

Hallmark Movie Channel Telecasts MovieGuide's Faith & Values Awards

The Hallmark Movie Channel is telecasting Movieguide's 20th Annual Faith & Values Awards Gala. The awards honor the "Best Movies for Families" and "Best Movies for Mature Audiences."

Dean Cain is hosting the Faith & Values Awards, which will also feature appearances by Jim Carrey, Robert Duvall, Kevin Sorbo, Corbin Bernsen, Miss America Teresa Scanlan, Pat Boone, AnnaSophia Robb, Grammy nominee Natalie Grant, singer B.J. Thomas, Antonio Banderas, Angela Lansbury, Billy Bob Thornton, Salma Hayek, Kristy Swanson, Bella Thorne, Gregg Sulkin, Jimmy Bennett and the Muppets.

The event also includes the Faith & Freedom Awards for Promoting Positive American Values, the Grace Awards for Most Inspiring Performances in Movies and TV, and the \$100,000 Epiphany Prizes for Most Inspiring Movie and TV Program of 2011.

Movieguide and its sister organization, the **Christian Film & Television Commission**, is an international **nonprofit ministry** dedicated to "redeeming the values of the entertainment industry by influencing industry executives and by informing and equipping the public about the influence of the entertainment media."

Movieguide's 20th Annual Faith & Values Awards Gala will air on Hallmark Movie Channel on Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. EST.

'The Secret World of Arrietty' Offers Big Lessons on Life

As a father of two, I'm always looking for a teachable  moment. If you're smooth about it, your kids won't even know that you're instructing them on life.

Based on a children's book called *The Borrowers*, a popular title originally published in 1952 by British author Mary Norton, *The Secret World of Arrietty* is one of those covert teachable moments—actually, it features several of them.

The movie was the year's top grossing film when it was released in Japan in 2010, winning the Animation of the Year award. Translated, dubbed by an American cast and distributed stateside by Walt Disney Pictures, *The Secret World of Arrietty* was made by legendary Studio Ghibli (*Spirited Away* and *Ponyo*) and released in the U.S. on Feb. 17.

{ Day 52 }

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." **—Psalm 2:1-3, NKJV**

Work of Faith

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope. **—1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, The Message**

Don't Beat Yourself Up Over a Mistake

If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **—2 Corinthians 5:13**

Churches Vandalized in Jerusalem



(Reuters/Ronen Zvulun)

Church workers stand next to a church wall sprayed with graffiti in Jerusalem on Monday. Vandals daubed “Death to Christianity” on the Jerusalem church on Monday in the second such attack in the holy city this month, police said. The words “Price Tag,” a slogan used by ultranationalist Jewish settlers, were also scrawled on the walls of the Baptist Narkis Street Congregation in a quiet residential neighborhood in Jewish west Jerusalem.

Christian Aid Mission Names Randy Vaught New President

Christian Aid Mission has a new president and CEO: Randy Vaught.

Christian Aid Mission, the oldest mission agency focusing exclusively on the support of indigenous missions, introduced its new exec to the Christian public on Monday at the **National Religious Broadcasters Convention** in Nashville, Tenn. Vaught is a pastor from Kentucky.

Vaught has served on the board of directors of Christian Aid for more than 16 years. The 61-year-old founded the Capital Baptist Church of Frankfort, Ken., in 1980 and has pastored there for 30-plus years. During his years at Capital, he led

his church in the support of indigenous missions around the world. He and his wife Vicki have six children.

Vaught says his priority is to advance the **spiritual climate** of the organization. He plans his to give himself to **prayer** and the **ministry of the Word of God** to equip the staff for the work of supporting God's **kingdom** expansion among all nations: "I believe God has strategically prepared Christian Aid to shine the life and light of Jesus Christ to all the nations of the earth."

Founded in 1953, Christian Aid sends help to more than 800 native mission ministries that deploy more than 80,000 missionary workers serving the Lord among 3000 tribes, tongues and nations.

Whitney Houston Remembered for Her Faith in Christ

Whitney Houston was laid to rest on Sunday after a Saturday memorial service at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. Despite her struggles, her family and friends called out her faith in Jesus at the ceremony.

"I don't care what was going on with her, I don't care what it was, she stayed grounded in the Word," Patricia Houston, the singer's sister-in-law and manager, said at the funeral, according to transcripts of *Piers Morgan Tonight* on CNN.

