

Experts Explore Ripple Effect of Bin Laden's Death

✘ There are many questions left unanswered in the wake of Osama bin Laden's death.

Beyond the particulars of bin Laden's burial—the White House could release photos today—how will the demise of this terrorist mastermind impact the Middle East revolution, if at all? What does this mean for human rights? Is Pakistan really an ally or has the Muslim nation been playing both sides?

Charisma News turned to university thought leaders to get some answers to these and other lingering questions.

Soul Hunter

Evangelist targets outdoorsmen with adventurous gospel ✘
message.

Look around your typical church and you'll notice a common theme: There are more women than men. Evangelist Jay Lowder, founder of Jay Lowder Harvest Ministries based in Wichita Falls, Texas, is working to get more men saved—and attending church—through events that target big, strong (and lost) outdoorsmen. Lowder partners with churches and ministries to host his Adventure Weekend, which offers events for the entire family but includes “manly” activities exclusively for

the guys
on Saturday night.

“Most of these guys would never in a million years walk through the door of a church unless it was [for] a wedding or a funeral,” says Lowder, who carries some clout among hunters since *ESPN Outdoors* published an article on his turkey-hunting skills. “These guys don’t realize that there is an actual motive behind all this.”

Wilkerson’s Life and Legacy Honored at Texas Funeral

✘ A father to some, and a spiritual father to many more, David Wilkerson was buried on Monday afternoon in Tyler, Texas.

Funeral services were held for Wilkerson, who was killed in a head-on collision on April 27, at Rose Heights Church of God. About 800 people arrived from around the country to pay their last respects to Wilkerson. Nicky Cruz, David Shipley, Ron Luce, Robert Morris, and Jim Cymbala were among the many recognizable faces in the congregation.

“David was eulogized by family and friends as a great man,” says Steve Strang, founder and publisher of *Charisma* magazine. “Both his sons, Gary and Greg, as well as several others, honored him.” Strang attended the funeral and plans to publish a special report on Tuesday.

Gary revealed something prophetic his father told him just

last week: Wilkerson thought Gwen, his wife, would outlive him.

Gwen was first diagnosed with cancer at age 32, according to the Assemblies of God (AG). Both of Wilkerson's daughters, Debbie and Bonnie, are also cancer survivors. The AG reports Gwen and her daughters went through 16 surgeries and nine cancers. Wilkerson was right. Gwen outlived him. Gary told the congregation that his mother is expected to recover from the car accident that took his father's life.

The Cross and the Switchblade Co-Author Remembers Wilkerson

✘ *The Cross and the Switchblade*. It's a best-selling book that may go down in Church history as David Wilkerson's most memorable calling card.

The book tells the true story of Wilkerson's outreach to New York teens trapped in a world of drugs and gangs, separate from Christ, without hope and without God in the world. Later turned into a movie, *The Cross and the Switchblade* includes the story of Nicky Cruz, a teen gang member whose life was dramatically transformed by Christ.

But Wilkerson didn't write the book all alone. He depended on the steady hands of John and Elizabeth Sherrill. Since *The Cross and the Switchblade* was published in 1963 the Sherrills have written many books, but they will never forget their experience—or their friendship—with Wilkerson.

Charisma News caught up with John Sherrill to discuss some of his fondest memories with the founder of World Challenge.

Those memories focus on Wilkerson's humility and his prophetic insights into world events.

"David was very careful not to get into any of the areas where televangelists were raising huge amounts of money and then living in great style. He just didn't do that," says Sherrill. "Whenever we saw him he was in a suburban home. If he had some parts of his life that weren't that way I didn't know about them."

Wilkerson did have one passion, though: old cars. Over the years, Wilkerson collected many old cars with his own money—not the ministry's money. Sherrill tells the story of Wilkerson walking into his garage one day and deciding he shouldn't own the vintage automobiles—and he immediately sold them.

Ministry Curriculum Addresses Addicted Inmates

- ☒ Addictions of one type or another are practically a given for prison inmates worldwide.

"About 80 percent of people in prison wrestle with some sort of addiction: alcohol, drugs, whatever," says Dr. David Schuringa, president of prison ministry at Crossroad Bible Institute (CBI). "In fact, a very high percentage of people in prison committed their crime while under the influence of some substance."

