

# The Dark Side of Megachurch Money: When Fundraising Replaces the Gospel

A growing conversation within the church today revolves around a simple but difficult question: Should [megachurch pastors](#) make money from ministry, and at what cost?

In a recent discussion on the Shawn Ryan Show, filmmaker Nathan Apffel wrestled with the tension between the biblical call to discipleship and the modern reality of running churches as institutions.

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On the surface, many agree that it is not wrong for pastors or ministers to be compensated. After all, buildings require maintenance, technology needs to be managed and congregations expect basic comforts like air conditioning, child care and security. “I don’t think it’s a bad thing,” Ryan said. “I think it is a good thing that people congregate together in the name [of Christ]. People want to be comfortable when they worship.”

However, underneath these practical needs lies a deeper concern for Apffel. According to his perspective, no matter how well-intentioned a pastor begins, the financial pressures of sustaining a church often reshape the message being preached.

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A new pastor, full of zeal to point people to Christ quickly discovers the cost of running even a modest congregation. With monthly expenses easily reaching six figures, the pressure to secure funding grows. Tithing sermons become a regular necessity. “One out of eight weeks, your message is on tithing,” Apffel explained. “As the budget grows, suddenly it’s two out of eight weeks. Then three, with fundraising appeals added at the end.”

The cycle intensifies as churches compete for members, often upgrading facilities to match or surpass neighboring congregations. What starts as preaching the gospel slowly tilts toward sustaining the institution. “Every pastor that plays in that game dies to the game,” Apffel concluded.

This critique [does not dismiss the need for resources](#), nor does it deny the good that comes from community gathering spaces. Yet the core question remains whether churches are continuing to focus on the main thing: Jesus Christ.

“Christ said to pick up your cross and follow me and make disciples of men,” Apffel emphasized. “He did not say to build buildings. And I’m not saying that’s necessarily bad, but everything you just described is just men building things.”

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From this perspective, true ministry begins at home – raising children in Christ-centered values, discipling within families and living out faith in everyday community. The biblical model of church, above all, is believers connected in authentic relationships.

Ultimately, the challenge for pastors and congregations alike is whether resources can be used without being ruled by them –

whether the message of Christ can remain central amid the weight of institutional demands.

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## **Life on Mars? NASA Makes Incredible Discovery**

Do we have evidence now for life on Mars?

According to the New York Post, after years of doing research, [NASA's Perseverance rover](#) has discovered the "strongest evidence yet of Martian life," finding polka-dotted rocks.

As the New York Post discussed, these "building rocks" were found inside of the Neretva Vallis, which is an river valley on Mars. It is believed that this area contained water into the Jezero Crater which could have held signs of life.

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The report further noted that the red, clay mudstones collected contain carbon molecules which are essential pieces for life. The stones also had green-colored dots which are being called poppy seeds and leopard spots. It is also plausible that these dots had iron phosphate and iron sulfide,

which occur when microorganisms consume organic material.

The lead study author of this investigation, Joel Hurowitz, noted that “The sample contains what we believe to be a potential biosignature...origin. Microbes will eat the organic matter and react it with the mud, and the by-product of that reaction is these minerals.”

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As Christians, we can marvel at the wonders of God’s creation [and the vastness of the universe](#), no matter what kind of discovery is or is not made. Whether or not signs of life are ever confirmed on Mars, the gospel remains unshaken and central to our faith. The discoveries of science may expand our understanding of creation, but they should never shift our hope away from the Creator Himself.

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In a world fascinated by the possibility of extraterrestrial life, believers are called to keep their focus anchored in Christ, proclaiming the good news that eternal life is found not in the stars, but in the One who made them.

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# Darkness in Denver: Is There a Principality Over Colorado?

As we continue to see more crimes take place in Colorado, including another horrific school shooting at Evergreen High School in the greater Denver area, this raises a spiritual question: Are there dark principalities overtaking this location?

