

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 25: Welcome Christians with whom you disagree

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BaptistWay Bible Series for November 25

Welcome Christians with whom you disagree

- Romans 14:1-21

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 18: Make up your minds

November 16, 2007

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Bible Studies for Life Series for November 25

Make up your minds

- Matthew 7:13-29

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Explore the Bible Series for November 25: On mission

November 16, 2007

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Explore the Bible Series for November 25

On mission

- Matthew 27:35-37, 45-50; 28:5-10, 18-20

[By Travis Frampton](#)

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene

Do you have a favorite movie? If you're like me, it's hard to come up with just one. But if pressed on the matter, I would have to say that one of my all-time favorites is *Citizen Kane*.

Christian human rights lawyer reports persecution in China

November 16, 2007

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Christian human rights lawyer reports persecution in China

HONG KONG—As the 2008 Beijing Olympics approaches, Chinese Christians are facing heightened levels of persecution as authorities seek to keep dissidents away from international media, according to a Christian attorney in Beijing.

Christian human rights lawyer Li Heping reports he was kidnapped and tortured nearly six hours Sept. 29, and two other Beijing Christian activists have been held under house arrest since Oct. 1.

Li, who has a reputation for defending cases involving Christians arrested for underground house-church activities, is a partner of Beijing Global Law Firm and also serves as an editorial board member of the journal *Chinese Law & Religion Monitor*.

Survey reveals lack of knowledge about First Amendment

November 16, 2007

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Survey reveals lack of knowledge about First Amendment

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WASHINGTON—Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the Founding Fathers meant for the United States to be a Christian nation, and more than half believe the U.S. Constitution establishes a Christian nation, a national survey revealed.

The survey also showed 28 percent believe freedom to worship never was meant to apply to groups that a majority of Americans would consider on the fringe.

TBM mobilizes disaster relief team to meet needs in southern Mexico

November 16, 2007

Updated: 11/08/07

TBM mobilizes disaster relief team to meet needs in southern Mexico

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Baptists have responded to urgent needs in southern Mexico after hundreds of thousands of people were driven from their homes in that region's worst-ever flooding. Texas Baptist Men mobilized a disaster relief team to serve in the state of Tabasco, and both the Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board sent funds to Baptists in the region.

When more than a week of heavy rains caused the Grijalva River to burst its banks, floods displaced up to 800,000 people in Tabasco. Later, at least 16 people were missing and presumed dead when a mudslide buried the San Juan de Grijalva community in the state of Chiapas.

Federal police assist a group of flood-affected residents as they prepare to board a helicopter on the outskirts of Villahermosa, the state capital of Tabasco, in southeastern Mexico.

Thousands of homes were flooded after rivers burst their banks in the southern Mexican state of Tabasco and heavy rains left 70 percent of the swampy region under water.

(Photo/Tomas Bravo/REUTERS)

Arkansas Baptists narrowly reject opening on communion, baptism

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Arkansas Baptists narrowly reject opening on communion, baptism

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

VAN BUREN, Ark. (ABP)—Arkansas Baptists narrowly rejected an attempt to remove a constitutional provision on communion and baptism that historians say is rooted in a 19th-century Baptist controversy.

Messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, held Nov. 7 at First Baptist Church in Van Buren, Ark., voted 383-225 to remove the provision. However, the motion required a two-thirds majority, and it fell a few percentage points short.

Belmont and Tennessee Baptists reach settlement, end lawsuit

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Belmont and Tennessee Baptists reach settlement, end lawsuit

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (ABP)—Belmont University and Tennessee Baptists have reached an agreement that will end a crucial lawsuit, messengers at the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting learned.

The agreement means that Belmont will provide the Tennessee Baptist Convention a total of \$11 million toward a ministry-endowment fund and Tennessee Baptists will drop their lawsuit attempting to regain control of the school, lost in 2004 when the school moved to become independent.

Former pastor returns money to congregation; church agrees to give funds to BGCT

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Posted: 11/14/07

Former pastor returns money to congregation; church agrees to give funds to BGCT

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The former pastor of First Baptist Church in Weslaco has returned to his former congregation the Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting funds he used in a questionable manner, and the church has agreed in principle to return the money to the convention.

BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade revealed Nov. 9 on the BGCT blog that the convention and First Baptist Church are in the process of finalizing an agreement on the return of \$26,550.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Unpacking memory, nostalgia and emotion

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CYBER COLUMN: Unpacking memory, nostalgia and emotion

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking about unpacking boxes. The process of moving, transition and change creates memory, nostalgia and emotion. As I unpack boxes, the memory, nostalgia, and emotion form tributaries in my mind that flow in to the river of change.

First, I think of the memory that moving creates. As I unloaded boxes in our new home in our new town, I stumbled onto a box of baseball trophies. When did I ever play for the Dodgers? I remember the Jets, not New York and the Joe Namath of yesterday, but the pee-wee football Jets with red and white jerseys. I remember the spring days of playing baseball in fields of green with bees buzzing, back when I was an expert bunter because I could not hit a fast ball from the pitcher. A box of trophies takes up space in a box—the basketball, the football, and the baseball ones, all shiny and dusty and a few with broken pieces, incomplete like a bird with a broken wing. My trophies, they fill a box soon to be stashed in the attic.

John
Duncan

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 18: The cure for anxious care

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Bible Studies for Life Series for November 18

20/20 vision

- Matthew 7:1-12

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Explore the Bible Series for

November 18: Show compassion and love to those in need

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Explore the Bible Series for November 18

Show compassion and love to those in need

- Matthew 25:31-46

[By Travis Frampton](#)

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene

Compassion, mercy, grace, forgiveness, sacrifice and love. As we have discussed in previous lessons, these words represent true power in the kingdom of God. These words have potential to change the world in which we live radically. We have seen each of these qualities in Jesus as we have read through Matthew's Gospel over the past several weeks. In Matthew 25:31-46, these words move from impressions of the heart to action he demands from his followers.