

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2018

SLD14

HINDU PRIEST SHOCKED BY GOD'S POWER

DAY 11

TORMENTED AUSSIE MUSLIM FINDS CHRIST

DAY 3



ALSO...

GOD'S MASTER PLAN IN PUERTO RICO

DAY 5

AUSTRIA: MINISTRY AMONG IMMIGRANTS

DAY 9

IT'S ALL GOD: TENNESSEE 'REVIVAL'

DAY 19

Speak**life**daily

REVIVING CHRISTIANS RESOURCING THE CHURCH REACHING THE WORLD

FORMERLY THE INTERNATIONAL DAILY PRAYER BULLETIN



GLEN'S SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

- Sep 8** Evangelism Training, Holy Trinity, Wallington
- Sep 9** Preaching, Christ Church, Banstead
- Sep 15** Training, Kings Church, High Wycombe
- Sep 16** Preaching, All Souls Eastbourne
- Sep 22** Training for 'Mind, Body Spirit' outreach
Speak Life Trustees Strategy Meeting
- Sep 23** Preaching, Kings, High Wycombe
- Sep 28-30** Teaching Weekend, St John Tunbridge Wells
- Oct 2** Evangelistic BBQ, Grace Baptist, Warboys
- Oct 3** Speaking at CICCUC, Cambridge
- Oct 6-14** Mission Week, Jesmond Parish Church
- Oct 22-26** 321 Filming, Crowborough
- Oct 28** Preaching, Emmanuel, Brighton
- Oct 30-31** Speaking, Reading Family Church
- Nov 3** Men's Convention, Nottingham
- Nov 4** Preaching, St Ebbes Oxford
- Nov 9-10** Speaking, Warwick CU Weekend
- Nov 11** Preaching, Kings Church, Lewes
- Nov 13-15** Mission to Monkton Combe School
- Nov 16-18** Speaking, All Saints Crowborough Festival
- Nov 23** Speaking, Southampton Christian Union
- Nov 24-25** Speaking, Stevenage Churches Weekend

OTHER PRAYER POINTS

- As well as diary engagements, please PRAY for our online media going forth globally 24/7. Please PRAY it is fruitful.
- PRAY for **321** filming and that our seasonal campaign will reach another million hearts this Christmas.



DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS,

From Ministry Director, Glen Scrivener

Dear Praying Friends

Recently I was asked *What transforms your personal time with God?* Here's how I began my answer. It all starts with the character of God himself...

The Fatherhood of God

When my prayers are dry, nothing brings refreshment quicker than quoting Matthew 18:3 to myself: "Unless you change and become like a little child, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Unfortunately, my default is to come before God as a battle-weary soldier to a Sergeant-Major. The reality is that I'm a child — a little child — coming to my Father. That changes everything.

The Priesthood of Christ

Probably the central image I have in mind when I think of prayer is Christ's prayer life before the Father (Luke 11:1). He is my Aaron, spreading incense in the Holy of holies and I am carried on his heart before the LORD (Exodus 28-29; Heb 7:25). I don't have to yell up to heaven, I'm at his right hand, whispering in God's ear. It's not my prayers that need to ascend to heaven (which is good because my prayers are poor, beggars even). Christ has ascended and I am in him (Col 3:1-4).

The Spirit's Intercession

I'm always late to prayers. That's because there has been a prayer meeting going on for a very long time. And the Spirit sweeps me up into it — I now participate in the Son's communion with the Father. So now the Spirit cries in my heart, *'Abba, Father.'* This is my new spiritual heartbeat. Once again, this is not a communion with God that I have to establish. It's given to me. The Spirit is praying, now I get to join in.

So my friends — filled with the Spirit, united to the Son and adopted into the family of God — may you approach the heavenly throne as sons and daughters of an ever-loving Father. And as this ***Speak Life Daily*** encourages you with stories of gospel advance around the world, may your hearts be stirred to pray *big* prayers, even as you enjoy being *little* children!

With love and partnership in the gospel,

*Glen, Paul, Sandy, Andy, Linda, Howard
and the Speak Life Creative team*



DAY 1

STANDING FOR CHRIST IN A SECULAR WORLD

Colossians 4:5-6

Andrea Williams, Chief Executive of *Christian Concern*, writes: "Over the last twelve months, through our *Christian Legal Centre*... [street] preachers such as Andrew Frost, Ian Sleeper and Daniel Courney have been protected. We have challenged the 'transgender agenda' that is sweeping across society. We stood with Christian parents Nigel and Sally Rowe who challenged a church primary school's 'transgender' policy... And we supported Joshua Sutcliffe, the Christian teacher who got into trouble for 'misgendering' a student at his school... [and also] Pastor Paul Song, who was barred from his ministry at Brixton prison by a Muslim chaplain..."

"As well as our legal work, we have continued to speak into public debate. Week by week, we are contacted by broadcast, print or online journalists asking for comment or interview on important issues. Alongside this, we work hard to ensure that the stories of people challenged because of their Christian faith, are told in the media, so that the public and politicians can see what is happening. We try to make the most of every opportunity that we have... Alongside all this, we have been hard at work, equipping Christians to take action and PRAY. Over the last twelve months, we've spoken at dozens of churches, events and conferences across (and beyond) the United Kingdom, helping Christians grapple with the challenges of living as a Christian in today's culture..."

"Our *Wilberforce Academy* continues to grow in its mission to raise up the next generation of Christian leaders in public life. Meanwhile *Wilberforce Publications* added three new titles to its catalogue, all in pursuit of its vision to stimulate deep Christian thinking on key issues. As we enter the next 12 months... we expect continued pressure to decriminalise abortion and extend it to Northern Ireland. We expect to see efforts to push the 'sexuality and transgender agendas' even more widely in schools. And we anticipate more challenges to freedom of conscience and expression... It's vital that we hold on to the hope that we have in Christ Jesus, and continue to speak of Him. He is the light of the world, and we must point to Him." *Christian Concern*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that Andrea and Christian Concern have been standing strong for Christian values in our secular nation. PRAY for God's grace to uphold the team and for divine wisdom in their work.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the young people who are preparing to be a Christian voice to our secular society through the Wilberforce Academy. PRAY that many may reach positions of influence and stand strong for Jesus.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that, with the support of Christian Concern, many adverse court decisions have been overturned. PRAY for their legal teams.

DAY 2

OPPORTUNITIES ON STREETS OF BRITAIN

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

The following testimony from a local *Neighbourhood Prayer Network* (NPN) is challenging and encouraging: "This has proved to be an exciting experience of sharing God's love through prayer with our neighbours... When I attended a wonderful training event last year, I learned to combine praying for my neighbourhood with a more intentional approach, such as offering prayers to neighbours as we bump into them and enter into conversations. Going house to house is also a powerful tool in bringing transformation and seeking 'the house of peace' in a street or area. (Luke 10:1-11) aiming to take steps towards making new disciples."

"We always go out with a friend for an hour or two at a time onto a local estate and the Holy Spirit brings us opportunities and opens doors and the hearts of our neighbours. In May this year, in Banbury, to coincide with a 24/7 initiative over the 10 days alongside *Thy Kingdom Come*, I worked with a small (trained) team of just a few dedicated folk (4 of us) going out over 4 weeks for 4 hours a week (typically 1 hour per team) in 14 teams of 2, into Banbury Streets. We called at 193 houses, entering into conversations with 131 people. We Prayed with 63, for their specific prayer needs (family, health, work, etc.) and we were able to share the Gospel with 21 people who had never heard the Gospel message before and 6 of these wanted to know more and a further 4 made a commitment to follow Jesus! These latter 10 we are in the process of following up."

"We give thanks and glory to God for his faithfulness and blessing. And we are excited to continue this ministry underpinned by PRAY_{er} for our neighbourhoods... and seek more workers for the Harvest. If you would like to learn more from us about how to do this and turn PRAY_{er} walking in your streets into a wonderfully simple ministry of the Holy Spirit to understand local needs, offer PRAY_{er} and make disciples, I would be happy to hear from you through NPN and perhaps we can arrange to come and train you, some friends and your Church in reaching your streets for Jesus." *David Robinson, Neighbourhood Prayer Network*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for this simple, down-to-earth approach to evangelism. PRAY for David and the many street prayer warriors for abundant fruit.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the 10 neighbours being followed up in Banbury. PRAY they may be welcomed into local church fellowships with joy.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for David's willingness to train others in street and door-to-door prayer ministry. PRAY that many will take up this offer.

DAY 3

TORMENTED AUSSIE MUSLIM FINDS CHRIST

Galatians 1:3-5

Ismail was a Turkish Muslim. He migrated to Australia when he was 19. He considered himself a moderate Muslim because he always had questions about God and Islam. He said he wanted to know who God was and the unknown about God. He was curious about the spiritual realm and wondered if witchcraft was from God or the devil. In his search for answers, he met a Turkish Muslim who called spirits using the Ouija board and a coffee cup. Ismail continued this activity with the spirit world until the manifestations of the devil became more and more frightening.

"I was making coffee; I was stirring the coffee and when I looked inside, I saw this creature live on the coffee, looking at me, behind me, hanging on the curtain. They were kind of human demonic bat kinda looking creatures; real long fingernails. And every time they were flapping their wings, there was smoke coming out of them. For four years, Ismail's two sons were tormented by these demons. According to Ismail, they drew sketches of the creatures with red eyes. "They came to our bed and they started shaking. I can't remember. We couldn't wake him up. I lay him down flat and I said, 'What's happening?' He's still there, still didn't wake up. I freaked out."

Ismail Prayed to Allah and the prophets but nothing worked. Out of his frustration, he sought the help of an Iranian Christian friend who brought him to a Bible study. There, he surrendered his life to Jesus and experienced a supernatural encounter. "I'm seeing this figure, He's holding his hands up like this towards me. I could tell he was smiling. All I was seeing was this light coming from everywhere. It was just amazing. And actually, I have fallen in love with Him. That's how I converted." The pastor instructed Ismail to pray for two weeks, commanding the demons to leave their home. Ismail said, "Every night I was praying. I was saying, 'In the Name of Jesus Christ, you have no authority here. You demons leave in Jesus Name!'" As a result, his children stopped having nightmares. Since then, Ismail hungered for the Word and began reading the Bible. He compared what the Bible said with the teachings of the Qur'an, and discovered that God is an amazing, compassionate, graceful, forgiving God." *Lucille Talusan, CBN*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that the power of Jesus over Satan is once again shown to the conversion of souls. PRAY that this may lead to more converts.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that Ismail had a Christian friend to lead him to Bible Study. PRAY that we may be a 'friend' to many and can lead them to Christ.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Ismail has seen the difference between the claims of Islam and the power of the Gospel. PRAY that he may be a witness to his people.

