

Family Bible Series for March 5: Christ demands top priority in a Christian's life

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Family Bible Series for March 5

Christ demands top priority in a Christian's life

• Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-33

By Greg Ammons

Explore the Bible Series for March 5: Knowledge of Christ influences relationships

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Explore the Bible Series for March 5

Knowledge of Christ influences relationships

• *Isaiah 1:1-4:6*

By James Adair

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

What Christians believe has been the center of debate and controversy from the first century to the present day. Should Gentile converts be circumcised? Did the divine Christ descend on the human Jesus at baptism? Was Christ “of the same nature” as God the Father? Does Christ have two natures (divine and human) or one (divine-human)? Does the bishop of Rome have authority over other sees? Are the body and blood of Christ literally present in the eucharist? Which has greater authority, the Bible or the traditions of the church? Does God call women to positions of leadership within the church?



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Church makes community interaction a fine art_122203

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Church makes community interaction a fine art

EAGLE LAKE-A small Texas Baptist church became an art gallery for a day this fall, as church members sought to help their community connect the dots between faith and art.



Artists
involved
with the
Art & Soul
event at
First
Baptist
Church of
Eagle
Lake
included
Jessica
Thacker,
Margo
Harrison,
Tony Tyler
and
Sandra
Benge The
group is
shown
Pastor
Chris
Thacker
and
Tyler's
sculpture,
"The
Dance."

Following the lead of a successful similar event in 2001, members of First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake hosted "Art & Soul: A Celebration of Faith

and Art.”

Church members Margo Harrison and Sandra Bengé coordinated the Sunday afternoon event. They began contacting local artists, encouraging them to share their works with the community and informing them that each piece would be displayed gallery-style in the church's Fellowship Hall.

NAMB outsourcing raises conflict of interest question

February 23, 2006

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NAMB outsourcing raises conflict of interest question

By Joe Westbury & Greg Warner

Christian Index & Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Steve Sanford, a paid consultant who advised the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to outsource most of its media operations, has been hired to provide many of those outsourced services by his longtime friend, NAMB President Bob Reccord.

Mission board officials declined to say if the arrangement poses a conflict of interest. But spokesman Marty King said, “I understand why people

would ask about that.”

Blended family

February 23, 2006

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Blended family

By Russ Dilday

Buckner Benevolences

MESQUITE—Between bites of cereal and swigs of juice at the breakfast table, the Moers family’s three children seem to be talking at once. Mom prepares food, while the two sisters lean on each other, playing with each other’s hair. Dad sips coffee and answers a deluge of questions from the middle child, a son.

Christine
Moers serves
breakfast to
her children,
Andrew,
McKenzie and
Precious,
whom she and
her husband
Michael
adopted
through
Buckner
Adoption and
Maternity
Services.
Photos by Russ
Dilday/Buckner
Benevolences

The youngest daughter stands out among the other family members not just because she's the only African-American in a family of fair-skinned blonds, but also because of her smile, charm and distinctive name—Precious.

New Air Force guidelines get mixed reviews

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New Air Force guidelines get mixed reviews

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Pentagon officials have revised a set of guidelines on religious freedom in the Air Force after complaints from members of Congress and some religious groups.

But the revisions met with mixed reviews from groups with interests in the struggle over religion in the armed services.

Evangelicals conflicted over global warming stand

February 23, 2006

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Evangelicals conflicted over global warming stand

By **Robert Marus**

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Conflict may be heating up between two groups of evangelical Christian leaders over the issue of global warming.

At stake are the hearts and minds of evangelical Americans and the politicians who listen to them—not to mention the future of the planet.

Buckner Seeks African-American Families to Host Black Orphans from Russia

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Buckner Seeks African-American Families to Host Black Orphans from

Russia

Buckner Orphan Care International, a subsidiary of the 127-year-old Buckner Benevolences in Dallas, is seeking African-American families from the Christian community to host two black orphans from Russia this summer. The children will spend two weeks in the metroplex in June with Buckner Angels from Abroad.

	
Jennifer	Marisa

Launched in 2004, Buckner Angels from Abroad allows adoption-minded families the opportunity to host orphaned children ages 6-12 when they visit the United States during their two-week summer vacation. For the first time, this year's Angels contingent will include two black orphan sisters from Orphanage No. 9 and Veritsa Orphanage in St. Petersburg, Russia. Jennifer and Marisa are 8 and 9 years old, respectively, and represent Russia's small black orphan population who-according to orphanage directors-are predestined to a life of prostitution, crime and early death due to their underclass standing in a largely monochromatic, post-communist society.

The Angels will stay in host family homes during their visit to Dallas and will participate in several Buckner-organized events, including a family picnic, Vacation Bible School, cultural and recreational excursions and a

swim party. In addition, host families may plan their own activities around the schedule of events. Buckner staff will be in daily contact with each host family to lend support and guidance as needed. In addition, interpreters will be available to assist families with communication.

Interested families are required to attend an information workshop on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco. The host family application deadline is March 31.

Chinese Christian leader Wenzao Han dies

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Chinese Christian leader Wenzao Han dies

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

NANJING, China (ABP) — One of China's most prominent modern-day Christian leaders has died at the age of 83.

Wenzao Han died Feb. 3 in Nanjing. He served from 1996 to 2002 as president of the China Christian Council, and in other capacities with the

organization, which is the officially state-sanctioned Protestant denomination in China.

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COMMENTARY: On the death of Han Wenzao (1923-2006)

February 23, 2006

Posted: 2/21/06

COMMENTARY: On the death of Han Wenzao (1923-2006)

By Britt Towery

The news of the death of Dr. Han Wenzao in Nanjing caught my wife and me by surprise. Jody put her hand to her mouth, for it was like losing a member of the family. We paused to pray for his wife Zhuo Zhaohua, who was by his side for six decades.

For my wife and I, Han was as fine a Christian leader as we have ever met.

The term "Christian statesman" fit Han Wenzao perfectly. We enjoyed the fellowship of the Hans in their home and work with the China Christian Council which he led for many years.

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Wenzao Han dies](#)

In 1953 when Jody and I felt God's leading us to China as missionaries political realities made it impossible. We took the next best assignment, that of Taiwan, the Republic of China, some 100 miles off the East China coast.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Missing a good friend

I have lost a good friend. Phil Strickland died.

Those words haven't completely sunk in yet. He fought cancer for so long, and so courageously, I thought he might finally win the fight. Every day he whipped cancer was one more day God blessed us. Every day he fought was one more day the children of Texas had their most effective voice. Every

day Phil got up and went to work, when most of us would stay home, was one more day Texas legislators knew there was a voice of reason in the chaos of the culture wars that have engulfed our state. Every day Phil fought to stay with us was one more day defenders of religious liberty had a passionate ally.

Phil Strickland was a paradox. He was as comfortable on the deer lease as he was at a black-tie affair in North Dallas. Phil was serious and incredibly funny. He was a politician and strategist who was intensely spiritual. He had white skin, but his heart belonged to African-Americans and Hispanics. He was judicious in his speech but never failed to be heard on important issues.

Cybercolumn by Berry Simpson: Landmarks

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CYBER COLUMN: Landmarks

By Berry Simpson

The guys and I were sitting around discussing our current book, Soul Salsa, by Leonard Sweet, and we spent some time on this question: What was the best day of your life, and what was the worst day of your life?

Sweet believes disciples should landmark the moments in their lives. It's important to know when you're having one of life's best moments, or worst. And we should landmark both in our memories. Not to simply be stuck in the past, but as an exercise to remind us that it's the individual moments that make our lives worth living.

Berry D. Simpson
