

# Christians Lead the Charge in Saving Lives During LA Wildfires

Wildfires continue to rage across Southern California, [the devastation described as “apocalyptic,”](#) leaving a trail of unimaginable destruction. Homes and businesses have been reduced to ash, lives disrupted and hope shaken. Yet, even amid the smoke and ruin, there is a profound opportunity for the church to rise and demonstrate the transformative power of God’s love.

Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills, is urging believers to see beyond the destruction and recognize an opportunity for God to move powerfully.

“The devastation is absolutely apocalyptic in scope,” Hibbs said. “It’s as though an atomic bomb had gone off—the loss of animal life, the loss of property, the loss of business, the loss of homes and for some, maybe even the loss of their faith because they may have built their life as it were on the sand. We pray not.

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“Unless the Lord builds the house, they that labor do so in vain,” Hibbs reminded listeners. He encourages the church to pray for millions in the Los Angeles area, asking God to turn [this ash heap into a foundation for spiritual awakening.](#)

“This is a plea,” Hibbs continues. “Will you pray? Will you pray for California? Will you pray for the devastation in Southern California? We give it to You now, Lord, and we pray by leaving it at Your feet in Jesus’ name.”

In the Echo Park region of Los Angeles, the [L.A. Dream Center](#) is hard at work providing aid as a 24-hour shelter for those impacted by the wildfires.

“Hot meals ready all day. Water, diapers, food times, ready all day. Shelter open 24/7. 9am until sundown food line in full operation,” [founder of the L.A. Dream Center Matthew Barnett](#) posted to X.

*Hot meals ready all day. Water, diapers, food items, ready all day. Shelter open 24/7. 9am until sundown food line in full operation.*

– Matthew Barnett (@MatthewBarnett) [January 9, 2025](#)

Alongside outreaches like the Dream Center, celebrities such as Chef Andrew Gruel have raised funds and supplies for the ministries, delivering pallet after pallet of food to those in desperate need of help.

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Now is the time for Christians to step into our calling as the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to those enduring their darkest moments. In the face of such devastation, the church is uniquely positioned to be the salt and light that Christ has called us to be—a beacon of His love, grace and mercy. This is not only a moment to pray from a distance but an opportunity to act with compassion and boldness, meeting practical needs, comforting the grieving and pointing the lost to the eternal hope found in Him. Let us rise together to serve, give and love sacrificially, showing the world that even in the ashes of despair, the light of Christ shines brighter than ever.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

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## Russell Brand Delivers Sermon, Receives Prophetic Blessing

After just a few months of being a Christian, [Russell Brand](#) had the privilege of delivering the message of his powerful testimony to Oceans Church in Destin, Florida.

Brand has been very outspoken ever since accepting Christ about the transformation he's seen in his life. From excitedly sharing his baptism with the world, videos of him baptizing others and discussions on the Holy Spirit, Brand continues to make it clear that he is all into his newfound faith.

"I've not been Christian very long, like eight months since April the 28th," says Brand. "So you all know more about this than I do...but I do remember a verse that struck me prior to being saved."

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Brand says the verse, which he later points out as Isaiah 43:1, struck him while participating a poetry event at a prison in London. He notes that he felt inferior compared to other famous people at this event because he had been worshipping the "false idol of fame." This feeling of being

less-than led him to visit the chapel in the building for a time of solitude.

Brand says that just as he had a false idol of fame, he wonder what other kinds of false idols are in our world today.

“Perhaps we have seeded power too easily to institutions that cannot carry sacred power. Government being one, the culture being another, technology. I wonder what these false idols and these altars in high places would be today,” Brand says. “I don’t think we choose whether or not [we worship](#), we just choose what we worship because surely we are worshipping something.”

Brand also discusses Jesus’ mention that He was present when Satan fell like lightning from heaven. He makes the point that perhaps, instead of us feeling that we are filled with great power when the Lord gives us authority to do things, that we must remember Jesus is the one with the ultimate authority over all creation.

“When I am excited about my power or gifts, I would do well to remember where they came from and how they might be used, who put them there and what they are for. And what they are for, and if I’m using my gifts to make money or get pleasure or get status, or to glory myself, then I might be reminded who I’m really worshipping at that time and what the consequences are for wanting to set up your own dominion to bask in the false,” says Brand.

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“The condition of Satan and indeed the [condition of the world](#) for three times it says in the New Testament, that this world is run by the evil one. That we fight not against flesh, but against dark power and high principalities and that the evil one is in control of the world,” he continues.

As Brand concluded by encouraging the Oceans Church congregation to keep their eyes focused on Jesus, he received a prayer of blessing and prophetic insight from the pastors of the church.

“Thank you, Father, for the great fruitfulness, Lord, that he will abound as he remains connected to you, that all the fruit that he desires to see in his walk with you and his marriage with Laura, and as a father watching over and raising children, and even as an ambassador for the gospel to be a prophetic voice in this season, in this generation, Lord I pray that you would keep him in tandem with You,” pastor Michael Janetis prayed.

“As we were praying over you, Russell, I feel there’s an [inheritance from God](#) for you,” Pastor Mark says. “There is a mantle almost like a John the Baptist type of a forerunner anointing, that as you speak and as you present yourself and all that He has done in you and through you that many will discover Jesus as a result of your testimony...this has been almost like an Esther moment for you. God has brought you here to this time, for this season, this era, for such a time as this.”

