

Competing resolutions on public education confront SBC committee_53104

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Competing resolutions on public education confront SBC committee

By Lonnie Wilkey & Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

PETROS, Tenn. (ABP)-A proposed resolution asking Southern Baptists to remove their children from public schools is getting widespread media attention, but another resolution is being proposed in support of public education.

Save the Children names top 10 best, worst nations to be a

mother_53104

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Save the Children names top 10 best, worst nations to be a mother

WASHINGTON (RNS)-More than 1 million infants and about 70,000 teenage mothers die each year in developing countries because adolescent girls are marrying and having children before they are physically prepared for parenthood, a report from Save the Children has found.

The fifth annual "State of the World's Mothers" report ranked the wellbeing of mothers in 119 countries and declared Sweden the best country to be a mother and Niger the worst. The United States ranked 10th.

The ranking, called "The Mothers' Index," was based on the health, education and political status of mothers in those countries. The report found that a mother in the bottom 10 countries is 26 times more likely to see her child die in the first year and 750 times more likely to die herself in childbirth or pregnancy than a mother in the top 10 countries.

Churches finding it hard to leave the SBC-even if they do_53104

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Churches finding it hard to leave the SBC-even if they do

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (ABP)—Providence Baptist Church never has been a Southern Baptist church and doesn't want to be one. But the congregation has had a hard time convincing the Southern Baptist Convention of that.

Pass on wisdom, values, life lessons through spiritual wills_53104

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Pass on wisdom, values, life lessons through spiritual wills

By Pat Cahill

Religion News Service

EAST GRANBY, Conn. (RNS)-One thing Louise Colletti of East Granby, Conn., remembers about her childhood is her dad kneeling to pray every morning after he turned on the hot water for coffee.

State comptroller backpedals on tax exemption decision_53104

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State comptroller backpedals on tax exemption decision

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DENISON-Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn abruptly reversed

course after her office's denial of tax-exempt status to a North Texas church because of its beliefs-or lack of them-attracted media attention.

Teens who pray expect answers-at least some of the time, survey reveals_53104

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Teens who pray expect answers-at least some of the time, survey reveals

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The vast majority of U.S. teenagers who pray believe their prayers are answered, a new study by the American Bible Society has found.

Ninety-one percent of teens said they believe their prayers are answered, the New York-based society said.

But teens had varying views on how often their petitions received a response: 24 percent believe their prayers are answered all the time, 24 percent believe they are answered most of the time and 44 percent said they are answered at least some of the time.

Texas-based missionaries offer ministry of reconciliation in Macedonia_53104

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Texas-based missionaries offer ministry of reconciliation in Macedonia

By Charles Richardson

Hardin-Simmons University

ABILENE-Arville and Shelia Earl, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship workers in Macedonia, have spent the spring on home assignment in Abilene from their "ministry of reconciliation" to ethnic conflict in the Balkans.

Texas Tidbits_53104

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The Sue and Frank Mayborn Natural Science and Cultural History Museum Complex has opened on the Baylor University campus in Waco. The "Cabinets of Curiosities" in the Natural History Exhibits houses favorites from the former Strecker Museum, such as the tree-slice timeline and the humpback whale skull.

Texas Tidbits

Mayborn Museum opens at Baylor. The Sue and Frank Mayborn Natural Science and Cultural History Museum Complex has opened on the Baylor University campus in Waco. The Strecker Museum's natural history collection, previously housed in the science building, and the Ollie Mae Moen Children's Discovery Center, formerly located in downtown Waco, now are under one roof in the Harry and Anna Jeanes Discovery Center. The center features 17 themed discovery rooms with interactive learning activities and traditional exhibits. It also includes walk-in dioramas such as the Waco mammoth exhibit, where a see-through floor enables guests to view casts of mammoth bones displayed exactly as they were unearthed five miles from the Baylor campus. For more information, call (254) 710-2517 or visit www.MaybornMuseum.com.

