

Texas Pastor's Killer Executed, But Families Respond in an Unexpected Way

As the world becomes ever more consumed with bitterness and retribution, the family of Rev. Clint Dobson and the survivors of a brutal church attack in Texas have chosen a different path—[one of forgiveness and grace.](#)

As reported by Fox News, Steven Lawayne Nelson, convicted of murdering Pastor Dobson in 2011 during a robbery at NorthPointe Baptist Church, was executed Feb. 5, in Huntsville, Texas. Nelson's crime was nothing short of horrific. He beat, strangled and suffocated Rev. Dobson with a plastic bag while the young pastor was in his office, preparing a sermon. Church secretary Judy Elliott was also viciously attacked but survived the ordeal. The sheer violence of the crime left the community reeling and the victims' families grappling with unimaginable pain.

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Yet, amid this heartache, the families have chosen to embody the very teachings Rev. Dobson dedicated his life to—the Christian principles of forgiveness and love. In a statement released before Nelson's execution, Dobson's family wrote, "Steven Nelson forever changed our lives, but he has never occupied our minds." They focused not on the man who took their loved one's life, but on the joyful memories they shared with Clint—his laughter, his wit, his advice and his love.

Perhaps even more striking was the statement from Bradley Elliott, whose mother Judy survived the attack.

"I hope that today as Mr. Nelson took his last breath, he was

greeted by the same loving and gracious Savior that has stood by us through all we have been a part of," he said, adding, "Mr. Nelson, we forgive you and hope to see you when we are called home from here."

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This breathtaking expression of forgiveness speaks volumes about [the transformative power of faith](#). It's easy to hold onto anger, to let grief fester into hatred. But the Bible teaches that forgiveness isn't just for the benefit of the wrongdoer—it's a path to healing for those who have been wronged. The Dobson and Elliott families have shown that even in the face of unspeakable evil, forgiveness can break the chains of bitterness and lead to peace.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Trump, Gaza and the Return of the Nephilim: Is History Repeating Itself?

In a surprising turn of events, President Donald Trump recently met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and announced that the U.S. would take control of Gaza and

rebuild the area. While this sounds like a bold political move, there's a deeper, more spiritual side to this story—one that ties back to [ancient biblical history and the legend of the Nephilim](#).

If you're not familiar, the Nephilim are these mysterious, giant beings mentioned in the Bible, and Charisma media sat down experts like L.A. Marzulli, Rabbi Jason Sobel and Mondo Gonzales who explained Gaza isn't just another battleground—it's a spiritual hotspot.

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Marzulli explains, "Joshua and Caleb go in and they destroy all the Nephilim tribes except in Gaza. The territorial spirit has never been deposed in that area." In other words, while much of the ancient world was cleansed of these beings, Gaza stayed under the influence of what he calls [a "demonic Nephilim spirit."](#)

This helps explain why forces have been at war with Israel since the nation's reestablishment in 1948.

Rabbi Sobel backs this up, pointing to Joshua 11:21-22 ([MEV](#)): "At that time Joshua came and wiped out the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them and their cities. No Anakites were left in the land of the children of Israel, but they did remain in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod." These cities were Philistine strongholds, and they're still tied to the Nephilim today.

Mondo Gonzales of Prophecy Watchers dives even deeper, describing the Nephilim as "half human, half demonic," with supernatural strength and size. "This [Gaza] was a stronghold—the territorial spirit that was there was never

conquered, was never fully removed,” he says. So any modern attempt to control or rebuild Gaza isn’t just about politics or diplomacy—[it is against ancient demonic forces](#) that have been in control of the land for thousands of years.

This makes Trump’s declaration even more intriguing. If Gaza is still under the influence of these ancient spirits, what could happen when modern nations step in to “rebuild” it? Are we just talking about construction projects, or could this be the spark that lights up biblical prophecies?

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Marzulli takes it even further, suggesting that “the demonic entities today, at least in the Enochian understanding, are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim.” So, [engaging in Gaza might not just be about peacekeeping](#)—it could mean facing off against these spirits that have held control over the land for millennia.

