

Federal funds flow to religious activities

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Federal funds flow to religious activities

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An examination of the White House's faith-based initiative has revealed some organizations are not separating religious activities from federally funded services.

At the request of two members of Congress, the U.S. Government Accountability Office spent more than a year conducting a review of federal and state agencies related to the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. The GAO also investigated religious groups that have received government grants.

Christian graphic novels

illustrate timeless truth

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Christian graphic novels illustrate timeless truth

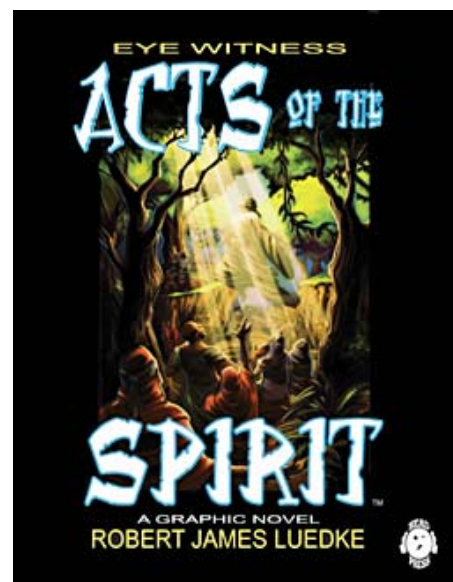
By Angela Best

Communications Intern

Robert Luedke loved reading comic books and drawing when he was growing up. A few years ago, he fell in love with Jesus. Now, Luedke is bringing the loves of his life together.

Luedke, president of Head Press Publishing and author of *Eye Witness—A Fictional Tale of Absolute Truth* and *Eye Witness Book Two—Acts of the Spirit*, is pioneering a new literary genre—the Christian-themed graphic novel, or illustrated Christian fiction.

Robert Luedke's *Eye Witness* graphic novels present New Testament stories in a comic-style format.



One American in five attends a house church, research shows

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One American in five attends a house church, research shows

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—For the first time, advocates of the house-church movement in America have solid facts to back up their enthusiasm. Research indicates about one in five American adults attends a house church at least once a month.

While participants themselves have long said that an increasing number of Americans are moving from First Baptist on Main Street to living-room congregations, the very nature of home churches—decentralized, undocumented and unadvertised—has made them difficult to study until now.

IRS cracks down on church campaigning

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IRS cracks down on church campaigning

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Internal Revenue Service is stepping up efforts to stop illegal political campaigning by non-profit organizations, including churches.

The IRS is increasing enforcement to stop illegal campaigning during the political season, said IRS Commissioner Mark Everson. The IRS opened reviews of 132 cases of alleged illegal campaigning as a result of complaints from the 2004 elections. Twenty-two cases were closed without contacting the taxpayer.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Best candidate available

Regarding the July 24 editorial ...

Good word: Character.

Good idea: Call the best person available.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

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

Out (Loud)

"This was the worst-case scenario. This was the hardest decision I ever made. The heinousness of a rape is a horrible thing. But I don't think you should punish a child for the sins of the father."

Gene Herr

Pharmacist who was fired by a Denton drugstore after he refused to fill a rape victim's morning-after pill prescription.

(The Washington Post/RNS)

"Churches have figured out what I have known all along—people are not giving because they don't have money to give. When the collection plate goes by, they are thinking, 'I know I should give, but then I can't pay the light bill.'"

Dave Ramsey

Christian financial adviser, on why many Christians do not give more generously to their churches (RNS)

"People admire what we do, but they would prefer to worship at a Baptist church or a Presbyterian church or that megachurch that's in their neighborhood. They'll donate money to us and volunteer to help, but they don't want to worship with us on Sunday mornings."

Maj. George Hood

Community relations officer for the Salvation Army, noting the organization is a church as well as a charity (Scripps Howard News Service/RNS)

Churches' failure to target men causes gender gap

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Churches' failure to target men causes gender gap

By Kristen Campbell

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Men don't need pirates in the pews. Then again, the presence of swordfighting swashbucklers might not be the worst thing to happen Sunday morning.

So goes the thinking of David Murrow, author of *Why Men Hate Going to Church*.

Computers may draw some men

to Christianity

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Men fill the audience, as usual for a religious software training event, as trainer Morris Proctor demonstrates a Logos Bible Software program at a conference in Bellingham, Wash. (RNS photo courtesy of Logos Bible Software/Scott Lindsey)

Computers may draw some men to Christianity

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

REDMOND, Wash. (RNS)—For more than a century, women have outnumbered men in the pews of America’s churches. For almost as long, concerned Christians have wondered where all the men went—and how to get them back.

Now some are seeing glimmers of hope coming from a most unlikely place—flickering computer screens.

Mexico vision trips slated

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Mexico vision trips slated

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is sponsoring “vision trips” for Texas Baptists interested in ministry to indigenous people groups in Mexico.

Dexton Shores, director of BGCT’s Border/Mexico Missions, will lead a series of trips throughout Mexico starting Aug. 14. Texas Baptist leaders will visit indigenous groups to ascertain ministry possibilities.

Operation Knit Together warms orphans' feet & hearts

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Operation Knit Together warms orphans' feet & hearts

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

Operation Knit Together intends to take the pain out of spring for all the orphans in Moldova. But it's going to take a lot of shoes, socks and volunteers to provide for the residents of the country's 66 institutions.

In the former Soviet Republic, "when temperatures begin warming in March, the hands and feet of many of the children who live in government institutions remain swollen because of frostbite," said Dearing Garner, who is leading the effort to raise \$250,000 and 90 volunteers to distribute shoes, socks, hats and gloves throughout the tiny Eastern European country.

Online music store specializes in family-friendly tunes

August 4, 2006

Posted: 8/04/06

Online music store specializes in family-friendly tunes

By Steve Woodward

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Imagine rap lyrics without the F-bomb, acid rock lyrics without sex or reggae lyrics without drugs.

Howard Rachinski imagined it all last year, when his then-10-year-old son began to get interested in music.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Bill Claiborne** has resigned as music and administration pastor at Sharon Church in New Chapel Hill to become a ministry resource representative in the service center of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.
 - **Matt Crawford** to First Church in Matador as pastor.
 - **Brian Edwards** to First Church in Hamilton as minister of youth, where he had been interim.
 - **Ed Ethridge** to First Church in New Braunfels as interim pastor.
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Paynter named Texas CLC director

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Paynter named Texas CLC director

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has named Suzii Paynter as director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission effective

Aug. 15.

Paynter will be the first woman to serve as director of the CLC, historically one of the most high-profile positions in Texas Baptist life. She has served as CLC interim director since March 2.

Suzi Paynter
