

Pledge to 'one nation under God' spurs debate_20904

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Pledge to 'one nation under God' spurs debate

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is at the head of a long line of individuals and organizations urging the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the Pledge of Allegiance constitutional.

Analysts debate meaning, existence of voters' 'religion gap'_20904

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Analysts debate meaning, existence of voters' 'religion gap'

By William Bole

Religion News Service

(RNS)—One sign of how religion is factoring in presidential politics is that on the eve of the Jan. 19 Iowa caucuses, Democratic candidate Howard Dean was not in Iowa.

Let Christians become society's key storytellers, Seay says_20904

February 6, 2004

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Let Christians become society's key storytellers, Seay says

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

RICHARDSON—Christians reflect the Creator, and it's time for them to

claim their place as the primary storytellers in today's culture, a postmodern pastor told the Texas Evangelism and Missions Conference.

Spiritual issues of interest to college students more than profs, study says_20904

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Spiritual issues of interest to college students more than profs, study says

LOS ANGELES (ABP)—Most American college students are more interested in discussing spiritual matters than are their professors, preliminary results from a massive nationwide study suggest.

Late last year, researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles' Higher Education Research Institute released results from the third year of a four-year study. The study has tracked the spiritual activities and attitudes of 3,680 undergraduate students at 46 colleges and universities across the United States since they enrolled in the schools as freshmen in 2000.

The preliminary results show that while more than two-thirds of the students “demonstrate a substantial level of religious engagement and

commitment,” only 8 percent of the students reported their professors encouraged classroom discussion of spiritual matters.

Houston's Super Bowl visitors hear the gospel_20904

February 6, 2004

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Houston's Super Bowl visitors hear the gospel

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

HOUSTON-In the shadow of the grand Super Bowl extravaganza, Texas Inner City Evangelism team members found small actions can have the greatest impact.

Houston-area Baptists score big with Super Bowl outreach_20904

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A child
looks on a
"M.T.
Head" and
"Sweet P."
make a
balloon dog
for him
during a
sports
carnival at
Cloverleaf
Baptist
Church,
near
Houston.
The sports
carnival
was one of
many
evangelistic
events
planned in
conjunction
with the
Super
Bowl. (John
Hall
Photos)

Houston-area Baptists score big with Super Bowl outreach

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

HOUSTON The Super Bowl has spring-boarded many athletes to international fame. Texas Baptists used the event to point people to something more important.

Texas Baptist Men show Christian love to Iranian refugees in tent city_20904

February 6, 2004

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Texas Baptist Men show Christian love to Iranian refugees in tent city

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

From hurricanes in Latin America to famines in Africa and Asia, Texas

Baptist Men volunteers have been some of the first responders among faith-based disaster relief providers over the last three decades.

Smith nominated as TBM director after serving as long-term interim_20904

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Smith nominated as TBM director after serving as long-term interim

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Texas Baptist Men's personnel search committee will nominate interim director Leo Smith as the organization's executive director when the TBM board of directors meets Feb. 27 at Latham Springs Baptist Encampment.

Texas Tidbits_20904

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Texas Tidbits

Brueggemann to lecture at Truett. Old Testament scholar and noted author Walter Brueggemann will present the Parchman Lecture series March 9-11 at Truett Theological Seminary in Waco. His lectures will be presented at 3 p.m. daily in the seminary chapel and are open to the public. For more information, contact Roger Olson at (254) 710-6654.

Joel Gregory

Gregory and Seay share pulpit at Wayland. Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, and Chris Seay, pastor of Ecclesia Community in Houston, will headline the 83rd annual Panhandle Pastors' and Laymen's Conference, Feb. 23-24 at Wayland Baptist University. Gregory will lead the conference Bible study, focusing on restoration and reconciliation. Seay will preach on bridging the generations in the church. A special session for Hispanic pastors and laymen will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 23 in Brown Chapel on the Wayland campus. Al Guajardo, president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, will speak. For more information on the conference, call (806) 291-1165.

UMHB schedules retirement seminar. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will co-sponsor an investment and retirement seminar for ministers Feb. 26 in the Mabee Student Center on the UMHB campus. For more information,

contact the church relations office at UMHB at (254) 295-4620 or email wmuske@umhb.edu.

Together: Repentance offers sin's only remedy_20904

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TOGETHER: Repentance offers sin's only remedy

Worshipping the past few weeks in an African-American church in Missouri City, a Hispanic church in north Houston and an Anglo church in Seagoville, I have experienced both the joy and the seriousness of worship. God is good all the time. I cherish what I see him doing in the lives of Texas Baptists.

When we worship, we offer ourselves heart and soul to God. Everything in us is touched when we enter fully into his presence.

One often-neglected part of worship is the call to confess our sin before God that we might be forgiven and renewed.

CHARLES WADE Executive Director BGCT Executive Board
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West Texas children's choir warms up to idea of making a difference_20904

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West Texas children's choir warms up to idea of making a difference

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

VALERA-The weather may be cold, but some West Texans are staying warm because of a children's choir that set out to make a difference in its community.

State Department names chief violators of religious liberty worldwide_20904

February 6, 2004

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State Department names chief violators of religious liberty worldwide

By Rob Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The State Department's annual report on the status of religious freedom across the globe includes some familiar faces among its chief offenders.