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INTERMOUNTAIN Christian News

A Voice of Truth

www.imcnews.org

An outreach ministry of Treasure Valley Christian News Boise, Idaho

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Website

Please visit the IMCNews website often and submit your events, comments, classified ads, letters to the editor, etc. You can also download a PDF file of the current issue, read national and international news, visit our many links and resources, and access the Church Website Directory for the Intermountain region. We encourage you to visit our business partners by clicking on their links.

www.imcnews.org

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Here's how to reach us!

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Freedom 250, Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit

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On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history—250 years of American Independence. "With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history," said President Trump of this momentous anniversary.

Under the President's leadership, the Salute to America 250 Task Force ("Task Force 250") is executing a full year of festivities, which began on Memorial Day, 2025, and will continue through the end of 2026.

The White House is engaging all levels of government, the private sector, non-profit and educational institutions, and every citizen across the country to celebrate this historic milestone. To achieve this ambitious vision, we have created a new public-private partnership called Freedom 250.

Task Force 250 aims to inspire a renewed love for American history, encourage citizens to experience the beauty of our country, ignite a spirit of adventure and innovation to help our nation succeed for the next 250 years, and invite Americans to pray for our country and our people and rededicate ourselves as One Nation Under God.

"The story of America makes everyone free."
President Donald J. Trump
IMCNews Publisher Note: Pray for America.

Treasure Valley Christian News DBA InterMountain Christian News Giving Christians a voice

By Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper, TVCIMCNews Publisher

June 22, 2026

(BOISE, Id)—It isn't easy to stand for TRUTH in a world filled with negative news but our Treasure Valley and InterMountain Christian News does just that and is dedicated to the reporting of TRUTH despite all odds. We even have a voice at the White House asking questions on behalf of Christians that you can watch on our YouTube channel titled InterMountain Christian News or Dr Anthony Harper.

I serve as the Editor and lead reporter for our newspaper. My personal testimony is of how JESUS saved me from the drug scene and suicide to serve others. I am so thankful to JESUS for saving me from my sins and all other things He has done for me. My varied work experiences can be summed up from being in the dirt working with harvesting and delivering Potatoes to the stage as an Actor and Musician to working at the White House as the lead White House Human Rights Correspondent. Learn more about my testimony and Music on my Music web site of: anthonymusic.com

Continued on Page 2

Treasure Valley Christian News DBA InterMountain Christian News Giving Christians a voice

Continued from Page 1

Our newspaper is the longest running Christian newspaper in our area for almost 24 years that has been giving Christians a publication to print their Christian events and event news articles in our newspaper for FREE.

We are a 501c3 Non profit organization that produces a printed and digital FREE newspaper serving the Treasure Valley and the greater InterMountain state area. Donations are tax deductible and can be made online by clicking on the 'Donate' banner of our website or by scanning the QR code below.

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We also have teen help web site Treasure Valley Teens and InterMountain Teens highlighting events, resources and support.

Our newspaper web site addresses are as follows:

- tvcnews.org and imcnews.org
- Our Teen help web sites are as follows:
- treasurevalleyteens.com and
- intermountainteens.com

The free Teen help hospital mission to be built GOD willing we support is Children of Hope Family Hospital and the web site address is: childofhope.org

We are proud sponsors of the Treasure Valley God and Country Festival and have so enjoyed our time there creating special memories and bonds with people that are so loving!

Christian events are posted for FREE in our area's only Christian newspaper (upon approval).

Please send your 100-200 word Christian event with date and time, location, event description and event contact information and your 300-400 word Christian Church or other Christian event news article with one picture of the event to the InterMountain Christian News email address of:

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For more information call (208) 703-8688.

INTERMOUNTAIN Christian News

A Voice of Truth

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Joining Dr. Albert Mohler at the Compass Bible Church Pastor's Luncheon

by IMCNews Editor Rev. Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper

May 29, 2026

(BOISE, Id)—I was blessed to meet with Dr. Albert Mohler at a Pastor's Luncheon at the Compass Bible Church in Boise, Idaho to talk with him about my request to interview him regarding the doctrine of Hell that he recently addressed regarding Kirk Cameron's support for either Conditionalism or Anilhation by questioning whether Hell was permanent. Dr. Mohler signed a copy of his book for me titled 'We Cannot Be Silent.'

Here below is a BIO and review of that book from his web site: albertmohler.com

"Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. has faithfully served as the president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College for over thirty years. Dr. Mohler is also the host of The Briefing, a podcast that offers daily analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview, and Thinking in Public, a program dedicated to intelligent conversation about frontline theological and cultural issues with the people who are shaping them."

"'We Cannot Be Silent'

Speaking truth to a culture redefining sex, marriage, & the very meaning of right & wrong

Twenty years ago, not one nation on earth had legal same-sex marriage. Now, access to same-sex marriage is increasingly seen as a basic human right. In a matter of less than a generation, western cultures have experienced a moral revolution.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler examines how this transformation occurred, revealing the underlying cultural shifts behind this revolution: the acceptance of divorce culture, liberation of sex from reproduction, the prevalence of heterosexual cohabitation, the normalization of homosexuality, and the rise of the transgender movement. He then offers a deep look at how the Bible and Christian moral tradition provide a comprehensive understanding upon which Christians can build their personal lives, their marriages, church ministry, and cultural engagement.

Dr. Mohler helps Christians in their understanding of the underlying issues of this significant cultural shift and how to face the challenge of believing faithfully, living faithfully, and engaging the culture faithfully in light of this massive change."

"Albert Mohler is one of the preeminent Christian intellectuals of the century. While many stammer with confusion in the wake of the culture revolutions of our time, Dr. Mohler stands and speaks. In this book, he applies keen culture analysis and ancient biblical wisdom to vexing questions of marriage and sexuality. This book will equip Christ's church to speak with moral clarity and to stand with gospel conviction. "

—Russell Moore, President, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

My challenge to Tucker Carlson to a debate regarding Israel

By White House Israel News Correspondent Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper | March 31, 2026

Pictured above from the James Brady Press Room March 31, 2026

(BOISE, I'd)—I'm assigned to the White House and State Department press detail to report for the InterMountain Christian News and Israel news service 'Newsrael.'

In light of Podcaster Tucker Carlson's continuous antisemitic anti Israel rhetoric regarding Israel, I need to correct him if I can. Tucker is now supporting a form of antisemitism called Church Replacement Theology in which he lies about The Holy Bible verse Genesis 17:7 regarding the covenant of GOD with Abraham and his descendants Isaac and Jacob [Jacob is later renamed Israel by GOD]. Tucker lies about that Genesis scripture by saying GOD's covenant was now with Christians instead. But that verse does not say that and GOD says His Covenant is an everlasting covenant to Abraham and his descendants. Tucker is totally wrong Biblically, Christians are NOT Biblical Israel. I would ask Tucker the following question: If Christians replaced Israel, why was the ancestral land of Israel given back to the Jews instead of Christians after Hitler's slaughter of the Jews in the Holocaust by a U.S. President Truman supported U.N. vote? Clearly, Tucker's argument and line of reasoning is not based in reality.

Genesis 17:7 (New American Standard Bible)

"I will establish My covenant between Me and you [Abraham] and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you." This covenant of GOD was with Abraham and his descendants Isaac and Jacob. Jacob is later renamed Israel by GOD (Genesis 32:28).

Screen capture above from "Jews & Gentiles Are No Longer Separate; They Unite in Christ"by Channel Name TCN (YouTube). Fair Use for purposes of commentary, criticism, research, teaching, or news reporting. YouTube channel link: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7M2-27Vc2t0

Screen capture above from "Jews & Gentiles Are No Longer Separate; They Unite in Christ"by Channel Name TCN (YouTube). Fair Use for purposes of commentary, criticism, research, teaching, or news reporting. YouTube channel link: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7M2-27Vc2t0

Tucker Carlson and his guest Pastor Andrew Isker chime together in support of Church Replacement Theology March 31, 2025 on YouTube at the following link: https://youtu.be/nLCOfT6UXEs

So on March 31, 2026 from the White House press room, I challenged Tucker Carlson to a debate on the topic of Israel. I know of no other White House Correspondent willing to challenge Tucker at the moment.

