

# U.K. Elections: An 'Electoral Armageddon'?

The elections are now over [in the United Kingdom](#), and British parliament is now solidly under the left-wing control of the Labour Party.

Thanks to years of incompetent leadership under conservative Tory Party leadership, something the United States knows a bit about in recent times, the populace had had enough and the pendulum swung greatly to the left.

As reported by CNN:

"The results represent one of the largest swings in British political history, and a stunning defeat for the Conservative Party after 14 years in government, bringing a brutal end to Rishi Sunak's premiership as his party lost around two-thirds of the 372 seats it was defending."

Many citizens in the U.K., similar to their counterparts in the U.S., are tired of continued protests, strikes and social unrest around the country under the weak leadership of Sunak and voted for change.

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New Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has already met with King Charles III and been given [the task to form the next government](#).

The feeling in the air is reminiscent of when former President Barack Obama swept into office, promising the same change that Starmer is putting forth from his new government.

"The change begins right here because this is your democracy, your community, your future," Starmer said. "You have voted.

It's now time for us to deliver."

Some of the promises he ran on include revamping the National Health Service, cutting the energy bills of citizens and securing the porous border that has seen a massive influx of illegal immigrants over the last several years across the English Channel.

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So what does this spell for the future of England?

No one can tell for sure what will come from a new left-wing government in England, the party which was so fervently against the Brexit which saw the U.K. leave the European Union, but analysts predict that relations between the two governing bodies could improve in the coming years.

As many governments in the EU have recently elected right-leaning leadership, the U.K. seems to have taken the opposite approach, and the policies that will eventually come with it.

Time will tell if Europe can recover from the years of globalist influence and unchecked illegal immigration, but one thing is for certain: if it ever wants to reclaim its past blessing, it must turn back to God and His tenets which saw the continent so greatly blessed over the centuries.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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# Independence Day: 5 Vital Lessons on Faith and Freedom

As Americans celebrate [Independence Day on July 4](#), it is essential to reflect not only on the historical significance of this day but also on the spiritual aspects that underpin the freedoms and values cherished in the nation.

Charisma Media sat down with Pastor Marcus Rogers, a military veteran, influential YouTube minister and pastor of Firehouse Church in Chicago, Illinois. Several key takeaways emerged, reminding us of the importance of gratitude, unity and our dependence on God in the pursuit of true independence.

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Here are five essential ideals to reflect on over the Independence Day holiday:

**Service is a Privilege:** Rogers, who comes from a military family background, emphasizes the pride and honor associated with serving one's country. Just as the Founding Fathers fought for independence, military service embodies the selflessness and dedication required to uphold the freedoms and values established by America's Forefathers.

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," (1 Thess. 5:18). Rogers reminds us to appreciate the privilege of living in a country where service is seen as an honor.

**Unity is Beautiful:** Rogers shares his experience of serving alongside fellow soldiers from various backgrounds, representing every corner of America. He highlights the profound beauty of coming together as one, overcoming

differences and working as a united group to protect the nation and its freedoms.

“Be eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” (Eph. 4:3). Rogers underscores the importance of unity, reminding Americans of the strength that lies in embracing teamwork and working toward a common goal.

**Gratitude for Freedom:** Serving in war-torn regions like Iraq and Afghanistan allowed Rogers to witness firsthand the stark contrast between the privileges enjoyed in America and the lack of freedom experienced by those in oppressed countries. His return to American soil brought an overwhelming sense of appreciation for the freedoms often taken for granted.

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him,” (Col. 3:17). Rogers encourages believers to express gratitude for the blessings of living in a country that values individual liberties and affords opportunities for growth and prosperity.

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**Importance of Free Speech:** Rogers addresses the increasing challenges and restrictions faced by those with differing viewpoints, urging believers to exercise their right to free speech while it is still available. He emphasizes the need for alternative avenues to express beliefs and ideas.

“Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, that it may give grace to the listeners,” (Eph. 4:29). This verse highlights the responsibility to use free speech wisely, adhering to biblical principles of building up and encouraging others.

**Dependence on God:** Rogers addresses the importance of

[recognizing our dependence on God](#), reminding believers that true independence lies in embracing our reliance on the Creator.

“‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are His offspring’,” (Acts 17:28). Rogers encourages individuals to seek God’s guidance and acknowledge His sovereignty, understanding that true independence comes from surrendering to His will.

