



Membership Update



September 2008

Mission America Coalition Update

News and Trends

Christian Marketplace Influencers
Executive Marketplace Intelligence for Ministry Decision Makers!

Codex Online The British Library says the full text of the oldest surviving copy of the New Testament, a fourth century version - Codex Sinaiticus - will be available online to users by next July, digitally reconnecting parts that are held in Britain, Russia, Germany and a monastery in Egypt's Sinai Desert. "Only a few people have ever had the opportunity to see more than a couple of pages of the [Codex]," said Scot McKendrick, the British Library's head of Western manuscripts. The Web site will give everyone access to a "unique treasure," he said. (Pastor's Weekly Briefing 7/24/08)

Pastors Wanted To help churches raise the next generation of pastors and leaders, the Fund for Theological Education will be giving away grants to congregations that motivate young Christians to enter into ordained ministry. FTE will be offering grants of \$5,000 to \$12,000 for grassroots programs, up to 18 months in duration, that cultivate a sense of Christian vocation and the call to ministry among youth. This effort is part of the fund's response to a growing shortage of young Christians entering into pastoral and clergy vocations. Less than 7% of clergy in mainline denominations today are under the age of 35; fewer seminary students seek a career as an ordained minister, and only 33% plan to work in a church. The goal is to jumpstart a culture where churches play a key role in guiding the youth to Christian vocation. (Christian Post 7/23/08)

The 191 Largest Assemblies of God Churches have a combined Sunday attendance of 378,450. 1.5% of AOG churches account for more than 21.4% of the total denomination's church attendance. (Christian Post 8/14/08)

Methodists have the highest positive ratings of religious and spiritual groups in the U.S., finds new Gallup research. 96% of Americans polled had either a positive or neutral view of Methodists. 4% had an overall negative view. Methodists are 1 of the 4 U.S. religious groups with strongly positive ratings. The others are Jews, Roman Catholics and Baptists. Broader groups of "evangelical Christians" and

Dear MAC Partner,

As you know, an alarming percentage of Christian young people are walking away from the Church shortly after they leave home. In response, we will be focusing on the topic of **reaching emerging generations for Christ** at our MAC 2008 Annual Gathering. The Lord has given us outstanding resource people to help us. In addition, we will have 14 ministry tracks and an update on the multiple collaborative ministries of this Coalition. Also, David Olson of the American Research Project will present his latest research on the State of the Church in America - 2008. It should be a very significant gathering.



To encourage your participation, **we have extended our early-bird registration deadline one week to Sept. 22.** Register now to receive this discount, and note the additional member discount available to MAC partners as well. Just go to www.missionamerica.org for full information and registration guidelines. Or, if you prefer, register by calling Noel at our MAC National Office at 760-200-2707.

Also, you can [contribute to hurricane relief and recovery](#) on our website. We need to be praying for God's grace, mercy, and protection as one hurricane after another hits the United States. These are days of great opportunity for us to pray-care-and share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

Prayerfully yours - in Christ,

Paul Cedar
Chairman

Mission America Coalition News

Early Bird Deadline Extended for Annual Gathering

The early-bird deadline for the Mission America

"fundamentalist Christians" did not fare as well but did rate more positive than negative. (umc.org 8/08)

Church Affiliations Baylor University researchers found that only 10.8% of Americans have no ties to a congregation, denomination or faith group. Previous surveys had put that figure at 14%, overlooking about 10 million people involved in some form of organized religion. Other surveys have also overlooked millions of evangelicals, because respondents who belonged to nondenominational groups or mega-churches often report they had no denomination and were wrongly counted as unaffiliated. 33% of Americans are evangelical Protestant, just under 25% are mainline Protestant, 20% are Roman Catholic and 5% are black Protestant. 2.5% are Jewish and 5% belong to other faiths. The rest, though not involved in religious groups, are not fully secular. 60% of the unaffiliated believe in God or a higher power, and 33% pray at least occasionally. 11% believe Jesus is the Son of God. (The Globe and Mail 9/11/06)

