

Survey: Evangelicals Most Concerned About American Culture

A survey released in early October shows that evangelical leaders' top concern is the state of American culture.



The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) released the results of a survey in early October that showed evangelical leaders' top concern as the state of American culture, including abortion-on-demand and the disintegration of the traditional family, the Associated Press (AP) reported. NAE President Leith Anderson, who became interim NAE president last year after the Ted Haggard drug-sex scandal, told the AP that his group questioned 100 evangelical leaders, many of whom expressed concern over the gospel's true representation in the U.S., worrying if the word "evangelical" has become too identified with politics. Next to a deteriorating culture, leaders placed the poor, including immigrants and people with AIDS, as their second biggest concern.

Palestinian Christian Killed in Gaza

Recently a prominent Palestinian Christian living in Gaza was murdered, sending a jolt of fear through the minority Christian community living in the Hamas-controlled region.



Recently a prominent Palestinian Christian activist living in Gaza was murdered, sending a jolt of fear through the small

minority Christian community living in the Hamas-controlled region, reported the Associated Press (AP). Rami Khader Ayyad, the 32-year-old director of the Teacher's Bookshop, Gaza's only Christian bookstore, was found lying dead on the street with a gunshot wound to the head. He was also stabbed numerous times. Simon Azazian, a spokesman at the Palestinian Bible Society, a group associated with the victim's bookstore, told the AP that Christians in Gaza believe Ayyad was martyred. "We feel Rami was killed for his Christian faith," he said. Earlier this year, Ayyad's bookstore was firebombed. He reportedly received death threats on a regular basis for what Muslim extremists perceived as his evangelistic work.

Don't Be Fooled

Kimberly Daniels says that racial injustice in our nation's past has caused some blacks to believe that "the white man" is the devil, and she warns against this deception.



For months I had been dreaming that I was an inmate in prison. In every dream an unseen enemy had set me up by planting drugs of some kind on me. Because of these dreams, a burden I had never experienced came on me. As a result, I began to research the criminal justice system in America. I have a bachelor's degree in criminology, yet I was never taught what my research revealed. I learned that, according to statistics compiled by Common Sense for Drug Policy:

Of the 246,100 state prison inmates serving time for drug offenses in 2001, 56.7 percent were black, 23.2 percent were white and 19 percent were Hispanic, according to 2002 Justice Department statistics.

In 1998, a federal Household Survey found that 72 percent of all drug users were white, 15 percent black and 10 percent Hispanic. Despite these numbers, blacks constituted 36.8 percent of those arrested for drug violations, more than 42 percent of those in federal prison for drug violations and 58 percent of those in state prisons for drug felonies.

In 1986, and before mandatory minimums for crack offenses became effective, the average federal drug-offense sentence for blacks was 11 percent higher than for whites, according to a 1992 report published by the Federal Judicial Center. In 1990, when harsher drug-sentencing laws were implemented, the rate skyrocketed to 49 percent higher for blacks.

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Christian Leaders to Help Reduce Infections

Co-chaired by T.D. Jakes, the first-ever conference to help end HIV/AIDS in the black community was recently held.



On Oct. 8 and 9 the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, a committee consisting of clergy, scholars, government officials and health officials, gathered for the first-ever conference to help end HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. Co-chaired by Bishop T.D. Jakes and the Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, the committee hopes to develop a five-year plan to strategically and significantly reduce cases of HIV/AIDS infections among African-Americans. Jakes also noted that African-Americans are 10 times more likely than whites and three times more likely than Hispanics to be infected with

the deadly disease. "While the struggle with HIV/AIDS in any community is tragic and devastating, the battle within the African-American community is a unique one," said Jakes, senior pastor at Dallas megachurch The Potter's House. "African-Americans wrestle with socioeconomic issues, a lack of education, delays in early detection, treatment and prevention, and insufficient access to affordable care and medications. These factors contribute to a rapid and startling ascent of African- Americans who contract and are dying from the disease," he said.

Osama Bin Laden's Distorted View

Award-winning journalist Mike Evans says that bin Laden believes he has the upper hand, despite being forced to live in hiding while being hunted relentlessly by the U.S.



U.S. intelligence experts are busy analyzing the video message arch-terrorist Osama bin Laden sent to coincide with the sixth anniversary of his Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the American people.

But while the experts explore for hidden meanings in bin Laden's message, there are enough of his ideas out in the open for us to get the gist of it.

For one thing, in choosing to crawl out from under his rock for the first time in about three years to deliver his statement, Bin Laden was clearly timing his video to influence U.S. public opinion on the eve of Gen. David Petraeus's report to Congress on the surge response.

Without knowing in advance what the general would say, however, bin Laden could only boast – wrongly – that the latest U.S. strategy was not working. Furthermore, he hinted, he plans to initiate his own surge to kick the forces of “the Great Satan” out of Iraq.

Despite being forced to live in hiding while being hunted relentlessly by the U.S. and kept from mounting another attack on the scale of 9/11 for the past six years, bin Laden somehow believes he has the upper hand. He wants the world to know that he will defeat America in Iraq just as the mujahedin defeated the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

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Men to Again “Stand in the Gap”™ in D.C.

On Oct. 6, an estimated 250,000 men will be challenged to rebuild their commitment to God, their families, churches and nation at Stand in the Gap 2007.



