

Supreme Court ruling on gun ownership could affect churches

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A landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling June 28 that possessing a handgun is a constitutional right is expected to unleash a wave of new lawsuits, including challenges to state laws that forbid carrying of concealed weapons in church.

Liberty University demotes seminary president

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Liberty University has demoted Ergun Caner as president of its theological seminary after investigating claims that he exaggerated or fabricated parts of his testimony about converting from militant Islam to Christianity.

Critics say Caner isn't only ex-Muslim with dubious past

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Liberty University is expected to release a report soon on whether Ergun Caner, president of the school's Baptist Theological Seminary, fabricated or exaggerated his life story as a former Muslim extremist rescued by Jesus.

Baptists view growing Hispanic population as opportunity

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The Census Bureau reports the Hispanic population in the United States has more than doubled in the last 20 years. Many evangelical Christians view that as a new mission field.

National Cathedral considers

selling rare treasures

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Facing a reduced budget and a third round of layoffs, officials at Washington National Cathedral are considering disposing of rare books no longer considered part of its central mission.

Evangelicals push “□□theology of sex,” □□ emphasize abortion reduction

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The National Association of Evangelicals has launched an initiative to reduce abortions by promoting a “theology of sex” for churches and pledging to find common ground with opponents on abortion.

Faith Digest

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The National Religious Campaign Against Torture wants the government to investigate claims that doctors and medical professionals performed unethical experiments on detainees in CIA custody during the Bush

administration.

Oil spill prompts environmental soul-searching

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While the political debate over the Gulf oil spill's cause and ripple effect remains polarized, Christian environmentalists pondering the familiar question "What Would Jesus Do?" believe part of the answer includes cutting back on fossil fuels.

Churches scramble to meet FCC rules on wireless microphones

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American churches have less than one week to change their wireless microphone equipment or face more than \$100,000 in fines. In January, the Federal Communications Commission mandated that anyone using wireless microphones on the 700 MHz band must stop by June 12 in order to make room for use by police, fire and emergency services.

Student ministers face challenges as age separates them from youth

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Age can influence the career direction a youth minister or campus minister takes. Family transitions may lead to a ministry change, or the minister may feel age has separated him or her from students.

Death in a minister's family means transitions in ministry, identity

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The death of a minister—or the minister's spouse—marks a difficult phase in the life of both the church and the pastor's family. The church and the spouse left behind must deal with the loss of that team concept, the intertwining of gifts and calling when a pastor or his or her mate passes away.

Church and founding pastor either grow together, or somebody moves on

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Whether the founding pastor of a church matures with the congregation or moves on once the new work is well established depends on a host of factors, according to three church-growth and church-planting experts. And either the initial focus on which the church started or the pastor must change for the church to move forward, the three believe.