



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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Report: There Are More Than 215 Million Persecuted Christians Worldwide



There are more than 215 million persecuted Christians worldwide, according to the 2018 "World Watch List," Open Doors USA's annual ranking of the 50 worst countries for violence and persecution against Christians.

The report found that one in 12 Christians worldwide are victims of violent persecution. Open Doors USA cites the spread of radical Islam and increasing religious nationalism as the two major drivers of global Christian persecution.

North Korea tops the list of worst offenders, as it has for the past 16 years. Although the communist North Korean government claims to provide freedom of religion in its constitution, no one can be openly Christian within the atheist state without facing arrest, re-education in a labor camp, or, in some cases, execution. Afghanistan comes in a close second, Pakistan third. Also included on the list were Mexico and Colombia, where organized crime and corruption were cited as the source of Christian persecution.

Read the whole report (one page per country) at:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/WWL2018-BookletNew.pdf>

FEMA GRANTS DISASTER RELIEF TO CHURCHES



When storms ripped through Texas and Florida last fall, churches were some of the hardest hit. Desperate to get back on their feet to help their communities, pastors reached out to FEMA for aid. Like other Americans who lost their businesses and homes, they assumed Washington would help them rebuild. They were wrong.

Despite President Donald Trump's very public campaign to protect religious liberty, FEMA dragged its feet. Long enough, it turns out, for the houses of worship to sue. With the help of the Becket Fund, the congregations took the government to court for the right to enjoy the same disaster relief.

After four months of slogging through the repairs on their own, the plaintiffs got word last week that FEMA's policy had finally caught up with the White House's direction. In a new document, the agency explains, "In light of the Trinity Lutheran decision [at the Supreme Court], FEMA has considered its guidance on private nonprofit facility eligibility and determined that it will revise its interpretation of the aforementioned statutory and regulatory authorities so as not to exclude houses of worship from eligibility for FEMA aid on the basis of the religious character or primarily religious use of the facility." [Family Research Council 1/8/18](#)



Senate Vote on 20-Week Abortion Ban Fails

The bill will continue to be considered in the Senate and is widely expected to be a topic of debate in 2018 Senate elections.

The United States is one of seven countries in the world that allow abortions after five months of pregnancy.

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act proposes that abortion be made illegal after 20 weeks of gestation, on the basis that fetal neural development enables the unborn to experience pain at that point. The bill includes exceptions for an abortion in the case of rape or incest, as well in the circumstances in which the pregnancy threatened the life or the mother.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/senate-vote-on-20-week-abortion-ban-fails>



Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards Resigns After Presiding Over 3.5 Million Abortions

Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards plans to resign from her position after overseeing more than 3 million unborn babies' abortion deaths, liberal news outlets reported January 24. The CEO since 2006, Richards drew in a huge salary by leading the "non-profit." During her tenure, Planned Parenthood saw huge drops in patient numbers and actual health services and scandal after scandal involving aborted baby body parts trafficking and sexual abuse cover-ups.

At the same time, the abortion chain reaped in record profits, including billions in taxpayer funding, and maintained a corner on the American abortion market. [LifeNews.com 1/24/18](#)



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

MALIN+GOETZ

Operations: **fragrances, home (décor: candles), personal care (feet, hair, hands, lips, skin, toiletries).**

Please write to:

Mr. Andrew Goetz
Malin+Goetz
330 7th Ave. Floor 21
New York, NY 10001

Tell him to
stop
funding
Planned
Parenthood

Malin+Goetz has been on *The Boycott List* since 2009 and we last wrote to them in May 2013.



CDC Report Shows Reductions in Teen Sexual Activity

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report showing a significant decline in teen sexual activity between 2005 and 2015. The report obtained data on the sexual conduct of teens by analyzing 29 separate state-level Youth Risk Behavior Surveys. Overall, the percentage of teenagers that reported ever having engaged in sexual intercourse declined from 46.8 percent to 41.2 percent over this ten-year time period. The study finds declines in teen sexual activity across racial groups, grade levels, and regions. 1/5/18 <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm665152a1.htm>

Abortion Clinic Targets Black Women With Billboards Saying "Abortion is Necessary"

An abortion clinic in Cleveland, Ohio is specifically targeting black women in a new billboard campaign. The Preterm Abortion Clinic is pushing a billboard campaign only in majority-black neighborhoods, lending additional credence to the notion that abortion clinics specifically focus on selling abortions to black women and aborting black babies.

Studies have shown that abortion clinics are predominantly located in minority neighborhoods, specifically targeting Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Now the news that a Cleveland, Ohio abortion clinic is only trying to sell abortions to black women adds to those previous studies.

None of the billboards explain what an abortion actually is: the killing of a unique, living human being in the womb.

Abortions hurt every race and culture, but black Americans have a disproportionately high number of abortions compared to other racial groups. According to census data, African Americans make up about 13 percent of the U.S. population but have about 30 percent of the abortions.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/01/09/abortion-clinic-targets-black-women-with-billboards-saying-abortion-is-necessary/>



"Shadow Banning" - How Twitter Secretly Censors Conservatives Without Them Even Knowing It

Conservatives and Christians have long suspected that Twitter works aggressively behind the scenes to censor their material. That suspicion has now been confirmed in an undercover investigation involving numerous Twitter employees who let slip what really happens behind the scenes of the mega social media platform.

A Project Veritas (PV) report released January 12, 2018 zeroes in on Twitter's little known practice of "shadow banning," which turns out to be a rather surreptitious stealth method of censorship. "Shadow banning" is a way of blocking users from a social media platform without notifying them. Tweets from a shadow-banned user still appear to their followers, but don't show up in search results, or anywhere else on Twitter.

Although Twitter presents itself as politically neutral, its culture behind closed doors is one of blatant censorship, systemic bias and political targeting.

Read more at: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/shadow-banning-how-twitter-secretly-censors-conservatives-without-them-even?>



Switzerland Outlaws Boiling Lobsters Because They Feel Pain, Aborting Babies Still Okay

- Switzerland has followed New Zealand and a few other localities to outlaw boiling live lobsters. It also requires them to be shipped in salt water.
- Switzerland has *amended its constitution to recognize the individual dignity of plants*. Not ecosystems. Individual plant dignity. A big-brained bioethics committee, assigned to explain the reasons for so doing, stated in its report, "[The Dignity of Living Beings with Regard to Plants](#)," that since plants share biochemical traits with us at the cellular level, it is immoral to "decapitate" a wildflower.
- One canton in Switzerland assigns a *lawyer to represent animals*. One such lawyer sued a fisherman on behalf of a client that became dinner, for taking too long to reel in the fish.
- A GMO researcher, seeking to find a way to prevent fungus from spoiling wheat, could only obtain government financing when he asserted that the research would be beneficial for the wheat.
- The country has *outlawed flushing a living goldfish down the toilet*.

The point is that this great concern does not exist when it comes to protecting the lives of suicidal, sick, disabled, and mentally ill people. Switzerland allows "suicide tourism."

<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/01/16/switzerland-outlaws-boiling-lobsters-because-they-feel-pain-aborting-babies-still-okay/>