

# **Sex & Sects: Why does sex play such a large role within fringe religions?**

June 20, 2008

Why do people join or remain members of a group that practices unusual sexual behaviors? And what's more, what kind of sexual power do the leaders of these religious movements hold over their followers?

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## **Couples consider 'Countdown' time well spent**

June 20, 2008

Countdown to Marriage, a program designed by Byron and Carla Weathersbee of Legacy Family Ministries in Waco, prepares engaged couples for marriage through seven weeks of topical discussion of common marital issues.

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# **State offers incentive for premarital education**

June 20, 2008

Texas has joined a growing number of states that waive or reduce the costs of marriage license fees to couples who complete premarital education courses. And the Baptist General Convention of Texas is launching an initiative to enlist churches as providers of the educational program.

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# **Building relationships is key to ministry to nontraditional families**

June 20, 2008

How should a congregation respond to an unmarried cohabitating couple's request to join the church? Churches likely will face this and other tough questions as society's definition of family continues to change.

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# **Pastor challenges parents and offers incentive to tie the knot**

June 20, 2008

Reclaim the Streets Ministries in Harrisburg, Pa., is offering a no-cost wedding to unmarried couples with children.

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# **Faith Digest: Muslims affirm Saudi king's interfaith effort**

June 20, 2008

Hundreds of Muslim leaders worldwide have endorsed Saudi King Abdullah's recent call for intensified interfaith dialogue in order to dampen global conflict and demonstrate Islam's commitment to solving world problems.

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# **Aid groups feel the pinch of rising food, gas prices**

June 20, 2008

Dramatic increases in food and gas prices are leaving some religious

hunger-relief groups praying for relief. (IMB PHOTO)

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## **Faith Digest: Christians accused of hate crime for witnessing**

June 20, 2008

A Muslim community police officer accused two Christian preachers from the United States of a hate crime after they handed out evangelical tracts in a predominantly Muslim area in England.

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## **Their names may be lost to history, but their stories endure**

June 20, 2008

The Bible is riddled with famous or infamous people who went nameless—in some cases forever, and in others for decades or centuries after their stories were recorded. Scholars are trying to find out why.

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# **Youâ€™ve got (spiritual spam) mail**

June 20, 2008

"Spiritual" chain letters have become today's e-mail spam, and their history reaches back into magical times according to author Christine Wicker.

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# **Popular culture challenges Christians to â€œthink outside the box,â€ scholars insist**

June 20, 2008

"We are shaped by popular culture far more than we think—and not just the young people," said Louis Markos, professor of English at HBU and a C.S. Lewis scholar.

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# **Narnia creators seek to turn**

# beloved books into accessible movies

June 20, 2008

Adapting C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* book series to film risks alienating fans. What works in the books doesn't always translate well to the big screen.