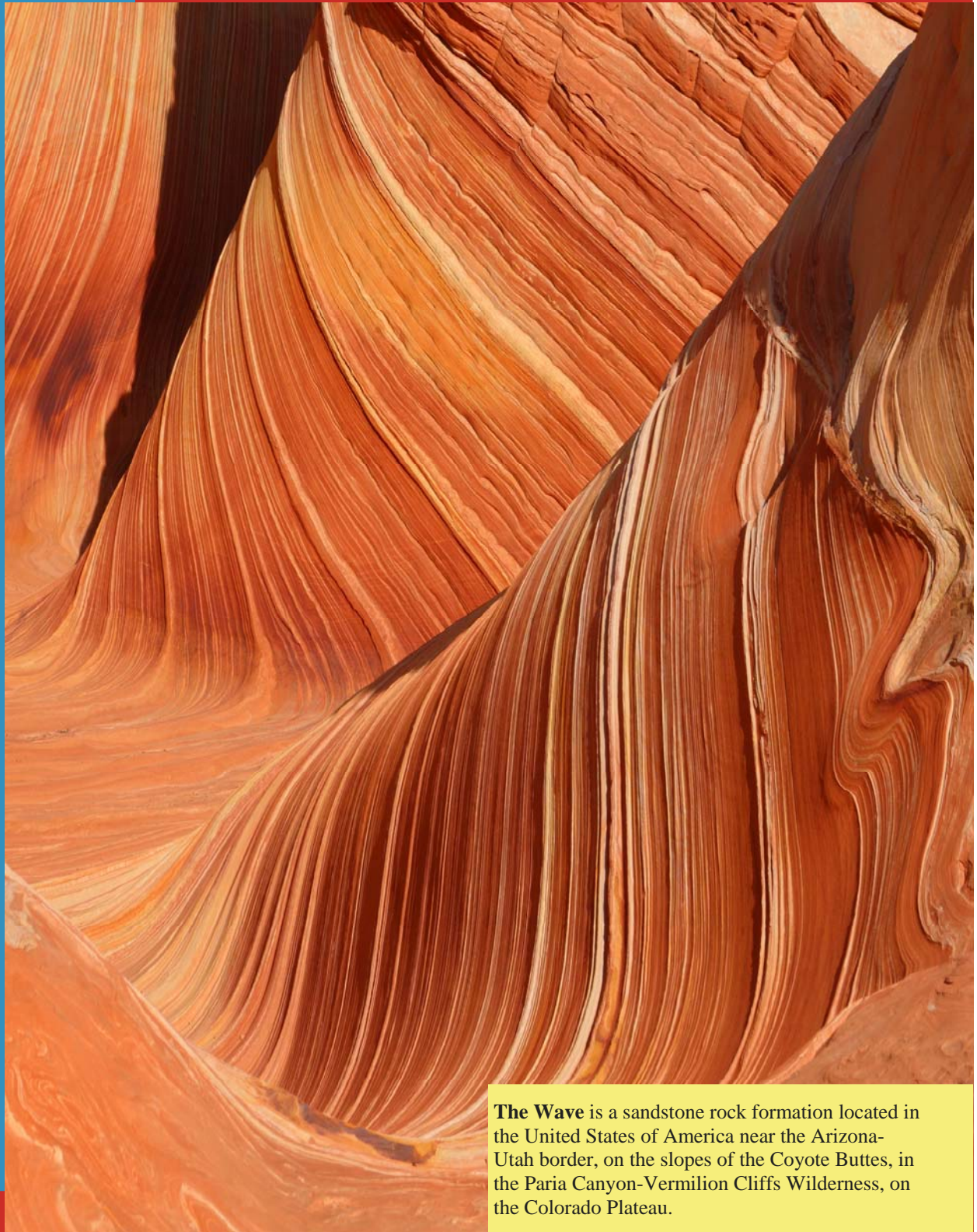
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The Wave is a sandstone rock formation located in the United States of America near the Arizona-Utah border, on the slopes of the Coyote Buttes, in the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, on the Colorado Plateau.



Evangelical Protestant
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

Lutheran Evangelical
Protestant Church (LEPC)®,

We Believe

1. The Holy Scriptures, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

2. There is one God, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

3. Jesus Christ is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

4. Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

5. Humankind was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

7. Water baptism identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world.

(Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

10. In the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8

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The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and
was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come
again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

The Evangelical Protestant Journal "Kirchenbote" (Church Messenger) was established in 1885,

Gustav Schmidt became editor. In 1917, the German Evangelical churches in the Pittsburgh area began publication of a monthly entitled The Evangelical Protestant. (Archives Smithfield UCC)

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Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

Bishop's Page



Greetings to you and yours!

I pray that your summer is going as you had hoped it would and if it is not that God has shown you Himself in the midst of all the heat and challenges that sometimes show up in life. He is good like that. He never leaves us and is always with us in both the expected and the unexpected.

