

North Carolina moderates consider alternative giving approaches

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North Carolina moderates consider alternative giving approaches

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP)-Moderate Baptists in North Carolina are talking seriously about alternative ways to support the state's Baptist institutions, a move that could divert millions in contributions from the conservative-controlled Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Welcome Center shelters, helps inmates' familie

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Welcome Center shelters, helps inmates' families

By George Henson

Staff Writer

AMARILLO—After years of raising money and months of watching bricks and mortar going up, Harold Scarbrough finally has the satisfaction of seeing inmates' families occupy the Amarillo Home Welcome Center.

Appeal denied convicted Mexican evangelicals

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Three of
the 84
villagers
serving
prison
terms for
a
massacre
in
Chiapas,
Mexico.

Appeal denied convicted Mexican evangelicals

By Craig Bird

Special to the Baptist Standard

SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico—Sixteen men, mostly evangelical Christians, implicated in the 1997 Acteal massacre in southern Mexico now face 36 years in prison after their final appeal was denied by a three-judge panel Nov. 30.

Ouachita president may lead Samford

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Ouachita president may lead Samford

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)-Andrew Westmoreland, president of Arkansas Baptists' Ouachita Baptist University, is the leading candidate to become president of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

South Africa OK's same-sex marriage

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South Africa OK's same-sex marriage

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (ABP)—South Africa's highest court has ruled the nation's constitution requires it to legalize same-sex marriage.

Man convicted in missionary murders executed

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Man convicted in missionary murders executed

By Robert Marus

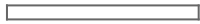
Associated Baptist Press

SAN'A, Yemen (ABP)—A Muslim convicted of plotting the December 2002 terror attack that killed three Southern Baptist missionaries in Yemen was executed, several news sources reported.

Advent Adventure: Churches capitalize on movie-sparked Narnia-mania

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About 800
members
of
University
Baptist
Church in
Houston
gather for
a Narnia
night,
designed
to
introduce
Christians
to the
fantasy
world of
C.S.
Lewis as
a prelude
to Advent.
(Photos
courtesy
of
University
Baptist
Church in
Houston)

ADVENT ADVENTURE: Churches capitalize on movie-sparked Narnia-mania

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Alongside the greenery and candles usually associated with Advent, some churches this year are using lions, witches and wardrobes to help worshippers experience the Christmas story.

Baptist churches learn to embrace Advent ritual

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Baptist churches learn to embrace Advent rituals

By Terri Jo Ryan

Special to the Baptist Standard

When Bill Hardage first “got” Advent after much Bible study more than a

decade ago, he fell in love with the sacred season.

Advent symbols explained

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Advent symbols explained

Advent centers on hope, peace, joy and love as Christians move through the season of waiting and looking forward to the feast of Christmas.

A common symbol for the season is the Advent wreath, a circular garland of evergreen branches signifying eternity. Arranged in the wreath are three purple candles and one pink candle. The first candle, purple, symbolizing hope, is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, the start of the liturgical year of the Christian calendar. Each week an additional candle is lit.

The second candle, also purple, represents peace. The third, a pink candle, is the shepherds' candle, symbolizing joy. The fourth candle is love.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

The 13 Apostles by Preston Alford Taylor (Tate Publishing)

Preston Taylor has several published books with wide distribution in English, but predominately in Spanish. I predict this newest work will surpass the others in both sales and stature.

This is a book every pastor should have on his shelf, every seminary student should be required to study and every Sunday school teacher should have close at hand. It is one of the few books I would recommend that everyone should buy and read right now!

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.

Personal touch meaningful to Breckenridge residents

December 16, 2005

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Bob and
Carolyn
Holsomback,
members of
Colonial Hills
Baptist
Church in
Tyler, try out
one of the
benches they
rebuilt for
the
Breckenridge
Village
prayer
garden.
(Photo by
Craig Bird)

Personal touch meaningful to Breckenridge residents

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

TYLER-At Breckenridge Village, Bob and Carolyn Holsomback are making names-not for themselves but for the residents of the Baptist Child & Family Services facility for mentally handicapped adults. They also have made Christmas gifts, park benches, napkins, bluebird houses-and lots and lots of friends.

Christmas music playlist ranges from sacred to secular

December 16, 2005

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Christmas music playlist ranges from sacred to secular

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-It's that time of year again, when Silent Night or Jingle Bells greets you as you turn on the radio, walk into a shopping mall or head down a city street.