

Christian website offers YouTube alternative for wary Baptists

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07

Christian website offers YouTube alternative for wary Baptists

By Grace Thornton

The Alabama Baptist

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP)—Move over, YouTube. Baptists have video cameras. And they're using them, now that they have a "safe" place to share their videos online, said Bill Nix, CEO and president of Axletree Media.

Axletree's E-zekiel, a website builder and host used by churches and other nonprofits around the world, has come out with a video counterpart to its popular web service: E-zekiel.tv, which launched in early November.



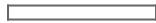
Faith Digest

December 13, 2007

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Faith Digest

Court rejects faith-based prison program. An Iowa prisoner rehabilitation program run by evangelicals oversteps church-state boundaries and should not receive government funds, a federal appeals court has ruled. InnerChange Freedom Initiative runs a program "dominated by Bible study, Christian classes, religious revivals and church services," according to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. While participation in the program was voluntary, prisoners who signed up got better cells, were allowed more visits from family members and had greater access to computers than other inmates, the court found. The prison program, affiliated with Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministry, received state funds from Iowa beginning in 2000. Part of that money must be returned to the state, the court ruled, but it reversed the decision of a lower court that would have required InnerChange to repay the entire \$1.5 million it received in government funds.



Religion website acquired by Fox. Beliefnet.com, one of the country's leading websites devoted to religion and spirituality, is under new management as part of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. and the Fox Entertainment Group. The acquisition adds to News Corp.'s \$64 billion media empire, including the 20th Century Fox film studios, the Wall Street Journal, MySpace, the Fox Faith film division, and HarperOne and Zondervan, two of the biggest names in Christian publishing.

GodTube offers Christian alternative to YouTube

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GodTube offers Christian alternative to YouTube

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

DALLAS (RNS)—Chris Wyatt and the Internet have something going.

In the late '90s, the young television producer helped start Communities.com, the world's first social networking website. The site exploded into the Internet's largest pre-MySpace network.

Does â€œCompassâ€ point kids

in the wrong direction?

December 13, 2007

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Does 'Compass' point kids in the wrong direction?

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—The holiday season means it's time for another Hollywood wintry blockbuster with a cast of talking animals, witches and an earnest child to point the way to truth and justice.

But some Christians who applauded the Christian allegory in *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *The Lord of the Rings* now worry that *The Golden Compass*, the recently released silver screen adaptation of Philip Pullman's book, will poison kid's minds with atheism.

[ad]

Nicole
Kidman
(Mrs.
Coulter)
and
Dakota
Blue
Richards
(Lyra)
star in
The
Golden
Compass.
Some
critics
complain
the film
may
steer
children
toward
atheism.

Practical tips on helping the

homeless

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Practical tips on helping the homeless

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Steve Burger, former executive director of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, urges Americans not to give money to homeless people on the streets.

â€œCan you spare some change?â€œ Many Christians unsure how to respond

December 13, 2007

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‘Can you spare some change?’

Many Christians unsure how to respond

By Heather Donckels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Every day, Lawaune Stockton stands with her cup in front of a downtown McDonald's, jingling the change inside as customers come and go. She cinches the strings on the hood of her sweatshirt to keep out the damp air.

Stockton, who's only been homeless four months, knows some passersby think homeless people ask for money to buy drugs and alcohol, but the stereotype doesn't stop her.

Laredo ministry seeks to offer children in need a healthy start

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07

Laredo ministry seeks to offer children in need a healthy start

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

LAREDO—Imagine going 24 hours without electricity or running water. Consider what it would mean to someone in an emergency if they had to walk blocks to meet an ambulance because it would not cross the county line into their neighborhood.

Cristina De Bosquez doesn't have to imagine. She works daily with people who live in exactly those situations.

