

Lawyers see future in stem-cell research

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Lawyers see future in stem-cell research

By Kate Coscarelli

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Since its beginnings, stem-cell research has attracted attention from doctors, politicians and religious activists.

Now that the field is moving from theoretical musings to practical applications, add one more group—lawyers.

Preparation eases jitters for first-time church campers

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Preparation eases jitters for first-time church campers

By **Laura Frase**

Communications Intern

With summer in full swing, youth pack their bags for church camp, stuffing their Bible between sunscreen and T-shirts.

Anticipation brings a wide range of emotions among campers. Some are church camp veterans, excited about worship and luaus; others face their first camp experience as anxious as their first day of school.

Summer Camp High: Follow-up important

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Staff leaders join teens in worship at a Mount Lebanon Baptist Encampment youth camp. (Photos by Laura Frase)

Summer Camp High: Follow-up important

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

With summer church camp professions of faith in Christ soaring to more than 9,000 last year in Texas and rededications hovering at 8,000, some church leaders express concern about a “camp high.”

They question whether youth will stand by their decisions or if their commitments are based on peer pressure and overwhelming emotions.

Rhonda O’Banion of Heart of Texas Baptist Camp and Mike Leamon of Chaparral Baptist Assembly believe it’s a mixture of both.



Campers paint during a crafts session.

Superheroes draw on universal themes

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Superheroes draw on universal themes

By Lauren Kirk

Special to the Baptist Standard

Dazzling special effects and out-of-this-world action un-doubtedly attract viewers to the big-screen versions of popular superheroes like Superman, Batman and X-Men. But Baylor University English Professor Greg Garrett believes an even more powerful force draws people into these comic book-

inspired adventures.

Superhero stories “communicate important truths about the way we live,” Garrett said. “These are powerful stories with larger-than-life characters.”

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor Social Work receives \$1.1 million grant. The Baylor University School of Social Work’s Center for Family and Community Ministries was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Christ Is Our Salvation private foundation, to be administered over the next three years. The grant to strengthen congregational community ministries will focus on educating future community ministry leaders for churches; preparing leaders through internships; producing community ministry resources and training for churches; and publishing a quarterly journal as a resource for church leaders. As part of the grant proposal, the center will name Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for baccalaureate studies in the School of Social Work, as associate professor of church and community.

Wayland names alumni development director. Danny Andrews, longtime editor of the Plainview Daily Herald, has been named director of

alumni development for Wayland Baptist University. He succeeds Joe Provence, who has served as the university's alumni director since 1985. Andrews, who graduated from Wayland in 1972, began working at the Herald as a sports writer in 1967. He took the position of sports editor in 1970 and was promoted to editor in 1978. In his new position, Andrews will be responsible for fundraising efforts among Wayland alumni, including the annual fund and endowment campaigns. He also will plan all the homecoming events and activities and oversee the alumni publication, Footprints. Andrews' wife, Carolyn, is administrative assistant to Wayland President Paul Armes. The Andrewses have three children—Brandon, of Tampa, Fla., Kayla of Carrollton and Brad of Lubbock.

TOGETHER: BGCT: Working separately & together

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TOGETHER: BGCT: Working separately & together

Have you ever watched three or four friends build something on a free Saturday? If they're smart, they start early, divvy up the work in a way that best suits their talents and go to work. They don't all do the same thing at the same time. They work both separately and together; and, in the end, if

they've worked well, they build something that will last.

Baptists are like those building friends. We come together, divvy up the work and go at it. Churches and conventions work both separately and together; and, in the end, we've built something special. Of course, we know that it is God building through us, but we surely are part of the work (1 Corinthians 3:9).



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

The Baptist General Convention of Texas helps churches in a unified project of kingdom building; but churches are the most important element. Together, we're like those building friends. We've got a job to do, and it sure helps to have friends helping. It makes the effort more enjoyable, and you get a lot more done.

Many people today just do not grasp how Baptists work. It's hard for them to understand that churches, the BGCT, and other Baptist bodies can all be autonomous and yet work together—having a kingdom goal and working cooperatively.

Cybercolumn by Berry Simpson: Workover

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CYBER COLUMN: Workover

By Berry Simpson

When I opened my mail I found an ID, card and an invitation to join AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons.

So, it's finally come to that.

RIGHT OR WRONG? Ordaining divorced deacons

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RIGHT OR WRONG? Ordaining divorced deacons

"I've heard about churches that are ordaining divorced and remarried men as deacons. What does the Bible say about the qualifications of deacons and marriage?"

The qualifications for deacons are found in Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The Acts passage reports the launch of deacon ministry. It describes how the early church commissioned seven men to attend to the daily needs of the congregation while the apostles devoted their time to teaching the gospel. The 1 Timothy passage lists lifestyle and character traits given to Timothy as he tried to organize the church at Ephesus.

Taken literally, the 1 Timothy passage renders most everyone ineligible to serve as a deacon. Just as the Apostle Paul describes character traits for the pastorate that render all of us unqualified to stand in the pulpit

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 16: Invest yourself in the spiritual life of another

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[BaptistWay Bible Series for July 16](#)

Invest yourself in the spiritual life of another

- 2 Timothy 1:1-14

By Joseph Matos

Family Bible Series for July 16: God guides believers with strength

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Family Bible Series for July 16

God guides believers with strength

- Exodus 13:17-18, 20-22; 14:5-6, 10, 13-14, 31; 15:1-2, 11-13

By Greg Ammons

Explore the Bible Series for July 16: Beware of speaking rashly for God

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Explore the Bible Series for July 16

Beware of speaking rashly for God

- Job 38:1-42:17

By James Adair

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

Job has suffered incredible loss, indescribable pain and extraordinary sorrow. His three friends have added insult to injury, and the interloper Elihu has added his opinion. Job has expressed his outrage and called for justice.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley:

'Living the rightness'

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CYBER COLUMN: 'Living the rightness'

By Jeanie Miley

"I don't have to prove myself right," the movie character told his movie son.
"I just have to prove them wrong."

Those words flew off the screen and into my head, and I've been pondering them ever since. I was stunned by them and shaken by the awareness of how many times I've seen that very principle at work.

Jeanie
Miley