

Amish response to violence rated top â€œ06 newsmaker

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An Amish family arrives to pay their respects at the White Oak farm of Chris and Rachel Miller, who lost two daughters when a gunman killed five girls at an Amish school. (RNS photo by Robert Sciarrino/*The Star-Ledger* of Newark, N.J.)

Amish response to violence rated top '06 newsmaker

By Jason Kane

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Amish community that inspired the world with acts of forgiveness after a Pennsylvania schoolhouse shooting has been named the newsmaker of the year for 2006 by the Religion Newswriters Association and Beliefnet.

The multi-faith spirituality website Beliefnet.com noted the Amish community topped its list of newsmakers for demonstrating “courage, forgiveness, self-sacrifice and love” after a gunman entered an Amish schoolhouse in October and shot 10 girls before taking his own life. The Amish community reached out to the killer’s family, offering monetary and emotional support. Several attended his funeral.

DRINK TO THAT? Have Baptists watered down their objections to alcohol?

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DRINK TO THAT?

Have Baptists watered down their objections to alcohol?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

A growing number of Baptists may have brought in the New Year by raising a glass of something a bit stronger than iced tea, some cultural observers speculate. Baptist attitudes toward alcohol consumption seem to be in transition, they insist.

Consider the spirited debate—and debate about spirits—sparked last summer when messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting approved a resolution opposing the consumption of alcoholic beverages—and an amendment disqualifying imbibers from service as trustees of SBC entities.

[Read more](#)

Alcoholism: No easy fix or single remedy

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Alcoholism: No easy fix or single remedy

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—Alcoholism presents a multifaceted problem—too varied for one all-purpose remedy or a single approach to ministry for those who battle the disease, said Ty Leonard, psychology professor at the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) and director of the school's Community Counseling Center.

For churches that want to help the wounded in their congregations and communities battle addictions, Leonard offered words of advice.

Around the State

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Around the State

- [Houston Baptist University](#) will hold a three-day expression of faith through the arts Jan. 25-27. "Credo: The Arts as Expressions of Belief" will include a concert in Jones Hall with the HBU Choral Union and the Houston Symphony conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki, the Polish composer of "Credo;" an evening vespers service with new musical works; an art exhibit

hosted by the Museum of Printing History; and lectures by Marilynne Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Gilead*, and Gregory Wolfe, founder and editor of *Image*, a national literary quarterly. All events are open to the public and free. For more information, visit www.hbu.edu/credo.

- One hundred and nine students graduated from [East Texas Baptist University](#) during fall commencement ceremonies last month. George Mason, pastor of Wilshire Church in Dallas, delivered the charge to the graduates.
- Two hundred seventy-three students earned academic honors at [Howard Payne University](#) during the fall semester. One hundred and six students maintained perfect grade-point averages, while 96 were named to the Dean's List and 67 to the Honor Roll.
- Marilyn Edwards has been named the 2006 Faculty Member of the Year at [Dallas Baptist University](#). The award corresponds with her 10-year anniversary of service at the school. She is an assistant professor of psychology and a member of Park Cities Church in Dallas.

Exhibits feed the public's hunger for biblical history

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The traveling
“From Abraham
to Jesus” exhibit
walks visitors
through the story
of 2,500 years in
the Holy Land
using a
combination of
antiquities from
biblical times
and multimedia
special effects.
(RNS photo
courtesy of A.
Larry Ross
Communications)

Exhibits feed the public's hunger for biblical history

By Rebecca U. Cho

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A box believed to contain the remains of the son of Simon of Cyrene—the man the Bible says carried Jesus' cross to his crucifixion—is traveling the United States. Meanwhile, curators are preparing the earliest-known manuscript of the Ten Commandments for display next year in San Diego. At the same time, archaic writings testifying to the status of Scripture throughout centuries lie behind glass in

Washington, D.C.

With simultaneous exhibits of biblical artifacts on display or in the works across the nation, the museum world and the general public cannot seem to get enough of the Bible.

Documentary explores faith of televangelists' son

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Documentary explores faith of televangelists' son

By Shona Crabtree

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—After a year of being closely shadowed by a camera crew, Jay Bakker—the tattooed and body-pierced son of televangelists [Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker](#)—finally is getting his private life back.

But viewers across the country have a chance to watch his year in review on the [Sundance Channel](#) in [One Punk Under God](#), a six-part documentary that began airing in December and ends Jan. 17.

Jay Bakker,
son of
televangelists
Jim and
Tammy Faye
Bakker, is
the subject of
a Sundance
Channel
documentary
series, *One
Punk Under
God*.

Book reviews

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Book reviews

[***Reimagining Evangelism: Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Journey***](#) by
Rick Richardson (InterVarsity Press)

“Evangelism as closing the deal on a sales call” is an approach that will become less prevalent as the days progress, according to Rick Richardson. Even Christians find this approach a hindrance in their quest to follow

Christ. Instead, normal conversation is the best way to share your faith. Investing in another person's life provides the opportunity for them to hear and observe your everyday life and fall in love with Jesus through your expressions and example.



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

Reimagining Evangelism's premise is that each believer is a missionary sent by God. The task is not delegated to a special few. A missionary understands and applies the gospel within a person's culture. All church members are to assist others on their spiritual journey. The unfocused spiritual journey of each nonbeliever can become a beginning point for you, as a Christian, to engage others in a lifetime of Christ-likeness.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

African Baptist leader dies. Frank Adams, general secretary of the [All Africa Baptist Fellowship](#), died Dec. 27 in Kumasi, Ghana, after several months of chronic illness. Adams, who also served as Baptist World Alliance regional secretary for Africa, was previously general secretary for the Baptist Convention of Ghana. Adams was a graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary in Rüschlikon, Switzerland, and the Oxford Center for Mission Studies in the United Kingdom. He is survived by wife Selina, two sons and one daughter.

Deadline nears for China pen-pals. The Fellowship of Baptist Educators is seeking about 2,000 students in grades 7 to 12 to answer letters and become pen-pals with young people in China. Jan. 15 is the deadline for requesting letters through the Christian Corresponders project, now in its 16th year. For more information, write John Carter with the Fellowship of Baptist Educators at Samford University, Box 292305, Birmingham, Ala., 35229, e-mail j-fcarter@juno.com or call (205) 822-4106.

Cartoon

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“Backsliding,
no doubt.”

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

2nd Opinion: Six tips for building better sermons

January 4, 2007

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2nd Opinion: Six tips for building better sermons

Every weekend, bold Christians stand up in church and do something many parishioners wish they wouldn't do: They preach.

They stand inside lofty pulpits, behind lecterns or out among the people. Some hold a Bible; some hold a remote control for advancing electronic slides.

Some have spent hours in preparation; others “phone it in” and hope it doesn't show.

It's a strange activity, preaching. Jesus nearly got tossed off a cliff when his first sermon offended his audience. Early preachers Peter and John converted thousands by their preaching—and also got arrested and imprisoned. Stephen was stoned to death after a sermon calling his audience a “stiff-necked people.”

Baptists in the House of Representatives

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**Baptists in the House of
Representatives**

29 Democrats:

Barbara Lee, D-Calif.
Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif.
Corrine Brown, D-Fla.
Kendrick Meek, D-Fla.
Sanford Bishop, D-Ga.
John Lews, D-Ga.
John Barrow, D-Ga.
David Scott, D-Ga.
Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill.
Danny Davis, D-Ill.
Julia Carson, D-Ind.
William Jefferson, D-La.
Albert Wynn, D-Md.
Steny Hoyer, D-Md.
Elijah Cummings, D-Md.
Carolyn Kilpatrick, D-Mich.
John Conyers, D-Mich.
Donald Payne, D-N.J.
Gregory W. Meeks, D-N.Y.
Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y.
G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C.
David Price, D-N.C.
Heath Shuler, D-N.C.
Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Ohio
Chaka Fattah, D-Pa.
Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn.
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas
Alan Mollohan, D-W. Va.
Gwen Moore, D-Wis.

31 Republicans:

Terry Everett, R-Ala.
Mike Rogers, R-Ala.
Spencer Bachus, R-Ala.
Trent Franks, R-Ariz.
John Boozman, R-Ark.
Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.
Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif.
Duncan Hunter, R-Calif.
Vern Buchanan, R-Fla.
Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga.
Nathan Deal, R-Ga.
Donald Manzullo, R-Ill.
Ron Lewis, R-Ky.
Geoff Davis, R-Ky.
Harold Rogers, R-Ky.
Rodney Alexander, R-La.
Roger Wicker, R-Miss.
Chip Pickering, R-Miss.
Sam Graves, R-Mo.
Roy Blunt, R-Mo.
Steve Pearce, R-N.M.
Frank Lucas, R-Okla.
Henry Brown Jr., R-S.C.
J. Gresham Barrett, R-S.C.
David Davis, R-Tenn.
Zach Wamp, R-Tenn.
Louie Gohmert, R-Texas
Mike Conaway, R-Texas
Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas
Randy Forbes, R-Va.
Virgil Goode Jr., R-Va.

New Congress displays America's religious diversity

January 4, 2007

Posted: 1/05/07

New Congress displays America's religious diversity

By Jonathan Tilove

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The new Congress will, for the first time, include a Muslim, two Buddhists, more Jews than Episcopalians and the highest-ranking Mormon in congressional history.

Roman Catholics remain the largest single faith group in Congress, accounting for 29 percent of all members of the House and Senate, followed by Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Jews and Episcopalians.

See Related Articles:

- [Baptists in the House of Representatives](#)
- [Religious affiliations of Texas congressional delegation](#)