Vibrant smiles, like this young girl's, are both the aim and the reward for staff members in the Healthy Start Laredo program of Baptist Child & Family Services.
(Photo/Martin Olivares/BCFS)

Texas Baptist Forum

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Posted: 12/14/07

Texas Baptist Forum

God & science

Too often, Christians believe science is an enemy of the Bible. On the contrary, the sciences magnify the glory of God.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to

marvknox@baptiststandard.com;
250 words maximum.

Out((Loud))

"The coldest of seasons, winter is like the 4-year-old crashing a birthday party. No matter if it's his or not, all of him says, 'I'm here, and I'm taking over.'"

Don Newbury

President emeritus of Howard Payne University

"I had a wedding or a funeral, I can't remember which. Anyway, I don't pre-empt a wedding or a funeral for a presidential candidate. Because I'm a pastor."

Leith Anderson

President of the National Association of Evangelicals, describing how he reacted when contacted by a presidential campaign to meet with a candidate (Associated Press/RNS)

"Health care should be part of foreign policy; it makes friends. Does God have favorites? Yes he does; he loves the poor."

Rick Warren

Pastor/author/poverty advocate (RNS)

In the Old Testament, Joshua 10:12-14 can be explained through science. Astronomy tells us Earth revolves around the sun. Physics tells us that if Earth were to stop turning, it would be the end of all life on earth. Phenomenology tells us we experience physical life through the phenomenological perceptions of our senses; therefore, we can understand this Scripture reference was inspired in the terms of the writer's phenomenological understanding. Through science, we know the sun did not actually stop, but Earth stopped turning for about a full day, and the moon held its place. The magnitude of this miracle demonstrates the awesome power of God.

This is a compact example of how the church can—from behind the pulpit and in Sunday school classes—make Holy Scripture relevant in today's culture. "The very core of the secular culture in the United States today is their view of knowledge through the senses ... they see any thing outside the realm of the senses as a matter of how one feels about it ... a dangerous philosophy," notes J.P. Moreland of Biola University.

Interracial New Baptist Covenant program focuses on unity in Christ

December 13, 2007
Posted: 12/14/07

Interracial New Baptist Covenant program focuses on unity in Christ

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Even though they are known for their history of independence, Baptists from more than 40 American and Canadian groups will converge under a banner of unity next month in Atlanta.

Organizers of the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant recently announced the event's theme, "Unity in Christ," and details of special breakout sessions. The historic convergence—20,000 Baptists expected from a wide variety of geographical, racial, denominational and ideological backgrounds—is scheduled Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the Georgia World Congress Center.



New Jersey church makes good on \$1 million pledge to Gulf Coast

December 13, 2007

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New Jersey church makes good on \$1 million pledge to Gulf Coast

By **Jeff Diamant**

Religion News Service

SUMMIT, N.J. (RNS)—Fountain Baptist Church, an African-American congregation formed 110 years ago in Summit, N.J., mostly by gardeners and domestic workers, recently gained the distinction of being one of the few churches nationwide ever to raise \$1 million for a specific charitable cause.

Members of the congregation have been donating money for the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort since May 2006, when Fountain Baptist announced its \$1 million pledge. The members met the pledge in November and celebrated the achievement at the church's annual Thanksgiving services.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Roddy Arnold** to First Church in Pottsboro as pastor.
- **Brian Brewer** to First Church in Sulphur Springs as high school

minister.

- **Jonathan Brown** to First Church in Temple as minister of children from First Church in Kingwood.
- **John Cox** has resigned as pastor of McMahan Church in Dale.

Romney garners praise, criticism for church-state views in speech

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Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney delivers an address titled "Faith in America" at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station. (REUTERS /Jessica Rinaldi)

Romney garners praise, criticism for church-state views in speech

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Mitt Romney's speech on faith and public affairs elicited both praise and criticism from a broad spectrum of observers—and it didn't always break down along traditional right-left lines.

The highly anticipated speech by the Republican presidential contender

was designed to allay the fears of evangelical Christians, who make up a large proportion of GOP voters in Iowa. Recent polls have shown churchgoing evangelicals are more likely than any other major group to harbor doubts about electing a Mormon president.