

# John Hagee Issues Urgent Prayer Request for Israel After Meeting With the White House

Pastor John Hagee, founder of Christians United for Israel, issued an urgent prayer request after meeting with White House officials about their plan for Israel and the Middle East.

“Our topic of discussion was discussing the forthcoming peace plan concerning Israel. Israel and the Jewish people need our prayers and our advocacy like never before,” Hagee says in a video posted to the CUFU Twitter page. “The Bible gives the command, ‘For Zion’s sake, I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake, I will not keep my peace.’ I urge you tonight to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”

*Take a minute to listen to these important words from CUFU founder and Chairman [@PastorJohnHagee](#) , as he recaps today's trip to our nations capital. [pic.twitter.com/guHKktFP7S](https://pic.twitter.com/guHKktFP7S)*

– CUFU (@CUFI) [March 8, 2019](#)

Hagee was one of several major charismatic leaders in attendance, including Jentezen Franklin, Paula White and Lance Wallnau.

The Trump administration has a Middle East peace plan in the works, but will not reveal details until after the Israeli elections in April.

Jason Greenblatt, assistant to the president and special representative for international negotiations, has been heavily involved with the plan.

“We will be presenting a plan that is fair, realistic and implementable, and something that could improve lives for Israelis, Palestinians and the region dramatically,” Greenblatt [said](#). “There will have to be compromises, of course – the two sides cannot reach a comprehensive peace agreement without compromises. Whether we can achieve this remains to be seen.”

Greenblatt told the [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) that he hopes that people on the outside “will focus on the good, and see the possibilities of a brighter future. And if the two sides are willing to engage, they will be the ones to work through the tough issues.”

He continued: “We’ve developed an economic plan in addition to the political plan, which is essential to not only make the political plan successful, but to make sure they can have the kinds of lives both Israelis and Palestinians deserve. The economic plan is essential to any success of the political plan.”

Greenblatt also thanked charismatic leaders for their support.

*Paula, as always, thank you very much for your help and support! We have very important work to do...*  
<https://t.co/KRJ3YVRJT5>

– Jason D. Greenblatt (@jdggreenblatt45) [March 8, 2019](#)

*Thank you to all of you who joined me today for a thoughtful and important discussion!* <https://t.co/5uY4MRoajm>

– Jason D. Greenblatt (@jdggreenblatt45) [March 8, 2019](#)

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# Don't Turn a Blind Eye to This Atrocity on International Women's Day

I don't bake much, but when I do, it's usually at Christmas.

I follow one of my grandmother's most cherished recipes: her incredible, red-velvet chocolate cake. It's hard work to get it right, but it's worth it because of all the memories that come flooding back with that first bite.

While baking makes many of us think of the past, girls trapped in Thailand's sex industry are eager to learn to bake so they can look to a brighter future.

That's one of the reasons World Help is working to [build a baking school in Pattaya, Thailand](#). This school will give young women the opportunity to gain job skills they can use to find work outside of the red-light district.

They will be able to find employment in places like restaurants, cafes and hotel bakeries. But their future can't start until this baking school is complete. That's why we are asking people to join us in this initiative, especially today on International Women's Day.

## Poverty Robs Women of Choices

In Thailand, there is incredible cultural pressure for women to financially support their families, and that often includes extended family. One woman may be taking care of her mother, brother and grandmother as well as her own children. I've met girls who were trying to bear the financial responsibility for

up to 11 people in their household.

This burden makes young women desperate for work, especially those who grew up in poor, rural villages and could not afford to go to school.

They are often lured to cities like Pattaya by the prospect of job opportunities. Once they arrive, however, they often find their lack of education leaves them with one choice – working in the city’s booming red-light district.

As our partner in Thailand often says, “Poverty is the pimp.”

Every night thousands of girls in Pattaya sell their bodies so their families can survive. They’ve always felt like the sex industry was their *only* option. Until now.

The opportunity to learn a valuable trade at the new baking school will open up a world of possibilities for them to pursue.

### **Baking Can Make All the Difference**

Baking is cutting edge in Thailand. Most people don’t have ovens in their homes. But cafes are becoming trendy, and baked goods are in high demand, which means trained bakers are in high demand, too.

Sopa know this, and she is hoping that baking will soon become her ticket out of poverty.

Sopa, whose name I’ve changed to protect her privacy, never received an education. Her family struggled in a Thai slum, and she was expected to find a job in order to provide.

“In the poor areas,” our partner explained, “there are extremely poor schools. So even if someone has academic potential, they don’t understand or know it. [Sopa] is one of those.”