Ten years after the history-making Promise Keepers event drew more than 1 million men to the nation's capitol, men are again being summoned to Washington, D.C., for Stand in the Gap 2007 () this Saturday, Oct. 6. Organizers are preparing for 250,000 men to convene on the lawn of the Washington Monument for the gathering, which is being hosted by the National Coalition of Men's Ministries, a network of more than 80 Christian men's organizations. Featured speakers include Joseph Garlington, David Jeremiah, Samuel Rodriguez Jr. and Erwin McManus. “We are urging men to return, remember, renew and rebuild their commitment to God, their families, churches, neighborhoods, communities and the nation,” said Marty Granger, chairman and

executive director of the event. Stand in the Gap participants will be challenged to leave a legacy of spiritual strength to the next generation and like the original event, which draws its name from Ezekiel 22:30, it will call men to accountability. "Men today tend to be isolated," said National Coalition of Men's Ministries President Rick Kingham. "If you can get them together to stand for God, it's a grand success."
—Rachael Cox

Racial Reconciliation

We have a long way to go in eliminating racial disparities among Christians. It's time for the body of Christ to focus on racial reconciliation.



For a long time one of the most customary clichés about American national life has been that the most segregated moment of any given week is 11 a.m. on Sunday. It is certainly accurate to say that American churchgoers still stick very much with their own kind when gathering for Christian worship. It is also surely true that, historically, white churchgoing habits reflected overall white attitudes toward African Americans.

Those attitudes, if generous, were often patronizing; and if not, they were probably outright racist. In fact, it is one of the historical curiosities of American religious history that the Azusa Street Pentecostal phenomenon of 1906 was widely denounced at the time precisely because, as the Los Angeles newspaper of the day, The Daily Times, put it: "Whites and blacks mix in religious frenzy." In short, when Pentecost came to North America big-time in the early 20th century, it was striking for its departure from conventional racial separatism.

ORU Being Sued by Former Professors

Three former Oral Roberts University professors filed suit against the school, its president, Richard Roberts, and three other staff members Tuesday.



Three former Oral Roberts University (ORU) professors filed suit against the school, its president, Richard Roberts, and three other staff members Tuesday, claiming they were wrongfully terminated. In a 13-page suit, the three claim that they lost their jobs after submitting a report alleging that Roberts and his family charged personal expenses to ORU, gave university scholarships to unqualified family friends and that the staff provided the IRS “inaccurate information” regarding the school’s financial involvement in political campaigns, the *Tulsa World* reported. The plaintiffs are seeking actual and punitive damages each in excess of \$10,000, as well as attorney fees and other costs. In a statement, university officials said the lawsuit is based largely on “a compilation of incomplete statements, unsubstantiated rumors and innuendos” that ORU would address through the legal process. “This lawsuit ... is not about wrongful termination,” Roberts said Wednesday during an address to ORU faculty and students, the *Tulsa World* reported. “It is about intimidation, blackmail and extortion. Make no mistake about it; this suit is about money, as most suits are. But there is one problem: I am not intimidated by blackmail or extortion.” Roberts also said the attorney representing the professors has brought numerous unsuccessful lawsuits against the school in previous years. The former professors—John Swails, former chairman of the history, humanities and government departments; Tim Brooker, a

professor coordinating the school's government program; and his wife, Paulita Brooker, an adjunct professor in the history, government and humanities department—allege that they were terminated only after they submitted a report that documented moral and ethical problems involving Roberts and his family. The petition stated that “some of the more salacious entries” in the report were omitted “to preserve, as much as possible, the remaining positive image” of ORU. The three other defendants named in the lawsuit are ORU Provost Mark Lewandowski, Associate Provost Jeff Ogle and Wendy Shirk, dean of the College of Arts.

Do You Want to Live Longer?

Dr. Donald Colbert suggests that by eating healthy and losing weight you can reduce your risk of heart disease and cancer, which will lead to a more fruitful life.



Question: I am overweight, and I know that obesity increases the risk of heart disease and cancer. What can I do to fight back? L.R. Nashville, Tennessee

Answer: When we develop bad habits related to our diet by eating the wrong foods, such as sugar (in excess), fast foods, fried foods, highly processed carbohydrates and meats (in excess), we become prone to obesity. You're right, being obese does increase the risk of developing either heart disease or cancer.

This correlation occurs because fat cells promote inflammation. It's an established medical fact that most heart disease and much cancer is actually caused by inflammation. Fat cells also play a beneficial role in the body—they produce substances that assist in regulating the immune system. But an excess of fat will easily outdo any healthful benefit it

normally brings to the body. For example, too much fat in the body can:

- trigger excessive inflammation, which eventually will lead to heart disease or cancer
 - cause the blood to clot, creating a predisposition to heart attack or stroke
 - constrict blood vessels, a reaction that eventually leads to hypertension
 - promote cell growth and blood vessel growth, which increases the risk of cancer.
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Close The Mosque Terror Schools

Michael Evans, author of the New York Times best-seller The Final Move Beyond Iraq, says the world can't expect to halt terrorism without first closing terrorist schools.



This summer Italian police arrested an imam and two of his aides, all from Morocco, in a mosque in the central city of Perugia they were using as a “terrorism school.”

The “religious” leader taught courses on preparing poisons, bomb making, and hand-to-hand combat. Perhaps most chilling, according to the Italian anti-terrorist police, the imam had downloaded videos from the Internet on how to pilot a Boeing 747 – presumably enough to fly one into a skyscraper.

The Ponte Felcino mosque held dozens of barrels of chemicals used to make explosives. Its grounds were used for weapons

training and practicing ambushes and attacks. "We have discovered and neutralized a real 'terror school' which was part of a widespread terrorism system made up of small cells that act on their own," said police anti-terrorism head Carlo De Stefano.

"It's time to halt the terrorist production line by closing the mosque terrorism schools."

Police said the cell was in contact with another organization, the Moroccan Islamic Combat Group, which is believed linked to al-Qaida and the 2004 Madrid bombings and 2003 attacks in Casablanca.

Islamofascism is being exported from the Middle East and cultivated in mosques linked throughout the world. One such linkage is a mosque in England that was involved in the mass murder of schoolchildren in Beslan.

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