

Anti-Muslim bias skyrocketed in U.S. in 2006, report claims

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Anti-Muslim bias skyrocketed in U.S. in 2006, report claims

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Complaints of anti-Muslim bias in the United States shot up by 25 percent in 2006 as compared to the previous year, according to an annual report by an Islamic group.

The annual report of the [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#), titled “Presumption of Guilt: the Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States,” said government acts accounted for much of the increase in reports of discrimination and bias.

Arlington pastor resigns from

Southwestern Seminary board

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Arlington pastor resigns from Southwestern Seminary board

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

ARLINGTON (ABP)—Dwight McKissic, the Southern Baptist pastor frequently at odds with fellow trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has resigned from the board of the Fort Worth school.

McKissic, pastor of the predominantly African-American Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, said he chose to step down in order to “return to the place I was prior to being a trustee.”

Nation's largest African-American religious group tackles AIDS

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Nation's largest African-American religious group tackles AIDS

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS (ABP)—For the first time, the nation's largest African-American religious body corporately addressed the HIV/AIDS crisis.

AIDS awareness and prevention figured prominently on the agenda for the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. in St. Louis. Leaders of the 7.5 million-member group said 45,000 National Baptists participated in the gathering.

RIGHT or WRONG: What is Caesar's?

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RIGHT or WRONG: What belongs to Caesar?

Our pastor recently called for us to be model citizens. Then, the pastor said, "Be sure, though, you sacrifice your political party's

platform on the altar of the gospel, and not vice-versa." I'm left with the question, "What can I do?"

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June 25, 2007

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- [Book reviewed in this issue are:](#) *The AIDS Crisis*, by Deborah Dortzbach and W. Meredith Long, *Finding God Beyond Harvard: The Quest for Veritas*, by Kelly Monroe Kullberg and *The Election*, by Jerome Teel.



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CYBERCOLUMN by John Duncan: Hope radiates

June 25, 2007

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CYBER COLUMN: Hope radiates

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree in July, pondering past events and thinking of our nation at grief in America—grieving families in the loss of soldiers, grieving church members who have lost loved one, and still feeling the grief of long-forgotten, at least by most, of the Virginia tech tragedy of last spring. How soon we forget, but grief never forgets.

Really, though, I find myself thinking about the power of the teacher-student relationship. My mind cannot even fathom the events of Virginia Tech—the horror, the funerals with sad songs, or the grief that like an ocean wave will not, for some, go away. It will roll in waves, ceaselessly. Walt Whitman wrote two magnificent lines in his poem, *Memories of President Lincoln*: “With the countless torches lit, with the silent sea of faces and unbared heads.”

John Duncan

REBUILDING LIVES: Abilene church renovates home, touches family

June 25, 2007
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Volunteers
from
Pioneer
Drive
Baptist
Church in
Abilene
renovate
the family
home of a
boy who
was
disabled
after a
fight in
the
church's
parking
lot one
year ago.
(Photos
courtesy
of Pioneer
Drive
Baptist
Church)

REBUILDING LIVES:

Abilene church renovates home, touches family

By George Henson

Staff Writer

ABILENE—A home renovation cannot come close to repairing the damage done in a young boy's life, but it has allowed his family to see the love of Christ through the kindness of members of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene.

Last summer, a 12-year-old boy—small for his age—was challenged to fight by a much bigger boy late at night in the church's parking lot. Other children who were present report the younger boy refused and turned away to leave. Reports say the larger boy spun him around and hit him one time in the chest.

Honduran boy âcomes homeâ to San Antonio family

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After
Noelia and
Allix
Aguilar
stood with
11-year-old
Gabriel
between
them to
make the
“final
vows” for
adoption,
Allix
Aguilar
leaned
over and
kissed the
boy on the
cheek as
his wife
wiped
away
tears.

Honduran boy ‘comes home’ to San Antonio family

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

AN ANTONIO—The judges dressed in neon-hued robes, mothers and children carried roses, and everybody wore smiles for the “mass adoption” at the Bexar County courthouse.

