

City of Phoenix Accused of Criminalizing Christian Homeless Ministry in Major Lawsuit

A small Orthodox Christian ministry that gathers each week to feed and pray with Phoenix's homeless population is now at the center of a legal battle.

According to Blaze News, St. Herman's Table, which is a ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church, has filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Phoenix after a new ordinance regulating food distribution in public parks threatened its ability to continue its weekly ministry.

For founder Lance Brace, the ministry was never intended to become the focus of a court fight. It began as a simple desire to help.

Brace told Blaze News that after being baptized into the Orthodox Church, he felt a strong conviction to serve the homeless in his community. What started with distributing care packages filled with food, water and other essentials eventually grew into something more personal. As Brace and his family repeatedly encountered the same individuals at Cave Creek Park, they began to build relationships and felt called to return regularly.

By October 2025, the family was preparing homemade meals each week and serving them buffet-style at the park, along with offering prayer. Soon, fellow church members joined the effort.

Now that the ministry faces uncertainty because of Phoenix's Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in Parks Ordinance,

which took effect earlier this month.

According to Blaze News, the ordinance requires groups that distribute food in city parks to obtain permits. Critics argue the regulation significantly limits outreach efforts by allowing only two permits per park each month and restricting food distribution activities to parking and hardscape areas.



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The city has said the ordinance was created to establish oversight where none previously existed and to help manage competing uses of public parks. Officials maintain that the regulation applies equally to all groups and is not targeted at religious organizations.

Brace and St. Herman's Table disagree.

Their lawsuit argues that caring for the poor is not merely charitable work but a fundamental component of Orthodox Christian faith. The complaint contends that requiring government permission before carrying out that ministry violates both the First Amendment and Arizona's Free Exercise of Religion Act.

The legal challenge quickly gained traction in federal court. Several days after the lawsuit was filed, a judge issued a temporary restraining order preventing Phoenix from enforcing the ordinance against St. Herman's Table while the case moves forward.

In the ruling, the judge questioned whether the city's distinctions were being applied consistently.

"Phoenix provides no evidence or meaningful argument explaining why a birthday party providing cake to twenty select two-year-olds is any less likely to strain park resources with noise or mess than a religiously-motivated

gathering open to twenty members of the public,” the judge wrote, according to Blaze News.

Phoenix has vowed to defend the ordinance, arguing that it is a lawful tool for balancing the many demands placed on public parks, including youth sports, recreation and family activities.

Violations of this ordinance could result in a class-1 misdemeanor and possibly a jail sentence of 180 days and a \$2,500 fine.

As the case proceeds, it raises broader questions about how cities regulate charitable activities in public spaces and where the line is drawn between government oversight and the free exercise of religion. For now, what began as a weekly meal shared among neighbors has become a closely watched dispute over faith, service and constitutional rights.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, *The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment*. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Congress Reopens MKULTRA Investigation: What Really

Happened in the CIA's Mind-Control Experiments?

The mere mention of MKULTRA over the years has conjured images of government secrecy, psychological experimentation and unanswered questions that refuse to die.

Now, Congress is preparing to pull back the curtain once again.

Rep. Anna Paulina Luna announced that the House Oversight Committee's Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets will hold a hearing titled, "Mind Control and Accountability: Uncovering the Truth of the CIA's MKULTRA Experiments."

The hearing promises to revisit one of the most controversial intelligence programs in American history—a program that many Americans know only through fragmented documents, congressional investigations and lingering speculation.

According to a press release by the Oversight Committee, lawmakers will examine the origins of MKULTRA, why it was classified for so long and what lasting impact it has had on public trust in government institutions.



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Quoting Rep. Luna, the report noted, "The intelligence community has covered up the nature and classification of the MKULTRA experiments for decades. Americans have been misdirected repeatedly and deserve transparency and accountability from the CIA."