DAY 4

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN TURKEY TODAY

1 Kings 8:56-61

Pastor Ramazan Arkan leads two congregations in Antalya, southern Turkey. He shares how a growing church is reaching out to many young seekers in this city of two million people. The Antalya church is committed to outreach and discipleship. Its decision to start a second congregation just six years after moving into the cultural centre was sparked by two realisations. The first was the interest of young people and a need to reach out and, second, the recognition that church-planting gives more opportunity to train active disciples. Now the second congregation meets in eastern Antalya, both churches have their own pastors, and Ramazan focuses more on mentoring and training leaders.

“Our vision is to reach more people in Antalya,” Ramazan says. “Two million people live here and there are only 450 Christians.” The *Antalya Evangelical Church* has a vision to multiply churches and to split and plant a new congregation elsewhere in the city or in neighbouring towns every time it reaches 200 people. “Probably in four years’ time, we will start another church in the west of Antalya,” Ramazan says. Visionary and enthusiastic, he points out that there were no Christians in the area until Paul and Barnabas preached Christ at nearby Perga during their first missionary journey in AD 46-48. He believes that God wants to build his Church again in Turkey. “Christianity is growing in Antalya and not only here but in the whole of Turkey,” Ramazan says. “I believe that what God did two thousand years ago in this land He will do again!”

A recent government report found that many young Turks have become “deists” – they still believe in God but have given up on religion or at least religion as they have known it. “Most people in my church have been rejected by their own families,” Ramazan says. Turkish society is very relational and those who choose to follow Christ typically face intense family pressure leading some to abandon their faith. The ability of churches to be a surrogate family, offering hospitality, love and support can be vital for new Christians to remain and mature in their faith. *Joel News International; SAT-7*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that, though minuscule, the Christian community in Turkey is growing.

PRAY for strong witness in the face of Islamisation.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the vision of Pastor Arkan to see church plants throughout Antalya.

PRAY that there will be growing numbers of true disciples for Christ.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that, where Christianity once flourished, now, after centuries, new churches are being established. PRAY that Turkey may once again resound with the name of Christ.

DAY 5

GOD'S "MASTER PLAN" IN PUERTO RICO

Psalm 107:5-9

In September of 2017, Hurricane Maria, caused untold devastation throughout the Caribbean, pummeling Puerto Rico, and bringing "catastrophic" 155mph winds that knocked out power to the island's entire population of 3.5 million people. The "monster" storm was the strongest to hit the US territory in nearly a century.

The story of the isolated Puerto Rican mountain village of Comerio tells it all. George Santiago grew up here but left for more opportunity in the United States. However, last summer God called him back to start a church in his hometown. At first, nothing seemed to be happening. "When we came here in July of 2017 we didn't have a chance to open the Bible and preach the Bible to people," he told CBN News. But, since the storm, Santiago says at least 50 people have come to Christ in Comerio, and he has started what he calls a 'baby church' for the new believers. It's all evidence, he believes, of God's master plan at work. "He placed us in Puerto Rico at the right moment, the perfect moment for one church to give birth," he said.

And Santiago is not alone. Carlos Rodriguez oversees church planting on the island for the Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board and says *Maria* paved the way for enormous spiritual growth. "If you ask any pastor across Puerto Rico, across denominations, no one will say that Hurricane Maria was a bad thing. From the human perspective - of course. We still have a lot of people without power but in the spiritual perspective, no, it was a blessing."

Southern Baptists see a unique opportunity right now. They're planting three new churches this year, ahead of schedule, and they're pouring hundreds of volunteers and resources into the territory in the hopes of winning more for Christ. Since *Maria* hit, they've distributed more than 762,000 meals and worked on hundreds of homes. *Heather Sells, CBN*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that He brings hope out of hopelessness, joy out of sorrow. PRAY that these newly established churches may grow as powerful witnesses to His grace and sovereignty.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that He always has a "master plan", even in the direst of circumstances. Never lose hope even when all seems lost. PRAY that Puerto Rico may see a renewal of its churches in a new phase of revival power, affecting the whole island.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He moved Santiago to Puerto Rico in His perfect timing. PRAY that Santiago may continue to see encouraging fruit, and PRAY that we may understand God's timing for our lives.

DAY 6

ALGERIA ASTONISHING CHURCH GROWTH

Matthew 4:16-17

What is now Algeria was once home to Saint Augustine (AD 354-430), one of the Church's foremost theologians. Christianity flourished here between the fifth and seventh centuries but gradually disappeared after the Arab invasions. Although new churches were started under French rule, since independence in 1962 an entirely local church has been born among the Berber people. It's astonishing growth in the last few decades is thought to be the fastest in the Arab world – several thousand new believers are baptised every year. Yet, within this 'First-Generation Church', there is a great need for discipleship, strong biblical teaching and encouragement for believers to daily live out their new-found faith. Such a radical change in their worldview means that new Christians are often left with questions and face many challenges.

Satellite TV network SAT-7 is responding to this need by broadcasting a range of programmes to encourage and disciple Algerian believers. Viewers have the opportunity to experience worship services and biblical preaching through My Church in Algeria. This broadcasts every week from a large, Kabyle-speaking church in Northern Algeria. Around 1,000 people attend the services and around 80 new believers are baptised each month. Bible Teaching from Algeria, presented by Pastors Saleh Shlah and Farid El-Amry, explores the main concepts of Christianity and provides practical guidance from the Bible to help new believers with questions that they may.

SAT-7 is also currently airing the second season of testimony series, *Free Souls*. Produced and presented by Samia Jallali Kessai, *Free Souls* features the strong personal testimonies of women from Algeria and other North African countries who are eager to tell how they chose to follow Christ, even at great personal risk. Their stories are an inspiration and encouragement to others. One Algerian Berber viewer contacted SAT-7 to say, "Every Tuesday night I call my friends in the village (some of them are not believers) and ask them to join my family to watch together the testimonies of brothers and sisters in My Church who came to know the Lord. God changed their lives! We even watch the re-run on Fridays. We need these kinds of programmes!" *SAT-7 News*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for the extraordinary fruit being seen in Algeria amongst the Berbers. PRAY for the message of Christ to reach into the major cities.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the extent of SAT 7's reach and the more than 1 million Algerian viewers. PRAY for hearts to be softened and opened to Christ.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for the many Algerians who are prepared to seal their faith through baptism. PRAY that they may receive the nurturing they need.

DAY 7

ASIA THE FIRST BELIEVER IN THE VALLEY

Isaiah 35:1-2

“For the past few years, we’ve been taking groups from the United States to areas in the mountains with hundreds of pockets of unengaged, unreached minority peoples,” shares a worker, serving in Asia with *United World Missions*. “These trips are primarily American Christians prayer walking through villages and areas they have ‘adopted’ - praying continually, visiting regularly, and partnering with locals.” In 2016, an American leader came over to see what this was all about and to decide whether or not his congregation would get involved. “We took him and some others high up into the mountains (14,000+ feet) in a very rural area where many of the villages consist of only a few homes. As they were driving through a village, the leader pointed west up into another valley and asked what was up there. We hadn’t been that way before, so we didn’t know.

The leader, who was a very outdoorsy person, asked to be dropped off and allowed to hike up there by himself for the day.” At the end of the day they picked him up, and he told them about his day, which hadn’t seemed too remarkable. “He said he had hiked, worshipped, and Prayed into the valley. At one point he had been invited into a home. These people didn’t speak any English, and he didn’t speak their language, but they had a great time drinking tea together. He Prayed for and blessed the home before he left. After the trip, he decided his congregation would adopt that valley.”

The next summer, 2017, the mission’s team was holding their semi-annual English camps for students from these mountain groups. One of the students, named Z, trusted in God during the camp. Afterward, he needed a ride back home, so one of the missionaries gave him a ride back to his very remote village. His home happened to be in the same remote valley that had been adopted the summer before. And in fact, his home was exactly the same one that the leader had visited a year before! Z hadn’t been home that day in 2016, and didn’t meet the American leader. However, one year later, Z became the first believer in his valley. *United World Missions*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that He works in mysterious “coincidences” to bring people into the knowledge of Christ. PRAY for great fruit to be seen from these small, God-breathed beginnings.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the faith and perseverance of these mountain PRAYER-walkers from the USA. Thank God that He graciously honoured their faith. PRAY that churches may be firmly established in these villages.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for Z and others like him. PRAY that he may become an apostle to his people, bringing joy, fulfilment and salvation to many.

DAY 8

PERU & MEXICO BIBLE IN A BACKPACK

1 Peter 1:3

When Wes Reed was 19, he and his brother decided to explore South America. But before they left the United States, they visited their grandfather. He talked with the young men about Jesus, pressing tracts and a Bible into their hands. Wes and his brother were not interested. After all, they had no religious background and were heavily interested in science. Still, out of respect for his grandfather, Wes tossed the Bible into his backpack.

A few months later in Mexico, a young American shared his faith with Wes, and gave him a Scripture portion. For some reason, it piqued Wes' interest - enough that he pulled the Bible from his backpack and began reading as he journeyed. "The Holy Spirit worked through God's Word very powerfully," said Wes, "and while in Lima, Peru, I knelt down by myself and gave my heart to the Lord." Wes's new love for the Scriptures drew him to Bible school in Seattle. Wes' language teacher was impressed with his language skills and gave him a book about Wycliffe and Bible translation. Challenged by the book, Wes wanted to learn more about the organisation. He attended a one-day Wycliffe seminar on the needs in Bible translation. The event was enough to propel Wes on to SIL training at the University of Washington and then into becoming a Wycliffe missionary.

