

Congress includes anti-abortion provision in its omnibus spending package_120604

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Congress includes anti-abortion provision in its omnibus spending package

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Shortly before leaving town for their Thanksgiving break, members of Congress slipped into a spending bill a provision that supporters say limits "discrimination" against anti-abortion hospitals but that opponents say will circumvent state laws intended to guarantee access to abortion services.

Around the State_120604

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Around the State

Four bivocational pastors and their wives were honored during the 18th annual Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Conference. **Carlton** and **Dianna Bailey** of Mount Calvary Church of Marysee in Hull were selected as 2004 Exemplary Bivocational Pastor and Wife. **Kevin Shipp** of Avondale Church in Sweetwater is was named 2004 Exemplary Bivocation Minister of Music. He also is the church's education and children's minister. Two couples were honored for their youth ministry efforts. **Sammy** and **Japana Roberts** of Arlington Christian Bible Fellowship in Arlington, and **Benji** and **Kathy Cole** of Lone Willow Church in Cleburne were both named 2004 Exemplary Bivocational Youth Ministers.

✕ **Jack Longbotham**, retired professor of education at Hardin-Simmons University, and this wife, Elizabeth, have completed a children's book, "The Adventures of Buffalo Bill and Cody." The volume completes a trilogy of children's books which seek to foster an appreciation for the buffalo. The Longbothams have buffalo on their ranch. The book is bound in HSU colors and is available in the university bookstore.



Converse
Hispanic Church
in Converse
recently
incorporated as a
bilingual
congregation
thanks to Trinity
Church in San
Antonio. The San
Antonio
congregation had
sponsored the
Hispanic mission
20 years, and
gifted them the
land and facilities
there so that
church could
become a self-
supporting body
without incurring
significant debt.
Trinity Pastor
Charlie Johnson
(left) signed over
the deed of trust
to Converse
Pastor Jesse
Aguilar. The
congregation also
honored retired
pastor Jimmy
Garcia, founding
pastor of the
mission.

✘ The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor newspaper, The Bells, and the yearbook, The Bluebonnet, received national recognition at the Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism conference held in Nashville, Tenn. The Bells won first place overall in its division, and the Bluebonnet received third place overall in the yearbook category. Individual newspaper awards went to **Natalie Kaspar**, first for in-depth writing, second for column writing and third for front page design; **Leslie Helms**, first for infographics and second for photo spread; **Amanda Dickinson**, second for feature writing; and a group of four reporters, third for in-depth writing. Winners of individual yearbook awards were **Christi Snow**, first for student life copy; **Sara Hillis**, first and second for portrait spread design; **Tiffany Turk**, first for creative/artistic photo, second for sports/club design and third for photo spread; and **Jacob Sais**, third for personality spread.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 12: Jesus reminds his disciples to do what is right_120604

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 12

Jesus reminds his disciples to do what is right

Matthew 5:17-48

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 19: Make God the focus of giving, prayers, fasting_120604

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 19

Make God the focus of giving, prayers, fasting

Matthew 6:1-18

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

Baptist Briefs_120604

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Baptist Briefs

Baylor dean named Belmont VP. Todd Lake, dean for university life at Baylor University, has been named vice president for spiritual development at Belmont University in Nashville. Lake came to Baylor in 1999 from Wingate University as dean of chapel and minister to the university community. Under Lake's direction, Baylor's university ministries office began Baylor's resident chaplain program, which allows Truett Seminary students to live and minister in 10 residence halls. Other initiatives launched during his tenure include discipline-specific mission trips and service-learning opportunities, sports chaplaincy, graduate and law school Christian fellowships and partnerships with various university departments for chapel speakers. Lake received his bachelor's degree in German studies magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1982. He studied at Princeton Seminary before earning his master of divinity degree in 1988 from Southern Seminary. In 1997, he earned his doctorate in systematic theology with a minor in church history at Boston College.