Originally launched during the Cold War, MKULTRA was a covert CIA research program that explored methods of behavior

modification, interrogation and mind control. Subsequent investigations revealed that some experiments involved unwitting participants who were subjected to psychological testing, drug experimentation and other procedures without informed consent.

The scandal shocked the nation when details began surfacing in the 1970s, but many records had already been destroyed, leaving countless questions unanswered.

That lingering uncertainty is one reason the subject continues to fascinate Americans more than half a century later.

The hearing is part of a broader effort by Luna's task force to review historically classified government information and increase transparency surrounding controversial federal programs.

For believers, the story of MKULTRA is ultimately a reminder that truth has a way of surfacing, even when powerful institutions attempt to bury it. Scripture says, "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open" (Luke 8:17).

The questions surrounding MKULTRA are not merely historical. They touch on issues of human dignity, accountability and the dangers of unchecked power. The Bible teaches that every person is created in the image of God, making any form of manipulation, exploitation or abuse of human beings a serious moral matter.

As Congress revisits this dark chapter of American history, Christians should pray for truth to prevail wherever deception has existed. While governments may classify documents and institutions may conceal mistakes, God is never intimidated by secrets.

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20 Christians Killed in Fresh Nigeria Attack as Persecution Crisis Deepens

As tensions continue to escalate across the globe, prophetic voice Amanda Grace is warning believers to pay close attention to what she believes is a significant spiritual shift unfolding simultaneously in the United States, Iran and the United Kingdom.

During a recent broadcast, Grace connected President Donald Trump's rare visit to Camp David, ongoing negotiations involving Iran and the sudden political upheaval in Britain to a larger biblical pattern she believes is emerging in real time.

"We're going to look at this through a biblical lens because what is unfolding before us is biblical," Grace said. "What is happening—this is a spiritual war before it's a physical war."

One of the strongest warnings from the broadcast centered on a controversial performance by heavy metal band GWAR, which featured a mock execution of President Trump during a June

concert in Washington, D.C. Grace argued the event should not be dismissed as mere political theater.

“This is not a stunt,” she said. “This is an announcement from the Kingdom of Darkness.”

According to Grace, believers should be praying specifically for the protection of national leaders and for God’s intervention against any plans of violence or chaos.

The discussion then shifted to Trump’s recent trip to Camp David amid heightened tensions with Iran and ongoing diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Drawing from the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17, Grace suggested the timing of the visit carries prophetic significance.



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“When Goliath is about to fall, here comes Camp David,” she said. “David always shows up on the scene before Goliath is brought down.”

Using the biblical account as a framework, Grace warned that leaders must avoid what she called “Saul’s armor”—relying on human wisdom, political pressure and worldly solutions rather than God’s direction.

“You cannot go into a covenant battle wearing a compromise covering and expect to have victory,” she said.

The heart of Grace’s message focused on Iran and the spiritual dimensions she believes are influencing current geopolitical events. Referencing Daniel 10, she argued that negotiations with Iran involve more than political leaders and military strategy.

“They are not just dealing with men,” Grace said. “They are

dealing with principalities of Persia.”

She urged Christians to pray and fast for wisdom and discernment as negotiations continue.

“If you’re going to negotiate with people like this, if you’re going to try to get peace, then you should be negotiating from the place of covenant,” she said.

Grace also turned her attention to the United Kingdom following reports that Prime Minister Keir Starmer would step down as leader. She described the development as a “political earthquake” and connected it to prophetic words she says she received concerning England in previous years.

“There shall be a renewal out of England and a move of God that will be historic,” Grace quoted from a prior prophetic message.

Throughout the broadcast, Grace repeatedly emphasized that believers should view current events through a spiritual lens rather than merely a political one. She encouraged Christians to pray, remain watchful and recognize what she believes is a season of significant global shaking.

“This is a crucial hour,” Grace said. “The church has been given a greater power and authority through Christ Jesus to tear down those plans.”

As uncertainty grows around global conflicts, shifting political leadership and international negotiations, Grace believes the response of God’s people must be one of prayer, discernment and unwavering faith in God’s sovereignty over the nations.

