

# Astronaut 'Butch' Wilmore Celebrates Homecoming at Church: 'All of This Goes Back to My Faith'

This Sunday's service at Providence Baptist Church in Pasadena, Texas, was anything but ordinary. It was a celebration—one of their own had finally come home. After spending nine months stranded in space, astronaut Barry "Butch" Wilmore reunited with his wife, two daughters and church family.

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"It's great to know that he's here, that he's safely here," said Pastor Tommy Dahn.

Wilmore has been resting following last week's 17-hour return journey to Earth alongside fellow astronaut Suni Williams. During his 286 days aboard the International Space Station, Wilmore [relied heavily on his faith.](#)

"My feeling on all of this goes back to my faith," Wilmore said. "It's bound in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is working out His plans, His purposes for His glory throughout all humanity."

Pastor Dahn emphasized that Wilmore's faith was not just a temporary source of strength during his time in space. "It wasn't just a faith that he drummed up for nine months," Dahn said. "That's the way Barry's lived."

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Wilmore also found [encouragement in the prayers](#) and messages from his church family, who followed his journey closely.

“He watched every Sunday,” said Pastor Corey Johnson. “So having that, being able to hear the word of God, having the Word of God to read—like that—the Lord’s the one that sustained him through it all.”

As a longtime elder of the church, Wilmore stayed connected with his congregation while in orbit. He frequently called church members from space and even led devotionals, sometimes joining in song with fellow astronauts.

“We sang together with all the astronauts on the space station,” Dahn said. “We sang ‘Amazing Grace,’ and Barry shared the devotion with the whole congregation.”

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# Ceasefire Over: Israel Launches Major Strikes on Gaza Targets

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel is over. Early Tuesday morning, Israeli warplanes bombarded Hamas targets inside Gaza. [The renewed fighting](#) comes after Hamas refused to extend the ceasefire deal and hostage/prisoner exchange.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced in a statement early Tuesday, "At this moment the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) is striking Hamas targets across the Gaza Strip to achieve the war's objectives as set by the political leadership, including the release of all our hostages – both the living and the fallen."

The prime minister said the decision – approved by the cabinet – came after Hamas repeatedly refused to release the hostages and rejected all proposals presented by President Donald Trump's Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff and other mediators.

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IDF International Spokesman Nadav Shoshani told CBN News, "What we have seen them do is prepare for a terror attack against our troops in Gaza but more importantly, against our civilians, in the communities outside of Gaza, in the western Negev."

Shoshani continued, "What we did is we took a preemptive strike on those, terrorists, specifically those commanders. And on terror targets, removing those threats, and basically saying, we will not accept this."

President Trump was informed of the plan beforehand.

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A White House spokesman announced, "Israel consulted with the Trump administration and the White House in advance of the attacks on Gaza. As Trump has made clear, Hamas, the Houthis, Iran, and anyone who seeks to terrorize – not only Israel but also the United States – will pay a heavy price. [The gates of hell will open.](#)"

Israel's new IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir oversaw the operations alongside the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, who Netanyahu indicated he plans to fire.

Tuesday's attacks lit up the night sky over Gaza with dozens of explosions. Israel claims to have killed many Hamas leaders and Hamas acknowledged that hundreds of Gazans have been killed and wounded.

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# **Religious Discrimination? Christian Church Kicked Off**

# Beach, Others Allowed to Stay

A Los Angeles County church that has been having services on a public beach for the last 18 years is now being told by city officials that they must worship Jesus elsewhere.

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) is taking action against Los Angeles County after the Department of Beaches and Harbors officials changed its policy [to no longer give out yearly permits for religious activities.](#)

For nearly two decades, King's Harbor Church has been faithfully serving its community by holding worship services or "Church on the Beach" at Redondo Beach with proper permits from Los Angeles County.

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According to the ACLJ, 120 churchgoers gather every Sunday morning to worship for "Church on the Beach" adding that many attendees go to the church because "they have had difficult or negative experiences in traditional church buildings."

"The beach location isn't merely a preference – it's a crucial component of their ministry's outreach to those who might never step foot in a conventional church," explains Nathan Moelker, Associate Counsel for the ACLJ.

Additionally, leaders and members complied with regulations to meet. They did not obstruct traffic nor did they solicit to the public in any way. And in cases, when they are a large gathering at the beach where the church's presence might arguably cause any possible disruption, they relocate.

Last July, Church on the Beach became a 501(c)(3), and by September it had become officially a separate entity from King's Harbor Church, but still met with their support.

