

# Macedonian Call

## November 2018

Happy Thanksgiving



With the attempted mail bombings and the terrible Anti-Semitic shootings in Pittsburgh garnering most major news coverage last month, there was one disturbing story that remained under the radar of most Americans. During the third week in October The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) upheld a conviction against an Austrian woman who called the Islamic prophet Muhammed a “pedophile.” According to the Associated Press, the woman convicted is in her late 40’s and has only been identified as E.S. She was charged for comments she made in 2009 at a seminar for Austria’s far-right Freedom Party, during which she said that the prophet Muhammed’s relationship with his wife Aisha constituted pedophilia. Aisha is usually understood to have been six or seven years old when she married the prophet, and nine or ten years old at the time of consummation. E.S. has said that her comments were intended to spark debate and fell within her rights to freedom of speech. She was charged in 2011 by a Viennese court for disparaging religious doctrines. Upon conviction, she was fined 480 euros plus court costs. Her case was appealed and upheld twice in Austrian courts. The ECHR supported the decisions of the Austrian courts to uphold the conviction against E.S., which they said balanced the “right to freedom of expression with the right of others to have their religious feelings protected, and served the legitimate aim of preserving religious peace in Austria.” This conviction demonstrates that European governments and their courts are buckling under the pressure of Islamic law, namely Shari’a. Shari’a is based on the Qur’an, the hadith and ijma’ (the consensus of the community).

Why is this so disturbing? Well, it’s because the conviction upheld by the ECHR is eerily similar to that of a recent conviction in Pakistan. In Pakistan, Asia Bibi, a 53-year-old Christian woman, has been on death row since 2010. In 2009 in Punjab, two Muslim women accused Bibi, a mother of five children, of polluting a cup by drinking from it on a hot summer day. In the heat of argument, Bibi allegedly said to the Muslim women: “Jesus had died on the cross for the sins of mankind” and asked, “What did your Prophet Muhammad ever do to save mankind?” In Pakistan, which enforces the most severe form of blasphemy law and where religious minorities are frequent targets, making a blasphemous comment is itself considered a punishable act. So, Bibi was quickly arrested on the charge of blasphemy and was sentenced to death in 2010. She appealed to Pakistan’s Supreme Court. The court reviewed her appeal in early October of this year, but decided to postpone making any verdict indefinitely amid protests led by a hard-line Islamic party, which threatens “terrible consequences” if Bibi is allowed to live and flee to another country. So just like Pakistan, the ECHR ruled that a blasphemous comment is itself a punishable act because it may disturb “religious peace.” In both instances, freedom of expression was scrubbed. The statements of E. S. (a citizen of a civilized European nation) and Bibi (a believer in a third-world Islamic nation) were deemed blasphemous of Muhammad. It’s only a matter of time before our court systems are tested by such unreasonable laws. Situations like these deserve our attention and prayers. ~ Pastor Randy

(Sources: catholicnewsagency.com, thefederalist.com, accessed 10/30/18)

\*Note: Oct. 30, 2018 Asia Bibi was acquitted. She plans to leave Pakistan.



### ACO Backpacks 2018

Everyone who signed up to complete a backpack for the 3rd graders at Glade Elementary School in Cowen, WV please have your backpacks turned in to the ACO Room as soon as possible. Remember to label your backpacks Girl or Boy. You can find these labels in the ACO Room along with some supplies if you would like to use some.



Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for

“Christians Actively Reaching Everyone.”

We have a meal each C.A.R.E. Night beginning at 6:00 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm. This month C.A.R.E. Night is November 14th. Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry.

**Men’s Meeting**  
**Saturday, Nov. 17th in the Fellowship Hall @ 7:00 am**  
**All men are invited to enjoy a light breakfast, mission and ministry updates, prayer and a brief Bible study.**

**Region 8 Men’s Worship Rally**  
**FBC Hildebran**  
**Monday, November 19th**  
**Meal 6:15 pm—Worship 7:00 pm**  
**Missions, Music, Testimony, & a Spiritual challenge to be the men God created us to be!**



**Journey Through the Story-line of Scripture in Sunday School @ 9:45 am. We have classes for everyone nursery through senior adults**



Hello Macedonia Church Family,

God is good through every trial and victory. No matter the circumstance, He is at work and faithful. I know many of you have gone through difficult things that I could not even imagine facing and during those tough times, you have continued to trust in the Lord. It is a blessing to see God work in people’s lives, to hear the testimonies of His mercy and faithfulness in the toughest of situations. When you share your story of God working in your life, you bless others with hope during tough times. When you tell them that you never thought there was a way, but God made a way. When you admit you thought all was lost, but God showed up and changed everything. When you say I lost it all, but God has given me peace and joy in the midst of sorrow. When you testify of what God has done, you testify of the hope that is only found in Jesus. You glorify God and you point others to the provider of their greatest need. Testify of His goodness, share what He has done in your life because it helps others and glorifies Him. “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1, NKJV)  
~ Pastor Jeremy

**Hanging of the Christmas Green**

**Sunday, November 25th**

**6:30 pm**



**Sunday Evenings**  
**@ 6:00 pm**

**Weekly Youth Bible**  
**Study Wednesday**  
**@ 6:30 pm**



**AWANA – Approved Work-**  
**men Are Not Ashamed**  
**2 Timothy 2:15**

Awana Clubs reach kids through energetic game activities, Bible-based teaching, Bible memorization and small group time with friends.

**AWANA Clubs meet Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the**  
**Worship Center**

**3 years through 6th grade**



**All Children Pre-K—**  
**6th Grade join us for**  
**Christmas Program**  
**Practice**

**“It All Happened in the Country”**  
**Every Wednesday Night @ 6:30**

**Children’s Church** is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on November 4th, 11th & 25th during our morning worship service.



I think I have said every month, Wow! Can you believe it is May, or August, or whatever month it happened to be! But as I write this article today I have to say, Wow! Can you believe it’s November 2018!! Time is going so fast it will seem like just next month and it will be November 2025!!! But you want to know a secret? It still ticks off one second at a time. Tick tock, Tick tock, one second at a time. That means that even though there are different time zones, still the whole world moves to the same tick tock, tick tock. 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes an hour, 24 hours per day, and well you get the point.

Psalm 90:12 says, *Teach me to number my days, that I may gain a heart of wisdom.*

Colossians 4:5-6, *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders (nonchristians); make the most of every opportunity (second).*

Be thankful for every day our precious Lord gives to you and make the most of every second. As William J. Toms said, “Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some person ever reads.” Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy some Turkey!  
~ Pastor Joe

**JOY Ministry Weekly Bible Study**  
**Thursdays at 11:00 am**

**JOY Ministry Trip**  
**Saturday, Nov. 24th 3:30 pm**  
**Narroway Productions—Fort Mill, SC**

