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# INTERMOUNTAIN Christian News

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A Voice of Truth

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## INSIDE

Trump Takes Electoral College, Popular Vote; Republicans Take Senate..... 1

The Devil's in the Details: How Media Bias Fuels Antisemitism - January 1, 2025..... 1

The 52nd Annual March for Life: January 24, 2025..... 2

Paying It Forward, Wyoming Church Focused on Those in Addiction..... 2

Visiting the Hamas Massacre Sites in Israel, a Troubling Experience..... 3

Karoline Leavitt, President Trump's White House Press Secretary, meets with me at the White House..... 3

Utah Team Helps NC Baptist Efforts to Get Families Back in Homes by Christmas..... 4

Is Idaho Finally Coming Around?..... 4

InterMountain Rescue Mission Testimonies..... 5

Lee Greenwood of the 'GOD Bless the USA' and the GOD Bless the USA Bible Interview..... 5

Statement by Minister Benjamin Netanyahu..... 6

Trump 'Saved by God to Make America Great Again,' President Says at Second Inauguration..... 6

Events Calendar..... 7

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Please visit the IMCNews website often and submit your events, comments, classified ads, letters to the editor, etc. You can also download a PDF file of the current issue, read national and international news, visit our many links and resources, and access the Church Website Directory for the Intermountain region. We encourage you to visit our business partners by clicking on their links.

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Have you or someone from your church been on a recent missions trip? Please send us a photo with details about the trip, and we'll publish it in our Mission Feature.

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The deadline for submissions of Calendar of Events, Resource Information and Display Advertising is the 1st of each month.

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## Trump Takes Electoral College, Popular Vote; Republicans Take Senate

Baptist Press, by Scott Barkley, posted November 6, 2024 in World & Politics

Original news service source: <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/trump-takes-electoral-college-popular-vote-republicans-take-senate/>

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist leaders congratulated President-elect Donald J. Trump and his running mate, J.D. Vance, on their election victory while celebrating other voters' decisions over pro-life issues and religious liberty

The Associated Press called Wisconsin for Trump at 5:34 a.m., EST, Wednesday morning (Nov. 6), giving him the required 270 electoral votes and making the 45th U.S. president also its 47th come January. Wednesday afternoon, Vice President Kamala Harris conceded the election in a speech at Howard University in Washington.

Trump held 292 electoral votes as of 3 p.m. EST, with results pending from Nevada, Alaska and Arizona, all states



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump is helped off the stage at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., Saturday, July 13, 2024. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

where Trump holds decisive leads and which would give him 20 more electoral votes. Maine, where Democrat nominee Kamala Harris leads, has also not reported its results.

Trump is expected to win the popular vote, a feat not accomplished by a Republican since George W. Bush did so 20 years ago. Bush himself had broken a 16-year drought after his father, George H.W. Bush, won the popular vote in 1988.

Southern Baptist leaders voiced support for the election results that included several pro-life victories as well.

"Thanks be to God for a decisive result in the presidential contest and for pro-life victories in Florida, Nebraska, and

Continued on Page 11

## The Devil's in the Details: How Media Bias Fuels Antisemitism

By IMCNews contributing writer Corine Gatti January 1, 2025



Photo above courtesy of <https://stockcake.com>

The left-wing media downplayed the severity of the attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, failing to recognize the nation's right to defend itself, overlooking Hamas as a terrorist regime, even months after the attack. Over 1,200 Israelis were killed in the surprise attack from the Gaza Strip, injuring over 5,400, and 253 hostages were abducted, including infants, children, women, and the elderly.

Hamas strategically embedded its operatives within the civilian framework of Gaza, utilizing sensitive locations such as mosques, hospitals, schools, and United Nations facilities in the ensuing days. These tactics violated international humanitarian law but also constituted an egregious abuse of human rights.

By placing fighters among innocent civilians, Hamas aimed to manipulate the narrative of conflict, seeking to maximize casualty figures to sway global public opinion against Israel. In response to the hostilities, Israel initiated a comprehensive military operation in Gaza, with questionable reports indicating over 21,000 Palestinians were killed and more than 56,000 sustained injuries, according to the US State Department's 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. However, the State Department cited several local press reports and did not independently confirm the reports.

Misinformation of this nature has contributed to a growing tide of global antisemitism—prioritizing narratives over the facts. The New York Times boldly published the headline, "Israeli airstrike killed 500 at a Gaza hospital, Palestinians say" shortly after the first attack. This incendiary claim incited riots across the Middle East. Yet, amazingly, it was nothing short of a grave inaccuracy: the explosion resulted from a misfired rocket by the

Continued on Page 9

The Intermountain Christian News Hour logo with the tagline "A Voice sharing the Truth on matters dear to people's hearts"

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# The 52nd Annual March for Life: January 24, 2025

by March for Life



The March for Life, the world's largest annual human rights demonstration, will be held on January 24, 2025 at most State Capitols. Check the The March for Life website for more information.

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

This year's theme, 'Life: Why we March' focuses on returning to our roots to acknowledge the humanity of each person, while also highlighting the need to protect and support both mother and child through the thousands of resources available to them. Our goal this year is to remind and reignite everyone — politicians, legislators, families, and women — in the truth that every life, unborn and born, has inherent dignity, meaning, and value, and as such is always worth fighting for. Our speakers will serve as witnesses to emphasizes the joy and beauty of life, and the dedication of the pro-life movement. To learn more about the 2025 National March for Life, please visit <https://marchforlife.org>.

## WHY WILL WE CONTINUE TO MARCH?

Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently.

Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America. Many national legislative battles loom, including even keeping longstanding Hyde protections, which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation's history, but now cannot be taken for granted.

Last, our most important work is changing hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level,

but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable.



With the role of the states being more important, we are also growing a strong state march for life initiative quickly, however, we will continue to march every January at the national level until a culture of life is restored in the United States of America.

March for Life is a non-sectarian organization that promotes the beauty and dignity of every human life by working to end abortion — uniting, educating, and mobilizing pro-life people in the public square. It hosts the largest annual human rights demonstration in Washington, DC every January.

JOIN US ON JANUARY 24, 2025 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Continued on Page 9

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## Paying It Forward, Wyoming Church Focused on Those in Addiction

By Scott Barkley, Used by Permission, Baptist Press

[https://www.baptistpress.com/multi\\_author/scott-barkley/](https://www.baptistpress.com/multi_author/scott-barkley/) December 16, 2024

SHERIDAN, Wyo. (BP) — There are many people and situations Chance Haux can thank for his getting right with God. But perhaps the most unlikely may be Kool-Aid.

He was in the Worland, Wyo., jail at the time. By this point in his life, Haux was a living combination of Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Jr. lyrics. A two-time state prisoner in Oregon as well as his native Wyoming, he had fallen in line with a family tradition steeped in addiction and substance abuse and burned more bridges than he could count.

A stint in solitary came after getting caught with contraband, in this case a packet of red Kool-Aid.



Pastor Chance Haux, in tie, stands with the rest of Sheridan Recovery Church. Photo courtesy of Sheridan Recovery Church.

He had been going to the Bible studies for a respite from time in the pod, but also because of aspirations to

be more like his Uncle Dawson, a man of faith. The question "Who is Jesus?" kept coming to his mind and Haux looked for answers in sources other than the Bible, from books to shows on The History Channel.

The Kool-Aid found in his cell led to eight days of personal lockdown. The only source he had available was the Bible.

"I read Matthew, Mark and Luke and got to the crucifixion in John," he said. "It was like when Paul had his come-to-Jesus moment. I just dropped and gave myself over, asked for forgiveness and started to forgive others."

Continued on Page 11

# Visiting the Hamas Massacre Sites in Israel, a Troubling Experience

By InterMountain Christian News Publisher, Rev. M. Anthony Harper, Ph.D. January 9, 2025



I visited the Nova Music Festival Hamas massacre site near the Gaza border as well as Sderot in Israel on Thursday January 9, 2025 and felt tremendous pain of those that died while I was there. Rabbi Avraham Leventhal was my driver and joined me in this video to explain the Hamas attack on Israel October 7, 2023



*Pictured above in one of the Bus Stops that people took refuge in after fleeing the Nova Music Festival but they were massacred there by Hamas*

Please pray for protection, comfort and healing for Jewish people worldwide that are suffering from the abuse by those that hate them. Watch this sobering video at the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/c5fRNMcPoE>

# Karoline Leavitt, President Trump's White House Press Secretary, Meets With Me at the White House

By IMCNews publisher Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper January 20, 2025



Donald J. Trump is the 47th President of the United States and here is my report from the White House about meeting President Trump's press secretary Karoline Leavitt and about my conversation with her after my introduction asking her to let me ask questions for our Jewish and Christian audience. She said things will be changing in the press room and took a picture with me as you see here.

Pray favor and that she will indeed call on me to ask questions for our audience on a regular basis and arrange my meeting with President Trump. To watch this video, click on the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/JJhLF8D4vZM>

# My Israel Leader Meetings in Israel December 11, 2024-January 16, 2025

by InterMountain Christian News Publisher, Rev. M. Anthony Harper, Ph.D.

(JERUSALEM, Israel)— While in Israel, I met with the following Israel leaders (Knesset Members) inside the Knesset building, Jerusalem, Israel regarding their concerns about the rise of antisemitism in light of International Criminal Court decisions condemning Israel and their message to Christians that support Israel. Their overwhelming response was to abhor the decision of the ICC and viewed the ICC's actions as a form of Jew hatred. The Knesset members expressed tremendous gratitude for Evangelical Christians supporting Israel.



*Amir Ohana, member of the Likud Party and Speaker of the Knesset*



*Nissim Vaturi, member of the Likud Party and Deputy Knesset Speaker*



*Boaz Bismuth, member of the Likud Party and Chairman of Drug Addiction Knesset Committee*



*Amichai Chikli, member of the Likud Party and The Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism*



*Gila Gamliel, member of the Likud Party and Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology*



*Miriam "Miri" Regev, member of the Likud Party and Minister of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety*



*Tally Gotliv, member of the Likud Party; To watch interview with Tally Gotliv, click on the following Rumble link:*

<https://rumble.com/v61b5dt-israel-mk-tally-gotliv-interview.html>

*Continued on Page 10*

# Utah Team Helps NC Baptist Efforts to Get Families Back in Homes by Christmas

By Karen L. Willoughby, Baptist Press, Used by Permission ([https://www.baptistpress.com/multi\\_author/karen-l-willoughby/](https://www.baptistpress.com/multi_author/karen-l-willoughby/))  
posted December 9, 2024 in Disaster Relief



A six-person team of skilled Utah tradesmen made the trip to Hurricane Helene devastated areas of western North Carolina last week to help get four families back into their homes before Christmas

CANTON, N.C. – A team of six skilled tradesmen from Utah on mission in mountainous North Carolina worked eight-plus hours a day for five days last week, tearing out damaged pipes and putting new plumbing in three houses, plus a variety of electrical work on four others.

The weather had turned wintry, with temperatures dropping to the low teens and highs not above freezing the first week of December. The Utah team included two plumbers, licensed so their work could pass inspection.



“We have four main houses we’re trying to get the people into by Christmas,” block mason Steve Sidwell told Baptist Press. He was including North Carolina Baptists on Mission (NCBOM) in his “We.”

Sidwell and three others are members at First Baptist Church in Pleasant Grove, Utah, an hour south of Salt Lake City.

“We’re also helping another family getting into an apartment above their garage,” Sidwell continued. “We’re just doing what God’s called us to do.”

“You can feel their pain,” the block mason added, referring to devastated residents of flooded homes under renovation. “I think we give them a sense that it will be OK. Us being here tells them, ‘The West is thinking of you. Our hearts hurt for you.’”

The Utah team and about 15 volunteers from North Carolina were part of last week’s transitioning efforts – from Phase 1’s “Recovery” to Phase 2’s “Essential Rapid Repairs” – at the North Carolina Baptists on Mission’s Canton Rebuild site.



Mike Brooks, who owns a commercial plumbing business in Salt Lake City, spent a week in freezing temperatures repairing plumbing in storm-damaged homes.

To start at the beginning, Hurricane Helene arrived in western North

Carolina on Sept. 27. By Oct. 2, NCBOM had set up nine disaster response sites. That number grew to 17.

