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Show Prep - Mar 8-10, 2023

PDF Version: <http://christianartistnews.info/ftp/Mar8-10.pdf>

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Verses

Mar 8

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Mar 9

2 Timothy 1:9

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Mar 10

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Today is...

Mar 8

Discover What Your Name Means Day
International Women's Day
National Peanut Cluster Day

Mar 9

Barbie Day
False Teeth Day
Get Over It Day

National Meatball Day
Popcorn Lovers Day

Mar 10

International Bagpipe Day
Middle Name Pride Day
National Ranch Day
Pack Your Lunch Day
Salvation Army Day

Today In History

March 8th

1698: The first meeting convened of the British group which later formed the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK).

1711: In this date's edition of "The Spectator," English essayist Joseph Addison wrote: 'To be an atheist requires an infinitely greater measure of faith than to receive all the great truths which atheism would deny.'

1715: France's Louis XIV announces he has finally put an end to all Protestant practices in his country.

1740: Colonial revivalist Gilbert Tennent, 37, preached his famous sermon, "The Danger of An Unconverted Ministry."

1782: Ninety-six Native Americans, who had converted to Christianity and were living peacefully in the Moravian Brethren town of Gnadenhutten (near New Philadelphia), Ohio, are killed by militiamen in "retaliation" for Indian raids made elsewhere in the Ohio territory.

1830: History's most mysterious fish story came from the island of Ula, off the Scottish coast. The island was deluged with a downpour of small herring. Honest. It did rain fish! To this day, there's been no satisfactory explanation.

1838: The U.S. mint in New Orleans began making dimes. 1894: New York became the first state to require licenses for dogs..

1887: Death of Henry Ward Beecher, 73, American clergyman and social reformer. His last words were: 'Going out into life' that is dying.'

1915: The U.S. Supreme Court finds religious education in the public schools in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

1917: The February Revolution began in Russia.

1921: The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia was organized at Ebenezer, in South Australia.

1941: Author Sherwood Anderson, who wrote *Tea and Sympathy*, died on this date after swallowing a toothpick at a cocktail party. 1997: A piece of mold sold for \$34,500 at a London auction. It was part of the growth that led to Sir Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin in 1928.

2005: Harvard Business School announced rejection of 119 would-be students accused of hacking into a Web site to learn early if they were accepted before official notification. The school's dean called the behavior unethical.

2006: Three Alabama college students reportedly looking for cheap thrills were arrested on charges they set fire to nine rural Baptist churches.

March 9th

395: Gregory of Nyssa, Cappadocian father and bishop, dies. An outstanding thinker, theologian, orator, and ascetical author, he was very influential in developing the theology of the Trinity.

1562: Kissing in public was banned in Naples, Italy. Violators could be put to death.

1822: Charles Graham received the first patent for false teeth.

1831: Evangelist Charles Finney concludes a six-month series of meetings in Rochester, New York.

1839: Birth of Phoebe Palmer Knapp, American Methodist hymn writer. She published more than 500 hymn tunes during her lifetime; her most famous melody comprises the tune to Fanny Crosby's hymn, "Blessed Assurance."

1843: Scottish clergyman Robert Murray McCheyne wrote in a letter: 'You will never find Jesus so precious as when the world is one vast howling wilderness. Then he is like a rose blooming in the midst of the desolation, a rock rising above the storm.'

1858: Albert Potts of Philadelphia patented the street letter box, an idea the Post Office liked very much.

1932: Ford introduced the V-8 engine.

1930: Pioneer linguist Frank Laubach wrote in a letter: 'It seems to me...that the very Bible cannot be read as a substitute for meeting God soul to soul and face to face.'

1931: The World Radio Missionary Fellowship (WRMF) was incorporated in Lima, Ohio, by cofounders Clarence

W. Jones and Reuben Larson. Today, this interdenominational mission agency broadcasts the Gospel in 15 languages to South America and throughout Europe.

1934: The first man to orbit Earth, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, was born.

1961: A Soviet dog named Blackie became the first animal to return alive from outer space aboard the spacecraft Sputnik-9. The dog Laika that orbited the earth in Sputnik-2 did not return alive.

1964: The U.S. Supreme Court, in its New York Times v. Sullivan decision, ruled that public officials who charged libel could not recover damages for defamatory statements related to their official duties unless they proved actual malice on the part of the news organization.

1964: The first Mustang rolled off of the Ford assembly line.

1965: Three white Unitarian ministers, including the Rev. James J. Reeb, were attacked with clubs on the streets of Selma, Alabama, while participating in a civil rights demonstration. Reeb later died in a Birmingham, Alabama hospital.

1987: History's largest piece of furniture was completed by 800 builders on Masuhoura Beach at Ishikawa, Japan. It is a bench 1,512 feet long that seats 1,400 people.

2006: Scientists reported finding evidence of water on a Saturn moon.

March 10th

1302: Pope Boniface VIII sentences Italian poet and politician Dante Alighieri, author of the Divine Comedy, to be burned to death for political reasons.

1528: Balthasar Hubmaier, called by his enemies "head and most important of the Anabaptists," is burned at the stake in Vienna after being deemed a heretic by a Roman Catholic court. In addition to his writings against Lutherans and Zwinglians,

1681: Charles II makes English Quaker William Penn sole proprietor of the colonial American territory known today as the state of Pennsylvania.

1748: John Newton, the captain of a slave ship, converts to Christianity during a huge storm at sea.

1880: Commissioner George S. Railton and seven women arrive in New York City to establish the Salvation Army in the United States.

1898: George Mueller, English philanthropist and evangelist, dies. 1913: Harriet Tubman, known as "Grandma Moses" for her work rescuing slaves and guiding them to the north on what was dubbed "the Underground Railroad," dies.

