

# Michigan Township Fines Church for Holding Religious Activities in Newly Renovated Building

A Michigan pastor is fighting for the right to operate a church after being fined by town officials for hosting weddings and religious events on its newly renovated property, according to a non-profit legal group.

First Liberty sent a demand letter [on behalf of Pastor Don Hamilton](#) and the Sanctum of One God Church to the Charter Township of Windsor after town officials reportedly attempted to prevent the church from engaging in religious activities in its building.

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According to the group, officials have issued multiple citations this month and have refused to work with the church in the last 12 months to help them obtain a “temporary certificate of occupancy” and “special use permit.”

The ordeal began last year when Pastor Don Hamilton and his wife, Kathy, purchased an abandoned church building in the Township of Windsor, Michigan, with the vision of opening a new church. The property itself had a rich history as it was the site, for more than 60 years, of a Methodist Church where hundreds of people gathered to worship and fellowship.

Just six months after being on the market, the Hamiltons closed on the property and began renovations on the old building. After the renovations were completed, the church hosted a wedding for a family friend in September 2024 and

also planned an open house to get the word out to the community about the new building.

The Township's Assistant Fire Chief, William Fabijancic, Jr., discovered the church's plan and informed them they needed to resolve a "few fire code issues" and obtain an occupancy permit.

"The Church informed Mr. Fabijancic of its intention to operate a church and engage in various religious activities onsite and invited him to come into the Church building to perform the inspection," reads the letter. "Mr. Fabijancic declined to perform the inspection at that time but stated he would allow the Church to have the open house and that they would take care of the inspection at a later date."

However, days later, [the church reportedly received a cease-and-desist letter](#) claiming the church was operating an "event center" and threatened legal action if they did not stop meeting.

Church leaders attempted to work with officials to comply with the Township's ordinances, but they contend "officials refused to conduct the requested inspection and instead told the church that Mr. Fabijancic was instructed not to cooperate with or respond to the church until all zoning issues were resolved with the Township."

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Pastor Hamilton invited a state of Michigan Fire Inspector to conduct an informal walkthrough of the building to make sure

there were no fire code issues. Hamilton and church leaders complied and then attempted to apply for a special use permit, which officials instructed them to receive.

According to the non-profit legal group's letter, the township delayed processing the permit, while at the same time refusing to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) to allow the church to operate while its application was pending.

It took nine months for the township to issue the TCO, and it severely restricted the church's operating hours as well as its maximum occupancy. The building, which could hold 400 people, was now only able to hold 50.

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Additionally, the church was fined \$4,500 for hosting three weddings, two of which were for family and friends, during that nine-month period.

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**No New Hostage Bodies as Rubio Backs Israel's Right to Self-Defense, Palestinians**

# Continue 'Pay to Slay'

JERUSALEM, Israel – Hamas has delivered another hostage's body to Israel. However, Israel has determined that the body is not one of the 13 who remain in Gaza, but are additional remains of a hostage that had already been returned. At the same time, the Palestinian Authority is accused of quietly continuing its "Pay to Slay" program, [which rewards terrorists who murder Jews.](#)

Israelis had hoped for another returned hostage. However, Hamas fell into a familiar pattern. The Israeli Health Ministry's National Center of Forensic Medicine determined that the remains belonged to Ofir Tzarfati, whose body was returned nearly two years ago.

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On at least one previous occasion, Hamas turned over a body that was a terrorist and not a hostage.

It's now been a week since [Hamas last turned over a hostage](#). Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "This constitutes a clear violation of the agreement by the terrorist organization Hamas."

Netanyahu will convene a meeting today to discuss Israel's response.

Speaking from Air Force One, with President Trump at his side, Secretary of State Marco Rubio showed continued solidarity with Israel regarding the administration's expectations of both sides within the peace deal.

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“Look, Israel didn’t surrender its right to self-defense,” Rubio stated. “Obviously, the ceasefire is based on obligations on both sides. By the way, we’d also like to see Hamas speed up the return of hostage bodies. We still have thirteen hostages, two Americans included. But we don’t view that as a violation of the ceasefire. They have a right if there’s an imminent threat to Israel, and all the mediators agree with that.”

