

# Churches Confront 'Raw Trauma' in Shadow of 'Forgotten' War

By Slavic Gospel Association | [www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org)

LOVES PARK, Ill., Sept. 28, 2021 /Christian Newswire/ -- Churches in the first-ever country to adopt Christianity as its national religion are confronting "the rawest imaginable trauma" in the wake of a "forgotten" war.

With the news dominated by Afghanistan -- and the recent focus on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in the U.S. -- the victims of the lesser-known Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict continue to suffer out of the media spotlight.

The 44-day war last fall -- the latest clash in a long-running conflict over territory -- left at least 6,500 dead and uprooted more than 30,000 Armenians. More than 2,700 lost their lives on the Azerbaijan side.

'Lament' Grips Grieving Families

"The grief is hard to des-

cribe," said one pastor partnering with Illinois-based mission agency Slavic Gospel Association (SGA, [www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org)). "We have heard the lament. The word 'love' seems to freeze in the hearts of people who've lost their father or mother, son or daughter, with some having lost (their) whole family."

Another pastor said two sisters, ages 15 and 17, were killed in the most recent bombing. The oldest was engaged to be married.

Experiencing 'Rawest' Trauma

"While nearly all the attention right now is on Afghanistan, the intense suffering of thousands of fragile families in Armenia and Azerbaijan has gone virtually unnoticed by the outside world," said SGA president Michael Johnson.

"On both sides, they're experiencing the rawest imaginable trauma." SGA provides humanitarian aid through a network of local churches in the land-locked nation of Armenia, bordering the nations of Iran and Turkey, as well as Mt. Ararat -- where Noah's Ark landed, according to the biblical account.

Local churches partnering with SGA are delivering food to hungry families, uprooted from their homes -- while church workers pray with neighbors still grieving in the war zone.

Consoling the Heartbroken

"Pastors and church members who've lost their own children are consoling their heartbroken neighbors, and sharing the hope of the Gospel with them," said Johnson, who just visited



HEALING RAW TRAUMA OF 'FORGOTTEN' WAR: Michael Johnson, president of Illinois-based Slavic Gospel Association (SGA, [www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org)), talks with people still suffering raw trauma in the aftermath of the "forgotten" war in the former Soviet nations of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Partnering with local churches, SGA brings aid and comfort.

Armenia. "In the first-ever country to adopt Christianity as its national religion in around 300 A.D., the church is still very much alive and growing rapidly. This summer, 10,000 children attended church-run Christian camps."

The organization's Immanuel's Child outreach provides Christmas gifts and Bibles -- and shares the love of God -- with

thousands of traumatized and needy children, including children living in orphanages.

One orphan who participated several years ago in Immanuel's Child -- now a young Armenian adult who fought in the most recent conflict -- told how he hid in a barn under a pile of hay to elude capture.

"The people of Armenia -- and Azerbaijan -- con-

tinue to suffer immensely from the devastating impact of the war last year that many in the West weren't even aware was happening," Johnson said. "We're asking churches here in America to consider ways they can help their brothers and sisters, and to pray specifically for those who've lost everything."

SGA, [www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org) +++

## Hospital System Announces It Will Deny Lifesaving Transplants for Unvaccinated Patients

By: Steven Ertelt | [Lifenews.com](http://Lifenews.com)

A Colorado health system has announced it will deny transplants to unvaccinated patients, which could potentially put millions of Colorado residents' lives at risk if the need a transplant to save their lives.

And for one Colorado resident, her decision to not get the COVID vaccine has resulted in her getting rejected for a kidney transplant.

UCHealth, a Colorado-based hospital system affiliated with the liberal University of Colorado, has made the decision to deny organ transplants to unvaccinated patients in "almost all situations."

"In almost all situations, transplant recipients and living donors at UCHealth are now required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in addition to meeting other health requirements and

receiving additional vaccinations," a spokesperson for UCHealth said in a statement to The Hill. The health care system made the decision supposedly to protect patients -- saying patients who receive an organ transplant are at "significant risk for COVID-19." "This is why it is essential that both the recipient and the living donor be vaccinated and take other precautions prior to undergoing transplant surgery," the health system's statement explained. "Surgeries may be postponed until patients take all required precautions in order to give them the best chance at positive outcomes."

The health system is not giving patients the option to sign a waiver acknowledging the risks associated with organ transplant. And the hospital appears

to make no exception for patients who have already had and recovered from COVID who now have significant antibodies that will protect them from the vaccine nor does UC Health admit that vaccinated patients can still become infected with COVID in breakthrough cases.

A local state representative has highlighted how the decision is already having disastrous effects for patients. The Blaze has more:

The rules made headlines on Tuesday after Rep. Tim Geitner (R-Colo.) announced that the health system denied a kidney transplant to an area woman because she did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a statement, Geitner called the practice "distasteful."

He shared a letter that he said the unnamed patient

reportedly received last week from the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

In its letter, the health system said:

The transplant team at University of Colorado Hospital has determined that it is necessary to place you inactive on the waiting list. You will be inactivated on the list for non-compliance by not receiving the COVID vaccine. You will have 30 days to begin the vaccination series. If your decision is to refuse COVID vaccination you will be removed from the kidney transplant list. You will continue to accrue waiting time, but you will not receive a kidney offer while listed inactive. Once you complete the COVID vaccination series you will be reactivated on the kidney transplant list pending any other changes in your health condition.

The politics surrounding COVID and the vaccines has apparently reached such an absurd point in the Rocky Mountain state that now vaccination status could determine whether you live or die. That's the opposite of health care and is essentially the denial of lifesaving medical treatment that abrogates the right to life.

## San Antonio Men's Rehab Center Serves Men with Addiction & Life-Controlling Issues

By Adult And Teen Challenge of Texas San Antonio Men's Rehab Center

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Sept. 15, 2021 /Christian Newswire/ -- Adult and Teen Challenge of Texas, San Antonio Men's Rehab Center announced their fall fundraising event Greater Things Gala, to be held on Friday, October 15 with virtual and in-person options.

The San Antonio Men's Center serves men suffering from drug and alcohol addiction with a 12-month residential discipleship and life skills vocational training program. On campus, men receive group and individual biblical counseling, parenting classes, spiritual support, relapse prevention, anger management, and social/recreational activities as well as rehabilitation and a sober living for program graduates.

The 'Greater Things Gala' is Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas's signature fall fundraising event draws over 500 of San Antonio's most devoted supporters who are passionate about addiction recovery in our city, this year both virtually and in person. The fundraiser will be held at Gateway Fellowship Church on Friday, October 15 at 7 p.m.

Austin Baughman, Men's Rehab Center Director, says, "Addiction is sky rocketing in Texas - the number of deaths due to alcohol and drugs is the 5th leading cause of death in the United States. Recognized nationally as a pub-

lic health crisis, addiction has taken a significant toll on lives in Texas. Most Texans needing help for addiction do not receive it."

Baughman further explained, "Here in Bexar County, residents are overdosing from opioids at a rate nearly twice the national average. One-third of all babies born in Texas suffering from opioid withdrawal are born in Bexar County. The pandemic, isolation, sickness, grief, job loss, food instability, and loss of routines have devastated many Bexar County residents and increased the need for addiction recovery programs."

The San Antonio Men's Rehab Center typically admits 180 men each year who are needing help for a life controlling issue. Offering yearlong, residential, Christian faith-based recovery programs for men, women, and teens who are struggling with a life-controlling issue, typically substance abuse, the program has served San Antonio for 52 years with the opening of the first center. Today the program has grown to operate programs in 10 Texas cities with 400 total beds. The yearlong length of the program, the minimal cost to participants, and the emphasis on transformation distinguish Adult and Teen Challenge of Texas from other programs. [sanantoniomensrehab.com](http://sanantoniomensrehab.com)