CBI provides biblical training for prisoners across the globe, reaching out to them with Bible curriculum, discipleship and opportunity.

Church Leaders Mourn David Wilkerson Loss

✘ Our loss is heaven's gain. That's the general sentiment from Church leaders across denominations about David Wilkerson.

Wilkerson, founder of World Challenge Ministries, was killed last Wednesday in a car accident in Tyler, Texas. His family gathered for a private funeral there on Monday afternoon.

"The passion and purity modeled in Dave Wilkerson's life characterize the highest standards God's Word reveals for any Ephesians 4:11 role," Dr. Jack Hayford, president of The Kings University, told *Charisma News*. "His steadfastness in his marriage, teaching and humility before God constitute those things I especially treasure at this time 'remembering Dave'."

David Cerullo, Chairman and CEO of Inspiration Ministries, agrees that America, and the world, has suffered a great loss in the passing of Wilkerson.

Bin Laden Death Divides Christians on Theology

✘ When it comes to the death of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Christian leaders hardly have a unified voice.

Indeed, while some are rejoicing in the spirit of Proverbs

11:10—When the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. But others are indignant that Christians aren't leaning on the Matthew 5 edict to "love your enemies."

Matthew Barnett, co-founder of the Dream Center in Los Angeles, tweeted this message to his followers: "Disappointed in the pastors who would not rejoice that a man similar to Hitler was removed last night."

Bible Scholar Calls KJV Version 'Fool's Gold' Standard

✘ On the 400th anniversary of the King James Version (KJV), Bible scholar Joel Hoffman is calling the celebrated Bible edition the "fool's gold standard" of translation, saying "the King James Version is monumentally inaccurate."

Although Hoffman says he likes the KJV, recognizing its value historically, politically and sentimentally, he also suggests two reasons that the KJV is now inaccurate: First, English has changed over the past 400 years. That, he says, minimizes the value of some of the translations in the KJV. Second, he argues that the science of translation has improved in the 400 years since the KJV was written, so modern translators are better able to understand and convey the ancient languages of the Bible.

In a blog posting, Hoffman compared the KJV to an ancient map, ending with the admonition that "those who would navigate the Bible solely with this 400-year-old translation journey in perils."

Do you agree with Hoffman?

Rich Wilkerson Offers Personal Look at 'Cousin David'

✘ The Wilkerson family has more than 20 members in full-time ministry—and one of them is Rich Wilkerson, founder of Peacemakers, a non-profit social service organization, and senior pastor of Trinity Church in Miami. Wilkerson and his wife Robyn minister in the heart of Miami's inner city at two campuses.

Although Wilkerson was a successful evangelist by Church standards, the 58-year-old pastor says he never felt truly successful until he started working with the disenfranchised—much like he watched “Cousin David” do since he was a youth.

Following in the footsteps of his cousin, David Wilkerson, he has presented the Gospel to more than 1.5 million students in over 1,600 public school campuses across the U.S. and Canada. He has ministered to youth and families through evangelism and local church ministry since 1973. And his weekly Peacemakers television broadcast deals with tough contemporary issues with the Word of God.

Charisma News caught up with Wilkerson before he gave his Miami megachurch the news of David's sudden passing on Saturday night. Wilkerson shared fond memories of David, as well as moments that shaped his life and ministry.

“David had terrible ulcers when he was 28 or 29 years old. He would come down and stay at our home in Palm Beach for a week or two at a time. That’s when everyone thought the best thing you could do for an ulcer was to drink milk products and ice cream because it was soothing and creamy. David would only drink milkshakes or tomato soup or something like that because he was in so much pain,” Wilkerson recalls.

Jacobs Offers Prophetic Word Over Wilkerson’s Legacy

☒ Many will remember David Wilkerson as a prophet. Now, the Lord is speaking prophetically with regard to the abrupt ending of his life—and the fruit it will bring to the kingdom of God.

“After hearing of David Wilkerson’s tragic death, I, like many, was deeply saddened,” says Cindy Jacobs, founder of Generals International. “However, as I prayed I distinctly heard these words from the Lord, ‘This seed that has been planted will result in a new generation of revivalists!’”

Jacobs’ prophetic word is scriptural. Jesus Himself said unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, Jesus said, it produces many seeds.