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Meanwhile, Palestinian Media Watch claims that on October 25th, the Palestinian Authority post offices paid salaries to prisoners and families of so-called “martyrs” – terrorists who have murdered Jews. The watchdog group says there was no public announcement, which is likely to preserve European aid that had been tied to ending the practice.

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**Ex-Hamas Wife Whose Father Helped Create the Terror**

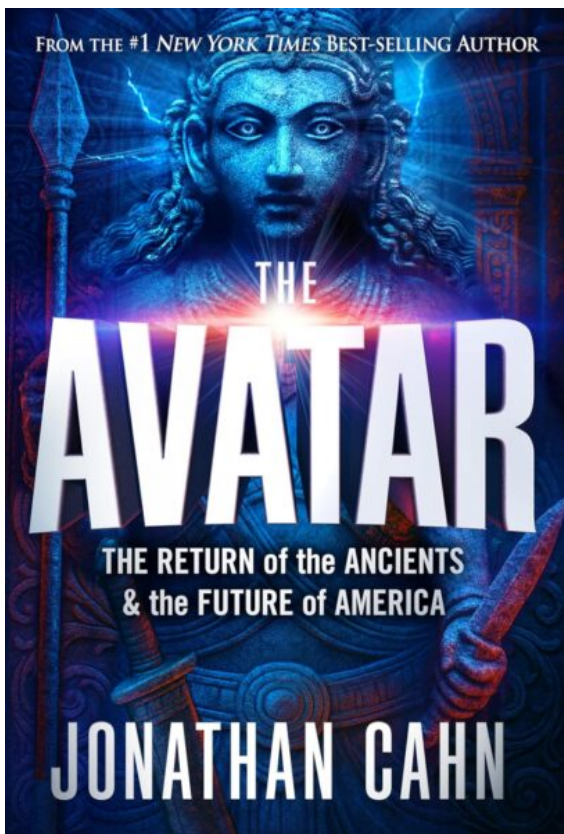
# Group Meets Jesus in a Miraculous Dream

A young woman with deep ties to the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas is telling [her supernatural testimony](#) of leaving Islam to find faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

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Juman Al Qawasmi was once married to a Hamas member in Gaza. Not only that, her father was one of the founders of the Islamic extremist group.

Even though she was raised to hate Israel and was taught to kill Jews and curse Christians, [God still spoke to her heart](#) and called her out of that environment of evil.



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“We used to curse all the Christian(s) and the Jewish (sic). We feel like we should kill them because this is what (the) Quran say. Yeah, I know it’s crazy, but we used to believe in Islam, like we should kill all the Jewish, and even Jesus will come back and fighting with us, and he will break the cross and kill the pig, and the trees and the rock will call the Muslim and say, oh, Muslim, there is a Jewish behind me, come and kill. So it’s crazy,” she explained.

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When Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, she saw how violent they were, killing fellow Palestinians just to consolidate their power. She says their objective was to make everyone feel scared unless they surrendered to Hamas’s control.

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To hear Juman’s full testimony, watch the video above!

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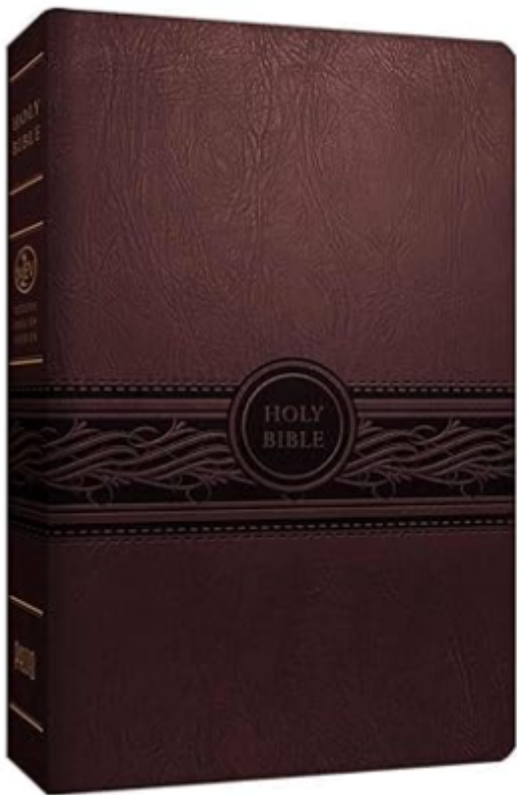
# **As Americans Lose Trust in Media and Government, Faith**

