

TOGETHER: Work together to share God's grace

November 10, 2006

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TOGETHER: Work together to share God's grace

“Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.”

Those are the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:2. He reveals the truth that God has smiled on the world, that there is a new hope come to humanity.

When Jesus was baptized, “heaven was opened” (Matthew 3:16). I heard Denton Lotz, leader of the [Baptist World Alliance](#), say it was common before Jesus for people to believe that the heavens were closed except for a few. But God, in Christ, throws open the heavens. Now, all of us—Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female—are candidates for God's grace.



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Or as [Dallas Willard](#) puts it in *The Divine Conspiracy*, “The really good news for humanity is that Jesus is now taking students in the master class of life.” Jesus invites us to enroll in this class and to learn from him. It is a class where we learn to become like our teacher. And there is no sign in the registration line that says, “Class closed.” There is a seat for everyone who wishes to enter.

Degree of Difference Day draws Wayland workers

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Jeremiah Saiz, assistant coach for the Wayland Pioneer baseball team, rakes the playground gravel level at Wee Care Child Care Center, while Celeste Louder (left) of Hereford and Callie Wheeler of Whitewright pull weeds from the playground.

Degree of Difference Day draws

Wayland workers

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW—About 300 [Wayland Baptist University](#) students, faculty and staff donated a recent Saturday to community projects throughout the Plainview area as part of the school's Degree of Difference Day.

Each volunteer worked at least five hours. Teams worked in construction on a Habitat for Humanity house; painted and made minor repairs for the College Hill Day Care Center, Wee Care Child Center, Whiteaker Youth Center, Plainview Christian Academy and Compassionate Care Pregnancy Center; and did office work and organizational projects at the Hale County Crisis Center and Vista Care Hospice.

Singles seek soul mates on the Web

November 10, 2006

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Singles seek soul mates on the Web

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—For spiritual singles seeking a soul mate in cyberspace, one pool of potential matches is about to get a lot bigger.

Beliefnet, whose spirituality website—Beliefnet.com—attracts 3.1 million users per month, announced it will connect its dating service users with those of Yahoo Personals, an online dating service based in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Youth ministers urged to understand middle-school culture

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Youth
ministry
specialist
Chap
Clark
visits
with
youth
ministers
from
Texas,
Arkansas,
Louisiana
and
Oklahoma
at Youth
Ministry
Conclave
2006 to
help meet
their
needs as
they work
to reach
teenagers
for
Christ.

Youth ministers urged to

understand middle-school culture

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON—Chaos, confusion and abandonment characterize youth culture today, a national youth ministry expert asserted. But he challenged Baptist youth ministers to help teens turn the chaos into the comfort Christ brings.

Christian author and youth ministry specialist [Chap Clark](#), associate professor at [Fuller Theological Seminary](#), urges youth ministers to spend time in the real world.

Cybercolumn By John Duncan: Thanksgiving list

November 10, 2006

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CYBER COLUMN: Thanksgiving list

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering life as I know it on this

rainy day. Another Sunday has folded its page on the calendar, and Thanksgiving soon arrives. I love the Lord, Sundays, the church and have so much for which to give thanks.

Actually, I was thinking about that first Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has its roots in the harvest home celebrations that took place in England before the [Pilgrims](#) ever arrived on the sand and shores of America. Thirty-eight English settlers docked the shores of the James River at the Berkley plantation in what is today known as Charles City, Va. The settlers declared, a "[Day of thanksgiving to God](#)" after their torturous ride across the Atlantic. Later, another group of Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock on Dec. 11, 1620, and then further south at Cape Cod, Mass. I can only imagine that first, harsh winter in New England. The snow, the questions, the death as they lost about half their settlers, the grief, the misery, the agony, the anger, the longing for home, the joy, and even the adventure of the new land.

John Duncan

Texas Baptist Forum

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

Texas Baptist Forum

Not all brothers

Why do people assume Christians, Jews and Muslims are all heirs of Abraham?

Abraham was not Noah; certainly not Adam or God. He wasn't in a vacuum, and humanity didn't begin with him. There were plenty of people alive already when God told him (Genesis 12:1) to get away from them, including his kinfolks. And what about those living in the land God sent him to, not to mention enemies along the way? Who are their descendants today?

