

Storylist for week of 10/16/06

October 20, 2006

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Prosperity gospel or Christian Stewardship?

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- [Kirk Franklin's music, message focus on God's power](#)
- [Christian sci-fi fans say: 'The truth is out there'](#)
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The Amish cope with a tragedy

- [Community sees schoolhouse attack as 'Amish 9/11'](#)
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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for October 15: Living a life that matters a day at a time](#)
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- [Poteet church's high school diploma program helping adults reach goals](#)
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BaptistWay Bible Series for October 29: Offer thanks to God for his abundant gifts

October 20, 2006

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BaptistWay Bible Series for October 29

Offer thanks to God for his abundant gifts

- Psalm 116

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for October 29: Endure difficult times with God's strength

October 20, 2006

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Bible Studies for Life Series for October 29

Endure difficult times with God's strength

- 2 Timothy 3:1,10-17; 4:5-8

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for October 29: Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all sin

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/20/06

Explore the Bible Series for October 29

Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all sin

- Hebrews 10:1-18

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

The writer of Hebrews concludes his formal argument by reiterating his belief that the single, effective offering of Jesus Christ has ended the vain, repetitious offering of animals and has achieved the goal of the new covenant and the forgiveness of sins. The motive of the Christian faith is to show gratitude for God's mercies in Jesus Christ.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: The living Christ

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/20/06

CYBER COLUMN: The living Christ

By Jeanie Miley

The man started talking rather calmly, telling me how he was involved in his church's effort to convince people that The End is near.

I was listening politely, but very quickly, I began feeling anxious. The longer the man talked, the closer he got to me and the angrier he became. The angrier he got, the more I felt myself trying to back away, and the more I backed away, the louder he got. All I could think about was the lecture I'd heard recently about sick religion and the statistics about what sick religion does to people.

Jeanie Miley

Supreme Court refuses to hear Scout appeal

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/17/06

Supreme Court refuses to hear Scout appeal

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of a California Supreme Court decision against a Scouting group denied free use of a Berkeley municipal facility because the Boy Scouts ban gays and atheists from their ranks.

EDITORIAL: Oh, that we would debate gross or net

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

EDITORIAL:

Oh, that we would debate gross or net

Here's a debate I'd like to hear out of more mouths: Should Christians [tithe](#) on the gross or net amount of their salary?

Of course, you might say, "That argument is as stupid and useless as arguing about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin." Somebody else might proclaim: "How legalistic can you get? This is a dumb and pharisaical debate."

Dumb debate? I'll take it. If more Baptists—and other Christians, for that matter—were debating whether they should calculate their tithe on their full salary or on their take-home pay, how much more money would flow into our churches and channel into missions and ministry for the glory of God?



Here's an answer from researchers John and Sylvia Ronsvalle, whose [empty tomb research firm](#) studies church giving patterns on a national level: If U.S. Christians would increase their church giving to a tithe, or 10 percent of income (even they didn't specify gross or net), the following would happen:

Bankrupt believers may tithe

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

Bankrupt believers may tithe

By Jason Kane

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—America's charitable but bankrupt worshippers once again will be able to tithe if [Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.](#), and [Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah](#), have their way.

"For millions of Americans, charitable giving and [tithing](#) is an essential part of their lives," Obama said. "And in a country where 37 million citizens live in poverty, we should be encouraging charitable giving, not limiting it."

Periodic check-ups aid financial health

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

Periodic check-ups aid financial health

Many financial ailments can be avoided with periodic check-ups. Sherre Stephens, a certified employee benefits specialist and director of executive and institutional benefit design for [GuideStone Financial Resources](#) of the Southern Baptist Convention, prescribes a six-point self-examination:

- **Maximize retirement plan deferrals.**

“Deferrals to your employer’s retirement plan reduce current federal income tax liability and enhance your retirement savings,” she wrote in a recent column distributed by GuideStone.

Sherre Stephens

“If your employer offers a match, don’t pass up this benefit. The 2006 basic limit is \$15,000—\$20,000 if you are age 50 or older.”

Keep tabs on credit scores, adviser says

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

Keep tabs on credit scores, adviser says

Numbers unknown by most people may affect their ability to secure a loan, buy an insurance policy or even get a job.

Three credit bureaus track consumers' credit histories, and that information is used to calculate and report a person's credit score.

"Many businesses use your [credit score](#) as a way to assess your ability to handle your financial responsibilities," said Don McLeod, a certified financial planner and area director in retirement solutions and services with [GuideStone Financial Resources](#), a Southern Baptist agency.

Don McLeod

"Think of your credit score as your financial GPA," McLeod wrote in a recent column distributed by GuideStone. "Your score could range from 300 to 850. Of course, the higher, the better." McLeod offers three suggestions about how a person can keep tabs on his or her credit score:



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Good stewardship demands proper estate planning

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

Good stewardship demands proper estate planning

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Christians who die without making a will demonstrate poor stewardship, said Bill Arnold, president of the [Texas Baptist Missions Foundation](#).

“If you die without a will, I guarantee your family will not rise up and call you blessed,” said Arnold, a certified financial planner. “The state of Texas has a will for you. But you probably won’t like it.”

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Lease-to-own program enables home ownership

October 20, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

Lease-to-own program enables home ownership

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—By Christmas, some Texas families may celebrate the season by making plans to move into a new home, thanks to an innovative lease-to-own program involving the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The partnership between the BGCT and the [Community Empower](#) home ownership counseling network—along with [CitiMortgage](#) and [Ebby Halliday Realtors](#)—provides an 18-month new-home lease to potential homebuyers.

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