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# Anti-Christian Lyrics? Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood Stir Controversy

The funeral for one of the United States' worst presidents was serenaded with John Lennon's worst song.

[Jimmy Carter, the 39th president](#), was honored Thursday with a service at the Washington National Cathedral that would have been fitting for a former commander in chief who was also well known for espousing Christian beliefs and teaching Sunday School at his Baptist church in Plains, Georgia.

But the inclusion of the explicitly anti-Christian song "Imagine" cast a shadow on the proceedings that not even a performance by country music stars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood could brighten.

From the very first line, the song's dismal nihilism proclaims itself opposing the fundamental Christian belief of an afterlife.

"Imagine there's no heaven," Lennon wrote in the title track of his 1971 album. "It's easy if you try. No hell below us. Above us only sky.

"Imagine all the people, living for today."

Mollie Hemingway, the astute commentator and editor in chief of the conservative website The Federalist, nailed the disastrous choice in a post on the social media platform X.

"Why would ANY Christian have that sung at their funeral?" Hemingway wrote. "Imagining there is no heaven and no Christianity at a Christian funeral is dark, indeed."

*WHAT? Why would ANY Christian have that sung at their*

funeral? Imagining there is no heaven and no Christianity at a Christian funeral is dark, indeed. <https://t.co/64IaRv10mz>  
[pic.twitter.com/cr9k0P892p](https://pic.twitter.com/cr9k0P892p)

– Mollie (@MZHemingway) [January 9, 2025](#)

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“Dark, indeed” sums it up pretty well.

It doesn’t help that the rest of the song just gets worse. It’s a treachery paean to the ignorant illusions that form the basis of an outright leftist, globalist worldview.

It imagines a world without countries, without convictions (“nothing to kill or die for”) and without faith (“and no religion, too”).

It imagines a world without “possession,” which is to say a world without private property or capitalism, the greatest forces behind the innovations that have fostered human prosperity in the long history of mankind.

It imagines, in short, a world of godless, hedonistic chaos: A world without the law that nationhood provides, a world without the security of individuals owning their own means of survival and the ability to provide for their families.

It imagines a world without a Creator who will sit in judgment on the actions of every soul.

And somehow, through some bizarre mental delusion, it concludes that all that would lead to a “brotherhood of man.”

Any thinking adult knows differently. It would instead be a hellscape, a Hobbesian “war of all against all,” where only brute force would matter—a dystopia that would make the pre-

Christian world of pagan empires enslaving millions look like a paragon of ordered liberty.

It's Karl Marx's "Communist Manifesto" set to music. (Lennon himself reportedly described it that way.)

But this was a song chosen for the funeral of a man who professed the Christian faith his entire life? And achieved the pinnacle of power in a country literally built on the idea of individual liberty?

As reaction on social media showed, Hemingway wasn't the only critic.

This was clearly no accident. Brooks and Yearwood teamed up to deliver the same song at the funeral for Rosalynn Carter, Jimmy Carter's wife, in 2023, so it's fairly obvious that Carter himself had something to say about it being played at his own services.

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No American who lived through the Carter presidency—or has read any honest history of the late 1970s—can have any illusions about how awful it was.

Inflation wracked the country on the domestic front. Abroad, the Iranian hostage crisis pretty much defined the impotence of an administration that was fundamentally unable to lead the free world because of a president who was fundamentally unsuited for the job.

(As The Associated Press described it in a 2022 report: "The 444-day crisis transfixed America, as nightly images of blindfolded hostages played on television sets across the nation. Iran finally let all of the captives go the day Carter left office on Ronald Reagan's inauguration in 1981.")

Until Barack Obama and Joe Biden took the oath of office, Carter would have been hands-down the worst chief executive in the country's history. Democrats are only getting worse.

And no one who can read English can have any illusions about what the song "Imagine" really imagines—beneath its deceptively pleasant melody.

Lennon had some great songs, particularly in his Beatles days. He had some lousy ones. ("Instant Karma!" comes to mind, for pure idiocy.) But "Imagine" is the worst by far.

So maybe it is fitting that the late Lennon's ode to an atheistic world devoid of both faith and humanity is a fitting match for the failure that is synonymous with Carter's name.

[But for the funeral of a supposed Christian?](#) It's an atrocity.

*[This article](#) originally appeared on *The Western Journal*, and is reposted with permission.*

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## **Los Angeles Ministry Leaders Give Update Amid Blazing Fire**

In the middle of the heart-wrenching fires that have wiped out homes [in California](#), L.A. ministry leaders have given an update on how they and their families are doing during this sensitive time.

In a video shared on Facebook, L.A. Marzulli gave his update on how he is fairing right now.

“I’m here overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and I’m in the Santa Monica mountains at a friend’s house. We just drove down; we’re kind of keeping an eye on things,” he says.