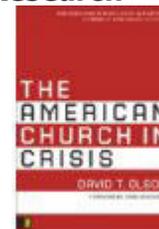
Barna Research studied 19 possible future outcomes in life which survey respondents were asked to rate in terms of personal desirability. Among evangelical Christians, 90% or more favored: having good physical health, having a close personal relationship with God, having a clear purpose for living, living with a high degree of integrity, having just one marriage partner for life, and being deeply committed to the Christian faith. Also, being personally active in a church was identified as a very desirable goal by 84%, nearly double the national average (45%). 75% also desire a life in which they make a difference in the world, compared to the national average of 56%. Among born again non-evangelicals, the only future conditions deemed desirable by at least 90% was having a close, personal relationship with God (94%). 87% favored having a clear purpose for their life. Notional Christians were less than half as likely to say that being active in a church was very desirable (32%), were one-third less likely to list having a close personal relationship with God as very desirable (65%), and were only half as likely to portray being deeply committed to the Christian faith as very desirable (46%). Atheists and agnostics stood out as the segment least likely to find living near family and relatives to be highly desirable (43% vs. 63% national average). They were also much less likely to have a clear sense of purpose in life (55% vs. to 77% of all adults) or to want just one marriage partner for life (58% vs. 80% U.S. average). (Barna Update 7/21/08)

Wheaton College ranked as the third most religious college in the nation in the Best 368 Colleges: 2009 Edition. (ChristanPost.com 8/6/08)

Coalition annual gathering has been extended to Sept. 22. [Register online now!](#) MAC partners also receive a member discount at registration.

Preview "State of the Church" Research

David Olson, of the American Church Research Project will speak at the MAC Annual Gathering in Minneapolis Oct. 7-9 offering The State of the Church - 2008.



Here is a preview of some of Olson's statistics from his book The American Church in Crisis (Zondervan 2008). Olson's study of nearly 300,000 churches gives evidence that the total number attending services is closer to 52 million each week (vs. over 100 million reported by other researchers), and instead of 40% attending each week, it is more like 19.5%. He also reports 26.7 million attended church on a given weekend in '05 of which 9.1% are connected with the evangelical church. New and large churches are the leading growth factor. The churches that declined most had a weekly attendance between 100 and 299, and 50% of Protestant church attendance came from mid-size churches. In the U.S., 57% of church members are women in the evangelical church and 66% in the mainlines. Among younger and growing churches, the gender mix is more even. Each year from '00 to '05, an estimated 4,000 new churches were started in the U.S., but each year 3,700 closed for a net gain of 300. To keep up with the population growth, 2,900 more churches would need to be started each year.

Complimentary Membership!

MAC is offering the first year of membership free to new applicants. Join Mission America Coalition now and receive a discount on your registration for the annual conference in October. MAC membership includes:

- Affiliation with "the largest coalition of church leaders ever assembled for the express purpose of evangelism in America," according to Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.
- The monthly MAC Update email newsletter, of News and Trends in the church and the culture, MAC news, Evangelism news, and a calendar of collaborative evangelism efforts for your involvement.
- Access to a special MAC members area online where you can download audio messages from past MAC meetings and

Christian Product Industry

Future Packaged Facts' latest edition of The Religious Publishing and Products Market in the U.S. predicts further gains in the Christian product industry will be fueled largely by growth in demand for videos and software. Audio, visual and software materials have overtaken inspirational gifts as the second biggest category behind books. (Christian e-Tailing 7/24/08)

China Facts Country Name: People's Republic of China. Capital city: Beijing. Size: 3.7 million square miles with a GDP (2006) of \$2.68 trillion. Population: 1.3 billion people with 24 more added every minute. 223 Chinese cities have more than 1 million people. 90.9% are literate, and 70% speak Mandarin; others speak dialects or sub-dialects. Official religions are atheist; Taoism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, ancestor worship and shamanism. (Baptist Press 8/4/08)

Hispanics There are now 44 million U.S. Hispanics (15% of the population) with an estimated spending power of \$1.2 trillion. Nearly 4 million have annual incomes of \$75,000 or above, per the U.S. Census Bureau. (Brandweek 7/14/08)

Girls Catch Up in Math In the largest study of its kind, girls' math skills match boys in every grade from grades 2 through 11. Women are now earning 48% of undergrad college degrees in math, though they still lag behind in physics and engineering. But in primary and secondary school, girls have caught up. Researchers attribute the advance to increasing numbers of girls taking advanced math classes such as calculus. (Science 7/25/08)