[Evergreen High School](#) is the latest school to endure a shooting, with one student still in critical condition and the suspect to have died after turning the gun on himself. According to the Associated Press, the suspected gunman was a 16-year-old boy named Desmond Holly who had “been radicalized” from an “extremist network.” ABC News noted how officials also said that he had a “mission.” Unfortunately, this is not the first incident of this kind in the Denver area.

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Back in 1999, in Littleton, the historic and horrifying mass shooting took place at Columbine High School. This shooting dramatically changed the landscape of safety for schools and the way police respond to these types of scenarios. Unfortunately, this was only the beginning of these types of events.

As CNN noted, 12 people died and 70 more were injured in an Aurora movie theater back in 2012 during a showing of “The

Dark Knight Rises,” [and another school shooting](#) took place at the STEM School Highlands Ranch in 2019 only a few miles from Columbine High School. Five law enforcement officers also were shot in an apartment complex in Highlands Ranch, which is also in the greater Denver area.

With this number of shootings taking place in the area over the last 25 years, it can be wondered if there is something darker happening over the Denver area. Perhaps even a territorial spirit.

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Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that “...our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” There are real demonic powers that take control over an area, having their dominion and influence over places and people. This is why it is critical that we put on the full armor of God through prayer and submission to the Lord.

What’s happening in Denver, while potentially part of a territorial principality’s stronghold, is not limited just to Denver alone. There is a real spirit of murder that we see permeating in the wider spaces of the world around us. Within just a short time span we have seen young Catholic children shot at while praying, the horrific stabbing of Iryna Zarutska, the assassination of Charlie Kirk and yet again this latest Denver area school shooting. Satan really does come to steal, kill and destroy while Christ came to give us life and life more abundantly.

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While these things are happening all around us, it is a

reminder for us as Christians that we need to faithfully walk beside the Lord at all times, not giving into the pressures of the world around us, but drawing close to the Word and the presence of God.

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## **Remembering Charlie Kirk: The Powerful Lasting Marks of His Faith in Christ**

In the wake of the shocking and devastating assassination of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University, Kirk's fame around the world has only escalated as a man [who wanted to share truth](#), conservatism and the gospel of Jesus Christ to those around him. It was his faith, however, that he wanted to be remembered the most for.

In a previous interview on the Iced Coffee Hour podcast with Jack Selby, Kirk was asked, "How do you want to be remembered?"

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["You mean if I die?"](#) asked Kirk.

Selby clarified, "If you could be associated with one thing, how would you want to be remembered?"

"I want to be remembered for courage for my faith," Kirk said. "That would be the most important thing. The most important thing is my faith."

And indeed, Kirk will be remembered for his unashamed courage and boldness for Christianity. As Fox News noted, days prior to his death he wrote on X, "Jesus defeated death so you can live."

The outlet also discussed how Kirk described his faith in a conversation with Russell Brand last year. "I'm a sinner. I fall incredibly short of the glory of God. We all do. I gave my life to the Lord in fifth grade, and it's the most important decision I've ever made and everything I do incorporates Jesus Christ."

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Previously on the George Janko Show, Kirk also gave his testimony of coming to Christ as a child and realizing that the eternal stakes are much higher than what we tend to teach people.

"The modern gospel is, 'God has this beautiful, amazing wonderful life for you, and if you give your life to Christ your life will infinitely improve.' That is somewhat true, but it's very misleading because you're basically trying to sell people on Christianity of a life without difficulty..." said Kirk.

[@thegeorgejankoshow](#) How @The Charlie Kirk Show found and accepted Jesus Christ ☐☐ [#charliekirk](#) [#jesuschrist](#) [#jesussaves](#) [#christians](#) [#georgejankoshow](#) 🎵 [original sound – The George Janko Show](#)

Kirk also saw that there was a need to be a light in a dark place. Podcaster Chad Prather shared a clip where Kirk described how the political and spiritual divide would only continue to grow in America. Prather captioned the video: "[Charlie Kirk was being prophetic.](#) I'm sad that he was correct."