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.
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Out((Loud))

“Dear friends, until Moses comes down with two stone tablets from Brokeback Mountain saying we’ve changed the rules, let’s keep it like it is.”

Mike Huckabee

Arkansas governor and former Baptist pastor, speaking about same-sex marriage (RNS)

“Those of us on the right have been losing ground since the 1970s and ’80s. Can we ultimately win? I think you would need a reconversion of the country to a traditionalist, Christian point of view—and I don’t see that coming.”

Pat Buchanan

Conservative author of the new book *State of Emergency*, discussing his belief that conservatives will lose the culture wars (Time magazine/RNS)

“Abu Ghraib: I believe that really hurt us. It hurt us internationally. It kind of eased us off the moral high ground; we weren’t a country that was capable of, on the one hand, promoting democracy and then treating people decently.”

President Bush

Responding to a reporter’s question at a White House news conference about torture at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq (RNS)

I have to believe those who truly claim Abraham as their ancestral or spiritual patriarch cannot be enemies among themselves, and those of murderous intent surely descended from the “mixed multitudes” that were a threat then, as now. The fact is, none of us knows who we truly are genetically, only who we choose to be and how we choose to behave.

2nd Opinion: Who will seek Middle East peace?

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

2nd Opinion: Who will seek Middle East peace?

By Denton Lotz

Every day, the church is confronted with great ethical issues involving war and peace, corruption and justice, issues of both personal and social consequences. The waiting world, in the form of the secular media, wants answers from Christians: “Whose side are you on? Where do you stand?” Unfortunately, the church and world are so polarized that often we do not speak with one voice. This has always been the case with humanity, from Cain and Abel disagreeing until today.

During the days of the Vietnam War, there were great ethical controversies confronting the church. Paul Ramsey, professor of ethics at Princeton

Theological Seminary, wrote a book titled *Who Speaks for the Church?* He questioned whether the liberal voice was truly speaking for the church.

Today, there are those who ask whether the conservative voice is really speaking for the church. The war between Israel and Hezbollah has again forced Christians to give an answer. And many different answers have been given.

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 19: Wisdom for every area of life

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 19

Wisdom for every area of life

• Proverbs 22:17-25; 23:10-11, 19-28; 24:10-12, 15-20

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 19: Live in reality, not delusion

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 19

Live in reality, not delusion

- Isaiah 40:18-22; 41:5-7; 44:9,18-20; 45:20-22

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for November 19: Persevere in the midst of adversity

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

Explore the Bible Series for November 19

Persevere in the midst of adversity

- Hebrews 12:1-8, 12-16, 28-29

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Direct access to God through Jesus Christ is the goal of religion. The “cloud of witnesses” enables Christians to persevere in the midst of difficulty. The race of life will require endurance, discipline, consistency, listening and gratitude.

Baptist Connections

November 10, 2006

Baptist Links

[Texas](#) | [SBC](#) | [News Sources](#) | [State Conventions](#) | [Other Baptist Links](#) |

1. **Texas Baptist Universities and Schools:**

- [San Marcos Baptist Academy](#)-San Marcos, Texas.
- [Baylor University](#)-Waco, Texas.
- [Dallas Baptist University](#)-Dallas, Texas.

- [East Texas Baptist University](#)-Marshall, Texas.
- [Hardin-Simmons University](#)-Abilene, Texas.
- [Houston Baptist University](#)-Houston, Texas.
- [Howard Payne University](#)-Brownwood, Texas.
- [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#)-Belton, Texas.
- [Wayland Baptist University](#)-Plainview & San Antonio, Texas.

2. **Texas Baptist Theological Education:**

- [Baptist University of the Americas](#)-San Antonio, Texas.
- [Logsdon School of Theology](#)-Abilene, Texas.
- [George W. Truett Theological Seminary](#)-Waco, Texas.

