

EDITORIAL Poll results turn America's faith tradition upside down_100404

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EDITORIAL: Poll results turn America's faith tradition upside down

A new survey illustrates why our nation's Founding Fathers wisely built our government on a constitution and not public-opinion polls.

The Council for America's First Freedom, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting religious liberty, has learned that half of all Americans think the separation of church and state has gone too far.

The council's recent survey revealed 29 percent of Americans believe church-state separation has become "too severe and needs to be less strictly interpreted." Another 20 percent agree "there is really no need to separate church and state" in the United States today.

The passion for pushing down the wall of separation between church and state is both ill-informed and illogical.

Mexican pastor tracked down a lost boy; set his feet on path toward Jesus_100404

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Mexican pastor tracked down a lost boy; set his feet on path toward Jesus

By George Henson

Staff Writer

LONGVIEW-Even though he only was 13 years old, Javier Elizondo already had gone to work and bought his own books and clothes. Since he bought his own shoes and wanted some that would last a long time, he bought a pair of work boots.

BGCT Executive Board approves

\$47.38 million budget recommendation_100404

October 1, 2004

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BGCT Executive Board approves \$47.38 million budget recommendation

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS-The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board voted to recommend to the convention's annual meeting a \$47.38 million budget for 2005.

Excerpts from the BGCT Mission Statement_100404

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Excerpts from the BGCT Mission Statement

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board overwhelmingly approved a set of mission, vision, values and priority statements to guide the convention's work in coming decades. Here are some excerpts.

Values

Bible—God's written word. We value the Bible as the divinely inspired record of God's revelation of himself to us. It serves as the authoritative guide for life and ministry.

♦ **Transformational churches.** We value the church as the body God has called to carry out his purposes according to his will. We make every effort to develop transformational churches that help believers become Christlike and prepare them to engage culture and advance the kingdom of God. We value being on mission with God in our communities and in reaching a lost world.

See related stories:

- [BGCT board approves mission, vision, values & priorities](#)
- [BGCT Executive Board approves \\$47.38 million budget recommendation](#)
- [Excerpts from the BGCT Mission Statement](#)

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Oct. 10: Jesus' teachings extend far beyond morality_100404

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Oct. 10

Jesus' teachings extend far beyond morality

Luke 6:1-49

By Pakon Chan

Chinese Baptist Church, Arlington

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Oct. 17: Christ is worthy of loving, sacrificial service_100404

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Oct. 17

Christ is worthy of loving, sacrificial service

Luke 7:36-50

By Pakon Chan

Chinese Baptist Church, Arlington

Family Care helps teens, adults wrestle with their

problems_100404

October 1, 2004

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Family Care helps teens, adults wrestle with their problems

By Miranda Bradley

Texas Baptist Children's Home & Family Services

ROUND ROCK—Every Monday night, First Baptist Church of Round Rock becomes a battleground where adults and teenagers meet to wrestle with problems that torment them.

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Oct. 10: Our hope is strong because God is its foundation_100404

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Oct. 10

Our hope is strong because God is its foundation

Matthew 8:1-13

By Angela Hamm

First Baptist Church, Lewisville

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Oct. 17: Allow Jesus to illuminate your life's purpose_100404

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Oct. 17

Allow Jesus to illuminate your life's

purpose

Luke 4:42-5:11

By Angela Hamm

First Baptist Church, Lewisville

Retirees retreat to Glorieta_100404

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Retirees retreat to Glorieta

During a recent Retired Ministers' Retreat, Efrain Diaz (in photo at left) from Theo Avenue Baptist Church in San Antonio leads in a morning prayer at the Glorieta Conference Center prayer garden. In the photo at right, Jimmy Tak (left), retired director of international ministry at First Baptist Church in Amarillo, meets retired missionaries Stan and Norma Foscett of Kerrville and Mary Nell Giles of Dallas. More than 400 retired Baptist ministers, missionaries and spouses from across the nation enjoyed fellowship and times of inspiration at the Retired Ministers' Retreat. Bill Pinson, executive director emeritus of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, led a series of Bible studies. Jess Moody, retired pastor and founding president of Palm Beach Atlantic University, was the featured preacher. The retreat was sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center. Next year's retreat will be Sept. 19-23 at Glorieta.

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.

Texans bring hope to hurricane-ravaged Grenada_100404

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Texans bring hope to hurricane-ravaged Grenada

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

For the devastated island nation of Grenada, relief will arrive in the form of Texas Baptists with fryers.

Health care needs in Texas

demand innovative response, ministry leaders say_100404

October 1, 2004

Posted: 10/01/04

Health care needs in Texas demand innovative response, ministry leaders say

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—Medical needs in Texas are vast, as 8 million uninsured residents struggle to receive adequate and timely healthcare, health ministry leaders maintain.