After the church's new status was finalized last October, a pastor contacted the county to have a permit reissued. But county officials said [they would be changing their policy](#) by the end of that month to prohibit the LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors from issuing yearly permits.

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The church was "grandfathered" into the new policy, but under the new guidelines, the group was limited to only six religious activities per year.

However, none of these requirements applied to nonreligious groups gathering on the beach.

"Even more concerning, a county official told the pastor that churches 'don't need the beach' because they can 'meet in a building' – a statement that demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of both religious freedom and the specific ministry of Church on the Beach," Moelker shared.

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# UPDATE: Ex-Megachurch Pastor Robert Morris Surrenders to Authorities Over Child Sexual Abuse Case

## UPDATE

Former Texas megachurch pastor Robert Preston Morris, the founder of Gateway Church, reportedly turned himself in to authorities at the Osage County Courthouse before 8 a.m. today.

The Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General confirmed the development to CBN News.

Morris has been indicted in Oklahoma on [five counts of lewd or indecent acts](#) with a child, the state's attorney general announced last week.

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## ORIGINAL STORY

The charges stem from allegations by Cindy Clemishire, who says Morris sexually abused her beginning in 1982 when she was just 12 years old. At the time, Morris was a traveling evangelist staying with Clemishire's family in Hominy, Oklahoma. The abuse allegedly continued for four years.

"After almost 43 years, the law has finally caught up with Robert Morris for the horrific crimes he committed against me

as a child,” Clemishire, now 55, said in a statement. “Now, it is time for the legal system to hold him accountable.”

Morris, 63, resigned from [Gateway Church](#) last year, two days after admitting to “inappropriate sexual behavior with a young lady.” However, Clemishire rejects that characterization.

“It was a crime,” she said. “I was a little girl.”

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Clemishire, who is now a mom and grandma, told CBN News it took years for her to fully grasp what she endured. “I was 12,” she said. “I was not a teenager yet. And I told when I was 17 – and it did go all the way through ... the full year of being 16.”

Morris’s accuser said she spent years sharing her story with friends, family, and those willing to listen, despite facing [inner conflict](#).

“Like most believers, you don’t want to do anything that’s going to tarnish the name of God,” she said. “You don’t want to tarnish the church. You don’t want to hurt other believers. You don’t want to, you know, cause another person to not come to Jesus. And so I never wanted it to be a big deal, exposing ... I just wanted someone in leadership, somewhere, {to} take him out of the pulpit because we did not feel as a family that that’s where he should be.”

Clemishire also spent decades sharing her story with church leaders, hoping someone would take action.

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# Catastrophic Storms Slam South & Midwest—Death Toll Hits Horrifying New Levels

Utter [devastation struck the nation's heartland](#) over the weekend as dozens of tornadoes left a trail of death and destruction across eight states, from Missouri to Alabama. At least 39 people are known to be dead.

Near Mobile, Alabama, there were at least three killed, including Anita Owen's mother.

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As she surveyed what little was left of her mother's home, a weeping Owens recounted how she learned of her mom's death from a relative, "All she could say was 'Mama's house is gone. It's leveled. It's leveled.' You wouldn't think just some wind and tornadoes would do this much devastation."

In Talladega County, Alabama, a high school bus looked like a toy tossed against the side of Winterboro High School.

At the Paradise Ranch RV Resort in Mississippi, miraculously, no one was hurt while much of the grounds were flattened.

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In Georgia, a tornado was confirmed west of Atlanta. One eyewitness said, "It sounded [like a war zone.](#)"

In Arkansas, the National Guard was deployed after an EF-3 tornado packing 165-mile-per-hour winds flattened buildings.

The highest death toll was in Missouri, with a least a dozen lives lost.

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## **Ben & Jerry's Sparks Outrage for Praising Abortion Providers, Calling Pro-Life Laws 'White Supremacy'**

Ben & Jerry's faced swift backlash this week from the pro-life community after the behemoth ice cream brand took to X to celebrate ["National Abortion Provider Appreciation Day."](#)

In a now-viral post, the company stated it "stand[s] with

abortion providers today and every day,” claiming in an embedded graphic, “Abortion care providers are being threatened across the country.”

*Today is National Abortion Provider Appreciation Day! ☐☐ We stand with abortion providers today and every day.*

*Learn more and take action now: <https://t.co/80tNYpdun0pic.twitter.com/tcPv0327o4>*

*– Ben & Jerry's (@benandjerrys) [March 10, 2025](#)*

The X post linked to a landing page on the Ben & Jerry's website, in which the company stated it “celebrate[s]” the “care” abortionists offer and urged people to “recognize that providers’ work is now harder than ever” because of “increasing legal attacks” and “even physical violence” aimed at abortion clinicians.

