

Many 'religious' people seldom attend church

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Many 'religious' people seldom attend church

By David Barnes

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans are among the world's most religious people, but a new study indicates more than one-third of all adults in the United States rarely attend any religious service.

Moldovan orphans warmed by individual, corporate generosity

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Hats hand-knitted by 82-year-old Hazel Hilton were distributed at two orphanages in Moldova as well as this small church in a poor community outside the capital of Chisinau.

Moldovan orphans warmed by individual, corporate generosity

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO—An 82-year-old woman’s last mission project and employees of a large Christian music company teamed up to keep Moldovan orphans warm in the midst of the country’s worst winter in 70 years—proof that both the “widow’s mite” and big corporate donations can work together to do good.

BGCT launches probe of church-planting funds in the Valley

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BGCT launches probe of church-planting funds in the Valley

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has enlisted an independent accountant to investigate possible mishandling of church-starting funds in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Lilley installed as Baylor

president

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Baylor
University
Chancellor
Robert
Sloan
presents
the
university's
presidential
medallion
to newly
inaugurated
President
John Lilley
while
regents
Chair Will
Davis looks
on.

Lilley installed as Baylor president

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—Humility and civility offer common ground where faith and reason can exist in harmony—whether in a nation or on a Christian university campus, speakers stressed at the inauguration of John Lilley as Baylor University’s 13th president.

Texas Senate honors Strickland

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Texas Senate honors Strickland

AUSTIN—The Texas Senate praised former Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission Director Phil Strickland April 27 for his years of advocacy in the Texas government.

Strickland, who served the Texas CLC nearly 40 years, died in February. He devoted much of his life to improving the quality of life to Texas children, lawmakers noted.

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, introduced a resolution that communicated condolences to the Strickland family. It passed unanimously.

Around the state

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Around the state

- Tickets are on sale for the third annual "Singin' with the Saints" Southern gospel concert for senior adults. It will be held May 18 beginning at 9:45 a.m. in Howard Payne University's Mims Auditorium. The featured performers will be the Dove Brothers Quartet from Bladenboro, N.C. Other groups will be 4 X Grace from Brownwood and the Brazos Boys Quartet from Abilene. Humorist Lou Brown also will entertain. Tickets are \$15, and the price includes lunch. To order, call (800) 950-8465.

- Former members of the steering team for Texas Week at Falls Creek are invited to attend the June 2 evening worship service at the Oklahoma Baptist assembly. Recognition is slated for Texas Baptists who have planned the special emphasis since it was launched in 1963. The 2006 Texas Week, May 29-June 3, marks the end of the tradition, due to increased demand by Oklahoma churches for the use of the conference center. For details, contact Dale Berry at (940) 567-3741.

Seven Howard Payne University football players and two coaches recently helped rancher Raymond Lane rebuild his property in Carbon. Lane lost his home, farm equipment, livestock and miles of fence in fires that struck the area in January. After receiving instructions on how to avoid rattlesnakes, the players put up half a mile of fence to aid Lane in his ongoing effort. Participating in the day's labor were players Jordan Bullard, Dan Pike, Danny Preslar, Marcus Snell, J.T. Norman, Kyle Mossakowski and Jonathan Jones, along with coaches Mike Redwine and Dale Meinecke.

- Ray Martin has been named associate vice president for student life and

dean of students at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. In addition to continuing his responsibilities as dean of students and providing leadership to campus activities, residence life and health services, he also will supervise the director of campus recreation, and the offices of community service and campus organizations.

Baptists and Jews share love of liberty

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Baptists and Jews share love of liberty

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

MACON, Ga. (ABP)—Baptists and Jews, both having suffered historically as minority faiths, share a strong commitment to religious liberty, Rabbi David Saperstein said during an inaugural Mercer University lecture series.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

“All Churches Great and Small: 60 Ideas for Improving Your Church’s Ministry” by Kirk Farnsworth and Rosie Farnsworth (Judson Press)

Co-pastors Kirk and Rosie Farnsworth, of The Gathering Church in Kingston, Wash., present a thoughtful work on the advantages and strategies of a small church. They build upon a questionable—perhaps flawed—foundation. It is their unwavering opinion that small churches are better churches, assuming larger churches are marred by bureaucracy and the unbiblical standards of numbers, facilities and programs.

Off the Bookshelf
What's everyone reading anyway?

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

Moving beyond this disposition, the authors introduce 10 “life-transforming activities” that apply to small congregations—shepherding, gathering, covenanting, ministering, studying, worshipping, praying, giving, living in

the Spirit, and witnessing. With each chapter, the authors offer multiple “ideas for improving your church’s ministry.” These 60 ideas are practical and helpful.

Cartoon

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Cain’s sacrifice never had a prayer of a chance to please God.

Christian chat rooms may offer safer Internet alternatives

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Xianz.com bills itself as a Christian alternative to social networking websites like MySpace and Facebook
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Christian chat rooms may offer safer Internet alternatives

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—The Internet can be a scary place, at least for the parents of teenagers flocking to social networking websites like MySpace and Facebook. Teens see them as places to keep up with friends and make new

ones online. But many parents imagine only faceless predators trolling chat rooms for unsuspecting teen victims.

Volunteers for China needs instructors this summer

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Volunteers for China needs instructors this summer

Volunteers for China—a Christian humanitarian organization—needs teachers to serve in a variety of settings this summer.

The China Christian Council English program needs one additional teacher for a team that will provide English instruction to pastors and other church leaders. The volunteers will leave the United States June 27 and return Aug. 6.

Qingdao University in Shandong Province has requested two English teachers for its summer program. Volunteers would need to leave the United States by June 28 in order to begin service July 1. They will return Aug. 17.

CLC sets world hunger offering goal

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CLC sets world hunger offering goal

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission set a goal of raising \$750,000 through the Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger this year.