

Hymns are hot, as Christian artists seek lyrical richness_51605

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Amy Grant

Hymns are hot, as Christian artists seek lyrical richness

By Beau Black

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—One of the oldest Christian music expressions may again become one of the hottest—if the term “hot” can be applied to hymns.

Texas Baptist Forum_51605

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Texas Baptist Forum

Double speak

I was saddened by the editorial “Rally contradicts Baptists' heritage” (May 2). It was a typical example of “double speak” that feeds the secularization of our faith.

One could see evidence of a political position in the “Justice Sunday” rally. By the same token, political position could be inferred from Christ's “render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's.” It is error to assume political positions are bereft of theological stances. From the earliest inception of the Baptist peculiar theological positioning, pulpits have decried political intrusions into religious freedom.

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"Little wonder that we have such a hard time keeping the church's story straight. All week long, we live by other stories; the stories of consumerism, materialism, capitalism and nationalism. Then we go to church on Sunday and try to embrace a story that doesn't fit with any of the stories by which we live the rest of our lives."

Chuck Poole

Baptist minister with Lifeshare Community Ministries in Jackson, Miss.
(The Baptist Studies Bulletin)

"There were followers of Jesus before the word 'Christian' was invented. They were first called Christians at Antioch. So, I think we've got a biblical case for people being followers of Jesus without having to use that word."

Brian McLaren

Pastor, author and "emerging church" leader (ABP)

"Jesus updated the Ten Commandments in his most famous speech, the Sermon on the Mount. In it, one finds the Eight Beatitudes. Why don't we ever hear about nailing those somewhere? Here's why: It's not simply the law in the Ten Commandments that attracts fundamentalists. Rather, it's the syntax. The authoritarianism of so many 'Thou shalt nots.'"

Jack Hitt

Author of *Off the Road: A Modern-Day Walk Down the Pilgrim's Route Into Spain* (Los Angeles Times/RNS)

Internet lottery bills defeated in Texas House_51605

May 13, 2005

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Internet lottery bills defeated in Texas House

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN-In two decisive votes, the Texas House of Representatives killed an attempt to expand lottery sales to the Internet.

Young parents find marital bliss elusive, studies show_51605

May 13, 2005

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Young parents find marital bliss elusive, studies show

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Having a child is called the most joyous event in one's life. But that may be a passing fad, some studies suggest.

Nazareth Baptists upset by IMB property plans_51605

May 13, 2005

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Nazareth Baptists upset by IMB property plans

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

NAZARETH, Israel (ABP)-Baptists in Nazareth, Israel, are upset with International Mission Board plans to sell a 50-year-old stone building that a local Baptist church uses for worship and other churches use for various ministries.

On the Move_51605

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On the Move

Bill Adams to Miller Heights Church in Belton as pastor from Calvary Church in Port Arthur.

♦ **Stephen Alfred** to Meadowbrook Church in Rockdale as minister of youth.

♦ **Mike Allen** to Hilltop Church in Hamilton as pastor.

LEAN ON ME: Parkinsonians find support, therapy at church_51605

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Bob Noland, (left) former business administrator at First Baptist Church in Garland, exercises during a physical therapy session at South Garland Baptist Church.

Parkinsonians value the social dimension of the church-sponsored ministry—including games of 42—as much as the therapy sessions and support groups. (Photos by Ken Camp)

LEAN ON ME: Parkinsonians find support, therapy at church



Virgil Noe, a deacon at South Garland Baptist Church, participates in the physical therapy sessions his church provides for people with Parkinson's disease and related conditions. (Photo by Ken Camp)

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

GARLAND-In a meeting hall where teenagers gather for Bible study each Wednesday and Sunday, a physical therapist leads a group of senior adults in an hour of stretching, bending and light weight lifting.

Recovery groups enable churches to help people heal_51605

May 13, 2005

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Recovery groups enable churches to help people heal

By George Henson

Staff Writer

RICHARDSON-If churches want to see new faces in their pews, they need to help people heal from their hurts, habits and hang-ups, asserts Pastor John Pollard of Richland Baptist Church in Richardson.

Small church-based groups offer much-needed

support_51605

May 13, 2005

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Small church-based groups offer much-needed support

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Rome wasn't built in a day, and no building is entirely held together by one metal beam. Susan Edwards, director of Hope for Healing Ministries, said humans are no different; they grow slowly with the support of others.

Texas Tidbits_51605

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Texas Tidbits

Retired Baylor teacher helps beautify campus. Sadie Jo Black, who taught 35 years in Baylor University's family and consumer sciences department, established an endowed fund to provide for gardens in the

university's Founders Mall, between Pat Neff Hall and Waco Hall. The Black Gardens include thousands of perennial flowers framed by a manicured lawn and boxwoods. Black, a member of First Baptist Church in Waco, graduated from Baylor in 1950 and was an assistant professor at the university until her retirement in 1992.

DBU goes wireless. Dallas Baptist University students now are able to access the Internet wirelessly from any building on campus. Once they log on, they can access the DBU website at www.dbu.edu and log-in to their e-mail accounts, download assignments, check message boards or turn in their projects. "In 2000, we began our wireless campaign in one of our dorm facilities," explained Doug Williams, DBU associate vice president for information and technology. "Each year, the demand for wireless increased, and each year, we added another building to the growing list of wireless hubs."

Linams honored at Decatur College reunion. Dennis and Gail Linam were honored as honorary alumni of Decatur Baptist College during the annual reunion for the predecessor institution to Dallas Baptist University. He has served at DBU almost 17 years and is vice president for external affairs, director of alumni relations and director of the John G. Mahler Student Center. She is provost and has filled a number of roles at DBU, including vice president for undergraduate affairs and dean. The Linams are members of First Baptist Church in Arlington.

UMHB names O'Rear chief operating officer_51605

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UMHB names O'Rear chief operating officer

BELTON-The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor trustees voted to approve Randy O'Rear as executive vice president and chief operating officer effective June 1.

In this newly created position, O'Rear will oversee all non-academic functions of the university.

Randy O'Rear

President Jerry Bawcom announced the appointment of O'Rear, who has served the university since 1988, most recently as vice president for external relations. Previous responsibilities included assistant baseball coach, associate director of advancement, director of development and associate vice president for enrollment management.

'Every crime has a victim'_51605

May 13, 2005

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'Every crime has a victim'

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—David Cooke, associate pastor and minister of education at First Baptist Church in Devine, regularly wears a pin on the lapel of his jacket, but it isn't a cross or American flag. It isn't even a religious statement, yet it says a lot about his spiritual life.