

Cartoon

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

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.

Former Operation Christmas child recipients now giving

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Youth at
Broadway
Baptist
Church in
Fort
Worth put
together
packages
for
Operation
Christmas
Child.

Former Operation Christmas child recipients now giving

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FORT WORTH—Most people who fill a shoebox with treats and trinkets for an orphan a world away can only guess of the happiness the [Operation Christmas Child](#) ministry brings. Four Fort Worth girls who once lived in Russian orphanages have a much keener understanding.

Now a part of Chris and Marla Morris' family and the youth group at [Broadway Baptist Church](#) in Fort Worth, the two sets of sisters have moved from being recipients of the shoeboxes to being on the giving side of ministry.

CityReach seeks to mobilize volunteers

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CityReach seeks to mobilize volunteers

DALLAS—Paul Henderson shook his head.

“Three of four car transmissions we checked today had burnt transmission fluid,” said Henderson, a volunteer mechanic serving single mothers through the Car Care Ministry of Colonial Baptist Church in Pleasant Grove.

One of those cars, belongs to Christie Emmesberger. She got a car wash, fresh transmission fluid, a new air filter and peace of mind for free.

“Seven children under age 16 depend on me to drive,” Emmesberger explained. “Now I know that my car won’t break down.”

Christie
Emmesberger,
a single
mother from
the Pleasant
Grove area of
Dallas,
receives free
car service,
thanks to
volunteers
from Colonial
Baptist
Church of
Dallas such as
Sunday school
teacher Paul
Henderson
and Pastor
Steve White.

Prison ministry founder resigns

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Prison ministry founder resigns

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Prison Fellowship founder [Chuck Colson](#) has announced his resignation as chairman of the board of the ministry he started 30 years ago.

2nd Opinion: Allow moment to refine, not define

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2nd Opinion:

Allow moment to refine, not define

My favorite feature on the PC in my office is the undo button. My computer skills are minimal, and my propensity to hit the wrong key is pronounced. But having an undo button or ctrl+Z affords me the chance to make things right. I can reverse an error or recover a deleted document just by clicking the mouse on this tool.

Wouldn't it be a hoot if life came equipped with an undo button? We could

annul our gaffes, retract our foul ups and rescind our misapprehensions. But an undo button was not part of our birth package. We make mistakes. We mess up. We are very flawed and brittle, very broken human beings, who always will fall short of God's glory and our own greatest dreams. And yet it is error-prone, imperfect folk like you and me who fend for their family, raise children, go to work, populate the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, establish institutional policies, interface with shifting cultural paradigms, dispatch troops to fight heart-rending wars in faraway places and attend worship, among other things.



A few weeks ago, I was a panelist at a community conversation at Brite Divinity School, and in response to a questioner, I replied, "Being and doing church is messy business." If anyone doubts this, read the Apostle Paul's missives to the churches at Thessalonica, Corinth, Galatia, Colossae and Ephesus. Even Paul's thank-you note to the church at Philippi, which is known as a joyous letter, references a messy dispute between two prominent parishioners that threatened to undermine the cohesiveness of the church. There is nothing tidy, neat and unsullied when it comes to being and doing church or being and doing conventions.

And so in the give-and-take of folk interacting with each other, even in the precincts of the holy, we are reminded all too often that mistakes have consequences. Our misjudgments matter. Even our little errors can have debilitating collateral effects. A seemingly miniscule blooper or blunder can perpetuate stereotypes, spawn ill-advised practices, engender shame and bring out the worst in us. An inadvertent misread or miscue has the potential to hurt feelings, ruin relationships, promote apathy and mitigate distrust.

DOWN HOME: Are we saving time or losing time?

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DOWN HOME: Are we saving time or losing time?

Have you enjoyed Daylight Losing Time the past week or so?

I know, I know. That's not the name of it. We now officially set our clocks and watches to Central Standard Time. But it feels like Daylight Losing Time to me.

Of course, I realize some people absolutely, positively hate Daylight Saving Time, from which we just rotated. These people have their reasons, which make some sort of sense to them.