1963: Some 25,000 people lined the 4-mile route to Shenandoah Memorial Park where singer Patsy Cline was buried at Winchester, Virginia.

1969: James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tennessee, to the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

1980: Willard Scott debuted as the new weatherman on NBC-TV's "Today Show." He also played Mr. Poole occasionally on The Hogan Family.

1991: Easy rider Peter Fonda led 5,000 motorcyclists through Daytona Beach, Florida, to celebrate Bike Week.

1991: A Vincent van Gogh painting, "Still Life with Flowers," sold for \$1.43-million in Chicago.

1996: The International Museum of Cartoon Art opened in Boca Raton, Florida, housing 160-thousand cartoons by more than 1,000 artists. Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, who donated a million dollars to the museum, was on hand for the dedication.

1998: Federal authorities announced that in the two-year period 2004: Teenage sniper Lee Boyd Malvo was sentenced in Virginia to life in prison.

Birthdays

Plumb (born 03/09/75)

Question of the Day

Conversation starters

Mar 8

If you could instantly play one instrument what would it be?

Mar 9

If you had one do over in life what would you redo?

Mar 10

What is your favorite fast food?

Christian

Mar 8

Who is Jesus? Is He the Son of God, as Christians have believed for more than 2,000 years—or is He just a man?

Mar 9

What is it about God that gives Christians confidence to trust, follow, and praise Him even in times of despair?

Mar 10

Are you rooted in the gospel?

Artist News & Stories

We Are Messengers frontman Darren Mulligan was talking about being Irish this week. Here is thoughts and the reason he does what he does as an Irishman in the USA.

<https://twitter.com/MessengersMusic/status/1632924687050104832?t=q472w1YwIALcd1DL9TEc3A&s=03>

The Hit's Deep Tour has meant a little change in **Cochren and Co's** eating habits. The band posted: Catering on the hits deep tour always spoils us. I mean we are used to eating gas station roller-dogs in the band van after shows.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CpdtZIEtfNX/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

A reminder from **Blessing Offor**. He posted: take a breath. Breathing is a microcosm of life. You have to let go of the last one before you can catch the next.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cpc812xgG7T/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Koryn Hawthorne is making her debut at the movies. She posted: Super excited to share the trailer for my very first movie! So grateful to be a part of this. Sometimes it takes a leap of faith to find your voice. This is streaming only on Peacock April 7th.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CpdFJaHtsJq/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Chicago found a unique way to celebrate the Hits Deep Tour's 6th time headlining the arena. **Tobymac** posted: you brought out all 6 Chicago Bulls NBA championship trophies and rings to welcome us...what a surprise! And then when we took the stage you showed UP....

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CpdRv6WLMdb/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Brandon Lake was celebrating the number 1 designation of his song Gratitude this week. He posted: I've always just loved writing songs for my church, but never did I ever think God would allow me to write them for an even bigger audience. I truly am beyond humbled and in absolute awe and wonder at how God, and you, have fanned the flame of "Gratitude." I don't celebrate myself with these little wins, I celebrate the God who cares enough about His kids to give us things we weren't brave enough to ask for.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CpdwcEHj4iC/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

New Music | Tours

NEEDTOBREATHE tweeted: Here's a cover of a song you oughta know by one of our favorites. Check out Dearly Departed-Shakey Graves cover.

<https://t.co/NsPdTN7HAI>

Cochren & Co. frontman **Michael Cochren** shared a Hits Deep tour tradition this week. He posted a picture of his wife Leah and shared: Turtleneck Sunday is a tradition on hits deep tour

<https://twitter.com/cochrenmusic/status/1632485280451100676?t=uZgb7dWn7GxxfedBvh1Tbw&s=03>

They will be together again this fall. **Mercyme** frontman **Bart Millard** posted: Together again. Attached was a picture of Bart and Crowder...together again this fall.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cpd9rLoNdKY/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Meme

Our Daily Bread: God, thank you for never leaving me alone.
<https://t.co/1ZttYiHTSs>

CCM Magazine: All are precious in His sight.
<https://t.co/uqCn655s7O>

CCM Magazine: Friends, moments, love, God....the best things in life are not things.
<https://t.co/uuoFU261GT>

CCM Magazine: Nothing will separate you from the love of God.
<https://t.co/EoNV3zjzrL>

Alistair Begg: "Only when we come to know the true and living God does the enjoyment of life's blessings feed into lasting joy."
<https://t.co/eSvZXrAUh7>

Programs | Devotionals

Program News

Greg Laurie: Exciting news! Jesus Revolution is going GLOBAL!

The dates are"

Singapore – March 23

Indonesia – April 10

Australia – April 20

New Zealand – April 20

This will be a full theatrical release in each location. More to come later.

<https://t.co/UqWPip88zK>

Devotionals

Mar 8

We cannot allow ourselves to worship God on Sunday and then let our hearts be captured by subtle, but powerful, false gods during the week. There is grace for this struggle. God isn't satisfied with moments of obedience, no, he wants to rule the thoughts, desires, motives and purposes of your heart.

NIV Luke 10:27...He answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

<https://twitter.com/PaulTripp/status/1631310072193097728?t=-1AEuZKyAVdgDZHddOVI4g&s=03>

We need to get rid of this me-first, what's-in-it-for-me mindset and start thinking biblically. We need to start asking what we can do to help others and serve others. We need to ask how we can learn to resolve conflicts and maintain the unity that is in the church. Instead of approaching church like a consumer looking to simply get in and get out every weekend, come in and use the gifts that God has given you. It can change your life, and it can certainly change the way you see the church.

