

Explore the Bible Series for February 18: Have courage to act on faith

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Explore the Bible Series for February 18

Have courage to act on faith

- Esther 5:1-3; 7:1-6, 9-10

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Esther took her life in her hands by coming into the king's presence uninvited, but the king received her and asked what she wanted. Esther revealed to the king she and all her people in his kingdom had been marked for death by Haman's devious and evil scheme. On learning of Haman's treachery, the king commanded he be hanged on the gallows Haman had built for Mordecai.

TOGETHER: A way for Baptists to bless the world

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TOGETHER: A way for Baptists to bless the world

Word comes to us that [nine Christian pastors have been jailed](#) in Zimbabwe. The [Baptist World Alliance](#) has called for release of these pastors, who are working for peace and justice. This is but one example of what is happening in many places. And it is one of the reasons it is so important for Baptists from across North America to gather in Atlanta a year from now.

There is strength in numbers and in unity. Texas Baptists will join Baptists from across Canada, Mexico and all 50 states to celebrate our unity in the great gospel of Jesus Christ. The special emphasis for this meeting will be to help Baptists speak a clear word to a watching and listening world that we are Jesus People.



Executive Director
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We believe God loves the world so much that he sent Jesus and those who follow him into the world so people can have eternal life and not perish.

We believe God honors his word and his promises, and we can preach boldly the truth of God to a confused, broken and frightened world.

Bible Studies for Life Series for February 11: True belief engenders action

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Bible Studies for Life Series for February 11

True belief engenders action

• John 3:1-8,13-18

By Kenneth Lyle

Zimbabwe police arrest 9 pastors attending leadership seminar

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Zimbabwe police arrest 9 pastors attending leadership seminar

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Zimbabwe police arrested nine pastors at a gathering of more than 300 church leaders in late January. At least one of the pastors was Baptist. The arrests were made public Jan. 30 by the [Baptist World Alliance](#).

Raymond Motsi, pastor of Bulawayo Baptist Church, was among the group. The pastors have since been fined and released.

The pastors were charged with violating [Zimbabwe's](#) Public Order and Security Act, which forbids gatherings of more than three without the approval from the police. The meeting was planned by a Christian Alliance group in Kadoma, more than 150 kilometers west of Harare, the country's capital.

Christian Alliance has been accused by the Robert Mugabe-led government of plotting with opposition parties to overthrow his regime.

Former governor, Baptist minister, runs for White House

February 9, 2007

Posted: 2/08/07

Former governor, Baptist minister, runs for White House

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The latest long-shot presidential candidate is a Southern Baptist Baby Boomer from Hope, Ark., who served as governor of his home state. But this isn't Bill Clinton, and he isn't a Democrat. Instead, he's a Republican, an ex-pastor and former president of the [Arkansas Baptist State Convention](#).

Mike
Huckabee,
former
governor
of
Arkansas
and a
Baptist
minister,
is running
for
President.

[Mike Huckabee](#), in a Jan. 28 appearance on NBC's *Meet the Press*, announced that he has formed a committee to explore the possibility of running for president on the GOP ticket. Forming an exploratory committee is the first formal step in any presidential bid and allows the candidate to hire campaign staff and raise funds.

Bellevue report: Assistant pastor guilty of sex abuse against son

February 9, 2007

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Bellevue report: Assistant pastor guilty of sex abuse against son

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

CORDOVA, Tenn. (ABP)—Paul Williams, minister of prayer and special projects at [Bellevue Baptist Church](#), sexually abused his son 17 years ago, according to a report from the church’s investigative committee. The committee announced its findings to the congregation Jan. 28.

“Paul Williams engaged in egregious, perverse, sexual activity with his adolescent son over a period of 12 to 18 months,” the report said. “Paul became convicted of his actions, and he stopped. He asked for forgiveness from his son and never touched him inappropriately again. At that time Paul told no one else.”

LifeWay **removes**
“questionable” online titles

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LifeWay removes ‘questionable’ online titles

By Lonnie Wilkey

Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—LifeWay Christian Resources has removed a number of pro-gay titles from its online store, LifeWaystores.com, after staffers became aware of the books’ availability.

EthicsDaily.com reported Jan. 29 that LifeWay had several authors listed on the site who promoted a “pro-homosexual” agenda. EthicsDaily is a news service of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

Global warming calls for a Baptist response

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Global warming calls for a Baptist response

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—In the wake of an international report indicating humans very likely have caused global warming, [Christian Life Commission](#) Director Suzii Paynter called for Texas Baptists to lobby elected officials to rethink 18 [proposed coal-fired power plants](#) that would dump tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually.

