

# Israel claims artifacts found date to first Jewish temple

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## Israel claims artifacts found date to first Jewish temple

**By Michele Chabin**

*Religion News Service*

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Israeli archaeologists who have been inspecting maintenance work done by Muslims on the Temple Mount have discovered what they believe are artifacts dating back to the time of the first Jewish temple.

Archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority said workers from the Wakf Islamic Trust had uncovered “an apparently sealed archaeological level dated to the first temple period” near the Dome of the Rock, the third-holiest site in Islam.

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## Texas Baptist Forum

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# Texas Baptist Forum

## Synergy of the Spirit

As Baptists, we have long believed and relied on the fact that the Lord speaks through the votes of his people.

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

Letters are welcomed. Send them to [marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com);  
250 words maximum.



*"My son should have been buried with dignity, not with a bunch of clowns outside."*

**Albert Snyder**

Father of Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who sued Wesboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., after the church protested his son's 2006 funeral. The church pickets soldiers' funerals, claiming God is killing troops as punishment for homosexuality in America. (AP/RNS)

*"Faced with a world lacerated by conflicts, where violence is still justified in the name of God, it is important to reassert that religions must never become vehicles of hate. On the contrary, religions can and should offer precious resources for constructing a pacific humanity."*

**Pope Benedict XVI**

Speaking at a peace conference  
(RNS)

*"He never made me feel that my faith and my intellect were at war with one another. He always made me believe that God gave you a brain, and he expects you to use it."*

**Condoleezza Rice**

U.S. secretary of state, discussing her faith and her father, a late Presbyterian minister (*Larry King Live*/RNS)

In Amarillo during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, I believe God spoke to us in two profound ways. The Lord affirmed Joy Fenner and the significant role of women in ministry. He knows if we are going to claim our future, women must continue to play a vital role in helping us to wrap our arms around Texas and the world.

I also believe the Lord called on us to lay aside political maneuverings and to pull together as one people on one mission to reach Texas and the world for the sake of his kingdom.

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## **Memphis church gives new meaning to ‘I Surrender All’**

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## **Memphis church gives new meaning to ‘I Surrender All’**

**By Lucky Severson**

*Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (RNS)—Nineteen-year-old Edacious recently came to New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, to surrender—and not just to Jesus.

There was a warrant for her arrest on marijuana charges, and she had come to church to turn herself in. Hundreds of others with outstanding warrants also showed up.

Frank Ray,  
pastor of  
New Salem  
Missionary  
Baptist  
church in  
Memphis,  
recently  
allowed  
court  
officials to  
use his  
church as a  
place where  
fugitives  
could turn  
themselves  
in to law  
enforcement.  
Ray said  
many  
fugitives feel  
the church is  
safer than  
the sheriff's  
office.

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# **Kinder, gentler Moses pictured in new Ten Commandments movie**

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## **Kinder, gentler Moses pictured in new Ten Commandments movie**

**By David Briggs**

*Religion News Service*

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)—The image of Charlton Heston as Moses has been carved into the minds of generations.

Few who have seen the Cecil B. DeMille blockbuster can forget Heston's majestic, commanding presence as he comes down from Mount Sinai and thunders to a wayward people, "Those who will not live by the law shall die by the law."

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# On the Move

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## On the Move

- **Seth Austin** to Texas Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock as minister of youth and recreation.
  - **Jeff Berger** to Westbury Church in Houston as pastor.
  - **Cari Cockrell** to First Church Denton-East in Denton as preschool director.
  - **Jason Daniels** to First Church in Haskell as youth and music minister from First Church in Seagraves.
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**Americans don't want religious pitches from presidential candidates, poll says**

November 2, 2007

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# Americans don't want religious pitches from presidential candidates, poll says

By **Heather Donckels**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Even though thousands of evangelicals flocked to Washington for the recent Values Voter Summit, more than two-thirds of Americans think presidential candidates should not use their religious beliefs to sway voters, a new poll shows.

The poll, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research for the [Interfaith Alliance](#) in October, asked 1,000 adults to agree or disagree with the following statement: “Presidential candidates should not use their religion or faith to influence voters to support them.”

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## Court rules for teacher in private/public school dispute

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### Court rules for teacher

# in private/public school dispute

**By Heather Donckels**

*Religion News Service*

GREENVILLE (RNS)—A federal appeals court has ruled for a Texas public school teacher who was denied the chance for a promotion after she refused to withdraw her children from a private religious school.

