

BGCT seeks to open doors for women's ministry

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BGCT seeks to open doors for women's ministry

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

It has happened to almost everyone. A hurried person tries to open a door clearly labeled "push" and slams into an entry that won't open.

Sometimes, women's ministry feels the same way, said Debra Hochgraber, women's ministry specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Cromartie, Land again officers for religious-freedom panel

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Cromartie, Land again officers for religious-freedom panel

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—An independent federal panel charged with monitoring global conditions for religious liberty has once again elevated an evangelical scholar and leader as its chairman.

The United States [Commission for International Religious Freedom](#) also elected a Southern Baptist agency head and a prominent human-rights lawyer as vice-chairs for 2007-2008.

BWA leaders at Ghana gathering call for repentance, forgiveness for slavery

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BWA leaders at Ghana gathering

call for repentance, forgiveness for slavery

By Trennis Henderson

Kentucky Western Recorder

ACCRA, Ghana (ABP)—Gathered in the courtyard of Ghana's Cape Coast Slave Castle, members of Baptist World Alliance held a somber service of memory and reconciliation July 5.

The British built the slave castle, perched on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, in 1665. The fortress housed dark, dank dungeons for thousands of male and female slaves and a "door of no return," where they were crammed into ships headed for the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe. An estimated 20 million Africans were uprooted and enslaved during the trans-Atlantic slave trade that stretched from the 15th to 19th centuries.

Baptist alliance celebrates global freedom

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Baptist alliance celebrates global freedom

By **Tony Cartledge**

N.C. Biblical Recorder

ACCRA, Ghana (ABP)—Representatives attending the Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering in Accra, Ghana, celebrated freedom during a plenary session July 4.

BWA President David Coffey of England noted the near-concurrence of America's Independence Day, Ghana's Republic Day (July 1), and the July 4 release of a British journalist who had been held hostage in Palestine.

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 22: All for nothing

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BaptistWay Bible Series for July 22

All for nothing

- Ecclesiastes 1:12—2:17, 22-23

[By Emily Burrows](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for July 22: Sharing Christ in All Places

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Bible Studies for Life Series for July 22

Sharing Christ in All Places

• Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:1-7; Acts 14:21-23

[By David Harp](#)

Explore the Bible Series for July 22: Zechariah calls us to dependence

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Explore the Bible Series for July 22

Zechariah calls us to dependence

• Zechariah 4:1-14

By Kathryn Aragon

First Baptist Church, Duncanville

In a world obsessed with power and authority, independence is the goal. Success is associated with being your own boss and having the last word.

CBF meets with American Baptists for centennial celebration

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CBF meets with American Baptists for centennial celebration

By Patricia Heys

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—More than 2,500 Baptists gathered June 28-29 for the annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Washington. For the first time, it featured a joint gathering with the American Baptist Churches USA.

The service in Washington's convention center marked the end of CBF's annual general assembly and the beginning of ABC's 100th anniversary celebration. Program organizers noted the joint ABC/CBF session had been five years in planning.

Truett's famed religious liberty sermon recreated at D.C. event

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Truett's famed religious liberty sermon recreated at D.C. event

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Eighty-seven years after George W. Truett thundered a call for separation of church and state to more than 10,000 Southern Baptists gathered in the nation's capital, a smaller but more

diverse group of Baptists paid tribute to the legendary pastor's message and called for a renewed commitment to full religious liberty.

Sponsored by the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, the speeches took place near the Capitol building, where Truett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, gave his May 16, 1920, address.

George W. Truett

CYBERCOLUMN BY Berry D. Simpson: Reading all the way through

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CYBER COLUMN: Reading all the way through

This morning, I read a long hammerfest by the prophet Amos against a collection of evil nations—the Syrians, Philistines, Tyre, Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites ... and so forth. I asked myself how this particular prophecy would speak to the rest of my day.

It was several years ago when I first decided I should try reading through the entire Bible in one year. I didn't have a plan or a schedule. I just opened to Genesis and started reading, doing the same the next day, and the next. I stayed on task until Leviticus, where I ground to a halt about halfway through. I tried again a couple more times but never finished. I wondered why it was so hard to read through the entire Bible when I read a lot of books cover-to-cover every year, some of them way longer. Why was the Bible so different? Why was it so much harder?

