

Iowa Supreme Court says state cannot deny marriage to gays

April 3, 2009

Iowa will soon join the ranks of states that allow same-sex marriage, thanks to a unanimous April 3 ruling by the state's highest court.

Arizona high court declares state's voucher program unconstitutional

April 3, 2009

The Arizona Supreme Court March 25 delivered the latest in a string of blows to the movement to provide tax funding for tuition at private and religious schools.

Presidential prayer effort

proves to be bipartisan

April 3, 2009

The Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Presidential Prayer Team has lost some members but gained more in its transition to praying for new president Barack Obama.

Groups oppose rules limiting books in prison chapels

April 3, 2009

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty is among several religious and civil-liberties groups objecting to proposed rules giving federal prisons more leeway to ban religious books that officials believe could incite violence or criminal behavior.

Obama ends restrictions on embryonic stem-cell study

April 3, 2009

With a March 9 executive order, President Obama made official what many scientists had long anticipated—and many religious conservatives had long

feared—lifting his predecessor’s ban on federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

Court to consider case involving cross on federal land

April 3, 2009

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could lead to the first major church-state decision under the panel’s current makeup.

Budget reflects major shift in poverty policy

April 3, 2009

President Obama’s first proposed budget signals a dramatic shift in prioritizing domestic poverty, centrist and liberal Christian leaders said.

Supreme Court: Sect can't force Utah city to erect monument

April 3, 2009

In a groundbreaking free-speech case, the Supreme Court said the city of Pleasant Grove, Utah, can't be forced to accept the gift of a monument to a small religious sect's precepts—even though the town already displays a donated monument to the Ten Commandments in its city-owned Pioneer Park.

Fairness Doctrine still dead, but groups worry about possible return

April 3, 2009

A move to require broadcasters to provide equal time to all sides of controversial issues has religious radio programs worried, even though no formal proposal has been introduced and the White House likely wouldn't support it.

School sued for censoring religious message

April 3, 2009

An elementary school in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., is being sued for censoring the word "God" out of posters promoting a student-led prayer event.

Christians, other torture opponents call for commission to investigate

April 3, 2009

A coalition of religious leaders who oppose the United States' use of torture in the fight against terrorism called March 3 for a "truth commission" to investigate government policy and allegations of inhumane actions against terrorism detainees under the previous administration.

Proposed Obama budget is

‘major shift’ in poverty policy

April 3, 2009

President Obama's first proposed budget signals a dramatic shift in prioritizing domestic poverty, centrist and liberal Christian leaders said in a teleconference with reporters March 2.