

music_pirates_90803

September 16, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

Does your church harbor pirates?

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Pirates not only have ruled the Caribbean at the box office this summer, they've continued to ravage the music industry, including the Christian music industry.

Christian Music Business

- [Does your church harbor pirates?](#)
 - [Ministers suspected among best-known music pirates](#)
 - [Christian contemporary music: business or ministry?](#)
 - [Destination Known charts a course](#)

letters_90803

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Judicial activism

I've noticed in the media coverage of Judge Roy Moore's Ten Commandments travail in Alabama a constitutional "sleight of hand" being performed by pundits before an unsuspecting public.

Those opposed to the judge's display of the Ten Commandments have cleverly substituted the phrase "state endorsement of religion" for "state establishment of religion." Moore's 5,000-pound monument represents the "endorsement of a specific religion" we are told.

E-mail the editor at

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So what? Nothing in the Constitution prohibits the government from endorsing, preferring or even supporting with tax dollars a particular religion, just as President Thomas Jefferson-the father of the phrase "separation of church and state"-did when he requested funds from Congress to support Christian missionaries to the Kaskaskia Indians.

tidbits_90803

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Texas Tidbits

HBTS alumni reunion planned. Alumni, faculty, and staff of Hispanic Baptist Theological School will join in a reunion event Oct. 3-4. The event will begin with dinner on the Riverwalk in San Antonio Friday night before a day of activities Saturday. Current students are organizing an international fair, decorating booths and cooking food from their countries of origin. Alumni will have opportunities to take their best shots at staff in a dunking booth. To RSVP, call HBTS (210) 924-4338 or email rayala@hbts.edu.



Jim Wilkinson

◆ **Baylor honors former military spokesman.** Jim Wilkinson, who served the last 10 months as director of strategic communications for Gen. Tommy Franks at U.S. Central Command, received the 2003 Baylor Communications Award Aug. 25. The award recognizes those who have

distinguished themselves in the field of communications and in their communities. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Wilkinson served as Gen. Franks' principal spokesman. In addition to a number of other roles within the Republican Party, Wilkinson served as a spokesman for George W. Bush during the Florida recount. From 1992 to 2000, he worked for U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey. The Waco Tribune-Herald reported that Baylor President Robert Sloan recently offered Wilkinson a position as vice president for university relations. Instead, however, Wilkinson accepted a new role as communications director for the 2004 Republican National Convention. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and Johns Hopkins University.

- ◆ **UMHB receives grant.** The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has received a \$200,000 grant from the Thomas Kinder and Martha Farris Foundation of Floydada for the Mayborn Campus Center. Martha White Farris is a 1942 graduate of the university. She served as honorary chair of the university's "Challenge Beyond 2000" campaign that raised \$17 million.

cartoon_90803

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[See second cartoon here.](#)

“After 20 years in the ministry, I don't know if my sermons are any better, but my resignation letter is without equal.”



“I understand you don't like my ponytail, Mrs. Tidwell, but there are more inflammatory issues at hand.”

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

etbu_90803

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ETBU student's ministry highlights heroes

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

MARSHALL-Every child needs a hero, Michael Barron figured. And given good role models, every child has the potential to become a hero to someone else, he reasoned.

explore9_14_90803

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Sept. 14

Paul reminds readers of heavenly citizenship

Philippians 1:18-30

By John Duncan

explore9_21_90803

September 16, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Sept. 21

Humility is a key ingredient in good relationships

Philippians 2:1-11

By John Duncan

family9_14_90803

September 16, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Sept. 14

Worship is meant to glorify God, not self

Matthew 6:1-18

By David Jenkins

family9_21_90803

September 16, 2003

Posted: 9/5/03

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Sept. 21

Christians should align priorities

carefully

Matthew 6:19-34

By David Jenkins

focus_90803

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<p>Volunteers count the \$11,000 offering given for missions.</p>	<p>A student pauses for a time of reflection outside the UTA BSM before ministering to international students.</p>



A group of students examine missions material they picked up from exhibitors.
(Becky Holt/BGCT Photos)



Kent Barlow,
director of Baptist Student Ministries
at the University of
Texas at Dallas,
prays during a
worship session

Students 'Focus' on faith



A Stephen F. Austin University student converses with another Focus participant between sessions.

FORT WORTH-About 3,500 college students spent their Labor Day weekend at Focus, a Baptist General Convention of Texas event offering spiritual preparation at the start of the school year.

Gregg Matte, founder of Breakaway Ministries, and Voddie Baucham, a well-known youth speaker, encouraged the students to concentrate on developing themselves spiritually while reaching out to non-believers on their campuses. "Focus" isn't just the name of an event; it's what every Christian needs to do, Matte said.

A focus on faith development, as well as educational development, will lead to greater vision for God's work and more relationships that further the kingdom of God, he explained. Matte urged the students to move beyond a "pep rally for God" and using worship as a drug.

furniture_90803

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Above Jack Tennison (center) of First Baptist Church in Seguin, demonstrates the proper way to use a power planer to Harry Stallings and Loyd Ervin.

Above left: John Rushing of New Braunfels applies glue to a board, while Melvin Warren of Waco works on a large board that will become the side of a chest.

Left: Lora Morris of Clarksville, Ark., works alongside Texas volunteers to make dresses for orphan children in Juarez, Mexico.

(Kent Harville Photos)

Furniture builders make a case for volunteerism

By Sara Horn

LifeWay Christian Resources

GLORIETA, N.M.-Next time you visit LifeWay Conference Center at Glorieta, look carefully at any new furniture in the rooms. There's a good chance it was built by Texas Baptist Men.

gibson_passion_90803

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In this still from the upcoming movie "The Passion," Jesus (James Caviezel) is met by his mother, Mary (Maria Morgenstern), on the way to his crucifixion.

Director Mel Gibson has come under fire from Jewish leaders, who believe the film portrays Jews negatively.

(Icon Productions/RNS Photo)

Gibson 'softens' Passion story but Jewish leaders skeptical of movie

By Kevin Eckstrom

Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)-Director Mel Gibson, under heavy fire from Jewish groups for his \$25 million movie on the death of Jesus, has "softened the

story” and made changes to make “The Passion” more palatable to critics, according to a spokesman.