

# **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.

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## **Stem cell research, gay marriage opposed by Louisiana**

# **Baptist messengers\_112904**

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **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.

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# **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.

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# **New Senate leaders cut across political assumptions\_112904**

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **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.

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## **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.

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# **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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# 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.

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# Storylist for 11/15 issue\_111504

November 23, 2004

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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.

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## **Arkansas Baptists endorse Federal Marriage Amendment, oppose gambling\_112204**

November 23, 2004

Posted: 11/19/04

## **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.

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## Around the State\_112204

November 23, 2004

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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.

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# **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.