

ANALYSIS: Living in the gray with the Man in Black

March 28, 2008

Posted: 3/28/08

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By Cathleen Falsani

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—It has been suggested, on more than one occasion, that if another face were to be added to the quartet of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln on Mount Rushmore, it should be Johnny Cash.

The Man in Black would have my vote.



Judge dismisses Klouda lawsuit against seminary

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Judge dismisses Klouda lawsuit against seminary

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH (ABP)—A federal judge has ruled Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's decision to fire a female Hebrew professor was akin to a church's decision to fire its pastor and therefore outside the purview of the civil courts.

U.S. District Judge John McBryde dismissed all of the complaints in [Sheri Klouda's lawsuit](#) against her alma mater and former employer.

Sheri Klouda

Lamar students minister in South Texas

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Lamar students minister in South

Texas

Lamar University students sing in the Escobares town square.



Lamar University student workers paint faces of children during Vacation Bible School in the South Texas town of Escobares.



Young children enjoy a Vacation Bible School at Primera Bautista Iglesia de Escobares led by Lamar University student missionaries.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Complete Spring Break Ministry Coverage Here | |
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Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Reason to swap

Regarding your editorial on “U.S. faith swapping,” ([March 17](#)) illicit affairs are not the only reason to leave a marriage. Sometimes the spouse is overbearing, neglectful and abusive.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jump to online-only letters below |
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“Honestly, if we could harness some of the emotion from this and turn it to evangelism and missions, we could see a massive change in our missionary and evangelistic endeavors.”

Frank Page

Southern Baptist Convention president, commenting on the furor after some Southern Baptists—including Page —signed a statement calling for environmental protection (Baptist Press/RNS)

“One day, I have to give an account to God and not to nobody else of what I’ve done in my life. And that’s why I’ve said and shared the stuff with y’all that ... I wouldn’t like to share with y’all.”

Andy Pettitte

Yankees pitcher and Baptist Sunday school teacher, telling Congress he used human growth hormone but did not consider it cheating (New York Daily News/RNS)

“Women have two places—in front of the sink and behind the vacuum.”

Micah Armstrong

Evangelist, preaching to University of Alabama students, also saying they will go to hell for drinking, cursing, having pre-marital sex, watching movies or reading Harry Potter books (Associated Press/RNS)

Having come of age spiritually in the midst of the Baptist infighting of the 1980s and 1990s, I, like many of my generation, left an unhealthy Baptist marriage and sought less contentious places of worship.

At Baylor University in the late 1980s, I watched as my professors were abused in photocopied publications passed around campus and at Baptist General Convention of Texas meetings. I attended those meetings, which were as partisan and divisive as mainstream politics.

Sam Houston State teams at Mission Arlington

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Sam Houston State teams at Mission Arlington		
		

Erika Rangel from Sam Houston State University spends quality time with a little girl at Mission Arlington.

Brock Wardlaw from Sam Houston State University gives a boy at Mission Arlington a ride on his shoulders.

Zach Massey from Sam Houston State University gives a piggyback ride to an Arlington child.



Michael Bosquez from Sam Houston State University enjoys time with children in Arlington.

Sam Stokes from Sam Houston State University hangs out with a group of children in Arlington.



The Baptist Student Ministries at Sam Houston State University sent 25 volunteers to Mission Arlington. The student missionaries conducted service projects including free garage sales, passing out flyers at apartment complexes, organizing and cleaning, and filling Easter eggs. Students worked with about 60 children in the afternoon at an apartment complex— singing, praying, playing games and teaching Bible stories.

• [See Complete Spring Break Ministry Coverage Here](#)

Report: Without changes, selling lottery doesn't add up

March 28, 2008

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Report: Without changes, selling lottery doesn't add up

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—Unless gambling is expanded, selling the lottery will not produce the \$14 billion Gov. Rick Perry has estimated, according to a report released by a watchdog group March 26.

[Texans for Public Justice](#) reports that documents given to the governor's office suggest gambling in Texas would need to be expanded in order to generate the kind of income Perry has suggested. The extension of gambling would allow the lottery to show increasing sales, making it more attractive to bidders.

Texas Tidbits

March 28, 2008

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor Garland medical team serves in Honduras. Health care professionals from Baylor Medical Center in Garland recently served on a medical mission to Honduras, working with Mission Predisan. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, translators, anesthesiologists, sterile processing technicians and others who made the trek donated their medical services. At a clinic in Catacamas, the operating room team performed 27 surgeries in three and a half days. Part of the mission team traveled to remote mountain clinics, where they treated 300 patients in three days, working by candlelight in facilities that lacked electricity and plumbing.

Gracewood benefits from matching grants. [Children at Heart Ministries](#) has received two matching grants to expand its Gracewood program for single mothers and their children. The Christ Is Our Salvation Foundation will match up to \$220,000 for operating expenses related to Gracewood's expansion, which includes the first residence on a new northwest Houston campus and the conversion of existing offices to a residence at its original campus in southwest Houston. The Leroy and Merle Weir Charitable Trust has made a \$275,000 challenge grant toward construction of an additional residence on the northwest campus in Houston.

When the preacher loses his cool, should church members take a hike?

March 28, 2008

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When the preacher loses his cool, should church members take a hike?

By Jim White

Virginia Religious Herald

The now-familiar images of Jeremiah Wright, former pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, calling down God's wrath on America raise questions for Christians: What place does rage have in the pulpit? And when should worshippers show their displeasure with the pastor's preaching by leaving the church?

Professors Beth Newman of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and Roger Olson of Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary in Waco agree Wright's anger must be understood within the context of the African-American experiences and worship.

Pastor's role in Obama campaign spotlights race, pulpit freedom

March 28, 2008

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Pastor's role in Obama campaign spotlights race, pulpit freedom

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—While the political consequences of Sen. Barack

Obama's recent speech on race created chatter for cable-news channels, the episode is noteworthy for another reason, according to experts in religion and politics.

For the first time in modern American history, a presidential candidate's pastor and congregation are the cause of a major campaign controversy.

Black liberation theology provides the doctrine behind fiery rhetoric

March 28, 2008

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Black liberation theology provides the doctrine behind fiery rhetoric

By Rosemary Parrillo

Religion News Service

NEWARK, N.J. (RNS)—Jeremiah Wright's condemnation of the United States—particularly pronouncing damnation on America—looped hundreds of thousands of times on YouTube and news broadcasts. In the process, the pastor preached himself and his most famous church member, presidential contender Barack Obama, into a political maelstrom.

Quickly the question of race developed into a speed bump for the streaking Obama campaign, leading the candidate to try to set the record straight about his relationship with Wright, the fiery pastor who recently retired from Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ.

James Cone
is a
theologian
at Union
Theological
Seminary in
New York
and is
considered
the father
of black
liberation
theology.

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Obama pastor's tough sermons just part of long, prophetic tradition

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Obama pastor's tough sermons just part of long, prophetic tradition

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The longtime pastor of Sen. Barack Obama's black megachurch in Chicago has come under fire for sermons that many have called racist, offensive—and even dangerous.

Jeremiah Wright has called the federal government the “U.S. of K.K.K. A.” Just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Wright said “America's chickens are coming home to roost.”

Jeremiah Wright

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March 28, 2008

Storylist for week of 3/31/08

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- [Supreme Court to revisit decency standards](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



- [Books reviewed in this issue:](#)*The Great Awakening* by Jim Wallis, *The Betrayed* by Lisa T. Bergren and *May I Walk You Home? Sharing Christ's Love with the Dying* by Melody Rossi.



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