

# FeedBack

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## Vibes

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### Study: Young People Find Happiness in God

*A recent study found that young people who said they were spiritual or religious were happier than those who said they were not spiritual or religious.*



A recent study found that young people between ages 13 and 24 who said they were spiritual or religious were happier than those who said they were not spiritual or religious. Sponsored by the Associated Press (AP) and MTV, the report showed that 80 percent of those who said they were religious said they were happy compared to only 60 percent of those who said their faith was not important to them. "If you believe God is helping you, then everything else isn't as important and you can trust that there's somebody there for you no matter what," Molly Luksik, a 21-year-old from Chicago, told the AP. "Just going to church and everything ... it's very calming, and everyone is nice." About 75 percent of the young people said that God affected their happiness while 90 percent surveyed said their happiness was partially controlled by them. "I think you do have control over how you are going to feel on a

particular day,” said David Mueller of Lockport, N.Y., a 20-year-old college student who attends an evangelical Christian megachurch called The Chapel. “When it comes to events in your whole life, it's already somewhat laid out for you. You can stray off to another path. But where God wants you to go, you are going to get there,” he said.

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## Pastor Speaks at the United Nations

*Ukraine-based pastor recently spoke at the United Nations, discussing how churches can become part of the solution for global problems such as poverty, health and conflict.*



Ukraine-based pastor Sunday Adelaja spoke at the United Nations Aug. 23, discussing how churches can become part of the solution for global problems such as poverty, health and conflict. Speaking twice, including during an open meeting attended by ministers in New York, Adelaja told delegates that Christians have the potential to transform society. “The values that Jesus brought should not be limited to the four walls of the church,” Adelaja told *Charisma*. “These values actually could be used to help in transforming the society in the area of poverty alleviation, even up to the resolution of conflicts in the Middle East. The values of Jesus are not merely the values of churches. Values are something general; everyone can relate to values of love, peace, patience, kindness, meeting the needs and resolving poverty issues.” Pastor of Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God for All Nations in Kiev, Ukraine, Adelaja is well known throughout Europe for his church’s work to meet social needs and influence culture. Members of his 25,000-strong church, commonly known as God’s Embassy, were involved in the Orange Revolution, a series of protests in 2004 that resulted in the election of West-leaning Viktor Yushchenko as president.

Adelaja said he hopes to encourage churches to play a more visible role in addressing global challenges. “We have something to bring on board,” he said, “and we would like to partner to bring relief to the crises of our world.”

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## New Life Church Elects New Pastor

*On Monday Brady Boyd was elected senior pastor of New Life Church, receiving 95 percent of the votes. This ended the church's 10-month search to replace Ted Haggard.*



Dallas pastor Brady Boyd has been elected senior pastor of New Life Church. The congregation's 95 percent vote for Boyd Monday, Aug. 27, ended a 10-month search that began last November after founding pastor Ted Haggard stepped down amid allegations he solicited a male escort and purchased illegal drugs. “This is a great day for New Life Church,” said Boyd, 40, who was an associate senior pastor at Gateway Church in suburban Southlake, Texas. “All of us are excited about writing the next chapter together. God has great plans for New Life and for Colorado Springs, and my family and I are humbled that we get to be a part of this great team.” As a pastoral candidate Boyd spoke at a series of services through-out August answering questions and assuring the congregation of his character. “I don't have any moral failures in my past, no bones in my closet,” Boyd said during his first sermon Aug. 12, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported. “I have sinned, but I am not a failure.” Boyd said he was willing to rebuild the reputation of the church whose membership has fallen from 14,000 to 10,000 since Haggard resigned. Rob Brendle, New Life associate pastor, said Boyd was a man of character and the

church was looking forward to new beginnings. “We're grateful to Brady for his willingness to serve our church family, and we're grateful to God for sustaining us over the last 10 months,” the Associated Press reported. “We look forward to a bright future serving our community and loving one another.”

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## **Pro-Lifers Oppose New Abortion Clinic With 40-Day Prayer Vigil**

*As part of a 40-day prayer vigil, a pro-life group scheduled a public protest for Aug. 25 to oppose the opening of one of the nation's largest Planned Parenthood facilities.*



A pro-life group scheduled a public protest for Saturday, Aug. 25, at a brand-new abortion clinic in Aurora, Ill., as part of an around-the-clock, 40-day prayer vigil the group has maintained since Aug. 9. Led by Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League, the prayer vigil and protest are attempts by the group to stop the opening of what would be one of the nation's largest Planned Parenthood facilities. “Churches of all denominations from throughout the Chicago area are taking part in the 40-Day vigil, which is already bringing forth miracles of conversion in the community,” said Eric Scheidler, communication director for the Pro-Life Action League. The vigil has drawn Christian groups together to pray, fast and participate in sidewalk counseling. Organizers said their efforts would continue through the clinic’s scheduled opening on Sept 18. Scheidler noted the “Gemini Medical Office Building”—which some call the “Abortion Fortress” due to its high brick walls, bulletproof glass and numerous security cameras—was a name Planned Parenthood used to intentionally

veil Aurora's residents from the construction of the clinic. "Planned Parenthood snuck into our town—neither the city of Aurora nor many of the contractors working on the building knew what it really was," said Scheidler, an Aurora resident. "Now they're going to try to sneak into our schools, drive a wedge between parents and children, and begin killing unborn babies here," he said. "Not without a fight." Hundreds of people have shown up at the abortion clinic to pray and Scheidler said he is optimistic to see the prayer effort expand. "This is the most powerful grass-roots pro-life effort I've ever seen," he said. "We can scarcely keep track of the prayer pledges coming in." The prayer vigil is also being promoted by local and national pro-life groups including the Illinois chapter of Concerned Women of America, Illinois Citizens for Life, Illinois Right to Life, Priests for Life and Operation Rescue. The National Organization for Women (NOW) has promised to counter-protest.

