MARCH SignsWatch

God in the Pledge of Allegiance

In February 2014, the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit against New Jersey’s Matawan-Aberdeen School District on behalf of an unnamed atheist couple who said that the words under God in the Pledge of Allegiance are discriminatory and violate Article 1 of the state’s constitution. Paragraph 3 of Article 1 states in part that “no person shall be . . . compelled to attend any place of worship contrary to his faith and judgment.” Samantha Jones, another student in the school district, together with her parents, countersued. They were represented in court by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. School district officials stated that they were simply following a state law that requires schools to have a daily recitation of the pledge. Judge David Bauman ruled in favor of Samantha and her parents. —Fox News

Doctor-assisted suicide OK in Canada

On February 6, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled unanimously that adults in grievous, unending pain have a right to end their lives with a doctor’s help. Twenty-
two years earlier, the same court had ruled against assisted suicide. Canada’s criminal code forbids assisted suicide, but the court said that prohibition no longer applies “to the extent that [it] prohibit[s] physician-assisted death for a competent adult person who (1) clearly consents to the termination of life and (2) has a grievous and irremediable medical condition . . . that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual.” Other jurisdictions that allow physician-assisted suicide include Belgium and the U.S. states of Washington and Oregon. Critics of the court’s ruling objected that a physician could be held criminally responsible for someone’s death without a warrant from a judge.—Globe and Mail

Daring to Ask for More

If you are looking for keys to answered prayer or success in ministry, or if you are tired of just getting by spiritually and long for more in your walk with God, Daring to Ask for More is exactly what you need.

Daring to Ask for More will challenge you to recognize the unlimited possibilities of prayer. Put the principles into practice and your life will change!

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Atheist sells Bible app

Trevor McKendrick claims to be an atheist. However, he’s also an app designer, and when he found a gap in the app market for a Spanish version of the Bible, he developed one for about $500. And the market has proved to be quite lucrative: His sales are earning him $100,000 a year! “I’m selling this thing I truly believe is fiction,”
he says, and he feels a bit guilty about it—but so far he hasn’t stopped. —Christian

**Concern about religious extremism in Muslim countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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**Obesity rates reach historic highs in more US States**

“Based on Federal data, rates of adult obesity increased in six U.S. states and fell in none last year, and in more states than ever - 20 - at least 30% of adults are obese . . . these numbers suggest the problem may be worsening despite widespread publicity about the nation's obesity epidemic. . . “-Reuters

To meet this growing crisis *Signs of the Times*® has prepared a special issue of Life Matters called *Lose Weight, Feel Great*. It offers advice and encouragement for people who need your help.

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Mexicans persecuted for their faith

In 2012, 12 Protestant families living in Buenavista Bahuitz in Mexico’s Chiapas state were forced to leave their homes and lands unless they converted to Catholicism. The Protestants appealed to the state government, which negotiated with village leaders to permit their return. Government officials assured the Protestants that their freedom of religion would be protected. However, when the Protestants, accompanied by state officials, tried to return to their homes this past January 20, they were denied reentry unless they paid a high fine. The Protestants refused. Religiously motivated crimes in Mexico tend to be ignored. People who destroy someone’s home and claim that their action was religiously motivated are allowed to get away with it.—Christian Headlines

Site of Jesus’ trial found?

Tourists to Jerusalem are now being treated to what many archaeologists believe is the place where Jesus was tried before Pilate. Fifteen years ago, the Tower of David Museum decided to expand, and they began digging a foundation at a site adjacent to the museum. Soon they discovered ancient remains, and as they kept digging they found what they believe was Herod’s palace. Visiting Roman prefects like Pilate would conduct trials at that location during the time they spent in Jerusalem, and it seems most likely that this is where Jesus would have appeared before the Roman governor.—Washington Post
“I did not die. 
I did not go to heaven.”

—Alex Malarkey, who, at the age of six, almost died in a car accident that left him a quadriplegic. With his father’s help, he wrote a book, The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven: A True Story, about a near-death experience he said he had after the accident. However, he recently recanted his story.