

Ex-Church Secretary Facing 280 Years in Prison

A former church secretary in Louisa, Virginia, may spend the rest of her life in prison after being convicted of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from her longtime place of worship. Brenda W. Ragland, 64, who has been a member and employee of the unnamed church for over 20 years, was found guilty on Monday of 14 counts of embezzlement. Each count carries a potential maximum sentence of 20 years, adding up to a possible 280 years behind bars.

The church discovered Ragland's alleged misconduct when attempting to donate funds to support another local congregation's building project earlier this year. Unable to locate Ragland to retrieve a necessary bank letter, church officials reached out to their financial institution directly. To their shock, they learned their account lacked the funds needed for the donation.

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"It is a sad day for the church," said Louisa Commonwealth's Attorney Rusty McGuire, emphasizing the trust the church had placed in Ragland. "They put their faith in Mrs. Ragland to manage the church resources, and she violated that faith by turning church resources into her personal piggy bank."

Investigators later found that Ragland had diverted more than \$670,000 in church funds over the years, including tithes meant for the church, which she funneled into her personal bank account via Cash App. Authorities suspect the total amount may be even higher, as they were only able to review seven years of bank records.

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Senior Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Megan Riordan, who worked with McGuire on the case, expressed hope for the church's recovery, noting the impact of Ragland's betrayal. "Ragland wreaked financial havoc on the church that she was supposed to be helping," Riordan said. She also thanked the Louisa County Sheriff's Office for its "thorough investigation."

Ragland's sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 27, 2025.

This case serves as a stark reminder that God is purifying His church, exposing wrongdoing within its ranks to strengthen the body of Christ. Scripture tells us this in 1 Peter 4:17: "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins first with us, what shall the end be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Essential Preparations Ahead of the Red Heifer Ceremony

Chris Reed, former president and CEO of MorningStar Ministries, has publicly apologized to ministry founder Rick Joyner, expressing regret for the way he handled his departure. In a heartfelt message, Reed acknowledges the hurt caused on both sides and emphasizes his deep respect for

Joyner, whom he calls “a man of integrity.”

“I apologize for the things that I said against an elder when I felt like I was being thrown under the bus. I was wrong, and I was in rare form,” Reed says, explaining that his actions stemmed from hurt and misunderstanding. He admits that he and Joyner did not communicate extensively before or after his resignation, which led to a “vacuum of suspicion.”

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Reed goes on to affirm his admiration for Joyner. “I respect Rick Joyner. He has been faithful to his wife, he’s a man of integrity, he’s a true man that has heard from God, and he’s a prolific author,” Reed states. Despite their differences, Reed expresses his continued love and support for the MorningStar leader: “I miss him, and I love him.”

In addition to his personal apology, Reed condemns recent allegations of abuse within the ministry, defending Joyner’s character. “Rick Joyner in no way had any knowledge of Ericson’s abuse. ... He would never put up with that,” Reed says firmly, distancing Joyner from the misconduct of others while supporting the victims.

As Charisma News previously reported, MorningStar Ministries is in the midst of legal battles related to volunteer ex-police officer Erickson Douglas Lee, who has been convicted of sexual abuse and misconduct against minor boys in the church.

Reed went on to emphasize the biblical principle of honoring spiritual leaders, citing the importance of turning “the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.” He believes this principle, from Malachi 4:6, is crucial to the health of both the church and the nation.

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“I’ll never let the fear of man dictate a decision I ever make again,” Reed explains. “I’ll do what’s right. I’ll listen to a multitude of counselors, but in the end, I’ll never let fear influence a decision I make again. So I apologize to the people that I hurt. I apologize to Rick and Julie. I sincerely apologize to them, to their family and to MorningStar, our family, in any way that I mishandled this. I want to take the low road and I want to be humble about it.”

Reed’s apology highlights the power of repentance and forgiveness, aligning with scriptural teachings. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Reed’s public statement reflects a commitment to humility and reconciliation, key elements of the Christian faith. As Proverbs 28:13 reminds us, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

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Witches Admit Curses on Trump Aren’t Working

In a recent interview with Charisma Media, former Satanist-turned-Christian evangelist John Ramirez weighed in on a viral Reddit post revealing that witches are casting spells on

former President Donald Trump.

Despite their best efforts, the spells don't seem to work. Ramirez points to the power of prayer and the spiritual protection surrounding Trump, explaining that "the reason they can't touch Trump is because you can't penetrate the blood."

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The Reddit post describes how witches are shifting focus away from Trump after their spells proved ineffective, citing what they referred to as "some kind of protection around him." Ramirez, now a leading advocate against witchcraft, attributes this protection to the prayers of believers. "I pray for Trump every other day because I understand God's plan and purpose for the earth," he says, noting that Christians around the world are interceding on behalf of the former president.

Ramirez explains that witchcraft, while often portrayed as harmless or even positive, is rooted in the devil's schemes. Citing his own past in the occult, Ramirez makes it clear that witchcraft is anything but innocent. "I was ignorant for 25 years, right? And God saved me, so they deserve salvation, too," he says, referring to those caught up in occult practices. He is adamant that salvation through Christ is available to all, including witches, but underscores the spiritual danger of practicing witchcraft.



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According to the Bible, witchcraft is condemned as evil. Galatians 5:19-21 lists sorcery as one of the "works of the flesh," warning that "those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Additionally, Deuteronomy 18:10-12 explicitly states that anyone who practices witchcraft is "detestable to the Lord." The biblical warnings

leave no doubt that witchcraft is a tool of the enemy, designed to lead people away from God.

In a recent broadcast, prophetic minister Joseph Z shares a striking vision involving billionaire Mark Cuban and a spiritual revelation concerning the political futures of Benjamin Netanyahu, former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden.