I serve as the principal investigative journalist at the White House reporting on AntiSemitism and was introduced to Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu May 8, 2017 in the Knesset because of my White House questions exposing the antisemitic U.N. agency UNRWA and President Trump defunded UNRWA because of my questions and an ensuing investigation I asked my Senator James Risch to initiate. Watch my interview with One America News reporter Stella Escobedo regarding UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency at the following YouTube link:

https://youtu.be/4VSGV9kX0RA

Presidential Message on Pentecost

NEWS PROVIDED BY | The White House | May 24, 2026

WASHINGTON, May 24, 2026 /Christian Newswire/ — The White House releases the following statement by the President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump:

Melania and I join many Christians throughout our Nation and around the world who are joyfully celebrating the miracle of Pentecost today and the birth of Christ's Church.

Fifty days after the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in Jerusalem in tongues of fire, triumphantly fulfilling Christ's promise and giving them the courage and divine authority to proclaim the message of God to every nation and people.

At the call of Saint Peter to "repent and be baptized," thousands came forward to embrace the infinite love and abundant grace of Jesus Christ. From that moment onward, Christ's message of salvation and His promise of eternal life have resounded across the ages, carried by generations of faithful witnesses who have spread the light of the Gospel to the farthest ends of the Earth.

On this holy day, we proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ, our hope in His saving power, and our enduring commitment to pursuing His will as one Nation under God. As we celebrate 250 years of American Independence this year, we pray that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire our hearts, strengthen our resolve, and guide our Nation with wisdom, courage, and hope for years to come.

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

Happy Pentecost!
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CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES WANTED

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES NEEDED in West Africa. Looking for a minimum of five Bible believing Christian Missionaries to work alongside African brothers and sisters in Liberia for between one and nine months to fulfill the great commission as outlined in Matthew 28:18-20 and take part in teaching and humanitarian outreaches. Must be willing to submit to Biblical Missions training, Wilderness Medicine Training, Wilderness survival training and team building exercises that may last up to three months. After training, prayerfully consider going to West Africa as a Missionary to teach, with help with food preparation, carpentry, security and school repairs.
These are volunteer adult positions. No children or teens at this time. Room and board are provided. Please contact David Flint, at flindavi@isu.edu to complete an application.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for: distribution of our newspaper, writing news stories, teen editor for Intermountain Teens (www.Intermountainteens.com) and church liaison representative. These positions may qualify for high school or college internship credit - consult your high school or college advisor. Call Dr. Harper at (208) 703-8688 / goodnews127@gmail.com.

INTERMOUNTAIN
Christian News

Please help us with the following needs:

1. Funds to renew our radio program
2. $930 monthly ministry housing cost
3. $10,000 for ministry vehicle
4. Funds for White House travel with White House Press Corps and President

History of the GOD and Country Festival of the Treasure Valley

Used by permission, Source: www.godandcountryfestival.com/history-of-the-festival/

Photo above provided by the GOD and Country Festival of the Treasure Valley. A previous event of theirs at The Ford Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho.

The God and Country Festival began during a movement organized by western actor Chuck Connors during the sixties to promote our country's founding ideals and faith in God.

Our Legacy: Honoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Since 1966

The God and Country Family Festival has a rich and inspiring history, rooted in patriotism, faith, and community. It all began in 1966, when beloved western film and television star Chuck Connors—best known for his role in The Rifleman—helped spearhead a nationwide movement of patriotic rallies and parades aimed at uniting communities under shared American values.

Connors believed deeply in preserving the principles on which our nation was founded and used his platform to inspire events that blended civic pride with a strong faith-based foundation. One of the earliest of these rallies took place right here in Nampa, Idaho. That first event was held on the Wednesday night before Independence Day in 1966, laying the foundation for what would become a cherished local tradition.

As time went on, the original parade—now called Parade America—shifted to the third Saturday in May. But the heart of the original vision remained alive through what became known as the God and Country Rally, continuing the patriotic and spiritual celebration on its original midweek date. This event became a beacon for those who believed in keeping both God and country central to American life.

In 2000, the growing crowds and community enthusiasm prompted a move from Lakeview Park to the Ford Idaho Center Amphitheater. With that transition came a new name: the God and Country Family Festival—a name that reflects not only our values but the generations of families who attend year after year.

Today, the festival remains one of the last surviving God and Country-style rallies in the nation, a living legacy to Chuck Connors' vision and to the dedication of those who have worked tirelessly to keep it going. It continues to be a FREE community celebration held on the traditional Wednesday before the 4th of July, featuring music, speakers, military and civic honors, and a grand fireworks display provided by the City of Nampa.

At its core, the God and Country Family Festival is a tribute to the enduring ideals of our nation's founders, honoring active-duty military, veterans, public servants, first responders, and the unshakable foundation of faith that binds us together.

Join us as we carry this legacy forward—for God, for country, and for the generations to come.

Chuck Connors: Athlete, Actor, Patriot

Best known as The Rifleman, Chuck Connors stood 6'5" and had a rare career as a two-sport pro athlete, playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Celtics.

Before acting, he served in the U.S. Army during WWII and later rose to fame as Lucas McCain, one of TV's first single fathers, teaching moral lessons in the Wild West.

In the 1960s, Connors called on communities to hold patriotic rallies to support American troops. Nampa's God and Country Rally was among the first to respond—helping launch a legacy that still thrives today.

A proud American, Connors was even a guest at the White House and once gifted a cowboy hat to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev during a diplomatic dinner.

Help needed to fund following critical book on combatting antisemitism (Jew hatred)

By InterMountain Christian News Publisher Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper, Boise, Idaho

May 26, 2026

Map above of the Middle East with a red line showing the boundaries of Israel as promised to Abraham in Genesis 15 verses 18-21, Image: Public Domain via AllIsrael.com

1. My Interest In Israel Begins, The Journey
2. The early years leading up to my fight against antisemitism (Jew hatred)
3. Antisemitism defined
4. The Deception, The Myth of Palestine and The Two State Delusion, Implications for Israel
5. White House Correspondents experiences combating antisemitism.
6. The underlying spiritual problem with Iran (the head of the snake, the Prince of Persia instigator as described by the Jewish Prophet Daniel in Daniel 10:13-14
7. Replacement Theology in the Church (Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, Meghan Kelly, Kirk Cameron, et al) and Antisemitism
8. Other expressions of antisemitism by Iran (the head of the snake, the Prince of Persia instigator as described by the Jewish Prophet Daniel in Daniel 10:13-14) and their proxies Hamas in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority in Judea and Samaria (West Bank), Hezbollah in Lebanon the Houthis in Yemen and the U.N. (UNRWA), Jewish cemetery desecration, BDS, Desecration of and bodily harm and disruption of services at Jewish Synagogues, Anti Israel rallies at Universities or elsewhere, Implications for Israel
9. Combatting Antisemitism, The One State Solution
10. Israel's Bright Future (Israel's Boundaries as promised by The G-d of Israel to Abraham in Genesis 15 verses 18-21 (A map above of the Middle East with a red line showing the boundaries of Israel as promised to Abraham in Genesis 15 verses 18-21, Image: Public Domain via AllIsrael.com
11. Featuring President Trump and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as key leaders in combatting antisemitism.
12. Resources in the Fight to Win!

Pictured here in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, photo by InterMountain Christian News

Funds are needed to pay for editorial expenses in getting this critical book ready for print. Please contact me at the following email address:

goodnews127@gmail.com

Idaho Library Hellbent on Breaking Law Intended to Protect Children

by Edward Clark Reprinted by permission, Idaho Family Policy Center, https://idahofamily.org

May 5, 2026

We travel across the state regularly—and if there's one thing we hear from parents more often than anything else, it's their exasperation that some libraries are seemingly hellbent on peddling pornography to children.