"A friend ... sent a note reminding us that our dear sister, aunt, mother, friend in Christ has been set free. Free from pain, free from sorrow, free from crying, free from sin, free from death. We will see her again but until then she rests

peacefully in the Lord's presence." She went on to say that "the legacy that she left was music but what she left for you was her love for God and she had it and she was absolute, she was absolute about that."

Houston is the daughter of gospel singer **Cissy Houston** of the Drinkards gospel quartet and later the Sweet Inspirations vocal group of Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley. Houston is also a cousin of singers Dee Dee and **Dionne Warwick**. She established the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children in 1989 to tackle problems such as homelessness, children with cancer and AIDS, and other issues of self-empowerment.

According to , the day before her death she told a friend, "I'm going to see Jesus ... I want to see Jesus." Hours before she died, she quoted Matt. 3:13-17, which chronicles John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan and God's voice descending from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

With more than 170 million combined album, singles and videos sold worldwide during her career with Arista Records, Houston established a benchmark for superstardom and influenced countless other vocalists, female and male. Houston is the only artist to chart seven consecutive No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits; the first female artist to enter the Billboard 200 album chart at No. 1; and the only artist with seven consecutive multi-platinum albums. *The Bodyguard* soundtrack is one of the top 10 biggest-selling albums of all-time.

"I'm the type of person that when I would see this (a heavy heart) with anyone I would want to just want to say something encouraging. But before I could get words out to encourage her, she would say 'but the Lord,'" actor and director **Tyler Perry** said at the funeral. "And the conversation went on ... we would talk a little bit more, and she would go back into this sadness and just when I'm about to step in she would say, 'But my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His amazing grace.'"

Best-Selling Author Betty Malz Dies

Betty E. Perkins Upchurch Malz, 82, died on Feb. 4 after a period of declining health. She was a Christian best-selling author of 10 books and a well-known speaker.

In one of her most popular books, *My Glimpse of Eternity*, published in 1977, Malz wrote about how God literally raised her up from her death bed after she was clinically dead for 28 minutes. In this amazing and beloved true story, she tells of what she saw, felt and heard “on the other side of the dividing wall that we call death.”

Malz’s other best-sellers include *Angels Watching Over Me* and *Prayers That Are Answered*. She also wrote *Making Your Husband Feel Loved*, published by Charisma House.

She grew up in Indiana, but fell in love with Florida after living there in the late 1950s and ’60s. Malz moved back to the Florida coast and settled in Crystal Beach, Fla., in 1985.

She is survived by her husband, **Carl Malz**, former vice president of Trinity Bible College. The two were on staff at **Christ Church of Palm Harbor**, Fla., where her father was a pastor in the 1960s when the church was named Palm Harbor Assembly of God.

“God blessed me when I met Betty,” Delores Nicholson of Palm Harbor, Fla., wrote in Malz’s guest book at . “She was an inspiration to me when I heard her talk and when I read her books, AND when I met her at the post office when she was in her convertible. I loved sharing her books and testimony with others who didn’t know her yet.”

Larry and Gloria Lundstrom, of **Larry Lundstrom Ministries**, wrote: "There was no one like her with spunk, love for people, love for God and her love to pray. She loved people and truly cared for them. ... The last statement she spoke to [us] about a year ago when we were visiting Carl and Betty was, 'Larry and Gloria, I want to spend the rest of my life **winning souls**.' What a parting statement."

Malz is also survived by her daughter April Upchurch, three brothers, three stepchildren, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grand children.

Iran Churches Forced to Stop Worship Services

Iran's Ministry of Intelligence has ordered the last two officially registered churches holding Friday Farsi-language services in Tehran to discontinue them.

Emmanuel Protestant Church and St. Peter's Evangelical Church were the last two official churches offering Farsi-language services on Fridays in Tehran, according to Middle East Concern (MEC). Officials issued the order on Feb. 10

Authorities had ordered the Central Church of Tehran to close its Friday Farsi services in December 2009. The Central Church, an **Assemblies of God** (AOG) congregation, had conducted multiple services on Fridays.

Friday services in Tehran attracted the city's converts to Christianity as well as **Muslims interested in Christianity**, as Friday is most Iranians' day off during the week. Authorities told the churches they can hold the services on Sunday, a

working day when most Iranians are not able to attend.

“This decision means that there are now no Farsi-language services on Fridays in any officially registered church in Tehran,” an MEC report issued this week stated.