# in the Bible Is Starting to Grow

Consistent polling shows trust in America continues to fade – in government, institutions, even religion. Yet one new report finds that [many still turn to the Bible](#), even as others question its relevance in modern life.

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For more than a decade, the American Bible Society has asked Americans each year about their relationship with scripture – asking who reads it, what they believe, and why it matters. The latest findings reveal a nation deeply divided over faith and trust.



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Only 36% of Americans believe the Bible is totally accurate, while 39% say it is not. Nearly 1 in 5 people see the Bible as

a tool written to control or manipulate people.

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“The majority of Americans don’t ever reach for the Bible at all,” said Dr. John Plake, researcher and Chief Innovation Officer with the American Bible Society. “They’re not what we call Bible users. And what we’ve noticed here is that trust is really built on relationship. And so, when people have a relationship with their family, they trust their family. If they have a broken relationship with their family, trust gets broken with it.”

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That link between relationship and trust [extends beyond scripture](#). The report shows that trust in organized religion stands at just 29%, while family remains America’s most trusted institution at 55%. In contrast, media and government rank at just 5% and 6%, respectively.

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## **‘Very, Very Serious’: Melissa**

# Strengthens to a Category 5 Hurricane as It Nears Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa [intensified to Category 5 strength](#) on Monday as it neared Jamaica with up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) of rain and a life-threatening storm surge.

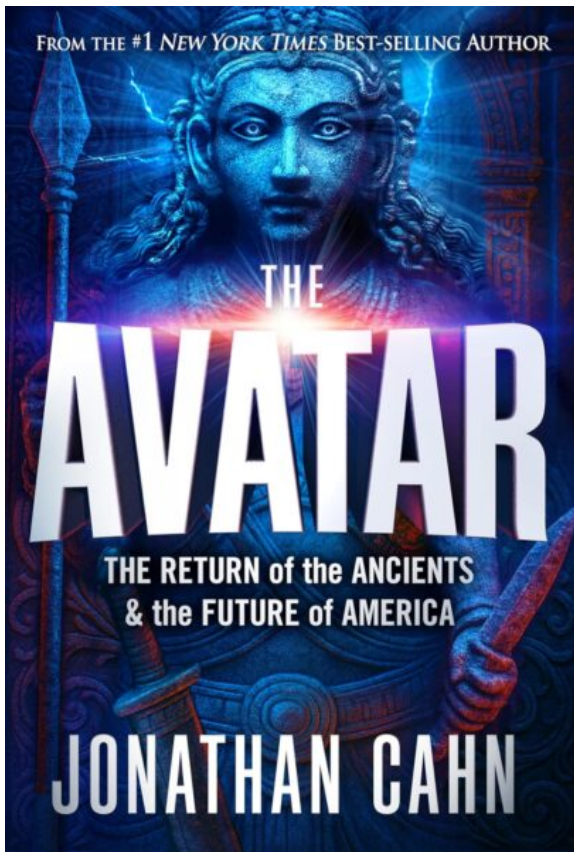
Melissa is forecast to make landfall on the island on Tuesday and cross Cuba and the Bahamas through Wednesday.

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Melissa was centered about 130 miles (205 kilometers) south-southwest of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 315 miles (505 kilometers) south-southwest of Guantánamo, Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (260 kph) and was moving west at 3 mph (6 kph), the center said.

Category 5 is the highest on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds exceeding 157 mph (250 kph). Melissa is the strongest hurricane in recent history to hit the small Caribbean nation directly.



