

Christian Retailing ReBoot Event Set for California




Consumers annually buy about \$4.63 billion in Christian products. Christian retail sales account for more than 52 percent of these sales. That means Christian stores sell more Christian products than all the general market stores, discounters, warehouse clubs, and direct sales, according to the CBA.

As industry transition and opportunity collide, *Christian Retailing* magazine is repeating its popular [Retailing ReBoot](#) event this fall.

Retailing ReBoot West is set for Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 17-18 at Cottonwood Church in Los Alamitos, Calif. The event will include presentations, discussions, networking sessions and business meetings to help stores deal with the changes the industry is facing and prepare for the important Christmas season.

Zachery Tims' Church Meeting May Offer Answers About Pastor's Death

 Megachurch Pastor Zachery Tims' congregation has called a special meeting to address rumors and speculation surrounding his weekend death in a New York City hotel room.

In an email obtained by Charisma News, New Destiny Christian Center staff has asked the congregation to come together on Monday evening:

“Today has been filled with rumors and speculations regarding Pastor Zach. We are having a meeting on tomorrow, Monday, Aug. 15th at 7:00pm. Please join us. We look forward to seeing you there.”

New York City police are probing Tims’ death. The W Hotel’s housekeeping staff found Tims dead on the floor of his hotel room, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. It is not clear how long he was dead before the maids discovered his body, or the purpose of his trip to Manhattan.

Zachery Tims’ Facebook Fans Offer Eulogies

✖ Megachurch

Pastor Zachery Tims, 42, of New Destiny Christian Center died in a New York City hotel room on Aug. 12. The rumored death of the Orlando-area pastor set the social media world ablaze this weekend. Now, condolences are pouring in through the same web 2.0 channels that first broadcast the news.

Even

as Charisma News works to confirm rumors related to Tims’ cause of death in a W Hotel room in Times Square, support for his family and eulogies are flooding his Facebook page. The medical examiner has not yet announced the

cause of death. However, New York City police said there will not be a criminal investigation.

“Words cannot fully express the depth of my sorrow that I feel at this moment in time having lost our shepherd, Dr. Zachary Tims. While I do not question God I am simply perplexed,” writes Travis Warren. “I thank God for using DOC to show me and the world that it was cool to be young, gifted, and be connected with a great Church like New Destiny. RIP DOC, you will be truly missed for an eternity. Thanks for keeping it oh so REAL!”

Illinois Megachurch Denies Anti-Gay Stance After Starbucks CEO Cancels



Starbucks CEO pulled out of megachurch event.

An “anti-gay” church controversy that’s been brewing has finally become frothy.

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has canceled his speech at an influential megachurch in Illinois. The decision comes as a response to a *Change.org* petition that cast anti-gay aspersions on the congregation. At the same time, a Christian group that opposes homosexuality is also picketing the church.

The *Change.org* petition accused Willow Creek Community Church of “anti-gay persecution” based on its past association with Exodus International, a Christian ministry that works to help gays and lesbians leave homosexuality. Meanwhile, Americans for Truth About Homosexuality is upset because Willow Creek, an evangelical church in South Barrington, Ill., broke ties with Exodus in 2009.

OpEd: How Christians Should Respond to Debt Crisis

✘ By the time many of you receive this, Congress may have found a solution to the current debt-ceiling crisis. The immediate danger may be averted—temporarily.

The real issue, however, isn’t the budget, the debt ceiling or anything else, as much as it is a philosophical battle over the direction of the country. This is the root of the intransigence and increasing bitterness exhibited by both parties.

People defend philosophies more vehemently than they do money. It’s like defending one’s religion as one side against the other claims to be the only source of truth. And make no mistake, politics and political ideology have the force of religion in America.

Dave Ramsey Responds to Dow Jones Dips

✘ So much for stabilizing the markets with a Federal Reserve promise to keep interest rates low. Europe's debt problems are sending a ripple effect through U.S. stock markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial average declined 519 points, or 4.6 percent, on Wednesday. The dip marks the third time in the last five trading days that the Dow has lost more than 500 points. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq dropped 101 points, or 4.1 percent, and the S&P 500 is down 51 points, or 4.4 percent.

But now is no time to panic. So says Dave Ramsey, a nationally syndicated radio show host discussing personal finance topics. Ramsey has launched what he calls "The Great Recovery," a grassroots movement spread by people who are tired of looking to Washington for answers.

Crystal Cathedral Creditor

Forces Sale




AP Images: Orange County Register, Ana
Venegas

The Crystal Cathedral's creditors aren't backing down. The creditors have made it clear that the megachurch property will be sold whether or not the Schuller family agrees, according to United Press International.

The California church was believing God for a \$50 million fundraising miracle, but creditors filed a plan in federal bankruptcy court in Santa Ana, Calif., on Tuesday calling for the sale.

Creditors want at least \$50 million, *The Orange County Register* reported. The plan would reportedly allow the Schullers to lease the 3,000-seat building from the buyer.

The King's University Discusses Crystal Cathedral Bid

 A large arts and crafts retailer known for its philanthropic support of Christian causes has offered to purchase the Crystal Cathedral Garden Grove, Calif., property for \$47.5 million.

If the bid is successful, the Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby would lease the property to The King's University for a year and then donate it to the university. The King's University is a

Pentecostal/Charismatic Bible college and seminary of which Jack Hayford is founder.

“Hobby Lobby Stores Inc. offered the Crystal Cathedral Board of Directors \$47.5 million to purchase the Crystal Cathedral property,” says Mart Green, the vice chairman of the board for the retailer and son of founder David Green. “Although Hobby Lobby believes its offer is adequate to pay in full all secured, priority and trade creditors, such an allocation of sale proceeds is not a closing condition. Our offer is in cash, which allows for creditors to be paid back as soon as a sale is completed.”

30,000 Unite In Fasting, Prayer at The Response



AP Images/David J. Phillip

Despite protestors who traveled across Texas to picket what they viewed as a hate-based event—and despite the Unitarian church offering its alternative to the controversial event less than four miles away—more than 30,000 saints gathered in Houston’s Reliant Stadium on Saturday for The Response: a call to prayer for a nation in crisis prayer.

And with no distance in the spirit, many more viewed the service streaming live and prayed along with Texas Governor Rick Perry, IHOP’s Luis and Jill Cataldo, Somebody Cares America’s Doug Stringer, Skyline Wesleyan Church Senior Pastor Jim Garlow and other charismatic leaders.

Now, this body of believers is waiting on God’s response to

the repentance, weeping, mourning, worshipping and fervent prayer.

The Response Prayer Rally Draws Huge Response

✘ After plenty of persecution—and even legal challenges—tens of thousands are gathering this morning for worship at Houston’s Reliance Stadium for Texas Gov. Rick Perry’s The Response: a call to prayer for a nation in crisis prayer.

“Not yet 10 a.m. and well over 20,000 already worshipping at the Response! We officially start at 10. PTL!!” Doug Stringer, founder of Somebody Cares America and a Response leader, posted to his Facebook friends.

You can watch the event streaming live at [The Response](#).