

BGCT takes decisive action to prevent future abuses

March 2, 2007

Updated: 3/02/07

BGCT implements responses to church-starting scandal

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has implemented steps to prevent recurrence of a church-starting scandal that rocked the convention last year, a special study committee told the BGCT Executive Board Feb. 26.

Still, follow-up action is needed to complete the prevention process, the committee added, noting vigilance will be required to ensure that new church-starting policies are effective and secure.

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| Oversight group Chairman Jim Nelson. |
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Board clarifies its responsibilities, messengers' rights

March 2, 2007

Updated: 3/02/07

Board clarifies its responsibilities, messengers' rights

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS—Messengers to Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meetings never again will be told the convention's Executive Board has "preempted" their authority, if the board has its way.

During its winter meeting Feb. 26-27, the Executive Board approved two documents—a proposed constitutional amendment and a "statement of understanding"—to clarify messengers' ultimate authority and the board's responsibility.

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| Executive Director Charles Wade |
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BaptistWay Bible Series for March 11: Christians are empowered to minister

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/28/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for March 11

Christians are empowered to minister

- Acts 2:1-24

By Leroy Fenton

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 11: Jesus opens our eyes

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/28/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 11

Jesus opens our eyes

- John 9

By David Harp

Explore the Bible Series for March 11: Pursue godliness with whole-heartedness

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/28/07

Explore the Bible Series for March 11

Pursue godliness with whole- heartedness

- 1 Peter 1:13-25

By Kathryn Aragon

First Baptist Church, Duncanville

“If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right.” My father’s mantra still rings in my ears. Though I may have grown tired of hearing it as a child, I can’t help

but admit his words were right on target, and they apply as well to our faith as they do to our daily lives. If Christianity is worth committing our lives to, isn't it worth committing our heart and soul as well?

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 4: Jesus forgives the sin of his people

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/21/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 4

Jesus forgives the sin of his people

- John 8:2-11;30-36

By David Harp

CYBER COLUMN by Brett Younger: Ladies and Gentlemen

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March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/23/06

CYBER COLUMN: Ladies and Gentlemen . . .

By Brett Younger

Some are born to greatness. Some have greatness thrust upon them. But only a few get to be the announcer at their son's basketball games. For two seasons, I've had the peculiar privilege of introducing the amazing hoopsters of R.L. Paschal High School. My understated spiel goes like this:

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, please take off your hats, put out your cigars, and stand as a Paschal student and future 'American Idol' champion sings our national anthem."

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| Brett Younger |
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BaptistWay Bible Series for March 4: Stay focused on Jesus

March 2, 2007
Posted: 2/21/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for March 4

Stay focused on Jesus

- Acts 1:1-14

By Leroy Fenton

Explore the Bible Series for March 4: Life's difficulties are faith's fuel

March 2, 2007
Posted: 2/21/07

Explore the Bible Series for March 4

Life's difficulties are faith's fuel

- 1 Peter 1:1-12

By Kathryn Aragon

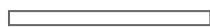
First Baptist Church, Duncanville

When I plan a road trip, I never plan the emergencies. I plan the direction of my trip, the stops I will make, where I'll eat and what I'll do. But not planning for emergencies doesn't mean they won't happen. In fact, I go into every road trip expecting difficulties likely will occur.

Disabled rodeo-riding pastor overcomes obstacles

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07



Twenty
years ago,
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not only
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ropes;
Bird also
is pastor
of Higher
Trails
Cowboy
Church in
Merit,
northwest
of
Greenville.
(Photos
courtesy
of Randy
Bird)

Disabled

rodeo-riding

pastor

overcomes obstacles

By Toby Druin

Editor Emeritus

MERIT—Twenty years ago, in the midst of an almost yearlong stay in a Dallas hospital where medical specialists were putting him back together, doctors told Randy Bird he never would ride, rope or walk again.

They underestimated him. He not only rides and ropes; Bird also is pastor of Higher Trails Cowboy Church in Merit, northwest of Greenville. He hasn't given up on walking again, either, and people who know him and his determination aren't betting against him.



Randy Bird developed a therapy saddle that enabled him to ride and rope, even after a wreck 20 years ago left him unable to walk.

Baptisms, mission dollars follow cowboy church growth

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07



The top team at the Pastors' Ranch Rodeo at the Cowboy Gathering at Cowboy Church of Ellis County in November included (left to right) Larry Mitchell, pastor of Rim Rock Cowboy Church in Quitman; Jim Strickland, the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches' new representative in Lubbock; Mike Moss, pastor of Bull Creek Cowboy Church in Lone Oak; and Greg Horn of Fairlie, immediate past president of the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches and East Texas representative for the fellowship. Moss also was chosen "top hand" at the rodeo. (Photo by Toby Druin)

Baptisms, mission dollars follow cowboy church growth

By Toby Druin

Editor Emeritus

WAXAHACHIE—If it meets its goal, the [Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches](#) will have 250 churches by the end of 2010—congregations that are expected to baptize 7,500 new converts annually, attract 50,000 in worship attendance on an average Sunday and donate more than \$1 million to missions each year through the Cooperative Program of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The goal is an ambitious one, said Ron Nolen, who retired from his job as western-heritage ministries director for the BGCT last fall to become full-time coordinator of the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches.

Cowboy churches spread, thanks to laid-back approach

March 2, 2007

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Trading a
traditional
baptismal
for a
horse
trough, a
new
follower
of Christ
is
baptized
at a
cowboy
church.

Cowboy churches spread, thanks to laid-back approach

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

STEPHENVILLE—On a chilly morning in Central Texas, a man in ostrich-skin cowboy boots stood shivering in a water-filled horse trough. Charles Higgs quickly dunked him. Higgs, the pastor of Cowboy Church of Erath County, also baptized the man's wife and two children that same day.

The family-style baptism is just a sign of the times, Higgs said. He was a pastor at traditional churches 28 years but now says he has a passion for people interested in cowboy culture.



In six years, 7,000 people have been baptized at Texas cowboy churches.