

Texas Baptist Forum_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Texas Baptist Forum

Gambling battle

The battle to keep our schools free from funding through gambling and other sin taxes is not over!

The Perryman Report claims casino gambling, with 34 licenses issued, would generate \$2.3 billion, with 15 percent going to the state. Can you just imagine the detrimental effects of increased criminal activity, loss of income, needed dollars drained to Las Vegas crime lords and rise in gambling addiction with 34 full-time casinos in Texas? They do not build those things so people can be entertained and win money.

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Of course, casinos must be OK if the members of the Texas Enhancement Group “are not casino owners but are potential investors in projects if gambling is legalized,” which is what group member Barry Keenan told the Baytown Sun. The last time I looked, investors are owners!

On the Move_80904

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On the Move

Steve Bowen has resigned as pastor at First Church in Bloomburg.

- ♦ **Donnie Brown** to First Church in Olton as interim pastor.
 - ♦ **Paul Carter** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Lucas.
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Operation Multiplication strategy builds on Jesus' discipleship model_80905

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Operation Multiplication strategy builds on Jesus' discipleship model

By Mary Crouch

BGCT Summer Intern

SAN ANTONIO-Jesus made disciples one at a time. If it was his technique, San Antonio-area Baptist leaders feel it's the best for them as well.

Three Russian orphans still need parents_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Three Russian orphans still need parents



Anastasya, 13 Nicknamed "Nastya," she was born in October 1990 in Leningrad. A talented performer, singer and dancer, she likes fruits, potatoes, spaghetti, cheese and beef. During the Angels from Abroad trip, she said she enjoyed her host family and their children, learning how to operate a washer and dryer, and swimming.	Galina, 10 Born in St. Petersburg, "Galya" also is a talented performer who likes cheese, bananas, apples, chicken and potatoes. Her orphanage caregivers describe her as "merry and sociable" and her favorite things about her Angels visit were her host family, their children and dog and "playing outside."	Sergey, 13 A St. Petersburg native, Sergey has an "amazing voice" and his caregivers describe him as a "happy, social and responsible" boy who likes fruits, cheese and sweets. He especially enjoyed seeing all the tall buildings in Dallas and going to a Texas Rangers baseball game.
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DALLAS-Nearly two months following their visit to North Texas, three Buckner "angels from abroad"-orphan children from St. Petersburg, Russia-have yet to be matched with prospective parents in the United States.

The three were among 18 orphans who traveled to the United States for a

two-week stay sponsored by Buckner Orphan Care International as part of its Angels from Abroad initiative. The children stayed with volunteer host families in North Texas.

The Angels from Abroad trip was planned to “raise awareness about the needs of older children living in Russian orphanages and Buckner Orphan Care International's programs to improve their lives,” said Tiffany Taylor of Buckner.

Associations help pregnant women in need, one at a time_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Associations help pregnant women in need, one at a time

By Janelle Bagci

BGCT Summer Intern

Dallas and San Antonio Baptist associations are working together to help struggling pregnant women, one family at a time.

Study reveals Protestants becoming minority religious group within U.S._80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Study reveals Protestants becoming minority religious group within U.S.

By Jonah D. King

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Protestants could cease to be the majority religious group in the United States within the next year, and their numbers already may have dipped below 50 percent, a new study by the National Opinion Research Center says.

Religious students' politics

cross lines_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Religious students' politics cross lines

By Jonah D. King

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Strongly religious college students have conservative views on sex, abortion, gay rights and drugs, but more liberal views on gun control and the death penalty, a new study says.

Texas Tidbits_80904

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Texas Tidbits

Carroll Institute starts classes. The B.H. Carroll Theological Institute started its first fall semester Aug. 2, offering 30 courses at churches in the Houston, San Antonio, Bryan-College Station, Dallas-Fort Worth areas. The schedule features two eight-week terms in the fall-Alpha running from Aug. 2 to Sept. 25, and Emmanuel from Sept. 27 to Nov. 20. Beginning Aug. 30, the institute also will offer seven on-line, on-demand courses. The

curriculum is divided into four learning clusters: Scripture and witness, faith and heritage, ministry and formation, and worship and mission. For registration and enrollment information, visit www.bhcti.org; phone (817) 274-4284; e-mail admin@bhcti.org; or mail to 120 E. Abram St., Arlington 76010.

Baylor regents approve graduate programs. Baylor University regents have approved new graduate programs in exercise, nutrition and preventive health; theological studies; and engineering. The department of health, human performance and recreation in Baylor's School of Education will offer a doctor of philosophy program in exercise, nutrition and preventive health—one of the first such multidisciplinary doctoral programs in the United States. Regents also approved a master of theological studies degree at Truett Theological Seminary. The graduate program will provide a basic foundation in biblical and theological disciplines, while allowing students to combine theological studies with other Baylor graduate degrees in social work, music, education, business administration and law. Baylor's engineering department will offer eight joint bachelor's/master's degree programs in electrical, computer, biomedical and mechanical engineering.

Incomplete annuals mailed. The Baptist General Convention of Texas began mailing copies of the 2003 BGCT Annual to churches last week before staff discovered 48 pages were missing from some of the books. The printer left out pages 186-234 in about 10 percent of the annuals, said Rand Jenkins, director of BGCT's creative services office. The missing pages include statistical information about BGCT institutions. Churches that receive an incomplete annual should contact Shirley Smith via e-mail at ssmith@bgct.org and a new one will be sent to them.

TOGETHER: BWA blesses Baptists from Texas_80904

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TOGETHER: BWA blesses Baptists from Texas

We had breakfast in Seoul, South Korea, with a Baptist missionary from Nagaland who serves in Cambodia. His bright smile and winsome personality blessed us as we talked about mission strategy and rejoiced in the work of our Baptist family around the world.

I learned 90 percent of the population in Nagaland—a province of India—is Christian, and almost all the Christians are Baptists. When American and Canadian Baptists first came to the area in the late 19th century, they reached the tribes by starting schools and caring for the people. The tribesmen were headhunters who counted severed heads as trophies of their dominance. But they no longer are warlike people. Their hearts have found their place in the love of God and gospel of Christ. Now these self-supporting Baptist churches send missionaries to people in other parts of the world. The Nagaland Baptist Church Council is one of 211 Baptist conventions that work in cooperation with the Baptist World Alliance.

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The Korea Baptist Convention is another. BWA President Billy Kim, the founding pastor of the 20,000-member Central Baptist Church of Suwon, is “Mr. Baptist” in Korea. He translated for Billy Graham in a great Korean crusade in the '70s, and he knows and encourages many of his nation's spiritual, business and political leaders.

Welfare overhaul needed, group says_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Welfare overhaul needed, group says

By Kevin Eckstrom

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-A coalition of Christian and Jewish groups urged

Congress to stop keeping welfare alive with temporary extensions and instead move to a long-term overhaul of the program.

Mission Arlington nurtures, trains next generation of missionaries_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Mission Arlington nurtures, trains next generation of missionaries

By Sarah Farris

BGCT Summer Intern

WACO-Mission Arlington's outreach extends far beyond the city limits.

Women challenged to invest time in the lives of poor families_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

Women challenged to invest time in the lives of poor families

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

WACO-As a child participating in a mission group, Diana Lewis visited a family living in a chicken house.