At age 17, Sopa—like so many girls who work in the bars—was out of options.

Then, she was introduced to a [Freedom Home](#) ... and to baking. Sopa was able to live in a safe family environment away from the pressures of the slum and the red-light district. She is attending a good school and has even discovered an exciting new hobby.

One of the staff taught Sopa and the other girls at the home how to make banana muffins. Sopa fell in love with the process and with the way she could make people happy with her culinary creations. Every day, she comes home from school and asks if she can bake something.

### **Today Is the Perfect Day to Empower Women**

I'll never forget my first trip to Thailand to visit with girls trapped in sexual slavery. I was shocked to see women standing up in front of dozens of men with numbers pinned to their clothing. *They were literally being sold like animals.*

Sex shouldn't be for sale, and neither should a girl's self-worth.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is [#BalanceforBetter](#), fighting for gender balance in the workplace and beyond. I hope you will [join us today](#) in helping create a little more balance in our world. Even learning how to bake a red velvet chocolate cake can help a woman find freedom from the sex industry.

{eoa}

**Charisma News** will launch the podcast series, "The Truth About Human Trafficking," March 11. [Visit CPNShow.com](#) for the episodes, which will feature survivors, prosecutors and abolitionists, and subscribe on iTunes or wherever you listen to podcasts to catch these powerful interviews.

Noel Yeatts is the president of World Help, a Christian humanitarian organization. She's an author, speaker and an advocate for social justice and humanitarian needs around the world. Find her at [noelyeatts.com](http://noelyeatts.com) and on [Twitter](#).

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## **John Hagee, Jentezen Franklin, Paula White Cain, Lance Wallnau Stand for Israel at the White House**

Several charismatic leaders, including John Hagee, Jentezen Franklin, Paula White Cain and Lance Wallnau, stood with Israel at a White House meeting Thursday.

"I'm leaving the White House after a tremendous meeting on Middle East policy, things that we as evangelicals are very concerned about, peace in the Middle East, just some of the things that are going on, negotiations that are happening," Franklin says [in a video posted to social media](#).

"It's a pretty exciting time, and a time that we need to be praying for the peace of Jerusalem, praying for our government, praying for our president and leaders as they are negotiating for peace.

"Just keep that in mind and do all that you can do on your knees in prayer and being vocal," Franklin says.

*Encouraging meeting today at the White House. It is so important to support and stand with Israel. Keep praying for our government, the President, the Supreme Court and all of*

our nation's leaders. [pic.twitter.com/OVP4RIcxWd](https://pic.twitter.com/OVP4RIcxWd)

– Jentezen Franklin (@Jentezen) [March 7, 2019](#)

Other leaders also shared their statements online.

Take a minute to listen to these important words from CUFI founder and Chairman [@PastorJohnHagee](#) , as he recaps today's trip to our nation's capital. [pic.twitter.com/guHKktFP7S](https://pic.twitter.com/guHKktFP7S)

– CUFI (@CUFI) [March 8, 2019](#)

Great meeting [@WhiteHouse](#) today. Thank u [@pastorjohnhagee](#) [@Paula\\_White](#) & other faith leaders for standing up for Israel! [@jdgreenblatt45](#) assistant to the President, [@jennifersks](#) [@realdonaldtrump](#) thank you for giving us your time on this critical issue for our leaders! [pic.twitter.com/iwXS1xVnvD](https://pic.twitter.com/iwXS1xVnvD)

– Jentezen Franklin (@Jentezen) [March 7, 2019](#)

I was pleased to go to the White House today for a listening session with [@jdgreenblatt45](#), and other faith leaders, to discuss the forthcoming peace plan. For Zion's sake we will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not hold our peace. [pic.twitter.com/36tJBt76zr](https://pic.twitter.com/36tJBt76zr)

– CUFI (@CUFI) [March 7, 2019](#)

The Trump administration is in the midst of rolling out an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan.

A great listening session today [@WhiteHouse](#) with [@jdgreenblatt45](#) and many Evangelicals on Israel and the Middle East Peace Plan! Thank you [@realDonaldTrump](#) for the

*team you have assembled for this unprecedented opportunity!*

– Paula White-Cain (@Paula\_White) [March 8, 2019](#)

According to [CNN](#):

*The top US officials will share details of the economic portion of their peace plan with several wealthy Arab countries as they look to secure financial support for the economic plan, which is designed to boost the Palestinian economy if Israelis and Palestinians reach a political settlement. Even though the officials will not address the administration's vision for a political settlement, the presentations will be the most significant to date of the administration's closely held peace plan. ...*

*Senior adviser Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, the special representative for international negotiations, will offer up the details to their counterparts during a weeklong trip at the end of the month to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, the senior White House officials said.*

*Kushner and Greenblatt will be looking for the countries to back the concepts of the economic plan, but will not be asking for immediate financial pledges, mindful that these governments will first want to see details of the political settlement the Trump administration plans to offer, two senior White House officials said.*

Greenblatt told the [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) the Trump administration would not reveal the plan until after Israel's April elections, but no formal deadline was set.

