

LifeWay Family Bible Series for April 17: Guard your tongue for the gospel's sake_40405

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for April 17

Guard your tongue for the gospel's sake

James 3:1-12; 4:11-12; 5:12

By Mitch Randall

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for April 17: Leading others to see God is not always easy_40405

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for April 17

Leading others to see God is not always easy

Jeremiah 28

By Dennis Tucker

Truett Seminary, Waco

BWA leaders hear reports of church growth_40405

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BWA leaders hear reports of church growth

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist World Alliance

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Baptist leaders from around the world gave glowing accounts of church growth during a recent Baptist World Alliance executive committee meeting.

German Baptists emphasize cooperation_40405

April 5, 2005

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German Baptists emphasize cooperation

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-The "richness of God" is shown through the cooperation of his people, German Baptist leaders said during a Baptist General Convention of Texas prayer meeting.

Teens & Sex_40405

April 5, 2005

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By Joe Westbury

Georgia Christian Index

ATLANTA (BP)-Whenever love is in the air, many youth these days are saying “not so fast.”



Photo by Patrick Dennis/The Advocate of Baton Rouge/RNS

Teens looking for loopholes in all the wrong places_40405

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Teens looking for loopholes in all the wrong places

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Youth ministers and parents need to close the loophole teenagers have conjured up for themselves in sexual abstinence pledges by speaking frankly about oral sex, counselor Carrie Beaird said.

Astros' Pettitte makes a pitch for sexual purity_40405

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Astros' Pettitte makes a pitch for sexual purity

By Shawn Hendricks

LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE-Houston Astros pitcher Andy Pettitte has played 10 seasons in the major leagues and knows all about the physical and emotional rigors of being a professional athlete. But, he said, living a life of spiritual integrity and sexual purity is just as challenging.

Purity pledges offer teens a counter-cultural alternative_40405

April 5, 2005

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Purity pledges offer teens a counter-cultural alternative

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND-Luvirt Parker was 16 years old when he first pledged at a True Love Waits rally to remain a virgin until his wedding day.

Book Reviews_40405

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Book reviews

Evangelism in the Early Church by Michael Green (Eerdmans)

One of the most effective churches I have ever seen in evangelism was St. Aldate's Church in Oxford, England, when Michael Green was the pastor in the 1980s.

Green, who later taught at Regent College in Vancouver and then returned to his homeland to serve the Church of England in evangelism and missions, details here the key reasons Christianity spread so rapidly in its first centuries. While doing careful analysis, he never reduces this story to technique. It is always about the will of God, the good news of the cross of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Baptist Briefs_40405

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Journal focuses on the Baptist community. The Baptist History and Heritage Society recently released The Baptist Community, the society's winter 2005 journal issue. Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz wrote the introductory article, "Who and Where in the World are the Baptists?" Other articles address the history and work of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, Progressive National Baptists, Korean Baptists, Pentecostal Free Will Baptists and Seventh Day Baptists. To order the journal, e-mail pdurso@tnbaptist.org or call (800) 966-2278. The cost is \$8 plus shipping.

CBF offers sabbatical grants. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Initiative for Ministerial Excellence is accepting applications for 45 sabbatical grants to be awarded in 2006. Pastors who have been in the same ministry setting for at least seven years are eligible to apply for the \$2,500 grants. The pastor's congregation must approve the sabbatical, which must be a minimum of four weeks. The sabbatical program is part of

a \$1.9 million Lilly Endowment grant that also has created 56 peer learning networks and ministry residencies for recent seminary graduates. For more information, call (804) 379-0915.

GuideStone seeks needy retirees. GuideStone Financial Resources-formerly the Southern Baptist Annuity Board-wants to locate retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers or widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs and offer assistance through its Adopt an Annuitant program. The program is open to retirees age 65 or older with 10 years or more paid Southern Baptist service who have income of less than \$1,250 per month for single applicants and less than \$1,665 per month for married applicants. Applicants also must have less than \$30,000 in assets, excluding their home. A widow or widower married at least 10 years to an individual who would have met the qualifications also is eligible to apply. Qualified individuals receive \$200 a month, and qualified couples receive \$265 a month. Depending on their situation, they may receive monthly support, a one-time grant or emergency assistance. For information, e-mail adopt@GuideStone.org, call (800) 262-0511, or visit the website at www.guidestone.org and select Adopt an Annuitant from the menu.

**My Brother's Keeper shelter a
haven for homeless in**

Waco_40405

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Burrell
Steele
(left), a
volunteer
at the My
Brother's
Keeper
shelter,
offers
assistance.
(Photos by
Sarah
Farris)

My Brother's Keeper shelter a haven for homeless in Waco

By Sarah Farris

Special to the Baptist Standard

WACO-A sign in Mission Waco office says: "If you're here for an appointment, welcome. Otherwise, if you're sitting here, be ready to volunteer."

Cartoon_40405

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<p>“Before I call up God, what time is it in heaven?”</p>

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.