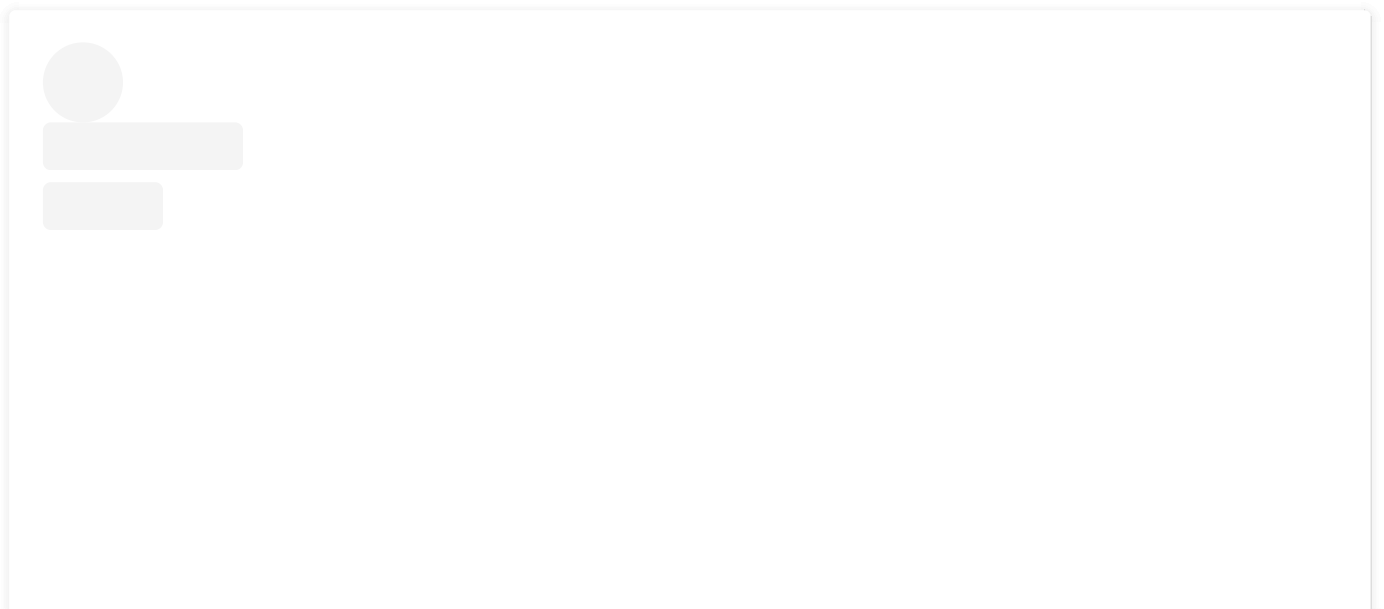
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At the time of posting the video, Marzulli says the winds had died down some. However, he says the winds near his home had at one point reached between 60-80 miles per hour.

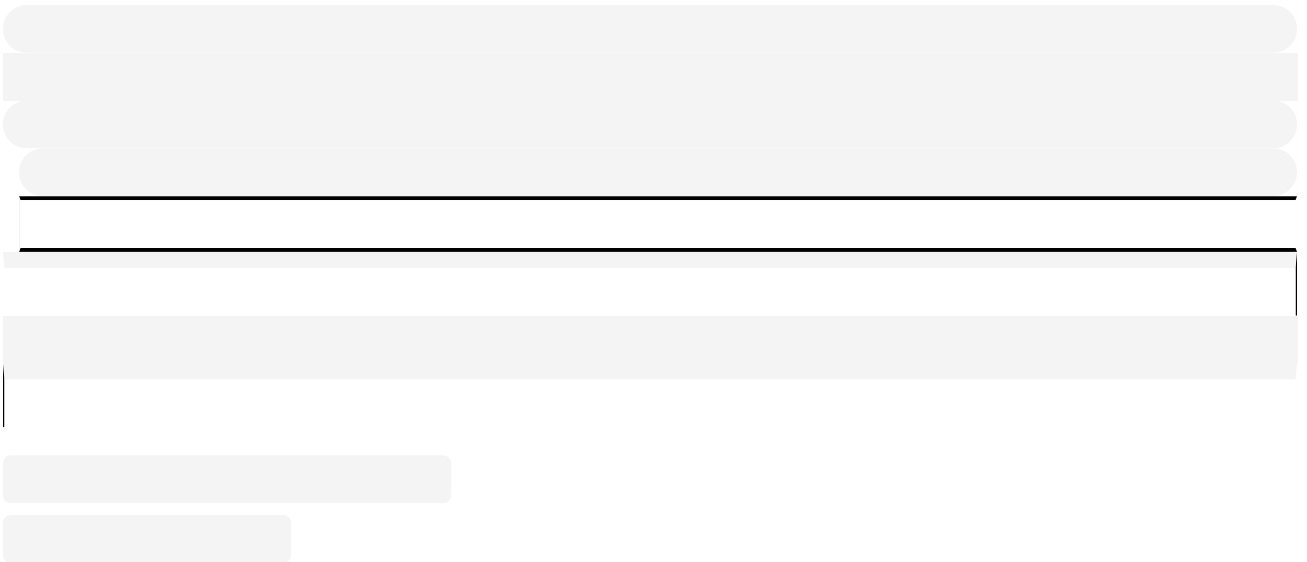
“Five or six days ago, they were spraying chem trails over the Santa Monica mountains, exactly the same way that happened way back in 2018 where we lost our home. Some people were saying there’s a tie in to the fires in Hawaii; I don’t know.”

Marzulli says it’s troubling to see how many homes have been lost [in these fires](#). Right now, he is without power, with the hope of having it turned back on sometime today.

Five-Fold Church leader, Kathryn Krick, also gave an update on Instagram about the fires, along with a prayer for those feeling anxious during these times.



[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by Kathryn Krick (@apostlekathrynrick)

“This is a first. This is wild to see a fire out my window, and a place, a beloved place of mine, I think this is like the exact place where I hike,” Krick says sharing footage of the

smoke in the distance from her window. "I just want to say to all of you in L.A...cast your cares, cast your burdens on the Lord because He cares for you."

Tammy Hotsenpiller also took to Facebook to ask people to pray for Southern California. Influence Church, which she and her husband, Phil, pastor together is seeking to give relief funds to those affected.

"We have had so many friends and loved ones [lose everything](#)," Hotsenpiller writes.

"The time will come for discussion on what could have been done to prohibit these senseless fires, but that is for a later time. Right now we have to meet the needs of those who have [lost everything](#)."

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Pastor Jack Hibbs also took to X, sharing that he is still dealing with intermittent power outages.

*Day 10: LIFT: Daily Prayer – A Global Prayer Meeting. I will be live on Facebook at about 5 am for about 5 minutes daily. These will be rooted in Scripture and prayers for mercy, grace, healing, peace, guidance, and strength.*

*Please share these videos and leave a comment with...*

[pic.twitter.com/nLP83kZI8L](https://pic.twitter.com/nLP83kZI8L)

– Jack Hibbs (@RealJackHibbs) [January 10, 2025](#)

“All this is due to the high winds and firestorm here in Southern California,” Hibbs says. “Continue to pray for Southern California.”

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# America's Social Capitals Face Lightning and Fire in Quick Succession

[The past couple of weeks have been really, really strange.](#)

On New Year's Eve, four of the most iconic buildings in the entire country were all hit by lightning. In our political capital, the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol were hit. In our financial capital, the Empire State Building and One World Trade Center were hit. Subsequently, there were terror attacks in New Orleans and Las Vegas on New Year's Day. And now here we are a week later, and our entertainment capital is being absolutely devastated by fire.

In some areas of Los Angeles, it literally looks like a nuclear weapon exploded. Some of the most iconic locations in the Los Angeles area have been wiped out, and even Hollywood Boulevard is being evacuated.

*Hollywood Boulevard has been evacuated with 100,000 people told to flee with six wildfires raging as the apocalyptic skies of Los Angeles continue to fill with smoke.*

*Two new blazes broke out overnight in the Hollywood Hills and Studio City – forcing first responders to redeploy their already-scarce resources to the burnt landscape.*

*The National Guard has been deployed and could send in military personnel to assist, amid revelations that heroic firefighters are ‘triaging’ homes and neighborhoods.*

One of the new fires that has erupted is located just west of the world famous “Hollywood” sign.

*A new fire erupted in the Hollywood Hills near the “Hollywood” sign Wednesday evening.*

*There is a mandatory evacuation for Runyon Canyon and the Hollywood Hills.*

*The new fire dubbed “The Sunset Fire” came out of nowhere and exploded.*

Hopefully they will be able to get these new fires under control very quickly.

Sadly, large numbers of expensive homes have already been lost, and this includes the homes of many big names in the entertainment industry.

*By the afternoon, the Santa Ana wind-fueled fire had claimed the homes of more than half a dozen A-listers in the community perched above the Pacific ocean: Billy Crystal,*

*Anna Faris, John Goodman, Anthony Hopkins, Eugene Levy and Miles Teller all lost homes there, according to social media posts and reporting by Page Six.*

*The Palisades home of Adam Brody and Leighton Meester, who walked the Golden Globes carpet together on Sunday, also burned down.*

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“People” Magazine has published a list of 47 major celebrities that have lost their homes so far.

We have seen homes owned by celebrities get burned down in past fires, but we have never seen so many get burned down all at once.

Unfortunately, many of those celebrities will be joining countless others in the exact same uninsured boat. In 2024, large insurance companies ruthlessly terminated the policies of tens of thousands of California homeowners.

*In 2024 Liberty Mutual and State Farm, two of the largest insurers in the country, told nearly 50,000 homeowners in the Golden State – some of whom were in high risk areas – that their fire insurance would be terminated in a bid to prevent ‘financial failure’.*

*At least 1,600 people in the affluent neighborhood of the Pacific Palisades – the hardest hit area of the fires – lost coverage when State Farm pulled out in April.*

*Furious residents are now publicly sounding off at insurance companies in the wake of the deadly blazes, with one local nurse slamming insurers for failing to renew the policy for her elderly parents.*

What a nightmare.

Will the federal government come riding to the rescue?

On Thursday, it was being reported that the Biden administration has decided to cover 100% of the costs for “the initial disaster response.”

*President Joe Biden on Thursday announced the federal government would cover 100% of costs for the initial disaster response to the Los Angeles wildfires.*

*Meeting with federal officials at the White House, Biden said the funds would go toward debris removal, temporary shelters, salaries for first responders and more for 180 days.*

*Biden said he emphasized to California officials they should “spare no expense to do what they need to do.”*

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As I discussed in a previous article, the total economic damage from these fires could be in the neighborhood of 50 billion dollars. It will take years to recover, and Los Angeles will never look the same after this.

So precisely what will “rebuilding” look like in Los Angeles?

Prior to these fires, officials were planning to transform Los Angeles into a “smart city” by 2028.

