News 24 November 2026 | English article

Judd Saul's Latest Nigeria Warning Came Before the Killers

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"What we're expecting right now is a major slaughter over Christmas,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Judd Saul, an Iowa missionary, warned at a Washington roundtable in early December 2025 that armed fighters were massing to attack Christians in Nigeria at Christmas, and he named the towns they would hit: Riyom, Bokkos, Agatu and Kafanchan. Days later, gunmen stormed a mining site at Ratoso in Plateau State and shot 12 young Christian miners dead. By Christmas, at least 20 Christians had been killed across Benue and Plateau states, and the warning had come true almost exactly as he gave it.

Now Saul is warning again. In an interview broadcast on 23 November 2026, as another Christmas approaches, he said the danger has not passed.

"What we're expecting right now is a major slaughter over Christmas," he said. A year ago, he named the towns and the killers came anyway. This year, he is asking whether anyone will listen before the killing starts, not after.

Saul is not a stranger to Nigeria, and he is not a man who warns from a distance. He first came to the country in 2011, a documentary filmmaker on a mission trip with his grandfather, Duane Wessels. He kept coming back, three or four times a year, leaving his wife and five children in Iowa.

In 2019 he founded Equipping the Persecuted, which delivers terror alerts, food, medicine and shelter to Christian communities, and publishes TruthNigeria. He has walked through the ruins of burned Christian villages and buried victims of terrorist attacks, and he speaks from what he has seen with his own eyes.

"I have walked through the ruins of burned Christian villages, buried victims of terrorist attacks, comforted widows and orphans, and witnessed firsthand the unimaginable suffering of Christians who have been abandoned by those responsible for protecting them," Saul said.

The warning was given at a Washington roundtable convened by the International Committee on Nigeria and the African Jewish Alliance, chaired by former congressman Frank Wolf. Saul told the room that fighters were gathering along the Plateau-Nasarawa and Nasarawa-Benue borders, preparing to strike on Christmas Day.

"They are gathering forces around the Plateau and Nasarawa border, along the Nasarawa-Benue border and along the Nasarawa-Kaduna border. They are planning to hit on Christmas Day in Riyom, Bokkos, Kafanchan and Agatu," he said.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1128.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) La Gran Sabana ya tiene parroquia y párroco pemón
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1135.html

(Portuguese) 25 motos levam fé a Aparecida por jovem curado
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1136.html

(Hindi) Aaja: Kaardinala Puulaa Ne Sanvidhaana Divasa Se Pahale Surakshaa Maangii
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/hi/news-1137.html