

# **LifeWay Family Bible Series for Dec. 14: Finding delight in giving that honors God\_120803**

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

**LifeWay Family Bible Series for Dec. 14**

## **Finding delight in giving that honors God**

♦ *2 Corinthians 9:1-15*

**By David Jenkins**

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# **LifeWay Family Bible Series for Dec. 21: God's unexpected arrival on the world scene\_120803**

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**LifeWay Family Bible Series for Dec. 21**

# **God's unexpected arrival on the world scene**

♦ *Luke 2:1-40*

**By David Jenkins**

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# **Students don't know much of First Amendment\_120803**

December 5, 2003

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## **Students don't know much of First Amendment**

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The nation's undergraduates are mostly ignorant about the First Amendment's proclamation about freedom of religion.

A new survey by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education found 30 percent of students overall named freedom of religion when they were asked to name any of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

But when asked to specify which freedom is addressed first in the

amendment, only 10 percent of public college students and 5 percent of private college students correctly said freedom of religion.

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## **Association removes Florida church\_120803**

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### **Association removes Florida church**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (ABP)-Central Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., has been removed from membership in Halifax Baptist Association because of the congregation's female co-pastor.

Sonja Phillips and her husband, Dave, were hired as co-pastors of the 750-member church in July.

During the association's annual meeting this fall, a motion was approved to expel the congregation.

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# Houston flooding sweeps ministry's residents into sudden evacuation\_120803

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Waist-deep floodwaters made it difficult for residents of Gracewood, a Baptist General Convention of Texas ministry in Houston, to leave the property as more water surged in. TBM volunteers (right) responded to help repair water damage.

## **Houston flooding sweeps ministry's residents into sudden evacuation**

HOUSTON-November flood waters threatened the single mothers and their children taking refuge at the Gracewood ministry of Texas Baptist Children's Home & Family Services.

But Texas Baptist Men came to the rescue the next day, as workers began surveying the extensive damage.

With little warning, rising floodwater blanketed the Gracewood campus in Houston.

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# **Friendly families sought to host international students at holidays\_120803**

December 5, 2003

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## **Friendly families sought to host international students at holidays**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

DALLAS—Dallas-area families looking for a cultural exchange this holiday season will find just that through the Friendship International House program at Dallas Baptist University.

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# Texas Baptist Forum\_120803

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## TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Alcohol & stumbling

At the recent Lubbock convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas adopted a resolution calling for Texas Baptists and others to “take positive steps toward the reduction of alcohol use and abuse in our communities ...”



At best, a Christian's public drinking is a stumbling block to other believers and waters down the witness of the individual, as well as the church and denomination represented. Normally, alcohol contributes to the denigration of families and, many times, to the deaths of persons through vehicle accidents, violent crime and disease.

Not all Texas or Southern Baptists agree alcohol is a spiritual and societal evil to be avoided, though it's incorporated into the church covenant embraced and displayed by many of our churches. But one would expect that our visible Baptist leaders should and would lead the way in setting the public abstinence example.

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# **Marriage amendment proposed in U.S. Congress\_120803**

December 5, 2003

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## **Marriage amendment proposed in U.S. Congress**

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The United States Senate has become the latest battlefield in the ongoing culture war over gay marriage. A quintet of conservative Republican senators introduced the Federal Marriage Amendment Nov. 25, shortly before senators adjourned for their holiday break.

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# **Missouri      president      bans**

# **newspaper from convention events\_120803**

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

## **Missouri president bans newspaper from convention events**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)-In a move unprecedented in Southern Baptist circles, a state convention president will attempt to bar a Baptist publication in Missouri from attending or reporting on state Baptist meetings.

David Tolliver, recently elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, informed the editor of the Word & Way that the staff of the 107-year-old news journal no longer will be allowed to attend convention meetings, including Executive Board sessions and committee meetings. Tolliver also will attempt to bar Word & Way from the convention's annual meetings, events frequently attended by secular media.

In a Nov. 19 letter to Editor Bill Webb, Tolliver explained that his "directive" is a result of the action the Word & Way and four other convention agencies took to establish self-perpetuating trustee boards.

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# 'Nones' aren't the loneliest number when it comes to religion\_120803

December 5, 2003

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## 'Nones' aren't the loneliest number when it comes to religion

**By Mark O'Keefe**

*Religion News Service*

PORTLAND, Ore. (RNS)-Their numbers have more than doubled in a decade, to nearly 30 million. Organized as a religious denomination, they would trail only Catholics and Baptists in members.

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## On the Move\_120803

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# On the Move

**Scott Arant** to First Church in Bloomington as pastor.

- ◆ **Roy Fish** to First Church in Center as interim pastor.
  - ◆ **David Forshee** to Blue Ridge Church in Marlin as pastor.
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## Theological society won't oust two 'open theists' \_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

## Theological society won't oust two 'open theists'

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

ATLANTA (RNS)—The Evangelical Theological Society voted last month to retain two members whose status had been challenged after they published controversial views supporting open theism—the belief that God may not always know the future.