

Obama and Jesus Equal as Teen Role Models

✘ Whether you have a teenager in your home or just see them in the malls, it's clear that the likes and dislikes of this age group are making an impact on America's cultural identity. But where do role models come into play? That's the subject of a new Barna study.

Barna reports that the role models are important because they influence the shape and substance of the next generation of churchgoers, consumers and citizens. The research group set out to determine who 13- to 17-year-olds admire most, other than their parents.

Despite excluding parents, Barna reveals that 37 percent of teens named other family members. Meanwhile, 11 percent mentioned teachers and coaches, 9 percent named friends, and a mere 6 percent named pastors or other religious leaders they know personally.

Jerusalem Ministry Makes Urgent Prayer Call for Middle East

✘ A 24-hour worship and prayer movement in Jerusalem is making an urgent request for intercession.

In light of the Egyptian revolt, Rick Ridings, founder of Succat Hallel, says we are seeing a "very strategic" moment

for not only Egypt, but also Lebanon and Israel. Ridings has prepared a 12-minute [video](#) sharing visions he's had, along with pertinent Scriptures that aim to help intercessors pray for the region.

"As you are probably aware, today there are large-scale demonstrations scheduled against the government in Egypt. In addition, the past few days saw the announcement of a new Prime Minister for Lebanon, Najib Mikati, who is widely seen as a 'puppet' under the control of Hizballah and Iran," Ridings says.

Egypt Cuts Off All Access to Internet

✘ First it was Twitter. Then Facebook. Next BlackBerry Internet service. Now, Egypt officials have reportedly cut off Internet access within its borders.

This follows Egypt's decision to ban demonstrations and arrest protesters who are angry with the government. Egyptians want President Hosni Mubarak to step down. The Egyptian people are demanding political, economic and social reforms. Egypt has responded to the protests with tear gas, rubber bullets, beatings and arrests.

And now by cutting off Internet access so the rest of the world can't see what's going on there-an action unprecedented in Internet history.

Indy Rush Week Becomes Evangelism Opp

✘ Fraternities. Sororities. Loud music. Dancing. All in a big hotel. Sounds like a recipe for police activity right?

More like worship.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Greek Conferences will include hundreds of fraternity brothers and sorority sisters, some strong in their faith, others investigating for the first time. The annual conferences will both take place in February, one to Indianapolis – February 11-13, and one in Charlotte – February 18-20.

Members of the Greek world are not generally known for their commitment to Christ, though. Despite their mostly Christian roots, most frat houses are known for beer over Bibles. So how does Greek IV get all of those students to worship? InterVarsity's Eric Holmer says the students take care of that themselves.

World Relief Elects New President and CEO

World Relief announced that its Board of Directors has elected Stephan Bauman as the organization's Chief Executive Officer and president.

Bauman has served as the World Relief senior vice president of Programs since 2007. He first joined World Relief in 2005 as country director for World Relief Rwanda.

Scott Arbeiter, World Relief's Chairman of the Board, says that the Board unanimously and enthusiastically selected Bauman based on his track record as an exceptional leader.

U.S. Missionary Shot, Killed in Mexico

U.S. and Mexican authorities are investigating the killing of a U.S. missionary in Mexico, even as mission groups in Texas are re-evaluating the risks of working in the country.

Fifty-nine-year-old Nancy Davis had ministered in Mexico for 40 years. Her husband said they were about 70 miles south of the border when gunmen in a pick-up truck tried to stop them. When Mr. Davis sped up, they opened fire, wounding Nancy in the head.

"The gunshot wound would have happened in the interior of Mexico as they traveled from Mexico towards the United States," Pharr, Texas Police Chief Ruben Villescas said.

Authorities said the shooting happened in one of the most dangerous areas of the country. The area is controlled by the Zetas drug cartel, a fact the Davises probably knew already.

Google Works to Preserve

Hołocaust Archives

✘ In line with Google's mission to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful, the search engine giant has partnered with Yad Vashem to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a new project that aims to preserve the world's largest historical collection on the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem, a Jerusalem-based archive, is devoted to the documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust. With the Google partnership, its photo collection will be easier to search and encourage visitors to share personal stories and thoughts. Sharing is a key word in the Google partnership. By making the photos more accessible, Yad Vashem expects people around the world to contribute more stories behind the photos and add their knowledge to the site.

"We're focused on finding new and innovative ways to make the enormous amount of data in our archives, accessible and searchable to a global audience," says Avner Shalev, Chairman, Yad Vashem. "Google is an integral partner in our mission, as they help us to reach new audiences, including young people around the world, enabling them to be active in the discussion about the Holocaust."

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New Purpose Driven Life E-Book Goes Multimedia

✘ Following the smashing success of its NIV e-book version, Zondervan is rolling out an "enhanced e-book" version of its all-time bestselling "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

Originally published in 2002, The Purpose Driven Life is the bestselling non-fiction book in history with more than 30 million copies sold worldwide. In the book, Warren takes readers on a 40-day spiritual journey to help them understand

why they're alive and God's amazing plan for them both now and for eternity.

Egypt Protestors Demand Freedom in 'Day of Wrath'

✘ Egypt is banning demonstrations and detaining protesters, seeking to draw a line under unprecedented anger over President Hosni Mubarak's rule.

Wednesday was a "Day of Wrath" in which thousands of Egyptians took to the streets in anti-government protests.

News reports indicated thousands of demonstrators, inspired by the events of Tunisia, demanded that Mubarak step down. David Harder with SAT-7 says, "Tunisia has really put the sparks to a fire that has already not just piled up, but had been covered with fuel and all of a sudden a spark came to ignite. No one knows what the result will be."