

BUA inauguration focuses on leadership development

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“Forging New Leaders for a New World” will be the theme as [Baptist University of the Americas](#) installs its seventh president, René Maciel, former assistant dean of Baylor University’s Truett Theological Seminary.

Truett Professor Hulitt Gloer will deliver the inaugural address during the public inauguration and installation ceremony, 10 a.m. Sept. 28 at Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana in San Antonio.

René Maciel

“While in 2007 the university is celebrating its 60-year history of developing Hispanic church leaders for Texas, the inauguration provides a visionary vantage point to look into the future and define the kind of Christian leaders that the next generations will need,” Maciel said.

The inaugural theme was selected to emphasize the school’s commitment to leadership development for undergraduates who seek to be equipped to fulfill their Christian calling in a world marked by multiculturalism, globalism, emerging church structures and innovative mission methodologies, organizers noted.

Cartoon

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"I'm sorry, Brother Brown, but your gift assessment came back negative."

Church starters learn the ropes; BGCT & CBF establish covenant

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Allan Escobar
of San
Antonio; Dick
Allison of
Hattiesburg,
Miss.; Tom
Johnson from
Valley Forge,
Penn.; and
Leo Garcia
from
Sahuarita,
Ariz., build
with Lego
blocks as a
learning
exercise at
the
Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship
Church
Planting Boot
Camp at
Truett
Theological
Seminary.
(Photos by
Matthew
Minard/Baylor
University)

Church starters learn the ropes; BGCT & CBF establish covenant

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

WACO—While 36 future church planters learned with Legos inside Truett Seminary, two Baptist leaders sat in the courtyard discussing the power behind the recent partnership of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

“It’s not a legal contract. It’s more of a spiritual covenant partnering between BGCT and CBF in terms of starting new churches,” said Phil Hester, CBF church starts specialist. “In the covenant, we both agree to bring certain resources, and the church planter agrees to have a mutual responsibility to both organisms.”



Phil Hester (left), church starting specialist with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Charles Higgs (right), Baptist General Convention of Texas coordinator for western-heritage churches, visits with church planter Rocky Louthan and his wife, Amy. The cowboy church the Louthans are planting in Santa Fe, near Galveston, is the first product of a new church-starting partnership covenant between the BGCT and CBF.

2nd Opinion: Stats tell tale not good for Texas

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2nd Opinion: Stats tell tale not good for Texas

By Karen Wood

Start talking statistics, and my eyes glaze over. I'm already yawning, just

thinking about percentages and number signs.

But smack dab in the middle of some great reading recently, out popped some statistics. For once, I didn't snooze. I got scared—the kind of scared with goose bumps and shivers running up and down the spine.

Right there, plain as day: "Texas, at 23.8 percent, had a higher percentage of (health) uninsured citizens than any other state in 2006."

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Forgiveness

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Cybercolumn: Forgiveness

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, looking for a quote. We live in the age of the sound bite, the dazzling quote, the striking quotation. We are a shorthand society that wants life minimized, shrunk down and sometimes summarized in a few short words or sentences. For these reasons, a quote helps once in a while. and I find myself looking for quotes.

John Duncan

I guess I could quote Hank Aaron, who after Barry Bonds hit his record-breaking home run, said, "My hope today... is that the achievement of this record will inspire others to chase their own dreams." Chase your dreams! Or I could quote a Crandall Canyon, Utah, miner who felt guilty and wondered if he should have turned back to help his fellow miners: "I think I did everything I could. It was like having your brights on in a fog." Or I could quote, C. S. Lewis. After all, I just returned from Cambridge, England, where he once taught English. He said, "It is astonishing that sometimes we believe that we believe what, really, in our heart we do not believe." He spoke of forgiveness and stated that for a long time he believed in forgiveness, but did not really believe it until he practiced forgiveness, finally forgiving a cruel school teacher from his youth.

The old oak tree here has lived through storms and hard Texas summers and winters, days when limbs have been chopped off. and days when the storms puts stress on the tree's roots, days when life under this old tree delivers pain in the form of broken relationships and small sins under the seismic universe that grow into big battles. C.S. Lewis states the obvious, to live, to heal, and to grow, to enjoy the joy of life and of Christ; forgiveness in its simplest form requires surrender and humility, two of our most difficult human traits. Philip Yancey calls forgiveness a most "unnatural act."

DOWN HOME: Puppies &

daughters follow their passion

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DOWN HOME:

Puppies & daughters follow their passion

Have you digested any good books this summer?

Our dog, Topanga, has. Literally. Unfortunately, she's not any smarter or more learned. But she did look sort of full there for awhile.

Every now and then, I read a really good book that gives me plenty to "chew" on. And I totally ingest the very best books. Absorb them. They become part of me.

