

## Hebron Baptist Church

### *Iranians Turning to Christ*

There is an “Iranian awakening,” says Pastor Dalton Thomas, producer of two evangelistic documentaries that Christians should watch: “Sheep Among Wolves” (2015) and “Sheep Among Wolves II” (2019). God is moving mightily in a Muslim nation of which many Westerners are unaware. [Produced by Frontier Alliance International, FAI Studios]



The films tell the story of the “fastest-growing church” in the world, an underground, persecuted Christian movement in a country known for exporting Islamic terrorism – Iran.

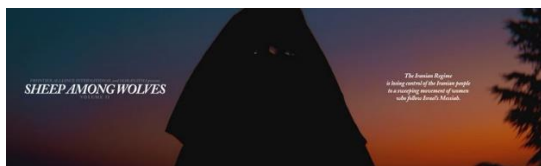
“What if I told you Islam is dead?” one unidentified Iranian church leader says in the film. “What if I told you the mosques are empty inside Iran?” he continues. “What if I told you no one follows Islam inside of Iran? Would you believe me? This is exactly what is happening inside of Iran. God is moving powerfully inside of Iran.”

Pastor Thomas says that “the Iranian awakening’ owns no property, no buildings, no central leadership, and is predominantly led by women.”

“Muslim-background Iranians are leading a quiet but mass exodus out of Islam and bowing their knees to the Jewish Messiah – with kindled affection toward the Jewish people.”

A leader of the Iranian underground church explains “their goal is not planting churches but rather making disciples, the majority of whom are women.”

“Disciples forsake the world and cling to Jesus ‘till he comes. Converts don’t,” the leader said. “Disciples aren’t engaged in a culture war. Converts are. Disciples cherish, obey, and share the word of God. Converts don’t. Disciples choose Jesus over anything and everything else. Converts don’t. Converts run when the fire comes. Disciples don’t.”

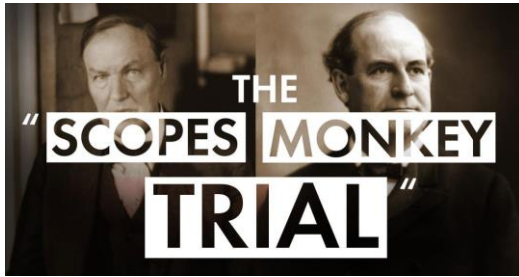


*On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the American flag as our national symbol.*



*Betsy Ross Flag*

## Creationism v. Evolution



During the 1920s, the fundamentalists and liberals of most Protestant denominations continued to agree on many cultural issues, such as Prohibition. But the theological camps within the Northern Baptists did not agree on evolution.

Some Baptists became convinced that the teaching of evolution would ruin America; so they moved antievolution to the top of their cultural agenda. World War I was largely responsible for the turn against evolution, as they noted that such ideas had taken root in Germany. What had become a preachers' debate over theology turned into a cultural crusade over evolution, leading to the Scopes trial of 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee.

This was the first case to receive national coverage by radio and international coverage by telegraph. Christian prosecutor and politician, William Jennings Bryan, dueled with defense attorney Charles Darrow, an agnostic and proponent of evolution. In the end, teacher John T. Scopes was indicted for violating the Butler Act, which forbade the teaching in public schools that "man has descended from a lower order of animals."

Although Scopes was found guilty, public perception of the trial has been that creation was shown to be blind myth and evolution to be scientific fact.

Note: This topic will be continued in the July newsletter.

## Captives for Christ

Marziyeh Amirizadeh (left) and Maryam Rostampour were imprisoned in Evian Prison, in 2009, the most notorious prison in Iran, known for its cruel and prolonged torture. They were also sentenced to death by hanging for spreading the message of Jesus Christ. In the three years prior to their arrest, they had distributed 20,000 New Testaments.

"Marzi" and "Miriam" initially prayed for a quick release, but they soon realized "God had a purpose for being in the dark place," according to Amirizadeh.

"After a few days we realized that by meeting other women in the prison – some who were homeless and addicts – God had given us an opportunity to share the message of Christianity with people who needed to hear it the most," said Rostampour.

In their 259 days of imprisonment, the two women taught hundreds of fellow prisoners about Christianity, and even prisons guards. "We were not allowed to have a Bible, but we lived out its teachings in the prison," and they led Christian prayer meetings.

The Iranian regime's punishment backfired when sisters of Amirizadeh and Rostampour contacted sources outside Iran, bringing intense international pressure.