<https://twitter.com/greglaurie/status/1631286500196270080?t=nFSxGY-rpTwPReTyISJtWQ&s=03>

Mar 9

When children learn to honor their parents, even despite their parents' many imperfections, they learn what it means to honor our perfect heavenly Father. Reverence for parents is an integral part of reverence for God.

<https://t.co/u1KIY8bliw>

For the believer, the darkest of nights will have a bright, sunny morning, if not in this life, in the life to come. You and I are never alone in the darkness, never left to make it on our own, because our Redeemer King is always with us. The darkness is not ultimate, your Savior is and he will win, ending the dark night of the soul forever.

John 8:12 NIV When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

<https://twitter.com/PaulTripp/status/1631655219493851136>

Mar 10

Weighed Down by a Guilty Conscience? There Is Hope. In Christ, and in Him alone, you can find forgiveness that is full, final, and free. There is a way to have your sins forgiven. That way is the Lord Jesus Christ, the true

and better sacrifice.
<https://t.co/LBEgABYJSF>

I've heard people say, "We don't need more head knowledge in the church today; we need heart knowledge." But the problem is not that we know too much! The head and the heart should not be pitted against each other. We need both. The heart that deeply knows AND loves God will bear the fruit of the Spirit, and overflow with joyful service to others. "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed [how happy!] is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8, ESV).
<https://t.co/sXeBSYIoWb>

Quote of the Day

Mar 8

Insight for Living: The more impossible the task, the greater the glory goes to God for pulling it off.

Mar 9

Paul David Tripp: The Christian life is not about grand heroic moments, but rather about faithfulness in 100,000 mundane moments of daily life.

Mar 10

Lysa TerKeurst: Asking why isn't unspiritual. But if asking why pushes us farther from God rather than drawing us closer to Him, it may be the wrong question.

Lists

7 Habits That Cost You Money

1. You commit "unnecessary spending" like gym memberships you don't use.
 2. Your tires aren't inflated - keeping your tires inflated can improve gas mileage up to 3%.
 3. You don't keep track of your change: it can add up over time!
 4. You throw out food. Don't over-buy produce and keep track of expiration dates.
 5. You don't take advantage of rebates.
 6. You only buy name brands. Buying store brands or generic can save you money.
 7. You neglect your car. Changing the oil and doing regular maintenance will save you in the long run.
- <https://www.onegoodthingbyjillee.com/7-habits-that-cost-you-money/>

The Top 10 Ways To Save Money When You're In A Bind

1. Shop Secondhand: From clothes to electronics...you'll pay a fraction of retail prices.
 2. Save On Groceries: Use coupons and start buying store brands or generic.
 3. Break Costly Habits: Take shopping apps off your phone, limit eating out or buying expensive specialty coffees.
 4. Save On Meds: Find out if there are generic versions or coupons and discounts to use.
 5. Be More Resourceful: Find things you could re-use or recycle.
 6. Use A Budgeting System: Methods like the envelope system can help you see what your spending and places you can cut.
 7. Save On Household Bills, like subscriptions or memberships you don't really use.
 8. Find little ways to save, even if it's \$5 here and there.
 9. Don't Waste Money: From frivolous purchases to interest charges and late fees, they all waste money.
 10. Find Hidden Cash: You might have items you can sell online or can collect items for a yard sale.
- <https://www.onegoodthingbyjillee.com/ways-to-downsize-and-save-money/>

6 Ways to Cope with Spring Allergies

1. Exercise outdoors in the afternoon when pollen counts are lower or go to an indoor gym.
2. Download a pollen count or allergy app to track with allergens are lower.
3. Take off your shoes and change clothes when you get home as to not track in pollen.
4. Change the filter in your HVAC system before the pollen season starts.
5. Add yogurt, fermented foods, and other sources of probiotics to your diet.
6. Vacuum and dust more regularly.

Facts of the Day

Mar 8

In 1789, members of the United States Congress were paid just \$6 a day, amounting to about \$900 a year (about \$30,000 a year today with inflation).

Mar 9

El Al, the national airline of Israel, serves only kosher food and beverages. They also do not operate flights during Shabbat (Friday evening to Saturday night).

Mar 10

The fuel in one tank of a Boeing 747 would allow a car to travel around the world 4 times

Religious News

Voice of the Martyrs:

MOZAMBIQUE: Pray for the reestablishment of a Christian school destroyed by Islamists.

TAJIKISTAN: Pray that Christians will find ways to gather, as churches are tightly regulated.

Arizona Christian University Pledges Action after School District Bans Student-Teachers Due to Faith

Days after the five-member governing board of the Washington Elementary School District in Arizona voted to ban student-teachers from Arizona Christian University from the district due to their commitment to traditional Christian values, the university's president has slammed the decision as "wrong" and "unlawful" and pledged to fight back. At a board meeting held on Feb. 23, school district officials recommended renewing a partnership with Arizona Christian University education students to engage classes as student-teachers and practicums that had existed for 11 years. The school board members, three of whom identify as members of the LGBT community, opted to nix the agreement, arguing that having student teachers with biblical values in the state's largest and one of the best elementary school districts would pose too much of a threat to LGBT students.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/arizona-christian-university-pledges-action-school-district-ban.html>

Supreme Court Declines to Hear Arguments in Atheists Lawsuit against City over Hosting Prayer Vigil

The United States Supreme Court has declined to hear an appeal in a case regarding a group of atheists suing a Florida city for allowing the police department to hold a prayer vigil with faith leaders after a mass shooting. In an orders list released Tuesday morning, the high court denied a petition to hear arguments in the case of City of Ocala, Florida v. Art Rojas, which centers on a lawsuit against officials for holding a prayer vigil in Ocala in 2014. Justice Neil Gorsuch issued a statement of support for the denial of the petition that was included in the orders list, in which he argued that there was "no need for the Court's intervention at this juncture." Gorsuch referenced the Supreme Court decision in Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, in which the high court ruled 6-3 that a public school district was wrong to punish a football coach for his practice of praying on the field after the end of games.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/scotus-declines-to-hear-atheists-lawsuit-over-ocala-florida-prayer-vigil.html>

Parents upset with Church of England School Reading Pro-Trans Book to 4-Year-Old Students

A couple is calling on the Church of England to do more to safeguard the beliefs of Christian parents after they withdrew their son from school on World Book Day, concerned that the text students were reading promoted harmful messages about gender identity. Stephen Evans and his wife, Joanne Evans, said that other parents at CofE St. Mary's Church of England Primary School in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, shared the same opinion about the book that the school had students engage with last Thursday when World Book Day was celebrated in the United Kingdom. The book in question is My Shadow is Pink by Scott Stuart. The book centers around a little boy who likes princesses and other things typically seen as intended for girls. Instead of a blue shadow, the boy has a pink one, and he learns to accept himself with the support of his dad. The story is told through rhyme, and the book uses the concept of everyone having colored shadows to represent the idea of gender identity.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/parents-object-church-of-england-school-read-pro-trans-book-to-4-year-olds.html>

Texas Tech Suspends Men's Basketball Coach over 'Racially Insensitive' Bible Quote about 'Slaves Serving Their Masters'

Texas Tech has suspended men's basketball head coach Mark Adams over what the university called a "racially insensitive" Bible quote about slaves and masters. In a statement Sunday, the university based in Lubbock, Texas, announced that on March 3, athletic director Kirby Hocutt was "made aware of an incident regarding a coaching session between Adams and a member of the men's basketball team." According to the university, while encouraging one of the members of the team to "be more receptive to coaching," the 66-year-old Adams "referenced Bible verses about workers, teachers, parents, and slaves serving their masters" in what Texas Tech

called "an inappropriate, unacceptable and racially insensitive comment." Following the incident, Adams "immediately addressed this with the team and apologized," the statement added.
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/texas-tech-suspends-mens-basketball-coach-after-bible-reference.html>

'Jesus Revolution' Filmmaker Explains Why They Chose Not to Share Lonnie Frisbee's Sexuality

Revivalist Lonnie Frisbee is featured in the new film "Jesus Revolution," which showcases how the flawed minister was used greatly during the Jesus Movement of the 1970s. The filmmakers said they intentionally chose not to address his struggles with homosexuality. In the movie, Pastor Greg Laurie and his wife, Cathe, best known for leading Harvest Christian Fellowship, represent a young, wayward generation. But after meeting Frisbee, a charismatic hippie street preacher, they find themselves at the church of Pastor Chuck Smith. Despite Frisbee's significant influence and leadership during the Jesus Movement and later Vineyard Church in Yorba Linda, he struggled with his faith, drug use and homosexuality. He died from AIDS at the age of 43. Co-director Brent McCorkle revealed why the Christian filmmakers chose not to dive into Frisbee's complicated sexuality. "During this era that we shot, we felt very very compelled and almost convicted to just be with Lonnie where he was at and not try to bring in other things." They wanted to stay true to the story of who Frisbee was in 1969 and 1970.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/jesus-revolution-filmmakers-on-avoiding-frisbees-sexuality.html>

Archaeological Discovery of Inscription Referencing King Darius of the Bible Is 'Not Authentic'

The Israel Antiquities Authority has clarified that what its archaeologists announced last week as a historic discovery — an inscription bearing the name of Persian King Darius the Great found at the Tel Lachish National Park in Israel — is "not authentic." Eylon Levy, the international media adviser to Israeli President Isaac Herzog, stumbled upon what appeared to be a 2,500-year-old potsherd with the inscribed letters of the ancient king, and he reported it to the IAA, The Jerusalem Post reported last week. The inscription reportedly read, "Year 24 of Darius," which dates back to 498 BCE, the newspaper said. However, Prof. Gideon Avni, the IAA's chief scientist, said in a statement that the organization takes full responsibility for the mistake.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/discovery-of-king-darius-inscription-not-authentic.html>

Former NFL Player Slams Public Schools at CPAC: 'Kids Must Learn What Sin Really Means'

A former NFL player is calling on parents to pull their children out of public schools unless they start teaching the Ten Commandments. Jack Brewer, a former defensive back who played for four NFL teams from 2002 to 2006, spoke at the Conservative Political Action Conference last Friday at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center just outside the nation's capital. Brewer, a supporter of former President Donald Trump who now works with the conservative America First Policy Institute Center for Opportunity, suggested that much of the problems that lead to the "rioting, looting and political violence in America" could be solved by "teaching the kids the basic Ten Commandments." He added, "We should be demanding every single public, private school give parents the option to give their kids the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He even urged schools to "bring the paddle back," referring to corporal punishment that has been abolished in most U.S. schools.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/ex-nfl-player-at-cpac-kids-must-learn-what-sin-really-means.html>

How should a Parent Respond if Their Gen Z Kid Rejects Christianity?