Teens Real vs. Virtual are spending an average of 11.5 hours per week online (24% spend more than 15 hours), doing everything from instant messaging and social networking to shopping and listening to music, finds The Intelligence Group. Yet, teens choose reality over virtual reality in many aspects of their lives. Given the choice, they prefer: Real friends (91%) to online friends (9%), To date someone from school (87%) over someone from the Internet (13%), To shop in a store (82%) rather than shop online (18%), To get their locker vandalized (63%) vs. their homepage (37%). Texting wins out over the telephone, though – 54% prefer to instant message a friend instead of calling. (Center for Media Research Brief 7/23/08)

Tech Savvy Kids Read

Books Packaged Facts reports in The Kids and Tweens Market in the U.S. that while the "vast majority" of 6- to-11-year-olds use the Net, 55% of 9- to-11-year-old boys and 46% of girls used the Internet for less than an hour or not at all during the past week. A substantial majority of kids of all ages read books other than schoolbooks.

access other materials exclusively for MAC members

- Discounts on registration fees for MAC events

[More info.](#)

"City Reaching and Community Development" with Noel Castellanos

Thursday, September 18 at 8 a.m. Pacific Time

Join this month's cityreaching call with special guest Noel Castellanos on Thursday, September 18 at 8 a.m. Pacific Time, hosted by Jarvis Ward. Noel Castellanos is the President of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and a key transformational leader in urban Chicago. He will address the topic, "City Reaching and Community Development." To take part in this call, email info@cityreaching.com. The phone number and participation code will be sent to you via email.



On the third Thursday of each month, Mission America Coalition's City and Communities Ministries hosts a conference call with a seasoned city-reacher. Information on upcoming calls and transcripts of previous calls are available online. [More info.](#)

Bikers for Jesus in Fox Valley

In the Fox Valley (Ill.), one of Mission America Coalition's Loving Our Communities to Christ regions, a motorcycle ride in August brought together believers from many different churches - and non-believers as well. DJ Sauer, of Community Christian Church, Naperville, Ill., was the event's organizer. She has a biker outreach on Sunday mornings, meeting with seekers at a local restaurant for breakfast before taking a ride together - called the Sunday Morning Riders.

About 110 bikers in seven riding groups came together for two scenic rides along the Fox River - 25 of them attending a worship service Community Christian Church before the ride.



"This really was a cool event to help build relationships among bikers in the body of Christ

Multicultural kids are as likely as non-Hispanic white kids to read books outside of school. In general, girls are more likely than boys to read books, and interest in reading books is highest among girls age 7 to 9. (Marketing Daily 8/12/08)

Adoption A CDC report says among the age group 18 to 44, only about 1% of women and 2.3% of men have adopted children. Minority women are currently seeking to adopt children more often than white women. Although women who have never married adopt children much more often than single men, overall men adopt children at more than twice the rate of women. This is largely due to men marrying women with children from a previous relationship. Overall, nearly 1.3 million men have adopted a child vs. 613,000 women. Among singles, 100,000 women and 73,000 men have adopted. (Associated Press 8/7/08).

Movie Ratings A Dartmouth College study reveals movie ratings are ineffective in barring minors from R-rated (18+) films. Researchers found 22 million (12.5%) of America's 10-14-year-olds have viewed one or more restricted films. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry confirm that violence in TV, music, video games and movies increases violence among children. Prolonged viewing of media violence can lead to emotional desensitization toward violence in real life. (LifeSite News 8/12/08)

Unmarried Unchurched A dramatic decline in marriage, particularly among young adults, has led to a decline in church attendance over the last 3 decades, according to a study by Princeton University's Robert Wuthnow. He estimates in his book, *After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, that American churches would have 6.3 million more young adults today if young people started families at the same rate they did 30 years ago. (CitizenLink 8/5/08)

Health & Marriage In '72, the widowed were about as likely to report good health as the married, but in '03 they were 7% less likely to report good health than were their married counterparts. (cbsnews.com 8/08)

Women Are Happier than Men Until ... The Journal of Happiness Studies reports women are happier than men, but only until their late 40s. The study, which analyzed data from 47,000 people, found that in their 20s women are happier than men. Young men's lackluster love lives and low-paying first jobs are blamed. The gap closes with age and by 48 men are happier. The study suggests it's because by then men are married and better off

in the Fox Valley," said Randy Schoof, pastor of Warehouse Church and the founder of another local outreach, the annual Motorcycle Sunday.