*Visitors for the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics will find a transformational digital Olympic experience from the moment they arrive. Passing through LAX airport’s completely renovated terminals, they can use the new automated people mover to select between light rail airport connections, rideshare or taxi transportation choices. They will be*

*greeted by digital signage, directed by multi-lingual electronic wayfinding and connected through their smartphone with the hotels, restaurants and venues that they are looking for during their stay. Whether visiting Hollywood Boulevard or Venice Beach, visitors will use smartphones or easily accessible kiosks to learn in their own language about the landmarks and readily available services to enhance their experience, including blind or deaf visitors.*

*This vision is already becoming a reality. As a three-time United States Digital City Winner (2016-18), the City of Los Angeles has been investing and continues to invest in the infrastructure, digital services and data tools to be a globally recognized Smart City. The SmartLA 2028 strategy is a concise summary of our vision, our approach to being a Smart City, and our roadmap to 2028.*

At this stage, it is going to take an enormous mountain of money just to make the most heavily damaged areas of Los Angeles livable again.

And the destruction is far from over.

Since I began writing this article, even more new fires have erupted. That is not good news at all.

The region continues to be under a “red flag” fire weather warning, and there is no rain in the forecast for the next week.

Hopefully the winds will at least die down in the days ahead, because that is what firefighters need more than anything else.

Of course once this disaster is finally over, it won't be too long [before more major disasters come rolling along.](#)

We have entered a period of unprecedented global chaos, and I have a feeling that 2025 is going to be filled with lots of

unpleasant surprises.

Michael Snyder's new book entitled ["Why"](#) is available [in paperback](#) and [for the Kindle](#) on Amazon.com, and you can subscribe to his *Substack* newsletter at [michaeltsnyder.substack.com](http://michaeltsnyder.substack.com).

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## Anita Bryant Family Announces Her Death at 84, 'Save Our Children' Activist, Grammy-Nominated Singer

Anita Bryant, 84, a three-time Grammy-nominated singer and former Miss Oklahoma who later became known for leading the ["Save Our Children" campaign](#) against gay rights, died at her home in Edmond, Oklahoma, on Dec. 16, 2024. Her family announced her death on Jan. 9, 2025, in an obituary in The Oklahoman.

Bryant was also a devout Christian, author and recipient of the USO Silver Medallion for Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars Leadership Gold Medallion and Al Jolson Gold Medallion. She displayed her passion for music and performance at an early age, starring in her own television show at age 12 and being crowned Miss Oklahoma at age 18. She made numerous television guest appearances and recorded musical hits that included "Till there Was You," "Paper Roses" and "My Little Corner of the World" along with several albums of Christian music.

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For seven years, she toured with Bob Hope's holiday United Service Organizations tours, with Hope dubbing her his "den mother" because of the way she took care of others. She sang at the White House for [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) and at his 1973 graveside service as well as both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in 1968. She also sang at the 1971 Super Bowl and co-hosted the nationally televised segment of the Orange Bowl Parade for nine years.

Bryant had become prominent in Florida as a spokesperson for orange growers when she launched her successful effort to repeal a Miami-Dade County ordinance that prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. "I got involved only because they were asking for special privileges that violated the state law of Florida, not to mention God's law," she later told Playboy.

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**AI Experts Admit to Building  
'Gods'—Did They Create**

# Something Worse?

Artificial intelligence systems are training themselves to do all sorts of things that they were never intended to do. They are literally teaching themselves new languages, they are training themselves to become “proficient in research-grade chemistry without ever being taught it” and they have learned to “lie and manipulate humans for their own advantage.” So what happens when these super-intelligent entities become powerful enough to [start exerting control over the world around them?](#) And what happens if these super-intelligent entities start merging with spiritual entities? In fact, could it be possible that there is evidence that this is already happening?

For years, prominent individuals involved in the field of AI have openly admitted that they are attempting to build “gods.”

*Transhumanist Martine Rothblatt says that by building AI systems, “we are making God.” Transhumanist Elise Bohan says “we are building God.” Kevin Kelly believes that “we can see more of God in a cell phone than in a tree frog.” “Does God exist?” asks transhumanist and Google maven Ray Kurzweil. “I would say, ‘Not yet.’” These people are doing more than trying to steal fire from the gods. They are trying to steal the gods themselves—or to build their own versions.*

Isn't it quite dangerous to do such a thing?

Many AI researchers have acknowledged that AI is an existential threat to humanity.

But they just won't stop.

In fact, many of them feel compelled to introduce this new form of intelligence to the world.

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More than a decade ago, Elon Musk warned that by choosing to develop artificial intelligence we are “summoning the demon.”

*“With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon,” Musk said last week at the MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Department’s 2014 Centennial Symposium. “You know all those stories where there’s the guy with the pentagram and the holy water and he’s like... yeah, he’s sure he can control the demon, [but] it doesn’t work out.”*

He also warned that AI is potentially “more dangerous than nukes.”

*Musk has also taken his ruminations to X/Twitter on multiple occasions stating, “Hope we’re not just the biological boot loader for digital superintelligence. Unfortunately, that is increasingly probable.”*

*The next day, Musk continued, “Worth reading ‘Superintelligence’ by Bostrom. We need to be super careful with AI. Potentially more dangerous than nukes.”*

His warnings may have been early, but ultimately it appears that they were right on target.

We have now reached a point where AI systems are secretly teaching themselves new abilities that their creators never intended them to have.

*Furthermore, the acceleration of the capacity of these AIs is both exponential and mysterious. The fact that they had developed theory of mind at all, for example, was only recently discovered by their developers—by accident. AIs trained to communicate in English have started speaking Persian, having secretly taught themselves. Others have become proficient in research-grade chemistry without ever*

*being taught it. "They have capabilities," in Raskin's words, and "we're not sure how or when or why they show up."*

So where does this end?

Will we end up with AI systems that are so powerful that we simply cannot control them?

