

Explore the Bible Series for October 21: Practice genuine purity

October 12, 2007

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Explore the Bible Series for October 21

Practice genuine purity

- Matthew 15:1-20

[By Travis Frampton](#)

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene

The way we read the Bible affects the way we treat other people. Needless to say, interpretation of Scripture is an extremely important matter.

Spirituality in architecture gets boost from revival of arts

October 12, 2007

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Spirituality in architecture gets boost from revival of arts

By **Greg Warner**

Associated Baptist Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—Architect Larry Cook believes “any building completely devoid of art is devoid of spirituality.”

The Virginian is one of a growing number of architects who welcome the return of symbolism and spirituality to church buildings. After decades of sparse modernist buildings and symbol-less megachurches, many Christians and congregations are craving a return to more overt spirituality and symbolism in their houses of worship, according to some theologians and artists.

Stained-glass windows tell stories of faith

October 12, 2007

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Stained-glass windows tell stories of

faith

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FORT WORTH—If every picture tells a story, the stained-glass windows of Broadway Baptist Church tell countless tales of grace, sacrifice and love.

Stained-glass windows hearken back to a time when many worshippers could not read the Bible, but they could look at ornate windows that told the story for them. They knew what the symbols meant and knew what various numbers and colors were to call to mind.



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Timeless grace: After 52 years, chapel continues to bless

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Timeless grace: After 52 years, chapel continues to bless

By Miranda Bradley

Children At Heart Ministries

ROUND ROCK—As the population north of Austin has grown exponentially over the last five decades, longtime residents have looked to the familiar stained-glass windows and limestone walls of Hankamer-Fleming





Stained glass windows
in the Texas Baptist
Children's Home chapel
depict the life of Christ
and show biblical
characters raised by
people other than their
biological parents.

Chapel at Texas Baptist Children's Home as an enduring landmark.

The Spirit in Stone

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The
sanctuary
of River
Bend
Church in
Austin.
(Photo by
Tim
Blonkvist)

The Spirit in Stone

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

AUSTIN (ABP)—If your sanctuary could speak, what would it say? The truth is, it does speak—every day, some experts note.

Whether a towering neo-Gothic steeple that knifes the suburban sky or a one-room clapboard chapel nestled in the woods, every church structure carries a message to the watching world.

“It’s God’s calling card—it’s all he has,” said Texas architect Tim Blonkvist. “People are going to make an evaluation based on what they can see before they hear anything.”



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Historic sanctuaries: To be or not to be?

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Historic sanctuaries: To be or not to be?

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—When maintaining a sanctuary with a long history, congregations

must look long into the future, according to Keith Crouch, Baptist General Convention of Texas church architecture director.

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Around the State

October 12, 2007

Baptist Child & Family Services recently formally dedicated its South Texas Center, located in San Antonio.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Christian bookstore manager in Gaza murdered. The Palestinian Baptist manager of a Christian book store in the Gaza Strip has been murdered. Authorities reportedly found the body of Rami Ayyad Oct. 7 in Gaza City. He died from a gunshot wound to the head and numerous stab wounds, according to officials from Open Doors, an agency that supports persecuted Christians worldwide. He had been missing since Oct. 6, when he phoned his family to say he had been kidnapped. Ayyad managed the Palestinian Bible Society bookshop and had received several death threats from people angry about the store. The bookshop is Gaza's only Christian bookstore, according to the Baptist World Alliance. It shares a common building with a library and community development center, the base for one of the largest relief agencies in the Gaza Strip. Police have yet to identify suspects in the murder.

Corts will coordinate education initiative. Thomas Corts, executive director of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities and former president of Samford University, has been named to a new position related to President Bush's international education initiatives. Corts, 65, will be responsible for coordinating U.S. foreign aid efforts to support education around the world. The initiatives include a five-year plan to provide education to 4 million children in six countries—Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Mali and Yemen. The foreign aid education programs are administered through the U.S. Agency for International Development and coordinated with the State Department, the Department of Education and other agencies.

2008 BGCT Operating Budget Explanation

October 12, 2007

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2008 BGCT Operating Budget Explanation

I. The BGCT Operating Budget presentation has been reconstructed over the past two years in order to better reflect the Cooperative Program operating funds and to remove designated funds such as Mary Hill Davis Offering and North American Mission Board monies from the Operating

Budget. This new presentation will enhance reporting and accountability regarding the various funding sources.

II. There are four categories of BGCT income:

1. *Cooperative Program*

2. *Investment Earnings*

3. *Fees/Revenues (used to defray costs of specific events or ministries)*

BGCT budget proposal reflects change in reporting

October 12, 2007

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BGCT budget proposal reflects change in reporting

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

The proposed 2008 Baptist General Convention of Texas operating budget looks different than in past years—and not just because the total

is smaller.

The \$50,126,400 recommended operating budget includes \$43.3 million in anticipated Cooperative Program receipts and \$6.8 million from investment earnings—but not any funds made available through the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions, the Southern Baptist Convention’s North American Mission Board or fees received to defray the cost of specific events or ministries. Those three categories totaled 896,500 in the 2007 budget.

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- [2008 BGCT
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Among first missionaries in Burma, Baptists now helping refugees in U.S.

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Karen refugees leaving Burma for
resettlement in the United States.
(Photo/www.karenkonnection.org)

Among first missionaries in Burma, Baptists now helping refugees in U.S.

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—If any group in the United States has a reason to care about the people of Burma, it is Baptists.

That's what Duane Binkley, a Baptist missionary to the region, said Oct. 4, the day the Burmese government admitted it has arrested more than 2,000 people since the start of pro-democracy demonstrations in the country now officially known as Myanmar.

Cartoon

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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Baptist churches, in Texas, the BGCT, the nation and around the world.