Evangelism News

Kirk Cameron Promos "Fireproof" in Conference Call



Listen to a promotional conference call for the movie "Fireproof" with actor Kirk Cameron, producer/writer Alex Kendrick, and others. "Fireproof" is a great collaborative evangelism

opportunity for your church or ministry. The archived call is available online. [Listen now.](#)

Fireproof Opens September 26

"Fireproof" opens in nearly 800 theaters nationwide on Friday, September 26. How the film does in its first three days will determine how long it will play in theaters and how many additional theaters may pick it up.



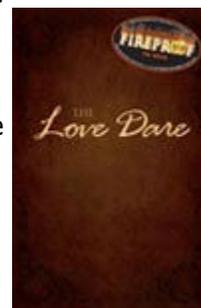
One woman in North Dakota spent \$6,500 to bring "Fireproof" to her town. [Read the story.](#)

Some churches are selling tickets at a reduced rate, and providing couples with as many as they are can use in outreach to unchurched friends.

Make a plan for your church or ministry for the opening weekend of "Fireproof" - and beyond. Church resources and companion materials are available for the movie. [More info.](#)

The Love Dare Available Online

As featured in the popular new movie "Fireproof," from the team that created the #1 best-selling DVD "Facing the Giants," The Love Dare is a 40-day guided devotional experience that will lead your heart back to truly loving your spouse while learning more about the design, nature, and source of true love. [More info.](#)



Collaborate in Hurricane Relief

Mission America Coalition has partnered with the Christian Emergency Network to help distribute funds for hurricane relief and recovery. If you'd like to help, [donate online.](#)

financially. (cbsnews.com 7/08)

Marriage Killer 49% of American adults believe cohabitation can be good for marriage, finds a USA Today/Gallup poll. In reality it tends to set people up for marital failure in terms of high divorce rates, more marital conflict and less happiness. 47% believe cohabitation has no effect on children. Univ. of Virginia Sociology professor Brad Wilcox claims, "Kids who are exposed to cohabitation are more likely to be physically abused, to be sexually abused, to have trouble with depression and delinquency and a number of other negative social outcomes." The Census Bureau reports there are currently 6.4 million cohabiting couples in the U.S., up 1.4 million from '06. (CitizenLink 7/29/08)

Free Time was the top choice among a list of life's priorities in a Pew Social Trends survey. 68% of the middle class say free time is very important to them, more than say the same about anything else on the list, including having children (62%), having a successful career (59%), being married (55%), living a religious life (53%) and donating to charity or doing volunteer work (52%). And having free time is many times more important than being wealthy, which was rated as very important by only 12% of the middle class. (Pewresearch.org 7/08)

Fewer Miles In response to \$4-a-gallon gas, Americans drove 9.6 billion fewer miles in May '08 than in May '07, a 3.7% decline, the largest drop of any May on record. (USA Today 7/28/08)

Less Media Time For the third year in a row, the time Americans spend with media declined, according to the 22nd edition of Veronis Suhler Stevenson's Communications Industry Forecast. Although the declines are just 0.1% in '06, '07 and '08, they suggest the shift toward digital media is enabling consumers to compress the amount of time they spend accessing and consuming media. The declines are impacting traditional media, especially print such as newspapers, magazines and books, though even traditional TV usage is projected to decline this year. (MediaDailyNews 8/5/08)

Retail Trouble The International Council of Shopping Centers predicts 144,000 stores, or about 36,000 per quarter, will bite the dust in '08. That's a 7% jump from '07 and the largest increase in 14 years. But the trade group points out that those numbers mask the many stores that will open. For instance, it says in '06 139,000 stores failed, but 123,000 new ones sprung up. (Media Post 8/1/08)

New Media According to Veronis Suhler Stevenson's annual Communications Industry Forecast, newspapers, long the dominant U.S. advertising platform, have fallen behind broadcast TV this year, which itself is poised to be

National Weekly Prayer for Youth

Mondays, 8 p.m., All Time Zones

Join the Mission America Coalition for a united prayer for the youth of America. All are welcome to join this weekly prayer broadcast, Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. in each time zone. The National Weekly Prayer for Youth is sponsored by the Mission America Coalition in cooperation with the National Network of Youth Ministries and the National Prayer Committee. [More info.](#)

Olympians Share Testimonies Online

Allyson Felix, three-time U.S. Outdoor 200m champion and 2004 Olympic silver medalist; Brian Clay, 2004 Olympic decathlon silver medalist; and Ryan Hall, 2008 Olympic marathon runner, are just some of the Olympians in the 2008 Beijing Games that are sharing the importance of their Christian faith with fans. Through an Athletes in Action-sponsored website, www.BeyondTheUltimate.org, they share their personal stories. [More info.](#)



