

Publisher Sows Waterproof Bibles in Tornado-Hit Areas

✘ While response teams are helping Southeast Tornado victims pick up the pieces, one publisher is helping them pick up the Word of God.

Bardin & Marsee Publishing, publishers of the Waterproof Bible, is on a mission to put Bibles into the hands of many who have been deeply affected by the aftermath of the deadly storms last week.

“The storm missed us by just a few miles and we are extremely thankful that a lot of relief efforts are going on here in our state for necessities,” says Bobby Bardin co-founder Bardin & Marsee Publishing, which is headquartered in Birmingham, Ala. “We, however, are helping to provide something more.”

At first glance, the Waterproof Bible resembles any other book. But this Good Book has durable plastic pages and binding that let it stand up to adverse conditions traditional paper books can't handle.

Wilkerson Family Gathers for Texas Funeral

✘ The Wilkerson family on Monday is holding a private funeral for David Wilkerson, 79, in Tyler, Texas. The service will be held at 3 p.m. CT at the Rose Heights Church of God.

“Due to limited seating at the church we have to restrict the funeral to family and ministry associates. We encourage you to

attend the memorial service being held at Times Square Church in New York City,” the family said in a statement.

According to the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, a burial will follow in Lindale City Cemetery under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge Funeral Home. The paper reported that the Wilkersons received family and friends at the Lindale funeral home on Sunday. *Charisma* Publisher Steve Strang is attending the services and will be reporting from Tyler later today. The Wilkerson family says Wilkerson’s wife, Gwen, is still in the hospital under observation but is expected to recover.

Jews, Muslims Respond to bin Laden’s Demise

✘ Osama bin Laden is dead—and much of the peace-loving world is rejoicing.

Reactions from around the world are beginning to roll in as news of a successful U.S. operation to kill the murderous and elusive al-Qaeda leader spreads.

Obama [addressed the nation](#) to announce the news late Sunday night.

“Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan,” Obama said. “A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability. No Americans were harmed. They took care to avoid civilian casualties. After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and took custody of his body.”

David Wilkerson: Living a Dream—Leaving a Legacy

✘ I was 20 years old and a student at North Central Bible College (Now North Central University) in Minneapolis, Minnesota when the entire direction of my prayer life was profoundly shaken and transformed through my first encounter with David Wilkerson. He had come to speak at the Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle and it was there that I received my first copy of *The Cross and the Switchblade*. His ministry, Teen Challenge, was in its infancy. It was a dream in the heart of David Wilkerson that he was just beginning to live. I'm not sure he even knew all that lay ahead as he began living out his dream.

Reading David's just-released book, almost straight through in one sitting, fueled in my heart a passion for God as never before and a burden to reach the lost at any cost. I wept as I read his story. That was more than 45 years ago. Although there were other leadership influences in my young life at the time, none impacted my life, particularly in the area of personal prayer and pure obedience, as did David Wilkerson.

Not many months after that first encounter in hearing David in person, I began dating (and soon married) a cousin to David, Dee Krans, whose mother is a member of what we call the Wilkerson clan. (Dee recently counted at least 25 Wilkersons in the full time ministry!) I soon learned that Dee's father, a minister, had been killed in a car accident when Dee was not yet four years old. Together, Dee's mom, Dee and her younger sister Karen moved to the family farm near Toledo, Ohio where they grew up in the home of the legendary grandpa Wilkerson who David described so vividly in his best selling book, *The*

iPads Power Education at Cali Christian School

✘ The iPad is making its way into Christian curriculum, sort of.

Vacaville Christian Schools is using the iconic tablet device to execute on its vision to educate and prepare today's students to become tomorrow's leaders.

Specifically, Vacaville Christian Schools is rolling out a new "Leading the Way in iPad Education" program in August. The program makes iPads part of the every day lives of students.

Charisma Publisher Steve Strang Remembers David Wilkerson

✘ It was early evening, April 28, when a cell-phone call let me know the devastating news: David Wilkerson had been killed in a tragic traffic accident. Dr. George Wood, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, had just learned the news and felt I would want to report

it. Knowing how important this was, we had a [story online](#) within 40 minutes that included a statement from Dr. Wood until we could get more details. The traffic on our website was so great the site temporarily crashed, and the article had more forwards on [Facebook](#) than any in the history of Charisma News.

That's because David Wilkerson was one of the great Christian leaders of our generation, and his passing is a loss to the global church. He was the model of integrity, and he finished strong in a day when some televangelists are photographed in foreign countries with women they aren't married to while others are exposed for secret gay activity while publicly opposing the gay agenda. Wilkerson was the paragon of virtue and his influence was tremendous.

Obama Issues National Day of Prayer Proclamation

✘ After taking considerable flak for not issuing an Easter proclamation, President Obama has just released a proclamation for the 2011 National Day of Prayer. The proclamation comes just about a week before the hotly-contested National Day of Prayer on May 5.

In 2010, a Wisconsin federal judge struck down the National Day of Prayer as unconstitutional. But on April 14, a U.S. appeals court overruled the decision. The ruling cleared the way for Obama to release his prayer day proclamation.

Here is the text of Obama's proclamation:

Florida House Approves Religious Funding Ban Appeal

✘ The Florida Constitution has a ban on spending public funds to help religious organizations. But that could soon change. The Florida House this week approved a proposed amendment that would repeal the ban.

Scott Plakon, a representative in Florida House District 37 who sponsored the bill, told Charisma News that the legislation passed by about a two to one margin. Specifically, the Florida House voted 81-35 on proposal HJR 1471.

Before the vote, Plakon explained to Charisma News that the funding ban dates back to the 19th century and represents anti-Catholic prejudice.

"This bill is simply about righting a wrong that happened in our state 126 years ago," the Associated Press reported Plakon as saying after the vote. "At the time Protestants thought they could get away with using our state constitution to treat Catholics differently. It was sinful what we did."

Not surprisingly, Republicans unanimously voted on the bill. Three Democrats also gave the nod to a repeal on using public funds to help religious organizations.

Christians Continue Libya Exodus

✘ Fighting in Libya seems far from over.

Voice of America News reports that President Gaddafi's troops have been firing rockets at the city of Misrata. Attacks have increased as NATO forces have stepped in to protect a Misrata port, the only inlet to the city for much needed international aid.

In the meantime, rumors are flying that NATO forces accidentally killed a dozen rebel fighters with a bomb on Wednesday.

Hundreds of civilians have died in the crossfire of the ongoing battles. On either side of the conflict, life in Libya is dangerous.

As a result, people are fleeing the country in droves. Thousands have fled to neighboring Tunisia, especially since, National Public Radio reports, rebel forces took over the border post. Others fled elsewhere at the first chance. Included in the mass exodus are Christians.

150,000 Teens Fast Royal

Wedding—and Food—for 30 Hours

☒ While an estimated 2 billion viewers around the world watched the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at London's Westminster Abbey, more than 150,000 young Americans have a different focus: fighting hunger.

Indeed, as the prince and his new princess enjoy their honeymoon, these young Americans are taking part in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, the world's largest teen hunger awareness campaign. As the teens fast, they consume only water and juice and engage in local community service projects.

"Everyone seems to be paying attention to London right now," says Michele Tvedt, World Vision's 30 Hour Famine Manager. "But we continue to count on the remarkable commitment of young people. And they keep coming through."