

# **North Carolina moderates consider alternative giving approaches**

December 16, 2005

Posted: 12/16/05

## **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.

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## **Welcome Center shelters, helps inmates' familie**

December 16, 2005

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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.

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## **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.

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# 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.

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## South Africa OK's same-sex marriage

December 16, 2005

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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.

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# **Man convicted in missionary murders executed**

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## **Man convicted in missionary murders executed**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

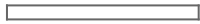
SAN'A, Yemen (ABP)—A Muslim convicted of plotting the December 2002 terror attack that killed three Southern Baptist missionaries in Yemen was executed, several news sources reported.

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# **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.

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## **Baptist churches learn to embrace Advent ritual**

December 16, 2005

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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.

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# **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.

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# Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

***The 13 Apostles*** by Preston Alford Taylor (Tate Publishing)

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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!



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

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# Personal touch meaningful to Breckenridge residents

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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.

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## **Christmas music playlist ranges from sacred to secular**

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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.