

# Book Reviews

October 26, 2006

Posted: 10/27/06

## Book Reviews

**[To Own a Dragon: Reflections on Growing Up Without a Father](#)** by Donald Miller & John MacMurray (NavPress)

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It's always fun to read a [Don Miller](#) book, and his latest is no exception. This time, the best-selling *Blue Like Jazz* author and college speaker teams up with his spiritual mentor, the international nature photographer John MacMurray.

Miller writes in his humorous and transparent style, poetically relating many of the experiences and lessons he missed growing up without an earthly father's presence and training in life skills. While living with MacMurray's family, Miller's friend passed on spiritual insights that shaped his views of God and what it means to be a father.

**Off the Bookshelf**  
What's everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

Having lost my father, Reggie, to cancer earlier this year, my grief is fresh,

and I wasn't sure how the book would affect me. However, while reading, I developed an even deeper appreciation for the godly influence of my dad, also being grateful that God is my ever-present, ever-loving and perfect Father.

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## Baptist Briefs

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## Baptist Briefs

**Benefactors pledge \$16 million to seminary.** Harold and Dottie Riley of Austin have [pledged \\$16 million](#) for a campaign to build a 3,500-seat chapel on the [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) campus. Presently, the largest auditorium on campus at the 3,000-student school is the 1,100-seat Truett Auditorium. Since coming to Southwestern as president in 2003, Paige Patterson has made building a new chapel one of his priorities. Two years ago, trustees authorized architects to draw up plans, and a site west of the Smith Center for Leadership Development was selected. Patterson has said no ground will be broken until all funds for the chapel have been committed.



**National WMU re-elects Texan as officer.** Kathy Hillman of Waco and Kaye Miller of Little Rock, Ark., were elected to serve another year as

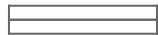
national officers of [Woman's Missionary Union](#) recently at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. About 750 members were present at WMU's 118th annual meeting to re-elect Miller to a second term as president and Hillman to a third term as recording secretary, both by unanimous vote.

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## **Cartoon**

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## **2nd Opinion: Political party? Irrelevant question**

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## **2nd Opinion:**

# Political party? Irrelevant question

**By Taylor Sandlin**

It's political season once again—commercials, road signs, stump speeches.

I remember my first interview with a pastor-search committee during my seminary days. A man asked me, "So, are you a Democrat or a Republican?" I looked out over that group of a dozen people whose political identity I had absolutely no idea about and thought to myself, "This is surely a trap." I quickly replied, "If I were to become your pastor, my goal would be for you to never find out." That seemed to satisfy them, although they didn't offer me the job. My answer, though a little evasive, was born not of convenience, but conviction.

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- [Evangelical leaders call on Bush to stop Darfur genocide](#)
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- [UMHB Student finds a calling in Ethiopia](#)
- [Book alleges faith-based initiatives are bogus](#)



- [Prosperity gospel promises material blessings to faithful](#)



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- [Keep tabs on credit scores, adviser says](#)
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### **The Amish cope with a tragedy**

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- [Church arguments spilling out into blogs and websites](#)

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for October 29: Offer thanks to God for his abundant gifts**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for October 29**

## **Offer thanks to God for his abundant gifts**

- Psalm 116

**By David Wilkinson**

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for October 29: Endure difficult times with God's strength**

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**Bible Studies for Life Series for October 29**

## **Endure difficult times with God's strength**

- 2 Timothy 3:1,10-17; 4:5-8

**By Kenneth Lyle**

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## **Explore the Bible Series for October 29: Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all sin**

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**Explore the Bible Series for October 29**

# **Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all sin**

- Hebrews 10:1-18

**By Howard Anderson**

*Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio*

The writer of Hebrews concludes his formal argument by reiterating his belief that the single, effective offering of Jesus Christ has ended the vain, repetitious offering of animals and has achieved the goal of the new covenant and the forgiveness of sins. The motive of the Christian faith is to show gratitude for God's mercies in Jesus Christ.

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## **Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: The living Christ**

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**CYBER COLUMN:**

# The living Christ

**By Jeanie Miley**

The man started talking rather calmly, telling me how he was involved in his church's effort to convince people that The End is near.

I was listening politely, but very quickly, I began feeling anxious. The longer the man talked, the closer he got to me and the angrier he became. The angrier he got, the more I felt myself trying to back away, and the more I backed away, the louder he got. All I could think about was the lecture I'd heard recently about sick religion and the statistics about what sick religion does to people.

Jeanie Miley
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## Supreme Court refuses to hear Scout appeal

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## Supreme Court refuses to hear Scout appeal

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of a California Supreme Court decision against a Scouting group denied free use of a Berkeley municipal facility because the Boy Scouts ban gays and atheists from their ranks.

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## **EDITORIAL: Oh, that we would debate gross or net**

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### **EDITORIAL: Oh, that we would debate gross or net**

Here's a debate I'd like to hear out of more mouths: Should Christians [tithe](#) on the gross or net amount of their salary?

Of course, you might say, "That argument is as stupid and useless as arguing about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin." Somebody else might proclaim: "How legalistic can you get? This is a dumb and pharisaical debate."

Dumb debate? I'll take it. If more Baptists—and other Christians, for that

matter—were debating whether they should calculate their tithe on their full salary or on their take-home pay, how much more money would flow into our churches and channel into missions and ministry for the glory of God?



Here's an answer from researchers John and Sylvia Ronsvalle, whose [empty tomb research firm](#) studies church giving patterns on a national level: If U.S. Christians would increase their church giving to a tithe, or 10 percent of income (even they didn't specify gross or net), the following would happen:

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## **Bankrupt believers may tithe**

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## **Bankrupt believers may tithe**

**By Jason Kane**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—America’s charitable but bankrupt worshippers once again will be able to tithe if [Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.](#), and [Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah](#), have their way.

“For millions of Americans, charitable giving and [tithing](#) is an essential part of their lives,” Obama said. “And in a country where 37 million citizens live in poverty, we should be encouraging charitable giving, not limiting it.”