

True Success

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. —1 Corinthians 9:19

Eddie Long's Colleagues Speak Out on Scandal

Recent public statements by megachurch pastors in response to a scandal-ridden peer reveal differing perspectives on repentance, restoration and ministerial ethics.

Last September, four men—all former members of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta—claimed the church's pastor, Eddie Long, used gifts, trips and money to coerce them into engaging in sex acts with him. Although no criminal charges were filed, Long settled with his accusers last month, leading some church leaders who had previously reserved judgment to speak out.

On June 5, fellow Atlanta pastor Creflo Dollar urged his World Changers Church to refrain from gossiping about the Long scandal and warned disgruntled New Birth members that they would not find a listening ear at his church.

“That preacher's still anointed to do what he was called to. He just had a wreck. The blood will take care of his issue just like it will take care of yours,” Dollar stated. “And I just can't believe that people would leave their preacher because he had a wreck, instead of praying for him.”

What Are Global Church Leaders Worried About?

A survey of 2,196 Protestant leaders from around the world highlighted the concerns shared by Christians in 166 countries and the divergent outlooks for the church in the Global North (Europe, North America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand) and the Global South (sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and most of Asia).

On Wednesday, the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life released the results of a survey of those invited to attend the Third Lausanne Congress of World Evangelization, a 10-day gathering of ministers and lay leaders held in October in Cape Town, South Africa. The leaders surveyed expressed agreement on theological and social issues, such as abortion, homosexuality, the authority of Scripture and the uniqueness of Christ, but leaders from the Global North and the Global South expressed differing outlooks for the future of the church in their parts of the world.

Minnesota Group Poised to Fight Gay Marriage

New York just passed its historic gay marriage law. Could Minnesota be next? Not if the Minnesota for Marriage Coalition has anything to do with it.

The coalition is a group of community and faith leaders and organizations in support of next year's vote to preserve the definition of marriage as only one man and one woman in Minnesota's constitution.

"This is exactly why we need the constitutional amendment to protect marriage in Minnesota," says Jason Adkins of the Minnesota Catholic Conference and a member of the Minnesota for Marriage Coalition. "Marriage between one man and one woman has served mankind for all of recorded history as the building block of civilization and the best institution for children."

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AP Photo/Chris Gardner

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children.”

As Adkins sees it, marriage has been radically redefined in New York, where gay marriage was imposed without a popular vote. Placing one-man, one-woman marriage in Minnesota’s Constitution, he says, ensures that only voters will ever be able to decide the meaning of marriage, not politicians.

“Those who opposed placing the amendment before the voters said it was unnecessary, but the activities in New York show differently,” says Chuck Darrell, director of communications of the Minnesota Family Council. “In fact, State Senator John Marty boasted that the Minnesota state legislature would force same-sex marriage on the people this year—just like in New York—without a vote of the people.”

The Minnesota legislature has determined to let the people decide the issue of marriage. Darrell says the Minnesota for Marriage Coalition is looking forward to a healthy debate on the amendment and trust the people of Minnesota to make the right decision on marriage in the state.

Delta Accused of Discriminating Against Christians, Jews

Delta Air Lines is under fire for the company it keeps.

The American Center for Law and Justice is outright demanding that Delta Air Lines put the kibosh on its partnership with Saudi Arabian Airlines. Why? The ACLJ says the airlines has discriminatory policies targeting Jews, Christians and women.

Under the Delta-Saudi arrangement, American Jews and non-Jews with an Israel stamp in their passport may be prohibited from flying into the country, which embraces Shariah Law and open discrimination.

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Muslims Lost in Floundering Outreach Funding

According to Joshua Project, approximately 1 percent of missions funding is given for outreach to unreached people groups. Less than 1 percent of that funding is given for Muslim evangelistic efforts. This staggering reminder comes at a time when outreach to those who claim Islam as their faith is pivotal.

Speaking from Lebanon, the president of the Crescent Project Fouad Masri spoke to Greg Yoder. He says this point in the history of outreach to Muslims is second to none: “The openness has never been this way. It’s unprecedented that people are interested in knowing about Christ. God is on the move. We’ve never seen them open for the Good News, not only in the U.S., but here.”

EXCLUSIVE: Dr. Michael Youssef Blames Church for Gay Marriage Laws

In the wake of New York passing a gay marriage bill last Friday, there are many voices crying out.

Some in the secular world—and even in the church—are celebrating. Others, like Dr. Michael Youssef, are weeping.

Although many are blaming Republicans, Youssef is pointing a bold finger directly at the church of Jesus Christ. As he sees it, the church allowed this abomination to rise up and the church is the only body on earth working to restore God's righteousness to the land.

Charisma News caught up with Youssef, founder and president of Leading The Way with Dr. Michael Youssef, a worldwide television ministry, and senior pastor of The Church of the Apostles in Atlanta, to discuss his thoughts on the gay marriage campaigns across the country and how the church should respond now.