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Lauren Daigle Defies Cancel Culture with Stunning Super Bowl Victory

When Lauren Daigle steps onto [the Super Bowl stage this Sunday](#) to perform “America the Beautiful,” it will be more than just a musical performance—it will be a moment of triumph, faith and vindication. The 33-year-old Christian music star’s journey to this pinnacle reflects the very essence of perseverance and the unwavering belief that God rewards those who stand firm in their faith.

Daigle’s return to New Orleans for one of the most-watched television events in the world is a full-circle moment. It’s a city that once tried to silence her voice, but now, it celebrates her talent on one of the biggest stages imaginable. Reflecting on her journey, Daigle shared on the “Arroyo Grande” podcast, “To get this moment years later, I would say for anybody watching that has had their reputations smeared in any sort of way and they are [just waiting for the moment of vindication](#), sometimes it only takes five years.”

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In 2020, Daigle faced public backlash from New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell after giving an impromptu performance at a prayer rally led by Christian worship leader Sean Feucht. The rally, part of Feucht’s “Let Us Worship” tour, protested COVID-19 restrictions on churches, and Daigle’s spontaneous participation drew criticism from city officials. Cantrell even demanded that Daigle be barred from performing at “Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve,” labeling her a “weapon to society.”

Daigle recalled the sting of that moment: “I went home to

Lafayette, and I got in my parents' bed and I pulled the covers over my head as an adult. I was like, 'Gosh, here we are again.' Because now there's no amount of public ridicule that is fun."

[Yet, through the trials, Daigle leaned on her faith.](#) The Bible speaks to moments like these in James 1:12, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

Rather than allowing the criticism to define her, Daigle chose to focus on hope and unity.

"What I learned is that when people need an element of hope, coming together is one of the most beautiful things," she says. "It is one of the most incredible rights that we have in this country." Her words echo Romans 5:3-4, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

As reported by Fox News, when Trombone Shorty called to invite her to perform at the Super Bowl, Daigle was in disbelief.

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"I picked up the phone, and there was a little bit of, 'Is this real? Is this actually going to happen?' I want to know that it's real," she recounts. But it was real, and it was a testament to the faithfulness of God in her life.

Daigle's performance will not only be a tribute to New Orleans

and her hometown of Lafayette, but it will also reflect her deep Christian roots. Speaking about the song, she said, “When it says, ‘God shed His grace on me,’ that line, it just really gripped me to the core in a way. I’ve sung songs talking about God, right? But when you see a song that is meant for something else, and it still includes the power of God in it... there’s something unique about this.”

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President Trump Declares Faith is ‘Coming Back Strong’ at National Prayer Breakfast

At this year’s National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., President Donald Trump addressed a packed room, emphasizing the importance of faith, religious freedom and America’s divine destiny. With his signature style, Trump blended humor and bold declarations, [making it clear that he intends to bring religion](#) “back stronger, bigger, better than ever before.”

Faith Front and Center

Opening his remarks with gratitude, Trump thanked the thousands of believers gathered from around the world. He

underscored the significance of the event, noting, “This is a beautiful tradition that started with President Eisenhower in 1953, and I wouldn’t miss it for the world.” Despite logistical suggestions to attend virtually, Trump insisted on being there in person: “They told me I could do it via Skype, and I said, ‘What are we doing? I’m going to be there. It’s not that far.’”

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A Renewed Focus on Religious Liberty

Trump didn’t shy away from addressing [what he perceives as recent threats to religious freedom](#). “Religion... has suffered greatly over the last few years, but it’s coming back strong,” he asserted. Announcing the creation of a new Presidential Commission on Religious Liberty, Trump vowed, “It’s going to be a very big deal, which will work tirelessly to uphold this most fundamental right.”

In a striking move, Trump also introduced an executive order to combat anti-Christian bias. “The mission of this task force will be to immediately halt all forms of anti-Christian targeting and discrimination within the federal government,” he said, emphasizing his commitment to protecting faith in all aspects of American life.

