

Churches and charities slow to feel effects of economic recovery, analysts point out_41904

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Churches and charities slow to feel effects of economic recovery, analysts point out

By Mark O'Keefe

Religion New Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A rising stock market and recovering economy have many of the nation's 1.2 million nonprofits feeling optimistic again, but it could take months—even years—before they see big financial benefits.

Churches must face up to hard

financial truth, speaker says_41904

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Churches must face up to hard financial truth, speaker says

By Tony Cartledge

Biblical Recorder

BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C. (ABP)-Churches, conventions and Christians face a bleak future if congregational leaders do not actively engage cultural shifts and the perils of consumerism, speakers recently told a national stewardship conference.

Baptists flood Piedras Negras with assistance_41904

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Pastor Israel Rogriguez encourages one of the families from his church, Primera Iglesia Bautista in Piedras Negras, as they struggle to clean up after the flood devastated their home.

This home is about three blocks from the Rio Escondido that flooded April 4 for the first time in at least 100 years. At right, Baptist

University of the Americas students (from left) Cheyenne Solis of Texas, Josue DeAlva of Puerto Rico, Carlos Valencia of Colombia and Paco Perez of New Mexico help clean out the contents of a flood-ruined home in Piedras Negras.

Baptists flood Piedras Negras with

assistance

By Craig Bird

Texas Baptist Communications

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico-A killer flood shattered the heart of Villa de Fuente on a recent Sunday evening. In the days that followed, Mexico and Texas Baptists worked side-by-side in the Piedras Negras neighborhood to get it beating again.

Flood victim calms children with Noah's ark story_41904

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Flood victim calms children with Noah's ark story

By Craig Bird

Texas Baptist Communications

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico-As a relentless flood poured through the bedroom windows, Ramona Juarez calmed her terrified grandson with the story of Noah's Ark.

Evangelicals oppose gay marriage, but not a 'litmus test'_41904

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Evangelicals oppose gay marriage, but not a 'litmus test'

By Rob Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A landmark study of American evangelical Christians released this month determined, among several findings, that evangelicals oppose gay marriage but are lukewarm in their support for a constitutional amendment to ban it.

Ministers use high-tech tools to

capture attention of media-savvy children_41904

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Ministers use high-tech tools to capture attention of media-savvy children

By Barbara Neff

Religion News Service

GRAYSLAKE, Ill. (RNS)- Six years ago, Dan Huffman abandoned his lucrative career as a software development consultant to become a full-time youth minister.

Texas Baptist Forum_41904

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM

Baptists & Pentecostals

“What can Baptists learn from Pentecostals, and what can Pentecostals learn from Baptists?” asks Professor Roger Olson of Truett Theological Seminary (April 5).

While I respect Christians who are Pentecostals and have friends among them, I cannot find much common ground with them doctrinally.

E-mail the editor at

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Baptists can teach Pentecostals that salvation is by grace, and if by grace then not of works (Romans 11:6, Ephesians 2:8-9). Since salvation is by grace, the correlating doctrine is “once saved, always saved” (John 10:27-30). Pentecostals claim these doctrines are dangerous and even heretical.

Learn power of speech and silence, Gordon urges students_41904

April 16, 2004

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Learn power of speech and silence, Gordon urges students

By Marv Knox

Editor

ABILENE-Christians fight because they don't understand the "power and poison" of both speech and silence, Carolyn Gordon told participants at Logsdon School of Theology's Maston Christian Ethics Lectures.

Louisiana College considers textbook policy_41904

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Louisiana College considers textbook policy

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP)-Louisiana College trustees, whose December decision to screen all classroom materials was criticized as a violation of academic freedom, will consider an even stricter textbook policy when they meet this month.

Trustee Leon Hyatt is proposing a policy that would bring the college-and

specifically classroom materials—in line with “the principle that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant and infallible word of God.”

The policy also would prohibit any “approval or portrayal of profanity, sexual activity outside of marriage, homosexuality, pornography or other illicit sexual expressions.”

BGCT, Hardin-Simmons acquire noted historian's books, notes, manuscripts_41904

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BGCT, Hardin-Simmons acquire noted historian's books, notes, manuscripts

Hardin-Simmons University and the Baptist General Convention of Texas have acquired rare books, manuscripts, notes and other materials on Baptist heritage gathered by Texas Baptist historian Leon McBeth.

“I am pleased that this collection of materials that represents a large part of my life's work will be available for use in the years to come,” said McBeth, who recently retired as distinguished professor of church history

at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

The entire "general inventory" of the extensive collection is almost 300 pages long, said Alan Lefever, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection in Dallas.

Miracle Farm not tied to bikers' rally, boys' ranch ministry leaders explain_41904

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Miracle Farm not tied to bikers' rally, boys' ranch ministry leaders explain

Promotional materials for the upcoming Dawgs on Hawgs bikers' rally at Somerville claim its proceeds will support charities including "Miracle Farm."

But the beneficiary is not the boys' ranch in Brenham, said Jack Meeker, Miracle Farm executive director.

"As a nonprofit Christian-based boys' ranch program promoting positive values and restoration for at-risk teenage boys struggling to turn their lives around, our mission simply does not coincide with the activity currently

being promoted by Dawgs on Hawgs," Meeker said. "We would not choose that activity as an avenue to raise support for our organization."

On the Move_41904

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On the Move

Butch Allen to LaWard Church in LaWard as pastor.

- ♦ **Debi Arnold** to Southmont Church in Denton as youth minister.
- ♦ **Ron Boswell** to First Church in Linden as interim pastor.