

BRIEFS: Hymnal contents released

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New hymnal contents revealed. Titles of 674 hymns and worship songs included in the new Baptist Hymnal have been released by its publisher, LifeWay Christian Resources. “There is a good mix of hymns, worship music and praise choruses,” said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship. “About 300 of these songs are new ones to our hymnal. Of these 300, about 200 have been published in other hymnals and about 100 are brand-new hymns and songs that haven’t been published in any hymnal before.” The full list of the songs is available at www.lifewayworship.com.

Schools’ group picks leader. The International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities has elected Michael Arrington, provost of Carson-Newman College, as executive director. Arrington, 62, succeeds Thomas Corts, who in September was named by President Bush to coordinate education initiatives for the United States Agency for International Development. Arrington will retire as provost at Carson-Newman effective at the close of the academic year.

SBC preschool/children’s registration opens. Registration is open for families planning to enroll their children in June 8-11 preschool childcare or the children’s conference in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. For all information regarding registration, visit www.sbc.net and click on “2008 SBC Annual

Meeting” then “Children/Students.”

Ouachita dean nominated for CBF post. Hal Bass, a dean at Ouachita Baptist University, has been nominated for moderator-elect for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Bass is a native of Corpus Christi who graduated from Baylor University and Vanderbilt University. He teaches political science and is dean of the school of social sciences at Ouachita. North Carolina pastor Jack Glasglow is the current moderator-elect. He will assume the office of moderator on June 20 at the conclusion of the CBF General Assembly in Memphis, Tenn. Harriet Harral of Fort Worth is the fellowship’s current moderator, and she will become chair of the nominating committee after the general assembly.

Theologian urges greater sensitivity to suicide

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Theologian urges greater sensitivity to suicide

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Churches can be a major factor in preventing suicide if they are willing to learn about the problem and reach out with compassion, said a theologian who specializes in pastoral care related to suicide.

“People who attend church have a lower suicide rate than people who don’t,” said Loren Townsend, a professor of pastoral ministry at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and author of *Pastoral Care in Suicide*. “Churches provide caring relationships that can help protect people from suicide.”

Is Religious Right dead or part of new center?

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Is Religious Right dead or part of new center?

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Reports the Religious Right’s demise have been

greatly exaggerated, according to Tony Perkins and Harry Jackson.

But Jim Wallis, Samuel Rodriguez, David Gushee and other leaders and authors argue that the Religious Right, while not dead, is certainly suffering from a failure to thrive.

IRS scrutiny of Obama's denomination may signal political-speech crackdown

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IRS scrutiny of Obama's denomination may signal political-speech crackdown

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—What is the IRS thinking?

That's the question that many church-state experts asked themselves when news broke in late February about the Internal Revenue Service's [investigation of Sen. Barack Obama's denomination](#).

Program offers stress relief for South Texas families

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Program offers stress relief for South Texas families

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

DEL RIO—Most parents agree—raising a family can be tough. Doing it as a single mother or as the parent of a child veering out of control is even tougher.

Fortunately help is available in several southwest Texas communities through Baptist Child & Family Services programs. STAR—Services To At Risk youth—offers family counseling while Families For a Future concentrates on parenting courses and support groups. Both exist to help families communicate and create a violence-free lifestyle.

Weekend graduation retreats at Alto Frio encampment include final classes for parents and fun activities for children and youth who have completed family-enrichment programs sponsored by Baptist Child & Family Services.

BCFS gets first-time parents off to a Great Start

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Great Start
equips
families like
the
Cardonas
with a free
family
education
program to
support the
development
of positive
parenting
skills. (Photo
by Haley
Smith/BCFS)

BCFS gets first-time parents off to a Great Start

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO—Baptist Child & Family Services seeks to equip first-time parents to get off to a “Great Start”—and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Great Start—a free family education program—uses home visitation to share parenting information.

Does the ‘evangelical center’ include moderate Baptists?

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Does the ‘evangelical center’ include moderate Baptists?

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—If an “evangelical center” emerges from the current shake-up in American politics, will moderate Baptists be part of it? It depends on how comfortable moderate Baptists are with being considered “evangelicals” in the first place, some experts insist.

Moderate and progressive Baptists certainly share many beliefs and public-policy goals with the non-fundamentalist evangelicals making their presence felt on the public scene for the first time in three decades.

