

Texas Baptist Forum_11204

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Christian worldview

When I hear someone speak of a need to return to a “Christian worldview,” I shudder. The concept sounds good but is interpreted in too many ways to be helpful to the Christian community.

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Usually, it is a term loaded with political overtones, promoted by those who have little or no Baptist orientation and belief. It tends toward being a dark cloud seeded with crystals of thought from formerly state-sanctioned church movements. The problem is that although it looks good, the rain of spiritual reform never reaches the ground.

Many of those who perpetuate this concept come from denominations that were birthed as state churches, and their desire is to create some kind of “theocracy” that unfortunately is really government by their own theology. If enacted, such a government would make the outside of man subject to some standard of conformity but do nothing for the heart of man.

Church's 'Moon Rock' concert benefits foreign missions_11204

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Church's 'Moon Rock' concert benefits foreign missions

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

IRVING-A group of First Baptist Church young adults raised more than \$1,000 for international missions. All they needed was a little Moon rock.

Joy multiplied with nursing home shopping network_11204

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The
Woman's
Missionary
Union at
First
Baptist
Church in
Wimberly
multiplied
Christmas
joy for
nursing
home
residents
by setting
up a free
“store”
where
residents
picked out
gifts again
this year.

Joy multiplied with nursing home shopping network

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WIMBERLEY-The elderly woman's eyes lit up as she saw the baby doll on

top of a pile of plush animals. She scooted across the room as quickly as her paddling feet could pull her wheelchair, never taking her eyes from her prize.

On the Move_11204

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On the Move

Cody Bloyd to Fellowship at Field Store in Waller as youth minister.

♦ **Dusty Daniel** has resigned as youth minister at First Church in Stanton.

♦ **Jamie Long** to Fellowship Church in Lubbock as minister to children.

Russian seminary leader seeks churches to adopt

students_11204

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Russian seminary leader seeks churches to adopt students

By Marv Knox

Editor

ABILENE—A Russian Baptist leader has come to Texas, looking to complete the formula for effective ministry in his homeland.

Samaritans want to share vision of peace with other people in Middle East_11204

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Samaritans want to share vision

of peace with other people in Middle East

By Michelle Gabriel

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The Samaritan Israelites-a people despised in the biblical era as unclean and decimated by centuries of violent conflict but who have adopted a policy of total disarmament-want to share their peaceful vision with other countries in the Middle East by building an international peace center.

Religious community challenged to stand against international sex trade_11204

January 9, 2004

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**Religious community challenged
to stand against international sex**

trade

By Karen Long

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND-Sister Clare Nolan recently stood before a packed audience at the City Club of Cleveland and asked her listeners to think about some numbers: Somewhere between 700,000 and 2 million women and girls are taken beyond their national borders and forced into prostitution each year.

Survey explores connection between students & God_11204

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Survey explores connection between students & God

LOS ANGELES (RNS)-The proportion of college students who attend worship services drops from more than half to less than a third between freshman year and junior year, according to a study at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The Spirituality in Higher Education survey found 52 percent of students frequently attend services before entering college, but that segment

dropped to 29 percent by the third year of college. Seven in 10 students said they had attended at least one service in the past year.

The findings are part of a survey of 3,680 students at 46 colleges and universities.

Texas Tidbits_11204

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As Kara
Lea Oliver
receives
her degree
from East
Texas
Baptist
University,
her family
honors the
letter of a
request to
hold
applause
until the
ceremony's
end by
silently
holding
homemade
signs.
Oliver
graduated
summa
cum laude.

Texas Tidbits

DBU names missions professor. Southwestern Seminary missions professor Robert Garrett is joining the faculty at Dallas Baptist University. As the first professor of missions at DBU, he will develop the university's

missions studies curriculum at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as coordinate student missions programs.



Robert
Garrett

A former missionary to Argentina, Garrett was a professor at the Seminario Internacional Teologico Bautista in Buenos Aires from 1981 to 1994. He served as a guest professor at Southwestern Seminary in 1994, prior to his election to the faculty the following year. He served as director of the seminary's World Missions Center from 1996 to 1999 and has held the George W. Bottoms Chair of World Missions since 1999.

ETBU graduates 69. Lynn New, psychology professor and dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences at East Texas Baptist University, delivered the charge to the 69 graduates at the school's commencement ceremony last month.

Baylor social work grads get high marks. According to the Texas State Board of Social Work, graduates from the Baylor School of Social Work Bachelor of Arts program achieved a 100 percent passing rate on its licensing exam. Graduates from the Baylor Master of Social Work program achieved an 88 percent passing rate. The overall passing rate for Texas schools is 69 percent.

HBU celebrates Founders' Day. Voddie Baucum was the featured speaker at Houston Baptist University's Founders' Day convocation last

month. The event also featured the debut of "Christ is Our Foundation," a hymn composed by Ann Gebuhr, music professor and director of the HBU School of Music.

Together: BWA merits Texas Baptists' support_11204

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TOGETHER: BWA merits Texas Baptists' support

Voices from around the world sing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." This is how each meeting of the Baptist World Alliance begins, and it always is one of the most spiritually moving experiences of my life.

Many years ago, I pastored an English-speaking Baptist church in Baumholder, Germany, for two years and learned to appreciate the challenge that Baptists face when they are a small minority in a sea of official but nominal Christians.

Later, I gave an address to a work group at the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. Since coming to serve Texas Baptists, I attend BWA meetings and am overwhelmed with gratitude for and amazement at the profound faith and commitment of our Baptist brothers and sisters. There are 211 national Baptist unions and conventions involved

in the BWA, representing 110 million Baptists around the world.

CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

Voucher bill awaits Congress_11204

January 9, 2004

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Voucher bill awaits Congress

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Several significant church-state issues will be hanging in the legislative balance when Congress reconvenes late this month.

Cybercolumn: Prospects for the New Year by John Duncan_11204

January 9, 2004

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CYBERCOLUMN: Prospects for the New Year

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, treasuring the prospects of a new year. My mind pulsates with the pleasures of ministry and a simple goal for a new year—to make more personal visits as a pastor.

My great Uncle John lived in a small town in South Louisiana for over 35 years. He made his living as a medical doctor. He learned the art of medicine in the Navy. He treated soldiers at Normandy during World War II.

John Duncan
