

# **Christian Fitness Body & soul\_22304**

February 20, 2004

Posted: 2/19/04



The  
Southern  
Baptist  
Convention  
Annuity  
Board  
sponsors a  
free  
wellness  
booth at  
the SBC  
annual  
meeting.  
Convention  
participants  
can take  
advantage  
of a variety  
of health  
screenings  
including  
blood  
pressure,  
cholesterol  
and blood-  
sugar  
checks.

## **Christian Fitness: Body & soul**

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

Pittsburgh, Pa. (RNS)-Larry Swain of Pittsburgh is proud of the fact he's lost more than 50 pounds in the last year and a half.

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# **Health-conscious Christians ask, 'What would Jesus eat?'**\_22304

February 20, 2004

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## **Health-conscious Christians ask, 'What would Jesus eat?'**

**By Alexandra Alter**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)-If doctors had to identify the deadliest sin affecting Americans today, they probably would name gluttony as the No. 1 killer.

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# **Filibuster halts lawmakers' attempt to limit or undo gay marriage ruling\_22304**

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## **Filibuster halts lawmakers' attempt to limit or undo gay marriage ruling**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

BOSTON (ABP)-The Massachusetts legislature adjourned its historic constitutional convention Feb. 12 without reversing the state supreme court's recent legalization of gay marriage.

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## **Follow Christ's call without regard to consequences, Mercer tells students\_22304**

February 20, 2004

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# **Follow Christ's call without regard to consequences, Mercer tells students**

**By Charles Richardson**

*Hardin-Simmons University*

ABILENE—One biblical promise kept Heather Mercer from losing hope when she was imprisoned in Afghanistan: Jesus' pledge to be with his disciples until the end.

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# **IMB reports passing half-million mark in baptisms worldwide for first time\_22304**

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# **IMB reports passing half-million mark in baptisms worldwide for first time**

**By Mark Kelly**

*International Mission Board*

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries witnessed double-digit increases in eight of their 13 categories of work in 2003, including for the first time more than 500,000 baptisms, trustees of the International Mission Board learned this month.

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# Texas Baptist Forum\_22304

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## TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM

### Confusing partnership

FamilyNet, the Southern Baptist Convention's television entity, has just entered a three-year partnership with FOX News.

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Is it just me, or does it seem strange that the SBC announces it will do business with the FOX network at the time the SBC Executive Committee votes to completely withdraw support from the Baptist World Alliance? Isn't it odd that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is the enemy and FOX, known for sleaze, is now a business partner?

What's next? FamilyNet promos for “The Littlest Groom” and “My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé”? SBC ads during “That '70s Show”?

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# **Logsdon student returns to South Africa for 10 months of study, service\_22304**

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## **Logsdon student returns to South Africa for 10 months of study, service**

**By Loretta Fulton**

*Abilene Reporter-News*

A summer trip to Africa two years ago evoked two powerful emotions in Jessica Glaze- homesickness and a deep sympathy for the poverty-stricken people she encountered.

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## **NAMB stops endorsing women**

# for military, federal chaplain positions\_22304

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## NAMB stops endorsing women for military, federal chaplain positions

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ALPHARETTA, Ga.-The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will stop endorsing women to chaplain positions "where the role and function of the chaplain would be seen the same as that of a pastor."

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## National Digest\_22304

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## National Digest

**Requests for help rose last year.** Requests for emergency food and



shelter assistance increased last year in the 25 cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The 2003 survey found that requests for help with food increased by an average of 17 percent over 2002 and requests for shelter increased by an average of 13 percent. Unemployment and various employment-related problems were cited by the most cities as the leading causes of hunger. Fifty-six percent of the cities surveyed reported that people in need of food were turned away because of a lack of resources. A much larger percentage of participating cities-84 percent-said emergency shelters had to turn away homeless families due to a lack of resources.

**Giving from Episcopal dioceses down.** The Episcopal Church has seen a 7 percent drop in contributions from local dioceses since it voted last year to approve an openly gay bishop, but officials say it may be premature to link the two developments directly. A Feb. 9 report to the church's Executive Council revealed a drop of about \$2 million in six months, the first tangible measure of the fallout from the controversial decision to approve openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. The conservative dioceses of Dallas and Pittsburgh have said they will no longer send money to church headquarters. Forty dioceses said they will meet their pledges, and 42 dioceses will send a lower amount. Twenty-four dioceses have yet to finalize their budgets.

**Graham announces LA crusade plans.** Evangelist Billy Graham has announced plans to hold a summer crusade in the Los Angeles area at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Graham, who was recently released from the hospital after undergoing hip surgery, will lead the Greater Los Angeles Billy Graham Crusade from July 29 to Aug. 1. Graham's crusade in the Los Angeles area in 1949 brought him to national attention. The upcoming event will mark his seventh evangelistic campaign in the region.

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# On the Move\_22304

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## On the Move

**Jason Bien** to First Church in Richmond as minister to students and parents.

- ♦ **E.M. Byford** to Temple Church in Hereford as interim pastor.
- ♦ **Bill Cathey** to First Church in Sachse as interim pastor.

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# Movie's proponents call 'Passion of Christ' stained-glass window for the 21st century\_22304

February 20, 2004

Posted: 2/19/04

# **Movie's proponents call 'Passion of Christ' stained-glass window for the 21st century**

**By Greg Warner & Trennis Henderson**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (ABP)—While Mel Gibson's “The Passion of the Christ” will graphically show movie audiences the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, it's up to Christians to explain why Jesus went through the pain of the cross, Christian leaders say.

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## **BGCT, San Antonio Baptists to pilot volunteer disaster response network\_22304**

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### **BGCT, San Antonio Baptists to pilot**

# **volunteer disaster response network**

SAN ANTONIO-The Baptist General Convention of Texas plans to launch a disaster response network of trained church members who could respond to psychological and spiritual needs in crisis situations.

The convention is hoping to start regional teams of church members trained by the National Organization for Victim Assistance who could serve in widespread and personal crises such as disasters, unexpected deaths and violent crimes.

Teams will work in concert with Texas Baptist Men's disaster relief efforts and victim relief ministries.