

BGCT offers partnering ministry grants_110104

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BGCT offers partnering ministry grants

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is offering grants of up to \$1,000 to partnering congregations looking to start new ministries.

Partnering churches must be made up primarily of members from different ethnic groups. For example, an African-American church could partner with a Korean congregation or an Anglo congregation could cooperate with a Sudanese church.

The new ministry or event must be culturally appropriate to the community. Suggested projects should be planned to take place within 12 months of funding. Applications for the grants can be found at www.texastapestry.org, or requested at (214) 828-5379. The submission deadline is March 30, 2005. Decisions about the applications will be made by the end of April 2005.

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.

'God is not nice,' nor is he one of us, theologian insists_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

'God is not nice,' nor is he one of us, theologian insists

By Bob Smietana

Religion News Service

CHICAGO—Contrary to popular belief, God is not an American, one of us, religious or a capitalist. He's not very nice either, says Stephen Long.

Nominees named for BGCT boards & committees_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

Nominees named for BGCT boards &

committees

The following information is provided in compliance with the bylaws of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Nominations to be considered by messengers to the BGCT annual session in San Antonio, Nov. 8-9, are presented by the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Members, the Committee on Committees, the Committee to Nominate Coordinating Boards and the Committee on Nominations for Institution Boards.

Key: # new member/trustee/ regent; % non-church/denominational employee; ^ elected by BGCT; + elected by institution board; @ elected at an Executive Board meeting and must be elected at convention; E/one-year extended term

Executive Board

On the Move_110104

October 29, 2004

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On the Move

Greg Ammons to First Church in Garland as pastor from Faith Church in Iowa Park.

♦ **Jeff Baergen** to San Marcos Academy in San Marcos as director of admissions.

- ◆ **Lloyd Christensen** to First Church in Quinlan as pastor.
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Sexual content on TV impacts teen behavior_110104

October 29, 2004

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Sexual content on TV impacts teen behavior

ELK GROVE VILLAGE, Ill. (ABP)—A regular diet of TV high in sexual content can encourage teenagers to engage in sexual activity sooner, according to a recently released study.

Researchers interviewed 1,792 teenagers about their TV viewing habits and sexual activity. Initial surveys were taken in 2001, with follow-up interviews the next year.

“Adolescents who viewed more sexual content at baseline were more likely to initiate intercourse and progress to more advanced ... sexual activities during the subsequent year,” researchers wrote in *Pediatrics* online journal.

Texas Tidbits_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

East Texas
Baptist
University
unveiled a
bronze tiger
sculpture by
artist Ed
Hankey of
Houston
during
homecoming
activities.
Sheridan
Cullum,
granddaughter
of Ed and
Delores Baker
of Marshall,
who
commissioned
the work,
unveils the
sculpture that
is located in
front of
Scarborough
Hall on
campus.
Cullum's
mother was a
1992 graduate
of ETBU.

Texas Tidbits

Two Wayland students killed. A head-on collision on Highway 70 near Halfway in West Texas killed two Wayland Baptist University students and injured three others. Kayte Mansdoerfer, a sophomore from Albuquerque, N.M., and Reid Rogers, a freshman from Plainview, died at the scene of the accident. One student was airlifted from the scene. Two students were taken by ambulance to Covenant Hospital Plainview; one was later transferred by air to Lubbock. University officials were providing crisis counseling. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the students who lost their lives in this tragic accident," said Wayland President Paul Armes. "Our prayers are, of course, also with the families whose students were injured and with the occupants of the second vehicle involved in the collision. The Wayland family is deeply saddened by these events."

ETBU offers accelerated certification. East Texas Baptist University's teacher education department has launched a new accelerated teacher certification program. It will enable individuals with at least a bachelor's degree in a non-education field the opportunity to become a certified secondary school teacher in one year or less. The program includes four preparatory courses offered during the same semester, with flexible time schedules; few-if any-subject-matter courses, depending on the applicant's current degree and abilities; a semester-long student teaching experience; and assistance with job placement. To apply, call (903) 923-2000.

Schmeltekopf awards given. Two ministerial students have received Edward Schmeltekopf Servant Leader Scholarships from the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The BGCT Christian Education Coordinating Board approved scholarships for Chris Lemmon at Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary and Sarah Rochelle Montoya at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary. The one-time \$1,000 award,

named for the BGCT's former associate executive director, is presented annually to a graduate of a Texas Baptist university who is continuing studies at Truett or Logsdon. Lemmon is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, and Montoya is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University.

TOGETHER: Of baseball, faith & Christian living_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

TOGETHER: Of baseball, faith & Christian living

An old sports adage claims, "Records are meant to be broken." The Boston Red Sox believe it. Never before has a major league baseball team come from being 0 and 3 in a seven-game contest to win the playoff series. And they did it against their archrivals, the Yankees. Sweet vindication.

And then in their World Series shutout triumph over the St. Louis Cardinals, they held the powerful Cardinal lineup to a .190 batting average. This was the first time a major league baseball team has won eight consecutive games in postseason play.

What could not be done was done! Manny Ramirez, who was almost traded to the Texas Rangers last year, was selected Most Valuable Player in the

World Series. He said, "I just left everything in God's hands, and I said: 'Well, if they want to trade me, I'll go any place they want me to go. If they want me to come back to Boston, I'll go and try and do my job.' I wasn't mad or nothing, because sometimes God puts you in a place for a reason."

CHARLES WADE Executive Director BGCT Executive Board
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Ability to see, influence the future impacts youth ministry_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

Ability to see, influence the future impacts youth ministry

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON-A church's ability to foresee the impact of cultural trends plays a key role in the effectiveness of its ministry, youth specialist Mark Matlock insists.

