

# Study links video violence to aggressive behavior

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## Study links video violence to aggressive behavior

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Repeated exposure to video violence—particularly interactive games—influences aggressive behavior more than drug use, poverty or domestic abuse, a University of Michigan researcher has asserted.

In fact, the correlation between media violence and aggression is at least as strong as the link between exposure to second-hand smoke and lung cancer, said Brad Bushman, psychology professor and research associate in the university's [Institute for Social Research](#).

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## Family Place helps mother leave

# fear behind

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## Family Place helps mother leave fear behind

**By Analiz González**

*Buckner International*

MIDLAND—Ambra Riley spent the night in her daughters' room holding her baby tightly in her arms. She put something over the doorknob so she'd know if her husband tried to enter.

Her husband may have stolen her self-esteem and robbed her family of happiness, but he would not take her son, she reasoned.

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Ambra Riley  
hugs her  
children  
outside her  
home at  
Buckner  
Family Place,  
a self-  
sufficiency  
program for  
single moms  
working  
towards a  
college  
education in  
Midland,  
Texas.

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# **Mission workers help bring clean water, love of Christ to Ethiopia**

December 5, 2007  
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# Mission workers help bring clean water, love of Christ to Ethiopia

**By Carla Wynn Davis**

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

RIFT VALLEY, Ethiopia (ABP)— Nearly 75 percent of Ethiopians—about 55 million people—lack access to clean water. It’s a crisis not discussed often enough, according to missionary workers there.

Many Ethiopians drink from rivers in areas known for famine, malnutrition and cholera outbreaks. That “silent tsunami” is responsible for the deaths of millions around the world each year, said David Harding, a field representative with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

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In Ethiopia, children often spend a lot of their time each day fetching water instead of going to school or helping on their family's farm.  
(CBF Photo)

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**Stem-cell breakthrough may not end debateâ€”at least for**

**now**

December 5, 2007

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## **Stem-cell breakthrough may not end debate—at least for now**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Although many religious conservatives cheered the recent announcement of a breakthrough in stem-cell research, the moral controversy over the practice may not end any time soon.

The announcement—made by independent teams of scientists working in Japan and Wisconsin—holds the promise of cures for a host of debilitating and terminal diseases. Scientists have studied embryonic stem cells for more than a decade because of their potential to become any one of more than 200 types of tissues in the human body.

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## **Veteran Baptist journalist Roy Jennings dies at age 83**

December 5, 2007

Posted: 12/03/07

# Veteran Baptist journalist Roy Jennings dies at age 83

By **Lonnie Wilkey**

*Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. (ABP)—Veteran Southern Baptist journalist Roy Jennings died Nov. 22. He was 83.

Jennings is best known in Southern Baptist circles for his work as news editor in the newsrooms at the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was also instrumental in helping Southern Baptist journalists gain the respect of their secular counterparts.

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## **Baptist pastor on hit list in Turkey**

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Posted: 12/03/07

## **Baptist pastor on hit list in Turkey**

Washington, D.C. (BWA)—A Baptist pastor in Turkey has been placed on a death list.

Ertan Mesut Cevik, pastor of a Baptist church in Izmir, the modern name

for biblical Smyrna, and Turkey's third largest city by population, has received increased police protection after his name was found on a list carried by three suspected terrorists. The three, who are arrested, are suspected of planning wide scale attacks after a large cache of weapons was found in their possession.

Cevik has been under police protection since April 2007 after he hosted a funeral service for one of three Christians that was killed in Turkey on April 18. Two of the murder victims, Necati Aydin, 36, and Ugur Yuksel, 32, were Turks who converted from Islam to Christianity. The third man, Tillman Geske, 46, was a German citizen.

The Baptist pastor was also protected after he and the Baptist congregation were accused in a Turkish newspaper article, published after the three murders in April, of engaging in "coercive evangelism" by using money and drugs to attract young people. These charges were denied by the church.

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## **Need help understanding the Old Testament? Ask an African Christian**

December 5, 2007

Posted: 11/30/07

# Need help understanding the Old Testament? Ask an African Christian

By **Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

SAN DIEGO (ABP)—African Christians tend to understand and appreciate the Old Testament far better than their Western counterparts, author Philip Jenkins told a group of evangelical scholars.

Jenkins, a professor of religious studies and history at Pennsylvania State University, spoke in San Diego to fellow members of the Evangelical Theological Society. His speech was one of several addresses and papers presented during the body's 59th annual meeting.

**Cultures that espouse tribal identities and are intimately acquainted with animal sacrifice, dietary restrictions, polygamy, sacred rocks and the like are well-equipped to read and identify with the Hebrew Bible's stories**

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# Around the State

December 5, 2007

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## Around the State

- **E-mails of support** for military personnel and their families are being collected for inclusion with Christmas cards and care packages to be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan during the holiday season. The e-mails can be sent to [OperationEagle@comcast.net](mailto:OperationEagle@comcast.net).
- **Andy and Joan Horner** have been named recipients of the 2007 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award by Dallas Baptist University. Gov. Rick Perry was the keynote speaker, and Bo Pilgrim, founder and CEO of Pilgrim's Pride, was the honorary chair of the dinner, which drew more than 1,200 in attendance. The Horners are the founders of the Premier Designs direct-sales jewelry company and are members of First Church in Dallas.