These key takeaways serve as a reminder of the cherished freedoms and values upon which the nation was founded. They inspire a spirit of gratitude, unity and reliance on God, encouraging citizens to honor the past, embrace the present and shape a brighter future that glorifies the Lord in all we say and do.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Hidden Treasure at Ancient Site Sheds Light on Ten Commandments**

As history continues to be unearthed through archaeological excavations, the Bible is re-proven true and [historically accurate when artifacts are discovered](#).

This also includes the impact Christianity has had on the development of the West, as many these days try to argue that America was never a Christian nation, even though the ideals,

morals and values it was founded on are derived directly from the Bible.

Continuing this pattern of validation hidden in earthly secrets, archaeologists recently discovered a unique marble shrine. Within this shrine they found an ancient relic covered in Christian decorative patterns, and a link back to Moses receiving the Ten Commandments.



Researchers estimate the items age to be around 1,500 years old.

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As reported by Fox News, “[The item was discovered by archaeologists](#) from Innsbruck University in southern Austria under an altar inside a chapel at the summit of Burgbichl, a small hill, in the municipality of Irschen.”

Researchers have been excavating the area in the Carinthian Drava Valley, and are hoping more of these types of relics will be found in the area.

“We know of around 40 ivory boxes of this kind worldwide and, as far as I know, the last time one of these was found during excavations was around 100 years ago—the few pyxes that exist are either preserved in cathedral treasures or exhibited in museums,” says lead archaeologist Gerald Grabherr in a press release.

Giving credence to the impact of both Jewish and Christian texts throughout history, one motif shows what researchers believe to be Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God.

“This is the typical depiction of the handing over of the laws to Moses on Mount Sinai, the beginning of the covenant between God and man from the Old Testament,” says Grabherr.

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[Another motif of particular importance](#) is one that researchers believe depicts one of the greatest events in the New Testament: the ascension of Jesus.

“We assume that this is a depiction of the ascension of Christ, the fulfillment of the covenant with God. The depiction of scenes from the Old Testament and their connection with scenes from the New Testament is typical of late antiquity and thus fits in with our pyx; however, the depiction of the Ascension of Christ with a so-called biga, a two-horse chariot, is very special and previously unknown,” Grabherr continues.

“The archaeological and art-historical significance of the pyx cannot be denied,” he adds.

During times of fear and doubt, we can look at the world around us and see that it declares God’s glory. As the world tries to downplay and outright deny God’s role in every aspect of creation, we can view things through a biblical lens and see how it all comes together, thanking and worshipping as we carry on through life.

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# Prophetic Insight: Is World War 3 Inevitable?

In a recent livestream, [prophetic voice Tomi Arayomi](#) shared what he believes the Lord has not only put on his heart, but shared to him in a dream about what the possibilities are for the near future.

In the dream, Arayomi delves into a deeply concerning vision regarding the potential for World War 3. This portion of his message is marked by a clear sense of urgency and gravity, as Arayomi describes a dream involving escalating military tensions and preparations for a DEFCON-1 scenario, which signifies the highest level of military readiness and imminent threat of nuclear war. He vividly recounts, "I don't know if it was a countdown or a count-up, but it was like DEFCON 4, DEFCON 3, DEFCON 2, DEFCON 1."

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Arayomi emphasizes the global scale of the impending crisis by mentioning military preparations both in the United States and other nations. He says, "I saw military in America and different nations preparing for a potential DEFCON 1." This vision serves as a stark warning to the audience about the potential for unprecedented conflict and underscores [the urgent need for prayer and prophetic insight](#).

As most Americans are aware, elections have consequences. Arayomi did not say who he believes would win the election, as he explains God has not shown him this, but that there are essentially two paths forward with the election.

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Further describing the potential conflict within a divine framework, Arayomi suggests that the events are part of a larger prophetic timeline. He explains, “I believe prophetically the question you want to ask yourself as the church is this: do you want to halt World War 3 or do you want to see World War 3?” He adds that the vision of World War 3 is not just a prediction of geopolitical events but a call for spiritual awakening and preparedness.

Arayomi encourages his audience to seek God’s guidance, repent and align themselves with divine purposes to mitigate the looming threats. He asserts, “The season demands that we repent, we face God.” This message is a potent reminder of the power of prophecy and the pivotal role of the church in navigating through tumultuous times.

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## **Christians Arrested During Worship Service Preparations**

The social hammer continues to fall on Christians throughout the continent of Asia, as a group of six Christians, including their pastor, [were arrested as they prayed](#) prior to a worship service the following day.

According to Sirikoon Prasertsee, director of Human Rights Watcher for Lao Religious Freedom (HRWLRF): “The arrests took

place on Saturday at Mr. Mum's home while they were meeting for prayer in preparation for Sunday morning worship on the following day. They are currently being imprisoned in Xaibouathong District prison."