SIL offers training in fields of study that support language development. So Wes and his wife, LeeAnn, went on to spend 28 years in Papua New Guinea, working on Bible translation in the Yopno language. They saw the Yopno New Testament and Psalms dedicated in August of 2010. Wes and LeeAnn now work as selection and assignment specialists for Wycliffe. They assist individuals who have applied to Wycliffe - particularly for language roles - and help them find an assignment overseas that fits their calling and gifts. "The Bible is the greatest book there is," said Wes, "and we Christians should believe that. It's God's revelation to us. The greatest message ever told - that ever could be told - is available to us but not to some. If we have the resources and the training, why not go make it available?" *Wycliffe; Joel News International*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for calling Wes from unbelief in such a special way. PRAY that, as he and LeeAnn dedicate their senior years to train others, that they may see many receiving God's call.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for faithful, witnessing grandparents. PRAY that we may never give up reaching out to others even when they are disinterested at first.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for the work of Bible translators over the centuries and today. PRAY for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

DAY 9

AUSTRIA MINISTRY AMONG IMMIGRANTS

John 15:14-17

Maria came to Vienna from Brazil more than a decade ago. She had completed a seminary degree as well as a music degree and was offered a scholarship to study opera in Vienna. After finishing her studies, she settled in Vienna, married an Austrian and embarked on a career, but her lifelong call to missions never dissipated. When Maria began to feel God nudging her to share Christ with Persians, she didn't know what a Persian was. But within a week she met a girl from Iran. When Maria asked what language she spoke, the girl said "Persian," so Maria knew God had prepared her and invited the young lady to study the Bible. Maria didn't set out to start a new Persian church. She was just obeying God. But that Bible study has now grown to over 100 people - a mixture of former Muslims from Iran and Afghanistan, former Buddhists from Vietnam and former atheists from Austria.

Maria has now quit her job to be a full-time missionary. Her husband works to support the family. As the work began to reach mostly Muslim men, Maria wisely sought out male pastors, as the body has been in transition from an outreach group in her home, to a house church, and then to a recognised church within the Austrian Baptist Convention. Roger Hartsill, an International Mission Board (IMB) worker who is mentoring Maria from his home in Germany, is in a unique position to help. He and his wife Diana began their ministry with IMB in South America, then moved to Europe for the express purpose of mobilising South American believers who have emigrated to Europe. The Hartsills want to help Latinos in Europe spread the Gospel wherever they go, but specifically to other immigrants and refugees.

Hartsill says, "A believing immigrant can more easily connect with other immigrants." Among the challenges facing the church is that teaching and discipleship must be done through translators or in a second language. New believers coming from strong Islamic, Buddhist and atheistic backgrounds have a relatively long discipleship road and their backgrounds also put many at risk. Often the new Christians can never return to their families or home countries because of their conversions. *Baptist Press; Joel News International*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God the Holy Spirit for guiding Maria to a Persian girl in Vienna, and for all that has transpired since. PRAY that the coverts be built up.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that immigrants are reaching out to other immigrants with such success. PRAY for the many Latino Christians in Europe, that they may have a vision to proclaim the gospel to immigrants from afar.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for the support provided to Maria by the Hartsills and for God's leading to them. PRAY they may be able to support many like Maria.

DAY 10

HYMN WRITER KEITH GETTY RECEIVES OBE

1 Peter 2:9

Hymn writer Keith Getty was at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh on July 3rd 2018 to receive his OBE insignia from the Queen. The Belfast-born musician has enjoyed a distinguished music ministry for more than a decade, serving the church along with his wife and singing partner Kristyn Getty. 'In Christ Alone,' which he penned with Stuart Townend, is one of the most frequently sung Christian songs in churches across the UK on Sunday mornings.

Other popular songs by Getty include 'The Power of the Cross,' 'There is a Higher Throne,' and 'Speak, O Lord.' Getty received the OBE insignia in recognition of his contribution to music and modern hymn writing. He is the first individual from the contemporary church music scene to receive the honour. The award was announced last year but it wasn't until this week in Edinburgh that he received the insignia. He said: 'When I first received the call, I was pretty surprised. It is an honour for us as a family and also for the great hymn-writing heritage we have here in the UK of which we are a tiny part. I am very grateful to her Majesty the Queen, and it was a great privilege today to have her give the award in person.'

Keith and his wife Kristyn have over 10 Christian albums to their name and regularly tour across the UK, Ireland and the United States. One of their most popular annual events is 'Sing! An Irish Christmas' at the Carnegie Hall in New York. They also host a global hymn sing each year which is joined by millions of people from over a hundred countries. **Around 7,500 people are expected to attend their upcoming Getty Music Worship Conference: Sing! in Nashville, Tennessee from September 10-12.** Upon receiving the insignia this week, Getty expressed particular thanks to his wife Kristyn, who provides the vocals for many of his songs, and his writing partner, Stuart Townend. 'I'm so grateful to my wife Kristyn, and also profoundly thankful for Stuart Townend, whose hymn writing partnership and brilliance have inspired us in every way. Kristyn and I feel utterly privileged to be able to serve the church in such a way and will continue to write and lead people in singing to build deep believers,' he said. *Christian Today*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for the inspired ministry of Keith Getty and Stuart Townend whose contemporary hymns provide a new generation of theologically sound worship songs for today's church.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for this Royal honour going not to a "celebrity" in the eyes of the world, but to a man who seeks to glorify Christ through his talent. PRAY that he may continue to produce inspiring new hymns to God's glory.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Keith's ministry has blessed the worldwide Church. PRAY for his upcoming events to be inspirational for many.

DAY 11

HINDU PRIEST SHOCKED BY GOD'S POWER

Job 11:7-9

A Hindu priest in Nepal believed Christianity to be a fake religion, and challenged a Christian evangelist to prove to him that was not so, by making him accept Jesus Christ in 30 days. The unnamed evangelist accepted the challenge, according to Kosh Dahal, the Hindu priest, who recounts his experience in a video posted recently on YouTube. In the video, Dahal said the Christian evangelist kept visiting him at his veterinary clinic in Kathmandu where he continued talking about "the loving living only God Jesus. He bothered me because I didn't want to accept Jesus Christ. He kept coming and ministering the gospel, and I kept rejecting him," Dahal said.

One day Dahal told the evangelist, "I will ask your Jesus for 30 days - 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening - if He is the real God - to touch me and change me." If his Jesus failed to convince him to change his mind after 30 days, he would file a complaint against the evangelist with the police, warning him that Nepal law prohibits proselytising. "You will be in trouble," he warned the evangelist. The Christian missionary boldly accepted the challenge. Twice a day, the evangelist visited Dahal's clinic and preached about Jesus. At the end of the third week, Dahal was struck by something he had never imagined. "This power like a current of electricity came into me and began to run very fast," Dahal recalled. "I was challenging Jesus and he sent his power. That morning I realised that Jesus Christ is real and has mighty power. He woke me up. I cried.

Dahal promised the evangelist that he would leave everything to follow Jesus. Eventually his wife Shobah also accepted Jesus after seeing the dramatic change for the better in her husband. To the couple's amazement, her acceptance of Jesus led to the miraculous healing of her uterine myoma, a benign growth that might have required a hysterectomy. Together with their three children, the couple abandoned the Hindu priesthood and began evangelising. They planted a church in Kathmandu. After some years, they moved to the Philippines where they planted five more churches. In 2013, they moved to Malaysia and began to minister to Nepalese at the Kairos Nepali Church Knc. *Kosh Dahal, Hazel Torres, God Reports*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that He inevitably shows up to the challenge and that the evangelist trusted Jesus to show His mighty power.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that Dahal and his family turned from the priesthood of the Hindu gods to the service of the living Lord Jesus. PRAY for his ministry.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Dahal's ministry has born much fruit. PRAY that many Nepalis may turn to Christ Jesus.

DAY 12

PREACHING JESUS IN REMOTE MOUNTAINS

Isaiah 45:2-3

Nepal is known for having eight of the ten highest peaks in the world, including Mount Everest. The Himalayas crawl across northern Nepal, and the rugged terrain makes remote communities extremely difficult to access. Recently a Nepali Christian leader named Amir climbed to the top of a peak with a group of fellow believers. They looked across to the next ridge of mountains and there in the fading dusk, they saw something that moved their hearts. The lights were coming on, flickering in villages across the side of the mountain. They realised that no one had gone with the Gospel to those areas... All the way to Tibet there were many villages that had no witness, no believers, and no Church. They agreed to change that. Amir is from a remote community himself that just six years ago had no Gospel presence.

But then a team of *Global Disciples* decided to share the news of Jesus Christ with his village and the surrounding area. When they got there, they realised the Lord had been preparing the way. People were receptive and the team Prayed for a number of people who were healed. Now there are seven churches in that area working together to disciple new believers. Amir is burdened to take the Gospel to other remote villages across the mountains. Together with other Christians in nearby villages, he makes disciples, plants churches and shares Christ. Those disciples then teach and train other new disciples, creating a spiritual ripple in the region.

But the enemy doesn't rest! There have been significant changes in Nepal's recent history which have introduced uncertainty for the future. In 2015, Nepal declared itself a secular state through a new constitution. It seemed that religious freedom was growing. However, earlier this year Nepal also adopted a new law, criminalising religious conversion. And another big change just took place: On May 17, Nepal's two communist parties combined, creating the unified *Nepal Communist Party* that now holds a two-thirds majority in parliament. These changes have set Nepal on a new and unknown trajectory. Minority groups like Christians are prayerfully watching how these changes come into effect. The government is already watching foreign missionary groups very closely if they're engaged in any conversion activity. *Global Disciples, Asian Access*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that the gospel came to Amir's village and he became an ardent disciple with a heart to evangelise his people. PRAY for him.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that remote villages are being reached. PRAY that evangelism may continue and grow despite the recent legal constraints.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God He is in control. PRAY for the Nepalese Church to stay focused on her mission and stand firm seeing victory in the name of Jesus.

DAY 13

IRAN'S HIDDEN BELIEVERS FIND SUPPORT

John 17:14-18

Iran is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a Christian, and there are thousands of underground Iranian believers practising their faith in secret. For those with no one to talk to about Jesus, SAT-7 has become not just a television channel, but also a virtual pastor, church, community and friend. But beyond the channel, our Persian team is communicating daily with these hidden believers through mobile messaging apps like Telegram. The Telegram App is the most popular messaging app in Iran, with over half the population active on the platform. Nearly 50 percent of all viewer contact received from Iran by SAT-7 in 2017 was via Telegram. Because of its secure encryption, sadly the App has in the past been linked with terrorist groups such as Islamic State who can communicate in total privacy. But it is precisely this level of security which also makes Telegram the perfect platform for making the Gospel available in a country where it would otherwise be too dangerous to communicate about it.

One viewer, Taghi, had no Church and no Christian friends to speak to. While watching SAT-7, he was overjoyed when he saw their Telegram number appear on the screen. "It's the first time I'm contacting anyone overseas, and to be frank, I'm a bit afraid that I might find trouble for doing so," he said. "When I sent you a message I didn't think you would answer, but when you did, hope and a warm feeling ignited in me." Another lonely believer, Babak, got in touch to tell us he had met Jesus through a friend. But when that friend had to leave the country, Babak found himself with no one to talk to about his faith. "I have been feeling very alone until a few days ago," Babak said. "I was zapping through the channels and came across SAT-7 PARS. Since then I have been watching most of the programmes and I'm very happy. After three years of being in faith, I still don't have a Bible and would love to have one."

