

Baptist Briefs: BJC announces religious liberty essay contest; WMU Foundation makes grant to aid fire victims

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Religious tests in immigration topic of religious liberty essay contest. High school juniors and seniors can win up to \$2,000 for college in the 2017 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest, sponsored by the Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Essays of 800 to 1,200 words must explore the idea of using religious tests as part of the United States' immigration and refugee policies. The grand prize is \$2,000 and a trip for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is \$1,000, and third prize is \$500. High school students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 are eligible to enter the contest. Entries must be mailed to the Baptist Joint Committee and postmarked by March 10, 2017, to be eligible. Winners will be announced by the end of next summer, and the grand prizewinner will be recognized in Washington, D.C., next October. Essays will be judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic and the skill with which they are written. Students should develop a point of view on the issue and demonstrate critical thinking, using appropriate examples, arguments and other evidence to support their position. Click [here](#) for complete contest rules and entry forms. For more information, contact Charles Watson Jr. at (202) 544-4226 or by email at cwatson@BJCOnline.org.

WMU Foundation makes grant to aid fire victims. In the wake of wildfires in eastern Tennessee, national Woman's Missionary Union and the WMU Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant from the HEART—Humanitarian

Emergency Aid for Rebuilding Tomorrow—Fund to help ministries aid victims in the area. The grant, to be dispersed through Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries and Sevier County Associational WMU, will help meet the immediate physical needs of local residents who lost their homes. The WMU Foundation is accepting donations to the HEART Fund for disaster relief victims online [here](#) or by mail to WMU Foundation HEART Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.