"We've developed an economic plan in addition to the political plan which is essential to not only make the political plan successful, but to make sure they can have the kinds of lives

both Israelis and Palestinians deserve,” he said. “The economic plan is essential to any success of the political plan.”

*Charisma News* will update this story.

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## **Study: Half of Christian Millennials Think It's Wrong to Share Their Faith**

Evangelist Jay Lowder says he was shocked to learn more than half of practicing Christian Millennials think it's wrong to share their faith, according to a new Barna study.

“They're not equipped, they're very intimidated,” Lowder says. “And that responsibility falls on pastors, because there's a lot of pastors that they themselves don't do the work of evangelism.”

Lowder is a full-time evangelist with Jay Lowder Harvest Ministries.

According to the [study](#):

*Almost all practicing Christians believe that part of their faith means being a witness about Jesus (ranging from 95 percent to 97 percent among all generational groups), and that the best thing that could ever happen to someone is for them to know Jesus (94 percent to 97 percent). Millennials in particular feel equipped to share their faith with others. For instance, almost three-quarters say they know how to respond when someone raises questions about faith (73 percent), and that they are gifted at sharing their faith*

*with other people (73 percent). This is higher than any other generational group: Gen X (66 percent), Boomers (59 percent) and Elders (56 percent).*

*Despite this, many Millennials are unsure about the actual practice of evangelism. Almost half of Millennials (47 percent) agree at least somewhat that it is wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith. This is compared to a little over one-quarter of Gen X (27 percent), and one in five Boomers (19 percent) and Elders (20 percent). (Though Gen Z teens were not included in this study, their thoroughly [post-Christian posture](#) will likely amplify this stance toward evangelism.)*

Lowder offers insight into the study, evangelism and more in this podcast interview. Check it out.

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## **Motorcycle-Riding, Gun-Dealing Cop-Turned-Pastor Marvels at International Miracles**

Churchgoers outside the eight Rocky Mountain States might raise an eyebrow or two at the idea of a tough motorcycle-riding ex-cop turned federally-sanctioned gun dealer becoming senior pastor of their church.

Odd though it may seem, this same tent-making pastor, working

as a property manager alongside his wife in the small mountain town of Estes Park, Colorado, is also perfectly and precisely equipped by his Lord and Savior to be a highly-fruitful missionary to some of the darkest regions of Africa. After hearing several second-hand accounts of miraculous crusades, healings and even reported deliverance from death in Uganda this past December, I felt compelled to visit Pastors Steve and Lorna Ferrante at their small home near Park Fellowship Church in Estes Park.

In 27 trips to Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and others in that region of Southeastern Africa over the past two decades, Pastor Steve has laid hands on hundreds of people—watching and marveling as person after person receives instant healing from deafness, blindness, the ravages of malaria and other diseases of all varieties.

All of this occurs openly, in public crusades at the heart of Muslim communities riven with scores of witch doctors and witches invoking magical practices—cultures of death that only tough, committed and fully Spirit-driven missionaries such as Pastor Steve could endure and survive. Time after time, day after day, he finds people writhing on the ground and, on occasion, vomiting vile buckets of demonic filth. Five people in a row were cured of deafness, followed by two who were healed of malaria.

Pastor Steve's favorite stories involve a fiery Ugandan pastor nicknamed "Smart." This supercharged, Spirit-filled leader of Uganda Christian Outreach Ministries occupies outdoor platforms in Muslim neighborhoods with the courage of a Caleb. As he speaks, members of his team move about the crowd, laying hands on everyone and praying. Many healings and other manifestations result—every time.

This writer can only ask: How many pastors of far more traditional and much larger American churches have experienced such manifestations of God's power? Very few, I would suggest.

This is why I felt compelled to go visit him after hearing second-hand reports of nonstop miracles resulting from two recent missions to Uganda.

Pastor Steve was speaking with a uniformed sheriff's deputy as we pulled into the church parking lot, engaged in an intense conversation we chose not to interrupt. A bit later, Pastor Steve apologized, explaining there was need of his assistance from a family whose relative had died, leaving several firearms for them to deal with.

