

Youth For Christ's Juvenile Justice Ministry: Bringing Hope to Incarcerated Youth

Despite a decline in teen arrests and incarcerations, the sobering reality remains that approximately 60,000 young people under the age of 18 are currently held in juvenile jails and prisons across the United States. For many of these youth, the detention centers are places of relative safety, consistent meals, sobriety and respite from constant trauma.

It's within these challenging environments that a glimmer of hope emerges, and it comes in the form of the light of Christ. Dedicated adults who enter these facilities to share the love of Christ with young individuals who may not have encountered the gospel can make a world of difference.

Youth For Christ, through its Juvenile Justice Ministry initiative, has taken on the mission of creating a faith-based continuity of care model specifically designed to establish holistic connections and secure relationships with young people during any interaction with the juvenile justice system. YFC's approach is centered on walking alongside these youth on their spiritual journey while addressing the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of their lives. The leaders and volunteers of YFC forge relationships that continue to provide support as these young people navigate the complex pillars encompassing the juvenile justice system.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Eric Kelly, National Juvenile Justice Ministry Director at

YFC, expressed his concern about the absence of ministry in juvenile justice facilities, stating, "It breaks my heart to think about a juvenile justice facility without a ministry. There are young people sitting in cells right now who can't connect with a positive adult, who can't get the encouragement and support they need, or who don't have the opportunity to learn about the love of Christ."

Kelly emphasized that YFC's JJM programs serve as a means to gain access to these facilities, but the heart of the matter is the establishment of one-on-one, Christ-sharing relationships with the youth, extending from the facility back into the community. This ministry, as evidenced by the personal experiences of YFC staff who were former residents of juvenile detention facilities, is making a profound impact on the lives of these young individuals.

The key to the success of YFC's JJM lies in its exceptional staff and volunteers. "Our staff need to be great mobilizers," said Kelly, emphasizing the vital role of volunteers. "Tens of thousands of teenagers hear the door slam and don't connect it to anything positive like an adult who will listen to them, connect with them and pray for them."

Youth For Christ, with over seven decades of missional youth outreach, is committed to unveiling God's story of hope in the next generation, a generation that desperately needs it. YFC collaborates with local churches and like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godly lifestyles, devotion to the Word of God, prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and engagement in social matters.

With chapters spanning the nation, YFC reaches out to youth from diverse backgrounds, addressing their silent struggles with a wide range of challenging issues. Through the YFC ministry, these young individuals find empowerment and witness the transformative power of a loving God. YFC's leaders are trained in the 3Story® relational ministry model, which

encourages building connections through the ups and downs of everyday life to lead people to Christ.

Since its inception in 1944, with Dr. Billy Graham as its first full-time staff member, Youth For Christ has remained a steadfast pillar of missional ministry. The organization operates in over 100 nations, with more than 130 chapters impacting communities across America.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

Visit the Youth For Christ media page here. Learn more about Youth For Christ at its website, , Facebook and Instagram pages, Twitter feed @yfcusa or on Vimeo.

Jesus Erased: Porsche Facing Backlash Over Ad's Omission

Luxury car brand Porsche has found itself in hot water following the release of an advertisement celebrating 60 years of the Porsche 911.

The advertisement has drawn criticism for apparently editing out the Cristo Rei—a statue of Jesus Christ that stands as a prominent Christian symbol overlooking the city of Lisbon, Portugal.

The German company, renowned for its high-end sports cars, launched a campaign last week commemorating six decades of “very fast years” for the Porsche 911 and introducing a special edition model, the 2024 Porsche 911 S/T. The ad, spanning about two and a half minutes, showcases the evolution

of the iconic 911.

A version of the ad posted on the company's website features the 911 cruising across the screen against the backdrop of the bridge and river adjacent to the Cristo Rei. However, the 92-foot-tall statue of Jesus is conspicuously absent from the concrete pedestal it usually graces. This edit was spotted by a social media user, whose post highlighting the omission quickly went viral. In response, Porsche issued a statement to FOX Business, explaining, "In an early version of a film created in Europe, the Cristo Rei Statue does not appear. We are truly sorry and can fully understand the hurt this has caused. This film has been removed."

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

To address the backlash, Porsche uploaded a revised version of the 60th-anniversary video on its YouTube account. This version restores the presence of the statue of Jesus Christ atop the pedestal overlooking the Tagus River, which separates the Portuguese cities of Almada and Lisbon.