3. **Child and Family Services**

- [Buckner Children & Family Services](#)
- [Children at Heart Ministries](#)
- [Baptist Child and Family Services](#)
- [South Texas Children's Home](#)

4. **Healthcare**

- [Baylor Health Care System](#)
- [Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio](#)
- [Hendrick Health System](#)
- [Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center](#)
- [Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital](#)
- [Valley Baptist Health System](#)

5. Indirectly Related Medical Centers

- [Baptist Health System](#)
- [Baptist St. Anthony's Health System](#)

6. [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#)

- **Texas Baptist Partners & Departments:**

- [Texas Baptist Men.](#)
- [Woman's Missionary Union.](#)
- [River Ministry.](#)
- [Christian Life Commission.](#)
- [WorldconneX.](#)
- [Baptist Church Loan Corporation.](#)
- [Child & Family](#)
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- **Texas Baptist Missions and Ministry**

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- [College Ministry](#)
- [Community Ministry](#)
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- [Hunger Relief](#)
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- [Missions Opportunities](#)
- [Women](#)

- **Texas Baptist Church Resources**

- [BaptistWay Press](#)
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- [Age-Specific Resources](#)
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- [Baptist History & Heritage](#)
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- [Calendar of Events](#)

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- **Southern Baptist Convention**

- [SBC.net](#)-The Southern Baptist Convention.
- [Guidestone Financial Resources](#).
- [ERLC](#)-Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- [SBC Executive Committee](#)
 - [Baptist2Baptist](#)
 - [Baptist Press](#)-SBC news service.
 - [Cooperative Program](#).
- [International Mission Board](#)
- [LifeWay Christian Resources](#)
- [North American Mission Board](#)

- **Seminaries:**

- [Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Mill Valley, California.
- [Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Kansas City, Missouri.
- [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-New Orleans, Louisiana.
- [Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Wake Forest, North Carolina.
- [Southern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Louisville, Kentucky.
- [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Fort Worth, Texas.
- [Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary](#)-Cochrane, Alberta

- **Organizations related to Southern Baptists**

- [Woman's Missionary Union.](#)
- [Baptist Center for Ethics.](#)
- [Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.](#)
- [Baptist World Alliance.](#)
- [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.](#)
- [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas.](#)
- [SBTC-Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.](#)
- [Criswell College](#)

- **Organizations concerned with current SBC issues**
 - [Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.](#)
 - [Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists.](#)
 - [Missouri Baptist Laymen's Association.](#)
 - [Texas Baptists Committed.](#)

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- **Baptist News Sources:**
 - [The Baptist Standard, Texas](#)
 - [Biblical Recorder, North Carolina](#)
 - [Florida Baptist Witness](#)
 - [Baptist Message, Louisiana](#)
 - [Word & Way, Missouri](#)
 - [Baptist New Mexican](#)
 - [Arkansas Baptist News](#)
 - [Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma](#)
 - [Tennessee Baptist & Reflector](#)
 - [California Southern Baptist](#)
 - [Associated Baptist Press](#)
 - [Cooperative Baptist Press News](#)
 - [Baptist Press-Southern Baptist Convention](#)

news service.

- [Baptists Today](#)—previously *SBC Today*.
- [SBC Life](#)—journal of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- [Southern Baptist Texan](#)

▪ **General sources of information on Baptists:**

- [BaptistDistinctives.org](#)
- [Baptist History and Heritage Society](#)
- [The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University](#)
- [Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives](#)
- [Virginia Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies](#)
- [BaptistLife.com](#)

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▪ **State Baptist Conventions**

- [Alabama Baptist State Convention](#)
P.O. Box 11870 Montgomery, AL
36111-0870 334-288-2460
- [Alaska Baptist Convention](#) 1750
O'Malley Rd. Anchorage, AK
99516-1303 907-344-9627
- [Arizona Southern Baptist Convention](#) 3031 W. Northern
Ave., Suite 131 Phoenix, AZ
85051 602-864-0337
- [Arkansas Baptist State Convention](#)
P.O. Box 552 Little Rock, AR
72203-0552 501-376-4791

- [California Southern Baptist Convention](#) 678 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710-7704
209-229-9533
- [Colorado Baptist General Convention](#) 7393 S. Alton Way
Englewood, CO 80112-2372
303-771-2480
- [Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship](#) P.O. Box 7187
Bismarck, ND 58507-7187
701-255-3765
- [District of Columbia Baptist Convention](#) 1628 Sixteenth St.,
NW Washington, DC
20009-3099 202-265-1526
- [Florida Baptist Convention](#) 1230
Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, FL
32207-8696 904-396-2351
- [Georgia Baptist Convention](#) 2930
Flowers Rd., S Atlanta, GA
30341-5562 404-455-0404
- [Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention](#)
2042 Vancouver Dr. Honolulu, HI
96822-2491 808-946-9581
- [Illinois Baptist State Association](#)
P.O. Box 19247 Springfield, IL
62794-9247 217-786-2600
- [State Convention of Baptists in Indiana](#) P.O. Box 24189
Indianapolis, IN 46224-0189
317-241-9317

