

Hurricane response funds put to use

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Hurricane response funds put to use

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas continues to distribute funds to support Texas Baptists' response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Even intelligent design advocates see problems

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Even intelligent design advocates see problems with policy

By Bill Sulon

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The Discovery Institute, a leading proponent of intelligent design, warned a Pennsylvania school district now in court that it shouldn't institute a policy on the controversial concept because it could be found unconstitutional.

Movie explores dark days of 'Man in Black'

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Movie explores dark days of 'Man in Black'

By Dave Urbanski

Religion News Service

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)-*Walk the Line*, the much-anticipated biopic on Johnny Cash, truthfully records his turbulent early career and his initial romance with wife June Carter Cash.

'Painter of light' offers warm and welcoming images

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Painter Thomas Kinkade talks with a group of fans at the Whitaker Center for the Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, Pa. (Photo by John C. Whitehead/Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa./RNS)

'Painter of light' offers warm and welcoming images

By David Dunkle

Religion News Service

MORGAN HILL, Calif. (RNS)-Thomas Kinkade laughs at people who think he doesn't paint much anymore or who believe he doesn't do his own work.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Interesting omission

I found it interesting looking at the list of exhibitors for the upcoming Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

What I found even more interesting is who was not listed.

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.
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Out ((Loud))

"Jesus tells us not to fear those who can destroy the body, but those who can destroy body and soul. And part of the sickness of spirit we feel when confronted with terrorism is that we face people whose souls are damaged, almost destroyed."

Rowan Williams

Archbishop of Canterbury (RNS)

"You are not an accident. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He wanted you alive and created you for a purpose. ...

Only in God do we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny."

Rick Warren

Pastor and best-selling author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, quoted on a Starbucks coffee cup (RNS/ USA Today)

"Ooh, it was so much fun. I think I'm alive."

Thomas Rice

Pastor of First Baptist Church in Agawam, Mass., after skydiving to illustrate a sermon on trusting God and overcoming fear (RNS)

"We actually went through two cloud layers. He was closer to God than ever before."

David Strickland

Rice's skydiving instructor (RNS)

Mystery of God only answer for serious evangelicals

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Mystery of God only answer for serious evangelicals

By Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WACO (RNS)—As a Baptist preacher, Randall O'Brien knows the Bible says natural disasters can be signs of God's judgment. But he's not preaching anything of the sort, not even in a year marked by earthquakes, floods and hurricanes.

On the Move

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On the Move

Kent Battenfield to Eastside Church in Ranger as pastor.

- ♦ **Matt Butler** to Littleville Church in Hamilton as pastor.
 - ♦ **Eddie Castaneda** to Immanuel Church in Abilene as pastor, where he had been associate pastor.
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Piper Institute names Brooks executive director

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Piper Institute names Brooks executive director

The Piper Institute for Church Planting has named E.B. Brooks, who retired recently after 26 years with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as the organization's executive director.

Brooks, who led the BGCT church missions and evangelism efforts, has served on the Piper Institute for Church Planting board since its beginning.

"I know of no one in Baptist life who is more qualified to lead the Piper Institute," board Chairman Bill Nichols said. "Dr. Brooks is one of the

nation's leading church-planting strategists, and the Piper Institute is assisting as churches are being started in record numbers throughout Latin America. What a great match.”

E.B. Brooks

Girls of Grace promotes teen modesty, chastity

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Girls of Grace promotes teen modesty, chastity

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)-Teenage girls-and their mothers-tend to get excited about Point of Grace, a fixture on America's Christian music scene for 15 years.

Most ministers dissatisfied with their prayer lives

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Most ministers dissatisfied with their prayer lives

PHOENIX (BP)—Few Protestant ministers are satisfied with their personal prayer lives, a study by Ellison Research of Phoenix revealed.

The study conducted for LifeWay Christian Resources, publishing house of the Southern Baptist Convention, surveyed a nationally representative sample of 860 Protestant church pastors. The study reveals just 16 percent are very satisfied with their personal prayer lives. Forty-seven percent are somewhat satisfied, 30 percent somewhat dissatisfied and 7 percent very dissatisfied.

There was a substantial difference by age group. Just 9 percent of pastors under age 45 are very satisfied, compared to 13 percent among ministers age 45 to 59 and 30 percent among pastors 60 or older. The youngest pastors actually are more likely to be very dissatisfied with their own prayer lives than to be very satisfied.

Marriage amendment decisively approved

November 11, 2005

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Marriage amendment decisively approved

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Eight nations cited for religious liberty violations

November 11, 2005

Posted: 11/11/05

Eight nations cited for

religious liberty violations

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The State Department's annual report on the state of religious freedom around the globe stars the usual villains but also contains some new bright spots.