

project. "Removing the names of Holocaust victims and other known Jews from a data base containing hundreds of millions of deceased persons is an ongoing, labor-intensive process requiring name-by-name research," he said. In addition to Holocaust victims, the names of other prominent Jews were found: Gilda Radner, Menachem Begin, David Ben-Gurion, and Albert Einstein. According to a December 2002 news report, 380,000 names of Holocaust victims were in the church's data base in 1995, with around 20,000 showing up after the proxy baptisms were supposed to have been discontinued.

Baptism for the dead originally was meant for non-Mormon relatives of LDS church members. The closest living relative of the deceased can sanction the proxy baptism. According to the May 9, 2004, edition of *The Hawk Eye*, Jack Renouf, LDS director of public affairs in Nauvoo, Ill., said, "It's an offer for the dead to be able to choose to be saved or not." Renouf also indicated that, "the temple in Nauvoo was not involved in the practice," but added that "not all Jews are opposed to the idea."

While proxy baptism for deceased Jews may not be taking place at the current Nauvoo temple, the practice of baptizing for dead Mormon relatives first took place during the 1840s at the original Nauvoo temple. Renouf also stated, "The church has 117 temples operating worldwide, so you can imagine how difficult it is to track all the names and who is involved."

The World Gathering of (Jewish) Holocaust Survivors has asked Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., to assist in speeding up the process of stopping the proxy baptisms and has also met with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. No statement was issued after the meeting.

—AMG

THERE THEY GO AGAIN

Last year Benny Hinn teamed with End-Time Handmaidens founder Gwen Shaw to prophesy that "the greatest revival of the Spirit" would start in Germany and spread across Europe. That forecast, like countless similar predictions beforehand, went unfulfilled.

The latest prophet of promise is Randy Clark, the former St. Louis Vineyard pastor who is recognized as the catalyst of the Toronto Blessing. In 1993, Clark, at the request of Toronto Vineyard Fellowship pastor John Arnott, imparted the anointing he earlier received at a series of Rodney Howard-Browne meetings. Clark later resigned from the Vineyard movement to begin an apostolic missions network.

Clark has told *Charisma* magazine, "I believe that we are going to see another healing revival, so I wanted to

do a school where there could be a solid biblical basis for both the models and the theology behind healing and power evangelism" (August 2004, pg. 27). The term "power evangelism" was coined by the late John Wimber, who gained fame with the Association of Vineyard Churches. It is defined as evangelism being demonstrated by healings, signs, wonders, and exorcisms.

Clark is currently criss-crossing the United States conducting four-day healing schools. The schools, according to Clark, were established to correct false doctrine and train Christians in the healing ministry. According to the *Charisma* news report, Clark further stated, "People like the models I learned in the Vineyard and the balance, so I do expect that there will be a multiplication of healing in churches, communities and nations as a result of our healing schools."

—MKG

MOON SHINE

U.S. government lawmakers, including senators and representatives from both major parties, were part of a reception last spring that honored about 100 people for their efforts on behalf of local, national, and world peace. However, the "Crown of Peace" ceremony held on Capitol Hill turned out to be an awards event honoring the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder and leader of The Unification Church.

Afterward, some of the elected officials said they were deceived about the true purpose of the gathering. "There was no indication Moon would be there," a staff person for Sen. Mark Drayton, D-Minn., said. Another, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., maintained he "had no idea Moon would receive an award and deliver a speech."

However, George A. Stallings, who helped organize the ceremony, said the invitation sent to officials announced that Moon and his wife would be honored during the event. The Washington Times Foundation was among the sponsors of the reception. *The Washington Times*, owned by Moon, is a conservative newspaper in the nation's capitol. The reception was held at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, which would require the approval of a senator. According to Stallings, the name of the senator is "shrouded in mystery."

During the ceremony, a crown was placed on Moon's head. Rep. Danny K. Davis, D-Ill., donning white gloves, carried the crown on a pillow to Moon. Davis said that while he was a Methodist who "disagreed with many of Moon's religious teachings," he nevertheless "praised Moon's efforts on behalf of world peace," according to *The Washington Post*.

At the gala event, Moon delivered a lengthy address. According to the *Post*, Moon was quoted as saying that

he was “sent to Earth ... to save the world’s six billion people,” and that “Emperors, kings and presidents ... have declared to all Heaven and Earth that Reverend Sun Myung Moon is none other than humanity’s Savior, Messiah, Returning Lord and True Parent.”

Moon and his Unification Church have a long history of wooing and entertaining respected evangelical and political leaders in an effort to gain legitimacy for his message and ambitions.

—MKG

BOOK OF MORMON GOES COMMERCIAL

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has found a new channel for its most conspicuous scripture to be made available: Doubleday Publishing. The New York-based publisher will release to bookstores on Nov. 16, a hardcover edition of *The Book of Mormon*. It will sell for \$24.95.

Doubleday and Mormon church officials have jointly worked on the project for more than a year. While the new edition is said to “reflect design changes introduced by Doubleday to make the volume more easily read and understood by a non-Mormon audience,” church leaders promise that the text will remain faithful to the editions published by the LDS church and used by its members. The style changes will eliminate exhaustive cross refer-

ences, footnotes, and the index. However, a seven-page “Reference Guide” will be added to acquaint the reader unfamiliar with the intent of the Mormon scripture.

According to Elder Henry B. Eyring, who serves on the church’s Scripture Committee and is a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, the Doubleday edition is not aimed at LDS church members. “However, many members may feel that this new edition would be an ideal gift for friends who are not members of the Church,” he said.

The volume will be the first official trade edition of the LDS scripture. Since first being published in 1830, more than 120 million copies of *The Book of Mormon* have been printed and distributed by the LDS church, with over five million copies in 2002 alone. The typical method of distribution has been through the church’s missionaries, members, and other distribution outlets such as visitors centers at its temples and historical sites. The Doubleday edition is hoped to increase distribution through avenues such as retail shops, airport bookstores, and Internet outlets.

According to an LDS church news release, Michelle Rapkin, Religion Division Vice President for Doubleday, said, “The Mormon faith has become one of the largest in America. We’re proud to be the first publisher to bring this vitally important work to bookstores across the country and to add it to our outstanding library of authorized religious texts.”

—MKG

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.