We had some good new things occur in our family the first of this year and also went through the loss of a loved one and then a close friend of many years. Sickness has been a challenge. Life changes and decisions have had to be made concerning the future but His grace is always sufficient and His love abounds to us. His mercy is new every morning.

While we may fear the day and find nights sleepless, Jesus is never taken off guard. We find ourselves procrastinating and unable to move because of the fear or apprehension that seems to wait at every corner. Jesus wants us to learn to embrace the expected and the unexpected. Sometimes they are good and sometimes they not but He can take care of it all.

Often what we fear most is the consequences of our actions. What if we make the wrong decision, go the wrong place, say the wrong thing, do the wrong thing, trust the

wrong person. It can make us immobile, stalled and cause us to feel powerless. And so, we do nothing. In reality often doing nothing has it's own consequence. But doing nothing is also the fruit of the paralysis of fear. Energy and strength are spent trying to "keep it together." Instead take control simply

2 Corinthians 12:6-9 GW
(6) If I ever wanted to brag, I wouldn't be a fool. Instead, I would be telling the truth. But I'm going to spare you so that no one may think more of me than what he sees or hears about me, (7) especially because of the excessive number of revelations that I've had. Therefore, to keep me from becoming conceited, I am forced to deal with a recurring problem. That problem, Satan's messenger, torments me to keep me from being conceited. (8) I begged the Lord three times to take it away from me. (9) But he told me: "My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." So I will brag even more about my weaknesses in order that Christ's power will live in me.

by doing what Jesus did. Relinquish control. It will take some effort because a mindset is being changed, reformed, but it can be done and is worth the benefits of a free life. Learn to hear God. Learn to see and hear what God the Fa-

ther is doing just as Jesus did and follow it. Don't worry about not hearing God, whether or not it is him speaking, He will make sure that you hear Him. Gradually His love will start invading your heart and life through the relationship that will develop. You will learn wisdom and freedom. Let go of the outcomes and let them be Jesus' concern. Let your opinion fall by the way side and take up what He thinks and knows.

You, dear one, have access to the mind of Christ. He wants to make an exchange with you. Your thoughts for His thoughts. Your plans for His plans. Your ways for His ways. Your fear for His love.

I hope you enjoy this Summer Edition of the Evangelical Protestant and have a wonderful remainder of the summer.

Blessings and peace,

Bishop Nancy Drew

*Good Morning!
This is God,*

*I will be handling
all of your problems today.
I will not need your help.
So, relax and have a great day!*

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*My greatest
desire for all of
our ministers is
that they would
have a close walk
with Our Lord,
learning His
ways, hearing
His voice,
knowing Him.*

“Wait On It”

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries



My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your message will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God.



First of all I want to give glory to God for I am cancer free! On May 8th, 2014 I had surgery for two skin cancers. The dermatologists I had been to for years and who had treated two other skin cancers, overlooked a black mole I had on my neck and did not trust my judgment on another spot that was suspicious. It took my persistence and seeing another doctor to get them both biopsied. I found myself in a battle with the healthcare system, to get someone to listen and to care. The results came back; melanoma and basal cell can-

cer were the diagnoses. The diagnosis of melanoma particularly shook me because my Mother died of melanoma at the age of 33. But God said “I’ve got that!”

After two plastic surgeon referrals I found the surgeon God desired to do my surgery. The surgery is called MOHS and I had been through it before. MOHS removes the cancer while saving the healthy skin as much as possible. It’s a long and arduous procedure as the skin is excised and then you wait for the lab results to see if the marginal lines they removed were clear of cancer.

I went into this surgery expecting what I had experienced before and minimal scarring. What happened was unexpected. I was horrified at the end of the day when the nurse showed me a picture of my incisions. I went into emotional shock. I thought it would be a small incision because the spots were so small. However, the cancer had spread and the spots had to be excised until the cancer was gone. They had to go in three times to get it all. Therefore, a good deal of flesh was removed. I was grateful the cancer was gone but my heart was stunned at what I had seen and not expected.

I left in pain, physically and emotionally. I got in my car to begin my journey home, which was an hour and a half away, and all I could do was cry. I was wounded. I was disappointed. Then suddenly and ever so softly I heard the Lord whisper to me: “Wait on it”. He is so loving to prepare us even for the pain.

His words brought a sense of peace and assurance way down deep. Here’s why:

You see a week earlier I was sitting in my garden and I looked up at my Mountain Laurel bush. It was in full bloom. I began to hear the Lord speak to me and He gave me this message to post to Facebook: “Wait on it! What you see now is not what it looked like before. (See pictures) In fact when I first moved into my house I did not know what this shrub was. I thought it was ugly and contemplated cutting it down. But I sensed to wait. I learned that it was a mountain laurel. Very few in this area left. My first Spring here and this is the result of my waiting. Sometimes that’s how it is in our lives. It looks ugly and barren. But if you will just wait on it, on the One who is faithful, beauty will come forth. Your mess will be your message. Don’t move too fast or in haste to get rid of or out of what He has called you to or given to you. Spring will come and in your enduring you will be blessed.”