Emmanuel and St. Peter’s are Presbyterian churches, and, along with the Central Church, are among Tehran’s few registered churches. They exist mainly to serve the Armenian and Assyrian communities. The three churches’ Armenian- and Assyrian-language services are typically held on Sundays.

Because these churches belong to minority groups, government officials cannot stop them from operating but are doing what they can to limit them and the spread of Christianity to Farsi speakers, an Iranian Christian who requested anonymity told Compass.

“Authorities want church operations to stop, but because these churches are established by Armenians and Assyrians and their leaders are Armenian and Assyrian, they can’t stop them,” the source said, “but they can stop the Farsi-speaking services.”

The source said that the newest restrictions have cut the two churches’ attendance by half.

The MEC report stated that “the order to stop Farsi services is consistent with the authorities’ policy of restricting Christian activities to these traditional communities,” indicating that Tehran is determined to eradicate access to Christian worship for the country’s growing number of **Christian converts**.

Authorities have prohibited musical worship and Bible distribution at the Central Church of Tehran, the largest and most visible AOG church in the country. Last December officials enforced a policy under which only invited guests could attend a Christmas service at the church.

The Iranian Christian said authorities recently have pressured leaders of Emmanuel and St. Peter's churches to turn over to officials the national identity numbers of Christians. As a result, many Christians from these churches, as well as the Central Church of Tehran, have lost their jobs.

"We have some people who were fired from their jobs," the Christian said. "The authorities pushed the bosses to fire their Christian employees."

The source explained that this is a new tactic by the government to discourage Iranians from becoming Christians and to deter Christians from being involved in church.

"If I have too many difficulties in my life, I won't have time to be involved in church, and people will see how difficult it is to be a Christian," the source said. "This is not a good face for the Christians. The others see and say, 'Oh, they became Christians and God stopped His blessing to them.'"

Most **Iranian Christian converts** attend **underground house churches** that belong to various networks. For their own protection, these Christians often do not know about other house church networks.

Authorities often detain, question and apply pressure on converts from Islam, viewing them as elements of Western propaganda set against the Iranian regime; as a result, the converts are forced to worship in secret.

This week news surfaced of the arrest in Tehran of an AG leader, Masis Moussian of the Narmak AG church. *Mohabat News* reported that his arrest was a result of "waves of anti-Christian pressures and distribution of unsubstantiated reports by regime-supported media regarding the AG churches of Iran." According to these reports, members of the AG church in Tehran are "extreme Christians" trying to recruit new members and particularly youth across the country.

Moussian is held at the Rajaei-Shahr prison and is not allowed visitors. His family has not been able to obtain information on his condition in prison.

On Feb. 8 authorities also arrested about 10 Christians who had gathered for worship at a house in the southern city of Shiraz. A new report by Mohabat News revealed that authorities mistreated the Christians in attendance and searched the house, confiscating Bibles. The Christians still remain in an unknown location.

The new report identified two women, three men and a teenager by their first names. Another was identified as Mojtaba Hosseini. Authorities had also arrested Hosseini in 2008, along with eight other **Christian converts**, on charges of being Christians, according to Mohabat.

Among those arrested last week was a 17-year-old boy named Nima, along with his mother, Fariba, and father, Homayoun. Another woman was identified as Sharifeh, and two men were identified as Kourosh and Masoud. Authorities searched the homes of those arrested and seized CDs, Bibles, Christian materials, computers, fax machines and satellite receivers, according to *Mohabat*.

Iran applies *shariah* (Islamic law), which dictates that converts from Islam to other religions are “apostates” and thus punishable by death. Although judges rarely sentence Christians to death for leaving Islam, one Christian, Youcef (also spelled Yusef) Nadarkhani, is appealing such a decision in the northeastern city of Rasht.

Nadarkhani has been in prison since October 2009. A Rasht court found him guilty of leaving Islam and handed him the death sentence in September 2010. Remaining in prison also are Farshid Fathi in Tehran; Farhad Sabokroh, Naser Zamen-Defzuli, Davoud Alijani and Noorollah Qabitizade in Ahwaz; and Fariborz Arazm and Behnam Irani in Karaj.

There are an estimated 350,000 Christian converts from Islam in Iran.

“I believe 100 percent the whole movement in Iran is in God’s hand,” the source said. “This pushing [of the government] can stop the church buildings, but they cannot stop the **Kingdom of God.**”