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Some local areas of eastern Jamaica could get 40 inches (1 meter) of rain while western Haiti could get 16 inches (40 centimeters), according to the hurricane center. "Catastrophic flash flooding and numerous landslides are likely," it warned.

The slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing.

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"I want to urge Jamaicans to take this seriously," said Desmond McKenzie, deputy chairman of Jamaica's Disaster Risk Management Council. "Do not gamble with Melissa. It's not a safe bet."

The hurricane was expected to make another landfall later Tuesday in eastern Cuba. A hurricane warning was in effect for

Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Holguin provinces, while a tropical storm warning was in effect for Las Tunas. Up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain were forecast for parts of Cuba, along with a significant storm surge along the coast.

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Melissa could be the strongest hurricane Jamaica has experienced in decades, said Evan Thompson, principal director at Jamaica's meteorological service. He warned that [cleanup and damage assessment](#) would be severely delayed because of anticipated landslides, flooding and blocked roads.

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## **Egypt Joins Search for Hostage Bodies as Netanyahu Cautions 'Israel Will Determine' Who Enters Gaza**

JERUSALEM, Israel – Two weeks after Hamas was supposed to have returned all 48 hostages, living and deceased, Egypt has stepped in to help with excavations to retrieve 13 missing bodies, two of whom are Americans, as the remaining live hostages leave the hospital for home.

[Israel is allowing an Egyptian team](#) and heavy equipment into

the Gaza Strip to help search for the bodies of the remaining hostages.

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Israeli Government Spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian clarified, "This is a technical team only, and none of these personnel are in the military. The Red Cross and the Egyptian team are allowed entry beyond the IDF's yellow line position into Gaza territory to conduct the search for our hostages."

According to reports, Hamas is also involved in the search for the bodies. The terror group claimed they couldn't find all of the bodies.

President Trump warned Hamas on Saturday that he was "watching very closely" to ensure that it returns more bodies in the next 48 hours.

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He posted on Truth Social, "Some of the bodies are hard to reach, but others they can return now, and for some reason, they are not."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio [met with families of two American hostages](#), Omer Neutra and Itay Chen, whose bodies are still held in Gaza. He said the U.S. won't "forget the lives of the hostages who died in the captivity of Hamas. We will not rest until their – and all – remains are returned."

Rubio wrapped up his visit with a phone call to Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then headed to Qatar.

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Earlier, Rubio said that UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency) would not have a place in ruling Gaza.

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## Gospel Crusade Sees Hundreds of Lives Changed

A campaign to bring the gospel to cities in upstate South Carolina is headed for the state's capital.

Evangelist Jacob Ebersole's World Harvest Ministry [will hold a crusade in Columbia, South Carolina,](#) this weekend, October 24th through October 26th.

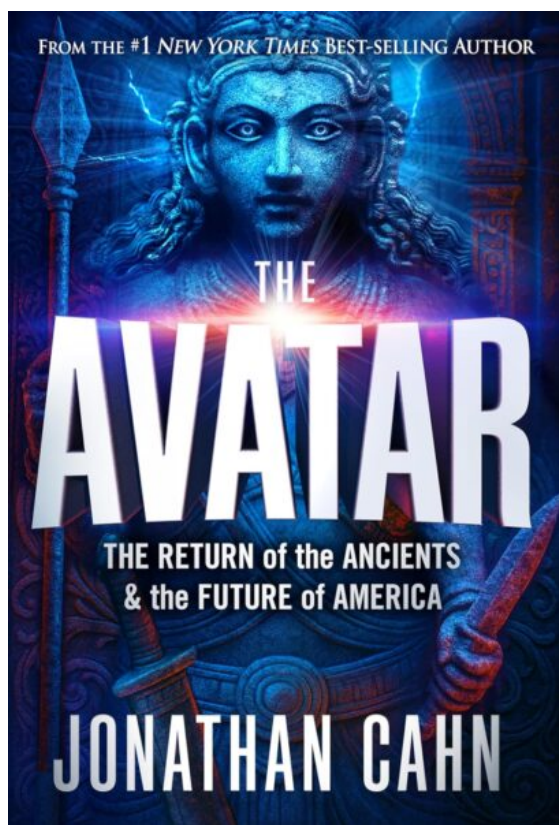
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Churches across the city are coming together to take part and support the outreach.