"They are going to be violent. You will not be able to walk the streets [with] a MAGA hat without your physical health be put in jeopardy," Kirk said.

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Charlie Kirk's life was cut tragically short, yet his message continues to echo with eternal weight. More than his influence in politics or culture, he will be remembered as a man who stood boldly for his faith in Jesus Christ. His courage, conviction and testimony now serve as a reminder that true legacy is not measured by earthly success, but by an unwavering devotion to the One who conquered death and gives eternal life.

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# Trump Remembers 9/11 Victims, Says America Shares 'One Glorious Destiny Under Almighty God'

This morning, President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump joined military leaders, families of the fallen and first responders at the Pentagon for a solemn observance of the terrorist attacks that [changed America 24 years ago](#).

The ceremony opened with the reading of names of those lost, and General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took the podium to honor the fallen and reflect on the resilience shown by Americans on that fateful day. He recalled how Sept. 11 began as an ordinary morning but turned into one of the darkest chapters in the nation's history.

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When President Trump addressed the crowd, he recounted the stories of ordinary Americans who displayed extraordinary heroism—firefighters, police officers, service members and civilians who rushed to save others. The president also paid tribute to families who carry the loss every day. Ultimately, it was his goal to remind citizens that with God, we will continue to rebuild our nation from shambles. “We will go forward as one people, one heart, one faith, one flag, and one glorious destiny under Almighty God.”

Trump also remarked on the assassination of Charlie Kirk that occurred yesterday, Sept. 10, 2025, noting that he will be granting him a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“Charlie was a giant of his generation, a champion of liberty and an inspiration to millions and millions of people,” Trump said. “I will soon be awarding Charlie Kirk posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom.”

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Secretary of War Pete Hegseth also gave remarks that connected the events of 2001 with the service of an entire generation of warriors in Afghanistan and Iraq. He described 9/11 as a personal turning point, [when he was a college student](#). “From that day forward I felt an unshakable call to action,” he said. “An entire generation stepped forward willing to pay the ultimate price to secure our country.”

Hegseth pointed Americans toward Scripture from Romans 5. “We rejoice in our sufferings knowing that suffering produces endurance. Endurance produces character. And character produces hope.”

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The Pentagon ceremony stood as a reminder that while the pain of Sept. 11 still echoes, the legacy of courage, sacrifice and faith continues to shape America. As leaders and citizens gathered in unity, the message is clear: even in the face of tragedy, America’s strength is found in remembrance, resilience and hope for the future.

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## **What We Know So Far About the Colorado School Shooting**

Yesterday's shooting at [Evergreen High School](#) in Colorado has left many people in shock and horror. Here are more details to know in the wake of this tragic event.

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According to local ABC news outlet Denver 7, a male student has died from a self-inflicted gun shot following his actions of shooting two of his peers. The three students were moved to the CommonSpirit St. Anthony Hospital, and currently one student is still in critical condition. Another is dealing with non-life threatening wounds. This second victim has been moved to a different location.

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Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jacki Kelley, noted in an update that a potential fourth person may have also been brought to the hospital from this shooting. No update has been provided at this time on their condition.

As of right now, there is no known motive for the shooting, and the identity of the shooter has not been revealed. It is believed that the suspect used a revolver during the shooting which happened both inside and outside of the school building.

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The location of the shooting at Evergreen High School is approximately thirty miles outside of the city of Denver. [A reunification center](#) was opened at the Bergen Meadow Elementary School.

During this time, continue to pray for the wounded students who were impacted by this heinous act.

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## **Jonathan Cahn Reveals Eye-Opening Stories from Ground Zero**

When Jonathan Cahn reflects on the journey that led to his groundbreaking book *The Harbinger*, he doesn't describe a typical writing process—he describes divine orchestration.

