

imb_92203

September 19, 2003

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IMB will require career candidates to serve three-year apprenticeships

AUSTIN-All new candidates for long-term missionary service with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board will be required to complete a three-year apprenticeship before achieving career or associate status.

The new policy was enacted by IMB trustees during a Sept. 8-10 meeting in Austin.

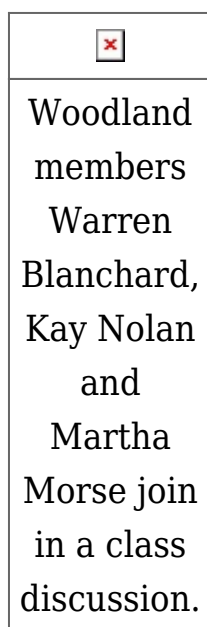
Tom Hatley, chairman of the IMB mission personnel committee, told trustees research shows that missionaries who serve short-term overseas assignments before serving as career missionaries suffer fewer transition problems, become effective more quickly and serve longer than workers without previous experience.

**Trustees
learned the
budget that will
be
recommended
for 2004 will
reflect a \$20
million
reduction from
the current
budget.**

laity_institute_92203

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Laity Institute classes 'go deep' at local churches

By Craig Bird

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO-Woodland Baptist Church in San Antonio is as sports-minded as the next congregation. But when folks there talk about “going deep,” it may not have anything to do with football, or even fishing.

letters_92203

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Poor strategy

The Baptist General Convention of Texas' decision to conduit funds so fired/resigned International Mission Board personnel can continue in their former places of service has a pleasant ring to traditional Southern Baptists.

But it is poor missions strategy.



In its early days, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was swamped with inquiries from missionaries about switching their appointment to CBF. Our early missions leaders (Keith Parks and Harlan Spurgeon) wisely counseled those under FMB appointment they would need to resign from their current appointment, apply to the Fellowship and importantly, if appointed, they would not serve where they had previously. Parks and Spurgeon made wise decisions then. They are wise practices for the BGCT now. The great risk is exporting the Southern Baptist Convention mess to areas of the world where the Baptist witness is fragile at best. It breeds local confusion and

prolongs turmoil.

lifeway_92203

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

LifeWay anticipates \$14 million surplus for fiscal year

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources should record a \$14 million surplus of income over expenses for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, trustees were told at their fall meeting.

The Southern Baptist Convention publisher expects to post 2003 revenues of nearly \$421 million, \$6.3 million more than last year.

“LifeWay has demonstrated good stability in a weak economy,” Chief Operating Officer Ted Warren told trustees during their semi-annual meeting at LifeWay's conference center at Glorieta, N.M. He credited the introduction of new books, Bibles and literature, sound operations and tight expense control for LifeWay's success.

lubbock_92203

September 19, 2003

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Volunteers needed in Lubbock

Texas Baptist Men Builders completed more than half the work on a new residential facility for My Father's House in Lubbock, but additional volunteers are needed to finish the massive construction project, according to Shirley Madden, executive director of the ministry.

Volunteers from each of the Texas Baptist Men Builders groups-crews that specialize in building churches, encampment facilities, furniture or cabinets-teamed up to spend three months on the Living and Learning Center project.

My Father's House of Lubbock currently is located at Iglesia Bautista Templo, where it offers Christian Women's Job Corps training, teaching job skills and life skills to women in need. Texas Baptists help support Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry originated and sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, through gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas missions.

moldova_92203

September 19, 2003

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BGCT-supported pastor in Moldova offers only evangelical presence

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Romeo Gindea serves as pastor of the only evangelical church in his town. In fact, it's the only evangelical presence in a region of seven cities.

navy_chaplains_92203

September 19, 2003

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Officials must testify in Navy chaplains' suit

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A U.S. district court judge has ruled that members and staffers of the U.S. Navy's chaplain selection boards must give testimony in lawsuits charging the military service with religious discrimination.

The opinion by Judge Ricardo Urbina of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejects the Navy's defense that the boards' proceedings should be kept private. Plaintiffs in two cases, including one that is a class-action suit, sought the testimony, saying it was relevant.

In both cases, current and former Navy chaplains have sued the Navy, alleging it favors liturgical Christians over non-liturgical Christians when promoting its chaplains.

onthemove_92203

September 19, 2003

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On the move

Frank Baker to Proctor Church in Proctor as minister of youth.

- ♦ **Tommy Billings** to Guadalupe Association as executive director.
 - ♦ **David Boncler** to Vista Grande Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., as youth pastor from Parkside Church in Denison.
-

palmers_92203

September 19, 2003

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Jonathan
Palmer
prepares
for a river
crossing in
Nicaragua.

Visiting family means missions for Mesquite teens

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Some youth spent their summer doing missions, while others visited relatives. Some may have done both. A Mesquite pair, however, accomplished both at the same time.

praise_team_92203

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

Everyone's the praise team at this

church

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

NEW BRAUNFELS-First Baptist Church may have the largest praise team in the world. At least the music minister thinks that way when planning worship services.

purpose_drive_92203

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'Purpose Drive Life' named top evangelical book of the year

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)-“The Purpose-Driven Life” by Baptist pastor Rick Warren has been named the 2003 Jordon Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

Zondervan published the popular book by Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, a megachurch in Lake Forest, Calif. The book offers advice on spiritual transformation and Christian living.

The book was honored during the 26th Annual Gold Medallion Book Awards Banquet at the CBA International Convention.

reading_lists_92203

September 19, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

Ministers' reading lists are diverse but include few women or blacks

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)-America's clergy are reading a broad range of theologians, Bible scholars and inspirational writers, at times crossing liberal-conservative and Protestant-Catholic divides to share spiritual writers from different traditions.