

# When Abraham's 'Other' Descendants Come to Christ

✘ Although it takes a back seat to rumors of war, a tsunami of faith is quietly overtaking the Muslim world. Islamic adherents are laying aside their allegiance to Muhammad to follow Jesus Christ, despite the social ostracism, persecution and possible martyrdom that converts to Christianity face. Propelled by dreams, visions and miracles, this wave of revival is bringing vast numbers of Muslims—some say millions—into God's kingdom.

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## Support Israel in Her Time of Need

✘ In Genesis 12:3, God makes a promise to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

In my own life I have seen proof of this promise; when I have blessed Israel and the Jewish people, God has showered His blessings on me. That is why we have set up the "Bless Israel" fund through Christian Life Missions.

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# Tamara Osteen Graff on Women in Ministry

Ministry is in her blood—literally. Her late father John Osteen started Lakewood Church 51 years ago in a converted feed store. Her brother Joel became the pastor of the Houston church in 1999 when their father unexpectedly passed away. But Tamara Osteen Graff is leaving her mark on the world in her own unique way. She says God has a story to tell through every woman's life. To hear her story, listen to podcast.

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## Calling Forth the Deborahs

For more than 18 years Rebecca Greenwood has led people to Christ by preaching about spiritual warfare, deliverance, intercession and more. Her itinerant ministry has opened doors for her to minister in Egypt, Nepal, Italy, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia.

Rebecca says God is opening doors for women in the body of Christ to do His bidding in the earth. She says the Father is calling forth all the "Deborahs." Discover what the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of one woman who said yes. Listen to podcast below.

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# Are You a Witness?

Growing up in a staunch Greek Orthodox family in Sydney, Australia, Christine Caine was unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit's work in the life of the believer. But when she joined Hillsong Church at age 21, the Word came alive in her life and today she's preaching the gospel around the world. Are you using your influence to reach the lost in your inner circle, family or community? Watch video below.

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# Intercede for the Nations in 2010

Intercessory prayer is one of the most valuable weapons of spiritual warfare. When we slip to our knees to communicate with God, He spiritually transforms our hearts and we send out prayers that effect change in the world in ways we could never imagine. The Bible says we "ought to always pray" and never let up. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you with a passion for prayer and watch Him work through you in 2010. To listen to a New Year's prayer by Sharyn Culp, [click here](#).

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# Did Jesus Celebrate Hanukkah?

Millions of people around the world will celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25. They will exchange gifts, fellowship

together over dinner and keep other traditions passed down to them through the years. According to theologians, Jesus did not celebrate His own birthday. But did He participate in the Jewish holiday called Hanukkah? To discover the Bible's answer to this question, watch video below.

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## House of Representatives Passes Sanctions on Iran

✘ In an overwhelming show of support, the House of Representatives passed the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009 on Tuesday.

The bill, which passed 412-12, requires “the president to report to Congress three months after the law’s enactment—and every six months thereafter—anyone who has provided Iran refined oil, helped to import oil or helped it develop its domestic refining capacity,” the *examiner.com* reported.

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## God is in Control

Have you ever desperately wanted something from God, even fasted and prayed for it, and not received it? Maybe you were hoping He would give you a new car or a better paying job, but after years of bargaining, you discover that “naming it and claiming it” doesn’t work the way you had hoped.

During my Christian journey, I have discovered many wonderful

truths about God. Each day I realize more and more the depth of His love for me. But it has taken many life lessons for me to understand His sovereignty.

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## Don't Turn Jesus Away

✘ I was in New York City years ago shopping with my sister, when a young man stopped me on the sidewalk and asked me for a handout. He was wearing designer everything, so I didn't give him a dime. In this case, it was easy for me to ignore a poor person. After all, this man wasn't poor—he was a con!

People who try to take advantage of our kindness have approached many of us. Street peddlers or drug addicts who trick people out of money so they can buy drugs or liquor make it difficult for the truly destitute who are forced to live on the streets.

Since we don't want to decide who's really poor and who isn't, we tend to look the other way. It's easier to just ignore them.

Rewind this story 2,000 years and something sounds familiar.

There was an expectant mom who arrived in an unfamiliar city and was told there were no motel rooms or boarding houses available. Though she was

about to have a baby, she and her husband were homeless.

Nobody

recognized her need, so she was forced to give birth in a barn. Her

baby's name was Jesus. He became poor so we could have the priceless

gift of eternal life (see [2 Cor. 8:9](#)).

Do

you recognize the poor around you? This holiday season many of us will

shop until we drop and on the way out the door, we'll probably throw

some loose change into the Salvation Army kettle to help others. Or

possibly some of us will volunteer to feed the hungry during a church

outreach.

But helping the poor needs to become more of a

priority for all who follow Jesus. So much of His ministry was directed

to the poor. Why, then, do so few churches in the U.S. support ministries that meet the physical needs of underprivileged people?

God's

Word instructs us to feed the hungry, visit prisoners, care for orphans

and widows, and give clothes to those who don't have any. So when we

don't make room for these people in our hearts, we are doing what the

innkeeper did to Mary and Joseph when they sought a room in Bethlehem.

We are turning Jesus away—again.

When you see someone truly in  
need, allow Jesus to break your heart, so you can feel what He  
feels  
for the woman who has to live in a cardboard box, the many who  
must  
sleep on bench or the child who rarely eats a healthful meal.

This Christmas—and all through the year—let's make room in our  
hearts for the poor.