

God Proves He is More Powerful Than ISIS Terrorists

A researcher is sounding the alarm after new data shows a troubling decline in evangelical giving to churches and charities more generally.

“The takeaway is that there has been a change over the last three years in terms of the generosity of the evangelical community, both toward church and toward nonprofit organizations or charities,” Mark Dreistadt said. “We’ve seen a drop in giving across the board.”

Infinity Concepts and Grey Matter Research found the “proportion of evangelicals giving to church fell 13 percentage points from 2021, constituting a 17% decrease in giving,” according to a press release.

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While 61% of evangelicals gave to their local church in the 12 months before the study, this was down from the previous timeframe, when 74% of evangelicals had done the same. The same happened with giving to outside ministries or organizations, which decreased from 58% in 2021 to 50% in 2024.

Dreistadt said these changes are “concerning” for churches and ministries:

“It’s something that is of concern, certainly, for every

church and every nonprofit organization that depends on donor dollars,” he said. “This becomes a very critical thing because ... in some cases, the giving is down as much as 15%. And if you’re working with a tight budget, a 15% loss of revenue can be critical.”

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But Dreistadt also pointed to a “deeper concern” reflected in some of the research he’s done—something he referred to as “a secularization of the church” and of the evangelical community.

Under this dynamic, he said spiritual practices are becoming “less and less significant to a greater number of people within that community.” Ultimately, it’s spiritual engagement that drives everything else in the faith space.

“When we find people who are truly spiritually engaged—they read their Bible, they’re in a home group or a study group, they go to church regularly, they regularly pray—[for] those folks the giving has stayed much closer to the norm,” he said. “So, I do think that there’s a deeper spiritual problem driving some of this as well.”

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Top 5 Misconceptions About Christmas and Christ's Birth

Nativity scenes, artwork, and popular films attempt to retell the incredible story behind Christ's birth. But sometimes there's a disconnect between these depictions and the biblical details.

Let's start with the popular belief that three wise men, or magi, visited Jesus.

"It's great to go to scripture and start with the Magi," Jesse Bradley, pastor of Grace Community Church, told CBN News. "You know, when you think about what's the message—well, there's three of them. Where do we find that? Not in the Bible."

So, where did people get the idea that there were definitively three wise men?

"There's three gifts," Bradley continued. "There's frankincense, myrrh, and gold. But, again, it doesn't say three wise men."

Pastor and author Max Lucado agrees.

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"We do not know if it was a trio of travelers or if there was two or ten," he said. "But we do know that they came in search of Christ."

And there's another misconception—the Magi met Jesus on the night of His birth.

“Did they show up on the day Christ was born?” Lucado rhetorically asked. “Odds are they did not. It would have taken quite a while, but we don’t know when they started and when they arrived.”

Historian William Federer said King Herod’s decree documented in Matthew 2 provides important clues about the wisemen’s arrival.

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“We don’t know the exact timing, but, based on Herod—when he inquires of the wise men, when the Messiah was born, based on that, he decides to kill all babies two years and younger. And, so, it could have been up to two years after Jesus’s birth that the three wise men came.”

Plus, there’s some ambiguity surrounding Mary’s and Joseph’s trip to Bethlehem before Christ’s birth.

“We love to fill in the blanks... sometimes there’s creative license,” Bradley said. “When people think about Mary and Joseph, there are some perceptions. You know, Mary was either on a donkey or a camel, but the Bible doesn’t say that.”

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Stunning NASA Christmas Message Still Resonates 56 Years After Apollo 8

In December 1968, NASA launched the first manned mission to the moon. No one, not even the astronauts aboard, was certain that they'd be able to return safely. Their journey, the most hazardous and dangerous ever embarked upon, took them to the boundaries of another world, and, even more remarkably, brought peace to their own.

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It was shortly after 5:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve that something remarkable happened. After spotting the barren, far side of the moon for the first time, the astronauts onboard captured a photo that has since become known as "Earthrise." For all the turmoil, tragedy and political tumult the world had experienced during 1968, this iconic, indelible image captured the beauty and fragility of our home planet.

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And then, with more than one billion people watching around the world on television, the astronauts delivered a message to the largest audience in human history. It was a sentiment for all mankind and one straight from the pages of the Bible. As the nation waited in prayerful consideration, astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders spoke the following words:

*In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon
the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the
face of the waters.*

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

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