

2nd Opinion: A year of transition & opportunity_30705

March 4, 2005

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2nd Opinion: A year of transition & opportunity

By Albert Reyes

We are the generation of Texas Baptists who have lived through some of the most dramatic transitions in world history-the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Tiananmen Square Incident and the Russian coup, all in the summer of 1989. We were ushered into the 21st century 11 years prior to the chronological birth date of the new millennium. This triplet alarm changed our world in one summer, and we have not returned to the way things were since then.

The second major alarm alerting us to a changing world was the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists slammed into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. The ends of the earth came to our shores and redefined our way of life.

From demons to dogs, viewers find religion in films_30705

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From demons to dogs, viewers find religion in films

By Marshall Allen

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The horror movie Constantine features demons, exorcisms, readings from a Satanic bible, suicide, graphic depictions of hell and a gory scene involving an electric chair.

Continuum of care by BGCT-affiliated child and family services_30705

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Continuum of care by BGCT-affiliated child and family services

FAMILY CARE/PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Church-based counseling services-South Texas Children's Home

(Corpus Christi)

Children's home program brings HOPE to elementary children_30705

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Children's home program brings HOPE to elementary children

By Miranda Bradley

Texas Baptist Children's Home

ROUND ROCK-Among the chemical charts and beakers in the science laboratory at Round Rock's Gattis Elementary School, students take part in different kind of experiment-designed to improve their reading skills. And

the data shows it's a success.

Legislation to reform Child Protective Services_30705

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Legislation to reform Child Protective Services advances

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—Two bills are moving rapidly through the Texas Legislature toward the same goal—reform the state's system of providing child protective services. And they are changing as they go.

Foster parents can't say 'no' to

children who need a home_30705

March 4, 2005

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Foster parents can't say 'no' to children who need a home

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

BULVERDE-If Cliff and Karen Sepulveda's house seems crowded with foster children, it's because their hearts won't let them say "no."

Suffer the Children: State may look to private providers to ease CPS crisis_30705

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About three-fourths of foster children in the Child Protective Services system are placed by private agencies, many of them faith-based.
(Photo courtesy of South Texas Children's Home)

SUFFER THE CHILDREN: State may look to private providers to ease CPS crisis

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

More than 500 Texas children died of abuse or neglect in a 2 1/2-year period. One-fourth of them had been investigated by Child Protective

Services caseworkers. In response, Gov. Rick Perry issued an executive order last summer directing the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to review and recommend reforms in the system.

Abuse victim finds restoration at Buckner Children's Village_30705

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Abuse victim finds restoration at Buckner Children's Village

By Felicia Fuller

Buckner News Service

BEAUMONT-A family member stole her innocence. Her Heavenly Father restored her soul.

Shelter workers respond to emotionally, physically abused children_30705

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Shelter workers respond to emotionally, physically abused children

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO-They are the first responders to the emotional and physical wreckage of abusive and violent homes. With a maximum of 90 days to do their jobs, the men and women who serve as direct-care workers in emergency shelters for children must deal with the anger, fear and trauma of infants to 17-year-olds forcibly removed from their home.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan:

Bonnie, a flower in the desert_30705

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CYBERCOLUMN:

Bonnie, a flower in the desert

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, remembering Bonnie, a flower in the desert of my life.

The year was 1987. In those days, life was a seed planted and soon to sprout. I pastored a small church in a rural community. The world at large buzzed with news—nuclear testing in Nevada; a plane crash killing 156 people in Detroit; the first heart-lung transplant in Baltimore; Fred Astaire died; Hillary Duff was born; Prozac made its debut in pharmaceuticals; Lethal Weapon was a popular movie; and Wal-Mart planned to build a Super Wal-Mart here in Granbury.

Execution of minors ruled

unconstitutional by Supreme Court_30705

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Execution of minors ruled unconstitutional by Supreme Court

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The Supreme Court ruled March 1 that the execution of convicts who were under the age of 18 at the time of their crimes constitutes the sort of "cruel and unusual" punishment barred by the Eighth Amendment.

DOWN HOME Do redtip 'sticks' have real purpose?_30705

March 4, 2005

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DOWN HOME:

Do redtip 'sticks' have real purpose?

Deb handed the phone off to her husband, David, and I got right to the point: “Do you provide marriage counseling?” I asked, somewhat anxiously.

David didn't expect that question. He owns a landscaping business and has one of the greenest thumbs I know. However, my guess is that very, very few folks have come to him for marriage counseling.

But he's a kind, good-natured guy who's always willing to help. So, after pausing briefly, he chuckled and answered: “Well, sure. I guess so.”