

Not clear yet, but BGCT vision is emerging, consultant says_51704

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Not clear yet, but BGCT vision is emerging, consultant says

By Marv Knox

Editor

Although it's not clear yet, a new vision for the Baptist General Convention of Texas is coming into focus, according to the consultant who is helping the convention develop that vision.

Most Protestant ministers tell pollsters they like NIV above all other Bibles_51704

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Most Protestant ministers tell pollsters they like NIV above all other Bibles

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A newly released study shows the New International Version of the Bible is the translation most likely to be used by Protestant ministers in their work

Thirty-one percent preferred NIV, followed by the King James Version at 23 percent, the New Revised Standard at 14 percent, the New King James at 13 percent and the New American Standard at 10 percent.

Together, these five Bible versions represent nine out of 10 Bibles ministers rely on most, even though there are dozens of other versions available.

Bible drill contestants take Scripture into hearts and minds_51704

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Bible drill contestants take Scripture into hearts and minds

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Some contestants practiced before church, some after. Some memorized passages in their bedrooms, others in their basements. All spent many hours with their Bibles.

Baptist Briefs_51704

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Baptist Briefs

Indiana pastor to be nominated for SBC 2nd VP. Mark Stephen Hearn, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis, will be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention second vice president during the SBC's annual meeting June 15-16 in Indianapolis. Charles Sullivan, former executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, will nominate Hearn. Hearn has held vice presidential posts in both the Indiana and Georgia state Baptist conventions. He serves as a trustee for LifeWay Christian Resources. Hearn joins John Hays of Jersey Baptist Church near Columbus, Ohio, in the running for SBC second vice president.

Texas representatives named to SBC committee. Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham appointed as the two Texas representatives on the SBC committee on committees members of churches uniquely aligned with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Graham named Paul Cheek from Kentucky Town Baptist Church in Whitewright and Eric Hankins from Galloway Avenue Baptist Church in Mesquite. Both churches are identified on the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention website as uniquely aligned with the convention that broke away from the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The SBC committee on committees has 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities. The committee's key responsibility is to nominate members of the committee on nominations, which nominates trustees to serve on the various SBC national entities.

Annuity Board video available in three languages. The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has produced a retirement planning video in Spanish and Korean, as well as English. The 15-minute video highlights the benefits of the Church Annuity Plan, a 403(b) retirement plan designed exclusively for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees. Vietnamese and French Haitian versions of the video should be available this summer. Free copies of these videos are available by calling the Annuity Board at (800) 262-0511. Callers can also request translation assistance through this toll-free number.

Volunteers help church building committees visualize their dreams, plans_51704

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Volunteers help church building committees visualize their dreams, plans

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DETROIT-Shirley Wright draws dreams.

SURVIVOR: Mandy Biggs, 'Chemo Chick'_51704

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SURVIVOR: Mandy Biggs, 'Chemo Chick'

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CEDAR HILL-Karen Biggs vividly remembers the moment she and her husband, Ray, told their 13-year-old daughter she had cancer.

Care for dying requires 'watchful medicine,' ethicist insists_51704

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Care for dying requires 'watchful medicine,' ethicist insists

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO-The Christian's view of sickness and death should be understood in the light of resurrection, and that understanding should lead

toward a “watchful medicine” in caring for the dying, ethicist Allen Verhey said.

Violent retribution should be unthinkable to Christians, pastor maintains_51704

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Violent retribution should be unthinkable to Christians, pastor maintains

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—God made peace with mankind through Jesus' “nonviolent self-sacrifice rather than violent retribution,” and that is how Christians should make peace with others, said Dallas pastor George Mason in stating his opposition to capital punishment.

Another View: A new network for doing missions_51704

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ANOTHER VIEW: A new network for doing missions

By Bill Tinsley

God's vision always has been the spark that ignited missions. But the world in which we carry out God's vision has changed.

To create an effective missions entity for the 21st century, we must understand the world in which we live. Here are seven significant changes that are re-shaping the context of missions.

DOWN HOME: He got far more than he deserved_51704

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DOWN HOME: He got far more than he deserved

They call this “silver,” but I'd say that's undervaluing the event by cosmic proportions.

Next week, the former Joanna Jarchow and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

I know what you're saying: “But, Marv, you're impossibly young. You must've only been 5 when you got married.”

Editorial: Abu Ghraib pornography presents warning about power_51704

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EDITORIAL: Abu Ghraib pornography presents warning about power

Right now, we all remember why we teach our children to avoid pornography. Pornography debases human beings for whom Christ died. It

treats people created in the divine image as objects, and thus it blasphemes God. But the most crippling aspect of pornography—at least to the voyeur—is its ability to crowd out all other images. It replaces beauty with revulsion and nobility with scandal.

So, we should not be surprised that the porn we have seen from Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad reflects the genre. Naked prisoners stacked in a pyramid. A naked Iraqi, grimacing in fear, taunted by dogs. Another, also naked and on a leash, mocked by a young female soldier. Vile and degrading, the images sear themselves into our minds' eyes, shoving aside the beautiful and noble images we cherish when we think of our nation.

The “heart of darkness” is a void and desolate place, a place where even “good” people can descend.

Those pictures from Baghdad should not reflect negatively on the tens of thousands of heroic U.S. troops who are serving courageously and sacrificially in Iraq. They are risking their lives to ensure democracy for people who live half a globe away. By all accounts, the deplorable behavior at Abu Ghraib does not represent the vast majority of military personnel.

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for May 23: Mature Christians should provide an example_51704

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for May 23

Mature Christians should provide an example

Titus 2:1-15

By David Morgan

Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights