

Court ponders use of RICO law against abortion protesters

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Court ponders use of RICO law against abortion protesters

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—On a day when anti-abortion protesters gathered outside the Supreme Court's building, the justices inside concerned themselves with a decades-old case on whether federal law can ban certain protests at abortion clinics.

The Nov. 30 arguments in two combined cases were highly technical and served as a prelude to the much more highly publicized case on a New Hampshire abortion law that followed, during the day's second argument session.

HBU students distribute

presents for single moms at Gracewood

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Volunteers from several Houston-area schools and churches turned out to assist single moms prepare for Christmas at Gracewood, a residential program for single mothers with children.

HBU students distribute presents for single moms at Gracewood

By Miranda Bradley

Children at Heart Ministries

HOUSTON—Houston Baptist University students joined other volunteers in

making sure single mothers and their children will have colorfully wrapped presents to open Christmas morning.

The HBU students—together with teenagers from a local high school and church volunteers—distributed presents and helped mothers and children at Gracewood wrap gifts for each other.

Deadline approaches for abducted Christian peace activists

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

Deadline approaches for abducted Christian peace activists

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—As everyone from Jesse Jackson to a radical Muslim cleric pleaded Dec. 7 for mercy, abductors holding a British Baptist and three Christian peace activists hostage in Iraq reportedly extended the deadline for their demands to be met.

An Iraqi militant group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness

kidnapped London grandfather Norman Kember, 74, on Nov. 26, along with three other members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams working in Iraq. The militants announced Dec. 2 they would execute the four Dec. 8 if American and British officials did not meet their demand to release all Iraqi prisoners.

House lambasted for cutting benefits for the poor

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/09/05

House lambasted for cutting benefits for the poor

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A diverse group of religious leaders lambasted the House of Representatives for its narrow passage of a deficit-cutting bill that makes many of its cuts in programs that benefit poor people.

The House passed the measure on a 217-215 vote after some moderate Republicans were persuaded to support the bill. The vote already had been postponed by Republican leaders because of lack of support for some of its provisions, which included billions of cuts to programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and student loans.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Hope at Christmas

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/08/05

CYBER COLUMN: Hope at Christmas

By John Duncan

Christmas comes with the hope of merriment, joy and wonder. This year as the world waits for Christmas, we realize, in the words of C.S. Lewis in the Chronicles of Narnia, that many people wake up each day in a world where “it’s always winter, but never Christmas.”

John Duncan

Imagine a child waiting for Christmas in the dark, dismal, dreary days of an ice-cold winter with no days of sunshine and in anticipation of a Christmas that never arrives—no joy, no gifts, no hope. I fear that’s the world people live in today. It’s a world of war, where suicide bombers kill the innocent; a world where worry over flu pandemics and societal troubles destroy the joy of daily life; a world of airport security that puts a lump in your throat each time you board an airplane; a world where the pressures of raising kids and paying the bills drain life of its meaning; a world of political bickering that

makes the news less than inviting; a world where life hurts in its sickness; and a world where storms and hurricanes and global warming cause the daily weather report to possess more drama than it should. Life feels like a frozen winter that never ends in the dark hearts of many people this Christmas.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 18: Disciples follow Christ in his mission

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/07/05

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 18

Disciples follow Christ in his mission

• Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

By Christina Harvey

Family Bible Series for Dec. 18: All Christians are to help share the gospel

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/07/05

Family Bible Series for Dec. 18

All Christians are to help share the gospel

- Romans 15:14-32

By Donald Raney

Explore the Bible Series for Dec. 18: Sending Jesus showed God's love and concern

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/07/05

Explore the Bible Series for Dec. 18

Sending Jesus showed God's love and concern

- Romans 11:1-32

By Trey Turner

Canyon Creek Baptist Church, Temple

My family and I went to a fast-food restaurant for a quick bite, placed our order and put the car in drive as I said, "Thank you." The answer came back, "My pleasure."

Kyle Lake: A tribute

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/05/05

Kyle Lake: A tribute

By Jinny Henson

I met Kyle Lake twenty years ago while on a church youth choir tour. His hometown of Tyler, Texas was the second stop for us. The Lakes with their 3 boys and one girl had offered to be a host family and my best friend, Colleen and I were thrilled at our good fortune of winding up in a house with three good looking boys. That was the epic stuff that teenage girls

dreams are made of.

I met my husband, John, through them. They were all hunting buddies and attended church every time the doors were even slightly open.

The last time John and I saw Kyle was a Christmas Eve service a few years ago in Tyler. He told us all about his church in Waco with a thrilled look in his eye, unusual for a pastor in the throes of Christmastime. His church was for people who didn't fit in at other churches, he explained.

COMMENTARY: A lesson from Leroy

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/05/05

COMMENTARY: A lesson from Leroy

By David Harp

The last spoon of cornbread dressing and giblet gravy sat on my plate, and I realized Thanksgiving was almost gone. So soon, the sights, sounds and smells of another beautiful Christmas season will be upon us. Before we move on to candy canes and cinnamon pinecones and honey-glazed spiraled hams, I still want to cherish my Thanksgiving. I want to live that attitude of gratitude for God's many blessings of life.

Recently, my wife, Andrea, and I traveled to Austin for the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting. This was going to be an unusually

hectic year for us, with added meetings both before and after the convention. So, with the help of Internet specials, we decided to fly to Austin.

When we arrived, we hailed a taxi to get to our hotel, and that's when we met Leroy.

On the Move

December 9, 2005

Posted: 11/18/05

On the Move

Drew Allen to Calvary Church in Mexia as student minister, where he was interim.

- ◆ **Bill Blackburn** to First Church in Junction as interim pastor.
 - ◆ **David Bristow** to New Life Church in Covington as interim pastor.
-

Kentucky approves Georgetown partnership

December 9, 2005

Posted: 12/02/05

Kentucky approves Georgetown partnership

By Trennis Henderson

Kentucky Western Recorder

FRANKFORT, Ky. (ABP)—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers voted overwhelmingly to approve a new ministry partnership with Georgetown College.