

Quiet CBF general assembly focuses on the future

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The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's new slate of officers are Joy Yee, immediate past moderator; Emmanuel McCall, moderator; Harriet Harral, moderator-elect; and Hal Bass, recorder. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

Quiet CBF general assembly focuses on the future

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—With a call to minister to a world in need, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship began its 16th year by appointing 19 mission workers, welcoming a new missions coordinator, adopting a \$17 million budget and contributing \$32,801 to a special human-rights offering.

The Fellowship's June 22-23 annual meeting in Atlanta was quiet—even by Fellowship standards—with little official business and no controversy. Almost unnoticed was a constitutional amendment that restored a mention of Jesus and the Great Commission to CBF's governing documents.

Religious freedom threatened in U.S.

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Hollyn
Hollman,
general
counsel for
the Baptist
Joint
Committee
for
Religious
Liberty,
welcomes
guests to
the 70th
anniversary
luncheon.
(Bob
Perkins Jr.
photo)

Religious freedom threatened in U.S.

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Baptist historian Walter Shurden told religious-freedom advocates the principle of religious liberty is threatened as never before in American history.

Shurden, director of the Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., addressed supporters of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty at a luncheon during the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

general assembly in Atlanta.

Houston Baptist University names interim president

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Houston Baptist University names interim president

HOUSTON—Houston Baptist University trustees named Jack Carlson the school's interim president, effective Aug. 1.

Carlson, recently retired vice president from SYSCO Corporation and deacon at Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, has served as an HBU trustee more than 11 years and currently is chair of the board's finance committee.

Diane Williams, chair of the HBU presidential search committee, announced Carlson's appointment at a June 28 university forum.

Jack Carlson

HBU President Doug Hodo, who previously had announced his retirement effective June 30, will remain on the job until July 31.

Layman's passion for Brazil fuels missions partnership

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Layman's passion for Brazil fuels missions partnership

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

LUBBOCK—Jim Dulin fell in love with Brazil about 25 years ago, and he never got over it.

His passion for the Brazilian people and heartfelt desire to share the gospel with them has sparked a missions partnership linking churches in Lubbock Area Baptist Association and Caprock Plains Baptist Area to Baptists in Brazil.

African-American cowboy church defies stereotypes

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A Goliad congregation has started a Western Heritage church especially for African-American cowboys. (Photo by John Hall)

African-American cowboy church defies stereotypes

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

GOLIAD—As the summer sun sets each Friday in South Texas, bright lights come on and crowds gather to cheer every throw of a rope and buck of a bull at a local rodeo. And contrary to stereotype, many in the arena—participants and onlookers—are African-American.

Many have attended rodeos for years, honing their skills or learning the finer points of the sport. People bond through the events, building a

community.

BGCT treasurer: No “financial crisis”

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BGCT treasurer: No ‘financial crisis’

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Contrary to Internet-circulated rumors of across-the-board Baptist Building cutbacks and “financial crisis” in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, year-to-date Texas Baptist Cooperative Program giving is up over 2005 levels and appears on track to meet the 2006 budget, said Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer David Nabors.

Texas Cooperative Program gifts through the end of May totaled more than \$17.8 million—6 percent greater than the first five months of 2005 and 97.5 percent of the year-to-date budget, he reported. Final figures for June receipts were not available, but Nabors said early indicators looked encouraging.

VP Vernon to be nominated for BGCT president

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VP Vernon to be nominated for BGCT president

By Marv Knox

Editor

LEVELLAND—Veteran denominational leader Steve Vernon will be nominated for president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall. If elected, missions will be the theme of his tenure.

Vernon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Levelland, is the BGCT's first vice president and was second vice president in 2001-02.

Steve Vernon

Hispanic convention elects new officers

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Newly
elected
officers of
the
Hispanic
Baptist
Convention
of Texas
are (left to
right)
President
Baldemar
Borrego,
First Vice
President
Alex Ca-
macho,
Third Vice
President
Ruben
Chairez,
Second
Vice
President
Carlos
Alegria and
Secretary
Darlene
Gamiochipi.

Hispanic convention elects new officers

ARLINGTON—The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas elected a new slate of officers during its annual meeting.

Baldemar Borrego, pastor of Nueva Esperanza Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, was elected president of the convention after a run-off with Javier Elizondo, vice president of academic affairs for Baptist University of the Americas.

In nominating Borrego, Alex Camacho called him “a good pastor and a good friend” and a solid leader. Borrego has demonstrated courage in addressing controversial immigration issues, Camacho added.