What a way to start a conversation with a superbly qualified and uniquely anointed man of God.

Pastor Steve's story is long, complicated and somewhat unbelievable while fully credible. As a child in California, he suffered from a degeneration of the brain's sight center which, doctors said, would render him blind by the age of 12. His believing parents would not accept this medical verdict, and their prayers bore good fruit. Also during childhood, severe ear infections rupturing his ear drums on numerous occasions left him completely deaf. Yet again, his faithful parents prayed him back to full good health. And all of this was merely the beginning of a truly miraculous life.

He grew up in a Holy Spirit-filled church but did not initially feel a strong urge to minister. He subsequently went into law enforcement and spent 20 years as a cop in California and Florida. In the process, he married another believer, his high school sweetheart, Lorna. Together, they had four children, leading now to eight grandchildren and counting. Throughout their marriage, they stayed active in church work, including special interest in teen ministries. Lorna also worked as a preschool teacher for 10 years and made missions trips with her husband to Swaziland and Zambia

In looking back on the Florida years, Pastor Steve recalls they had always felt a special 'pull' to deliverance and

missionary programs. So it was that he found himself one day serving as associate pastor at Calvary Christian Center in Inverness, Florida, where the doors to African missions opened widely before him. Nearly 15 quick years passed, but the pull to foreign missions work and deliverance outreaches only grew stronger. God forcefully came into the picture, and a subsequent series of events, many of them wildly humorous, led to a linkage via friends, in Centennial, Colorado, south of Denver, to a further friendship linkage in 7,522-high elevation Estes Park.

“Basically,” Pastor Steve laughed, “I was invited to co-pastor a church in this mountain town. But not long after, the head pastor, who spent 10 years building up and solidifying Park Fellowship Church (AOG), resigned to take a new position in another city. He remains a close friend and business associate of ours.”

Packed tightly within a grouping of several 14,000-foot elevation mountains in the High Rockies, Estes Park seemed an unlikely spot from which to spark numerous missions projects aimed at Uganda and beyond. But despite a severe lack of funding, the outreaches led by Pastor Steve have resulted in helping to establish three churches in the heart of Islamic regions of Uganda, along with the beginnings of plans for schooling Christian and, God willing, Muslim youth.

It seems Islamic schools in the region are very well equipped, while alternative offerings are severely wanting. Even Christian converts send their kids to the Muslim schools because of superior facilities and supplies. Steve and Lorna have made this problem a No. 1 priority. At the January 2019 dedication of their third church in the region, the Colorado group began actual construction on a formal school connected to the Ugandan Christian movement.

“The excitement of the crusades is heady stuff. The ardor and commitment of the Ugandan people goes beyond most of what I’ve

seen in the U.S.," Steve explains. "They usually are held outdoors, and draw in many curious Muslims who stand at the perimeters watching and listening. As the miracles, the deliverances and the joyfully loud worshipping gains momentum, they get caught up and are drawn in. The healings quickly follow. I have personally seen scores of Muslims brought into the kingdom, and this goes on nearly every week of the year.

"Events foreign missionaries and local Ugandan pastors initiated 30 years ago have taken root and are now primarily indigenous in nature. Most needed is funding for schools and the building of more churches," he continued. "These needs are what drive us. How the needs will be met, God alone knows. Lorna and I will just keep on doing what we do for as long we are breathing. The schools will be built. It's all in the hands of God!"

*Since retirement 19 years ago from executive communications positions with hi-tech international corporations, **Ronald D. Mallett** directed two Christian ministry outreaches and served in various capacities as a jail and prison chaplain, missionary, group leader and prayer warrior, all activities he carries on to this day. He is a senior member of Resurrection Fellowship of Loveland, Colorado, where he also served as a volunteer press relations writer and adviser. He and wife Pat reside in Milliken, Colorado.*

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## **When Predators Strike: How Churches Help Members Recover**

# From Abuse

A “Safe Churches and Ministers” video features a woman recalling how, from the first day she worked as an interim youth minister, the senior pastor of a prestigious Baptist church began making inappropriate sexual advances.

“Is her story familiar?” asks a narrator after the woman describes too-long hugs, inappropriate conversations and an offer to share a hotel room at a denominational meeting.

“Have you considered that Michelle’s story can happen in churches today?”

The eight-minute video from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is an example of how some Baptist organizations, faced with a #MeToo culture and news accounts of sexual abuse by clergy, have worked to prevent and react to allegations that arise in local churches.

