

Same-sex marriage bans hit obstacles_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

Same-sex marriage bans hit obstacles

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—An elections panel in Michigan and a state judge in Louisiana have presented obstacles to same-sex marriage bans in those states.

Stadiums become sacred space for some megachurches_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

Stadiums become sacred space for

some megachurches

By Bob Smietana

Religion News Service

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (RNS)- Stop by a typical church on a weekday night, and you might find an Alcoholics Anonymous group or Boy Scout troop meeting there. At Faithful Central Bible Church, you just might find Madonna.

Texas Baptist Men serve in Florida after one storm, await arrival of another_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

Texas Baptist Men serve in Florida after one storm, await arrival of another

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BARTOW, Fla.-Long after the rain caused by Hurricane Charley stopped, Texas Baptist Men quietly continued meeting needs in the wake of the storm that blasted the Western Florida coast in mid-August. And they prepared for the arrival of Hurricane Frances.

Agency relies on churches to connect poor to state aid programs_90604

September 3, 2004

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Agency relies on churches to connect poor to state aid programs

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN-A Texas state agency has assigned a job to churches-help connect needy people to governmental assistance programs.

Texas Tidbits_90604

September 3, 2004

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Texas Tidbits

American Family Association honors Sloan. The American Family Association presented its highest award to Baylor University President Robert Sloan for "exceptional and devoted leadership to God and country." Tim Wildmon, president of the association, made the presentation, which was carried live on more than 200 American Family Radio affiliates nationwide. Wildmon was at Baylor for a news conference with Christian singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman, who will perform a free concert in Waco Sept. 18 at Floyd Casey Stadium. Founded in 1977 by Don Wildmon, the American Family Association is a national Christian organization that focuses primarily on the influence of television and other media on society.

Robert Sloan

Baylor, Hardin-Simmons picked 'best in west.' Baylor University in Waco and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene have been selected by The Princeton Review in the 2005 edition as among the "Best in the West" colleges and universities. They are among 23 Texas schools featured, including 13 private or church-related schools and 10 state schools.

Endowed scholarship named at UMHB. An endowed presidential scholarship at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has been named in memory of Delores Hinton of Temple. She was one of seven people killed in

a bus accident on Feb. 14, 2003, including five members of Memorial Baptist Church in Temple. Hinton-who devoted 20 years to public education as a teacher, counselor and administrator-retired from UMHB in 1991 after 10 years as a professor of education and director of the mid-management graduate program. The scholarship will benefit students preparing for a teaching career.

TOGETHER: Mission statement focuses on 'doing'_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

TOGETHER: Mission statement focuses on 'doing'

What shall we give ourselves to do the next few years in the Baptist General Convention of Texas? For the past five years, we have assisted churches and related ministries to be the presence of Christ in the world. Churches across Texas have asked themselves, "If Jesus came to our town, where would he go, who would he talk to, what questions would he ask, who would he comfort and who would he confront, what would make him cry, what would cause him to laugh?"

When you know the answer to those questions, you have a pretty good idea what the agenda for your church and your life needs to be. Churches begin

to change when they realize they are the continuing presence of Christ in the world. If the church is, as Paul describes it, the body of Christ, then the church is the continuation of the incarnation of God in the world. The church is making visible and tangible the reality of Christ Jesus so people can get close, can experience the warmth, can know God. The effectiveness of a church in conveying that truth is dependent on two things—their obedience to God's call and commands as made known in Scripture and their sensitivity and openness to the Holy Spirit.

CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

So, why am I suggesting we craft a new mission statement for the BGCT? Because the current one is more about “who” we are than “what” we are called to do. We need a better description of what we are to do to help churches achieve their goals.

One year after Texas approves tort reform, Baptist hospitals

seeing benefit_90604

substantial

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

One year after Texas approves tort reform, Baptist hospitals seeing substantial benefit

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—About a year after Texas capped the amount plaintiffs could seek from hospitals for pain and suffering, Texas Baptist hospital and retirement-care leaders are singing the reform's praises.

Homeland Security taps Victim Relief Ministries_90604

September 3, 2004

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Victim
Relief
Ministries
chaplains
pause
during a
recent
training
trip to
Israel,
where
they
learned
new ways
of
minimizing
trauma
after
terrorist
attacks.

Homeland Security taps Victim Relief Ministries for lead role

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-Victim Relief Ministries, an interdenominational nonprofit organization related to Texas Baptist Men, will take the lead in mobilizing the country's faith community in the event of a terrorist attack or mass-

casualty crisis.

Church discovers benefits of holistic wellness; sees lives changed through emphasis on health_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

**Church discovers benefits of holistic wellness;
sees lives changed through emphasis on health**

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO-At first glance, The Springs Baptist Church may seem a little like an exercise infomercial.

Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Talent and energy_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

CYBERCOLUMN: Talent and energy

By Berry D. Simpson

When Cyndi and I learned our weekend assignment for Rock the Desert (a Christian concert weekend) was to drive a 16-passenger van carrying Kutless, a Christian rock band from Portland, I looked them up on the Internet and realized, "We don't have enough tattoos to hang out with these guys."

Well, as it turned out, we didn't need tattoos. No matter how much tattooing or piercing or spiky hair or black clothes we might have added, we still would've looked like their parents. And worse, parents trying to look cool.

Storylist_90604

September 3, 2004

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CYBERCOLUMN by Jeanie Miley: TV 'church' & real church_90604

September 3, 2004

Posted: 8/27/04

CYBERCOLUMN: TV 'church' & real church

By Jeanie Miley

I'm not much for flipping through channels, but the other night, on my way to my favorite program, I braked to see a current "star" of televangelism.

The program couldn't have been better choreographed. The sets were striking. The music was upbeat and lively, and the crowd was well-behaved. The preacher was perfectly prepared, and he delivered his message with just the right amount of everything.