

2nd Opinion: 'Everyone' needs evidence of faith_71105

July 8, 2005

Posted: 7/08/05

2nd Opinion: 'Everyone' needs evidence of faith

By Walter Norris

Recognition of secular social service workers-caseworkers, counselors, social workers, etc.-has been almost nonexistent within faith groups. I see people submit stories about faith-based groups doing different types of ministry in the social service area as if no one has been doing this kind of work or ministry. Maybe they have forgotten that good Christians in social service jobs have been doing this ministry for years, and very little recognition is given to them.

There are many good Christian caseworkers, counselors, nurses and doctors who have been working with those who struggle in life near the bottom. No one is coming to them wanting to thank them for doing the Lord's work, even though they all feel called by God to do what they are doing each day. Many of these people live out the incarnation of Jesus Christ day after day, not asking anything in return.

Court offers split decision on Ten Commandments_71105

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Court offers split decision on Ten Commandments displays

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The U.S. Supreme Court offered split decisions on an issue that often splits Americans-display of the Ten Commandments on government property-ruling one such display on the Texas Capitol grounds was appropriate while two displays in Kentucky courthouses were not.

Supreme Court vacancy could spark ideological battle_71105

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Supreme Court vacancy could spark ideological battle

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has played a crucial role in many of the Supreme Court's most controversial decisions over the past 24 years, announced her plans to retire from that body.

Texas Baptist Forum_71105

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Texas Baptist Forum

Regenerate church

There certainly are legends of Baptists on church rolls who have forgotten the church entirely, but we can't write off all missing Baptists as unregenerate (May 16).

The standard joke is that the CIA couldn't find these people. It's much easier than that. Go to the edge of just about any town, and you'll find your missing church members. Many are plugged in to a fast-growing typically nondenominational fellowship that is struggling to find room for everyone.

There was enough attractive difference in the worship, Bible study and fellowship to move Baptists away from their roots.

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

Out ((Loud))

"The opposite of faith is not doubt: It is certainty. It is madness. You can tell you have created God in your own image when it turns out that he or she hates all the same people you do."

Anne Lamott

Writer and lecturer (Salon.com)

"Patriotism can feel pride or shame at the behavior of the nation, depending on how each citizen perceives that behavior. Pride and shame should be in dialogue, for no advance in our common life has come without free and energetic debate. Patriotism rejects any stifling of debate, quashing of dissent or imposition of norms."

Tom Ehrich

Columnist and author of the forthcoming book, *Just Wondering, Jesus: 100 Questions People Want to Ask* (RNS)

"If you can't tell somebody what you stand for in the space of a napkin, then you don't clearly understand the message you are trying to communicate."

Jeff Harris

Pastor of Gracepoint Church in San Antonio, speaking at a Southern Baptist rally for "young leaders" (BP)

Bombing in England will not deter Baptist World Congress_71105

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Bombing in England will not deter Baptist World Congress

By Greg Warner & John Hall

Associated Baptist Press

DIDCOT, England (ABP)-Worldwide Baptists will continue with plans to meet July 27-31 in England, despite horror caused by deadly bombings in London July 7.

On the Move_71105

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On the Move

Justin Bindel to First Church in Wichita Falls as youth ministry assistant.

♦ **Nathan Buchanan** to First Church in Mineral Wells as minister of students and recreation from Woodward Park Church in Fresno, Calif., where he was pastor of students and missions.

♦ **Dudley Callison** to Deer Creek Church in Crowley as pastor.

Four Russian orphans need homes_71105

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Kristina and Dima	Vitaly	Oksana

Four Russian orphans need homes

DALLAS—Following a two-week visit last month in Dallas, 14 Russian orphans participating in Buckner's "Angels from Abroad" host program have returned to St. Petersburg. While most have been matched with Texas families interested in adoption, Buckner International Adoption still seeks families for four remaining children identified as adoptable by Russian authorities.

Mary Ann Hamby, community relations coordinator for Buckner International Adoption, emphasized the emotional need for a quick match for the children. "It's a real disappointment for these children to go back to their orphanage without the hope of a potential match."

Among children identified as adoptable were siblings Dima and Kristina, as well as individual children Oksana and Vitaly. Profiles of the children from caregivers in Russia include the following characteristics:

Paul's pivotal role affirmed by controversial theologian_71105

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John
Dominic
Crossan
examines a
Greek
inscription
on the
ruins of an
ancient
building
south of
Ephesus at
modern-day
Priene,
Turkey,
that refers
to "the
emperor
Caesar, son
of god, the
god
Augustus."
(RNS
Photo)

Paul's pivotal role affirmed by controversial theologian

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—John Dominic Crossan has a reputation as a liberal theologian for his role in the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars who have voted on the authenticity of the sayings of Jesus and other portions of the Bible.

Boxing ministry packs a punch in reaching young_71105

July 8, 2005

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Boxing ministry packs a punch in reaching young men

By George Henson

Staff Writer

HALE CENTER—Boxing might seem an odd means of demonstrating the love of Christ. But Jericho Fellowship—a Texas Baptist church in Plainview—is finding that for some youngsters, it packs just the right punch.

Paris church uses golf to teach Bible lessons_71105

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Young
golfers
learn
that
Jesus is
the way
out of
life's
sand
traps at
Golf
Lessons
for Life.
(Photos
by
George
Henson)

Paris church uses golf to teach Bible lessons

By George Henson

Staff Writer

PARIS-Churches either can lament the draw of sports and recreation on the people inside and outside their churches, or they can creatively use it as a ministry, Tony Van Der Wilt of First Baptist Church in Paris said.

Friendswood friends care for golfer's wife_71105

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Friendswood friends care for golfer's wife

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FRIENDSWOOD-Ministry has many different appearances, but Everett Williams knows sometimes it comes in the shape of friends allowing you the opportunity to play golf.

Hope Camp leaders model Christian love for at-risk students_71105

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Hope Camp leaders model Christian love for at-risk students

By Jocelyn Delgado

Communications Intern

LUEDERS-Twenty-two years ago, Sharla Milliorn became a volunteer counselor to help jump-start Hope Camp, a weekend designed for at-risk middle-school-aged students to learn about Christian life. Now, she's the director.