

Joe Bonsall of Oak Ridge Boys, 'Light for Christ,' Dies at 76

David Baker had stage four melanoma. A tumor on the side of his face had grown so huge he couldn't see out of his right eye, and he could barely eat. Doctors said there was nothing they could do for him.

David was suffering more and more, day by day. Still, he managed to get to church on Easter morning, and that's where he received a miracle.

"When you're going to the doctor and you hear nothing encouraging, that's when your faith, it's going to have to stand," says Jerilyn Baker. In November 2020, her husband David started having constant nose bleeds. Doctors removed a polyp from his sinus cavity. But soon after, things got worse.

Jerilyn remembers, "When his face began to swell I thought, he's got an infection. And I told him, 'We need to contact the doctor quickly.'"

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The results of a CT scan shocked the family. David's brother-in-law, Chuck Denny was there. "They told him he had stage four nasal cavity melanoma," says Chuck. "They said surgery wasn't an option. Cause of the facial disfigurement would be too massive."

Jerilyn felt hopeless, "They told us that, that there was really nothing that they could do. Chemo wasn't for that type that he had."

Chuck says, "I'd never seen anybody healed of cancer. Every time I heard the word cancer, it was a death sentence. And I feel like unless God moved, I feel like David wouldn't, you know, he wasn't gonna make it."

"You know my first thought was in my teaching is that we need to move into a fast and seek God and see God heal," says Jerilyn.

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Pastor Marl Gilbert remembers the many prayers from multiple church locations and beyond.

"Both church families were praying for David and there was a multitude of other people. It wasn't just our churches. David used to be a pastor himself. So there's a lot of people that he knows. It was praying for him in different areas of the country, just believing God for the turnaround in his life," he says.

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Over a Million Lose Power as Hurricane Beryl Hits Texas

MATAGORDA, Texas (AP) – Power outages are mounting along the Texas coast after Beryl came ashore Monday and lashed Houston with heavy rains and powerful winds as the storm moved inland.

More than 1 million homes and businesses were without power hours after Beryl made landfall, according to CenterPoint Energy in Houston. Rising waters quickly began to close streets across Houston and flood warnings were in effect across a wide stretch of the Texas coast.

The National Weather Service expected Beryl to weaken to a tropical storm Monday and a tropical depression Tuesday, forecasting a turn to the northeast and increase in speed Monday night and Tuesday. The storm reached the U.S. after leaving a trail of destruction over the last week in Mexico and the Caribbean.

The storm's center hit land as a Category 1 hurricane around 4 a.m. Central Standard Time about 85 miles southwest of Houston with top sustained winds of 80 mph (128.7 kph) while moving north at 12 mph (19.3 kph), the National Weather Service reported.

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High waters quickly began closing roads around Houston, which was again under flood warnings after heavy storms in recent months washed out neighborhoods and knocked out power across the nation's fourth-largest city.

More than 1,000 flights have been canceled at Houston's two airports, according to tracking data from FlightAware.

Beryl dumped soaking rains across Houston after coming ashore and was expected to bring damaging winds into East Texas, near Louisiana, as the storm pushed north after making landfall.

“Beryl’s moving inland but this is not the end of the story yet,” said Jack Beven, senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center.

Beryl strengthened and became a hurricane again late Sunday. The storm had weakened after leaving a path of deadly destruction through parts of Mexico and the Caribbean.

A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Texas coast from Mesquite Bay north to Port Bolivar, the center said.

The storm’s center is expected to move over eastern Texas on Monday and then through the lower Mississippi Valley into the Ohio Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday, the weather service said.

People on the Texas coast boarded up windows and left beach towns under an evacuation order. As the storm neared the coast Sunday, Texas officials warned of power outages and flooding but also expressed worry that not enough residents and beach vacationers in Beryl’s path had heeded warnings to leave.

“One of the things that kind of trigger our concern a little bit, we’ve looked at all of the roads leaving the coast and the maps are still green,” said Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who is serving as the state’s acting governor while Gov. Greg Abbott is travelling overseas. “So we don’t see many people leaving.”

Tropical storm winds extended 115 miles (185 kilometers) from the center and the hurricane center warned residents to be prepared for possible flash flooding in parts of middle, upper and eastern Texas as well as Arkansas as the storm gradually turns to the north and then northeast later Monday.

