

Faith-based positions of presidential hopefuls compared

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Faith-based positions of presidential hopefuls compared

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Perhaps the only thing more mind-boggling than the quantity of presidential hopefuls in 2008 is the array of faith-based views represented among the candidates themselves.

Consider profiles of the top candidates in each major party. The profiles include notes about their faith background, their perception among conservative religious voters and their positions on selected major issues that interest religious voters of all ideologies.

Compare the Candidates:

Republicans

[John McCain](#)

[Mitt Romney](#)

[Rudolph Giuliani](#)

Democrats

[Hillary Clinton](#)

[Barack Obama](#)

[John Edwards](#)

- [View as a graphical chart](#)

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Blogger-activist pastors to press SBC to deal with sexual abuse

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Blogger-activist pastors to press SBC to deal with sexual abuse

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ARLINGTON (ABP)—With increasing national attention on Baptist churches' problems with clergy sex abuse, two pastors with an Internet following have said they intend to push for more comprehensive ways to address the problem in the 16-million member Southern Baptist Convention.

Oklahoma pastor [Wade Burleson](#) and Texas pastor [Benjamin Cole](#) intend to present a motion and resolution regarding the abuse problem at the annual SBC meeting, set for June 12 and 13 in San Antonio. The two have gained convention-wide attention in the past year for their blog-driven efforts to reform the denomination.

TV news magazine investigates sexual abuse in Protestant churches

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By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—ABC's *20/20* examined the problems with [clergy sexual abuse](#) in the Southern Baptist Convention April 13, warning that some convicted "preacher predators" remain on an SBC's list of ministers available for employment.

Featuring interviews with Southern Baptist Convention president Frank Page and clergy sex-abuse-survivor-turned-activist Christa Brown, the program investigated how denominations without hierarchical authority can protect vulnerable parties from abuse by ministers.

See Related Articles:

- TV news magazine investigates sexual abuse in Protestant churches
- [SBC response to ABC 20/20 segment on sexual predators in ministry](#)
- [Blogger-activist pastors to press SBC to deal with sexual abuse](#)

SBC response to ABC 20/20 segment on sexual predators in ministry

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SBC response to ABC 20/20 segment on sexual predators in ministry

By D. August Boto

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)-Unfortunately, the [20/20 report](#) last Friday had

the effect of misleading at least some of its viewers to believe that the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) somehow condones, hides or denies sexual offenses committed by ministers in SBC-affiliated churches. The convention does none of those things. Quite the contrary.

The report included accurate assertions, certainly. For instance, it is true that Southern Baptist ministers have been charged and/or convicted of sexually abusing children. It is true that in some of those instances, abuse had occurred earlier at churches where those men had been previously employed. It is apparently true that at least in one case a church previously employing a sexual predator and the church employing the offender at the time of his ultimate arrest, did not communicate with each other in a way that disclosed any earlier indication of moral failure. It may be true that other churches have similarly failed to communicate.

See Related Articles:

- [TV news magazine investigates sexual abuse in Protestant churches](#)
- SBC response to ABC 20/20 segment on sexual predators in ministry
- [Blogger-activist pastors to press SBC to deal with sexual abuse](#)

It is not true, however, that the Southern Baptist Convention has qualified or endorsed any minister a church has chosen. There is an explicit statement saying as much on the same page the interviewer used to locate the ministers he named. So it is the local churches which do the qualifying,

not the SBC. *20/20* referred to the list of ministers as "the list of available ministers." It would have been more accurate to refer to it as the "list of serving ministers." The convention merely shares information provided by its affiliated churches.

Volunteers provide relief when tornado hits North Texas

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Texas
Baptist Men
chainsaw
team
volunteers
Joel
Bachman
(left) and
Ken
Hullperch
precariously
atop a
Haltom City
home
damaged by
a tornado,
seeking to
remove a
tree limb.

Volunteers provide relief when tornado hits North Texas

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

HALTOM CITY—As tears streamed down her face, Ruth Gunson found relief after a tornado, thanks to volunteers from Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief and Victim Relief Ministries.

Gunson and her family are trying to pick up the pieces after a tornado

uprooted trees and sent limbs more than five-feet in circumference into her house, leaving two gaping holes in its roof.

The Well Community singular in goal to work with mentally disabled

April 18, 2007

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The Well
congregation
has provided
individuals
with mental
disabilities a
place to
worship and
fellowship.