CBF task force changes name. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's ecumenical task force has changed its name to the task force on ecumenism and justice. "We wanted to acknowledge that we, as a task force, were not an ecumenical body because we are composed only of Baptists. But we are Baptists uniting to do the work of ecumenism, justice

and interfaith dialogue," said task force member Chris Skidmore, who works as associate director of the Kentucky Council of Churches. The task force plans to develop an ecumenism resource kit for pastors and churches. The kit will include a bibliography of literature about ecumenism and "Building Bridges," a brochure describing the Fellowship's position on ecumenism. Initial versions of the kit will focus on relationships between Christian groups.

National WMU acknowledges Virginia WMU's autonomy. Rather than responding directly to the "declaration of the dignity of women" statement adopted by Virginia Woman's Missionary Union, national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee simply noted national WMU and Virginia WMU are autonomous organizations. The Virginia WMU declaration alleges discrimination "against women in the work of Christian ministry" and takes particular aim at the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message, which asserts only men are biblically qualified to be pastors." Just as every state Baptist convention is an autonomous body, so is each state WMU organization, particularly as they deal with issues in their state," Lee said. "We respect the autonomy of both bodies and their right to speak for themselves."

Baptist University of the Americas seeks BWA associate membership_120604

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Baptist University of the Americas seeks BWA associate membership

SAN ANTONIO—Baptist University of the Americas has applied for associate membership in the Baptist World Alliance.

At its July meeting in Seoul, South Korea, the Baptist World Alliance General Council amended the international organization's constitution to allow associate membership.

The new membership category was created “to involve Baptist churches and organized Baptist groups in the global ministry of the Baptist World Alliance through prayer, the sharing of resources and participation in the meetings, congresses and conferences of the Baptist World Alliance,” the amendment stated.

Little good news for Baptist World Alliance in state convention meetings_120604

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Little good news for Baptist World Alliance in state convention meetings

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)- If the Baptist World Alliance, which lost its largest member and funder earlier this year, hoped to recoup some of that funding from state Baptist conventions, the organization got little encouragement during the recent round of convention meetings.

Hispanic & Anglo churches pool resources, expand ministries_120604

December 3, 2004

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Hispanic & Anglo churches pool resources, expand ministries

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS—Members of Cockrell Hill and Hampton Place Baptist churches in Dallas believe in the power of synergy. Merging their congregations has provided a wealth of assets that exceeds what the two churches held apart from each another.

ANOTHER VIEW: 'Jesus' celebrates 25th birthday_120604

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ANOTHER VIEW: 'Jesus' celebrates 25th birthday

Recently I participated with other volunteers in distributing the gospel on the streets of a sprawling mega-city in Central Asia.

We struck up conversations with shopkeepers, cafe owners, college students, bus passengers and anyone else willing to talk to us in the overwhelmingly Muslim city. We prayed for opportunities to give our new acquaintances small packets containing a New Testament, a video showing local followers of Christ and how they worship—and a DVD version of the “Jesus” film.

Not everyone took our gift. Some declined politely; a few returned it after looking it over. But many accepted it with curiosity, gratitude, even emotion. They seemed eager to read, hear and see all they could about Jesus. Several asked for extra packets.

Rice's selection unlikely to impact religious liberty, observers say_120604

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Condoleeza
Rice waves
to the
crowd after
she was
introduced
at the
American
Israel
Public
Affairs
Committee's
annual
summit in
Hollywood,
Fla.

Rice's selection unlikely to impact religious liberty, observers say

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)- President Bush's choice of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to replace Secretary of State Colin Powell may not mean much change in the United States' foreign policy regarding religious-freedom issues, experts on the subject maintained.

Dispute between Criswell College & contractor to be settled out of court_120604

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Dispute between Criswell College & contractor to be settled out of court

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—A dispute between Criswell College, the W.A. Criswell Foundation and a computer contractor will be settled by an arbitrator rather than a jury.

DBU volunteers build on-campus Habitat house_120604

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About 400
Dallas
Baptist
University
students,
faculty and
staff
volunteered
to help
build a
Habitat for
Humanity
house on
the
university
campus.

DBU volunteers build on-campus Habitat house

By Kristie Brooks

Dallas Baptist University

DALLAS-For the second consecutive year, Dallas Baptist University volunteers built a Habitat for Humanity house on the school's campus.