The SAT-7 PARS team connected with Babak on Telegram, and have now sent him a PDF version of the Bible, and the fellowship he so desperately needs. For the Iranian Christians who have been able to find an underground church, resources are still sorely lacking. But because of the Telegram app, SAT-7 is able to support these churches with the materials they need. *SAT-7 News*



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that SAT-7 has given many people in the Muslim heartland the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus. PRAY for the TV network.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God that a safe channel of contact with interested listeners and new converts - and for the sending of materials - has been found through Telegram.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Iranians are hungry for God's truth and that we have the means to supply their need. PRAY for a great outpouring of God's grace upon this ancient nation of 80 million souls.

DAY 14

FORMER GAY ACTIVIST PAVES THE WAY TO PEACEFUL CONVERSATION

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

In a more innocent era, 8-year-old Joe Dallas gave little thought to going to a movie theatre by himself. There he began to be exploited and abused by a group of paedophiles, leading him into pornography and a destructive path of sexual fantasies. At 15, he began a series of clandestine meetings with men he met through an underground newspaper. A year later, Joe's life transformed - at least temporarily - when he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. For several years, Dallas stayed away from sexual immorality until he was no longer able to resist the lure.

"I decided I was entitled," Dallas says. "I was tired of saying no." He began regularly visiting pornographic shops, engaging in clandestine relationships with men he met in gay bars, and had a sexual relationship with a friend's wife. All the while he struggled with his inner turmoil. He then joined the Metropolitan Community Church, a nascent pro-homosexual church. They taught he could have it both ways: be a Christian and indulge in promiscuous sex. In 1978, Dallas became an activist on staff at MCC church. But, in 1984, Dallas realised his life revolved around a lie he had embraced which kept him out of God's will.

He repented and sought a new circle of godly friends and returned to his old church where he found compassion and emotional healing for his soul. He realised he had opened himself up to destructive influences which had affected his personal relationship with God. His return to the fold involved discipleship. "I had to learn to turn away from the lure of lust," Dallas says. "With a robust prayer life and applying myself to study and understanding the Word, temptations towards my old way of life became less and less." Dallas, and his wife, Renee, have now been married for 31 years and have two grown sons. Dallas and his wife serve on the board of *ReStory Ministries*.

The ministry equips churches to care compassionately for people affected by issues around sexuality and gender. Dallas has authored several books, including his latest, *Speaking of Homosexuality*. "No one is more well qualified..." says *ReStory's* Ginger Haan.



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that He can defeat the lying spirit leading people into homosexuality. PRAY that many may follow Dallas' example by God's power.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that Dallas responded to the promptings of God's Spirit. PRAY many may do likewise.



NOVEMBER PRAY for those who attend "gay-friendly" churches that God's Word will compel them to Christ.

DAY 15

SAT-7 LAUNCHES RESOURCES FOR UK

Revelation 7:9-12

SAT-7 UK has launched an online video portal featuring a wealth of Arabic and Farsi programme clips to help those who are working with people from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in their local communities. The video clips are presented by Arab and Iranian theologians and answer some fundamental questions of the Christian faith, such as, "Who is Jesus?" "What is sin?" and "What is the Trinity?"

Continued war and instability across the MENA region has seen thousands of men, women and children, crying out for peace and for a home as they've been displaced across Europe. As refugee families have come to the UK, the Church's tradition of working together to offer welcome and care has continued.

SAT-7 UK has been working with partners to define which of our resources could be most helpful to refugees and to Arabic and Farsi-speaking communities and ministries. One of them is Liverpool Cathedral, which has a ministry to Iranian people who live in the city. Revd Mohammad Eghtedarian, Curate for Liverpool Cathedral and their SEPAS Services for Persian speakers, said: "SAT-7 could be a great resource for local churches across the UK. In my experience, many churches are dealing with people from the Middle East who are hungry for the Good News of Christ. As language is a big barrier to communicate to such people, the SAT-7 programmes are and excellent resources to fill the gap."

We have also produced an Arabic language resource, Bedtime Stories, as a welcome gift to Arabic-speaking refugee families. Our hope is that these resources will equip organisations and individuals working with people from the Arab and Persian world, particularly those who are seeking to understand more about the Christian faith. To access the video portals and to sign up to hear about new resources, visit the sat7uk.org/community web page. *SAT-7 News*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for this hugely important initiative providing Arabic and Farsi-speaking refugees with relevant Christian resources. PRAY for the many UK churches, organisations and individuals working with refugees, that God will bless and strengthen their ministries.



OCTOBER Thank God for the Arab and Iranian theologians, Bible teachers and leaders who share their spiritual wisdom through SAT-7 programmes. PRAY that many refugees not only in the UK, but all over Europe, may have access to these resources.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for the vision and fruitful ministry of SAT-7 over the years. PRAY that the Middle East and North Africa may come alive with the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE SIGNS OF OUR TIMES REVEAL THE PERPETUAL PROBLEM OF MANKIND: SIN!

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every purpose under heaven.”

“I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...”

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 and 10-11

“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying: ‘Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.’ He who sits in heaven shall laugh.”

Psalms 2:1-4

SOCIETY IS BROKEN: EVERYONE DOES THEIR OWN THING

Once, when asked about his religious feelings, Frank Sinatra summed them up in the following words: “First: I believe in you and me. I’m like Albert Schweitzer and Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein in that I have a respect for life - in any form. I believe in nature, in the birds, the sea, the sky, in everything I can see or that there is real evidence for. If these things are what you mean by God, then I believe in God.” An unsurprising reply coming from the singer who gave us, *I Did It My Way*. Sadly, of course, Sinatra was but reflecting the feelings of the vast majority of people in our Western World today: “I will do things my way – I have no need for God or the constraints of religious morals, in fact I positively detest them!”

Of course, this is not a new phenomenon - this rebellious spirit goes right back to the Garden of Eden. Throughout history we have seen mankind defying God and saying: “Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords (or shackles) from us.” Following in the footsteps of the Enlightenment fathers, who laid the foundation for the godless and bloody French Revolution, Friedrich Nietzsche famously stated “God is Dead”, and declared Christianity, “fostered a kind of slave morality that suppressed the desires contained in the human will.”

In Nietzsche’s day there was still much of the Christian heritage restraining society. But, as Dr Joe Boot in his book, *The Mission of God*, states, “What is left of this [Puritan] heritage has been disappearing extremely rapidly in the past two generations and, as a result, our culture is slipping into a complete loss of restraint, gripped by ideologies with pagan roots that promote a way of physical, moral and social death.” The casting off of God’s “shackles”, is now the very essence of our culture!

CULTURE HATES GOD: HIS WORD, HIS WAYS, HIS PEOPLE

Whereas it was the intellectual leaders of the French Revolution who hated God and roused the mobs to achieve their aims through violent means, today it is the ordinary man or woman who display their anger towards God, often in less than peaceful ways. How else can we understand the reaction of listeners to

street preachers who call for police to arrest them on spurious charges? During the Opening Ceremony at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, the US LGBTQ activist and Freestyle skier, Gus Kenworthy sent the gentle, and staunchly Christian, US Vice President Mike Pence a not-so-subtle message: "Eat your heart out, Mike Pence," he shouted over the microphone. Compare such an outburst and its reaction to occasions when Christians have merely posted Bible passages to Facebook. Kenworthy receives praise, Christians have lost their jobs. **While it is acceptable for people to swear and use all sorts of profane language at work and in other public places, Christians are forbidden from talking about God. Why is this?**

There is one quite simple yet sad answer: modern man hates to hear God's Word because it lays bare his sinful rebellion against His Maker, and he responds not with repentance, but with deep-rooted ANGER at the message and the messenger.

Of course anger is what happens when we lose control of our emotions. It's a sign that a person is out of their depth that, somewhere deep down, they're not really sure of the position they've adopted. Drew Willmot commenting on *Premier*, says, "Psychologically, when we don't want to be challenged by something, we need to convince ourselves that it is ridiculous. We need to alienate it and dispose of it. So we start using extreme words like stupid or irrational, which help us distance ourselves from the challenge." He adds, "By reducing a worldview 'ad absurdum', we don't need to worry about its potential truth. We wrap ourselves in protective labels."

So the anger and contempt shown towards everything Christian is really a sign of deep insecurity. It is a weakness that can only (temporarily) be dealt with by joining the vociferous majority who do likewise. In doing so rebellious man avoids confronting the Truth. But, sooner or later it may come back to haunt him!

REBELLION: CAUSING CALAMITOUS LOSS TO OUR SOCIETY

As a result of turning its back on God, Western society has lost its essential point of reference. In the past a majority of people, even though unrepentant in their sins, still had a sense of awe and respect for God. They understood, almost intuitively, that God is the owner and centre of the Universe, not they themselves. Vast segments of the British population had some knowledge of the Bible which they were able to bring to mind in time of need. Consequently there was a common point of reference giving individuals and society at large a consensus in terms of what is right and wrong, on the nature of the family, individual responsibility, and respect for others and their rights.

What are we seeing in Western society today? Three things are most worrying:

- 1) **Firstly**, with God banished from the equation, the individual has become the centre of his or her universe. There is an over-emphasis on SELF. The call to arms is: "Liberate the authentic you from the bondage of tradition and become the you that you want to be!" This attitude, has led, over the past two generations, to the rise of countless pressure groups who see themselves as the victims of centuries of Judeo-Christian

oppression, constraining the free expression of their personal lusts and desires. In this cult of victimhood, God, the Christian moral system, and anyone perceived to deny them the space they covet has become the ENEMY. Thus Feminism sees the “abusive” male as the enemy, the LGBTQ community demonises anyone who disagrees with and doesn’t “celebrate” their behaviour; or the pro-choice lobby spouts hatred towards all those who stand up for the life of the unborn child.

How can a society denying the fountain of love, while fostering enmity towards others, ever hope to be a society where LOVE prevails? Impossible! We are on a fast-track to self-destruction and the driver is the devil himself!

2) **Secondly**, we have reached a stage where the proponents of the new morality, in all its forms, are claiming the moral high ground. They see themselves as the ones who are acting to restore equality and promote diversity; they are the ones who support freedom to “love” in all its flavours; and they are the ones who are seeking the “progress” of society. They see themselves as the heroes who need to be celebrated, and society has accepted them as such.

