

# **Freedom panel recommends 11 nations for sanctions\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/27/04

## **Freedom panel recommends 11 nations for sanctions**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A federal panel charged with monitoring global religious freedom conditions has picked 11 countries as the world's worst violators of that basic human right.

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## **ABC, CBF in on formation of new ecumenical effort\_22304**

February 27, 2004

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# **ABC, CBF in on formation of new ecumenical effort**

**By John Pierce**

*Baptists Today*

ATLANTA (ABP)—Leaders of the American Baptist Churches in the USA and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship say they are excited about potential opportunities for formal dialogue with other U.S. Christians, including Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Evangelicals and Pentecostals.

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## **BWA committee shares blame for SBC pull-out, member says\_22304**

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## **BWA committee shares blame for SBC pull-out, member says**

**By John Pierce**

*Baptists Today*

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Baptist historian Albert Wardin, a member of the Baptist World Alliance membership committee that recommended including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the worldwide group, said blame for the reaction from Southern Baptist leaders can be placed on several shoulders.

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## **Bush again circumvents Senate; appoints Pryor federal judge\_22304**

February 27, 2004

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## **Bush again circumvents Senate; appoints Pryor federal judge**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—For the second time, President Bush has used a special administrative maneuver to install a controversial nominee to a federal court.

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# **Needle and thread become tools for ministry at First Baptist Church, Plano\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/25/04

## **Needle and thread become tools for ministry at First Baptist Church, Plano**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

PLANO—Needle and thread can be prime tools for ministry, Margaret Shafer believes. And she is teaching women both inside and outside her church to use them.

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Randy Bissell: A passionate appeal\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': A passionate appeal**

**By Randy Bissell**

I would like to explain to fellow Christians why I am hesitant about seeing the long-anticipated Mel Gibson-produced movie about Christ's death, "The Passion of the Christ."

Please understand that it is not my intention to persuade any other Christian to see or not to see the film. I have no agenda for encouraging a boycott the movie. I am simply asking myself if it is a film that I ought to see. To that end, I have begun questioning what my fellow Christians may be seeking or anticipating from this cinematic experience.

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**Don't the gospels  
tell us enough  
about what  
happened to  
Jesus?  
—Randy Bissell**

Commentaries:

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- [Erich Bridges: Envyng Mel Gibson](#)
- [David Gushee: Passions and 'The Passion'](#)
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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Erich Bridges: Envyng Mel Gibson\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': Envyng Mel Gibson**

**By Erich Bridges**

Evangelical Christians are so excited about "The Passion of the Christ" they're almost selling popcorn in the vestibule.

They're definitely screening church-tailored clips of the movie in the sanctuary. My church has shown two promotional trailers. Like many other church groups, our youth and their parents plan to attend the movie and invite non-Christian friends.

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by David Gushee: Passions and 'The Passion'\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': Passions and "The Passion"**

**By David Gushee**

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" is finally set to hit the theaters.

Passions about "The Passion" are running high. Some Christians consider this the most important movie ever and are planning to bring everyone they know. Others, especially Jewish leaders, consider it a dangerous incitement to anti-Semitism. I want to sift through the passions and provide some guidance to those considering seeing the film.

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Keith D. Herron: An unethical evangelism\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': An unethical evangelism: one pastor's perspective**

**By Keith Herron**

This is the week "The Passion of the Christ" will be unleashed on the world, and the opening of Mel Gibson's film on the brutal crucifixion of Christ does not bode well for the church.

Evangelical churches have been buying mind-boggling numbers of tickets and booking whole theaters for weeks now in a feeding frenzy that staggers the mind.

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**Manipulating  
people in a  
moment of  
emotional  
distress is not  
evangelism.  
—Keith D. Herron**

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Mariane Holbrook: We don't weep**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': We don't weep enough**

**By Mariane Holbrook**

I've never owned, nor would I wear a gold cross. Or one with diamonds or rubies or other precious stones. I submit that all costume jewelry crosses should be made of rough, unfinished wood, with splinters that pierce the flesh and disturb the soul.

I have seen obscenely large gold crosses hanging from the necks of ungodly rock stars and Hollywood celebrities who have no right to wear this precious symbol. I have seen crosses dangling from the ears of brazen, scantily clad dancers and singers who bring shame on the very One who hung on that cross for their sins.

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**On Good Friday, I  
hope to spend  
some time alone  
in a secluded  
spot where I can  
reflect upon  
Christ's  
unbelievable  
suffering.  
—Mariane  
Holbrook**

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Jon Walker: A master storyteller presents a crucified**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': A master storyteller presents a crucified Christ**

**By Jon Walker**

Hollywood is notorious for typecasting, but the truth is we all typecast in some form or another, consciously or unconsciously putting people into little boxes and then insisting they stay there.

And perhaps that is why, when I heard Mel Gibson was making a film about the crucifixion, I immediately formed an image of Mad Max on the Via Dolorosa. My standard joke became, "Danny Glover and Mel Gibson arrive at the end of the movie to rescue Jesus from the Cross."

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**Perhaps Gibson's  
gritty, bloody  
film will usher in  
a new age, where  
the church  
returns to  
supporting  
artistic  
expression as a  
means of telling  
the old, old story.  
—Jon Walker**

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# **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' by Dennis R. Wiles: Who killed Jesus?\_22304**

February 27, 2004

Posted: 2/24/04

## **COMMENTARIES ON 'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST': Who killed Jesus?**

**By Dennis R. Wiles**

Jesus made the cover of Newsweek again. The February 16 edition has a picture of James Caviezel portraying Jesus in the upcoming movie The Passion of the Christ donning its cover. The cover story bears the headline, "Who Really Killed Jesus?"

I read this article by award-winning author Jon Meacham. It is such a biased article that plays loose with the facts that I have to respond to it. This article (and several others) is representative of the anti-Christian perspective that often characterizes the mainstream media. I like Newsweek and have subscribed to it for years—but Meacham's words have to be countered in this instance.

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**The Gospel is not  
anti-Semitic. It is  
the antidote to  
sin! While a  
Jewish court  
convicted Jesus  
and a Roman one  
condemned Him,  
my sin kept him  
on the cross. He  
died for us and  
because of us.**

**— Dennis R.  
Wiles**

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