

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 29: Choosing God not open to compromise_51605

May 17, 2005

Posted: 5/17/05

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 29

Choosing God not open to compromise

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20

By Wayne Smith

LifeWay Family Bible Series for May 29: Leave a godly legacy for others to emulate_51605

May 17, 2005

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for May 29

Leave a godly legacy for others to emulate

• Genesis 24:1-67

By Mitch Randall

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for May 29: Forget destruction, sin separates from God_51605

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for May 29

Forget destruction, sin separates from God

• Lamentations 3

By Dennis Tucker

Southern Baptists bow out of radio ministry_51605

May 17, 2005

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Southern Baptists bow out of radio ministry

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (ABP)-The Southern Baptist Convention may end 64 years of radio ministry, North American Mission Board sources have indicated.

Storylist for 4/18/05_41805

May 17, 2005

Storylist for week of 4/18/05

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Baylor regents name Underwood interim president_51605

May 17, 2005

Posted: 5/13/05

Baylor regents name Underwood interim president

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO-Baylor University regents elected law professor Bill Underwood interim president unanimously on a first ballot, newly re-elected Chairman Will Davis of Austin announced immediately after the regents' spring meeting.

Air Force to investigate religious discrimination at Academy_51605

May 17, 2005

Posted: 5/06/05

Air Force to investigate religious discrimination at Academy

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)âA top Pentagon official has ordered the appointment of a special task force to investigate âlingering allegationsâ about religious discrimination at the Air Force Academy toward cadets who are not evangelical Christians.

Academy representatives report the panel is being established to assess a range of topics, including academy policy on religious tolerance and the influence of the chain of command on religious liberty at the academy.

Also at issue, said Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez, is whether academy practices âenhance or detract from a climate that respects both the âfree exercise of religion' and the âestablishment clauses' of the First Amendment.â Those constitutional clauses ban the government from either endorsing or limiting the religious practice of individuals or private groups.

The announcement, following several months of allegations about an atmosphere of religious harassment and discrimination at the Colorado Springs, Colo., institution, came days after Pentagon officials were sent a report that catalogued and documented many of the charges.

Attorneys for Americans United for Separation of Church and State sent Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Air Force officials the 14-page document which detailed several allegations of constitutional violations by top officials and upper-class cadets at the academy.

Among AU's allegations were that large numbers of top administrators, chaplains and faculty members openly and regularly advocated on behalf of evangelical Protestantism, often using coercive means.

The report singled out two officials—Gen. Johnny Weida, the academy's commandant of cadets; and head football coach Fisher DeBerry—and charged them with repeatedly abusing their authority to coerce students to embrace evangelical Christianity.

Among the report's allegations:

- Christian cadets who wish to attend off-campus religious services on Sundays are given special allowances to do so that are not extended to members of minority faiths or Christian groups that observe the Sabbath on other days of the week.

- Cadets or academy officials regularly offer sectarian prayers at meals, training sessions for students and at athletic events—in direct contradiction to court decisions.

- Upperclassmen cadets who are Christians are encouraged by their superiors to proselytize underclass cadets in their charge.

- Cadets of minority faiths or no faith are regularly harassed, discriminated

against and frequently subjected to religious epithets at the hands of Christian cadets.

The investigation by Americans United, their report concluded, "has revealed numerous flagrant and egregious violations of the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as a general climate of religious coercion and official hostility toward those who do not practice evangelical Christianity. We have concluded that both the specific violations and the promotion of a culture of official religious intolerance are pervasive, systematic, and evident at the very highest levels of the academy's command structure."

The Pentagon press release said the allegations "are being taken very seriously by the Air Force." It continued: "This newly appointed task force will assess the religious climate and adequacy of Air Force efforts to address the issue at the USAFA."

However, it also noted, "Considerable efforts have been made during the past several months at the USAFA to address issues of religious tolerance and respect." The academy's superintendent, Gen. John Rosa Jr., implemented a plan to address the issue after "discovering perceptions of religious bias during surveys in 2004." As a result, academy officials instituted a new training program for all cadets, called "Respecting the Spiritual Values of all People," or RSVP.

The Americans United report alleges RSVP has changed significantly from its original form and "that the resulting RSVP program does not adequately teach and promote the fundamental constitutional requirement of separation of church and state."

Nonetheless, when asked for comment on the AU allegations, Air Force spokesperson Jennifer Stephens said the service's "leadership continues to be confident that the academy and the Air Force at large will continue to

promote self-critique, self-inspection and self-improvement in all areas.â€œ

Stephenson said the task force may include members from outside the Air Force. A preliminary report is due by May 23, she said.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Web snares college students; offers link to ministries_51605

May 17, 2005

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Web snares college students; offers link to ministries

By Brooklyn Noel

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—University of Texas student Ashley Cook checks the mailbox outside her off-campus dormitory five days a week. The third-year student is, however, a “compulsive e-mail checker” who sifts through the contents of her three e-mail accounts as many as four times each day.

Teacher sees random encounters as divine preparation_51605

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Moumin
Quazi
discusses a
reading
assignment
with one of
his
freshman
English
classes at
Wayland
Baptist
University.
(Photo
courtesy of
Wayland
Baptist
University)

Teacher sees random encounters as divine preparation

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-Moumin Quazi identifies with Forrest Gump. Like the fictional character, he believes a series of seemingly happenstance occurrences and encounters led him to fulfill his destiny.

Recent graduate discovers sometimes wildest dreams come true_51605

May 17, 2005

Posted: 5/13/05

Recent graduate discovers sometimes wildest dreams come true

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-Growing up in Mexico, Santos Rodriguez dreamed of pursuing

an education beyond the sixth grade. But in his wildest dreams, he never expected to walk across an auditorium stage in Plainview someday to receive a master's degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Kutless band members love to see God change lives_51605

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Kutless (Photo courtesy of Big Machine Media)
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Kutless band members love to see God change lives

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

When the Christian rock group Kutless performs, teenagers wearing heavy-metal T-shirts often attend their concerts with the intention of making fun of the band. But when Kutless starts playing, they usually change their

tune.

Covington church says missions project gave them 'eyes to see' needs_51605

May 17, 2005

Posted: 5/13/05

Covington church says missions project gave them 'eyes to see' needs

By Bob Perkins Jr.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

COVINGTON-When more than 30 members of First Baptist Church in Covington agreed to participate in a mission trip, Pastor Kerry Horn believed they were taking to heart his sermons about how every Christian is a minister.