

Campus Crusade Switches Its Name to "Cru"



"Campus Crusade for Christ" is out; "Cru" is in. The 60-year-old evangelical ministry recently announced its new name, saying the old name had become problematic. "We've been having issues with two words in the name—*campus* and *crusade*," said Steve Sellers, a vice president who oversees the ministry's US operations.

Though the Florida-based organization began on campuses in 1951, it expanded to some two dozen ministries focused on areas such as families, athletes, the military, and the inner city. And when Campus Crusade was founded by the late Bill Bright and his wife, Vonette, the word *crusade* typically referred to the stadium-sized events held by evangelists like Billy Graham. "In today's culture it carries more weight in terms of its historic meaning," Sellers said, with people thinking "more to the days of the Crusaders and dealing with the Middle East as opposed to a positive use of the word." The ministry's website went on to explain, "Cru enables us to have discussions about Christ with people who might initially be turned off by a more overtly Christian name."

This Month You Can . . . Pray for Believers Under Fire

Although it sometimes seems that persecuted Christians have been forgotten, the organization Open Doors has launched a campaign to prompt the world to remember. The campaign—called "One With Them"—is based on 1 Corinthians 12:26, which says that when one member of the body of Christ suffers, all members suffer. Jane Huckabee of Open Doors USA says believers are being asked to focus on the members of the persecuted church. "There are at least 100 million believers around the world who suffer because of their faith, and this is our way of showing our solidarity with them and demonstrating to them that we have not forgotten them," Huckabee said. "We're going to continue to pray for them. We're going to remember them. We're going to think about them and we're going to tell the world about what they're doing—standing up for their faith." Huckabee continued, "God tells us that if we just stay close to him, he will direct our course—and Christians who face really difficult decisions every single day, when they face trauma, when they face the potential of imprisonment or the potential of being beaten or tortured or being isolated or being taken away from their families, what they want more than anything is to be true to what God calls them to be."



Open Doors is giving away free bracelets that look like barbed wire to remind people to pray for the persecuted church. For more information, visit www.opendoorsusa.com; write to Open Doors USA, PO Box 27001, Santa Ana, CA 92799; or call 888-5-BIBLE-5 (888-524-2535).

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CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO CHRISTIANS

Some news that's encouraging—some disturbing. Please read with discernment. Watch and pray.

Focus on . . . *Swaziland*

Swaziland is a small, landlocked country bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. Most of the population earns a living through agriculture, though there is also some mineral production and manufacturing. The gospel has been preached in the country for 160 years and has resulted in a strong evangelical community comprising about 25 percent of the population. The nation has a solid core of believers and church attenders, but nominalism is widespread—many Christians live no differently from unbelievers. Swaziland faces serious issues, and the impact of HIV/AIDS cannot be overstated. Average life expectancy in the country plummeted to 32 years in 2008, and up to 40 percent of all adults are infected. This pandemic has decimated the young-adult workforce, and there are huge numbers of orphaned families being led by the oldest sibling.



Pray for

- a greater adherence to sexual morality to slow the further spread of HIV/AIDS;
- a positive, genuine Christian response to those suffering with the disease, from nationals as well as foreign missionaries and aid organizations;
- a sense of revival in nominal Christians;
- churches to return to an emphasis on the Scriptures and holy living.

Silent Anti-Christian Attacks Ignored

Concerns about the "silent killing" of Christians in Nigeria are being overlooked by the media and the Nigerian government, says a spokesman for the antipersecution organization International Christian Concern (ICC). The organization reports that Boko Haram, a radical Islamic group, has killed at least ten Christians in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Church leaders in the area say the group wants to implement *sharia* law and see Christianity destroyed.

Jonathan Racho, ICC's regional manager for Africa, calls the killings a "systematic attack" against believers in the region. He says that Christians are not the only ones targeted by Boko Haram, as moderate Muslims are also under attack because they do not abide by strict Islamic ideals. ICC is calling on the media, the Nigerian government, and Christians worldwide to be vocal about the plight of the Nigerians who are attacked and killed for their faith.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. —EPHESIANS 6:18

Wiccan Holidays Recognized by Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University is now recognizing Wiccan and pagan holidays on its inter-faith calendar. Students at the Nashville, Tennessee, school will be allowed excused absences to observe those days. The school already recognizes Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Hindu, and Buddhist holidays.