The statue, known as the Santuário de Cristo Rei or the Sanctuary of Christ the King, was erected in 1959 as an expression of gratitude for Portugal's neutrality during World War II. The monument depicts Christ with outstretched arms, blessing the city of Lisbon.

This incident involving Porsche aligns with a pattern of institutions facing backlash for decisions that remove Christian symbols. In 2017, budget supermarket Lidl faced criticism for airbrushing Christian crosses from packaging to maintain a "religiously neutral" stance. More recently, the London School of Economics faced backlash for changing its Christian term names, evoking accusations of being ashamed of Britain's history and culture. Other universities, such as

Swansea University and the University of Kent, have also been accused of downplaying Christian heritage in favor of secular alternatives.

The controversy surrounding the Porsche advertisement reflects a broader tension between maintaining cultural heritage and faith, and adapting to the demands of a secular world. As Christian symbols face erasure or alteration, it raises questions about the preservation of tradition, faith and values in an ever-evolving landscape, and continuing attempts to erase images of Jesus from society at every turn.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

The Great Commission: Spreading the Gospel in the Digital Age

The Great Commission, spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

This divine mandate commands believers to go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. While these words were first uttered over two millennia ago, their relevance continues to shine brightly in the digital world of today.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus declares, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” These words transcend time, motivating Christians to fulfill their duty to share the Good News, both in person and across the vast expanse of the internet.

The digital age has ushered in a new frontier for evangelism, allowing believers to reach corners of the world previously inaccessible. Social media, websites, podcasts and online communities provide platforms to communicate the message of Christ to people who may have never heard it otherwise. Just as Jesus told His disciples to be fishers of men, Christians today are called to be digital fishers, casting the net of God’s love across the virtual sea.



Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

The power of the Great Commission is amplified in the digital realm. Consider Romans 10:14: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” Today, preachers can transcend physical limitations, becoming online witnesses who traverse geographical and cultural boundaries with a single click.

One might wonder: how can we embody the spirit of the Great Commission in the digital world? The answer lies in creative and purposeful engagement. Just as Jesus used parables to convey complex truths, Christians can leverage storytelling, multimedia and relatable content to share the gospel. Online Bible studies, virtual prayer groups and faith-based podcasts can nurture spiritual growth and foster a sense of community,

echoing the commission to teach all that Christ commanded.

Yet, even as we embrace digital tools, we must remember the core of the Great Commission: relationship. The command is not just about broadcasting the message, but about forming disciples. In a world saturated with information, genuine connections are precious. As Proverbs 27:17 reminds us, "Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." In the digital realm, friendships formed around faith can sharpen and refine each believer's walk with Christ.

The Great Commission remains steadfast in its relevance and urgency in today's world. The digital age offers unparalleled opportunities to fulfill this divine mandate, allowing believers to share the gospel with a global audience.

While Christians navigate the virtual landscape, let us remain rooted in the principles of relationship, teaching and community, following Jesus' example. With faith as our guide and the power of the internet as our tool, we embark on a journey to make disciples of all nations, both physically and digitally. Just as the apostles obeyed Jesus' words, let us embrace the call to share His love with a world that hungers for truth, grace and redemption.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Is Government Spearheading

End Times Deception with UFO's?

Recent congressional hearings on unidentified flying objects, now termed unidentified aerial phenomena or UAPs, have sparked widespread interest in the possibility of extraterrestrial visitations.

While some speculate about alien encounters, there could be a more profound explanation rooted in spiritual realities.

The testimonies of three Pentagon whistleblowers during the congressional hearing shed light on UFOs that defy the laws of physics, with claims of the U.S. government possessing intact alien vehicles containing non-human "biologics." Former Navy pilots also reported frequent sightings of UAPs during training missions, expressing awe at the superior technology displayed by these objects.

Such reports are not new; historical records dating back to ancient times document unexplained objects in the sky. One notable account by historian Josephus describes "chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor" appearing in the clouds over Israel in A.D. 70, with similar occurrences documented throughout history.

In modern times, UFO sightings surged after World War II, prompting government task forces to investigate. The infamous Roswell Incident in 1947 resulted in the recovery of debris from a "flying disc," but later was debunked as a secret nuclear test surveillance balloon.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Many individuals, irrespective of their faith, entertain the idea of life beyond Earth. Simultaneously, various religious beliefs, including Christianity, recognize the existence of a spiritual realm beyond our physical senses. The Bible contains references to angels, demons and spiritual encounters. Notably, the prophet Elijah's ascension into heaven on a fiery chariot serves as an example of a transcendent event akin to a UAP encounter. Embracing the concept of spiritual realities and the belief in divine angels and malevolent demons found within the pages of Scripture does not run contrary to Christian theology.