RIGHT or WRONG: Membership for couple 'living in sin'?

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RIGHT or WRONG: Membership for couple 'living in sin'?

Our pastor recently presented a couple for membership in our church. He introduced them as having made professions of faith in Christ and as husband and wife, although they have different last names. One friend told me they had been living together for several years. The congregation voted them into membership, but surely we shouldn't bring people into our congregation living in sin, should we?

Nabors resigns as BGCT chief financial officer

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Nabors resigns as BGCT chief financial officer

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

David Nabors

DALLAS—David Nabors has resigned as treasurer and chief financial officer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas effective April 15.

In a letter to BGCT Interim Executive Director Jan Daehnert, Nabors expressed gratitude for his time on the BGCT Executive Board staff.

Prof claims he has found lost Ark of the Covenant

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Prof claims he has found lost Ark of the Covenant

By Brittani Hamm

Religion News Service

LONDON (RNS)—Brushing back a thick layer of dust, Tudor Parfitt revealed a distinctive interwoven pattern carved around the outside of the “terribly, terribly damaged” wooden artifact tucked away on the bottom shelf of a Zimbabwe warehouse.

Tudor Parfitt discovered this wooden drum, called a ngoma lungundu, in a Zimbabwe warehouse.

Parfitt believes it is the Ark of the Covenant—or something like it—that was carried into Africa by the Lemba tribe.

(RNS photos/Courtesy of Tudor Parfitt)

“The moment I saw it, I felt there was something weird about it,” said Parfitt, a professor of modern Jewish studies at the University of London’s School of African and Oriental Studies. “I wasn’t simply in the presence of a neutral object.”

Around the State

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Around the State

- **Wayland Baptist University** will hold a preview weekend March 28-29 for prospective students. Participants will have an opportunity to attend classes and chapel and eat in the cafeteria. The afternoon features a variety of games, activities and campus tours. The evening feature is a concert by Hawk Nelson and Run Kid Run. Saturday also features a variety of activities. To register, call (800) 588-1928.
- **A senior adult camp** will be held April 21-24 at Alto Frio Encampment in Leakey. Paul Powell will be the preacher, D.L. Lowery the Bible study teacher, and Dale Durham and Ginger McKay will lead the music. For more information or to make reservations, call (830) 232-5271.

Wayland Baptist University kicked off the spring semester with a preview of its upcoming centennial celebration as nearly 30 descendants attended a chapel service. One of those in attendance, Beulah McInnish, is founder James Wayland's granddaughter and at 99 his oldest living relative. Bob Wayland, a grandson of the school's founder, also presented the school with the double-barreled shotgun Wayland carried on his house calls as a doctor. The gun, which is more than 100 years old, will be on display at Wayland Museum of the Llano Estacado.

- **Faye Jarvis** received the Howard Payne University Woman's Club's Yellow Rose Award for more than 60 years of service to the university. Her family connection to the university spans four generations, stretching back to its origins as Daniel Baker College. After the death of her first husband, she served for three years as a Mission Service Corps volunteer working as dorm director for Veda Hodge Hall, and was commonly known as the "First Lady of Veda." While there, she met her second husband and later was the morning receptionist for the Mabee University Center. She continues as a volunteer in a variety of capacities. Danielle Parkinson, an elementary education major from Farmers Branch, received the Yellow Rose Scholarship.

- **The East Texas Baptist University School of Fine Arts** recently paid tribute to long-time choral director James Moore by premiering an anthem commissioned in his honor. The ETBU Concert Choir performed "Prayer for Grace," composed by Daniel Gawthrop, during its annual spring concert Feb. 21. Moore, who has served the school more than 14 years, received a framed copy of the score.

Anniversities

Muslim leader decries American "bigotry"

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Muslim leader decries American ‘bigotry’

By Bruce Nolan

Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—American culture’s view of American Muslims and Islam steadily is deteriorating under an onslaught of “bigotry” on cable news shows, newspaper op-ed pages and in the blogosphere, an Arab-American activist said.

Commentators and politicians have devoted hours of air time to misrepresenting Islam and fueling suspicion about American Muslims, said Hussein Ibish, founder of the [Foundation for Arab-American Leadership](#) in Washington, D.C.

Hussein Ibish
