**NEWS UPDATES**

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

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

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

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

—AMG

**THERE THEY GO AGAIN**

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

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

Clark has told *Charisma* magazine, “I believe that we are going to see another healing revival, so I wanted to do a school where there could be a solid biblical basis for both the models and the theology behind healing and power evangelism” (August 2004, pg. 27). The term “power evangelism” was coined by the late John Wimber, who gained fame with the Association of Vineyard Churches. It is defined as evangelism being demonstrated by healings, signs, wonders, and exorcisms.

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

—MKG

**MOON SHINE**

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

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

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

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

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