- [The Baptist Convention of Iowa](#)
2400 Eighty-Sixth St., Ste. 27 Des
Moines, IA 50322-0875
515-278-1566
- [Kansas Nebraska Convention of
Southern Baptists](#) 5410 S.W.
Seventh St. Topeka, KS
66606-2398 913-273-4880
- [Kentucky Baptist Convention](#) P.O.
Box 43433 Louisville, KY
40253-0433 502-245-4101
- [Louisiana Baptist Convention](#) P.O.
Box 311 Alexandria, LA
71309-0311 318-448-3402
- [Baptist Convention of
Maryland/Delaware](#) 10255 Old
Columbia Rd. Columbia, MD
21046-1716 410-290-5290
- [Baptist State Convention of
Michigan](#) 15635 W. Twelve Mile
Rd. Southfield, MI 48076-3091
248-557-4200
- [Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern
Baptist Convention](#) 519 Sixteenth
St., SE Rochester, MN
55904-5234 507-282-3636
- [Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board](#) P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS
39205-0530 601-968-3800
- [Missouri Baptist Convention](#) 400
E. High St. Jefferson City, MO
65101-3215 573-635-7931

- [Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship](#) P.O. Box 99 Billings, MT 59103-0099 406-252-7537
- [Nevada Baptist Convention](#) 406 California Ave. Reno, NV 89509-1520 702-786-0406
- [Baptist Convention of New England](#) 5 Oak Ave. Northborough, MA 01532 508-393-6013
- [Baptist Convention of New Mexico](#) P.O. Box 485 Albuquerque, NM 87103-0485 505-247-0586
- [Baptist Convention of New York](#) 6538 Collamer Rd. East Syracuse, NY 13057-1072 315-433-1001
- [Baptist State Convention of North Carolina](#) P.O. Box 1107 Cary, NC 27512-1107 919-467-5100
- [Northwest Baptist Convention](#) 3200 NE 109th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682-7749 360-882-2100
- [State Convention of Baptists in Ohio](#) 1680 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43203-2095 614-258-8491
- [Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma](#) 3800 N. May Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506 405-942-3800
- [Baptist Conv. of Pennsylvania/South Jersey](#) 4620 Fritchey St.

Harrisburg, PA 17109-2895
717-652-5856

- [South Carolina Baptist Convention](#)
190 Stoneridge Dr. Columbia, SC
29210-8239 803-765-0030
- [Tennessee Baptist Convention](#) P.O.
Box 728 Brentwood, TN
37024-0728 615-371-2073
- [The Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) 333 N. Washington Dallas,
TX 76246-1798 214-828-5100
- [Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 70538 West
Valley City, UT 84170-0538
801-966-9955
- [Baptist General Association of Virginia](#) P.O. Box 8568 Richmond,
VA 23226-0568 804-672-2100
- [Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 4779
Casper, WY 82604-0779
307-472-4087
- [Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists](#) Postal Bag 300
Cochrane, AB TOL 0W0 Canada
403-932-5688

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 - [Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)
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 - [Mainstream Baptist Network](#)
 - [National Baptist Convention of America](#)
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**RIGHT or
WRONG? Take my
child out of public
school**

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

**RIGHT or WRONG?
Take my child out of**

public school

I'm hearing a great deal of sentiment toward Christians taking their children out of public school and supporting different forms of private education. How should I respond to such a movement?

Because free public education has been a reality in the United States for more than 160 years, we sometimes forget it has not always been so. In the earliest days of this country, no state-sponsored public schools existed. The only schools were religious schools. Most of these soon gave way to private schools, which continued to dominate until the 1840s, when reformers began to demand that states offer free, nonsectarian, public education. The first state to implement a compulsory attendance law for children of elementary-school age was Massachusetts in 1852.