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“Wait On It”

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So you see the Lord had given me a message that I thought was for others but it was also for me. He knew what was ahead and prepared my heart with the words He would ultimately whisper to me to bring peace in the chaos.

In the weeks that followed I took time to heal and spend time with Him. I cannot reveal all that I have learned or revelations I have gleaned. You see I am still in process. But, I will tell you this. I am grateful for the scars for they are a sign of healing and preservation of life; my life is valuable to Him; my beauty goes beyond my appearance; He works miracles through the skilled hands of surgeons; my scars can bring healing to others; and finally, I'm learning even more not to despise the scars but to embrace them. I have many scars on my body from many surgeries and many injuries. In fact I can be identified by my scars and they tell my story.

There is another who is known for His scars. His name is Jesus. He is my healer. His nailed scarred hands and feet, as well as the scars upon His brow, back and side are the evidence of the laid down love He has for me and for you.

My scars do not compare to His, but are evidence of His healing in my life.

So, my mess is my message and this message is to wait on it. What appears ugly or barren is just in process towards full bloom in Spring.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time ...” Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NIV)



Who Was Important Then? Who Is Important Now?

By Bishop Nancy Drew

We are America. America is beautiful because of us because of God's glory upon us His people. Mighty God has a plan and He has not turned His back and will not turn His back on those of us who love Him but He will hear our cry and save us, America!

I am going to tell you something very, very important. I want you to read and absorb what I am going to say. There are those who are Christians in this nation who speak evil against our country, desiring her end, desiring her punishment for all the evil she has done. The rationale is that this is what it will take to bring our country to her knees and change to come. Our country is made up of many people and many of those people have done evil and they are the ones everyone has THEIR eyes on and for that reason THEY seem very important. But, the real question is who does GOD have HIS eyes on? Who was the most important person in Sodom and Gomorrah? Who was the most important person in Egypt in the days of Pharaoh? Who was the most important person in Persia in the day of Xerxes I. Who was the most important person on the day Goliath died? Who was the most important person in the world when the flood waters started to rise?

The answers are Abraham a foreigner who was a family man, a shepherd, not yet the Father of Many Nations. Moses, a shepherd who stuttered, who lived with His wife's family not yet the Deliverer of Israel. Esther, a Jewish orphan raised in captivity by her cousin Mordecai after her parents died; not yet the intercessor, the Queen Rescuer of her people. Then there was David the shepherd boy, who was not old enough to fight, too small to wear armor, delivering messages to his brothers for his father; not yet the Shepherd/Warrior King of Israel. And of course, Noah, the crazy boat builder. All of these were men and women of God chosen out of obscurity because of their relationship with Him. His eye was on them and their eye was to Him. Their ears were open to His voice and they worshiped Him. So who is important now in our day? Has God changed and decided that the evil doers and so called power brokers of this world are the important ones? No. You and I are the important ones. We are the ones with the Power and the Influence.

Your grandmother and her ladies prayer group; your grandfather and his friends in the fields working; your son who carries his Bible to work with him; your daughter who sits and listens to worship music and talks to God; your husband who sits up at night after everyone has gone to bed praying, your wife who juggles her duties and makes amazing things happen while she prays under her breathe, you yourself whoever you are who believes in Him, are the important ones. All of us who love our God, His eye is on us. We are the important ones to Him. He wants to hear what we have to say. He wants to know our thoughts. We are America to Him. Get that, please! We are America to our God. Evil and it's proponents are trespassers and they have no power or influence with our God. We have influence with Our God. We are the America He hears.

All who have spread the Light of Christ around the world as goers and senders from this nation are America to our God. He is looking at us. What are we going to do? Are we going to have our eyes on the world? Are we going to listen and agree with sincere but misguided Christians calling for America's demise and thereby coming in agreement with others in this world who want the same thing? And why would evil want America to die? Because evil hates God. Evil hates us, you and me for our faith in our God. Evil does not want the world to come to know Him who is righteous in all of His ways and makes us righteous in Christ Jesus Our Lord. Evil has infiltrated our territory, evil is trespassing. Are we going to let

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Who Was Important Then? Who Is Important Now?

By Bishop Nancy Drew

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evil stay and be a squatter in God's country? Or shall we fight?

We can call on the Kingdom and bring it in. We are world shakers and world changers because of Christ in us the hope of glory but not if we do not pray, not if we shirk back, not if we are not willing to be obedient, not if we are not willing to take a stand. Praying people have to come off their knees at some point after hearing from God and take action.

