

SALT & LIGHT

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MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

- Medicaid Funding Not for Abortion
- Will US Codify Sanctions on Iran?

National

MEDICAID FUNDING NOT FOR ABORTION

The Supreme Court was divided in April over whether a state can block Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood, in a technical interpretation over healthcare choices. Federal law prohibits taxpayer money from going to fund most abortions. *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic* concerns whether the federal Medicaid Act confers a "right" to choose a specific medical provider. According to Liberty Counsel, the Medicaid Act states that patients can choose "any qualified provider" from those the state has qualified. Ultimately, the case could protect states from lawsuits when they disqualify Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid programs. "The people in this state do not want their tax money to go to that organization," said Republican South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster. "[T]he decision of this court will be that the people of South Carolina have the right to make this decision for themselves." Senior Counsel and VP of Appellate Advocacy with Alliance Defending Freedom, John J. Bursch, called the case "pivotal."

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 144:15; Proverbs 14:34.

PRAY: Medicaid tax dollars will not be used for abortion.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Senior Counsel John J. Bursch, thanking him for fighting to stop tax dollars from funding abortion. Senior Council John J. Bursch, Alliance Defending Freedom: 15100 N. 90th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/supreme-court-divided-over-state-effort-defund-planned-parenthood/>

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/supreme-court-south-carolina-defund-planned-parenthood/>

WILL US CODIFY SANCTIONS ON IRAN?

As reported in *The Washington Free Beacon*, some members of Congress are mounting an effort to codify the President's "maximum pressure" campaign on Tehran. The 10-bill legislative package would sanction Tehran's leadership, cut off access to cash, and strangle

the regime's regional terror proxies. This includes "the toughest Iran sanctions package ever proposed by Congress," says the Republican Study Committee (RSC). Committee Chairman Rep. August Pfluger affirms, "We have an extreme sense of urgency." An RSC fact sheet surmises together the bills "would gut Iran's ability to fund terrorism throughout the region, sanction the Supreme Leader of Iran," and compel future presidents to fully "enforce sanctions on Iran's oil sales." *The Beacon* continues that while the administration "has already issued many executive orders reinstating intense economic pressure on Tehran, a future administration could easily undo them by executive order. Locking in these initiatives legislatively would make it more difficult for future administrations to ease economic pressure on Tehran." The bills look to have a good path in the House.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 22:2-3; Daniel 2:21.

PRAY: Congress codifies sanctions on Iran.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to RSC Chair, Rep. August Pfluger, thanking him for working to fight against terrorism. The Honorable August Pfluger, United States House of Representatives: 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-4311.

<https://tinyurl.com/5xuhmk2e>

<https://thenationaldesks.com/news/fact-check-team/republicans-push-for-toughest-sanctions-on-iran-yet-terrorism-middle-east-of-sales-via-bahrain-hamas-hezbollah-photo-2>

EDAN ALEXANDER, WE KNOW YOUR NAME

Alabama's Coach Bruce Pearl says he is using the spotlight of the Auburn Tigers Final Four run to draw attention to the last American hostage believed to be alive in Hamas captivity. "It just bothers me tremendously that people are gonna pay attention to a basketball coach winning a basketball game when we have an American held hostage in Gaza, named Edan Alexander." Pearl continued, "I just felt compelled to say his name [at a press conference] when I knew everybody was listening." Edan was born in Rockville, Maryland. He joined the Israeli Defense Forces after high school and was taken captive during Hamas's October 7 massacre. Edan has been seen in Hamas propaganda videos. Pearl said that he hopes President Donald Trump is close to a deal that will bring home the remaining 59 hostages in Hamas captivity. Despite having a different religion from most of his athletes, Pearl said they all connect over being children of Abraham and talk about God "every single day." Pearl credited his team's success to God.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3; Zechariah 14:3.

PRAY: God brings remaining hostages home alive.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Coach Bruce Paul thanking him for reminding Americans that U.S. hostage Eden Alexander remains to be freed from captivity. Basketball Head Coach Bruce Paul, Auburn Athletics Complex, 392 Donahue Drive, Auburn, AL 36849.

<https://tinyurl.com/5967jsy6>

<https://www.offthepress.com/auburn-coach-at-final-four-raises-awareness-of-american-hostage-in-gaza/>

STROLLING INTO ISRAELI HISTORY

A three-year-old Israeli girl found a Canaanite amulet dating back some 3,800 years at the site of Tel Azeka,

one of the most important cities in the Judean Lowlands. Ziv Nitzan, was hiking with her family at the foot of the hill where the archaeological site stands. While strolling along a dirt path scattered with gravel, Ziv picked up what appeared to be a small stone. Archaeologists later determined the stone was a Canaanite scarab (a beetle from the Scarabaeidae family) from the Middle Bronze Age. Scarab amulets trace their origins to ancient Egypt, where beetles were revered as sacred symbols of renewal. Egyptians believed these insects embodied new life, as they laid their eggs inside the dung balls they rolled bringing life from decay. "Scarabs were used in this period as seals and as amulets," Dr. Daphna Ben-Tor, an expert in ancient amulets and seals at The Israel Museum, said in a statement. "They were found in graves, in public buildings, and in private homes. Sometimes they bear symbols and messages that reflect religious beliefs or status."

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:22; James 1:17.

PRAY: God reveals Himself through discovered artifacts.

ACTION: For a Prayer and Action Meeting, research Israeli artifacts and discuss these faith-affirming finds. Visit <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/dig/azekah/> for artifact suggestions.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/three-year-old-girl-finds-canaanite-seal-where-bible-says-david-battled-goliath/>

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/3-year-old-picks-up-beautiful-stone-discovers-3-800-year-old-scarab-amulet-in-israel>

U.S. CHALLENGED BY DECREASING ROLE OF GOD

Americans are minimizing God's role and influence in their lives with only 40% believing He exists or influences human lives. Fewer American adults put God at the center of their lives, view their relationship with Him as important, or rely on Him for daily guidance, according to the latest findings from researcher Dr. George Barna and the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. Findings indicate this shift is causing loss of reliance on God. Only 16% of adults in America say God is the most important element of their life and only 31% claim God is actively involved in their lives. A second research report from the Cultural Research Center shows only 16% of self-proclaimed Christians believe in the Trinity. Dr. George Barna commented, "God created the world, He gave us life, and He remains King of that domain...despite two centuries of irrefutable blessings to America, over the last three decades significant and growing numbers of Americans have questioned or outright rejected His authority and His life principles."

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 4:17; Colossians 1:16-17.

PRAY: Americans will renew faith in God.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Dr. George Barna, thanking him for raising awareness about America's faith crisis.

Dr. George Barna, Arizona Christian University Worldview Assessment: 1 West Firestorm Way, Glendale, AZ 85306.

<https://georgebarna.com/2025/04/minimizing-the-role-of-god/>

<https://georgebarna.com/2025/04/most-americans-including-most-christian-churchgoers/>

BRINGING BALANCE TO TARIFFS

President Donald Trump announced April 3 as "Liberation Day" when America will be liberated from asymmetrical (unbalanced), or arbitrary, tariffs. The Administration imposed tariffs on 180 countries and territories to balance the trade system and increase job opportunities for Americans. America has not run a trade surplus for 50 years. Asymmetrical tariffs began in the postwar period when America was affluent and powerful. Other countries across multiple continents were in shambles. America helped carry their burden by taking trade deficits. Since 1975, countries have imposed tariffs on American products without reciprocal (export-import balanced) tariffs. The tariff plan has been met with a mixed response. Countries that negotiated a tariff with the United States were given a 90-day pause and lower reciprocal tariffs. Countries like China have seen tariff increases. President Trump announced to China on social media, "[B]ased on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets, I am hereby raising the tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125%, effective immediately."

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 25:35-38; Romans 13:6-7.

PRAY: God heals America's economy.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to President Donald Trump, encouraging him to continue to protect the interests of Americans. President Donald J. Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/04/04/donald-trumps-trade-parity-golden-age-explained/>; <https://tinyurl.com/3md46d8x>

SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY MOMENT:

NOTE: Ministry Moment is for educational purposes only. The information offered by organizations is from their websites and should not be used as a substitute for your research.

PreBorn! Dan Steiner – Founder

"Lord, what can I do?" This is what Dan Steiner asked himself as he thought of the 800,000 babies dying by abortion each week. Thus PreBorn! was born with the mission to glorify Jesus Christ by equipping pregnancy clinics to save babies. PreBorn! is a non-profit, pro-life organization that supports life-affirming pregnancy clinics to reach women considering abortion. The ministry uses digital marketing strategies to connect with these women, offer free ultrasounds, and provide clinics with vital grants for equipment and training. All services are free. Motivated by a desire to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ advanced, PreBorn! firmly believes prayer is a powerful tool and calls on God's strength to fight for the unborn. PreBorn! clinics lead the nation in the number of visitors who come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. When clinics have the necessary resources, they often see an increase of up to 370% in salvations while also receiving cash grants from PreBorn!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:13; Romans 1:16.

PRAY: Parents choose life for their preborn children.

ACTION: Hold a diaper drive at your church for a local faith-based pregnancy care center.

<https://preborn.com/>