

Judas got a bum rap, scholars say

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Judas got a bum rap, scholars say

By Stacy Meichtry

Religion News Service

ROME (RNS)—Every great story deserves a great villain. For Christians who consider the Easter narrative the greatest ever told, no one in history quite matches the despicable deeds and evil nature of Judas Iscariot.

Give it up for Lent

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A formal processional by a robed choir begins an Easter 2005 worship service at River Road Church, a Baptist congregation in Richmond, Va., that observes the Lenten season. (Photo courtesy of River Road Church, Baptist)

Give it up for Lent:

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—For Ray Vickrey and Mike Clingenpeel, Easter doesn't mean much without about 40 days of reflection and repentance before it.

Missouri Baptists link with WorldconneX

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Missouri Baptists link with WorldconneX

By David Williams

WorldconneX

ROACH, Mo.—The Baptist General Convention of Missouri has entered into a three-year partnership with WorldconneX, a missions network Texas Baptists launched in 2004.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Ed Adcock** to First Church in Grand Prairie as minister of music from First Church in DeRitter, La.
 - **Charles Baker** to Calvary Church in Abilene as music minister.
 - **Lashley Banks** to Grayson Association as director of missions.
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PanFork Camp geared to grow

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PanFork Camp geared to grow

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WELLINGTON—PanFork Baptist Camp is working hard to prepare for growth in both the camp and the kingdom of God.

Persecution of Christians not limited to Afghanistan

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Persecution of Christians not limited to Afghanistan

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—As Afghan Abdul Rahman finds safety in Italy after dodging a death sentence for converting from Islam to Christianity, other Christians worldwide continue to face extreme persecution from countrymen who oppose their beliefs.

Rwandan genocide survivor finds freedom in forgiveness

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(Photo by Sebastiao
Sagado/AMAZONAS
Images/RNS)

Rwandan genocide survivor finds freedom in forgiveness

By Bob Smietana

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A line from Christ’s model prayer—“forgive us ... as we forgive”—haunted Immaculee Ilibagiza during the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

ABP & Standard form strategic alliance

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ABP & *Standard* form strategic alliance

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Associated Baptist Press and the Baptist

Standard are creating a “strategic alliance” to improve the quality and efficiency of their news organizations.

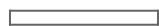
The two have cooperated closely for more than a decade, but the new alliance signals shared vision and integrated resources, reported ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner and Standard Editor Marv Knox.

ABP, an independent news service with offices in Washington, D.C., Dallas and Jacksonville, Fla., supplies news and feature stories, primarily about Baptists but also other Christians, to denominational and secular media, as well as directly to subscribers. The Standard, a Dallas-based newspaper affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has about 100,000 subscribers to its print edition alone, in addition to wide Internet distribution. Both organizations disseminate their news directly through websites and e-mail.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

ETBU business students place in top 20 globally. Students from East Texas Baptist University’s Fred M. Hale School of Business who participated in the GLO-BUS strategic management simulation placed in the top 20 in an overall worldwide ranking. ETBU students operated a

digital camera company in head-to-head competition against companies run by other schools. The team's challenge was to craft and execute a competitive strategy that resulted in a respected brand image, kept their company in contention for global market leadership, and produced good financial performance as measured by earnings per share, return on investment, stock price appreciation and credit rating.

Baylor Horizons project gets Lilly grant. Baylor Horizons, a university project designed to help students, faculty and staff explore the relationship between faith and vocation, has received a \$500,000 grant from Lilly Endowment as a follow-up to an earlier \$2 million grant in 2000. With matching funds Baylor will provide, the grant will total \$1.1 million for the three-year project.

TOGETHER: ‘Scandalous’ cross really is good news

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TOGETHER: ‘Scandalous’ cross really is good news

At this Easter season, we look carefully at the meaning of the cross and

resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

I was asked by a friend, “How do Baptists view people of other religions?” While I can’t speak for all Baptists, I shared this perspective out of this Baptist’s heart and mind:

A Christian always must begin from Scripture. When you do, you notice Jesus embraced and affirmed people who often were the most unloved in their communities—a Good Samaritan, the woman at the well, a blind beggar, Zaccheus the tax collector. He had an aversion to religious arrogance and hypocrisy but had an affinity for outcasts.



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Organ donor provides gift of life to fellow minister

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Organ donor provides gift of life to fellow minister

By George Henson

Staff Writer

HOUSTON—When Jerry Wooley left Houston earlier this month to take a job in Nashville, he left more than his heart in Texas. He also left behind his kidney, but it went to a good home—within his ministerial colleague Jeff Waldo.

Easter play at UMHB

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Easter play at UMHB

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (left) while the disciples sleep in this scene from the 67th annual University of Mary Hardin-Baylor on-campus outdoor Easter pageant. At right, Pilate, portrayed by Mark Leech of Belton, speaks concerning Jesus during the trial. Jesus is portrayed by UMHB Student Body President David Griffin, a senior finance major from Spring. The pageant is produced, directed, costumed and performed by university students. More than 90 UMHB students, as well as many children from the community, participated. Michon Blair of Rowlett was this year's Easter pageant director. Assistant directors were Mandi Bundrick of Liberty Hill and Kyle Tubbs of Garland.

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.