

Novelist Grisham joins New Baptist Covenant speakers lineup

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By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Best-selling author John Grisham, whose recent novels have revealed his deeply rooted Christian faith, will deliver a rare public speech at the New Baptist Covenant meeting in late January.

Grisham, a member of University Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va., joins a lineup of Baptists who will address the three-day interracial meeting in Atlanta, including former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore, and Republican senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.) and Charles Grassley (Iowa).

John
Grisham

“The Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant,” organized by Carter, will seek to unite an estimated 20 million Baptists Jan. 30 - Feb. 1 around an agenda of Christ-centered social ministry. Forty Baptist organizations in

the United States and Canada are participating, including the four main black Baptist conventions and most of the other Baptist denominations except the Southern Baptist Convention.

Missouri leader who warned of Islamic takeover hired to aid world-mission effort

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Missouri leader who warned of Islamic takeover hired to aid world-mission effort

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—David Clippard, the former Missouri Baptist Convention executive who earned national headlines when he said Islam has a plan to “conquer and occupy” the United States, was hired Dec. 10 by the Southern Baptist Convention’s world-missions agency to enlist Baptist churches to spread the gospel to non-Christians worldwide.

According to a news release from the International Mission Board, Clippard will serve as managing director of the IMB’s church services team. He will use his new position to enable all Southern Baptist churches to reach the world’s 6,000 unreached people groups, the release said. He is especially

interested in involving young pastors in the outreach.

David
Clippard

Clippard won national attention in 2006 when he preached a sermon to the Missouri convention claiming the “real threat” to the United States is that “Islam has a strategic plan to conquer and occupy America.”

He claimed the Saudi Arabian government paid for 15,000 Muslim college students to come to North America to study and funded scores of Islamic study centers and mosques here with the intention of taking the continent for Islam. “They are after our sons and daughters, our students,” he said.

CBF to lease building from Mercer

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CBF to lease building from Mercer

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has signed a 10-year lease with Mercer University for offices previously occupied by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The state convention recently moved to new headquarters in Atlanta’s

northern suburbs.

CBF will rent the offices—which are part of Mercer's Atlanta campus—in an agreement that solidifies the existing partnership between the two groups.

It also links CBF with other Baptist organizations that have moved or are moving into the facility.

Baptist outreach defuses Ebola fear in western Uganda

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Baptist outreach defuses Ebola fear in western Uganda

By Sue Sprenkle

International Mission Board

FORT PORTAL, Uganda (BP)—When the deadly Ebola virus began spreading in western Uganda, Southern Baptist missionaries and Baptist Global Response moved to respond.

Thirty-five people have died since the Ugandan Health Ministry documented a new strain of the virus. Although now apparently declining, the deadly hemorrhagic fever broke out in Uganda's Bundibugyo district in

August, killing a number of people before tests confirmed it was Ebola Nov. 29.

(Centers
for
Disease
Control
and
Prevention
map)

Blogging pastor lauded for defending fired female seminary professor

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Blogging pastor lauded for defending fired female seminary professor

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

MINNEAPOLIS (ABP)—One of Southern Baptists' most outspoken pastors

has been recognized for his defense of women—even though he does not believe women should serve as pastors.

Wade Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., and former president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, recently received the Priscilla and Aquila Award from [Christians for Biblical Equality](#).

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 30: Jesus and hopeless situations

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BaptistWay Bible Series for December 30

Jesus and hopeless situations

- Mark 4:35-5:43

[**By Andrew Daugherty**](#)

Board voting on Daehnert as interim executive director

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Board voting on Daehnert as interim executive director

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Jan Daehnert, a retired Baptist Building employee who led the state convention's intentional interim pastor program several years, has been recommended as interim executive director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board.

Board directors are casting e-mail ballots beginning today. If elected, Daehnert will start work in January, meeting with Executive Board staff. He will begin service as interim executive director when Charles Wade [retires Jan. 31](#) and will continue in that role until a new executive director assumes duties.

Jan Daehnert

Executive director interim candidate to be announced

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Executive director interim candidate to be announced

Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board directors will be polled Thursday afternoon, Dec. 20, by e-mail ballot regarding a prospective interim executive director. The Baptist Standard has interviewed the candidate and will post an article about his nomination at 1 p.m. on Dec. 20, after board members have received information about the nominee.

The board received the required three-day notice Dec. 17, informing them a candidate would be nominated Dec. 20 and that they would vote by e-mail.

Charles Wade retires as executive director Jan. 31.

Bible Studies for Life Series for

December 30: Bowing before the Savior

December 21, 2007

Posted: 12/18/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for December 30

Bowing before the Savior

- Matthew 2:1-12

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Board to vote on interim executive director

December 21, 2007

Posted: 12/18/07

Board to vote on interim executive director

[**By John Hall**](#)

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board will vote later this week on a nominee for interim executive director.

BGCT Executive Board directors learned Dec. 17 they would receive background information on a candidate for interim executive director, as well as information about how the e-mail balloting would take place. Voting begins Dec. 20 and will continue until a decision is made.

TBM seeks coats for children in North Korea

December 21, 2007

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TBM seeks coats for children in North Korea

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Global Resource Services will send 10 containers filled with medical supplies to 10 rural hospitals in North Korea soon, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of its humanitarian work there. And Texas Baptist Men wants to include 10,000 winter coats for children with the shipments.

John LaNoue of Lindale, whose initial work in North Korea gave birth to Texas Baptist Men's partnership with Global Resource Services there 10 years ago, recently returned from another trip to North Korea with TBM volunteer Jim Pinkston of Edgewood.

Fair-trade items offer Christmas gifts with a conscience

December 21, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07



Fair-trade items offer Christmas gifts with a conscience

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—What's the perfect revenge for the flannel-lined hot-water bottle Aunt Sharon gave you last year? Or the Michael Bolton CD from your brother-in-law?

Maybe a toilet. Or an ox. A bag of seeds would work, for that matter.