“Through our recovery operation and mass feeding, we utilized 11,000 volunteers through Dec. 1,” Tom Beam told Baptist Press. He’s NC’BOM’s disaster response director. “Individuals averaged three to five days per person of service, and together that totaled 400,000 hours.”

Recovery included mucking out houses of whatever floodwaters deposited or destroyed; cutting

down trees and clearing land; tearing out walls to the bare studs, spraying to stop mold, and tarping roofs to keep out adverse weather.

Today, in many places in western North Carolina, massive piles of debris have been neatly gathered on vacant land. The rivers and creeks are back within their banks. NCBOM Rebuild sites have made provision for volunteers to stay for a week or more, with skilled tradesmen especially needed at this time.

Sheets caught up in trees’ tall branches are one indication remaining of how high the Pigeon River reached in the Canton area, about 20 miles southwest of Asheville, N.C.

Sidwell, who has worked in construction for 40 years, said he was struck first by the height of the water during the flooding, and then, “How much damage is done to each home. Where we’re working right now, one side of the foundation is completely knocked over. Did trees hit the foundation or was it the strength of the water, and what were the people thinking as this all happened?”

With the move from Recovery to Essential Rapid Repairs, the number of worksites in North Carolina has been trimmed to eight.



Many homes in North Carolina are still uninhabitable after floodwaters washed away foundations.

“Some sites still actively do Recovery, but all sites are transitioning to Repairs,” Canton Rebuild Site

*Continued on Page 7*

## Is Idaho Finally Coming Around?

By Bob Kellogg, Used by Permission, American Family News,  
<https://afn.net/education/2025/01/10/is-idaho-finally-coming-around/> Jan 10, 2025

A pro-family advocate in The Gem State supports his governor's desire to set aside \$50 million for private school choice.

While states nationwide have adopted private school choice programs, the teachers' unions have repeatedly convinced Republican lawmakers to reject such proposals for Idahoans.

“Idaho is more or less a one-party state. The teachers union has made deals in the past with



Conzatti

establishment Republicans to prevent school choice from passing or even getting heard at the state legislature,” says Blaine Conzatti, president of the Idaho



Family Policy Center.

But recently during his annual State of the State address, Governor Brad Little (R) proposed setting aside \$50 million in state revenue for a private school choice program that directs public funds to private schoolers and homeschoolers. This

marked the first time he has publicly supported spending tax dollars on private school tuition.

Meanwhile, Conzatti says the legislature has become more conservative in recent election cycles.

“I think there's a reasonably decent chance that some school choice legislation will pass this year,” he predicts. “I don't know which proposal will make it out. We haven't seen details for any of the proposals yet, and we don't know where that \$50 million would go.”

He also notes that \$50 million is not an adequate amount for school choice, but it is a start.

In addition to the funds for private schooling, Little called for \$150 million in new public school spending, including \$83 million for teacher raises, and he proposed \$100 million in tax relief.



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2. \$930 monthly ministry housing cost
3. \$10,000 for ministry vehicle
4. Funds for White House travel with White House Press Corps and President

# InterMountain Rescue Mission Testimonies

## UTAH

### From Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, Utah

#### Maria's story



After fleeing difficult conditions in Venezuela, I came to the U.S. for a better life, only to find myself hopeless, homeless, and addicted a few short years later.

My husband and I started a family in Venezuela, but soon realized it was no place to raise two young boys. There was rampant crime and death. There were no diapers and little food.

In 2011, we managed to get into Panama with our two young boys. We spent three years there and established residency before my husband gained a student visa to attend a university in Idaho. In 2015, we had another son and I fell into postpartum depression. I felt alone in a new country.

I grieved the loss of communication with family back in Venezuela and was burdened by trauma I had experienced. With three small children at home, I couldn't shake my depression. A year went by before I decided to take my life. My husband intervened and I recovered at the hospital, but when I returned home, I still had thoughts of suicide.

Despite being in a religious family, I was upset

at God for leaving me in this depressed state. I told my husband I was leaving our family. We divorced, and I encouraged him to find a new wife who would be a good mother to our children. He did, and I am happy that my sons have a stepmother who cares for them.

When I left, I wanted to end my life but before doing so, I decided to try living in the fast lane. I started partying and using drugs. I even remarried to the man who supplied me with drugs. However, during the pandemic, the fast lane dried up. We couldn't get drugs, and the party stopped.

Depressed and ashamed, I again decided to end my life but wanted to say goodbye to my boys. When I traveled to see them, a police officer tried to pull me over. I resisted arrest and was charged with several crimes. I spent five months incarcerated in Idaho Falls before being moved to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Eastern Washington. They wanted to deport me, but because the U.S. has no direct diplomatic relations with Venezuela, I couldn't be sent back.

While in jail and later detention, God began working on my heart. A ministry group came to jail, and I started reading the Bible. I came to believe in God again and started seeing Him working in my life.

One thing God did was lead me to a phone number at the detention center. The number connected to an organization that helped people get out of detention. I called, and within a few days, they raised my \$10,000 release bond.

Back in Idaho, I bonded with a Christian organization that helped people get back on their feet. A few months later, I became a follower of Jesus, beginning a personal relationship with Him and receiving forgiveness for my sins and was later baptized.

But after years of trauma and scars, I knew I needed more tools to stay straight for the long haul. My boys and their family had moved to Utah, and I wanted to be near them, so I contacted the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

At the Rescue Mission, I learned the importance of community. Yes, the first and most important relationship anyone can have is with Jesus, but I realized relationships with other people are a key too. I couldn't live an isolated life but needed healthy relationships that would encourage me and through which I could encourage others. Today, I am actively practicing community here at the Rescue Mission, at

my home church, Capital Church, through serving with a nonprofit organization, and helping at another church in the valley.

I have a pro bono immigration attorney who helped file paperwork that would allow me to work in the U.S. While I will never be able to achieve citizenship because of my criminal record, I can apply for some employment and residency exceptions, as allowed by the immigration court.

Today, I am working and ready to graduate from the New Life Program. I have a good relationship with my boys, and they visit me on weekends. We go out to eat or stay around the Mission and play card games (they love Uno!).

As I look back, I can see that through all the hardship, God was in control and protecting me the whole time.

Growing up in Venezuela seemed bad, but God shielded us and eventually led us to the U.S. When I suffered severe depression and tried to take my life, my husband was there. One reason I wanted to divorce my husband was so my children could have a mother who would take good care of them. God provided for my children by giving my husband a new, caring wife who has been a great mother. Through my husband's marriage to an American, my two children who were born in Venezuela have become U.S. citizens.

