

# Book Reviews\_71105

July 8, 2005

Posted: 7/08/05

## Book Reviews

***Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism and Redemption*** by M. Scott Peck (Free Press)

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I have read several of Scott Peck's books over the years. This is his latest, and may be his last. He has retired from his practice and is dealing with health issues. I was intrigued by the title and by several reviews I had read of this book.

I found *Glimpses of the Devil* to be put together well, as usual. The book features two formats, based upon which account of demon possession Peck is dissecting. In the first, he discusses the exorcism and then reflects upon the person and events. In the second, he intersperses his reflections with the actual account of the exorcism. The events are separated by several years.

**Off the Bookshelf**  
What's everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

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# Baptist Briefs\_71105

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## Baptist Briefs

**Allen receives Whitsitt Courage Award.** Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and a leader in ethical concerns and causes, received the 2005 Whitsitt Courage Award at a meeting in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly. Allen, 78, received the award for his courage in speaking out about a family tragedy to push for more understanding and support for those with AIDS and their families, said John Pierce, president of the Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society. *Burden of a Secret*, published in 1995, tells of his family's struggles after his daughter-in-law was infected with HIV from a blood transfusion. She and her two sons subsequently died of AIDS. Allen is a former Baptist General Convention of Texas president, Christian Life Commission director and pastor of First Baptist Church in San Antonio. Currently Allen is a consultant to news media for religion, ethics and spirituality coverage, serves as chaplain emeritus of Big Canoe Chapel in Big Canoe, Ga., where he lives, and teaches ethics as an adjunct professor at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology.

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**CBF donates \$45,000 to Carter Offering.** Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly participants gave \$45,000 to the new Jimmy

and Rosalynn Carter Religious Liberty and Human Rights Offering. Two-thirds of the offering will be designated for the Fellowship's religious liberty and human rights ministries, and one-third will go to the Baptist World Alliance for similar work. Naming the offering in honor of the Carters was approved by the CBF Coordinating Council in February. "We are pleased to lend our names to this offering which has the potential of affecting lives as together we advocate, educate and build friendships around the world," Carter said in a video presentation to the assembly. "Rosalynn and I extend to you our deepest appreciation for the manner in which you continue to follow Christ's example of walking alongside the oppressed and hurting. ... Your involvement will be vital to transforming systems, policies and practices that prevent religious liberty among some of the most neglected people of the world. We cannot forget the faces of those whose lives will be changed forever."

**Dunns endow Moyers Scholar program.** James and Marilyn Dunn donated \$100,000 to establish a scholar program at Wake Forest University Divinity School in honor of their longtime friends, broadcast journalist Bill Moyers and his executive producer wife, Judith. Beginning in the spring of 2006, graduate students at Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C., may apply for the Moyers Scholar program, which entitles one recipient per year to a semester internship at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., where Dunn was executive director from 1980 to 1999. Dunn is resident professor of Christianity and public policy at Wake Forest Divinity School.

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# Cartoon\_71105

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**"He wants his sermons to be seen on cable. He's what you would call a televisionary."**

(c) Jonny  
Hawkins

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.

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## **Families live out faith through service, research shows\_71105**

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## **Families live out faith through**

# service, research shows

**By Jocelyn Delgado**

*Communications Intern*

GRAPEVINE-Surveyed families rank serving others as one of the top five things they do to live out their faith, Diana Garland of Baylor University told a workshop at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.

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# Gallup says time right for leaders\_71105

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## Gallup says time right for leaders

**By Jocelyn Delgado**

*Communications Intern*

GRAPEVINE-The time is right for “an explosion of biblical leaders,” Pollster George Gallup Jr. told a Texas audience.

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# **Uncivil religion contrary to Christ's kingdom, Texas pastor insists\_71105**

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## **Uncivil religion contrary to Christ's kingdom, Texas pastor insists**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

GRAPEVINE-American Christendom has become infected with a disease, and free and faithful Baptists hold the cure, Pastor Charlie Johnson of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio told a group of Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty supporters.

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## **KidsHeart Africa offers care for AIDS orphans\_71105**

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CBF  
Coordinator  
Daniel Vestal  
(left) and  
Buckner  
Baptist  
Benevolences  
President  
Ken Hall talk  
about an  
expanding  
partnership  
between CBF  
and Buckner  
to minister  
among  
children  
affected by  
the AIDS  
epidemic in  
Africa.  
(Photo by  
Mark  
Sandlin)

## **KidsHeart Africa offers care for AIDS orphans**

**By Tony Cartledge**

*North Carolina Biblical Recorder*

GRAPEVINE-The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Buckner Orphan Care International began a partnership to help combat the growing AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa.

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# Historian urges Baptists to reclaim rituals\_71105

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## Historian urges Baptists to reclaim rituals

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

GRAPEVINE-The popular “generic Christianity” represented by the rise of nondenominational churches holds promise for Baptists if they reclaim the importance of rituals, recapture the individual and communal aspects of church life and respond to the challenges of secularism and religious establishmentarianism, church historian Bill Leonard said.

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# **CBF elects Asian woman pastor, African-American as top officers\_71105**

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## **CBF elects Asian woman pastor, African-American as top officers**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

GRAPEVINE-The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship elected a female pastor from San Francisco and an African-American retired pastor and denominational leader as top officers during their annual General Assembly in Grapevine.

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## **Christians frozen by fear cannot love neighbors\_71105**

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# Christians frozen by fear cannot love neighbors, Reyes tells CBF

By Sue Poss

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

GRAPEVINE—Before Christians can obey Christ's command to love their neighbors, they must move beyond being frozen by fear of people who are different, Baptist General Convention of Texas President Albert Reyes told the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.

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**Global poverty the chief moral issue today, Vestal asserts\_71105**

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Cooperative  
Baptist  
Fellowship  
Coordinator  
Daniel  
Vestal  
urges  
participants  
at the CBF  
General  
Assembly to  
recognize  
global  
poverty as  
the top  
moral issue  
facing  
Christians  
today.

## **Global poverty the chief moral issue today, Vestal asserts**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

GRAPEVINE-Global poverty is “the moral issue of our day,” and how Christians respond is “the acid test of our faith,” Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Daniel Vestal told participants at the CBF General Assembly.

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# **Fellowship affirms partner proposal, revises constitution\_71105**

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## **Fellowship affirms partner proposal, revises constitution**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

GRAPEVINE-The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship affirmed a proposal for how the moderate group relates to its partner institutions and agencies, in spite of concern that the plan favors the strongest partners and harms the most vulnerable.