

Funding halted for Silver Ring Thing program

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/06/06

Funding halted for Silver Ring Thing program

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

BOSTON (ABP)—The federal government will stop funding a teen-abstinence program that bills itself as an evangelistic ministry and gives teenagers silver rings inscribed with a Bible passage.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which in May sued the Department of Health and Human Services to cease grants to the Silver Ring Thing program, announced the out-of-court settlement Feb. 23.

South Dakota legislature passes abortion ban

March 6, 2006

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South Dakota legislature passes abortion ban

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A wide-ranging abortion ban that South Dakota legislators passed Feb. 24 is poised to head exactly where its backers want it—the Supreme Court.

But despite the addition of two new conservative justices, the high court still may lack the votes needed to hear a challenge to basic abortion rights, warned some abortion opponents.

Earl Stallings, Alabama pastor caught in civil rights squeeze, dead at 89

March 6, 2006

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Earl Stallings, Alabama pastor caught

in civil rights squeeze, dead at 89

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

LAKELAND, Fla. (ABP)—A white Baptist pastor who was made both famous and infamous by Martin Luther King Jr.'s legendary "Letter From Birmingham Jail" has died.

Earl Stallings, who was pastor of Birmingham's First Baptist Church when King penned his famous missive in 1963, died Feb. 23 at a retirement home in Lakeland, Fla. He was 89.

CD kindles passion through Song of Solomon

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/06/06

CD kindles passion through Song of Solomon

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Guy Bickel says romance and passion come before sex,

instead of the other way around. And he's using the Bible as proof.

Bickel, a Tampa, Fla., resident, spent months studying six different Bible translations, developing music in a specific frequency, and working with various recording artists to create *The Original Love Songs: Guidelines for Passion from the Song of Solomon*.

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As Boomers age, care facilities make adjustments

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

Aging Baby Boomers are evaluating care facilities and retirement communities—such as Buckner's Parkway Place in Houston—both for their parents and themselves. (Photo by Mike McLean/Buckner Benevolences)

As Boomers age, care facilities make adjustments

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

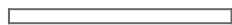
Most Baby Boomers haven't retired yet, but they already are changing retirement and aging-care services.

Boomers—born in the two decades after World War II—have started evaluating retirement and health care groups as they help care for their parents and are expecting more personalized care that enables them to be more independent when they retire, said Pearl Merritt, vice president/general manager of Buckner Retirement Services.

Aging Boomers poised to redefine culture ... again

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06



Participants
in the Texas
Baptist
Christ Life
Commission
Hispanic
Senior
Summit
work on
some crafts
projects.
Ministry
leaders say
outreaches
to seniors
are
becoming
increasingly
important
as Baby
Boomers
turn 60.

Aging Boomers poised to redefine culture ... again

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

In their teens and 20's, they redefined pop culture. In their 30's and 40's,

they challenged the traditional role of women. Now in their 50's and 60's, Baby Boomers are poised to change American culture once again.

The generation that once refused to trust anyone older than 30 begins turning 60 this year, bringing its penchant for inquiry, said Carole Barasch, spokeswoman for AARP of Texas. Like music, war, civil rights and the role of women before them, issues such as health care, spirituality and aging are sure to come under intellectual fire as Boomers search for a meaning to their lives.

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Retiring Boomers may fill needs in churches

March 6, 2006

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Retiring Boomers may fill needs in churches

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—A surge of Baby Boomers does not necessarily mean a wave of retirements, but it does mean business as usual may change.

Casey Bailey, senior human resources consultant with HRHouston Group—which serves the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Buckner Baptist Benevolences and South Texas Children's Home—already sees many Baby Boomers who want to work well past what traditionally has been called retirement age.

Texas Baptist Forum

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

Texas Baptist Forum

Baptismal confession

I asked Jesus to be my Savior and Lord when I was 4 years old. The reason wasn't only because I didn't want to go to hell, but also knowing that I would be living my life without God really bothered me.

