

# Christian HealthCare

## NEWSLETTER

### MEMBER LETTERS:

God's people stepped in to meet every need

We are extremely grateful for the goodness, grace, and healing power of the living God we serve. It is a privilege to be part of this ministry that brings glory to Him in all of its ways.

Our bills were huge! It turned out to be quadruple bypass heart surgery! But God's people stepped in and met every need, including prayer, encouragement, and of course the Shares to take care of the financial part.

We thank God that when we send our monthly Share we are a part of what our God is doing to bring help, healing, and grace to brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are also thankful that each staff member we spoke to was so kind, loving, and patient.

*Adrian & Wynema  
Colorado*

### 'Medicare for All' would reduce household income by 11 percent, study finds

by Ashley Bateman

Most Americans will pay much higher taxes and earn less income if Medicare for All becomes law, a new study by The Heritage Foundation states.

"How 'Medicare for All' Harms Working Americans" found 73.5 percent of Americans would shoulder financial hardships under the proposed universal health care system.

Most workers would pay 21.2 percent more in federal payroll taxes, bringing the rate to 36.5 percent for most workers. Average annual disposable income for U.S. households would decrease by an average of \$5,671.

In addition to income taxes, most American workers pay 15.3 percent in payroll tax, 12.4 percentage points of which funds Social Security and 2.9 percentage points goes to Medicare. The new payroll tax of 36.5 percent would apply to every dollar earned, from the lowest-paid worker to the highest, the study states.

People who receive health insurance from their employer would be hit with an even bigger decrease in household income. Their disposable income loss would be \$10,554 because they would lose the tax advantages from their employer insurance, which is currently untaxed. The study, released on November 19, finds 87.2 percent of households with employer-sponsored

health insurance would be financially worse off.

#### All income groups lose

Proponents of Medicare for All argue a government-run system will benefit consumers by costing less than what they have been paying for private insurance or health care services paid for out of pocket. That assumption is false, the study states.

"Our analysis finds that in order to fund such a program, it would be necessary for the federal government to impose substantial, broad-based taxes equal to 21.2 percent of all wage and salary income," study authors Edmund Haislmaier and Jamie Hall write.

The 21.2 percent tax on workers would

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**Sharing Summary from January**

Shares:	\$29,903,149	Personalized prayer requests of the members with Needs are in the Prayer Guide. Please use your version of the Prayer Guide to support the members assigned to you.
Needs:	\$29,881,465	
In Negotiation:	\$5,072,847	
New Needs:	4,279	
Total Needs:	8,769	
New Rewards:	238	Member Households: 83,328 (as of 12/18/19)
Miscarriages:	28	
Final Rewards:	7	

**Contact Us: 877-764-2426**    **Dash.SamaritanMinistries.org**

**Questions about?**

- Your medical need
- Shares you are sending or receiving
- Your membership

**Email**

- needs@samaritanministries.org
- membership@samaritanministries.org
- membership@samaritanministries.org

**Phone Menu**

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Health Resources

**Have a Need? Use the Health Resources app on Dash.**

- Compare quality and cost of health care services in your area using Healthcare Bluebook.
- Use MediBid to receive bids from doctors for tests or treatments you are seeking.
- Email a medical professional or call a nurse (free), or call a doctor who can write a prescription (\$25).
- Access discount tools for prescriptions and lab tests.

**Remember:**



**1 SEND A NOTE—**  
Burdens can be lightened emotionally as we encourage one another in the Lord.



**2 PAY YOUR SHARE—**  
Burdens can be lightened physically as we do our part to financially meet others' needs as they would in our time of need.



**3 ALWAYS STAY ALERT IN PRAYER—**  
Burdens can be lightened spiritually as we unite to call upon the God of the impossible.

## Planned Parenthood annual report

### More abortions than ever, \$600 million in government funding

by Randall K. O'Bannon

Planned Parenthood may have closed a few clinics, experienced a major upheaval in top management, and even seen its revenues dip ever so slightly. But that hasn't stopped the abortion giant from performing a record number of abortions and continuing to grab an ever increasing share of the U.S. abortion market.

In its just published 2018-2019 Annual Report, Planned Parenthood reports performing 345,672 abortions for 2018, the most the organization has ever reported.

That figure represents 40.1 percent of all the abortions the Guttmacher Institute says were performed in the U.S. in 2017 (the most recent year available). This continues to cement Planned Parenthood's reputation as the country's top abortion performer and promoter.

#### Closing clinics, yet more abortions

Planned Parenthood doesn't share exactly how many clinics it currently has, writing only they have "more than 600 health centers across the country." That is exactly the same phrasing that they used in last year's report, though we know there were nearly 900 centers as recently as 2010.

Obviously, a large number of clinics have closed (for example, two recently closed in Ohio, according to ABC News, 9/9/19). However, Planned Parenthood has made sure to keep its abortion business hum-

ming, building giant new regional mega-clinics to pick up and possibly expand on the caseloads formerly going to the now closed centers.

The latest mega-clinic opened in Fairview Heights, Illinois, in October 2019. The stated intent here was to pick up abortion patients who

continued to decline for the sixth year in a row. At 2,556,413 in 2018, birth control services are down nearly 36 percent of what they were just 12 years earlier.

Every time someone challenges their mission or (especially) funding, Planned Parenthood likes to

talk about all the lives they potentially save providing cancer screenings. But the number of those services have fallen every year since at least 2005.

At one time, over two million a year (2,011,637 in 2005), all Planned

Parenthood's "cancer screenings and prevention" services barely totaled half a million (566,186) in 2018. This represents a whopping fall of more than 71.8 percent in just 14 years!

And those are just simple things such as Pap smears and manual breast exams. Despite what you may have heard, Planned Parenthood does not and has never provided mammograms.

#### They've got plenty of money

It isn't as if Planned Parenthood lacks the money to buy a few mammogram machines. Revenue this year was down just a hair, from \$1,665,100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, to \$1,638,600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

"Government Health Services Grants Reimbursements & Grants" were up \$53 million during that same

## The report celebrates legal and political developments allowing webcam abortions in 16 states.

could no longer visit Planned Parenthood clinics in Missouri. Though the media, egged on by Planned Parenthood's relentless hype machine, thought this was some new sort of development, it was only the latest in a long line of mega-clinics the organization has been opening all across the United States (Houston, Denver, Chicago, Queens, New York, Washington, DC, New Orleans, Portland, Oregon, St. Paul, Minnesota, etc.) for at least the past decade and a half.

#### Other non-abortion health services decline

Interestingly enough, while the expansion of these centers has been accompanied by an increase in the number of abortions, that's not been the case in the provision of other key Planned Parenthood services. Contraception, Planned Parenthood's signature product, con-

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## Paul Washer: Heartcry Missionary Society

by Michael Miller

Paul Washer is content being the “runt of the litter.”

He has preached to thousands and overseen a missionary organization for 30 years, but it’s not because he is more talented than others, the Samaritan Ministries member says.

“Like any other Christian, I’m a needy man in constant need of grace,” Paul says. “Sometimes, people think that a person is used of God in an extraordinary way because they’re an extraordinary person. For the most part, that’s not the case. God uses the runt of the litter so that, when something good happens, everyone knows it must be God.”

Paul is well-known for his challenging sermons, most of which

end up on YouTube and have hundreds of thousands of views, one with over 2.7 million. He frequently challenges the Church to deepen its commitment to discipleship of believers and to emphasize God’s grace and our need for repentance.

Other than time with his family, most of his time is spent directing HeartCry Missionary Society ([HeartCryMissionary.com](http://HeartCryMissionary.com)), which he founded in Peru in 1988 after sensing the Lord’s clear call to go there. HeartCry serves about 240 families in 40 countries and focuses on supporting indigenous pastors being raised up by local congregations who are not only solid in the Word of God but also well-qualified as elders in the Church.

“The reason American support of indigenous missionaries has failed in the past was not because it is wrong to support missionaries from other cultures but because the way it was done was unbiblical,” Paul says. “You see, the only people who ought to be in the ministry are those who qualify for the ministry according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. There are very stringent and strict nonnegotiable qualities of a minister. So, in order to discover those qualities, that person must be tested over



Paul Washer, second from left, and his wife, Charo, with their four children.

time. Only the local church has that ability, the power to study the life of a man for an extended period of time and determine whether he has the qualities for the ministry.”

In Paul Washer’s view, missions is about a Biblical church raising up qualified elders and sending them to plant other Biblical churches.

“It’s very difficult, but very simple,” he says. “You’d be surprised that the great majority of missions activity in the world has nothing to do with what I mentioned, and yet that is the core of missions. We care very little for all the modern church planting and so-called missionary strategies that are out there. We care very little for that. Because we see in the New Testament a very clear, simple, and difficult model.”

HeartCry is also nonconformist in its fundraising.

Working off the approach of George Mueller, a 19th-century evangelist who founded an orphanage in England, Paul says, “I determined that we would not raise funds, we would not prod or manip-



ulate God's people, that if the work was of God, He would support it and make it known."

HeartCry tells people what the ministry is doing if they ask, "but we will never tell someone this: 'If we only had this much money, we could do this.'"

"If they give, it's because God has laid it on their heart," Paul says. "The reason why I did that was to honor God and to prove that He answers prayer, but also I'm not a mover and shaker."

Plus, HeartCry was started in the 1980s, a time when financial scandals at ministries that begged for money were in the headlines, and Paul wanted to distinguish HeartCry from them.

But, Paul says, God has been faithful through the years to answer

prayers for money needed by the ministry to keep going.

HeartCry, not his controversial sermons, is what keeps Paul going. There is no PaulWasher.com—at least, not a legitimate one. To find Paul on the internet, you need to go to HeartCryMissionary.com. To hear him teach, you can go to HeartCry's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/Heartcrymedia](https://youtube.com/user/Heartcrymedia)) or do a search there. The HeartCry channel features dozens of Paul's teachings about God's love and mercy—one of his favorite topics—while a search will turn up his more polarizing messages, such as the famous "shocking message" at a youth conference in 2002, which has received nearly 3 million views. In that message, he criticized evangelism that doesn't seriously treat the reality of sin and need for repentance.

"A lot of unbelievers look at what's called the Church today and they're not seeing genuine Christianity, and they're turned off by something that's not truly Christian, and yet Christianity is being blamed for it, whether it's the prosperity gospel or legalism or whatever," Paul says. "Revival and reformation always come back to a return to the Scriptures and a return to what we would call a historical Christianity, a historical evangelicalism."

He says he is amazed "that most people will agree that the Church in the West has many, many ailments or maladies, but the moment that you begin to put your finger on them and to openly expose them, the very same people who say there are maladies will come against you

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## Why SMI?

**Through a heart attack** and knee replacement, Samaritan Ministries members have been there for Paul Washer, who joined in 2014.

"It's been a great blessing," he says.

And eye-opening, too.

The missions director at HeartCry Missionary Society's knee surgery would have cost \$60,000 at a hospital, but his doctor performed it as an outpatient procedure for \$20,000.

"I like Samaritan because I can go and sit down and talk with people and say, 'Let's negotiate this a little bit. You don't have to deal with insurance. I'm going to pay you cash,'" Paul says.

He says he also appreciates Samaritan's member service.

"Whenever there's been a glitch or some problem or something, we've always been able to call Samaritan and talk to a person, and that person has

always bent over backwards to help solve the problem," Paul says. "And if they can't solve the problem right then, they'll get the answer to you within a day or two. That's what I most appreciate about Samaritan's young people: They're so polite and ready to help."

Since his 2017 heart attack, he has paid more attention to his health, both for personal reasons and to be responsible to the other members of Samaritan.

"If someone is in Samaritan, it's kind of like being in a family," he says. "Just like I owe it to my children and wife to eat right to live as long as I can and live as healthy as I can, it's the same thing for Samaritan."

He says the ministry has been a "great help" not only for his family, but also several on the HeartCry Missionary Society staff.

"Samaritan came along at a really good time," he says. ♦

**See "Run to the Battle" by Paul Washer on page 6.**

## Run to the battle

by member Paul Washer

Regardless of what we may believe, the Christian life is a threefold battle. First, we battle against the flesh and its sinful desires that wage war against our new nature and against the Spirit who seeks to lead us to greater holiness (1 Peter 2:11). In this battle, we are called to put to death the deeds of the flesh (Romans 8:13) and to eagerly pursue personal holiness, without which no man will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We are called to die daily (Luke 9:23), to beat our bodies into submission (1 Corinthians 9:27), and even to radically amputate those things in our lives that are a cause for stumbling (Matthew 5:29-30). We are called to saturate our lives in the Word of God, to renew our minds so that we might be able to discern those things which please the Lord and reject those things which the Lord abhors (Romans 12:2). We are called to be filled with the Spirit and to walk in newness of life, ever sensitive to His will and leading (Romans 6:4). Finally, we are called to do this in a world that hates God, is hardened to His truth, and opposes all virtue and godliness. What a terrible conflict is this battle of ours! We would surely be consumed if it were not for the God who produces in us the desire to live righteously and gives us the effective grace to do so. He is able to do exceedingly

abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to His power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20).

Secondly, we battle against something even more terrible than our own depraved flesh—we battle against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). We are

(Luke 22:31); nevertheless, we shall stand, for our Master is able to make us stand and to present us before Himself on that Day with great joy (Jude 24).

Thirdly, we battle for something much more precious than our own lives, much greater than our own goals, and much more important than our own welfare—we battle for the advancement of Christ's

**We battle for something much more precious than our own lives, much greater than our own goals, and much more important than our own welfare—we battle for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth.**

Kingdom on earth. We struggle and pray and watch with one great hope—that His Name be sanctified, that His Kingdom come, that His Will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). We give our strength and our years that the earth might be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). We

called to wrestle against them face to face and to resist them even to the point of death so that our testimony may resound to the glory of God. We are called to fight an enemy whose strength so exceeds our own that we must put aside our confidence in our strength and be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might; we are called to put on the full armor of God and stand fast regardless of each day's evil (Ephesians 6:10-11). It is true that Satan prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8); and it is true that he has requested to sift us like wheat

long for the day when we will see a great multitude that no man can count from every tribe, language, and nation standing before the throne of God and crying out with a loud voice:

“Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:10 NASB)

Each one of us has been commissioned to see to it that Christ's banner is raised on every distant hill in every faraway land. If we are not called to go, we are called to stand behind those who do, with equal sacrifice. The Great Commission is not some little thing the Church

does; it is the thing we are commanded to do! Do we realize that we will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment for our participation in taking the Gospel to the nations? Do our lives reflect that we truly understand that apart from the Gospel no man will be saved?

The following quote was spoken by an atheist who mocked those Christians who declared Christ to be the only way and yet were not moved to make Christ known among the nations. His words are those that moved the great English missionary C.T. Studd to go to China, India, and Africa and later to draw attention to them:

“If Christ was God and died for me, there is nothing that would be too much to do for Him. If I believed with conviction what millions say they believed, that the knowledge and practice of religion was everything to me, I would throw from me like a weight every worldly pleasure; I would esteem every worldly consideration as insanity and every worldly thought as vanity. My faith would be my first thought in the morning and my last image before I fell asleep; I would work only for the cause, think only in eternity, and esteem every soul won for heaven as the greatest value, even if it meant a life of suffering. No earthly consequence would detain me or quiet my lips; the joys of the world or its sorrows would not even occupy a single moment of my thoughts. I would focus only on eternity and the immortal souls that are around me and destined for eternal misery. I would go to the world and preach in season and out of season, and my text

would be: ‘What does it benefit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?’”

As we look toward this new year, we should be looking toward the world and the battle that rages there. These are the greatest times in the history of Christianity. God has opened doors throughout the world so that we may now preach the Gospel in places that only a few years ago were totally beyond our reach. The doors are open, but will we pass through? Will we take advantage of this most strategic moment in history? These are not times for men of narrow minds, small hearts, and tight spirits. These are times for not only standing firm, but also marching forward. We must put the world behind us, pass through the doors that have been opened to us, put our hand to the plow, and never look back again.

The world is such a large place, and there are so many people that have yet to be reached with the Gospel. There is so much to be done and so much that can be accomplished. Will the Church take advantage of her opportunity to see God’s glory among the nations? Will you hear the call to lay aside your life and become part of something much larger than yourself? What will you do? Can you think of any greater thing to which you could possibly give your life than the preaching of the Gospel to those who have yet to hear? This is not the time to think about careers, but about the Kingdom. Why would we want fame when God promises us glory (Romans 8:18)? Why would we be seeking the wealth of the world when the treasures of heaven are at our grasp (Matthew 6:19:21)? Why

would we run for a crown that will perish with time when we are called to win a crown that is imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25)? My dear friend, let us run to the battle so that we might stand with Him on that Great Day of Victory!

For the last 2000 years, the battle for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ has been a costly one. It is estimated that since the first century over 50 million Christians have been martyred for their faith in the Lord, and this number is only increasing. Even now, as you read this article, men and women of God are dying, and more are being locked away in prisons and jails with little hope of finding freedom again in this life. Their only crime is their belief in Christ and their unwillingness to lay down their Bibles and cease from preaching the Gospel of their Lord and Savior.

How should we respond to the knowledge of such terrible casualties? There is only one answer: we should run headlong into the battle and give our very lives for the only cause that will stand—the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord and God. As your brother in Christ, I plead with you to become a true soldier in the battle to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every man. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ♦

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## Samaritan staffer says cancer experience deepened her faith

by Michael Miller

**K**elsie Barnhart doesn't think she would want to go back to "Kelsie before cancer."

"I have a deeper appreciation for my life as it is," she said during a break at Samaritan recently, her head wrapped in a scarf. "It may not look exactly how I want it, but I'm still here, still alive. I still get to spread the good news of the Lord."

The 28-year-old Samaritan Ministries Needs Advocate, by all previous measures a healthy young woman, was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer as a 27-year-old in December 2018. She underwent surgery in February 2019, had chemotherapy for 3½ months, radiation for 1½ months, and is now receiving maintenance infusion treatments. Then she'll be on hormone blockers for five years.

But besides her deeper appreciation of life, she has a more intimate relationship with God.

"I relate to the Lord in a completely different way now," Kelsie said.

It was difficult for a while, though. She had come to terms with being a woman in her 20s with a disease typically found in older women and was hoping she would be able to avoid chemo after the surgery. When surgeons went to remove her breast, though, they found a lymph node full of cancer as well. The "sentinel" node, the first to which cancer cells are likely to spread, was "visibly black," showing that the cancer was spreading.

Plus, the cancer was determined to be HER2-positive, meaning the cells make too much of that protein and multiply quickly. Doctors recommended she get started right away



To watch a video about Kelsie's experience, visit [bit.ly/kelsivid](https://bit.ly/kelsivid)

with chemotherapy.

"It was very disorienting and discouraging to wake up and to be in that haze and to hear somebody telling you it had spread and the next year of your life is going to be full of treatment," Kelsie said. "Everybody in my life had been praying that it wouldn't spread. I had never asked to not have cancer, but I had asked to not have it spread."

"I lay in my bed and really hashed it out with the Lord, and what immediately came to mind was Jesus in the garden asking for the cup to pass and being told no. I remember the Lord really encouraging me and saying, 'You're in good company. You've asked, and that's right and that's

good. It's not a lack of faith, but you're being told no, and that's OK.'

"I think that interaction with the Lord, being able to come before Him and hear from Him in that way is honestly one of the sweetest gifts because I feel like that point in my story could have gone in two very different directions. It didn't completely change the situation, and there were still many negatives to chemo and radiation, but it made it a lot easier to accept and to know that He still loved me. I'm still a daughter of the King. I'm still full of faith."

"I was disappointed, but I'm equally thankful, and OK that those things can co-exist."

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## Don't waste your cancer

by John Piper

*Editors note: This article is reprinted from 2006 when John Piper was treated for and recovered from cancer.*

I write this on the eve of prostate surgery. I believe in God's power to heal—by miracle and by medicine. I believe it is right and good to pray for both kinds of healing. Cancer is not wasted when it is healed by God. He gets the glory, and that is why cancer exists. So, not to pray for healing may waste your cancer. But healing is not God's plan for everyone. And there are many other ways to waste your cancer. I am praying for myself and for you that we will not waste this pain.

### 1. You will waste your cancer if you do not believe God designed it for you.

It will not do to say that God only uses our cancer, but does not design it. What God permits, He permits for a reason. And that reason is His design. If God foresees molecular developments becoming cancer, He can stop it or not. If He does not, He has a purpose. Since He is infinitely wise, it is right to call this purpose a design. Satan is real and causes many pleasures and pains. But He is not ultimate. So, when He strikes Job with boils (Job 2:7), Job attributes it ultimately to God (Job 2:10)—and the inspired writer agrees: "They ... comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him" (Job 42:11). If you don't believe God designed your cancer for you, you will waste it.

### 2. You will waste your cancer if you believe it is a curse and not a gift.

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13). "There is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel" (Numbers 23:23). "The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

### 3. You will waste your cancer if you seek comfort from your odds rather than from God.

The design of God in your cancer is not to train you in the rationalistic, human calculation of odds. The world gets comfort from their odds. Not Christians. Some count their chariots (percentages of survival) and some count their horses (side effects of treatment), "but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

God's design is clear from 2 Corinthians 1:9: "We felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." The aim of God in our cancer (among a thousand other good things) is to knock props out from under our hearts so that we rely utterly on Him.

### 4. You will waste your cancer if you refuse to think about death.

We will all die, if Jesus postpones His return. Not to think about what it will be like to leave this life and

meet God is folly. Ecclesiastes 7:2 says, "It is better to go to the house of mourning [a funeral] than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart." How can you lay it to heart if you won't think about it? Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Numbering your days means thinking about how few there are and that they will end. How will you get a heart of wisdom if you refuse to think about this? What a waste, if we do not think about death.

### 5. You will waste your cancer if you think that "beating" cancer means staying alive rather than cherishing Christ.

Satan's and God's designs in your cancer are not the same. Satan designs to destroy your love for Christ. God designs to deepen your love for Christ. Cancer does not win if you die. It wins if you fail to cherish Christ. God's design is to wean you off the breast of the world and feast you on the sufficiency of Christ. It is meant to help you say and feel, "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." And to know therefore, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 3:8; 1:21).

### 6. You will waste your cancer if you spend too much time reading about cancer and not enough time reading about God.

It is not wrong to know about cancer. Ignorance is not a virtue. But the lure to know more and more

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**'Medicare for All' would reduce household income by 11 percent, study finds**

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be necessary to fund a program that not only replaces employer-paid insurance but also insurance for workers with no health plans and the “additional spending that would result from the program stimulating increased use of medical care.”

In addition, the Medicare for All proposals offered by contenders for the Democrat presidential nomination would cover many services currently not covered by Medicare,

such as long-term care, the study states.

Lower-income working families that currently get their health care through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program would also lose, because they too would be subjected to higher taxes, the study finds. Haislmaier and Hall calculate these families' average household income would decrease by \$5,592 a year.

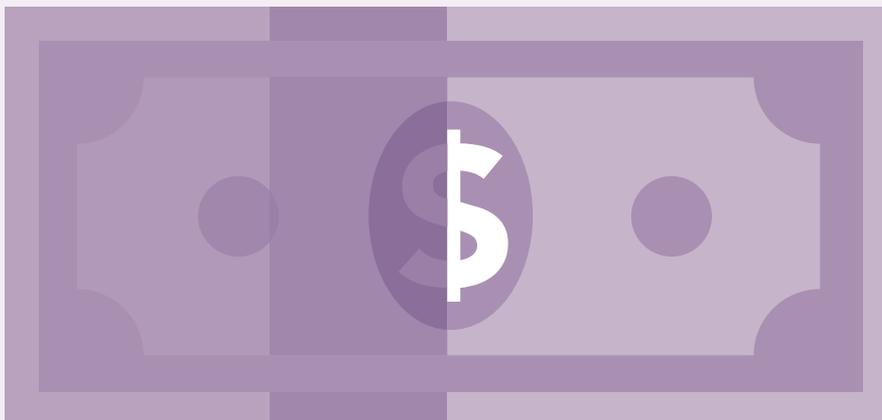
The authors used data from the 2016 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey of 12,704 households in making their calculations. ♦

**Source:**

Edmund Haislmaier and Jamie Hall, “How ‘Medicare for All’ Harms Working Americans,” *The Heritage Foundation*, November 19, 2019: <https://www.heartland.org/publications-resources/publications/how-medicare-for-all-harms-working-americans>

# Under ‘Medicare for All,’ the government will take roughly **HALF OF YOUR PAYCHECK**

**CURRENT LAW  
ROUGHLY 31%**



**UNDER MEDICARE FOR ALL  
ROUGHLY 50%**

This figure is for the average American household with at least one worker. It is based on total federal, state, and local taxes as a share of total income.

**(S)DailySignal.com**

“In Charts, How ‘Medicare for All’ Would Make Most Families Poorer” <dailysign.al/2NHSHNj>

period, from \$563.8 million to \$616.8 million. “Non-Government Health Services Revenue” increased from \$365.7 million to \$369.6 million.

Private donations were very high, but appear to have flagged a bit from last year’s record. After reaching \$630.8 million in 2018 with their latest “sky is falling” campaign, they fell back to “just” \$591.3 million for FY 2019.

### **Planned Parenthood won’t say Wen**

How much of this is a result of tumult at the top of the organization’s administration is unknown. Leana Wen, a medical doctor who, with great fanfare, took over as head of Planned Parenthood in September 2018, was ousted by the board of directors in July 2019 after less than a year on the job.

Wen was as committed to abortion as anyone, but made the “mistake” of seeing it as part of a broader health care mission. When she made clear that she didn’t see abortion as the be-all, end-all of Planned Parenthood’s existence, she and Planned Parenthood parted ways over “philosophical differences.” Wen wrote in the *New York Times* on July 19, 2019, “I believe abortion is about health care, not politics. Many of my colleagues disagreed.”

Wen somehow manages to go unmentioned in this latest report.

Planned Parenthood installed Alexis McGill Johnson, a reliable abortion advocate, as “Acting President and CEO” and kept the abortion mills

humming. No official word on when or if the acting president will be replaced.

### **Abortion as the clear theme**

The organization’s latest annual report makes it plain that Planned Parenthood continues to be all about abortion, in more ways than one. The record number of abortions speak for themselves, as do the declining figures for genuine health care services.

## **When it comes to the lives of unborn children, this report makes it clear that Planned Parenthood ‘Doesn’t Care—No Matter What’**

In the report, PPFA trumpets their legal and political successes in opposing “abortion bans.” They celebrate “technology” allowing them to perform webcam abortions in 16 states and research on these abortions and other topics they were able to get published in national medical journals.

They talk about their work promoting “sexual and reproductive services” and “reproductive rights” around the world and among ethnic minorities in the United States, “organizing and mobilizing” on college campuses and rallying against the nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

In addition to stopping or delaying pro-life legislation they didn’t like in Florida, West Virginia, South Carolina, Kansas, Montana, Missouri, Wisconsin,

and North Carolina, Planned Parenthood expressed pride in being able to enable “proactive legislation to protect and expand access to safe and legal abortion” in Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington state.

Planned Parenthood says that its doctors, educators and activists wake up each day with one mission: “Care, No Matter What.”

When it comes to the lives of tender, innocent, precious unborn children, however, this report makes it clear, once again, that Planned Parenthood “Doesn’t Care—No Matter What.” ♦

*Copyright © 2020 National Right to Life. Reprinted by permission <nationalrighttolifenews.org/2020/01/2018-2019-planned-parent-hood-annual-report-more-abortions-than-ever/> Randall K. O’Bannon, Ph.D., is National Right to Life’s Director of Education & Research.*

for exposing those maladies.”

The size of a congregation doesn't mean much to him either.

“It's always been my conviction that there are so many people in churches today because of the watered-down gospel,” Paul says. “They prayed a prayer, they walked a line, but they're not truly converted, and that needs to be confronted. The true Christian grows mainly through their growing comprehension of the love of God.”

But understanding he is a fallible human being like the rest of us, Paul also realizes that sometimes he

can look back at sermons and see that his approach maybe wasn't the boldness of the Holy Spirit but the “brashness of Paul Washer.”

He's also ready to own his mistakes.

“We must always look at criticism as a mirror and ask ourselves, ‘Am I the man? Am I the one at fault?’” he says.

Yet, despite his reputation as an in-your-face fire-and-brimstone preacher, “one of the things that most shocks people when they get to know me is that I'm not anything like what they see on YouTube.”

“If I have to repent of something, it's usually of being too jovial and having too much fun,” he says. “Some people who had heard me on YouTube came to our church for a few Wednesdays when I was teaching, and, after about three weeks, they went to one of the elders and said, ‘Has Paul Washer changed or compromised?’ The elder laughed. He said, ‘What you're seeing is the real Paul Washer and not the YouTube person.’”

The “real” Paul Washer is content helping pastors in the field. ♦

## **Being with his family is vital to Paul Washer**

**Paul Washer finds** joy in his family.

A teacher he heard after he had just gotten married to his wife, Charo, said that the common element he saw in fruitful families was joy, primarily the joy of the father.

“People think when they hear me preach, ‘Oh, my gosh, to be one of his kids must be difficult,’” the missions director of HeartCry Missionary Society says. “It's absolutely the opposite. My goal in my home is that the joy of the Lord would be present, that my children would see the grace of God in their father, that they would see salvation working in their parents.

“I spend a lot of time with my children,” Paul says of his four offspring ranging in ages from 3 to 18. “I get to the office early and I work as hard and fast as I can, because I have a wife and children to go home to. And it's my joy. When I'm spending a lot of time with my 3-year-old daughter, it may not look as spiritual as standing before 10,000 people in Brazil, but I can assure you it is just as much the will of God.”

He adds that he has seen missionary families leave the field because the wife had a nervous breakdown.

“That doesn't mean the wife was weak or ungodly in any way, but she was in the house 24 hours a day with the children while the man was going out, doing evangelism, building churches,” Paul says. “It really

taught me something, that when I get home, it's time for my wife to be liberated. She's her own person before God. If she wants to do something, whether it's paint or go out with some friends or just rest, I give her the ability to do that.

“Probably the one area where I have to guard myself of idolatry is with my family. I don't like to travel at all. I dread it, because I don't like being away from my family, and I would only do it for the Lord.”

His wife, Paul says, is the “strongest human being I know.”

“Almost three years ago, I had a massive heart attack—I had to be resuscitated three times,” he says. “One time Charo heard them say, ‘He's dead.’ Then they told her that she would probably never be able to talk with me again because I went so long without oxygen that my brain would be severely damaged.

“That moment she heard that, I know exactly what happened: She just turned her face to stone and thought about what she would have to do. All those months of recovery, a year and a half where I was so limited, my wife just took over. She handled everything, along with homeschooling our children. She's a very matter-of-fact person. I marvel at her strength.” ♦

The Lord also let Kelsie know He was with her in other ways. Her biological family and church family “helped me tremendously.” When Kelsie was going through chemo, her mother, Kristine, would stop by her house daily to make or bring meals. Her parents would visit frequently, and family and friends took turns going for walks with Kelsie through the neighborhood. Her pastor, Tom Eckhardt, who is a cancer survivor, told Kelsie that she would feel the Lord’s presence “in the day to day of treatment.”

“I was well taken care of,” she said.

Other signs from the Father included a blanket with a ladybug design.

“On your first day of chemo, they give you a blanket because the medicines are really cold when they enter you,” she said. “On the blanket was a ladybug design, which is so juvenile, and I don’t know why they gave that to me. But when I was growing up, my parents called me ‘Buglet,’ and my whole room was ladybug-themed throughout my childhood. The beginning of chemo can be a really scary day, but having that blanket handed to me was a clear sign that He was with me and that He was comforting me in a physical way and a spiritual way.”

Kelsie, who has been a Needs Advocate at Samaritan since 2017, said she also now feels she has better insight into the challenges faced by members going through cancer or facing other types of large financial needs.

“I have a better sense of knowing how their entire world has shifted in a moment and they’re dealing with things that they never expected to go through,” she said. “It’s just a continual reminder that we get to be

the hands and feet of Jesus for one another, and we get to help each other not just financially but with encouragement. I think that’s such a beautiful aspect of Samaritan that I would never want to lose.

“Sometimes just being able to say to a member, ‘I’m sorry that you’re going through this, it’s honestly not fair, it was never designed to be this way from the design of the beginning of the world,’ I think that sometimes is still helpful for people to hear.”

**“I relate  
to the Lord  
in a completely  
different way  
now.”**

Kelsie’s own experience as a Samaritan member has included large discounts.

Her treatment team recommended proton radiation in place of standard photon or X-ray therapy. Peoria facilities only have the latter, “but there’s a lot of scatter with it,” she said. “With my anatomy, it was going to really expose my lungs and my thyroid, and you can actually get secondary cancer from it.”

Northwestern Medicine Proton Center in Warrenville, Illinois, though, specializes in that therapy, which is more precise. It also, though, is newer and more expensive than photon therapy.

“You basically have to be accepted into it because they can only use it

for so many people,” Kelsie said.

Some health insurance companies do not cover proton therapy because it’s still being developed. Kelsie, however, didn’t have that roadblock since Samaritan Guidelines allow it to be shared. Also, the original cost of \$240,000 was discounted to \$40,000 for upfront payment, which Kelsie was able to make by submitting written estimates so the expense could be shared before the treatment.

“Being cash pay is one of the reasons that process was able to be so streamlined,” Kelsie said.

She was helped financially in other ways, too, that brought her \$500,000 Need (as of now) down to a shareable amount of \$193,000.

“I’ve gotten a huge amount of chemo for free, straight from the manufacturer,” she said. “That’s because they’re looking at your income. If I had insurance, I don’t know if that would still be the case.”

Her infusion therapy has a list price of \$56,000 per treatment. She’s getting 17, resulting in costs close to a million dollars, but the manufacturers are writing it off.

“If I had insurance, then I’d be paying a co-pay, or even a max deductible on all of this,” she said. “I can’t imagine doing that alone.”

She is reminded of that as she receives Shares from other Samaritan members.

“I’ve received 200 Shares and that is more valuable to me than the \$200,000,” Kelsie said. “The fact that there are that many people who I’ve been able to thank and who have come alongside me in prayer is awesome.” ♦

and the lack of zeal to know God more and more is symptomatic of unbelief. Cancer is meant to waken us to the reality of God. It is meant to put feeling and force behind the command, "Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3). It is meant to waken us to the truth of Daniel 11:32: "The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action." It is meant to make unshakable, indestructible oak trees out of us: "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers" (Psalm 1:2–3). What a waste of cancer if we read day and night about cancer and not about God.

**7. You will waste your cancer if you let it drive you into solitude instead of deepen your relationships with manifest affection.**

When Epaphroditus brought the gifts to Paul sent by the Philippian church, he became ill and almost died. Paul tells the Philippians, "He has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill" (Philippians 2:26). What an amazing response! It does not say they were distressed that he was ill, but that he was distressed because they heard he was ill. That is the kind of heart God is aiming to create with cancer: a deeply affectionate, caring heart for people. Don't waste your cancer by retreating into yourself.

**8. You will waste your cancer if you grieve as those who have no hope.**

Paul used this phrase in relation to those whose loved ones had died:

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). There is a grief at death. Even for the believer who dies, there is temporary loss: loss of body, loss of loved ones here, loss of earthly ministry. But the grief is different—it is permeated with hope. "We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Don't waste your cancer grieving as those who don't have this hope.