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In the post, “5 Reasons We Stand With Providers on [Abortion Provider Appreciation Day](#) – And Every Day,” the company set its ire directly on conservatives and the Republican Party, pointing specifically to the 2022 overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 1973 decision granting nationwide legal cover to abortion access.

“[C]onservative politicians and anti-abortion activists have increased their efforts to intimidate and silence providers and close clinics,” the post read. “Hundreds of new laws limiting or eliminating access to abortion have been proposed over the past three years, many of them actively targeting providers.”

It later continued, “Providers and patients should never have

to live in fear of doing their jobs or receiving care.”

The Ben & Jerry’s post went on to attach racial motivations to efforts limiting abortion access, claiming “communities of color are disproportionately impacted” by pro-life laws, even calling the shift “white supremacy in action.”

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“Laws criminalizing abortion providers continue to make it harder for everyone to access reproductive care – especially black communities and other communities of color who already struggled for access, even under Roe,” it read. “Due to systemic racism in health care and society as a whole, people of color routinely experience worse healthcare and have greater maternal health risks. ... Threatening people of color’s right to reproductive care through legal and physical intimidation is white supremacy in action. And it has to stop.”

There has been no shortage in the outrage toward Ben & Jerry’s.

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# Shocking Leak: USAID's Secret Pipeline to Extremists Exposed

The Trump administration's examination of America's major foreign aid organization made headlines for exposing billions of dollars in questionable spending.

One key discovery is that it sent funds to the Hamas terror group, even after the massacre, kidnappings and sexual torture of Oct. 7, 2023.

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As a government agency, the United States Agency for International Development, or [USAID, uses taxpayer dollars](#) for civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

Recent revelations, however, indicate it's been bankrolling America's enemies and those pledged to destroy Israel.

During a late February House hearing on how USAID used its money, Middle East Forum Executive Director Greg Roman testified that "[Dozens of terror organizations](#) have received indirect assistance from U.S. foreign aid."

Roman cited Gaza as a case study, telling lawmakers, "\$2.1 billion in American taxpayers' money (went) to Gaza since October 7, when Hamas invaded southern Israel. USAID money was going in terms of an emergency use authorization to try to go to parties that USAID formerly had a relationship with in the Gaza Strip."

Roman continued, "They had to have been vetted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control. They should have been vetted against the special designated terror list from the State Department and from other Treasury organizations."

Roman explained that the investigation of the funding told a different story. He testified that "Waivers were granted because they said there was an emergency use to have that money come into Gaza, thereby jettisoning the usual typical screening procedures. As a result, 90% of aid that was going from the United States by way of its agents in Gaza ended up in Hamas-controlled areas."

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"This is ridiculous," he declared. "Essentially, what the [U.S. assistance](#) to Gaza did was underwrite the ability for Hamas to survive until the ceasefire was just passed."

CBN News reached out to USAID for a response on the continuation of the funds after October 7 but did not receive a reply.

In Elon Musk's role with Department of Government Efficiency, he began to make cuts to the agency almost immediately, although the terror funding has been cited before.

Senator Ted Cruz told ABC News that he brought up the funding of Hamas long before Trump's re-election.

"(During) the previous administration, I held up the confirmation of the Middle East director for USAID because USAID was sending millions of dollars into Gaza that was going directly to Hamas and being used to fund terrorism – and they were hiding it – they were trying to keep it in darkness," Cruz recalled.

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# Surviving Spiritual Darkness: Pastor Andrew Brunson's Vision from God

America's spiritual decline may have stabilized, but [the country's failure to defend Judeo-Christian values](#) is leading to the emergence of a dark, anti-Israel regional alliance.

But Pastor Andrew Brunson says God gave him a vision while he was imprisoned in Turkey, and he says it reveals what must be done to endure spiritual darkness and hardship in our own lives.

More than six years have passed since Brunson's unexpected release from a Turkish prison, and now the world focuses on a different hostage crisis.

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Given his unique perspective, CBN News recently asked Brunson to share his thoughts and describe the emotions he feels at the sight of innocent hostages held unjustly in Gaza and the agony experienced by their families.

“When I see the reunions, it really moved me because I remember just the desperation, the desperate longing I had, for freedom and to be with my family,” Brunson recalled. “And so, then I see these people coming together after not knowing if they’ll ever see each other again. [And I know what they’re feeling now.](#)”

Brunson spent 23 years as a missionary in Turkey, sharing the gospel and planting churches. In 2016, Turkish authorities arrested him on terrorism charges for allegedly assisting the Kurdish minority and sentenced him to life in prison.

