

institution's student covenant, which prohibits sex outside of traditional marriage.

In *Trinity Western University versus Law Society of Upper Canada* and *Trinity Western University versus The Law Society of British Columbia*, justices sided 7-2 against TWU, calling it "proportionate and reasonable" to favor the rights of LGBT students over the school's religious convictions. The majority judgment said the covenant would deter LGBT students from attending the proposed law school, and those who did attend would be at risk of significant harm.

Some legal experts say the decision has essentially gutted religious freedom protections. It also quashes the future of the school, which was slated to open as early as 2019 if the ruling had been favorable, since Canadian law schools require the approval of provincial law societies to operate.

1,000 Come to Faith at Scottish Event (6)

More than 1,000 people became Christians at a recent evangelism event hosted by the late Rev. Billy Graham's grandson in Scotland. Will Graham was invited to share the gospel at the Central Scotland Celebration of Hope three-day event at the Falkirk Stadium, in partnership with over 200 churches across Central Scotland. Hundreds committed their lives to Christ at the event itself, and hundreds more did so online and through discipleship courses.

Michael Rollo, a local church leader and member of the committee, shared the impact that the event had on him. "It's just been humbling to see what God has

done. . . . I believe that what we've sown here we will reap in the days to come," he said. "There's a legacy for the generation



coming behind. Many, many young people have come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Falkirk event is just the first of such events planned by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the UK. Lee Searle, director of ministry for the association, said the event showed that there is "still a passion for mass evangelism in the UK." Searle said, "People are at a loss as to where to turn in life. We use these events to tell them that there is a real hope and his name is Jesus. But we are also doing these events with urgency. As Will Graham reminded us this weekend when he preached, people are going to hell and we want to point them to Jesus, with urgency. None of us know how much time we have."

To check out books and other church resources, please visit www.Tyndale.com.

significant news for christians

Some news that's encouraging—some disturbing. Read with discernment. Watch and pray.

THE Church Around the WORLD

October 2018



Country in Focus: Jamaica (1)

Jamaica is the third-largest island in the Caribbean Sea, but most of the island is mountainous and only 20 percent of the land is arable. Tourism, mining, and farming are among the leading revenue sources. High debt, frequent hurricane damage, and rising crime rates are a drain on the economy, coupled with high unemployment and inflation. The island has a rich Christian heritage and a long but little-known history of being a missionary-sending nation. However, Jamaica continues to struggle with drugs and related crimes and has the fourth-highest murder rate in the world. Rape and domestic abuse are widespread and contribute to the moral and social collapse of the island.

Prayer concerns:

- Jamaican Christianity needs reformation and revival—many Jamaicans are Christians in name only and seldom attend church;
- Many evangelical organizations reach out to the youth of the island—pray that their work continues and becomes more effective in changing hearts;
- The very poor of the island have limited exposure to the gospel, except through Christian radio.

Pastor in Eritrea Released (2)

Pastor Oqbamichel Haiminot has been released from a prison in Eritrea after more than a decade. Pastor Oqbamichel was the first pastor in Eritrea to be arrested and held after the controversial crackdown on religion in 2002. Though he was only in jail for a short period after his initial arrest in 2003, he was constantly harassed and rearrested over the next 4 years. In 2007, he was finally arrested and jailed for more

than 10 years even though no charges were ever filed against him. Pastor Oqbamichel is one of hundreds of Christians in Eritrea who have been arrested and held for years due to their faith. In 2017, more than 200 Christians were arrested yet never charged with any criminal activity.

Eritrea has only four legalized religions: Eritrean Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, and Sunni Islam. The regime touts this as religious freedom; however, to join any of these religions, people must first make four

Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy.

PSALM 65:8

pledges. One must pledge to never be “born again,” to be loyal to the government rather than to God or the church, to never carry a Bible outside of church or the home, and to turn in any missionaries or evangelists to the government. Those who turn in a missionary or evangelist are paid three months’ wages.

Algerian Pastor “Amazed” as Three Churches Reopen (3)

Three churches recently closed down by authorities in Algeria’s northern province of Oran were recently permitted to reopen. The three churches were allowed to reopen following a notification issued by the governor of Oran province.

Rachid Seghir, who is the pastor at the main church of Oran city and also oversees the other two churches, said, “It was about 1 p.m. when I got a call asking me to get to the

police station as soon as possible, without giving further details.” At the police station, Pastor Seghir was handed a notification to sign.

“It was hard to believe, as I was not expecting such a positive surprise!” said Pastor Seghir. “Honestly, I have not understood anything that happened: I had read the notification and understood it correctly, but I remained amazed.”

Recalling how events had unfolded in the past year, the pastor said: “First we were notified that we have to regularize our situation according to the safety regulations, or we will have to close our premises in three months—something which was impossible for us. Then, one month later they came and sealed off the doors of the church. And now they are notifying us that we can reopen and carry out our services in peace.”

Just 45 minutes after the pastor was first called to the police station, three officers in



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uniform came and removed the seals from the main church’s door, without making any comment.

Iranian Christians’ Prison Sentences Upheld (4)

Four Iranian Christians who appealed their ten-year prison sentences before the Revolutionary Court have seen those sentences upheld. The four men had been convicted of “promoting Zionist Christianity”

lengthy sentences are still awaiting the outcome of their own appeals, which were heard in the Revolutionary Court by the same judge.

Miles Windsor from Middle East Concern recently said prison terms are getting longer for Iranian Christians. “Whilst Christians have consistently been put in prison for their faith in Iran in considerable numbers, the length of the sentence has seemed to have increased in the recent year or so,” he said.

In 2017, over a dozen Christians—most of them converts to Christianity—were given prison sentences of between 10 and 15 years for “acting against national security.” Iran is 10th on the 2018 Open Doors World Watch List of the 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian.



and running house churches.

Two of the men, in addition to their jail terms, were sentenced to two years’ internal exile, which they are to serve in the south of Iran, on the opposite side of the country from their homes near the Caspian Sea.

Four other Christians who also received

Canada’s Supreme Court Rejects Christian Law School (5)

Trinity Western University (TWU) has lost a years-long legal fight to launch what would be the only Christian law school in Canada. The Supreme Court of Canada considered a pair of appeals cases involving regional law societies that refused to accredit the Trinity Western program due to the evangelical



This month you can... Save the Persecuted Christians

According to Christian ministry Open Doors USA, every month 255 Christians are killed; 104 are abducted; 180 Christian women are raped, sexually assaulted, or forced into marriage; 160 Christians are detained or imprisoned without trial; and 66 churches are attacked.

So, what can you do to help? Open Doors suggests that you pray daily, write letters and advocate for the persecuted, volunteer with trusted ministries that help the persecuted, and give to organizations that provide

Bibles, food, and other forms of help.

You can also help by joining the Save the Persecuted Christians campaign.

The Arabic letter pronounced “nun” stands for “Nazarene,” a derogatory reference to Christians in large swathes of the Middle East. The Islamic State used this Arabic character to designate homes of Christ-followers targeted for persecution. Today, however, the letter nun is a prominent part of the Save the Persecuted Christians campaign, displayed on

banners at churches and other houses of worship to spread the word about oppression around the globe.

To get one of these banners for your church, encourage your church’s leaders to visit *SaveThePersecutedChristians.org* and join those who’ve already ordered their free kits and banners, which can be displayed in front of their houses of worship. Your church will receive a folder full of information about this vital new movement.