

# **Nearly two-thirds of wired American adults surf Net for spiritual reasons\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **Nearly two-thirds of wired American adults surf Net for spiritual reasons**

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Nearly two-thirds of American adults with Internet access have used it for spiritual or faith-related reasons, according to a recent study by the Pew Internet and American Life project.

The 82 million Americans who use the Internet for religious activities represent 64 percent of all wired adults in the United States.

The study found one-third of U.S. Internet users have sent or received e-mail with religious content or spiritual greeting cards, or go online to read current religion news. Others look for information about religious services and holidays.

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# Texas Baptist Forum\_50304

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Ten Commandments

Phil Strickland asserts, "We undercut the profound truths ... and the moral instruction of the Ten Commandments when we give responsibility of teaching to the government and don't embrace that responsibility in the churches" (April 19).

The Ten Commandments were given by God to a chosen Hebrew leader, Moses, to teach all people how to behave themselves. God wanted to establish a nation-not a church-and this is how he commanded people should conduct themselves and their affairs.

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The Founding Fathers established a great nation-these United States-because they feared God. And the Ten Commandments were guiding principles in establishing the Constitution, a task made more difficult because now there were more "religions."

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# **Annuity Board staff member joins BGCT as director of information technology office\_50304**

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## **Annuity Board staff member joins BGCT as director of information technology office**

DALLAS—Dave Lyons has joined the Baptist General Convention of Texas staff as director of information technology.

Lyons will serve in a new position that is the direct result of a technology review pursued by the BGCT in 2002, said David Nabors, chief financial officer and treasurer of the convention.

Lyons comes to the BGCT from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas, where he was a business systems development and support team leader. He had been with the Annuity Board since 1995.

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# **Growing churches have deep roots, clearly defined purpose\_50304**

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## **Growing churches have deep roots, clearly defined purpose**

**By Kari Hawkins**

*Religion News Service*

ATLANTA (RNS)-Why does one church grow and another just down the street fall stagnant?

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## **Christian leaders should maximize abilities, pastor suggests\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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# **Christian leaders should maximize abilities, pastor suggests**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

SALADO-Leadership is not telling people what to do, but working with and for others, a Rockwall pastor told the Baptist General Convention of Texas Ministers of Education Retreat.

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# **Missouri convention appeals suit dismissal\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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# **Missouri convention appeals suit dismissal**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)-Attorneys for the Missouri Baptist Convention have appealed the dismissal of a lawsuit against five breakaway institutions, and state convention messengers will be asked to authorize the

use of Cooperative Program funds to pay for the ongoing lawsuit.

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# **Multicultural retreat\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

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## **Multicultural retreat**

Kate Leong of Southwest Chinese Baptist Church in Stafford and Delbert and Mary Lou Serratt of First Baptist Church in Amarillo enjoy a lighthearted moment while making pottery during the Baptist General Convention of Texas Multicultural Retreat. About 50 church leaders representing 10 cultures attended the event, where they discussed techniques for handling conflict within congregations and enjoyed times of fellowship and recreation.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.

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# **New Orleans Seminary leaves sole member vote to SBC messengers\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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## **New Orleans Seminary leaves sole member vote to SBC messengers**

**By Lacy Thompson & Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)-New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees will leave up to Southern Baptist Convention messengers a final decision on how best to tie the institution to the denominational body-but in the process may have only deepened their dispute with the SBC's Executive Committee.

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## **Relief agency seeks to improve life for Nigeria\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

An open-air market in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, is typical of the living conditions Partnership for the Environment workers witnessed in West Africa.

## **Relief agency seeks to improve life for Nigerians**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

A Texas Baptist relief and development organization wants to improve living conditions at an African Baptist ministry outpost plagued by scarce water and rudimentary sanitation.

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# On the Move\_50304

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## On the move

**Gerald Austin** has resigned as interim pastor of Friendship Church in Ennis.

♦ **Byron Ayers** to Mildred Church in Corsicana as youth minister, where he had been interim.

♦ **Charlie Barganier** to Arcadia First Church in Santa Fe from Heights Church in Temple.

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# Oregon judge halts gay marriages, instructs state registrar to record unions for benefits\_50304

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

# **Oregon judge halts gay marriages, instructs state registrar to record unions for benefits**

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Both sides of the gay-marriage debate found something to cheer in an Oregon judge's recent decision to put a halt to the same-sex marriages one county in the state had been performing.

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# **Christians face persecution, charges of blasphemy in Muslim Pakistan\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

# **Christians face persecution, charges of blasphemy in Muslim Pakistan**

**By Deann Alford**

*Religion News Service*

LAHORE, Pakistan-A market vendor sold Christian brothers Saleem and Rasheed Masih ice cream, then told them they had to pay for the bowls because he couldn't again serve a Muslim from the now-defiled utensils.