



March, 2010

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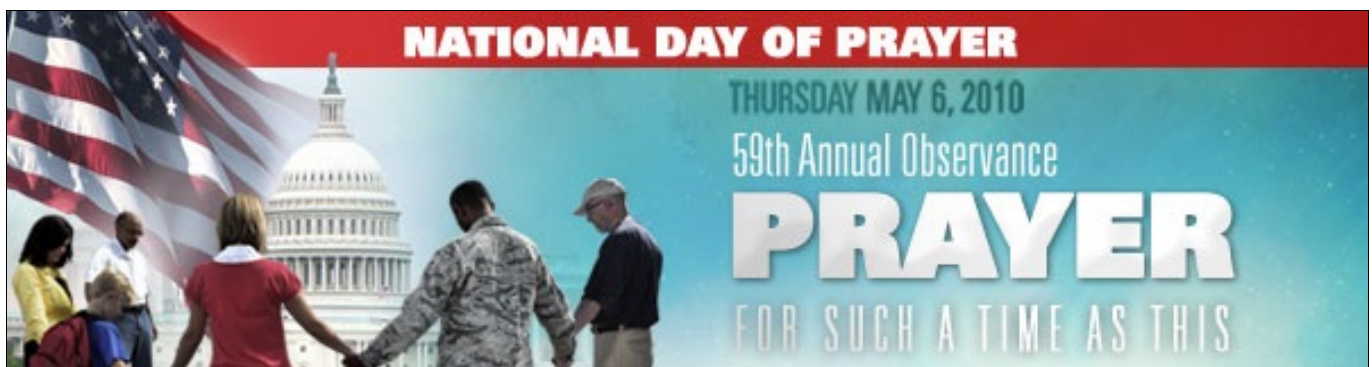
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### MARCH NETWORK LUNCHEON ANNOUNCED

March 11, 2010 is our regular *second Thursday of the month* Network Luncheon. Our host this month will be The Lord's Glory Church and Sunday International Ministries. The Lord's Glory Church is located at 461 Artesian Plaza Drive, Humble, TX 77338-3925. Artesian Plaza Drive connects with First Street very near to the Post Office. The Lord's Gloru Church is on the opposite side of First Street from the Post Office. Call the church if you need additional information, (281) 446-0091.

The Luncheon begins with a time of networking prior to the meal. The networking begins at 11:30 and the meal begins sharply at 12 noon. The gathering will be dismissed promptly at 1 p.m. in order to allow everyone time to return to their normal schedule. NEMA's events are open to all Christian pastors, ministry leaders and businessmen and business women. Please check [nemaonline.org](http://nemaonline.org) for additional information and other news.

### NEMA COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2010 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



The NEMA council met last month to discuss the plans for the Humble National Day of Prayer to be held at the Humble Civic Center on May 6, 2010. Last year's event was a success as reported by all accounts. This year's NDP event will be similar to last year's event except for the addition of other prayer leaders.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

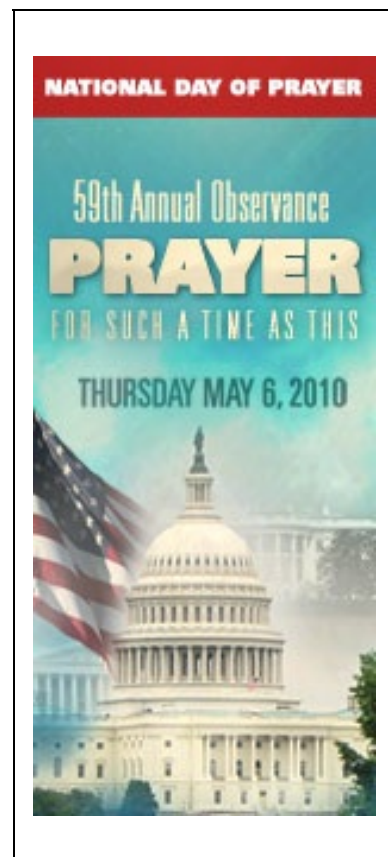
The Vision and Focus of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, in accordance with Biblical truth, that seeks to:

- Foster unity within the Christian Church
- Protect America's Constitutional Freedoms to gather, worship, pray and speak freely
- Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage
- Encourage and emphasize prayer, regardless of current issues and positions
- Respect all people, regardless of denomination or creed
- Be wise stewards of God's resources and provision
- Glorify the Lord in word and deed

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Our Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a [Judeo Christian](#) expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

#### **Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:**

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a [Judeo-Christian](#) system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the [Judeo-Christian](#) principles on which it is based.