Economic Revival and National Pride

Trump’s speech wasn’t limited to religious matters. He celebrated his administration’s achievements, claiming, “Our economy is roaring back to life, optimism is soaring, hope is returning and we have brought back the words ‘common sense’ to our government.” He highlighted his efforts to lower oil

prices, stating, “We’re going to have more liquid gold coming out of the ground than anybody’s ever seen before.”

Reflecting on his election victory, Trump declared, “We won by a massive majority, won all seven swing states, we won the popular vote by millions and millions of people. We have a mandate.” He tied his political success to divine providence, remarking, “God works in very strange ways.”

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International Affairs and Personal Stories

Trump also touched on global conflicts and his efforts toward peace, noting, “Just days before taking office, my team negotiated a breakthrough ceasefire agreement to stop the bloodshed in the Middle East.” He introduced survivors of the Oct. 7, attacks by Hamas, emphasizing their strength and faith: “For 245 harrowing days, Noa [Argamani] showed unwavering strength and courage and faith as she endured the unendurable.”

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Jordan Wells Reveals the Power of Spiritual Warfare

Pastor Jordan Wells' journey from a life marked by trauma and addiction to one of faith and deliverance is nothing short of powerful. His story isn't just about personal transformation—[it's a testament to the importance of spiritual warfare](#) in overcoming life's deepest struggles.

Wells' early life was turbulent. Raised in a home overshadowed by his mother's drug addiction and his father's involvement in drug dealing, chaos was a constant companion. But the darkness didn't stop there. Wells shares, "When I was very young, I was molested four or five times... by male cousins or [other] males." This traumatic abuse opened doors to "homosexuality, deep perversion [and] sexual sin" that haunted him into adolescence and beyond.

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By the time he was a teenager, Wells found himself trapped in a cycle of substance abuse and destructive behaviors. "I began to do K2, marijuana... ," he recalls. The synthetic drug K2 became particularly dangerous. "It was a gas station type of marijuana but laced with different things... I overdosed on K2." This overdose became a pivotal moment in his life, leading to a harrowing spiritual encounter.

While under the influence, Wells describes a terrifying experience: "I was watching a movie... and the movie froze by itself... a spirit came out of the TV and ran through the apartment. All of the walls, all the pictures... started falling down." Amid this supernatural chaos, he heard the audible voice of God for the first time: "I've called you to preach the gospel around the world, but you have disappointed Me and

broke my heart.”

[This divine confrontation marked the beginning of Wells' deliverance.](#) The chains of addiction, perversion and self-destruction were broken, but the battle was far from over. Wells emphasizes that deliverance is not a one-time event; it's an ongoing process that requires vigilance and spiritual warfare.

“As Christians... there is a target on your back that is even bigger,” he explains. “The moment we get saved, we don't get called into a vacation; we get called into the army.”

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Wells' ministry now focuses on teaching others how to engage in spiritual warfare effectively. He believes many Christians struggle because they underestimate the influence of demonic oppression in their lives. “One of the reasons that Christians can't have intimacy with God is because they have demonic oppression... It hinders your relationship with God,” Wells notes.

His approach to deliverance is both practical and Scripture-based. He stresses the importance of aggressive, intentional prayer. “I want you to place judgment on those demons,” he advises. “It's not cute prayers, it's not passive prayers—it's aggressive and it's tormenting prayers.” Wells draws inspiration from the Psalms, highlighting David's unflinching prayers against his enemies.

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How Faith Leaders Are Shaping Today's Most Pressing Global Issues

In a candid interview with CBN's Billy Hallowell, Pastor Jentezen Franklin, one of America's most influential Christian leaders, shared his insights from a recent meeting [with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#). The gathering, which included prominent Christian figures like Mike Huckabee and Franklin Graham, showed the unwavering support of the Christian community for Israel and spotlighted President Donald Trump's bold new vision for Gaza.

