

# **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<br>group<br>Chairman<br>Jim<br>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<br>Director<br>Charles<br>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**

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# **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**

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## 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?

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# **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**

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# 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<br>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**

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## **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*

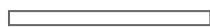
When I plan a road trip, I never plan the emergencies. I plan the direction of my trip, the stops I will make, where I'll eat and what I'll do. But not planning for emergencies doesn't mean they won't happen. In fact, I go into every road trip expecting difficulties likely will occur.

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## Disabled rodeo-riding pastor overcomes obstacles

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07





Twenty  
years ago,  
doctors  
told Randy  
Bird he  
never  
would  
ride, rope  
or walk  
again. He  
not only  
rides and  
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.

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# **Baptisms, mission dollars follow cowboy church growth**

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07

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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.

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## **Cowboy churches spread, thanks to laid-back approach**

March 2, 2007

Posted: 2/16/07



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.