## NETWORK PARTNER'S EVENTS

### **God's Rest Announces A Day-Apart for the Women of the Greater Humble Area.**



You are invited to spend a day of leisure, learning, and fellowship with women of God at Corner Stone. Corner Stone is located at 20031 Pinehurst Bend Drive, Humble, Texas on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The agenda for the day will be a Continental breakfast in the Holy Spirit Garden 8:30am – 9:00am; Bible teaching 9:00am – 12pm; Lunch and fellowship 12:00pm – 12:45pm.; Breakout discussions 1:30pm – 2:45pm; Afternoon tea 3:00pm – 3:30pm.

The guest speaker for the event will be Beverly Blackstone, BBA, LBT & Life Coach. Beverly is one of the most acclaimed teachers in the South and will be sharing a topic entitled, *The Father's Love*. The cost of the seminar is \$30. There will be an opportunity to sow a love offering. RSVP by March 6<sup>th</sup>. Call 281 852-9124. Seating is limited,

### **Pastor Jerry Martin Announces Training Seminar**

#### **EnVision 2010: The S3 Encounter**

Casting a Courageous Vision for Ministry

**[Last Chance to Register!](#)**

**Saturday, March 6th, 2010**

**8:30am - Noon**

On Campus at The College of Biblical Studies



**CENTER FOR  
LEADER**

**DEVELOPMENT**

Whether you already have an established vision for your congregation, or you're in the beginning stages of ministry, this workshop helps you understand the vital dimensions of vision for ministry and how to transform vision into reality.

**Dr. Mike Ayers** will share the Biblical process of visioning (The S3 Model), how to define God's vision, keys to communicating and sharing vision, as well as steps to implementing God's vision for your ministry.

You and your people will discover the practical benefits of vision as it brings purpose and motivation to your congregation. This workshop is for pastors, staff members, church planters, and ministry team leaders... or, anyone seeking to achieve God's vision for their life and ministry.

**Cost is \$25.00 per person.**

Guarantee your spot now and pay in advance via PayPal.

Or, pay at the door (cash or check only) by reserving your spot via email.

**All participants must RSVP in advance.**

Find out more about the Center for Leader Development: [www.cldhouston.org](http://www.cldhouston.org).

If you would like for your coming events to be announced in the NEMA Network Newsletter please send a 'ready to print' copy of your event to [dhicks2138@aol.com](mailto:dhicks2138@aol.com). Please state that you wish to have it included in the regular monthly newsletter. If you want NEMA to send out an 'email blast' as well please send your 'ready to post' announcement to [dhicks2138@aol.com](mailto:dhicks2138@aol.com).

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[Disclaimer: NEMA offers news and information is intended as educational awareness only. The articles offered do not necessarily reflect the position of NEMA or its members.]

**IRANIAN SPIRITUAL LEADER: NUKES ARE A RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION:** Ayatollah Masbah Yazdi, the spiritual teacher of Iran's dictator Mahmoud Ahmedinajad, says the acquisition of nuclear weapons is a religious obligation. Yazdi, considered one of the leading religious thinkers in Iran, authored a book in which he wrote that attaining the ability to independently produce "special combat means of a specific type" is not only a military obligation for the Islamic Republic, but also a religious one. Just ten days ago, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the opposite. Speaking to army commanders at the launch of a new Iranian naval destroyer, Khamenei said, "Our religious beliefs are against the use of weapons. We in no way believe in an atomic weapon and do not seek one." (Arutz-7) *"With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles."* 2 Chr 32:8 [Vision for Israel, P.O. Box 7743. Charlotte, NC 28241, USA.]