"It was a tremendous honor to be a part," Franklin said of the meeting with Netanyahu. Reflecting on the atmosphere, he added, "You could feel in the room the weightiness of the moment... there are moments that change everything." Netanyahu's gratitude toward the Christian community was palpable.

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"He was so appreciative of the Christian community," Franklin noted, emphasizing how Netanyahu valued their support amid global opposition, especially from university campuses and street protests.

Netanyahu made a powerful statement that resonated deeply with Franklin: "Without the church... he did not believe that Israel would be existing today," Franklin recounts. This sentiment highlights the enduring bond between Christians and the Jewish state. Franklin explained this connection, stating, "The Bible is a Bible that was... every author in it was a Jew... you cannot separate the two." He reinforced this by quoting Genesis 12:3, "I will bless those that bless Israel and I will curse those that curse Israel."

However, a pressing concern emerged during the meeting: the dwindling support for Israel among young Christians. "Young people in America... are less supportive of Israel," Franklin acknowledged. To combat this, Netanyahu proposed a groundbreaking initiative: "He said... he wanted to invite young pastors from America to do Bible studies on my website that are connected to the Old Testament and teach people why we need each other." Franklin wholeheartedly supported this, sharing his own plans to partner with the Jewish National Fund to bring thousands of young people to Israel, solidifying their faith through firsthand experiences in the Holy Land.

But the conversation didn't end there. The meeting took on a new dimension when Netanyahu's subsequent discussion with [President Trump came into focus](#). Trump's proposal to take over Gaza has been making headlines, and Franklin didn't hold back his admiration.

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"I was moved as I watched it last night on television," he said. "I heard in our president a healer of nations. I heard a

man who said, 'Don't these people deserve a better life? Don't their children?'"

Franklin praised Trump's vision, highlighting his boldness and compassion. "If we go back to that place, it's a zone of death, it's a zone of destruction," Franklin quoted Trump, emphasizing the need for transformative change. He continued, "He challenged Jordan, he challenged Saudi Arabia to step up and embrace your people and your faith... everybody deserves that."

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Bill Wiese: Why Christians Must Pray, Fear God and Share the Gospel Now

The world feels darker by the day, and many believers sense that something is shifting. In a recent interview with Charisma Media, author and speaker Bill Wiese sounded the alarm for Christians to return to three foundational principles: prayer, the fear of the Lord and evangelism. If ever there was a time for the church to rise up, it is now.

"Because it's getting so much wickedness that we see in the world, people are realizing, 'Hey, something is happening. We need to turn to the Lord,'" Wiese shares. The days of

comfortable Christianity are over. Society is pressing in, truth is being censored and faith is under attack. But rather than despair, Wiese urges believers to take action.

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A Call to Prayer

Prayer is not optional—it's a necessity. "We need to be praying more than ever even now," Wiese emphasizes, citing 2 Chronicles 7:14, which calls God's people to repent and seek His face. He pointed out the battle raging against our nation and our faith: "The enemy would like to destroy this country, so as Christians we need to be praying, seeking God, but first repenting of our own sin."

Walking in the Fear of the Lord

Many claim to love God, but Wiese asks the hard question: "Do they fear Him?" The fear of the Lord isn't about terror—it's about obedience. "To fear the Lord means you obey Him," he explains. "You don't go by your opinion or your feelings. It's 'What does the Word say?'" In today's culture, standing for truth means facing ridicule, but Wiese reminds us: "God's Word is the truth, and as Christians, we need to be not compromised and stand up for God's Word."

The Urgency of Evangelism

Jesus commanded His followers to share the Gospel, yet Wiese pointed to troubling statistics: "Only three in 10 unchurched Americans say a Christian has ever shared with them one-on-one how a person becomes a Christian." Even more shocking, "64% of Christians believe evangelizing is optional." But Wiese refutes this mindset, reminding us: "God gave us a command. It's not a suggestion."