A Christian apologist and ministry leader recently laid out how parents should respond if their child tells them that they no longer believe in God. Apologist Jonathan Marrow spoke with Jason Jimenez, an author and the president of Stand Strong Ministries, on a Feb. 28 episode of the podcast "Challenging Conversations." The duo discussed how parents should respond to a child who has rejected Christianity. "The first thing you want to do is not overreact and freak out when they challenge your views. Now, this is hard, right? But, you can kind of freak out on the inside. You can kind of be disappointed and do all that on the inside," Marrow advised. "But on the outside, you're going to smile and you're going to say, 'Hey, thank you so much for sharing your thoughts on that. I really appreciate that. You can talk to us about that and share that.'" Having worked closely with students through his non-profit ministry organization Impact 360 Institute, Marrow shared some of the biggest issues that threaten faith among Gen Z. The generation is generally defined as those born between 1999 and 2015.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/apologist-lays-out-how-parents-should-respond-to-unbelieving-kids.html>

Actress Who Was Almost Aborted, Sex Trafficked Now Uses Platform to Empower Others

Actress Nicole Abisinio is the first to acknowledge she shouldn't even be alive. Before she was born, her father attempted to kill her pregnant mother because she refused to get an abortion. And after she was born, her mother was forced to go into hiding to protect her infant daughter's life. Throughout her young life and even to adulthood, Abisinio experienced shocking and unlikely events. She helped capture a predator who was targeting her and her friends, and later, survived being stalked and an attempted kidnapping and sex trafficking. It wasn't until Abisinio launched a successful career in Hollywood that she began to sense the deep emptiness in her life and need for a Savior, a feeling fueled by the deep darkness she saw around her. "I literally ran out of the

Cannes Film Festival in France from a Woody Allen premiere in this big handmade gown, like, 'I need to find a church.' I didn't even know what it meant, which is what's so funny about how the Holy Spirit works — I didn't even think I could find a church in France; I felt that I needed to get back to the U.S. to find a church."

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/actress-who-survived-sex-trafficking-attempt-now-empowers-others.html>

Iran Releases Pastor Imprisoned for 'Evangelizing,' Promoting 'Zionist Christianity'

Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, once sentenced to death in Iran for apostasy, was the third Christian convert recently released from prison as part of the government's annual amnesty marking the anniversary of the 1979 revolution. Originally sentenced to death in 2010 for leaving Islam, Nadarkhani was freed on Feb. 26, following the pardon and release earlier in the month of Hadi Rahimi and Zaman Fadaei, religious freedom advocates said. While welcoming the releases, they noted that those released had already served significant portions of their sentences in cases marred by legal irregularities even by Iranian standards. He was arrested again, along with his wife, in May 2016 when agents with the Ministry of Intelligence began raiding Christian homes and house churches in Rasht. In July 2016, the Revolutionary Court in Rasht charged Nadarkhani with "crimes against national security" and accused him of being a Zionist.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/iran-releases-pastor-yousef-nadarkhani-imprisoned-for-evangelizing.html>

Good News

Radio Station Raises Record-Breaking \$1.4 Million For Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital

Every February, a radio station in Baltimore hosts a "Radiothon" to raise money for Johns Hopkins Children's Center. This year the station raised more than \$1.4 million. Mix 106.5 held their 34th annual Radiothon on Feb. 23-24 to help children receiving treatment at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center - a nationally ranked, pediatric acute care children's hospital located in Baltimore, Maryland. Broadcasting from the hospital, DJ's shared stories of hope and inspiration from families and kids treated at JHCC. This year's Radiothon raised \$1,432,212.34, breaking the previous record of \$1,423,688.29 set in 2020.

<https://www.sunnyskyz.com/good-news/4964/Radio-Station-Raises-Record-Breaking-1-4-Million-For-Johns-Hopkins-Children-039-s-Hospital>

Micro-Preemie Born at 1lb-11oz is Now Thriving After Mom was Told He Would Not Survive

A mother who was told her 1-pound-11-ounce baby "would not survive" after arriving three months early now says he's defied the odds and is thriving. Saniah Poindexter was 19 when she discovered she was pregnant. She was having a normal pregnancy until 26 weeks later, when Saniah came home from college with a stomach ache and a sky-high temperature. Saniah was in active labor and her baby would arrive 14 weeks early. Born micro-premature, Kayden weighed just 1lb 11oz and was kept in an NICU ward for 65 days. But now he's been discharged from a Michigan hospital weighing 4-lbs 8-oz—and his mom says he's "thriving" at home. "He's defied the odds. He's doing really great, despite us being told differently," said Saniah.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/1-lb-11-oz-micro-preemie-is-now-thriving-at-4-months-old/>

Cat Credited with Alerting Rescuers about Man Who Fell Down Waterfall

A cat is being credited with helping raise the alarm about a man who had fallen down a waterfall on private property in El Dorado County. The incident happened back on the night of Feb. 21 in Pleasants Valley, CA. A man fell 30 feet down a seasonal waterfall into the Webber Creek drainage. Family soon noticed that the man was missing and a neighbor came to help in the search. It was at this point that the man's wife and neighbor started hearing noises from their outdoor cat, officials say. The cat then led the pair right to where the man fell. Rescuers found that the man had fallen into a few inches of water. He was carried about 400 yards out to a waiting ambulance and was then flown to the Sutter Roseville Medical Center. No details have been released about the man's current condition.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/sacramento/news/cat-helps-rescue-man-fell-down-waterfall-el-dorado-county/>

Woman Missing More than 30 Years and Thought to be Dead Found Living in Puerto Rico Nursing Home

A Pennsylvania woman who disappeared more than 30 years ago and was believed to be dead by her family was recently found living in a nursing home in Puerto Rico. Patricia Kopta, 83, was last seen in Pittsburgh in the summer of 1992. Her husband, Bob Kopta, reported her missing a few months later in the fall. At the time, he advised authorities that it wasn't uncommon for his wife to "drop out of sight for short periods." Police said they were first informed about the discovery of the missing woman when an agent from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and a social worker from Puerto Rico contacted them last year saying that they believed Patricia was living in an adult care home in Puerto Rico. INTERPOL and the social worker said Patricia was found wandering the streets and through the years she had "refused to ever discuss her private life or where she came from." In her advanced age, Patricia started revealing nuggets that would eventually spur those around her to contact Ross police, Kohlhepp said. Police determined the woman was in fact Patricia through a

nine-month-long process in which they compared DNA samples provided by her sister, Gloria Smith, and her nephew.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/04/us/woman-missing-for-30-years-found-in-puerto-rico/index.html>

