

ANOTHER VIEW: Some talk of God's glory can make God too small _olsen_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted: 8/22/03

ANOTHER VIEW: Some talk of God's glory can make God too small

By Roger Olson

In the 1970s, a popular Christian book asked, "Is Your God Too Small?" Author Paul Little gently ridiculed the all-too-tiny gods of many American Christians, including the bell-hop god who jumps to answer every whim of praying people.

The main thrust of Little's book was that too many North American Christians have forgotten the sovereignty and majesty of the God of the Bible. That was a needed corrective to popular folk religion in an age when many people were calling God our "good buddy in the sky" (borrowing on citizens' band radio lingo) and falling for all kinds of theologies that trivialized God.

Conroe church looks to Bible to plan how its garden grows_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted: 8/22/03

Conroe church looks to Bible to plan how its garden grows

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CONROE-Sunday School classes at First Baptist Church in Conroe now can learn sitting at the feet of Jesus.

DOWN HOME: Off to school ... for the 2nd time _82503

October 14, 2003

Posted: 8/22/03

DOWN HOME: Off to school ... for the 2nd time

Some chores are easier the second time you have to do them.

Like taking your kiddo back to school: Joanna and I recently redeposited our oldest daughter, Lindsay, on the welcoming campus of our alma mater, Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

Last year, when we loaded her Papa's truck and moved her into the freshman girls' dorm, we cried a river of tears. This year, it was more like a bathtub of tears. OK, maybe a small swimming pool.

EDITORIAL: Budgets reflect low priority of cooperative missions_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted: 8/22/03

**EDITORIAL:
Budgets reflect low priority of**

cooperative missions

Budgets make the best barometers of priorities. Unfortunately, a study of Baptist budgets from the past 15 years reveals a decline that has produced a missions-and-ministry drought.

From 1987 to 2002, Southern Baptist missions expenditures grew by only half the rate of churches' total receipts. Meanwhile, the portion of undesignated receipts those churches contributed to the Cooperative Program unified budget dropped by 30 percent. (See the full story on these trends [here](#)) Now, Baptist conventions and institutions at state and national levels are struggling to freeze or reduce budgets to reflect economic realities.

Of course, some Baptists believe budget talk is impious. But in this world, ministry efforts depend upon dollars. Just behind faithful, willing believers empowered by the Spirit of God, money is crucial to fulfilling Christ's Great Commission.

**Pastors need to
preach
courageous
sermons on
tithing,
churches need
to tithe their
incomes and
leaders need to
demonstrate
why
cooperative
giving is a
divine
investment in a
glorious
eternity.**

CYBERCOLUMN: I dress for success_duncan_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted 8/25/03

CYBERCOLUMN: I dress for success

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, watching the early morning sun rise, preparing for the day ahead and longing for Cambridge, England.

Just this morning, I biked on a golf course near the lake. The ducks waddled and paddled along. Birds chirped, fluttering effortlessly into the morning air. Workers mowed the grass, trimming and cutting the golf greens in preparation for a day of bogeys, sand traps and "fore!" I stopped on a wooden bridge near the golf course and watched an orange sun slowly rise to greet the day.

John Duncan

CYBERCOLUMN: Bigger, stronger, wiser..._vancleve_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted 8/25/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Bigger, stronger, wiser...

By Donna Van Cleve

I admit it. After a steady diet of troubling news events of which I have little or no control, the urge to stick my head in the sand is very tempting. I can watch or listen or read about it only so much, and then I have to focus on something else, or the uneasiness will pull me under.

When things start to overwhelm me, I tend to cry at the drop of a hat. Not long ago, the trigger was the movie "Shenandoah" with Jimmy Stewart. I had seen it years ago, but with my feeble memory, it was like watching a brand-new movie all over again. It hooked me before I recalled it had some tragic scenes. When they came, the dam broke.

Donna Van Cleve

CYBERCOLUMN: What it takes_simpson_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted 8/29/03

CYBERCOLUMN: What it takes

By Berry D. Simpson

The fundamental question for guys is, "Do I have what it takes?"

Everything we do comes down to that question.

CYBERCOLUMN: If a tree falls_cosby_82503

October 14, 2003

Posted 8/29/03

CYBERCOLUMN:

If a tree falls

By Terry Cosby

She was just over the southern end of Mary's house. Actually, where else would you expect to find her at this point in history? It was a clear, cool evening, and it would be my last chance to see her for 284 years. So I took a long look.

She looked good. At least I think she did. I'm not really sure how a planet, even our neighbor Mars, is suppose to look. But she was bright and seemed a little embarrassed to be so intimate with us. Maybe that's why she seemed to blush a bit. Wow, only 35.6 million miles away! She seemed to me to be as close as Venus. I'm a bit more used to Venus, our morning "star." Rumors have it women are from there. But this Mars lady had all my attention for a few minutes last night. Good neighbor Mary came out and we marveled a moment.

Commentary: Where do the Ten Commandments belong?_walker_90803

October 14, 2003

Posted: 9/2/03

Commentary: Where do the Ten Commandments belong?

By J. Brent Walker

In the emotionally volatile debate over whether “Roy’s Rock” should stay in the Alabama State Judicial Building, one supporter of the display vowed, “they’ll never be able to remove it from our hearts.”

That is precisely the point.

Navy chaplains’ suit expanded to include 2,000_90803

October 14, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

Navy chaplains' suit expanded to include 2,000

By Ward Sanderson

Stars & Stripes

WASHINGTON (BP)—A federal judge recently expanded the scope of a

religious discrimination lawsuit against the Navy, further whipping the tempest that threatens to force the sea service into reviewing the promotions of every evangelical in its Chaplain Corps since 1977.

This chaplain keeps ministry on tap_90803

October 14, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

This chaplain keeps ministry on tap

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BEAUMONT-What is a ninth-generation Baptist doing in a beer distribution center?□

Alabama monument removed;

judge under scrutiny_90803

October 14, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

Alabama monument removed; judge under scrutiny

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Despite promises of civil disobedience from hundreds of protesters, authorities removed a stone Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of an Alabama courthouse Aug. 27 without incident.