People are desperate for hope. "This is a great opportunity

because there's no security in anything today other than Jesus Christ," he declared. If believers don't share the Gospel, who will? "If you're going to be a Christian that doesn't fear God, you're going to be trampled on, you're going to fall under the pressure of society."



[Order Bill Wiese's book "23 Minutes in Hell" on Amazon.com!](#)

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A Warning and Encouragement

Wiese gives a clear message that our time is short.

"We have this window of opportunity right now to pray, to fear the Lord, and to preach the Gospel." He likened our moment in history to the final moments of a game: "At any moment, the ref could blow the whistle and say it's done."

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Elon Musk Blasts USAID

Corruption: Are Lutheran Organizations Next?

Recent revelations about the massive sums of taxpayer money funneled into Lutheran organizations have sparked [a heated debate about financial accountability](#), and at the center of it all are two high-profile figures: Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn and Elon Musk.

Flynn ignited the controversy by alleging that certain Lutheran organizations have been engaged in “money laundering.” He pointed to a spreadsheet documenting how Lutheran-affiliated groups received \$628.3 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in just over two months following the 2024 election. “These entities are receiving huge sums, which raise serious questions about how taxpayer funds are being spent and who’s benefiting,” Flynn states.

Elon Musk, recently tapped by the Trump administration to lead the Department of Government Efficiency, amplified Flynn’s concerns, sharing the spreadsheet and vowing that his team is “rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.”

Now it’s the “Lutheran” faith (this use of “religion” as a money laundering operation must end):

*Lutheran Family Services and affiliated organizations receive massive amounts of taxpayer dollars, and the numbers speak for themselves. These funds, total BILLIONS of American...
pic.twitter.com/IaTG2uNXRB*

– General Mike Flynn (@GenFlynn) [February 2, 2025](#)

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The Bigger Picture: USAID and Taxpayer Waste

The revelations about Lutheran organizations are just the tip of the iceberg.

Across the federal government, billions of taxpayer dollars are being mismanaged, often without transparency. One of the biggest offenders? The United States Agency for International Development, or USAID.

Karoline Leavitt just wrapped up her White House press conference with another shocking list of absurdities USAID has been funding:

- \$2 million for sex changes in Guatemala
- \$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt
- \$20 million on a new Sesame Street show in Iraq
- \$4.5 million to... pic.twitter.com/PrVpfrlTsX
- Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) [February 5, 2025](#)

USAID has long been criticized for reckless spending, and Musk isn't holding back. "It became apparent that it's not an apple with a worm in it," Musk said. "What we have is just a ball of worms. You've got to basically get rid of the whole thing. It's beyond repair." This assessment has led to serious discussions about whether USAID should be shut down entirely due to its chronic mismanagement of funds.

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Politico and the Media's Role

Beyond USAID, millions in government funds have also been

quietly directed toward news outlets like Politico, raising concerns about whether taxpayer money is being used to shape narratives rather than inform the public. These revelations underscore the need for greater scrutiny into how public funds are being allocated and [who truly benefits from these transactions.](#)

The Politico scandal is worse than you think.

It's not \$8M that Politico received from USAID.

It's \$34.3M that Politico has received from various swampy federal govt agencies.

Politico is, without a doubt, a totally corrupt propaganda arm of the swamp.

Follow along below. pic.twitter.com/0xF7Zrc4GP

– Liz Wheeler (@Liz_Wheeler) [February 5, 2025](#)

As reported by The Christian Post, Global Refuge, the organization at the heart of the Lutheran controversy, strongly denies any wrongdoing.

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VP JD Vance on Religious Freedom: 'Faith Must Be Allowed to Thrive'

At the International Religious Freedom Summit, [Vice President J.D. Vance delivered a strong message](#): religious liberty is not just a legal right, but a core principle that shapes nations and communities.

"Religious freedom, of course, is the freedom to practice one's own faith and act according to one's own conscience," Vance states. "And it's, of course, the bedrock of civil society in the United States of America and across the world."

