

Agency suggests questions to ask when selecting a charter company_40504

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Agency suggests questions to ask when selecting a charter company

If churches choose to charter a bus for long trips, they need to carefully examine the companies they hire, a representative of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration suggested.

Before hiring any carrier, request the bus company's United States Department of Transportation number, said Donna Channel with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's consumer and public affairs office.

With that information, a church can log onto www.saftersys.org for information, such as the company's safety rating and crash history and whether the company is an authorized for-hire carrier.

Privacy policies designed to protect children from predators_40504

April 2, 2004

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Privacy policies designed to protect children from predators

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—When churches decide whether to publish the names and photos of children, a growing number cite protection as their guiding principle—protecting the church from legal action and children from predators.

Establishing a driver policy can help keep church out of court,

lawyers say_40504

April 2, 2004

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Establishing a driver policy can help keep church out of court, lawyers say

Every church should adopt a policy for drivers of vehicles operated for church business or activities, whether the vehicles are owned by the church or by individuals, a Texas Baptist guidebook recommends.

“Keeping Your Church Out of Court,” a notebook of materials produced by the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission and the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, provides a driver policy checklist.

The resource, prepared by the Fort Worth law firm of Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel, suggests a church's driver policy should:

15-passenger vans pose rollover crash risk, extra safety measures needed, agencies

say_40504

April 2, 2004

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15-passenger vans pose rollover crash risk, extra safety measures needed, agencies say

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—Federal agencies have issued safety warnings about them and major insurance companies have stopped writing policies on them, but some churches continue to struggle with the question of what to do with 15-passenger vans.

Texas Baptist Forum_40504

April 2, 2004

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM:

Anti-voucher predators

Your editorial regarding education (March 22) was not accurate, as the facts do not support what you wrote.

The public schools in Washington, D.C., spend more per student than any public school system in the U.S.A., and their performance is near the lowest. Vouchers have worked well in Cleveland.

That is why the black mayor of Washington and the black parents there have essentially forced Congress to try vouchers in D.C.

E-mail the editor at

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Logsdon, Wayland partner to bring master of divinity program to South Plains residents_40504

April 2, 2004

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Logsdon, Wayland partner to bring master of divinity program to South Plains residents

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

LUBBOCK-Wayland Baptist University and Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University have partnered to bring a graduate-level divinity program to the South Plains.

Building campaign helped unify, strengthen congregation, Mineral Wells pastor testifies_40504

April 2, 2004

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Building campaign helped unify, strengthen congregation, Mineral Wells pastor testifies

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

MINERAL WELLS—Members of Fairview Baptist Church identified a problem they are glad to have: Their sanctuary is too small for them to carry out their mission.

How high is the cost of discipleship for missionaries today?_40504

April 2, 2004

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How high is the cost of discipleship for missionaries today?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

When missionaries answer what they believe is Christ's call, a growing number also may hear echoes of the martyred German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote 60 years ago: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

BHS employees nap for good cause_40504

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BHS employees nap for good cause

SAN ANTONIO-Hundreds of Baptist Health System employees recently slept on the job with the blessings of their bosses.

Nurses, doctors and administrators took turns pulling shut-eye shifts during a "Sleep-A-Thon" to help raise money for a Habitat for Humanity house the health system's employees will build over the next few months.

"You could say they took catnaps for a cause," said George Gaston, vice president of ministry at Baptist Health System.

On the Move_40504

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On the Move

Moo Adkins has resigned as pastor of Trinity Church in Aransas Pass.

- ♦ **Les Atkins** has resigned at Calvary Church in Post.
 - ♦ **Bob Beck** to First Church in Brownwood as interim pastor.
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Christian social workers challenged to transform profession_40504

April 2, 2004

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Christian social workers challenged to transform profession

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS Christian social workers face an unprecedented opportunity to “shape the shift” currently transforming their profession, a leading social work educator told participants in a national conference.

Most Americans claim belief in literal truth of Bible stories, new poll shows_40504

April 2, 2004

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Most Americans claim belief in literal truth of Bible stories, new poll shows

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Most Americans believe in a literal interpretation of biblical stories such as Moses parting the Red Sea, according to an ABC News poll that also showed the vast majority of Americans do not blame Jews for the death of Jesus.

The ABC News PrimeTime poll found that six in 10 Americans surveyed consider biblical accounts of Moses parting the Red Sea, Noah's Ark and God creating the world in six days to be true, “word for word.”

Evangelical Protestants were most likely to hold this view, at about 90

percent.