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25,000 Worship Jesus as Forrest Frank Sparks Revival in Nashville

If you only looked at the attendance figure, you might assume Nashville had hosted another major music event. But what unfolded inside GEODIS Park was something far different than a typical concert.

Thousands of young people weren't gathering around a celebrity, a political cause or the latest cultural trend. They came to worship Jesus.

Christian artist Forrest Frank's recent stop in Nashville drew an estimated 25,000 attendees, but as reported by The Christian Post, the evening increasingly resembled a stadium-wide prayer meeting as worship, testimony and ministry moments took center stage.

In an era when many headlines focus on declining church attendance and growing secularism, the scenes from Nashville painted a very different picture. Instead of walking away from faith, thousands of young believers packed a stadium to celebrate it publicly.

Frank performed many of his best-known songs, including "The Jesus Generation," "Celebration," "Amen," "Good Day," and

“Your Way’s Better.” Yet the most significant moments of the night had little to do with production value, lighting effects or even the music itself.

At one point during the gathering, Frank invited those who believed God for a breakthrough to raise their hands. Then something remarkable happened.



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Rather than simply offering encouragement from the platform, he asked those nearby to pray for them quietly.

According to The Christian Post, what followed transformed the atmosphere from a concert audience into a massive ministry gathering as attendees prayed for one another across the stadium.

That moment may help explain why Frank’s influence continues to resonate with so many young Christians. While plenty of artists can draw crowds, fewer can create environments where ministry becomes just as important as the music.

The evening took an even more personal turn when Frank reflected on the recent loss of his grandparents. He described his grandfather as a spiritual role model and shared memories of his grandmother’s faithful prayers throughout his childhood.

One story in particular struck a chord with the crowd.

Frank recalled his grandmother praying over him in tongues when he was a young boy. He then challenged attendees with a simple yet powerful question: How many people are standing where they are today because someone faithfully prayed for them?

It was a reminder that every move of God has a backstory.

Long before stadiums fill up, someone is often found praying in a church pew, a prayer closet or beside a child's bed. The prayers of one generation frequently become the testimony of the next.

The gathering also featured an appearance by Sadie Robertson Huff, who encouraged attendees to embrace their identity in Christ and challenged them to become part of a generation fully surrendered to Jesus. According to The Christian Post, her remarks centered on God's love and the message of John 3:16.

While the attendance numbers were impressive, the larger story may be what those numbers represent.

Across America, reports continue to emerge of campus baptisms, extended worship gatherings, prayer movements and renewed spiritual hunger among young adults. What happened in Nashville appears to be another sign that God is stirring hearts in a generation many had written off as spiritually indifferent.

For years, church leaders have wondered where the next great spiritual awakening might emerge. Would it begin in churches? On college campuses? Through evangelistic crusades?

Perhaps part of the answer is already unfolding in places like Nashville, where thousands of young people willingly spent an evening lifting up the name of Jesus.

Only time will tell whether gatherings like this become a defining mark of a broader revival movement. But for one night in Tennessee, a stadium looked a lot more like a sanctuary.

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released book, The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Pope Leo Honors First American Saint Ahead of Controversial July 4 Celebration

The first American pope is once again making headlines—and this time, the symbolism is hard to ignore.

According to the Associated Press, Pope Leo XIV honored St. Frances Cabrini, the first American saint and patron saint of migrants. The visit highlighted Cabrini's lifelong ministry to immigrants and the poor, a cause that has become a defining theme of Leo's young papacy.

But it is not merely the tribute itself that has captured attention.

The pope's decision to honor the first American saint comes just days before his July 4 appearance, which is already generating discussion on both sides of the Atlantic.

According to AP, Leo visited Cabrini's birthplace and prayed at her tomb while encouraging Christians, especially young people, to study her life and example. Cabrini, who immigrated from Italy to the United States in 1887, founded schools, hospitals and orphanages serving immigrant communities before becoming the first American citizen canonized as a saint in

1946.



