

Number of Children Abducted in Nigerian School Attack Raised to More Than 300

Gunmen abducted a total of 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers during an attack on St. Mary's School, a Catholic institution in north-central Nigeria's Niger state, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Saturday, updating an earlier tally of 215 schoolchildren.

The tally was changed "after a verification exercise and a final census was carried out," according to a statement issued by the Most. Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of the Niger state chapter of CAN, who visited the school on Friday.

He said 88 other students "were also captured after they tried to escape" during the attack. The students were both male and female and ranged in age from 10 to 18.

The school kidnapping in Niger state's remote Papiri community happened four days after 25 schoolchildren were seized in similar circumstances in neighboring Kebbi state's Maga town, which is 170 kilometers (106 miles) away.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the abductions and authorities have said tactical squads have been deployed alongside local hunters to rescue the children.

Yohanna described as false a claim from the state government that the school had reopened for studies despite an earlier directive for schools in that part of Niger state to close temporarily due to security threats.

“We did not receive any circular. It must be an afterthought and a way to shift blame,” he said, calling on families “to remain calm and prayerful.”

School kidnappings have come to define insecurity in Africa’s most populous nation, and armed gangs often see schools as “strategic” targets to draw more attention.

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Jillian Michaels Shocked Jesus Was Real: Historian Sets the Record Straight

Fitness influencer Jillian Michaels sparked widespread reaction after admitting on her podcast that she was stunned to learn that Jesus Christ was not only a real historical figure but also whose life is documented outside of Scripture.

The moment occurred during an episode featuring historian and Hoover Institution senior fellow Victor Davis Hanson. As Hanson explained Rome’s political struggles with Jesus, Michaels interrupted with her candid confession.

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“I thought we didn’t even know this guy... I thought we weren’t even really sure whether or not Jesus existed, and the

apostles wrote this stuff hundreds of years ago," she said.

Her surprise reflects a growing trend in mainstream culture: many assume Jesus is a myth or a figure mostly invented by religious tradition. Hanson corrected that assumption immediately.

"We have Roman documents completely separate from religion," Hanson said, describing accounts that depict Jesus as "a magnetic... wonderful person to the people who knew Him" and someone the Romans viewed as leading a movement they considered destabilizing.

He also explained the political calculation behind Jesus' crucifixion. Pontius Pilate, he said, was focused on keeping Judea quiet. "They did not like Jesus and what He represented was anti-Roman," Hanson explained, adding that Rome used the religious establishment's hostility as cover. "We can get rid of Him and then say the Pharisees basically did it."

Hanson also contrasted Jesus' teachings with Rome's worldview. "He's got a new religion and unfortunately it's turned the other cheek, brotherhood of man, blessed are the meek, blessed are the poor. That's not Roman," he said. "We have a Roman military ethos that the strong inherit the earth."

Michaels continued to express astonishment as she processed the information. "This is so wild... I genuinely thought, okay, the Jews had the Old Testament, the Torah, and then maybe there was this guy, Jesus," she said. "The apostles wrote stuff, but the first guy who wrote something was like 90 or so years later."

For Christians, her comments open a door—not for mockery, but for ministry. Michaels represents millions who have never

heard what history, archaeology and scholarship affirm: Jesus of Nazareth lived, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and His followers wrote about Him within decades, not centuries, of His life.

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But more importantly, the historical record is only the beginning. Jesus is not simply real in the academic sense—He is exactly who He claimed to be: the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the One who conquered death and still transforms lives today. The Jesus documented by Rome is the same Jesus who heals, delivers, restores and calls every person to repentance and hope.

Michaels, who described herself in 2024 as “not a religious person” and “agnostic,” expressed genuine openness and curiosity in the exchange, as reported by The Daily Wire. That openness is an opportunity for believers.

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Now is a moment to pray—for her and for anyone who carries the same assumptions she once did. Pray that the veil of confusion lifts. Pray that the historical Jesus becomes the personal Savior. Pray that curiosity becomes conviction, and that conviction becomes salvation.

Because the question is no longer ‘Was Jesus real?’

The question is: What will each person do with that reality?

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air

Force veteran, he is the author of The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary and a contributor to Charisma magazine.

Cracker Barrel CEO Says She Was 'Fired by America' After DEI Disaster

Are dreams and visions still one of the ways God speaks today? John and Lisa Bevere say yes—and they warn that modern distractions are dulling the church's ability to hear. Their recent conversation explored how God uses dreams and visions to guide, correct and awaken believers, especially in the last days.

The Reality of God-Given Dreams and Visions

Scripture makes clear that dreams and visions are not relics of the past. From Jacob's ladder to Joseph's prophetic dreams, from Daniel's interpretations to the visions of Peter and Paul, God has always communicated through supernatural encounters. The Beveres emphasize that this continues today because the "last days" described in Joel and Acts are still unfolding.

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Visions can come while awake or in the thin space between sleep and consciousness. Dreams, on the other hand, occur at

night but often carry spiritual weight that lingers long after waking.

A Distracted Generation

One of their strongest concerns is how constant digital stimulation competes with spiritual sensitivity. Endless scrolling, entertainment and artificial intelligence occupy the imagination—the very space where God paints spiritual impressions. When the mind is overloaded, the ability to receive visions, insight, or prompting becomes dulled.

Imagination itself is not unholy; it is the God-designed “canvas” where images, impressions, and spiritual truths take shape. But when it’s filled with noise, there is little room left for divine direction.

Personal Encounters That Mark a Life

John recounts the first vision he ever received—long before he understood such experiences. Shortly after his salvation, he saw the profile of a brunette woman in a vivid waking vision. Two years later, he met Lisa, who eventually became his wife. This experience cemented his understanding that God still speaks personally and precisely.

Another vision marked the trajectory of John’s ministry. He saw a massive crowd standing before Jesus expecting to be welcomed into His kingdom, only to hear the words, “Depart from Me.” The shock on their faces became a lifelong burden to reach those in the church who assume they are saved yet remain unchanged. It reshaped his calling and the urgency with which he ministers.

Lisa also shares how God has spoken to her through dreams that carried weight, clarity, and accuracy—dreams that led her to pray, intervene, or take responsibility in situations she could not have seen naturally.

Biblical Confirmation

The Beveres highlight a thread running through both Testaments:

- Jacob's ladder in Genesis 28
- Joseph's prophetic dreams and later interpretation of Pharaoh's
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed to Daniel
- Ezekiel's open visions
- Joseph's dreams surrounding the birth of Jesus
- Peter's rooftop vision
- Paul's Macedonian call
- The simultaneous visions given to Paul and Ananias

These accounts show a consistent pattern: God uses dreams and visions to warn, direct, instruct, and reveal.

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Discerning God's Voice

Not every dream is from God. The Beveres stress the importance of prayerful discernment. A dream from God typically carries clarity, detail and a spiritual "linger"—it does not evaporate upon waking. Believers should pray over such dreams, test their source, and ask God what action is required.

Making Space for Revelation

God still speaks, but believers must make room to listen. Spiritual sensitivity grows when the noise decreases, when the imagination is uncluttered, and when the heart is positioned to respond. Many people have ignored dreams God gave them years ago, but the Beveres encourage believers that God can reignite what seemed forgotten.

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Dreams and visions are not rare supernatural anomalies; they are part of life in the Spirit. The question is not whether God is speaking—but whether we've left enough quiet space for Him to be heard.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine.

Why Spiritual Warfare Is Erupting Again in the Modern Church