That's why Idaho Family Policy Center researched and drafted the Children's School and Library Protection Act (CSLPA). This law requires public schools and community libraries to take reasonable steps to ensure children don't stumble upon obscene materials while browsing library collections.

It's simple for libraries to comply with the law. They only need to store sexually explicit materials in a locked room or at the front counter—places that children can't access.

This was all too much for the Donnelly Public Library, who announced that they would convert into an "adult-only" library soon after the law was adopted.

Their malicious compliance – prohibiting children from entering the library without a parent – went far beyond the "reasonable steps" required by the CSLPA.

But now the Donnelly Public Library has turned their stubbornness into something more sinister.

Idaho Family Policy Center recently received a tip that the Donnelly Public Library is now offering blanket consent waivers disguised as "patron applications" that allow children to access obscene materials without parental supervision.

We obtained one of these patron applications through a public records request—and you won't believe what it contains:

• The library acknowledges that their collection contains "adult content" (read: pornography) and that children may stumble across "grown-up library materials." Aren't euphemisms great?

• Even worse? The library insists that librarians aren't able to review every book in their collection and that they "are not responsible for the content" of library items—despite having that legal duty under the CSLPA.

• Worst of all? Parents who want their children to check out library books must "waive [their] right(s)" to the legal remedies available to them under the CSLPA.

All this begs the question: Why is the Donnelly Public Library so desperate to distribute obscene materials to children?

Regardless of their motive, one thing is certain—these patron application forms are patently illegal.

Here's the truth: The CSLPA doesn't allow libraries to sidestep liability by obtaining blanket consent waivers from parents. Unless a parent is physically present with the child when they access obscene materials, a library has violated the law and could be liable for damages—regardless of any prior waiver.

How low will these libraries stoop to give porn to kids? It's a real race to the bottom—and the Donnelly Library is taking a decisive lead.

But seriously. These libraries think they can break the law without suffering consequences.

It's time to hold them accountable—and we plan to make sure that happens. Keep your eyes peeled.

Supreme Court to hear arguments over Colorado religious discrimination, Catholic preschools

By Scott Barkley, posted April 21, 2026 in National News | Reprinted by permission, Baptist Press, | https://www.baptistpress.com

WASHINGTON (BP) – The Supreme Court announced on Monday (April 20) that it will not reconsider its landmark 1990 religious freedom decision that lower courts cited in a Colorado dispute over Catholic preschools and LGBTQ families, but it will hear arguments over how that ruling applies in the case.

Employment Division v. Smith framed such cases over religious exemptions, and when they should be applied in cases involving religious freedom.

A 2022 Colorado law creating a "universal" preschool program that funds up to 15 hours of free preschool at any public or licensed private school requires those schools to include all children and parents, regardless of characteristics such as sexual orientation and gender identity. St. Mary Catholic Parish, based in Littleton, requires families to uphold the sincere religious beliefs of the school.

Catholic preschools from the Denver Archdiocese, including St. Mary Catholic Parish, filed a federal lawsuit in August 2023. In January 2024, a federal district court generally upheld the state's position, calling the nondiscrimination measure neutral and not in violation of the First Amendment. That decision was upheld last September by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit.

At the end of March, the Supreme Court upheld a Colorado Christian counselor's right to free speech regarding counseling clients with LGBTQ issues.

"Once again, the state of Colorado will appear before the Supreme Court, asking justices to endorse its latest effort to discriminate against religious people," said Miles Mullin, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission chief of staff. "Colorado did not have to create a universal pre-school program, but when it did, it had a legal obligation to include religious preschools in that program – even those that hold to a biblical sexual ethic that its lawmakers do not like."

He went on to call the action "religious bigotry" that "violates the First Amendment, ignores over 10 years of Constitutional case law and enshrines religious discrimination in law."

The ERLC joined an amicus brief alongside the National Association of Evangelicals and others in support of St. Mary Catholic Parish. Although the Colorado preschool program is "universal" in name, the brief argues that the law is not so in reality, as long as it excludes religious groups.

The brief noted that the lower court's decision is "hardly the only case" where the

Continued on Page 6

Supreme Court to hear arguments over Colorado religious discrimination, Catholic preschools

Continued from Page 5

Smith decision has been used to discriminate against those with religious beliefs, citing Masterpiece Cakeshop, Fulton v. Philadelphia and Agudath Israel of America v. Cuomo. It also included language from the original petition that "Religious people across the country are stuck in forever conflicts precisely because of the (sometimes willful) confusion among the lower courts over the meaning of the Free Exercise Clause."

Colorado has "no right to impose penalties for religious opinions," said Mullin, adding that "God alone is the Lord of the conscience."

"Although the freedom to practice one's religion is guaranteed by the Constitution, it is a God-given right that is recognized in the First Amendment, not granted by it," he said. "The right to practice one's religion is a prepolitical, first freedom that must be defended, which is why the ERLC submitted a brief urging the court to hear this case and looks forward to submitting an additional brief arguing the merits of the case."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SCOTT BARKLEY, Scott Barkley is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press.

Utah, Idaho youth events use sports to share hope

By Karen L. Willoughby, posted May 5, 2026 in Evangelism

Extreme snow boarder Tom Gilles (left) speaks with kids during one of several events in Utah and Idaho the week of April 19.

MONTICELLO, Utah – A small Utah church scored an evangelistic coup that spread to two states in late April.

Youth director Erin Barry at First Baptist Church of Monticello, southeastern Utah, knows a world champion extreme snowboarder-turned-evangelist, and invited him to speak to students April 19-24. Tom Gillis accepted and brought three-time Olympic Gold Medalist (in softball) and motivational speaker Leah Amico with him.

"Tom had an encounter with God at my dad's church in Lake Tahoe in 2003, and was saved soon after," Barry told Baptist Press. "We saw each other last fall and I asked him. We've been planning this since October. We have been seeing God move throughout our area recently. In Dove Creek, [Colo.,] a third of the middle/high school students are attending FCA [Fellowship of Christian athletes] at times on Tuesday for lunch and a Bible lesson.

"We want to see more kids come to Christ,"

continued Barry, bivocational as the volleyball coach at Dove Creek High School. "Tom and Leah have a great passion for evangelism and can reach kids through sports. We spent the week traveling to local schools, doing assemblies, meeting with softball teams and FCA Huddles."

Those schools are in Monticello and Blanding, Utah, and in Dove Creek, Dolores and Durango, Colo. Monticello's population: 1,722; Blanding: 3,280; Durango: 19,811; Dolores: 958; and Dove Creek, 676.

"Tom told his stories, how God changed his life, and Leah, how overcoming adversity led her to three gold medals," Barry said.

Gilles holds the world's record for extreme snowboarding's quarter-pipe drop-in. While a straight-arrow athlete in high school, his life took a turn when he got into professional snowboarding. He began drinking and using drugs.

The Utah Idaho Southern Baptist Convention [UISBC] gave a "substantial grant" to the project, Barry said, adding that his church covered the rest.

"First Baptist Church of Monticello could not do 'The Gold Standard and Rad Assemblies' without outside assistance from the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the [North American Mission Board] evangelism grant," said Rob Lee, executive director of the UISBC. "The beauty of partnering is that the church could do far more than it could on its own and capitalize on the Winter Olympics in February.

"The church runs around 40 to 60 on most Sundays and has always had a big vision to engage its community with the Gospel," Lee continued. "They started a radio station many years ago under the leadership of their former pastor, John Williams, which ended up broadcasting the high school sports events for the community, opening the church's doors to the school."

Over the last 18 months, First Monticello has helped restart another church in Gideon Baptist Association, "so I know their passion for making a kingdom impact in their region," Lee continued. "Without our partnership, many of these God-sized events would not have been possible at the level their church leaders had dreamed of."