God even used my drug abuse, arrest, and incarceration to help me learn the truth about Him in jail. He also provided a way for me to leave ICE detention and has given me pro bono legal help to create a path for me to stay and work in the U.S.

Most importantly, He has provided forgiveness of my sins through His Son Jesus and led me to the Rescue Mission, where I found the spiritual support to build my faith, overcome depression, find employment, and stay sober.

Please pray for me as I move to the Mission's transitional housing unit, Hope House, this month. Pray also as I work with my pro bono attorney to meet immigration requirements. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. It has made a lasting impact in my life and the lives of my children!

For more information:  
Rescue Mission of Salt Lake  
463 S. 400 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Phone: (801) 355-1302  
Website: <http://www.rescuesaltlake.org>

*Continued on Page 9*

## Lee Greenwood of the 'GOD Bless the USA' and the GOD Bless the USA Bible Interview

by IMCNews Publisher Dr. M. Anthony Harper November 21, 2024



Lee Greenwood of the 'GOD Bless the USA' Bible and song during this National Bible Week (Nov. 17-24) joins me to talk about he and President Trump's vision for America in the spirit of President Abraham Lincoln's call for America to honor GOD.

<https://GODBlessTheUSABible.com> <http://LeeGreenwood.com>  
<https://GODBlessTheUSABible.com>

This 'GOD Bless the USA' Bible is the KJV version paired with the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Pledge of Allegiance and Handwritten lyrics to "God Bless The USA."

#### **About Lee Greenwood:**

Throughout his expansive career, international

country music icon Lee Greenwood has earned multiple CMA and ACM Awards, a Grammy Award for Top Male Vocal Performance on "I.O.U." in 1985, and a multitude of other prestigious awards nominations. His discography includes twenty-two studio albums, seven compilation albums, seven No. 1 hits, and thirty-eight singles including songs like "It Turns Me Inside Out," "Ring On Her Finger Time on Her Hands," "She's Lyin'," "I Don't Mind the Thorns if You're the Rose," "Dixie Road," "Somebody's Gonna Love You," "Going Going Gone," "You Got A Good Love Comin'," among others. His stand-out hit "God Bless the U.S.A." has been in the top five on the country singles charts three times (1991, 2001, and 2003), giving it the distinction of being the only song in any genre of music to achieve that feat. It reached the Top 20 of the Billboard Hot 100 chart shortly after 9/11. Known for his stand-out patriotism and support of the U.S. military, Greenwood has been honored with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's National Patriot's Award and entertained troops on more than 30 USO Tours.

For more information, visit <http://LeeGreenwood.com>.



com

To watch this interview and President Trump's endorsement of this Bible, go to the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/IUtn2DNy1lk?si=2eoRUVz-4VJRkVei>

# Statement by Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this evening (Thursday, 21 November 2024):

“The antisemitic decision of the international court in The Hague is a modern Dreyfus trial, and it will end the same way.

One hundred and thirty years ago, the French Jewish officer Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of treason by a biased French court.

In response of these false accusations, the great French writer Émile Zola wrote his monumental essay, *J’Accuse*.

He accused the French court of antisemitic lies against an innocent officer, who was later exonerated of all guilt.

Now, an international court in The Hague, also headed by a French judge, is repeating this outrageous offense.

It is falsely accusing me, the democratically elected prime minister of the State of Israel and Israel’s former defense minister Yoav Gallant, of deliberately targeting civilians, this when we do everything in our power to avoid civilian casualties.

We issue millions of text messages, phone calls, leaflets to the citizens of Gaza to get them out of harm’s way – while the Hamas terrorists do everything in their power to keep them in harm’s way, including shooting them, using them as human shields.

The court in The Hague accuses us of a deliberate policy of starvation. This, when we have supplied Gaza with 700,000 tons of food to feed the people of Gaza. That’s 3,200 calories for every man, woman and child in Gaza.

And these supplies are routinely looted by Hamas terrorists, who deprive their people of much needed food.



Yet just in the last few weeks Israel facilitated the vaccination of 97 percent of the people of Gaza against polio. This doesn’t prevent the court of accusing us of genocide.

What in G-d’s name are they talking about in The Hague?

The truth is simple. No war is more just than the war that Israel has been waging in Gaza after Hamas attacked us unprovoked, launching the worst massacre against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

The decision to issue an arrest warrant against me, the democratically elected prime minister of the State of Israel, and our former defense minister was made by a rogue prosecutor who is trying to extricate himself from sexual harassment charges, and by biased judges who are motivated by antisemitic sentiments against the one and only Jewish state.

These judges did nothing, they did nothing, against the real war crimes committed against the millions who have been murdered or uprooted by the dictatorships in Iran, Syria and Yemen.

Instead, they falsely accuse the one democracy in the Middle East, Israel, thereby imperiling the right

of all democracies to defend themselves against murderous terrorists and tyrants.

Nor did the court do anything against the Hamas terrorists who raped our women, beheaded our men, burned babies alive in front of their parents and kidnapped hundreds of men, women and children to the underground dungeons of Gaza. They’re still holding 101 hostages, citizens of many lands, including the United States.

Come to think of it, the court did issue one arrest warrant against Hamas. Now hear this. They issued an arrest warrant against the corpse of the Hamas arch-terrorist, Muhammad Deif. His corpse.

What an absurdity.

No biased anti-Israel decision in The Hague will prevent the State of Israel from defending its citizens.

I want to thank our many friends around the world, especially those in the United States, who have condemned this outrage and who have said this decision will have severe consequences for the ICC and those who cooperate with its decision.

Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision. We will continue to do everything we must do to defend our citizens and to defend our state against Iran’s axis of terror. Iran and its terrorist proxies, which include Hamas, Hezbollah the Houthis and others. Our enemies are your enemies, and our victory will be your victory, the victory of civilization over barbarism and tyranny."

To watch Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s video about this matter, click on the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vp98YcbZ0SY> Video credit: GPO

## Trump ‘Saved by God to Make America Great Again,’ President Says at Second Inauguration

By David Roach, Baptist Press, Used by Permission, [www.baptistpress.com](http://www.baptistpress.com)

January 20, 2025



WASHINGTON (BP) – In a day punctuated with references to God and Judeo-Christian principles, Donald Trump was inaugurated Jan. 20 as the 47th president of the United States.

