

Baptist Briefs_51903

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Baptist Briefs

Missionaries' killer sentenced to death. The man accused of killing three Southern Baptist hospital workers has been sentenced to death, his lawyer told the Associated Press. Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, 30, was sentenced to death May 10 for the shooting deaths of Baptist workers William Koehn, Martha Myers and Kathleen Gariety Dec. 30 in Jibla, Yemen. The verdict was given in Jibla, the AP reported. Kamel will appeal, with his lawyer describing the verdict as violating Islamic law.

♦ **Alliance links with two other bodies.** The Alliance of Baptists has approved a proposed ecumenical agreement with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that would foster greater cooperation between the groups' leaders, congregations and seminaries. The proposal has not yet been approved by the other bodies.

♦ **Directors of missions website launched.** Woman's Missionary Union has launched DirectorofMissions.com, an interactive website designed to improve communication among directors of missions, associational staff and other missions-minded leaders. The website is the result of market research, focus-group studies conducted by WMU in 2002 and interviews with various directors of missions from across the country.

Panel warns religious freedom at risk in Afghanistan_51903

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Panel warns religious freedom at risk in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—An independent panel warned May 13 that religious freedom in Afghanistan is perilously at risk unless the U.S. government presses for greater human rights protections.

In its annual report to Congress, the president and the State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said Afghanistan could again become a repressive Islamic state unless Washington intervenes.

“There are indications that Afghanistan is being reconstructed—without serious U.S. opposition—as a state in which an extreme interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law) would be enforced by a government which the United States supports and with which our nation is closely identified,” the nine-member panel warned.

Bible Study for Texas for 6_1_51903

October 10, 2003

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June 1

Amos 2:4-16

Amos in the eye of the storm

By Bill Shiell

The months of April-November provided interesting times in Pensacola, Fla., the city where I grew up.

Bible Study for Texas for 6_8_51903

October 10, 2003

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June 8

Amos 3:9-4:3; 5:10-15; 6:4-7; 8:4-6

Prophetic words to the filthy rich

By Bill Shiell

What could cause degradation in a nation of God's chosen people? Amos looks to the root of the problem in the focal passages for this lesson, as he brings judgment on the injustice caused by the lifestyles of the rich and famous followers of God.

Bible Study for Texas for 6_15_51903

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June 15

Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-24

Going to church never felt so bad

By Bill Shiell

"Is it ever a sin to go to church?" Randall O' Brien once posed this question to a group of students when discussing our focal passage for this lesson.

Bible Study for Texas for 6_22_51903

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June 22 Lesson

Amos 7:7-17

On the outside looking in

By Bill Shiell

For six chapters, Amos has preached a word of the Lord to the people. As a prophet, he has used the deeds of the people as signposts to point them to the problems of their day. Although the world around Amos was politically secure, spiritually the people were in shambles. In our focal text for this lesson, we gain insight into the prophet behind the prophecies.

Bible Study for Texas for 6_29_51903

October 10, 2003

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June 29 Lesson

Amos 9

Eyes wide open to the future

By Bill Shiell

Many people claiming to be prophets have attempted to see things in their day as signs apocalyptic events were near. In the 1800's, William Miller predicted Christ would return on Oct. 22, 1844. In 1988, Edgar Whisenant published "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will be in 1988." From Hal Lindsey to Tim LaHaye and other modern-day prognosticators, the doomsday theorists abound hoping to read the tea leaves and be the first to show that the end of time is coming.

Baylor regents investigate board for interfering in drug investigation_52603

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Baylor regents investigate board member

for interfering in drug investigation

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

Baylor University's board of regents has launched an investigation of board member Jaclanel McFarland, reportedly on charges that she interfered with an undercover drug investigation on campus.

Around the State_60203

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Around the State

Virgil Grotfeldt, assistant professor of art at Houston Baptist University, recently was selected by the Art League of Houston as the 2003 recipient of the Texas Artist of the Year award.

♦ Several Dallas Baptist University baseball players garnered awards for play this past season. Senior centerfielder **Josh Causey** was named the Heartland Conference Co-Player of the Year, hitting .324 with 24 doubles, 12 home runs and 60 RBI. He ended his career one shy of the school home run record of 45. Also named to the all-conference team were pitcher **Lance Broadway**, first baseman/designated hitter **Greg Lindsey** and third baseman **Cody Montgomery**. Head coach **Mike Baird**, in his first season at DBU, was named the Heartland Conference Coach of the Year after

guiding the Patriots to the conference championship.



San Marcos Baptist Academy's Color Guard received national exposure during the National Basketball Association regular season when it posted colors at the San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Lakers basketball game. For the past several years, SMBA's Color Guard has been asked to post colors at one of the Spurs' games, but this one was special for a number of reasons. First, it was a nationally televised game, and the Color Guard presentation was included in the telecast. Often, the networks do not cover this ceremony, but this year, because of war-related patriotism, it was. Additionally, the game featured a special retirement celebration for David Robinson, and the contestants in the Miss USA pageant also were at the game.

Anniversaries

♦ **Claude Blackwell**, 20th, in the ministry June 1. He is associate pastor of education at Gregg-ton First Church in Longview.

BaptistWay literature fosters more Texas identity at Columbus Avenue_60203

October 10, 2003

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BaptistWay literature fosters more Texas identity at Columbus Avenue

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

WACO-Columbus Avenue Baptist Church has no problem attracting worshippers. It draws more than 1,200 a week.

Parents abdicate spiritual training of children to church,

Barna says_60203

October 10, 2003

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Parents abdicate spiritual training of children to church, Barna says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON-Christianity is the only worldview emphasizing parents' responsibility to raise their children, researcher George Barna said during a recent conference at Lamar Baptist Church.

Barna: Undercurrent of change bubbling under religious indicators_60203

October 10, 2003

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Undercurrent of change bubbling under religious indicators

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON-While traditional religious indicators over the past decade appear constant, an undercurrent of change is affecting segments of the population, Christian researcher George Barna said during a conference at Lamar Baptist Church.