

Virginia Earthquake Rattles D.C., New York

New York is shaking—and it's not just Wall Street. In what some may view as a sign of the end times, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck

Virginia on Tuesday afternoon, rocking the Northeast U.S.

The earthquake hit Washington, D.C., forcing the Pentagon to evacuate, before rolling over Manhattan and causing skyscrapers to sway in the sky.

Developing...

US Hiker Sentence Offers Insight Islamic End Time Prophecy



U.S. hikers Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal attend their trial at the Tehran Revolutionary Court, Iran. (AP Images/Press TV)

Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced to eight years in an Iranian prison on charges of espionage over the weekend. Terms like “mockery of justice” are floating around, but radical Islam watchers are not surprised.

“The conduct of this trial has quite simply made a mockery of

justice. There does not appear to be any substance to the allegations that Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal are spies," says Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International's Middle East Director.

"The way this case has been handled from the outset strongly suggests that they are being held as a bargaining chip to allow Iran to obtain unspecified concessions from the U.S. government," Smart continued.

Indeed, no evidence to suggest the men were conducting espionage is known to have been presented in court. The two men, who deny the charges, are planning to appeal the sentence in 20 days, according to their lawyer, Massoud Shafi'e. The men have already spent two years in Tehran's Evin Prison. During that time, they have seen their family only once.

Legislators Find Roe v. Wade Loophole



AP Images/Rogelio V. Solis

In what appears to be a loophole in the famous *Roe v. Wade* decision that paved the way for legal abortions, Congresswoman Sandy Adams has co-sponsored a bill that would legislatively end the nation's policy of unlimited abortion-on-demand.

Dubbed the Life at Conception Act, 105 members of the U.S. Congress co-sponsored the pro-life legislation.

The bill aims to leverage the fact that the Supreme Court never actually declared abortion itself to be a constitutional right. In its 1973 abortion decision, the Supreme Court invented a policy that effectively stops any regulation of

abortion during the full nine months of pregnancy.

‘Suing the Devil’ Movie Takes Spiritual Battle to Courtroom

✘ The Bible says when the thief is caught stealing he has to repay sevenfold. But have you ever wished you could just sue the devil?

That’s the idea behind *Suing the Devil*, a faith-based legal thriller that brings the spiritual battle to the courtroom. The film aims to offer insight into the danger of pride, the power of prayer, and the ultimate victory of faith in Christ over the forces of evil.

At a time when many are questioning the reality of hell and Satan—according to the latest Barna Group poll, only 50 percent of Christians believe in the devil—*Suing the Devil* aims its guns at Satan’s strategy. The film opens in select theaters nationwide on Aug. 26.

In the film, Luke O’Brien (Bart Bronson), a washed-up janitor turned night law student, sues Satan (Malcolm McDowell) for \$8 trillion. Satan, who has 10 of the country’s best lawyers on his legal team, appears to defend himself on the last day before Luke files a default judgment. The whole world watches Legal TV to see who will win “the trial of the century.”

Sexually Explicit Content Pushed on Public Schools



Maria Rivera, 4, works on a computer with other classmates at a pre-kindergarten class in Dallas. (AP Images/LM Otero)

Even as the triple-X domain is gaining momentum for pornographers, there's a new battle in the public school system over Internet access to sexually explicit materials.

It seems the American Civil Liberties Union is demanding that seven public school districts deactivate web filters that block student access to websites with sexually-inappropriate content because the filters also block sites homosexual activist groups run.

The Alliance Defense Fund has sent letters to the districts urging them to reject the ACLU's demands. In the letter, ADF assures the districts that they are well within their legal rights to retain their filters. The letters also provide the districts with a list of sites that display pornographic images and sexual advice that would be accessible to students if the districts give in to the ACLU's demands.

ADF sent a similar letter to Gwinnett County Public Schools in Georgia earlier this month after the ACLU threatened that district over its web filter as part of the ACLU's "Don't Filter Me Initiative."

Korea Finds Christian Help in Wake of Devastating Floods



AP Images/Ahn Young-joon

While droughts and famine are plaguing some parts of the world, flooding is prevalent in others.