Standing at Ground Zero years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Cahn recalls a moment that would ignite a prophetic mission. “I was standing at the corner of Ground Zero and I see a tree that had been struck down, and something says, ‘There’s a mystery here. You have to seek this out,’” he recalls. That tree became the first key in a puzzle that would guide him [through a time of research and revelation.](#)

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Ground Zero also holds significant importance to Cahn because the woman who would later become his wife had plans to be at the World Trade Center that morning but changed them at the last minute—saving her life. Several others from his congregation had been inside the towers that day and narrowly escaped.

After his profound moment of reflection and revelation at Ground Zero, Cahn began writing *The Harbinger*. “Every time I sat down, it was like a half chapter would write itself,” he says. Insights, connections, and story elements appeared at the precise moment they were needed—sometimes through conversations, sometimes through unexpected discoveries on his computer. Each revelation felt like God leading him, step by step, to tell a story that would resonate deeply with readers.

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Cahn is now releasing his latest work, *The Avatar*, which continues this prophetic trajectory. It examines the influence of ancient spiritual forces on contemporary culture and

politics, exploring patterns and principles that have been active since biblical times. Like his previous works, *The Avatar* combines history, prophecy, and personal insight to help readers understand not just what is happening in the world, but why.

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Through it all, the thread is clear: Jonathan Cahn's writing is less about human planning and more about being a vessel for divine insight. From his congregants' narrow escapes on 9/11 to a single tree at Ground Zero, and from his first book to his latest release, Cahn demonstrates how obedience, discernment and attentiveness to [God can transform vision into reality](#)—leaving readers with a profound sense of God's sovereignty and a call to recognize His hand in the world around them.

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## **Pray: At Least 3 Shot in Colorado School Shooting**

At least three students were wounded in a shooting today near Denver, Colorado.

The shooting took place at Evergreen High School, located 28 miles outside of Denver. As CBS News reported, St. Anthony's Hospital noted that [three students were undergoing active treatment.](#)

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"We've received three victims, all minors from Evergreen High School. They are currently being actively treated at St. Anthony Hospital," CommonSpirit St. Anthony Hospital CEO Kevin Cullinan said. "We are a level-one trauma center and prepared for situations like this. Each of the victims that we have sustained gunshot wounds. They are all, all three victims are all either in the emergency department or operating rooms at this time."

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During a press conference, Public Information Officer for Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Jacki Kelley said, "We're not certain how many shooters we have or [where that shooter might be.](#)"

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As CBS noted, a reunification center for families is to be opened at the Bergen Meadow Elementary School.

Pray for the students who were wounded in this horrific event.

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## **Dinesh D'Souza Exposes Media Bias After Death of Iryna Zarutska**

In a recent episode of the [Dinesh D'Souza Podcast](#), conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza addressed both global and domestic crises, warning that violence, media bias and systemic failures are quietly reshaping society.

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One of the topics D'Souza highlighted was the brutal murder of 23-year-old Iryna Zarutska, a young woman originally from Ukraine, who was murdered while riding a light rail in Charlotte, North Carolina. "In a normal society, she can read a newspaper, read a book, look at her phone... she doesn't have to have situational awareness," D'Souza said. "And yet, what happens to her? She is...brutally murdered."

D'Souza criticized the mainstream media for largely ignoring the crime, pointing to racial dynamics as a factor. He noted that outlets such as The New York Times, CNN and The Washington Post had yet to cover the story, calling the silence "a sick ring of racial repression... a kind of cover-up."

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White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt also discussed the situation, calling out the mainstream media and Democratic agendas for shying away from this story.

"This is madness. This monster should have been locked up, and Iryna should still be alive, but Democrat politicians, liberal judges, and weak prosecutors would rather virtue signal than lock up criminals and protect their communities," Leavitt said, according to Fox News. "...many outlets in this room decided that her murder was not worth reporting on originally because it [does not fit a preferred narrative.](#)"

***Look for Dinesh D'Souza's powerful new book, The End of Time, coming soon!***

D'Souza also argued that this incident exposes systemic flaws within the judicial system and the broader liberal approach to crime. "This is a monster that has been created by the Democrats, by liberalism, by a certain attitude of crime that says, 'We have him in here, let him back out... we'll get him back in, we'll get him back out,'" D'Souza said. He suggested that the public's delayed awareness could make this story a "transforming incident" that finally opens eyes to societal decay and media bias.