**SENIOR HAMAS LEADER DISOWNS SON WHO SPIED FOR ISRAEL:** Hamas Web sites published a letter Monday by Hamas leader Sheikh Hassan. In the document, Hassan said his family announced its "complete renunciation of the one who was once our eldest son, who is called Mosab." The father said though he was sorry to take such action, he had no choice after his son "disbelieved in God...and collaborated with our enemies." Mosab Hassan Yousef, who famously converted to Christianity, served for over a decade as the Shin Bet security service's most valuable source in the terrorist organization's leadership. The intelligence he supplied Israel led to the exposure of a number of terrorist cells, and to the prevention of dozens of suicide bombings and assassination attempts on Israeli figures. (Ha'aretz) **Pray for the Comforter to be with Mosab Hassan Yosef.** *"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three."* Luke 12: 51-52. [You may subscribe to the regular newsletter of Vision for Israel, P.O. Box 7743. Charlotte, NC 28241, USA.]

[The following Barna Survey is presented for both educational and spiritual purposes. The biblical mandate for Christians to pray for those in authority is important for the Church to embrace. NEMA does not endorse individuals who serve in political office but offers information, from time to time, which calls attention to events/people who impact the Church. Christians must be aware of their civic responsibilities and respond to them in a biblical fashion. If the public arena is devoid of Christian participation and influence, our Republic suffers. Christians everywhere need to pray for President Obama at this time.]

### **CHRISTIAN SUPPORT FOR OBAMA DECLINES**

Barack Obama was swept into office on a wave of hopes and dreams founded on his promises of a better life and a more competent government. With this first year in office now behind him, many Americans are considerably less enthusiastic about his performance than expected. A new survey conducted by The Barna Group shows that Christians, who formed a large segment of his support, are even less enthralled with the president's handling of the job than are other Americans.

In the 2008 election, 42% of all born again adults voted for Barack Obama. The born again vote represented 40% of his aggregate support in the general election.

## **Job Satisfaction**

Most Americans are not satisfied with the job the president is doing. Currently, just 42% are either completely satisfied (15%) or somewhat satisfied (27%). One-quarter of adults (24%) are divided, saying they are “somewhat satisfied and somewhat dissatisfied.” The remaining 30% are either “mostly dissatisfied (13%) or “somewhat dissatisfied” (17%). Only a few (4%) don’t know how to assess the president’s job performance.



The picture is less rosy when looking at the ratings given to the president by committed Christians. Among evangelicals, only 18% are satisfied (just 6% are “completely satisfied”) while 69% are dissatisfied (including 38% who are “completely dissatisfied”). Among all born again Christians – one-fifth of whom are evangelicals and four-fifths of whom are not – the ratings are not quite as scathing, but are notably worse than those provided by

non-Christian adults: 35% are satisfied and 36% are dissatisfied. Among adults who are not born again the president fares much better, with such people twice as likely to be satisfied as dissatisfied (48% satisfied, 24% are not).

When political affiliations and faith commitments are merged, the numbers are also quite diverse. A majority of registered Republicans (55%) are born again. Among them, only 9% are satisfied with President Obama’s performance to date, compared to 67% who are not. That rating is slightly less positive than the 15% satisfaction and 58% dissatisfaction found among Republicans who are not born again.

The picture is decidedly different among Democrats, among whom 47% are born again. Among born again Democrats, President Obama has satisfied 62% and dissatisfied 10%. That is not quite as upbeat a view as held by Democrats who are not born again, 76% of whom are satisfied and 8% of whom are dissatisfied.

Independent voters are notably less pleased with the president, regardless of their faith leanings. Thirty-seven percent are born again, the lowest proportion of born again adults found among the three partisan affiliations. Among the born again Independents, 25% are satisfied and 38% dissatisfied. Among the Independents who are not born again, 44% are satisfied and 21% are dissatisfied.

## **Ideological Consistency**

Two-thirds of all American adults feel that the president has conformed to their ideological expectations of him. Among those who feel he is different than expected, they are twice as likely to say he has been more liberal than expected (21%) than to say he is more conservative than anticipated (10%).

Mr. Obama has been especially surprising to evangelicals (25% said he is more liberal than expected, 4% said more conservative) and born again adults (24% vs. 9%, respectively). Catholics were about equally likely to be surprised by his liberal leanings as by his conservative tendencies

(16% more liberal, 14% more conservative) than were Protestants, who were three times more likely to see the president as more liberal than expected than to consider his performance more conservative than they foresaw (23% more liberal, 8% more conservative).

People who are not associated with the Christian faith had varying views on this matter. For instance, people who belong to a non-Christian faith group were about evenly divided as to whether the president is more liberal than expected (14%) or more conservative than expected (12%). Atheists and agnostics, however, were more likely to say he has been more conservative (23%) than more liberal (15%) in relation to their expectations.

### **Specific Performance Ratings**

In filling one of the most demanding and complex jobs on earth, the president addresses numerous areas of governance. The Barna survey explored people's ratings of Mr. Obama's performance in seven of those areas.

Most Americans believe the president's top priority should be the restoration of the national economy. In this area just 42% are satisfied with the president's efforts to date. Satisfaction was registered among just 26% of evangelicals, 38% of all born again Christians, and 46% of adults who are not born again. Catholics were marginally more satisfied (43%) than were Protestants (39%). Born again Democrats were among the president's biggest supporters of his economic performance, with 63% satisfied. In contrast, only 15% of born again Republicans and 32% of born again Independents were satisfied.

The standout dimension of the president's efforts relates to the environment, where a majority of Americans (58%) are satisfied with the president's work. While evangelicals are among his biggest critics on environmental matters (only 40% were satisfied), a majority of all born again (55%) as well as non-born again adults (60%) are satisfied. The partisan divide was as big as ever in this dimension, with just 31% of born again Republicans, 51% of born again Independents, and 73% of born again Democrats approving of the president's work in this area.

About half of the nation (52%) believes the chief executive has done a satisfactory job of fighting terrorism. That includes only one-quarter of evangelicals (27%), slightly less than half of all born again Christians (47%) and a slight majority of non-born again adults (55%). Two-thirds of born again Democrats (67%), less than half of born again Independents (44%) and barely one-fourth of born again Republicans gave Mr. Obama the thumbs up in this area.

In each of the other four dimensions of job performance that were measured in the Barna study a minority of the public was satisfied with the president's efforts.

Forty-seven percent are satisfied with his tax policies and activities. Not surprisingly, he fared best among non-born again adults (51%), less well among all born again individuals (43%), and worst among evangelicals (24%). Seven out of ten born again Democrats approved of his taxation efforts, which was double his approval rating in this area among born again Independents (33%) and nearly five times the approval score awarded by born again Republicans.

- Forty-six percent are pleased with how the president has handled the war in the Middle East. Born again (44%) and non-born again adults (48%) straddled the national average, while evangelicals were far less satisfied (30%). A majority of both born again Democrats (64%) and born again Independents (51%) were satisfied, but just one-quarter of born again Republicans (25%) joined them.

- The president's campaign promises included plans to reform the political system and restore civility and bipartisan cooperation to the process. Most Americans do not believe he has delivered on that promise yet. Only 43% are satisfied with what he has done to improve the political system, which includes 47% of non-born again adults, 38% of all born agains, and 21% of evangelicals. Feelings on this matter run especially strong along party lines, with Democrats his only significant support base. Fifty-eight percent of born again Democrats approved of his job in improving the political system, compared to only 25% among born again Independents and 15% among born again Republicans.
- The president's major initiative during his first year in office failed to impress most Americans. Just 40% said they are satisfied with his work related to the health care system. This ranged from 46% of non-born again people who approved his job, to 33% among all born again individuals, and just 12% of evangelicals. While a small majority of born again Democrats (56%) approved his health care efforts, less than half as many born again Independents concurred (26%), and a mere 7% of born again Republicans indicated their satisfaction in this area.

