

EDITORIAL: Forget holy smoke, what about people?

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Forget holy smoke, what about people?

Does God expect you to be holy?

Do you know what "holy" means?

If you answered yes to either question, welcome to the minority. Not just the minority of Americans, but Christians.

Faith-based funding figures disputed

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Faith-based funding figures disputed

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—In response to growing criticism of his “faith-based initiative,” President Bush touted White House figures showing growth in federal funding of religious charities last year.

Church: Help families cope

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Church: Help families cope

Many people bring their family to church with one question in mind, said Bo Prosser of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—“Can your Jesus help us cope?”

“Our job as ministers is to help people be connected enough that God can work in their lives,” Prosser said at Family Ministry 101, a recent training event at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas.

Prosser, CBF coordinator of congregational life, and Diana Garland, dean of Baylor University’s School of Social Work, led the one-day workshop.

Family Ministry 101 is one of three workshops being offered in the newly launched Family Ministry Academy, a continuing education opportunity provided by the School of Social Work's Center for Family and Community Ministries.

IMB chair urges committee to reconsider

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IMB chair urges committee to reconsider

By Steve DeVane

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The chairman of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board is asking the board's personnel committee to take another look at two controversial measures the board passed in November.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Right next door

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

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



“I’m looking forward to that big reunion up there. God bless you all.”

Billy Graham

The final words of his 418th crusade—in New Orleans— “probably the last evangelistic sermon I’ll ever preach”
(RNS)

“Suggesting a married Jesus is one thing, but questioning the Resurrection undermines the very heart of Christian belief. ... The Resurrection is perhaps the sole controversial Christian topic about which I would not desire to write.”

Dan Brown

Author of The Da Vinci Code, who is being sued for allegedly copying from Holy Blood, Holy Grail, which theorized that Christ did not die on the cross (The Washington Post / RNS)

“If Christians are being persecuted in this country, in my opinion, it's because they've asked for it. We will experience much less persecution, if it exists, when we return to preaching the love of God—that is all that has ever won people to the love of Christ.”

David Currie

Executive director of Texas Baptists Committed (ABP)

“Everybody seems to be imprisoned in their own sectarian or political affiliations. They don't seem to be able to rise above these things.”

Adnan Pachachi

Former Iraqi foreign minister and current Parliament member (New York Times)

It's difficult for one outside the situation to resolve the question whether Baylor should "begin a journey toward Rome" (Feb. 20). What I would offer, however, is a rich resource for the wider discussion of the relation of faith and learning that lies ready to hand, which also seems to be totally ignored in the conversation—namely, the numerous Baptist liberal arts universities where faith and learning are thriving and who do not seem to be in mortal danger of an inevitable secular drift unless we move toward Rome.

Such Baptist General Convention of Texas-affiliated schools are Dallas Baptist University, East Texas Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University, Houston Baptist University, Howard Payne University, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Wayland Baptist University. They are not in danger of becoming, "without exception," secular universities. Faith and learning in fact seem to be flourishing in these environments, which do not fit well either alternative model mentioned in the Baylor debate.

Certainly, a difference exists between these universities and Baylor. These are smaller liberal arts universities who focus on teaching as opposed to a much larger research institution. Perhaps it is a matter of scale, where the smaller can more easily accomplish the goal of relating faith and learning than the larger.

Plane mechanic finds calling at Wayland

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Plane mechanic finds calling at Wayland

By Jonathan Petty

Wayland Baptist University

SAN ANTONIO—When Bill Lord arrived at Wayland Baptist University's San Antonio campus, he had no idea what awaited him.

Chaplain's son needs double-lung transplant

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Chaplain's son needs double-lung transplant

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS—Jeff Matthies' life is filled with irony—deadly irony.

If he had not been such a hard worker, he would be much closer to a

lifesaving double-lung transplant he desperately needs. But if he had lacked drive and perseverance, he probably would have succumbed decades ago to the cystic fibrosis that clogs his lungs.

On the move

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On the move

- **J.B. Cagle** to First Church in Millsap as pastor.
 - **Jeff Carr** to Calvary Church in Brownwood as minister of youth.
 - **Mike Copeland** to First Church in China Spring as pastor.
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LAYING ON HANDS: Ordination practices vary widely among Baptists

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LAYING ON HANDS: Ordination practices vary widely among Baptists

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Renowned 19th century British Baptist preacher C.H. Spurgeon rejected the practice. Texas Baptist statesman George Truett surrendered to it only at his church's insistence. Christian ethicist T.B. Maston accepted it as a deacon but not as a minister.

TOGETHER: Pray for courageous servant leadership

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TOGETHER: Pray for courageous servant leadership

Leadership is the crucial ingredient for success in any enterprise. Leadership is the difference between a "mob" and a life-giving movement.

Leadership is not about gathering all the power to the leader. It is not about manipulating the church or organization to give the pastor, or the CEO, or a committee, or the deacons, or a board power for which they are not accountable.



Executive Director
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Any church leader will find the Apostle Paul's example remarkably helpful. As he was raising money to relieve the famine victims in Jerusalem, he was careful to give a report of the offering's progress. He sent a respected leader to give an account of the use of the money they were gathering and distributing on behalf of the churches. "We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men" (2 Corinthians 8:20-21).

Cyber column by Berry D. Simpson: Thanks for asking

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CYBER COLUMN: Thanks for asking

By Berry D. Simpson

The other night, Cyndi was at home working on the computer, printing invitations for a church media ministry banquet, when she asked if I would stuff invitations and stamp envelopes. Later, after midnight, after we finished the project, she apologized: "I'm sorry to ask you to put down your book and help, and then you had to stay up so late. I know you already had your own projects to do without having to help me with mine."

I said: "You and I are not easy people to help. We always want to do everything ourselves. We both maintain high standards, and we love to be creative, and that's seldom a group thing, and we try to give each other space to live our own lives. Neither of us wants to be clingy or high-maintenance. So I am grateful for a chance to help you. You don't ask often enough."

Berry D. Simpson



RIGHT OR WRONG? A woman as pastor

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RIGHT OR WRONG? A woman as pastor

Our Baptist congregation is more than 100 years old. We always have had men as pastors. Now, we are without a pastor and cannot find a man who will come to serve us. We have a young lady who recently made public her call to ministry. Is there any merit in considering her to fill the position of pastor for us?