

# 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.

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## 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.

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## **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.

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# **Agency relies on churches to connect poor to state aid programs\_90604**

September 3, 2004

Posted: 9/03/04

## **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.

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# 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
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**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.

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## **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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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# **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.

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# **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.

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# 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.