

New Secretary of State probably won't impact religious freedom policy_112904

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

New Secretary of State probably won't impact religious freedom policy

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)— President Bush's choice of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to replace Secretary of State Colin Powell may not mean much change in the United States' foreign policy regarding religious-freedom issues, experts on the subject maintained.

Stem cell research, gay marriage opposed by Louisiana

Baptist messengers_112904

November 23, 2004

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Stem cell research, gay marriage opposed by Louisiana Baptist messengers

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP)—Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention approved eight resolutions without discussion—including statements against embryonic stem-cell research, gay marriage and homosexuality—during the closing session of their annual meeting, even though leaders acknowledged a quorum may not have been present.

Louisiana Baptists urged an end to all funding—public and private—for embryonic stem-cell research, diverting it instead to adult stem-cell research. The statement notes embryonic stem-cell research requires human embryos be destroyed, which it declares "morally equivalent to murder."

Messengers declared support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would define marriage as only between a man and a woman. The Federal Marriage Amendment, they said, is needed to offset the push to legalize same-sex marriages in the country.

New Orleans trustees take step toward 'sole membership' compliance_112904

November 23, 2004

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New Orleans trustees take step toward 'sole membership' compliance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary attorney Don Richard recently issued a letter to Southern Baptist Convention attorneys, providing documentation about sole membership language approved by seminary trustees during a closed executive session in mid-October.

Previously, the exact nature of the actions taken in the closed session was unclear, even though the trustees publicly released two motions they had approved.

The news is significant, observers noted, because it signals the seminary's compliance with the request by SBC messengers at the 2004 annual meeting that the seminary adopt sole membership at its October board meeting by amending the seminary's charter.

New Senate leaders cut across political assumptions_112904

November 23, 2004

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New Senate leaders cut across political assumptions

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Senate Democrats, whose party officially supports abortion rights, have elected an abortion opponent as their leader. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans, whose party officially opposes abortion, appear ready to name a rare pro-choice senator as chair of one of the Senate's most powerful committees.

Denton church invites International students over for Thanksgiving dinner_112904

November 23, 2004

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International
students
from the
University of
North Texas
gathered at
First Baptist
Church in
Denton for a
Thanksgiving
celebration
of food,
fellowship
and prayer

Denton church invites International students over for Thanksgiving dinner

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DENTON -Thanksgiving and Christmas are about more than turkey and dressing for some members of First Baptist Church in Denton.

Protestant ministers cite divorce, negative media influences and materialism as common threats to fa

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/19/04

Protestant ministers cite divorce, negative media influences and materialism as common threats to family, research says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Divorce, negative influences from the media and materialism are among the most common threats to the family cited by Protestant ministers in a recent study.

Ellison Research, a full-service marketing research firm in Phoenix that conducted the research for LifeWay Christian Resources' Facts & Trends magazine, reported divorce was listed as one of the top three concerns by 43 percent of all ministers surveyed, while 38 percent cited the media as a key issue they need to guard families in their communities against and 36 percent said materialism.

Other matters of concern included absentee fathers, cited by 24 percent of respondents, and families that lack a stay-at-home parent, noted by 22 percent of ministers.

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issue in
our poll.](#)

Woman won't rest until every orphan has a clean bed_110804

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Residents of
Moldovan
orphanages
are getting a
chance to
learn a trade
by making
beds thanks to
Sweet Sleep,
an
organization
that partners
with Houston-
based
Christian
Emergency
Relief,
International,
the overseas
outreach of
BGCT's
Baptist Child
& Family
Services.

Woman won't rest until every orphan has a clean bed

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

HOUSTON-Jen Gash wondered if God brought her halfway around the world—from Nashville, Tenn., to Chisinau, Moldova—just to break her heart.

Storylist for 11/15 issue_111504

November 23, 2004

Storylist for 11/15/04 issue

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Fellowships seek to match passion for the outdoors with love for Christ_112204

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/19/04

Fellowships seek to match passion for the outdoors with love for Christ

By Cheryl Sloan Wray

Alabama Baptist

HELENA, Ala. (ABP)-In the South, where devotion to hunting can approach a religion, several organizations are trying to match the passion hunters and fishermen feel for the outdoors with a passion for Christ.

Arkansas Baptists endorse Federal Marriage Amendment, oppose gambling_112204

November 23, 2004

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Arkansas Baptists endorse Federal Marriage Amendment, oppose gambling

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (ABP)-Messengers to the 151st annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention endorsed the Federal Marriage Amendment, approved a \$19.7 million budget and re-elected a slate of

officers.

The marriage resolution expressed gratitude for adoption of the Arkansas Marriage Amendment and supported a similar amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Other resolutions opposed expansion of gambling in Arkansas, supported sanctity of life and a pro-life agenda, and expressed gratitude for the 25th anniversary of the “conservative resurgence” in Southern Baptist life.

Around the State_112204

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Around the State

Clay Shelton has been named director of recreation at Hardin-Simmons University.

♦ **Ray Martin** received the Honorary Alumni Award at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's homecoming activities. Honorary alumni memberships are given to individuals who have shown love and loyalty to the university but are not former students or graduates. Martin came to the school in 1987 as dean of men and assistant women's basketball coach. Since then, he also has been volleyball coach, dean of students and coach of the first-ever six-man football team at UMHB. He also is minister of music at First Church in Moody.

♦ Six individuals received Herbert H. Reynolds Awards for exemplary service during Baylor University's homecoming festivities. Honored were **Thomas** and **Emilyne Anding**, **Rufus Spain**, **Lois Sutton**, **James Wood** and, posthumously, **Ray Wilson**.



Wellborn Church in Wellborn has broken ground on the first phase of a four-phase plan. The first phase will include a worship center and education and office space. Construction should be concluded next spring. Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony were Ken Gleghorn, chairperson of the building team; John David Boyle, pastor; and Paul Sanders, chairperson of the United We Build fundraising team.

Nomination for attorney general draws mixed reviews_112204

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/19/04

Nomination for attorney general draws mixed reviews

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Socially conservative groups have expressed support-and civil-liberties groups have expressed concern-over President Bush's selection of Alberto Gonzales to replace John Ashcroft as attorney general.