“Those who wished to stop our cause have tried to take my freedom and, indeed, to take my life,” Trump said in his inaugural address. “Just a few months ago in a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin’s bullet ripped through my ear. But I felt then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason: I was saved by God to make America great again.”

Inauguration Day began with a private worship service at St. John’s Episcopal Church near the White House, where Southern Baptist pastor Jack Graham read from Proverbs 3 and offered brief comments to Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance and their guests. Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, described the service as “tender,” “thoughtful” and “very traditional.”

“It was very private,” he said. “News media was not allowed in. It was not videoed or recorded. It was really just to focus on God and the president on this historic day.” Trump “was very thoughtful, very prayerful. He clearly appreciated the service.”

Every president since James Madison has attended worship at St. John’s. The tradition of Inauguration Day services there began with Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hours later, mentions of God were plentiful in the inauguration ceremony.

Trump continued the tradition, followed by every American president to date, of invoking God in his inaugural address. The inauguration ceremony, held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda due to extreme cold outdoors,

also featured prayers by Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan; evangelist Franklin Graham; Rabbi Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University, a Jewish school in New York; Lorenzo Sewell, pastor of 180 Church in Detroit; and Frank Mann, a retired Catholic priest from the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Franklin Graham said to Trump with former President Joe Biden standing feet away, “Mr. President, the last four years, there are times I’m sure you thought it was pretty dark, but look what God has done.” Graham then offered a prayer asking God’s protection and guidance for Trump, Vance and their families.

Sewell’s impassioned benediction, delivered at an inauguration that fell on Martin Luther King Day, invoked King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. “Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill,” he prayed, adding a hope that all classes of people would be able to say together, “Free at last, free at last. Thank you, God Almighty, we are free at last.”

Trump took the oath of office with First Lady Melania Trump holding two Bibles nearby: Trump’s personal Bible, given to him in 1955 by his mother, and the Lincoln Bible, which was used by Abraham

Lincoln during his 1861 inauguration. His hand, however, was not on the Bibles, which were not in place before Chief Justice John Roberts began administering the oath of office. Placing one hand on a Bible is a presidential inauguration tradition but not a constitutional requirement.

Eight years ago, Trump used the same to Bibles at his first inauguration. He joined Grover Cleveland as the only presidents to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms.

Vance took the vice-presidential oath with his hand on a family Bible presented to him by his maternal grandmother in 2003, when he left home to join the Marine Corps.

In Trump’s inaugural address, he proclaimed that “the golden age of America begins right now.” He noted a list of his administration’s priorities, including addressing the definition of gender as part of what he termed “the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense.”

“As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders, male and female,” Trump said. He also promised to “end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life. We will forge a society that is colorblind and merit-based.”

Among other agenda items listed by Trump were reinstating with backpay military members expelled for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine, securing the release of hostages in the Middle East, returning the Panama Canal to U.S. control, decreasing inflation and increasing American oil production.

“In everything we do, my administration will be inspired by the strong pursuit of excellence and unrelenting success,” Trump said. “We will not forget our country, we will not forget our Constitution, and we will not forget our God.”

# Utah Team Helps NC Baptist Efforts to Get Families Back in Homes by Christmas

Continued from Page 4

Coordinator Michael Maragelis told Baptist Press. “Four of the eight sites are still officially Recovery, but all eight should begin Repairs next week.”

Essential Rapid Repairs consists first of plumbing and electricity, which requires approval by city or county inspectors so it must be done by licensed tradesmen before being covered up by walls and flooring.

Mike Brooks, who owns a commercial plumbing business in Salt Lake City, brought one of his employees, Raul Lopez.

“All the plumbing was mostly destroyed so we had to redo everything,” Brooks said. “It’s very time-consuming: pulling out all the old stuff and laying new water and sewer drains.”

Plumbing work is wet work in miserable wintry conditions, though Brooks didn’t complain. He had come to North Carolina, he said, out of appreciation for the North Carolinians he had met in Houston, Texas, doing recovery in 2008 after Hurricane Ike.

“I told myself one day I’m going to go to North Carolina and help them,” Brooks said. “The Holy Spirit said this is the time to go.”

“It’s always good to work alongside my Christian brothers and sisters. Developing relationships with the homeowners is basically our priority: the sharing of Jesus Christ and doing the work God provides.”

Once electricity and plumbing are approved by county inspectors, Essential Rapid Repairs (ERR) volunteers lay a wood subfloor, hang drywall, install a refrigerator, stove, sink and cabinets, complete the bathroom and hang bedroom doors.

North Carolina Baptists on Mission plans recovery for about 1,000 homes. Once all the houses are livable, NCBOM will be back to finish the work – Phase 3’s “Rebuild” – by painting interior walls and laying the final flooring.

The entire project is expected to take three to four years, Beam said.

“Every day that we have volunteers here is a day closer to getting homeowners back in their home,”

Maragelis said.

The Utah team originally planned to help in North Carolina in October but scheduling challenges intervened.

“When we arrived Nov. 30 it was freezing cold temperatures,” Steve’s wife Chauna Sidwell said. “The [Disaster Relief] showers froze and broke. If we weren’t here they wouldn’t have had showers. But we had two plumbers!

“That made us feel that God wanted us here at this time,” she continued. “It was God’s timing,” her husband added.

The Utah team, familiar with but not licensed to do electrical, handled their work under the supervision of the onsite North Carolina licensed electricians. With the experienced Utah team onsite, one licensed electrician who was ill was able to leave.

“We prayed for him,” Chauna Sidwell said. “And we thanked God He brought us here this specific week.”

“I wish we could stay longer,” said construction worker Justin Nielson. “There’s so much work to be done.”

In Canton, the Crestview Baptist Church distribution site offered its 5-acre property to share with NCBOM, which put up a bunkhouse where 26 men can sleep inside a 20-foot storage container; women sleep in the church. There’s the Disaster Relief shower/laundry trailer, a tool shed, meals prepared for volunteers, plus evening devotions and fellowship.

“One of the best things is knowing there are many people from all over the United States willing to serve in short term U.S. missions,” Chauna Sidwell said. “It’s encouraging to meet other like-minded people and to be able to listen to others and share stories with others.”

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN L. WILLOUGHBY

Karen L. Willoughby is a national correspondent for Baptist Press

# Nov 2024-Jan 2025 Events

For more events, go to [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com)

## COLORADO

MARCH 21-22, 2025

**IGNITE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE COLORADO SPRINGS FEATURING SHANE PRUITT, JOSH GRIFFIN, DREW WORSHAM, ILLUSIONIST, KEN CASTOR, LEVI LUSKO, JON JORGENSON, ARLENE PELLICANE, AND ERIC SAMUEL TIMM**

Rocky Mountain Calvary, 4285 North Academy Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. For more information: 719-597-1133

## IDAHO

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 - 7 PM

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION CONCERT**

Nampa College Church, 504 E Dewey Ave, Nampa (to participate in the choir, register at [IdahoBCA.com](http://IdahoBCA.com); \$40 registration fee includes day-long rehearsal, lunch, followed by the concert)

MARCH 31, 2025 - 7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM)

**CLASSICS & HYMNS SPRING TOUR 2025, THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY.**

North Idaho College, Schuler Auditorium, 1000 West Garden Avenue, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814.

## NEVADA

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 - 7:30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM)

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PSALM 138:3

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# The Devil's in the Details: How Media Bias Fuels Antisemitism

Continued from Page 1

Palestinian Islamic Jihad that struck the parking lot of the Al-Ahli hospital, as originally reported by pro-Israel media watchdog site HonestReporting. The given source of the article was the Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health, rather than Palestinian testimony. The incident highlights serious failures in media accuracy, not to mention the choice of words in media headlines and the decision-makers behind the headlines.

Meanwhile, reports surfaced that multiple former Al Jazeera staffers were employed by The Washington Post, working the foreign desk. Six employees, including the Middle East editor, have a history of writing for the Qatar-based news organization, according to a breaking report from the Washington Free Beacon in June.

Al Jazeera reportedly received funding from the Qatari government, known to offer financial support to Hamas. An Israeli court described the network as an “intelligence and propaganda arm” for Hamas, leading to its ban in Israel. Then a month later, HonestReporting uncovered serious issues regarding CBS News journalist Marwan al-Ghoul, who openly lauded terrorists at a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine event and on social media. His affiliation with a proscribed group, along with his role on the Gaza City municipal council, presented concerns regarding CBS News' staff. Al-Ghoul's reports consistently emphasized destruction and victims, while ignoring the actions of Hamas terrorists. The BBC also faced backlash for its editorial policies, which refrained from calling Hamas “terrorists.” BBC foreign correspondent John Simpson said in 2023, “Calling someone a terrorist means you're taking sides.” The broadcaster was slammed by then UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps for its decision not to call Hamas militants terrorists. Hamas is officially designated as a terrorist organization in the

US, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, UK and in the EU.

There are those taking a stand against propaganda media in the newsrooms in recent years. Notably, a 25-year veteran reporter called out his bosses at tax-funded National Public Radio. Uri Berliner brought to light a troubling lack of political diversity within NPR's editorial team. He pointed out that there were 87 registered Democrats in editorial roles, yet not a single Republican. Berliner criticized NPR for biased advocacy reporting and for allowing liberal bias to cloud reporting, calling it a “liberal silo” in an essay published in April 2024 on The Free Press.

“It's frictionless—one story after another about instances of supposed racism, transphobia, signs of the climate apocalypse, Israel behaving poorly, and the dire threat posed by Republican policies,” Berliner wrote. He stressed how Hamas intentionally puts “Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world.” Berliner was fired shortly after the essay was published.

Matti Friedman was another journalist fighting bias. The former Associated Press reporter made a



Photo above courtesy of <https://stockcake.com>

significant observation regarding the role of the media in the Israeli conflict. He noted that “the mainstream press corps here [in Israel] has largely adopted an advocacy role,” he said in an interview. “They've

decided to play a political role in the conflict. They've decided to lobby for the side that they think is right, and political decisions are disguised as journalistic decisions.”

This has underscored concerns about media bias, suggesting that rather than providing objective coverage, some journalists are instead advocating for a particular narrative, and the Jewish people are paying the hefty price.

The media coverage of Israel potentially sparked an increase in antisemitism. In 2024, the Anti-Defamation League documented 8,873 antisemitic incidents in the US, a 140% boost from 3,698 in 2022. Notably, 52% of the incidents were recorded after Israel was initially attacked.

The report covered a rise in antisemitism incidents globally, including Germany where 1,365 antisemitic incidents were reported from January to September and 2,249 from October to December in 2023.

Media coverage of the Israeli war has long been a subject of debate and scrutiny due to concerns over potential biases. The media machine's tendency is to frame the conflict in a manner that disproportionately favors one side over the other. The alleged bias has manifested in various ways, as noted since Israel was attacked.

Such is the selective reporting of events, the use of loaded language or terminology, the omission of crucial context or background information, and the disproportionate allocation of airtime or print space to certain perspectives. Media outlets downplayed acts of violence perpetrated by Hamas and other militant groups while amplifying and condemning Israeli military actions, even when framed as defensive measures, fanning the flames of antisemitism.

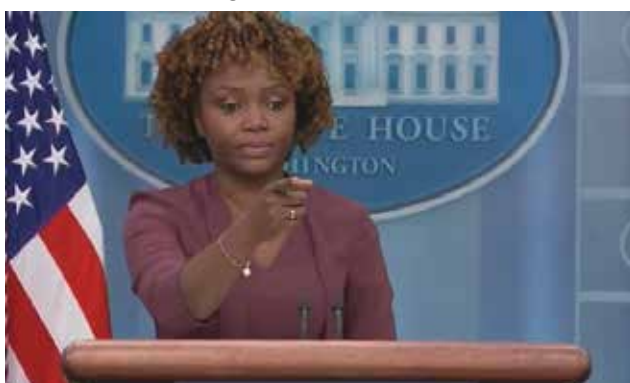
Corine Gatti

[momontherightshow@gmail.com](mailto:momontherightshow@gmail.com)

## The 52nd Annual March for Life: January 24, 2025

Continued from Page 2

White House Correspondent Dr. Harper experience on asking questions at the White House about the Child's right to life.



