

EDITORIAL: Our next president should restore civility to America_110104

October 29, 2004

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The past few weeks, have you sometimes felt battered and bruised when you clicked your TV set off? Did your ears feel assaulted as you left your business breakroom or lunchtime diner? Have you had a tension headache after Sunday school? Did your pulse pound when you read the letters to the editor in this newspaper?

You know what I'm talking about: Incivility anxiety. It's the ferocious unease millions of Americans have suffered because of this down-and-dirty political season.

If you've traveled in any of the so-called battleground states, you've seen this played out. TV ads have competed for voters, challenging them to choose George W. Bush or John Kerry. And from what we hear, most of those ads have taken the low road, mongering fear and suspicion for the sake of ballots. Although no one doubts where Texas' electoral college votes will go, we haven't been exempt from the mayhem. Thanks to re-gerrymandered congressional districts, we've heard incumbents verbally bludgeon one another for the opportunity to return to Washington and

represent us in Congress.

**Whether it's
George W.
Bush or John
Kerry, our next
president
better give
attention to
restoring
civility to
America. It's a
moral,
spiritual,
political and
social problem
that deserves
his best
efforts.**

Executive Board recommends changes in governance; rejects efforts to postpone_110104

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Wesley Shotwell of Azle, vice chairman of the BGCT Executive Board, responds to criticisms of proposed changes in governance.	Charles Davenport of Tulia urges the Executive Board to send the governance proposal back to committee for one year.

Executive Board recommends changes in governance; rejects efforts to postpone

By Marv Knox

Editor

The most significant reorganization of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in five decades has cleared another hurdle.

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 7: Make following Christ the focus of your ministry_110104

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 7

Make following Christ the focus of your ministry

Luke 9:51-10:42

By Pakon Chan

Chinese Baptist Church, Arlington

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Nov. 7: Guard against becoming resistant to wonder_110104

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Nov. 7

Guard against becoming resistant to wonder

Psalm 104:1-5, 13-15, 24, 27-30

By Angela Hamm

First Baptist Church, Lewisville

Dallas church joins Buckner, Baylor in providing for Guatemalan girls' home_110104

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Dallas church joins Buckner, Baylor in providing for Guatemalan girls' home

By Felicia Fuller

Buckner News Service

ANTIGUA, Guatemala—At the Manchin Girls' Home in Antigua, structure is part of the strategy to give girls a fighting chance to succeed against tremendous odds.

Emergent church signals change in preaching, not just music, speakers say_110104

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Emergent church signals change in preaching, not just music, speakers say

By Craig Bird

Baylor University

WACO-Maybe the pulpit is a safe-house in the worship wars-at least for now.

Hispanic Baptist Laity Convocation_110104

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Hispanic Baptist Laity Convocation

About 500 Hispanic Baptist Men from throughout Texas gathered at Highland Lakes Baptist Encampment near Austin for the Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity. Roland Lopez (above, right), pastor of Northwest Hispanic Baptist Church in San Antonio, speaks about "Leadership for the Future" during the convocation. In addition to hearing several keynote speakers, participants were trained through a series of breakout sessions on topics including church planting, Royal Ambassadors ministries, disaster relief, leadership and music ministry. Coordinator Eli Rodriguez of Dallas said the convocation has met its goals for the year-to train more than 1,000 Baptist men and to help more than 100 churches structure their Brotherhood organizations. (Eric Guel Photos)

in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Korean Texas Baptists spearhead partnership to send food to North Korea_110104

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Korean Texas Baptists spearhead partnership to send food to North Korea

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Texas Baptist Men recently donated \$10,000 for food in North Korea to help vast numbers of people who are starving to death.

Texas Baptist Forum_110104

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Hostility toward religion

Perhaps the reason so many Americans believe that church-state separation has become “too severe” (Oct. 4) is that it has become an excuse for government-sponsored hostility toward religious expression, in spite of constitutional protections.

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Thomas Jefferson's famous “wall” represented his own opinion in 1802. The Supreme Court did not use Jefferson's phrase in reference to the First Amendment until 1879, and it was not elevated to constitutional authority until 1947. Since then, it has been used as the basis for government-sponsored hostility toward religion, religious expression and religious practice.

I'm not advocating a return to the excesses of the 17th and 18th centuries, against which the framers of the Constitution wrote the First Amendment. I just want an end to the overt hostility that our governments at all levels frequently demonstrate toward what has become the unwanted stepchild of civil rights-freedom of religion.

Speakers sound alarm Respond to needs of changing world_110104

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Jerry
Dailey,
pastor of
Macedonia
Baptist
Church in
San
Antonio,
emphasizes
the vital
importance
of
cooperation
and
diversity in
missions.
(Russ
Dilday
Photo)

Speakers sound alarm: Respond to needs of changing world

By Marv Knox

Editor

SAN ANTONIO—Christians need to ask, “So what?” to determine how they should love and engage the world, Albert Reyes told participants at the We Love Missions Conference in San Antonio.

Conference showcases missions ventures involving the Fellowship_110104

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Conference showcases missions ventures involving the Fellowship

SAN ANTONIO—The We Love Missions conference provided a showcase for ventures sponsored or supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

CBF joined Buckner Children & Family Services in partnering with Kids Hope USA to match church volunteers with school students in a one-hour-a-

week mentoring program.

CBF Global Missions Co-coordinator Barbara Baldrige, Buckner Children & Family Services Vice President Felipe Garza and Kids Hope USA Founder Virgil Gulker signed a three-year agreement that calls for the Fellowship to provide mentors from churches to 150 children in San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth, Waco and Lufkin.

New Wayland music lab_110104

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New Wayland music lab

Robert Black
(seated), assistant
professor of music
at Wayland Baptist
University,
demonstrates the
new Jones-Franklin
Music Technology
Lab to (left to right)
Wayland President
Paul Armes, Chief
Financial Officer
Jim Smith, and vice
presidents Claude
Lusk and Bill
Hardage. The lab
was made possible
by anonymous
donations along
with the Helen
Jones Foundation
and the James and
Yvonne Franklin
family. The music
lab, complete with
15 keyboard
stations and an
instructor's station,
was installed
before the fall
semester.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.