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April 13, 2006

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Cybercolumn by Berry Simpson: Looking through lenses

April 13, 2006
Posted: 4/13/06

CYBER COLUMN: Looking through lenses

By Berry Simpson

Nowadays, one of our favorite fall-back movies—that is, movies on DVD that Cyndi and I watch again and again while doing other things, like grading papers or writing journals or playing Soduko on the internet—is *National Treasure*. In the movie, the lead character, Ben Gates, uses Benjamin Franklin's secret spectacles to read treasure clues written on the back of the Declaration of Independence. The specs have several movable lenses, each a different color, and it takes multiple combinations of all the lenses to read every clue. He can't see all the clues he needs until he looks through every one of the lenses.

Berry D. Simpson

People are like that. In order to know someone well, you have to see them in all their different ways. You have to spend time with them, talking and asking questions and listening to their stories. But even conversation goes only so far. We can all think of people we've worked with for years, people we've talked with for years, and yet we really don't know so much about them. Often, we're surprised to learn they love to paint, or they are trained

musicians, or widely known and respected outside their workaday lives. In order to really know someone, you have to be with them in all the things they do. You have to see their lives through every available lens.

RIGHT OR WRONG? Buying a 'replica' watch

April 13, 2006

Posted: 4/13/06

RIGHT OR WRONG? Buying a 'replica' watch

I received an e-mail from a company that sells "replicas" of famous brand-name watches. They sell a watch for about \$200 that would cost many times more if it were the "original." I'd like to buy one. What do you think?

BaptistWay Bible Series for

April 23: Beware the green-eyed monster

April 13, 2006
Posted: 4/11/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for April 23

Beware the green-eyed monster

• 1 Samuel 18:1-16

By Joseph Matos

Family Bible Series for April 23: Preparation for life's mission is essential

April 13, 2006
Posted: 4/11/06

Family Bible Series for April 23

Preparation for life's mission is essential

- Acts 1:1-14

By Greg Ammons

Explore the Bible Series for April 23: Effectiveness often necessitates change

April 13, 2006

Posted: 4/11/06

Explore the Bible Series for April 23

Effectiveness often necessitates change

- Isaiah 40:1-43:28

By James Adair

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

A major shift in perspective from the earlier chapters of Isaiah occurs in

chapter 40. Whereas chapters 1-39 are set in the days of Isaiah in Jerusalem, in the eighth century B.C., chapters 40-66 are set in the Babylonian exile and its aftermath, starting in the sixth century B.C., and many of the prophecies appear to have been delivered in Babylonia.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Praying when you donâ€™t know what to pray

April 13, 2006

Posted: 4/07/06

CYBER COLUMN: Praying when you don't know what to pray

By Jeanie Miley

Coming in from the ICU, I was exhausted and anxious. I'd gotten the call to meet my husband again at the Emergency Room, and one more time, I'd been scared out of my wits.

Once things were stabilized, I headed home, praying specifically that the doctors would do something. Mostly, my prayer was "Help! Help us, please!"

Jeanie
Miley

Senators say 'breakthrough' on immigration plan near

April 13, 2006
Posted: 4/06/06

Senators say 'breakthrough' on immigration plan near

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate April 6 voted down a plan for immigration reform 60-39, but soon after announced a “huge breakthrough” in gaining bipartisan support for a reform plan that would enable undocumented immigrants eventually to become citizens.

Texas Baptist Forum

April 13, 2006

Posted: 3/31/06

Texas Baptist Forum

Laying on hands

Scripture places much more importance upon “laying on hands” than those esteemed men who were cited in “Laying on hands” (March 20). Hebrews 6:1-2 lists laying on hands as a foundational doctrine, giving it weight equal to repentance from dead works, faith toward God, baptisms, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

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

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

Out ((Loud))

“For faith to be authentic, it must be freely embraced. ... In a post-9/11 world where individuals die for their faith while others kill in the name of their religion, America's founding principle of religious liberty takes on even greater prominence.”

Robert A. Seiple

U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom (RNS)

“Immigrants have values that can convert America and return America to the values of thrift and hard work.”

Manuel A. Vasquez

University of Florida religion professor (RNS)

“My sense is that we will see the development of human/animal hybrids, mammals that have more and more bits of human in them. You can see a progression developing here that you might not be able to stop.”

Nigel Cameron

Professor of bioethics at the Illinois Institute of Technology (RNS)

“It's arrogant to say that either religion or science can answer all our questions. I don't see the need either to banish one or the other or to artificially unite them.”

Susan Fisher Miller

Editor and English professor in Atlanta, commenting on the “debate” between religion and evolution (*New York Times*)

How could Charles Spurgeon reject the practice “as a form of ritualism that could easily lapse into popery”? He did not refuse to preach the doctrines of grace, although many perverted the teachings to become libertines.

BaptistWay Bible Series for April 16: God’s penetrating gaze reveals the heart

April 13, 2006

Posted: 4/05/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for April 16

God’s penetrating gaze reveals the heart

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 21-23

By Joseph Matos

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Sand on the seashore

April 13, 2006

Posted: 4/05/06

CYBER COLUMN: Sand on the seashore

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering the tides of life. The ocean tides ebb and flow amid picturesque sunsets, where the orange sun reflects on blue waters while the ocean tides ripple to the shore. Life has its ebb and flow and sunsets and ripple effects, too.

During spring break, I took a trip to Mexico. I walked on the sandy beach with the sand sandwiched between my toes. Can I, as a preacher of good news, ever walk on the sandy shores of a beach without thinking of God's word to Abraham that he will bless his chosen people as the sands of the sea? (Genesis 22:17) I take that to mean that God's one big blessing will come in small does like tiny grains of sand squishing together on ocean shores to make a beach where seashells turn up and crabs burrow and seaweed washes up and where sunbathers lay out under the scorching heat and little girls and boys with plastic shovels build sand castles.

John Duncan

Afghan president praises decision to release Abdul Rahman

April 13, 2006
Posted: 4/05/06

Afghan president praises decision to release Abdul Rahman

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Afghanistan's president praised his government for releasing a Christian who had been threatened with death for abandoning Islam.