

Bush faith statements raise concerns about separation of church & state_12405

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Bush faith statements raise concerns about separation of church & state

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—President Bush said recently he doesn't understand "how you can be president without a relationship with the Lord." But that testament brought a protest from one of the country's top Jewish leaders.

2nd Opinion: Ultimate disaster Life without Christ_11005

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2nd Opinion:

Ultimate disaster: Life without Christ

By Ebbie Smith

News of Asia's tragic tsunami impacts us emotionally with a force not unlike the horrendous strength of the waves that crushed the shorelines. Christians are gripped as they view the destruction of life and property. The waves brought death to more than 150,000 people, left millions homeless and placed multitudes in danger from disease and further suffering. Christians must respond to the physical needs.

Christians perceive an even more heart-wrenching and desperate tragedy. Some of the areas hardest hit by the consuming waters are among the neediest from the standpoint of Christian evangelism. Many in these areas have never known the joy of living in Christ, the peace of facing reality through Christ or the assurance of entering eternity with Christ.



EDITORIAL: So, how could a good God allow ... _11005

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EDITORIAL:

So, how could a good God allow ... ?

The question crept across sensitive minds, much like the tsunami body-count "crawl" scrolled across our TV screens: How could a good God allow such a tragedy to happen?

The first-and most honest-answer also is uncomfortable. We don't know. We understand the physics of the tsunami of '04. Tectonic plates, the foundations on which continents rest, shifted. Miles beneath the Indian Ocean's surface, the most powerful earthquake in a half-century shoved waves outward as fast as a jumbo jet can fly. When the waves met the resistance of continental shelves, they rose up, high as hotels, slammed the earth and destroyed everything for miles.

That's the easy part. Simple mechanics. But human beings want to know something more important and infinitely more complicated: Where was God in all this?

Tsunami summit set at Epicenter_12405

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Tsunami summit set at Epicenter

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has convened a “tsunami summit” in conjunction with its Epicenter missions and evangelism conference, Jan. 28-29 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, to help churches and their members discover ways to respond to the disaster in South Asia.

Representatives from Texas Baptist Men, the WorldconneX missions network and the BGCT church missions and evangelism staff will lead breakout conferences and general sessions to present opportunities for involvement in recovery and long-range rebuilding efforts in the region.

Participants also will learn about Texas Baptists' role in initial and ongoing disaster relief in countries impacted by the tidal wave.

Young pastor serves church his family has attended for generations_12405

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Young pastor serves church his

family has attended for generations

By George Henson

Staff Writer

MONT BELVIEU—Like many college students, Jake Porter returned to his hometown following graduation from college. Unlike most recent college graduates, however, Porter came home to become pastor of a church his family has attended for five generations.

WMU provides pure water for Indonesia_12405

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WMU provides pure water for Indonesia

National Woman's Missionary Union is sending more than \$37,000 in water purification equipment to Indonesia through an effort called "Pure Water, Pure Love."

In 2004, Texas Baptists donated about \$44,000 to Pure Water, Pure Love through 118 gifts.

The shipment of personal water cleaning equipment, which will be delivered by volunteers and disaster relief teams, depletes WMU's supply of water filters.

Church prepares to save lives, as well as souls_12405

January 22, 2005

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Church prepares to save lives, as well as souls

By George Henson

Staff Writer

RICHARDSON-The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson not only has a plan to save souls, but it also has equipment and trained personnel to save lives.

Proposed bylaws call for greater non-Anglo representation_12405

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Proposed bylaws call for greater non-Anglo representation

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

A committee working on new bylaws for the Baptist General Convention of Texas has agreed to include a provision calling for almost one-third of the organization's principal governing body to be non-Anglo.

Around the State_12405

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Around the State

Youth across America will use Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6, to collect money to help hungry and hurting people in their communities through Souper Bowl of Caring. In addition, many groups will collect money to provide aid for the tsunami and earthquake victims in Southern Asia. Youth collect money in large soup pots and then donate the funds to a charity in their community to help people living in poverty. In 2004, 12,750 groups collected more than \$4 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities. To learn more, call (800) 358-7687 or go to www.souperbowl.org.

♦ Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology will hold a special missions emphasis Feb. 10. **Denton Lotz**, executive director of the Baptist World Alliance, will speak at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. He also will give a brief response at 2:45 p.m. and take part in a panel discussion at 3:45 p.m. **Don Sewell** of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, **Stan Parks** of WorldconneX and **Dellanna O'Brien** of Woman's Missionary Union will share their vision of partnering with BWA. There is no cost for the luncheon, but reservations must be made by calling (325) 670-1287.



A group of fourth-to-sixth grade children from The Heights Church in Richardson recently took toiletry items and gift bags to God's Food Pantry in Plano. The children also spent several hours packaging individual portions of food staples such as rice, beans and flour. The community outreach project was part of the church's Boot Camp program which meets on Wednesday evenings to teach basics of Christian living.

♦ **Diana Garland** has been named the first dean of the School of Social Work at Baylor University. Currently chair of social work, she will begin her term as dean in August. **Wallace Daniel**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will step down in May after nine years as head of Baylor's largest academic unit to return to research and teaching, as will **Robert Yinger**, dean of the School of Education the past seven years. **David Garland** has resigned as associate dean of academic affairs at George Truett Theology Seminary after serving in that capacity since 2001.

Baylor University files suit

against former student_12405

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Baylor University files suit against former student

Baylor University has filed a lawsuit against a former Truett Theological Seminary student who is accused of sending lewd e-mails to employees and their families and fictitious news releases about the school to media outlets.

The *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported the university filed a suit in state district court, alleging Matthew Bass sent more than 1,000 e-mails containing pornographic images and messages to school personnel.

The university also obtained a restraining order against Bass, prohibiting him from sending any e-mails to Baylor officials and their families.

Off the Bookshelf_12405

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Book Reviews

The Church of Irresistible Influence

by Robert Lewis (Zondervan)

Robert Lewis is pastor of a church in Little Rock, Ark., that several years ago would have been called “successful” by many.

Baptist Briefs_12405

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Baptist Briefs

Former Sunday School Board president's wife dies. Bettye Cothen died of Parkinson's disease in Miami, Fla., at age 83. A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., she was the wife of Grady Cothen, former president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. They were married 63 years. She was a former member of the board of trustees at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. In addition to her husband, Cothen is survived by two daughters, Carole Shields of Westbrook of Miami and Mary Thompson of San Antonio; a son Grady Jr. of Cheverly, Md; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Southwestern names recruitment director. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has named James Caldwell of Heath, Ohio, as recruitment director both for the seminary and its undergraduate college, which is scheduled to begin classes in the fall. Caldwell also has been named to the newly created post of seminary minister of worship to oversee

music and worship during chapel services. Caldwell has served 25 years as a pastor, minister of music and youth minister at churches in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Virginia.

Retired Southern Baptist educator dies. Longtime Southern Baptist educator and denominational leader Arthur Walker died Jan. 14 at his home in Birmingham, Ala., at age 78. Walker served as the executive director of two SBC agencies—the Education Commission and the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary. He held both positions from 1978 until his retirement in 1993. Both entities were dissolved in the mid-1990s under the SBC's restructuring plan. Earlier in his career, he served at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., first as dean of students and later as vice president for student affairs. Following retirement, Walker returned to his native Birmingham and taught part-time at Samford University for several years. Survivors include his wife, Gladys; a daughter, Marcia Walker Hamby; a son-in-law, Pat Hamby; and three grandchildren, all of Birmingham; brothers Roy and Jimmy Walker, and a sister-in-law, Rochelle Walker.