BUA offers Spanish instruction. The Baptist University of the Americas Center for Cultural and Language Studies will offer intensive immersion courses in conversational Spanish and an introduction to Hispanic culture, June 7-18 and Oct. 11-15. Courses include morning and afternoon classroom instruction and field trips. The two-week session includes a weekend with church members in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Cost is \$375 for the two-week session and \$200 for the one-week session, not including off-campus lodging. The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions provides a \$100 scholarship to each participant who is a member of a Baptist General Convention of Texas-affiliated church. For more information, call toll-free (800) 721-1396, ext. 216; e-mail valmartinez@bua.edu; or visit www.bua.edu.

Valley Baptist to buy Brownsville hospital. Valley Baptist Health System has agreed to purchase Brownsville Medical Center from Tenet Healthcare. Brownsville Medical Center is a 243-bed hospital with about

900 employees. Valley Baptist has agreed to offer employment to substantially all Brownsville Medical Center employees in good standing. The purchase is expected to be completed by June 30.

UHMB schools become colleges. Trustees at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor unanimously voted to change the names of all academic divisions on campus from "school" to "college." The designation is more representative of UMHB's university status, said President Jerry Bawcom. Each college functions as a separate body under the umbrella of the university, including respective accreditations. The six new academic divisions are the College of Business, College of Christian Studies, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, College of Nursing and College of Sciences and Humanities.

Cassle Scholarship established at HSU. The James and Mickey Cassle Endowed Scholarship for Christian vocational ministries students has been established at Hardin-Simmons University. The scholarship was endowed by the Cassles' daughter and son-in-law, Molli and Gary Elliston of Dallas. Recipients may be either graduate or undergraduate students. The Logsdon School of Theology dean will select recipients, in consultation with appropriate Logsdon committees.

TOGETHER: God offers

opportunity, accountability_53104

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TOGETHER: God offers opportunity, accountability

In the process of revisioning and anticipating restructuring for our convention, I have found guidance in Jesus' teaching just before the crucifixion. Matthew 25 lays out Jesus' passion regarding what is important to him and the consequences of not knowing and acting on that.

He teaches three parables: The Ten Bridesmaids, The Three Servants and The Two Destinies. The first has to do with being prepared and making tough decisions. The second has to do with using wisely and courageously what has been put in your hands. The third has to do with true service to God and people. All three have to do with the consequences of not getting it right.

CHARLES WADE Executive Director BGCT Executive Board
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Jesus warns a time is coming when the doors will be shut, when the

darkness will be filled with crying and remorse, and when ignoring the needs of people will bring eternal punishment.

Former Soviet republic named a top violator of religious freedom by panels_53104

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Former Soviet republic named a top violator of religious freedom by panels

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Members of two federal panels have turned a spotlight on an often-overlooked former Soviet state as one of the world's worst violators of religious freedom.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Dad's old glove_53104

May 28, 2004

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CYBERCOLUMN: Dad's old glove

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking of Father's Day. Actually, I'm thinking of a glove. Imagine a leather baseball glove. Hear the sound of the ball popping the leather. Smell the leather.

I think back to the '70s, when I was a teenager. I am leaning against a steel chain-link fence on a softball diamond. My father wears a yellow jersey with blue letters on the front and numbers on the back. My father is wearing tennis shoes. A baseball glove fits nicely on his rather large left hand. I do not know if his team won or lost. I remember the game was played on a spring evening as the sun set.

John Duncan

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: Lessons from a Habitat house_53104

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CYBERCOLUMN: Lessons from a Habitat house

By Brett Younger

With increasing frequency, ministers are expected to do manual labor as a way of sharing ministry with their parishioners. Ministry outside my comfort zone can feel like an interruption. I feel like I should be back at the church writing a newsletter column, but humility is a lesson learned in more than one way.

When volunteering requires a “waiver of liability,” it’s almost never a good sign. The form contains the ominous declaration that “as a volunteer, you are not covered by Workers’ Compensation Insurance.” It does not say, “chances are good that you, with your laughable lack of skills, will be disfigured beyond recognition,” but it could.

Brett Younger