As the Southern Baptist Convention grapples with how to address sex abuse allegations, three other Baptist networks that split from it over the years have already taken steps to educate and assist their congregations should they face similar situations.

Religion News Service asked 10 Baptist groups if they had any policies or procedures related to sex abuse allegations. One of those three that responded was the American Baptist Churches USA, formerly known as the Northern Baptists, from which the SBC split when the more conservative denomination began in 1845 as it defended slavery. A fourth, the historically black National Baptist Convention, USA, also responded by Wednesday (March 6).

ABC communications director Bridget Lipin told RNS that “every ABC region has a policy and procedure for responding to allegations of sexual misconduct of clergy, and these policies

include care for the abused.”

She added that regional gatherings of American Baptist Churches have offered sex abuse prevention training “that includes keeping spaces safe for children.”

The denomination also has a database of convicted or credibly accused offenders who have been affiliated with it, Lipin said.

“Persons who have been flagged because of clergy misconduct are indicated as such in a national database that all regions have access to,” she said.

The NBCUSA said it “does denounce sexual abuse in the church and in our country” but its independent congregations determine policies about their leaders.

“To date we have not been involved in any cases where any survivor of sexual abuse has requested any specific outreach from the convention,” the NBCUSA said.

The NBCUSA said it does not have a database of convicted or credibly accused offenders but it recommends criminal background checks be used by member churches before they hire staffers. It said it has planned training for its June conference on preventing the hiring of sex offenders; NBCUSA lawyers have also been asked to create forms to guide churches’ hiring processes.

“The National Baptist Convention does not allow anyone to serve in a leadership capacity within the organization that has been credibly accused of any sexual impropriety when that information comes to its attention,” it said.

The Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist organizations that have autonomous congregations have said that their structures had prevented having a database.

But David Pooler, a scholar who has written about clergy

sexual abuse and interviewed survivors, said he believes databases are nevertheless necessary.

“We need to have lists and databases 'cause I honestly don't know how else to record and have a record of the fact that someone has perpetrated this abuse and misused their position,” said Pooler, an associate professor of social work at Baylor University.

Pooler has served on a task force in which Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Women in Ministry focused on addressing clergy sexual misconduct. He said the local autonomy of Baptist churches is fraught with quandaries when an abuse situation arises.

“I just think that there are multiple challenges to the very system that created the problem and enabled the problem and may have been complicit in the problem,” he said. “The very vulnerability that created the problem is now then trying to solve it.”

Pooler's research has shown an absence of policies to assist survivors. In his 2015 survey of 165 survivors of clergy sexual abuse, Baptist women were among the three most predominant groups.

Overall, more than 60 percent of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement “My church had a policy in place to help support me.” Close to half strongly disagreed with the statement “The church/denomination thoroughly investigated the report.”

The other two Baptist groups that responded to RNS were the Alliance of Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Both split from the Southern Baptist Convention in the latter part of the 20th century over differences about biblical interpretation and women's ordination, which the SBC does not support.

The Alliance of Baptists issued a 2018 "Statement on Sexualized Violence" that provided a link to a website where survivors could share their stories.

Toya Richards, the Alliance's communications specialist, said the Tucker, Ga.-based faith group has clergy sexual misconduct policies that apply to chaplains and pastoral counselors that it endorses.

She said it does not have a database of convicted or credibly accused offenders.

"During our 32-year history there have been no cases of sexual abuse reported to the Alliance that would warrant any official action," she said.

Richards said the Alliance offers training to chaplains and counselors around the time of the Alliance's annual meetings.

"With deep awareness of the dangers inherent in the Baptist principle of local church autonomy, the Alliance strives to raise awareness of the need for accountability for clergy and church leaders regarding sexual misconduct," she said. "The necessity for each church to establish safe sanctuary policies within the local congregation and to enact those policies is critical."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship formed the task force with Baptist Women in Ministry in 2016 that has included pastors, victims, scholars and attorneys. They have helped create a package of resources, in English and Spanish, that includes videos that explain the terminology of abuse and share survivors' stories. The package also includes guidelines for creating policies about computer and social media use and for mobilizing a response team to respond to allegations.

Leaders of the partnering organizations said they chose to focus on abuse of adults in churches because child protection policies are more prevalent.

Stephen Reeves, who coordinates CBF's advocacy and partnerships, said the Decatur, Ga.-based fellowship does not have a database of convicted or credibly abused sex offenders who might have been affiliated with the organization.

Although the hiring of ministers happens at the local level, national leaders are nevertheless mulling possible next steps.