Berry D. Simpson

A few years later, someone gave me a printed schedule for reading the entire Bible. It had a lot of little boxes, which were great fun to check after each day's reading. The schedule helped solve the Leviticus problem by mixing passages from the New Testament and the Old Testament and from Psalms every day. It was a good plan, and I followed it for about six months, reading and flipping pages and checking boxes. Then I stopped out of exhaustion. Too much flipping.

I finally put myself in the camp of people who say, "Reading the entire Bible is OK for you, but I don't need to do it." I sat comfortably in that camp for years until my wife, Cyndi, bought a copy of "The Daily Bible" for me. It was a New International Version rearranged into chronological order and divided up into 365 dated readings. I didn't want it at first. I already had a shelf of Bibles, and when you get a new Bible, you can't throw the old ones away. (I think I could lose my church membership if they found out I threw away an old Bible.) So, they sit on my shelf. Forever. And now I had one more to worry about.

Around the State

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Miller Heights Church in Belton held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the first phase of the church's multiphase building program. The nearly 4,000-square-foot administrative building will house offices, a library, restrooms and a greeting area. Participating in the ceremony were trustees Les Connally, Buddy Peschel and Jimmy Parker; building committee members Mary Connally, Jeff Levi and Pastor Bill Adams; and the construction and design team of Charlie Cox, Sam Blount and Larry Neal.

Around the State

- **Paisano Baptist Encampment** will hold its 87th general encampment July 22-27. Morning worship will be held at 11 a.m. and evening worship at 8 p.m. Fellowship begins in the dining shed at 6 p.m., and choir practice starts at 7 p.m. Steve Wells, pastor of South Main Church in Houston, and Dennis Wiles, pastor of First Church in Arlington, will alternate preaching duties. Todd Still, a Truett Seminary professor, will be the Bible study leader. For more information, see www.paisanoencampment.org.
- **Baptist Mission Centers** has opened its newest facility. The Houston facility, named in honor of missionary Mildred McWhorter, will house up to 36 missionaries and will provide additional office space and parking for staff volunteers.
- **The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** played host to first seminar on Academic Leadership in Baptist Universities. Leaders from each of the eight Texas Baptist universities interacted with a panel of national leaders on Christian higher education administration. The event was sponsored by the Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership at Baylor University and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.
- **Howard Payne University** has announced faculty promotions and awarded service pins in recognition of years of service. Mike Daub, accounting, and Tonya Horner, mathematics, both have achieved the rank of associate professor. Bobbie Price, administrative assistant to the registrar, received a pin marking her 35 years of service. Also recognized were Chuck Boland, Ann Smith and Beth Willingham, 25 years; Glen Hopp, Betty Lancaster and Sharon Riker, 20 years; Cherie Dail, Amy Dodson, Bill Fishback, Mary Hill, Wade Kinnin, Les Plagens and Groner Pitts, 15 years; and Bobby Anderson, Curly Cox, Marcie Drew, Millard Kimery, Dag Sewell, Vicki Vaughn and Terrie Wells, 10 years.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[*Higher Ground: A Call for Christian Civility*](#) by Russell Dilday (Smyth & Helwys)

Russell Dilday's latest book, *Higher Ground: A Call for Christian Civility*, is the best of his many good writings. It is an enlargement and powerful application of his prophetic message to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1984, calling for living out the gospel message in relationship to our fellow believers. It is filled with sound biblical interpretation and clear illustrations. It calls for "biblical obedience, not biblical defense." Chapter two by that title is worth the price of the book alone.

Southern Baptists never were what we thought we were and will never be what we once were again. Had Dilday's call to Christian civility been heeded, the slow decay that has been and continues to take place could have been avoided.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Anyone desiring higher ground in our life together as Christian brothers would do well to read and heed this book. My biggest regret is that it came 20 years too late.

Paul W. Powell, special assistant to the dean