In the wake of a new village chief coming to power, Pastor Mum's home church has been targeted for persecution due to his Christian faith.

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"Others in Tahae village and nearby villages also have exercised their right to religious freedom to accept the Christian faith," Prasertsee said. "The new main village chief was appointed to govern Tahae village, and the crackdown on Christian freedom and practices became severe that led to the arrest of Mr. Mum and five Lao believers."

Laos and other southeast Asian countries [have a history of persecuting Christians](#), and the country is listed at #21 on the Open Doors World Watch List.

The main religion in the country is Buddhism, and believers in Jesus can expect to experience three main types of persecution according to Open Doors:

- Communist and post-Communist oppression
- Clan oppression
- Dictatorial paranoia

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As reported by Open Doors, "Converts to Christianity carry additional vulnerabilities. Because they are seen as traitors to their communities who have angered the spirits, they can face pressure and violence from their families and local

authorities. Families have been known to stir up the local community, who often expel converts from their homes and villages.”

During trying seasons like this, we must lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ who experience persecution, jail and in some cases even death, just as our Lord Jesus did on earth.

Pray that they have the strength to persevere in the face of persecution and that their persecutors see the light of Jesus in them and in turn find their own salvation.

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## **Historic Win for Olympic Champion: ‘Anything Is Possible in Christ’**

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone continues to grow her already immense and distinguished list of accomplishments when it comes to the sport of track and field.

At only 24 years old, McLaughlin-Levrone set the tone for her upcoming Olympic performance in Paris as she beat her closest competitor by two seconds and set yet another world record, this time in the 400-meter hurdles at the U.S. Olympic trials finals in Eugene, Oregon.

*“Praise God.”*

Our Sports Spectrum magazine cover girl [@GoSydGo](#) gave glory to the Lord after breaking another record on her way to the [#ParisOlympics](#). [pic.twitter.com/Kx64is7EXp](https://pic.twitter.com/Kx64is7EXp)

– Sports Spectrum (@Sports\_Spectrum) [July 1, 2024](#)

Capping off her amazing victory, McLaughlin-Levrone shared with the whole world how she has arrived at the point to be the most dominant female athlete in the world when it comes to the 400-meter hurdles, of which she claims seven of the 10-fastest times in the events history.

[“Praise God,” she told NBC](#) during a post-race interview. “I was not expecting that, but He can do anything. Anything is possible in Christ. So yeah—I’m just amazed, baffled and shocked.”

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McLaughlin-Levrone has been very open about her faith in Jesus Christ as she explained in the past on the Sports Spectrum Podcast. There she discussed skipping out on the world championships to rehabilitate a knee injury she suffered and prepare for the upcoming Olympics.

“I think just this past season of being injured, not being able to perform at my best, and really having to lean on the Lord in all of this was just a great reminder that not everything is always going to be perfect,” McLaughlin-Levrone shares. “Not everything’s going to go your way.”

[Keeping herself focused on Christ](#) has been a struggle at times as she revealed in prior interviews, as the focus of being a top world contender in track and field can often give one tunnel vision and forget about one’s true identity.

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“In a sport where you’re literally chasing gold all the time, I would take my love for Christ and that relationship over a gold medal any day,” she reveals.

But McLaughlin-Levrone has used her time off to remained centered and anchored in Christ and remains committed to putting Him first above all things.

“Whatever [2024] brings, I’m going to stick to the same script of going out there to honor and glorify Him and leaving it all out there on the track and whatever happens, happens,” she shared to Sports Spectrum.

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## **Growing Threats Lead to Surge in Armed Churches**

Many [churches across America are turning to practical ways](#) to keep their congregations safe from the [rising persecution and targeting of faith centers](#) across America.

One company, Sheepdog Church Security, has made an effort to put “faith at the center” of their training to help congregants prepare for the worst case scenarios many fear. SCS was founded in 2014 by Kris Moloney, who has a military and law enforcement background, and has been training volunteer security teams ever since.

“You want it to be open and welcoming and so forth, and yet provide (the) safety and security needed,” Moloney said in an interview with the Idaho Statesman.

“So those of us who do carry firearms, we do so on a concealed basis. We have the protection we need, and yet we’re not ostentatious about it,” he adds.

Since Moloney founded his company a decade ago, demand for his services have surged in requests from houses of worship for training as the threat of violence against people of faith grows.

