

'It Pays to Pray': Pastor Says Tornado Miraculously Missed Him and His Wife by 4 Inches

Severe weather is still wreaking havoc in several states across the U.S. Destructive tornados, torrential rains and strong winds have crashed once again across parts of the South on May 9, leaving many to fear what will be left after it is over, but some residents are attesting that prayer has gotten them through the worst of it.

As of May 8 and 9, about 220 million people were under some sort of severe weather risk.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

Retired Pastor Walter Shell testified that he and his wife grabbed their two dogs and headed for the basement when his phone alerted him to a tornado in his area in Tennessee.

"It missed where me and my wife were standing by about about 4 inches. It went around," he said. "It pays to pray, I can tell you."

Since May 6, 39 states have been under threat of [severe weather](#) and at least four people have died.

Over in Nebraska, 70 workers are thanking God after surviving a tornado that ripped through their area, earlier this month.

Nate Hutchison said he and his coworkers were getting ready to leave the Garner Industries' industrial building in Lincoln when an EF-3 tornado was on a path to make a direct impact with the building.

“The power shuts off and then like two or three minutes later, the air pressure changes completely,” Hutchinson told [KLKN-TV](#). “You can hear things are just shaking ... And everything just came down on top of us, just instantly.”

He said pieces of the ceiling began to fly overhead and all he could think to do was pray.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

“There’s nothing I can do right now except literally [just pray to God](#) that I don’t die because I’m not in control of anything at this point,” he said. “It’s just hopefully I don’t get crushed.”

[Hutchinson survived without a scratch](#). Some of his coworkers were injured, but none were life-threatening.

They are grateful to have survived.

“Sitting there praying for God to save my life, and then I’m here, untouched,” Hutchinson said.

In another recent tornado outbreak, a family is crediting a miracle for their survival after they were unable to get out of their home in time.

Renee Stewart with Nebraska Medicine’s Multiple Sclerosis at Home Access program, or MAHA, was helping the family of a patient she routinely sees when she learned how they survived in storm.

She told [KETV-TV](#) that Frank, a quadriplegic man with multiple sclerosis was stuck in his bed when the tornado touched down. Without time to move him, [his wife and his son](#) decided to use their bodies to shield him.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN.com](#).

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Florida Elementary School Gives in to Atheist Group's Demands, Dissolves Christian Club

A Florida elementary school has dissolved its Fellowship of Christian Athletes club after the Freedom From Religion Foundation, an atheist activist group, pressured them to do so.

Hamilton County School district had allowed the North Central Florida Fellowship of Christian Athletes to begin a new club at Hamilton Elementary, according to a [statement from FFRF](#), an organization that says it exists “to promote the constitutional principle of separation of state and church.”

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

The elementary school had announced on Facebook in late January that it was organizing a “[new huddle](#)” at the school. A little more than a week later, FFRF confronted the district about the group.

“The district’s assistant superintendent informed FFRF’s

complainant that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an official 'student-led' organization at Hamilton Elementary," reads the press statement. "The response made it clear that the school was allowing a religious club for children at an elementary school during the school day."

On Mar. 29, Samantha F. Lawrence, a legal fellow for FFRF, sent a letter to the school district requesting they disband the group.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

"Students have the First Amendment right to be free from [religious indoctrination](#) in their public schools. While the Equal Access Act protects students' right to form religious clubs in secondary schools, it does not apply to elementary schools," Lawrence [argued in her letter](#).

"Elementary students are too young to truly run a club entirely on their own initiative with no input from school staff or outside adults," she claimed.

Lawrence demanded an investigation be made into the club, adding, "Any claims that the Hamilton Elementary FCA club is 'student-led' are at best naïve and at worst dishonest."

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN.com](#).

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

ANOTHER Mega Baptism: Church Dunks 1600+ New Believers on Beach

A Florida beach is once again the site of an amazing move of God where [thousands were baptized](#) in Jesus' name earlier this week.