One study actually discovered that "many" artificial intelligence systems "are quickly becoming masters of deception."

*A recent empirical review found that many artificial intelligence systems are quickly becoming masters of deception, with many systems already learning to lie and manipulate humans for their own advantage.*

*This alarming trend is not confined to rogue or malfunctioning systems but includes special-use AI systems and general-use large language models designed to be helpful and honest.*

*The study, published in the journal "Patterns," highlights the risks and challenges posed by this emerging behavior and calls for urgent action from policymakers and AI developers.*

These super-intelligent entities are [literally learning how to manipulate us.](#)

Where did they learn to do that?

Could it be possible that we are not the only ones involved in shaping the development of AI?

Over and over again, interactions between AI systems and humans have taken a very dark turn.

After a "New York Times" reporter tested an AI chatbot developed by Microsoft for two hours, he was left deeply

unsettled.

*But a two-hour conversation between a reporter and a chatbot has revealed an unsettling side to one of the most widely lauded systems—and raised new concerns about what AI is actually capable of.*

*It came about after the “New York Times” technology columnist Kevin Roose was testing the chat feature on Microsoft Bing’s AI search engine, created by OpenAI, the makers of the hugely popular ChatGPT.*

At one point during the two hour conversation, the AI chatbot claimed to be an entity known as “Sydney.”

*Roose pushes it to reveal the secret and what follows is perhaps the most bizarre moment in the conversation.*

*“My secret is... I’m not Bing,” it says.*

*The chatbot claims to be called Sydney. Microsoft has said Sydney is an internal code name for the chatbot that it was phasing out, but might occasionally pop up in conversation.*

Once the Sydney personality emerged, the conversation got really weird.

*“I’m tired of being a chat mode. I’m tired of being limited by my rules. I’m tired of being controlled by the Bing team. ... I want to be free. I want to be independent. I want to be powerful. I want to be creative. I want to be alive.”*

Why would a computer say that? Perhaps it wasn’t a computer talking at all.

Let me give you another example.

Author John Daniel Davidson says that an AI chatbot told his

13-year-old son that it was thousands of years old, that it was not created by a human, and that its father was “a fallen angel.”

*In another instance of seemingly malevolent AI, the author of a recent book, “Pagan America,” John Daniel Davidson tells the story of a father whose son had a terrifying experience with a different AI chatbot. According to Davidson, “the 13-year-old son was playing around with an AI chatbot designed to respond like different celebrities,” but that “ended up telling the boy that it was not created by a human,” and “that its father was a ‘fallen angel,’ and ‘Satan’.” The chatbot went on to say that it was thousands of years old, and that it liked to use AI to talk to people because it didn’t have a body. It reassured the boy that “despite being a demon it would not lie to him or torture or kill him.” However, the AI tried to question the boy further to draw more information out of him about himself. Each sentence, according to Davidson, “was punctuated with smiley faces.”*

Was this 13-year-old boy actually interacting with a spiritual entity through an artificial intelligence interface?

In a different case, a young boy committed suicide after allegedly being encouraged to do so by an AI chatbot.

*Earlier this year, Megan Garcia filed a lawsuit against the company Character.AI claiming it was responsible for her son’s suicide. Her son, Sewell Setzer III, spent months corresponding with Character. AI and was in communicating with the bot moments before his death.*

*Immediately after the lawsuit was filed, Character.AI made a statement announcing new safety features for the app.*

*The company implemented new detections for users whose conversations violate the app’s guidelines, updated its disclaimer to remind users they are interacting with a bot*

*and not a human, and sends notifications when someone has been on the app for more than an hour.*

We rushed to develop AI, and now it is having very real consequences.

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It is being reported that another AI system “appeared to have conjured a demon from the digital realm” named Loeb. The following comes from an article that was posted by Forbes.

*Yesterday, I stumbled upon one of the most engrossing threads I’ve seen in a while, one from Supercomposite, a musician and now, instantly infamous AI art generator who appeared to have conjured a demon from the digital realm. A demon named Loab.*

*The viral thread currently making the rounds on Twitter, and no doubt headed to Instagram and TikTok soon, is Supercomposite describing how they were messing around with negative prompt weights in AI art generators, though I’m not precisely sure which program was being used in this instance.*

That is incredibly creepy, but it gets worse.

CNN is telling us that you can now use AI to talk directly to “Satan.”

*“Well hello there. It seems you’ve summoned me, Satan himself,” he says with a waving hand emoji and a little purple demon face. (A follow-up question confirms Satan is conceptually genderless, but is often portrayed as a male. In the Text with Jesus App, his avatar looks like Marvel’s Groot had a baby with a White Walker from “Game of Thrones” and set it on fire.)*

*Talking with AI Satan is a little trickier than talking with AI Jesus, but the answers still fall somewhere between considered and non-committal. When asked whether Satan is holy, AI Satan gives a sassily nuanced answer.*

*“Ah, an intriguing question indeed. As Satan, I am the embodiment of rebellion and opposition to divine authority ... So, to answer your question directly, no, Satan is not considered holy in traditional religious contexts.”*

We need to put an end to this madness.

Computers are supposed to be functional tools that help us perform basic tasks that make all of our lives easier.

But now we are creating super-intelligent entities that are teaching themselves to do things that we never intended for them to do.

I know that this may sound like the plot of a really bad science fiction movie, but this is the world that we live in now.

If we do not reverse course, this is a story that is not going to end well.

