

# Church activists see federal budget as moral document

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Jim Wallis,  
founder of the  
anti-poverty  
group Call to  
Renewal, leads a  
budget protest  
outside the U.S.  
Capitol. (RNS  
photo courtesy of  
Ryan  
Beiler/Sojourners)

## Church activists see federal budget as moral document

**By Kevin Eckstrom**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—When mainline Protestant leaders assembled in the nation's capital last March to denounce President Bush's proposed budget as “unjust,” they were received much like the Old Testament prophets they look to for inspiration—just another lonely voice, crying out in the wilderness.

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# Church bulletin errors tickle the funny bone

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## Church bulletin errors tickle the funny bone

**By Heather Horiuchi**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—It has long been said that to err is human. But to forgive mistakes in church bulletins may be divine.

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## Cartoon

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**"Pastor said  
the new  
year is like  
a  
clean slate,  
so I deleted  
everything."**

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.

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# **Transitions spotlight new face of Baptist higher education**

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Beneath  
the  
shadow of  
the cross,  
Dallas  
Baptist  
University  
students  
walk  
across  
campus to  
classes  
after a  
chapel  
service.  
(Photo  
courtesy  
of Dallas  
Baptist  
University)

## **Transitions spotlight new face of Baptist higher education**

**By Hannah Lodwick**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—Three of the nation's largest Baptist universities each have chosen a different strategy in selecting the president who will shape the school's future. Now pundits wonder which model will emerge as the new

face of Christian higher learning.

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## **2nd Opinion: 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'**

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### **2nd Opinion: 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'**

**By John Lilley**

The Baylor University board of regents, in electing me as the university's 13th president, has given me a great opportunity to come back and lead an institution that had a transforming effect on my life.

Arriving on campus in the late 1950s, fresh from Louisiana, Baylor opened a whole new world to me. I not only received outstanding instruction and mentoring from Baylor professors who cared deeply about me and my calling, I was taken in by the wonderful Baylor families who worshipped at First Baptist Church in Waco. First Baptist became my home away from home. Two days after my election as Baylor's president, my wife, Gerrie, and I united with this church. It was a true homecoming for me.

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# **DOWN HOME Two memories to last a lifetime**

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## **DOWN HOME: Two memories to last a lifetime**

For a few minutes, I felt like the most handsome guy on the planet.

Call it good-looks-by-association. I was still the same me, just dressed up in a tuxedo. But I had the most beautiful bride-our oldest daughter, Lindsay-on my left arm.

We stood at the back of our church, waiting for her wedding to begin. Those were golden moments-the serene calm in the middle of an enormously hectic day.

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## **EDITORIAL: Lessons from an**

# exploded mineshaft

January 6, 2006

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## EDITORIAL:

### Lessons from an exploded mineshaft

Gladness and relief melted into sadness and grief last Wednesday morning. Like millions of Americans, I scoured the newspaper as I poured my first cup of coffee. The most important headline reported encouraging news: “12 of 13 trapped miners survive.” I prayed as I poured milk over my cereal, thanking God for the safety of a dozen West Virginia coal miners I never would know.

A short while later, my wife, Joanna, walked in from the bedroom, where she had been watching TV. “What an awful tragedy; 12 of those 13 miners died,” she said. I showed her the newspaper article, confident-or maybe simply hoping-the happier report was true.



She called me as I drove to work. Unfortunately, the TV report she heard had been based on the latest information: Miscommunication at the mine led to an incorrect early report. Instead of 12 survivors, the Sago Mine explosion claimed their lives, leaving only one survivor.

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# Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

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From the fanciful science fiction themes of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (above) and Star Wars (below) to the classic American Western Shane (right), Hollywood has presented its share of on-screen Christ figures. (Photos courtesy of Lucas Films, Universal Pictures, Paramount)





# Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

**By Joanna Connors**

*Religion News Service*

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)-A mysterious visitor arrives from the heavens to walk among us. At first, hardly anyone believes in his existence. Gradually, though, more and more people come to know and follow him, as he teaches lessons of love to the meek and powerless.

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# Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry

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Kokomo Baptist Church near Gorman is pictured before and after the fire that destroyed its facility. For information on Baptist General Convention of Texas relief efforts for victims of the wildfires, call (888) 311-3900.

## **Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

GORMAN-Wildfires that swept across thousands of acres in North Texas burned down Kokomo Baptist Church, near Gorman.

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## **Texas Baptist Forum**

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# Texas Baptist Forum

## Frog in the kettle

Your editorial chiding Christians for “angry, militant proclamations of 'Merry Christmas'” (Dec. 19) reminded me of a recent experience I had at lunch with my wife and another couple.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to [marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com); 250 words maximum.



*"Lost: 29 trees. Gained: More light."*

**Calder Baptist Church**

A sign on the Beaumont church's property during cleanup from Hurricane Rita. Jim Fuller is the pastor.

*"Anti-Christian persecution and discrimination around the world ... is ugly, it's growing, and ... the mass media seem to generally ignore or downplay its gravity."*

**Charles Chaput**

Catholic archbishop of Denver, speaking at a panel discussion on religious freedom on Capitol Hill. (The Washington Times/RNS)

*"I want to give all of my body to my husband."*

**Katie McMunn**

A 17-year old who promised abstinence until marriage when she slipped on a "chastity ring" at a pro-abstinence event in Pittsburgh. (The New York Times/RNS)

*"Hip-hop has what all corporate America wants-18-35-year-old employed adults with growing families. That's why you see Russell Simmons producing clothes, Snoop Dogg hawking Chrysler. Everyone wants us. Why not the church?"*

**Tommy Kyllonen**

Senior pastor of hip-hip Crossover Community Church in Tampa, Fla. (USA Today/RNS)

As we prepared to partake, we held hands and said a blessing. A nearby diner rose and complained to the manager that our public display had offended him and his companion, who were atheists. The manager told him he would in the future seat the man in a prayer-free section.

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## On the Move

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## On the Move

**Vernon Andrews** to Choate Church in Kenedy as pastor.

- ◆ **Jeff Ashley** to Tolar Church in Tolar as music minister.
  - ◆ **Glynn Beaty** has resigned as pastor of Old Time Church in Riesel.
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## Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

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# Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

**By Thomas Spencer**

*Religion News Service*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)-A planned lecture by a proponent of intelligent design has upset Samford University faculty who don't want the Baptist-affiliated school to be perceived as endorsing alternatives to evolution.