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Moloney is no longer an outlier in this industry either, [as congregations across the nation](#) have turned to military veterans and former or current law enforcement to help prepare them for an invader.

As reported by the Daily Mail, “Keith Graves, a former police officer, now leads his church’s security team and runs Christian Warrior Training, a website aimed at empowering churches with security knowledge.”

“Everybody’s nervous about the direction of what’s going on in the world, (and) you have the same thing in the church,” Graves said in an interview with the Statesman.

Members like Moloney are working tirelessly to make sure people understand that things simply are not the way they used to be, and they must be prepared for this new world that we live in.

“When I was a teenager, the churches were essentially unlocked 24/7,” Moloney recalls. “Even as a kid who was not exactly a very good kid, it never occurred to me to [go into a church and do something stupid.](#)”

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“Public leaders and politicians used to never say a thing against the church. Now, it’s very common. I think as time has gone by, the general respect for religious authority has diminished greatly.” Which in turn means that targeting a place where people worship “is no longer off-limits.”

Moloney believes this act of preparedness, and arming oneself, is not just compatible but follows the examples set forth in the Bible.

“Jesus said, ‘sell your cloak and buy a sword,’” says Moloney referencing the Gospel of Luke. “One of the things I like mentioning is OK, yes, God is going to protect us, but you still look both ways before you cross the street.

“God is going to look out for you, but He also gives you these tools to help you watch out for yourself,” he adds.

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## **Levi Lusko: Gateway’s Journey Forward**

In the still rumbling aftermath of the bombshell news that [Robert Morris, former pastor of Gateway Church in Texas](#) sexually abused a 12-year-old girl over an extensive period of

time, many members of the church and Christian community find themselves wondering: well, what do we do now?

This area of confusion, fear and anxiety is what Pastor Levi Lusko, founder and lead pastor of Fresh Life Church located in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and online, addressed before the congregation that just witnessed a shaking of God-like proportions in their church.

Lusko and his wife are no strangers to going through a season of pain, hurt and lack of understanding, as they lost their daughter Lenya, who is with her heavenly Father now, to an asthmatic attack in December of 2012 when she was five years old.

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“That’s what Isaiah tells us [in] Isaiah 45:3. God promises [in every storm we face](#), in Christ, that He will give us the treasures, the rich treasures of darkness and the secret riches of hidden places. None of us ask for, none of us want, the storms that come our way in this life, but when they come we can be convinced that it’s because God wants to do something that’s amazing in our lives,” Lusko says.

So Lusko asks the question that many within the Gateway community are now asking themselves in light of the current situation they are now facing: Where do we go from here?

“If we’re going to figure out ‘where do we go from here?’ we need to understand the connection between grief on the one hand, and glory on the other,” Lusko explains.

To navigate this process of understanding, Lusko points to three essential connections to help guide believers out of the storm, and into God’s glory.

- **Grief and Glory:** “So many of the stories in Scripture

illustrate this theme. God's rules are for a reason, and when we take as trivial something as essential as God's holiness and God's preferred way of doing things, when we scorn what God has told us to do and to not do, we invite judgment on ourselves."

- **Repentance and Refreshment:** Speaking of Isaiah and his consecration before the Lord, "'The best thing about me, I'm throwing that away to the wayside, because I see the excellence of the knowledge of the glory of God shining in the face of Jesus Christ. I'm repenting of trusting in me and I'm looking to you.' And so what happened? Refreshment came through a coal brought to him by an angel," Lusko shares.
- **Availability and Opportunity:** "Why do some people get used and others don't? I submit to you it's not because they have bigger, better gifts than others. It is simply because some people make themselves available and God has never been looking for great ability, but He has always been looking for those who have great availability," Lusko says.

Lusko reveals [the key to navigating this path](#) that many in the Gateway community now find themselves rather unexpectedly on, thanks in part to his own journey through grief and ending up on the other side: God's glory.

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"In my grief I have experienced what I want you to experience in these difficult days: glory," Lusko shares. "So how do we get from here to there if we know where we want to go? It's God's glory.

"...how do we actually process grief in a healthy way? We do so with Jesus. So when we face hard times, we don't have to pretend those hard times are good. We don't have to pretend

those hard times are pleasant. We don't have to put rosy language on it, but we do have to choose to slowly make our way through the grief. We do have to choose to be honest with each other and honest with God about exactly what we're feeling."

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## **World Cup Star Attributes Historic Career to God**

When World Cup champion Lionel Messi talks, millions, perhaps billions, of people around the world listen intently to what he has to say.