Storylist for 11/01/04 issue_110104

October 29, 2004

Storylist for 11/01/04 issue

GO TO SECTIONS:

- [Texas](#)
- [Baptists](#)
- [Faith](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Bible Study](#)



- [Buckner brings hope to boys in 'cages of gold'](#)
- [Dallas church joins Buckner, Baylor in providing for Guatemalan girls' home](#)
- [Buckner provides shoes and socks for needy Iraqi children](#)
- [Executive Board recommends changes in governance; rejects efforts to postpone](#)
- [Nominees named for BGCT boards & committees](#)
- [Executive Board elects committees](#)

- [BGCT president, executive director will answer questions at workshops](#)
- [Baylor regents take no action on president; approve tuition increase](#)
- [Ability to see, influence the future impacts youth ministry](#)
- [BGCT offers partnering ministry grants](#)
- [New Wayland music lab](#)
- [Speakers sound alarm, Respond to needs of changing world](#)
- [Korean Texas Baptists spearhead partnership to send food to North Korea](#)
- [Hispanic Baptist Laity Convocation](#)
- [Denton church adjusts to growing community, growing number of challenges](#)
- [Actions show Americans don't really believe in democracy, commission report asserts](#)
- [Former Euless pastor declines seminary chaplain's position](#)
- [After a 43-year run, Baylor coach still not winded](#)
- [Clarendon crusade makes eternal impact on community, residents testify](#)
- [New horse race betting machines in Texas raise concerns](#)
- [Hardin-Simmons provides opportunities for Boneheads who dig dinosaurs](#)
- [BGCT bookstore proceeds benefit missions](#)
- [On the Move](#)

- [Around the State](#)
- [Texas Tidbits](#)

Previously posted

- [Texas Baptist chaplain collecting toothbrushes](#)
- [Christian calling, wrestling experience come together for Wayland student](#)
- [Emotional, spiritual support available to parents of special-needs children](#)
- [Big family finds bigger family at South Texas Children's Home](#)
- [Marketplace Ministries marks 20 years as God's ambassadors](#)
- [After two years in a tent, church moves indoors](#)
- [Ministers need to take God-not themselves-seriously, pastor says](#)
- [Illusionist Jared Hall wants to release audiences from straightjacket of sin](#)

Music and Worship in an Emerging Church

- [Young worshippers thrive on relationships, crave sense of God's mystery](#)
- [Only God is worthy of worship; all else is idolatry, music professor maintains](#)
- [Emergent church signals change in preaching, not just music, speakers say](#)



- [Conference showcases missions ventures involving the Fellowship](#)

- [ALS treatment creates crisis of faith for two Baptist families](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)

Previously Posted

- [New Orleans seminary trustees OK sole membership with reservations](#)
- [Redemptive themes reflect songwriter's spiritual pilgrimage](#)
- [CBF revenues top \\$24 million in past year](#)
- [Baptist researcher's apartment ministry study yields unexpected findings](#)



- ['God is not nice,' nor is he one of us, theologians insist](#)



- [Sexual content on TV impacts teen behavior](#)
- [Abortion rate rises during Bush administration, study reveals](#)



- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)



- [EDITORIAL: Our next president should restore civility to America](#)
- [DOWN HOME: They're retiring; not from ministry](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [TOGETHER: Of baseball, faith & Christian living](#)
- [Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Alive](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Nov. 7: Cheerful givers too often are in short supply](#)
- [LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 7: Make following Christ the focus of your ministry](#)
- [LifeWay Family Bible Series for Nov. 7: Guard against becoming resistant to wonder](#)

[See articles from previous issue 10/18/04 here.](#)

Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Alive_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/29/04

CYBERCOLUMN: Alive

By Berry D. Simpson

We rode our all-terrain vehicles very fast up dusty roads to the Continental Divide at about 10,000 feet, up near the timberline. At first, the road was wide and smooth, and we just flew, driving wide-open, eating dust from the driver in front. As we got higher, the road got narrower and rougher, with winding turns through the trees. We drove through a little snow, but not as much as we'd've liked. There were plenty of dips to jump, and it was great. It was all about riding too fast and trying to stay aboard the ATV and keeping up with the group and not giving the rider behind a reason to say, "You sure are a slow driver."

It reminded me of skiing in the trees near Aspen with friends back in the 1980s, when we skied narrow trails, too fast for comfort, too narrow for control, too close behind the skier in front to react if they fell, but doing it anyway because the thrill outweighed fear of crashing. As a result, we all skied better and faster than we should have.

Commentary by Brett Younger: Another Christian voting guide_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/27/04

COMMENTARY:

Another Christian voting guide

By **Brett Younger**

I just received my “2004 Election Voter Guide Concerning Key Moral Issues and the Values War.” These “non-partisan” guides (ministers receive lots of them) dance around church/state election laws without ever being “non-partisan.”

The Citizen Leader Coalition lists issues by which Christians are to decide how to vote. They claim that the eight biggest religious concerns include (I wish I were making this up) government-sponsored prayer in public schools, a constitutional amendment on marriage, support of the Boy Scouts and assaults on Mel Gibson. I pray, I’m married, I was a Cub Scout and I loved “Braveheart,” but I feel certain that God must think there are bigger religious issues facing our country—issues that don’t seem important to either major political party:

Brett Younger

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Priests and kings_110104

October 29, 2004

Posted: 10/26/04

CYBERCOLUMN: Priests and kings

By Jeanie Miley

Prowling around in the book of Isaiah in preparation for teaching my Thursday morning Bible study, I suddenly got curious about what it was that old King Uzziah had done that had set off such a bad turn of events for himself and the Hebrew people.

My curiosity took me back to 2 Chronicles 26 and an appalling account of the downfall of a man who started out as a good king who did what was right in the eyes of God, apparently seeking God in all things.

Jeanie Miley