Ebersole is still flying high after their recent crusade in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

"My wildest dreams came true, and so many thought that it wasn't possible in Spartanburg, South Carolina. But what we

continue to say is when has impossible ever stopped Him?" he recently told CBN News. "I looked around at people who came from all over South Carolina and all over the country, really. And the Lord was very clear that He wanted us to believe for more."



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As they increased their faith, the team saw a mighty move of God.

"Under that tent, we saw there was such a spirit of repentance and reverence, people coming forward, laying down their addictions when we didn't even ask. Even released inmates were getting baptized," Ebersole recalled.

"Something that was very unique about Spartanburg was that people were watching on live streams. And I was getting word from people that they were filling up their bathtubs in other states and getting baptized while watching the service, which was a unique one for me," he shared.

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The spirit of repentance and rebirth crossed generational lines.

“Droves of teenagers [were] coming to Christ. Honestly, it was hard to manage,” the evangelist told CBN News.

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He continued, “My favorite thing I witnessed [in the Spartanburg Crusade](#) was our own team members baptizing their children and other family members, and also many, many answering the call to go on mission with us across the state and across the world.

Now, Ebersole is bringing the crusade to Columbia, the state capital of South Carolina.

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# Rubio Meets with Netanyahu as Trump, Vance Slam Vote on

# Israeli Annexation of Biblical Heartland

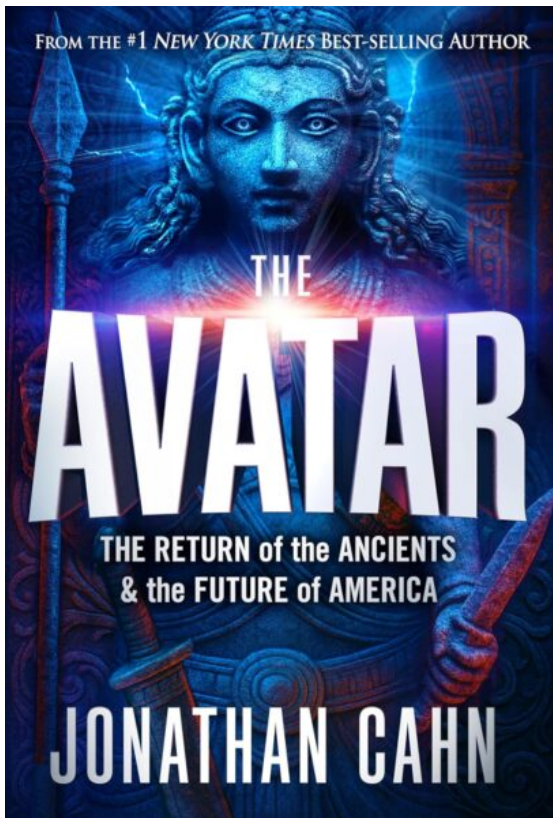
The steady stream of U.S. officials visiting Israel continued with the arrival of Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday, just after Vice President JD Vance left, and Vance was preceded by Trump mediators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. Some have wondered why so many visits were crammed into one week, but as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu noted, [these are “days of destiny.”](#)

Netanyahu met with Rubio shortly after his arrival.

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The prime minister told Rubio, “This is a circle of trust and partnership. You’ve been an extraordinary friend of Israel, and now we face days of destiny. We want to advance peace; we still have security challenges, but I think that we can work together and, by working together, both address the challenges and seize the opportunities.”

Rubio observed that it was just over a week since the “historic day” in which President Trump’s work led to the “extraordinary” breakthrough, with the release of the 20 living hostages in Gaza.