The survey also revealed several consistent patterns. Non-whites were more supportive of the president's results during his first year than were whites by an average of 21 percentage points. Downscale adults were typically more supportive than were upscale adults, except in the area of dealing with terrorism. Pre-Boomers (i.e. adults under 45) were invariably more supportive than were adults 45 or older. Single adults – those who have never been married as well as those who were presently divorced or widowed – were an average of 22 points more likely to express satisfaction with the president's performance in these areas.

The study also found that Protestants and Catholics were generally similar in their views on these matters.

### **Americans Want It Now**

The study suggests that many Americans may be losing their patience with President Obama. While most people recognize the complexities of the job, they have high expectations of their leader and have been generally disappointed during the first year of the Obama administration. Historically it is clear that legislative victories or other public relations efforts are capable of shifting people's perceptions in a short period of time. However, with the mid-term elections on the horizon and the very real possibility of a significant number of Democratic seats being lost in Congress this November, the president's sagging image or campaign presence may not be the boon for which many Democratic candidates had hoped.

The Barna data point out that at this stage of Mr. Obama's tenure, party affiliation is a stronger predictor of people's perceptions of his performance than is their faith commitment. At the same time, it appears that many committed Christians who were supportive of Mr. Obama during the election campaign are substantially less supportive of him today.

### **About the Research**

This Barna Update is based upon a nationwide tracking study, called OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup>, conducted by The Barna Group. The telephone interviews were derived from a random sample of 1,005 adults selected from across the continental United States, age 18 and older, from February 7 - 10, 2010. Interviews were conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones. The maximum margin of sampling error associated with the aggregate sample is  $\pm 3.2$  percentage points

at the 95% confidence level. Minimal statistical weighting was used to calibrate the aggregate sample to known population percentages in relation to several key demographic variables.

"Born again Christians" are defined as people who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and who also indicated they believe that when they die they will go to Heaven because they had confessed their sins and had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. Respondents are not asked to describe themselves as "born again."

"Evangelicals" meet the born again criteria (described above) plus seven other conditions. Those include saying their faith is very important in their life today; believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians; believing that Satan exists; believing that eternal salvation is possible only through grace, not works; believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; asserting that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches; and describing God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended. Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."

"Downscale" individuals are those whose annual household income is less than \$20,000 and who have not attended college. "Upscale" people are those whose annual household income is \$75,000 or more and who have graduated from a four-year college.

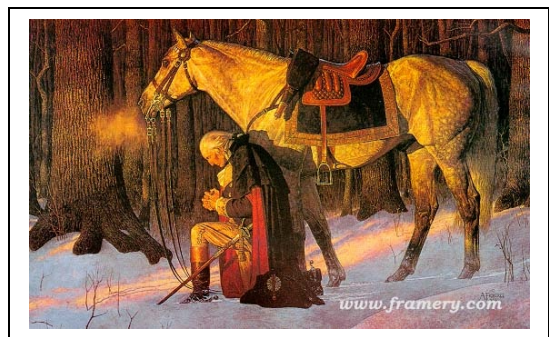
The Barna Group (which includes its research division, The Barna Research Group) is a private, non-partisan, for-profit organization that conducts primary research on a wide range of issues and products, produces resources pertaining to cultural change, leadership and spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families and Christian ministries. Located in Ventura, California, Barna has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984. If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each new, bi-monthly update on the latest research findings from The Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)). Additional research-based resources, both free and at discounted prices, are also available through that website.

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### **Was George Washington A Christian?**

[The following excerpts are found in an article by Christian Answers.net entitled, *Was George Washington A Christian?*

To say that he [George Washington] was not a Christian would be to impeach his sincerity and honesty. Of all men in the world, Washington was certainly the last whom any one would charge with dissimulation or indirectness [hypocrisies and evasiveness]; and if he was so scrupulous in avoiding even a shadow of these faults in every known act of his life, [regardless of] however unimportant, is it likely, is it credible, that in a matter of the highest and most serious importance [his religious faith, that] he



should practice through a long series of years a deliberate deception upon his friends and the public? It is neither credible nor possible.

By 1778, George Washington had so often witnessed God's intervention that on August 20, he wrote Thomas Nelson that:

The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.

