1611 KJV Bible found

The Bible had been sitting on a table in the St. Laurence Church in Hilmarton, England, for as long as anyone could remember. A sign said it was an original King James Bible, printed in 1611, but nobody was sure whether to believe it. Finally, parish council member Geoff Proctor took it to the Rev. David Smith, a specialist in London, who immediately said, “Yes, this is a 1611 Bible.” He identified it from a printing error in the Gospel of Matthew that said Judas spoke to the disciples as they entered the Garden of Gethsemane rather than Jesus. About 200 original King James Bibles are still in existence. The Bible at the St. Laurence Church can be confirmed to be from the second of two editions printed in 1611 because it does not contain an error in the book of Ruth that was in the first edition.—CNN

Presidential debate in Iowa

As part of the process for nominating a person to run for United States president, Iowa holds Republican and Democratic caucuses in 1,784 precincts. Since 1972, Iowa’s caucuses have been the nation’s first major event in the nominating process, giving them a lot of national attention, since they provide an early indication of which candidates might win their party’s nomination at the national convention. And this year social conservatives are dominating the run-up to the Republican Party’s caucuses. Republican strategist Bob Haus said that these social conservatives have developed a system that is “professionally run and they are a top-notch organization.” Drake University political science professor Dennis Goldford agreed, noting that “they have essentially the best organization of the various Republican constituencies” in the state. Social conservatives are especially known for their opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage. Next year, Iowa’s caucuses will be held on February 6.—Associated Press

Anglicans become Catholics

On Saturday, January 1, 2011, 20 Church of England (Anglican) parishes officially switched their loyalties to the Roman Catholic Church. Three Anglican bishops were also confirmed at the service. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI introduced a structure that would allow Anglican parishes and clergy who were disillusioned with their church to join the Roman Catholic Church, while retaining a degree of their own identity in their relationship to the Catholic Church’s bishops. The structure also allows Anglicans to retain important elements of their historic liturgy. The switch in loyalties was prompted by the opposition of conservative Anglicans to their church’s ordination of women bishops.—London Telegraph

In the May 2011 issue:

- Religion in the News
- New Books
- Signs Special Issues
- As Quoted
- Pocket Signs
Young Canadians shun religion

Canada's young people are increasingly abandoning the faith of their fathers. According to Statistics Canada, more than half of those surveyed between the ages of 15 and 29 say that they have no religion or do not attend a church. Back in 2002, 34 percent of Canadians in that age group said religion was very important to them. Today that figure is 22 percent. In a survey commissioned by the Toronto Globe and Mail, only one in five of those under 30 say “they are the generation of their family that attends weekly religious services.” The newspaper said that “religious scholars see perhaps the majority of today’s young Canadian adults as disappearing down a black hole of spiritual illiteracy from which institutionalized religion cannot retrieve them.”—Toronto Globe and Mail

Americans dispute evolution

A recent Gallup poll of 1,019 adults found that 40 percent of Americans agree that “God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.” This statistic has held firm for the past three decades. In a 1982 poll, Gallup found that 44 percent of Americans agreed with this statement, 47 percent in 1999, and 46 percent in 2006. A poll last year by Virginia Commonwealth University found similar results.—Baptist Press

• New Books

Title: Adventism's Greatest Need
by Ron E. M. Clouzet

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### As Quoted

“We can have the academic freedom to have all kinds of ideas and philosophies, but lo and behold, even mention intelligent design and there are people that want to run you out of town on a rail.”

—Texas Republican state Rep. Bill Zedler, commenting on a bill he introduced into the Texas House of Representatives, which would prevent institutions of higher learning from discriminating against students and professors who do research on intelligent design.

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