

restraint_92203

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95 missionaries urge restraint in preacher talk

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) -Ninety-five retired Southern Baptist missionaries who served in the Middle East and North Africa recently signed a resolution calling for U.S. Christian leaders to quit making inflammatory statements about the faith of people who live in the region.

They mailed their admonition in a letter to former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines and Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

In a sermon Vines preached at the 2002 SBC Pastors' Conference, he called Mohammed, the founder of Islam, "a demon-possessed pedophile." He also implied Allah, the Islamic god, turns people into terrorists.

spiritual_journeys_92203

September 19, 2003

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Book offers peek at pop artists' faith

By Jason White

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Moby praising pornography and Jesus. Johnny Cash singing gospel songs while strung-out on drugs. P. Diddy rapping about guns and God.



stch_swing_92203

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Swing time

Zoe and Marilyn,
who live at South
Texas Children's
Home in Beeville,
share a good time
on the swingset.

They and
thousands of
other Texas
children in need
of special care
find help through
the ministries of
Texas Baptists.

Gifts to the
Baptist General
Convention of
Texas

Cooperative
Program budget
support child-care
ministries in
Beeville, San
Antonio, Victoria,
Luling, Tyler,
Dallas, Amarillo,
Beaumont,
Brenham, Corpus
Christi, El Paso,
Fort Worth,
Harlingen,
Laredo,
Longview,
Lubbock, Lufkin,
McAllen,
Marshall,
Midland, Mission,
Rockwall, Orange,
Port Arthur,
Round Rock,
Silsbee, Waco and
Woodville.

tbm_relief_92203

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Texas Baptist Men's disaster relief fleet expands to 35 vehicles

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

The Texas Baptist disaster relief fleet of emergency response vehicles continues to grow with the addition of a new tool trailer and the prospect of a “rolling bunkhouse.”

together_92203

September 19, 2003

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TOGETHER:

Churches & BGCT focus on missions

I love worshipping in our churches, sharing fellowship and experiencing the heart for missions and evangelism that permeates our congregations.


CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

Recently, I visited First Baptist Church of Nederland. The church reaches out to inmates at a nearby state prison, and the week before I arrived, 300 prisoners had attended a revival service. Pastor David Higgs invited me to accompany him and Sam Maggio, a Sunday School teacher who has ministered to inmates every week for more than 25 years, to baptize some of the men who had made professions of faith in Jesus. We took 10 men into the prison yard, where a large trough had been filled with water. Pastor Higgs baptized several and then asked me to assist.

It was the perfect ending to a day focused on missions, beginning with a marvelous missions emphasis in the church's morning worship service and continuing in an afternoon missions fair. Children of the church had marched in carrying flags from around the world. The pastor had introduced the parade by saying: "People from over 100 countries of the world have come to Texas. These flags represent the incredible challenge that has come to all of us who live in Texas. God has trusted these dear

people to our care ... to share the good news of Jesus with every one of them." That day, the church surpassed its Mary Hill Davis Offering goal of \$6,000, and more money was still coming in. Additionally, the church had its largest budget offering for the year, and church members gave more than \$2,000 for benevolence ministries.

trooper_92203

September 19, 2003

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Trooper learns of God's love through crash

TEXARKANA-A tragic accident almost took his life, but now Paul Sigman has a life he considers much richer.

Sigman, 28, had been enjoying a successful, if brief, career as a state trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety. He moved to Texarkana in 2001 after graduating from a police academy and rescued a man from a burning vehicle his first week on the job. That incident, along with his everyday efforts, earned him the title Officer of the Year.



Paul and
Amy Sigman,
with
daughter
Annabelle,
strengthened
their faith in
God through
Sigman's
recovery
from a near-
fatal
automobile
accident.
The state
trooper
quotes a
favorite
author: "You
will never
know God is
all you need
until God is
all you
have."

Last year, Sigman and his wife, Amy, started attending First Baptist Church in Texarkana at the invitation of one of his co-workers.

young_dennis_92203

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Young to be nominated for BGCT second vice president

By Marv Knox

Editor

HOUSTON-Dennis Young, pastor of Missouri City Baptist Church in Missouri City, will be nominated for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall.

sperry_92203

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

NEIL SPERRY: Radio Gardener

Since 1978, gardeners in North Central Texas have gleaned their planting, weeding, spraying and harvesting information from the voice of Neil

Sperry, first over WFAA radio and since 1980 over KRLD on Saturday and Sunday mornings. He also broadcasts daily statewide over the Texas State Radio Network and will be inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in October. His radio show, "Neil Sperry's Gardens Magazine," and a Texas gardening calendar have been judged the best communications of their kind by the Garden Writer's Association of America, and his book, "Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening," has sold more than half a million copies.