While encamped on the banks of a river, Delaware Indian chiefs who desired that their youth be trained in American schools approached Washington. In Washington's response, he first told them that "Congress... will look on them as on their own children." That is, we would train their children as if they were our own. He then commended the chiefs for their decision:

You do well to wish to learn our arts and our ways of life and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are. Congress will do everything they can to assist you in this wise intention.

According to George Washington, what students would learn in American schools "above all" was "the religion of [Jesus Christ](#)."

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## DONORS REDUCE GIVING



### Barna's Part 3 On the Current Financial Impact Upon Churches

The Economy's Impact (Part 3 of 3): Donors Reduce Giving, Brace for the Long Haul

February 8, 2010

Although some recent economic news offers positive signs, the donor landscape continues to show little indications of improvement. In the wake of the poor economy, many American donors have cut back on donations to churches and especially to other non-profit organizations, and they have become more

pessimistic about the future of economic recovery. These are a few of the conclusions of a new Barna research study. The findings are based upon a nationwide sample of 1,008 American adults, conducted in January and early February, 2010.

This is the third report in a multi-part Barna Update series on the economy's impact. Other features can be accessed at the following links:

Part 1 | [Churches are Down 7% in 2009](#) (January 11, 2010) Part 2 | [How Churches Have Adapted](#) (January 25, 2010) Part 3 | Donors Reduce Giving (this week – see below)

### **Recalibrating Donations**

Many Americans appear to be significantly cutting back on charitable giving in order to adjust to the downturn. Nearly half of all adults (48%) said they had reduced their giving to non-profit organizations (excluding churches and houses of worship) in the last three months. Churches were slightly less likely to be affected but were certainly not immune to cutbacks: three out of ten Americans had dropped their level of support to churches and congregations (29%) in recent months.

When compared to a [similar Barna study](#) conducted in the fourth quarter of 2008, when the economy began to plummet, there has been a 58% increase in the percentage of Americans who have curtailed their recent giving to non-profits and a 45% increase in the proportion that have reduced their donations to churches.

While many church donors have been able to maintain their typical level of donations, those who have cut back have dropped their giving substantially. Nearly one-quarter of church donors had cut contributions by 20% or more.

That compares with just one-tenth who had done so in the first few months of the crisis. In other words, the segment of donors who have dramatically decreased their contributions to churches has more than doubled in the last 14 months.

#### **IMPACT OF THE POOR ECONOMY: AMERICANS DROP DONATIONS**

<b>LAST THREE MONTHS</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
% of adults who have reduced giving to non-profits*	31%	48%
% of adults who have reduced giving to churches	20%	29%

**\* excludes churches**

**(Source: The Barna Group, Ventura, CA - OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> 2010, N=1,008)**

### **Outlook + Impact**

Perhaps most concerning for charitable organizations, Americans are settling in for what they perceive to be a long recovery. Three-quarters of adults (75%) believe the economy will take two or more years to recover, and nearly half (42%) contend the economy will take more than three years to come back. In the first few months of the economic crisis, Barna surveys showed that three out of five adults (62%) felt it would take two years or more and just 32% felt it would take more than three years to recover.

Their gloomy outlook may be connected to the personal financial pressure many are experiencing. Americans reported feeling the impact of the economic crisis right away, but for many it has intensified since then. The current survey shows that three out of every four adults claim to have

been personally affected by the economy (75%). Furthermore, the percentage who report being affected in a major way has also risen over the last 14 months, from 22% to 27%.

### **Stable Tithing**

One measure of American generosity that has stayed relatively consistent – despite the economic turmoil – is the practice of tithing. This is the concept embraced by many Christians of giving ten percent (or more) of one’s income. Overall, 7% of all adults reported donation levels equaling at least 10% of their income. The percentage of adults who tithe has remained constant since the beginning of the decade, falling in the 5% to 7% range.

Tithing levels, which could include both church and other charitable giving, were highest among evangelicals (24% of whom give at least 10%), non-mainline Protestants (13%), churchgoers (11%), and non-evangelical born again Christians (10%). Those over the age of 45 (9%) were nearly twice as likely as those under the age (5%) to tithe. Also, the study showed that income level was not correlated with tithing: just 9% of upscale adults gave at least one-tenth of their income, while 11% of the downscale set gave an equivalent proportion.

