

Supreme Court denies Wiccan request to pray at county board meetings

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Supreme Court denies Wiccan request to pray at county board meetings

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court has turned away a Wiccan who sought to deliver prayers at a Virginia county's board meetings on an equal basis with Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders.

The court declined to hear the case of Cynthia Simpson, formerly a resident of Chesterfield County, Va., Oct. 11. Simpson, a practitioner of the neo-pagan religion, had appealed an April decision by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Senate panel retains subsidies

for food for the needy

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By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—After pleading from prominent religious leaders, a Senate panel has declined to recommend major cuts in a federal program that subsidizes grocery purchases for the needy.

On an 11-9 vote, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved a budget reconciliation plan to cut \$3 billion from farm-subsidy programs and other federal entitlements. The food-stamp program—which falls under the committee's jurisdiction—previously had been one of the areas where committee Republicans were seeking to cut spending by as much as \$574 million.

Cyber Column by Berry D.

Simpson: Sunlight in the mountains

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CYBER COLUMN: Sunlight in the mountains

By Berry D. Simpson

It was late Friday afternoon, and the view from the top of Bush Mountain (at 8,631 feet, the second-highest peak in Texas) was phenomenal. To the south, I could see the sun reflecting off the stainless steel monument on top of Guadalupe Peak. To the west, I saw the Chihuahuan Desert and vast salt flats 4,000 feet below my feet. On the northwest horizon, I could see snow-covered Sierra Blanca 110 miles away. And looking north, I could sight along the western escarpment of the Guadalupe Range, a severe cliff face that stretched on and on for miles. It was beautiful.

Berry D. Simpson

However, as I stood there taking in the scenery, it occurred to me that my day was still two miles from being over, and I had a problem. The only thing I could not see from my perch was the trail. I tried to find it, crisscrossing the mountaintop, hoping to intersect the trail, but I couldn't find it. My legs were weary from the long day, and I was getting worried. All I could see around me were big rocks and thorny bushes and scrubby pine trees; I knew I didn't have enough daylight left to bushwhack my way

to the Pine Top campground before dark.

TOGETHER: Your church has a missions partner

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TOGETHER: Your church has a missions partner

We will gather in Austin Nov. 14-15 for the 120th annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "One Family-One Mission" is our theme.

You want to be there, because your presence will help strengthen your church. There will be information you can use, inspiration that is contagious, ideas that help renew and strengthen your church, and friendships that will last through eternity.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

We will focus on the Texas mission field, of course. But Texans never have been satisfied to evangelize Texas alone. As churches look for more ways to participate in world missions, Texas Baptists have several significant systems through which you and your church can be personally involved in state, national and international mission work.

To China with Love

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Jay Chastain of First Baptist Church in Longview plays with a boy in a Chinese orphanage in Xinjiang Providence after Buckner Orphan Care International volunteers placed new shoes on all the children. Paige Chastain cuddles a handicapped infant in a Chinese foster home. (Photos by Scott Collins)

To China with Love

By Marv Knox

Editor

BEIJING, China-The little Chinese girl giggled and squealed as Sherman Hope held her hands, spinning her around, swinging her between his legs and lifting her into the air.

Right or Wrong? Sex with her boyfriend

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Right or Wrong? Sex with her boyfriend

"My 16-year-old daughter just told me her best friend since they were in kindergarten has started having sex with her boyfriend. This girl's mother is a good friend of mine. Should I tell her what's going on?"

Kirbyville church showers hurting community with kindness

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Young
people
hand out
food at
First
Baptist
Church in
Kirbyville.

The
church
became
the
primary
place
where
people in
the
community
found help
after
Hurricane
Rita.

Kirbyville church showers hurting community with kindness

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

KIRBYVILLE-Before Hurricane Rita hit, Pastor Charles Burchett asked his

church members to be “wells of refreshing.” After the storm, they let the waters flow.

Russian orphan still needs adoptive family

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Russian orphan still needs adoptive family

DALLAS—Oksana, a 13-year-old orphan from St. Petersburg, Russia, still needs a family after visiting North Texas last summer through Buckner Orphan Care International's “Angels from Abroad” program.

Oksana lived with a volunteer host family for two weeks as part of the “Angels” initiative, designed to help raise awareness about the needs of older children living in Russian orphanages and Buckner's programs to improve their lives.

The urgent nature of the adoption need is both physical and emotional, said Mary Ann Hamby of Buckner International Adoption, also an adoptive parent.

Oksana, a
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Russian
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needs a
family to
adopt her.

Fertility, not theology, cause of decline

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Fertility, not theology, cause of decline

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

CHICAGO (ABP)-The decline in membership of mainline churches over the last century had more to do with sex than theology, research by a trio of sociologists suggests.

New stem cell methods answer some questions, raise others

November 1, 2005

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New stem cell methods answer some questions, raise others

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Scientists have successfully tested two new methods designed to achieve the same ends as embryonic stem-cell research while avoiding the ethical controversy over the destruction of embryos.

TBM offers disaster relief

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TBM offers disaster relief

Eight Texas Baptist Men volunteers delivered water purification and cooking equipment to southern Mexico following Hurricane Stan, and two

TBM emergency food service teams traveled to Florida to serve people affected by Hurricane Wilma.

Hurricane Stan made landfall south of Veracruz with 80 mph winds and destroyed at least 37,500 homes. The storm extensively damaged property in Chiapas, Veracruz, Guerrero and Oaxaca.

The Texas volunteers planned to show residents in the area how to use the cooking equipment and empower them to help their communities, TBM disaster relief leaders explained. Area residents were to be given water purifiers and trained in how to use them.

Underwood resists idea of potential Baylor presidential draft

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Underwood resists idea of potential Baylor presidential draft

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—Two groups representing past and present Baylor University faculty

have written to the school's board of regents affirming Interim President Bill Underwood, and their leaders want the regents to retain him as interim for at least a full year.