According to Z, he experienced a vision in which Cuban appears with what he describes as an “imposter spirit.” In the vision, Cuban, dressed in a lab coat, announces a technology meant to rival Elon Musk’s work. “He was trying to do a form of technology that was better than what Elon was bringing forward,” Z explains, adding that it had to do with robotics. He warns that Cuban’s actions may be part of a broader scheme to replicate Musk’s innovations. “I see a spirit of impostor syndrome, or a competing counterfeit narrative,” he says.

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Shifting from technology to politics, Z discusses the prophetic parallel between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former U.S. President Donald Trump. He points to the recent assassination attempt on Netanyahu and believes it symbolizes Trump’s potential return to power. “As it goes for Netanyahu, it will go for 45,” he says, referring to Trump by his presidential number. The failed attempt on Netanyahu, according to Z, “means that 45 is likely going back in.”



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He extends this political prophecy to President Joe Biden, whom he refers to as “46.” Z believes the current president could be removed from office, possibly allowing Vice President Kamala Harris to step in temporarily as “47.” Despite this, he

maintains that Trump will ultimately return as “48.” However, he cautions that these outcomes are not guaranteed and urges Christians to pray fervently. “It is not just a done deal,” he explains. “We’ve got to pray, we’ve got to believe God.”

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Z emphasizes the critical role of prayer in shaping the future of all nations, explaining the biblical command responsibility of the church to intercede. In these uncertain times a strong Christian presence is essential to maintaining stability. “It’s still ours to lose,” he declares.

The importance of a prayerful Christian population is evident in Scripture. Proverbs 14:34 reminds believers, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” A nation rooted in prayer and obedience to God’s commandments has a far greater advantage of navigating the turbulent waters of the present than one beholden to the ways of Satan.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

How to Detect False Teachers in Today’s Church

Cahn’s analysis doesn’t stop at ancient prophecies; he also makes compelling connections to contemporary events. “Just as the Iranian president’s death sent shockwaves through the

region, the timing of these events points to something greater at work," he remarks. "We must recognize that every occurrence, from the Temple Mount tensions to the turmoil in the streets, is rooted in a cosmic battle foretold in Scripture."

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Emphasizing the need for Christians to unite and stand firm in their faith, Cahn issues a dire call to action for the church. "This is a wake-up call for believers," Cahn declares. "We can't afford to be passive. Just as Israel faces opposition, so too does the body of Christ. We are called to be strong, to hold fast to our beliefs, and to recognize that we are part of this grand narrative."

Cahn's message is one that resonates with urgency: "The prophecies are unfolding before our eyes. It's time for the church to awaken and prepare for the days ahead." In these tumultuous times, Cahn implores fellow believers to look beyond the surface and seek the prophetic patterns woven into the fabric of current events.

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Breaking Free from New Age

Beliefs: My Journey to Deliverance through Jesus

Tamara Mitchell's journey into deliverance ministry is a testament to the power of faith, healing and redemption.

In a recent interview with Charisma Media, Mitchell recounts her harrowing experience of being attacked by a demonic force while she slept. "I felt something crawling across my bed," she says, explaining that the presence lifted her a foot into the air. In that moment of terror, she remembered her grandmother's advice: plead the blood of Jesus. "I just started pleading the blood of Jesus three or four times, and it dropped me," she says.



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Mitchell, who was raised in both Baptist and Pentecostal churches, admits that she strayed from her Christian upbringing during her teenage years. In her search for answers, she explored New Age practices, despite knowing deep down that it was wrong.

"I started studying New Age... things I wasn't supposed to be dilly-dallying in," she says. The Bible clearly warns against engaging in such practices, with Deuteronomy 18:10-12 stating:

There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or who uses divination, or uses witchcraft, or an interpreter of omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts spells, or a spiritualist, or an occultist, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations

the Lord your God will drive them out from before you.

These encounters were terrifying, including moments of attack by demonic figures.

He recalls, "It was what I could describe as a very tall, spiritual entity that went through the window and began to straddle me, and had its legs between my ribs right here, and I couldn't move my body.

"I just didn't know what it was. And this thing comes out of the the window. And the best way I could describe it is, like, it was like an invisible form. I can tell it was very tall. I can tell it was very big, and I can tell it had its feet right here, across my chest, next to my rib cage.

"And finally, just out of sheer desperation, the last name that I thought to mention, I said, 'Oh, Jesus.' And before I even said 'Jesus,' I didn't even finish saying the name. It was like a reverberation in the air, like something was shaking, and there was like a boom, like whatever that was there fled as soon as I said, 'Jesus,' and it let me go," he explains.



Order Chris Garcia's book "Fresh Oil" on !

Despite these terrifying episodes, Garcia turned to prayer and ultimately found freedom from this demonic oppression.

In response to this newfound freedom, God began giving him visions as a means of warning.

One particularly intense encounter occurred when Garcia and his wife prayed early in the morning. "I saw a specific person all dressed in white, and he fled in terror when I exposed it in prayer with my wife," he shares. This vision confirmed to him that there was an attack of witchcraft against his church.

After calling his pastor, Garcia discovered that there were indeed signs of witchcraft happening nearby, including dead animal sacrifices. "My pastor told me, 'You're seeing correctly,'" he says, confirming the accuracy of his visions.

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Since breaking free from demonic oppression, Garcia has continued to engage in spiritual warfare and lead others in prayer for their own victories over the devil. His testimony serves as a powerful reminder that spiritual battles are real, and victory is possible through Christ.

As Garcia's story shows, all who have accepted Jesus Christ have power over the devil and are called to engage in spiritual warfare. Scripture reminds us of this truth: "Look, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you," (Luke 10:19). Through Christ, believers can stand firm against Satan's schemes and walk in complete freedom.

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