So when [he praises God and gives Him thanks](#) for the gift of being arguably one of, if not the, greatest player at the sport of soccer of all time, it exposes people around the world to his testimony on the goodness of God.

Speaking to Argentinian podcaster Juan Pablo Varsky on the "Clank" podcast, Messi described it felt like God gave him "a gift" that he had to use to his full potential.

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"It's very clear to me that I was born like this because God chose me," Messi says.

"It was a gift He gave me. I tried to take advantage of it, I

did everything possible to squeeze the most out of it. The truth is, although I did many things, I did nothing to become the player that I already was when I was little,” he adds.

This echoes the sentiment found in the popular Bible passage Jeremiah 29:11, when God was talking to His prophet, but this lesson applies to each and every human ever created:

*For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

God says in the following verses that He has done this so that [we may enter into relationship with Him](#), and that He resides with us as our one and only God.

But we must look for God, the verses say, and that is exactly what Messi did in the lead up to his World Cup victory that had eluded him for most of his exceptional career, as reported by Premiere Christian News.

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“I asked God, as I have done all my life in everything,” Messi shares. “Even more so at that moment... I didn’t ask my grandmother or Diego [Maradona], but I did ask God, as always. I knew and sensed that God had something in store for me and it was at a special moment, almost at the end of my career and closing the whole circle of my professional career.

“I thank Him every day of my life for this and for everything He has always given me. I can’t ask Him for anything more because thanks to Him I have everything,” he continues.

We can all take a lesson from one of the world’s premiere athletes, and search, ask and thank God in all things which we are involved in, just as Paul exhorts us to do in 1

Thessalonians 5:18:

*In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

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## **Ray Comfort Discusses the Tough Reality of Evangelism**

In a recent interview with Charisma Media, [evangelist Ray Comfort of Living Waters Publications](#) opened up about the challenges and motivations behind evangelism, shedding light on why sharing faith remains crucial in today's world. Despite his long-standing reputation for street preaching, Comfort revealed surprising personal struggles and shared practical advice for Christians facing similar hesitations.

Comfort candidly admitted his own reluctance toward evangelism, describing it as a daunting task. "I don't like evangelism," he confessed. "Every day when I go out to preach the gospel or go to witness, I'm going somewhere I don't want to go to say something I don't want to say to people who don't want to hear it." This raw honesty highlights a common sentiment among many Christians, making Comfort's perspective all the more relatable.

Despite these feelings, Comfort emphasizes the moral imperative to evangelize, comparing the duty to that of a firefighter facing a burning building. "He's not excited about

climbing a 60-foot ladder with smoke and sirens and a screaming woman and screaming children,” Comfort explains. “But he’s a firefighter, so what he does is he ignores his fears and thinks about the fate of that woman and her children.”

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Comfort’s approach to evangelism involves seizing everyday opportunities and [engaging with people in unexpected ways](#). One such tactic includes riding a bike equipped with a platform and accompanied by his sunglasses-wearing dog. “College students come up and say, ‘I love your dog! How does she wear sunglasses?’” Comfort shared.

Addressing common skepticisms, Comfort offered insights into dealing with questions about the existence of suffering and evil. “Every day 150,000 people die, all these are evidence that the Bible is true that we live in what’s called a fallen creation,” he said. Comfort pointed to the Christian hope in the face of suffering, that God’s creation and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ provide a meaningful answer to these profound questions.

For those hesitant to share their faith, Comfort offers practical advice, focusing on the universal human desire for purpose and eternal life. “Every Christian has this moral obligation,” he stated. “We’re like doctors with a cure to cancer. There’s a crime that we commit when we don’t save someone from drowning if someone’s drowning and you let them drown, you just walk away when there’s a rope right by your feet.”

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Comfort's passion for evangelism and his relatable struggles offer valuable lessons for Christians worldwide. His candidness about the challenges and his unwavering commitment to sharing the gospel serve as a compelling call to action. As Comfort puts it, "We have found the source of everlasting life, and in Christ, we have life. If they only knew what we had in Christ, they would ask of Him, and He'd give them living water."

Comfort also revealed plans to send a team to evangelize during the upcoming Olympics in Paris. The initiative aims to leverage the global event's massive audience to share the gospel with as many people as possible. Comfort's team will distribute specially designed tracts, capitalizing on the memorabilia appeal during the Olympics.

"We're taking advantage of this whole Olympics thing," Comfort says of the unique opportunity to reach diverse crowds gathered for the games. The outreach effort shows Living Waters' commitment to creative and impactful evangelism on an international stage.

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