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"What could be more relevant today than a missionary charism dedicated to serving migrants?" Leo asked.

However, Leo's emphasis on immigration also ties into his uncanny plans for July 4.

According to AP, as reported by PBS, Leo will spend July 4 on Lampedusa, the tiny Italian island that has become one of Europe's most recognizable migrant entry points. As the report noted, "Leo's clash with the Trump administration over migration has given added symbolic significance to his decision..."

Instead of marking Independence Day with a message centered on America's 250th anniversary or celebrating the nation that produced both him and St. Cabrini, Leo will spend the holiday at a location synonymous with one of the world's most contentious political and cultural issues.

The symbolism is impossible to miss.

During his visit to Cabrini's hometown, he challenged listeners to consider what the saint would say to today's world and how her missionary spirit would respond to modern migration challenges.

That question is likely to resonate far beyond the walls of the Italian shrine where Leo spoke.

One thing is certain: Pope Leo appears determined to make migration a defining issue of his papacy. And by connecting that mission to the legacy of America's first saint just days before Independence Day, he has ensured that people are paying

attention.

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Vatican Bars Women From Preaching Sermons as SBC Reinforces Female Pastor Ban

The Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention appear to have one controversial thing in common.

In a new Reuters report, it was noted that the Vatican doubled down on its rule that only a deacon or an ordained priest may give a sermon during a Catholic Mass. This decision comes as German bishops requested that the church “broaden the practice and allow sermons by women or other laypeople.”

According to Reuters, a press release by the Vatican’s Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated, “The current discipline cannot be dispensed reservation of the homily to a priest or deacons is not a merely disciplinary norm but derives from the very nature of the liturgy.” Laypeople, are, however, permitted to give sermons for prayer services that are not part of Mass.



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The timing of the Vatican's decision is particularly noteworthy. It comes just days after Southern Baptists overwhelmingly approved Albert Mohler's amendment, further solidifying the SBC's position that the office of pastor is reserved for qualified men as outlined in Scripture.

While Catholics and Southern Baptists differ dramatically on doctrine and church governance, both bodies have now made headlines for drawing firm boundaries around who may occupy certain teaching roles within the church.

These developments highlight an ongoing conversation taking place across multiple Christian traditions regarding the role of women in ministry and church leadership. It is quite clear that this topic will continue to garner significant attention within Christianity in the years to come.

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Pastor's Family Rocked by

Tragedy: 2 Dead, 3 Injured in Horrific Car Accident

A Louisiana pastor and his family are facing unimaginable grief after a tragic vehicle crash claimed the lives of two loved ones and left others seriously injured.

According to WBRZ, Pastor Tim Brady of Lifeway Apostolic Church in Kentwood, Louisiana, was traveling home with family members from Camp Apex, a Christian camp in Conway, Arkansas, when the accident occurred Saturday morning in north Louisiana.

State police said the family's pickup truck left the roadway and struck a tree near the intersection of Louisiana Highway 9 and Highway 518 in Athens.

The crash claimed the lives of two members of the Brady family. Pastor Brady's daughter-in-law, Katie Barber, 22, and his 14-year-old son, Benson Brady, died as a result of the accident.

Three other occupants of the vehicle were transported to a hospital following the crash.



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The tragedy has sent shockwaves through the church community in Kentwood and beyond as believers rally around a pastor who has spent years ministering to others and now finds himself walking through one of life's deepest valleys.

In a post by South Central Region Youth Apostolic, many were calling for prayers.

Please help us lift up the Tim Brady Family, Lifeway Apostolic Church (Kentwood, LA) and the others who were

traveling home from Camp Apex today.

This precious family and church were involved in a fatal wreck today. Three people remain in the hospital and the entire family's and church need our fervent and sincere prayers, love and support right now.

At this time and out of respect of the families, we cannot share more information.