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"Now, we have more work ahead of us, but we feel very positive about it. We're making good progress. It's amazing that in just seven or eight days, the kinds of things and systems that have been set up," Rubio stated. "No one's under any illusions. This is – we've already done the impossible once, and we intend to keep doing that, and we can, we have good partners that we're working on. But we feel confident and positive about the progress that's being made. We're clear-eyed about the challenges, too."

Rubio believes the Gaza peace deal is Trump's "top priority," evidenced by all the officials he has sent to the region.

"It's a very important achievement, but there's more work to be done and bigger achievements that lie ahead. And so we're here to work on that, and we feel very positive and confident that we're gonna get there despite substantial obstacles. We're gonna get there," Rubio said.

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The secretary of state arrived just after a small number of Knesset members passed the first reading of a bill to extend Israeli sovereignty over biblical Judea and Samaria, also known as the West Bank.

Time Magazine released its interview with President Trump, in which he said Israel won't annex Judea and Samaria. The magazine quoted Trump as saying, "It won't happen because I gave my word to the Arab countries. Israel would lose all of its support from the United States if that happened."

When asked about the Knesset vote, Trump responded, "They're not going to do anything with the West Bank. Don't worry about it. Israel is doing very well. They're not going to do anything with it."

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Netanyahu's office released a statement saying, "The Knesset vote on annexation was a deliberate political provocation by the opposition to sow discord during Vice President JD Vance's visit to Israel. The two bills are sponsored by opposition members of the Knesset."

Vance called the vote "an insult" and declared, "The policy of the Trump administration is that the West Bank will not be annexed by Israel."

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# 7,000 Students ‘Encounter Jesus in Powerful Ways’ At UniteUS Grand Canyon University: ‘Revival Is Here’

Leaders and organizers of [the UniteUS movement](#) say they saw “lives changed, hearts surrendered, and students encounter Jesus in powerful ways” while sharing the Gospel at Grand Canyon University Tuesday night.

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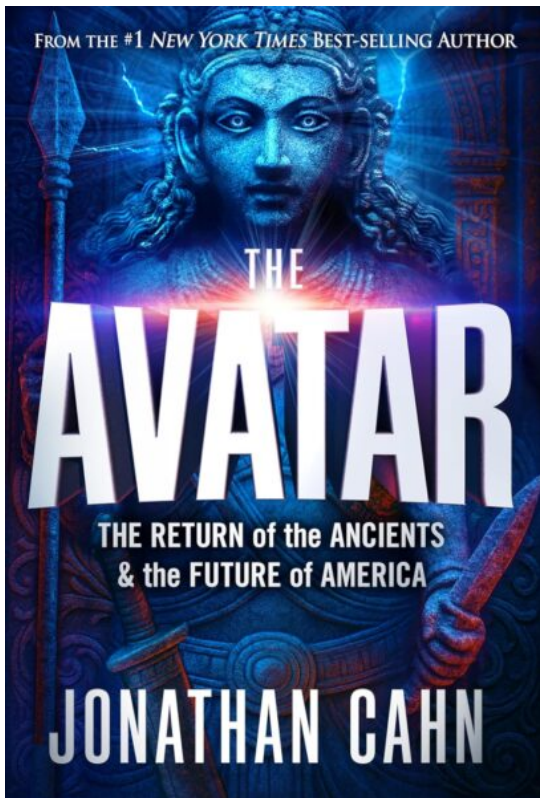
Nearly 7,000 students filled Global Credit Union Arena in Phoenix, Arizona, to worship Jesus, hear the Gospel, and have their lives transformed by the love of God, UniteUS reports.

“If last night was any glimpse of what’s coming, revival is here,” the ministry said on Instagram.



UniteUS is an evangelistic college campus movement marked by salvations, water baptisms, and worship, and Tuesday night at the GCU campus was no different.

The ministry told CBN News that 4,300 people rededicated their lives to Christ. Fifty-eight made new commitments and 251 decided to be baptized. More than 2,600 people said they are interested in taking part in college ministries, and another 622 wanted to get plugged into a church.



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"Unite GCU was more than an event; it was a move of God," the leaders wrote.

