

Bill hinders suits over violations of church-state separation

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Bill hinders suits over violations of church-state separation

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—After impassioned debate on the separation of church and state Sept. 26, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would make it harder to sue the government for violations of church-state separation.

House members voted 244-173 in favor of [H.R. 2679](#), called by supporters the “Public Expression of Religion Act.” In cases involving the [First Amendment’s establishment clause](#), the proposal would prevent federal courts from requiring government entities to reimburse the legal costs of the individual or group that sued the government agency—even though the agency was found in violation of the constitution.

Family practice residency teaches Christian service

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Family practice residency teaches Christian service

By Elizabeth Staples

Communications Intern

HARLINGEN—[Valley Baptist Medical Center's](#) family practice [residency program](#) not only provides medical training, but also teaches health care professionals how to help from the heart.

Bruce Leibert has been working in residency programs with his wife since they married 22 years ago.

RIGHT or WRONG? Being vs doing

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RIGHT or WRONG?

Being vs doing

I heard a preacher insist Christian “being” and “doing” should reflect the same thing. What does that mean?

I am hesitant to get into the mind of another preacher. Here is one possibility: Perhaps the preacher was intent on addressing the plague of consumerism Christianity. Maybe he was speaking to the notion that a person can claim a strong faith with little evidence of commitment.

Visitors see same friendly face 52 years

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Visitors see same friendly face 52 years

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

DALLAS—For 52 years, whenever someone has visited the offices of Grace Temple Baptist Church in North Oak Cliff, Betty Hatfield has been there to

greet them.

Snapshots of piety in America

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Snapshots of piety in America

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Americans may not be losing their religion after all, according to a new [Baylor University](#) study on faith in the United States. The results of the recently released study by Baylor's sociology department and [Institute for Studies of Religion](#) show, among other things:

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- **Snapshots of piety in America**
- [Americans hold four views of God, research shows](#)
- **View the entire Baylor University Religion Survey report as a pdf file [here.](#)**

- The majority of people not affiliated with any religion still believe in God, and one-third pray at least occasionally.
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Americans hold four views of God, research shows

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Americans hold four views of God, research shows

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Americans believe in four different Gods—or at least view God in four distinct ways, a new study from Baylor University revealed.

Navy chaplain convicted for protest

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Navy chaplain convicted for protest

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

NORFOLK, Va. (ABP)—A Navy chaplain who has accused his superiors of violating his religious freedom has been convicted by a court-martial for appearing in uniform at a rally to protest military policy on chaplains.

A military jury in Norfolk, Va., recommended that [Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt](#) be docked \$250 a month in pay for the next year and sent a letter of reprimand. The panel convicted him of violating a superior officer's orders by wearing his uniform at a March 30 press event in front of the White House.

Thailand coup's impact

uncertain

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Thailand coup's impact uncertain

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Representatives from three Baptist agencies declined to speculate what long-range impact a [coup in Thailand](#) could have on missions in the region, but they confirmed the safety of all field personnel in the country.

Spokesmen for the [Southern Baptist International Mission Board](#), [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions](#) and [American Baptist Churches International Ministries](#) reported all their workers in Thailand had been contacted and were safe as of Sept. 20.

Committee approves amendment requiring more financial disclosure

October 3, 2006

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Committee approves amendment requiring more financial disclosure

By Robert Marus & Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention [Executive Committee](#) approved an amendment to governing documents that urges SBC leaders toward greater financial responsibility. Southern Baptist messengers will hear the recommendation at the [June 2007 annual meeting in San Antonio](#).

**Father of 19â€14 by
adoptionâ€ speaks with
authority**

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Pat Williams, senior vice president of the Orlando Magic NBA team, gathers with his extended international family for a Christmas photo. Fourteen of his 19 children are adopted.

Father of 19â€”14 by adoptionâ€”speaks with authority

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

When [Pat Williams](#) discusses fatherhood, he speaks with the authority experience brings. Williams, senior vice president of the [Orlando Magic](#) National Basketball Association team, has 19 children—14 of them adopted.

All 19, who range in age from 21 to 34, are grown and out of their parents' house now. But Williams insists a father never stops being a father.

Cottagemates reunited at TBCH Reunion after 40 years

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Neal Green
(center)
holds a
picture
taken when
he was in
the third
grade as a
resident of
Texas
Baptist
Children's
Home. He
was
reunited
with his
best
friends and
cottage
family (left
to right)
Butch
Duty, Dan
Kinney and
Doug
Zanders,
after 40
years of
separation
during the
2006 TBCH
Alumni
Reunion.

Cottagemates reunited at TBCH Reunion after 40 years

By Miranda Bradley

Children At Heart Foundation

ROUND ROCK—Clutching an old black-and-white photograph securely tucked in a plastic zipper bag, Neal Green got out of his car and set foot on the [Texas Baptist Children's Home](#) grounds for the first time in more than 40 years.

Focus on missions involvement highlights student event

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Focus on missions involvement highlights student event

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON—More than 2,500 college students traveled across Texas to

learn how they could make a difference on their campuses this year in the name of Christ—and many of them started by making a difference in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

More than 1,000 participants in [Focus](#), a [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#)-sponsored event for college students, worked to repaint church walls, minister to children and meet physical needs of people in the area.

Amy Swainson
(front) and
Sacha Towery
from Monument
Baptist Church
paint the walls
of a church that
meets in an
Arlington
apartment
complex. The
project was part
of Focus, a
BGCT-sponsored
event for college
students. (Photo
by John
Hall/BGCT)