

Iranian Church Growth ‘Mind-Boggling’

Elam Ministries has been training Iranian nationals to evangelize their nation for nearly 20 years

News Briefs

Divorce News Shocks Tampa Congregation

Randy and Paula White are ending their marriage and splitting their ministry operations

Vibes

Worship from Casting Crowns, Paul Baloche
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Bikers Ride for Bible Translations

Recently, staff from Wycliffe Bible Translators began a cross-country bicycle tour to raise awareness for the need of Bible translations.



Recently, two staff members from Wycliffe Bible Translators began a 3,000-mile cross-country bicycle tour to raise awareness for the need of both written and audio Bible translations. The two bikers, Ed Speyers and Doug Haag, hope the 40-day trek will raise awareness and funds to have a biblical translation in every language by 2025 and immediately translate Bibles for two people groups in Guatemala. The two Wycliffe staffers, along with five other cyclists, kicked off their trip in Los Angeles on Sept. 26, and plan to finish the tour in Lynchburg, Va. In partnership with the audio-Bible ministry, Faith Comes by Hearing, the riders hope the tour will enable Wycliffe to have Bibles translated in audio versions to reach cultures that communicate only orally. "Their passion is to see it in audio form, in a way that's professional quality that would have immediate impact on these oral cultures," Haag said. "So you not only have it written down and available [and] accessible that way, but [it will be in] audio form as well."

Head of Presbyterian Church to Step Down

Some Presbyterian leaders hope Kirkpatrick's retirement will allow for a change in the liberal direction the church has taken with its acceptance of homosexual ordinations.



At the annual Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) meeting this summer, the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, head of the denomination, announced he would not seek another term after his third one ends next summer. Since 1996 Kirkpatrick has held the highest position in the PCUSA as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Some conservative leaders in the denomination said that Kirkpatrick's decision to step down is a good change of direction for the "disheartening state" of the nation's largest Presbyterian denomination, which claims 2.3 million members. In recent years Kirkpatrick has been criticized for the PCUSA's rapid membership decline and the liberal direction the denomination has taken with the acceptance of homosexual ordination and disputes over scriptural authority. "The last decade under his leadership has been a difficult and disappointing time for Kirkpatrick, and indeed for Presbyterians as a whole," said James D. Berkley, director of Presbyterian Action at the Institute on Religion and Democracy. Kirkpatrick said he is eager to spend more time with his family, according to an Associated Press report. The PCUSA nominating committee has already begun searching for a new clerk to be elected next year.

Longtime Televangelist Rex Humbard Dies

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Broadcast pioneer and televangelist Rex Humbard died Sept. 21 of natural causes. He was 88. Noted as one of America's first television evangelist, Humbard began broadcasting his TV show, *Cathedral of Tomorrow*, to millions in the 1950s from his Ohio-based, 5,400-seat church of the same name. "He was the ultimate role model in showing love and caring for other people over and above himself," said his grandson Rex Humbard III. The show aired for three decades on 360 stations across North America and in 91 languages on more than 2,000 stations worldwide. "The vast majority of people do not go to church and the only way we can reach them is through the TV," Humbard wrote in his autobiography, *Miracles in My Life*. Regularly watching Humbard from hotels on Sundays, the legendary Elvis Presley reportedly called the televangelist "his preacher," and upon his death in 1977 Presley's father requested Humbard officiate the service, according to Humbard's official Web site. Secular media has recognized Humbard—who at 13 began his broadcast career by singing gospel songs at a local radio station in Arkansas and inviting listeners to his father's church—as an extremely influential televangelist. "Today, Rex Humbard has come closer than any other human being in history ... to preaching the gospel in all of the world ... more than any other evangelist, he has taken up the challenge," *TIME* magazine reported in 1999. *U.S. News & World Report* named him one of the "Top 25 Principle Architects of the American Century." Humbard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Maude Aimee; sons, Rex Jr., Don and Charles; daughter, Liz Darling; and 21 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. *Funeral services will be held in Akron, Ohio, at 3 p.m. ET on Sept. 30.*

Miracles During Purity Siege

Across the country young people have been praying and worshipping in front of nightclubs and bars, as part of Mike and Cindy Jacobs "Light the Highway" holiness campaign.



Across the country young people have been praying and worshipping in front of nightclubs and bars as part of an initiative called "Purity Siege," sponsored by Mike and Cindy Jacobs' ministry Generals International (). "In much the same way people protest against governmental or business aspects of society, youth across the nation will 'siege' sites of impurity in their city, by doing on-location prayer," the ministry's Web site states. "They will be protesting the machinations of evil, such as pornography, injustice, abortion, and other strongholds. They will stand outside of spiritual strongholds and visually demonstrate their opposition." At a recent siege outside a known homosexual nightclub in Dallas, young people prayed for and evangelized homosexuals, transgenders and transvestites. A self-proclaimed homosexual atheist who called the police to report the purity siege as a disruption gave his life to Christ that night after one of the seige volunteers began to talk to him. "[He] was one of many who fell under the power of the Holy Spirit that night," Cindy Jacobs said. "He then accepted Christ as his Savior ... and spoke in tongues." He immedialtly left his partner and family and enrolled in a bible college. "I am willing to talk to any homosexual, drug addict or sex addict because I know what hell feels like, but now I know what heaven feels like and it is so much better," he said. To find out how you can get involved in prayer sieges around the country e-mail joe@ or visit .

Americans Believe U.S. is a Christian Nation

An annual first amendment study, found that the majority of Americans believe the founding fathers and the Constitution established the U. S. as a Christian nation.



An annual first amendment study, which gauges American attitudes toward issues such as freedom of religion, speech and the press, found that the majority of Americans believe the founding fathers (65 percent) and the Constitution (55 percent) established the U. S. as a Christian nation. Released Sept. 12 by the First Amendment Center, the survey found that 58 percent believed teachers should be allowed to lead students in prayer, compared to 52 percent last year; 56 percent of respondents believed freedom of religion applies to all groups regardless of how extreme their views are, down from 72 percent in 2000; and 43 percent said schools should be allowed to have Nativity plays with Christian music. Though the figures indicate widespread Christian sentiment in modern society, Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center, said that doesn't technically mean America was founded as a Christian nation. "People are applying their own values ... rather than educated knowledge of the Constitution," he told *USA Today*, which he said "clearly establishes the U.S. as a secular nation." The survey, dubbed State of the First Amendment 2007, has been conducted annually since 1997.