Chaplains Bring Christ's Love to World's Seafarers

Seafaring remains one of the most dangerous occupations but beyond the very worst that mother nature can do, being at sea for months on end can take a different kind of toll on the men and women who work the world's ships. Read more about chaplains who minister to seafarers. [More info.](#)

Pre-Evangelistic TV Series Aims

"The Real Winning Edge," a TV series produced by Challenger Films, features stories of



young people who have overcome significant challenges in their lives. Each program is hosted by a well-known sports celebrity. "The Real Winning Edge" reaches 80 percent of American television markets and begins the 2008-2009 season Saturday, September 20. Most of the shows are aired on Saturday or Sunday and offers a great tool for youth ministry. [More info.](#)

Non-Believers Take On Challenge in 'Make Me a Christian'

A new television series airing in the United Kingdom includes a spectrum of non-Christians from different lifestyles who agreed to participate

usurped by the Internet within 3 years. In '02, traditional media was 95% of the total; now it's 85% and will be 68% by 2012. (MediaDailyNews 8/6/08)

More AIDS America had roughly 56,300 new HIV infections in '06, about a 40% increase from the 40,000 annual estimate used for the past dozen years. U.S. health officials claim the new figure is due to a better blood test and new statistical methods, not a worsening of the epidemic. (OneNewsNow 8/6/08)

Working Moms A Cambridge University survey suggests growing numbers of people are concerned about the impact of working mothers on family life. In '98, 51% of women and 45.9% of men believed family life would not suffer if a woman went to work. This had fallen to 46% of women and 42% of men in '02, amid "growing sympathy" for the traditional view that women should be in the home, not the workplace. Women's changing role is viewed as having costs both for the woman and the family. Study leader Professor Jacqueline Scott notes, "It is conceivable that opinions are shifting as the shine of the 'super-mom' syndrome wears off, and the idea of women juggling high-powered careers while also baking cookies and reading bedtime stories is increasingly seen to be unrealizable by ordinary mortals." In Britain in '84, 59.2% of women and 65.5% of men believed it was the man's role to work and the wife's to look after the children vs. 31.1% and 41.1% in '02. In the U.S. the number of people arguing family life does not suffer if a woman works has plummeted, from 51% in '94 to 38% in '02. 37% of West Germans (37%) agree; but there the number has risen, having been just 24% in the mid-'90s. Prof. Scott says, "Women, particularly mothers, can experience considerable strain when attitudes reinforce the notion that employment and family interest's conflict." (BBC News 8/6/08)

Virtual Meetings As travel costs rise and airlines cut services, companies large and small are rethinking the face-to-face meeting. At the same time, technology has matured to the point where it is often practical, affordable and more productive to move digital bits instead of bodies. Analysts say the emerging trend goes well beyond a reaction to rising travel costs and a weakening economy. "These tools are going to change the way corporations think about travel and work in the long run," says Forrester Research analyst Claire Schooley. Companies are beginning to shift to Web-based meetings for training and sales presentations. Some estimate up to 20% of business travel worldwide could be replaced by Web-based and conventional video conferencing technology. Yet, Accenture executive Jill Smart observes, "You don't learn about other cultures in tele-presence. You get things from being there over

in Bible studies and Christian mentoring. [More info.](#)

Collaboration in St. Petersburg

The largest Christian crusade ever held in St. Petersburg, Fla., took place September 7 - 13, when 49 churches hosted seven simultaneous revivals in seven locations for seven nights. In January, about 50 clergy gathered to discuss the possibility of unity. They began with a commitment to 90 days of pastors-only prayer meetings. Calling their group, the "Seven x 7," these pastors persevered, successfully bridging the issues of race and doctrine and divisions between large and small churches. They were united by the goal to collectively battle for the souls of South St. Petersburg. This mass outreach is just part of the vision for this group. The Seven x 7 will continue to take its message to the streets of St. Petersburg with continued outreach and evangelism. [More info.](#)

Is Your Church Ready to Partner?

