

Benny Hinn Brings U.S. Evangelicals and Arab Diplomats Together

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Recently healing evangelist Benny Hinn organized a historic meeting in Washington, D.C. bringing together ambassadors from key Arab nations, including members of the Arab League, to meet with highly influential evangelicals. Hinn said he hopes the meeting marks the first of many between evangelical leaders and the world's Arab community. Among the 10 Arab nations represented were the ambassadors from Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Oman. The meeting was hosted in the Washington home of Egypt's ambassador to the U.S., Nabil Fahmy. Christians in attendance included the Rev. Richard Cizik, vice president of governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, political strategist Ralph Reed, evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, and a new generation of evangelicals including pastor Jonathan Falwell, son of the late Jerry Falwell, and Joshua Youssef, son of the Egyptian-born pastor Michael Youssef. Christian Broadcasting Network's Gordon Robertson, son of Pat Robertson and co-host of *The 700 Club*, said he joins with Hinn "in reaching out to Israel with one arm and the Arab nations with the other."

Franklin Graham Leads Ukraine's Largest Evangelistic Crusade

In the Ukraine, an estimated 230,000 people heard the gospel during Franklin Graham's first evangelistic festival.



In the Ukraine, where a little under 20 years ago Christian crusades would have been forbidden, an estimated 230,000 people heard the gospel during Franklin Graham's first evangelistic festival in the once communist nation. Roughly 125,000 people convened at Olympic Stadium in the capital, Kiev, on July 6-8, with some attendees traveling 17 hours. An estimated 107,000 watched the festival via satellite at 104 different venues. By the crusade's end, nearly 7,000 people made decisions for Christ. "For years Samaritan's Purse has used the Ukrainian Antonov airplane to transport hundreds of thousands of our Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts," Graham, president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, told festival attendees. "Now I am here in your country, not because of the Antonov, but because of the gospel, the good news that you can have spiritual freedom found in Jesus Christ." The festival brought together 4,366 churches and thousands of volunteers from 15 denominations. Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko sent his orchestra and welcomed Graham to his nation in a statement read during the event. "This festival is one of the greatest things that can bring us closer together," Yushchenko wrote. "Thank you for all the work you are doing here. May God bless you." Before Graham left the country he helped distribute 100,000 gift-filled shoeboxes to orphans.- **Felicia Mann**

Mark Schultz Completes Cross-Country Bike Tour

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On Saturday, contemporary Christian singer Mark Schultz completed a two-month, 3,500-mile, cross-country bicycle trip designed to raise money for orphans. Through sponsors and donations at 13 concerts he performed along the way, Schultz raised \$250,000 to benefit the James Fund, which meets the needs of orphans in Mexico. His trip ended on July 7 in Bangor, Maine. Schultz said he was inspired to trek across the country after he and his wife, Kate, visited an orphanage in Mexico in the spring of 2006. Remembering his own adoption, Schultz saw the orphans and felt compelled to help. Beginning his bike tour across country on May 7, the Dove award-winning singer-songwriter admitted that even he often neglected the biblical mandate to demonstrate "true religion" by caring for widows and orphans. "It's certainly not one of those things that even as an adopted kid I was really aware of," he said. "There's kind of been a big rebirth lately of international adoptions and adoptions in general, which I think is fantastic. But when it boils all down [caring for widows and orphans is] one of the most important things God says in the Bible that's what we're called to do."

Funding for Abstinence Program Extended

Congress unanimously voted to extend federal funding another three months to the second-largest abstinence education

association in the country.



Federal funding for the second-largest abstinence education association in the country, which teaches sex education courses with an emphasis on abstinence, was extended another three months. Congress's unanimous vote to extend the funding was a shocking turn of events after Democratic leaders announced in May that they would let the \$50 million grant expire on June 30. According to the Associated Press, the Democrats had attributed their opposition to the program based on reports that abstinence education wasn't preventing students from having sex. Though considered a victory for the abstinence education program it is not yet time to celebrate, said Valerie Huber, executive director of National Abstinence Education Association (NAEA). "The battle is far from over," she said. "We have no promises beyond three months." The alternative to abstinence programs is "comprehensive sex education," which teaches students how to use condoms and focuses curriculum on safe sex rather than complete abstinence. "Although they receive 10 times the amount of government money as abstinence programs, so-called 'comprehensive sex education' has not been proven to delay teen sex," Huber noted. "The predominant message [in sex education] encourages sexual activity. The message of abstinence is virtually nonexistent." The NAEA is encouraging those who believe in abstinence education to contact their congressional representative and tell them to continue funding the program past the three-month extension.