In this environment, Judeo-Christian values are seen not merely as wrong in the eyes of the “progressives”, but as positively dangerous. Many brand the Bible as a dangerous book spouting hatred, while they claim the traditional family is oppressive and children must be liberated and protected from the unhealthy environment their parents have imposed.

Sadly these attitudes are widespread among our institutions: Parliament, the Education system, the Judiciary, the Press, and even the Church! This horrifying reality is vividly illustrated by views expressed by the Lord Justice James Munby, who is President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales. He claims the Courts need to address the new ‘complexity’ of family life, indicating his view that there is no more any ideal family structure. Indeed he welcomes the new diversity of family structures and believes it should be applauded. If this is the thinking of the senior family judge in England and Wales, then heaven help us!

Underlying the decisions of the family courts is the radical ideology that the traditional family lacks moral legitimacy because it stifles the expression of free will.

3) **Thirdly**, the consequences of a wholesale departure from the moral standards, which were once the mainstay of our culture over many centuries, are becoming more and more visible. Embittered, disenfranchised men; victimised women, ever dissatisfied with their lot; a generation of fatherless children (often having three or four different “fathers”) with deep-rooted insecurities; and growing numbers of individuals who are not even sure of their biological gender! We have dismantled our founding Judeo-Christian principles and, in doing so, have created a society at war with itself.

We look around and see lobby groups - who at present fight a common cause against traditional morality, begin to view each other as “enemies” when each group seeks to impose their own

rights in this me-centred culture! ! So, for instance, fervent feminists protest the transgender claim that men, who feel they are women, really are. In turn such feminists are denounced as TERFs — trans-exclusionary radical feminists. Those who war against God cannot help but war among themselves.

How Can Christians Respond to the Challenge of the Age?

The default Christian response to the new morals, particularly to the sexual revolution, has been to routinely list the “perversions” and the “diseases” of the lifestyle, whilst lobbing Bible verses when challenged. Our indignation is, of course, righteous. But does it elicit a positive response? By and large it only serves to harden attitudes and hearts to the Gospel.

The modern world knows clearly what Christians are against, but does it know what we stand for?

So, what should be our strategy? Naturally our first response must be to engage in prayer on behalf of our people. To cry out to God for revival! But we must also realise that we are failing because we are not thinking, as former Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Bristol, Glynn Harrison, says in an article based on his book, *A Better Story*.

What Harrison says is most insightful: “The sexual revolution is not held in the popular imagination as a list of facts - it is held as a story. It is a story about the freeing of the human spirit from the stifling shame of Christian tradition. It contains sub-plots with heroes who had the courage to swim against the tide of hatred and prejudice, and villains who tried to bring them down...” Stories are infinitely more compelling than facts, but this one is already failing to deliver on its promises.

Against a compelling story, our traditional strategy fails to work. “We have to tell a better story,” Harrison posits. Our “better story” is that God has not left us alone. “In Scripture he not only reveals who he is, he shows us who we are as well: he speaks our identity to us. And so, in the Christian narrative, the nurturing of personal identity is cradled in the knowledge that we have been created, male and female, in the image and likeness of God himself,” Harrison adds. *You can listen to Glen Scrivener & Glynn Harrison discussing this at speaklife.org.uk/2017/04/21/tep157/*

Our “better story” continues by showing that we live in a broken, fallen world. “Our dislocation from God has taken its toll in disordered appetites, desires and confusion... But the good news is that we are equally welcome in the big-tent hospitality of the Grace of God. **God’s grace always accepts us as we are but never leaves us as we are,” he says.**

How are we going to tell God’s “better story” next time we speak to LGBTQ persons? Remember, God “has placed eternity in the heart of man.” As man discovers the futility, destruction and meaninglessness of his choices, we need to be ready to show that only in allowing God His rightful place can we hope to find meaning to life. But, if our words go repeatedly unheeded, we must also be ready to proclaim the dreadful reality that, “He who sits in heaven shall laugh...”

Yours in the fellowship of Jesus Christ,

Ian Milmine

DAY 16

ENEMY SEEKS TO KILL, BUT GOD SAVES

Genesis 50:15-21

There is always the risk of an attack on Christians or on the church, even in Europe. Recently the church in Vienna was infiltrated by an enemy of the Gospel who poisoned Maria's food during a fellowship meal. She was hospitalised but has since recovered. The persecution hasn't stopped Maria from forging ahead, convinced that it's worth the risk to watch God bring former enemies of Christ together. "Recently I was in the Vienna church for baptism, and afterwards everybody was just hanging out," Hartsill recounted. "This guy came up and said he was from Iran. He said: 'You know Iranians and Americans have not always gotten along, but I want to get a picture with you because you're my brother in Christ now.'

An Afghan guy heard this and said: 'Well, Afghans don't always get along with either of you. In fact, if you, me and this guy were in our home countries, we'd probably be looking at each other down a gun barrel. He's Sunni and I'm Shi'ite, but we're brothers in Christ.' A Vietnamese guy was playing the violin for worship but stopped to join us. He said: 'Well, Vietnam has had problems with the U.S. too...' So we got this picture - we're all brothers in Christ. These men who were once angry don't have to fight anymore because they've found peace in Jesus.' 'We're now no longer enemies, but brothers in Christ'

God has continued to bless the church plant. In November 2015, 22 former Muslims - all Iranians and Afghans - were baptised. In April 2016, another 18 Iranians and Afghans were baptised as well as a local Austrian doctor who has become a strong supporter of the new church. Nineteen more baptisms were celebrated on May 28, 2016, including Vietnamese, Afghans and Iranians. In August 2016, 18 former Muslims followed Christ in believer's baptism. In December 2016, 16 were baptised, and in March 2017, 11 more. "This new work started from zero and has seen 94 adult baptisms in less than two years," Hartsill said. "Nearly all of the new converts are immigrants from Iran, Afghanistan or Vietnam - places where missionaries cannot freely enter. The growth is the result of these new believers sharing their newfound faith with others from their people groups." The growing church is looking for space to expand, and the Hartsills ask for PRAYER for the work God is doing in Vienna.

Roger Hartsill, Nicole Leigh, Baptist Press; Joel News



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE God who is certainly fulfilling His purposes. PRAY for this new Vienna church.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God that former enemies are now brothers in Christ. PRAY for the Prince of Peace to be known and worshipped among immigrant communities.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Satan will always seek to stop the advancement of Christ's Kingdom, but he is a defeated foe. PRAY for one victory after another.

DAY 17

ANGLICANS DEFEND THE GOSPEL

2 Timothy 4:1-5

More than 1,900 delegates, meeting in Jerusalem, from a gathering of Anglicans from around the world, known as the *Global Anglican Future Conference* (GAFCON), have released an open letter committing to “defend the gospel against threats from without and within,” and calling upon others to do so as well. The letter notes that in these modern times, there are not only those who actively reject Christ and push ungodly agendas, but those who profess the name of Christ while holding to unorthodox and dangerous doctrines.

“Secularism seeks to exclude God from all public discourse and to dismantle the Christian heritage of many nations. This has been most obvious in the redefinition of what it means to be human, especially in the areas of gender, sexuality and marriage,” the open letter states. It also cites the ongoing devaluation of the human race through abortion advocacy and euthanasia, which it characterises as **“an assault upon human life uniquely created in the image of God. Militant forms of religion and secularism are hostile to the preaching of Christ and persecute his people,”** the delegates note. The letter also points to the problem of prosperity preaching infiltrating the churches, as well as theological revisionism.

“Tragically, there has been a failure of leadership in our churches to address these threats to the gospel of God,” the letter states. In particular they lament that American Episcopalians and some Anglicans have turned their backs on a 1998 resolution affirming Christ’s teachings in Matthew 19 that God created marriage to be between a man and a woman. “Slogans such as ‘walking together’ and ‘good disagreement’ are dangerously deceptive in seeking to persuade people to accommodate false teaching in the Communion,” they opine. The delegates outline that while they grieve, they have not lost hope in potential reforms. The group says they have committed afresh to proclaiming the gospel to the nations. “In faith and obedience, we joyfully recommit ourselves to the faithful proclamation of the gospel,” the letter reads, pointing to nine strategies which were discussed at the conference, including church planting efforts, global mission partnerships and an intercessor’s fellowship. Other efforts cited included, being a voice for the voiceless, advocating for the oppressed, protecting women and children, caring for the poor, and reaching out to those persecuted for the name of Christ. *Christian News*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for those who stand up for Truth in the Anglican Communion. Bless them.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that the Anglican Communion is growing where Truth is upheld, contrary to those who follow the agendas of the world. PRAY for victory.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God they reaffirm the centrality of Gospel. PRAY for the saving message to go forth.

DAY 18

ENEMIES TOGETHER AT BELFAST CHURCH

Ephesians 2:14-18

The war between Republican Catholics and Unionist Protestants ended in Northern Ireland 20 years ago, but a wall still separates them, and a gate between the two still closes every night to keep the communities apart. True peace remains elusive. *New Life City Church* sits squarely on Belfast's so-called 'peace barrier'. A part of its building is in Catholic Belfast, and part of it in Protestant Belfast. It welcomes those from both communities, including those who were once mortal enemies. "Among those coming into our church regularly Sunday after Sunday are those who are from terrorist backgrounds who at one time would have wanted to kill each other," says *New Life City Church* Senior Pastor, Jack McKee. "There was a time when I would have killed some of them - I was a soldier."

McKee says, "Parts of Belfast today are still wracked by violence, drug abuse, and broken families. Members of Protestant and Catholic paramilitary groups have morphed into gangs running drugs and protection rackets, and killing anyone who gets in their way. The paramilitary organisations still exist and still control those communities."

It's one thing to preach peace and reconciliation. It's another thing to put your church on the borderline between forces that want to kill each other. McKee's church, which he pastors with his son Johnny, sits like a fortress in the middle of it all. Most of the ex-paramilitaries at *New Life City Church* joined the fighting as teenagers, and some spent the prime of their lives in prison. "Most of my family had been in prison," said Ryan Smith, who joined the conflict when he was 14 until he joined the Army at 16.

Today, Ryan, Pastor Jack and former paramilitary members of his church carry the cross down the middle of the Shankill Road, in what was once a war zone, lifting the cross as the only hope for this divided community. Former Irish Republican Army member Tom McCarthy said, "Today I carried the cross because I come from republican west Belfast and today is my personal token of reconciliation to the unionist loyalist community and to literally raise that cross above that gun." *CBN News*



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that the Gospel changes enemies into brothers. PRAY that this testimony will impact many as they march down Shankill Road.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God for the vision and valour of Pastor Jack to put his church in the middle of the hatred. PRAY that more former enemies will find peace in Christ.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God, He has taken away hatred and murderous desires. "There is None Like Him."