### **Who Worries, Who Keeps Giving?**

Although most adults report being negatively affected, some groups were more likely than average to take a financial hit. This included Boomers, parents of minors, downscale adults, and residents of the Northeast. Those who were most likely to reduce giving to churches were divorced adults, parents, and Catholics. Donors who were least likely to report drops in church giving included Elders (ages 65-plus) and evangelicals (see how Barna Group defines "evangelicals" below). Donors most likely to constrict their giving to other types of non-profits included middle-income adults, divorced individuals, parents, homeschool families, and downscale adults. The most loyal donors to non-profits were singles, evangelicals, mainline Protestants, and upscale adults. Americans who are most pessimistic about the economy’s turnaround are residents of the West, political conservatives, and Republicans, while those most optimistic include Democrats, political liberals, African-Americans, singles, and those under the age of 26. Still, even among the favorably inclined segments, a minority of each group believes that a recovery is coming in the next year.

### **Perspective on the Findings**

David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, commented on the donor environment. “Barring a significant event or shift, the prospects for a recovery of charitable giving during 2010 appear dim. The supply of donation dollars is not likely to meet the demand from nearly 1.5 million nonprofit organizations. Even while some financial indicators show signs of life, most Americans are very concerned about the country’s long-term economic prospects and seem to be tightening budgets and scrimping on donations. What’s more, the funds raised for Haitian relief efforts may exhaust some of the potential for future giving in 2010, especially among inconsistent donors. “The implication is that church and non-profit leaders should prepare for another lean year. Response to this reality suggests avoiding high-risk and untested fundraising efforts and communicating effectively with constituents. In addition, consider proactive financial management, including adjusting income expectations. Avoid using traditional financial projections as reluctant donors are likely to cut back on the number of organizations and frequency of their support. One of the fundamentals is relentlessly addressing six donor motivations – as identified in previous work by the Barna team – including: operating efficiently, featuring the compelling cause at the core of your work, communicating the urgency of the need, nurturing personal relationships with donors,

demonstrating transformational impact, and helping contributors feel a sense of personal benefit from giving. These appear to be as important as ever as donors scale back their giving.”

### **About the Research**

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"Evangelicals" meet the born again criteria (described above) plus seven other conditions. Those include saying their faith is very important in their life today; believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians; believing that Satan exists; believing that eternal salvation is possible only through grace, not works; believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; asserting that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches; and describing God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended. Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."

"Downscale" individuals are those whose annual household income is less than \$20,000 and who have not attended college. "Upscale" people are those whose annual household income is \$75,000 or more and they have graduated from a four-year college.

The Barna Group (which includes its research division, The Barna Research Group) is a private, non-partisan, for-profit organization that conducts primary research on a wide range of issues and products, produces resources pertaining to cultural change, leadership and spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families and Christian ministries. Located in Ventura, California, Barna has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984. If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each new, bi-monthly update on the latest research findings from The Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)). Additional research-based resources, both free and at discounted prices, are also available through that website.

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### **INTERESTING FACT**

NEMA is the 'longest standing', consecutive ministerial alliance in the greater North East Houston corridor. The power of uniting for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God is expressed through out

Scripture. Jesus desired that His Body be one. This desire was proclaimed throughout His earthly life.

*As a leader goes so does his followers.* NEMA affords the opportunity for the great churches of this region to begin to come together and display to the world that we are one in Christ! NEMA is merely one among the many spiritual leadership-gatherings in this area. If you are a part of NEMA, why not share the good news and encourage your friends to become a part. (See the website for meeting times and networking possibilities: [nemaonline.org](http://nemaonline.org)).

*In heaven there will be no walls that separate, no super-stars, no place for differences, but a gathering of ONE; individuals too numerous to count from every tongue and tribe laying prostrate before King Jesus, praising Him for His everlasting forgiveness, love, and grace! Is any hindrance so important that His Church couldn't begin to display this ONENESS now? Let the process begin in me!*