Teens Rescued after Days Stranded in California Snowstorm

When his 17-year-old son and friend headed off for a 10-day trek in the Southern California mountains, Cesar Ramirez said he wasn't too worried. The teens — Riley Ramirez and Cole White — were avid hikers with ample food in their backpacks, a tent and snowshoes, plus extensive training and aspirations to join the military. But snow began pummeling the mountains east of Los Angeles by the foot-load and Ramirez lost contact with them through a tracking app. He called the San Bernardino County sheriff's department. They dispatched a helicopter to the boys' last known location, followed their foot tracks and spotted and rescued them. By then, Ramirez's son had lost his jacket to the wind, and their tent had broken, the father said. "They've told us, 'We were already convinced we were going to die,' " said Ramirez. The crew flew the teens to the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station, where they received medical attention, food, water, and a warm place until their parents arrived.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/teens-rescued-5-days-stuck-california-snowstorm-convinced-we-were-going-to-die/>

A Duo of 81-Year-Old Women Are on the Adventure of a Lifetime: Seeing the World in 80 Days

Two longtime friends are proving it's never too late to get out and see the world. Eighty-one year olds Sandy Hazelip and Ellie Hamby, inspired by Jules Verne's novel, "Around the World in 80 Days," are on a mission to see all seven continents, nine Wonders of the World and visit 18 countries in just over two and a half months. So far, they're making good progress: Hamby and Hazelip have set foot in Antarctica, and told CBS News that on Mar. 4, they saw the world from a plane flying over Mount Everest. The coronavirus pandemic and its restrictions forced them to delay their trip, but in 2023, the two finally got underway, packing light and traveling cheaply to see as much as possible.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/two-81-year-old-women-are-on-the-adventure-of-a-lifetime-seeing-the-world-in-80-days/>

Bald Eagle Rescued after Eating Rat Poison in Massachusetts

A well-documented bald eagle in eastern Massachusetts was in critical condition Monday after it was believed to have ingested rat poison. The female bald eagle, known as MK, was found on the ground in an Arlington cemetery, weak and unable to fly away after what exam results later suggested was anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning, the New England Wildlife Center said in a Facebook post. The center said such poisoning happens when a raptor eats a rodent that has ingested poison itself. The center said the eagle was "severely anemic, lethargic, and [barely] able to stand" on her own, though she had not suffered any broken bones. It also said her blood was clotting slower than normal. The center's veterinary team has been administering fluids, pain medications, oxygen and treatments to improve blood clotting.

<https://news.yahoo.com/bald-eagle-rescued-eating-rat-173636301.html>

Car Totaled in Suffolk County, VA—winds up in Ukraine, Helps Family of Mechanic Escape Russian Invasion

A woman on Long Island got rid of her Volkswagen after it was totaled following an accident, but what she didn't know was that her vehicle would end up saving lives half a world away. The car ended up in Ukraine, where it was fixed up and used to get a family out of the country and escape Russia's invasion. "Before I sent it off ...I put information in the glove box just in case someone took it, repaired it, and had a question about its history," GIA Savocchi said. The car records were retrieved from the glove box and used to track Savocchi down a year later. Because of the war, it got stuck on the ship and it took six months to be released. The new owner, a mechanic, fixed it up and tricked it out. "Literally the day after it was fixed, they hopped in the car and left, and he said your car gave us new life," Savocchi said. The family fled the war to the Czech Republic. The father of two messaged Savocchi saying "I gave her a second life and she gave me. I love this car."

<https://abc7ny.com/ukraine-volkswagen-repaired-family-saved/12905335/>

Florence and Her Cubs Give Hope That West African Lion Can Come "Roaring Back"

A lioness in one of the world's rarest lion populations has given birth to three cubs, new video footage shows, raising hopes that the critically endangered big cat can be saved from extinction. In contrast to their southern cousins, west African lions have almost completely disappeared. Scientists believe between 120 and 374 remain in the wild, their historic range reduced to four populations clinging on in Nigeria, Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso. In Niokolo-Koba national park in Senegal, just 29 remain in the forests that surround the tributary to the Gambia River, where they are threatened by poaching and habitat loss caused by farming. Now, new footage of the lioness and her three cubs has given conservationists hope for their survival.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/03/west-african-lion-senegal-cubs-save-from-extinction>

Livermore Woman Continues Her Late Daughter's Bucket List

There's a photo of a young Livermore girl with an ebullient smile that has traveled around the world. Scores of people have taken the same image to Niagara Falls, fields of poppies, even the Taj Mahal. One woman even sewed the photo into her wedding dress, and walked the girl down the aisle with her. That well-traveled photo is of Kristina Chesterman, a Granada High School graduate and Chico State nursing student who was killed by a drunk driver in 2013 at age 21. Not long after her death, her mother Sandra was cleaning out her apartment and found a handwritten bucket list inside a makeup bag that her daughter likely wrote in high school of everything she wanted to experience in life. Even if Chesterman and her family aren't able to check off every item, people around the world have. The story of the Kristina Chesterman bucket list went viral. People all over the world began completing items from the list, including the enterprising bride who sewed Kristina's photo into her wedding dress so that Kristina could "get married."