My experience reporting on a Child's Right to Life at the White House and U.S. State Department has been very challenging. Fox News refuses to let me speak about my White House questions regarding a child's right to life.

I'm the unnamed reporter referred to in their article regarding a Child's right to life: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/reporter-confronts-white-house-press-secretary-abortion-child-right-life.amp>

I met with the White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre the day of the Roe v Wade decision June 24, 2023 to challenge her with the question of ‘What about the child's right to life and what's your response to our Christian audience?’ She refuses to answer.

## InterMountain Rescue Mission Testimonies

Continued from Page 5

### WYOMING

#### From Wyoming Rescue Mission, Casper, Wyoming

##### Randy's story



Randy's life is changed forever and he wants to thank YOU!

Randy can count the days since he took his last drink ... almost two years ago.

He began using alcohol at age 14 to numb the pain of his father's abuse. “He took everything out on me,” he shares. “I wasn't allowed to have a regular childhood.”

Over the years, his drinking escalated, and he began to feel the impact of his own self-destructive habits. “I was burning bridges and my life started

falling apart.”

Struggling to provide for himself, he moved in with a friend who used alcohol too. When their relationship unraveled, his only option for shelter was an abandoned RV. Finally, at rock bottom and with no hope for the future, he tried to end his life. By God's grace, he survived. When he was released from the hospital, he came to WRM.

Randy had grown up an atheist, so the concept of trusting in the Lord was new to him. “I came in blind,” he says. “To me, the Bible was just a book.” But soon, through our faith-based Discipleship Recovery Program, his eyes were opened to God's unconditional love. He gave his heart to Him and began numbering the days of his sobriety.

“The Lord has been very, very good to me,” he says, “I've been healed in every way you can imagine. I have a great job. I have a great house. Everything has fallen into place.” He only wishes the compassion of his heavenly Father is something he'd known his whole life.

Because you gave from your heart to help Randy, his life has been changed by your goodness and God's love forever! “Coming to WRM is the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm a child of God now ... I can do anything!”

For more information:

230 N Park Street Casper, WY 82601

Phone (307) 265-3002

Website: <https://wyomission.org>

# My Israel Leader Meetings in Israel December 11, 2024-January 16, 2025

Continued from Page 3



Hanoch Milwidsky, member of the Likud Party; To watch interview with Hanoch Milwidsky, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/oMfs2ncK5qo>



Tatiana Mazarsky, member of the Yesh Atid Party; To watch interview with Tatiana Mazarsky, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/M0EjViaAtGA>



Michal Shir Segman, member of the Yesh Atid Party; To watch interview with Michal Shir Segman, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/HuCA-EHABWU>



Avihai Avraham Boaron, member of the Likud Party; To watch interview with Avihai Avraham Boaron, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/a9U3PNHD3Gc>



Dr. Tsega Melaku, member of the Likud Party Amit Halevi, member of the Likud Party; To watch interview with Dr. Tsega Melaku, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ZvunLP-yc8>



Simcha Rothman, member of the National Religious Party-Religious Zionism and chair of the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee; To watch interview with Simcha Rothman, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/zoI8DEuZAKc>



Ohad Tal, member of the National Religious Party-Religious Zionism; To watch interview with Ohad Tal, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/CefhQ8yajak>



Sharren Haskel, member of the New Hope Party and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; To watch interview with Sharren Haskel, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/4xPwJtvpafs>



Yitzhak Goldknopf, Head of Ultra Orthodox Party and Minister of Housing;



Ariel Kallner, member of the Likud Party Eli Cohen, member of the Likud Party and head of the Ministry of Energy; To watch interview with Ariel Kallner, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/pdOpjSaVIU>

For more recent Israel videos, visit our YouTube channel and scroll down.

Why Am I Here?  
How Do I Beat This  
Who is  
What Makes My Life  
So Hard  
Where is That One  
Special Relationship?

## JESUS is GOD the SON (CREATOR of the Universe and all Life!)

Hebrews 1:2-3 NIV

2 ...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 3:3-4 NIV

3. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

4. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

## THE SAVIOR (GOD in human form) born of the Virgin Mary

Matthew 1:23 NIV

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us."

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

John 8:23-24 NIV

23. But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."

John 14:6 NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**No other person can save you or give you hope and eternal life.**

## How to know JESUS as your personal Savior:

If you would like to know JESUS as your personal Savior from sin, pray the following prayer followed by studying The Holy Bible and get involved with a local Christian church.

Pray this sincere prayer, meaning it with all your heart, and God will give you eternal life, right now!

"Dear Lord, I am a sinful person who needs You. I turn from my sins and surrender my heart and life to You, right now. Save me dear God and make me Your child. thank You for coming to Bethlehem, and for dying for me to pay for my sins. Help me to live for You all the rest of my life." Amen.

If you have accepted JESUS as your personal SAVIOR from sin, obey Him and get involved with a good Bible-believing church, study the Bible daily, seek Him with all your heart daily, and share The Gospel with all those around you. We must be doers of the word, not hearers only.

For more info on sharing your Christian faith, visit the website: [www.wayofthemaster.com](http://www.wayofthemaster.com).

[www.NeedHim.org](http://www.NeedHim.org)

# Trump Takes Electoral College, Popular Vote; Republicans Take Senate

Continued from Page 1

South Dakota,” SBC President Clint Pressley posted this morning. “Congratulations to President-elect @realDonaldTrump and Vice President-elect @JDVance. I and millions of my fellow Southern Baptists will be praying for you.

‘The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice.’ -Psalm 97:1”

Ethics & Religious Liberty President Brent Leatherwood also congratulated Trump on his “decisive” return to the White House.

We will work diligently with his incoming administration to advance the protection of religious liberty, defend marriage and family, and push forward the cause of human dignity,” Leatherwood said. “Traveling alongside these priorities are our pro-life convictions, which remain a top priority for Southern Baptists.

“We are hopeful for what can be accomplished in the next four years and will work with the Trump administration and members of the 119th Congress to make real headway on issues of importance to Southern Baptists.”

Attention settled on seven swing states – Arizona, Nevada, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – that would sway the election. Should Trump maintain his lead in Arizona and Nevada, he will end up taking all of them. The biggest prize was Pennsylvania’s 19 electoral votes that the AP claimed for Trump at 2:24 a.m.

