

Relief agency seeks to improve life for Nigeria_50304

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An open-air market in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, is typical of the living conditions Partnership for the Environment workers witnessed in West Africa.

Relief agency seeks to improve life for Nigerians

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

A Texas Baptist relief and development organization wants to improve living conditions at an African Baptist ministry outpost plagued by scarce water and rudimentary sanitation.

On the Move_50304

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On the move

Gerald Austin has resigned as interim pastor of Friendship Church in Ennis.

♦ **Byron Ayers** to Mildred Church in Corsicana as youth minister, where he had been interim.

♦ **Charlie Barganier** to Arcadia First Church in Santa Fe from Heights Church in Temple.

Oregon judge halts gay marriages, instructs state registrar to record unions for

benefits_50304

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Oregon judge halts gay marriages, instructs state registrar to record unions for benefits

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Both sides of the gay-marriage debate found something to cheer in an Oregon judge's recent decision to put a halt to the same-sex marriages one county in the state had been performing.

Christians face persecution, charges of blasphemy in Muslim Pakistan_50304

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Christians face persecution, charges of blasphemy in Muslim Pakistan

By Deann Alford

Religion News Service

LAHORE, Pakistan-A market vendor sold Christian brothers Saleem and Rasheed Masih ice cream, then told them they had to pay for the bowls because he couldn't again serve a Muslim from the now-defiled utensils.

Most Americans want cleaner media_50304

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Most Americans want cleaner media

WASHINGTON (RNS) Three-quarters of Americans think the entertainment industry needs to reduce the amount of sex and violence in movies, television and music, a recent Gallup Poll revealed.

Most Americans said they are offended by the sex, violence and profanity in entertainment, and 75 percent said the industry should make a serious effort to reduce offensive images.

More than 60 percent said they are offended by the violence in entertainment, 58 percent by the profanity, 58 percent by sexual content and 52 percent by homosexuality.

Two-thirds of Americans upset about moral climate of the nation, but most younger Americans are gene

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Two-thirds of Americans upset about moral climate of the nation, but most younger Americans are generally satisfied

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An annual Gallup Poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans are dissatisfied with the country's moral and ethical climate.

But the same poll showed younger people seem to be less pessimistic than their elders.

Gallup's annual Mood of the Nation poll found that 64 percent of Americans

are dissatisfied with the country's moral climate, while 35 percent say they are satisfied.

American religious activity increases, makes people happier, polls indicate_50304

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American religious activity increases, makes people happier, polls indicate

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An annual look at the nation's religious behavior by Barna researchers has found an increase in religious practice beyond the sanctuary, while church and Sunday school attendance has remained relatively stable.

Meanwhile, a different poll indicates Americans who are religiously active—particularly those who give financially to faith communities—are more satisfied with life than those without strong faith.

The survey by Barna Research Group found increases in Bible study and small groups—excluding Sunday school and other church classes—over the last decade for all Christian churches.

Nations choose violence because they see God on their side_50304

April 30, 2004

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Nations choose violence because they see God on their side

By Jeffrey Macdonald

Religion News Service

BELMONT, Mass.-Terrorists are not the only ones who increasingly hear God's call to arms.

San Saba churches busy following up after evangelistic

rally_50304

April 30, 2004

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San Saba churches busy following up after evangelistic rally

By George Henson

Staff Writer

SAN SABA-God moved among the people of San Saba, with nearly one resident in five making a commitment to Christ at a recent evangelistic crusade. Now the churches are moving, trying to contact everyone who made a decision.

Tidbits_50304

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Texas Tibits

TBM conducts essay contest. Texas Baptist Men is conducting a Father's Day essay contest. Boys can choose one of three writing topics: "Why I want to be like my dad," "My dad is the greatest because ..." and "The

greatest lesson my dad taught me is" Essays from students in grades 1 to 3 should be 25 to 75 words; in grades 4 to 6, they should be 75 to 100 words; and in grades 7 to 12, they should be 100 to 200 words. Essays must be submitted to Keith Mack, Texas Baptist Men, 333 N. Washington, Dallas 75246 or mack@bgct.org by June 1. For more information, call (214) 828-5354.

Tamez named border consultant. David Tamez, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Tyler, has been named border region consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Church Multiplication Center. He will help facilitate church starting from El Paso to Brownsville. Before he became pastor in Tyler in 1997, Tamez was professor of pastoral ministries at Seminario Teológico Bautista Mexicano in Mexico City. He holds a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Liverpool in England.

Student journalists win. The student newspapers at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Houston Baptist University and the UMHB yearbook won multiple awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in Austin. In addition to individual awards received by staff members of the publications, the UMHB Bluebonnet yearbook placed first overall in its division, the UMHB student newspaper, The Bells, placed second and the HBU student newspaper, The Collegian, placed third. The Bluebonnet staff also was recognized recently by Taylor Publishing Company with an award of excellence for design and coverage.

TOGETHER: Lottery slots are a bad bet for Texas_50304

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TOGETHER: Lottery slots are a bad bet for Texas

If you have played video games, you know their almost-hypnotic appeal. The gambling industry exploits that by pushing video lottery terminals-VLT slots. They have been called the “crack cocaine” of gambling. Psychologists say video gambling accelerates addictive behavior through speed, nonstop playing, the perception that skill is involved and the game's hypnotizing effect.

Why is this important? The Texas Legislature, with the strong support of the governor, is looking at putting VLT slots in Texas racetracks. This also opens the door to casinos.

Under the guise of “helping the children,” the gambling industry is pouring millions of dollars into campaign contributions to get another leverage point by which they can make extravagant profits off Texans. Gambling profits wind up more in the pockets of international firms in Malaysia, South Africa and Nevada than in Texas.

Fine arts majors more spiritual than science or business majors, UCLA survey indicates_50304

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Fine arts majors more spiritual than science or business majors, UCLA survey indicates

By Kevin Eckstrom

Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)-Are biology majors a bunch of godless evolutionists and business students cold-hearted capitalists? Are art and music students the ones truly in touch with their spiritual sides?