The Bible, in 2 Kings 2:11, portrays Elijah's heavenly ascent, while evangelist Billy Graham's book "Angels: God's Secret Agents" provides first-hand accounts of angelic encounters. The presence of spiritual beings, good and evil, is integral to the Christian faith.

The intensifying spiritual battle between forces of good and evil is evident today, with pandemics, natural disasters, crime and conflicts possibly influenced by the spirit world. Deception and manipulation are among the tactics employed by demonic forces, seeking to control and influence humanity, particularly those in positions of prominence.

While the existence of aliens remains unconfirmed, the reality of spiritual warfare is a profound aspect of the world today. The challenges we face may indeed be leading us toward prophetic end times, as the Bible warns of deception and spiritual manifestations in the last days. In 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, the Bible warns, "even him, whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all deception of unrighteousness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love for the truth that they might be saved. Therefore God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie: that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

While the nature of UFOs and UAPs remains a mystery, the certainty of a spiritual battle underscores the need for discernment, prayer and a deeper understanding of God's truth as we navigate these uncertain times.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Country Legend Randy Travis From 'Hard Rock Bottom' to Faith and Healing

Renowned country music icon Randy Travis, who bravely faced a life-altering health issue, will be honored at the upcoming concert titled "A Heroes and Friends Tribute to Randy Travis." Known for his chart-topping hits like "Hard Rock Bottom of Your Heart" and "Forever and Ever, Amen," Travis has been an influential figure in the country music world.

Scheduled to take place in October at Von Braun Center's Propst Arena in Huntsville, Alabama, the tribute concert holds great significance for the singer. In 2013, Randy Travis was diagnosed with aphasia, a condition that severely affected his speech, following a massive stroke. Despite his limited ability to communicate verbally, the fact that fellow country stars are coming together to celebrate his illustrious career means the world to him.

In an interview with Fox News Digital, Randy and his devoted wife, Mary, shared their sentiments about the tribute event.

Mary expressed how much it touched Randy's heart to know that his music left a lasting impact on others. Even though he can no longer perform his own songs, witnessing other talented artists stepping in to pay homage to his catalog is truly heartwarming for both of them.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Mary beautifully described Randy's music as the "hymn of country music," as his songs transport listeners to cherished memories and special moments in their lives. The tribute concert is a testament to the significant difference Randy Travis has made in the lives of countless individuals through his music.

The concert organizers have not yet revealed the names of the performers, but a portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Randy Travis Foundation, dedicated to raising awareness about strokes and aphasia while also supporting music education in schools.

Randy Travis' musical journey began in 1978, and he achieved major success in 1985 with hits like "1982" and "On the Other Hand." Throughout the '80s and '90s, he continued to release chart-topping singles and albums, earning numerous awards, including six Grammy Awards.

In 2000, he transitioned into Christian country music, releasing the album "Inspirational Journey," which garnered more Grammy Awards and the hit song "Three Wooden Crosses."

Despite facing health challenges, Randy and Mary credit their unwavering faith for helping them navigate the difficult journey. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, they have found strength and gratitude in each passing day.

"He's very faithful," Mary said. "We, you know, we leaned hard

on God. It's been 10 years now since the stroke, and that's hard to believe... There's really no words for it and there's not a day that goes by that I just don't thank God for His grace and his mercy."

As the country music community comes together to honor Randy Travis, they not only celebrate his remarkable career but also shine a spotlight on his inspiring faith and the importance of stroke and aphasia awareness. Randy's enduring legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of country music artists and fans alike.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Trust Betrayed: Former Church Youth Leader Faces Serious Allegations

Shockwaves reverberated through the community when news broke of Amanda Buchanan Justice, a 35-year-old woman from Kings Mountain, North Carolina, facing felony charges of statutory sex offense with a child 15 or younger.

Justice, who was reportedly a former church youth leader, stepped down from her role just days before her arrest, leaving the congregation stunned and disheartened.

The Kings Mountain Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division received a report of the alleged sexual assault on a

minor on July 28. Subsequently, detectives from the Special Victims Unit thoroughly investigated the incident and interviewed the alleged victim. Following consultations with the Cleveland County District Attorney's Office, felony warrants were obtained and served on Amanda Buchanan Justice.

