

onthemove_60203

May 31, 2003

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On the Move

Walter Allen to Simpsonville Church in Pittsburg as pastor.

♦ **Jason Edwards** to First Church in Waco as youth minister.

♦ **Greg Gasaway** to Central Church in Pampa as minister of youth/music from Second Church in Levelland, where he was minister of youth/education.

physicians_60203

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Project frees physicians from debt for missions

By Deann Alford

Religion News Service

TEMPLE (RNS)-Africa needs doctors, and in 1997 Tracy and Patty Goen

were Christian physicians ready to respond to the need as medical missionaries. But like most medical school graduates, the couple was saddled with student debt. Together they owed \$100,000.

police_60203

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Fort Worth program places ministers alongside police officers

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

FORT WORTH—Some Baptists are known for stands against dancing and drinking and smoking, but Randy Austin wants to let Fort Worth know Baptists also will take a stand against crime.

prayer_case_60203

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VMI's prayers ruled unconstitutional

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)-An appellate court has ruled that the Virginia Military Institute's tradition of prayer before evening meals is unconstitutional.

"In establishing its supper prayer, VMI has done precisely what the First Amendment forbids," a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled April 28.

The decision upheld a lower court ruling.

primetime_60203

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Prime time sexual content declines

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Almost every broadcast network saw a marked decrease in sexual content during the evening "family hour" between 1998 and 2002, the Parents Television Council reports.

With the exception of the WB, every broadcast network decreased its sexual content from 8 to 9 p.m. in recent years. All the networks except the WB and UPN also showed a reduction in such content during the hour from 9 to 10 p.m.

"For years, conventional wisdom in Hollywood had it that 'sex sells,' and

therefore the more of it, the better,” said Brent Bozell, president of the Los Angeles-based council.

relton_60203

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Texas evangelist worked behind the scenes to comfort Smart family

A Texas evangelist played a behind-the-scenes role in encouraging the family of Elizabeth Smart through prayer and fasting.

Michael Relton, an evangelist and former pastor, currently lives in Dallas, where he is a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church. He is the author of “Dear God ... Prayer Book,” a collection of prayers for specific life problems.

Smart is the Salt Lake City girl who was abducted from her bedroom last June, sparking nationwide interest in the search for her.

richardson_60203

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Young and old harmonize on Richardson ministry

By George Henson

Staff Writer

RICHARDSON-Youth and senior adults joined hands at First Baptist Church of Richardson on a recent weekend to work in 15 area homes.

riverpointe_60203

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RiverPointe names 'em and claims 'em

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

CONROE-Forget "Cheers." At RiverPointe Baptist Church, everybody really knows everyone's name. It's written on their nametags.

sanmarcos_60203

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Hand-stenciled signs on a campus telephone pole honor graduating seniors at San Marcos Baptist Academy. Arman Rupani of Flower Mound (right) conducts an experiment in a science lab.

San Marcos Academy takes students full-speed ahead

By Craig Bird

Special to the Standard

SAN MARCOS-At first glance, the signs don't seem to share anything except proximity.

scouts_60203

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Baptists, Scouts pitch tents together 50 years

By Bob Carey

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptists and the Boy Scouts of America have worked through the Association of Baptists for Scouting for almost 50 years, so it was a reunion of sorts when more than 120 Scout leaders from 12 states and various Baptist denominations met this spring at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center.

secularists_60203

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Gallup explores identifiers for nation's 'secularists'

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)-The 10 percent of Americans who claim no religion tend to be young, liberal and live on the West Coast, according to research by the Gallup Organization.

The so-called “secularists,” while “being detached from the religious process also are apparently more likely to be detached from other American institutions such as marriage and the political process,” Gallup researchers said.

While 69 percent of secularists are registered to vote, that figure is smaller than the 83 percent registered among Americans who claim a religious preference. The percentage of secularists who are unmarried and living with a partner-12 percent-is double that for religious Americans.

south_africa_60203

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Song played role in South Africa

NEW YORK (RNS)-Did music help end apartheid in South Africa, a nation where long ago song, spirit and faith merged into one?

Yes, argues a new documentary that chronicles the role that

song-inseparable from religious faith-played in the four-decade struggle to overthrow white minority rule in South Africa.

“Amandla: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony” communicates what New York Times critic Elvis Mitchell calls music's “subversive power.”