

EDITORIAL: What would Jesus put in the budget?_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

EDITORIAL: What would Jesus put in the budget?

A seminary professor once told a roomful of ministers-in-training: "A budget is the barometer of a church. Look at its budget, and you can tell where a church is going. You can see what it really values. You can determine its priorities."

He was correct, of course. And the principle applies to any institution, whether it's a family, a civic club, a state or a nation. That's why Christians ought to pay close attention to the budgets being promoted by President Bush and Governor Perry. Those budgets don't simply reflect how we'll pave highways, pay for a war, fund education or finance Social Security. They say an awful lot about what kind of people we are.

Unfortunately, they say we're the kind of people who look at the bottom line of our checkbooks before we look into the anguished eyes of the abused, abandoned and neglected. Increasingly, we're the kind of people who are hoodwinked by the deceptions of special interests, not motivated by the common good. We're conned by the promises and platitudes of the wealthy elites but turn a deaf ear to the honest pleas of the working poor, our neighbors who serve us at almost every turn.





Most BGCT universities show spring enrollment gains_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Most BGCT universities show spring enrollment gains

Most universities affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas experienced higher enrollment this spring compared to last year:

Baptist University of the Americas broke its enrollment record for the fourth consecutive semester, with 208 students from 17 countries, up from 207 reported last year.

- ◆ Baylor University enrollment dropped to 12,715 students from 12,815 last year. The university attributed the drop to higher graduation rates and smaller class sizes the past two years.

Florida Baptists, others launch effort to pass state marriage amendment_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Florida Baptists, others launch effort to pass state marriage amendment

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The Florida Baptist Convention is among a coalition of organizations that has announced a drive to amend the Florida Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Georgetown senior volunteers

find warm welcome in West Africa_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

African villagers' natural respect for their elders provided a welcoming context for a mission team of senior adults from First Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Georgetown senior volunteers find warm welcome in West Africa

By Sue Sprenkle

International Mission Board

Women and children lined the footpaths throughout the West African

village, each wearing their finest festive clothes and adornments. Warriors escorted their Texas Baptist visitors from the main road to this village made up of mud and stick homes.

Texans discover redemption in reality TV_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Texans discover redemption in reality TV

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Jeff Johnson once thought reality television shows have no redeeming qualities.

Kingsville church focuses on lay-led ministry to serve community_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Kingsville church focuses on lay-led ministry to serve community

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

KINGSVILLE—Many Christians say Texas, with its estimated 10 million non-Christians, is a mission field. Iglesia Bautista Central is acting like it's serving in one.

Texas Baptist Forum_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM

Risky business

Perhaps many older Baptists feel a cultural aversion to having a woman pastor, but it strikes me as disingenuous to portray this issue as solely or even primarily cultural (Jan. 24).

As a child of the '70s-educated after the rise of feminism-I have consistently been taught that women should be free to do anything men can do. Thus, I hold my belief that a woman should not be a pastor in contradiction to my culture, not because of it. Why? Because I believe I must be obedient to God's word.

I wonder sometimes whether advocates of woman pastors realize the implications of their assertions. When he forbade women from holding authority over men in church, Paul based his argument on the story of Adam and Eve in the Old Testament, not on his culture (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

Letters are welcomed. Send them to
maryknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.

Out ((Loud))

"Scrubbing public discourse of religious ideas would remove one of the main sources of social justice in our history."

Michael Gerson

White House speechwriter, speaking about President Bush's frequent use of religious language (Time/RNS)

"I have no problem teaching creationism, but not as a science. I learned my creation in Sunday school, and I learned my evolution in high school."

Joel Leib

Parent of a student in Dover, Penn., where the local school board voted to require ninth-grade science teachers to present "intelligent design" as an alternative to evolution (RNS)

"We believe that the rhythm of work and rest, doing and being, acting and reflecting, acquiring and sharing, is one of the most basic Jewish wisdoms. We see that the modern world is out of kilter: so addicted to the technology of making, doing, producing, consuming-and so contemptuous of contemplation, community and family-that this addiction is endangering both our society and the web of life on earth."

Shalom Report

A Jewish electronic newsletter, quoted by Texas Impact.

World Baptists unite around missions, BWA's Lotz tells Texans_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

World Baptists unite around missions, BWA's Lotz tells Texans

By Marv Knox

Editor

ABILENE-Mis-sions provides the unifying core for Christians, global Baptist leader Den-ton Lotz told a gathering of Texas Baptists.

Ominous missions challenge calls for collaboration_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Ominous missions challenge calls for collaboration

By Marv Knox

Editor

ABILENE-Collaboration took center stage in a missions conference sponsored by Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology.

Cleburne church offers men a room all their own_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Cleburne church offers men a room all their own

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CLEBURNE-The men at First Baptist Church in Cleburne have something most Baptist men don't-a room of their own at church.

Sale of Missouri Baptist Building delayed after failed county vote_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

Sale of Missouri Baptist Building delayed after failed county vote

By Vicki Brown & Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—The Missouri Baptist Building is once again on the market, after voters gave a resounding “no” to a sales tax increase that would have funded a county government’s purchase of the property.

God's word in plain English:

New Bibles target 'spiritually intrigued'_22105

February 18, 2005

Posted: 2/18/05

God's word in plain English: New Bibles target 'spiritually intrigued'

By Charles Honey

Religion News Service

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (RNS)-Even over latte at a coffeehouse, Andrew Apsite keeps God's word close at hand.