

# **Bill amended to allow chaplains freedom to pray according to conscience**

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/16/06

## **Bill amended to allow chaplains freedom to pray according to conscience**

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The House of Representatives has amended a defense-spending bill to appease activists who believe new military guidelines encroach on the religious freedom of evangelical chaplains.

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## **Paige Patterson endorses Floyd**

# for SBC president

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/15/06

## Paige Patterson endorses Floyd for SBC president

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson has endorsed Ronnie Floyd for Southern Baptist Convention president, prompting a rare rebuttal from SBC chief executive Morris Chapman and exposing a growing rift between the two Southern Baptist executives.

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May 16, 2006

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- [Reviewed in this issue:](#)â"All Churches Great and Small: 60 Ideas for Improving Your Church's Ministryâ" by Kirk Farnsworth and Rosie Farnsworth; I Saw the Lord by Anne Graham Lotz; and Letters from Dad by Greg Vaughn with Fred Holmes.



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# Dangerous ground transformed by church

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06



Ruth Ollison,  
pastor of  
Beulah Land  
Community  
Church in  
Houston,  
visits with a  
member of  
her  
neighborhood.

Ollison  
regularly  
walks her  
community,  
meeting  
people and  
inviting them  
to church.

## **Dangerous ground transformed by church**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

HOUSTON—Ruth Ollison ministers on dangerous ground—at least it used to be.

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# **Baptist women in ministry face ongoing challenges**

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

# **Baptist women in ministry face ongoing challenges**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ABILENE—When she was growing up, Amanda Cutbirth didn't know women could be ministers. But she knew God was calling her to ministry.

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# **Big dreams, openness to God's calling guide student**

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

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Crystal Leake, a student at Logsdon Seminary, serves at the Eunice Chambliss Hospitality House in Abilene. (Photo by Dave Coffield/Hardin-Simmons University)

## Called to ministry

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ABILENE—Crystal Leake occasionally flips through magazines looking for pictures of log cabins. She cuts out images that especially call to her—just as she seeks to follow God’s calling.

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## 2nd Opinion: Put our money where your mouth is

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

# **2nd Opinion: 'Put our money where your mouth is'**

**By Jon Singletary**

The World Affairs Council in Dallas recently invited U2 frontman Bono to offer a follow-up address to his comments at the National Prayer Breakfast last month.

Before an audience of Gen X rock 'n' roll fans in jeans and T-shirts and Baby Boomer business leaders in coats and ties, Bono donned a tie with his Doc Marten's and delivered a speech addressing foreign trade—of which Texas is the global leader—and foreign aid—for which Texas senators never seem to vote.

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## **EDITORIAL: Is it Code or evangelistic opportunity?**

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

**EDITORIAL:**

# Is it *Code* or evangelistic opportunity?

Sometimes, I feel utterly naïve.

Take *The Da Vinci Code*, for example. I actually read the book. A long time ago. So, when I heard Opie Taylor (Ron Howard) and Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks) were going to turn it into a film, my thoughts ran along these lines: “Hmmm. The premise is hokey, and I’m sick of middle-aged leading men running around with twentysomething starlets. But in the hands of two wildly famous and likable stars, the movie probably will make a lot of money.”

Never did I expect the movie to raise such a ruckus. Oh, I know—movie audiences far eclipse book readers. (Although, if you really value a good story, read a book.) So, you could see it coming: Media, marketers and moviegoers would all get aroused by the the film premiere, as if Dan Brown’s novel hadn’t been sitting on bookstore shelves for months.



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**Eldersâ€”common title,  
different definitions**

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

# Elders—common title, different definitions

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

What do some contemporary, Calvinist and cowboy churches have in common? They all have elders.

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## Herschel Hobbs on church governance

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

## Herschel Hobbs on church governance

What would Herschel Hobbs say about elders? Who should have decision-making authority in a church?

**See Related Articles:**

- [Who has authority to make decisions for a church?](#)
- [Elders-common title, different definitions](#)
- [Herschel Hobbs on church governance](#)

Hobbs—the pastor-theologian who chaired the 1963 revision of the Southern Baptist Convention’s statement of faith—wrote 35 years ago in a church training book on the Baptist Faith & Message: “The officers in a local New Testament church are pastors and deacons. ... The same office is variously called bishop, elder or pastor. ... ‘Elder’ translates the Greek word which connotes age. Among the Jews, it was used of one who because of age possessed dignity and wisdom. But in the Christian sense, it was used of those who presided over assemblies of the church.”

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Citing Acts 20:28, Hobbs concluded elder, pastor and bishop are interchangeable terms, saying, “‘Elder’ in the Christian sense always refers to the same office of bishop or pastor.”

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# Who has authority to make

# decisions for a church?

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

## Who has authority to make decisions for a church?

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (ABP)—Sam Shaw, pastor at Germantown Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., had a problem on his hands. As in a growing number of Baptist churches, Germantown leaders—including Shaw—wanted to elect elders. And while many church members welcomed the change, a determined majority opposed it as a violation of Baptist traditions and biblical teachings.

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## Texas Baptist Forum

May 16, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

# Texas Baptist Forum

## Faith & immigration

According to the article about Jesus demanding justice for immigrants (April 17), Albert Reyes says that I am “myopic, self-serving and legalistic.”

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to [marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com); 250 words maximum.



*“Dan Brown has given the church a gift. More people in the world will be talking about Jesus on May 19 than ever before.”*

**John Tanner**

Pastor of Cove United Methodist Church near Huntsville, Ala., commenting on Dan Brown, best-selling author of *The Da Vinci Code*, which will premiere as a movie May 19. (RNS)

*“The rain falls on the just and the unjust, and it often seems to fall more on the just because the unjust have stolen the umbrellas!”*

**Jeanie Miley**

Author and lecturer, writing in the Baptist Standard’s weekly cybercolumn

*“Without freedom there is no true faith, for faith coerced is no faith at all—only tyranny.”*

**Jon Meacham**

Managing editor of Newsweek magazine, speaking at the inauguration of John Lilley as president of Baylor University

*“I’m not going to sit here and listen to a shirt-and-tie preacher. But I might listen to a guy in spandex, because he’s like me.”*

**Timothy “T- Money” Blackmon**

Founder of Wrestling for Jesus, a wrestling-themed evangelical Christian group based in Beech Island, S.C. (Associated Press/RNS)

I feel our brother makes several mistakes. First, the question is not about immigrants. It is, however, about those who come into our country without permission. They are correctly called illegal immigrants. I have traveled to or lived in 21 foreign countries. Every time I have visited another country, I have entered with the permission of that country.