"We're currently working on that," Reeves said, "on trying to figure out a system where credibly accused folks would be somehow flagged, or otherwise people would have notice of those accusations."

Pam Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, served as the narrator in the video. She said the resources she and Reeves have developed often lead to personal, private one-on-one responses from victims.

"I have never once done a presentation on clergy sex abuse – I've never once done it –without a response of 'This happened to me' or 'This happened in my church or in my family,'" she said. {eoa}

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## **Congregation Reports Seeing Jesus in the Smoke After Fire Destroys Church**

A West Virginia church is choosing to praise the Lord after a fire consumed its building over the weekend.

"We will fight the enemy and not let him hold us down,"

according to a Facebook post on [Freedom Ministries'](#) social media page.

The post accompanied a remarkable photo on Facebook in which one can see the face of Jesus in the smoke.

“Our ministry team is working faithfully to process the recent loss of our facility and to move forward with rebuilding. We appreciate your prayers and will respond as quickly as we can. We welcome you to join us for services at Freedom Ministries!” the church said via Facebook messenger.

Despite the flames, firefighters are also reporting the miraculous.

This miracle is catching the attention of mainstream media as well.

[Yahoo](#), the [Today Show](#), [USA Today](#) and more have reported on the fire and untouched Bibles.

“In the midst of the fire, God’s word will always stand,” pastor Phil Farrington told *The Washington Post*.

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## **‘A Story of God’s Grace, Favor’: Palau Family Opens Up About the ‘Billy Graham of Latin America’**

Called the “Billy Graham of Latin America,” Luis Palau is one of the most noted evangelists of the 20th century.

“Humanly speaking, there was nothing Dad had going for him that you think would allow him to be able to do what he’s done,” Kevin Palau, his son, tells *Charisma*. Kevin is now the president of the Luis Palau Association.

[Luis’ life has been turned into a film, set for a limited release on April 4 and 6.](#)

“It’s really a story of God’s grace and favor, of dad being obedient in the small things and gradually doors opening,” the younger Kevin says of *Palau: The Movie*.

[Luis](#) has shared the gospel with more than 30 million people in 75 countries, according to his website. More than 1 million people say they’ve come to Christ because of his preaching.

Palau, now in his 80s, was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in late 2017.

Despite the diagnosis, Luis continued sharing the gospel.

In January 2019, Kevin shared this update:

*Although his blood work continues to look great, the doctors confirmed the tumor has begun to grow once again. This comes after several months of very positive response to the immunotherapy treatments.*

*As a result, the doctors are switching to a new treatment plan, and we’ll monitor progress closely.*

*Dad is still in great spirits and is quite active. In fact, he’s headed down to Sacramento, California, this weekend to speak at a wonderful church there. He’s also just come off a busy week with our team, discussing plans for our entire year of outreach including festivals in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire; Madrid, Spain; Swansea, Wales; Tyler, Texas; and Cape Town, South Africa. My brother Andrew will be the lead evangelist for each of these campaigns, although Dad is still hoping and praying he will be healthy enough to take part in the Madrid*

*Festival in June.*

*Also included in plans for ministry this year is the release of Dad's most recent book—Palau: A Life on Fire (Zondervan, June 2019). We're also eagerly anticipating the release of a major motion picture on Dad's life. You can read more about it and watch the trailer at [palauthemovie.com](http://palauthemovie.com). It's set to hit theaters throughout the United States and Latin America on April 6.*

When filmmakers first approached the family about the movie, Luis wanted to ensure the story gave God the glory—not the evangelist.

“He wanted it to really honor the Lord and be an encouraging film for the everyday believer to think about what can God do to any one of us if we simply will be obedient and unashamed of the gospel?” Kevin says.

The film more than accomplished those goals, Kevin says.

“We're encouraged that it's going to be a tool God can use,” Kevin says.

Listen to the podcast for more about the film, Luis' health and the future of the ministries.

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## **Entrepreneur Uses Her Bike**

# Shop to Break Dark Principalities Over Her City

Oregon ranks as the No. 1 state for homeless children and youth. But entrepreneur and minister Rhona Mahl is determined to equip those who come into her coffee and bike shop with the spiritual and practical resources necessary to break generational curses and cycles of poverty.

Named Braking Cycles, Mahl's shop is a piece of the kingdom located in Portland, Oregon. Mahl is the executive director of Transitional Youth and the founder of Braking Cycles. Transitional Youth, the umbrella organization over Braking Cycles, provides four homes for homeless youth where mentors teach them their spiritual value, as well as equip them with practical tips for parenting, vocational and educational training. At Braking Cycles, Mahl's team offers apprenticeship programs as well as tangible job skills and real-world knowledge that equip youth to be self-sufficient. Through Transitional Youth and Braking Cycles, thousands of people have been helped. That help is deeply needed, given the dark spiritual atmosphere around the city.

