

Anti-poverty advocates call for change

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Anti-poverty advocates call for change

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Christian anti-poverty advocates are promoting a “Covenant for a New America” that calls for policy changes to build consensus across the political aisle and across denominations.

The document outlines three “fundamental commitments”:

Around the State

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Around the State

- Two hundred and seventy-seven students at Howard Payne University received academic honors for the spring semester. One hundred and twelve

students were named to the President's List by virtue of their 4.0 grade point average, 97 were named to the Dean's List, and 68 students earned honor roll recognition.

Anniversaries

- Randall Bradley, fifth, as minister of music at Calvary Church in Waco, July 22.
- Steve Vernon, 15th, as pastor of First Church in Levelland, Aug. 20.
- South Plains Church in South Plains, 100th, Sept. 10. The church actually was organized on July 27, 1906, but chose the later date for the celebration. People with pictures or other items of interest can send them to the church at P.O. Box 98, South Plains 79528. A meal will follow the morning worship service. The afternoon has been set aside for fellowship and remembrances. Joe Weldon is pastor.

Deaths

Love for God, love of the game motivate Texas author

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Love for God, love of the game motivate Texas author

By **Ken Camp**

Managing Editor

Hugh Poland—a Kentucky-born catcher who broke into the big leagues in 1943 when World War II drained the talent pool—played with four teams before the Cincinnati Reds released him May 28, 1948.

“So far as I can tell, he’s no relation to me,” explained a different Hugh Poland, author of *Steal Away: Devotions for Baseball Fans*. “I’m not a former ballplayer. I’m a minister of music.”

Texas Baptist music minister Hugh Poland uses baseball stories to deliver spiritual truth.
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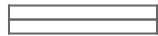
Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

C.S. Lewis's Case for Christ: Insights from Reason, Imagination and Faith by Art Lindsley (InterVarsity Press)



An abundance of good books are available on that late Anglican layman whom many classify as “one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century.”

Art Lindsley draws from C. S. Lewis’ various books, letters and lectures to condense the Narnian’s thoughts and theology into a 200-page gem. In the process, we learn some of Lewis’ obstacles to faith as an atheist and how he answered those tough questions after coming to faith in Christ. The problem of evil and suffering, myth and religion, rationalism, belief in miracles, and the purpose of imagination in faith each get chapters.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Having read most of Lewis’ writings, I especially enjoyed reading Lindsley’s

take on what Lewis would say (or actually did say) about the important contemporary topics of postmodernism, moral relativism and religious pluralism.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

SBC president flip-flops on women in ministry. Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page has recanted as “radical” and “extreme” his early views advocating expanded roles for women in ministry. In his 1980 doctoral dissertation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Page wrote: “There are solid biblical bases for a full recognition of the freedom and responsibility of women in ministry and the freedom of God’s Spirit to bestow the gifts for ministry upon men and women alike. The time has come to declare that since the public activity of a woman is in most areas no longer considered as a breach of the marriage vow and since the law of the land no longer denies to women the right to act independently in mixed gatherings, qualified women are eligible candidates for any office in the church.” But in a recent interview with the Florida Baptist Witness, he said, “I was trying very hard to conform biblical passages to some cultural preferences of the time.” Page insisted he became convinced “through personal study and prayer” that his dissertation was not exegetically sound and reflected the work of an “immature theologian.”

Leland Center president plans to step down. Randell Everett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Newport News, Va., will resign at the end of the year as president of the John Leland Center for Theological Studies, where he has served the past nine years. The Leland Center offers diploma, master of divinity and master of theological studies classes to about 150 students a year. Formed in 1997, the center emphasizes diversity and a commitment to churches in and near Washington, D.C. The center recently received full accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools and soon will become a partner in the Washington Theological Consortium.

Cartoon

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“After all Merv’s brooding about religion, he has developed a skeptic ulcer.”
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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.

Churches of Christ, Baptists branch off same family tree

August 4, 2006

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Churches of Christ, Baptists branch off same family tree

By Ted Parks

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)—Some Baptists may remember hearing their Church of Christ neighbors called “Campbellites.” And most Baptists know Churches of Christ are strictly a cappella, preferring unaccompanied singing to pianos, organs or any other instrument. They may not know the group has Baptists in its family tree.

But Baptists, with their well-known history of discord, might be even more surprised to learn that the non-instrumental Churches of Christ and the pro-instrumental Christian Churches met peaceably this summer for the first time in 100 years.

2nd Opinion: â€œHard to tell Christians from lionsâ€œ

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2nd Opinion: 'Hard to tell Christians from lions'

By James Martin

The description of a special method of torture that U.S. soldiers inflicted on Iraqi prisoners sounded instantly familiar. As someone who has read many histories of the Christian martyrs, it didn't take long to remember where the brand of punishment had been used before.

"Other detainees were locked for as many as seven days in cells so small that they could neither stand nor lie down," Eric Schmitt recently wrote in *The New York Times* about U.S. special operations troops in Iraq.

In the 16th century, the Jesuit priests and brothers martyred in England were treated to the same deprivations. The torture used against my brother Jesuits, which had long been viewed as unnaturally cruel, is now used by my own country.

Criswell era ends at Dallas First Baptist

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Criswell era ends at Dallas First Baptist

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—An era ended at First Baptist Church of Dallas Aug. 2. Betty Criswell, widow of legendary Pastor W.A. Criswell, died at Baylor University Medical Center of Dallas of respiratory illness at age 93.

Mrs. Criswell stood beside her husband through his early pastorates in rural Oklahoma and nearly a half-century of ministry at the downtown Dallas church.

DOWN HOME: And for an encore, clean the garage

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DOWN HOME: And for an encore, clean the garage

We have done the unthinkable.

Well, unthinkable to me, anyway.

Joanna, the brains of our outfit, however, has been thinking the unthinkable for quite awhile. My wife pays attention to trends and outcomes and scenarios. Plus, she loves me and wants what's best for me.

So, we sold our house. And we agreed to buy a new one, which makes sense unless living in a washing-machine box under the overpass becomes the next home "thing."

EDITORIAL: Sooner or later, one day will be final

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EDITORIAL: Sooner or later, one day will be final

Are we living in the final days?

The question has been asked quite a bit lately. With all the fighting

between Hezbollah and the Israeli army, even secular media have wondered if the time has come for the final showdown between good and evil. The End Times question inevitably arises when the nation of Israel goes to battle. Several reasons prompt such speculation.

First, some people say God has a special relationship with Israel. They point to the covenant between God and Abraham, recorded in Genesis 12. They equate the secular political state of Israel with the descendants of Abraham. And they believe God's covenant with Israel—whether Israel is an ancient tribe, a religious people group or a modern nation—extends to today. So, they expect God to protect the nation of Israel.



Second, some people read the highly symbolic message of Revelation literally, interpreting it to mean a battle in the Holy Land could signal The End. This interpretation particularly applies if the fighting reaches the plain of Megiddo. Also known as Armageddon, it was the site of many ancient conflicts and the location of a prophesied battle in Revelation 16:16, “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” Some interpreters of Revelation assume any battle at Megiddo, particularly a war with religious overtones such as the current conflict, could signal the final good/evil showdown.

All God's children have a place in corporate America

August 4, 2006

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All God's children have a place in corporate America

By Candace Goforth

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Experts suggest these ways to give employees room to express their faith without smothering others:

- Holiday swapping