

Some churches say they'll sing no carol before its time

December 16, 2005

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Some churches say they'll sing no carol before its time

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

The starting date and finish line for singing carols in church depend on whether a congregation follows the Christian calendar or the Hallmark calendar—and how constrained worship leaders feel by their choice.

Unlikely allies defend 'Merry Christmas' greeting

December 16, 2005

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Unlikely allies defend 'Merry Christmas' greeting

By **Andrea Useem**

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The movement defending Christmas as a Christian holiday has attracted some unlikely allies-religiously observant Jews and Muslims.

Second Opinion: The cheering of Christmas

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SECOND OPINION: The cheering of Christmas

By **BO Baker**

We all need the cheering of Christmas. It seems the whole world recently has experienced the heaviness of hurt, stain marks unabated, and questions that have struck in powerful forms of aftershock. Name a nation-any one will do-that has been exempt from the clash of swords, the heavy thunder

of drums announcing new vistas of crime.

Yes, without question, we need the cheering of Christmas.

DOWN HOME A long walk into the future

December 16, 2005

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DOWN HOME: A long walk into the future

The Big Day is nigh upon us.

By the time you read this, Aaron Britt Kahler, otherwise known as “The Most Fortunate Young Man in the Universe,” will have married our oldest daughter, Lindsay Michelle Knox.

Due to the persistent demands of publishing schedules, I'm writing this a few days before the big wedding. Still, I'm looking ahead, anticipating that day.

EDITORIAL Have a Merry Christmas this year

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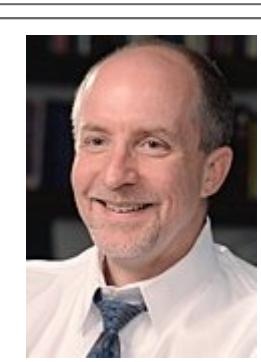
EDITORIAL:

Have a Merry *Christmas* this year

This season may be remembered as the time when Christians went ballistic over Christmas.

In the good old days, a sign proclaiming “Merry Xmas” would send many folks huffing. The abbreviation, infamously substituting “X” for “Christ,” prompted pointed-yet-benign counter-slogans, such as “Let’s Keep Christ in Christmas” and “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.”

Back then, “X” marked the spot for “Christ,” retaining the word, if not spelling it correctly. Now, many folks would gladly accept the occasional “Xmas” sign or advertisement. At least when people say the word, they pronounce it right: “Christmas.”



Howard Payne launches new graduate degree

December 16, 2005

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Howard Payne launches new graduate degree

By Laura Johnson

Howard Payne University

BROWNWOOD-Howard Payne University-the only Texas Baptist school to offer an undergraduate degree in youth ministry-will offer a master of arts in youth ministry beginning in fall 2006.

Louisiana College retains accreditation

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Louisiana College retains accreditation

By Brian Blackwell

Associated Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP)-Louisiana College will remain fully accredited, school officials learned recently, after the Baptist school rescinded several policies critics said impinged on academic freedom.

Boggs selected for Louisiana paper

December 16, 2005

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Boggs selected for Louisiana paper

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP)-Trustees of the Baptist Message of Louisiana, who last month were rebuffed in an effort to dissolve their independent board, unanimously elected conservative Oregon pastor Kelly Boggs as editor.

Narnia movie prompts renewed debate about Lewis

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Narnia movie prompts renewed debate about Lewis

By Karen Long

C.S. Lewis-Oxford professor, Christian apologist and author of beloved children's stories—continues to defy easy categorization.

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—At a desperate moment in the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as the lion's tortured, lifeless body lies on a stone

table, the writer pauses over the stricken child characters, Lucy and Susan.

Narnia movie echoes books' themes

December 16, 2005

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Narnia movie echoes books' themes

By Ted Parks

Associated Baptist Press

Whether viewers find a distinctly Christian message in the new movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* depends on whether they found one in the C.S. Lewis fantasy novel it's based on, the movie's creators insist.

On the Move

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On the Move

Byron Ayres has resigned as student minister at Mildred Church in Corsicana to serve a church in North Carolina.

- ◆ **Lance Bishop** to First Church in Buffalo as student minister.
- ◆ **Mickie Chitwood** to Ephesus Church in Jewett as music minister.

Baptist women knit scarves, bake cookies for exotic dancers

December 16, 2005

Posted: 12/16/05

Volunteers at Central Baptist Church in Round Rock knit scarves for women working in 'gentlemen's clubs.'

Baptist women knit scarves, bake cookies for exotic dancers

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ROUND ROCK-Cindy Stokes is making the Christmas season a little warmer for a group of women who work in sexually oriented businesses.