Gilles and Amico spoke to 760 students throughout the week, who because of their location probably had never before heard an evangelistic message from top athletes, Dove Creek FCA leader Donella Fury told Baptist Press. At least 160 of the students indicated they had "some sort of encounter with God," Barry said.

The First Monticello youth first met with Gilles Sunday night at youth group.

"I encouraged them to be expectant and by Friday night they got more and more excited," Gilles told Baptist Press. "The fact they were sharing their faith was really cool. [It was] Faith in action. The really cool thing is how excited they were to see God move!"

Gilles spoke Tuesday in Dove Creek,

Continued on Page 7

Utah, Idaho youth events use sports to share hope

Continued from Page 6

Colo., at an FCA Huddle and at an all-school assembly. Wednesday Gilles spoke with 120 students at the Durango, Colo., FCA Huddle, where "When Tom gave an altar call, every student went forward," Barry said. Later that day, Gilles and Amico spoke at a night of worship and prayer with members of First Monticello.

"Thursday morning, they spoke to all the elementary, middle school and high school students in Dolores, and then traveled to Monticello where they spoke at an all-school assembly at the high school," Barry said. "Leah went to softball practice and spoke with Monticello's team. Then she went to softball practice in Blanding and spoke with their team.

Olympic gold-winning softball player Leah Amico uses sports to encourage students and share her faith.

"On Friday night we hosted a worship and story event where Leah and Tom shared their stories and presented the Gospel to more than 100 students and parents," the Monticello youth director continued. "Throughout the week we had the opportunity to pray with atheists, Muslims, Mormons and everyone in between. They weren't making professions of faith, but they heard truth and that affected them."

Gilles said, "I saw kids super hungry for God's Word but not experiencing it. … They just want the raw truth and they need it. When truth hits them, they react."

Fury described the events in Dove Creek school for those in grades 6-12.

"At lunch it was definitely Scripture-based and Christ-focused," Fury said. "We prayed for the assembly and [Gilles] asked each of the kids to pray for one person specifically. At the assembly he kept it very politically correct. He didn't come out and say Jesus was the reason for the changes in his life but he quoted Bible verses [without their scriptural addresses]. He was just talking about kids' choices, suggesting good choices in friends, in habits, in everything they do, and don't compromise!"

Gilles was the "Rad" part of the week's title. Amico, the "Gold standard."

"I challenge students to take ownership of their future by following the best MAP for success: Mindset: Believing in yourself and embracing challenges as opportunities; Action: Taking intentional steps toward your goals every single day; and People: Surrounding yourself with those who push you to be your best," Amico says on her website.

"At assembly, my and the students' favorite part was the connection [Gilles] made with them. He said he told them his story and wanted theirs," Fury said. "He passed out paper and told them to write their name and grade, and one thing they were dealing with, and said he would read all the papers before he left the school.

"It was so neat to watch the kids write and write and write. Some took 10 to 15 minutes writing," Fury continued. "There was not a single student who did not take their paper down front. It was so touching, really amazing to see. We've never had anything like this before."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN L. WILLOUGHBY, Karen L. Willoughby is a national correspondent for Baptist Press.

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Wyoming witness: Baptism and evangelism numbers increase at record rates

By Scott Barkley, posted May 7, 2026 in Evangelism | Reprinted by permission, Baptist Press, | https://www.baptistpress.com

CASPER (BP) – Its distinction as the country's least populous state can factor into the tendency to overlook Wyoming. Doing so, however, means missing a response to the Gospel that is both indicative of the ministry work there, as well as what is achievable anywhere else.

"We've seen a 100 percent increase in baptisms from 2023 to 2025, so we're praising God for that. We also just had a wonderful Youth Evangelism Conference with Shane Pruitt as our speaker," said Rondie Taylor, state executive. "That brought a record attendance of 300 students and leaders. With over a third of our churches there, we saw at least 30 professions of faith with many rededications and responses to a ministry calling."

Taylor, who has been in his role for two-and-a-half years, pointed to those who have bought in on the importance of sharing the Gospel.

"Our pastors and churches have really invested in evangelism," he said.

Those results, Taylor added, are coming from a variety of ministry contexts. Hispanic churches are reporting growth, as are college and youth ministries. Outreach efforts in prisons are bringing fruit as well.

"It's in every kind of church, and we're seeing that play out with youth and events like YEC," Taylor said.

The previous attendance mark for Wyoming's YEC was 200. There were 225

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Wyoming witness: Baptism and evangelism numbers increase at record rates

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A record crowd of students and leaders attended April's Youth Evangelism Conference in Casper.

baptisms recorded in the state in 2023. In 2025, that figure jumped to 450.

Pruitt, the North American Mission Board's Next Gen director, spoke on April 17 and later shared on social media his excitement over the number of salvations, asking others to join him in prayer over the new believers.

In another post the next day, he encouraged youth leaders to ditch "fluff and puff" Bible teaching when it comes to students.

"They want Spirit and Truth," he said. "They are hungry for truth, so preach the Bible. Let the Scriptures dictate the topic. Let the Scriptures dictate the illustrations. Let the Scriptures dictate the application. Teach the Word of God."

Taylor said the events in Wyoming reflect what is possible elsewhere.

"Our youth leaders are excited about the trends we're seeing across the country. Students are interested in spiritual things, and the Gospel is the answer. They're answering the call to ministry and inviting their friends [to events and church]."

The state has revamped an intentional investment in youth and children's ministry, he noted. Three youth camps – including one focused on missions – join another week for children at the Mountain Top Baptist Assembly Camp outside of Casper.

Taylor's wife, Melody, has taken the lead in developing events for children and training for volunteers. Ed Tharp, a longtime student and collegiate pastor in Casper who now serves there as senior pastor at Boyd Avenue Baptist, has remained active in similar leadership and guidance for student events. Reuben Marlow, pastor of Living Hope Church in Green River, and others have taken similar roles.

Breakout sessions during YEC for youth leaders reflect ongoing efforts across the state to resource ministers. For 20 years, Gateway Seminary has offered training for pastors and student ministers online as well as in person.

"A lot of our youth leaders get trained in all aspects of ministry and theology," said Taylor. "A third of our pastors have gone through the advanced seminary program that Gateway offers.

"We're seeing results from all over the state. I credit our pastors, churches and their evangelistic efforts. We're seeing the results play out."

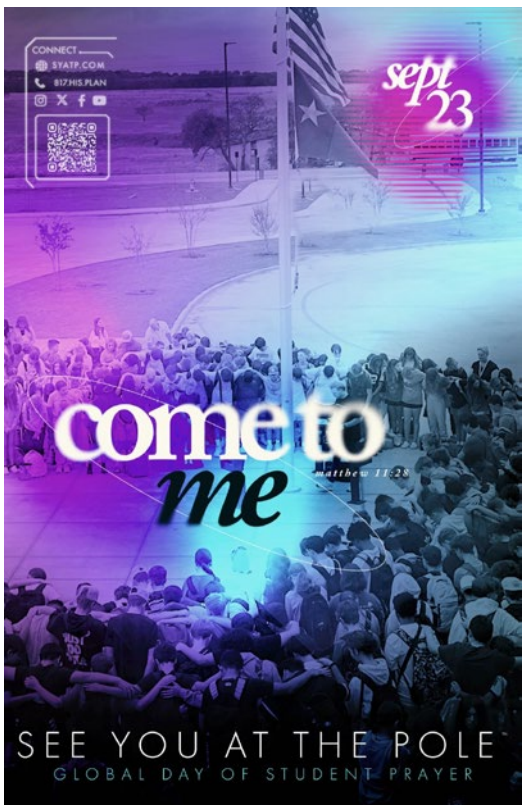
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
SCOTT BARKLEY

Scott Barkley is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press.

Shane Pruitt, Next Gen director for NAMB, speaks to students at the Youth Evangelism Conference. Photo courtesy of Rondie Taylor

See You at the Pole™ is September 23, 2026

Global WEEK of student prayer is September 20-26, 2026.



