

RUSSELL DILDAY: Baptists Today, yesterday and tomorrow_60903

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/010/03

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Below is the text of a message delivered by Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, upon his receipt of the Judson-Rice Award for leadership and integrity from Baptists Today April 25.

By Russell Dilday

I consider this recognition as immensely significant in part because of the other recipients: Jimmy Allen and Tony Campolo. To be included in that noteworthy duet is humbling.

COMMENTARY: Father's

love_walton_60903

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/12/03

COMMENTARY: Father's love

By Rusty Walton

Brenda and I are having some trees removed from our yard. One of the big pine trees out back is infested with beetles. A couple of pileated woodpeckers (those big Woody Woodpecker types) have pecked off most of the tree's bark in their never-ending search for insects and nesting sites. Dead limbs, pinecones and chips of decaying wood lie in a thickening mat over our usually well-manicured St. Augustine lawn. This tree is in the "dangerous" stage of deterioration, so hiring a professional to carefully remove it has become a necessity.

A smaller pine in the backyard and a little sweetgum tree next to our driveway also need to be removed. The pine tree is growing too close to the house. Its falling needles clog the gutters and downspouts, and in a few years any limbs that fall will likely drop onto the roof. Pine trees also are notorious lightning rods, and Mrs. Preacher says I attract enough lightning already.

The sweetgum tree is too close to the driveway. Sweetgum roots grow close to the surface, and in a couple of years, these roots will crack the concrete, causing extensive damage, demanding costly repairs. A wise homeowner will remove a sweetgum next to a driveway.

‘Bringing Up Boys’ takes Dobson back to his roots_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/13/03

'Bringing Up Boys' takes Dobson back to his roots

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

At the apex of his career, James Dobson has returned to the communication medium that first made him one of the nation's foremost spokesmen for conservative Christian family values.

CYBERCOLUMN: Higher ground_vancleve_60903

October 14, 2003

Posted 6/17/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Higher ground

By Donna Van Cleve

Train up a child in the way he should go...

A friend once told me he was going to let his children choose what to believe about God when they got older. I wonder if he applied that same philosophy to other important areas of his children's lives. Did he leave it up to his children to discover proper nutrition through the years, assuming they would eventually learn to make the right choices in eating balanced meals? Did he let his children choose their own bedtimes? Did he allow his children to decide whether they wanted an education or not? And they chose not, did he allow them to stay home?

Donna Van Cleve

BGCT calls Christians 'back home' to transform Texas city centers_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/20/03

BGCT calls Christians 'back home' to transform Texas city centers

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is calling Christians to transform city cores—diverse, largely unchurched areas in the hearts of urban areas—by “coming back home.”

ANOTHER VIEW: Pastors should prohibit proselytizing others' members_sisck_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/20/03

ANOTHER VIEW: Pastors should prohibit proselytizing others' members

By Ron Sisk

Most ministerial codes of ethics forbid “proselytizing.”

By that, they mean seeking to increase your church membership by recruiting members from other Christian churches.

DBU BASEBALL: Faith's on first_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/20/03



Patriots pitcher Jeff Gilmore (left) aims a pitch at the plate, but pitching isn't the only area the university teaches him to keep a true aim in. DBU's athletic programs combine an intensive faith focus along with athletic excellence. "I want something to challenge me besides baseball," said Patriots pitcher Justin Orozco (inset below). Players often find fulfillment in ministry projects such as preparing Christmas gifts for needy children. Pictured (right) are Lance Bina and Diamond Belle Kaylee Reynolds.

DBU BASEBALL: Faith's on first

By Kambry Bickings

Staff Writer

DALLAS—A day in the life of a Dallas Baptist University baseball player consists of more than running, weight lifting, pitching and batting. DBU's coaches not only equip players for the next inning but for the game of life.

DOWN HOME: Dogs get all the mosquito breaks_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/20/03

DOWN HOME: Dogs get all the mosquito breaks

Here's a scientific breakthrough I can't figure out: If veterinarians can prepare a pill that protects dogs from all kinds of flying bugs, why can't doctors make medicine to keep mosquitoes, say, 10 feet from people?

I can't turn on the TV without seeing a commercial about a new pill of some color and purpose. Most of the time, the announcer doesn't explain what the pill's for, only that you should "call your doctor." (Don't you know doctors love that? Every time a new pill premieres, all the hypochondriacs call up asking if the brand-new Zynthrax would be right for them.)

MARV

KNOX

Editor

Forget human pharmacology. I've been intrigued by the commercial with the dog who trit-trots down the sidewalk, encapsuled in canine bliss because his owner fed him an anti-mosquito, flea and tick pill.

EDITORIAL: SBC & BWA illustrate alternative approaches to unity_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/20/03

EDITORIAL: SBC & BWA illustrate alternative approaches to unity

Credit Denton Lotz with the most ironic-yet-gracious line of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17-18 in Phoenix.

Messengers had just voted overwhelmingly not to reconsider the SBC's 2004 budget. Their decision clearly ensured the convention would cut its allocation to the Baptist World Alliance, which Lotz leads, from \$425,000 to \$300,000.

Following the set agenda, SBC President Jack Graham immediately introduced Lotz, who stepped to the podium to present the BWA report.

CYBERCOLUMN: Mowing & praying_duncan_62303

October 14, 2003

Posted 6/23/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Mowing & praying

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering the lazy days of summer and working up the energy to mow my yard. The desert monks coined a word for laziness, "acedia," which means listlessness. "Acedia" has Greek roots, meaning "an absence of care." Today I am listless, but the yard must be mowed.

The poet Langston Hughes once lamented, "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair." When it comes to my yard, the grass grows, the flowers fade and the yard must be mowed. My yard ain't no crystal stair. I guess I will jolt myself out of this listless state and start mowing.

Tight budget taps out church

funds_63003

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/27/03

Tight budget taps out church funds

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Church Starting Center cannot fund any more church starts for the rest of the year.

ANOTHER VIEW: Parents must reinforce messages_gushee_63003

October 14, 2003

Posted: 6/27/03

ANOTHER VIEW: Parents must reinforce messages

By David Gushee

Imagine you are trying to get into the mind of someone. Your goal is to communicate some kind of message to that person so that he or she will not forget it. What will your strategy be?

The answer is repetition.