

Trump Participates in Hindu Festival of Lights

President Donald Trump hosted Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, at the White House on Tuesday.

“We’re gathered today to celebrate a very special holiday observed by Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains throughout the United States and around the world,” Trump says.

According to *National Geographic Kids*, Diwali is a celebration of:

- In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama’s return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps.
- Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura.
- In western India the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu, the Preserver (one of the main gods of the Hindu trinity) sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world.

Trump tells those gathered at the White House, “Together, we are one proud American family.”

Watch the Fox News video to see his full speech.

WATCH: Chip and Joanna Gaines

Are Returning to TV With Their Own Network

Our favorite former HGTV couple returned to television in a comedic interview with Jimmy Fallon and delivered a big announcement.

They're returning to television.

Watch the video to see how and why.

5 Ways Porn Ruins Relationships

Pornography use is not a harmless activity that only involves the person viewing the material. It impacts the man's family, social life, employment, relationship with God and every other aspect of his life.

Ultimately, the harm done to a marriage relationship is one of the most devastating effects of pornography. Since marriage is the basic element of the family and society as God designed it, it would obviously be the focal point of Satan's attacks.

And pornography is one of his powerful weapons to destroy marriages.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate, Jill C. Manning, a sociologist at Brigham Young University, said, "The marital relationship is a logical point of impact to examine because it is the foundational family unit and a sexual union easily

destabilized by sexual influences outside the marital contract.”

5 Ways Porn Will Ruin Relationships

1. Increases domestic violence

Viewing porn exposes a man to many acts of violence against women. One study reviewed scenes from 50 most popular pornographic movies. The majority of the films showed verbal and physical abuse of the women in the scenes.

Another study reports that 88 percent of the hundreds of scenes they reviewed depicted violence towards women.

Viewing all this violence can affect the brain of the viewer.

According to the American Psychological Association, “mirror neurons are a type of brain cell that respond equally when we perform an action and when we witness someone else perform the same action.”

So when a man watches porn, his mirror neurons fire, and he then may want to ‘mirror’ those behaviors with his wife.

2. Increases the divorce rate

Using porn puts incredible pressure on a marriage. The man’s secrecy, reduced time with his wife and family, his need to be alone, and the many other patterns of porn usage continually drive the couple apart. Sadly, the possibility of divorce increases.

Research shows that porn use is a significant contributing factor in about half of all U.S. divorces.

In *The Real Truth* magazine, Edward L. Winkfield said,

Some make the mistake of seeing pornography as an innocent alternative to engaging in an extramarital affair. Yet studies of the brain have shown that the mind does not

readily differentiate such real versus imagined experiences. Therefore, to the brain, there is virtually no difference between viewing pornographic material and an actual sexual encounter with another person, especially when recalling the experience.

OnlyYouForever's website notes, "If you believe marriage is the ideal place for two people to become profoundly intimate, which is the journey of a lifetime, and includes emotional, spiritual and sexual intimacy, then pornography use has no place in that paradigm. Because to use porn is to say that the two of you are not enough."

3. Creates feelings of insecurity

Perhaps the biggest victim of a man's porn usage is his wife. Realizing that her husband is spending countless hours looking at other women and avoiding her is emotionally crushing.

Zach Douglas stated in *Relevant* magazine that "Some women are put in a position where they feel they must compete for sexual and emotional attention with the women in the porn their husbands watch. The "fantasy women" in pornography are portrayed as unrealistically sexually attractive, often because of plastic surgery, stage makeup and digital editing. It is impossible for a real woman to match up to these fantasy women, which can make her feel inferior and insecure."

Additionally, B.J. Foster, director of content creation for All Pro Dad, explained, "A husband's porn use validates all of the negative things his wife thinks about herself. If she only looked different, lost weight, was blonde, sexy, wore better clothes, or fit into the right size are all things that flood her brain, and more importantly, her heart. Ultimately, she feels like she is not enough."

4. Decreased sexual satisfaction with your partner.

Porn users typically have difficulty relating to or performing sexually with their partners. They have become accustomed to the impersonal relationships with the women on their screen.

Studies have shown that watching porn actually decreases a man's sexual pleasure. Some porn addicts even crave porn more than being with a real woman.

Dr. Judith Reisman gives a compelling example in this excerpt from the award-winning Conquer Series:

Wesley Wiley of Debt to Life said, "The drug addict craves 'more' but the sexual addict craves 'different.' In other words, a heroin addict wants more heroin. But a sex addict doesn't just want more sex, he wants 'different' sex. The deception is that 'different' will satisfy you, but of course, once you have what you craved you want something different. It never ends."

Pornography can also have physical effects on men, including erectile dysfunction (ED).

A study from the National Center for Biotechnology Information reported that "Evidence has mounted that Internet pornography may be a factor in the rapid surge in rates of sexual dysfunction."

Pamela Paul, the author of *Pornified*, said, "Men who were fans of pornography were reporting that their sex lives were damaged. They had trouble maintaining erections, they were having trouble having intercourse with their wives, they simply couldn't enjoy real human sexuality any more. These men had programmed themselves to only sexually cue to computerized, commercialized pornography."

