

Houston flooding sweeps ministry's residents into sudden evacuation_120803

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Waist-deep floodwaters made it difficult for residents of Gracewood, a Baptist General Convention of Texas ministry in Houston, to leave the property as more water surged in. TBM volunteers (right) responded to help repair water damage.

Houston flooding sweeps ministry's residents into sudden evacuation

HOUSTON-November flood waters threatened the single mothers and their children taking refuge at the Gracewood ministry of Texas Baptist Children's Home & Family Services.

But Texas Baptist Men came to the rescue the next day, as workers began surveying the extensive damage.

With little warning, rising floodwater blanketed the Gracewood campus in Houston.

Friendly families sought to host international students at holidays_120803

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Friendly families sought to host international students at holidays

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS-Dallas-area families looking for a cultural exchange this holiday season will find just that through the Friendship International House program at Dallas Baptist University.

Texas Baptist Forum_120803

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Alcohol & stumbling

At the recent Lubbock convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas adopted a resolution calling for Texas Baptists and others to “take positive steps toward the reduction of alcohol use and abuse in our communities ...
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At best, a Christian's public drinking is a stumbling block to other believers and waters down the witness of the individual, as well as the church and denomination represented. Normally, alcohol contributes to the denigration of families and, many times, to the deaths of persons through vehicle accidents, violent crime and disease.

Not all Texas or Southern Baptists agree alcohol is a spiritual and societal evil to be avoided, though it's incorporated into the church covenant embraced and displayed by many of our churches. But one would expect that our visible Baptist leaders should and would lead the way in setting the public abstinence example.

Marriage amendment proposed in U.S. Congress_120803

December 5, 2003

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Marriage amendment proposed in U.S. Congress

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The United States Senate has become the latest battlefield in the ongoing culture war over gay marriage. A quintet of conservative Republican senators introduced the Federal Marriage Amendment Nov. 25, shortly before senators adjourned for their holiday break.

Missouri president bans

newspaper from convention events_120803

December 5, 2003

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Missouri president bans newspaper from convention events

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)-In a move unprecedented in Southern Baptist circles, a state convention president will attempt to bar a Baptist publication in Missouri from attending or reporting on state Baptist meetings.

David Tolliver, recently elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, informed the editor of the Word & Way that the staff of the 107-year-old news journal no longer will be allowed to attend convention meetings, including Executive Board sessions and committee meetings. Tolliver also will attempt to bar Word & Way from the convention's annual meetings, events frequently attended by secular media.

In a Nov. 19 letter to Editor Bill Webb, Tolliver explained that his "directive" is a result of the action the Word & Way and four other convention agencies took to establish self-perpetuating trustee boards.

‘Nones’ aren’t the loneliest number when it comes to religion_120803

December 5, 2003

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'Nones' aren't the loneliest number when it comes to religion

By Mark O'Keefe

Religion News Service

PORTLAND, Ore. (RNS)—Their numbers have more than doubled in a decade, to nearly 30 million. Organized as a religious denomination, they would trail only Catholics and Baptists in members.

On the Move_120803

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On the Move

Scott Arant to First Church in Bloomington as pastor.

✕ **Roy Fish** to First Church in Center as interim pastor.

✕ **David Forshee** to Blue Ridge Church in Marlin as pastor.

Theological society won't oust two 'open theists'_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Theological society won't oust two 'open theists'

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

ATLANTA (RNS)—The Evangelical Theological Society voted last month to retain two members whose status had been challenged after they published controversial views supporting open theism—the belief that God may not always know the future.

Must states recognize same-sex marriage?_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Must states recognize same-sex marriage?

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Will the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage lead to gay marriage in all 50 states?

Grand Prairie sewing ministry mends broken hearts, covers

fragile lives_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Grand Prairie sewing ministry mends broken hearts, covers fragile lives

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GRAND PRAIRIE-The women of Fairview Baptist Church handcraft gifts of love for people who need a unique kind of shelter.

Can tax-funded church schools discriminate?_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Can tax-funded church schools discriminate?

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-If a church-run school takes public money in the form of vouchers, can it expel gay students on moral grounds?

Conservatives fail to gain ground in Tennessee_120803

December 5, 2003

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Conservatives fail to gain ground in Tennessee

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP)-Several attempts to place more conservatives in leadership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its institutions failed during the convention's annual meeting.

The convention's 1,905 messengers also adopted resolutions supporting the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment and the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. A 2003-04 budget of \$35.55 million was adopted, which is 4.4 percent less than the current budget. The Southern Baptist Convention will receive 37.5 percent of undesignated funds, while 62.5 percent will finance the state convention's ministries.

Led by a group called Concerned Tennessee Baptists, conservatives offered seven substitute nominees to those presented for election by convention

committees. All seven nominations from the floor failed.