Vance traced this right back to early Christian thinkers, particularly the third-century church father Tertullian, who argued, "It is only just and a privilege inherent in human nature that every person should be able to worship according to his own convictions." Vance credits America's Founders with preserving this principle, noting that "Thomas Jefferson owned an edition of Tertullian's collected writings, which he marked up and which today sits in the Library of Congress."

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For Vance, religious freedom is not limited to Christianity. "The right to religious freedom is protected by the people for everybody, whether you're a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim, or no faith at all," he affirms. However, he emphasized that beyond legal protections, faith must be allowed to thrive in everyday life. "One of the wonderful apparent paradoxes of religion is that in connecting us to the sacred and to the universal, it deepens our commitment to the particular—to our neighbors, to our obligations to one another."

Vance also shared [his personal experience with faith](#).

“My grandmother who raised me was a deeply faithful woman in her own way, but she was skeptical of institutionalized religion and rarely attended Sunday services herself.”

Yet, he saw firsthand the unifying power of religious communities.

“Church was a place and still is where people of different races, different backgrounds, different walks of life came together in commitment to their shared communities.”

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Turning to policy, Vance praised President Trump’s record on religious liberty, both at home and abroad. “In his first term, President Trump centered the cause of advancing religious freedom in his foreign policy,” he said, highlighting efforts to protect persecuted Christians and combat anti-Semitism. “You shouldn’t have to leave your faith at the door of your people’s government, and under President Trump’s leadership, you won’t have to.”

He also touted recent executive actions, including moves to “end the weaponization of the federal government against religious Americans” and “stop the federal censorship used to prevent Americans from speaking their conscience and speaking their mind.”

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Devastating Loss: Pastor's Wife Dies After Brutal Assault by Home Intruder

Update: The extended family of Lucy Pat Curl sadly announced her passing on Wednesday, Feb. 5 after being removed from life support. Please keep her family and community in prayers during this difficult period.

The original article is below:

In times of tragedy, the church is called to stand together in faith, lifting up those in desperate need of God's healing touch.

[Today, we unite in prayer for Lucy Pat Curl](#), the 85-year-old wife of longtime pastoral care minister Bill Curl, who was brutally attacked in her home. Now in critical condition at Orlando Regional Medical Center, Lucy Pat is in need of nothing short of a miracle.

The devastating attack has shaken the congregation of First Baptist Church Orlando, where she and her husband have faithfully served for over five decades. Senior Pastor David Uth described the heartbreak of seeing her condition, saying, "Rachel and I stood there with her yesterday, and with Bill, and the sight of her body. What he [the attacker] did to her, and you just look up and go, 'God, she's one of your finest.'"

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As reported by The Christian Post, Pastor Curl was at the church's Center for Pregnancy when his wife was attacked. The details of the assault are harrowing, but even in the midst of such darkness, the faith of her family and church community remains unshaken.

The Attack and Her Call for Help

On that fateful afternoon, Lucy Pat heard a knock at her door. When she opened it, the man standing there claimed to be a community service officer. When she asked for identification, he instead forced his way inside. Despite her age, Lucy Pat fought back, sustaining serious injuries in the process. During the struggle, she fell and struck the right side of her head on a coffee table, causing significant trauma.

After the intruder fled, she managed to make her way to her vehicle, where she pressed the horn repeatedly in an attempt to signal for help. When no one responded, she returned inside and waited until her husband arrived home and immediately called 911. Though critically injured, her strength and resilience allowed emergency responders to reach her in time to provide urgent medical care.

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A Call to Prayer and Faith

Despite the dire prognosis from doctors, [Pastor Curl refuses to give up hope.](#) He boldly declared to one of the medical professionals, "Do you know my God? He can do anything." His steadfast belief echoes the faith we are called to have in moments of crisis.

Pastor Uth has rallied the congregation, asking, "Do you believe in miracles?" It is in this spirit that we now call on all believers to join in prayer. Scripture reminds us that

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective," (James 5:16). We must stand in agreement, interceding for Lucy Pat and believing in the power of God to do what no human hands can accomplish.

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