

BGCT president considers proposed reorganization dramatic but overdue_90604

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BGCT president considers proposed reorganization dramatic but overdue

By Marv Knox

Editor

Strategic proposals to reorganize the Baptist General Convention of Texas are overdue, dramatic and necessary, BGCT President Ken Hall believes.

Churches front and center in proposed BGCT strategic plan_90604

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Churches front and center in proposed BGCT strategic plan

By **Marv Knox**

Editor

Local churches—not the Baptist General Convention of Texas—command the lion's share of attention in documents that could guide the state convention through the coming decades.

Baptist Briefs_90604

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Baptist Briefs

ASCAP recognizes seminary professors. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professors Michael Cox and Mac Davis have been recognized by the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers for their contributions to the growth and development of music in America. Cox has been professor of music theory and composition in the seminary's School of Church Music since 1990. He is a member of the College Music Society and the American Choral Directors' Association Conductors Guild. This is the 11th time Cox has been selected for the ASCAP Award. Davis has been with Southwestern since 1979. Currently, he is professor of music theory and composition and chair of the School of Church Music's

department of music and composition. This is his second ASCAP award. ASCAP awards are granted by an independent panel comprised of music critics, journalists, music professionals and educators. The awards are based upon the prestige value of each candidate's catalog of original compositions as well as recent performances.

Former IMB journalist joins N.C. staff. Mike Creswell, a 24-year veteran of the International Mission Board, will join the staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to become senior consultant for Cooperative Program missions giving. He will promote the convention's four giving plans, which include the traditional Cooperative Program contributions associated with the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as options for supporting other Baptist entities and mission causes. The new position was approved two years ago, but Creswell is the first person hired to fill the position. He worked in the public relations department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention from 1974 to 1980, then joined the IMB as associate editor of The Commission magazine from 1980 to 1988. Since then, he has worked with the IMB as an overseas correspondent and communications consultant, reporting on mission work in Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East. Creswell and his wife, Christie, lived in Belgium 10 years, and have been in England the past five years. They have two grown daughters, Kelli and Tara.

Carson-Newman student killed. An international student at Carson-Newman College—a Baptist school in Jefferson City, Tenn.—died Aug. 23 from injuries she received in an attack on a street in Senegal. Ten days earlier, Du-Jae Lee was in Senegal helping a friend hail a cab on a nearly deserted street when a man grabbed her from the rear seat of a passing Mercedes sedan. She was dragged down the street until the attackers decided just to steal her purse. As she was pushed away from the vehicle, she hit her head on the pavement and suffered massive trauma. She

underwent surgery Aug. 15 but later died from her injuries. Lee was born in Bonn, Germany, had South Korean citizenship, and considered Dakar, Senegal, where her parents are Presbyterian missionaries, as her home.

Cartoon_90604

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It's a sympathy card from the former pastor.

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.

Anglos no longer majority in

Texas; BGCT responds to changing needs_90604

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Anglos no longer majority in Texas;

BGCT responds to changing needs

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Anglos no longer make up a majority of the Texas population, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas is racing to meet the needs of a demographically changing state.

BGCT-endorsed chaplains top 200; most are first-time endorsements_90604

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BGCT-endorsed chaplains top 200; most are first-time endorsements

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-The Baptist General Convention of Texas has endorsed more than 200 chaplains, and most are first-time endorsements.

Chaplains offer tips for hospital visitation_90604

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Chaplains offer tips for hospital visitation

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BELTON-Keeping people's needs at the forefront of ministry can make hospital visits more comfortable for patients and ministers, two veteran Texas Baptist chaplains insist.

Wichita Falls church makes splash with water park baptism_90604

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Wichita Falls church makes splash with water park baptism

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WICHITA FALLS-Colonial Baptist Church in Wichita Falls made a splash this summer with a baptismal service at the city's new water park.

**ANOTHER VIEW: Church
directories & U.S.**

politics_90604

September 3, 2004

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ANOTHER VIEW: Church directories & U.S. politics

By **Melissa Rogers**

Little did we churchgoers know that high-powered political operatives would one day take a keen interest in those dog-eared church directories in our kitchen drawers.

Melissa Rogers

As has been widely reported, the campaign to re-elect President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney has produced materials informing "coalition coordinators" that one of their "duties" is: "Send your Church Directory to your State Bush-Cheney 04 Headquarters or give to a BC04 Field Rep."

DOWN HOME: What big teeth

you have, Satan_90604

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DOWN HOME:

What big teeth you have, Satan

Have you ever been pursued by Satan?

It happened to me the other night. I now can attest that-at least sometimes-Beelzebub wears black fur and flashes a menacing grin.

My encounter with the devil occurred about sunset, during what I generously refer to as my "evening run."

EDITORIAL: Demographic data point to needs_90604

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EDITORIAL:

Demographic data point to needs

Texas' demographic trends have been both fascinating and disturbing lately.

Most fascinating: Our Lone Star State no longer claims a majority population. A U.S. Census Bureau survey revealed Anglos ceased being the majority ethnic group in Texas sometime last year—for the first time since at least 1845, when Texas became a state.

Texas is about 49.5 percent Anglo, 35.3 percent Hispanic, 10.8 percent African-American, 3 percent Asian-American and 1.4 percent others.

EDITORIAL: Will the 'crops' be watered_90604

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EDITORIAL:

Will the 'crops' be watered?

During the bountiful years of my youth in Perryton, the “Wheatheart of the Nation,” harvest usually was about the best time of year. On those occasions when the rains arrived at just the right time and the hordes of bugs and pestilence of hail stayed away, we rejoiced at the abundance of grain God bestowed on all our farms. I remember one great year when the

grain elevators filled up, and the farmers dumped the excess wheat down the middle of Amherst Street.

Of course, a successful harvest also represented months of hard work. Farmers tilled and planted and fertilized and weeded and irrigated and sometimes grazed cattle in their fields. Even when the ground was too wet to work, they repaired machinery, tended to their finances and prepared for the next day. Along the way, farmers and townsfolk alike prayed and prayed for heavenly harvests. Growing up in a small farming community is a spiritual experience; even the backsliders pray for good crops.

The Apostle Paul understood farm life. He used the plant ... water ... harvest cycle as a metaphor for ministry: Each Christian has a role to fill, and God gives the spiritual harvest. Paul's words, "Plant ... Water ... Harvest," provide the theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Texas Missions, beginning next Sunday, and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions.