



December 13, 2018

**ANSWERED PRAYER--3.5 MILLION PEOPLE DROP OFF FOOD STAMPS UNDER TRUMP**

**Thank you Lord for delivering our countrymen a better way to provide for our families through job opportunities. What else are you thanking God for? Share by leaving a comment.**

***For even when we were with you, this we commanded you: that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (2 Thes 3:10)***

More than 3.5 million people have dropped off food stamps since President Donald Trump's first full month in office, according to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The most recent USDA data reveals that 38,577,141 Americans received benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—otherwise known as the federal government program responsible for giving out food stamps—in September 2018.

When Trump took office in February 2017, 42,134,301 Americans had been receiving SNAP benefits, according to the data.

The most up-to-date numbers also show enrollment in food stamps has declined for 11 straight months.

Using the latest data from the USDA, here is the month-by-month breakdown of how many people canceled their SNAP benefits in fiscal year (FY) 2018:

October to November: 4,050,688

November to December: 357,508

December to January: 740,952

January to February: 385,456

February to March: 39,701

March to April: 426,055

April to May: 139,570

May to June: 175,204



June to July: 352,584

July to August: 86,238

August to September: 297,116

The consistent decline in enrollment over the past 11 months is on pace with the steady decline in SNAP participation since 2013, and the decline seems to be continuing during President Trump's tenure in office....

The enrollment drop can mainly be attributed to the Trump USDA's efforts to reform SNAP and other welfare programs, as well as an improving economy, but there are also other less concrete reasons why food stamp participation is on the downswing.

A recent study showed that food stamp usage among people who recently immigrated to the United States in the past five years dropped by 10 percent.

The November study from Children's HealthWatch noted that the drop in enrollment among recent legal immigrants occurred mainly because of a yet-to-be implemented Trump administration policy which would keep recent immigrants from gaining permanent residency in the U.S. if they used food stamps or other forms of welfare. (Excerpts from Katherine Rodriguez article on [Breitbart News](#))

### **WHY AMERICA'S CHURCHES ARE AT A TIPPING POINT**

**Father, continue to shape Your Church as You want it to be. God loves His Church! What is your prayer for the Church in America? Share it by leaving a comment below.**

***For God is not a God of disorder but of peace--as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. (1 Cor 14:33)***

"Tipping Point (noun): the critical point in a situation, process or system beyond which a significant and often unstoppable effect or change takes place."

If current trajectories continue, American churches will pass a tipping point. Our congregations will begin a likely unstoppable path toward decline that will rival many European churches of the past century. If there is not a significant movement of revitalization, there will be an accelerated rate of decline and death.

The good news is that many leaders are not denying this reality. They are seeking God and responding obediently. Church revitalization has become a real and powerful theme. As I indicated in my book, *Scrappy Church*, more and more churches are moving in incredible and positive directions.

How will God move in our churches? How will we respond? While I will not address those two paramount questions in this particular article, I do want us to see the three specific areas of the tipping point: theological, attitudinal and actionable.

### **The Theological Tipping Point**

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If a church does not have a solid biblical and theological foundation, all other issues are moot. In some congregations, there is slippage on the doctrine of exclusivity, the biblical truth that Christ is the only way of salvation (John 14:6). In other congregations, leaders and members are questioning the absolute authority of Scripture. That issue is as old as creation when the serpent questioned God's Word, "Did God really say . . .?" (Gen. 3:1b, NIV).

We can't even begin to deal with other tipping points until we have resolved the issues of truth and fidelity to Scripture. The slippery slope of questioning God's authority leads to the decline and death of churches.

### **The Attitudinal Tipping Point**

At some point in the recent history of the church, particularly North American churches, becoming a part of a local congregation became a consumer-driven activity. Too many church members want, even demand, their own preferences and desires. In some congregations, we are more likely to hear a member fight over his or her own worship style preference than ask how he or she might truly serve the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12. Becoming a member of the body of Christ means we serve others for the greater good of the body. The needs of others come before our preferences and desires. Paul admonished the local congregation in Philippi: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" (Phil. 2:3). That doesn't sound like some of our church business meetings.

### **The Actionable Tipping Point**

There are many presumably Bible-believing churches that like the idea of evangelism more than doing evangelism. Frankly, I deal with evangelical church leaders and members every day who profess unwavering fidelity to Scripture but haven't intentionally had a gospel conversation in recent memory.

We are so busy with church activities that we neglect active obedience of the Great Commission. We can be passionate about the placement of the offertory in the worship service but never invite people to come to those worship services. We can complain when the pastor doesn't visit members sufficiently but never visit the hurting and lost ourselves.

A church leader recently asked me why I thought his church was not growing. I asked him what his church did every single week to reach, invite and serve the community. His silence was his own answer. Many of us conservative Christians would rather fight each other than fight against the gates of hell.

### **It Is Time**

Still, I am not discouraged. The tipping point is not inevitable. Our obedience may have waned, but God's power has not. Many church leaders and members are recommitting themselves to a renewed and vibrant mission. Many of their churches are seeking and seeing revitalization.

There is indeed an incipient movement of scrappy churches. It is real. It is growing.

**It is time.**



With whatever years God gives me, with whatever breaths I have remaining to breathe, I ask God to use me in my church to serve Him and others with unwavering commitment.

And then, and only then, may I dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain." (Excerpts from Thom S. Rainer article on [CharismaNews](#) - Thom s. Rainer is the president of LifeWay Christian Resources.)

#### **PEREZ COMPLAINS ABOUT VOTERS INFLUENCED BY 'PULPIT ON SUNDAY'**

**Father, we ask that You empower church leaders to have boldness in speaking the truth in love. Thank you for the many pastors who preach the Word consistently and effectively. Encourage them, Lord.**

***The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free... (Lk 4:18)***

Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez complained about voters being influenced by the "pulpit on Sunday" during an event in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday.

Perez, speaking at Demand Justice's "The Court In Crisis: What's Next For Progressives After Kavanaugh" summit, discussed the need he saw for Democrats to more effectively get their message out to voters.

"[W]e all have to make sure we're fluent in what's happening across our ecosystem so that we can come to each other's defense, because we need to build a bigger orchestra," he said. "They've had a big orchestra for some time, and they've got the megaphones to amplify it, whether it's Sinclair at a local level, Fox at a national level."...

"I've learned this from the outreach we've done at the DNC. Why aren't we penetrating, I asked. And I had someone in northwestern Wisconsin tell me, 'you know what, for most of the people I know, they're principle sources of information are Fox News, their NRA newsletter, and the pulpit on Sunday.' And it should come as a surprise to no one that our message doesn't penetrate," Perez continued. "It should come as a surprise to no one that that person has elevated the issue, of course, to the top, because that person on the pulpit is saying 'ignore everything else that this person has done and is doing. We have to focus on one issue of Roe vs. Wade.'"...

**The Democratic Party has struggled to appeal to religious voters, especially evangelicals.** Eighty percent of white evangelicals supported President Donald Trump in 2016. Protestant voters made up just over half of the electorate in 2016, and Trump won 56 percent compared to 39 percent for Hillary Clinton. A slight majority of Catholics, who make up the second largest bloc of religious voters, supported Trump over Clinton. Trump won a majority of religious voters who attend services at least monthly.

In 2018, 75 percent of white evangelicals supported Republican candidates. Among Protestant voters, 55 percent supported the GOP, while Catholics split about evenly between Republicans and Democrats. Fifty-five percent of voters who attend religious services at least monthly supported GOP candidates....



"When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you, and that's of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for, for years in this country," Feinstein said.

In a December 2016 interview with The Atlantic about the Democrats' "religion problem," Michael Wear, an evangelical Christian who directed former president Barack Obama's faith outreach efforts in 2012, said Democrats are "**not even pretending to give these voters a reason to vote for them.**" (Excerpts from Jeffrey Cimmino article on [The Washington Free Beacon](#))

### **OBAMA GRANTED SOROS-TIED GROUP \$310M TO HELP MIGRANTS AVOID DEPORTATION**

**Father, uncover what is hidden that threatens the peaceful pursuit of law and order in our nation. What are you praying about immigration? Share by leaving a comment below.**

***They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. (1 Pet 3:11)***

Former President Barack Obama's administration rewarded an organization with ties to globalist billionaire George Soros to help Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) avoid deportation from the United States.

An Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) investigation reveals that between 2015 and 2016, the Obama administration rewarded the Vera Institute of Justice \$310 million in contracts to help UACs — young migrants who came to the U.S.-Mexico border unaccompanied — avoid deportation.

The IRLI investigation reveals that the Obama administration rewarded the Vera Justice Institute with millions in American taxpayer-funded contracts to give "direct legal representation" to UACs in deportation proceedings.

**"When the federal government pays for illegal alien minors to receive direct legal representation, it does more than flout the law,"** IRLI executive director Dale Wilcox said in a statement.

"These unauthorized payments have undoubtedly speeded-up UACs' release from detention facilities to join their families, relatives, or fellow gang members – or help them reconnect with and pay 'pandillas,' the criminal cartels that make enormous profits from controlling human trafficking over the southern border," Wilcox said. **"My guess is that average voters would not be pleased to know that such vast amounts of their tax dollars are being spent in aid of this giant criminal enterprise."**

The Vera Justice Center was previously headed by Christopher Stone, who also served as the president of Soros's Open Society Foundation between 2012 and 2017. Soros's Open Society Foundation also previously awarded funding to the Vera Justice Center.

Federal officials have said that UACs pouring into the U.S. are **"potential recruits" for violent foreign gangs like MS-13 that have taken a stronghold in American communities.** In 2017 alone, more than 40,000 UACs were resettled across the U.S. after they arrived in the country unaccompanied. (Excerpts from John Binder article on [Breitbart News](#))