

Faith Digest

January 18, 2008

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Faith Digest

Evolution and religion compatible, scientists insist. A top panel of scientists has published a new book asserting that belief in the theory of evolution and religious faith “can be fully compatible,” and creationism has no place in science classes. The 88-page *Science, Evolution, and Creationism*, produced by the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, is an updated version of two previous books supporting evolution scholarship. The 2008 version is different, according to the 15-person committee that designed it, because it is aimed at clergy and school board members and discusses the role of faith in human knowledge. “Science and religion address separate aspects of human experience,” the book says.

‘In God We Trust’ will move from edge to surface of coins. By popular demand, the national motto “In God We Trust” will move from the edge of new dollar coins honoring U.S. presidents to the front or back of the currency. A provision in the \$555 billion domestic spending bill for 2008 calls for the change to take place “as soon as is practicable.” The U.S. Mint began producing presidential one-dollar coins in 2007. The words “In God We Trust” were placed along the edge of the coins, as instructed by Congress. But critics complained about the placement and thought the words belonged on the front or back of the coins instead. The dies already have been produced for the 2008 coins, so those will still have the motto

along the edge. But the motto will be moved on 2009 coins.

Redeemed Klansman reunites with long-ago victim

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Redeemed Klansman reunites with long-ago victim

By Roy Hoffman

Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—Stan Chassin, a 59-year-old investment counselor, had been nervous all day. He had heard a bully from his youth was coming back to town.

Tommy Tarrants had terrorized Chassin in high school by cursing him for being Jewish, grabbing him by the throat and threatening to kill him.

Trial date set for suit by dismissed female prof

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Trial date set for suit by dismissed female prof

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

UPLAND, Ind. (ABP)—Sheri Klouda sparked denominational—and national—debate when she cried foul last year over her [dismissal from teaching](#) at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, allegedly because of her gender.

Ten months later and anticipating a year of legal proceedings, media interviews and medical procedures for her ailing husband, the professor says she hopes to come out of it with “resolution and closure—having a final decision made on the matter and a righteous and just decision being rendered.”

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Happy-clappy or 'Amen'?

What a marvelous letter from Richard Berry concerning banning "applause-attracting" parts of the worship service ([Jan. 7](#)).

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

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



"I'm an optimist—by choice. It's because of Christ in me, the hope of glory, that I can chose to be an optimist rather than a cynic, which is much easier. It is because of that hope that I still run, that I still love, that I still play."

Berry Simpson

Sunday school teacher, petroleum engineer, writer, runner and member of the Midland city council (<http://berry.voxtropolis.com>)

"The success I've had has given me a platform to try to let people know what's really important in life. If you're not feeding the poor, not looking out for the troubled kid on the block, not giving yourself away, you've totally missed it."

Michael W. Smith

Contemporary Christian singer
(Associated Press/RNS)

"There is a self-righteousness, a glibness in their writing. They are too sure of themselves. They've backed themselves into a fundamentalist mode."

Bill Hamilton

A leader of the "death of God" theological movement of the 1960s, describing recent books by militant atheists (RNS)

It will never happen, because our folks are so entrenched in the “entertain me” philosophy they will never be able to admit the truth that we gather to worship God, not to please and entertain ourselves.

For years, I have been dismayed by the “Christian artists,” the happy-clappy services and the hand-clapping, finger-snapping presentations that draw attention to themselves rather than to an omnipotent God. I recently saw a clip on TV where a young boy did a “cannonball” into the baptistry to the surprise of the preacher. Everyone thought it was hilarious.

Oklahoma Baptist feels called to minister in global hot spots

January 18, 2008

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Oklahoma Baptist feels called to minister in global hot spots

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

BARTLESVILLE, Okla.—Day 27 of a planned 40-day fast, in a cabin on Michigan’s upper peninsula, Kevin Turner believes God called him to ministry—specifically in war zones, disaster areas and places where Christians are persecuted.

“I believe we’re sent into the hot spots of the world,” said Turner, president of Strategic World Impact, based in Bartlesville, Okla. “Our approach is to get in, be part of the solution, make an impact and get out safely. We’re not doing long-term development. It’s a stopgap ministry to touch the lives of people who are standing on the brink of eternity.”

A child
peers out
of a hut not
far from
Nyala, a
village
affected by
violence in
southern
Darfur.
(RNS
photo/Chris
Herlinger)

Hands-on missions in Africa

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Andrew Bentley, a member of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, examines a young resident of the Ministry of Mercy orphanage in Otutulu, Nigeria.	Cathy Steenhoek from Pella, Iowa, works with a boy during a Buckner International mission trip to Kenya.	Nancy Stretch, a nurse practitioner from Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, examines a child in Busia, Kenya. Wilshire has an ongoing partnership in Busia through Buckner.

