

EDITORIAL: 'How can you call yourself a Christian & vote like that?'_80904

August 6, 2004

Posted: 8/06/04

EDITORIAL: 'How can you call yourself a Christian & vote like that?'

A young Texas Baptist minister recently encountered congregational conflict when a member of his church insisted affiliation with the minister's political party comes complete with a ticket to hell. Meanwhile, an older minister in another state created a furor when he apparently endorsed a presidential candidate from the pulpit.

This is only going to get worse.

Both major political parties have hired staff and launched initiatives to recruit conservative, church-going Christians to their cause. The presidential election is too close to call, and control of Congress is up for grabs. Both parties see Christians as the fulcrum upon which important outcomes will tilt. So, they're launching all-out efforts to win these voters to their side. The effort is so intense the IRS already has warned both parties not to influence churches to engage in political activity that would jeopardize their tax-exempt status.

**Hard as it is
for the most
partisan
among us to
comprehend,
many voters
affiliated with
both parties
have picked
their political
position
precisely
because of
their Christian
beliefs.**

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Aug. 15: God participates in every facet of every life_80904

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Aug. 15

God participates in every facet of every life

2 Kings 20:1-21

By David Morgan

Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Aug. 22: Applying God's word leads to renewed passion_80904

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Aug. 22

Applying God's word leads to renewed

passion

2 Kings 21:123:25

By David Morgan

Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Aug. 15: Christians need to follow God's word and grow_80904

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Aug. 15

Christians need to follow God's word and grow

1 Peter 13-16, 22-25; 2:1-3,

11-12

By Rodney McGlothlin

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Aug. 22: Humility is the posture for service to God, others_80904

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Aug. 22

Humility is the posture for service to God, others

1 Peter 2:13-14, 17-21; 3:1-4,

7-9; 5:5-7

By Rodney McGlothlin

WMU mission volunteers reach

out to Pittsburgh_80904

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WMU mission volunteers reach out to Pittsburgh

Members of Zion Hills Full Gospel Church join hands to pray with volunteers from Texas, Georgia and North Carolina during FamilyFEST, a volunteer missions effort in Pittsburg, Pa., coordinated by Woman's Missionary Union. WMU volunteers from 12 states served at 15 ministry sites in Pittsburgh this summer during MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST events. About 165 volunteers, including 27 families, participated in backyard Bible clubs, surveys, block parties, light construction, landscaping, repairs, prayerwalking and cooking at a children's camp. Some volunteers, such as 18-year-old Morgan Worsham of Conroe (left) planted and picked vegetables on an eight-acre farm for the Pittsburgh Food Bank. She worked with her grandmother, Jeanette Cliett of Pasadena. MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST in Pittsburgh were a partnership between national WMU, Pennsylvania/South Jersey WMU, Appalachian Regional Ministry and the Baptist Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information on future WMU FamilyFEST or MissionsFEST opportunities, visit www.wmu.com, or call (205) 991-4097.



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.

Floods prompt outpouring of ministry_80904

August 6, 2004

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Members of
The Oaks
Baptist
Church in
Grand Prairie
and Texas
Baptist Men
volunteers
discuss
where
dehumidifiers
will be most
helpful after
floodwaters
deluged parts
of North
Texas.

Floods prompt outpouring of ministry

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BALCH SPRINGS—Debbie Christner stood on her porch as rushing water encroached on her home. It had happened before, and the water always receded before it flooded the house. But this time was different. The water did not slow down.

Casino impact studies ignore social costs, researchers say_80904

August 6, 2004

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Casino impact studies ignore social costs, researchers say

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Independent researchers maintain a recently released study on the economic impact of casinos in Texas trumpets casinos' benefits without fully considering costs to taxpayers.

Gambling industry has money, but opponents insist they have hope_80904

August 6, 2004

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Gambling industry has money, but opponents insist they have hope

By Kirsten Pasha & Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)-In the Bible, casting lots-which many consider gambling-was a way for God's sovereignty to reign through randomness. Now gambling is drawing lots-lots of people, that is.

God's Man in Texas_80904

August 6, 2004

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God's Man in Texas

Hugh Feagin

(Phillip

Gottschall) and

Bill Jenkins

(Jeremiah

Mears) appear

in "God's Man

in Texas," a

play by David

Rambo

chronicling the

challenges

faced by a

young mega-

church pastor

when he is

named heir-

apparent to the

largest Baptist

church in the

Southwest.

Directed by

Rene Moreno,

the play will be

performed at

Circle Theatre

in Fort Worth

through Sept.

11. For more

information,

call (817)

877-3040.

No second term for Hall as BGCT president; cites need for diversity_80904

August 6, 2004

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No second term for Hall as BGCT president; cites need for diversity

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS—Ken Hall has announced he will not seek a second one-year term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Volunteers are 'hands and feet of Jesus' to Valley families_80904

August 6, 2004

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Local children make
a mad dash at the
start of a ballgame
during Vacation
Bible School
recreation time at
the Progreso
Community Center.

The
Buckner/Cooperative
Baptist Fellowship
KidsHeart teams
often worked closely
with community
centers and schools
to provide activities
for children. (Russ
Dilday Photo)

Volunteers are 'hands and feet of Jesus' to Valley families

By Scott Collins

Buckner News Service

PROGRESO-A pile of discarded shingles lay in the summer sun outside Alicia Pena's home. The roof had been stripped down to its rotted plywood.