Charisma News —

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Tens of thousands of Christians from across the nation will gather in Nashville, Tenn., this Saturday—07-07-07. They are not going for a concert or a festival, but to fast and pray for the nation, hoping to ignite a spiritual awakening in the body of Christ. “I believe that in this moment in time, if we respond in repentance, we could release the greatest revival of confession of sin and a cleansing by the blood of Jesus that could draw us back into marital faithfulness with our Bridegroom, God,” said Lou Engle, co-founder of TheCall. “I believe a great spiritual awakening could be at hand which could even affect the elections of 2008.” At a time of rampant “spiritual hedonism” in the American church, TheCall participants are invited to pray for repentance, purity and holiness at the one-day event. For 40 days leading up to TheCall, many fasted from food and media to prepare themselves to pray and to reverse the 40 years of negative spiritual affects that were sparked, Engle said, by the 1967 “Summer of Love” festival, characterized by “free sex” and Eastern mysticism. “God's holy prescription for our diseased state in times of national crisis and moral collapse ... is a solemn assembly of untied fasting and prayer,” Engle said. TheCall first took place seven years ago in Washington, D.C.

The Stripper Who Found True Love

After former exotic dancer Heather Veitch found Jesus, she gained a new passion: evangelizing people in the hard-core sex industry.

FeedBack

Vibes

European Pastor Wants to Change the American Church

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A European pastor is calling American church leaders together to help change the downward course some say America is taking. In a conference held in Dallas last week, Sunday Adelaja, a Ukrainian pastor from Nigeria with the largest charismatic church in Europe, said that America is headed for destruction if the church does not change. "I feel that we believers in the nations should rally around America and begin to join hands together," Adelaja said. "To pray and to lift the country up before God so that America does not experience the fall of which many feel is imminent." In his June 19 conference dubbed Church Shift, Adelaja said he gave American

church leaders in attendance key areas that must be addressed for the American church to prosper. Church leaders must become more evangelism minded and must involve themselves in all areas of society, including politics among other things. "I believe personally that as goes America so goes to the world," Adelaja said of America's importance. "We complain that America gives only 2 percent to missions. The 2 percent accounts for more than 70 percent of what the whole world is giving to missions. We think that America does not send missionaries. But still America sends more than 50 percent of the world's missionaries. So it's impossible for us to let this country go down." He said he plans to take the Church Shift conference across the country to empower the American church. **—Felicia Mann**

The 'Jesus' Film Has Been Translated Into Its 1,000th Language

The two-hour docudrama is the most translated and widely distributed film in history.



The most translated and widely distributed film in history is not a Hollywood blockbuster. It's a two-hour docudrama called *Jesus*. The film, which chronicles Christ's life based on the Gospel of Luke, recently announced the completion of its 1,000th language translation. This milestone enables the film to reach more than 1 million Indian people, whose "heart language" is Ho. "Our goal is to reach every nation, tribe, people and tongue, helping them see and hear the story of Jesus in a language they can understand," the film's Web site stated. "So whether a person speaks Swahili, French or a language whose name is extremely difficult for most to pronounce, he or she will encounter the life and message of

Jesus in a language 'of the heart.'" First produced by Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) in 1979, the film has since spread through out the world and touched the lives of an estimated 6 billion people. In the small country of Papua New Guinea, an estimated 165,000 people have prayed the prayer of salvation as a result of watching the docudrama. CCC plans to continue to translate the film in to other languages focusing their efforts on languages spoken by more than 100,000 people. "It's a testimony of God's faithfulness," says John Meyer, one of the films translators. "Those 1,000 languages mean that over 90 percent of the people in the world can hear, in their own language, the greatest story ever told."