CBN News has followed the ministry's outreach since the start of its outreach more than two years ago.

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UniteUS founder and organizer Tonya Prewett, pastor Jonathan Pokluda, and the founder of the IF:Gathering, Jennie Allen, have traveled to college campuses across the country to meet students [desperate for a relationship with God at UniteUs events.](#)

Pokluda previously told CBN News that many students are coming to these gatherings ready to shed their past mistakes.

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“They’re coming in with guilt and shame. STDs, unwanted pregnancies, abortions,” Pokluda said. “And they come here and we’re showing them the one—the only one—who can really deal with their sin, is Jesus Christ.”

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## **‘We Need to Reconstitute Gaza’: Vance in Israel Sounds Optimistic Tone**

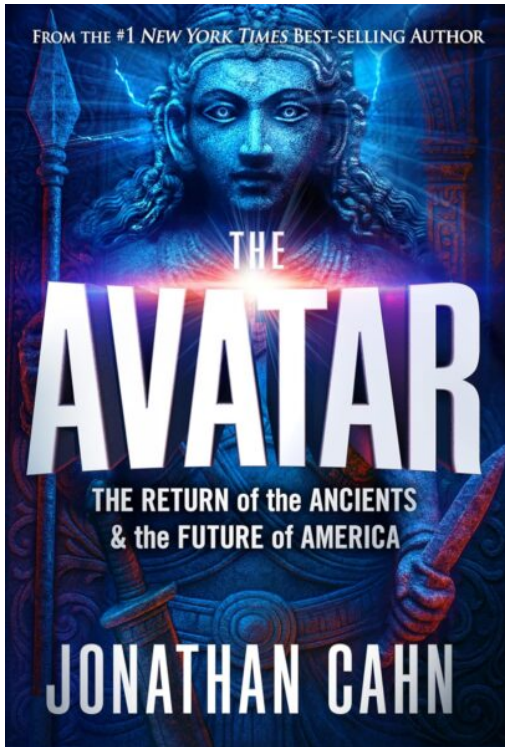
JERUSALEM, Israel – [Vice President J.D. Vance is examining the situation on the ground in Israel](#), looking for ways to advance President Trump’s peace plan. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, welcomed Vance and his wife, Usha, at the Prime Minister’s Office on Wednesday.

“In the last year, we’ve had an unmatched alliance, and a partnership with the United States. That is changing the Middle East and it’s also changing the world. It creates opportunities. Not only for security but for the expansion of peace, which we’re working on very, very diligently,” the prime minister said.

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Vance noted, “As the Prime Minister said, these are days of destiny. And we’re very excited to sit down and work together

on the Gaza peace plan. We have a very, very tough task ahead of us, which is to disarm Hamas, but rebuild Gaza to make life better for the people of Gaza, but also to ensure that Hamas is no longer a threat to our friends in Israel.”



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Upon his arrival, Vance traveled to Kiryat Gat south of Tel Aviv, where he announced the opening of a civilian-military cooperation center.

“You have Israelis and Americans working hand in hand to try to begin the plan to rebuild Gaza, to implement a long-term peace, and to actually ensure that you have security forces on the ground in Gaza, not composed of Americans, [who can keep the peace over the long term](#),” Vance stated.

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Vance repeated President Trump's warning that Hamas must disarm or be obliterated. Nevertheless, he says he's optimistic about the peace deal.

He claims to be optimistic about the peace deal and believes the ceasefire will hold.

He remarked, "If we get from where we were a week ago to a long-term durable peace between Israel and Gaza, there are going to be hills and valleys. There are going to be moments where it looks like things aren't going particularly well. But given that, and given the history of conflict, I think that everybody should be proud of where we are today."

Vance believes the U.S. is the only real mediator between Israel, Hamas, and all of the countries such as Turkey and Qatar. The goal is to revamp Gaza.

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"We need to reconstitute Gaza. We need to reconstruct Gaza," Vance insisted.. "We need to make sure that both the Palestinians living in Gaza, but also the Israelis, are able to live in some measure of security and stability. We're doing all of those things simultaneously."

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