**9. You will waste your cancer if you treat sin as casually as before.**

Are your besetting sins as attractive as they were before you had cancer? If so, you are wasting your cancer. Cancer is designed to destroy the appetite for sin. Pride, greed, lust, hatred, unforgiveness, impatience, laziness, procrastination—all these are the adversaries that cancer is meant to attack. Don't just think of battling against cancer. Also think of battling with cancer. All these things are worse enemies than cancer. Don't waste the power of cancer to crush these foes. Let the presence of eternity make the sins of time look as futile as they really are. "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:25).

**10. You will waste your cancer if you fail to use it as a means of witness to the truth and glory of Christ.**

Christians are never anywhere by divine accident. There are reasons for why we wind up where we do. Consider what Jesus said about painful, unplanned circumstances: "They

will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness" (Luke 21:12–13).

So it is with cancer. This will be an opportunity to bear witness. Christ is infinitely worthy. Here is a golden opportunity to show that He is worth more than life. Don't waste it.

Remember, you are not left alone. You will have the help you need. "My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). ♦

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## Prayer for the Persecuted Church

*Hebrews 13:3 tells us to “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” Our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are being persecuted for the sake of the Gospel. We need to remember them in prayer. Each month, we will provide updates and offer prayer points gleaned from a variety of sources. Please use them in your personal or group prayer time.*

### **14 Christians shot to death**

Attackers killed 14 Christian worshippers, including five boys, on December 1 in a church in the African nation of Burkina Faso, Voice of the Martyrs-Canada reports. Gunmen ordered all males out of the church building, forced them to the ground, covered their heads, and shot them one at a time. No group has claimed responsibility, but the site of the massacre is close to a region of Islamic militancy that includes Niger and Nigeria. *Pray for the survivors of those killed, for all members of that church, for the congregation’s witness, and for the conversion of the attackers.*

### **Fellowship group banned**

An evangelical fellowship group in the town of Debarq in Ethiopia has been told it is no longer allowed to meet there, World Watch Monitor says. The town is considered holy by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and religious leaders have pressed authorities to prevent any other religious group from being established. Several members of the group were arrested in November and pressured

to sign statements pledging to never meet again in Debarq. *Pray for wisdom and direction for the group’s leadership and that authorities will grant the group freedom to meet in the town.*

### **House church stands strong**

A house church in China is refusing to fly the national flag in place of a cross, International Christian Concern reports. The district religious affairs bureau has been asking Guangfu Church to join the state-sanctioned Three-Self church, but the congregation of more than 1,000 has refused. Pastor Ma Chao was called in by local police on December 2 and asked to fly the Chinese flag as well as hang up national religious policy slogans, but he refused that request as well. Guangfu’s gathering places have either been sealed off or raided in the past few months. *Pray that the church’s leaders will stand strong against pressure from the Communist government and find ways to meet for worship.*

### **Pastors beheaded**

Two Ethiopian pastors were beheaded during an uprising of angry Muslims recently, ICC reports. In all, 67 died and 213 were wounded in the riots in a small town southwest of the capital, Addis Ababa. The violence was in response to removal of security protection for a local Muslim leader. *Pray for complete healing for the wounded and for peace to reign in the town. Pray also for protection of Christian leaders.*

### **Myanmar churches reopen**

Churches in Myanmar’s Wa State shut down in 2018 began to reopen in mid-December, ICC says. Radio Free Asia reports that 52 Baptist churches are now open. The crack-down was part of an effort by a rebel group to suppress Christianity. Christian leaders were detained and churches and religious schools were shut down. Catholic schools remain closed, were bulldozed, or were converted to non-religious use. *Praise God that so many churches are able to once again meet in their buildings and teach their children the faith.*

### **Tajik pastor released**

A Protestant pastor who had been sentenced to three years in prison in Tajikistan for “singing extremist songs in church and so inciting religious hatred” was released shortly before Christmas, three months early, WWM reports. Bakhrom Kholmatov, 42, was sent to prison in July 2017 after being accused of inciting revolution by singing songs based on Bible passages such as Ephesians 6:12 (“Our fight is not against flesh and blood”) and with messages such as “God’s army is marching.” A book seized from the church, *More than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell, also was judged to be extremist. *Praise God that Pastor Bakhrom is freed and pray that his release will have an impact for the Gospel.* ♦

*For more on the persecuted church, contact International Christian Concern ([persecution.org](http://persecution.org), 800-422-5441) or World Watch Monitor ([worldwatchmonitor.org](http://worldwatchmonitor.org))*

# Let love be genuine.

Romans 12:9a

Let love be genuine. We can read these words, but not take time to realize what they mean.

We frequently hear talk about “fake” news. This verse warns us against fake love. Some translations of the verse say, “Let love be without hypocrisy.” When we pretend to love someone, but are not happy when good happens to them or are even secretly happy when bad happens to them, our love is hypocritical.

Proverbs 24:17-18 says, “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the Lord see it and be displeased.” We may be able to fool others, but we will never fool God.

The rest of Romans 12 names more than 20 indications of genuine love—abhorring evil, holding fast to what is good, having brotherly affection, showing extreme honor

to one another, living in harmony, fervently serving the Lord in the power of the Spirit, being constant in prayer, refusing to pay back evil for evil, sharing in others’ joys and sorrows, associating with the lowly, having humility, doing good to enemies, and much more.

Only if our love is genuine will we have the endurance to overcome evil with good. Fake love may fool others and even produce short-term gain, but it has no eternal value.

For the Kingdom,



Ray King