

Teens illustrate what they need spiritually

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Teens illustrate what they need spiritually

By Miranda Bradley

AUSTIN—A roomful of parents and youth Bible study leaders waited to hear Bryan Hall of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Austin teach on how to encourage a teen's spirituality. They didn't realize their lesson would come primarily from the teens themselves.

The seminar, held in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, opened with an exercise where each person was asked to list what they would like their teens to take with them to college.

BGCT mission and heritage 'not for sale,' Wade insists

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BGCT mission and heritage 'not for sale,' Wade insists

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AUSTIN-Texas Baptists are a “blood-bought people” who must not be turned away from their divinely appointed mission, Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade emphasized during the state convention's annual meeting.

Young pastors learn from elders

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Young pastors learn from elders

By Mark Wingfield

AUSTIN-If you're ever tempted to quit, call a friend first and talk it through.

That was one of several pieces of advice from a panel of seasoned pastors to younger pastors and church staff members during a seminar at the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Missions Foundation honors four for missions contributions

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Texas
Baptist
Missions
Foundation
President
Bill Arnold
(2nd from
left)
presents
awards to
(left to
right)
Camille
Simmons,
Paul and
Shirley
Piper and
Joy
Fenner.
(Photo by
Robyn
Kenagy)

Missions Foundation honors four for missions contributions

By Haley Wright

AUSTIN-The Texas Baptist Missions Foundation honored four individuals for their missions contributions during a banquet held in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Shirley and Paul Piper Jr. received the Adventurer Award for Leadership in Missions. The award honors an individual or church who has advanced missions through significant missions activities, outstanding financial support or leadership in ministry opportunities.

Cyber Column by Jeanie Miley: God is at work

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CYBER COLUMN: God is at work

By Jeanie Miley

Stepping onto the elevator in the hospital, I pushed the button to the emergency room and leaned against the wall while the elevator carried me down to the basement. I had no idea what was facing me on that warm fall morning, but a phone call had turned my world upside down. I was amazed at how calm I was.

Life has a way of walloping you suddenly, now and then. And at other times, things that have been brewing for a long time suddenly make you realize you've arrived at the place you've been traveling to for a very long time. As far as I can tell, no one makes it out of here without encounters with scary times and hard times.

Jeanie
Miley

Around the State

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Joel Engle was one of the speakers who headlined this year's Valley Youth Explosion in Weslaco. More than 3,100 youth came to hear Engle, former Harlem Globetrotter Melvin Adams, former San Francisco 49er Tyrone Smith and evangelist Tiny Dominguez speak. Ninety-one spiritual decisions were made during the three-day event.

The group Salvador performed the last night of the event. Speaking in schools across the area, the event reached more than 47,000 students.

Area youth ministers, including Moses Medina of First Church in Weslaco, organized the event.

Around the State

◆ Twelve East Texas Baptist University students have been inducted into Alpha Chi, a cross-disciplinary national honor society. They are **Matthew Arnett** of Midland, **Erin Beck** of Crosby, **David Mark Clark** of Longview, **Taylor Johnson** of Marshall, **Leslie Nelson** of Sulphur Springs, **David Rogenmoser** of Boyce, La., **Katy Romero** of Hemphill, **Tony Romero** of Hemphill, **Marid Spellings** of Lufkin, **Jenny Wheeler** of Longview, **Amanda Whitehead** of Palestine and **Wendy Whitehead** of Kirbyville.

◆ **Bonnie Hinkle** has been named faculty member of the year at Dallas Baptist University. She has taught at the school seven years and is an associate professor of education and director of the master of education in school counseling program. She is a member of Hampton Road Church in DeSoto.

◆ Howard Payne University recognized seven outstanding alumni and two recently retired faculty members during the school's Alumni Awards banquet. Honored as distinguished alumni were **Dalton Bigbee** and **Jana Bloom**. **Daniel Peterson** was honored as an outstanding young graduate. **Twila Miller Smith** was named coming home queen, and **Al Langford** was named grand marshal. **Steve** and **Sophia Faulkner** received the medal of service. Recently retired faculty members **Donal** and **Marjorie Bird** also received the medal of service.

Time to 'show up, pay up & speak up,' Bell insists

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Michael Bell (right), pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church in Fort Worth, and Michael Evans of the Baptist General Convention of Texas enjoy worship at the Texas Baptist African-American Fellowship rally.

Time to 'show up, pay up & speak up,' Bell insists

By Craig Bird

AUSTIN-It's time for African-Americans "to show up, pay up and speak up" in the life of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Michael Bell told the 2005 meeting of the Texas Baptist African-American Fellowship at Austin's

Rosewood Avenue Baptist Church.

Speaking on the eve of his election as the Texas convention's first African-American president, Bell closed the fellowship rally by challenging participants to “walk through the door that has finally opened” because “a lot of people-of all races-have worked too long and too hard for make this day happen.”

BWA leader brings more than fraternal greetings to BGCT

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BWA leader brings more than fraternal greetings to BGCT

By Craig Bird

AUSTIN-Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, presented Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade with a framed membership certificate signifying the recent acceptance of the BGCT as a full member in the 100-year-old Baptist fellowship.

Lotz noted when the BWA was founded 100 years ago, “85 percent of the world's Christians lived in Europe and the United States, but now 60

percent of Christians live in the southern hemisphere. There are 400 million believers in Africa, 550 million in Latin America and 360 million in Asia.

Opportunity knocks during CityReach

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Eva Aguera accepts Christ as her Savior following a gospel presentation by Robert Flores of Iglesia Bautista Principe De Paz in Austin.

Opportunity knocks during CityReach

By Miranda Bradley

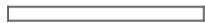
AUSTIN—Opportunity knocked this week for Eva Agueera, a five-year Austin resident. When she answered the door, Robert Flores stood with a Bible in hand. After a brief conversation in her apartment doorway, Agueera accepted Christ as her Savior.

Agueera's was the first home visited by Flores, a member of the Iglesia Bautista Principe De Paz evangelism team. The team of 20 meets three times a week for training so they can make the most of their door-to-door ministry.

One family, one mission

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Newly
elected
BGCT
president
Michael
Bell (left)
and
incumbent
Albert
Reyes
respond
to
reporters'
questions
during the
annual
meeting
in Austin.

One family, one mission

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AUSTIN-Rallying under a banner of "One Family-One Mission," messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting took decisive steps toward demonstrating the diversity of the Texas Baptist family.

Hispanic Baptists celebrate family & mission

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Hispanic Baptists celebrate family & mission

By Jenny Pope

AUSTIN—Hispanic Texas Baptists gathered at Primera Iglesia Bautista of Austin to worship and celebrate the theme of this year's Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, "One Family—One Mission."

Alcides Guajardo, president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, introduced BGCT President Albert Reyes, the convention's first non-Anglo president, and First Vice President Michael Bell to the crowd. Bell was elected BGCT president the next day, becoming the first African-American to hold the post.

Hispanic
Texas
Baptists
gather for
worship at
a rally
prior to
the Baptist
General
Convention
of Texas
annual
meeting in
Austin.
(Photo by
Jenny
Pope)

Work together to accomplish mission, Nguyen urges BGCT

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Work together to accomplish

mission, Nguyen urges BGCT

By Haley Wright

AUSTIN-Texas Baptists are a family of believers working together to accomplish God's mission of reconciling the world to himself, Pastor John Nguyen of Vietnamese Baptist Church in Garland told the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Nguyen delivered the convention sermon during the closing session of the two-day meeting.

Pastor John
Nguyen of
Vietnamese
Baptist
Church in
Garland
preaches
the
convention
sermon at
the BGCT
annual
meeting.