Resolution reaffirms biblical sexual values but not boycotts

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Resolution reaffirms biblical sexual values but not boycotts

By Mark Wingfield

AUSTIN–Messengers to the 2005 Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting reaffirmed a 1992 statement on sexual values but removed an endorsement of boycotts.

The resolution reaffirming sexual values was one of five presented to messengers at the BGCT annual session.

Restructured BGCT designed to offer one-stop shop for Texas

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Restructured BGCT designed to offer one-stop shop for Texas

By Jenny Pope

AUSTIN–The restructured Baptist General Convention of Texas creates a "one-stop shop" for Texas Baptists, leaders said during a BGCT annual meeting seminar.

Sherrill Spies, a consultant who worked with the BGCT on restructuring, told a group of church leaders about the most pressing requests the BGCT discovered in listening to churches–easier access to products and services, development of servant leaders, distribution of staff across the state and the need for more coordinated efforts.

Reyes urges Texas Baptists to share power, resources

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Albert Reyes challenges Texas Baptists to follow New Testament teachings about stewardship of power, authority and resources.

Reyes urges Texas Baptists to share power, resources

By Craig Bird

AUSTIN–There's nothing like a good, first-century church fight to teach Texas Baptists how to act in the 21st century when the battle lines also highlight ethnic, cultural and economic differences, and the details are spelled out in the Bible, Albert Reyes insisted at the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

And how the issues were resolved in a productive manner–giving equal place and honor to those who came “late to the table”–is even more instructive, he told messengers in his president's address to the convention.

Where Have All the Prophets Gone? by Phil Strickland

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“Where Have All the Prophets Gone?”

By Phil Strickland
Executive Director, BGCT Christian Life Commission

(The speech was delivered to the Texas Baptists Committed breakfast at the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting, Nov. 14, 2005, in his absence by George Mason, Senior Pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas)

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various tongues … "(1 Cor. 12:27-29).

Prophets! I thought we got rid of them a long time ago. Actually, I haven’t seen many around lately. Where have all the prophets gone?

Volunteer uses spiritual gifts in prison

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Volunteer uses spiritual gifts in prison

By Laura Johnson

AUSTIN–John Luck, a volunteer staff member at First Baptist Church of Sunnyvale, wandered longer than Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land.

"I waited 56 years wandering in the darkness," said Luck, who served time in and out of the Texas prison system between 1969 and 2001. "Moses only wandered 40 years. I am the recipient of miracles in the church."

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Arkansas Baptists oppose gambling. Messengers to the Arkansas

Baptist State Convention passed seven resolutions, including ones opposing casino and lottery gambling, the sale of beer on college campuses, and homosexual activism. Messengers also called for their leaders to increase their support for the Cooperative Program unified budget, and they took the first step in granting agency status to the Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs, Ark. The convention adopted a no-growth budget of $19.7 million that includes $8.3 million–42 percent–for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

IMB needs child care volunteers. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board needs 40 volunteers to provide child care for missionary families in Western Europe while adult personnel attend regional meetings in Germany, April 12-18. For more information, contact Janey Barton at jbarton@wero.org.

Rotary helps CBF relief efforts in Louisiana. The Rotary Foundation has awarded a $50,000 grant to aid the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana's hurricane relief efforts in Lacombe, a small Creole community about 25 miles north of New Orleans.Earmarked to restore at least five houses in Lacombe, the grant was requested by Rotary Club 99 in Little Rock, Ark. Through a partnership with CBF of Arkansas, Rotary Club 99 learned about CBF of Louisiana's efforts in Lacombe and have been providing supplies, funds and volunteer labor. Rotary Club 99, the eighth-largest Rotary club in the world, first provided a much-needed cargo trailer, which representatives delivered to Lacombe last month. The trailer, along with three new chainsaws donated by Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., have helped CBF of Louisiana's rebuilding efforts.

Cartoon

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"Does everyone have their visitation lists, tracts, pocket testaments and satellite positioning locaters?"

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.

2nd Opinion: Things I learned as a BGCT officer

November 18, 2005
Posted: 11/18/05

2nd Opinion:
Things I learned as a BGCT officer

By Stacy Conner

It has been an honor to be the second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The year has been challenging–full of early mornings, eye-opening experiences and blessings.

The BGCT is doing very good work. This has been evident in the convention's responses in this year of natural disasters. From the tsunami in southern Asia to the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, the churches, Texas Baptist Men and staff of the BGCT have answered the call with resources and the love of Christ. These efforts went above and beyond the extraordinary tasks of ministry that are accomplished everyday. On a daily basis, Texas Baptists care for children, minister at hospital bedsides, educate students for numerous professions, prepare ministers, start churches and take on countless other tasks. All these are carried out in the name of Christ.

Court declines to hear ‘In God We Trust’ case

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Court declines to hear 'In God We Trust' case

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)–The Supreme Court has declined an attempt to have the words “In God We Trust” removed from the front of a North Carolina county government building.

DOWN HOME: Do you give thanks for music’s aroma

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DOWN HOME:
Do you give thanks for music's aroma?

Maybe we'll enjoy fall weather at Thanksgiving, after all.

For awhile there, I had my doubts. Don't know about you, but I got sick of hearing the weatherpeople say: “Tomorrow's high just might break a record. Temperatures will be about 15 degrees above normal for this time of year.”

Don't get me wrong: I enjoy warm weather. When it's warm outside, you don't have to worry about the dog or the plants. You don't freeze when you start the car in the morning. You don't have to think so much about what to wear. Getting out of bed is easier. You can enjoy going for a walk or sitting in the backyard.

EDITORIAL: Texas & the 21st-century Pentecost

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EDITORIAL:
Texas & the 21st-century Pentecost

Pentecost echoed through the ages and reverberated across Austin during the Baptist General Convention of Texas' annual meeting Nov. 14-15.

At Pentecost, God's Spirit settled on a small band of new Christians, filling them with power and boldness, as well as the ability to present the gospel so that people of many races and languages could understand it and commit themselves to Jesus. At Pentecost, God transformed the fledgling church into a mighty force that changed the world.

In Austin, God's Spirit settled on Texas Baptists as they embraced decades of good intentions and well-spoken words, filling them with power and eagerness to transform their convention into a gathering of Christians who

look and sound like Texas. They took steps to ensure the gospel is tangible and compelling for people whose skin tones reflect the palette of the earth and whose tongues speak a symphony of languages. In Austin, the BGCT charted a course of inclusiveness and empowerment for the 21st century.

Health Foundation names Elston president

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Health Foundation names Elston president

Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio trustees have named named Frank Elston as the foundation's first president and chief executive officer.

Baptist Health Foundation, created from the proceeds of the sale of Baptist Health System to Vanguard Health Systems of Nashville, Tenn., was established to fund not-for-profit healthcare services and healthcare scholarships in the greater San Antonio area.

Frank Elston

Elston returned to San Antonio this spring after retiring from Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where he was head of its foundation from 1997 to 2005.