Somehow, I think Topanga is more shallow than I. She only chewed on the cover and the corners of a few pages. Also, she hasn't given any indication the book affected her life substantially.



SBC activist pastor wants God

to zap Americans United officials

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SBC activist pastor wants God to zap Americans United officials

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

BUENA PARK, Calif. (ABP)—An early candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention has called on Baptists to pray for misfortune to befall employees of a church-state watchdog group.

Wiley Drake, a pastor and radio crusader who spearheaded the SBC boycott of Disney several years ago, issued an Aug. 14 statement calling for “imprecatory prayer” from his supporters against two communications staffers for [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#).

Wiley Drake,
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radio crusader
from Buena
Park, Calif., has
called for
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Americans
United for
Separation of
Church and
State. (ABP
PHOTO/Greg
Warner)

EDITORIAL: Three surveys & some good news

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EDITORIAL:

Three surveys & some good news

The “whoosh” you hear is another crop of young adults leaving church. Many of them won’t be back.

Their departure has been documented by a disturbing—but not surprising—national survey. The [LifeWay Research](#) study revealed:

- More than two-thirds of young adults stop attending U.S. Protestant churches for at least a year from age 18 to 22.
- Seventy percent of 23- to 30-year-olds drop out of church.



Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

Belief in afterlife ages well. As Americans get older, their confidence in the afterlife increases, according to a recent survey of people over 50 conducted by [AARP](#), the advocacy group for seniors. Seventy-three percent of older people believe in life after death, and two-thirds of those believers say that confidence has grown with age, according to the survey. While 86 percent of the people who responded say there is a heaven, and nine in 10 of them believe they will go there, they are less sure about other people. People who believe in heaven say an average of 64 percent of others will get there, too. Among those who say they believe in heaven, 29 percent believe admittance is based on faith in Jesus Christ, 25 percent believe “good people” go to heaven, and 10 percent think everyone will go there.

Committee recommends Haggard’s successor. [New Life Church](#), the Colorado megachurch that lost its senior pastor, Ted Haggard, to a sex and drug scandal last fall, expects to have a new leader soon. Brady Boyd, an associate senior pastor at Gateway Church in Southlake, near Fort Worth, has been chosen by the pastoral selection committee as their nominee to lead the Colorado Springs church. Boyd, 40, previously was senior pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church in Hereford. Boyd was slated to begin spending three Sundays, starting Aug. 12, with the congregation, during which time they will have opportunities to get acquainted with him before they vote Aug. 27 on whether to accept him as pastor.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Committee really listens

Four members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' executive director search committee came to Austin to "listen" to Texas Baptists in this area.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



"My religious affiliation, my religious practices and the degree to which I am a good or not-so-good Catholic, I prefer to leave to the priests. That would be a much better way to discuss it. That's a personal discussion, and they have a much better sense of how good a Catholic I am or how bad a Catholic I am."

Rudy Giuliani

Republican U.S. presidential candidate, and a Catholic (Associated Press/RNS)

"My church says I can't drink alcohol, right? OK, should I say as governor of Massachusetts, we are stopping alcohol sales? No. My religion is for me and how I live my life. So don't confuse what I do, as a member of my faith, with what I think ought to be done by government."

Mitt Romney

Republican U.S. presidential candidate, and a Mormon (ABCNews.go.com/RNS)

"Every time I see my sweet girl Lisa, I believe in God. Every time I see Bart, I believe in the devil."

Homer Simpson

Father in "The Simpsons," when asked about his religious beliefs during an "interview" (USA Today/RNS)

Like many Texas Baptists, I was concerned that the committee had an agenda and came to talk rather than listen. I left the meeting invigorated by the conversation. They really did come to listen and ask some probing questions about what we thought should be the characteristics and attributes of the new director. Yes, and they even took notes and listened to our concerns.

I would like to tell you many Texas Baptists attended; unfortunately that was not the case. I encourage Texas Baptists to attend these sessions when they come to their area.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Larry Atchley** to Freedom Community Church in Midlothian as pastor.
- **Cliff Cary** to First Church in Amarillo as minister to children from First Church in Brownwood, where he was minister of education and children.
- **Manuel Casso** has resigned as pastor of Second Church in San Marcos.
- **Megan Chadwick** to First Church in Denton as media director.

Progressive Baptists protest hip-hop lyrics, global warming & Iraq war

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Progressive Baptists protest hip-hop lyrics, global warming & Iraq war

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Delegates to the annual meeting of the [Progressive National Baptist Convention](#) have called for protests of music lyrics demeaning to women and minorities.

“We are speaking out publicly against the denigration of women, minorities and the kind of self-hatred that is often perpetuated by bad language and bad music,” said DeWitt Smith Jr., president of the historically black denomination. “Our youth department, in particular, has asked us not to patronize the rappers that use language that denigrates our people and others.”