
News Updates

NO LONGER FOR MEN ONLY

One theory says golf is a Scottish word derived from the Dutch word *kulf*. However, in recent years, the word has become part of the Internet rumor mill which claims golf is an acronym of gentlemen only ladies forbidden. But in one regard the rumor does hold a measure of truth as to the history of the sport. Golf was once played distinctively by nobles, military men, executives, and politicians. Golf is now played and enjoyed by both genders.

Just like the sport of golf, which originally discriminated against women, so too Promise Keepers has relaxed its restraint on female participants. This year, for the first time ever, the former men only ministry invited women to attend its "A Time to Honor," a day-and-a-half long meeting held July 31 and Aug. 1 in Boulder, Colo. The event was the sole assembly for the Promise Keepers, which once annually hosted more than a dozen of such rallies across the country. Tickets were \$59 each.

This new direction came last year as the ministry's co-founder, Bill McCartney, returned to his role as the chairman and CEO of the organization. Five years earlier he had resigned those positions, saying he needed the time to devote to caring for his ailing wife.

In recent years, Promise Keepers suffered diminishing numbers from its attendance peaks in the 1990s. McCartney told *New Man eMagazine*, "The ministry has been on a downward spiral. Our staff and our resources are really limited." The online magazine also revealed, "Limited resources necessitated the shift from a multi-city tour to a lone event. Last year Promise Keepers scheduled eight events, but canceled one and shifted several others to smaller venues due to a lack of ticket sales."

The movement continues to display a propensity toward ecumenism. Speakers advertised for its summer event included Tony Evans, Gary Smalley, Assemblies of God pastor Tommy Barnett and Jane Hansen Hoyt, president of Aglow International.

—MKG

TILTONS ENCOUNTER MASKED GUNMAN

In the early 1990s, televangelist Bob Tilton found himself retreating into obscurity when his unscrupulous

prosperity theology enterprise was exposed on national television. After the dust settled on his imploded Dallas megachurch and worldwide ministry, Tilton divorced his wife Marte and relocated to the Miami area. In the midst of a brief second marriage and divorce, Tilton returned to doing what he does best: preaching his good-fortune gospel, albeit on a smaller scale.

The anonymity to which 63-year-old Tilton has toppled was demonstrated when it took the news media nearly four months to report a home invasion at his Miami Beach estate. According to a police report, Tilton and his third wife Maria, 49, were accosted on Feb. 3 by a masked man dressed in black and carrying a semiautomatic pistol. The assailant ordered them to lie face-down on the floor and bound their wrists with plastic "flex-cuffs." In addition to Tilton and his wife, the couple's twin 1-year-old daughters, Elijah and Rebekah, along with the toddlers' nanny were home at the time of the attack. The intruder became distracted by the family dogs, allowing Maria to get away. She ran down the street and found a passer-by who contacted police. The perpetrator fled the home after Maria had escaped. The Miami police have called the incident a botched robbery attempt and have made no arrests in the case. Authorities also believe that a second intruder may have been involved.

It was in late May when the *Dallas Morning News* finally disclosed the episode and stated that "the Miami news media didn't even bother to report the incident."

According to the Dallas newspaper, Maria said in April that, "she cannot go back to the beachfront home." The Tiltons have moved into a high-rise in the Miami South Beach area. Their new residence comes with 24-hour security. The 8,000-foot Miami Beach mansion where the invasion occurred has been put on the market for \$6.9 million. Tilton had built the five-bedroom, eight-bathroom Marco Island home in May 2003 for \$5 million.

—MKG

KEEPING IT ALL IN THE FAMILY

Seven months after removing his son as senior pastor of the Crystal Cathedral and preacher on its *Hour of Power* broadcast, the Rev. Robert H. Schuller announced in June that the leadership of his 10,000-member Garden Grove, Calif., church would be turned over to his eldest daughter, Sheila Schuller Coleman.

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The Words of the Lord, recorded through the prophet Jeremiah, continue to ring clear: "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13).

—MKG

While Coleman will appear on the *Hour of Power* program, "it hasn't been determined how much she will preach," a church spokesman told the Associated Press.

—MKG

NEWS UPDATES

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The 58-year-old Coleman had been serving as the director of the church's family ministries. Juan Carlos Ortiz, who stepped in as an interim pastor following the ousting of Robert A. Schuller, will continue his role as a teaching pastor.

Schuller's ministry posted a statement on its Website saying that in the wee hours of one morning God spoke to the 82-year-old Schuller, telling him, "Don't worry. I have called your daughter Sheila, too. She is equipped and she will be your legs."

According to the *Orange County Register*, Coleman said her taking over the reins of the leadership of the church founded by her father was unexpected. She told the newspaper, "Our church didn't even start ordaining women until 1973. I'm proud of my dad for doing this, and I hope I can serve as a role model for younger women who want to get things accomplished in this church."

LAWSUIT CHARGES DOLLAR CASHES IN

Televangelist Creflo Dollar has been accused of ripping off a spiritual text messaging service created by a former employee. A lawsuit filed in June in California accuses the Atlanta-based pastor, his son, and other ministry staff of "breach of nondisclosure agreement, fraud, unjust enrichment, civil conspiracy, breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets," according to the Associated Press.

Devone Lawson of Marina del Rey, Calif., said he spent a year in 2004 with Dollar's World Changers Church International developing a program which sent daily inspirational text messages to the cell phones of church members and subscribers. Lawson said that Dollar and his ministry then stole his idea and established another text messaging service, which was called "Word on the Go."

The AP report said, "Attorneys for Lawson estimate the \$4.99 per month subscription service generates more than \$50 million a year in revenue."

—MKG

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

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