

# ~Miracle Baby~™ Rescued from Pit

*Recently a newborn baby miraculously survived after her 15-year-old mother dropped her down a 28-foot deep outhouse toilet and left her to die.*



Earlier this month in Jacmel, Haiti, a 15-year-old mother dropped her newborn baby girl down a 28-foot deep outhouse toilet and left her to die. The baby miraculously survived after Toussaint, a teenage boy, saw the mother's trail of blood and followed it, attempting to rescue the baby himself before calling police. The police and an American U.N. soldier rescued the girl and took her to the not-for-profit Hands and Feet Project, a missionary-run Christian orphanage founded by members of the Grammy-winning music group Audio Adrenaline to reach out to the Haitian community. "After being dropped 30 feet into a pit and left for dead, and there were no bruises, no signs of trauma, and she was resting, I knew I had witnessed a miracle," said the U.N. soldier Darry Williams. "Everyone involved knew it." The little girl is now in full custody of Hands and Feet Project and she will continue to be cared for by the group. "She is now ours," said Drex Stuart, leader of the home and the father of Audio Adrenaline lead singer Mark Stuart. "A policeman from the station, no doubt a believer, gave us the baby's first name. He said that Christ must have been there for her, so the three words for 'Christ was there' [in Creole] would be 'Christela.' Her last name is in honor of Audio Adrenaline's song 'Beautiful.' This word translates to 'Belle.'" Christela's birth mother was placed under arrest.

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# Evangelical Leaders Break with Christian Zionism

*In an open letter to President Bush evangelical leaders countered the viewpoint that most American Christians favor pro-Israeli foreign policy over pro-Palestinian policy.*



In an open letter to President Bush published in *The New York Times* this past Sunday, nearly three dozen influential evangelical leaders countered the fairly conventional viewpoint in the U.S. that most of the nation's Christians favor pro-Israeli foreign policy over pro-Palestinian policy. The leaders stated they sought "to correct a serious misperception" held by the public and some U.S. policymakers that "all American evangelicals are opposed to a two-state solution and creation of a new Palestinian state." The letter asserted: "Nothing could be further from the truth." It was signed by 34 evangelical leaders, including Richard Stearns, president of World Vision; Gary Benedict, president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination; Richard Mouw, president Fuller Theological Seminary; and Berten A. Waggoner, president of the Vineyard USA denomination. In response to the letter, John Hagee, founder of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), told *The New York Times* "Bible-believing evangelicals will scoff at that message." Thousands of evangelicals who strongly support Israel joined Hagee in Washington D.C. just two weeks ago for his annual Washington-Israel CUFI Summit, an organization that he told the *Times* is "opposed to America pressuring Israel to give up more land to anyone for any reason." Alluding to Israel's disengagement from Gaza two years ago, Hagee asked: "What has the policy of appeasement ever produced for Israel that was beneficial?"

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# Ruth Graham Remembered As a Woman of Faith

Hundreds paid tribute to the wife of evangelist Billy Graham

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## Vibes

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## FeedBack

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# Charges Dropped Against Two Christians Arrested for Distributing Bibles

*On July 27 a judge dismissed charges against two members of The Gideons International.*



All charges against two members of The Gideons International arrested while distributing Bibles near a South Florida school were dismissed July 27, the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF)

reported. In January Anthony Mirto and Ernest Simpson were giving away Bibles near Key Largo School, a K-8 public school in Monroe County, Fla., when the principal called in police after receiving complaints from parents. A sheriff's deputy asked the Gideons to leave the area after observing Mirto and Simpson distributing Bibles on what they said was school property, Baptist Press reported. The men were arrested as they were leaving. ADF senior legal counsel David Cortman filed suit on the men's behalf, arguing that Mirto and Simpson were not on school property and that the First Amendment protects their right to engage in religious speech on a public sidewalk. According to Cortman, the judge dismissed all charges because the men had actually been given permission by the principal's office to be near the school. "Christians cannot be treated as second-class citizens," Cortman said. "These two men have the same constitutional rights as everyone else to pass out literature on a public sidewalk. We are pleased that the court agrees that these men should not have been arrested and dismissed the charges against them."

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## **Christian Radio Pioneer George Otis Sr. Dies**

*Pioneering Christian broadcaster George K. Otis Sr. died July 22 at his home in Murrieta, Calif. He was 90. In Israel he started what is known as Middle East Television.*



Pioneering Christian broadcaster George K. Otis Sr. died July 22 at his home in Murrieta, Calif. He was 90. The founder of the Voice of Hope Radio Network, Otis launched shortwave radio stations around the globe, and his ministry in Israel later started what came to be known as Middle East Television. High

Adventure Ministries, which Otis founded in 1979, continues to broadcast news, Bible teaching and audio Bible readings worldwide from Jerusalem. "When the Lord made George Otis he threw away the mold," said Pat Robertson, founder of Christian Broadcasting Network, which purchased a station in the Middle East through a partnership with Otis. "He was quite a man who had irrepressible joy and enthusiasm. He will be remembered fondly for his wonderful work with Voice of Hope ministries, and he will be greatly missed." Otis was well-known for his commitment to Israel and met with Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres. In addition to its gospel broadcasts, High Adventure has provided humanitarian aid in Israel for decades. Otis was the author of more than a dozen books, including his autobiography, *High Adventure*. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Virginia; sons George Otis Jr. and Don Otis; and three daughters, Kay Smith, April McCallum and Heather Tayloe.

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## Tammy Faye Messner Dies at 65

*Tammy Faye Messner, the former PTL televangelists and Christian singer, died peacefully in her home of inoperable cancer July 20. She was 65.*



Tammy Faye Messner, the former PTL televangelists and Christian singer, died peacefully in her home of inoperable cancer July 20. She was 65. Messner was cremated and interred at the Kansas-Okalahoma state line on Saturday, CNN reported. "Tammy Faye Messner bravely carried on her life despite the wasting cancer that has finally taken her," said Pat Robertson founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network. "I know that she is now with the Lord and the sorrow that she has experienced will all pass away in the light of God's love. Her bravery in the midst of her suffering will be an inspiration to many." Messner announced in May that she would no longer be treated for the cancer, which began in her colon

in 1996 and spread to her lungs in 2004. During her final interview Thursday evening with CNN's Larry King she said she was looking forward to heaven. "I believe when I leave this earth, because I love the Lord, I am going straight to heaven," she said. Messner is survived by her husband, Roe Messner; her children, Tammy Sue Bakker Chapman and Jamie Charles Bakker, and two grandchildren.

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## Pope Says Protestantism Not the True Church

*Last week Pope Benedict XVI released a document that says non-Catholic congregations are either flawed or not true churches.*



Last week Pope Benedict XVI released a document that says non-Catholic congregations are either flawed or not true churches and that Catholicism offers the only true path to salvation in Jesus Christ, the Associated Press reported. Protestants attacked the statement, with the 75-million member World Alliance of Reformed Churches leading the charge. "It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity," the group stated in a letter. "It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogues with the reformed family and other families of the church."

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# Head of Assemblies of God Steps Down

*Recently Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, announced he would be resigning from his position as head of the denomination.*



Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (AG), announced July 10 he would be resigning from his position as head of the denomination. Although he had two years remaining in his fourth consecutive term since 1993, Trask said he decided to step down after spending time in prayer. At press time Trask had not announced his future plans, but said he and his wife, Shirley, “love the ministry and plan to stay active in the work of the Lord as He gives strength.” Trask plans to officially step down during the AG’s General Council meeting in Indianapolis Aug. 8-11. He said he will vacate his office 60 days after the convention.