It is the kindness of God that brings repentance not His judgment. We can be in a place of chastisement but not be under God's judgment. Chastisement last for a night, a short while and causes sorrow because of God's love for us but joy comes in the morning. This is His word. God's chastisement redeems, changes, matures, restores. Judgment destroys and God's judgment is reserved for evil not for those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

I prophesy that America will not be destroyed but that the kindness of God will bring us to repentance, the love of God will surround us and we will see joy. He is even now raising up those who will do His command. America, us, we will take the gospel of salvation to the world more than ever before. Crack houses will be destroyed. Prostitution removed from the streets. Human trafficking will be brought to it's knees. Corruption in governments will be exposed and those responsible will pay just as Haman was hung on the gallows prepared for God's people. Abortion will no longer be the preferred method of birth control and those responsible for duping hundreds of thousands of women into thinking this was for their good and no big deal will receive the reward of God's anger because that is His word. Jesus died for us and all who choose Him as their sacrifice. He bled for us as a bloody sacrifice. He will mount up with wings of love to come to us. This, people is His word. Please hear and believe.

We are America. America is beautiful because of us because of God's glory upon us His people. Mighty God has a plan and He has not turned His back and will not turn His back on those of us who love Him but He will hear our cry and save us, America! We are America, Christians, and we have the power of the Holy Spirit and Angels at our disposal. We have God who loves us and will help us because we call. He is on our side. He IS King of kings. He IS Lord of lords! If He is for us who can be against us? We have the Mighty God calling to us to "Mount up and ride!"

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Ministering to the Persecuted Church



How can you as an EPC GCPEC/LEPC minister or members of your congregation or ministry get involved with ministering to the persecuted church? Here are some ideas and opportunities.

Write

100 million Christians around the globe are currently suffering for their faith. Through a simple letter you can stand with them in their suffering. This can be a one time effort or ongoing outreach. Open Doors will take the letters that you write and deliver them to those who are imprisoned, hiding, grieving, or struggling with their faith. Go to this address for names of ministry families who have lost family members in brutal attacks: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/write/>

Write a letter to children in Colombia

No one wants to think that we live in a world where children would be targeted by criminals, but that is exactly the situation in Colombia. Children are often abducted by civil war guerilla groups. The children of Christian leaders are at particularly high risk.



Become a Bridgebuilder

You can help your church or community connect with the living faith of persecuted Christians. And when you do, you help unite the body of Christ to become one strong body! As a Bridgebuilder you now are part of a team of volunteers USA who support suffering Christians as they seek to stand strong in their faith.

Youth Pastors

Youth Pastors and students can mobilize their community with dynamic experiential events. <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/youth/>

Become a Speaker : <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/>

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Ministering to the Persecuted Church

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Meriam Ibrahim still needs our support!

The EPC GCPEC/LEPC is reaching out to the persecuted church through Open Doors.



A message from Kristin Wright- Open Doors USA Director of Advocacy

After Sudan faced unprecedented international pressure on her case, Meriam's death sentence for apostasy was cancelled by a court in Khartoum, and all charges against her were dropped.

But when she and her family attempted to leave Sudan on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, they were arrested again, detained, and eventually released. Currently taking temporary shelter in the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Meriam and her family are still waiting – and hoping – to be able to come to the United States.

Facing death threats from her own family, Meriam's life is at risk the longer she stays in Sudan. It is crucial that she be granted safe and swift passage to the United States. You can take action for this courageous Christian woman, and continue to be a voice on her behalf.

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Ministering to the Persecuted Church



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Please take a moment to copy the text below, paste the message into the form [on this page](#), and submit your message to **President Obama**.

You can make a difference for Meriam Ibrahim and her family. Thank you for being a voice for this courageous woman!

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to request that your administration take action to secure safe passage to the United States for Meriam Ibrahim and her American husband and children.

Meriam and her family cannot stay at the U.S. Embassy forever – and their lives are at great risk in Sudan. It is time for an urgent response on behalf of this courageous Christian woman.

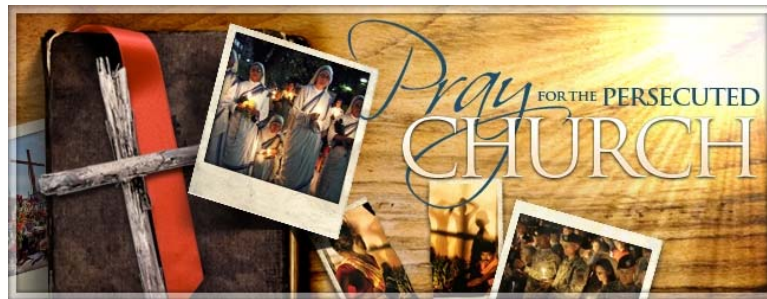
It is clear that the situation involving Meriam and her family requires the immediate attention of your administration. I am asking that you take whatever action is necessary to ensure that Meriam and her American family receive safe passage to the United States.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your address, city, state, zip]

Or, to send electronically go to: <http://blog.opendoorsusa.org/meriam-ibrahim-support/>



“No King but King Jesus”



The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. On the morning of the signing, there was silence and gloom as each man was called up to the table of the President of Congress to sign the document, knowing that it could mean their death by hanging.