Ellen Livingood of Catalyst Services interviewed dozens of church leaders to investigate which indicators signal whether a church is ready for a global partnership or strategic initiative. She discovered that certain characteristics were shared by those churches that became successful at partnering - a useful gauge for other churches or ministries. [More info.](#)

Seven New Rules for Leaders Include Collaborative Skills

Robert Moment, marketing coach and author of the upcoming book, *God Will Always Be There for You*, proposes seven new rules for Christian leaders: adaptability, people skills, self-awareness, decisiveness, purposefulness, collaborative skills, and innovation. [More info.](#)

Dr. John Perkins Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. John Perkins, Christian author, activist and humanitarian, received the 2008 Jordan Lifetime Achievement Award from The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) in July. The ECPA Award is given annually to an individual for his or her exceptional contributions to the Christian publishing industry. Perkin's book, *Let Justice Roll Down* was also selected #14 of "The Top 50 Books that Have Shaped Evangelicals" by *Christianity Today* magazine. [More info.](#)



breakfast and dinner, building relationships face to face." (NY Times 7/22/08)

The U.S. Minimum Wage increased from \$5.85 to \$6.55 per hour 7/24/08. In '09, it will increase to \$7.25 an hour. (AP 7/24/08)

Out of Work For the first time since the women's movement began, an economic recovery has come and gone, and the percentage of women at work has fallen, not risen, reports the Bureau of Labor Statistics. When economists first started noticing this trend, many assumed the pullback was due to women deciding to stay home to raise children, or their husbands were doing well, or they felt committed to running their households. But in fact, women struggling with an unfriendly economy are retreating from the work force, either permanently or for long periods. The proportion of women holding jobs in their prime working years, 25 to 54, peaked at 74.9% in early '00 vs. 72.7% in June '08, the lowest in 12 years. (NY Times 7/22/08)

Hours Cut The number of Americans who have seen their full-time jobs chopped to part-time because of weak business has swelled to more than 3.7 million, the largest figure since tracking such data began more than 50 years ago. These workers now amount to 3.7% of all those employed vs. 3% a year ago; this is the highest level since '95. Among those forced into part-time work from the spring of '07 to the spring of '08, 73% were men and 35% were Hispanic. (NY Times 7/31/08)

Most Prestigious

Occupations According to Harris Poll's '08 list, America's most prestigious occupations are: Firefighter (57%); Scientist (56%); Doctor (53%); Nurse (52%); Teacher (52%). Priest/Minister /Clergy ranked #8 at 40%. (Harris Interactive 8/5/08)

Total Newspaper

Readership, including Web site visitors, is increasing, according to Mediarmark Research and Intelligence. They found a 2.1% increase in audience size to 80.6 million between spring '07 and spring '08. (MediaDailyNews 7/21/08)

Fast Facts:

- There are around 17,697 Korean missionaries serving in 168 countries, making South Korea the second largest missionary-sending country in the world
- 7.4 million people will die in China this year without hearing about Jesus.
- The percentage of Christians' incomes given to Christian ministry work has been declining for over 35 years.

Hope Hero Named for Help in Iowa Flooding

The website CorridorRecovery.org, covering the news of recovery after recent flooding in Iowa, recognizes "Hope Heroes" – those who stepped up and did something amazing during the flood. In August, MAC's Loving Our Communities to Christ city leader Charles Daugherty was named the first Hope Hero.



Corridor Recovery's President/CEO Christian Fong, said, " His humble service, always compassionate and available, represented the best of Linn County's faith-based response, and the general volunteer effort. Charles Daugherty is a true hero for this community."

MAC Facilitator for Loving Our Communities to Christ Phil Miglioratti adds, "Charles is truly deserving of this honor but he would be the first to say how he is but one of many Christians in the Serve the City/LC2C movement in Cedar Rapids. They are a wonderful example of how we must continue to strive toward the whole Church showing and telling the whole gospel to the whole city - house by house." [More info.](#)

McCartney Returns to Promise Keepers

Promise Keepers' co-founder Bill McCartney was brought out of retirement to once again head the nearly 20-year-old organization. McCartney, 68, returned to the helm of the organization, assuming his new role as CEO and Chairman on Sept 8, five years after having resigned. He also brought back with him former Promise Keepers executive Raleigh Washington to serve as president. [More info.](#)

Catalyst Conference Previews Online



Visit the Catalyst website today to download the Free Catalyst podcast, featuring favorite voices such as Andy Stanley, Erwin McManus, Rob Bell, Louie Giglio, Francis Chan, and Rick

Warren. Connect with the people, ideas, and conversations that are shaping our culture, and plan to join 12,000 Next Generation Leaders on October 8-10 in Atlanta. [More info.](#)