"We see a lot of demonized and demon-possessed young people and older people," Mahl says. "The truth is, the longer we give into the enemy's plans and tactics, the deeper those ruts of demon possession and control go. We definitely do see a lot of witchcraft. There's a spirit of arrogance in the air here. And we definitely have to be equipped and prayed up. We know that the strongholds we're dealing with are much bigger and more prominent than just the basic need of hunger."

Mahl says she receives prophetic words from the Lord about how He's moving against Portland's principalities. Her most recent vision was a graphic, deeply unpleasant one of how the enemy has been welcomed into the city and taken over territory.

“The Lord gave me a picture of our city,” Mahl says. “It was a vivid and graphic picture of a boil-like blister forming a dome over the city of Portland. The blister was infected. It was murky, dark and diseased. Like [I would say about] any blister, I was just saying, ‘Lord, how on earth can we penetrate the hearts of these young people with the gospel if we’re living under such a cloud of disease like that?’

The Lord then showed her the boil had to be lanced.

“He showed me the sterile needle was the Word of God that is sharper than any two-edged sword, able to pierce between bone and marrow, soul and spirit,” Mahl says. “So while that boil or blister may be over our city, we can stand in this place of darkness and disease, and we can be that sword. We can be the conduit of the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God able to pierce through that darkness.”

Braking Cycles is one such tool that God is using to fight the darkness and hopelessness gripping Mahl’s city.

## **The Need**

Homeless youth flock to Portland. According to a 2018 WalletHub report that examined all 50 states and the nation’s capital, Oregon tied with Nevada, California and Washington, D.C., for the highest population of homeless children and youth. The same report ranked the state No. 12 for the most underprivileged children, which alarmed state leadership as they contemplated how to solve the growing crisis.

In August, Kate Kondayen, a governor’s spokeswoman, told the *Portland Tribune* they were taking the problem seriously.

“Oregon’s families need support to stay safely together, and the governor is working to bring more housing under development in the state pipeline as well as focusing on root causes that drive children into foster care, such as addiction treatment and recovery, access to comprehensive health care

and domestic violence,” Kondayen said. “The governor is also supporting the Department of Human Services Child Welfare division as they work on right-sizing the foster care system.”

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Mahl says the existing government programs meet the youths’ basic needs, like food and shelter, and may even provide a community by way of street family. Though these services may sound like an easy answer to Oregon’s problems, Mahl says they could actually be feeding into the enemy’s plan.

“We have to take a step back, look at the bigger picture and realize that there are powers, principalities and strongholds that are keeping systems and children in place, right in the enemy’s web,” Mahl says. “Robust services aren’t the answer. Jesus is the answer. If all we ever do is meet that basic need, giving a kid a meal or a sleeping bag, we are contributing sometimes to the enemy’s plan to keep them stuck there. It’s so important to take a step back and realize that the enemy is at work in our systems.”

## **The Answer**

So if government systems can't solve the problem, what can? Through Transitional Youth and Breaking Cycles, Mahl believes she's developed a godly method of rehabilitating homeless youth.

"Our mission is really to reach these kids where they're at, and show them that their identity and their name is not on the streets of Portland, but it's in God's family," she says. "We speak truth and value over their lives so that they can enter a healthy community."

Mahl knows firsthand how both the problem and the answer work. She was once one of those homeless youth. At 12, she started using drugs. By 13, she was on the streets. At 14, she was pregnant, scared and high. Mahl remembers walking the streets of Portland when the voice of the Lord spoke to her. She sobered up in an instant.

"I think of it a lot like the Saul-to-Paul Damascus Road experience," Mahl says. "I heard the Lord say, 'This baby isn't going anywhere.' I didn't know where those words came from. I just know that they hit me like a ton of bricks. I could not ignore the fact anymore that I had a child growing inside of me. God knew exactly what I needed to hear. At that moment, I was instantly sober and instantly in my right mind. I knew that I needed to get off the streets as fast as possible to protect this baby."

When her daughter was born, she made a promise to herself: As soon as she was able, she would return to the streets to help kids just like her. Now, she's asking other believers to consider the "least of these" and rethink how they interact with homeless people.

"We have to ask the hard questions," Mahl says. "We have to have a completely different conversation."

Mahl says her ministry was the result of prayer and cultural trends intersecting to most effectively reach her city.