Photo By: Eric Scheidler

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## **More than 7,000 Students Answer Missionary Call**

*At the U.S. Assembly of God youth conference, 7,000 young people answered the call to become missionaries on their middle and high school campuses.*



This year at the U.S. Assembly of God (AG) annual youth conference "Indy07—Experience the Dream," more than 7,000 young people answered the call to become missionaries on their middle and high school campuses. AG National Youth Director Jay Mooney said students were challenged to join the AG vision to reach 1 million American teenagers and graft them into a local church by the end of 2015. "These students are the on-

campus pastors and evangelists to America's most strategic mission field—the middle and secondary school campuses,” Mooney said. “Leaders, we no longer can do youth ministry as normal. We need to be challenging and equipping our students to become youth in ministry.” Sessions were held throughout the week to help students develop their ministry gifts and equip them to be effective missionaries on their campuses. Thomas E. Trask, the former AG general superintendent, appeared via satellite and charged the students who had committed to becoming on-campus missionaries and AG local and foreign missionaries with a commission to evangelize the world. The students were also given Bibles that included tips for on-campus missions. “Our students aren't just the future church—they are the church. If Christianity is to come alive in America, it will take students reaching students!” said Rick Lorimer, the AG's student missions director. Some of the students said they not only learned how to be on-campus missionaries but gained hands-on experience during their week in Indianapolis by participating in projects such as rebuilding homes, working with children through block parties and sports camps, and helping to feed the poor. “This is helping me to serve other people and share with other people about God,” said Jade Roberts, a student from Thornton, Colo. “It's teaching me how I can go home and [serve there], too.”

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## **Billy Graham Admitted To Hospital**

*Billy Graham is resting in the hospital in fair condition after suffering two episodes of intestinal bleeding. He was admitted Saturday after the initial occurrence.*



World-renowned evangelist Billy Graham, 88, is resting in the hospital in fair condition after being admitted this past Saturday for intestinal bleeding. He was stable after undergoing an upper endoscopy and a bleeding scan at the Mission Health & Hospitals in Asheville, N.C., near his home. On Monday he experienced a second episode of intestinal bleeding in which he remained conscious and quickly stabilized. Graham's doctors said that the intestinal bleeding could be attributed to diverticuli, small pouches that can form in the lower intestine. When irritated they can suddenly begin bleeding. The physicians said the illness was not life-threatening, and Graham's staff noted that the elderly evangelist was alert and visiting with family members in the hospital. There is currently no date set for his release, as he will remain in the hospital for ongoing care. Graham experienced intestinal bleeding during a 1995 crusade in Toronto, according to The Associated Press, and because he now suffers with Parkinson's disease and age-related macular degeneration, Graham has been mostly confined to his North Carolina home in the mountains.

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## **Christian Leaders Arrested in Egypt**

*Unprecedented, high-profile actions of a Muslim-turned-Christian journalist provokes arrests, death threats and widespread anti-Christian sentiment.*



Egyptian police recently arrested the leader of a Christian rights group after he made supportive and highly conspicuous contact with a controversial Muslim convert to Christianity, reported watchdog *Compass Direct News*.

Officials from the State Security Investigation (SSI), Egypt's

security police, reportedly bound and blindfolded Dr. Adel Fawzy Faltas, 61, while ransacking his home in Cairo's Zamalek neighborhood and confiscating multiple computers along with other items.

Faltas is president of the Egyptian branch of the Middle East Christian Association (MECA), a Canada-based religious liberties and human rights group. Also arrested with Faltas was his co-worker at MECA, Peter Ezzat, while the rest of MECA's leaders went into hiding, *Compass* reported.

The arrests were apparently attributable in part to Faltas' recent advocacy on behalf of Mohammed Ahmed Hegazy, a Muslim-turned-Christian journalist and political activist who days earlier had filed suit in Egypt to legally change his identification card to Christian. [Read More](#)

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## **Federal Judge Dismisses Tax-Evasion Indictment Against Evangelist Morris Cerullo**

*The San Diego Judge said federal prosecutors and Internal Revenue Service agents misled the grand jury.*



A California judge has dismissed the tax evasion indictment filed against evangelist Morris Cerullo in July 2005. In his Aug. 8 ruling, San Diego federal Judge Roger T. Benitez said federal prosecutors and Internal Revenue Service agents misled the grand jury on the primary legal issue in the case by not telling them that the donor's intent determines whether money given to ministers is taxable earned income or a nontaxable gift. "The grand jury asked repeatedly how to distinguish a gift from earnings," Benitez wrote in his decision. "It was

incumbent on the prosecutor to correctly inform the grand jury as to the Supreme Court's approach to this penultimate question. Yet, the prosecutor and the revenue agent witnesses failed to tell the grand jury that the donor's intent is the most critical factor." Benitez said the case, which was scheduled to go to trial Aug. 21, could not proceed because the misleading information had compromised the grand jury. In July 2005, Cerullo was indicted for allegedly filing false tax returns between 1998 and 2000, and under-reporting his income by \$550,000 during that time. Benitez said prosecutors argued that all the money Cerullo received from preaching engagements was earned income. But the givers' intent was never determined because prosecutors never interviewed any donors.