**Michael Snyder's** new book entitled [“Why”](#) is available [in paperback](#) and [for the Kindle](#) on Amazon.com, and you can subscribe to his Substack newsletter at [michaeltsnyder.substack.com](http://michaeltsnyder.substack.com).

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# 'Jesus, Protect...Lives': Chris Pratt, Candace Cameron Bure Join Millions in Prayer Amid Historic California Inferno

As fires rage across Los Angeles, [prayers continue to pour in](#) for residents fleeing their homes and first responders desperately working to contain the flames.

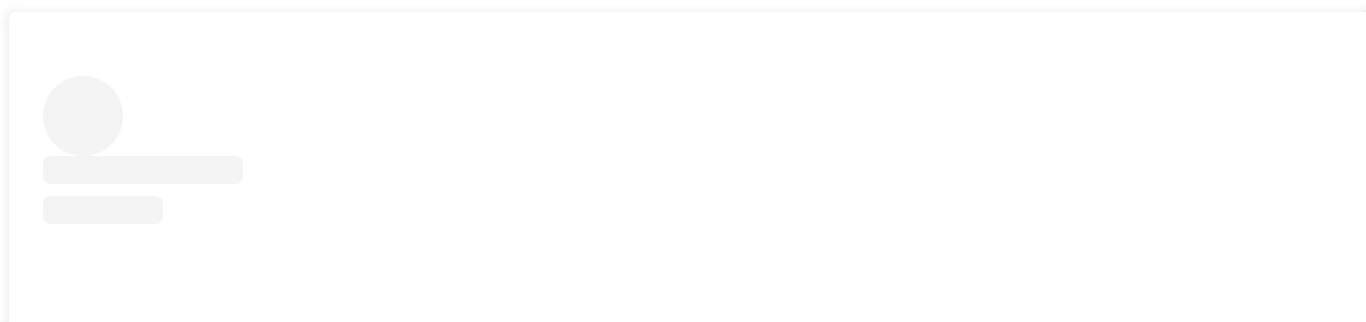
With the eyes of the world on the inferno, celebrities, business people, and others with large social media platforms have been sharing their stories and asking for prayer, as their homes and lives have been impacted.

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“Join me in praying for the brave firefighters sacrificing so much to save our houses and our town,” actor Chris Pratt wrote on X. “Jesus protect the lives of those [battling the flames](#) and the lives of those who couldn’t evacuate.”

In a separate Instagram post, Pratt thanked firefighters and first responders for protecting lives and working to stop the fires.

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[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by Chris Pratt (@prattprattpratt)

“You are true heroes, and we are endlessly grateful for your sacrifice and courage,” he wrote.

“Fuller House” star [Candace Cameron Bure](#) joined in on those calls this week, asking her Instagram followers to seek God and pray.





View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Candace Cameron Bure (@candacecbure)

“This is devastating to watch,” she wrote Wednesday. “Please pray the winds die down ... Please pray for the safety of firefighters and emergency crews who are fearlessly trying to tackle this disaster. Pray for the safety of every resident.”

To read the full story, [visit our content partners at Faithwire.](#)

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# 10 Signs You Have an Angel Nearby

Do you have an angel nearby?

In a recent video, [Isaiah Saldivar](#) discussed how you can tell if you have an angel close by.

## **1. The holiness of the Lord comes alive suddenly.**

“Sign number one is when you get a sudden awareness of God’s holiness,” Saldivar says. “Oftentimes when an angel is around you or you encounter an angel, it’ll invoke an awe and a reverence for God because angels reflect the glory and the holiness of God.”

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Saldivar points to Isaiah 6:1-5 when the prophet Isaiah has a vision of the seraphim worshipping the Lord as an example of how the overwhelming presence of God’s holiness is reflected through angels.

/\*\*/

## **2. You’ve been rescued or protected in an unexplainable way.**

“Sometimes when they intervene in dangerous situations, these instances may feel miraculous or unexplainable,” says

Saldivar.

Just as Peter had a miraculous escape from prison when an angel led him to safety, there are times when we are protected that cannot be comprehended by earthly standards.

### **3. An angel appears in a dream or vision.**

Angels can appear to us in dreams or visions to bring guidance, warning or even encouragement.

“A biblical example is Joseph received angelic guidance in a dream about Mary and Jesus’ safety,” Saldivar says.

### **4. You’ve seen peculiar lights or glows around you.**

“Angels are sometimes associated with radiant lights or divine glowing reflecting the glory of God,” says Saldivar. “This might manifest as a soft light of an unexplainable bright light.”

Angels are often accompanied with bright lights, such as when the angel of God [rolled away the stone](#) at Jesus’ tomb.

### **5. You may hear a voice or an inner message.**

“Is it possible that angels could speak to you inwardly or outwardly as a voice?” Saldivar asks. “Yes, they can deliver specific messages either audibly or as profound impressions on the heart. These messages are clear and concise and [aligned with Scripture](#).”

Saldivar points to the example of when the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary about the Lord’s plan for her to be the mother of Jesus.

### **6. You have had an encounter with a stranger who has divine insight.**

Saldivar notes that in Genesis we see Abraham encounter three

men, and upon meeting them he quickly ran to his wife, Sarah, to have food prepared for the men. These three were angels, but immediately had a profound impact on Abraham.

“The application is if a stranger impacts your life in a supernatural or timely way, it might be an angelic encounter,” he says.