In fact, a friend recently sent me a copy of an e-mail letter he shared with another friend. I only read half of the "conversation," but both of them seem to feel Daylight Saving Time is an abomination. They're preachers, and one reason they apparently dislike Daylight Saving Time is that it "causes" people to miss church twice a year, on the Sunday mornings after they are supposed to change their clocks.

What should be done with frozen embryos?

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Scott and
Geri
Bowman of
Tallmadge,
Ohio,
shown here
with their
children, 4-
year-old
twins Joey
and Angie
and 2-year-
old Addie,
decided to
donate
their extra
embryos,
created
through in
vitro
fertilization,
to a
childless
couple.
(RNS photo
by Lynn
Ischay/*The
Plain
Dealer* of
Cleveland)

What should be done with frozen embryos?

By Susan Glaser

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Geri and Scott Bowman started fertility treatments in 2001 with just one thing on their minds—having a baby. Five years and three children later, the couple confronted the fallout of their success.

What should they do with the embryos they created but then no longer needed?

Bible class shows love to people with invisible wounds

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Bible class shows love to people with invisible wounds

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CENTER—The women of the Grace Class at First Baptist Church in Center have a special affection for people with invisible wounds.

That's why they started Empty Arms—a ministry directed primarily toward families who lose children through miscarriage, stillbirth or early-infant death. The women offer solace and words of peace to mothers, fathers and grandparents.

Outreach project offers single mothers Fresh Start

November 3, 2006

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Outreach project offers single mothers Fresh Start

By Laurie Entrekin

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Some mothers call it the love lottery. Other moms describe it as a lifesaver. Basically, it's something that gives them a sense of belonging, they say.

What began in 2003 as a community support group for single mothers in Richmond, Va., has evolved into an eight-week, faith-based program

replicated in churches and communities nationwide.

Kurt Carr, Take 6 inducted in Gospel Music Hall of Fame

November 3, 2006

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Take 6, a sextet known for its tight harmonies and blend of jazz and gospel, has been inducted into the International Gospel Hall of Fame and Museum. (RNS photo courtesy of Courtney Barron of cbartworx.com)

Kurt Carr, Take 6 inducted in Gospel Music Hall of Fame

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

DETROIT (RNS)—Gospel musicians Kurt Carr and Take 6 are among the new inductees to the [International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum](#).

Harvard may require reason & faith course

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Harvard may require reason & faith course

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

BOSTON (RNS)—In a nod to the growing significance of religion in world affairs, a [Harvard University](#) faculty committee is recommending all

undergraduates be required to take a course in “reason and faith.”

The recommendation was part of a report issued recently by Harvard’s Task Force on General Education. In the report, the nine-member faculty panel also recommended a required course in ethics and two under the rubric of “The United States and the World.”

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Man of integrity

Charles Wade is a man of integrity and Christian character. I base this on my 46 years of knowing him. In 1960, when I became pastor of First Baptist Church of Chickasha, Okla., I met Charles, who was pastor of a mission of that church. He and his wife, Rosemary, became close friends of my wife and me.

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.

Out (Loud)

"The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

Flannery O'Connor

U.S. novelist, 1925-64

"As long as it remains private, it's not problematic to me, because I don't know."

Paige Patterson

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president, speaking in regard to the use of private prayer language by faculty (BP)

"God's commands are an expression of God's grace because, in the end, they are for our own good. God knows what causes human life to flourish—and what causes it to wither. Those who have wrestled seriously with the issue of forgiveness usually come to realize forgiveness is necessary for our own well-being. Revenge may be a dish best served cold, but in the end, we are the ones who get the heartburn from eating the ashes of past resentments. Failure to forgive doesn't just destroy others; it can destroy us."

David Gushee

Graves professor of moral philosophy at Union University (ABP)

"Our walk talks, and our talk talks. But our walk talks louder than our talk talks."

Tommy Malone

President of Texas Baptist Men, advocating for hands-on ministry

We have preached in each other's pulpits and served together on boards and committees. I was a member of the search committee that recommended him to be our executive director. I have found Charles Wade to be a man of unimpeachable character.

I stand ready to refute any charges that would reflect on the character of this Christian gentleman. Who of us in ministry for any time have not had our trust betrayed? And who of us have not made some unwise choices? I am thankful the churches I served had no desire to destroy me once they learned I was less than perfect.