The AP called Michigan for Trump on Wednesday afternoon, completing his sweep of the “Blue Wall” states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. He won those states in the 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton but lost them in 2020 against Joe Biden.

Trump’s potential 312 electoral votes would outpace the 304 he received eight years ago when he took the White House the first time.

Republicans also reclaimed the Senate by flipping seats in West Virginia, Ohio and Montana. The party is also poised to reclaim the House of Representatives, though final tabulations may take days, at least.

An NBC News exit poll showed 45 percent of Hispanic/Latino voters going for Trump, a 13 point increase from 2020. More than half, 54 percent, of Latino men turned out for the president-elect, which reflects an 18-point increase from the previous election, while Latino women increased support for Trump from 30 percent to 37 percent.

The biggest change among age cohorts supporting Trump came in the 18-29 group, which delivered a 6-point increase to 36 percent.

While 58 percent of women in that age group – basically Gen Z – still sided with Harris, men shifted in a dramatic way, with 56 percent voting for Trump. That figure reflects a 14-point drop in support for Biden in 2020 and 15-point jump for the president-elect this year.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SCOTT BARKLEY

Scott Barkley is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press

## Paying It Forward, Wyoming Church Focused on Those in Addiction

Continued from Page 2

### A church of second chances

Haux’s background has led to serving as pastor of Sheridan Recovery Church in Sheridan, Wyo. It’s a different church, one where those looking for second chances are actively sought out. When the pastor says he’s been there, he literally has.

“Forgiving people wasn’t natural for me,” he said. “But I felt peace for the first time. I gave my life to Jesus and stopped doing things like cussing. I started going to treatment. I decided that this type of ministry was going to be my life.”

Forgiving wasn’t easy because of the home in which he was raised. His parents divorced at 15 and Haux went to live with his mother, from whom he learned about drug addiction. At 18 he started smoking cigarettes and quickly graduated to marijuana.

At 19 years old he lost his dad. Haux moved to Portland and ended up homeless, getting involved in gang life. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time, he said, put him back in prison for meth possession.

He eventually moved back to Wyoming. He was married with two children, but also a raging drunk. A domestic violence charge returned him to prison and ended the marriage. A fall off a roof led to opiate abuse.

On Dec. 21, 2018, Haux was on bond and prepared to take his own life.

“My marriage had dissolved. Life was over as I saw it. I was going to hang myself under the bridge in Worland,” he said.

Haux had to check in with a probation officer each night. He took a shot of vodka before doing so that evening.

“That officer – who is now one of my best friends – arrested me,” Haux said. “He saw something different in my eyes, though, and took me upstairs. God interceded right then, and I ended up sitting in jail for over four months.”

It led him to start attending Bible studies, to think about being like people like his Uncle Dawson, to ultimately start a new road and help others do the same.

### The road back

His environment changed upon release. Haux began working as a janitor at The Rock Church of the Bighorns, an evangelical non-denominational congregation in Sheridan. He credits the church’s pastor, Tri Robinson, with prompting him to lead an

addiction recovery group six weeks after he began there.



Chance and Leanne Haux with their son, Dawson

“He prepared me and counseled me,” Haux said. “The group went from eight or nine to over 30.”

Haux also began attending Gateway Seminary while leading the recovery group. He recently graduated the classes hosted at Mountain View Fellowship, a Southern Baptist church, in Sheridan.

The small group had grown to the point that talk of it becoming a church had been rolling. Haux spoke with Jim Coonis, Mountain View’s pastor, on helping support the new congregation.

“He told me he was tired of watching his friends die on the street,” said Coonis. “I felt an overwhelming sense of God speaking to me in that moment and felt we had to do something.”

Many years earlier one of Mountain View’s deacons, Dawson Haux, had requested prayer for his nephew’s family that was mired in addiction. Periodic updates included Chance’s jail time, salvation and treatment for addiction. The Rock, where he came to work as a janitor, is one block from Coonis’ house.

One day Coonis walked into the room in Mountain View’s basement that hosted Gateway’s classes. A guy there looked just like his former deacon, Dawson Haux.

The relationship grew to the point Mountain View came to be Sheridan Recovery’s sending church. It has continued to support the young congregation in various ways, including contributing to the discipleship house.

“We see the effects of drug and alcohol abuse every day,” said Coonis. “There is a lot of counseling, but not a lot of healing. We know the answer to that is in Christ.”

### A home for healing

Launched on Jan. 7, Sheridan Recovery Church meets at Mountain View. It also provides housing at a separate location for those recently-incarcerated while helping them develop a more solid spiritual foundation. A nine-bedroom group home includes office space for Haux and a bedroom for another pastor. There is also a chapel, two kitchens, a downstairs living area and break room. Fourteen men live there.

An additional recovery/discipleship house is being established with plans to add more. The ages for residents range from 19 to 72.

While addiction hits individuals, its effects can be felt in 100 percent of a congregation – not just Sheridan Recovery’s.

“When you get out of jail or treatment, you get a diploma and pretty much a ‘good-luck-to-you,’” said Haux. “We want to step in and disciple these guys.”

Christmas Day will make the five-year anniversary of his mother being off drugs. He married his wife, Leanne, on June 25, 2022. The couple have a son – Dawson.

Leanne, also a Sheridan native and former military police officer, understands the need for grace alongside a spirit of accountability.

“You want to love on them without enabling them,” she said. “This is very personal for us, because we lived it. When we started this, people were dying of fentanyl overdoses and there was death everywhere. If we can bring about some understanding for these guys and influence them for good, let them know that God loves them despite their past, they would see the truth in God’s love.”

“Chance has lived this. He wants to influence and invest in them the way others did for him”

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SCOTT BARKLEY

Scott Barkley is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press.



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John 7:37-38



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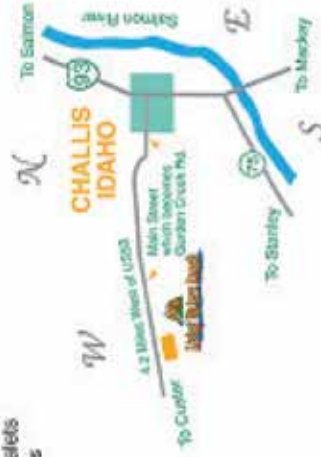
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