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The tragic murder of Iryna Zarutska exposes a society at a tipping point, where systemic failures, media silence, and soft-on-crime policies leave communities unprotected. This horrific act is more than a single story—it is a wake-up call, shining a light on the moral and cultural decay that has quietly taken hold. If there is any hope for change, it begins with confronting these harsh realities head-on, demanding accountability, and standing for justice in a world too often willing to look the other way.

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## **Prophetic Dream Reveals Sudden Flood of Change on the Horizon**

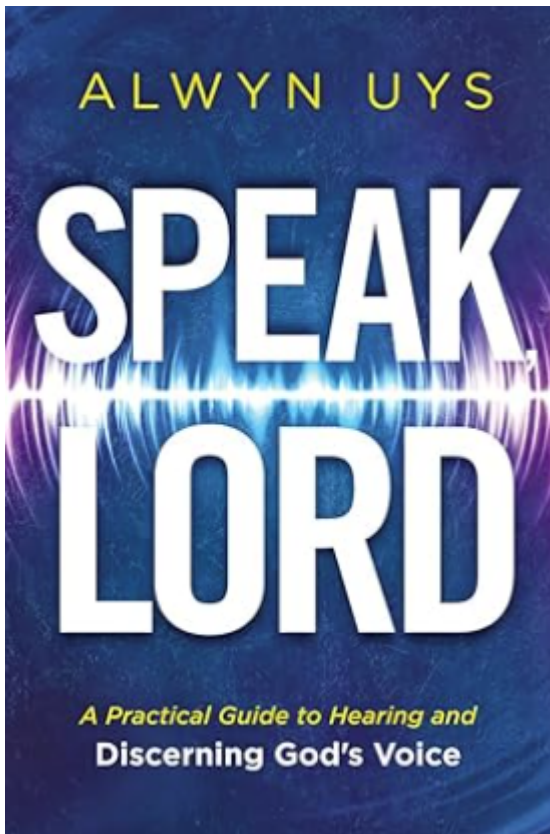
A prophetic dream received by Alwyn Uys is raising questions about South Africa's political and spiritual trajectory. The dream, which he described as vivid but brief, depicted a dramatic vision of the nation in crisis, with imagery suggesting both [destruction and divine intervention](#).

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From a bird's-eye perspective, Uys saw South Africa engulfed by a massive flood, with water sweeping from the northern reaches of the country down to the ocean in the south. The continent itself appeared to split, with South Africa highlighted in particular. Buildings, homes and vehicles were submerged, leaving a striking image of total devastation. Amid the chaos, a native African man appeared crossing a river with his possessions, aided by others—a symbol of resilience and communal support.

Uys interpreted the flooding as a symbol of transformation and cleansing. “A flood is something that brings transformation. It’s something that brings cleansing,” he explained, emphasizing that the sudden, violent nature of the event reflects the urgency of God’s intervention. The vision was framed not as a prediction of despair, but as a call for restoration and unity in a nation described as “on the knife’s edge” politically.

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[To pre-order Alwyn Uys' new book, Speak, Lord, visit Amazon.com.](#)

Uys further suggested that similar [transformative events could be imminent](#), stating that history may repeat itself with a sign confirming God's involvement. The emphasis was on the need for national unity: "A nation divided will not stand," Uys said. Only by working together, he suggested, can the country overcome political divisions and fulfill its potential.

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As South Africa continues to navigate political tensions and social unrest, prophetic voices like Uys offer a lens through which believers interpret current events, combining historical awareness with spiritual insight. The dream concludes with a reminder that while upheaval may come, divine guidance can steer the nation toward renewal and reconciliation.

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