

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME: Children need worship role models

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME: Children need worship role models

By George Henson

Staff Writer

An increasing number of churches offer separate worship services for children, but that may not be what is best for either the children or the church, many children's ministry professionals agree.

The faith formation of children is greatly enhanced by not separating them for children's church but by letting them remain with adults, said Diane Smith, children's ministry strategist for the [Baptist General Association of Virginia](#).

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/David Clanton
--

A truly âheavenlyâ cup of coffee

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

A truly 'heavenly' cup of coffee

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

Try to imagine coffee with a higher calling than jolting people awake.

Sam Say, a Baptist layman from Hong Kong, hopes coffee-lovers throughout the United States and Canada will bless struggling people in Southeast Asia by indulging in a gourmet cup of coffee, beginning next summer.

2nd Opinion: Immigration & evangelism

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

2nd Opinion: Immigration & evangelism

By Juan Castro

As a pastor of a Hispanic church, it always has confounded me how so many Christians can reject undocumented Latinos in this country.

I realize there is a great deal of discussion about legality and illegality. Nevertheless, as Christians, we should seek what the Bible has to say about immigration.

What would Jesus do with illegal immigrants? Would Jesus worry about the legal status of an individual, or would he first focus on their evident spiritual need and hunger? Is the Bible in favor or against illegal immigration? Unfortunately, the answers to these questions have been clouded by controversy within the church body.

DOWN HOME: It's not too late to say some things

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07

DOWN HOME:

It's not too late to say some things

Do you ever feel so overwhelmed with relief and gratitude to God you just about don't know what to do with yourself? If the highest mountain were nearby, you'd climb it, just to shout to God how thankful you are. I feel that way this evening.

Two weeks ago, my buddy Glen thought he had the flu. A week ago, Glen wasn't in good enough shape to think about anything, but his family and friends feared he was about to die. His liver was failing. The doctors didn't know why, but they considered just about every horrible thing you can imagine. Tonight, he's still a pretty sick guy, but his liver is functioning and he told his wife, Nancy, he just wants to go home.

And tonight, the world looks misty and sparkly for all of us who love him. Tears do that.

Glen was a BMOC—Big Man on Campus—when I was a mere freshman at Hardin-Simmons University “back in the day.” He was president of the Baptist Student Union. I remember he had long hair (but we all did then), rosy cheeks and a warm, affable way of talking that made even freshmen feel like they mattered to him. Everybody knew Glen.

EDITORIAL: At least the pope cleared the air

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

EDITORIAL: At least the pope cleared the air

“Is the pope Catholic?”

That’s got to be one of the world’s oldest one-line jokes. It’s also probably the world’s most-used non-scatological rejoinder to an obvious question. For example, this discussion about Texas weather in July:

“Is it going to be hot tomorrow?” your neighbor asks.

“Is the pope Catholic?” you reply.



Faith Digest

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07

Faith Digest

Muslims, evangelicals not so apart. Muslim Americans and white evangelicals have more in common than other religious groups when it comes to religious fervor, scriptural literalism and social morality, according to the [Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life](#). They consistently scored closer than other groups, including black and mainline Protestants and Catholics. For example, on the question of religious vs. national identity, 47 percent of Muslims saw themselves as Muslims first and Americans second, while 62 percent of evangelicals said they were Christians first and Americans second. Similar scores were 55 percent for black Protestants, 31 percent for Catholics and 22 percent for mainline Protestants.

Accident stills Marlette's pen. Doug Marlette, 57, whose editorial cartoons often lampooned fundamentalist religion but whose folksy comic strip celebrated a rural Southern Baptist pastor, died in an automobile accident July 10. He was 57. The Pulitzer Prize winner, who recently joined the staff of the Tulsa World, died near Holly Springs, Miss., after a truck in which he was a passenger careened off a rain-slicked highway. "The Creator endowed him with such creativity that he was literally one of a kind—and a real Baptist," said James Dunn, former executive director of the [Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#). "He could see the ironies and the contradictions (in political or religious life) so clearly and then

reduce them to just a few strokes in a cartoon.” Dunn and another famous Baptist preacher, Will Campbell, reportedly were the inspiration for one of the lead characters in “Kudzu,” a small-town Baptist preacher named Will B. Dunn.

Texas Baptist Forum

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07

Texas Baptist Forum

Long-term missionaries

Ken Hall’s suggestion that long-term missionaries have a minimal place in the future of missions ([July 9](#)) concerned me.

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

Out((Loud))

"We have to demand full religious liberty here at home for non-Christians. That sounds kind of like the Golden Rule. ... You can't be for separation of mosque and state abroad and come home and oppose separation of church and state here at home. Let's be consistent."