In response to the unfolding situation, the No Compromise Youth Ministry addressed the charges on its Facebook page. The ministry informed its New Life partners that Amanda Justice was no longer attending New Life Family Worship Center, and the alleged misconduct did not occur on church grounds or during any ministry activities. They called for continued prayers for the situation and the church during these trying times.

In light of these grave charges, it is crucial to reflect on the Bible's teachings regarding the responsibility and higher standards placed on leaders in the church. As followers of Christ, we are called to uphold principles of integrity, accountability and compassion, especially when entrusted with positions of leadership within the church.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

The Scriptures speak clearly about the significance of moral purity and the consequences of failing to adhere to godly standards. In 1 Timothy 3:2-5, the apostle Paul outlines the qualifications for overseers, stating, "An overseer then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence."

It is evident from these verses that leaders in the church

must be individuals of unimpeachable character, exemplifying righteousness and humility. Their actions should reflect the love and grace of Christ, serving as an example to others in the congregation and beyond.

As fellow believers, we are called to support and pray for those who find themselves entangled in difficult situations. In James 5:16, we are reminded of the power of prayer: "Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much."

The church, as a body of believers, must stand firm in its commitment to protect the vulnerable and ensure a safe environment for all members, especially the children and youth entrusted to their care. It is of the utmost importance that the church and leadership cooperate fully with the authorities during their investigation and handling of this matter.

Any form of abuse must be condemned and rooted out, especially when committed by those in positions of trust and leadership. Pray that church leadership uphold the sanctity of their roles, following the example set forth by Jesus Christ, who Himself warned in Luke 17:2, "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble."

Let us all strive to be vigilant in safeguarding our faith communities, holding ourselves and our leaders to the highest standards of accountability, humility and love. May God's grace guide this hurting church community through these difficult times, as they seek healing, restoration and forgiveness for all involved.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Pastor and Family Arrested for 'Luring' People to Christianity

In a distressing incident that highlights the challenges faced by Christians in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, a pastor, his wife and their young son have been arrested and jailed on allegations of 'luring' people to Christianity.

The incident occurred in violation of Uttar Pradesh's Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act of 2021. The state, where Christians constitute less than 1% of the population of 200 million, has been enforcing this controversial law to curb conversions.

According to a report from the Union of Catholic Asian News, Pastor Harendra Singh and his wife, Priya, were detained by the police and incarcerated alongside their 3-year-old son on July 31. The authorities accused them of hosting a prayer meeting in their home located in the town of Haidargarh. The pastor staunchly denied the accusations, yet the family faced arrest under the contentious anti-conversion law.

It is heart-wrenching to learn that the young child had to endure jail with his parents, as India's regulations mandate children up to six years old to live with their incarcerated parents, particularly their mothers. This unfortunate practice adds to the already difficult circumstances faced by these innocent families.

India's Constitution promises religious freedom to all its citizens, but some states, including Uttar Pradesh, have

chosen to implement anti-conversion laws to safeguard “gullible persons.” State legislators argued that the law was essential to prevent religious conversions through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion or allurement by fraudulent means.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

However, the introduction and enforcement of such laws have faced criticism from human rights groups for potentially violating international human rights standards.

As of February, 12 out of India’s 28 states, including Uttar Pradesh, had anti-conversion laws, with others considering implementing similar measures. Each state varies in how they enforce these laws, and Uttar Pradesh stands out for actively prosecuting alleged violators.

According to the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, “no person shall convert or attempt to convert” another individual. Violators of this law face up to five years in prison and a fine of 15,000 Indian rupees, or approximately \$180.

Furthermore, harsher penalties apply when minors, women or individuals from Scheduled Castes or Tribes are involved in the conversion. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) explains that offenders involved in converting or attempting to convert these groups could face prison terms ranging from two to 10 years, along with substantial fines.

Christian leaders have reported similar instances of persecution in the region. On July 30, 15 Christians, including three pastors, were also arrested and jailed in separate incidents. Pastor Amarjeet Ram and five others from Balapur village in Ghazipur district faced arrest for hosting

a prayer meeting, and their pleas for freedom have been rejected.

In these challenging times for Christians in Uttar Pradesh, and across India, we find solace in the words of the Bible. The Scriptures remind us of the trials faced by early Christians and the persecution they endured for their faith.