"I would start with prayer and ask, 'Lord, what would you have me do?'" Mahl says. "One of the reasons God called me to start a coffee and bike shop as a ministry is because coffee and bikes are celebrated cultures and venues in Portland. This is what we hold in our hand.

"One of the Scriptures the Lord put on my heart is the story of Moses, how God called Moses to set a nation free. And He said to Moses, 'What do you hold in your hand?', and Moses held a simple, humble shepherd's staff, and He used that shepherd's staff to set a nation free. It was the tool he had in his hand at that time. Coffee and bikes are like the shepherd's staff to set a nation of young people free."

In the same way, Mahl says believers in every city have a responsibility to use whatever is at hand to make a difference.

"I would ask, 'What do you hold in your hand in your city, in your community? What is your passion? What is your talent? What's your skill set?' Ask God, 'How can I use this tool that is in my hand right now as a conduit to set the nation of my sphere of influence free?'" {eoa}

*Have you ever wondered where generational curses start or how far they can be passed down? Dr. Rich Masek explores the generational effects of sin and curses and how to break them in the podcast below.*

**Jessilyn Lancaster** is online news director for Charisma Media.

*CHARISMA is the only magazine dedicated to reporting on what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of believers around the world. If you are thirsty for more of God's presence and His Holy Spirit, subscribe to CHARISMA and join a family of believers that choose to live life in the Spirit. [CLICK HERE for a special offer.](#)*

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# Armed With a Picture From God, This Woman Is Taking Back Portland From Principalities

Oregon ranks as the No. 1 state for homeless children and youth. But entrepreneur and minister Rhona Mahl is determined to equip those who come into her coffee and bike shop with the spiritual and practical resources necessary to break generational curses and cycles of poverty.

Named Braking Cycles, Mahl's shop is a piece of the kingdom located in Portland, Oregon. Mahl is the executive director of Transitional Youth and the founder of Braking Cycles. Transitional Youth, the umbrella organization over Braking Cycles, provides four homes for homeless youth where mentors teach them their spiritual value, as well as equip them with practical tips for parenting, vocational and educational training. At Braking Cycles, Mahl's team offers apprenticeship programs as well as tangible job skills and real-world knowledge that equip youth to be self-sufficient. Through Transitional Youth and Braking Cycles, thousands of people have been helped. That help is deeply needed, given the dark spiritual atmosphere around the city.

"We see a lot of demonized and demon-possessed young people and older people," Mahl says. "The truth is, the longer we give into the enemy's plans and tactics, the deeper those ruts of demon possession and control go. We definitely do see a lot of witchcraft. There's a spirit of arrogance in the air here. And we definitely have to be equipped and prayed up. We know

that the strongholds we're dealing with are much bigger and more prominent than just the basic need of hunger."

Mahl says she receives prophetic words from the Lord about how He's moving against Portland's principalities. Her most recent vision was a graphic, deeply unpleasant one of how the enemy has been welcomed into the city and taken over territory.

"The Lord gave me a picture of our city," Mahl says. "It was a vivid and graphic picture of a boil-like blister forming a dome over the city of Portland. The blister was infected. It was murky, dark and diseased. Like [I would say about] any blister, I was just saying, 'Lord, how on earth can we penetrate the hearts of these young people with the gospel if we're living under such a cloud of disease like that?'"

The Lord then showed her the boil had to be lanced.

"He showed me the sterile needle was the Word of God that is sharper than any two-edged sword, able to pierce between bone and marrow, soul and spirit," Mahl says. "So while that boil or blister may be over our city, we can stand in this place of darkness and disease, and we can be that sword. We can be the conduit of the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God able to pierce through that darkness."

Braking Cycles is one such tool that God is using to fight the darkness and hopelessness gripping Mahl's city.

## **The Need**

Homeless youth flock to Portland. [According to a 2018 WalletHub report](#) that examined all 50 states and the nation's capital, Oregon tied with Nevada, California and Washington, D.C., for the highest population of homeless children and youth. The same report ranked the state No. 12 for the most underprivileged children, which alarmed state leadership as they contemplated how to solve the growing crisis.

In August, Kate Kondayen, a governor's spokeswoman, told the *Portland Tribune* they were taking the problem seriously.

"Oregon's families need support to stay safely together, and the governor is working to bring more housing under development in the state pipeline as well as focusing on root causes that drive children into foster care, such as addiction treatment and recovery, access to comprehensive health care and domestic violence," Kondayen said. "The governor is also supporting the Department of Human Services Child Welfare division as they work on right-sizing the foster care system."

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