At the time, I knew I should be baptized, because God commands it and it's also a way for me to show the people around me that I have become a Christian. I didn't want to be baptized because I was afraid of how deep the water was. I wasn't afraid of water, just of being held under too long.

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

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



"For people everywhere, the United States is a partner for a better life. Short-changing these efforts would increase the suffering and chaos of our world, undercut our long-term security and dull the conscience of our country. I urge members of Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America."

George W. Bush

In his State of the Union address, urging congressional support for foreign aid

"As long as I serve on the Supreme Court, I will keep in mind the trust that has been placed in me."

Samuel Alito

U.S. Supreme Court justice, in a letter to author/activist James Dobson, read by Dobson on his radio program (New York Times)

"I figure that if Jesus could die so that all of my wrongs could be forgiven, I can certainly extend that same grace to you."

Mandisa Hundley

American Idol contestant and worship leader at Christian women's conferences, responding to judge Simon Cowell after he criticized her weight (RNS/BP)

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Grace reigns

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

CYBER COLUMN: Grace reigns

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, remembering Don Knotts in his passing at 81 years of age and Mayberry RFD. I must tell you that I did not spend much of my childhood watching programs like the *Andy Griffith Show* and the nostalgic town Mayberry. Later in life, I learned to watch cable TV's Nick at Night and see Don Knotts in his quirky role as Deputy Sheriff Barney Fife. Laughter reigned.

John Duncan

I find myself reflecting that we live in the dream of a Mayberry world that in actuality is an iPod world. I live in Granbury, Texas, a place where people once referred to our town very much like Mayberry. After all, we had a Dairy Queen, a drive-in-theater, a local radio station that aired high school sporting events, old roads where once in a while a tractor slowed traffic, and a lake where fishermen could fish on the grassy banks on a

warm day. Mayberry reigned.

iPod has arrived now in the 21st century. Dairy Queen has been replaced by Chili's. The drive-in theater is still open, but a newer theater with stadium seating airs the latest flicks. The local radio station has surrendered to the satellite radio in cars and on computers. Traffic is now slowed by sprawling roads and busy intersections and drive time takes longer than it used to, no matter the destination in our town. Fishing has even changed—high-powered boats and sophisticated technology that measures the depths of the lake and even tells you if fish school nearby. Just the other day, I saw young man jogging on the street with headphones in his ears and his iPod blasting the musical tunes of who knows, Lifehouse? Carrie Underwood singing Jesus Take the Wheel? Or maybe Coldplay? Or just maybe, Casting Crowns belting out Lifesong. iPod reigns.

RIGHT OR WRONG? What to do with worn out Bibles

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

RIGHT OR WRONG? What to do with worn out Bibles

We have several old Bibles that probably need to be destroyed. We want to be respectful of God's word. What should we do?

This is a great question, particularly for Christians who have a high view of the sacredness of Scripture. Without being too facetious, it also is a great question, because it is nice to be reminded that there are worn-out Bibles.

Number of NAMB missionaries dropped

March 6, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

Number of NAMB missionaries dropped

ATLANTA (ABP)—The number of career missionaries funded by the North American Mission Board has dropped 10 percent since 1997, the Georgia Baptist state newspaper reported, despite promises the restructured Southern Baptist agency would expand mission work in America.

The decrease is among a number of efforts by NAMB that have failed to meet expectations since the Southern Baptist agency was formed in 1997, according to a news analysis by the Christian Index newspaper. Both NAMB and the Index are based in the Atlanta area.

Bob Reccord directed the massive Southern Baptist Convention restructuring effort in the mid-1990s and later was tapped to lead NAMB, the centerpiece of the new denominational structure. But the mission board has not lived up to its promises, the Index reported, and Reccord's

leadership has raised concerns among Georgia pastors and former employees.

Other NAMB shortcomings cited by the Georgia Baptist paper included: