

LIFE + FAITH

SUNDAY IN LIFE + ARTS PHOTOGRAPHS FOCUS ON TENNESSEE



FAITH NOTES

Today

Table Tops and Tree Tops. 10 a.m. Center Point Church, 152 N Locust Hill Drive, Lexington. Free. (859) 263-9384. www.cplex.org.

Tibetan Buddhism.

10:30 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Community of Lexington, 1800 Gayle Dr., Lexington. Free. www.tbcl.org.

Robert H. Williams

Cultural Center Annual Gospel Concert. 4 p.m. Shiloh Baptist Church, 237 E. Fifth St., Lexington. Free. (859) 255-5066.

Concert and play: Can I Make It In featuring Sickie Cell Unity Choir. 6 p.m. First Baptist Church, 100 Clinton St., Frankfort. Free will offering. www.firstbaptistfrankfort.com.

Sunday

Jewish Book Festival. 9 a.m. Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Ave., Lexington.

Symposium on the Holocaust to commemorate the opening of Temple Adath Israel's Holocaust Museum. 9:30 a.m. Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Ave., Lexington. Free. (859) 269-2979. www.letai.org.

Services for a New Spiritual Organization. 9:45 a.m. AHAVA Center for Spiritual Living, 300 Sherman Ave., Lexington. (859) 797-7794. www.Ahavacenter.com.

137th Church Anniversary. 11 a.m. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 133 E. Stephens St., Midway.

Pastor Installation Service for David Smith. 2 p.m. Grace Baptist Church, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington.

Black Church Coalition of the Bluegrass Annual Mass Meeting. 5 p.m. Central Christian Church, 205 E. Short St., Lexington.

Kentucky's Sunday Best Voices: Gospel Music Competition & Extravaganza. 6 p.m. First Baptist Church Bracktown, 3016 Bracktown Rd., Lexington. \$5-\$20. (859) 619-5983.

The Messengers Quartet. 6:30 p.m. Tates Creek Christian Church, 3150 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington. (859) 266-1621.

Monday

Discover How to Live a Life You Love. 8 p.m. Nov. 9. iBloom, 155 Prosperous Pl., Lexington. Free. www.ibloom.us.

Wednesday

Power Lunch Bible Study. 12:15 p.m. First Baptist Church, 100 Clinton St., Frankfort. Free will offering. www.firstbaptistfrankfort.com.

Our Christian Ancestors. 5:30 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 460 E. Main St., Lexington. \$5 adults \$3 ages 12 and younger. (859) 254-7768. www.2preslex.org.

Veterans Day Dinner. 5:30 p.m. Porter Memorial Baptist Church, 4300 Nicholasville Rd., Lexington. \$4 adults and youth, \$2 children 0-2, free for veterans. (859) 245-1100. www.bmaonline.org.

FaithWeaver Friends. 6 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 200 W. High St., Lexington. Free. www.1stumc.org.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program. 6 p.m. Versailles Presbyterian Church, 130 N. Main St., Versailles. (859) 873-3491. www.vpc1.org.

Thursday

Arts and Faith Conference: "Bringing Creation to Praise." 11 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12, 10 a.m. Nov. 13. Asbury College, 1 Macklem Dr., Wilmore. Free. (859) 858-3511. www.asbury.edu.

Celebrate Recovery. 6:30 p.m. Southland Christian Church, 5001 Harrodsburg Rd., Nicholasville. (859) 224-1600. www.SouthlandChristian.org.

Comfort for the Holidays. 7 p.m. Centenary United Methodist Church, 2800 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington. Free. www.centenarylex.com.

Coming up

Arise! Cry Out! 9 a.m. Nov. 14. Bethel Harvest

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To submit a listing for Faith Notes, use the online form at <http://calendar.kentucky.com> (click on "add to our listings" at the top of the page). You may also e-mail listings to hifaith@herald-leader.com; mail them to Faith Notes, Lexington Herald-Leader, 100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, Ky. 40508; or drop them off at the Herald-Leader. Listings must be received at least 10 days in advance of publication to be considered.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

RC TALK

For music, good yet troubled times



RICH COPLEY
HERALD-LEADER
CULTURE COLUMNIST

During the past year, there have been public signs that Christian pop music is on the rise.