5. Creates feelings of worthlessness.

Porn also greatly affects a man's self-esteem. He feels shame, guilt and a sense of worthlessness. He knows he should be head

and leader of his family, but instead seeks isolation and limited interaction with them.

Wiley explained, “The enemy tempts us to look, and when we do, he tells us what a loser we are for looking. Shame is one of the worst side effects of porn. Because people often look at porn to escape stress or fear, it creates a downward spiral that goes like this.

1. Feel bad about your life.
2. Look at porn to escape.
3. Feel bad about your life for looking at porn.
4. Look at more to escape.”

Zachary Horner described his personal struggle with porn. “Nothing has brought me down lower, dragged me down faster, and shot my confidence more definitively than struggling with pornography.”

He added, “Struggling with pornography doesn’t make you a bad person. It just means you have a struggle you need to fight, as well as harmful behavior you need to work on and take care of. We are not defined by just one of our actions.”

There Is Still Hope

Your relationship with God also suffers from your porn usage. He loves you and wants to see you walking in freedom from porn bondage.

For men who have been consuming pornography, all hope is not lost. You may be experiencing one or all of the five consequences listed above. But God will take each of them and bring healing to that area as you earnestly walk out recovery.

Aaron Tysdal realized how porn was impacting his marriage.

“I struggled on and off again with pornography for a long time, I finally realized how it was hurting my wife and how it was hurting my family and I, so I decided to not do it

anymore.”

Aaron used the Conquer Series men’s small group study to help guide him through recovery. The Conquer Series is a cinematic small group study being used in more than 70 countries. The solid biblical lessons and candid discussions about porn are designed to help guide men to lasting freedom.

Aaron explains, “I bought it and watched it with my wife and had huge realizations about how I was medicating my pain with pornography and using sex to feel better. Since then I have been working through what has brought me pain in my life in order to deal with the pain and not mask it anymore.”

Today, Aaron and his wife both lead groups to help other couples reeling from the effects of pornography.

Learn more about the Conquer Series and bring healing to your relationship at .

Woman Calls 911 on Her Parents Because They Invited Her to Church

A woman called 9-1-1 after her parents allegedly suggested that she attend church with them. South Carolina woman Ashley Shanell Fuller told deputies from the Union County Sheriff’s Office that she felt she was being harassed by her parents, who had simply asked whether she would consider coming to worship service with them.

However, the woman’s complaint quickly backfired when, upon arrival, deputies ended up arresting the daughter after she

got “upset,” “loud” and used “profane language,” in response to the police calmly telling her that what her parents did does not amount to harassment.

According to The Herald, Fuller’s dad approached his 30-year-old daughter while she was in her bedroom and asked if she “wanted to go to church and have communion.” Fuller explained to deputies that she didn’t want to attend church and instead desired to “make her parents leave the house and leave her alone.”

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How Selena Gomez Drew Encouragement From Lauren Daigle

Singer and producer Selena Gomez took to Instagram recently to encourage her followers to listen to a song on Christian artist Lauren Daigle’s new album.

In the Instagram story, Gomez, who has been fairly transparent about her personal struggle with mental health, said Daigle’s song “This Girl” has positively impacted her in her struggle with depression and anxiety.

“I like to listen to worship music and this song, in

particular, makes me feel like I'm talking about that feeling," she said, going on to explain that sometimes, even when people do the "right thing," they still don't feel good.

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Jim Garlow Leaves Pastorate, Launches Well Versed Governmental Ministry

On Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, Jim Garlow preached his final sermon as senior pastor of Skyline Church in the San Diego, California, area. Garlow closed out 50 years of pastoral ministry at the church where he served for the last 23 years.

Through some of that time, he mixed pastoring with education, as he completed three master's degrees and a Ph.D. in church history and historical theology.

"This is not a retirement," Garlow emphatically stated.

To the contrary, Garlow is now the CEO and founder of a new ministry called Well Versed that is "meeting humanitarian needs ... differently."

The phrase "well versed" comes from his 2016 book titled *Well Versed: Biblical Answers to Today's Tough Issues* that lays out the scriptural underpinnings to 30 political topics.

Garlow and his wife, Rosemary Schindler Garlow, will now focus full-time on governmental ministries in Washington, D.C., New York City and Jerusalem, as well as other global cities.

“God has used all of our lives to this point to prepare us for this moment, for God’s kingdom-purpose,” Rosemary says.

The ministry helps national and international leaders become “well versed” in God’s principles for the governance of nations. They do so by establishing relationships with political leaders and assisting them in understanding the scriptural principles of government by hosting special gatherings in the centers of influence.

“To the extent that scriptural principles are violated in national principles and policies, human suffering, pain and poverty increases,” Garlow says. “To the extent that biblical principles of governance are followed, human suffering, pain and poverty decrease. God designed the Bible not merely to address personal, family and church issues. It clearly addresses governmental issues as well, instructing us in principled community and national life.”