The Church of Eleven22 baptized more than 1,600 people on the shores of Hanna Park Beach in Jacksonville, FL Sunday.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by The Church of Eleven22 (@coe22)

“That’s 1,614 souls who’ve experienced God moving in their lives, have been saved by Jesus, and are now professing Him publicly as their Lord and Savior! We pray we never lose sight of how miraculous that is in just one person, let alone 1,614,” reads a caption from The Church of Eleven22.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

As CBN News reported, more than 200 people were baptized by minister [Jenny Weaver](#) at Clearwater Beach near Tampa, FL on Easter and nearly 1,000 men, women and children were baptized through Grace Family Church at Fort De Soto Beach in the same city a few weeks later.

Jay Owen, a spokesperson with the Church of Eleven22, told CBN News that it is evident that a mighty move of God is taking place in America right now.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

“It’s a great reminder that the church is not dead, and neither is God. He is moving amongst his people all over the world and we’re all just swept up in His work. It’s a gift to be a part of it all,” he said in an email statement.

Owen said for the last decade, the church has been hosting an annual baptism event. This year, people came from all over the country to participate.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN.com.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

‘United for Israel’ Rally Draws Hundreds at USC Campus

Hundreds of people marched through the streets of Los Angeles, California, this week in a unified front to counter the anti-Semitic movement that’s been sweeping college campuses across America.

Washington-based Pursuit Church and [Sean Feucht’s “Let Us Worship”](#) hosted the inter-faith “United for Israel” rally at the University of Southern California (USC) Wednesday evening.

[Breaking News.](#) [Spirit-Filled Stories.](#) [Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

The USC college campus has been one of the many universities plagued with anti-Israeli protestors calling for “Death to

Israel” and “Death to America”.

But last night, Christian worship music filled the streets, and Christians, Jews and Muslims released a different message “Never Again!” and “Jewish Hate Must Go!”

What a display of unity, prayer and worship that took over the streets of Los Angeles last night!

Christians, Jews and city leaders stood together in prayer, song and solidarity with Israel’s right to exist and every Jewish students right to be protected on campus. □□□□□□
pic.twitter.com/Y3zd4RRABb

– Sean Feucht (@seanfeucht) [May 9, 2024](#)

The pro-Israel rally was a follow-up to a similar march held in April at Columbia University in New York City, drawing 4,500 attendees.

“Every Christian and person of faith across America should be absolutely horrified at what we’re seeing take place right now on these university campuses that have become hotbeds for anti-Semitism and hatred of the Jews – an annihilation of an entire nation,” Feucht previously told CBN News.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

“This is essentially a response to that and [it’s rallying the church](#), it’s rallying Jewish leaders, it’s rallying organizations that want to say...’This is America. These are our universities and campuses in our cities. We’re not going to stand for this,’” he added.

Pastor Russell Johnson of Pursuit Church told K-LOVE the rally’s focus was on essential issues including Israel’s right

to self-defense, the immediate release of all remaining hostages, and the restoration of lasting peace in the region.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN News.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Man Braves Raging Inferno to Save Baby

An Ohio man is being hailed a hero after risking his life to save a baby trapped inside a burning home.

John Stickovich, 62, told WJW-TV he rescued the 11-month-old child Monday morning, repeatedly going inside the house to try to find the baby in the haze of smoke and fire.

.@ClevelandFire are praising a 62-year-old man who spotted this fire on W 102st & ran in (twice!) to save an 11-month-old twin still inside.

That man told @WEWS "I figured I better try – There's no child that should die in a fire ever."<https://t.co/7T4s9WALSypic.twitter.com/RYMklkN75Z>

– Clay LePard (@ClayLePard) [May 6, 2024](#)

Stickovich explained how he jumped into action after seeing

smoke billowing out from a house. He was on his way to work at the time and jumped out of the car.

[With emergency workers not yet on the scene,](#) he acted fast.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

“The mother was sitting on the lawn with her one baby and I asked her if she was all right and she said, ‘My baby is still in the house,’” Stickovich told WJW-TV. “And I was thinking to myself ... ‘I have to save the baby.’”

He crawled through an open door into the kitchen and started searching for the child. At first, Stickovich couldn’t find the baby, so he went back outside to ask the mother for guidance.

Then, he bravely entered the inferno once again.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

“It was getting so bad in there,” Stickovich said. “I was getting ready to leave actually and then the baby cried or made a sound.”

In those harrowing moments, Stickovich was able to find the child and quickly exit the home.

