

DOWN HOME: About time for a technology sabbath

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My buddy Greg had a really bad day.

He woke up in a hotel far from home, with a slate of activities stretching out before him. He got busy, checked out of the hotel and took off.

Unfortunately, he left his briefcase in the parking lot. Worse still, by the time he realized what had happened and returned to the hotel, somebody else had driven over his briefcase, crushing his cell phone and laptop computer.

He called around asking for phone numbers because, like me, he doesn't memorize or write them down anymore. His cell phone stored them all. Until his phone went to the big cellular relay station in the sky.

EDITORIAL: Look to horizon for BGCT perspective

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“Just keep your eyes on the horizon,” my friend Brent advised me the first time I went deep-sea fishing. “If you start feeling queasy, look at a fixed point—like trees on the tip of a peninsula or the top of a condo on the beach. That will help you keep your equilibrium, and you’ll be OK.”

Brent gave good advice for a breezy outing off the Florida coast. We didn’t catch many fish, but we had a great day.



That’s good advice for Texas Baptists these days, too. Our Baptist boat is bouncing on a sea of controversy. Folks are looking a little green around the gills. They’re responding in various ways. Some feel sick; others are mutinous.

So, we’d all benefit by looking to the horizon. Here are some fixed points on

which to gaze. They'll help us ride out the stormy seas:

Scholars say evangelicals and their votes are shifting

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Scholars say evangelicals and their votes are shifting

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The face of evangelicalism is changing, two authors at the Pew Research Center said, and with that change comes uncertainty about who evangelicals will vote for in next year's presidential election.

Using the AIDS crisis as an example, Michael Lindsay, author of *Faith in the Halls of Power*, said the present generation of evangelicals has a broader, more international perspective than their forebears.

Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

Religious references OK on flag certificates. Americans who ask for a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol now will be able to include religious references on the accompanying certificate under new guidelines. Some House members were angry after an Ohio Eagle Scout requested a flag be flown in honor of his grandfather's "dedication and love of God, country, and family." The accompanying certificate left out the word "God." Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers, who supervises the flag program, said guidelines from 2003 would be revised to allow whatever messages a member of Congress deems appropriate. After an internal review, Ayers determined the existing policies had been "inconsistently applied." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, after initialing downplaying the dispute, later said Ayers' office should not "be in the role of censoring what members want to say." Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, who received the flag request that sparked the policy change, said he would pursue legislation that permanently allow flag certificates to acknowledge God.

Publisher offers environmentally friendly Scriptures. If the "What Would Jesus Drive?" campaign aimed to get Jesus into a fuel-efficient hybrid, now there's an answer to "What Would Jesus Read?" Publishing giant Thomas Nelson Inc. has released the first-ever "green" Bible. The *Charles Stanley Life Principles Daily Bible* uses paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and includes an FSC logo on its packaging that

indicates it met the council's standards in every stage of production, from the forest to the paper mill to the printer. The new Bible comes as part of a larger effort at Thomas Nelson to practice stewardship and implement environmentally friendly practices. "We are committed to trying to learn more about how we can reduce our carbon footprint as a company," said Lindsey Nobles, director of corporate communications at Thomas Nelson.

Wayland nurse takes healthcare expertise, servant's heart to Brazil

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Josie Gomez and most of the medical mission team gather for a group photo on the boat that took them to their remote patients each day while in Brazil. Pictured are (back row, from left) a German missionary to Brazil; Gomez; Donna Winchester, dentist; Pastor Kenneth Winchester of Slaton; Gordon Wurster, a pharmacist from Lubbock; Ron Hanby, a CPA from Plainview; Hugh Wilson, a physician from Lubbock; (front row, from left) Luiz Alcantara, a physician from Brazil; Renata Bubanc, a pastor's wife from Brazil; and Adrienne Laramore, a physical therapist from Lubbock.

Wayland nurse takes healthcare expertise, servant's heart to Brazil

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

LAINVIEW—Josie Gomez normally sees dozens of [Wayland Baptist University](#) students and employees in a typical week.

But recently, her caseload increased significantly. Fortunately, Gomez didn't have to meet the needs alone.

Iraqi Christians face choice â€” flee or live in fear

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One of a
dwindling
number of
Iraqi
Christians
stands
before an
icon after
Sunday
Mass at the
Church of
the Virgin
Mary in
Baghdad.
(RNS photo
by James
Palmer/*The
Star-Ledger*)

Iraqi Christians face choice - flee or live in fear

By James Palmer

Religion News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq (RNS)—Nabil Comanny and his family endured the dead bodies left to decompose along the road in their southern Dora neighborhood. They accepted the criminal gangs that roamed the area, searching for targets to kidnap. And neither the utility failures nor the mountains of trash in the street could drive them away.