DAY 19

IT'S ALL GOD TENNESSEE 'REVIVAL'

Ezekiel 37:4-10

CBN News interviewed evangelist D.R. Harrison about a spiritual awakening in Greenville, Tennessee, where hundreds have received Christ. Harrison said he originally was scheduled to preach a one-week 'revival', beginning April 15th at the *Greystone Freewill Baptist Church*. He said, "In week three the crowds increased to standing room only." Harrison explained how he and the pastor began to pray because they were running out of room at the church, and God provided a large tent through a North Carolina man. "It seats between 1,250 and 1,500 people. This revival in Tennessee reminded him of the Burlington, North Carolina Revival of 2016, where both he and his wife accepted Christ" he said.

Jesus set him free of alcoholism and addiction to pornography and rescued his wife from a life of being a stripper. "When God came on the scene, he took it all that away, and we give God all the glory for what he's done in our lives" Harrison said. "And I can't PRAISE him enough. I wish I could shout it to the entire world that if Jesus can save a drunk like me, and if Jesus can save a stripper if you will, like my wife was ...if he can change our lives, he can change anybody's life!" he exclaimed. And now, he told *CBN News*, "God has just moved and He's speaking to hearts and He's putting marriages back together and changing lives, and no man can make that happen," he explained. "It's all God," he added.

Harrison told *CBN News* that the message God is giving him is simple: "When God came to me and saved me two years ago. He took an old drunk, just a drunk preacher's kid" Harrison said. "I'd been thrown out by the brethren, thrown out by family. I had no hope, no peace, no joy" he continued. "But Jesus never walked out on me. Jesus loved me just as I was. It's all about Jesus... Jesus will take you just as you are. No matter what you've done, Jesus loves you, and that's the message for this day and this hour that needs to be preached all over the world," he continued. Services are held Monday through Friday, starting at 7 pm, at the big tent located at 1005 Quaker Knob Road, Chuckey, Tennessee. In the first three months, since April, more than 200 people had accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. *CBN News*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that, in an environment where secular humanism is destroying trust in God, He is still proving His Word has power to save. PRAY that this awakening may have lasting impact.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for lifting the Harrisons out of a life of vice and godlessness, bringing them into the saving and transforming grace of Christ, and fruitful ministry in His Kingdom. PRAY they may always look to Him.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He brings seasons of blessing. PRAY that this may glorify Him and not man.

DAY 20

TIDE TURNING FOR THE US JUDICIARY

Isaiah 33:20-22

Christian business owners in the USA can move forward with guarded hope in their battle to practice their faith convictions, in the wake of recent Supreme Court decisions. When the Court ruled in June, in favour of a Colorado cake artist, it sent a promising - though not yet conclusive - signal to others whose businesses have been harmed or threatened by state or local government actions. In their 7-2 decision, the justices ruled the Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated the religious free exercise clause of the First Amendment and demonstrated in its action "religious hostility" toward *Masterpiece Cakeshop* owner, Jack Phillips, a Christian who had declined to design and decorate a cake in celebration of the wedding of two men. Then, on June 25, the Supreme Court annulled a lower-court ruling against florist, Barronelle Stutzman, a Southern Baptist, who refused to design flowers for a same-sex wedding.

The Supreme Court's actions in June offer a mix of optimism and uncertainty, Southern Baptist religious freedom specialist Travis Wussow said. "It is encouraging that the court sided with Jack Phillips in Masterpiece and ruled definitively the religious hostility he experienced was a violation of the First Amendment" said Wussow. "However, the court declined to rule on several of the broader questions posed by Jack Phillips in his case, including whether or not the creation of a wedding cake constitutes speech under the First Amendment and whether the state can therefore compel that speech." Wussow said he was "optimistic that artists working in the wedding industry will therefore get a fair day in court and can't be treated with hostility in the process."

Jim Campbell, senior counsel for the *Alliance Defending Freedom* (ADF) says that the ruling "made it clear the government must both tolerate and respect the religious belief that marriage is the union of a man and a woman." This comes as President Trump announces his appointment to the Supreme Court of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who is known as "a judge who respects the Constitution as written, refusing to legislate from the bench." Democrats, in Opposition, fiercely oppose Kavanaugh's nomination. Some say this may ultimately lead to the Supreme Court reversing the 1973 "Roe vs Wade" judgement that brought in abortion on demand to the USA.

Baptist Press



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that the Supreme Court has upheld the right for Christians not to be coerced into doing things against their conscience.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that this ruling makes it clear that government must respect the belief that marriage is the union of a man and a woman. PRAY this may cause change in the present hostile environment towards Christians.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that we are seeing change in US court's decisions. PRAY that the new Justice may judge with godly wisdom.

DAY 21

DIFFICULTIES CHRISTIANS IN KYRGYZSTAN

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

The vast majority of Kyrgyzstan's estimated 700,000 Christians belong to the Russian Orthodox Church but – by the grace of God – there is a small but growing number of Christian converts from a Muslim background. In 2015 these were said to number around 19,000. However, converts face pressure from family, friends and the wider community. The Constitution officially guarantees freedom of religion, but proposed new laws impose stringent registration rules, and all religious literature must be approved. So it is unsurprising that a church in Kyrgyzstan, home to many former Muslims, has been ordered to cease its Sunday worship. A local source told *World Watch Monitor* (WWM) that services at the church, led by a convert from Islam, have been interrupted twice in the last few months by a group of people consisting of local officials, representatives of the Prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, assistants to the local imam and former colleagues from the school at which the pastor used to teach.

On both occasions, members of the group demanded the service be stopped and told them: "You will not be able to live and carry out your ministry here." They left, saying to the congregation: "We will come here again and again to disturb and persecute you in every possible way" the source said. For more than a decade the church has been led by Pastor Miran. The leadership of the school where he worked threatened to fire him after they learned of his conversion and his role as a church leader. He was also accused of child abuse by the school and jailed for six months. The source said no lawyer would defend him at his trial because they were afraid of falling foul of the security services. No witnesses were present in court and the charge against him was not proven.

Since his release, Pastor Miran, a father of five, has been unable to find paid work. According to the WWM source, local Muslims say of him: "If Miran could betray his 'native pure Islam', maybe he could do other bad things too." Details about cases, such as Pastor Miran's, remain vague due to the sensitive security situation facing those involved, and the potential for repercussions against them. But God is at work, and the *Joshua Project* estimates the growth in numbers of evangelicals in Kyrgyzstan is a healthy 4.3% per annum. *World Watch Monitor; Revival Media*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for the thousands of Muslim converts to Christ in Kyrgyzstan. PRAY for pastor Miran and his church that they may be protected from evil and see God's hand of blessing.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that, despite persecution, there is steady growth of Christian converts. PRAY this may continue and for the people to see changed lives.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Christian converts are ready to stand up for Christ. PRAY blessing on them.

DAY 22

FINISH THE GREAT COMMISSION BY 2030

Psalm 115:1-9

Church leaders gathered last November at Wittenberg, where, 500 years before, Luther nailed his 95 thesis to the Castle Church door. They were there to launch a new challenge to fulfil the Great Commission, and make a commitment to what they call the FINISH DECLARATION, abridged as follows:

“We commit to FIND the rest of the unengaged, unreached people groups around the world and to engage them through denominational and organisational platforms for the purposes of cultural understanding, missional strategies, Bible translation, evangelism, church planting, and discipleship. We will strive to have a Bible in every language and a missionary presence in the remaining 3,000 unengaged, unreached people groups.”

“We commit to INTERCEDE throughout the entire Body of Christ for harmony in the Church, humility before Christ, healing of the sick, and harvest of the lost. We will study ourselves to death and pray ourselves back to life again! We will pray to know our part in God’s heart and our role in God’s goal. We will ask our Lord to send a sweeping, weeping, reaping revival like this world has never witnessed before. We commit to NETWORK for synergising and mobilising the entire Body of Christ toward the fulfilment of the Great Commission...” **“We commit to INVEST our time, thoughts, talents, temples and treasures into unengaged, unreached people groups and into the Kingdom of God worldwide. We choose to not duplicate the efforts of our fellow servants and will seek to spend our God-given resources wisely. We will encourage Christ-followers everywhere to move from criticising to complementing, from complaining to connecting and from competing with each other to completing the Great Commission together, as long as God gets the glory!”**

“We commit to SEND missionaries not only to regions where the Gospel is, but into regions where the Gospel is not, in order to consistently move toward the finish line. We will measure our local church’s success not only by seating capacity but by the sending capacity. We have moved from the West going to the Rest, to the Best around the world going to the Rest of the world. The mission field has become a mission force!”

“We commit to HARVEST together until the last person has heard the saving Gospel of Christ. We will motivate our leaders to run toward the finish line and mobilise our churches to grow and go and not to dry and die! We collectively cast vision to the ends of the earth and establish a goal to FINISH by 2030!” *Global Church Network, Christian Telegraph*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for this purposeful Declaration. Though we cannot time-limit God’s purposes, **PRAY** for the fulfilment of the Great Commission.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that He is in control of history. **PRAY** and work for the hastening of the Return of Jesus.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God for unity of purpose among the Declaration signatories. **PRAY** that “we may be one.”

DAY 23

GOD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDED THE KEY!

Matthew 17:24-27

After a West African woman began to follow Jesus, her Muslim husband often beat her because of her newfound faith. Steadfastly, she maintained her quiet witness as she served him, all the while praying to God for his salvation. The woman wanted to attend a week-long church meeting away from home. She meekly asked her husband if she could attend. Predictably, the man exploded in anger: "A whole week? Who would cook his food? Clean his house?" He told her she should focus on Islam and forget the Christian church. He beat her harshly once again.

In spite of her husband's violent response, she felt God's leading to attend this meeting, which would nurture her growth and provide needed fellowship with other women. The man was so upset, after she left, he locked up the house and declared to the neighbours that his wife would never enter his home again. To add a dramatic emphasis to his point, he threw the house key into the river as he headed to his girlfriend's house for the week.

On her way home from the conference the woman stopped by the local market. She planned to have a hearty meal ready for her husband when he came home from Friday prayers. She had no idea her husband had already locked her out of her home for good. After she got home, she thought it strange the house was locked up tightly. She wanted to start preparing the meal for her husband, so she borrowed a pot from her neighbour and began to clean the fish she had just bought. When she cut open the fish, a key fell out of its belly. Puzzled, she examined it and remarked to her neighbour that the key looked similar to her own house key. She tried it in the lock, and it worked! She opened up the house, cleaned it, and got her husband's supper ready to wait for him.

