

KidsHeart volunteers say God worked miracles with Kool-Aid and crafts

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Team members from
First Baptist
in Memphis conducted
Vacation Bible
School at Sparks
Colonia as part of
KidsHeart El Paso.
(Photos by Jenny
Pope/Buckner)

KidsHeart volunteers say God worked miracles with Kool-Aid and crafts

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

EL PASO—As Hubert Jones and his missions team entered the impoverished Sparks Colonia on the outskirts of El Paso, he questioned whether the church group could make an impact.

But as he mentally began to list all his inadequacies, a group of small

children behind him started to sing, "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do."



The kids in colonias near Fort Hancock were all smiles as they recieved their new shoes, donated by Buckner International's Shoes for Orphan Souls, and ate hotdogs with the volunteers.

Religion, social issues prominent in GOP debate

June 27, 2007

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Religion, social issues prominent in GOP debate

By **Robert Marus**

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Evolution, abortion rights and other issues important to religious conservatives reared their heads once again in the third debate between Republican presidential candidates.

Following a question that made headlines at the first GOP debate a month earlier, one of the debate moderators asked specific candidates about their views on evolution. At the previous debate, three had raised their hands when asked if they did not believe in evolution.

Huckabee denounces influence of cash, evolution queries in GOP race

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Huckabee denounces influence

of cash, evolution queries in GOP race

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—If conservative Christian voters want to know why a Baptist preacher is being bested in the GOP primary polls by three candidates who have had rocky relationships with the Religious Right, they need to look at the bottom line, Mike Huckabee said.

“Pure and simple, it’s money,” the former Arkansas governor and presidential hopeful said. “But the sad thing is that money is driving the media’s perception of it.”

Democratic hopefuls respond to queries on faith

June 27, 2007

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Democratic hopefuls respond to queries on faith

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—On national television, John Edwards admitted that he sins every day, Barack Obama said there's "a biblical injunction" to give prisoners the tools they need to rehabilitate themselves, and Hillary Clinton said the support of "prayer warriors" had helped her get through the most difficult times of her marriage and life.

It wasn't a church service. It was a first-of-its-kind forum on faith, values and poverty for the top three contenders for the Democrats' 2008 presidential nomination. It was also, some observers said, further evidence that the Democratic Party is trying to regain ground it has ceded to the Republicans among voters who are active Christians.

Anti-Muslim bias skyrocketed in U.S. in 2006, report claims

June 27, 2007

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Anti-Muslim bias skyrocketed in U.S. in 2006, report claims

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Complaints of anti-Muslim bias in the United States shot up by 25 percent in 2006 as compared to the previous year, according

to an annual report by an Islamic group.

The annual report of the [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#), titled “Presumption of Guilt: the Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States,” said government acts accounted for much of the increase in reports of discrimination and bias.

Arlington pastor resigns from Southwestern Seminary board

June 27, 2007

Posted: 6/26/07

Arlington pastor resigns from Southwestern Seminary board

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ARLINGTON (ABP)—Dwight McKissic, the Southern Baptist pastor frequently at odds with fellow trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has resigned from the board of the Fort Worth school.

McKissic, pastor of the predominantly African-American Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, said he chose to step down in order to “return to the place I was prior to being a trustee.”

Nation's largest African-American religious group tackles AIDS

June 27, 2007

Posted: 6/26/07

Nation's largest African-American religious group tackles AIDS

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS (ABP)—For the first time, the nation's largest African-American religious body corporately addressed the HIV/AIDS crisis.

AIDS awareness and prevention figured prominently on the agenda for the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. in St. Louis. Leaders of the 7.5 million-member group said 45,000 National Baptists participated in the gathering.

RIGHT or WRONG: What is Caesar's?

June 27, 2007

Posted: 6/22/07

RIGHT or WRONG: What belongs to Caesar?

Our pastor recently called for us to be model citizens. Then, the pastor said, "Be sure, though, you sacrifice your political party's platform on the altar of the gospel, and not vice-versa." I'm left with the question, "What can I do?"

Storylist for 6/11/07 issue

June 27, 2007

Storylist for week of 6/11/07

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- [Elder statesman Fletcher lauded as educator, writer](#)
- [DBU students reach out to orphans in Guatemala](#)
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- [Baptist Briefs](#)



- [Faith Digest](#)
- [Immigration issues reveal disparity between views in pulpits and pews](#)
- [Are atheists now becoming the new fundamentalists?](#)




- [Book reviewed in this issue are:](#) *The AIDS Crisis*, by Deborah Dortzbach and W. Meredith Long, *Finding God Beyond Harvard: The Quest for Veritas*, by Kelly Monroe Kullberg and *The Election*, by Jerome Teel.



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Previously Posted

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- [Half of SBC pastors believe in 'prayer languages,' study reveals](#)
- [BGCT posts registered sex offenders serving in Texas Baptist churches](#)
- [Three churches form ties that bind](#)
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- [Huckabee cancels Covenant speech over Jimmy Carter's criticism of Bush](#)
- [Reynolds' funeral, memorial services set](#)
- [Drake won't repeat as SBC 2nd VP; won't rule out higher office](#)
- [Former Baylor President Reynolds dies](#)

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CYBERCOLUMN by John

Duncan: Hope radiates

June 27, 2007

Posted: 6/22/07

CYBER COLUMN: Hope radiates

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree in July, pondering past events and thinking of our nation at grief in America—grieving families in the loss of soldiers, grieving church members who have lost loved one, and still feeling the grief of long-forgotten, at least by most, of the Virginia tech tragedy of last spring. How soon we forget, but grief never forgets.

Really, though, I find myself thinking about the power of the teacher-student relationship. My mind cannot even fathom the events of Virginia Tech—the horror, the funerals with sad songs, or the grief that like an ocean wave will not, for some, go away. It will roll in waves, ceaselessly. Walt Whitman wrote two magnificent lines in his poem, *Memories of President Lincoln*: “With the countless torches lit, with the silent sea of faces and unbared heads.”

John Duncan

REBUILDING LIVES: Abilene church renovates home, touches family

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Volunteers
from
Pioneer
Drive
Baptist
Church in
Abilene
renovate
the family
home of a
boy who
was
disabled
after a
fight in
the
church's
parking
lot one
year ago.
(Photos
courtesy
of Pioneer
Drive
Baptist
Church)

REBUILDING LIVES:

Abilene church renovates home, touches family

By George Henson

Staff Writer

ABILENE—A home renovation cannot come close to repairing the damage done in a young boy's life, but it has allowed his family to see the love of Christ through the kindness of members of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene.

Last summer, a 12-year-old boy—small for his age—was challenged to fight by a much bigger boy late at night in the church's parking lot. Other children who were present report the younger boy refused and turned away to leave. Reports say the larger boy spun him around and hit him one time in the chest.

Honduran boy âcomes homeâ to San Antonio family

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After
Noelia and
Allix
Aguilar
stood with
11-year-old
Gabriel
between
them to
make the
“final
vows” for
adoption,
Allix
Aguilar
leaned
over and
kissed the
boy on the
cheek as
his wife
wiped
away
tears.

Honduran boy ‘comes home’ to San Antonio family

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

AN ANTONIO—The judges dressed in neon-hued robes, mothers and children carried roses, and everybody wore smiles for the “mass adoption” at the Bexar County courthouse.

“Usually these are held in a courtroom, but we have so many adoptions to approve today that we had to borrow the jury selection room to get all of us in,” explained Judge Richard Garcia as he greeting several hundred people crowded into the basement room.