

Cartoon_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

**“You're
welcome
to look
down, but
viewer
discretion
is
advised.”**

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Church-state issues will remain prominent in new Congress_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

Church-state issues will remain prominent in new Congress

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—As the 109th Congress goes to work in an atmosphere already charged with partisanship, legislative battles over religious and moral issues are virtually certain to remain as prominent as they were in the last session, according to two Washington observers of church-state issues.

Supreme Court set to hear two cases on display of Commandments_11005

January 7, 2005

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Supreme Court set to hear two cases on display of Commandments

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Two friend-of-the-court briefs filed recently in the U.S. Supreme Court present differing views on the role of the Ten Commandments in American history and whether government entities can display them.

Author explores ways comic books shape character_11005

January 7, 2005

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Author explores ways comic books shape character

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

When David Zimmerman talks about comic book character development, he doesn't mean Clark Kent's progression from Superboy to Superman.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Hope abounds_11005

January 7, 2005

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CYBER COLUMN: Hope abounds

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering the horrors of the devastating tsunami. I find myself grieving at a distance as I observe the pain and misery.

I saw a picture of a girl standing in a crowd of onlookers. She held a sign scribbled with letters: "Looking for lost parents, brothers and sisters." I cannot imagine the pain, the emotion, or, in the poetic words of W.B. Yeats in his poem, "The Second Coming," the loss: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world / The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere / The ceremony of innocence is drowned."

Study reveals declining

Southern churches_11005

Baptist

January 7, 2005

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Study reveals declining Southern Baptist churches

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)-The percentage of “declining” Southern Baptist churches increased in the last two decades, a church growth study has found.

DOWN HOME: New look reflects change in direction_11005

January 7, 2005

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DOWN HOME: New look reflects change in direction

Usually, this column chronicles the goings-on among the Knoxes. Joanna, Lindsay, Molly and I aren't all that different from most Baptist families, so I enjoy contemplating the events that shape our lives, hoping they resonate with yours.

But this time, I'd like to talk about a larger family-the Baptist Standard family. If you're a subscriber or regular reader, sit down at the table; you're our kin.

You've probably noticed we remodeled the “house” over the Christmas holidays. As with all changes in our life together, some folks will like what we've done to the paper, and some won't. But I hope you'll decide the new Standard is an improvement.

Faith-based Initiatives plan will continue in Bush second term_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

Faith-based Initiatives plan will continue in Bush second term

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The man spearheading President Bush's effort to increase government grants to religious social-service agencies said the initiative will continue in Bush's second term, although he offered few specifics as to how that will happen.

Tennessee Baptist named President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

Tennessee Baptist named President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)-Former NFL and college football coach Les Steckel has been selected as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' new president and chief executive officer.

Religion in film pushes boundaries, finds receptive market_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

Religion in film pushes boundaries, finds receptive market

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-2004 was an extraordinary year for religion in film because:

Hunger, malnutrition kill 5 million children a year_11005

January 7, 2005

Posted: 1/07/05

Hunger, malnutrition kill 5 million children a year

By Peggy Polk

Religion News Service

ROME (RNS)—Hunger and malnutrition kill more than 5 million children a year and cost developing countries billions of dollars in lost productivity and national income, a United Nations report asserts.

Baptist Briefs_11005

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Baptist Briefs

New Orleans seminary names dean of students. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley appointed Craig Price, pastor

of Hot Springs (Ark.) Baptist Church, as dean of students. Price has 25 years of pastoral experience serving churches in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and earned his master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a former assistant professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and was a teaching fellow at Southwestern Seminary during his doctoral studies.

BWA withdrawal, missionary murders top 2004 stories. Baptist state newspaper editors responding to a survey by the Associated Baptist Press news service named the Southern Baptist Convention's withdrawal from the Baptist World Alliance the top Baptist news story of 2004. The murder of four SBC missionaries in Iraq—including David McDonnall of Fort Worth—was the second most significant story, followed closely by President Bush's re-election with support from so-called "values voters." Other top stories included same-sex marriage, four hurricanes that hit Florida and the Caribbean and led to a massive disaster relief effort, and the blockbuster success of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" movie. ([See expanded story here](#))

Warren makes Time magazine list. Baptist pastor Rick Warren has been listed by Time magazine among the "People Who Mattered 2004" in the same issue in which President Bush was named "Person of the Year." In its Dec. 27 edition, Time says of Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California: "Spirituality sold well in 2004, but none did better than Pastor Rick and his faith-based self-help book, 'The Purpose-Driven Life,' which hit 20 million copies sold. Though criticized for preaching Christianity lite, Warren led by example, giving away 90 percent of his royalties, campaigning against hunger and expanding a drug-recovery program for prison inmates."