

New Bethel Christian Life Commission Report – August 2006

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New Brief—Suzii Paynter Named Texas CLC Director

Suzii Paynter has been named Director of the BGCT Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Austin. She has been a long-time advocate for Texas Baptists, is a personal friend, and comes well qualified. Her husband has been the pastor of First Baptist Church Austin for many years.



SBC Leader President Says Bible Doesn't Demand Total Abstinence from Alcohol

08-11-06 ~ Bob Allen ~ managing editor of EthicsDaily.com ~ boballen@ethicsdaily.com

Edited from http://www.ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=7746

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said on a Wednesday radio program a resolution approved by the SBC in June advocating total abstinence from alcohol is “not a new policy, just a reaffirmation.” The SBC has adopted more than 50 statements¹ against alcohol use since 1886. A number of speakers argued the total abstinence position is more restrictive than what is taught in Scripture.

Responding to a caller on Wednesday’s “Albert Mohler Program²,” an hour-long program heard every weekday on a number of radio stations and the Internet, Mohler said “intellectual honesty” demands him to say there is no single proof text that says, “Thou shalt not ever drink an alcoholic beverage.” Mohler said he holds to the total-abstinence position “without feeling constrained or repressed in any way,” because it is the policy of the denomination and institution he serves. “And yet I will tell you up front that I know there are believing, faithful Christians who enjoy a glass of wine or do drink some beverage alcohol,” he said. “And I cannot say in all persons in all circumstances it is sin for them as Christians to do that.” At a student forum³ last fall, Mohler admonished seminarians that seminary policy prohibits use of alcohol and warned that most SBC churches would not hire a pastor who drinks, yet he said “it is exegetically unsustainable” to say the Bible makes total abstinence morally binding on all persons in all times and at all places.⁴

Intelligent Design vs. Evolution

Edited from 3-6-6 article “Ohio board votes 11-4 against language questioning evolution” by Erin Curry Roach, *Southern Baptist Texan*

The Ohio State Board of Education voted 11-4 to discard portions of its 10th-grade biology books because critics said the portions opened the door for teaching Intelligent Design. The moves follows Cobb County, GA, and Dover, PA, in which courts stepped in to decide whether mentioning Intelligent Design was appropriated, and some felt Ohio was trying to avoid legal entanglements.

Casey Luskin, Discovery Institute’s program officer for public and legal affairs, called the Ohio board’s decision “a gag order on science” and said activists are “dumbing down the teaching of evolution” by prohibiting criticism of the theory. “Who would have thought simply questioning and analyzing a scientific theory would be banned in schools anywhere in America?” Luskin said.

John West, from Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture, said the Ohio board’s decision was, “a completely outrageous slap in the face to the 69 percent of Ohioans just polled who said they want students to hear the scientific evidence for and against Darwin’s theory.”

Defense of Marriage Act Supported in Washington State

In Olympia, Washington, their high court became the third court to block efforts by homosexual advocates to force recognition of same-sex marriages in a 5-4 ruling on July 26, upholding their state’s Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The court’s majority opinion said the legislator’s of the state are “entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation, essential to the survival of the human race, and furthers the well-being of children....”

¹ See <http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/AMResSearchAction.asp?SearchBy=Subject&DisplayRows=10&frmData=alcohol&Submit=Search>.

² See http://www.albertmohler.com/radio_list.php

³ See http://ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=6661

⁴ See <http://www.sbts.edu/MP3/Mohler/Alcohol&Ministry.mp3>

New Fad—Watch Out!

In a new fad, our youth have discovered a violent chemical reaction when a candy called Mentos is dropped into two-liter bottle of Diet Coke. At the very instance the candy drops, spray gushes out 15-20 feet high. Several home videos have been placed and ranked on several web sites. So if you see a kid with a big smile, a Diet Coke, and a package of Mentos—considered yourself warned.



I was thinking of the poor fellow who first, after a swig of Coke, popped one of those into his mouth. At www.CambrianHouse.com/Cola2Space, they are shooting for a Gennius record for the biggest Diet Coke / Mentos stunt ever.

Check out the following site that has 15,854 videos, with the following show utilizing 101 bottles of Coke and 523 Mentos for one very profound show—or rather *pouredfun* show. What is the ethics of this fad?

< <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb0TheE1cUQ&mode=related&search> >



Bookshelf—New Book on U.S. Presidents

John C. McCollister has just published a new book, *God and the Oval Office: The Religious Faith of Our 43 Presidents* (W Publishing Group; 244p). He tries outlines the faith of each through their quotes and biographers, and he compares their outward character traits to their statements of faith. “McCollister believes that three of America’s first four presidents, George Washington, Jefferson and James Madison, were deists—that is, that God created the universe and left it to run its own course.... ‘They were deists by their own admission,’ McCollister said.”⁵

Thought for the Day

C. H. Spurgeon, edited from sermon #0002, Remembrance of Christ, 1-7-1855, p37, Vol. 1

There has never been a vessel that lived upon the mighty deep and avoided battle with a storm. All vessels battle with the storm. *Look there!*—the poor barque, rocked up and down on the mad waves. See how the waves throw her. From wave to wave, all toss her to mid heaven. The winds laugh her to scorn. Old Ocean takes the ship in his dripping fingers, and shakes it to and fro. How the mariners cry out!

Yet, let Jesus come. Let the poor heart remember Jesus, and steadily then the ship shall sail, for Christ has the helm. The winds shall blow no more, for Christ shall bid them shut their mighty mouths, and never again disturb his child. There is nothing which can give you strength and help you to weather the storm like the name of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.



BGCT Texas Christian Life Commission, www.christianlifecommission.org & www.bgct.org, 888-332-5870 — **Baptist Joint Committee**, Washington, DC — www.bjcpa.org — **SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**, www.erlc.com — **American Center for Law and Justice**, www.aclj.org - **Christian polling**: www.grassfire.org & www.ethicsdaily.com ~ **Christian Coalition** www.cc.org

Congresspersons ~ 80th Texas Session begins January 2007

Todd Staples, Senator, Texas Senate District 3 – Capitol: 512-463-0103; District: 903-729-7717

Jim McReynolds, Representative, Texas House District 12 – Capitol: 512-463-0490; District: 936-634-9786

Texas Legislature www.capitol.state.tx.us - Who represents you: www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm

Kay Bailey Hutchinson, US Senator – <http://hutchinson.senate.gov/> 713-653-3456

John Cornyn, US Senator – <http://cornyn.senate.gov/> Tel: 713-572-3337 — **Kevin Brady**, U.S. Rep. Dist. 8 – 202-225-4901

www.Senate.gov
www.House.gov

⁵ Michael Foust, Baptist Press, quoted in “Book details religiosity of all 43 U.S. presidents,” *Southern Baptist Texan* (3-6-6): 16.