In the Gospel of Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus Himself encourages believers, saying, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be very glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in this manner they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Lecrae: God Used Tim Keller to Save My Life

Grammy Award-winning artist Lecrae recently opened up about the critical role evangelical pastor Tim Keller played in saving his life.

While tributes poured in for Keller after his passing in May, Lecrae revealed in an interview with The Christian Post that he found solace and hope in Keller's teachings during one of his darkest moments.

Lecrae faced a massive backlash when he spoke out against racial injustice. The negative response drove him into a place of doubt and deconstruction, questioning the authenticity of his faith. During this time of despair, he stumbled upon Keller's book "Prodigal Prophet," which delves into the biblical story of Jonah pointing to Jesus as God's true prophet.

"I am literally on the verge of wanting to end my life, being honest," Lecrae shared. "And I'm trying to read this book, like, 'God, just speak to me.'"

Amid contemplating ending his life, Lecrae witnessed a life-altering moment in Mexico. As he read about Jonah and a giant fish, he saw a massive whale emerge from the ocean, and in that moment, he felt God's presence, urging him to persevere. This experience deeply impacted him, prompting him to get a whale tattoo on his arm in memory of the encounter.

"And as I'm reading "Prodigal Prophet," a story of Jonah and a giant fish, I see this massive whale come up out of the ocean, and come back down, and the water had been coming from its spout," Lecrae continued. "It was almost as if God was just saying, 'I'm here. I'm with you. I see you, and keep pushing forward.' And that was a life-altering moment."

Keller's influence on Lecrae's life and career went beyond this one instance. Fresh out of college, Lecrae encountered an article on missional living, citing Keller and Lesslie Newbigin, which resonated deeply with him. This led him to write the song "Send Me" based on the insights he gained from Keller's work.

"One of the things I admire about Tim Keller is that he was not there to teach Christians how to become pastors, but he was there to use his biblical insight and wisdom to unpack the scriptures for Christians so that they can be effective believers in society, whatever field of endeavor they

functioned in,” Lecrae said.

One key aspect of Keller’s teachings that left a lasting impact on Lecrae was the concept of “humble excellence” and the freedom to express one’s Christianity in secular spaces. This idea empowered Lecrae to navigate the music industry confidently while resonating with both secular and sacred audiences.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Keller’s pastoral ministry, particularly in New York, shaped Lecrae’s views and enabled him to interact with secular society with grace and compassion. Despite Keller’s perspectives on certain topics drawing criticism, Lecrae commended him for engaging with wisdom and grace in an increasingly polarized culture.

“He was very kind and generous and caring and nurturing toward those outside of the faith while still holding on to his views and his biblical beliefs,” Lecrae recalled. “There’s a way to do it where you’re not obnoxious and you’re not condescending, but you’re, in many ways, saying, ‘Listen, I’m a broken human being like the rest of you all. It’s just this grace that is transformed me ... and allows me to have the confidence in who God is and who I am in Christ.”

The rapper admired Keller’s commitment to biblical truth, emphasizing the importance of holding onto biblical values rather than aligning with any particular political agenda. Keller’s pursuit of understanding society’s trends and the centrality of faith in life was a crucial element in his approach to engaging with the world.

As Lecrae enters the next season of his life, he aspires to pass on the wisdom and insights he has gained from Keller’s teachings and his own experiences to the younger generation.

He seeks to invest in others, leaving a lasting legacy and providing tools to those who need them.

In a world full of noise and political divisiveness, Keller's teachings provided Lecrae an insightful perspective rooted in biblical values. The artist hopes to contextualize these teachings and share them with communities in need, believing that God has blessed him with unique insights that can positively impact others' lives.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

America Needs God's Blessing on the Battlefield to Survive

The Bible is rife with stories of God being the ultimate commander of the battlefield.

He led the Israelites through many successful campaigns against their enemies and kept them safe whenever His hand of protection was upon them. When the nation of Israel took up for themselves the pagan gods of their enemies, however, God removed His blessing from their battlefields and eventually the nations of Israel and Judah fell to their enemies.

From Joshua to Gideon to David, the might of the Lord was not just desired on the battlefield, it was required for victory.

America is now suffering through the same rebellion that ancient Israel went through prior to her collapse, and the

once-mighty American military is feeling the repercussions.

According to a recent Gallup poll, confidence in the American military is at its lowest point in decades. Between all political affiliations, only 60% of Americans are confident in our military prowess.