“Usually these are held in a courtroom, but we have so many adoptions to approve today that we had to borrow the jury selection room to get all of us in,” explained Judge Richard Garcia as he greeting several hundred people crowded into the basement room.

Around the State

June 25, 2007

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Officers of the
Hispanic
Baptist
Convention of
Texas were
invited to the
White House to
take part in a
Cinco de Mayo
celebration
held in the
Rose Garden.
They also took
the
opportunity to
advocate
passage of an
immigration
reform
initiative.
Pictured in the
White House
Rose Garden
are Baldemar
Borrego,
president of
the Hispanic
Baptist
Convention of
Texas; Carlos
Gutierrez, U.S.
Secretary of
Commerce;
and Carlos
Alfaro, an
evangelical
leader from
Miami, Fla.

Around the State

- **San Marcos Baptist Academy** has received a \$500,000 donation to fund a new sports and fitness center. The gift, made by Don and Nancy Mafrige, both 1955 graduates of the academy, is the largest ever given by alumni.
- **Houston Baptist University** has announced the creation of the Elsa Jean and Don Looser Endowed Scholarship. Looser, who has announced his retirement as vice president of academic affairs, has served the university more than 44 years. His wife also served as a faculty member for three years.



San Marcos Baptist Academy has broken ground on an alumni plaza in preparation for the school's 100-year anniversary in the fall. The alumni plaza will feature items that were part of the original campus. San Marcos Academy was located on Academy Street in San Marcos from its founding in 1907 until it moved to its present location on Ranch Road 12 in 1982. Several lamp posts, a central fountain and bricks from the downtown campus will be used to construct a memorial garden plaza outside the entrance to the school's Carroll Hall. Construction of the plaza has been funded by Mary Nelle Payne Grusendorf, SMA class of 1948, and Nancy Payne Willingham, SMA class of 1950. Participating in the groundbreaking were Grusendorf, SMA Vice President for Development Bobby DuPree and Willingham. (San Marcos Baptist Academy/Photo by Don Anders)

- **Seventeen Dallas Baptist University students** explored educational developments and leadership trends in South Korea earlier this month as a part of the school's new doctor of education in educational leadership

program. The students and their faculty sponsors partnered with local education leaders and visited a variety of K-12 schools and universities. Future trips abroad are being planned in conjunction with the program. For more information, call (214) 333-5484.

- Each summer, undergraduate and graduate students serve across the country and around the world working alongside **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** Global Missions field personnel and Fellowship partners. Mary Beth Cooper of Gainesville, working with immigrants in Fredricksburg, Va.; Ashley Gatta of Round Rock, serving with Touching Miami with Love in Florida; Mary Beth Gilbert of Dallas, teaching English as a second language in Macedonia; Matt McGee of Arlington, serving in Southeast Asia; and Bethany Williams of Rising Star, who is serving as a service volunteer in Southeast Asia are among the more than 30 students taking part this summer.

Atheists view 'radical Christianity' as threat

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Atheists view 'radical Christianity' as threat

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than half of atheists and agnostics think “radical Christianity” is just as threatening in the United States as “radical Islam,” a new study reveals.

[The Barna Group](#), a Ventura, Calif.-based research firm, found 56 percent of atheists and agnostics agree with that view. The firm, which often looks at opinions of religious Americans, delved into the beliefs of people of no faith and compared them to religious adults over a two-year period.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[***101 Amazing Truths about Jesus That You Probably Didn't Know***](#), by Mark Littleton (Howard Books)

Most of us know that Jesus was born of a virgin, died on a cross and rose three days later, but what about the things many Christians do not know? Did Jesus pay taxes? Was he an only child? Did he ever lose his temper? Did he like to have fun?

Mark Littleton answers these questions and more by taking an in-depth look at Jesus' life.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Using contemporary language and modern examples, Littleton makes Jesus' life applicable to the average person. He uses Scripture references to back up his claims.

Cartoon

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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Baptist churches, in Texas, the BGCT, the nation and around the world.