

# **‘Nothing Short of a Move of God’: Nearly 5,000 Decisions for Christ at Recent ‘Life Surge’ Events**

A film about evangelicals under duress in Ukraine has sparked a plethora of intrigue as the Eastern European nation continues its battle against Russia.

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Colby Barrett, executive producer of “A Faith Under Siege,” told CBN News he became involved in the project after a friend called and asked if he wanted to visit Ukraine.

At first, Barrett was reluctant and offered up a litany of reasons why he couldn’t go.



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“I’ve got four kids,” he said. “There’s a war there. ... Life is busy.”

However, despite these roadblocks, something sparked Barrett to disregard his reasons for not visiting – and seize the opportunity.

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“God sometimes doesn’t follow our logic, and I really felt called to go over there to do a humanitarian aid mission and

then also to document what was happening to Christians in the Russian-occupied territories,” Barrett said. “So we traveled the entire length to the front lines ... interviewed over 30 people who had directly suffered in this conflict.”

While the filmmakers spoke to Christians of many denominations, they primarily interacted with evangelical Christians, whom Barrett said have been the most targeted throughout the dispute.

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Overall, at least 47 religious leaders have died, with claims of Russian soldiers killing and torturing Christian leaders. Christian heritage sites have also been caught up in the chaos and destroyed.

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## **‘Gaza is Burning’ as Ground Invasion Begins; Trump Warns Hamas on Moving Hostages**

JERUSALEM, Israel – The long-awaited ground invasion into Gaza has reportedly begun, and it comes as Israel faces a coordinated, global campaign to delegitimize the Jewish state.

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Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz released a statement Monday night saying, "Gaza is burning. The IDF is striking with an iron fist at the terror infrastructure, and IDF soldiers are fighting bravely to create the conditions for the release of the hostages and the defeat of Hamas. We will not relent and will not retreat – until the mission is complete."

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Yet, as the Israeli military enters Gaza City, Hamas may put the hostages in greater danger. On *Truth Social*, President Trump warned, "I have just read a news report that Hamas has moved the hostages above ground to use them as human shields against Israel's ground offensive. I hope the leaders of Hamas know what they're getting into if they do such a thing. This is a human atrocity, the likes of which few people have ever seen before. Don't let this happen, or all 'bets are off.' Release all hostages now."

Speaking to a group of visiting U.S. state lawmakers on Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is also facing an organized campaign to delegitimize the Jewish State.

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The prime minister told the legislators, "We value and cherish your support, and there is an active effort to erode it. That effort to besiege Israel, not merely isolate it, as much as besiege Israel. That is orchestrated by the same forces that supported Iran – Iran's effort to put a military siege on us

and ultimately choke us.”

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# **Assassination Suspect Reportedly Had Trans Tie; Thousands Fill Kennedy Center to Honor Kirk**

Dr. Mary Neal is an accomplished spinal surgeon whose Near-Death Experience (NDE) has inspired millions. Her story, told in Angel Studios’ film “After Death,” unfolded on a South American river when she became submerged while kayaking, and says she visited heaven.

“My husband and I are avid kayakers,” Neal recently told CBN Digital. “We’ve kayaked for decades all around the country [and] internationally.”

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So, they joined friends in Chile for a special trip for her husband’s birthday, but while they were making their way down a river, the jovial occasion was obliterated.

Neal ended up going over a waterfall and experienced something

she could “never have dreamed up.”

“The boat and I were immediately submerged under eight to 10 feet of water,” she said. “I didn’t panic. I set about trying to free me or free the boat ... but the weight of the water and the force of the current was too great for me to do anything.”



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As she pondered her options, she came to the conclusion she would very likely die, finding herself forced to face the unthinkable. Neal said she somehow mustered the strength to ask God for His will to be done.

“The moment I asked that, I was immediately overcome with this very physical sensation of being held and comforted and reassured that everything would be fine,” she said.

And this is where Neal’s story takes a wild turn: she then said she found herself in heaven.

“I never felt alive and then dead, conscious and then unconscious,” Neal said. “I felt conscious and then more conscious, alive and then more alive.”

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She added, “I was being held by Christ.”

While in heaven, Neal said she was still herself but that she was her “best” self. At first, she thought it was a hallucination based on her trauma and said she was doing “self-assessment examples” in heaven.

“I knew I’d been underwater too long to still be alive,” Neal said. “So, I thought, ‘OK, I have an air pocket. So I would think about, ‘OK, take a breath. Do you feel air?’ And I’d

say, 'No.'”

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But she wasn't suffering or struggling to breathe. Instead, she felt “glorious.” Neal described sensing Christ's love and being guided through a life review. She said she even felt her spirit leave her body.

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## **Rubio Visits Israel in Wake of UN Vote for Palestinian State**

JERUSALEM, Israel – U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Israel this weekend and has met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In the meantime, some Israeli leaders are calling for the government to declare sovereignty over biblical Judea and Samaria after the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to support a Palestinian state.

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Rubio began his trip with a visit to the Western Wall for prayer. Even after last week's Israeli strike on Hamas leaders

in Qatar, a U.S. ally, Netanyahu insisted the relationship is solid.

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“My extraordinary friend, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and his wife Jeanette, I think his visit here is a testament to the durability, the strength of the Israeli-American alliance. It’s as strong and as durable as the stones of the Western Wall that we just touched,” Netanyahu declared.

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The U.N.’s vote in New York on Friday was 142 to 10, with 12 abstentions, to pass the Palestinian state resolution, in diplomatic speak titled, The New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine.

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