

Commentary: O'Connor Got it Right on Religion_62705

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COMMENTARY: O'Connor Got it Right on Religion

By Melissa Rogers

As most everyone knows by now, when Christians face a challenging spiritual or moral issue, we often ask ourselves, WWJD?—"What would Jesus do?" Playing on this theme, the joke among lawyers, especially among church-state lawyers, when we try to guess the outcome of a particular case or issue at the United States Supreme Court, has been to say, "WWSOCD?—What would Sandra Day O'Connor do?"

What Justice O'Connor has done today is announce her retirement from the nation's highest bench. As the joke indicates, it is difficult to overstate her critical role in the determination of issues pertaining to the relationship between religion and government. Quite simply, her vote has often been the one that tipped the judicial balance toward ensuring that the government was restrained from promoting religion.

"Her vote has often been the one that tipped the judicial balance toward ensuring that the government was restrained from promoting religion."

At the same time, Justice O'Connor's jurisprudence has supported a vital role for religion in public life and strong protection for the exercise of religion. Thus, O'Connor's voice has reflected a sensibly centrist position on church-state issues—firm restrictions on government's role in the religious realm and strong support for the right of religious individuals and religious groups to express and otherwise practice their faith in public and private places.

Court ruling on 'eminent domain' could jeopardize churches_62705

July 4, 2005

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Court ruling on 'eminent domain' could jeopardize churches

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A closely divided Supreme Court ruled municipal and other governments have broad power to seize private property—including houses of worship—for public purposes.

Texas Baptist volunteers showing Sri Lankans they're not just tourists_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 7/01/05

Texas Baptist volunteers showing Sri Lankans they're not just tourists

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

COLUMBO, Sri Lanka—Texas Baptists are showing residents of eastern Sri Lanka kindness they never expected, said David Beckett, director of Children's Emergency Relief International work in the South Asia nation.

Graham's New York crusade

reflected diversity_62705

heaven's

July 4, 2005

Posted: 7/01/05

Graham's New York crusade reflected heaven's diversity

By Berta Delgado-Young

Baptist Press

NEW YORK (BP)—As he has for 60 years, Billy Graham ended his three-day New York crusade by offering about 90,000 in the crowd a glimpse of heaven Sunday night. But as in perhaps no other crusade in his long history of evangelism, New York provided heaven's face.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Amazing Grace_62705

July 4, 2005

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CYBER COLUMN: Amazing Grace

By Jeanie Miley

From the time I was a child, I have loved “Amazing Grace,” both the song and the Reality.

When I was a child, however, I always tripped and fell over that line about grace teaching my heart to fear. Somehow, my mind couldn’t wrap itself around that concept, given the teaching about grace being “God’s unmerited favor.”

Jeanie Miley

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 10: Rejection of Christ will bring judgment_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/29/05

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 10

Rejection of Christ will bring judgment

- Revelation 8:1-9:6, 13-15, 20-21

By Wayne Smith

LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 10: God's armor helps fend off the darkness_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/29/05

LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 10

God's armor helps fend off the darkness

• Ephesians 6:10-20

By Mitch Randall

LifeWay Explore the Bible

Series for July 10: Repentance is necessary to follow God_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/29/05

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for July 10

Repentance is necessary to follow God

- Ezekiel 33

By Dennis Tucker

Bush praises Baptists as 'soldiers in the army of compassion'_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/24/05

President
Bush
addresses
Southern
Baptist
Convention
messengers
by satellite
video.
(Photo by
John
Swain/BP)

Bush praises Baptists as 'soldiers in the army of compassion'

By Tony Cartledge

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)-Touting his desire to build a “more compassionate society,” President Bush thanked Southern Baptists June 21 for being “soldiers in the army of compassion” who make a difference in America and the world.

Move to shift missions money to political action fails_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/24/05

Move to shift missions money to political action fails

By Marv Knox

Editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn.-The Southern Baptist Convention turned back an attempt to redirect money from missions to political action during its annual meeting in Nashville.

Southern Baptists approve tribute to Billy Graham_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/24/05

Southern Baptists approve tribute to Billy Graham

By Marv Knox

Editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Even though he could not attend, Southern Baptists' favorite son stood in the spotlight at their annual meeting June 22 in Nashville.

During a special recognition service for the ministry of Billy Graham, Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, unveiled a bronze model of Graham in a pose familiar to millions worldwide from his many crusades.

Motion to bring WMU under SBC authority introduced_62705

July 4, 2005

Posted: 6/25/05

Motion to bring WMU under SBC authority introduced

By Marv Knox

Editor

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Convention will consider bringing its women's auxiliary under its authority, thanks to a motion from the floor of the SBC annual meeting.