Wicca is a loosely organized religious group that is best known for its use of magic, sorcery, and witchcraft. It has no recognized guidebook or body of sacred literature to define its practices but instead is based on rituals and pagan beliefs. Wicca is a fast-growing religion in

America, though many Americans have never heard of it, according to a 2009 Barna Group survey.

Vanderbilt's Office of Religious Life recently sent out a calendar marking religious holy days, which included "Mabon," the Wiccan observance of the autumnal equinox when day and night are of equal length, and "Ostara," the Wiccan welcoming of spring. According to Marla Alupoicei, who cowrote *Generation Hex*, the number of Wicca adherents is doubling every 30 months. Wicca, the Christian author claims, is set to be one of the largest religions in the US by 2012.

Liechtenstein Parishes May Lose Government Subsidies

Churches in Liechtenstein, one of the world's smallest countries, could face financial disaster if the government withdraws state subsidies under new legislation. "This will be a drastic change—we depend on financial support, and there'll be no chance of obtaining it if the new law goes ahead," said Markus Meidert, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liechtenstein.

A bill before Liechtenstein's 25-member parliament proposes to end the Catholic

church's status as official state church and would also withdraw state subsidies from recognized religious communities. The new law proposes that the government fund only those programs and services that benefit the collective good.

Meidert said that state grants account for half of the current budget of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which has no means of generating income like Christian churches in neighboring Austria and Germany do.



Extremists Keep Food from Somalian Christians

An advocacy organization is calling for action from the international community in response to the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. The famine in Somalia has already claimed the lives of thousands and continues to leave millions in desperate need of supplies. But despite the crisis, an Islamic group is halting the distribu-

tion of food. International Christian Concern reports that al-Shabaab is working to remove Christianity from the country and is preventing food and aid from reaching the people. Southern Somalia is especially hard-hit because of al-Shabaab's oppressive influence in the region.

Moral Relativism Won't Cut It Anymore, Says UK Prime Minister

Prime Minister David Cameron has vowed to address the "moral collapse" that led to recent widespread looting and violence across English cities. He has pledged to "review every aspect of our work to mend our broken society, on schools, welfare, families, parenting, addiction, communities, on the cultural, legal, bureaucratic problems in our society; from the twisting and misrepresenting of human rights that has undermined personal responsibility, to the obsession with health and safety that has eroded people's willingness to act according to common sense."

Rejecting the Labour Party's call for an inquiry into the violence, Cameron said, "We know what's gone wrong. These riots were not about race. These riots were not about government cuts. . . . And these riots were not about poverty. No, this was about behavior . . . people showing indifference to right and wrong; people with a twisted moral code; people with a complete absence of self-restraint. We have been too unwilling for too long to talk about what is right and what is wrong. We have too often avoided saying what needs to be said—about everything from marriage to welfare to common courtesy."

He listed irresponsibility, selfishness,

fatherless children, reward without effort, crime without punishment, and behaving as if one's choices have no consequences as some of the problems contributing to a "slow-motion moral collapse."

"What the riots have shown is that this moral neutrality, this relativism—it's not going to cut it anymore," Cameron stressed. "Bad behavior has literally arrived on people's doorsteps. And we can't shy away from the truth anymore. . . . If we want to have any hope of mending our broken society, family and parenting is where we've got to start."

After the riots, churches across Britain joined in praying for the restoration of the nation. Individual Christians and organizations like Youth for Christ have been part of the response in affected communities, helping to clear up the mess and providing practical assistance to victims. In London, hundreds gathered at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster for a prayer vigil organized by Premier Christian Radio. "We need to see Christians uniting to pray for peace and an end to the turmoil," said Premier's chief executive, Peter Kerridge. "And, with young people bearing the brunt of the media wrath, we also want to send a message of hope to our youth."

Nonprofits at Risk of Losing Mail Discounts with USPS Reform Bill

Reduced mailing rates for nonprofit foundations are now being scrutinized as the United States Postal Service continues to look for ways to cut spending in the face of severe financial troubles. New legislation proposed by Republican Darrell Issa of California would gradually lower the discount on postage rates that nonprofits have been receiving since 1951, when Congress first authorized the reduced rates.

The nonprofit advertising discount would be reduced by 5 percent a year, and by 10 percent after six years, according to Issa's "Postal Reform Act of 2011." Currently, eligible nonprofits in the US receive a 40 percent discount on postage rates, which has been proven critical as most foundations use direct-mail fund-raising to garner support.

