

Florida signs for marriage

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Florida signs for marriage

Ocala, Fla. (ABP)-Seeking to galvanize 1,550 messengers to action, leaders of the Florida Baptist State Convention publicly signed the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment during its annual meeting Nov. 14-15 in Ocala.

Among signers was Hayes Wicker, president of the Florida convention, who was elected unanimously without opposition to a second one-year term during this meeting.

Others to sign the petition that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman included John Sullivan, state executive director-treasurer; Michael Landry of Sarasota, state convention first vice president; and Ben Bryant of Starke, president of the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention's governing body.

Gender testing raises ethical questions

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Gender testing raises ethical questions

By Peggy O'Crowley

Religion News Service

NEWARK, N.J. (RNS)—With her husband serving in Afghanistan, Erin Rivera thought it would be fun to let him know the gender of their third child within weeks of her positive pregnancy test. So she purchased a Baby Gender Mentor test kit, which claims to be 99.9 percent accurate in detecting gender through fetal DNA in maternal blood samples.

At long last, Georgians vote to cast out Mercer

November 18, 2005

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At long last, Georgians vote to cast out Mercer

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. (ABP)—Georgia Baptists voted Nov. 15 to begin severing their last ties with Mercer University, one of the nation's oldest and largest

Baptist institutions of higher learning.

Tiny ceramic shard yields gigantic archaeological find

November 18, 2005

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Tiny ceramic shard yields gigantic archaeological find

By Michele Chabin

Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—The inscription on a ceramic shard discovered during an archaeological dig may not refer to the biblical Goliath, but the artifact's age and inscriptions may be consistent with a period referred to in the Old Testament story.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Fertility & theology

“Fertility, not theology, cause of decline” (Oct. 31) introduces a foreign dichotomy. The question to be asked is why “conservative women had more children than mainline women did.” The answer is solidly theological.

• [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

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



"There is only one 'true north' in the Christian life. Only one purpose which will direct your life with unerring accuracy, which will guide you home every single time. ... You and I will need to remember and live by this purpose, this 'true north' every day for the rest of this year, and especially as we draw nearer to the hectic holidays ahead. Otherwise, we'll die the death of a thousand Chihuahuas, one tiny bite at a time."

Jim Denison

Pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas ("The Word Today" e-mail devotional)

"If we present the gospel simply as a life-improvement program, well, boy-there's lots of things that work to improve your life. You could get into yoga, become a vegetarian."

Kirk Cameron

Actor known for his role in the 1980s situation comedy Growing Pains as well as a more recent role in the Left Behind movie series, commenting on findings of a Newsweek/Beliefnet poll. (Agape Press)

"Now that we're prime-time, we don't want to start acting like American idols."

Christianity Today

An editorial in the monthly magazine, on the responsibility of evangelicals in the news media.

The biblical worldview sees children as a blessing. God opens the womb (Genesis 29:31) and blesses with the command, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). Children are a "heritage of the Lord" and a "reward," "arrows" filling one's quiver (Psalm 127), a reason for one to be "happy" as they gather "like olive plants around your table" (Psalm 128:2-3).

Louisiana veers from recent trends

November 18, 2005

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Louisiana veers from recent trends

By Lacy Thompson

Louisiana Baptist Message

WEST MONROE, La. (ABP) -Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention surprised observers by rejecting candidates and causes endorsed by the state's conservative political group.

North Carolina Baptists still may give to Fellowship

November 18, 2005

Posted: 11/18/05

North Carolina Baptists still may give to Fellowship

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)-Fundamentalists in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina elected their candidate as president, toughened the convention's stance against gay-friendly churches, replaced the interim executive director and approved new institutional trustees.

Thanksgiving observances reflect political agendas

November 18, 2005

Posted: 11/18/05

Thanksgiving observances reflect political agendas

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

ATLANTA (RNS)—Ever since John Winthrop proclaimed in 1630 a mission to establish “a shining city on a hill” to inspire the world, America has grappled with notions of a national destiny led by the hand of God.

Texas Tidbits

November 18, 2005

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Texas Tidbits

DBU named among top wireless campuses. Intel Corporation recently named Dallas Baptist University among the top 25 campuses in the United States for its on-campus wireless Internet capabilities. The process of installing a wireless network on the DBU campus started in 1999 and was completed this summer.

DOM elected Southwestern alum president. David Kimberly, director of missions for Central Texas Baptist Area, was unanimously elected president

of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Baptist General Convention of Texas alumni association at the group's gathering in Austin, held in conjunction with the BGCT annual meeting. Elwin Collom, incumbent president of the alumni organization and pastor of First Baptist Church in Coahoma, nominated Kimberly.

ETBU presents Christmas concert. The East Texas Baptist University School of Fine Arts will present "Christmas in Marshall: A Concert of the Season" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2 in Baker Auditorium of the Rogers Spiritual Life Center. The event, co-sponsored by ETBU and the Marshall Regional Arts Council, features holiday music performed by groups from the ETBU music department conducted by Choral Director James Moore and Band Director Brent Farmer. Admission costs is \$5. For more information, call (903) 935-4484.

TOGETHER: Texas Baptists have much work to do

November 18, 2005

Posted: 11/18/05

TOGETHER: Texas Baptists have much work to do

This year's Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting left me with a profound sense of gratitude at being part of this great family of

believers. We celebrated what Baptists, as part of the larger body of Christ, “bring to the table.”

Other Christians bring their gifts, their insights and their faithfulness, but this is what Baptists bring—a passion for missions and prayerful, thoughtful faith.

On Monday evening of the annual meeting, I set forth the following seven-point agenda for the BGCT:



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Storylist for 11/14/05 issue

November 18, 2005

Storylist for week of 11/14/05

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- [San Antonio church seeks to transform its community](#)



- [Novelist trades vampire tales for early life of Christ](#)
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- [Even intelligent design advocates see problems](#)
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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Nov. 13: Regardless of leadership, follow God](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Nov. 13: Look to God for answers to life's hard questions](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 13: A lack of vigilance will bring sin to the fore](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Nov. 20: Wasted potential is a danger all face](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Nov. 20: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 20: When evil closes in, remember God's promises](#)

[See articles from previous issue 11/07/05 here.](#)

Right or Wrong? Stem Cells (Again)

November 18, 2005

Posted: 11/18/05

Right or Wrong? Stem cell research (again)

This past week, my doctor told me that, in a few years, stem-cell research could lead to a cure for my illness. My brother objects to stem-cell research. How should I think about this medical development?