Last spring on *American Idol*, a pair of openly Christian contestants vied for the title and one of them, Kris Allen, won. Your TV doesn't have to be on long to hear the rumblings of Switchfoot, one of Christian music's top bands, on commercials for BlackBerry's new Storm2 smartphone. Late in the summer, when Christian rockers Skillet released their latest, *Awake*,

it perched itself atop iTunes' rock album charts and at No. 3 overall.

Pretty good stuff for a niche genre, eh?

But beneath the surface, there have been rumblings for some time.

Late in the summer, Gospel Music Association president and CEO John Styll stepped down, saying he was sacrificing his salary in an effort to stabilize the organization, which has laid off a number of staffers. Then, in October, the GMA held an all-star fund-raiser — we're talking Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith heading a lineup that included Casting Crowns and chart toppers — billed as "Save the GMA."

Even though that \$1,000-a-head event apparently was a success,

LEXGO.COM

Rich Copley writes regularly about Christian popular culture on his blog, Copious Notes, at LexGo.com. Check it out for a review of Friday night's David Crowder Band concert at Southland Christian Church.

raising more than \$350,000, there were rumors late last month that the GMA was closing its doors.

The association's troubles come on the heels of other setbacks in Christian music, such as the shutdown of the industry's flagship publication, CCM Magazine, which was founded by Styll, and attendance drops at some festivals. Christian music also has

faced the double whammy of the economic downturn and the effects of a rapidly changing music marketplace less dependent on major labels for distribution and increasingly challenged by problems such as digital music piracy. (Yes, people are stealing Christian music. Go figure.)

These are problems affecting the music industry as a whole, and you know that if the top of the pops is getting battered, the foundations of a niche genre really must be getting shaken.

It's a situation that can lead the mind to wander so many places. Christianity is far and away the dominant faith in the United States. See COPLEY, B3

CAN SCIENTOLOGY SURVIVE A SLUMP?

French ruling, defections stoke debate about controversial church

By Eric Gorski
Associated Press

The Church of Scientology is going through a difficult season.

During the course of two days last week, a French court convicted the church of fraud, and Oscar-winning filmmaker Paul Haggis' resignation from the church over a litany of concerns was aired publicly. On one hand, it was just another bad press week for the embattled institution founded in 1953 by the late science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

But for former Scientologists and scholars of the movement, the setbacks pose a greater challenge coming on the heels of defections of top-level Scientologists who lifted a veil of secrecy on the organization and alleged a culture of violence and control under Hubbard's successor, David Miscavige.

"With any organization, the loss of a substantial number of your most experienced people and chaos at the upper levels is problematic," said David Bromley, a Virginia Commonwealth University professor who studies new religious movements and has written about Scientology. "There are PR implications, the possibility of legal actions. ... That dwarfs the other things."

The church has strenuously denied the allegations against Miscavige, portraying the accusers as lying, disgruntled ex-employees.

Church spokesman Tommy Davis said Scientology is flourishing, with more than 8,000 churches, missions and groups in 160-plus nations. (Scientology's Web site, www.scientologytoday.org, lists no organizations in Kentucky; the nearest is Church of Scientology of Cincinnati.) He said assets and property holdings have doubled during the past five years, including a new church in Rome and another opening last weekend in Washington, D.C.

"From our perspective, things are going pretty great," Davis said. "In fact, that's downplaying it. Actually, what's happening with the church right now is frankly spectacular. To the degree there are these various things happening, it really is a lot of noise."

One major survey of American religion shows Scientology declining in the United States, however. The estimated number of Americans who identify as Scientologists rose from 45,000 in 1990 to 55,000 in 2001, then plummeted to 25,000 in 2008, according to the American Religion Identification Survey.

Davis said that while the church avoids membership estimates, it's "absolutely in the millions" globally and growing in the United States.

