

Incomplete gospel yields nominal Christians, Willard says_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Incomplete gospel yields nominal Christians, Willard says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

IRVING—An incomplete gospel is leading to “nominal Christians” and weakening the church, according to author and professor Dallas Willard.

Founders of Habitat for Humanity International dismissed_20705

February 4, 2005

Posted: 2/04/05

Founders of Habitat for Humanity International dismissed

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

AMERICUS, Ga. (ABP)—Millard and Linda Fuller were immediately dismissed Jan. 31 from their jobs with Habitat for Humanity International, the worldwide Christian housing ministry they founded and led for 29 years.

Renewed love for hymns makes a comeback among youth_20705

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David Crowder
Band (from
University
Baptist Church
in Waco) leads
the crowd in
"Come Thou
Fount of Every
Blessing"
during Passion
'05. The Passion
movement has
focused on
introducing a
new generation
to the theology
found in many
ancient hymns.
(Courtesy
photo/Hoganson
Media
Relations)

Renewed love for hymns makes a comeback among youth

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

Melodies and instrumentation have changed, but the lyrics remain the

same, as young worshippers find new meaning in traditional hymns.

Texas Baptist Forum_20705

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM:

Faith of a child

We entered the church through the old worship center doors. I had three small boys (6, 4 and 2) loosely under control. I mean loosely, because at their ages, they are likely to bolt in three different directions at any instant.

Nicholas, 6, asked if we could stop to see the prayer chapel. So, I explained that if I took them to see it, they had to realize this was a solemn place. They had to agree to use their best manners and be silent if anyone was inside praying. Naturally, they all agreed.

When we entered the chapel, it was completely empty. Candles bathed the area in a warm light, and soft music was playing. Sam, 4, bolted inside, then stopped dead in his tracks after going about six feet into the old sanctuary. He pressed both hands tightly over his eyes, and quickly blurted out: "Dear God, I love you. Amen."

Evangelicals urge Bush to focus on poverty issues_20705

February 4, 2005

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Evangelicals urge Bush to focus on poverty issues

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A group of prominent evangelical Christian leaders—including heads of two Texas Baptist schools—have asked President Bush to pay more attention to poverty issues in his second term.

Critics claim SpongeBob promotes gay families_20705

February 4, 2005

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Critics claim SpongeBob promotes gay families

By Celeste Kennel-Shank

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Conservative Christian groups are criticizing a multicultural children's video featuring SpongeBob SquarePants and other TV characters, claiming it promotes acceptance of gay and lesbian families.

Superheroes offer insights into human nature, social observers say_20705

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DC Comics

Superheroes offer insights into

human nature, social observers say

WASHINGTON (RNS)-When he was growing up, Mike Mignola had two great loves-monster movies and superheroes. So when Dark Horse Comics offered him the chance to write and illustrate his own comic book, Mignola decided to combine the two.

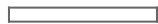
The result is Hellboy, a wisecracking, good-hearted, old-fashioned superhero with one problem: He's a red-skinned, cloven-hoofed demon summoned by the Nazis to bring about the end of the world. When the Nazis' plans are foiled, the then-infant Hellboy is taken in and raised by human beings. He forsakes his demon heritage and pledges to fight for good.

But can he really escape his destiny? Mignola, who has been writing Hellboy comics since 1993, isn't sure.

Texas Tidbits_20705

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Texas Tidbits

DBU to launch leadership studies doctoral program. Dallas Baptist University will launch a doctor of philosophy program in leadership studies next fall through its recently renamed Gary Cook Graduate School of

Leadership and Christian Education. Karen Bullock is academic director of the new doctoral program.

UMHB offers Spanish for Christian workers. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will offer a course for Christian workers in conversational Spanish, June 1-30. The introductory course presents the basic structures of Spanish, with vocabulary especially adapted to Christian witness. It includes extensive use of Scripture and dialogues geared to common witnessing situations, a conversational approach with alternating class presentations and lab practice. Cost is \$1,000, which includes tuition, fees and books. The course is equivalent to two semester hours of Spanish. University housing is available for an additional \$285 per person. To register, contact Judy Arnold at (254) 295-4631 or e-mail jarnold@umhb.edu.

ETBU sets Tiger Day. East Texas Baptist University will hold its annual Tiger Day preview event for prospective students and their families March 5. For more information, or to register, visit the school's website at www.etbu.edu or call (800) 804-ETBU.

TOGETHER: Vision demands a new spirit of unity_20705

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TOGETHER:

Vision demands a new spirit of unity

As President Bush delivered his State of the Union address, an Iraqi woman lifted her ink-stained finger in appreciation to the president and Congress. She had voted in her first free election a few days earlier. Moments later, the parents of a slain American soldier from Pflugerville stood to receive heartfelt gratitude from the crowd.

When the Iraqi woman turned around to thank the mother of the soldier who had given his life in Iraq, they fell into each other's arms in a tight and emotional embrace. One was a mother whose heart was broken but proud of her son. The other was an Iraqi woman amazed that she and her people had been able to vote freely and to begin the long journey toward a democratic society. Our hearts went out to that mother and father and to the young woman who would never know the names of all the men and women, American and Iraqi, who have been wounded or died so she and her fellow citizens could live in freedom.



Executive Director
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Is there anything for which you would be willing to lay down your life?

Listen to Jesus. He never advocated taking another's life, but he did lay down his own. And he invited those who would follow him to take up their cross as well. A cross is where people die. But Jesus promised, "Whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:34-35). The Apostle Paul pleaded: "I urge you ... to offer your bodies as living sacrifices. ... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:1-2).

The first wave: Texas Baptist volunteers return from Sri Lanka_20705

February 4, 2005

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Tsunamis
that hit
South
Asia left
families
grieving,
children
orphaned
and
hundreds
of
thousands
homeless.
The first
wave of
Texas
Baptist
Men
volunteers
returned
from a
relief
mission in
Sri Lanka.
(Photo by
Rex
Campbell)

THE FIRST WAVE:

Texas Baptist volunteers return from Sri Lanka

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Sri Lanka looks like the aftermath of a fatal "car wreck." The bodies are gone, but the devastation remains a vivid reminder of the pain caused by a series of tsunamis that slammed the island nation, volunteers with the first wave of Texas Baptist Men relief reported.

Hungarian Baptist Aid sets pace in global disaster relief_20705

February 4, 2005

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Hungarian Baptist Aid sets pace in global disaster relief

By Tony Cartledge

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (ABP)-Americans might not think of Hungarians as

being in the forefront of international relief efforts, but a relatively young Hungarian organization is a pacesetter in worldwide disaster relief.

Baptist relief focuses on new homes, pure water_20705

February 4, 2005

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Baptist relief focuses on new homes, pure water

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Now that Texas Baptist volunteers have learned how best to meet the needs of Sri Lankans, their disaster relief efforts are pushing forward with constructing homes and cleaning water wells.