Along the Texas coast, many residents and business owners took the typical storm precautions but also expressed uncertainty about the storm's intensity.

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In Port Lavaca, Jimmy May fastened plywood over the windows of his electrical supply company and said he wasn't concerned about the possible storm surge. He recalled his business had escaped flooding in a previous hurricane that brought a 20-foot (6-meter) storm surge.

"In town, you know, if you're in the low-lying areas, obviously, you need to get out of there," he said.

At the nearby marina, Percy Roberts showed his neighbor Ken Waller how to properly secure his boat as heavy winds rolled in from the bay Sunday evening.

"This is actually going to be the first hurricane I'm going to be experiencing," Waller said, noting he is a little nervous but feels safe following Roberts' lead. "Pray for the best but expect the worst, I guess."

The earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic, Beryl caused at least 11 deaths as it passed through the Caribbean on its way to Texas. The storm ripped off doors, windows and roofs with devastating winds and storm surge fueled by the Atlantic's record warmth.

Three times during its one week of life, Beryl has gained 35 mph (56 kph) in wind speed in 24 hours or less, the official weather service definition of rapid intensification.

Beryl's explosive growth into an unprecedented early whopper of a storm indicates the hot water of the Atlantic and Caribbean and what the Atlantic hurricane belt can expect for

the rest of the storm season, experts said.

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Why Are More Young Americans Choosing Abstinence?

It's tempting to look at the so-called "Great Abstaining," as The Cut put it, and think it's a notch on the belt of those preaching biblical morality in a culture run amok.

But I don't think that's what's happening, unfortunately.

I think what we're seeing now—this growing (and, on its face, encouraging) trend toward sexual abstinence—is just the flip side of the same counterfeit coin: the siren sound of the world, of our own fractured morality. It's the same voice that has told us: "Sex is just sex." "There's no harm in casual hookups." "What's the problem if it's consensual, with or without marriage?"

Now, apparently, many are choosing to abstain from sex (ironically) for what I believe to be the very same reasons they opted to have sex indiscriminately.

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Scripture urges abstinence outside of marriage because God calls us to keep the marriage bed “undefiled” (Heb. 13:4-6). In the beginning, God made clear His design is for man and woman to join together in marriage and become “one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Those principles—the spiritual bond solidified by the act of sex—reverberate throughout the biblical narrative. The apostle Paul urged believers to practice lordship over their bodies and fleshly desires, even going so far as to write that, to the man who has sex with a prostitute, with her he has become “one body” (1 Cor. 6:12-20).

Sex is a gift from God intended to bring about a beautiful spiritual oneness expressed in the physical world.

So what’s the issue, then, with this burgeoning “Great Abstaining?” Well, it’s rooted not in recognition of just how important and sacred sex is. Rather, it’s just the opposite; it seems tethered to the errant belief that there is no real value in sex and its ultimate, tangible purpose—procreation.

People are choosing to opt out of sex because they are rejecting the value of relationship, of romance, and, finally, of marriage.

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Rather than finding satisfaction in husband-and-wife relationships, younger Americans are choosing themselves over sacrificial love. The Cut’s Kelsey Osgood wrote the next generation is “deemphasizing traditional romance.” They aren’t just choosing to shun marriage; many are actively arguing it’s no longer valuable.

As for sexuality, they are opting to gratify their own urges in the same hedonistic way our broken world has always encouraged, just with a new spin. This is entirely unsurprising, given our culture’s years-long celebration of

so-called “self-love.”

“The benefits from a period of celibacy are endless because, ultimately, it’s about self-development,” The Independent reported last year.

The societal shift toward abstinence isn’t moral; it’s egotistical.

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China’s Deadly Influence: ‘Blood Money’ and Corruption in Washington

Preacher Ray Comfort is praising an unlikely party: the American Civil Liberties Union.

Comfort, known for his viral videos and engaging Gospel-sharing, recently sent a gift basket to the civil rights group after the organization sued Louisiana over its decision to become the first U.S. state to mandate the Ten Commandments be displayed in public school classrooms.

Rather than deride the ACLU, Comfort offered a “thank you” for giving massive and renewed cultural attention to the famed

biblical commandments.

