

After 54 years in Nigeria, 'Chief Doctor Mama'_122004

December 17, 2004

Posted: 12/17/04

After 54 years in Nigeria, 'Chief Doctor Mama' retires

By Mark Kelly

International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—When King S.O. Abimola II bestowed an African chief's title on a 56-year-old woman from Texas, young people danced in procession to the palace and hundreds assembled for the ceremony.

Seaman's Center ministry makes global impact, particularly around Christmas_122004

December 17, 2004

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Seaman's Center ministry makes global impact, particularly around Christmas

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

FREEPORT-The Seaman's Center might be able to teach Santa a thing or two.

‘Star of wonder’ still leaves astronomers wondering about its origin_122004

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Some
astronomers
suggest the
Magi
observed a
series of
astrological
portents,
each of
which has
been
individually
suggested
as the Star
of
Bethlehem.

'Star of wonder' still leaves astronomers wondering about its origin

By Margie Wylie

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In Matthew's Gospel, it's the apparition that heralds the birth of Jesus. Today, it features in Christmas trappings from tree toppers to carols to cards. No children's Nativity play is complete without its tinfoil likeness above the storied stable.

Council told new approaches could resolve stem-cell dilemma_122004

December 17, 2004

Posted: 12/17/04

Council told new approaches could resolve stem-cell dilemma

By Kathi Wolfe

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A Stanford University biology professor and two Columbia University physicians told a presidential advisory council new approaches could resolve the thorny ethical problems swirling around embryonic stem cell research.

Texas Tidbits_122004

December 17, 2004

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East Texas
Baptist
University
sophomore
Ashley
Landreth of
Paradise
performs
during
“Christmas in
Marshall: A
Concert of the
Season,” held
at the
Marshall Civic
Center. ETBU
joined the full
choral and
instrumental
forces of the
music
department in
presenting the
concert, co-
sponsored by
the Marshall
Regional Arts
Council and
attended by
about 1,200
area residents
and tourists
visiting the
city’s
“Wonderland
of Lights.”

Texas Tidbits

Dallas pastor on national broadcast. George Mason, pastor at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, will be the featured preacher for three episodes of a national television and radio program. Mason will preach on the "Day 1" program Jan. 16, Feb. 13 and March 27. A television version of "Day 1" is broadcast Sunday mornings on the Hallmark Channel's "America at Worship" series. Formerly known as "The Protestant Hour," the program is produced by the Episcopal Media Center and features preachers from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Mason's church is affiliated with CBF. His first sermon on the program is about identifying and preparing young people for vocations in the church.

BUA offers language immersion classes. The Center for Cultural and Language Studies at Baptist University of the Americas will host a weeklong Spanish language and culture immersion course Feb. 8-12. The course features a mixture of classroom instruction and conversational interaction with BUA students from Latin America. Other experiences include attending a Spanish prayer service at an area Baptist church and field trips to cultural attractions. Cost for the class is \$200, which includes expenses except housing. Texas Baptists are eligible for a \$100 scholarship provided through the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. For a class application or more information, contact Mary Ranjel at BUA by calling (210) 924-4338 ext. 202 or (800) 721-1396 or e-mailing mrangel@bua.edu.

BGCT names Internet developer. Jason Hilliard of Duncanville has been hired as Internet developer for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Hilliard, 25, had been manager of the academic computing lab at Dallas

Baptist University since December 2001. As BGCT Internet developer, Hilliard will develop web templates, pages and applications. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Duncanville.

TOGETHER: Find a place for Jesus in your life_122004

December 17, 2004

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TOGETHER: Find a place for Jesus in your life

"The birth of Jesus is the sunrise of the Bible," Henry Van Dyke said. What a powerful insight. All that came before Jesus was like the reflected light of the moon. God's activity in creation and in the hopes and aspirations of the prophets, though full of beauty, wonder and anticipation, could never match the full glory of the "Light of the world." The inspired songs of the psalmists and the longings of the prophets looked forward to the Messiah as flowers awaken at dawn and turn toward the rising sun.

Consider how Herod missed the joy of Christmas because his heart was filled with fear and jealousy. He refused to let Jesus bring to him the gift of a new life. With implacable hatred, his sin-soaked mind set in motion a plot to kill the boy babies of Bethlehem. Herod was a corrupt, selfish, evil man. How different his life would have been if he had actually made his way to

where the child was, turned his face toward him and worshipped.

Consider how the innkeeper missed out on Christmas because he could think of nothing better to do than send Jesus to the cattle stall. You ask, "What else could he have done?" His inn was full. He could have offered his own room. What gentleman would send an expectant mother to the barn when there was a bed he could have given up?

CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

ANALYSIS: Torture and terrorism_122004

December 17, 2004

Posted: 12/17/04

ANALYSIS: Torture and terrorism

By David Anderson

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-President Bush's nomination of White House counsel Alberto Gonzales to succeed John Ashcroft as attorney general almost certainly will raises issues about the relevance-or irrelevance-of ethical constraints against torture when a nation is engaged in a war on terrorism.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Showing the Way_122004

December 17, 2004

Posted: 12/17/04

CYBERCOLUMN: Showing the Way

By Jeanie Miley

Choosing my holiday turkey carefully, I turned from the freezer to my grocery cart, encountering a beautiful young Asian mother and her two children who were dressed in uniforms from one of the local private schools.

"Excuse me," the mother said. "My children want a turkey dinner. What should I serve with turkey?"

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Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Christmas comes with light_122004

December 17, 2004

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CYBERCOLUMN: Christmas comes with light

By John Duncan

The Presbyterian preacher George Buttrick used to say that Christmas is the time when God “came down the backstairs of heaven lest he blind us by his light.” When Christmas arrived in Bethlehem, no neon light greeted him to announce his coming. The simple light of a star shone over the manger. Christmas comes with light.

C.S. Lewis called Christmas “the grand miracle.” He did so because Christ came in humility and light. Christmas comes with light.

Majority in Baylor faculty referendum vote against Sloan_120604

December 17, 2004

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Majority in Baylor faculty referendum vote against Sloan

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—A majority of Baylor University faculty who voted in a nonbinding referendum on the leadership of President Robert Sloan believe he should be dismissed.

Vote fails to remove antiquated language from Alabama constitution_122004

December 17, 2004

Posted: 12/10/04

Vote fails to remove antiquated language from Alabama constitution

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP)—Antiquated language from the segregationist era will remain in the Alabama Constitution for the time being after an automatic recount determined an attempt to strip it failed.