Most wars have a motto. The motto of World War II was "Remember Pearl Harbor." The motto during the Texas war for independence was "Remember the Alamo." The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated God's laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out.

http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/churchandministry/churchhistory/david_barton.aspx
retrieved 4/7/2014



Reverend W.D. Sirginson

Unclaimed remains of 15 veterans interred at National Cemetery
 David Freeze Posted: Sunday, June 15, 2014 1:20 a.m.
 UPDATED: Sunday, June 15, 2014 1:25 a.m.

Flag Day Ceremony



photo by Wayne Hinshaw, for the Salisbury Post

The bagpipers led the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard and military personnel carrying the 15 urns containing the cremated remains of 15 veterans to their final resting place in the Salisbury National Cemetery. The burials were part of the Missing In America Project Veteran Recovery Program. photo by Wayne Hinshaw, for the Salisbury Post
 The bagpipers led the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard and military personnel carrying the 15 urns containing the cremated remains of 15 veterans to their final resting place in the Salisbury National Cemetery. The burials were part of the Missing In America Project Veteran Recovery Program.

Connie Adams, originally from Greensboro, lives at the North Carolina State Veterans Home just next door to the Salisbury National Cemetery. He got his son-in-law, Frank Bennett, to bring him over for the "You Are Not Forgotten" Ceremony on Saturday morning. The cremated and unclaimed remains of 15 veterans were interred with full military rites during the service. Adams completed three active tours in Vietnam, and knew the importance of the service. Though no one had claimed these remains, he didn't want them to be buried alone and neither did about 300 others who attended the service. Adams said, "It is important to be here." That simple statement summed up the thoughts of many on the beautiful Saturday morning.

The Soldiers interred:

- TEC5 James Robert Liverman Jr., 1919-1996, US Army, WWII
- Y2 Donald William Newman, 1921-2012, US Navy, WWII
- MOMM2C Frederick William Tims, Jr., 1922-2012 US Navy WWII
- SP4 Terry Wayne Oaks, 1958-2010, US Army
- SP4 Fars Ruble Strickland, 1938-2010, US Army
- CPL. Lonnie Cecil Wilborn, 1929-2012, US Army, Korea
- PFC Harry Lee Battle, Jr., 1948-2008, US Army, Vietnam
- PFC James D. Boone, Jr., 1927-2011, US Army WWII
- PFC Leroy Lightfoot, 1924-2005, US Army, WWII
- PFC Emanuel Dion Robertson, 1960-2009, US Army
- SA Walter Eugene Visage, 1938-2008, US Navy
- PV1 and SA Phillip Diaz, 1956-2012, US Army and US Navy
- PVT Valerie Jean Nobles, 1954-1999, US Marine Corps
- PVT William Tony Plemmons, 1923-2007, US Army, WWII
- AB Michael Jay Zimmerman, 1954-2004, US Air Force, Vietnam

At a little before 11 a.m., the remains of 15 veterans, many of whom had served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, were unloaded from a hearse, catalogued and respectfully placed in the shelter at the cemetery. An American flag accompanied each veteran as current and former members of service carried the urns. A gentle breeze caused numerous additional flags to flutter in the breeze as a short but moving service began.

John McColley, a North Carolina Missing in America Project volunteer, welcomed everyone. Sherry Yetter, sang the National Anthem. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chaplain and MIAP volunteer Reverend W.D. Sirginson gave the invocation. He asked that all in attendance remember that their freedom was purchased by these veterans that we are now assembled to honor.

Donald Owens, Salisbury National Cemetery Director, told everyone that 2200 veterans were interred at this cemetery and that now 15 humble men and women would be added. Owens said, "None of them served for glory though they did serve for the freedom that makes us who we are."

Guest speaker, the Honorable Steve L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, said, "These veterans never thought that one day their remains would be unclaimed. The

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Flag Day Ceremony

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first National Cemeteries were opened 150 years ago, and now they will be here forever. Every headstone tells a story. Please take time to thank those in uniform whenever you see them. And remember, we are borrowing this land from our future generations.”

A moment of silence, a rifle salute, and Taps followed. Don Reid, another MIAP supporter, read all the names along with their branch of service. Rev. Sirginson gave the benediction, reminding everyone of the tradition of leaving a coin at the veteran's gravesite. Leaving a coin means that someone has visited and wanted to pay their respects.

McColley gave closing remarks followed by Yetter's rendition of Amazing Grace.

The urns were then solemnly marched to the individual gravesites and placed in the graves, marking the close of the service.

The Missing in America Project, Veteran Recovery Program works to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. At the same time, the project works to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for those forgotten heroes.

During the service, Salisbury resident Lucille Baity was presented with a folded American flag. Her son, Stacey Lynn Mullis, is interred in the cemetery. Baity donated a large wreath to honor the veterans interred Saturday. She said, “My son died last year, and I miss him every day. He has only been gone a year, but each time I visit his gravesite, I leave another piece of my heart here.”

Noting the large crowd on hand, Baity continued, “Getting the flag in the service was one of the proudest moments of my life. I am so thankful to everyone who attended. Just look at all of us. It was such a beautiful service.” Baity went on to tell that her son was a jet mechanic in the US Air Force, serving for 12 years.