(Photo
courtesy of
The Well)

The Well Community singular in goal to work with mentally disabled

By Vicki Brown

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Joel Pulis, a Baylor University graduate now living in Dallas, recently was featured in *People* magazine for leading his church in a relatively new and singular mission—to reach poor people with mental disabilities.

Pulis, 33, refers to his flock of 50 at The Well Community not as a congregation but as a community of believers. He says his ministry focuses on being “a family, a people” for those suffering from brain dysfunctions like bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Virginia Tech students gather for prayer at Baptist campus center

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Virginia Tech students gather for prayer at Baptist campus center

By Jim White

Virginia Religious Herald

BLACKSBURG, Va. (ABP)—As the sun began to set and the wind continued to howl over a wounded campus and city April 16, Virginia Tech students gathered for prayer, comfort and counseling at the school's Baptist student center.

Blacksburg, the small city that houses the university's 26,000-plus students, was even quieter than usual the night after a massacre unprecedented in American history. The gunman, who police said shot 32 students and professors and then took his own life, had also silenced the usually bustling activity on the commercial strips around the sprawling campus's edges.

Texas Baptist Forum

April 18, 2007

Updated: 4/16/07

Texas Baptist Forum

God & Allah

Please let me add my two cents' worth to the discussion concerning [God and Allah](#).

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



“Our humanity is diminished when we have no mission bigger than ourselves. ... We discover who we are in service to one another, not the self.”

Bono

U2 frontman, urging aid and debt relief for Africa (Time)
“Many evangelicals are boarding a new train. It runs along tracks defined by the broad demands of their faith, not by some party’s political agenda.”

E.J. Dionne

Washington Post columnist,
writing about how some evangelicals are in the midst of a “New Reformation” that separates them from partisan politics (RNS)

“Every politician says, ‘God bless America.’ But do you really mean that? If you don’t, maybe we should start saying, ‘Have a good day,’ or something like that.”

J. Randy Forbes

U.S. congressman, R-Va.
(Washington Times/RNS)

To me, it's quite simple. In Exodus 3:6, God identifies himself to Moses: "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

Do Muslims worship this God? Clearly, they do not, because they worship the God of Ishmael, not Isaac.

I can accept the idea that Christians and Jews worship the same God. Most Jews simply don't yet recognize Jesus as God the Son, the Messiah. But Christians and Muslims do not worship the same God. Allah is not God.

Board fires Missouri Baptists' embattled executive director

April 18, 2007

Updated: 4/14/07

Update: Embattled Missouri exec fired in closed meeting

By Vicki Brown

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) - In a split 44-7 vote, the [Missouri Baptist](#)

[Convention](#) Executive Board fired its top administrator, David Clippard, April 10.

Clippard, who assumed duties as executive director Sept. 9, 2002, was terminated in a four-hour, closed-door session — the culmination of a growing rift between two conservative factions within the state convention.

Southwestern Seminary files motion against dismissed professor's suit

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By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH- [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) has filed a motion in federal court to dismiss the gender-discrimination lawsuit that former professor Sheri Klouda brought against the school.

The motion argues [the suit](#) should be dismissed because seminary officials' decision to dismiss Klouda is protected by the First Amendment.

Mission Waco volunteers offer pure water, living water

April 18, 2007

Updated: 4/13/07

[\[Link\]](#)

Workers
drill a new
water well
for
Ferrier,
Haiti. A
new
drilling rig
should
arrive
within a
few
weeks,
thanks
primarily
to
Woman's
Missionary
Union and
its Pure
Water
Pure Love
initiative.
(Photos
courtesy
of Mission
Waco)

Mission Waco volunteers

offer pure water, living water

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—Sixteen Mission Waco volunteers recently provided food, medical care and a source of clean water for a village in Haiti and—just as important to the mission trip’s sponsors—gained a new perspective on ministry among some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

“Our mission is two-fold. We want to provide holistic, relationship-based programs that empower the poor and the marginalized. We also want to mobilize middle-class Americans to become more compassionately involved in ministry among the poor,” said Mission Waco Executive Director Jimmy Dorrell.



Waco physician Rafael Perez worked with local health-care providers and Mission Waco to provide a clinic in Ferrier, Haiti, where medical professionals treated more than 100 patients in three and a half days.

Evangelical leaders join broad coalition urging immigration reform

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By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A bipartisan array of Congress members and evangelical leaders exhorted their colleagues March 29 on the moral necessity of immigration reform.

Leaders from across the ideological spectrum—from Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., to Southern Baptist public policy agency executive Richard Land—held a Capitol Hill press conference to call on Congress and President Bush to institute immigration reform.