“The ACLU, in wanting to sue the state of Louisiana, have done us a great favor,” he told CBN News. “Their lawsuit was big news in the secular media, and so the Ten Commandments have featured from Newsweek to Time magazine, USA Today, to The New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, NBC, ABC, Fox, on huge podcasts, ‘The View,’ all throughout social media, and comedian Jimmy Kimmel even quoted all of the Ten Commandments to his massive viewing audience. You can’t buy that sort of publicity!”

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Considering this inadvertent “gift,” Comfort decided to send the ACLU a large basket filled with chocolate and a thank-you card.

That card included a message that read, “Thank you for publicizing the Ten Commandments. America needs to be reminded of God’s Law, and you’ve certainly done that. Very grateful.”

The ACLU reportedly hasn’t responded to the gesture and note, but Comfort said he doesn’t expect the organization to do so. Comfort has long advocated for Christians—and people in general—to pay attention to the Ten Commandments and implement these moral truths into their lives.

He told CBN News that Americans today can learn a great deal by studying biblical Israel and understanding its timeless parallels to our current situation.

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“America is no different than Israel in the Old Testament who forgot the Ten Commandments, and consequently gave themselves to sin,” Comfort said. “And the reason they did so was because

of the sin of 'idolatry.'"

He continued, "When we forsake the Law that forbids making up false gods and committing adultery, we tend to make up our own congenial image of God and run headlong into sexual sin. And that's what's happened to the United States."

Comfort believes the only catalyst for awakening Americans to their national sin is a "fresh look at the Ten Commandments." In fact, Comfort's ministry, Living Waters, has spent four decades teaching Christians about the importance of the Ten Commandments and equipping them to share the Gospel.

Comfort said he would love to see every school in the U.S. display the Ten Commandments, but noted he believes too many people are "brainwashed into believing in the fallacy of 'separation of church and state.'"

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Trump Jan. 6 Case Shaken by New Supreme Court Ruling

HYDERABAD, India – Calvary Temple is India's largest church with more than 300,000 members. Now, it's on a mission to build 40 more megachurches in the next 10 years.

Most roads in Hyderabad on Sundays lead to Calvary Temple. Shortly after 4 a.m., side streets around the church here are already jammed.

As church volunteers coordinate traffic, shuttle buses, auto rickshaws, and motorcycles ferry thousands of people, all trying to get here two hours ahead of Calvary's first of five services that begin at 6 a.m.

By sunrise, the faithful have taken their seats.

The main sanctuary holds 18,000 people supported by adjacent Bethlehem Hall with 15,000 and a third structure accommodating more than 3,000 more.

Hundreds more watch on television screens scattered around the sprawling Calvary campus.

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Pastor Satish Kumar preaches all five services with the last one ending at 8 p.m.

"I've been given the grace to pastor this church which is beyond my dream and imagination," Pastor Kumar told CBN News.

Calvary Temple started in 2005 with about two dozen people. Today, it boasts more than 300,000 members making it one of the largest churches in the world.

They have 11 satellite churches with plans for more nationwide expansion.

"God put a burden in my heart to establish 40 mega churches just like what you see here during the next 10 years," said Kumar.

Pastor Kumar says the church adds some 3,000 new believers each month in a sign that the Lord is moving mightily across

the country.

“God’s hand is upon India, it’s a time for India to reach the lost, not only within the country but across the globe,” Kumar said.

In addition, the church produces over 650 TV programs each month in 17 of the country’s major languages for broadcast on national television.

“It’s not only within the nation, but also in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Gulf countries,” said Kumar.

Millions more follow on social media. The reason for the church’s success?

“Preaching the pure Word of God is what attracts people, and practicing the Word of God is what keeps people within the church,” said Kumar.

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That practical demonstration is on full display here each Sunday.

Narayana Podhili works as a civil engineer during the week. On Sunday, he leads an army of 150 church volunteers who spend hours chopping, slicing, peeling, and stirring – all to prepare free breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals for 50,000 people.

“We are committed to come here every Sunday at 3:30 a.m., 4 a.m., and we keep working till evening,” Podhili told CBN News as he marshaled his forces.

Nagavalli Mendem has served in the Calvary kitchen for seven years after making a promise to God that if He healed her

cancerous tumor, she would serve the church in this capacity.

“Because I made that promise, God healed me completely without surgery,” Mendem said. “God cleared the tumor in my chest and healed me. As a thanksgiving to Him, I serve here at the Lord’s house.”

She and volunteers feed more than 200,000 people each month.

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