Veterans can be buried free of charge in National Cemeteries. Salisbury National Cemetery Program Support Director Allie Gennusa said, “We were honored to have this service here today. The bodies were collected at a funeral home in Greenville, NC and transported here. Each veteran's remains can get \$10,000 worth of free services. Scheduling is done from St. Louis, Missouri. We have funerals here Monday through Friday, every hour on the hour, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..”

The remains interred today were part of an extensive three month planning process. It was all finalized today when the tag on each urn was verified at the hearse, on the table and again before interment. The tag includes the name, date of interment, and other required information. Gennusa said, “We have a staff of 12 that worked tirelessly for two weeks to make this day of honor perfect. We want people to know that we are here and that our services are available.”

Members of the Patriot Guards were on hand as well. With about 8,000 members in North Carolina, the Patriot Guards exist primarily to attend funerals of fallen heroes, both veterans and service workers such as police or fire personnel. State Captain Keith Arbuckle said, “For homeless vets, we are their family. We want to give honor and respect with dignity. Especially for veterans without family, what we do makes a difference.” Arbuckle wanted to let people know that Dignity Memorial exists. Dignity Memorial is a network of funeral, cremation, and cemetery service providers that assists with preparation, coffin and transportation for unclaimed veterans.

Others who had a part in the transportation of the remains or the ceremony on Saturday were Rouse Mortuary Service and Crematory of Greenville, North Carolina National Guard Military Honors Funeral Program, Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard, Pitt County Sheriff's Office and the Greenville Police Department. Rolling Thunder and various historical military vehicles were on hand also.

Lucille Baity said, “Everybody needs somebody to care. These are our heroes. They deserve this chance of peace and rest.”



“Christianity isn’t.....”

July 4, 2014

Opinion :: Pastor's Blog: Christianity isn't....

By Zach Zajicek · 10:30pm July 4th, 2014

So, last time we discussed the question, “What is Christianity?” The last two articles I’ve written present a biblical perspective for answering this question. There are many things that Christianity is- there are certain ‘marks’ or ‘characteristics’ that indicate the presence of authentic Christianity in a person or group of persons, the church. Most of these are readily obvious, but in today’s world, Christianity means a thousand different things to a thousand different people. So for clarity’s sake, here (again) are the marks of authentic, biblical Christianity I’ve given previously.

Real Christianity is:

- 1)...not by works but by faith.
- 2)...not by a thin intellectual knowledge of Jesus Christ but by daily trust in Him as Savior.
- 3)...not by religion, but by a relationship with God.
- 4)...not ‘fire insurance’ but real repentance.
- 5)...not ceremonial but spiritual.
- 6)...not coerced but motivated by desire and delight.
- 7)...not self-centered but others oriented.
- 8)...not judgmentalism that looks down on sinners, but shows others mercy.
- 9)...not satisfied with the pleasures and treasures of this world, but the infinitely greater pleasures and treasures of God and His eternal kingdom.
- 10)...not legalism but all grace.

So that’s what real Christianity is. On the other hand, sometimes it’s helpful to tell what something is by what it is not (notice how I began each of the above ‘marks’ with ‘is not...but...’?). To

be sure, there are many other things that Christianity is not- and probably, there’s too many to list here. So, here’s a short list of what real Christianity most certainly isn’t:

Authentic Christianity is not a cult or place that considers outsiders second-class, nor is it a kind of get-rich-quick scheme or system for advancing wealth or social standing. It’s not a past, personal event or even a point-in-time decision written on a Bible cover or engraved on a trophy or plaque.

Biblical Christianity isn’t a particular version of the Bible, nor is it a particular flavor of music- whether traditional or contemporary, hymns or choruses. It’s not a one-hour pastime to be endured on Sunday mornings only, nor a fraternity for advancing humanitarian causes.

Real Christianity isn’t a club or social organization, and it’s certainly not a denomination or ecclesiastical organization or affiliation or coalition. It’s not a place to ‘pay your dues to God’ on Sundays or even a place to put your extra cash so you can get a year-end tax break from Uncle Sam.

Genuine Christianity isn’t a gift or service memorial dedicated to saints of old, nor is it a place to donate your unwanted furniture or sentimental nick-nacks.

True Christianity isn’t a worship-by-yourself-at-home system you can do alone with your favorite radio / TV preacher, nor it is a certain style of building or place or structure.

Real, authentic Christianity is described reliably and most accurately in God’s Word, the Bible, and recorded in the ancient pages of church history. The reason this conversation must exist is because there is confusion over what Christianity is.

But the truth is, there’s very little confusion among true Christians- the confusion has come from the outside, not the inside. And while no one has it down just right, self included, I’m thankful Jesus got it right where I didn’t, and that because of Him and His atoning sacrifice and perfect life, I can now, by a life of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ, have the anti-Christian odor I was born with fully removed, and the Christ-like aroma of forgiveness and acceptance permeating my entire being both now and forever.