Melissa Rogers

Visiting professor of religion and public policy at Wake Forest University, at a forum on ministers and politics sponsored by *Christian Ethics Today* (RNS)

"I would absolutely reject any idea that God sends suffering our way. The issue for me is not, 'Why me?' It is, 'Why not me?' I'm not exempt from the difficulties that come to everyone else."

Tom Graves

Former president of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., who departed his post because issues related to multiple sclerosis (*Baptists Today*)

"Faith and reason are knitted together in the human soul. So don't leave home without either one."

Tony Snow

White House press secretary (*The Washington Post*/RNS)

Some of the Apostle Paul's missionary endeavors were brief, but strategic distinctions exist between his context and ours. He probably didn't learn new languages for his ministry, and his upbringing prepared him for bicultural missionary life. These differences enabled Paul to engage immediately at a level of culturally sensitive ministry that demands a lengthier period of adaptation for us.

Whatever we emulate from Paul's example, we should adopt his clear ambition not only to preach Christ, but to proclaim him where he has not yet been named (Romans 15:20-21).

On the Move

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07

On the Move

- **Bill Austin** to Park Lake Drive Church in Waco as interim pastor.
- **Thomas Barber** to Prairie Hill Church in Prairie Hill as minister of outreach.
- **Tim Berg** to Meadowbrook Church in Rockdale as youth director.
- **Cory Brand** to First Church in Edna as youth minister.

Shores to lead Buckner ministry to Mexico, Border

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

Shores to lead Buckner ministry to Mexico, Border

DALLAS—Dexton Shores, who has led [Border/Mexico Missions](#) and the Rio Grande River Ministry for the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1999, has been named director of ministry development for Mexico and the Border for [Buckner International](#), effective Aug.1.

As director of ministry development, Shores will lead Buckner International's existing ministries along the United States-Mexico border as well as develop new ministries in the Mexican interior.

Dexton Shores

Shores will “immediately bring years of relationship-building, kingdom-building legitimacy to our work in Mexico,” said Randy Daniels, director of Global Initiatives for Buckner. “We’ve been seeking ways to provide ministry, but had not, until Dexton, found the right person to carry that through. Dexton is the person to take us into Mexico.”

Shores' abilities and passion for Mexico and the border region is a "natural next step" for Buckner Border Ministries, added Albert Reyes, president of Buckner Children and Family Services.

Court affirms religious obligation in case pitting sacred vs. secular

July 20, 2007
Posted: 7/20/07

Court affirms religious obligation in case pitting sacred vs. secular

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

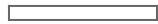
AUSTIN (RNS)—The Texas Supreme Court unanimously dismissed a suit brought by a former member of a Fort Worth church who accused her pastor of violating her confidentiality.

The case centered on questions of what roles civil courts should have when asked to resolve matters related to church discipline.

Texas Tidbits

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07



Texas Tidbits

Hendrick named 'Great Workplace.' [Hendrick Health System in Abilene](#) has received the [Gallup Great Workplace Award](#), given to the world's 12 most productive workforces. The Baptist General Convention of Texas-affiliated hospital system ranked alongside such companies as Starbucks and Wells Fargo. Hendrick President Tim Lancaster credits the system's employees: "Hendrick is based in the idea of Christian service, with values like integrity, quality, teamwork and compassion. We are very blessed to have the majority of our employees dedicated to those values. When those employees believe in those values, and they live those values, they inspire those around them to do the same every day."

Baylor hospital ranks among best. For the 15th consecutive year, [U.S. News & World Report](#) has designated [Baylor University Medical Center](#) at Dallas among the nation's top 50. Baylor Dallas ranked with the nation's best hospitals in seven of 16 specialty areas—digestive disorders, endocrinology, gynecology, kidney disease, orthopedics, respiratory disorders and urology. Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation also ranked 15th among the nation's top rehabilitation facilities.

TOGETHER: Ministers need time for rest & renewal

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/20/07

TOGETHER: Ministers need time for rest & renewal

Years ago, a church member criticized my father because he announced he would take a vacation. She said: "How can you take a vacation with so much to be done? The devil never takes a vacation." He replied, "Yes, and that's why he's so mean."

Rosemary and I just got back from a week in the Creede area of Colorado. All four of our children and their spouses plus nine of our 10 grandchildren gathered for a fabulous week. When our children were young, we tried to take a vacation every year and go somewhere. Sometimes, we had to borrow some money to make the modest trips, but we always said we were "buying memories."



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Sure enough, the memories that live on often are about those excursions. Several times, we could take these trips because members of our church who had cabins/houses somewhere would invite us to use their place for a few days. The kind generosity of our church and our members in making vacations possible blessed us.

When I got back from vacation, I had an e-mail from a BGCT congregational strategist.