In 1998, Karen Jo Barrow was denied an interview for an assistant principal's job with the Greenville Independent School District after she refused to take her children out of Greenville Christian School and enroll them in a public school.

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## Tennessee Baptists gear up for struggle over trustees

November 2, 2007

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## Tennessee Baptists gear up for struggle over trustees

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (ABP)— Tennessee Baptists are gearing up for a conflict most Southern Baptist state conventions settled a decade ago. Many of the state's moderates say they feel it is no longer worth fighting.

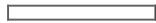
Nonetheless, Baptists on both sides of the issues are making plans to show up in force during the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting, scheduled Nov. 13-14 in Kingsport.

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## Texas Tidbits

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## Texas Tidbits

**Recordings of Warren message available.** Audio and video recordings of Rick Warren's message during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting are available on CD for \$5 and DVD for \$20. To order, write in the order on the order form on page 42 of the annual meeting program or on the last page of the Oct. 30 Bulletin. The requests also can be made by visiting [www.bgct.org/annualmeeting](http://www.bgct.org/annualmeeting) and downloading an order form.

**BGCT annual meeting raises \$12,000 for offerings.** Messengers and visitors to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in Amarillo contributed \$6,000 to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions and \$6,000 for the Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger. The

funds were collected during a session of the annual meeting.

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# **TOGETHER: God answered prayers in Amarillo**

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## **TOGETHER: God answered prayers in Amarillo**

Occasionally, you will hear people say: "People can't be moved by preaching anymore. Drama, music and video are the way to go." While I acknowledge the power and value of music, drama and visual images and the blessing and benefit they bring to worship and presentations, I have never believed preaching has lost its power to move people.

Sure there are times when a spoken message can cause my eyes to glaze over and my mind to check out. But when it is done right, when the Scripture draws a passionate, intelligent, spiritually sensitive and honest presentation out of the preacher, it captivates hearers and changes lives. Of course, when you add great music to open the hearts, and stand a family with a beautiful baby before the congregation and show visual images of people in whom God is working, you add to the power of a message.



Executive  
Director  
BGCT  
Executive  
Board

Michael Evans preached at the African American Fellowship's preconvention meeting on Sunday evening and had us on our feet in happy testimony to the truth and joy of his message. Carlos Navarro challenged the Hispanic rally to get outside the walls of their churches and do evangelism where people are hurting. Steve Vernon, David Coffey, Rick Warren and Howard Batson all moved BGCT messengers and visitors forward spiritually, calling for a greater commitment to missions (Vernon), to our world (Coffey) and Warren's liberating news that God's purpose is to reconcile the world to himself. The joy the Father feels when he adopts his children was caught in the tears of the mother and father who stood beside Howard Batson with their smiling baby boy.

Excerpts from the messages will be reported elsewhere in this paper, and you can get the full texts, audio or video, by completing the order form at [www.bgct.org/annualmeeting](http://www.bgct.org/annualmeeting).

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## **Women challenged to "live the joy of missions"**

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During a national WMU missions conference, Jana McKnight (right) of Little Rock, Ark., portrays “Miss Bertha” and Vickey Lloyd of Fayetteville, Ark., plays the part of “Miss Bernice.” The duo used comedy to underscore the messages of conference speakers.  
(Photo/WMU)

## **Women challenged to ‘live the joy of missions’**

**By Julie Walters**

*Woman’s Missionary Union*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Women experience the joy God wants for them when they learn to love him with all their being, speakers told participants at the Live the Joy of Missions Conference, sponsored by national Woman’s

Missionary Union.

More than 825 women from 35 states and Puerto Rico attended the national event at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.



Lorraine Powers, president of Missouri WMU, gets hugs from elementary school students after reading to them as one of the ministry options offered in Little Rock during a national WMU missions conference.  
(Photo/Charity Gardner)



# Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: Jesus' church

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## CYBER COLUMN: Jesus' church

**By Brett Younger**

Twenty years ago, I was the pastor of a small Baptist church in Paoli, Ind. If you've heard of Paoli, it's probably because of the furniture. Since 1926, Paoli Furniture, Inc. has made gorgeous furniture that the people who make it can't afford. My salary as pastor was \$14,000 a year, but the parsonage was filled with beautiful furniture.

About 1987, the Middle Adult Sunday school class—and isn't that an attractive name for a class?—decided they didn't want to sit on folding chairs anymore. They worked out a deal with one of the managers in the factory's chair department. The 14 members of the class would spend \$40 each to buy the material for chairs that would normally cost about \$500. They would make the chairs on a Saturday when the factory was closed.

Brett Younger
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