Praise Jesus Christ the Lord God Almighty!

written by Zach Zajicek pastor of First Baptist Church



Pastor Zach Zajicek and family



The Graying Population

by Leith Anderson, NAE

The Bibles Retirement

"The Bible says nothing about retirement. Christians just keep working until they die," the speaker said with confidence. Oops! He must have missed Numbers 8:25 about the Levites who ran the Old Testament Tabernacle: "At the age of 50, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer."

But what about Moses who didn't start his job as leader of Israel until he was 80 and kept working until he was 120? And then there was Abraham, claimed as the father of the world's three great monotheistic religions, who became the father of Isaac when he was 100. God is infinitely old. Jesus was crucified at 33.

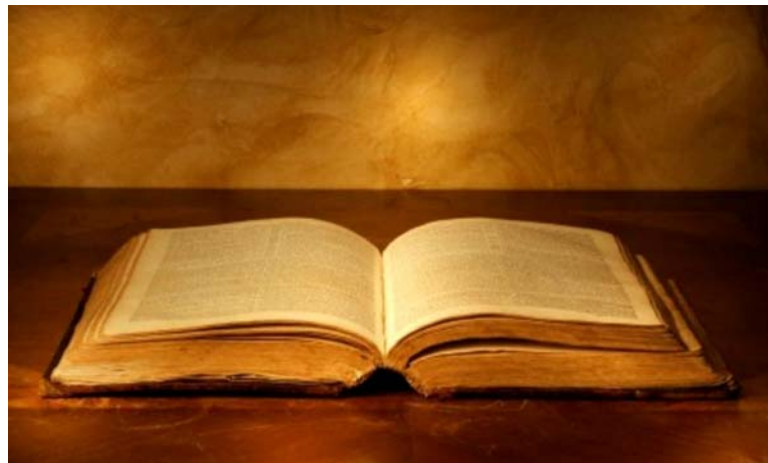
When the U.S. Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, the average life expectancy in this country was 35. The minimum age requirement for a president or vice president was established as 35. Today's life expectancy is almost 79. If we applied the rules of inflation to presidential elections, candidates would have to have been born before 1938 to run for the White House in 2016.

Cultures on the map and centuries on the calendar change the way we relate to youth and age. Many people live in gerontocracies where old men rule. Others ignore the old and emphasize the young. It's easy to forget that in every time and place, the older were once younger and the younger will age.

While our American culture has enjoyed longer lives and youthful characteristics more than any other, we now have a large contingent of citizens in or near retirement. Younger Americans are increasingly from immigrant families. Our church demographics change with the national demographics, which means we will have older people.

There are over 150 biblical references to generations. The Bible respects the past and looks to the future. As we look to older Americans we take the counsel of Deuteronomy 32:7, "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you."

From Summer Edition 2014 Insight Magazine, The National Association of Evangelicals



“Enemies of the Cross”

June 22, 2014

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:18-20

Some time ago I heard of a lady who wrote a letter to her local newspaper. And lest you wonder, this story is not made up. This is the sum and substance of what she said:

"I am heartily sick of the type of religion that insists my soul (and everyone else's) needs saving -- whatever that means." She said, "I have never felt that I was lost. Nor do I feel that I wallow in the mire of sin" "Give me practical religion that teaches gentleness and kindness and acknowledges no barriers of color or creed, that remembers the aged and teaches children about goodness and not about sin."

Then she concluded,

"If, in order to save my soul, I must accept such a philosophy as I have recently heard preached, I prefer to remain forever damned."

Think about those words for a moment. I can find no statement in Scripture which has such disregard for the Deity, such disrespect for the Savior. Even worse, I am afraid this woman is not alone. Granted, not many are so bold, so blunt, so foolhardy to express their feelings in such a way, but she is not alone.

Pseudo-scholars make mockery of the Savior's sacrifice and elevate man's wisdom over God's salvation; elected leaders call upon Christ's Name to collect votes, but they deny knowing Him when they cast theirs; so-called stars scoff openly at the Savior, but their lives appear destitute of meaning.

Think of those words: "I prefer to remain forever damned." Christians must shed tears for any nation whose citizenry believes that it has, without God, created itself and wishes to be in complete control of its future. We shed tears for any of our neighbors who feel they can live their lives secure in sin, safe from any final accounting. Christians cry tears and pray that all who, this day, are enemies of the cross, may soon be Spirit-led to see the Savior, His cross, and empty tomb. May they see in Him there is salvation.

The lady may prefer she be forever damned; but I pray that she may, in Jesus, be forever saved.

Let us pray, and work, and witness so this lady and all those like her may be turned from being enemies of the cross and be led to the Savior. May they see His sacrifice, His thorn-encircled head, the love and blood that poured from His wounds.

Let us pray, and work, and witness so that she, along with the doubters and the deniers, the skeptics and the cynics, the unbelievers and the unsaved will take a good look into the Savior's empty tomb. By God's grace may they see the living Lord and, with repentant hearts, fall to their knees and with a reborn, Spirit-given heart say, "My Lord and my God!" (See John 20:24-28.)

Let us pray, and work, and witness so their transformation from damnation to salvation may bring a smile to the Savior's face.

A smile on Jesus' face: that is something that would be worth seeing.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, the world is filled with sinful souls who think they can come up with a better plan for salvation than You have in Jesus. Forgive them and grant to them a heart that acknowledges their sin and the Savior's perfection. This I ask for all who, this day, are lost. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker Emeritus of [The Lutheran Hour](#)®
Lutheran Hour Ministries



Bishop Dr.
David A. Church
Director of
Missions

"The Top 10 Violence List of countries in which Christians have experienced the most violent incidents for their faith in Christ was recently released by Open Doors International. Nigeria tops the list followed by Syria, Egypt, Central African Republic (CAR), Mexico, Pakistan, Colombia, India, Kenya and Iraq.

Pray for Our Front Line Christians

Greetings everyone,

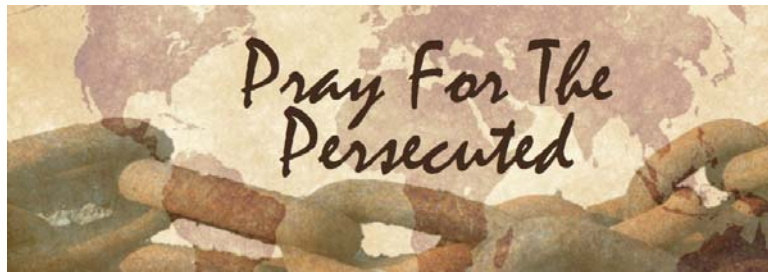
Looking at the Evangelism Connection sent out by Bishop Drew I see something both interesting and alarming. In the list of top ten countries with violence against Christians we have a presence in two of them, Nigeria and Kenya, where Bishops Israel and Fred serve respectively. They need our prayers for the continuation of God's protection and for the boldness to preach in the face of Satan's attacks. They are on the front lines and literally put their lives and the lives of their families on the line daily. That is the difference between our faith and Islam. We are willing to die for our faith, and Muslims are willing to kill for theirs. Allah is not a god of love. The Muslims are in the grip of Satan who keeps them blinded from the Truth, although God is moving in their midst and is saving many out of Islam. Instead of wanting to retaliate against Islamic countries with force we, as true Christians, should be praying for a mighty movement of God to bring them to repentance and accepting the Truth that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, God the Son come in the flesh who was crucified for our sin, buried, and who arose the third day to reign forever. May all who serve the false prophet Mohammed have their eyes opened so that they will see the Truth and repent.

Violence against Christians

"The Top 10 Violence List of countries in which Christians have experienced the most violent incidents for their faith in Christ was recently released by Open Doors International. Nigeria tops the list followed by Syria, Egypt, Central African Republic (CAR), Mexico, Pakistan, Colombia, India, Kenya and Iraq. In all countries where Christians are persecuted, 5,479 Christians were killed for their faith, 3,641 churches and Christian properties were destroyed, . and 13,120 other forms of violence against Christians such as beatings, abductions, rapes, arrests and forced marriages occurred. ([Open Doors 6/3/14](#))"

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Bishop Dr. David A. Church
Director of Missions



The “Back Page” Catch a Wave!

Summer is the perfect time to catch a wave. In Arizona with our dry heat that isn't as easy to do as it is in California or Hawaii.

The wave I'm referring to however has nothing to do with ocean water, but has everything to do with living water.

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. That is the wave that we catch a ride on every week at worship and I hope everyday as we go about our business.

The unrest in the Middle East, the violence and persecution that show up in our headlines everyday, the insistence of society today to force everyone to accept any and all lifestyles as permissible and continuing of the “dumbing down” of America, all of these factors make catching that wave all the more important.

Jesus warned us of the very things that are happening today.

Mark 13:5-13
GW Jesus answered them, "Be careful not to let anyone deceive you. (6) Many will come using my name. They will say, 'I am he,' and they will deceive many people.

(7) "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don't be alarmed! These things must happen, but they don't mean that the end has come. (8) Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes and famines in various places. These are only the beginning pains of the end. (9) "Be on your guard! People will hand you over to the



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

Jewish courts and whip you in their synagogues. You will stand in front of governors and kings to testify to them because of me. (10) But first, the Good News must be spread to all nations. (11) When they take you away to hand you over to the authorities, don't worry ahead of time about what you will say. Instead, say whatever is given to you to say when the time comes. Indeed, you are not the one who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit

will. (12) "Brother will hand over brother to death; a father will hand over his child. Children will rebel against their parents and kill them. (13) Everyone will hate you because you are committed to me. But the person who endures to the end will be saved.

Catch that wave,
Pastor Steve

From the Editor

Thanks for all of your contributions. Remember, for this magazine to be a success you must be the reporters and the photographers. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process.

May the blessings of Christ be with you all. ED.



Is he done yet?



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