

# Group to Distribute 100,000 Bibles to U.S. Troops in 100 Days

*Major Christian organizations are partnering to distribute 100,000 Bibles to U.S. troops in 100 days.*



[06.03.08] The *Operation Worship* Bible campaign, which launched June 1, endeavors to put 100,000 special edition *Operation Worship* Bibles along with a personalized note of encouragement in the hands of troops around the world in 100 days.

“What better impact can you have on a soldier than to provide them with the Word of God,” said Jeff Hilliard, co-founder of Open Window Foundation and Operation Worship, a ministry focused on aiding the U.S. military. “No matter how we feel about the war, our soldiers need our support.”

The New Living Translation Bible published by Tyndale House Publishers will be sold at any Christian bookstore within the Christian Booksellers Association (CBA).

Participants are encouraged to write an inspirational message inside the Bible. Then return it the store and *Operation Worship* will ship the Bibles to soldiers.

“An *Operation Worship* Bible containing a personalized message offers tangible opportunities to let those who serve us in the military know we are praying for them and that they are not forgotten,” said Blaine Smith, associate publisher, Tyndale House Publishers.

Campaign organizers in conjunction with K-LOVE Radio Network plan to do a nationwide promotion on Independence Day weekend with 100 on-air giveaways and Internet spots reaching nearly 2 million people.

“Let’s join together ... to share the truth of the gospel with the men and women protecting our right to distribute God’s Word,” said Bill Anderson, president of the CBA.

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## Revival Meetings Break Out Near Charlotte, N.C.

*Students from Rick Joyner’s ministry school bring ‘break out’ to MorningStar after visiting Lakeland Outpouring.*



[06.03.08] Like many flocking to Florida’s Lakeland Outpouring since April 2, thousands more are descending on MorningStar Ministries’ campus in Fort Mill, S.C., in search of a similar experience.

For the last six weeks, excluding two evenings set aside for rest, extended worship and healing services have been held every night in an affluent suburb south of Charlotte, N.C.

MorningStar founder Rick Joyner said in his many years of full-time ministry he’s never witnessed anything so strong and consistent. He believes it could “morph into revival” and eventually “break out” around the world.

“It’s increasing, not decreasing,” he told *Charisma*. “We’ve seen more real and serious high-level miracles in the last five weeks than we’ve seen in the entire time of our ministry.”

Joyner said during meetings people are delivered from oppression and healed of a variety of ailments, such as tumors, paralysis, allergies, blindness, deafness and acid reflux.

A young mother of two from Fort Mill told *Charisma* that

without any expectation for healing, the pain from her ulcer disappeared the day after attending a meeting last week. She said instead of pain during the night, she is experiencing God's peace.

The gatherings have been dubbed "Holy Spirit Breakout," named after the "breakout room" on campus where students from MorningStar's ministry school prayed for others on April 23 after returning from meetings in Lakeland, Fla., led by evangelist Todd Bentley.

In an update on MorningStar's Web site after the "breakout," Joyner said his students begged him to keep things going. "My response was that I did not start it, and I sure would not stop it," he said. "As long as the Lord is moving, we will be meeting every night, but when He stops or moves on, so will we."

Joyner explained what is occurring at MorningStar as connected to a dream he said he had last year in which God told him if he "honored the fathers," revival would come to America within six months. He held a conference on March 21 dedicated to this theme.

A month later, Joyner wrote in a bulletin that God linked honoring the fathers with revival in America because a "major gate of hell" had been opened to America over the years through the "dishonoring of fathers and fatherhood."

Last week in California, Joyner visited healing evangelist Oral Roberts, someone he considers a father of last century's healing movement. Joyner said the aging leader told him he thinks what's happening at MorningStar is "totally God."

Numbers attending daily services at MorningStar have ranged between several hundred to a couple thousand. Joyner said half the crowd often raise their hands to indicate that it's their first time attending. He said the current facility could hold up to 3,000 people.

Though he expects attendance to jump when school lets out for

the summer, Joyner said numbers are not what excite him most. "To be honest with you, it seems that when the crowds are a little smaller the Lord moves more powerfully."

If a larger venue becomes necessary in the coming months Joyner said the former *PTL Club* studio on campus could accommodate up to 5,000 people.

*The PTL Club* was a TV program in the 1980s hosted by televangelist Jim Bakker, who later spent time in prison for fraud. In 2004, Joyner purchased Bakker's abandoned and dilapidated property formerly known as Heritage USA and, in a nod to what he calls the redemption of Jim Bakker, called MorningStar's vision for the property's continued restoration Heritage International Ministries.

According to Joyner, reliable prophetic words about revival coming to the Charlotte, N.C., area have been declared for more than 50 years. "I'm not saying this is it," he said. "To us, it's like a spiritual birth pang or contraction leading to revival."

But if revival is eventually birthed, as Joyner hopes it is, he does not believe it will only be local. "I think it will break out all over the place," he said. "I think the 'encouragement barometer' of the whole body of Christ is going to go way up. I think ultimately what is coming will go beyond revival and to a great awakening. I think we're just in the very first stages. I think we're in for several very intense years." **—Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**

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## **Pro-Homosexual Group Wants to Woo Megachurch Leaders**

*On June 1 a self-proclaimed gay-affirming Christian organization, visited Eddie Long's Atlanta-based church for*

worship and an open discussion about homosexuality. The group is also targeting five other evangelical churches including Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston.



