

# Bill hinders suits over violations of church-state separation

October 3, 2006  
Posted: 10/03/06

## 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.

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# Family practice residency teaches Christian service

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

## 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.

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## 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.

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## Visitors see same friendly face 52 years

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

## 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.

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# Snapshots of piety in America

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

## 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**

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

## **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.

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# Navy chaplain convicted for protest

October 3, 2006

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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.

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## Thailand coup's impact

# uncertain

October 3, 2006

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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.

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## Committee approves amendment requiring more financial disclosure

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

# 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](#).

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

October 3, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

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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.

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# **Cottagemates reunited at TBCH Reunion after 40 years**

October 3, 2006  
Posted: 9/29/06



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.

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## Focus on missions involvement highlights student event

October 3, 2006

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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)