The structure of Scientology

Scientology is a religious system based on the search for self-knowledge and spiritual fulfillment through graded courses of study and training.

Founder	Science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard
Sacred text	Hubbard's "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health"
Money-making activities	Consulting, health care, drug treatment, book publishing
Famous Scientologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirstie Alley Tom Cruise Katie Holmes John Travolta Lisa Marie Presley Greta Van Susteren



Scientology

- KRC triangle
 - Knowledge
 - Responsibility
 - Control

ARC triangle

- Affinity, emotion
- Reality
- Communication

- Points of triangles are interrelated; when one point is improved, the other corners are improved.

Basic beliefs

- A person is an immortal spiritual being, called a thetan, who possesses a mind and body.
- The thetan has lived through many past lives and will continue to live beyond the death of the body.
- Psychiatry and psychology are destructive and abusive practices.

Dynamics of existence

Scientologists state that the dynamic principle of existence is to survive and that man survives across these eight dynamics:

Cross



- Eight points represent the dynamics of life.

First

- Self, the individual, body, mind, immediate possessions

Second

- Family, children and all other creativity

Fifth

- Life forms, all plant and animal life

Fourth

- Mankind, as a species

Third

- Group survival, friends, company, nation, race

Sixth

- Physical universe, matter, energy, space and time

Seventh

- Spiritual, source of life itself

Eighth

- Infinity, the Supreme Being or Creator

Source: Handbook of Scientology, Church of Scientology, AP

MELINDA YINGLING | MCLATCHY-TRIBUNE



Paul Haggis
an Oscar winner for *Crash*, recently left the Church of Scientology.

Scientology has long been controversial. The Internal Revenue Service granted the church tax exemption in 1993 after a nearly four-decade battle over whether it should be considered a religion. Critics say Scientology is a business, preying on people by charging exorbitant sums for services.

The church continues to fascinate, fueled by interest in celebrity adherents such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley, as well as beliefs that don't fit into typical American religious boxes.

Hubbard taught that the "thetan," the equivalent of a spirit, can be cleared of negative energy from this and previous lives through a process called auditing. With the aid of auditors, Scientologists seek a state called "Clear" and then advance through various levels of "Operating Thetan."

The allegations of violence were leveled by four former high-ranking Scientology executives who told their stories to the St. Petersburg

Times last summer. The executives said they witnessed Miscavige, chairman of the board that oversees the church, hit staff members dozens of times and urge others to do the same.

Davis called the allegations "absolutely, unquestionably false" and "sickening and outrageous." ABC's *Nightline* aired a report last month covering much of the same ground.

To critics of Scientology and ex-members who have grown increasingly vocal in recent years, it's a breakthrough — critical voices from former members of the inner circle, not the media or outsiders.

"When you have dozens of people speaking out, it's no longer too credible to say they're all malcontents and criminals," said Jeff Hawkins, a former Scientology marketing guru who defected in 2005. The church "is either going to reform or collapse, and I think it's going to be the latter because they're incapable of reform or admitting any wrongdoing."

One defector, Marty Rathbun, who served on the church's board and was a top lieutenant of Miscavige, said a growing

movement of people hold to the tenets of Scientology but reject the institutional church.

"I don't foresee another church," Rathbun said. "That was the first attack on me — that this was a coup, that I'm trying to tap a schism or start another church. ... That's not an objective of mine or a positive way to go."

Haggis, who directed *Crash* and won an Oscar for its screenplay, was not a high-ranking Scientologist. But his defection is significant, said actor Jason Beghe, who left the church in 2007 and has become a critic.

"He was somebody the Scientology community was proud of, and therefore I'm sure he helped hold some of their base in place," said Beghe, who appeared in the film *G.I. Jane* and TV's *Everwood* and is cast in Haggis' next film, now shooting in Pittsburgh. "Anybody who is a Scientologist is harboring doubts."

It was Rathbun who obtained a copy of Haggis' critical letter to Davis and posted it on his blog. Haggis complained that Davis didn't do enough to distance Scientology from See SCIENTOLOGY, B3