As her husband walked home from the mosque, he was furious to see his house had been opened and a fire was burning in the outdoor kitchen. Thinking perhaps a neighbour had helped his wife bust open the door, he examined the door and the lock, but nothing seemed amiss. When he demanded to know how she got back into their house, she told him the story of the key in the fish's belly. Stunned, he didn't say a word. The following night he told his wife he wanted to attend church with her. After the Sunday morning church service, the man asked if he could speak with the pastor privately. He told him the amazing story and said, "I want to serve the God of the Christians. He is the One who knows and has power to do what no one else can." *SIM; Joel News International*



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for such miraculous provision for this woman of faith and PRAYer.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God that He found a way to bring this angry husband to faith in Christ. PRAY that they may together be strong witnesses in their community.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He is not outdone. PRAY for faithful wives who persevere and receive answers.

DAY 24

NIGERIA MUSLIM IMAM HID CHRISTIANS

Psalm 119:113-117

On Saturday, June 23 and Sunday June 24, 11 villages in Plateau State, Nigeria, were attacked by hundreds of armed men, reportedly Fulani cattle herders. The gang opened fire: it is believed some 200 Christians were killed; Then the raiders destroyed and set fire to the villages. This was the latest wave of violence to hit Nigeria's central region, where farming communities and nomadic cattle herders often clash: usually over access to land and grazing rights. The herders are ethnic Fulani and mostly Muslim, while the farmers are mostly Christian from the Berom ethnic group. A report from 2016 suggested Nigeria's pastoral conflict was the cause of more deaths that year than Boko Haram.

Some Christian families escaped from the gunmen to a mainly Muslim village nearby, where a local imam, seeing hundreds of desperate, frightened families running into his village, decided to risk his life to save theirs. He took in around 262 people, hiding women and children in his home, and taking the men to the mosque. The armed attackers stormed into the village in pursuit of the Christians, confronting the imam and threatening to burn down his house and mosque. To everyone's amazement the herdsman left – but then set two nearby churches on fire. The imam told the BBC he wanted to help because 40 years ago Christians in the area had allowed Muslims to build the mosque. "They had freely given over the land to the Muslim community" he said. It was the first time he had experienced such "an ugly incident" in all the years of Muslims living in a neighbouring village to the Christian farmers.

Those whose lives were saved by the imam expressed their gratitude and relief. "Ever since they took us into the mosque, not once did they ask us to leave, not even for them to pray" said the local chief. "They provided dinner and lunch for us and we are grateful." The villagers stayed with the imam five days; and have since moved to a camp for displaced people.

More than 2,000 people are now living there, and others are living with relatives and friends. Those who fled to the mosque cannot return to their village, as there is no security presence there and their homes have been destroyed. *Barnabas Fund; BBC; CBN; MiMGhana.com*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for the generosity and bravery of the Imam. PRAY that his Muslim community may know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that the Christians had shown generosity and love 40 years ago and that this was etched in the Imam's memory. PRAY for healing.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He has power to intervene. PRAY earnestly for an end to these dreadful conflicts.

DAY 25

WORSHIP BRING BUDDHIST TO CHRIST

Exodus 15:1-2

Pavan (not his real name) grew up feeling unsettled in his destiny. As the firstborn son in his family, he would have to follow in his father's footsteps and become a Buddhist monk. But Pavan had an inner fear that haunted him: he was afraid of dying. "There was no peace. There was no meaning in life," Pavan said in an interview in Nepal. "It compelled me to ask the question, 'What am I here for? And for how long? And what happens after I leave this earth?'" He didn't have answers, so he turned to local religious leaders for guidance. When he voiced his concerns, Buddhist monks tried to assuage his fears by telling him that it was natural to go through storms. "You may have to go through lonely places," they counselled. "You may have to go a very dangerous way. But do not be afraid. Just keep continuing. Carry on your journey."

But Pavan wasn't buying into the "keep calm and carry on" mantra. Buddhist teaching says some people are born into suffering, live in suffering and die in suffering. This way of understanding existence seemed hopeless to Pavan. What if his destiny was defined by continual suffering? The turning point in Pavan's story happened deep in the jungle when he went for a walk with a friend. As they walked, his friend starting singing and asked him to close his eyes and listen to the words. Pavan thought it a bit strange, but he obliged. As he listened, a sense of peace overcame him. Along the way, his friend shared the Gospel while explaining the meaning behind the songs. His friend told him if he received Jesus as his Saviour, he'd have freedom - spiritual peace and eternal security.

"Thinking nothing about my family or any other thing, I just decided to follow Jesus," Pavan said. "This is what I'm looking for. This is what I need. So, I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour. My heart filled with joy I never experienced before," he said. "I was so delighted. I forgot all of my questions and all my fears, everything. My whole life was completely changed then." But, while believing in Jesus gave Pavan spiritual peace with God, it didn't shield him from persecution. His entire village turned against him. He faced humiliation and danger, but he trusted that nothing could separate him from Jesus. Pavan remained faithful despite many days of painful trials. He went on to plant churches, and he now pastors a church where music is an integral part of the worship services. In Pavan's church, worship songs continue to bring people to a closer understanding of Jesus, just like they did for him. *Baptist Press*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for Pavan's Christian friend whose worship songs opened his heart.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that Pavan was filled with peace through Christ and is now leading others in joyful song.



NOVEMBER PRAY for the 500 million Buddhists around the world, that many may know Pavan's joy.

DAY 26

JESUS LEADS ILLITERATE SOMALI HERDSMAN

Acts 9:3-6

Aaden* was a Somali herdsman with little education: he couldn't read or write. But when he was out herding his animals, he had visions of Jesus. His son, Hassan*, explains. "In these visions, Christ appeared to him and said, 'It's me, Isa. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.'" When Aaden decided to follow 'Isa', the Arabic name for Jesus, he faced horrific persecution. Hassan says, "My father was beaten and even slashed with a machete. When the attacks did not work, his family and the community rejected him, pulled away from him. Nobody wanted to talk to him and when they did, all he got was verbal abuse. Eventually we were both thrown out."

Most Somali Christians keep their faith completely secret. Islam is an important part of Somali identity, and for a Somali person to decide to leave Islam and follow Jesus is seen as a huge betrayal: and one that could lead to immediate execution. The self-proclaimed militant Islamic group, al-Shabaab, has stated publicly it 'wants Somalia free of all Christians'. If they find someone who has become a Christian, the militants will often kill them on the spot. At least 23 suspected Christians were murdered in Somalia last year. Radical Islam is growing across the region, and if the secret faith of our brothers and sisters is discovered, they can face attack and exile from their friends and neighbours, and even their own families.

When Hassan decided to become a Christian, he didn't experience the levels of violent persecution that his father did, but he still faced rejection and insults. "People told me I had become like my father. 'You are a 'kafir' (infidel)! You don't deserve to be among us! I did not have any friends. I was very lonely. I had no one to talk to. Although I want to tell the world that I am a Christian, I don't because I fear for my life. But God makes it possible for me to survive this isolation."

One of the ways Open Doors works to support isolated believers like Hassan is through the radio, bringing light into the darkness of isolation, and helping them to keep going. These programmes are also bringing the gospel to those who may never have heard it before, even in parts of the Horn of Africa where evangelism would be impossible. *Open Doors (*names changed for security reasons)*



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE Jesus, who leads people to Himself in many ways. PRAY for Aaden and Hassan that they may grow in God's Truth and witness.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God that, in places where there are almost no believers, He is spreading the knowledge of Jesus. PRAY for the salvation of many Somalis.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He is not constrained by persecution. PRAY that the blood of Somali Christian martyrs may speak powerfully of Christ's love.

DAY 27

CHURCH THIEF STUDYING BIBLE IN PRISON

Galatians 1:13-16; 1 Timothy 1:15-16

A man who carried out a string of burglaries over Christmas: including taking communion wine from a Derby church, is now studying the Bible in prison. Derby Crown Court heard how Richard West, a 43-year-old father-of-four caused more than £12,000 of damage when he committed eight break-ins between December 25th and January 6th. He targeted the *Central United Reformed Church* through a third floor window, but unable to get into the safe, "all he could find to steal" was the wine and cakes.

His lawyer, Adam Brown, claimed his repeat offending was linked to a return to drug addiction after his marriage fell apart. Brown explained: "His heroin and crack cocaine habit saw him spending between £300 and £400 a day to feed his addiction, but since his incarceration he is now doing Bible studies and going to the chapel at the prison. "He bitterly regrets what he did and would like to apologise to the people he's affected in person. He mostly regrets the burglary at the church which he acknowledges is the worst one and the effect it has had on those there."

In its Victim Personal Statement, the church said: "It's a disgrace that a church has been broken into. We have an elderly congregation which carries out a lot of work for charity and our cleaner is now afraid to go inside alone. "This is an awful crime." Judge Jonathan Bennett sentenced West to 22 months in prison, describing him as a "one-man crime wave that caused enormous disruption". Other items West stole from different properties included roof tiles, cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, laptops and even ice cream.

Such is the positive effect of prison ministry. In another account, Peter Holloway, CEO of *Prison Fellowship* says, "I was visiting a prison with a PF group helping the chaplaincy with an Alpha course. A man took me to one side because he wanted to thank everyone in PF for what they do. He said that in their week, coming along to this was the only thing that he and his friends looked forward to and that PF and chaplaincy was a place of acceptance and "their only place of refuge". It made me think about Elijah safe in the cleft of the rock and the verse from Psalm 46, that "God is our refuge and strength". When as Christians we go in to prison, when we act as Christ would, then we can bring God's refuge to the people we meet there." *Premier News; Prison Fellowship*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for Christians who make it their duty to go into prisons to lead Bible study and services. PRAY that these particular offenders may come to a transforming knowledge of the Saviour.



OCTOBER PRAISE God that He can and does restore and save the "vilest offender." Thank Him for His grace and PRAY that our prisons may be places of salvation.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God many prisoners find "their place of refuge." PRAY many may build on the Rock.