<https://patch.com/california/livermore/livermore-woman-continues-her-late-daughters-bucket-list>

Sacramento Zoo's New Giraffe Calf Named "Cheyenne" after Donor's Loved One

The Sacramento Zoo's newborn giraffe now has a name. An online auction was held to bid on naming the calf, who was born to Shani the Giraffe back in January. The contest ended on Tuesday with the winning bid being \$11,200, according to the zoo's website. On Wednesday, the zoo revealed the giraffe's name: Cheyenne. The zoo says the calf was named in memory of the donor's loved one. Officials have said that funds from the auction will be going toward the zoo's plans for a new park in Elk Grove.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/sacramento-zoo-newborn-giraffe-named-cheyenne/>

Man Creates Super Mario Snow Sculptures in Alpena, MI

Kurt Dzieszinski is the artist behind the Super Mario Sculptures, and he's taken advantage of the last couple big snowstorms in Alpena in order to create them. He packs the snow tight together and carves them in shapes of Mario himself as well as the mushrooms. Dzieszinski used ceramic paint for the sculptures and had to use a ladder to sculpt the Mario figure, as he says it is almost ten feet tall. His inspiration was wanting to put smiles on people's faces. "I just want to spread some light and cheer, and put a smile on kid's faces," said Dzieszinski. Dzieszinski says it's a physically straining activity, but appreciates people stopping by and enjoying the art. Dzieszinski says he has another idea for a new sculpture soon, but can't yet reveal what it is.

<https://www.wbkb11.com/man-creates-super-mario-snow-sculptures-in-alpena>

Family, Church Celebrate after Pastor Wrongly Declared Brain-Dead Returns Home

Ryan Marlow, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, was celebrated on Saturday as he returned home months after doctors wrongfully declared him brain-dead and almost harvested his organs. "Yesterday was such a beautiful day. Hundreds of people came by to show love and support and we are just humbled. Many dear friends and many we had never met in person but the Lord makes us brothers and sisters in Him," Marlow's wife, Meghan, revealed Sunday morning on a Facebook page called Ryan's Recovery that's dedicated to sharing updates on his recovery from a brain injury. Pastor Marlow, 37, was hospitalized last August due to a listeria infection that snowballed into a brain injury which led doctors to declare him brain dead later that month.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-who-was-wrongfully-declared-brain-dead-returns-home.html>

Florida 8-Year-Old Wins Cheer Competition after Team No-Shows, Performs Solo

An 8-year-old Florida girl performed at a cheer competition alone when her team did not show up and won first place. "I was scared about everything, and I was very nervous," Peyton Thorsby said. Peyton performed the routine alone in front of a crowd of a few hundred people at the Showcase of Championships cheer competition at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Despite her team being absent, Peyton did not want to let them down. She ended up with the first-place trophy, beating out two other teams.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/florida-8-year-old-wins-cheer-competition-team-no-shows-performs-solo>

Indiana Boy, 5, Belts Out Celine Dion's 'My Heart Will Go On' at Great-Grandma's Memorial Service

A five-year-old boy melted hearts as he showed love for his late great-grandmother by singing his favorite song, "My Heart Will Go On," at her celebration of life. Bentley Cunningham, a preschooler, loves to sing and especially enjoyed doing so with his nana, Diana Ginsberg. Ginsberg, Bentley's great-grandmother, had always loved the 1997 Celine Dion love song. After Ginsberg died of natural causes on Jan. 12, Bentley continued to sing the song in her memory and even attributed it to her. He would say the song "sounds like the voice of an angel" — and since Ginsberg died, she was that angel singing the song with him, he said. While everyone was preparing for Nana's celebration of life to take place in Indianapolis on Jan. 26, the stress started to overwhelm the family, but Bentley's singing around the house helped lighten the mood. Bentley even agreed to sing the song at the memorial event.

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/indiana-boy-5-belts-celine-dions-my-heart-will-go-great-grandmas-memorial-service>

Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

Two Britons Dressed as Ice Cream Break World Record at Jersey Marathon

A pair of British friends donned ice cream costumes and crossed the finish line of the Jersey Marathon at the same time, becoming co-holders of a Guinness World Record. Alan Falle and Scott Welsh earned the Guinness World Record for fastest marathon dressed as a sweet food (male) when they crossed the finish line together after 3 hours, 48 minutes and 12 seconds. Falle, 32, secretly applied for the record as a surprise for Welsh, 30, as a means of thanking him for helping with his recovery from an ACL injury. "Scott and I were both thrilled when confirmation arrived that we'd obtained the record, and we hope it will stay in place for some time! It's something unique that we can both be proud of," Falle told Guinness World Records.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/Guinness-World-Records-ice-cream-marathon/5881678119241/

Loose Caiman Found Wandering Philadelphia Park

Animal rescuers in Philadelphia said a report of an alligator wandering in a local park led to the rescue of an abandoned caiman. The Animal Care & Control Team of Philadelphia, aka ACCT Philly, said personnel responded to FCR Park on Sunday on a report of a loose alligator in the area. The group captured the reptile, which was later determined to be a caiman, a relative of the alligator native to Mexico and Central and South America. ACCT Philly said in a Facebook post that the 3-foot caiman is believed to be a pet that was abandoned by its owner when it grew to be too large.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/loose-caiman-Philadelphia-FDR-Park/3731678125535/

Swamp Monkeys Briefly Escape Enclosure at St. Louis Zoo

Missouri's St. Louis Zoo said a pair of swamp monkeys briefly escaped from their enclosure before being captured in an area inaccessible to the public. Zoo spokesman Billy Brennan said the habitat for the swamp monkeys, a species native to the swamp forests of Central Africa, was left unlocked during routine maintenance on the zoo's Primate House Saturday morning, allowing the two animals to escape. Missouri's St. Louis Zoo said a pair of swamp monkeys briefly escaped from their enclosure before being captured in an area inaccessible to the public.