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Judy Lyssy, a San Marcos Baptist Academy parent, made a \$25,000 donation to the school to fund new media and development tools and equip the golf team with new equipment and uniforms. She made the donation in support of the school's centennial celebration capital campaign. The campaign has a phase one goal of \$2.1 million, and a \$3.6 million goal for the second phase. Other projects slated for funding include dormitory renovations, improvements in the athletic fields, campus-wide technology upgrades, and building renovations and upgrades.

- **The East Texas Baptist University** Office of Alumni Relations presented its J. Wesley Smith Achievement Award to Lanny Loe, executive pastor of First Church in Jonesboro, Ga., in recognition of his mobilization of more than 20 percent of the church's members in foreign missions projects. The W.T. Tardy Service Award was presented to Jim and Janet Palmer. He taught at the school 26 years, and the couple has supported the school with their time and financial gifts. The Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Tequecie Meek and Randy Pegues in recognition of their contributions to society. Bob and Carol Braly received the Unsung Hero Award for his work as a pastor and chaplain to law enforcement agencies in Louisiana and her support of his ministry. Bonnie Kay, the university's oldest-living alumnus at 99 years of age, received the Sallie M. Duncan Life Enrichment Award.

- **Priscilla Heard**, a piano teacher and music educator, has been inducted into the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor music department's hall of fame as its 30th Distinguished Musician.

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## **Musical couple begins new phase of ministry in Australia**

December 5, 2007

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# Musical couple begins new phase of ministry in Australia

**By Jonathan Petty**

*Wayland Baptist University*

PLAINVIEW—After three years in Australia performing Christian concerts, Clint and Jennifer Staj are spending the holidays state-side this year before starting work in January as youth ministers at an Australian Baptist church.

Three years ago, the Stajes—along with band members and fellow Wayland Baptist University alumni Greg and Sara Howle and Salem Posey—moved to Australia where they performed Christian concerts under the name Zuigia. About a year ago, the group members decided to go their separate ways.



Clint and Jennifer Staj, with 9-month-old Makarios, continue their mission work in Australia. After the first of the year, they will begin work as youth ministers at Cooma Baptist Church.

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## **Baptist bell-ringer tolls for Episcopal weddings, funerals**

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Irene Raymond is a Baptist but has been ringing the bell at All Saints Episcopal Church in Mobile, Ala., for weddings and funerals more than 35 years. (RNS photo/Mike Kittrell/*Press-Register* of Mobile, Ala.)

## **Baptist bell-ringer tolls for Episcopal weddings, funerals**

**By Roy Hoffman**

*Religion News Service*

OBILE, Ala. (RNS)—Solemn and intent, Irene Raymond stands in the vestibule of All Saints Episcopal Church and clutches the rope that leads through a hole in the ceiling to a 1,500-pound bell.

Slowly, methodically, she puts the whole weight of her body into the first pull—gong. Then, as the bell swings the other way high above, she pulls down again, harder. Gong!

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# Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

[Higher Ground: A Call for Christian Civility](#) by **Russell Dilday (Smyth & Helwys)**

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Conflict is inevitable in any relationship. Unfortunately, most Christians are ill prepared to handle conflict in a Christ-like manner.

Russell Dilday provides an insightful option to how conflict can be addressed. He uses his personal experience in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy of the 1980s to call Christians to higher ground during times of conflict.

**Off the Bookshelf**  
What's everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

The conflict and methods of conflict that occurred in the convention easily could have names changed and possible tactics changed, but the results and motives would remain the same as the conflicts that occur within local congregations. This book is a somber reminder that by taking the name of

Christ as our own, we are called to a different standard.

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# Baptist Briefs

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## Baptist Briefs

**Florida Baptists adopt alcohol abstinence policy.** Messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention annual meeting overwhelmingly approved a bylaw revision requiring all trustee nominees to sign a pledge that they will abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages and using any other recreational drugs. The bylaw revision on alcohol abstention—proposed by the Florida State Board of Missions—passed with few dissenting votes. The abstinence provision resulted from a pledge announced by Executive Director John Sullivan at the Florida convention’s 2006 annual meeting. Reacting to a prolonged debate at the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention over the use of beverage alcohol, Sullivan said he was “embarrassed” by the protracted discussion and wanted to clarify Florida Baptists’ position on the issue. Messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention annual meeting passed a similar measure binding on its staff and elected officials.

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**Kentucky Baptists hear ‘troubling’ report on spiritual maturity.** Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s annual meeting heard a

sobering report on the theological views of average Kentucky Baptists. Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Christian Resources' research department, presented findings from a study on the level of spiritual maturity and discipleship among Kentucky Baptists. Describing some of the findings as "troubling," McConnell said only 49 percent of respondents disagreed with the "heretical statement" that "Christians must continually work toward their salvation or risk losing it" and only 45 percent disagreed with the statement that "if a person is sincerely seeking God, he or she can obtain eternal life through religions other than Christianity."