Borrego, a former first vice president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, member of the Convención’s strategic planning committee and president of the Hispanic Ministers Conference, has been in ministry 30 years. He has been the host of a radio program, “Jesus is the Answer,” and is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Partners sign church-starting agreement

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Baptist
General
Convention
of Texas
Executive
Director
Charles
Wade signs
a
partnership
agreement
with the
Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship,
Baptist
University
of the
Americas
and the
Hispanic
Baptist
Convention
of Texas.

Partners sign church-starting agreement

ARLINGTON—Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist University of the Americas leaders signed a partnership agreement to start Hispanic

churches across the United States.

The partnership is a renewal of an original partnership formally signed during the 2003 CBF General Assembly, which included the Fellowship, BGCT and His-panic Baptist Convention of Texas. The renewal formally includes Baptist University of the Americas.

According to the partnership renewal—signed at the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas annual meeting—the BGCT provides church-starting training and Baptist University of the Americas trains ministers to work in Hispanic contexts.

CBF recruits congregations that want to start Hispanic churches. And the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas and Baptist University of the Americas help identify individuals who may make good church starters. All entities help promote the partnership.

President challenges Hispanic Baptists

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President challenges Hispanic Baptists

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON—God has given Hispanic Texas Baptists grace, and they need to share it with the rest of the world, President Alcides Guajardo told the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas.

By working together with a Christ-like spirit of service, Hispanic Texas Baptists can minister to the entire world, Guajardo said in his address to the convention at its annual meeting.

Frank Palos (left), interim director of Baptist General Convention of Texas Hispanic ministries, presents Alcides Guajardo with a plaque for his service as president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas.

Around the State

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Twenty-eight participants, nearly all over the age of 60, traveled from First Church in Richardson to Riga, Latvia, to build friendships and encourage senior adults from six Baptist churches there. The Richardson church has sent many teams to Latvia since the partnership began in 1997, but this is the first project focused on senior adults on both sides of the ocean. This gazebo was built by the Richardson team to provide more outdoor ministry space. The Texans also conducted a three-day seniors conference covering topics such as health issues—physical, emotional and spiritual—Christian encouragement, and the need for senior adults to continue blessing one another . They also offered activities such as choir, learning to play chimes and games. The group performed several musical pieces at a prison in the area and visited a school. They left the chimes with the Latvians as a gift.

Around the State

- Paisano Baptist Encampment will hold its 86th consecutive general encampment beginning the evening of July 23 and running through noon July 28. Morning worship services will be held at 11 a.m., and evening worship will be at 8 p.m. Supper is served at 6 p.m. with choir rehearsal at 7 p.m. Childcare is provided during services. Camp pastors are Steve Wells and Milton Cunningham. Larry McGraw will be the Bible study leader. Between services, several activities are available. For more information, go to www.paisanoencampment.org.

- Four Howard Payne University students have been chosen to receive the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation scholarship in the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom honors program. Selected were Rachel Chapman of Grapevine, Jessie Goodwin of The Woodlands, Kelly Grewe of San Antonio and Johnnie Wiedman of Belton. The scholarship provides \$9,000 a year for two years.

- Dallas Baptist University has received two gifts totaling \$550,000 from the estate of Wynonia Pallmeyer. The gift will establish two scholarship funds for students facing financial hardship.

- Houston Baptist University has named its Student Foundation members for the upcoming academic year. The students serve as representatives in various activities and university promotional functions. New members include Ashley Hatchett, Alyssa Johns, Andrea Legare, Elsa Marquez, Sadiya Jamal, Edward Batinga, Diego Bello, Ashley Nunes, Derrick Owens, Cheri Wood, and Humair Khan. Returning members are Margaret Bowen, Edgar Gonzalez, Sidra Qasim, Karen Singh, Mon'Sher Spenser and Jessica Watson.



A \$26.1 million expansion of Tallowood Church in Houston's campus pushed forward the extraction of a lead box time capsule slated for removal in 2012. Pastor Duane Brooks read an inventory of the capsule that had been placed in the original chapel's cornerstone. The capsule contained the list of people present when the cornerstone was laid on Nov. 13, 1960, copies of that week's Baptist Standard, Training Union and Sunday school materials, and a Bible that included Pastor Russell Dilday's five-digit telephone number. Several charter members were present for the ceremony.

Baylor Choir sings in Australia

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The
Baylor
Religious
Hour
Choir
performed
in Sydney,
Australia,
and
worked
with local
churches
there.

Baylor choir sings in Australia

By Julie Carlson

Baylor University

The Baylor Religious Hour Choir recently spent nine days in Australia, performing and providing service throughout the Sydney area.

“We worked with a local church and some of its sister churches,” said Maxey Parrish, faculty sponsor for the choir. “It was a small, suburban church that has been in existence a couple of years, but is starting to grow and trying to expand its outreach.”