Today, Brunson remains grateful to President Trump for what he described as unprecedented efforts to negotiate his release during Trump’s first term. Upon his return to the United States, Trump invited Brunson and his wife, Noreen, to the Oval Office.

“I remember when we prayed for him in the Oval Office I said, ‘Can I pray for you’ and he said, ‘Well, I probably need prayer, more prayer than anyone else in this room.’ And I think it is true.”

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Like many Americans, Brunson believes God intervened to spare Trump’s life last year in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Although the Trump administration has made strides toward family- and faith-friendly policies, Brunson contends the country’s anti-Christian bias has a strong foothold and is deeply ingrained.

“It will bring a delay, but the culture as a whole has already become post-Christian...When we came back from Turkey, we came back to a different country. And I think in the last years especially, there was an acceleration toward a very aggressively anti-Christian position, especially by the ruling elite. You could say every institution in our country is led by people who are post-Christian and increasingly anti-Christian.”

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## **Supreme Court Weighs Case of Christian Counselor Punished for Biblical Guidance**

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) [has agreed to hear the case of a Christian therapist](#) who is challenging Colorado’s ban on “conversion therapy” that targets conversations meant to help minor clients accept their God-given gender and sexuality.

As CBN News previously reported, the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a non-profit legal group, is representing Kaley Chiles, a licensed counselor in Colorado.

ADF petitioned the high court in November to hear Chiles’ case

after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit upheld Colorado's Minor Conversion Therapy Law which "prohibits mental health professionals from providing 'conversion therapy' to minor clients."

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A counselor who violates Colorado's Minor Conversion Therapy Law faces fines of up to \$5,000 per violation, suspension from practice, and, in some cases, revocation of the counselor's license.

According to ADF, many of Chiles' clients seek her counsel because they share [her Christian worldview and faith-based values.](#)

"These clients believe their lives will be more fulfilling if they are aligned with the teachings of their faith," reads a press statement. "Yet Colorado law censors Chiles from speaking words her clients want to hear because the government does not like the view she expresses."

Their lawsuit alleges that while Colorado's law prohibits counselors from encouraging clients to accept their bodies, it "allows counseling conversations that aim to steer young people toward a gender identity different than the client's sex."

"Such restrictions have 'left some clinical staff fearful' of 'providing professional support' to young people at all," reads the petition. "That result leaves detransitioners – those who adopted a transgender identity but now identify with their biological sex – with no counseling support whatsoever

in much of the United States.”

Colorado is among roughly half the states that ban people from finding freedom from gender dysphoria or unwanted same-sex attraction.

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Colorado Attorney General Philip J. Weiser has criticized so-called “conversion therapy.”

“States have long regulated medical practices to protect patients from harmful professional conduct,” he said in a statement. “Colorado’s law protecting young people from unscientific and cruel gay conversion therapy practices is humane, smart, and appropriate.”

Chiles originally filed a lawsuit challenging the law, arguing that it violates the First Amendment’s Free Speech and Free Exercise clauses.

ADF CEO Kristen Waggoner said state officials have “no business censoring private conversations between clients and counselors.”

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# Signs and Wonders: CBN Documentary Uncovers the Evidence for Miracles

Christians know that miracles still happen today. But what is the evidence for a skeptical world?

Multiple polls show that while [most Americans believe the miraculous is real](#), there remain those who say miracles can be explained by purely physical reasons.

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In the new documentary, “Investigating the Supernatural: Miracles,” CBN News’ investigative journalist Billy Hallowell takes viewers on a journey of discovery into the evidence and claims of modern-day miracles.

With insights from premier scientific institutions, academics and theologians, the documentary looks at how science explains miracles and [what the Bible says about the miraculous](#) in modern times.

Using science, as well as firsthand testimony, “Investigating the Supernatural: Miracles” sheds new light on occurrences that are sometimes beyond physical explanations.

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*'Investigating the Supernatural: Miracles' is available NOW!*

□ □

*Go on a journey of discovery as we ask the question: do miracles still happen today?<https://t.co/lgq8HJon9V#miracles>*

[#investigatingthesupernatural](#) [#supernatural](#) [#healing](#)  
[#christianfilm](#) [pic.twitter.com/j1kZmnUrbp](#)

– The Christian Broadcasting Network (@CBNOnline) [March 11, 2025](#)

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