The ministry to members of Congress in Washington, D.C., is not new to Garlow, as it launched in 2014. Well Versed team member Pastor Rick Scarborough leads Bible studies for members of Congress and at various agencies or departments.

These meetings are known as “The Jefferson Gathering.” Though its namesake, Thomas Jefferson, is often portrayed as a deist, he approved and regularly attended Christian worship services in the U.S. Capitol Building when he was president. These services began in 1800.

In New York City at the United Nations, Garlow founded a ministry in 2017 that has been led by former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann.

Well Versed has a three-pronged strategy in the United

Nations:

- Weekly Bible studies and worship times for persons who work in the United Nations building led by attorney and Bible teacher Phillip Jauregui.
- The Hammarskjold Society, named after Dag Hammarskjold, the highly visible secretary general of the U.N. from 1953 to 1961, who was a Christian. These meetings are designed to bring biblical principles of governance to ambassadors through specialized seminars.
- The Wallenberg Society, named after Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of 100,000 Jews in 1944 before he reached his 33rd birthday. Its goal is to reduce anti-Semitism in the U.N., stand in solidarity with the Jewish people and the state of Israel. Both the Hammarskjold and Wallenberg meetings have been co-chaired by Congresswoman Bachmann and Garlow.

The Bible study in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in Jerusalem is quite different from the ministries in Washington, D.C., and the United Nations. In Israel, Rosemary, who is related to Oskar Schindler, co-sponsors The Schindler Society with her husband. Rosemary has made 67 trips to Israel.

The Garlows launched The Schindler Society with the help of Knesset Member Robert Ilotov, who leads the Christian Allies Caucus. The couple partnered with Israel 365, a Jerusalem-based organization, and now lead Tanakh studies in the Knesset regarding biblical governance and other key issues.

These studies are taught by prominent Jewish Rabbi Yehuda Glick, a member of the Knesset and leader of The Knesset Caucus for the Encouragement of Bible Study, along with Rabbi Tuly Weisz and others.

Rosemary observed that studying the Hebrew Scriptures in Jerusalem is a partial fulfillment of Isaiah 2:2-3 (and Micah

4:2), "And it will be in the last days, the mountain of the LORD's House will be established in the top of the mountains and will be exalted above the hills, and all the nations will flow to it. And many peoples will go and say, Come and let us go up to the Mountain of the LORD, to the House of God of Jacob, and He will teach us His Ways and we will walk in His paths: for the Torah (Teaching) will go out from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (One New Man Bible Translation).

In addition to the Well Versed ministry, the Garlows will be involved in what has been labeled "faith diplomacy." During the 2016 election, Garlow served on the Trump Faith Advisory Board, now referred to as the "White House Faith Leaders Initiative."

From time to time, small delegations of these White House faith leaders have traveled to various countries to meet with heads of state, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala and others. They recently met with President Juan Orlando Hernandez when he was in Washington, D.C.

Although the White House Faith Leaders do not formally represent the president or any governmental agency in these meetings, the "faith missions" have proved to be highly beneficial.

In the upcoming months, Garlow and his wife, along with a small delegation, will be meeting with heads of state in some Eastern European and Latin American countries. In addition, the couple is scheduled to be at the European Union headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as in Africa and Asia.

Garlow says he is looking forward to the future.

"We will be bringing groups of people to Washington, D.C., and

New York City to see what God is doing in restoring biblical truth in governmental places, and bringing people to Jerusalem to see the ways in which Christians can stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people,” Garlow says.

Rosemary will continue to focus on assisting young adults to get to these three influencer cities, as she has seen many Millennials impacted with a fresh understanding of the scriptural foundations for government.

“This is a thrilling moment for me, a type of fulfillment of something that occurred when I was very young,” Garlow stated. “On August the 13, 1956, as a 9-year old, I sensed a ‘governmental anointing’ come upon me, even though I did not know what to call it until many decades later.”

For more information about the Well Versed governmental ministry, call toll free 855-777-9355 (WELL), email info@ or go to the still developing website .

Teen Shot While Praying: ‘God Is Still Great’

A 17-year-old girl is recovering after being shot while she was praying at home.

Now, as she looks at the bullet hole in her bedroom wall, Kimberly Mendoza feels grateful, because she knows God is “taking care of me,” she told KTRK-TV.

“I feel great because I know that God is still great and He’s taking care of me,” Mendoza said. “I know my faith, everybody can laugh at me. Everybody can say, ‘You’re a Christian,

you're so weird,' something like that. But I feel good because God is working for me and I love God and I know if I die, I'm good because I can go to heaven with him." {eoa}

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Rick Warren Expected to Make Full Recovery After Emergency Surgery

Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren was rushed into emergency surgery on Thursday.

"Yesterday morning, Pastor Rick underwent emergency surgery for an intestinal condition," Saddleback Church confirmed to *Charisma*. "The surgery went well! He is out now and is expected to fully recover. Please keep Pastor Rick, Kay and their family in your prayers."

His wife, Kay, was expected to speak at a conference in Ireland, but returned to the United States to be with her husband.