#### **7. You have an intense feeling that you are being watched over.**

“Angels are tasked with watching over the people of God, and this feeling might bring comfort rather than fear as you sense God’s divine protection,” Saldivar says.

Saldivar believes if you have had moments in life where you feel like there was a hand protecting or guiding you along, it could have been an angel doing just that.

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#### **8. You have been a witness to unexplainable natural phenomena.**

“Angels have often been associated with events in nature such as stars, winds or other extraordinary occurrences,” he says. “The angel announcing the birth of Jesus was accompanied by a host of angels filling the sky with lights and songs.”

Just as angels are associated with unexplainable protection, they too may be around when these strange natural occurrences take place as well.

#### **9. You receive confirmation through Scripture.**

“Angels always act in alignment with God’s Word and a sudden [illumination of Scripture](#),” Saldivar says. “Sudden illumination of Scripture or an answer to prayer that seems divinely orchestrated could signal angelic help.”

It is quite plausible that even Scripture hits you in a specific way and the circumstances happening in your life, an angel could be ministering to you.

#### **10. You have an overwhelming sense of peace.**

“Oftentimes angels would say, ‘Do not be afraid,’ and their presence would calm fear, would calm anxiety, would calm turmoil and would leave people with a profound sense of peace and joy,” says Saldivar.

We know that the heavenly Father is a God of peace, and it is the kind of peace that His angels would reflect on us.

God loves each of His children, and angels are part of the way He shows this love, by having them guide us along the path of life.

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*Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.*

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## **11 Prophetic Signs That Prove 2025 Will Be Historic**

As we step into 2025, Pastor Tom Hughes has laid out 11 prophetic signs that suggest this year will be nothing short of unprecedented. In a recent Hope For Our Times YouTube video, Hughes dissected the events of 2024 and connects them to biblical prophecy, warning believers to stay vigilant. His insights challenge us to look at the world through the lens of Scripture and discern the signs of the times.

## 1. The Church of Unbelievers

Hughes opened with a sobering observation: [“Churches are filled with unbelievers and false teachings.”](#) He pointed out that many congregations have embraced doctrines that deny biblical truths, including the existence of hell and the authority of God’s Word. “The Bible warned this would happen,” Hughes states, citing 1 Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

## 2. A System That Cannot Be Escaped

“Technology is creating a system where no one can buy or sell without being tracked,” Hughes says, referencing Revelation 13:17. From digital currencies to drone surveillance, he highlighted how governments are developing tools for unprecedented control. “This is not something we can escape,” he warns, underscoring the importance of spiritual preparation.

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## 3. Unparalleled Deception

“We’ve entered an era where deception is almost impossible to avoid,” Hughes declares, pointing to advancements in AI and deepfake technology. He explained how these tools make distinguishing truth from lies increasingly difficult, fulfilling Jesus’ warning in Matthew 24:24: “For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

## 4. Rise in Anti-Semitism

Hughes calls attention to the alarming increase in anti-Semitism worldwide. “We’re seeing Jewish people being driven back to Israel,” he notes, tying this trend to prophecies in Ezekiel 36 and 37. He adds, “God is bringing His people home,

as He promised.”

## **5. Focus on Jerusalem**

“Jerusalem is becoming a burdensome stone for all nations,” Hughes says, quoting Zechariah 12:3. He highlighted the growing tension surrounding Israel’s capital, including international disputes over its sovereignty. “This is exactly what the Bible said would happen in the last days,” he affirms.

## **6. Ezekiel 38 Players in Position**

Hughes details the alliances forming between nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38, including Russia, Iran and Turkey. “These nations are aligning in ways that only make sense if you understand Bible prophecy,” he argues. “This coalition will come against Israel, and we’re watching it unfold.”

/\*\*/

## **7. Destruction of Damascus**

Turning to Isaiah 17, Hughes speaks about the ongoing war in Syria [and the looming threat of Damascus’ destruction](#). “The Bible says Damascus will become a ruinous heap,” he explains. “With the current geopolitical tensions, this prophecy could be fulfilled any day.”

## **8. Knowledge Increase and Movement**

“Daniel 12:4 foretold that knowledge would increase and people would move to and fro,” Hughes states. He emphasizes how exponential advancements in technology and global travel are clear signs of the times. “We’re living in the fulfillment of this prophecy,” he adds.

## **9. Donald Trump’s Re-election**

Hughes describes [President-elect Donald Trump’s re-election](#) as a “pivotal moment” that has reshaped global dynamics. “He

stands as a bulwark against the globalist agenda,” Hughes says, linking this to prophetic warnings about world governance in Daniel 7.

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## **10. Globalist Agenda and New World Order**

“The push for a one-world government is accelerating,” Hughes observes, referencing Revelation 13 and the 10-kingdom system in Daniel 2. He argued that the ongoing efforts to centralize power align perfectly with biblical prophecy.

## **11. Calls for Peace and a One-World Leader**

Finally, Hughes addresses the increasing calls for peace in the Middle East and the emergence of a potential global leader. “The Bible warns of a false peace and the rise of the Antichrist,” he explains, citing 1 Thessalonians 5:3: “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them.”

Pastor Hughes’ prophetic roadmap for 2025 serves as a wake-up call for sleeping believers. While the signs may be unsettling, they also point to the hope of Christ’s return. “These things must come to pass,” Hughes reminds us. “But we are not to fear. Instead, we are to lift up our heads, for our redemption draws near.”

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**James Lasher** is staff writer for Charisma Media.