

Christians called to make culture; let God handle transformation

May 23, 2008

Andy Crouch feels uncomfortable when Christians talk about transforming culture or making an impact on society. But he strongly believes churches should do far more to encourage Christians to make culture—right where they live.

Pass the Popcorn: Christians struggle with best approach to engage culture

May 23, 2008

An R-rated episode... from the Bible? Instead of hiding from culture, Christians can use it as a learning tool.

Faith Digest: Does ET need Jesus?

May 23, 2008

Intelligent life may exist on other planets and has no need of redemption through Jesus Christ, the director of the Vatican Observatory said.

Evangelicals state desire to be defined by theology, not politics

May 23, 2008

Evangelical Christians should be defined by their theology—not their politics—to avoid becoming “useful idiots” of a political party, a group of Christian leaders said in their recently released document, “An Evangelical Manifesto.”

Songwriter Dottie Rambo dies in bus crash in Missouri

May 23, 2008

Gospel singer and songwriter Joyce “Dottie” Rambo died in a tour bus

accident May 11 in Missouri.

TBM responds to Myanmar cyclone

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TBM responds to Myanmar cyclone

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Texas Baptist Men sent a rapid-response team to Bangkok, Thailand, in response to a devastating cyclone that hit Myanmar.

The seven-person team left the United States May 11. The team hopes to enter Myanmar—also known as Burma—as soon as possible to assess needs. Once in Myanmar, the relief volunteers will look for opportunities for follow-up teams to meet needs in the country.

 TBM
team
leader
Dick
Talley
plans to
**stream
another
live
video
report
Thursday
at 8 a.m.
Central
Time** on
their
progress
from their
staging
area in
Bangkok,
Thailand.
[Watch it
live on
the BGCT
website.](#)

“We try to go wherever doors open and see how we can minister to people in need,” said Mickey Lenamon, [Texas Baptist Men](#) associate executive director. “That’s what Texas Baptist Men has been doing for 40 years.”

Official counts indicate nearly 23,000 people are dead following a cyclone

that hit Myanmar. Another 42,000 people are missing. Some observers expect those totals to rise further as more information becomes available.

TBM responded to a request for help from Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and The Fellowship of the Woodlands near Houston.

Baptists from Australia, Hungary and the United States also are currently in Bangkok, Thailand, awaiting visa application approval to enter Myanmar.

To support TBM disaster relief efforts, visit http://texasbaptistmen.org/dnn/donate_asp_1.html.

To give through the Baptist General Convention of Texas Disaster Response Fund, visit http://texasbaptistmen.org/dnn/donate_asp_1.html.

Faith Digest

May 23, 2008

Panel has human rights concerns about Vietnam, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

BCFS garners highest praise from children

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BCFS garners highest praise from children

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

LULING—The Governor's Division of Emergency Management praised Baptist Child & Family Services for its role in caring for children taken from a polygamist Fundamentalist Latter-Day Saints ranch in West Texas. But the highest praise came from the people whose opinions matter most—the children themselves.

"You're nice," a 6-year-old girl told BCFS Executive Vice President Nanci Gibbons as she walked past her on the playground at the BCFS Youth Ranch at Luling, where 75 children received care.

Student worship leader keeps

collegiate ties

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Blake Bollinger said wants his concerts to spark life- changing encounters with God.

Student worship leader keeps collegiate ties

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

WACO—The Blake Bollinger Band's roots run deep at Baylor University in Waco.

As a freshman at Baylor in 1999, Bollinger was asked to lead worship for chapel services, which put him in front of thousands of students each week.

2nd Opinion: The morning of many miracles

May 23, 2008

Posted: 5/09/08

2nd Opinion: The morning of many miracles

By Doug Mendenhall

Let's say God's in a quirky mood, like when he created the platypus or nudged the Appalachian State football team past Michigan.

Let's say he decides, for a few hours only, to drastically relax his standards on miracles. For this one morning, the new protocol is boiled down to:

- Requester must believe in God.
- Requester must have honorable motives.

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May 23, 2008

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Baptism rates follow cycles, Texas Baptist statistician says

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Baptism rates follow cycles, Texas Baptist statistician says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Dropping baptism statistics tend to refocus Baptists on evangelism, which results in growing God's kingdom, according to Clay Price, Baptist General Convention of Texas statistician.

Historically, the number of baptisms has risen and declined in a cyclical pattern, Price said. When Baptists see a decrease in baptisms, they typically put more emphasis on outreach and examine ways they can be more effective.