“At 60%, confidence in the military was last this low in 1997, and it has not been lower since 1988, when 58% were confident. From the late 1970s to the early 1980s—during the Cold War and amid threats to U.S. power, including the Iran hostage crisis—between 50% and 58% of Americans were confident in the military,” Gallup reported.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

In the political sphere, many would point to events such as the horrifically executed withdrawal from Afghanistan that cost the lives of American military members and unknown numbers of Afghans who relied on the U.S. forces for protection from the Taliban. Others may point to the injection of radical gender, race and Marxist ideologies into the senior ranks of the military leadership. The nation's top military academies no longer look for the best and the brightest, but instead fill diversity quotas and lecture cadets on critical race theory, instead of military tactics and overcoming obstacles on the battlefields.

While these both present shining examples of the ineptitude of bureaucrats now running the Department of Defense, the spiritual aspect to the military's decline is by far the most important.

When Joshua first attempted to destroy the city of Ai without the Lord by his side, were his forces not soundly defeated by the city's defenders? Sin had kept the Israelites from victory because Achan did not heed the Word of the Lord (Josh. 7).

When the sin had been dealt with, and Israel was again in right-standing with the Lord, heeding His instruction, they garnered victory upon the battlefield and took the city, completely destroying it (Josh. 8).

For America, the route of teaching hatred for the country and her past, her morals, her ideals, has raised a generation who show no interest in protecting her.

Military recruiting is suffering in every branch, and because of this, sub-standard recruits are being allowed in due to relaxed guidelines for entry. Compound this anti-American sentiment with the removal of God as our Protector on the battlefield, and things look bleak at best for any future military engagements.

If America is to have any hope of winning a future war, which many believe is inevitable, then repentance before the Lord must be the first course of action.

Without an acknowledgment and turning away from the sin that the country has committed against God, America's military stands little chance against a potential enemy that seeks to overthrow her status as the world's greatest nation.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media, and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Christian Youth Arrested for

Reading Scriptures at Pride Event

Over the weekend, a young Christian man, Marcus Schroeder, found himself in police custody after peacefully reading Scripture verses on a loudspeaker outside a “Pride in the Park” event in Watertown, Wisconsin.

Organized as “family entertainment” by the city of Watertown, the event featured a drag queen show in front of children who were encouraged to give money to lingerie-clad male dancers. Troubled by the sexualization of minors, Schroeder and fellow members of Mercy Seat Christian Church took to the public sidewalk outside the event to preach the gospel.

As Schroeder quoted from Galatians, emphasizing the importance of loving one’s neighbor, police officers approached him, attempting to seize the microphone. The situation escalated, leading to his arrest on charges of unlawful use of sound amplification and resisting arrest. Other Christians were also arrested for praying and sharing the gospel inside the event but were later released with warnings.

Here is my report for @RepubSentinel about the young street preachers arrested and detained at a public drag event in Wisconsin.

Marcus Schroeder told @RepubSentinel that it was an honor to be “arrested for the sake of spreading Christ and His kingdom.”

– Ben Zeisloft (@BenZeisloft) August 1, 2023

Despite facing legal consequences, Schroeder is unwavering in his commitment to free speech and spreading Christ’s message.

He stated, "It's actually an honor to be counted worthy to stand with the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and been arrested for the sake of spreading Christ and His kingdom."

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Undeterred by the arrests, the Christian group now plans to act with "further boldness." Schroeder affirmed that more people are recognizing the gravity of the situation and are being motivated to take action.

Social media reactions to the viral video of Schroeder's arrest have urged the Christian group to consider legal action against the city and the arresting officers. Damon Atkins, who faced a similar arrest at a Pride event in Pennsylvania, has already sued officials for violating his First and Fourth Amendment rights.

Amid the controversy surrounding the event, it's worth noting that the Christians from Mercy Seat Church distance themselves from a group of neo-Nazis who also disrupted the Pride event with swastika flags and homophobic insults. While the Christian group has zero affiliation with the neo-Nazis, they maintain their unwavering commitment to spreading the gospel and standing for truth, even in the face of adversity.

Despite the event drawing national attention for the neo-Nazi disruption, the focus remains on the Christians' pursuit of free speech and their efforts to share their beliefs while peacefully standing against what they perceive as harmful elements of the "Pride in the Park" event.

Watertown officials have not responded to requests for comment on the arrests and on the issue of children being exposed to explicit content at the event.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.