

Prayer Lands 30 Eritrean Christians in Jail

Eritrean officials on Sunday arrested 30 Christians for praying at a private house in the capital city of Asmara. Some were only recently released after being detained for their faith, according to International Christian Concern's (ICC) Africa office.

Security officials arrested the Christians and took them to a police station in Asmara. Security officials also detained another Christian on January 4. The detained Christians are members of the Philadelphia Church, an evangelical church outlawed in Eritrea.

Charisma Starts New Year With Focus on Forgiveness

"When the Vow (Almost) Breaks." "Forgiveness That Transcends." "The Devil in Pew No. 7." Those are just a few of the impactful headlines in the January 2011 issue of Charisma magazine.

The new year is all about starting with a clean slate, says Charisma Editor Marcus Yoars.

Beyond the resolutions that are likely to fade by the end of the month,

he says, New Year's represents a chance to start over again. That's why the January 2011 issue of Charisma focuses on the theme of forgiveness and its power in giving people a second chance.

Pat Robertson Offers Dire Prophetic Word for 2011

Undaunted by criticism over past prophetic utterances, Pat Robertson is once again sharing what he believes the Lord has spoken to him for 2011.

Before sharing the prophetic word on CBN, Robertson explained that sometimes his prophetic inspiration is "so spot on its frightening," while other times he has put things out tentatively to see if it is what the Lord has. He made it clear that he is no psychic, but that sometimes God graciously gives him direction.

With that preface, here is some of what Robertson shared on a TV interview with Terry Meeuwsen about the Lord's thoughts for 2011:

Laos Village Churches See

More Arrests

Armed police have arrested 20 Christians found worshipping in the home of a Laos village pastor. Arrested on Jan. 4 and Jan. 5, these believers were accused of holding secret meetings.

The new round-up of Christians in Nakoon, Hinboun District, comes in the wake of the renewed persecution and forced relocation of Christians in Katin, Ta-Oyl District which began at Christmas.

Southeast Asian Director Stephen Van Valkenburg of Christian Aid Mission has confirmation from reliable indigenous leaders that government officials renewed their persecution of Laotian Christians over the Christmas holidays. Local officials reportedly expelled 15 more believers—seven families—from their homes and destroyed rice fields in an attempt to starve Christians out of the Katin area.

Three days after forcing the families out, the village chief and other officials reportedly burned down the fences around the believers' rice paddies and farmlands. Dikes were destroyed and water drained from rice paddies. Officials reportedly trampled through the crops, destroying all seedlings to prevent a winter harvest.

The expulsion of these seven Katin Christian families came after official warnings issued two months ago. At that time, the Katin chief and the head of the village religious affairs warned the Christians against continuing to exercise their religious freedom and holding to their Christian faith.

Homeless Man with God-Given Radio Voice Lands Job

Have you heard about the homeless man with the golden voice who just landed a job at with the Cleveland Cavaliers? It's a story of God's grace and redemption—and it's getting the nation's attention.

If you haven't seen the video, you can [watch it here](#).

Ted Williams was living on the streets of Columbus holding a sign that says "God-given gift of voice." Doral Chenoweth, a Columbus Dispatch reporter, got curious and decided to give him a dollar just to hear the recovering drug addict speak. Williams was formerly a radio announcer, but fell on hard times. He just wanted a decent job and a place to live. God gave him much more.

After Chenoweth's video went viral, Williams landed a spot on a local morning show and job offers started rolling in. He is now highly sought after not only by the NBA, but also NFL Films.

"It's that voice," said Kevin McLoughlin, director of post-production films for the NFL told The Associated Press. "When I heard him tell his story, I said, 'That's what we do. This guy can tell a story.' Somehow, some way, I need to get a demo with him."

The 53-year-old Williams' response? "God has been so good to me. It's like winning the mega ball lottery or something."

Does this story inspire you? Has God moved in miraculous ways in your life? I'd love to hear about it.

