

# Christian Veteran Destroys Satanic Altar at Iowa Capitol

A recent lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and First Liberty Institute against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has stirred up discussions about religious freedom and the First Amendment. The lawsuit claims that the WMATA's advertising policies violate the First Amendment after the authority denied an advertisement from WallBuilders, an organization dedicated to presenting America's forgotten history and heroes.

WallBuilders sought to have its ads placed on the side of WMATA's buses to promote its religious and educational mission. However, the WMATA refused to run the ads because according to the WMATA's "Guidelines Governing Commercial Advertising," advertisements that "promote or oppose any religion, religious practice or belief" or "intended to influence members of the public regarding an issue on which there are varying opinions" are prohibited.

The lawsuit also points out that the WMATA has accepted other ads addressing controversial issues, such as a "Social Justice School," "Earth Day" and the highly controversial idea of term limits for Supreme Court justices. This inconsistency in policy raises questions about the WMATA's commitment to upholding the First Amendment.

In response to the lawsuit, Arthur Spitzer, senior counsel at the ACLU, stated that the case against the WMATA is a critical reminder of what's at stake when government entities exercise selective censorship. The ACLU defends these suits, regardless of whether it agrees with the underlying message because it believes in the speaker's right to express it.

"ACLU defends these suits, regardless of whether it agrees

with the underlying message because it believes in the speaker's right to express it. The government cannot arbitrarily decide which voices to silence in public forums," Spitzer added.

Religious freedom and the First Amendment are fundamental principles of American democracy. This lawsuit is a reminder that the government cannot arbitrarily decide which voices to silence in public forums. The outcome of this case will have implications for religious freedom and free speech in the United States.

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In a world that is increasingly hostile towards Christians, believers are facing growing persecution and hostility. The Bible offers guidance on how to handle these challenges and maintain a strong faith in the face of adversity.

In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This passage encourages Christians to remain steadfast in their faith and to view persecution as a blessing. It reminds believers that they are not alone in their struggles, as the prophets of old faced similar challenges.

In 1 Peter 3:14, we are told, "But even if you suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of their terror, do not be troubled." This verse highlights the importance of maintaining a strong faith in the face of adversity and not being swayed by fear or intimidation.

Moreover, Romans 12:14 advises, “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.” This teaches Christians to respond to hostility with love and kindness, rather than seeking revenge or engaging in conflict.

The Bible encourages Christians to remain faithful in the face of persecution, to view it as a blessing and to respond with love and grace. By doing so, we can stand firm in our faith and serve as a light in a world that is increasingly hostile towards us.

As Christians, it is important to remember that we are not alone in our struggles. We can find strength and guidance in the Bible and in the community of believers. By remaining faithful to our beliefs and responding to persecution with love and grace, we can be a powerful witness to the world and bring glory to God.

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## **Update: Iowa Governor Weighs in on Satanic Display**

The popular series “The Chosen” has released its third Christmas special, “Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night,” now showing in theaters nationwide. The special, which runs through Dec. 17, features a blend of “The Shepherd” and “The Messenger,” two episodes from the series that depict the birth of Christ from the perspectives of the shepherds and Mary and

Joseph.

The Christmas special includes special guest performances by well-known artists such as Andrea and Matteo Bocelli, Matt Maher, Zach Williams, the Bonner Family, Brandon Lake, One Voice Children's Choir and Joy to the World.

Series creator Dallas Jenkins initially made a short film entitled "The Shepherd" for his church's Christmas Eve service. The film ultimately led to the creation of "The Chosen," a series that has garnered high praise for its production value and storytelling. The Christmas special combines "The Shepherd" and "The Messenger" to create a powerful and moving experience for viewers.

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In an Instagram post announcing the special, Jenkins shared his excitement about the project: "When Amanda and I saw the first rough cut, we were so moved. It does work, and the nativity story took on even more relevance." He added that he hopes the special will start a new Christmas tradition for families.