Zoo spokesman Billy Brennan said the habitat for the swamp monkeys, a species native to the swamp forests of Central Africa, was left unlocked during routine maintenance on the zoo's Primate House Saturday morning, allowing the two animals to escape.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/St-Louis-Zoo-swamp-monkeys-escape/9611678118431/

Lioness Tries Hiding from Elephant, Gets Sprayed

A lioness relaxing at a waterhole was unexpectedly chased off in a rather funny lioness and elephant encounter. The comical sighting was captured on an Africam trail camera that is placed at Naledi Game Lodge in the Balule Game Reserve in South Africa. Trail cameras are a relatively new way for viewers from around the world to virtually connect with Africa. Often, these cameras are frequented by plains game and birds. On rare occasions, predators make appearances. On this particular day, a lioness was lounging behind a small stone well, enjoying the warmth of the sun and the peacefulness of the bush. Little did she know, she was about to have an encounter she would never forget!

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/safrica-Elephant-sprays-lion-South-Africa/9481678113260/

Florida Man, 60, Does 3,264 Pushups in 1 Hour to Break World Record

A 60-year-old Florida man bested a Guinness World Record when he completed 3,264 pushups in 1 hour. Rob Stirling said he decided to take on the Guinness World Record for most pushups in 1 hour (male) after learning that Australian Daniel Scali set the total at 3,182 in April 2022. Stirling said he had already unofficially broken the record during a conference in Miami, so he decided to make an official attempt, setting his personal goal at 3,200. The athlete ended up beating his own goal with 3,264 pushups in the allotted time. He said video from his successful attempt is now being submitted to Guinness World Records for official verification.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/Guinness-World-Records-most-pushups-one-hour/5721678131485/

Suspected Burglar inside New Brunswick Home Was a Panicked Deer

A New Brunswick couple who initially thought a burglar had broken into their home discovered the invader was actually a panicked deer. Ray and Katie O'Donnell said they arrived at their Hampton home from a trip to the grocery store to find a window had been broken. The couple initially thought there was a burglar inside, but quickly discovered the culprit was a deer that made its way to the basement. The couple's son, Colin O'Donnell, came to the house with a friend to help usher the animal out of the house. O'Donnell posted a video to Facebook

documenting the attempts to eject the trespasser. A Department of Natural Resources officer soon arrived at the home and was able to encourage the deer to run up the stairs and out the door.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/03/canada-deer-crashes-through-New-Brunswick-home/8001677878270/

'Cruelty-Free' Circus Replaced Animals with Holograms

A new spectacle is taking over the tented world of acrobats, clowns and juggling entertainers. And while it may have a trunk and tusks, it weighs absolutely nothing. Circuses, once known for showcasing elephants in all their heft are now presenting a much lighter creature — a 3D hologram. The holographic figures are custom-built for the circus using 3D animations, photography and virtual rendering. The system of 11 digital laser projectors positioned around the stage flash animations onto a circular net hoisted up for each performance. The entire light show is operated by one person, and it takes about 10 people to take down the metallic netting to make room for the other performers, including acrobats, clowns and dancers.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/02/28/hologram-circus-animals-roncalli/>

Loose Python Found Behind Refrigerator in 29th Floor New Jersey Apartment

Animal rescuers in New Jersey are trying to find the owner of a piebald ball python found by a surprised resident who peeked behind their fridge. The Liberty Humane Society said the snake was found behind the refrigerator in a Jersey City resident's apartment. The snake, initially mistaken for an albino corn snake, was taken to the Liberty Humane Society, where it was identified as a piebald ball python. The snake, dubbed Banana by rescuers, was found on the 29th floor of the apartment in the Newport district, the humane society said in a Facebook post. "This is a socialized, domestic snake and is likely someone's escaped pet," the post said. Rescuers said Banana will be put up for adoption if no owner is identified within 7 days.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/piebald-ball-python-29th-floor-New-Jersey-apartment/1871678133718/

Nature-Loving Grandma Stages One-Woman Protest to Protect Tree Due to Be Felled By Local Government

A disabled, nature-loving grandmother staged a one-woman protest to get a stay of execution for a healthy willow tree about to be chopped down. Workers arrived in the neighborhood on Tuesday, where Virginia Hanley has lived since 2007. When she looked out the window, she was shocked to see workers preparing to chop the tree down, after the local Council decided to remove the 61-year-old willow due to issues at a nearby property. The woman said they were under orders from the Borough Council and the tree was set to be gone in four hours. Grabbing her walking stick, a chair, and quilt, the 70-year-old bundled up for the cold and planted herself at the foot of the tree. Ms. Hanley was told that the Council assumed the willow had caused a neighbor's porch and house to subside after their insurance company inspected the property and blamed the tree. But Virginia's home had experienced the same phenomenon and, she explained in a video below, when experts dug up her home they said it wasn't the willow tree. But, thanks to Virginia, at the moment the old willow is still standing.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/grandma-stages-one-woman-protest-to-protect-tree-due-to-be-felled-in-kent/>

9-Year-Old's Hula Hoop Skills Break Three World Records

A 9-year-old hula hooper from Ontario put her skills to the test and broke three Guinness World Records in London. Mamathi Vinoth, a fourth-grader from Mississauga, was invited by Guinness World Records to visit London and attempt a trio of hoop-related world records. Vinoth successfully set the records for most hops while spinning a hula hoop on the ankle in 1 minute, 110; most hula hoop rotations around knees while in a dancer pose in 30 seconds, 62; and most hula hoop rotations around the knees on inline skates in 30 seconds, 76.

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2023/03/06/canada-Guinness-World-Records-9-year-old-hula-hoop/4201678130604/

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