NH Supreme Court Hears Homeschooler's Case

The New Hampshire Supreme Court on Thursday is hearing the case of a homeschooled girl who was ordered into a government school by a state judge.

In the original order issued in July 2009, the court reasoned that the girl's "vigorous defense of her religious beliefs to [her] counselor suggests strongly that she has not had the opportunity to seriously consider any other point of view" and then ordered her to be enrolled in a government school instead of being home-schooled.

Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) allied attorney John Anthony Simmons will argue before the high court on behalf of the girl's mother, who is objecting to the judge's order on appeal.

Christians Decry San Diego Court's Ruling on Memorial Cross

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit issued a 3-0 decision in *Trunk v. City of San Diego* Tuesday, holding that the memorial cross at Mt. Soledad violates the U.S. Constitution. The decision has led to outcry from numerous

Christian groups.

The case, *Jewish War Veterans v. City of San Diego*, involves a 29-foot Latin cross that was erected in 1954 to honor U.S. veterans. The plaintiffs want the cross taken down because it stands on public land.

In the ruling, the court stated, "After examining the entirety of the Mount Soledad Memorial in context – having considered its history, its religious and non-religious uses, its sectarian and secular features, the history of war memorials and the dominance of the Cross – we conclude that the Memorial, presently configured and as a whole, primarily conveys a message of government endorsement of religion that violates the Establishment Clause. This result does not mean that the Memorial could not be modified to pass constitutional muster nor does it mean that no cross can be part of this veterans' memorial. We take no position on those issues."

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which filed an amicus brief behalf of 25 members of Congress in support of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, says the decision by a federal appeals court declaring the memorial unconstitutional is flawed and represents "a judicial slap in the face" to our military veterans.

"This flawed decision not only strikes at the heart of honoring our military veterans, it reaches a faulty conclusion that this iconic memorial—part of the historic landscape of San Diego—is unconstitutional," said Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the ACLJ, which has been active for years in defending the constitutionality of the memorial and its cross.

"We believe the appeals court got this decision wrong and we look forward to the case going to the Supreme Court where we're confident this decision will be overturned. We're already preparing for the next chapter in this decades-old challenge and plan to file an amicus brief at the high court

in support of the constitutionality of the memorial on behalf of members of Congress.”

The American Legion called on the Justice Department to appeal the decision with the U.S. Supreme Court. Jimmie Foster, national commander of the nation’s largest veterans organization, is asking Attorney General Eric Holder to the decision to the Supreme Court.

“The sanctity of this cross is about the right to honor our nation’s veterans in a manner which the overwhelming majority supports,” Foster says. “The American Legion strongly believes the public has a right to protect its memorials.”

Alliance Defense Fund Senior Counsel Joe Infranco says war heroes have earned the right to be remembered. As he sees it, the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom shouldn’t be dishonored because the ACLU finds a small number of people who are merely offended.

“It’s tragic that the court chose a twisted and tired interpretation of the First Amendment over the common-sense idea that the families of fallen American troops should be allowed to honor these heroes as they choose. No one is harmed, constitutionally or otherwise, by the presence of a cross on a war memorial. There is great harm to tearing these memorials down. The memorial cross should stand in honor of the sacrifice made by American troops.”

Christians Decry San Diego

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Ohio City Blocks Christian School's Property Rights

When the Tree of Life Christian Schools purchased the former American Online/Time-Warner building in Upper Arlington, Ohio, the organization had big plans to consolidate four overcrowded campuses housing its 660 students.

Those plans came to a screeching halt when the city refused to grant the school access to its new building. A problematic zoning code is blocking the Christian school from using the facility to educate students.

Are You Mad at God? Just Admit It.

Have you ever been mad at God? If so, you are not alone.

Many people over the ages have struggled with anger against the Father. Now, a new study out of Case Western Reserve University is exploring this anger in a new light.

“Many people experience anger toward God,” says Julie Exline, an associate professor in Case Western Reserve’s College of Arts and Sciences. “Even people who deeply love and respect God can become angry. Just as people become upset or angry with others, including loved ones, they can also become angry with God.”