DAY 28

BURUNDI MEDICAL MISSIONARY AWARDED

Colossians 3:23-24

A missionary surgeon to Burundi has won the first-ever \$500,000 *Gerson L'Chaim Prize* for outstanding Christian medical service. Jason Fader, whose parents were also medical missionaries, is 1 of 13 surgeons serving the 10 million people in the sub-Saharan African country. Three-quarters of the population is malnourished, making Burundi the hungriest country in the world. Fader, who grew up in Kenya, has been in Burundi since 2013. In addition to caring for about 25,000 patients a year with his team, he trains local doctors. "Jason is doing surgeries that no one else has done before in Burundi," fellow doctor, Rachel McLaughlin, said. "He's teaching medical students surgical skills and management."

He is using the prize money to create the country's first postgraduate medical training, add 48 new beds to the 172 at *Kibuye Hope Hospital*, and improve lower-limb fracture care: a crucial need in a country that travels by foot. "Literally hundreds of people will walk because of this prize," Fader said. "Thousands of people will be cared for: and tens of thousands will be helped by the doctors we train here." Fader is part of a recent resurgence of medical missionaries. Attendance at the *Global Missions Health Conference* has ballooned more than tenfold over the past 10 years. Attendance at the *Christian Community Health Fellowship* conference has quadrupled. And the *Southern Baptist Convention's* International Mission Board reported an all-time high of 300 medical missionaries on the field in 2013.

"We are truly grateful for the generosity and hospitality of the Gerson family shown through the L'Chaim prize. Not only are they genuinely interested in the well-being of the sick in rural Burundi, but they also understand the unique needs here. They have been a pleasure to work with and are blazing a trail by which I hope many will be encouraged, and in which I hope many will follow. Their generosity have already started to bare fruit in Burundi, seen through people walking again, students learning, and the hospital growing," Dr Fader said.

The Rabbi Erica and Mark Gerson L'Chaim award is the contribution of a practising Jewish couple towards effective Christian missionary medical work. *African Mission Healthcare Foundation*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE God that He moved a Jewish couple to see the potential of Christian medical work in poorer countries and to provide such huge support.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the difference this funding is making to Dr Fader's work. PRAY that God will multiply!



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that Christians provide such a large proportion of Africa's healthcare. PRAY this witness will lead many into the Kingdom.

DAY 29

“THERE’S NOTHING GOD CAN’T DO!”

Psalm 87:15-17

The Christian parents of a boy, who was part of a youth football team rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand during July, have thanked God for his rescue. Their son is sponsored through *Compassion*, a Christian children’s charity. They told the organisation: “Thank you to God who helps us to see our son very soon. We are so happy to hear that our son is out of the cave and to welcome him home. It’s the love that God gives to our family. God is great love and there’s nothing He can’t do.”

The daring rescue mission ended an 18-day ordeal that sadly claimed the life of an experienced volunteer diver, and riveted people around the world. The twelve boys and their football coach were trapped deep within the labyrinth. The rescuers proved to be real heroes, while the team coach, Ekapol Chantawong, who took the boys into the cave, refused to eat so that the boys could have his rations. Ewan McGregor, a British missionary living in Chang Rai, where the hospital the boys were taken to is located, told Premier the rescue is a miracle and people are feeling relieved and excited. “It really is a miracle and a result of prayer: and I’m just excited to hear the testimonies of the boys when they’re safe and well. In the beginning it looked hopeless after nine days without hearing anything and after that the whole story turned, from a sad story to a really great story.”

McGregor added that Christians should pray for the boys’ lives now they’ve been rescued. “My prayer is they settle back into normal life. I think they’re going to be quite well known throughout the city and across Thailand. I pray for their testimonies, and the things they say and do after this, God will use for the nation of Thailand.” Thailand is a mainly Buddhist nation with just 1% of its 68 million professing the Christian faith. *Tola Mbakwe – Premier News; BBC News*



SEPTEMBER PRAISE the Lord for the safe rescue of the 12 boys and their coach, and for the public testimony of one of the boy’s Christian parents. PRAY that he and his parents may be instruments for Christ to be known in Thailand.



OCTOBER PRAISE God for so many people willing to put their lives on the line – amidst real danger – to get the boys out of the labyrinth. PRAY that this episode may be a turning point for the Gospel in Thailand.



NOVEMBER PRAISE God that He turns sorrow into rejoicing and heartbreak into PRAISE. PRAY especially for the wife and family of the diver who lost his life that they may miraculously receive the true comfort of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 30

INDIAN TRIBE FINDS CHRIST

Daniel 7:13-14

The *International Day for the Unreached* held on May 20th was a reminder that not every tribe, tongue, and nation has access to the Gospel just yet. Ask what it means for John Pudaite, president of *Bibles For The World*, and he'll tell you it's personal for him. He came from an unreached people group himself. "In the year 1910, before the Gospel came to my people, we were known as one of the most savage head-hunting tribes in India" Pudaite says. However, one man didn't think things needed to stay that way. A 22-year-old Welsh missionary, named Watkin Roberts, sent a copy of the Gospel of John to the chiefs of the tribe. Pudaite's grandfather lived in one of the villages that got hold of one. Things didn't go exactly as planned. "That Gospel of John was in a neighbouring language, and they couldn't understand it" Pudaite explained. "They sent a message back saying 'Please sir, come and explain the meaning of this book.'"

Roberts wanted to come immediately, but British authorities wouldn't let him head into such dangerous territory. But Roberts wouldn't be stopped. "He walked seven days to get to my grandfather's village" Pudaite said. "He was only able to stay five days, and in those five days, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he found a way to share the Gospel message, the love of Jesus Christ." Thanks to his efforts, five men became followers of Christ. One of them was Pudaite's grandfather. When Roberts returned to the British, they were angry. Eventually, they kicked him out of the country altogether. But the seed of the Gospel had been planted. A change was coming. "My grandfather and the other young men carried that message of salvation through Jesus Christ all across our tribe," Pudaite says.

Within 30 years, every village of the tribe had been evangelised, no other outside missionaries were needed: and it doesn't stop there. "Our people took that message of the Gospel to the neighbouring tribes and continue to do that to this day, and that's really the roots of our ministry." Now, Pudaite wants to continue the legacy of planting the Gospel and letting it spread like a wildfire. Still, that can be easier said than done. "Most of the unreached people groups are now in very remote areas. For some reason, whether it be cultural, social, geographical or political, they remain unreached. "That task isn't impossible, but it will take unity and prayer. Pudaite thinks *Bibles For The World* has found that. *Mission Network News*



PRAY

SEPTEMBER PRAISE God for the diligence and faith of Watkin Roberts. PRAY for Pudaite and fellow workers.



WIDER

OCTOBER PRAISE God that Pudaite remains faithful to his grandfather's profession of faith. PRAY he may reach many of the unreached villages.



DEEPER

NOVEMBER PRAISE God He promised the Gospel will go into all the world. PRAY for the fulfilment.

DAY 31

CHRISTIAN TV SOWING SEEDS IN THE MENA

1 Chronicles 16:23-25

A recent viewer survey by Christian satellite and digital TV channel SAT-7 produced hundreds of testimonies, demonstrating how SAT-7 is changing perceptions towards Christianity and providing valuable support for believers across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Over 5,000 people responded to an online viewer survey, which was promoted on social media and on three of SAT-7's five channels. Viewers rated SAT-7 highly on almost all criteria including image, sound, and content quality. Although the sample was not fully representative of all SAT-7 viewers, the results provide valuable insight into SAT-7's impact. In particular, the viewer testimonies are compelling evidence that SAT-7 is succeeding in its mission of making God's love visible in the MENA. Less than 3.5 percent of the MENA are Christians and many believers are isolated, with limited access to Christian fellowship or resources in their own language. However, nearly a third of survey respondents said that SAT-7 had helped them feel connected to other believers.

"It's encouraging to hear that SAT-7 viewers are reporting that they do feel less alone thanks to our channels," says Dr Terence Ascott, SAT-7's Founder and International CEO. "We want to bridge the gap by connecting isolated believers to relevant Christian content in their own language and the global church. We do this through our quality, locally made programming and dedicated Audience Relations teams." Over 45 percent of Egyptian viewers said they felt supported, which is especially significant considering the terrorist threats and attacks Egyptian Christians have recently faced. While almost one in four viewers of SAT-7's Persian language channel said they had made a commitment to Christ. SAT-7 is also playing an important role in breaking down common misconceptions about Christianity in the MENA. Over forty percent of viewers said that SAT-7 had helped them grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

Many viewers, not from a Christian background, acknowledged that their perceptions about Christians changed after watching SAT-7 ARABIC. The channel gained popularity among non-Christians due to the simple explanations of Christian beliefs, variety and quality of the programmes broadcast: and most importantly, because the channel treats viewers from all religious backgrounds with respect.

Most believers are from Iran or Afghanistan where opportunities to hear the gospel extremely limited. "This shows satellite television can speak directly into the lives of people in the MENA who are searching for hope: many are responding!" says Dr Terence Ascott. *SAT-7 TV*



OCTOBER PRAISE God for the Gospel seeds being sown in the MENA through Christian TV.
PRAY for times of refreshing upon the MENA peoples.

65 years **Speaking life** / to a perishing world

THE HOUR OF REVIVAL ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED IN 1952
CHARITY NUMBER 232509

ONLINE

at www.speaklife.org.uk/support-us

See CAF / STEWARDSHIP / PAYPAL options
or download:

- Standing Order Form
- Gift Aid Declaration Form
- Legacy Codicil Form with Guidance

BY PHONE

Please telephone the Speak Life team on
01323 725231 during office hours and leave a
message for us to call you back if you wish to give
your credit card details.

BY POST

Please send cheques (no stamp necessary)

payable to 'Revival' to:

FREEPOST RTLA-UJBB-BBBG

The Speak Life Centre,
13 Lismore Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3AY

BY INTERNET BANKING

Bank Natwest Terminus Road, Eastbourne

Account Number 57713790

Sort Code 52-41-00

Account name Hour of Revival Association

- Please pray for the team and our outreach ministry
- Use our resources to share the Good News of Jesus
- Tell others about Speak Life Resources

SpeaklifeDaily

is available free of charge for all who wish to use it as an aid for prayer and praise. If you would like to receive a copy of SpeaklifeDaily every quarter and are not already subscribed please fill in the form below.

Title
Name
Address
Postcode
Phone
Email

Tick as appropriate

SLD14

I recommend the person above to receive the current next edition

I am the person above and wish to receive the current next edition

Fill in the above slip with your contact details and tear off this page then post in an envelope addressed to (no stamp necessary):

FREEPOST RTLA- UJBB-BBBG

The Speaklife Centre
13 Lismore Road
Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3AY

01323 725231
info@speaklife.org.uk
www.speaklife.org.uk



Speaklife

