

# **Academy for Spiritual Formation blends learning, discipline, community**

January 14, 2011

Growing up in a Baptist church and later working part-time as a youth minister, Johnny Sears-director of the Academy for Spiritual Formation-believed his faith had to go deeper than a set of beliefs or activities.

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# **Former Point of Grace member wants to share legacy of hymns**

January 14, 2011

Since retiring from the contemporary Christian group Point of Grace in 2008, Heather Payne has had her hands full raising four young children and serving in various ministries at First Baptist Church in Fisherville, Ky., where her husband, Brian, is pastor.

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# **Winter break provides opportunities to share gospel**

January 14, 2011

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Student teams with Go Now Missions spread the gospel by giving new boots to orphans in Moldova, engaging African immigrants in New York City, encountering college students in East and South Asia, helping rebuild a Haitian village and building a home in Jamaica.

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# **Line between inspiration and insanity may be narrow**

January 14, 2011

Historic figures who started new religious movements—including Martin Luther, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy and Ellen White, as well as Jim Jones of the People's Temple and David Koresh of the Branch Davidians—were viewed by outsiders as delusional. The question is: How can you tell?

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# **Actress pushes churches to reach out to prisoners**

January 14, 2011

Jesus said to love thy neighbor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the prisoners. So why do so many churches have such a hard time with that last one? Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank, for one, is waiting for a good answer.

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## **Baptist Briefs**

January 14, 2011

The Missouri Baptist Convention announced the resignation of Executive Director David Tolliver.

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## **BGCT ends year short of budget, behind 2009**

January 14, 2011

The Baptist General Convention of Texas ended 2010 nearly 13 percent below budget requirements and 7.65 percent behind the previous year's receipts, the BGCT treasurer's office reported.

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# Faith Digest

January 14, 2011

Four in 10 Americans believe God created humans in something like their present form within the last 10,000 years, a recent Gallup Poll revealed.

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## Grant will help answer: â€œHow can I be a minister?â€

January 14, 2011

An international student ministry and historical partner of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has received a \$750,000 Lilly Endowment grant to help theologically moderate churches discover God's calling for both clergy and laity.

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## Senator concludes probe of

# **ministry finances, calls for self-reform**

January 14, 2011

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa has concluded a three-year probe into alleged lavish spending at six major broadcast ministries and asked a prominent evangelical group to study ways to spur self-reform among religious groups.

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# **Website highlights how Baptists were changed by Civil War**

January 14, 2011

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The American Civil War led Baptists in the South to forsake their historic commitment to the separation of church and state and embrace Christian nationalism, the head of a Baptist history organization says on a new website.

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# **Texas legislators faced with daunting budget deficit**

January 14, 2011

Texas lawmakers, faced with a sluggish economy and a budget deficit as high as \$25 billion, may feel forced to make up for it through a variety of options, including the expansion of gambling and the reduction of aid for children and the poor.