

DOWN HOME: You-know-what will break your heart

August 30, 2007

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DOWN HOME: You-know-what will break your heart

Football will break your heart.

There. Now I've said it. Be warned.

This is a prophetic utterance for fall. Unless, of course, you cheer for the Southlake Carroll Dragons or the University of Southern California Trojans. Your heart probably won't be broken. But everybody else, get ready. As sure as linebackers block extra points, runners fumble, receivers muff passes and centers hike the ball over punters' heads, if you love football, your heart is about to be pummeled, chop-blocked and penalized 15 yards for wanting too much from your favorite gladiators of the gridiron.

Even though Major League Baseball pennant races are heating up (just not in Texas), the local sports pages are overflowing with football.

Church swims upstream by moving downtown

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By Rebekah Hardage

Communications Intern

WACO—Migration from downtowns to the suburbs doesn't seem to be slowing down. And because families are moving to the suburbs, churches are moving there too. But one church in Waco is swimming upstream by relocating downtown.

[Acts Christian Fellowship](#), a Baptist church, recently began renovation of property in downtown Waco where the church plans to turn a warehouse into a sanctuary.

Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

Colorado megachurch approves Haggard's successor. New Life Church, the Colorado megachurch whose leader Ted Haggard was dismissed last year after a sex and drug scandal, has approved a new senior pastor. Brady Boyd, pastor at Gateway Church in Southlake, received more than 95 percent approval in a vote by the Colorado Springs congregation, a church secretary/treasurer announced in a message posted on New Life's website.

Kennedy retires from Florida church. D. James Kennedy, who used his Florida-based television ministry to establish himself as a leading voice for religious conservatives, has retired from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. Kennedy, 76, suffered a cardiac arrest in late December and has not returned to his pulpit of more than 48 years since falling ill. Kennedy started the congregation, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America, in 1959. He became a well-known Christian broadcaster through his presidency of Coral Ridge Ministries, which broadcast his sermons. He also pioneered the Evangelism Explosion personal Christian witness training.

Ethicists debate morality of

enhancing genetics

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Ethicists debate morality of enhancing genetics

By Kim Lawton

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Scientists already know which genes are responsible for particular illnesses, and clinical trials are under way to find new treatments for genetically based diseases. But, ethicists ask, what if this newfound genetic knowledge is used not only to cure, but also to enhance physical and mental capabilities—and enable parents to select traits of their children?

“Aiming at giving our kids a competitive edge in a consumer society—that, in principle, is a goal that is limitless,” said Harvard University professor Michael Sandel, a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics.

New forum’s ambitious

goal—get the world's Christians talking

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New forum's ambitious goal —get the world's Christians talking

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Like cousins at a big family reunion, representatives of the various streams of Christianity from across the globe will gather this fall near Nairobi, Kenya.

The [Global Christian Forum](#) is a rare opportunity for Christians who don't always speak to each other—and in some cases have never met—to spend a few days together and simply get to know one another.

Illinois church knowingly placed convicted sex offender in

pulpit

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Illinois church knowingly placed convicted sex offender in pulpit

By **Michael Leathers**

Associated Baptist Press

ROMEDEVILLE, Ill. (ABP)—Despite warnings from a denominational official as well as another church, a Southern Baptist congregation near Chicago allowed a convicted child molester to preach for years.

In the end, it took media inquiries for Jeffrey Hannah, 42, to relinquish his leadership positions at, and resign as a member of, First Baptist Church of Romeoville, Ill.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Moment of silence

The story about the “moment of silence” law in public schools ([Aug. 20](#)) is simply not believable. Every honest person knows the real motivation for such a requirement: It is an obvious and unconstitutional backdoor attempt to inject religion into the public schools.

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

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



“Children rarely embrace spiritual principles and practices that their parents fail to demonstrate in their lifestyle.”

George Barna

Religion-trends reseacher (BP)

“Now that reading has become more difficult, I probably read the Bible less but pray more. Of course, over the years, I’ve memorized many passages from the Bible, and I’m especially thankful now that I did this. I wish we gave more attention to Bible memorization in our churches today.”

Billy Graham

Evangelist (Minneapolis Star Tribune/RNS)

“Watching one of your own children die is horrible, and many people in Africa have experienced that. Equal to that is knowing you are going to die and not being able to care for your children. This is why women in the U.S. are getting so involved in AIDS. We can look at women in Africa and realize they are just like us.”

Lynne Hybels

Co-founder of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., on the global AIDS crisis (Sojourners/RNS)

The common-sense remedy for a situation like this is not proper and thorough training for teachers. The solution is as Jesus commanded in Matthew 6:5-6. Apparently, what Jesus commanded is not sufficient for Texas.

Public school teachers can teach students about all of the religions of the world, but they have no business explaining anything about “prayer” to their students. “Prayer” is understood by all as a matter of religion, and it is dishonest to assert otherwise.

BGCT sends \$20,000 to help Minnesota flood victims

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BGCT sends \$20,000 to help Minnesota flood victims

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has sent \$20,000 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention to help victims of [flooding in southeastern Minnesota](#).

Widespread flooding damaged more than 4,500 homes in the region. At least 243 homes were destroyed, and seven people died.

Investors with moral agenda are bullish on faith-based mutual funds

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Investors with moral agenda are bullish on faith-based mutual funds

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious activists with a moral agenda for corporate America used to rely primarily on consumer boycotts and sympathetic lawmakers to get Wall Street's attention. But now their toolbox is growing—and there's a lot more money in it.

Over the past decade, America's market for religious investment products has grown by more than 3,500 percent, according to data from fund tracker [Morningstar](#).

North Carolina WMU decides to leave convention's control

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CARY, N.C. (ABP)—The Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina board has voted to remove the missions organization from the North Carolina Baptist Building—and the state convention executive director's attempt to assert authority over its staff.

The dramatic move culminates 16 months of tension between the state WMU and the rightward-shifting Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Conflict between the missions-promotion group and the North Carolina convention has simmered since April 2006, when the WMU leadership voted to change the term that described its relationship with the convention from "auxiliary" to "cooperative partner."

At that time, it also assumed final authority in its own personnel matters, although it committed to stay aligned with Baptist State Convention personnel policies.

Congregations aid flooded church in Oklahoma

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Congregations aid flooded church in Oklahoma

By Carla Wynn Davis

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

CHICKASHA, Okla.—Members of [Cowboy Country Church](#) in Chickasha, Okla., put hours of work into transforming an old building into their new church home. But after worshipping there just one Sunday, the building became uninhabitable.

The new church became infested with mold after flooding from Tropical Storm Erin, which blew through Chickasha Aug. 18-19.

Louisiana College to open law school named for SBC fundamentalist leader

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Louisiana College to open law school named for SBC fundamentalist leader

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP)—Baptist-affiliated [Louisiana College](#) will establish a new “biblical” law school named after Paul Pressler, the Texas appeals-court judge better known for leading the fundamentalist takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The college hopes to open the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law in 2009, said Joe Aguillard, president of the 1,000-student school. The school wants to have as many as 40 students in the first year and grow to 300, he said.