

Fiji Crusade Called a Spiritual Bomb™

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During a recent six-week evangelistic outreach across the Fiji islands, Impact World Tour (IWT), the global arm of Youth With a Mission, recorded nearly 17,500 decisions for Christ. Local Fiji pastors likened the crusade to a “spiritual bomb” going off in the mostly Indian-populated islands, IWT reported. Despite many rainy days, organizers said they were able to share the gospel with 165,000 people in 16 cities, 24 schools and three prisons. Beginning Sept. 3 the 110-member evangelism teams held crusades across the islands, incorporating various types of ministry such as men displaying feats of strength, island dancers, hip-hop dancers and extreme sports. The outreaches drew many, including the largely unevangelized Indo-Fijians, who live in the South Pacific. “One Indian pastor shared with me after one campaign night that he knew of four Indian families in his neighborhood who had given their lives to Christ, and he had been approached by another man who had a family of six to come to his home to share about Christ and pray for them,” said David Cole, IWT regional director. “We were excited to see whole families respond to give their lives to Christ, often led by the fathers bringing their families forward to respond.” IWT’s Web site also records numerous healings during the crusades, including that of a 9-year-old girl who was healed of a paralysis and a 7-year-old boy who was healed of deafness in one ear.

Six Charismatic Ministries Under Investigation

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee has sent letters to six major TV ministries requesting that they yield detailed financial records by Dec. 6.



The U.S. Senate Finance Committee has begun an exploratory review of possible financial misuse of six prominent charismatic ministries. This week Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican member on the committee, sent letters to six major TV ministries requesting that they yield detailed financial records by Dec. 6. The detailed four- to six-page letters, which were all posted on the *Tampa Tribune's* Web site, stated that the Senate Finance Committee requested a review of each ministry's fiscal reports to determine whether the nonprofits were operating in compliance with their tax-exempt status. The ministries included in the investigation are: Randy and Paula White of Without Walls International Church in Tampa, Fla.; Benny Hinn of World Healing Center Church of Grapevine, Texas; David and Joyce Meyer of Joyce Meyer Ministries in Fenton, Mo.; Kenneth and Gloria Copeland of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Newark, Texas; Bishop Eddie Long of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga.; and Creflo and Taffi Dollar of World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga. The ministries were asked to submit an assortment of information including the salaries of the ministries' top staff, amounts received from "love offerings," and accounts of ministry expenses related to cars, jets, vacations and recording studios. Some of the ministries have released response statements to the investigation. Joyce Meyer Ministries (JMM) said on its Web site that JMM has always been "transparent" about their financial dealings, noting that their 2003 to 2006 audits are posted on their Web site and that the IRS's recent ministry audit determined the ministry should retain its nonprofit status. "JMM is committed to conducting itself with excellence and integrity, choosing to go above and beyond the level of accountability required by

law and/or that expected by most donors,” said Thomas J. Winters, the ministry’s attorney.

Church of God in Christ Celebrates 100 Years

The largest Pentecostal denomination in the U.S. is expecting 70,000 people to convene in Memphis Tenn. all this week through Nov. 12 for the celebrations.



The Church of God in Christ (COGIC), the largest Pentecostal denomination in the U.S., is celebrating its 100th anniversary all this week through Monday, Nov. 12. An estimated 70,000 people are expected to convene at COGIC headquarters in Memphis, Tenn., for worship, 24-hour prayer meetings and a host of other centennial events. “Our church has grown from a small congregation founded in Memphis to a 6.5 million-member international denomination in the last 100 years and that is something to celebrate,” said COGIC’s presiding bishop, Charles E. Blake. “We are honoring all the lives saved and souls that have come to know Jesus as a result of the Church [of God in Christ]. Over the last 100 years, the predominantly African-American COGIC denomination has planted churches in 58 countries. At this year’s convocation, thousands of attendants are expected to join other international COGIC congregations via satellite for a global communion service involving Brazil, London, Nigeria, India and the Philippines. “The Centennial Communion Service is an extraordinary way to unite our brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe,” Blake said. “This is a great opportunity for saints to come together and celebrate the body of Christ.” Worship services from the celebration will be streamed online 24-hours a day at: www.cogiccentennial.org.

Nationwide Prayer Vigil to Fight Abortion

On Saturday, Nov. 3, a pro-life group, will conclude its 40-day prayer and fasting campaign by organizing 24-hour prayer vigils outside abortion clinics across the country.



On Saturday, Nov. 3, a pro-life group called 40 Days for Life will conclude its 40-day prayer and fasting campaign by organizing 24-hour prayer vigils outside abortion clinics across the country. Prayer has been ongoing since Sept. 26, and the group's leaders are asking all pro-life supporters in churches and ministries to take action by joining in the daylong prayer vigil Saturday. "Saturday is the busiest day of the week at most abortion facilities. That's when the need for prayer is greatest," said David Bereit, national campaign director for 40 Days for Life. "We are inviting pro-life believers across America to join in solidarity with 40 Days for Life by holding simultaneous prayer vigils outside every abortion center and Planned Parenthood facility in the United States ... any location where people are willing to stand and pray." According to its organizers, thousands of pro-life participants in the 40-day mission have prayed, fasted and peacefully stood outside abortion clinics in 33 states and nearly 100 communities, resulting in an estimated 300 cancellations of planned abortions.

Presbyterian Churches' Splitting Over Sexuality

A Louisiana church voted earlier this week to leave the Presbyterian Church USA, making it the most recent to depart over scriptural disputes regarding sexuality.



The First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge, La., voted 425-61 earlier this week to end its 25-year association with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), reported the Associated Press (AP). The breakaway congregation is the latest church to leave the nation's ninth largest denomination over interpretational disputes regarding Scripture. The next step for the Louisiana church is to request membership with the smaller but more conservative Evangelical Presbyterian Church. "This was a defining moment for us," the Rev. Gerrit Dawson, senior pastor at First Presbyterian, told the AP. "We want to conduct our mission with clarity about the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Scriptures." In recent years the 2.3 million-member PCUSA has seen a decline in membership. Some conservatives fault the liberal direction the denomination has taken, namely in its avoidance of requiring clergy and lay officers to limit sex to man-woman marriages. Phil Josephson, a Presbyterian Church elder in Kansas City, Mo., told the AP: "We believe that PCUSA has moved away from being the true church and having the same biblical foundation."

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Church Reaches Out to Victims of Wildfires

The Rock Church in San Diego sheltered hundreds of evacuees and collected mountains of clothes, food and bedding for them.



As wildfires ravaged areas of Southern California last week,

leaving at least four dead and destroying homes, schools and properties over an estimated 760 square miles, volunteers from 10,000-member The Rock Church quickly took action and helped feed and shelter 348 evacuees. Only four days after the first fires were reported the San Diego-based church was certified by California's Office of Emergency Services as an evacuation and distribution center. Partnering with Christian ministries and secular companies, the church was able to provide food, clothing, toiletries and bedding not only to those who'd evacuated to the church but also, through its distribution, to an estimated 10,000 others. "This is what the church is about. What the gospel is about. It's not about Sunday meetings," said Miles McPherson, The Rock's senior pastor. "It's about loving [people]. We have to make sure we take advantage of every opportunity we have to share the gospel. You never know what God's going to do" The church was also able to offer medical care, childcare, pet care and a viewing of the World Series to evacuees.