*An Arizona evangelist, who was shot last month while promoting a church service on the streets of Glendale, has been moved out of the intensive care unit but is still in a "delicate" condition, according to his family. The incident, which occurred on the evening of Nov. 15, has left Hans Schmidt, a 26-year-old outreach director at Victory Chapel First Phoenix Church and father of two small children, fighting for his life.*

*As the investigation continues, the Glendale Police Department has released surveillance video and is offering a \$10,000 reward for information about the shooting. The footage shows Schmidt standing at the street corner, where he fell forward and then got back up to his feet. Shortly after, it was discovered that he had an unexplained wound on his head.*

*During a press conference in November, Gina Winn, the public information officer for the Glendale Police Department, stated that it is still unknown how Schmidt was shot and if the shooter was in a car or on foot at the time of the incident. It is also unknown if Schmidt was targeted or if it was a random act of violence.*

*Despite the challenges, Schmidt's father, Eric, shared that his son was moved out of the intensive care unit and into a long-term care facility within the hospital. Over Thanksgiving, Eric reported that Hans was able to open his eyes.*

*As the Christian community rallies around the Schmidt family, it is essential to remember the power of prayer and fasting. The Bible tells us that Christians can overcome difficult times through faith in Jesus Christ and the strength He provides.*

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*In Psalm 34:17-19, we are reminded that “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the contrite of spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.” This passage highlights the importance of turning to God in times of need and trusting in His ability to provide comfort and strength.*

*Also, in Philippians 4:13, the apostle Paul writes, “I can do all things because of Christ who strengthens me.” This verse serves as a powerful reminder that our strength comes from Jesus, and it is through Him that we can endure and overcome the challenges we face.*

*As we continue to pray for Hans Schmidt and his family, let us remember the power of prayer and the importance of supporting one another in difficult times. The Bible teaches us that we are called to bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2) and to pray for one another (James 5:16).*

*So be encouraged to join in prayer and fasting for Hans Schmidt and his family, as well as for all those who are enduring a difficult season in life. May the Lord bring healing and comfort to all who need it, and may we continue to stand together as a community of believers, united by faith and love in Jesus Christ.*

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# ***Turkish Lawmaker Suffers Cardiac Arrest While Criticizing Israel***

*A remarkable discovery has been made in the mountainous region of Vestre Slidre, Norway. A metal detectorist stumbled upon a very rare gold coin from the Byzantine Empire, featuring an image of Jesus Christ holding the Bible. The coin is believed to be over 1,000 years old and has sparked interest among archaeologists and historians.*

## ***The Byzantine Connection***

*The coin, known as a Byzantine histamenon nomisma, is thought to have originated in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey), which was the capital of the Byzantine Empire. The coin's age and location suggest a possible connection to the reign of Basil II and Constantine VIII, who were brothers and co-emperors of the Byzantine Empire from A.D. 962 to 1025.*

## ***Inscriptions and Design***

*The coin's design includes a dotted, triple border, and it bears two inscriptions: one in Latin, which reads "Jesus Christ, King of those who reign," and another in Greek, which says "Basil and Constantine, emperors of the Romans." The inscriptions and images on the coin provide valuable insight into the religious and political climate of the time.*

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## ***Speculation on How the Coin Arrived in Norway***

*There are several theories on how the coin made its way to Norway. One possibility is that it was part of the treasure acquired by Harald Hardråde, who was the emperor's bodyguard and later became king of Norway. Another theory is that the coin may have arrived through trade routes, such as the salt trade or the old trade routes known as the "Bispevegen."*

### ***Impact and Significance***

*This rare and valuable artifact offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Byzantine Empire and its connection to Norway. It also highlights the importance of preserving and studying historical artifacts, as they provide invaluable information about the past.*

### ***Biblical Connections***

*The discovery of this coin with the image of Jesus Christ holding the Bible can be seen as a tangible connection to the Christian faith. In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the "King of kings" (1 Tim. 6:15) and "King of the Jews" (Matt. 2:2). The coin's inscription, "Jesus Christ, King of those who reign," echoes these biblical references.*