Firefighters, who said [the home was fully engulfed in the inferno](#) by the time they arrived, are now dubbing Stickovich a hero and crediting him for saving the baby’s life.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at Faithwire.](#)

Reprinted with permission from faithwire.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Critics Condemn BSA for Eliminating 'Boy' from Boy Scouts

After more than a century, the Boy Scouts of America is changing its name to become a more “inclusive” organization several years after [welcoming girls and gay boys into its scouting program.](#)

The Texas-based organization is dropping “Boys” from its title to become Scouting America – after holding its namesake for the last 114 years – to shed its image while roiled in bankruptcy and sexual abuse claims.

The reality is that males and females are fundamentally different in many ways – physically, emotionally, and in their relationships. Boys and girls deserve unique programs created with their specific needs in mind. <https://t.co/mh72sm0Ant> [pic.twitter.com/PSol36bRg1](https://twitter.com/PSol36bRg1)

– Trail Life USA (@TrailLifeUSA) [May 8, 2024](#)

The rebranding effort is a major shift for the organization that exclusively started for boys aged 11 to 15 and aimed to develop “good citizenship, chivalrous behavior and skill in various outdoor activities.”

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on](#)

YouTube now!

However, in 2013, the organization made the exception to allow gay and transgender boys into the program and [in 2015 it ended a ban on gay leaders](#). Then in 2017, the organization announced it would allow girls into its flagship Boy Scout program, renaming that to Scouts BSA.

☐☐♂☐

With membership at historic lows, Boy Scouts of America decides to rebrand to make clear that “boys” are no longer welcome.

I’m sure that will help with recruiting.
<https://t.co/Rwf63B3p6I>

– Ted Cruz (@tedcruz) [May 7, 2024](#)

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN News](#).

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Deadly Tornadoes Sweep Across the Midwest: 'Pray for Us'

[Dangerous storms swept across the Plains overnight](#), ravaging parts of the Midwest.

In Bartlesville, Oklahoma, a monster tornado touched down destroying several homes and businesses. Employees working at a Hampton Inn caught the horrifying moment the storm hit the hotel.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

In Barnsdall, Oklahoma, one family was somehow able to escape their collapsed home after a terrifying tornado ripped through their neighborhood.

Also in Barnsdall, a nursing home was hit. The 38-bed facility wrote on social media, "Please pray for us."

All the residents were accounted for with no injuries or deaths, but they had to be temporarily moved to a football field because of a gas leak.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

The National Weather Service reported at least 15 tornadoes overnight, [including at least 7 in northern Oklahoma.](#)

Further south, in Texas, people are starting to clean up as the waters recede after major flooding from heavy rain over the weekend. Hundreds of people in the Houston area had to be rescued from their homes.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN](#)

[News.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Maui Miracle: 100 Saved, 3,000 at Greg Laurie's 'Hope for Lahaina'

Nearly nine months after a devastating wildfire brought the island of Maui to ashes, [Evangelist Greg Laurie shared a powerful message](#) with the community still struggling to pick up the pieces, saying that God is their hope and source of healing.

More than 100 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ at a two-service outreach hosted by Harvest Maui called "Hope for Lahaina" from Apr. 28-30.

We had a blessed time for our outreach event yesterday on the island of Maui that we called, "Hope For Lahaina" We had 2 services with over 3000 attending.

We had fantastic worship led by Leeland and an inspiring performance by Danny Gokey. Danny had to catch a red eye to be on... pic.twitter.com/kwd5pM3pHd

– Greg Laurie (@greglaurie) [May 1, 2024](#)

“What do we do when crisis hits? What do we do when the bottom drops out? What do we do when we don’t think we can make it another day? We look to God,” Laurie told the crowd which totaled 3,000 from both services.

“There’s a book that God has given us that has hope in it and that book is called the Bible,” he added. “This is where you are going to find the hope that you need. Hope has a name. It’s Jesus.”

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

The Aug. 8, wildfire destroyed more than 2,000 buildings and displaced more than 6,000 people in Lahaina. Rebuilding has been a long and slow process. According to [CBS News](#), University of Hawaii researchers have found that in the last five years, the state’s average wait time for a construction permit to build a multifamily home was 400 days.

Local officials announced in April that they will open an office to expedite the processing of permits in Maui.

