

Baptist Briefs_11204

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Baptist Briefs

Convention approves name change. The European Baptist Convention has voted to change its name to International Baptist Convention. "IBC captures our identity, location and missions vision," said Jimmy Martin, general secretary of the convention, which includes English-speaking churches in 21 European nations and one in the Middle East. More than 100 nationalities are represented in the convention's churches, and some churches have more than 30 nationalities among their members.

WMU names new consultant. Jane Geggus Blythe is the new ministry consultant for national Woman's Missionary Union's student resource team. Blythe comes to WMU after three years as a marketing and recruitment associate for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. She holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Stewart named professor emeritus. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees named Don Stewart professor emeritus of New Testament and Greek. Stewart retired last summer after 25 years as a teacher and administrator at the seminary. In addition to his work as professor of New Testament and Greek and executive vice president under Landrum Leavell, Stewart served as director of the doctor of ministry program and guided the seminary extension center system.

Around the State_11204

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Around the State

Big Spring-Lamesa Area is seeking a Mission Service Corps volunteer couple or single person to fill a vacancy at the Big Spring Hospitality House beginning in March. Joe and Wanda Bernier, the MSC couple currently serving there are resigning as of March 1. Responsibilities of the position include caring for the facility and the grounds and registration of people visiting prison inmates into the house on weekends. While the position is not salaried, an apartment attached to the facility is included. The ability to speak Spanish would be helpful but is not required. For more information, contact **David Kimberly** at (432) 263-1673 or (432) 517-0483.

 **Belva Loftin**, administrative assistant to East Texas Baptist University President **Bob Riley**, was honored with a retirement reception Dec. 18 after 25 years of service. She began her career at ETBU in 1978 as the secretary for the alumni association and has been the administrative assistant to the president for the last 13 years. She will continue as pianist for First Church in Marshall.



Jim Leak (right),
director of missions for
Hill Country
Association
headquartered in
Kerrville, was elected
administrator/treasurer
at the last meeting of
the Southern Baptist
Conference of
Associational Directors
of Missions. He is
pictured with Nodell
Dennis of Blue River-
Kansas City
Association, chair of
the search committee.

Anniversaries

Latin American Baptists protest report_11204

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Latin American Baptists protest report

By Bob Allen

EthicsDaily.com

Latin American Baptist leaders signed a statement protesting the Southern Baptist Convention's proposed withdrawal from the Baptist World Alliance and urging defeat of a committee's recommended call to sever ties.

ANOTHER VIEW: Unexpected discovery reinforces eternal reality of hope_11204

January 9, 2004

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ANOTHER VIEW: Unexpected discovery reinforces eternal reality of hope

By Don Forrester

Sometimes positive affirmation and unexpected gifts come our way to underscore the reality of God's presence and his unconditional love.

No doubt, we've all had the experience of receiving a “power surge” to lift our spirits.

Court affirms inmate's religious liberty claim_11204

January 9, 2004

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Court affirms inmate's religious liberty claim

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A federal appeals court has affirmed the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, only a month after one of its sister courts declared the law unconstitutional.

A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously Dec. 8 that RLUIPA's provisions protecting the religious rights of prisoners do not violate the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

In the case, inmate Ira Madison sued Virginia prison officials after his request to receive kosher meals was denied.

DOWN HOME: Attic's all clean, thanks to mama_11204

January 9, 2004

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DOWN HOME: Attic's all clean, thanks to mama

My mama helped me clean out our attic over the holidays.

Actually, that's not entirely accurate. Mother and Daddy didn't visit our house this Christmas, and to my knowledge, Mother never has hunkered down, balanced herself on plywood decking and breathed the pungent, musty air of our attic.

But she helped clean it out just the same.

EDITORIAL: departure from BWA follows familiar pattern_11204

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EDITORIAL:

SBC departure from BWA follows familiar pattern

If the Southern Baptist Convention's intention to withdraw fellowship from the Baptist World Alliance feels familiar, it should.

This is exactly how SBC leaders previously behaved toward other groups that (a) included representation from other Baptist conventions and (b) they couldn't control.

Just before Christmas, the SBC released a two-month-old recommendation from a special committee created to study the SBC's relationship with the 211-convention Baptist World Alliance. The recommendation calls for the SBC to withdraw its membership and financial support from the BWA effective next October.

Evangelism and Missions Conference offers more than 30 seminars, specialized training_11204

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Evangelism and Missions Conference offers more than 30 seminars, specialized training

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Texas Evangelism and Missions Conference will feature more than 30 seminars providing practical insight into starting and improving ministry geared toward reaching non-Christians.

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 18: God values greatly the lives of all people_11204

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 18

God values greatly the lives of all people

Exodus 1:1-2:10; Proverbs 24:11-12

By John Duncan

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 25: Wisdom for establishing a home built to last_11204

January 9, 2004

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 25

Wisdom for establishing a home built to last

Selected Proverbs

By John Duncan

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Jan. 18: Human life is sacred in the sight of God_11204

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Jan. 18

Human life is sacred in the sight of God

2 Samuel 11:1-12:25; Psalm 139:13-16

By David Jenkins

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Jan. 25: Learning to wait for

God's timing signals growth_11204

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Jan. 25

Learning to wait for God's timing signals growth

1 Samuel 26:1-25

By David Jenkins