*The discovery of this rare Byzantine coin in Norway is a remarkable find that provides a fascinating glimpse into the past. It highlights the importance of historical artifacts in understanding our shared history and the connections between different cultures and empires. The coin's depiction of Jesus and its biblical inscriptions also serve as a reminder of the role of Christianity in shaping our world.*

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# ***Tony and Carla Evans Married in Private Ceremony***

*Pastor Evans, 74, had previously lost his beloved wife, Lois Evans, to biliary cancer in 2019. The couple had been married for 49 years and shared four children, Priscilla Shirer, Jonathan Evans, Anthony Evans Jr. and Crystal Evans Hurst. Lois was an integral part of Pastor Evans' ministry and played a significant role in the founding of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and The Urban Alternative, a media ministry that reaches millions of listeners across 130 countries.*

## ***A Divine Union***

*In September 2023, during a celebration service for his birthday at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Pastor Evans revealed that he was engaged to Carla Crummie. He shared that both he and Carla had experienced the loss of their spouses and that God had brought them together in a beautiful way.*

*Pastor Evans expressed his gratitude for the support and prayers of the church and asked for continued prayers as they embarked on this new journey together. He emphasized that Carla had held Lois' legacy in high regard and was committed to honoring her memory.*

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## ***Moving Forward with Faith***

*As the couple begins their new life together, they are committed to serving the Lord and continuing the work of Oak*

*Cliff Bible Fellowship. The church family has embraced the couple with open arms and is thrilled to see their pastor blessed in this way.*

*Pastor Evans and Carla's union serves as a reminder that even in times of grief and loss, God is the restorer who helps us through seasons of trial and grief (Ps. 34:18). Their marriage is a testament to the power of love and faith and the incredible ways in which God can bring healing and new beginnings.*

*In accordance with biblical teachings, "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate," (Mark 10:9). As the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship family celebrates this union, they eagerly anticipate the beautiful journey that lies ahead for the beloved couple.*

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## ***2024: A Year of Reformation and Revival***

*In a remarkable turn of life, a former Italian model and "most beautiful man" winner, Edoardo Santini, has chosen to leave the glamour of fame and fortune to pursue a higher calling—the priesthood. At just 21 years old, Santini has decided to give up his modeling career, acting and dance to enter the seminary, following what he believes to be his true life's purpose.*

*Santini, hailing from the beautiful region of Florence, won the prestigious ABE's 2019 pageant and was crowned the "most beautiful man." He also excelled in swimming competitions. However, his life took an unexpected turn when he discovered the "real Church," which he previously thought was dead.*

*In a recent video, Santini shared his decision with his followers, saying, "At 21 years of age, I find myself on the path toward becoming a priest, God willing." He added that he would offer his passions to God and live them differently.*

*The Catholic Church has been facing challenges in recruiting new priests, with numbers dropping by almost two-thirds over the past few decades. In 1970, the church trained over 6,300 new priests, but in 2019, that number dwindled to just over 2,100.*

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*Despite the decline in interest in the priesthood, Santini has found a renewed sense of purpose and joy in his decision. "I am Edoardo, I am 21, and I am happy," he said, reflecting on his choice. "Will I become a priest? I don't know, I am here to discover. But I have taken the step that terrorized me, that stopped me finally being myself. I am ready to say I made a mistake."*

*His announcement has garnered mixed reactions from friends and family, with some expressing disappointment while others have shown support. However, the young man remains steadfast in his decision, acknowledging that following one's true calling in life can be challenging but ultimately rewarding.*

*As the Bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11: "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." Edoardo Santini's journey is a powerful reminder that our true*

*identity and purpose in life can only be found in Jesus Christ. We pray that his pursuit of God's calling will inspire others to seek the path God has for them and find fulfillment in their relationship with the Lord.*

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