"Come to Me" (from Matthew 11:28) is the theme for See You at the Pole™ 2026, which is all about students praying at their schools. The event is planned for Wednesday, September 23, at schools around the world.

The event is more than just one day of prayer. With diverse schedules at participating schools, students are being challenged to find new and unique ways, places, and times to pray throughout the Global Week of Student Prayer—September 20-26.

Then on Wednesday, September 23, if possible, students are encouraged to gather at a school flagpole or other community location to pray. This means that, all around the world in every time zone, for 24 hours, students will be praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities.

This is the 36th year for See You at the Pole™, a student-initiated and student-led event that started in Burleson, Texas, in 1990. SYATP brings students together to intercede for their leaders, schools, and families, asking God to bring moral and spiritual awakening to their campuses and countries.

Everything students need to do a successful SYATP is available free at www.syatp.com. A Facebook page is at "myseeyouatthepole". Promotional resources can be ordered online or by calling (817) HIS-PLAN (817-447-7526) between 9-5 (Central Time), Monday-Friday. Posters, flyers, handbook, T-shirts, silicone wristbands are some of the materials available for 2026. You can also download the "SYATP" mobile app to access all of the planning materials and free daily devotionals.

The San Diego-based National Network of Youth Ministries coordinates SYATP promotion. Doug Clark, national field director of the Network, noted: "See You at the Pole™ is a 'moment.' We hope adults and students will consider turning that moment into a movement by praying every day. This year, with the continued challenge of disruptions that have affected the US and every country, we need to ask God to pour out His Spirit on us more than ever. The heart of SYATP is extraordinary prayer."

SYATP is partnering with Claim Your Campus (ClaimYourCampus.com) to encourage students to daily prayer at their schools. CYC currently supports students praying daily on schools across the nation.

Media note: For more information about See You at the Pole™ and local event leaders, or to set up an interview, contact Doug Clark of the National Network of Youth Ministries office at (858) 395-6451 Monday-Friday from 9-5, Pacific Time; or e-mail dclark@nnym.org. There is also media information on the See You at the Pole™ web site,

www.syatp.com. Facebook: go to "myseeyouatthepole"

.

Audio Broadcast Resources: The See You at the Pole™ web site has Public Service Announcements (PSA) free for download in MP3 format. Access these spots by going to www.syatp.com and click on "Downloads."

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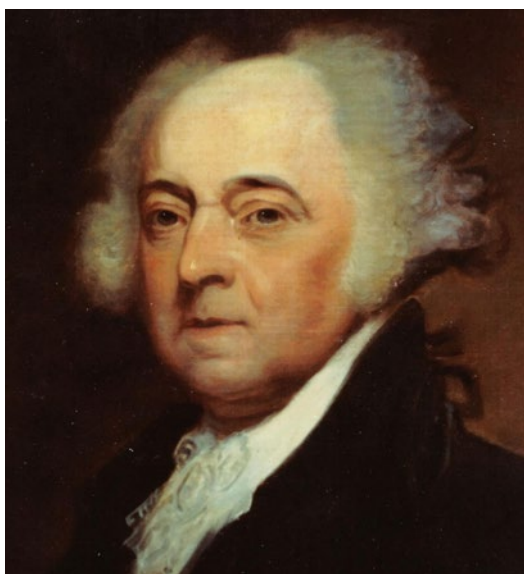
A Few Declarations of Founding Fathers and Early Statesmen on Jesus, Christianity, and the Bible

Source: WallBuilders.com

(This list is by no means exhaustive; many other Founders could be included, and even with those who appear below, additional quotes could have been used.)



John Adams (October 30, 1735 – July 4, 1826)
SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;
JUDGE;
DIPLOMAT;
ONE OF TWO | SIGNERS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS;
SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.

I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.1

The Holy Ghost carries on the whole Christian system in this earth. Not a baptism, not a marriage, not a sacrament can be administered but by the Holy Ghost. . . . There is no authority, civil or religious – there can be no legitimate government but what is administered by this Holy Ghost. There can be no salvation without it. All without it is rebellion and perdition, or in more orthodox words damnation.2

Without religion, this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite company: I mean hell.3

The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity and humanity.4

Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited... What a Eutopia – what a Paradise would this region be!5

I have examined all religions, and the result is that the Bible is the best book in the world.6

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A Few Declarations of Founding Fathers and Early Statesmen on Jesus, Christianity, and the Bible

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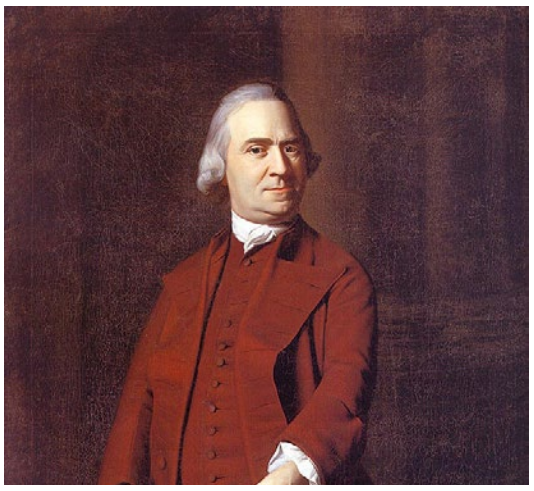


Samuel Adams (September 27 [O.S. September 16] 1722 – October 2, 1803)
SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;
"FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION";
RATIFIER OF THE U. S. CONSTITUTION;
GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

I . . . [rely] upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.10

The name of the Lord (says the Scripture) is a strong tower; thither the righteous flee and are safe [Proverbs 18:10]. Let us secure His favor and He will lead us through the journey of this life and at length receive us to a better.11

I conceive we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world . . . that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by the promoting and speedily bringing in the holy and happy period when the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace.12

He also called on the State of Massachusetts to pray that . . .

* the peaceful and glorious reign of our Divine Redeemer may be known and enjoyed throughout the whole family of mankind.13

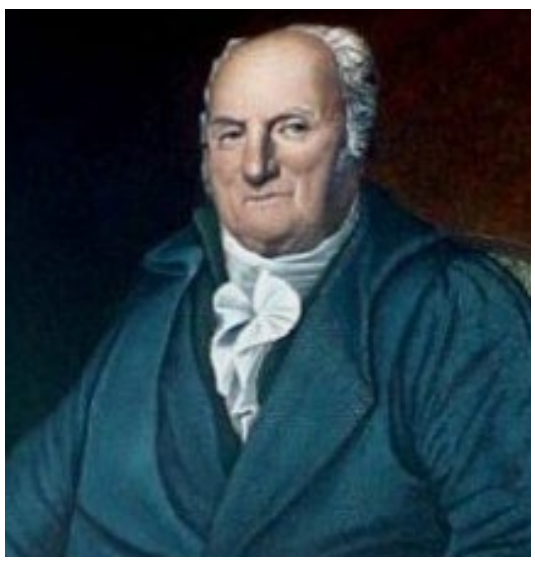
* we may with one heart and voice humbly implore His gracious and free pardon through Jesus Christ, supplicating His Divine aid . . . [and] above all to cause the religion of Jesus Christ, in its true spirit, to spread far and wide till the whole earth shall be filled with His glory.14

* with true contrition of heart to confess their sins to God and implore forgiveness through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior.15

Called on the people of New Hampshire . . . to confess before God their aggravated transgressions and to implore His pardon and forgiveness through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ . . . [t]hat the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be made known to all nations, pure and undefiled religion universally prevail, and the earth be fill with the glory of the Lord.16

Gunning Bedford, Jr. (1747 – March 30, 1812)
MILITARY OFFICER;
MEMBER OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS;
SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION;
FEDERAL JUDGE

To the triune God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost – be ascribed all honor and dominion, forevermore – Amen.17



Elias Boudinot (May 2, 1740 – October 24, 1821)
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS;
SIGNED THE PEACE TREATY TO END THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;
FIRST ATTORNEY ADMITTED TO THE U. S. SUPREME COURT BAR;
FRAMER OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS;
DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. MINT

Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned… [L]et us earnestly call and beseech Him, for Christ's sake, to preside in our councils. . . . We can only depend on the all powerful influence of the Spirit of God, Whose Divine aid and assistance it becomes us as a Christian people most devoutly to implore. Therefore I move that some minister of the Gospel be requested to attend this Congress every morning . . . in order to open the meeting with prayer.18

A letter to his daughter:

You have been instructed from your childhood in the knowledge of your lost state by nature – the absolute necessity of a change of heart and an entire renovation of soul to the image of Jesus Christ – of salvation through His meritorious righteousness only – and the indispensable necessity of personal holiness without which no man shall see the Lord [Hebrews 12:14]. You are well acquainted that the most perfect and consummate doctrinal knowledge is of no avail without it operates on and sincerely affects the heart, changes the practice, and totally influences the will – and that without the almighty power of the Spirit of God enlightening your mind, subduing your will, and continually drawing you to Himself, you can do nothing. . . . And may the God of your parents (for many generations past) seal instruction to your soul and lead you to Himself through the blood of His too greatly despised Son, Who notwithstanding, is still reclaiming the world to God through that blood, not imputing to them their sins. To Him be glory forever!19

For nearly half a century have I anxiously and critically studied that invaluable treasure [the Bible]; and I still scarcely ever take it up that I do not find something new – that I do not receive some valuable addition to my stock of knowledge or perceive some instructive fact never observed before. In short, were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the inquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible; and should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the Alpha and Omega of knowledge.20

IMCNews Publisher note: all pictures above of Founding Fathers and Early Statesmen are in the Public Domain.

Josiah Bartlett (November 21, 1729 – May 19, 1795)
MILITARY OFFICER;
SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;
JUDGE;
GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Merger brings new building space, momentum to Utah church plant

By Karen L. Willoughby, posted May 8, 2026 in Church Planting, North American Mission Board
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This spring, members of King's Cross Church in Fruit Heights, Utah, began worshiping in their newly renovated worship center. The three-year-old Southern Baptist church plant, located 20 miles north of Salt Lake City, recently merged with another congregation, acquiring a building as part of the merger. Photo courtesy of King's Cross Church

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Merger brings new building space, momentum to Utah church plant

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FRUIT HEIGHTS, Utah – It's getting increasingly difficult for church plants across the nation to find a suitable, low-cost place to meet on Sunday mornings. But King's Cross Church had one handed to it in Davis County, a growing northern suburb of Salt Lake City.

The building belonged to a dying church and came complete with a congregation, one of two that have joined with the three-year-old church plant that plans to plant two additional churches over the next two years.

"God's grace. It's humbling," Pastor Austin Glenn told Baptist Press. "It's crazy to think of God's kindness towards us."

What the Glenn couple – and now the church – have done could be called "relationship-building on steroids."

Sent in 2021 by Church at the Cross in Grapevine, Texas, the Glenn family (that today includes five homeschooled youngsters between 2 and 10) went through Send Network's assessment process after spending a year at a church previously started by Church at the Cross in Grapevine. Send Network is the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) church planting arm.

After acquiring a building as part of a merger with another church, members of King's Cross Church, a three-year-old church plant in Fruit Heights, Utah, began renovating the space. The project was completed shortly before Easter this year. Photo courtesy of King's Cross Church

Then they moved to Farmington, in Davis County, Utah, north of Salt Lake City, and started First Friday Grill and Chill at their home. They built a launch team that met for Bible study and became involved in various service projects to become known in the community: backpack drive, park cleanups, gift bags for the 1,000 teachers and staff members in Farmington, and free water bottles during the town's Festival Days.

"We adopted LifePoint Church, another small Southern Baptist church in Farmington," Glenn recounted. "It was basically five families. The church had been going about eight years and hadn't gotten a lot of traction. After a year of semi-regular lunches, the pastor [Brent Van Sickle] asked me, 'What do you think about us joining you?' Brent now serves as pastor for outreach and missions at King's Cross."

LifePoint, which closed in December 2022, had participated in pre-launch meetings for Kings Cross, which launched on March 5, 2023, with 25 adults and 24 youngsters. The new church plant met Sundays at Ascent Academy charter school.

"We wanted to do youth activities, women's groups, men's breakfasts and the like when the Academy wasn't available. We reached out to Mountain Road Church – it was about seven minutes away – to ask if we could rent their building," Glenn said. "They said, 'It's not for rent, but you can borrow it.' We started including them in the different things we were doing."

Mountain Road Church, which had started in 1982, gave its property and joined Kings Cross Church in December 2024. Then came fundraising for the renovations Kings Cross wanted to make, including expanding the 150-seat worship center to its current 280-seat capacity. About $750,000 was quickly pledged "by internal and external sources," Glenn said.

"We gave the whole place a facelift," the pastor said. "Literally everything was touched. A big expense was fire sprinklers: $250,000 for that alone."

Josh Gardner, King's Cross Church's director of discipleship and development, also is a NAMB-endorsed church planting apprentice who anticipates planting a church in North Salt Lake in February 2027. At this time, he is developing a launch team and raising support. King's Cross anticipates being the sending church.

Through outreach events like this one, King's Cross Church, a three-year-old church plant in Fruit Heights, Utah, has been connecting with its community and building a congregation. More than 300 people from the surrounding community attended the church's Fall Festival in October 2025. Photo courtesy of King's Cross Church

King's Cross also plans to launch Ukrainian Living Hope Church in August 2026 with Oleh Kamanov serving as the planter. He recently completed the NAMB assessment process. The Ukrainian group moved their Bible studies from people's homes to the church once renovations were completed in early March. One man who recently started attending the weekly Bible study is an experienced worship leader.

On the Saturday before Easter, April 4, about 50 children and their parents heard a clear Gospel message by Pastor Oleh, along with a puppet show in Ukrainian that told the story of two pirates who are moved by the true story of Easter. A family Easter egg hunt came next. At least 60 Ukrainians participated in the event.

"We talk a lot about being a people sent on mission, and I think our people really embody that culture of evangelism," Glenn said. "We're pretty traditional. We have communion every Sunday. We don't have a rock band.

"We do have a commitment to Gospel centrality in preaching and preach 40- to 60-minute sermons," the pastor continued. "We dive deeply into the text. Our folks seem to like it. They really want to know what the Bible says."

March 1, the first service in the renovated 13,000-square-foot building on four acres of land a bit northeast of Farmington, drew a near-maximum 252 people. Easter Sunday five weeks later drew 347 people total to two services and included three baptisms, all recent believers who left Mormonism and are being discipled through ministries at King's Cross Church.

"As Henry Blackaby told Southern Baptists, 'Find out where God is moving and join Him in the work,'" Glenn said. "That's Utah. In ways like never before, God is drawing people unto Himself here, and it is a joy to partner with Him in the work."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
KAREN L. WILLOUGHBY

Karen L. Willoughby is a national correspondent for Baptist Press.

Montana's new exec gets to work

BILLINGS, Mont. – Mikey Mewborn, vice president of student life at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, recently accepted a call as executive director/treasurer of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. A friend's connection, meetings with Montana Baptists and even a few family ski trips helped solidify Mewborn's heart for the West.

Mewborn, who earned a Ph.D. in practical theology from MABTS in 2014, also is dean of students and chairman of the theology and church history division at the Memphis, Tenn., seminary.

"Mikey brings together the heart of a pastor, the mind of a theologian and the experience of a leader who loves the local church," said Greg Payton, pastor of The Rock Church in Laurel, Mont., and chairman of the executive director search committee. "Montana Baptists were not simply looking for someone to fill a position. We were asking God to give us a leader who would love our pastors, strengthen our churches and help us reach Montana with the Gospel. We believe God has answered that prayer."

Mewborn follows Barrett Duke, previously a vice president at the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Duke served nine years as Montana's executive director and retired to Maryland last year.