Dozens of people were killed and thousands left homeless by recent flooding in the Kangwon and North and South Hwanghae province of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Forecasts call for continued heavy rains in the coming weeks. The weather has already caused severe damage to farmland and infrastructure.

Christian ministries are working to bring emergency supplies to help those in desperate need. Samaritan's Purse is among the early responders. The U.S. State Department has allocated \$900,000 to American organizations to deliver flood relief to the country. Samaritan's Purse is matching the U.S. government's grant, bringing the total amount of assistance to at least \$1.8 million. The organization will be providing relief items including blankets, temporary shelter materials and hygiene supplies to meet the critical needs of flood victims in North Korea. Staff members will travel to DPRK to monitor the delivery of this assistance.

"When I was in North Korea in May, I saw the country's increasingly dire needs," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "The recent flooding has made this situation even more acute. I'm

very

pleased that the United States government is separating political

differences from humanitarian need. People are people. God made and

created each and every one of us. The Bible teaches us that those who

have much should share with those who have little.”

Megachurch Will Not Stream Zachery Tims Funeral Service



AP Images/John Raoux

After early plans to stream megachurch Pastor Zachery Tims' funeral service online, New Destiny Christian Center has decided to keep the event private. The service will not stream online or be open to media.

Tims, 42, was found dead in a New York City hotel room on Aug. 12. The cause of death has not yet been determined. About 2,000 people attended NDCC on Monday night to grieve Tims' death.

Speakers have not been announced for the funeral, though Orlando, Fla., news station WESH-TV is reporting that Bishop T.D. Jakes may be present. On Thursday afternoon, Jakes tweeted that he was traveling to Orlando to be with Tims' family.

Archives: Zachery Tims Shares His Testimony

✘ *The following article was originally published in Charisma magazine in September 2006.*

Marijuana and cocaine defined his young life.

He started by selling to addicts in a high crime area. Before long he sold drugs to classmates at the Roman Catholic high school he attended, to women willing to barter their bodies for crack cocaine, and later to supervisors wanting to get high on the job. Trafficking turned him on—until, like some of his customers, he got addicted to his product.

But all that changed for Zachery Tims one early morning in March 1989.

It was close to 3 a.m., and the blackness of the night sky paled in comparison to the spiritual darkness that had blanketed Tims while he slept. Demons swarmed around him in his dream, trying to pull him into hell. It was the third straight night the hideous creatures seeking his life had invaded his sleep.

This time, Tims bolted from his bed and rushed for the door.

Zachery Tims Tributes Surface on YouTube

✘ When rumors first emerged that megachurch Pastor Zachery Tims Jr. had passed away, believers took to Twitter and Facebook looking for the truth. Now, Tims' followers are broadcasting video tributes on YouTube.

The 42-year-old Tims was found Friday at 6 p.m. in a W Hotel room in New York City. Despite rumors in the media world, the official cause of death is not yet known.

Tims pastored New Destiny Christian Center in the Orlando, Fla., area since 1996. The church has grown to more than 8,000 members, many of whom gathered together at the church on Monday night to pay their respects.

As the church world waits for the mystery of Tims' death to be resolved, some Christians are honoring the man who they will remember for building youth centers and helping people fight the good fight of faith. Here are a few of those videos:

Zachery Tims' Viewing, Funeral Plans Announced

✘ Zachery Tims' congregation united on Monday night to mourn their senior pastor as a family. Tims was found dead on Friday at 6 p.m. in a W Hotel room in New York City. The

official cause of death is not yet known.

Tims' wake will be held at New Destiny Christian Center on Aug. 19 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The funeral will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Orlando in Florida.

Zachery and Riva Tims started New Destiny Christian Center in a storefront with just a few members in 1996. The church rapidly grew to a peak of 8,000 members.

Results of the toxicology tests are pending after an autopsy conducted on Saturday did not offer conclusive evidence about Tims' cause of death.

Tims is survived by four children, Zoelle, Zachery III, Zahira and Zion.