Conference to Equip Parents in Spiritual Leadership

Sept. 23-25, Dallas, Texas

MAC partner AMFM and Randall House are

- People now give less than 2-3% of their income to charitable causes. It was 3% during Great Depression.
- The most recent Barna research shows only 5% of Christians are tithing.
- Megachurches make up less than 1% of the total number of U.S. congregations.
- 9% of Protestants, 9% of Catholics and 12% of Eastern Orthodox Christians speak or pray in tongues.
- Pastor Rick Warren appears on the cover of the Aug. 18 issue of TIME magazine.
- 2007 U.S. Census Bureau data reports there are more than 84,000 Centenarians in the U.S., and that number is projected to increase seven-fold to 580,000 by 2040.
- The U.S. Census Bureau says Hispanic buying power in the U.S. is expected to surpass \$1 trillion by 2011.
- 72% of adults believe school books are more important for success in life than street smarts, up 6 points from '07.
- 51% of adults agree that high school students should be encouraged to get part-time jobs during the school year.
- The class of 2012 is the largest in history, with 13.6 million college students (ages 18-30).
- Iceland is the most frequent movie-going nation in the world. The average Icelander sees about 5.7 movies per year, slightly ahead of the U.S. (Screen Digest)
- By 2010 there will be 9 million cell phone users in the U.S. age 9-and-under, generating \$1.6 billion in revenue.
- The number of children who are members of a virtual world is expected to rise from 8 million in '07 to 20 million by '11.
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 5 boys ages 9-11 have a computer in their room.
- Before 1973, nearly 9% percent of births to never-married women were given up for adoption vs. 8% in '02.
- The number of children adopted from other countries increased from 7,000 in '90 to more than

presenting The D6 Conference to equip leaders with the tools and ideas they need to influence the parents in their churches to lead their kids spiritually. The conference will be held in Dallas Sept. 23-25. [More info.](#)

Mission Exchange Offers Webinars on Leadership, Partnering

Oct. 3, Online

Mission Exchange offers educational programs for the Great Commission community through a series of Webinars. For its first October online training The Mission Exchange will be offering "Heading Roughly West: Discovering, Gaining Commitment to, and Perpetuating a Common Vision in a Mission Organization," hosted by James E. Plueddemann, Professor and Chair of the Department of Mission, Evangelism and Intercultural Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. (Mission Exchange was formerly EFMA.) [More info.](#)

Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

Oct. 5, Worldwide

The First Sunday of October has been designated as the Global Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem by well over 1000 global Christian leaders. Make sure your local church is participating on October 5, spread the word to as many as you can, and sign the "[Call to Prayer Resolution](#)" online. [More info.](#)

Seeking the Peace of the City

Oct. 22-26, Miami, Fla.

The Christian Community Development Association annual conference, "Seeking the Peace of the City" will explore the meaning and implications of "shalom" and how it relates to believer's lives and families, congregations, communities, the nation and the world. The conference also includes the CCDA National Student Leadership Intensive, Oct. 23-26. [More info.](#)

Bottom-Up Approaches to Global Poverty -

Oct. 23-25, Waco, Texas

The Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture is holding a conference Oct. 23-25, "Bottom-Up Approaches to Global Poverty Appropriate Technology, Social Entrepreneurship, and the Church." Instead of rivals at cross purposes, these three forces hold enormous promise when they converge, for they have the potential to create genuine social change and express Christian faith and witness. The conference will be held at the campus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. [More info.](#)

19,000 in '01.

- About 16% of the 120,000 annual adoptions in the U.S. are of children from other nations.
- About 50,000 children are adopted through foster care annually in the U.S.
- A Netpop Research study finds 13- to 34-year-olds now consume 36% of all their entertainment via a computer.
- 26% of the U.S. population was obese in '07, up nearly 2% from '05.
- Median-income U.S. families devote about 5 cents of every income dollar to energy costs, while poor families must devote as much as 50 cents on their dollar.
- High-energy prices are one of the single biggest drivers of homelessness.
- In order to cope with higher home energy and gasoline costs, 70% of households have reduced food purchases; 30% medicine purchases and 20% changed their or their children's education plans.
- 67% of people 65 and older say the recent rise in gas prices has caused them a great deal or a fair amount of financial hardship.
- More than half of Americans check the fat content on nutrition labels.
- 1 in 4 U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan have damaged hearing, the Army says.
- Total trade between the U.S. and China has grown from \$33 billion in '92 to more than \$386 billion in '07.
- One-third of Boomers – some 25 million people – head up single-income households.
- Over 37% of Boomers are already grandparents. The average age of a Boomer who is a grandparent is 53.

Information compiled and edited by Gary Foster, President of Gary D Foster Consulting, a firm that assists Christian ministries and product companies in solving management, marketing, donor/customer service and product development problems. Contact Gary at: 419.238.4082, GFosterCns@rmi.net or go to www.GaryDFoster.com.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Nov. 9, Worldwide

Sunday, Nov. 9, is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

(IDOP). This is a day set apart for global intercession for persecuted Christians worldwide and a rallying point for Christians across all denominations to stand behind those who suffer for their faith. Open Doors provides a free IDOP kit for your church or small group. [More info.](#)



Palau Takes Prayer-Care-Share Approach in Portland

A Luis Palau event in Portland was one of the largest community service efforts ever to impact



Oregon and southwest Washington. About 26,000 volunteers participated in the months leading up to the Portland CityFest at service projects throughout the greater Portland/Vancouver area. Some of those included:

- Providing medical and dental clinics for the under-insured
- Renovating a "prayer-walked" high school with 1,000 volunteers
- Connecting homeless people with care agencies and meeting basic needs like free phone calls and haircuts
- Launching after-school care and lunch programs

Larry DeWitt, MAC's Facilitator of Pastoral Ministries, reported, "This is an amazing breakthrough for the prayer-care-share approach to bringing people to Christ, and hopefully to uniting the cities of Portland and Vancouver. Luis Palau has literally affirmed and adopted [what MAC calls] the prayer-care-share strategy and has set a new standard in mass evangelism."

In addition, the mayor of Vancouver expressed his appreciation for the involvement of the faith community: "We have a real friend in the churches because of Luis Palau," he said. [More info.](#)

Thousands Fast, Cry for Mercy for America

Church groups, pro-life advocates and youth flocked to the National Mall in August for TheCall DC – a rally that organizers described as a sacred assembly. TheCall is hitting countries around the world this year, including

Brazil, Indonesia, Canada, France and Kenya. Its next U.S. stop is southern California where participants will make the call to protect traditional marriage, days before residents are scheduled to vote on a related amendment. TheCall California will be held in San Diego on Nov. 1. [More info.](#)

Collaborative Evangelism Calendar**National Weekly Prayer for Youth**

Mondays, 8 p.m. All Time Zones. [More info.](#)

Let Justice Roll

Sept. 20, Chicago, Ill. [More info.](#)

D6 Conference

Sept. 23-25, Dallas, Tex. [More info.](#)

Pastors' Prayer Summit

Sept. 22-24, Miami, Fla. [More info.](#)

See You at the Pole

Sept. 24, Nationwide. [More info.](#)

Mission Next

Sept. 24-27, Denver-Broomfield, Colo. [More info.](#)

"Fireproof"

Sept. 26, Movie Theaters Nationwide. [More info.](#)

Men at the Cross

Sept. 26-27, Charlotte, N.C. [More info.](#)

Mission Exchange Webinar

Oct. 3, Online. [More info.](#)

Missions Fest Seattle

Oct. 3-4, 2008, Seattle, Wash. [More info.](#)

International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

Oct. 5, 2008 [More info.](#)

Mission America Coalition Annual Gathering

Oct 6-9, Minneapolis, Minn. [More info.](#)

Catalyst

Oct 8-10, Atlanta. [More info.](#)

Ministry Leaders' Prayer Summit

Oct. 13-15, Lexington, Ky. [More info.](#)

Lausanne Network on Christian Witness to New Religions and New Spiritualities Conference

Oct. 16-19, 2008, Deerfield, Ill. [More info.](#)

Pastors and Ministry Leaders' Prayer Summit

Oct. 20-21, San Fernando Valley, CA. [More info.](#)

Internet Ministry Conference

Oct. 20-23, Grand Rapids, Mich. [More info.](#)

Seeking the Peace of the City - CCDA

Oct. 22-26, Miami, Fla. [More info.](#)

Bottom-Up Approaches to Global Poverty

Oct. 23-25, Waco, Tex. [More info.](#)

Christian Community Development Youth Conference

Oct. 24-26, Miami, Fla. [More info.](#)

The Call - California

Nov. 1, San Diego. [More info.](#)

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Nov. 9, Worldwide. [More info.](#)

Transform World

Nov. 2008 [More info.](#)

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