[06.02.08] This weekend leaders from Soulforce, a self-proclaimed gay-affirming Christian organization, visited Eddie Long's New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta for worship and an open discussion about homosexuality.

Soulforce, in collaboration with other pro-homosexual groups, launched The American Family Outing, an initiative in which Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian and Transgender (GBLT) families have visited megachurches around the nation to discuss their views.

Among the churches targeted since Mother's Day have been Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston, T.D. Jakes' The Potter's House in Dallas and Harry Jackson's Hope Christian Church in Beltsville, Md.

The group met with Long and leaders in his church on June 1 for a dialogue about homosexuality and the church.

A spokeswoman from Soulforce said the meeting was "wonderful" and that both sides were able to dispel myths held by the other.

Dan Rene, a spokesman from New Birth, agreed that the meetings were positive and even "very productive." He told *Charisma* that Soulforce previously viewed Long as homophobic but now many from the group recognize his sincerity toward them.

"He doesn't believe that he's right or they're wrong," Rene said, speaking for Long. "But that he respects everyone's beliefs."

Troy Sanders, a leader with Soulforce and an associate pastor at the gay-affirming Atlanta-based The Vision Church, told *Charisma* the purpose of the meetings is to create an open discussion and to stop the tide of hatred against those practicing homosexuality, especially since anti-gay hatred has

roots in the church.

“Every church has been hospitable to us, even though there is clearly different theological differences,” Sanders said, adding that the meetings with Osteen and Jakes were productive. “It was not my intention or goal to alter anyone’s theology. This is not an attack against any families.”

Darryl Foster an ex-gay minister and founder of the homosexual outreach group Witness Freedom Ministries, believes that Soulforce is only using these meetings to gain prominence.

“Their intention is to gain credibility and attention,” Foster said. “They don’t want to hear the other side.”

Foster believes that megachurch pastors should not participate in this initiative, as he says it is a violation of Scripture.

“What [megachurch pastors] should do is tell them that they should repent,” Foster told *Charisma*.

Citing 1 Corinthians 5, in which Paul admonishes the Corinthian church to disfellowship Christians willfully living in sin, Foster added: “We are not supposed to have any association with them.”

On June 8, Soulforce plans to visit Bill Hybels’ Willow Creek Community Church and end the initiative on Father’s Day at Rick Warren’s Saddleback Community Church. **–Felicia Mann**

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## **Bills Seek to Protect Academic Freedom**

The legislation introduced in five states would allow educators to challenge Darwinism in science classes

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# Survey Finds Thousands of Pastors Lack Health Insurance

*Many denominational pastors say they receive little or no assistance for health care insurance from their national organizations.*



[05.29.08] A recent survey found that a majority of denominational pastors receive little or no health care assistance from their national organizations.

The poll, conducted by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), found that most pastors find alternative ways to gain health insurance coverage.

Many of the pastors who responded to the survey said they receive health insurance coverage from a part-time job, spouse's insurance plan or by purchasing individual policies; others said they went without coverage.

"Thousands of pastors ... are among the millions of Americans without health insurance," NAE President Leith Anderson said in a statement.

Some denominations tried to provide centralized health coverage but were unable to sustain it due to rising costs, difficulty securing coverage in multiple states and an inability to balance insurance premiums for both young and old ministers, the study said.

"We have tried two or three times to provide health insurance, but we have not been able to make it work," the head of one Pentecostal denomination told the NAE.

Although some organizations are able to provide centralized health insurance, Anderson believes the lack of coverage for the majority of clergy is a "growing problem."

“So many churches are small, and too many pastors are uninsured,” he said. “As clergy age with the rest of America’s population we may see a growing list of pastors entering retirement with bankrupting medical bills.”

The NAE, based in Washington, D.C., represents millions of Christians from more than 60 denominations, including the Assemblies of God and the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.).

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## Christian Host Says He’s Gay

*The Remix, a popular Christian youth program, was recently pulled off the air after the show’s 22-year-old host, Azariah Southworth, announced he was gay. Photo: Southworth (middle) interviewing Ben Olin, lead singer of This Beautiful Republic.*



[05.28.08] After running two successful seasons on Christian TV, popular youth program *The Remix* was recently pulled off the air after the show’s 22-year-old host, Azariah Southworth, announced he was gay.

The half-hour reality show, which often featured interviews, cooking and boutique-shopping with members of Christian bands such as Jars of Clay, This Beautiful Republic and Avalon, had been airing nationally on the NRB Network and TBN’s youth network, JCTV.

Both networks did not respond to *Charisma’s* request for comment.

From Southworth’s point of view, the Bible can be interpreted to conclude that homosexuality is not sinful. He told *Charisma* he expected things to end the way they did. “I knew that it was going to happen. I know they don’t believe in being gay,”

he said. "I understood and respected their decision."

Though most in the Christian community acknowledge born-again believers can struggle with same-sex attraction, not many believe that the Bible affirms a person's decision to accept the gay identity or lifestyle.

Alan Chambers, president of the ex-gay ministry Exodus International, said he knows what it's like to love God and at the same time struggle with sexual identity issues.

"The situation with Azariah is so heartbreaking," he told *Charisma*. "It is my hope that the church will reach out with the love of Jesus Christ as well as the truth that God's design for relationships is above and beyond the world's counterfeits." —Paul Steven Ghiringhelli