A native Texan, Sperry attended Texas A&M University and has two degrees in horticulture from Ohio State University. He taught horticulture in high school two years and was a horticulture specialist with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service. He and his wife, Lynn, have three children. When he is not gardening, he is involved in a variety of hobbies, such as photography, painting Santa Clause figurines and making pens from historic woods of Texas. Proceeds from the sale of the pens go to the McKinney Education Foundation and Serenity High School. The Sperrys are members of the Lutheran Church.



Neil
Sperry
displays an
assortment
of the pens
he has
made from
the
historic
woods of
Texas.
Among
them are
pens made
from the
Treaty Oak
in Austin,
a live oak
at the
Alamo and
from a bat
used by
Rafael
Palmeiro.

Q.

You speak of your father often on your radio program. I know he was a major influence in your career choice, but was there an event or events that solidified the decision?

music_pirates_90803

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

Does your church harbor pirates?

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Pirates not only have ruled the Caribbean at the box office this summer, they've continued to ravage the music industry, including the Christian music industry.

Christian Music Business

- [Does your church harbor pirates?](#)
 - [Ministers suspected among best-known music pirates](#)
 - [Christian contemporary music: business or ministry?](#)
- [Destination Known charts a course](#)

letters_90803

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Judicial activism

I've noticed in the media coverage of Judge Roy Moore's Ten Commandments travail in Alabama a constitutional "sleight of hand" being performed by pundits before an unsuspecting public.

Those opposed to the judge's display of the Ten Commandments have cleverly substituted the phrase "state endorsement of religion" for "state establishment of religion." Moore's 5,000-pound monument represents the "endorsement of a specific religion" we are told.

E-mail the editor at

marvknox@baptiststandard.com
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So what? Nothing in the Constitution prohibits the government from endorsing, preferring or even supporting with tax dollars a particular religion, just as President Thomas Jefferson-the father of the phrase "separation of church and state"-did when he requested funds from Congress to support Christian missionaries to the Kaskaskia Indians.

tidbits_90803

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

Texas Tidbits

HBTS alumni reunion planned. Alumni, faculty, and staff of Hispanic Baptist Theological School will join in a reunion event Oct. 3-4. The event will begin with dinner on the Riverwalk in San Antonio Friday night before a day of activities Saturday. Current students are organizing an international fair, decorating booths and cooking food from their countries of origin. Alumni will have opportunities to take their best shots at staff in a dunking booth. To RSVP, call HBTS (210) 924-4338 or email rayala@hbts.edu.



Jim Wilkinson

♦ **Baylor honors former military spokesman.** Jim Wilkinson, who served the last 10 months as director of strategic communications for Gen. Tommy Franks at U.S. Central Command, received the 2003 Baylor Communications Award Aug. 25. The award recognizes those who have

distinguished themselves in the field of communications and in their communities. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Wilkinson served as Gen. Franks' principal spokesman. In addition to a number of other roles within the Republican Party, Wilkinson served as a spokesman for George W. Bush during the Florida recount. From 1992 to 2000, he worked for U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey. The Waco Tribune-Herald reported that Baylor President Robert Sloan recently offered Wilkinson a position as vice president for university relations. Instead, however, Wilkinson accepted a new role as communications director for the 2004 Republican National Convention. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and Johns Hopkins University.

♦ **UMHB receives grant.** The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has received a \$200,000 grant from the Thomas Kinder and Martha Farris Foundation of Floydada for the Mayborn Campus Center. Martha White Farris is a 1942 graduate of the university. She served as honorary chair of the university's "Challenge Beyond 2000" campaign that raised \$17 million.

cartoon_90803

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[See second cartoon here.](#)

"After 20 years in the ministry, I don't know if my sermons are any better, but my resignation letter is without equal."



"I understand you don't like my ponytail, Mrs. Tidwell, but there are more inflammatory issues at hand."

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.