All of our Apex family hurts right now. We love you all!

The town of Kentwood also posted about the tragic event on Facebook.

*LIFEWAY CHURCH AND PASTOR BRADY, Kentwood, Louisiana. Lord, today Our Kentwood Community is saddened and is praying for Pastor Brady and Our entire Lifeway Church Family. Lord, they need you right now to lean on. The entire Town of Kentwood and Surrounding Communities please pray for their Strength and Faith in God's Power to comfort. Lord hold them tight in Your loving arms. Wherever they are Lord, bring them on back home to us. Let them know that we love them and are here for them. *** Everyone please pray for Our Lifeway Church Family and Pastor, Rev. Brady. Lord, we pray this prayer in Your Name. Amen*

As the world continues to shift in unprecedented ways, many Christians are asking a question that has echoed through generations: Are we living in the last days?

During a recent discussion, author and commentator Dinesh D'Souza posed that very question to Bible teacher Rick Renner,

examining whether today's events point to the imminent return of Christ.

D'Souza noted that many of the signs Jesus described in Matthew 24 appear increasingly visible.

"If I look around today, we see many of the signs that are indicated in Matthew 24," D'Souza said. "Wars and rumors of wars, a kind of rising tide of opposition or blasphemy, persecution of the church as well as persecution of the Jews."

Yet D'Souza also acknowledged that previous generations could have reached similar conclusions during major world crises such as World War II. He then pointed to what many prophecy teachers consider a unique modern development: the rebirth of Israel.

"Maybe the reconstitution of the Jews, the formation of the state of Israel, the Jews fulfilling a kind of ancient biblical prophecy to come back and become once again a nation," D'Souza suggested.

Renner agreed, calling Israel's restoration one of the clearest prophetic markers of the end times.



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"The reestablishment of Israel in 1948 is one of the major indicators that we've come to the end of the age," Renner said.

However, Renner believes the most significant sign Jesus highlighted was not geopolitical but spiritual.

Referring to Matthew 24:4, Renner noted, "The first sign He gave and the foremost sign He gave was in Matthew 24:4, which says, 'Take heed that no man deceive you.'"

According to Renner, the Greek word translated as “deceive” is *planao*, which describes a person or society wandering from a well-established path.

“Jesus is saying the very end of the age, there’s going to be worldwide deception,” Renner said. “We’re talking about deceptive times, seducing times, delusionary times.”

He argued that modern society increasingly reflects that warning as people abandon biblical truth in favor of alternative moral frameworks.

“When society is going to leave the path that it once walked upon, and they’re going to try to take a new progressive path,” Renner said, “they’re going to say the Bible is a little primitive ... now we’re going to go a new direction.”

The conversation then turned to the rapture and the church’s role in restraining evil. D’Souza summarized the common prophetic view by suggesting that while darkness is already increasing, believers currently serve as a spiritual barrier preventing even greater wickedness from being unleashed.

Renner agreed.

“Even with all of its flaws and all of its problems, we are still so powerful because God is in the church.”

Looking at 2 Thessalonians 2, Renner said a day is coming when that restraint will be removed.

“The moment the church is removed, that is the synchronized moment when the curtains are going to be pulled back, and the Antichrist is going to make his appearance to the world,” he said.

“This is a real living individual,” Renner continued. “He’s going to make his appearance at the end of the age.”

The discussion concluded with a sobering look at the coming

Tribulation. While critics sometimes accuse believers in the rapture of seeking an escape from hardship, Renner argued that there is a biblical distinction between persecution and God's wrath.

"Hard times and wrath, they are not the same thing," Renner said.

He described the Tribulation as a future period unlike anything humanity has ever experienced.

"Jesus said, 'There'll be great tribulation as there has never been before and there will never be again,'" Renner noted.

This conversation served as a reminder that believers are called to remain watchful, grounded in Scripture and attentive to the signs Jesus Himself instructed His followers to recognize as history moves toward its prophetic conclusion.

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