

edwards_60203

May 30, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

Bernice Edwards dies in an Illinois prison

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (RNS)-The woman whose wild spending and close relationship with a Baptist minister landed them both in prison has died.

Bernice Vernell Edwards was 46. She was serving a nine-month prison sentence in Illinois and suffered from a "chronic pulmonary condition," the St. Petersburg Times reported. An autopsy was scheduled to determine the exact cause of death.

Edwards was a close associate of Henry Lyons, former president of the National Baptist Convention USA. When Lyons' wife suspected the two of having an affair, she set fire to a waterfront mansion co-owned by Lyons and Edwards. Both denied a romantic affair.

ethics_60203

May 30, 2003

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HealthSouth executive, accused of fraud, heard sermons on ethics

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS) -HealthSouth Corp. founder Richard Scrushy, accused by federal investigators of overseeing massive accounting fraud, sat through many Sunday sermons on corporate ethics and the hazards of wealth, his pastor says.

explore_60203

May 30, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for June 8

Salvation comes through personal faith in Jesus

Galatians 2:4-5, 11-21

By Jim Perkins

Madison Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio

family_60203

May 30, 2003

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for June 8

Indicators of a growing disciple of Christ

Luke 9:23-24; Ephesians 4:29-5:10

By Tim Owens

First Baptist Church, Bryan

foreman_60203

May 30, 2003

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GEORGE FOREMAN:

Heaven-bound heavyweight

George Foreman, two-time former heavyweight boxing champion and globally renowned corporate spokesman, is also an ordained minister and founder of the George Foreman Youth and Community Center in Houston.

Q:

In your book, you talk about your childhood-how you were raised in extreme poverty and had to learn everything the hard way. What was it like for you growing up?



I was raised in a one-parent home, and my mother had to work two jobs. When you're in a single-parent home, they try to give you a good foundation, but by the time you're 4 or 5 years old, from that point on you're pretty much on your own. You get your hand burned, and you learn not to put your hand on the fire. So everything I learned I had to learn the hard way. There are seven of us total, I'm number five of seven kids, four boys and three girls. Most of my childhood I was raised in the city of Houston, where I am now. But I started my boxing career in California.

Q:

gay_prayer_60203

May 30, 2003

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House prayer led by gay pastor

WASHINGTON (RNS)-For the first time, a pastor affiliated with the nation's largest primarily gay denomination has offered the opening prayer in the House of Representatives.

Steven Torrance, a police chaplain in Key West, Fla., and a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Church, offered the prayer May 1, which also was designated the National Day of Prayer.

"Help us to secure justice and equality for every human being; help us bring an end to division, and continue to build our country on peace and love," Torrance prayed in the House chambers.

gay_sbc_60203

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Gay-right protestors target SBC again

By Bob Allen

EthicsDaily.com

For the fourth consecutive year, homosexual-rights activists are organizing a presence at the Southern Baptist Convention to protest anti-homosexuality rhetoric by the convention.

sanangelo_51903

May 30, 2003

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Members of Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo dedicate lumber to be used in the Habitat project, part of the church's 25th anniversary celebration. "To have children give \$2.50 for a 2 x 4 stud, and then to see that stud become a part of someone's house, that's when missions becomes real."

San Angelo church builds a mission project in parking lot

By George Henson

Staff Writer

SAN ANGELO—Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo may be setting

a record for the shortest distance ever traveled on a mission trip. This mission is taking shape on the church parking lot.

hispanic_51903

May 30, 2003

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Hispanic School OKs 2008 plans

SAN ANTONIO-Trustees of Hispanic Baptist Theological School approved final preparations to purchase an 82-acre tract across I-35 from the school's current facilities.

Meeting May 6, the board also elected a vice president for advancement, approved the first graduating class with bachelor of arts degrees, approved a strategic plan for 2003-2008 and granted the first sabbatical leave in the school's history.

The property purchase previously was affirmed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Education Coordinating Board.

iraq_51903

May 30, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

Iraqi Christians fear for safety

By Mark Mueller

Religion News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq (RNS)-Two weeks ago, Raad Karim Essa arrived home from work to find his furniture on the street. His Muslim landlord wasn't renting to Christians anymore.

Father Adda, an Assyrian Orthodox Christian, prepares for Palm Sunday at his ancient monastery on Mount Maqloub, just outside the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, April 19.

The monastery was built in 363 A.D., and its renovation was funded by ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Although Iraq under Saddam was primarily a Muslim state, the regime tolerated other religious groups. In post-war Iraq,

Christians increasingly express fear that a Shiite Muslim majority will not grant freedom of worship for all.

(REUTERS/Nikola Solic Photo)

hesaid_51903

May 30, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

He Said/ She Said:

The award

SHE SAID:

“Mrs. Wingfield, this is Denise May at Moss Haven.” That greeting on our home answering machine started my heart pumping. Mrs. May is our assistant principal in charge of discipline. “Oh, no, I thought, who's in trouble? What did one of my sons do?”

All that went through my mind in the split second before the message continued, “ ... there's nothing wrong.”

Mrs. May must be used to my previous reactions. She continued, “Garrett wanted to share some good news with you, so if you get this message in the next half hour, please call me back.”

iraqi_commission_51903

May 30, 2003

Posted: 5/21/03

Commission urges religious freedom in Iraq

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has urged President Bush to maintain his commitment to religious freedom for all Iraqis.

“Now that Saddam Hussein has been ousted, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom believes strongly it is essential to ensure that the Iraqi people can exercise their religious freedom in full accordance with international human rights standards,” commission members wrote Bush in a letter dated April 28. “The United States can help this become a reality.”

The commission expressed its concern that U.S. leadership is needed to prevent ethnic and sectarian violence and other human rights violations against Iraq's diverse religious communities.