

Debate over academic freedom rages at Louisiana College_112204

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Debate over academic freedom rages at Louisiana College

By Bruce Nolan

Religion News Service

PINEVILLE, La. (RNS)-With its neat red-brick buildings and green, impeccably groomed campus, Louisiana College, a small liberal arts institution owned by Louisiana's Southern Baptists, does not look like a tense, unhappy battleground. But it is.

Texas-based MercyMe receives American Music Awards

honors_112204

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MercyMe accepts an American Music Awards trophy.
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Texas-based MercyMe receives American Music Awards honors

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)-The Texas-based Christian music group MercyMe was honored as the winner of the inspirational category at the American Music Awards.

Texas Baptist mission trips to Mexico increase 25 percent with 620 groups_112204

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Texas volunteers lead an outreach activity for children along the Texas/Mexico border. More than 70 mission teams served more than 18,500 people in Texas colonias during the past year through BGCT River Ministry.

Texas Baptist mission trips to Mexico increase 25 percent with 620 groups

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Texas Baptist mission trips to Mexico through the Baptist General Convention of Texas River Ministry shot up more than 25 percent in the past year, including an increase in churches looking to serve in the nation's interior.

Mississippi Baptists elect first Hispanic officer_112204

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Mississippi Baptists elect first Hispanic officer, avoid effort to make 2000 Baptist Faith & Message official doctrinal statement

JACKSON, Miss. (ABP)-For the first time in its 169-year history, the Mississippi Baptist Convention elected a Hispanic as an officer.

Messengers also threw their support behind state and national bans on gay marriage.

Joel Medina, bivocational pastor of Iglesia Internacional Las Americas in Carthage, was elected second vice president without opposition.

Joel Medina (Mississippi Baptist Record Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Missouri Baptist Convention moves toward tightening its membership requirements_112204

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Missouri Baptist Convention moves toward tightening its membership requirements

RAYTOWN, Mo. (ABP)—The fundamentalist-oriented Missouri Baptist Convention took the first step toward limiting membership to “Southern Baptist” churches and excluding churches that support moderate organizations, including the state and national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist General Convention of Missouri.

Messengers to the convention's annual meeting agreed to vote next year on four constitutional changes that would tighten requirements for MBC membership. Membership would be open only to churches identified as “Southern Baptist” and affiliated solely with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

If approved, the changes would exclude congregations that support both the traditional Missouri Baptist Convention and the newer alternative state convention established by moderates. Likewise, congregations that support the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would not be allowed to participate.

Nigeria offers evangelistic door

to reaching rest of Africa, national Baptist leader says_112204

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Nigeria offers evangelistic door to reaching rest of Africa, national Baptist leader says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The evangelistic “door” to Africa is waiting for Texas Baptists to help turn the knob and open it, a Nigerian Baptist leader insists.

North Carolina Baptists retain

multiple giving options_112204

November 19, 2004

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North Carolina Baptists retain multiple giving options

By Steve DeVane

N.C. Biblical Recorder

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)-Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted to keep the convention's four giving plans. But a move to eliminate the plan favored by moderates still looms as a possibility.

On the Move_112204

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On the Move

Scott Ayres to First United Methodist Church in Sugar Land as recreation minister from Eastwood Church in Gatesville, where he was minister of youth.

- ♦ **David Bonnet** to First Church in Ewant as pastor.
 - ♦ **Brian Branum** to River Road Church in Amarillo as music director.
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Distance no barrier for churches in partnership_112204

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Distance no barrier for churches in partnership

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

When a pair of missions-minded Baptist churches decided to help each other expand their ministries, they were not going to let a little barrier like 1,800 miles stand in their way.

Abilene's Pioneer Drive Primetimers find joy in serving others_112204

November 19, 2004

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Abilene's Pioneer Drive Primetimers find joy in serving others

By George Henson

Staff Writer

ABILENE-Senior adults involved in the Primetimers ministry of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene are using the prime time of their lives to serve other people.

Religious Right opposes pro-choice Republican as Senate committee chair_112204

November 19, 2004

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Religious Right opposes pro-choice Republican as Senate committee chair

By **Robert Marus**

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Religious conservatives are raising loud objections to the elevation of a pro-choice Republican to the chairmanship of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee.

SUDAN: 'Falls the shadow'_112204

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<p>Displaced Sudanese children rest on the ground in the Otach camp in Sudan's Darfur region. (REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly Photo)</p>
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SUDAN: 'Falls the shadow'

By David E. Anderson

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Sudan's government and rebel groups in the nation's troubled Darfur region, under political pressure from a United Nations Security Council meeting in Kenya, signed something of a peace agreement.