

IMB reinstates missionary couple

May 11, 2006

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IMB reinstates missionary couple

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Under a new agreement, officials at the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board have reinstated a missionary couple they threatened to fire for establishing a church in the West African nation of Guinea that did not meet the board's criteria for being a Baptist church.

School allows Christians equal access

May 11, 2006

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School allows Christians equal access

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

PLANO—A middle school Christian student group settled a lawsuit against the Plano Independent School District, granting the group the same privileges as other groups.

NAMB trustees regroup, move on after Reccordâ€™s resignation

May 11, 2006

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NAMB trustees regroup, move on after Reccord's resignation

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (ABP)—North American Mission Board trustees took the

first steps down the road to the missions agency's recovery May 1-2, two weeks after their embattled president resigned under pressure.

Memphis Declaration voices dissatisfaction

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Memphis Declaration voices dissatisfaction

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (ABP)—About 30 Southern Baptist conservatives from diverse backgrounds announced they repent of the “triumphalism,” arrogance and isolationism they believe threatens the integrity of the 16-million-member denomination.

Saying they represent “disparate constituencies” in the Southern Baptist Convention, the participants met behind closed doors in Memphis, Tenn., early this month and later issued a “Memphis Declaration,” expressing concern and dissatisfaction over the current direction of the SBC.

But the group stopped short of proposing a candidate for SBC office or actions to be taken at the SBC convention next month—to the surprise of some participants.

U.S. allies violate human rights

May 11, 2006

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U.S. allies violate human rights

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Several U.S. allies remain among the world's most egregious violators of human rights, a nonpartisan federal panel reported.

Baptist foster care continues in troubled Sri Lanka

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This mural on the side of a building that was breached by the tsunami seems to speak of the confused lostness of Sri Lanka's children after the trauma of the disaster. (BCFC photo by Craig Bird)

Baptist foster care continues in troubled Sri Lanka

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka—As the threat of full-fledged civil war grows in Sri Lanka, a Texas Baptist agency cares for a growing number of orphans on the boundary of the fraying ceasefire line.

Feeding the hungry disarms terrorists, author insists

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Tony Hall,
former
United
States
congressman
and United
Nations
ambassador,
visits
children in
Africa. Hall
has traveled
to 120
nations to
learn about
hunger and
poverty.

Feeding the hungry disarms terrorists, author insists

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Humanitarian aid is the most potent weapon the United States can deploy against terrorism, veteran congressman Tony Hall believes.

Law mandates training for camp workers

May 11, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

Law mandates training for camp workers

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Churches throughout Texas are required to make extra preparations for summer camps this year, as a new state law outlining training for adults who work with children and teen-agers goes into effect June 1.

Attorney will guide BGCT church-starting investigation

May 11, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

Attorney will guide BGCT church-starting investigation

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—An attorney will guide an investigation into alleged mishandling of Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

Bible reading on rise, survey reveals

May 11, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

Bible reading on rise, survey reveals

By Nate Herpich

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A survey shows the percentage of Americans who say they regularly read the Bible continues to increase.

Book Reviews

May 11, 2006

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Book Reviews

Finding Our Way Home: Turning Back to What Matters Most by Mark R. McMinn (Josey-Bass)

Finding Our Way Home is inspirational and thought-provoking. From a very personal perspective, McMinn discusses our God-created desire for both adventure and “home”—that secure place in which we are fully known and loved.

These two forces are evident in our human relationships and in our relationship with God.

Baptist Briefs

May 11, 2006

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Baptist Briefs

Alliance pledges to confront racism. At its annual convocation in Birmingham, Ala., the Alliance of Baptists pledged to remake itself into “an anti-racist organization.” While the three-day meeting focused primarily on confronting racism and working toward reconciliation, the estimated 500 participants also agreed to consider a boycott of oil giant Exxon-Mobil, saying the high price of oil and gas deepens worldwide poverty, and dependence on fossil fuels threatens creation. A resolution called on the company to invest significantly in cheaper and less hazardous energy sources. During the annual business session, members were told the Alliance surpassed its goal for the annual missions offering last year. But for the second year in a row, it finished the year with a deficit, which was paid out of reserves. The organization already has a \$16,000 deficit for 2006, against an annual operating budget of \$374,000. Members elected Jim Hopkins, pastor of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., as Alliance president for the coming year. Kristy Arnesen Pullen, a laywoman from Reston, Va., was elected vice president. Amy Jacks Dean, co-pastor of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., was elected secretary.

CBF plans conference for chaplains & counselors. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will sponsor a conference for chaplains and pastoral counselors June 21 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta. The event, featuring Central Baptist Theological Seminary President Molly Marshall, is scheduled prior to the CBF General Assembly June 22-23 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. A luncheon for chaplains and pastoral counselors on June 23 at the Omni Hotel will feature a presentation on

contemplative prayer by Loyd Allen, professor of church history and spiritual formation at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. Both events require advance registration. To register, contact Jen Van Camp at (770) 220-1645, jvancamp@thefellowship.info or George Pickle at (770) 220-1617, gpickle@thefellowship.info.