As Christians, the Comannys learned to keep a low profile. They even stayed in their house after many Muslim neighbors fled the daily chaos when sectarian bloodshed between Shiite and Sunni militants broke out in 2006, making this one of Baghdad's most embattled districts.

Faith changed best-selling novelist's world

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Faith changed best-selling novelist's world

By Nancy Haught

Religion News Service

VANCOUVER, Wash. (RNS)—Karen Kingsbury, the reigning queen of Christian fiction, lives on a hilltop just outside Vancouver in a spacious modern Tudor house, with a sweeping driveway and a large, landscaped pool.

This is the house that Life Changing Fiction built. That's her trademark, says the winner of the 2007 Christian Book Award, because that's how her fans describe her work.

Karen
Kingsbury's
novel *Ever
After* won
this year's
Christian
Book of the
Year award
from the
Evangelical
Christian
Publishers
Association.
She wrote
it in five
days.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Spirit & pastor searches

After reading Roger Olson's 2nd Opinion column on the pastor-search process ([Oct. 1](#)), I find it difficult to agree. Yes, I believe pastors as well as

church members are led by a call of the Holy Spirit daily. I would hope his church's pastor-search committee didn't browbeat or bribe a pastor or member to join his church. We do not need to look to help-wanted ads of pastors wanting to leave a difficult situation.

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

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



"I believe there is a universal God. I believe the God that the Muslim prays to is the same God that I pray to. After all, we all came from Abraham. I believe in that universality."

George W. Bush

U.S. president, (Al Arabiya television/The Washington Times/RNS)

"When we started talking about the Holy Spirit, people said: 'Oh, that's kind of dangerous. You don't know what may happen.' I'm kind of hoping something unexpected does happen."

Cindy de Jong

Coordinator of worship at Calvin College, about a worship series on the Holy Spirit (RNS)

"Torture undermines victim and torturer alike. It corrodes the society that permits it. It overthrows the rule of law and then destroys the tyrannies that it spawns. Corrupting the soul, it eventually corrupts everything in its path. Torture is itself the ticking bomb."

George Hunsinger

Founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (RNS)

Our church lost our pastor 18 months ago. Even though my heart cried, I could still praise God that he will continue to minister through that young man. I hope my church's search committee is looking for someone who is going through the door that the Holy Spirit opens, not the door that is listed "Exit." Praise God for pastor-search committees that bathe their work in prayer and listen to the Holy Spirit's leadership.

Robert Dillard

Midwestern Seminary board meeting ends without action against Roberts

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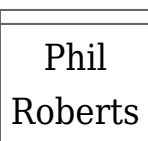
Midwestern Seminary board meeting ends without action against Roberts

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) — Despite a public conflict with the chairman of his trustees, the president of a Southern Baptist seminary survived a board meeting Oct. 16.

According to a press release from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, trustees agreed, during the two-day meeting, to “affirm” both president Phil Roberts and board chairman Gene Downing as well as “the overall direction and mission of the seminary.”



Theology keeps Mormons from entering Christian mainstream

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Theology keeps Mormons from entering Christian mainstream

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—While a Mormon presidential candidate continues to occupy a prominent place in the race for the White House, a recent study has found most Americans say they know little about the practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and large majorities say their own faith is very different from the Mormon religion.

The survey, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the

Press and the [Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life](#), found 51 percent of Americans have little or no awareness of the precepts and practices of Mormonism, and 53 percent say they have a favorable opinion of Mormons.

More than
50,000
Mormon
missionaries,
like the men
shown here,
serve the
Church of
Jesus Christ
of Latter-day
Saints for two
years
spreading
their faith.
(RNS
photo/Kevin
Horan/Time
Life
Pictures/Getty
Images)

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Brian Avery** to Lake Shore Drive Church in Weatherford as youth minister from First Church in Palo Pinto.
 - **Lee Bates** to First Church in Longview as minister of music and worship from First Church in Palmetto, Fla.
 - **Jeff Berger** to Westbury Church in Houston as pastor.
 - **Justin Bindel** to First Church in Wichita Falls as interim junior high minister, where he was assistant youth minister.
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Young people see Christians as judgmental, study shows

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Young people see Christians

as judgmental, study shows

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Young people have graded Christianity, and so far, the report card doesn't look good.

Majorities of American young people describe modern-day Christianity as judgmental, hypocritical and anti-homosexual. What's more, many Christians don't even want to call themselves "Christian" because of the baggage that accompanies the label.