Now 47, Mewborn has been in ministry for 26 years, with stints in children, youth and college ministries and served 18 years in Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee pastorates prior to joining the faculty at Mid-America Seminary in 2018. There he taught undergraduate and master's level courses in systematic theology, biblical preaching, pastoral ministry, leadership development, church ministry, history of the Baptists, and religion in the public square.

He taught soteriology, Christology and eschatology at the doctoral level.

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Montana's new exec gets to work

Continued from Page 11

"I want to inspire and encourage pastors who are in the Gospel ministry," Mewborn said. "That's really what I want to do. I want to encourage, inspire and get them resources they need to succeed in their places of ministry."

To that end, he has already heard from the Mid-South Baptist Association in Tennessee, which includes 170 churches. At its recent executive board meeting, the association voted to enter a partnership with Montana.

"Mitch Martin [the association's executive director] served the Utah-Idaho Convention for several years," Mewborn said. "That's why when he heard I was going to Montana he said, 'Mikey, the West has a huge place in my heart.' The Mid-South Association doesn't necessarily want to send church planters. They want to come alongside current churches and strengthen them."

The Memphis, Tenn., area is a hard place to minister, Mewborn said, and Mid-South Baptist Association's Southern Baptist churches have learned what it takes to thrive despite a variety of challenges.

The new executive director said he has already observed – from Zoom calls, an on-site meeting last December with the search committee, and subsequent meetings before and since he was elected at a specially called business session at MPact in March – that Montana Southern Baptist pastors and leaders "are extremely hardworking. They're spread out across a huge state and have limited resources for ministry. We must work together to bring revival to our amazing state.

"I feel like the Lord has prepared me for this opportunity," Mewborn continued. "When it comes to practical things, we are going to call out the called and train up ministers for the Gospel ministry. I hope to provide ample support for our seasoned churches as well as church plants. I'm deeply focused on coming alongside and encouraging our Montana pastors."

Montana Southern Baptist Convention President Curtis Crow said the vote reflected both confidence in Mewborn and unity among Montana Baptists.

Mikey and Emily Mewborn

"Throughout this process, there was a clear desire to seek the Lord, listen carefully and move forward together," Crow said. "Dr. Mewborn's love for Scripture, commitment to evangelism and desire to encourage pastors make him a strong fit for this season in Montana Baptist life."

The West has been in his heart for at least nine years, Mewborn said. He and his wife Emily – together they parent three children under age 8 – have traveled to Park City, Utah, the last 17 winters for what they were told was "the best snow on earth."

Those ski trips often included preaching and teaching opportunities, and nine years ago a Utah pastor said to Mewborn, "Man, you ever felt a call on your life for the West?"

The couple prayed about it, and God showed them it wasn't time.

Early in 2025, Montana pastor Jim Taber was talking with his longtime friend in Florida – JJ Johnson – about Duke retiring, and the search for a new executive director in Montana. That friend was Mewborn's high school youth pastor.

He suggested Taber call Mewborn, who demurred. "I'm telling you, you need to call him!" Johnsonsaid.

"Well, he called me, and we instantly had a kindred heart for ministry," Mewborn said. "We became great friends on the phone."

Taber suggested, and then encouraged, Mewborn to come to Montana for a looksee, to preach, and to submit his resume.

"As soon as I arrived in Billings, I knew God had called us to Montana," Mewborn said. "I was overjoyed to feel God moving us in this direction."

Five months later, the search team and executive board held an onsite meeting in Helena, Mont. "As the pastors began to speak and ask me questions, it was obvious that this was where I was supposed to serve, and these were the people I wanted to serve alongside," the new executive director said.

Mewborn plans to move to Montana July 1.

"My greatest desire is to see people come to know the Lord Jesus Christ on a personal level," Mewborn said. "Whether in the classroom, the pulpit or now serving alongside Montana Baptists, I want to help people read, believe and live the Word of God. I am humbled by the trust Montana Baptists have placed in me, and I am excited to serve pastors and churches as we work together to make Christ known across this state."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
KAREN L. WILLOUGHBY
Karen L. Willoughby is a national correspondent for Baptist Press.

JESUS People Movement Leader Pastor John Higgins Passes Away

By IMCNews Publisher Dr. Matthew Anthony Harper

June 3, 2025

(BOISE, Id)—My long time Pastor friend John Higgins and instrumental JESUS People movement leader passed away on June 3, 2026.

According to a recent Calvary Chapel Magazine article (June 5, 2026), "Pastor Higgins was a close friend of Calvary Chapel founding Pastpr Chuck Smith and introduced the well known Hippie

Lonnie Frisbee to Pastor Chuck. Pastor John along with Lonnie Frisbee helped established and led the early "House of Miracles" in 1968 for young hippies. In the early 1970s John Higgins and core members of the House of Miracles started the Shiloh Ministries Christian communes," the largest of JESUS People communal houses in U.S. history with the establishment of 175 houses throughout the United States and their headquarters in Dexter, Oregon on 90 acres called "The Land," of which I was a part of off and on from 1970-1975.

I lived in the Shiloh Ministries house in Idaho Falls, Idaho January of 1971 with the house leaders George and Debbi Bryson and lived and worked briefly in the Shiloh University House in Eugene, Oregon the Summer of 1975. During that time period I was close with Shiloh member and Auto Mechanic Don Nelson at "The Land." There were Shiloh houses in our InterMountain state areas of Idaho. Colorado and throughout the United States.

Pastor John in his later years served as the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel Tri-City in the Tempe-Phoenix, Arizona area where I was invited to speak about Israel and my White House reporting experiences about Israel at a Calvary Chapel Pastors conference held January 25, 2019. I was so blessed to stay with brother Pastor John and his wife Shauna

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JESUS People Movement Leader Pastor John Higgins Passes Away

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Photo of Pastor John Higgins from the Shiloh reunion Facebook Page.

in their home for a great time of fellowship!

Pastor John Higgins and his wife are such a blessing to me! They prayed for me often and encouraged me. We share a love for JESUS, sharing The Gospel and Israel. I miss you so much my brother Pastor John! Here below are highlights of my phone text conversations with Pastor John Higgins:

November 16, 2018

Dr. Harper:
"John, Christian White House journalist Anthony Harper.
What date did you want me to speak in January 2019? Do you have a web site for that event?
Thank you for your prayers for favor in interviews with Israel leaders as I leave for Israel December 4 from Los Angeles."

Pictured above was John Higgins, leader of the Shiloh Ministries Christian communes. Photo by Calvary Chapel Magazine. Source: https://calvarychapelmagazine.org/articles/higgins-pt-2

November 18, 2018

Pastor Higgins:
"Just finished our Sunday Morning Service.
We don't have a website up as of this day. Will begin with that after dec 1st. We are praying for your trip to Israel.
Told church to pray for that.
Would you like to spend several days or just the day you would teach?"

Dr. Harper:
"Brother Pastor John, I would like to attend your entire conference and speak as often as possible about my experience as a White House journalist about Israel. What dates is your conference?
I have a flash drive for the videos and pictures I will be showing."

December 19, 2018

Dr. Harper:
"How are you?
Good news I thank GOD for as I and my friend were saved from a sniper attack today in Jerusalem. The bullet missed us and hit a bench in front of us. Thank you for your prayers.
I and my friends are okay praise GOD!!!"

Pastor Higgins:
"Praise The Lord you are safe. I know I didn't get back to you but have been very busy with the things of the ministry and helping in the care of my wife's father who is 94 and alone. Working on the conference and will get back to u on it. We are King James brethren, how about u?"
December 29, 2018

"Shalom. How are you and family?
Thank you for your prayers of healing…..
I'm on a train now towards Placerville, California to speak at a Calvary Chapel there tomorrow regarding Israel and other issues of my White House reporting."

Picture above of the Shiloh Biblical Study Center in Dexter, Oregon. Wikipedia Photo, Public Domain.

Pastor Higgins:
"We prayed for you at our men's prayer tonight."

January 1, 2019

Dr. Harper:
"Do you have a date this month you want me to speak about Israel?"

Pastor Higgins:
"Yes. I am working on a group call online within the next few days. Will send u the info."
January 4, 2019

Dr. Harper:
"John, Anthony Harper here needing you to arrange my housing and travel to your church for the conference I'm speaking at. I will need pet free housing."

Pastor Higgins:
"Q will do. Is Wednesday this week good for you for a conference call?"

January 21, 2019

Dr. Harper:
"My flight is delayed till 4:54 pm

Pastor Higgins:
"LeaVing there?"

Dr. Harper:
"Delayed in leaving Boise today and GOD willing, will arrive at the Phoenix Mesa airport at 4:54 pm."

Pastor Higgins:
"Ok see you then"

January 31, 2019

"Shalom. How are you and Shauna?
I was so blest to be with you!
Did you receive our mailing address and advertising information I sent?"

Pictured above with previous Shiloh Idaho Falks, Idaho leaders George and Debbi Bryson at their home in San Diego, California area.

Pastor Higgins:
"We were blessed also. We did receive your address and will be sending you an honorarium tomorrow.
Will let u know about the add soon."

December 25, 2024

Pastor Higgins:
"Wishing you a joyful and heartfelt celebration of Jesus' Birthday!"

Dr. Harper:
"Thank you brother Pastor John and sister Shauna."

For more information about the Shiloh Ministries and House of Miracles, check out the following web sites:

https://calvarychapelmagazine.org/articles/higgins-pt-2

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiloh_Youth_Revival_Centers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Miracles_(communal_house)

We're Reading the Bible with President Trump!

By Blaine Conzatti | Reprinted by permission, Idaho Family Policy Center, https://idahofamily.org

Apr 22, 2026

The Bible was once the most powerful force shaping American society. That's no longer the case, and our nation is suffering because of it.

Put simply, we need an Ezra moment. We need to put the Bible back in its rightful place—and we especially need to restore the role of Scripture in our nation's capital.

That's why our friend Bunni Pounds (president of our national partner Christians Engaged) knew that God was calling her to organize America Reads the Bible.

The historic event brings together nearly 500 ministry leaders from 150 ministries to read the Bible from cover-to-cover over seven days—broadcast live from the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

Incredibly, even President Donald Trump participated from the Oval Office last night, reading 2 Chronicles 7:14 in a video message for the event: "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."

Some members of the IFPC team were also at the America Reads the Bible event, reading key biblical passages that not only teach important truths about government and society, but also provide the historical account of the Israelites taking the promised land:

• IFPC President Blaine Conzatti read Numbers 35 – Deuteronomy 1, which includes teaching on republican government (Deut. 1:13-15) and justice in courts (Deut. 1:17-18).

IFPC President Blaine Conzatti reads at America Reads the Bible

• IFPC Church Engagement Director Kent DelHousaye read Numbers 33 – 34, which provides the command to the Israelites to destroy the Canaanite altars and pagan shrines.

• Rep. Jordan Redman (R-Coeur d'Alene) read Deuteronomy 2 – 3, which contains a summary of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and rebellion against God during the exodus.

IFPC Board Chairman Israel Waitman read Deuteronomy 3 – 4, in which God reminds His people of just how important it is that they follow His law.

• IFPC Advisory Board Chairman Jim Davis read Numbers 31 – 32, in which God provides the Israelites with directions on how they were to displace the Canaanites.

The America Reads the Bible event shows that more and more American Christians are waking up to the fact that our nation was great only because the Bible was once at the heart of everything we did.

Let's be praying that God revives us again—and that the Bible once again becomes the guidebook for all of life, including politics and government!

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We're Reading the Bible with President Trump!

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Rep. Jordan Redman reads at America Reads the Bible

Boise School District is breaking the law – again!

By Grace Howat
Reprinted by permission, Idaho Family Policy Center, https://idahofamily.org

Apr 30, 2026

Over the last couple years, we've seen too many local governments in Idaho decide that following the law is optional. From Boise City Hall continuing to fly its Pride flag to dozens of school districts refusing to comply with state law regarding radical gender instruction, it seems that some local governments simply act as if the law doesn't apply to them.

And then there's Boise School District. First, they gave express permission for biological men to use girls' bathrooms in violation of our school bathroom law—resulting in the IFPC Legal Center filing a lawsuit against the district on behalf of a teenage girl whose privacy was violated.

If that weren't enough, Boise School District is now refusing to provide instruction that affirms the value of preborn human life—despite state law requiring such instruction.

Here's the backstory: Last year, the Idaho legislature adopted its Baby Olivia law that mandates instruction for middle and high school students on prenatal development. The law is named after the Baby Olivia educational video, which was produced by LiveAction and illustrates how a baby develops inside the womb.

So imagine our surprise when we learned that Boise School District sent an email telling parents that teachers couldn't show the video!

How does Boise School District justify ignoring the Baby Olivia law? They say that another state law requiring parental opt-in for woke sexuality instruction prevents them from discussing prenatal development.

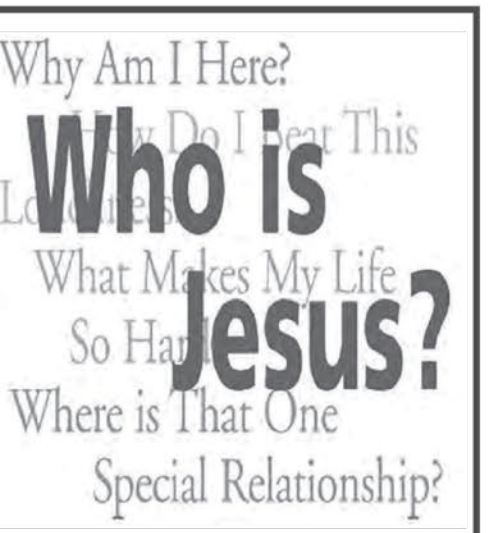
Now you probably don't see any conflict between these two laws. Basic biology and fetal development are clearly different from woke sexuality instruction—and even Idaho law makes this obvious distinction.

It does make you wonder: What does Boise School District find so scary about providing their students with a scientific perspective on human development in the womb? Maybe Boise School District just doesn't want their students to learn that preborn babies are developing human persons who deserve the same rights as everyone else?

Whatever their reasoning, Boise School District believes that they can pick and choose which laws they're bound to respect. And when it comes to leftist indoctrination, nothing seems to stop them.

This must end. In the coming weeks, we'll announce our plans to expose any school district that acts like they're above the law.

Stay tuned.



JESUS is GOD the SON (CREATOR of the Universe and all Life!)

Hebrews 1:2-3 NIV
2 ...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.
3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.
Hebrews 3:3-4 NIV
3. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.
4. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

THE SAVIOR (GOD in human form) born of the Virgin Mary

Matthew 1:23 NIV
"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us."
Isaiah 9:6 NIV
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
John 8;23-24 NIV
23. But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."
John 14:6 NIV
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

No other person can save you or give you hope and eternal life.

How to know JESUS as your personal Savior:

If you would like to know JESUS as your personal Savior from sin, pray the following prayer followed by studying The Holy Bible and get involved with a local Christian church.

Pray this sincere prayer, meaning it with all your heart, and God will give you eternal life, right now!

"Dear Lord, I am a sinful person who needs You. I turn from my sins and surrender my heart and life to You, right now. Save me dear God and make me Your child. thank You for coming to Bethlehem, and for dying for me to pay for my sins. Help me to live for You all the rest of my life." Amen.

If you have accepted JESUS as your personal SAVIOR from sin, obey Him and get involved with a good Bible-believing church, study the Bible daily, seek Him with all your heart daily, and share The Gospel with all those around you. We must be doers of the word, nor hearers only.

For more info on sharing your Christian faith, visit the website: www.wayofthemaster.com.

www.NeedHim.org

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"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living waters."
John 7:37-38

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