

steeples_60203

May 31, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

More steeples doing double duty

NEW YORK (RNS)-About 1 percent of all cell phone towers in the United States are housed in church steeples, according to the New York Times.

Cell phone companies that have looked to expand their coverage areas often pay churches between \$1,000 and \$3,000 a month to rent space in church steeples, said Jim Fryer, a cell phone analyst in Landsdown, Pa.

The steeples provide the height needed to transmit signals and often receive the blessing of urban planners who do not want transmission towers cluttering the skyline.

tbm_iraq_60103

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Texas Baptist Men ship 600 boxes of food donated for Iraqi people

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-Texas Baptist Men has shipped about 600 food boxes donated by Texas churches to Iraq to help with relief efforts.

teens_60203

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Religious teens have stronger family ties

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (RNS) -Teens who are members of religiously involved families are likely to have stronger family relationships than teens in families that are not religiously active, a new report shows.

The findings come from a report by the National Study of Youth and Religion, a four-year research project based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"All three dimensions of family and parental religious involvement analyzed here (family religious activity, parental religious service attendance and parental prayer) tend to be associated significantly with positive family relationship characteristics," reads the executive summary of the report.

tidbits_60203

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Texas Tidbits

DBU wins baseball title. In its first appearance in the National Christian College Athletic Association National Championship, Dallas Baptist University claimed the title May 17 with a 4-3 win over top-seeded Spring Arbor University. DBU entered the final round in Celina, Ohio, as the only undefeated team.



Noble
Hurley
stands
with DBU
President
Gary
Cook in
front of
the sign
marking
the name
of the
new
apartment
building.

✖ **Hurley Hall named.** Dallas Baptist University has dedicated one of its new Colonial Village apartment buildings in honor of Noble Hurley and his late wife, Jane. He is a longtime supporter of the school and currently serves as a trustee. He is a member of Gaston Oaks Baptist Church in Dallas and worked 32 years as president of Noble Hurley Brick Co. He also served 20 years as chairman of Swiss Avenue Bank.

✖ **Ball receives Baylor honor.** Virginia Beall Ball of Indiana received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Baylor University May 17. The 1940 Baylor graduate endowed the Beall-Russell Lecture Series and the Beall Poetry Festival, in addition to other contributions to the university.

✖ **Baylor alumni honor Olson.** The Baylor University Alumni Association presented its Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award May 17 to Lyndon Olson Jr. of Waco. He is a 1969 Baylor Law School

graduate and a former member of the Texas House of Representatives. Currently, he is senior adviser to Citigroup in New York City.

tithing_60203

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Percentage of tithing households drops

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)-The portion of American households that tithe, or give one-tenth of their income, to their church dropped from 8 percent in 2001 to 3 percent in 2002, according to the Barna Research Group.

The Ventura, Calif.-based marketing research firm found that groups with the highest proportion of tithers were people ages 55 or older, college graduates, Republicans, Southerners, conservatives, middle-income individuals, evangelicals, and those who attend mainline Protestant churches.

Those least likely to tithe included Hispanics, liberals, Catholics, parents who home-school their children, Midwesterners, those not registered to vote or registered as independents, and households earning less than \$20,000 and without a head of household who graduated from college.

together_60203

May 31, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

TOGETHER:

Texas needs more new churches

With 5,716 churches and missions related to the Baptist General Convention of Texas, there is one Texas Baptist congregation for every 3,761 people in our state. In five years, a projected 1.7 million people will be added to our current population of 21.8 million Texans-10.5 million of whom are not a part of any faith community.

If we are to continue serving Texas as we have, we must start at least 1,100 congregations in the next five years. We are off to a good start. The BGCT Church Starting Center's Genesis Project goal is for Texas Baptists to start 777 churches in three years, and we helped to start 264 this past year.

CHARLES WADE Executive Director BGCT Executive Board
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We estimate we will lose about 600 churches and missions over the next

five years due to disbandment and mergers. Over the past five years, 718 churches have uniquely aligned with the other state convention, and 254 have entered into a dual alignment with them while remaining connected to the BGCT as well. Last year, our loss of churches to the other convention was less than 17 percent of the previous year, and we added 3.5 churches for every one that joined the other convention.

twins_60203

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Born together, baptized together, 82-year-old blind twins open eyes

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS—They were together at birth, and yet again at the baptism ceremony symbolizing their rebirth 82 years later.

under_god_60203

May 31, 2003

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Bush administration asks court to allow 'under God'

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The Bush administration has formally asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule a lower court decision and allow the Pledge of Allegiance to include the words "one nation under God."

U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson said last summer's ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that said the pledge violates the separation of church and state is "manifestly contrary" to previous church-state cases.

"Whatever else the (First Amendment) may prohibit, this court's precedents make it clear that it does not forbid the government from officially acknowledging the religious heritage, foundation and character of this nation," Olson wrote in his argument.

wayland_team_60203

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Wayland sends out revival team

By Jonathan Petty

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-Wayland Baptist University will extend the reach of its student summer missions teams this year with a new Lighting the Way revival team.

wayland_center_60203

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The first phase of Wayland's Laney Center will include a gym, track, weight training and aerobics areas.

Wayland plans new student recreation center

PLAINVIEW-Wayland Baptist University will break ground by the end of this year on phase one of the Pete and Nelda Laney Student Activities Center.

President Paul Armes announced May 16 that the 51,010-square-foot facility will be constructed in two phases in order to expedite its use.

The first phase, to be constructed at a cost of \$4.4 million, will include a double gymnasium, indoor track, weight training and aerobics area, classrooms, dressing rooms and a student lounge. The second phase will add an Olympic-size natatorium.

workplace_bill_60203

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Broad coalition supporting workplace freedom bill

By Kevin Eckstrom

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON—An unusually broad coalition of religious groups is pushing a bill that would protect religious expression in the workplace. But civil liberties groups are concerned the bill could be used to advance on-the-job proselytizing.

mclaren_60203

May 31, 2003

Book reimagines evangelism

for a post-apologetic world

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

SPENCERVILLE, Md. (ABP)-What can the mating habits of tortoises teach humans about their spiritual connection to God?