

'Empty Planet': The Looming Danger of Population Collapse Is Real

Empty playgrounds. Schools without enough students to stay open. Small towns, deserted and abandoned. This is not some dystopian vision of the future. Demographers say this is our future.

Global population growth is leveling off, and as early as the second half of this century could begin to shrink for the first time since the Black Death struck the world almost 700 years ago.

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"Everything that we understand that functions in our societies today, that depends on people, which is almost everything, is going to change," says Stephen J. Shaw, a data scientist, demographer and producer of the film "Birthgap."

Shaw spoke to us from his home in Japan, a nation at the forefront of this global demographic collapse. Shaw told us he made the documentary mostly out of fear. "...Fear of the future that we're, as a planet, completely unprepared for and mostly unaware of," Shaw says.

The population crisis could be the most important story of our time, mainly due to all the changes and serious economic, social, and political problems it could bring to our world.



To order Stephen Strang's "Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-Down World," visit .

Taxes could soar as economies shrink; the many elderly could cause retirement and medical systems to collapse; businesses will struggle to find employees, and there won't be enough young to care for the old.

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Shaw says, "Sporadically you're going to have housing that's left desolated. You're going to have stores that are empty. You're going to have places with fewer and fewer employees, fewer customers. You're talking of decimation of communities, you're talking of closed schools, you're talking of closed hospitals."

A nation needs an average fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman to keep its population from shrinking. But 70% of the global population and almost every developed nation falls below that replacement rate.

The U.S. fertility rate hit a new record low last year, dropping to births per woman, a number temporarily offset by record numbers of illegal immigrants.

In his film, Shaw explains how fewer children from fewer and fewer mothers creates a cascading effect, leading to what he predicts as a downward spiral from which no known civilization has ever recovered.

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1 Million Muslims Embrace Christianity, Leading to Mosque Closures

Amid talk of a broader war in the Middle East, there is also news that a Jesus revolution may be underway.

An unprecedented number of Muslims are choosing to follow Christ, especially in Iran as people search for a better life.

Iranians are growing tired of the ayatollahs and a nation led by the empty promises of their Islamic theocracy. An anonymous internal poll found that 80% now prefer a democratic government, and many are leaving Islam.

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"You have a country with one of the highest drug addiction rates in the world. You have a country where corruption runs rampant. You have a country where more than half the people live below the poverty line," explained Todd Nettleton of The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM).

"And the people of Iran are looking at this and they are saying, 'Wait a minute. If this is what Islam has brought us in the last 45 years, we're not interested. We want to know what the other options are.'"

According to Nettleton, Vice President of Messaging at VOM, the faith option many are choosing is Jesus with at least a million Muslims reportedly leaving Islam for Christianity.

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So, how is the regime reacting to this with a reported 50,000 of 75,000 mosques now closed?

“This is not something that is making the regime happy. And, really, in many ways, they are seeking to solidify their power and to crush any kind of dissent,” Nettleton said. “We have heard multiple stories this year of Bible study, a home church being raided. Everyone there is photographed, everyone there is questioned. But then the leader of the meeting is held on to. They are arrested. They are detained, they’re put in prison.”

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Nick Vujicic Officially Launching ProLife Bank in November

Evangelist and motivational speaker Nick Vujicic has announced that his new faith-friendly online banking service will finally be opening in November after years of planning.

Vujicic got the idea to launch a financial service that’s

friendly to conservatives after he was suddenly debanked about five years ago because he was supporting the pro-life cause.

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“I got kicked out of a bank with no warning. They froze my credit cards, froze my debit cards,” he said. “They gave me a letter to say that they did a review of me as a client and they don’t want anything to do with me.”

The new project, ProLifeFintech, is an institution that will “honor God first, serve the people who use our fintech platform, and always choose to support life..All life,” according to its website. (Fintech is another term for online banking.)

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The new financial organization’s plan is to give 50 percent of its net profits to Judeo-Christian-aligned nonprofit organizations.

As CBN News has reported over the last couple of years, multiple conservatives have been targeted by financial institutions at home and abroad.

Last year, Barclays Bank in the UK ended up paying nearly \$17,000 for closing a Christian charity’s account after a three-year legal battle in which it was alleged the bank caved to LGBT activist demands.

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West Urged to Heed Warning: Key Lessons from Persecuted Christians

But Bond said she and others received a threatening email before the 2024 Olympics that left her stunned.

“[It] singled me out personally, along with ... I believe 16 other Israeli athletes from a terrorist organization threatening our lives and saying ... ‘If you fly over, you drive over, we run the airports, we run the streets, we will have blood run in the streets like Munich in ‘72,’” she said, referencing the 1972 terror attack that claimed the lives of 11 Israeli Olympians. “That was a little concerning.”

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Bond said she coped with associated fears by leaning into Jesus, focusing on her calling and not any of the worries that the email sparked in her heart. The threats were especially concerning because the emails were delivered and addressed to each individual’s personal email—and that’s not all.

"There were a couple Israeli athletes that got their obituaries sent to them," she said.

Biggest 2024 Controversy

The Olympian also addressed the biggest controversy surrounding the 2024 Olympic Games: the drag-queen-dominated opening ceremony widely seen as mocking the Last Supper.

"For me, it's really simple ... this world is ... sinful, and it's a fallen world, and you don't have control over the media," Bond said. "And the media is, for the most part, very demonic, and they want to push their agenda, and the devil is trying to get as many souls as he can."

She continued, "I don't support the opening ceremony and what they did by any means, but I can still be a participant as an Olympic athlete and just ... spread the Word of the Lord and be that light."

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Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Shatters Her Own World Record

to Claim Olympic Gold

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared Sunday that Israel stands ready to defend itself against any enemy attack. There is also the possibility that the Israel Defense Forces will go on the offensive.

Netanyahu sees the situation as a seven-front war where Iran and its proxies are trying to strangle the Jewish state.

“Their visible aggression is insatiable, but Israel is not helpless,” Netanyahu said. “We are determined to stand against them on every front, in every arena, far and near. Anyone who murders our citizens, anyone who harms our country, will be held accountable. He will pay a very heavy price.”

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Some anticipate Iran will launch a bigger attack than April 13, when some 350 missiles and drones rained down across Israel, resulting in only minor damage.

The Alma Research Center in northern Israel estimates a combination of “ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and UAVs from many sites in western Iran” could be launched.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has dispatched a fighter squadron to the Middle East, and the head of the Central Command, General Michael Kurilla, is already in the region.

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Retired IDF General Amir Avivi tells CBN News Kurilla is expected to play a valuable role in helping coordinate a similar coalition effort that protected Israel in April.

“It enables to really assist Israel to deal with all the different threats – whether it’s ballistic missiles, a UAV, and any other capability Iran might shoot at Israel or Hezbollah – and it increases dramatically the chances of really being able to secure Israel in the best way possible,” Avivi explained.

He added, “There is no 100%, but it definitely improves a lot – the chances of really dealing very well with most of the capabilities Iran and Hezbollah have.”

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