

# U.S. allies violate human rights

May 11, 2006

Posted: 5/12/06

## U.S. allies violate human rights

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Several U.S. allies remain among the world's most egregious violators of human rights, a nonpartisan federal panel reported.

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## Baptist foster care continues in troubled Sri Lanka

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This mural on the side of a building that was breached by the tsunami seems to speak of the confused lostness of Sri Lanka's children after the trauma of the disaster. (BCFC photo by Craig Bird)

## **Baptist foster care continues in troubled Sri Lanka**

**By Craig Bird**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka—As the threat of full-fledged civil war grows in Sri Lanka, a Texas Baptist agency cares for a growing number of orphans on the boundary of the fraying ceasefire line.

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# **Feeding the hungry disarms terrorists, author insists**

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Tony Hall,  
former  
United  
States  
congressman  
and United  
Nations  
ambassador,  
visits  
children in  
Africa. Hall  
has traveled  
to 120  
nations to  
learn about  
hunger and  
poverty.

## **Feeding the hungry disarms terrorists, author insists**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Humanitarian aid is the most potent weapon the United States can deploy against terrorism, veteran congressman Tony Hall believes.

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# **Law mandates training for camp workers**

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## **Law mandates training for camp workers**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

Churches throughout Texas are required to make extra preparations for summer camps this year, as a new state law outlining training for adults who work with children and teen-agers goes into effect June 1.

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## **Attorney will guide BGCT church-starting investigation**

May 11, 2006

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# Attorney will guide BGCT church-starting investigation

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—An attorney will guide an investigation into alleged mishandling of Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

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# Bible reading on rise, survey reveals

May 11, 2006

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# Bible reading on rise, survey reveals

**By Nate Herpich**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A survey shows the percentage of Americans who say they regularly read the Bible continues to increase.

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# Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

***Finding Our Way Home: Turning Back to What Matters Most*** by Mark R. McMinn (Josey-Bass)

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*Finding Our Way Home* is inspirational and thought-provoking. From a very personal perspective, McMinn discusses our God-created desire for both adventure and “home”—that secure place in which we are fully known and loved.

These two forces are evident in our human relationships and in our relationship with God.

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## Baptist Briefs

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# Baptist Briefs

**Alliance pledges to confront racism.** At its annual convocation in Birmingham, Ala., the Alliance of Baptists pledged to remake itself into “an anti-racist organization.” While the three-day meeting focused primarily on confronting racism and working toward reconciliation, the estimated 500 participants also agreed to consider a boycott of oil giant Exxon-Mobil, saying the high price of oil and gas deepens worldwide poverty, and dependence on fossil fuels threatens creation. A resolution called on the company to invest significantly in cheaper and less hazardous energy sources. During the annual business session, members were told the Alliance surpassed its goal for the annual missions offering last year. But for the second year in a row, it finished the year with a deficit, which was paid out of reserves. The organization already has a \$16,000 deficit for 2006, against an annual operating budget of \$374,000. Members elected Jim Hopkins, pastor of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., as Alliance president for the coming year. Kristy Arnesen Pullen, a laywoman from Reston, Va., was elected vice president. Amy Jacks Dean, co-pastor of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., was elected secretary.

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**CBF plans conference for chaplains & counselors.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will sponsor a conference for chaplains and pastoral counselors June 21 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta. The event, featuring Central Baptist Theological Seminary President Molly Marshall, is scheduled prior to the CBF General Assembly June 22-23 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. A luncheon for chaplains and pastoral counselors on June 23 at the Omni Hotel will feature a presentation on

contemplative prayer by Loyd Allen, professor of church history and spiritual formation at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. Both events require advance registration. To register, contact Jen Van Camp at (770) 220-1645, [jvancamp@thefellowship.info](mailto:jvancamp@thefellowship.info) or George Pickle at (770) 220-1617, [gpickle@thefellowship.info](mailto:gpickle@thefellowship.info).

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## **Buckner sends shoes to children orphaned by hostage massacre**

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Andrew Knight, director of humanitarian aid for Buckner Orphan Care International, led staff and volunteers in loading shoes for shipment to Beslan April 26 at the Buckner aid warehouse in East Dallas.

## **Buckner sends shoes to children orphaned by hostage massacre**

**By Felicia Fuller**

*Buckner Benevolences*

Many people had not heard of Beslan before Sept. 1, 2004—the day political extremists seized a school in the remote town in North Ossetia, Russia. Three days later, 344 civilians lay dead. Left behind were 35 orphans, ages 8 to 15.

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# Carpenter's Helpers meet neighbors' needs

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The  
Carpenter's  
Helpers  
from First  
Baptist  
Church in  
Wimberley  
renovate a  
kitchen for  
a disabled  
resident.

## Carpenter's Helpers meet neighbors' needs

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

WIMBERLEY—Gary Henderson had no idea what he was starting. He was

simply a handy guy who wanted to help his friends at First Baptist Church in Wimberley by making small home repairs for them.

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## Cartoon

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<p>“Quick. Let’s get out of here! He’s reloading!”</p>
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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.

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## Christians called on to counter Da Vinci Code claims

May 11, 2006

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# Christians called on to counter Da Vinci Code claims

**By Michael Foust**

*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—*The Da Vinci Code* hits theater screens nationwide May 19, and evangelical author Lee Strobel believes churches must be ready to answer pointed questions about the Christian faith.