Hands-on missions in Africa

When needs become names and epidemics

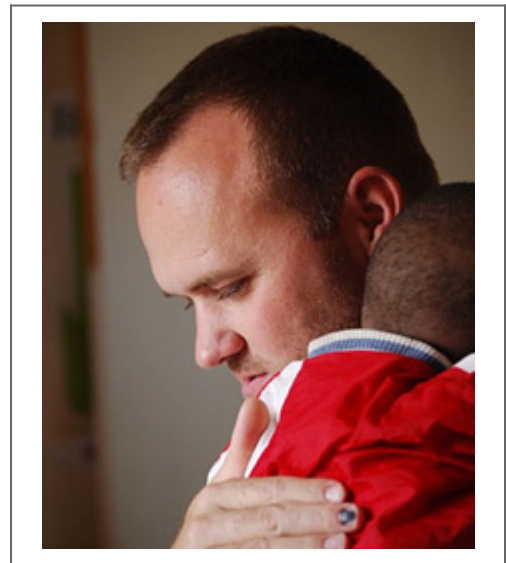
emerge as faces

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

USTIN—When she made her first trip to Congo, situations Laura Seay was studying in books became real to her. And soon, it grabbed her heart as the country became part of her life.

As a University of Texas doctoral student, Seay is studying the infrastructure of Congo. Each day, Seay—a member of First Baptist Church in Austin—looks for signs of hope and places where Baptists can aid people in need. Most often, she finds them in churches that have begun shouldering the load of providing social services such as medical care.



Jon Cannon, a member of First Baptist Church in Amarillo, comforts a baby after the child receives an injection at a medical clinic at the Baptist Children's Center in Nairobi, Kenya, a ministry of Buckner International.
(Photo/Courtesy of Jeff Raines)

Caring for the poor: Whose job is it—church or state?

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Caring for the poor: Whose job is it—church or state?

By Marv Knox

Editor

Care for people Jesus called “the least of these” requires response from both congregations and government, according to specialists who focus on

ministry to the poor and on church/ state relations.

As participants in both church and state, Christians should minister directly to the poor and also advocate to the government on their behalf, specialists stressed.

Danica Simmons, a registered nurse at Mission East Dallas, treats Francisco, a patient at the ministry's clinic. Launched by Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Mission East Dallas provides medical care for uninsured and underinsured people—particularly the working poor—in eastern Dallas County. (PHOTO/Angela Best)

Responding to the Luke 4 mandate

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Responding to the Luke 4 mandate

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

For some Christians, listening to the news is like hearing a prayer list. More than 2 million people displaced in Sudan. More than 1.5 million Iraqi children left homeless. Residents of Southeast Texas and Louisiana still rebuilding two years after hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Nearly every story is a reminder of the pain and suffering that remains in the world. And God uses many of them to call people and churches to serve around the globe.

LaKedra
Robertson
from
Washington,
D.C., shares
Christ's love
with a child
in Kenya
during a
Shoes for
Orphan Souls
trip
sponsored by
Buckner
International.
(Buckner
Photo)

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Kim Bartel** to Central Church in Bellaire as associate pastor.
- **Jack Bourland** to First Church in Inez as interim pastor.

- **Alan Dawson** has resigned as children's minister at Parkside Church in Denison to accept a similar position in Tulsa, Okla.
 - **Tyler Freeze** to First Church in Gunter as minister to students.
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BUA dedicates Piper Village

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BUA dedicates Piper Village

Baptist University
of the Américas
President René
Maciel marks the
opening of school's
Piper Village
housing
community with a
ribbon-cutting,
along with (left to
right) Teo
Cisneros, chairman
of the BUA board
of trustees; Babs
Baugh of San
Antonio; Paul Piper
Jr. & Shirley Piper
of Wilson, Wyo.;
Josué Grijalva,
former president
of the school; and
Katy Piper of San
Antonio. The
60,000 square-
foot, \$6.2 million
apartment
community initially
will house more
than 180 students
and their families.
The housing
community
effectively triples
the amount of on-
campus housing
the university has
to offer students.

Rob Bell: Christians shouldn't fear controversy over doctrine

January 18, 2008

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Rob Bell: Christians shouldn't fear controversy over doctrine

By Drew Nichter

Kentucky Western Recorder

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)—Precise definitions and formulations of doctrines aren't necessary prerequisites to evangelism or Christian unity, said author [Rob Bell](#), pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., who has become an increasingly controversial figure among evangelical Christians.

Bell rose to prominence rapidly after his Mars Hill congregation, founded in 1999, grew to more than 10,000 members in only a few years. He also has a popular video series and has written two best-selling books, *Velvet Elvis* and *Sex God*.

Rob Bell

Survey: Unchurched Americans say church is full of hypocrites

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Survey: Unchurched Americans say church is full of hypocrites

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Almost three-quarters of Americans who haven't darkened the door of a church in the last six months think it is "full of hypocrites," and even more of them consider Christianity to be more about organized religion than about loving God and people, a new survey revealed.

Almost half the people surveyed—44 percent—agreed with the statement: "Christians get on my nerves."