

On the Move_20705

December 13, 2005

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On the move

Amanda Bludworth to Salt Creek Church in Early as minister of youth.

♦ **Joe Brady** to First Church in Centerville as minister of music/education.

♦ **Thomas Brisco** to First Church in Haskell as interim pastor.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 25: For the Christian, "neighbor" is a broad term

December 13, 2005

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 25

For the Christian, ‘neighbor’ is a broad term

• Luke 10:25-37

By Christina Harvey

BaptistWay Bible Series for Christmas: The story of Christ’s birth is a story of love

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Christmas

The story of Christ’s birth is a story of love

• Luke 2:1-20

By Jeffrey Lee

Explore the Bible Series for Dec. 25: Good news: Jesus Christ is born

December 13, 2005

Posted: 12/13/05

Explore the Bible Series for Dec. 25

Good news: Jesus Christ is born

- Luke 2:8-20, 36-38

By Trey Turner

Canyon Creek Baptist Church, Temple

My wife and I have three children under 10 years of age. The youngest recently turned 2, so Christmas is a new set of joys for him.

Family Bible Series for Dec. 25:

Jesus is our conduit to the realm of heaven

December 13, 2005

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Family Bible Series for Dec. 25

Jesus is our conduit to the realm of heaven

- Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-2, 11

By Donald Raney

Judge rules prayer in Indiana legislature violates Constitution

December 13, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Judge rules prayer in Indiana

legislature violates Constitution

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP)—A federal judge in Indiana has said that state's practice of allowing explicitly Christian prayers to open legislative sessions violates the Constitution.

Federal District Judge David Hamilton ordered a halt to official sectarian invocations in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Court ponders use of RICO law against abortion protesters

December 13, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Court ponders use of RICO law against abortion protesters

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—On a day when anti-abortion protesters gathered outside the Supreme Court's building, the justices inside concerned themselves with a decades-old case on whether federal law can ban certain

protests at abortion clinics.

The Nov. 30 arguments in two combined cases were highly technical and served as a prelude to the much more highly publicized case on a New Hampshire abortion law that followed, during the day's second argument session.

HBU students distribute presents for single moms at Gracewood

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Volunteers from several Houston-area schools and churches turned out to assist single moms prepare for Christmas at Gracewood, a residential program for single mothers with children.

HBU students distribute presents for single moms at Gracewood

By Miranda Bradley

Children at Heart Ministries

HOUSTON—Houston Baptist University students joined other volunteers in making sure single mothers and their children will have colorfully wrapped presents to open Christmas morning.

The HBU students—together with teenagers from a local high school and church volunteers—distributed presents and helped mothers and children at Gracewood wrap gifts for each other.

Deadline approaches for abducted Christian peace activists

December 13, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Deadline approaches for abducted Christian peace activists

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—As everyone from Jesse Jackson to a radical Muslim cleric pleaded Dec. 7 for mercy, abductors holding a British Baptist and three Christian peace activists hostage in Iraq reportedly extended the deadline for their demands to be met.

An Iraqi militant group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness kidnapped London grandfather Norman Kember, 74, on Nov. 26, along with three other members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams working in Iraq. The militants announced Dec. 2 they would execute the four Dec. 8 if American and British officials did not meet their demand to release all Iraqi prisoners.

House lambasted for cutting benefits for the poor

December 13, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

House lambasted for cutting benefits for the poor

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A diverse group of religious leaders lambasted the House of Representatives for its narrow passage of a deficit-cutting bill that makes many of its cuts in programs that benefit poor people.

The House passed the measure on a 217-215 vote after some moderate Republicans were persuaded to support the bill. The vote already had been postponed by Republican leaders because of lack of support for some of its provisions, which included billions of cuts to programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and student loans.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Hope at Christmas

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CYBER COLUMN: Hope at Christmas

By John Duncan

Christmas comes with the hope of merriment, joy and wonder. This year as the world waits for Christmas, we realize, in the words of C.S. Lewis in the Chronicles of Narnia, that many people wake up each day in a world where “it’s always winter, but never Christmas.”

John Duncan

Imagine a child waiting for Christmas in the dark, dismal, dreary days of an ice-cold winter with no days of sunshine and in anticipation of a Christmas that never arrives—no joy, no gifts, no hope. I fear that’s the world people live in today. It’s a world of war, where suicide bombers kill the innocent; a world where worry over flu pandemics and societal troubles destroy the joy of daily life; a world of airport security that puts a lump in your throat each time you board an airplane; a world where the pressures of raising kids and paying the bills drain life of its meaning; a world of political bickering that makes the news less than inviting; a world where life hurts in its sickness; and a world where storms and hurricanes and global warming cause the daily weather report to possess more drama than it should. Life feels like a

frozen winter that never ends in the dark hearts of many people this Christmas.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 18: Disciples follow Christ in his mission

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 18

Disciples follow Christ in his mission

• Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

By Christina Harvey