

imb_retirees_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Retired missionaries call for end to inflammatory words against Islam

By Hannah Lodwick

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)-Ninety-five retired Southern Baptist missionaries who served in the Middle East and North Africa recently signed a resolution calling for U.S. Christian leaders to quit making inflammatory statements about the faith of people who live in the region.

imb_stocks_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Stock market gives IMB some financial relief

RICHMOND, Va.-Gains in the stock market are providing some relief for the International Mission Board's financial strains, the board's treasurer

told trustees during their July meeting in Richmond.

Investment income probably will reach the \$23 million level budgeted for 2003, reported David Stevenson. However, he did not rule out the possibility of further spending reductions in addition to the \$10 million cut from the IMB budget in June.

Those cuts eliminated 61 staff positions and put limits on the number of new missionary appointments allowed for the remainder of the year. While gifts to the IMB have increased 1.5 percent in the last two years, the board's missionary count has increased 8.7 percent.

letters_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Texas Baptist Forum: Common ground

I may have stumbled on a “common-ground” statement that would reunite those Christians of good will whose historic cooperation has been torn asunder by the “inerrancy” debates.

Perhaps we could all agree: God has miraculously supplied us with the Bible in exactly the form and using exactly the words that he wants us to have at this moment in time.

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To then judge the veracity of those chosen words would be, in essence, judging God himself, which I hope no one would ever dare.

marriage_births_81103

August 8, 2003
Posted: 8/8/03

Half of Americans approve of unmarried women giving birth

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Half of Americans now believe it is morally acceptable to have a baby outside of marriage, a Gallup Poll shows.

Pollsters found 51 percent of U.S. adults polled in May said out-of-wedlock births were morally acceptable, compared to 46 percent who said they were morally wrong. One year ago, slightly fewer (45 percent) thought such births were acceptable, while 50 percent thought they were wrong.

Views on the subject varied greatly depending on respondents' church-attending habits.

marriage_garland_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Garland book contains stories of family faith

Barbara Massey

EthicsDaily.com

WACO-In today's world, where families face many uncertainties, what resource is better for understanding and dealing with challenges than the stories of other families who have had similar experiences?

marriage_newlyweds_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Churches struggle to keep newlyweds in church after wedding

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

With the changing of the seasons, spring love turns to deep relationships as couples flock to churches to be married.

marriage_premarital_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

BEFORE 'I DO': Does premarital counseling make a difference?

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Marriage education and premarital counseling are the latest trends to emerge from the marriage movement-a push for stronger traditional families.

meteor_constantine_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Meteor proposed as Constantine's vision

LONDON (RNS)-Could the impact of a meteorite hitting the Italian Apennines have been the sign in the sky-believed to be in the shape of a cross-that encouraged the Emperor Constantine to invoke the Christian God in his decisive battle in 312 when he defeated his fellow Emperor Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge?

The victory paved the way for the recognition of Christianity by the Roman Empire and the union of church and state that lasted nearly 1,500 years.

The possibility is raised by a report in the current issue of New Scientist of the discovery of a meteorite impact crater dating from the fourth or fifth century A.D. in the Apennines.

mexican_partnership_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Mexican Baptists and Texas Baptists launch three-year partnership plan

By John Hall

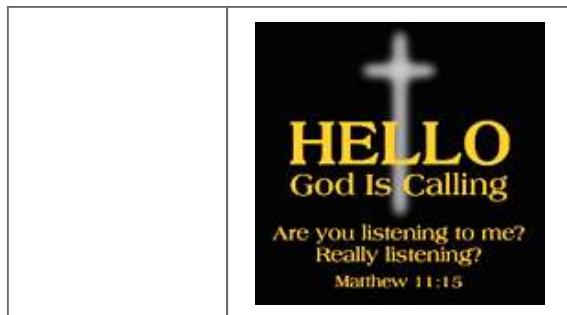
Texas Baptist Communications

The National Baptist Convention of Mexico unanimously approved a three-year partnership with the Baptist General Convention of Texas at its July 23 annual meeting in Mexico City.

mhd_gifts_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03



In San Carlos, teen volunteer Britney Smith holds a new glass pane in place while 5-year-old Azusena Cruz, a resident of the house, gazes outside. Through gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas missions, Baptist workers have helped the Cruz family secure their home and their eternal destiny.

Mary Hill Davis gifts warm hearts & homes

By Craig Bird

Texas Baptist Communications

MISSION-When the first hard freeze bullies its way into the Lower Rio Grande Valley this winter, folks at Kenefick Southern Baptist Church will be thinking about more than potential increases in citrus prices.

mhd_montana_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Leo Samaniego (left), River Ministry coordinator for El Paso Baptist Association, discusses church starting with Juan Perez, pastor of Montaña Vista Community Church.

Montaña Vista stands as mountain of witness in El Paso

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

EL PASO-Texas can't claim many scenic mountains, but this Montaña Vista on the edge of town is a beautiful sight to Baptist association leaders.

mhd_perigrino_81103

August 8, 2003

Posted: 8/8/03

Alfonzo López, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Peregrino, talks with Juan Rodriguez about his past alcoholism and later conversion to the faith.

Church's mission wrapped up in its name: Perigrino

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

EL PASO-Most church names are symbolic reminders of the faith or historical markers. For Iglesia Bautista Peregrino, the name points to a ministry.