Scientists who subscribe to the concept of global warming believe industrial gases released into the atmosphere create hotter days, heat waves, droughts and stronger and more frequent hurricanes.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

New Baptist Covenant

I read with extreme interest regarding the convocation for the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, designed to unite North American Baptists next year ([Jan. 22](#)).

If the best “laymen” that could be found to accomplish this task are Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, then the convocation is doomed before it ever meets.

• Jump to online-only letters below

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



"I believe in the culture war. And you know what? If I have to take a side in the culture war, I'll take their side. Because if you give me the choice of Paris Hilton or Jesus, I'll take Jesus."

Alexandra Pelosi

Filmmaker, discussing her new film, Friends of God, about evangelical Christians (New York Times/RNS)

"I think about God a lot more than ever, though I used to ask him, 'Help me make a good jump.'"

Evel Knievel

Retired stuntman (USA Today/RNS)

"I don't see how we can justify the death of one more American soldier in the cause of a 'democracy' such as the one on display at the execution of Saddam Hussein. Let's bring the troops home."

David Gushee

Professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.
(ABP)

"Forgo anger, tobacco, intoxication and gluttony in favor of exercise, humility, charity, prayer and patience."

Nicholas Kao Se-tsean

At 110 years old, one of the world's oldest priests, on his secrets for long life (Ecumenical News International/RNS)

If Clinton is a Baptist, then I am a former president. Carter may be a Baptist, but his extreme leftist politics make him an odd choice to lead this distinguished group of 80 leaders. It is noted that his Baptist church recently ordained his wife, Rosalynn, as a deacon, in direct violation of New Testament teachings on this subject.

Prayerwalkers appeal to God to take back community

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Participants in a recent DiscipleNow weekend at Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church held the congregation's first prayerwalk through the neighborhood near the church. The group prayed for schools, medical facilities and other churches.

More prayerwalks and outreaches are planned to help "change the spiritual climate" of the neighborhood, said David Balyeat, interim minister for missions.

Prayerwalkers appeal to God to take back community

By Laura Lacey Johnson

Special to the Baptist Standard

A new government program is bringing positive change to a crime-laced neighborhood not far from [Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas](#). But church members determined to take back their community have appealed to a higher authority—by prayerwalking.

“The idea is to heighten the level of consciousness about the condition of the neighborhood and get the congregation more involved in praying for the spiritual climate to make the changes from the government program more viable,” said David Balyeat, interim minister for missions at Shiloh Terrace.

**Prayerwalking
participants offer
practical advice:**

*Read books about prayer
so you have a framework
from which to pray.*

— **David Lowrie, pastor
of First Baptist Church
of Canyon**

*Ask God to give you a
vision of what he wants
for the area.*

— **David Balyeat,
interim minister of
missions at Shiloh
Terrace Baptist
Church in Dallas**

*Be “confessed up and
prayed up” to help
combat spiritual warfare.*

— **Texas Baptist
missionaries to North
Africa**

*If planning a group
prayerwalk, seek God’s
choice of the team
members and look for
people with “a heart for
prayer.”*

— **Steve Hawthorne and
Graham Kendrick,
authors**

CYBER COLUMN by John Duncan: Pain and suffering

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CYBER COLUMN: Pain and suffering

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking of life in its ups and downs, in its hopes and dreams, and in its disappointment and suffering. C.S. Lewis once hailed life as a series of events with the "life of souls in a world" try to eliminate suffering from life: "Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself." As much as I hate to admit it, souls alive suffer and survive.

John Duncan

Suffering, I do not like it. Just the other day, my youngest daughter and I were working out. You know—exercise, Rocky Balboa motivation and shed pounds and dress for success. After all, prom is just around the corner for her, and I could stand to lose a few pounds. It is also the time of year to trim a few pounds and prepare for the swimsuit season soon to follow. I

asked her to hand me a free weight, one that I would lift with my legs and arms, and low and behold she accidentally dropped it on my left knee! The pain and suffering were enormous. I can tell you I was not thinking of Jesus my High Priest of suffering nor Saint Peter's admonition, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12). I thought of the pain in my knee, and it was as if a lightning bolt had zapped me. Good news, though: A bruise ensued and the pain subsided.

RIGHT or WRONG? Human/civil rights

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RIGHT or WRONG? Human/civil rights

"Human rights" and "civil rights" are terms constantly voiced by minority groups. Are these terms synonymous? What responsibilities should accompany these rights?