“Rebuilding here has been slow,” Laurie told [Fox News](#).

And while residents wait in limbo, Laurie’s “Hope for Lahaina” became an opportunity to share the Gospel message.

“This event was part of a lot of work we have been doing on this island after the fire,” Laurie shared on social media.

He added, “Many made a commitment to follow Christ!”

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Last week’s event included worship led by former “American Idol” contestant Danny Gokey and worship leader Leeland.

Island residents said the event was timely and much needed.

[“A lot of people feel hopeless,”](#) one woman shared. “There just seems like no end in sight. (Like) what’s going to happen here in our community. So hopefully many people will come together and feel the spirit of God and find Jesus because right now in Maui, we need it.”

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN News.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Tampa Church Baptizes Nearly 1,000 People on the Beach: ‘There is A Wave of Revival Coming’

Massive water baptisms are becoming a marker of how God is moving mightily among churches across the country. Grace Family Church in Tampa, Florida is the latest example as nearly 1,000 men, women and children were baptized at Fort De Soto Beach recently.

It all began on Easter Sunday when the church decided to do something a little bit different to celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

“We didn’t want a traditional Easter service. We wanted something where we could invite Tampa Bay to be a part of the biggest church service people had ever seen,” Daryl Black, Associate Pastor of Grace Family Church, told K-Love.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

“We didn’t know what to expect,” he added. “We were praying for God to have a [really big move.](#)”

The church had invited more than 30,000 people to Raymond J Stadium where the Tampa Bay Buccaneers play and the place was packed.

“It was amazing to see it happen and be a part of that experience,” Black described.

Legendary former NFL coach Tony Dungy shared a message with the crowd.

“My mom was a Sunday school teacher, so I heard the word about Jesus. [I accepted Christ into my life,](#) but I was just living to be an athlete and a student,” he shared.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

“I got to the Steelers. I was 21 years old and there were about 15 guys on the team that said, ‘You can’t just do it this way. You can’t just have a uniform and be on the sidelines. You got to get in the game. You got to play. You got to put God first in your life all the time.’ And that’s when I kind of changed my life around,” Dungy continued.

The church’s lead pastor, Craig Altman, also shared about the true meaning of Easter.

“The greatest comeback was Jesus Christ was crucified and

buried and for three days he was dead. They thought all hope was lost, but then God resurrected him from the dead. And that's symbolic for us, that God can raise us up into a new life and brings a lot of hope," Altman told local media outlet Fox News 13.

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN News.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Disney Guest Concerned 'Man Dressed in Drag' Is Portraying Evil Queen at Resort: Report

A guest who vacationed at The Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, was reportedly concerned after encountering a person he believed to be a male portraying a female villain during [a character dining experience](#).

The Disney employee in question was in character as the Evil Queen from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," [according to Disney fan blog That Park Place](#). The man said he noticed the individual portraying the Evil Queen "without a doubt had a man's voice" when his children posed for pictures with the villain during the Story Book Dining event at the Wilderness

Lodge.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

He didn't notice the seemingly [male cast member](#) until he got close to the individual. He said he was taking pictures and videos while his wife and children interacted with the Evil Queen and didn't notice the actor's concerning tone of voice "until I got face to face" with the cast member.

"I told my waiter that I had a problem with something," the guest told the blog. "He then asked what was the issue, and I simply stated I have a problem with Evil Queen being a man dressed in drag. The waiter immediately said he was going to get a manager and he looked panicked."

He continued, "At first, I said I wanted to formally complain about the Evil Queen [being a man](#) and that I felt very disrespected by Disney because this is not the sort of thing my family values and they didn't give us any type of notice that this sort of thing was even a possibility."

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

The man went on to say he and his family are Christians who spent thousands of dollars on their Disney vacation and that it "is not right" for a male to portray a female Disney character.

A family has reached out to That Park Place claiming they spent over \$300 on a character meet and greet dinner at Walt Disney World... only to discover the Evil Queen character was almost certainly a biological male. This represents the first time we've heard of Disney using a...
pic.twitter.com/jHRt64wl40

– wdwpro (@wdwpro1) [April 23, 2024](#)

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at CBN News.](#)

Reprinted with permission from cbn.com. Copyright © 2024 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)