

Reject Apathy Mag Gives Voice to Social Justice Movement

✘ The publishers of *RELEVANT* magazine, a Christian publication targeting the college-to-30s audience, just rolled out a new publication. Dubbed *Reject Apathy*, the magazine aims to give a voice to the faith-based social justice movement in this generation.

Reject Apathy will focus on five key areas—poverty, defense of innocents, creation care, preventable disease and violence. The accompanying website, RejectApathy.com, promises a holistic view of social justice issues and solutions. It emphasizes core values of sustainability, local involvement and leadership, faith focus, financial transparency, and a long-term commitment to change.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Leader Scanlan Retires

✘ Known for bringing the Charismatic Renewal to a Catholic university campus, Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, retired on June 30.

The 80-year-old served for nearly 12 years as the Franciscan University chancellor after leading the school as president for 26 years.

Scanlan founded Catholic summer conference programs for adults and teens in 1975 with a national Catholic charismatic conference for priests and deacons. Today, Franciscan's summer conferences reach over 40,000 people annually with the good news of authentic Catholic renewal and the New Evangelization.

Final 'Harry Potter' Film Dangerous, Christian Scholar Warns

✘ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II*, the final film in the popular series, still offers audiences some dangerous, forbidden occult content and false religion. So warns family advocate and Christian media scholar Dr. Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission.

"The final chapter to the Harry Potter stories, like the books, contains some surprisingly overt Christian allegorical elements," Baehr admits, "but the movie version slightly changes the final confrontation between the hero and the villain to make it even more like a spectacular magical showdown between two sorcerers."

Baehr, a theologian and Bible scholar, pointed out that the God of the Bible strongly condemns witchcraft and sorcery as evil and loathsome in Deuteronomy 18:10-13. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ affirms all of God's law in Matthew 5:17 and other passages.

Atheist Group Files Federal Suit Against Perry's Prayer Day



AP Images/Robert Gay

Until now, Texas Gov. [Rick Perry](#) had merely been mocked, opposed and otherwise persecuted for suggesting that we fall to our knees and cry out to God to restore the land. Now, a federal lawsuit has been filed to try to stop Perry's "[Day of Prayer and Fasting](#)," also known as The Response.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday in the Southern District Court of Texas in Houston. The lawsuit seeks to block Perry from participating in the prayer rally at Houston's Reliant Stadium on Aug. 6. The suit also asks the federal court to declare Perry's initiation, organization, promotion and participation in the event unconstitutional. The FFRF is even going so far as to propose a restraining order after a hearing date is set.

Crystal Cathedral Considering New Buyers



AP Images/Orange County Register, Ana Venegas, File

Crystal Cathedral is one step closer to having a new owner.

A bankruptcy judge on Tuesday allowed the Crystal Cathedral to consider new buyers for its 40-acre complex, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

“There are other options out there which are viewed by the ministry and the creditors as being more favorable,” attorney Marc Winthrop, who represents the Crystal Cathedral, told the court.

Coral Ridge Renamed Truth in Action Ministries

✘ A mega ministry in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., is taking on a new name.

After decades of being known as Coral Ridge Ministries, the ministry Dr. D. James Kennedy founded is now called Truth in Action Ministries. The name change aims to aid the outreach as the ministry seeks to advance biblical truth and equip believers to make a difference in their local communities.

Ministry leadership didn't make the decision rashly. They settled on Truth in Action Ministries after more than a year of prayer, planning and consulting with outside organizations, as well as talking with ministry friends and supporters.

Explosions Shake Mumbai Financial Hub




Hiranandani Complex in Powai, Mumbai (Nichaip)

A trio of explosions rocked India's commercial capital. According to Reuters, three blasts shook Mumbai on Wednesday. Indian media are reporting that the explosions are related to a terrorist attack. Three are reportedly dead from the blasts.

Noteworthy is the fact that the blasts hit on the birthday of Mohammad Ajmal Amir Qasab, the only surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed about 170 people, the BBC reports.

No terrorist group has taken responsibility for the attack, and Indian authorities have not named any suspects.

Same-Sex Custody Battle Ends With Parental Rights Victory

 In a victory for parental rights, the Supreme Court of Ohio on Tuesday ruled that a woman who allowed her same-sex partner to coparent her biological child did not permanently give up her right to exclusive custody.

The Supreme Court ruling upheld two lower court decisions that Kelly Mullen, who allowed Michelle Hobbs to help her raise her biological daughter while they were in a relationship, retains full custody rights.

Recognizing the need to protect the biological mom's constructional rights to raise her child, the court ruled, "'Coparenting' is not synonymous with an agreement by the biological parent to permanently relinquish sole custody in favor of shared legal parenting."

iPhone App Helps You Pronounce Tough Bible Words

✘ Shealtiel? Epaenetus? Ever wonder how to pronounce some of the more exotic names and places you read about in the Bible? There's an app for that!

If you use an iPhone or an iPad, you can tap into the Bible Audio Pronunciations application, which offers up audio recordings of more than 1,000 challenging words found in scripture.

"We wanted to give people an easy tool to raise their level of understanding and enjoyment from reading the Bible," says Michael Vance, developer of the app. "It will speak out loud some of its most difficult words."

China Activist Chen Suffers Malnutrition in Detention

✘ After repeated beatings and malnutrition suffered in house detention, blind

pro-life activist Chen Guangcheng's health is deteriorating quickly. Now, human rights organizations are pushing harder than ever for his freedom.

Women's Rights Without Frontiers and China Aid Association on Tuesday

called for urgent action on Guangcheng's behalf. In order to drive more

attention to the international cause, Women's Rights Without Frontiers

released a new video demanding freedom for Chen and his family. (You can view the video at the end of this story.)

Guangcheng was arrested in 2006 for exposing evidence that 130,000

forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations were performed on women

in Linyi County, Shandong Province in a single year. *Time Magazine* named

him one of "2006's Top 100 People Who Shape Our World" and he was given

the 2007 Magsaysay award, known as Asia's Nobel Peace Prize.

"The abuse of Chen Guangcheng is unconscionable and contrary to the rule of law," says Bob Fu, president of China Aid. "His mistreatment under house arrest is deplorable, including beatings, constant surveillance,

as well as confiscation of his computer, cell phone, books, his blind

cane and the toys of his young daughter."