

# Embracing the World: The Church and Global Mission in the 21st Century

July 6, 2007

Posted: 7/06/07

## Embracing the World: The Church and Global Mission in the 21st Century

**Editor's note:** *Below are the remarks made by CBF Global Missions Coordinator Rob Nash during the Friday afternoon session of the CBF General Assembly in Washington, D.C. Exact wording of this sermon is subject to change during delivery of the message.*

**By Rob Nash**

*CBF Global Missions Coordinator*

It was as clear and clarion a call to global mission as I have ever heard. The man who uttered it was short and stocky, a former imam at a mosque in the Middle East who had managed to plant a Baptist church in the middle of a challenging and difficult urban context. The two of us were participants in a church planting conference at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. Among our number were a sprinkling of Americans and Europeans and a group of about 15 church planters from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

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# Accrediting association reprimands Criswell College due to finances

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## Accrediting association reprimands Criswell College due to finances

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—A Bible college with close ties to the Southern Baptist fundamentalist movement is in danger of losing its accreditation due to financial problems.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools announced June 28 on its website that it had placed Criswell College on a one-year probation period. The news was publicized July 5 by the *Dallas Morning News* and [SBC Outpost](#), a blog run by several Southern Baptist pastors disgruntled with the denomination's leadership.

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The  
Criswell  
College  
campus is  
located  
near  
downtown  
Dallas.

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# **RIGHT or WRONG? Baby shower for unwed mother**

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## **RIGHT or WRONG? Baby shower for unwed mother**

**One of the unmarried teenage girls in our church is pregnant. Should we give her a baby shower, or does that send the wrong message to other young girls?**

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# Hispanic Convention to build homes for retired pastors

July 6, 2007  
Posted: 6/28/07

## Hispanic Convention to build homes for retired pastors

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Convention*

AUSTIN—The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas is launching an effort to build homes for retired pastors.

During its annual meeting, the convention passed a motion to create a network of construction teams that would help build homes for retired pastors. The network will be divided into three groups—one that raises money to buy materials, one that builds homes and one that identifies candidates for houses.

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President  
Baldemar  
Borrego  
addresses  
the  
Hispanic  
Baptist  
Convention  
of Texas at  
their  
annual  
meeting in  
Austin.

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# **Women in ministry report highlights progress & obstacles**

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## **Women in ministry report highlights progress & obstacles**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Moderate and progressive Baptists continue to grow in their theoretical support for women as pastors, but their churches remain far behind in practice. That’s one conclusion from the second annual “State of Women in Baptist Life” report, released by Baptist Women in Ministry.

Authors Pam Durso and Eileen Campbell-Reed released the report at the organization’s annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Washington.

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## **Historian urges ‘true Baptists’ to reclaim prophetic role**

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### **Historian urges ‘true Baptists’ to reclaim prophetic role**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—One of the most prominent historians of American evangelicalism called on “true Baptists” to re-assert their prophetic role “as

watchmen on the wall of separation between church and state.”

Randall Ballmer, a history professor at Columbia University, told more than 550 supporters of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty that many of America’s Baptists, in recent decades, have “lost their way.”

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## **CBF panelists urge Baptists to see ‘humanity’ of AIDS crisis**

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### **CBF panelists urge Baptists to see ‘humanity’ of AIDS crisis**

**By Jennifer Harris**

*Missouri Word & Way*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—AIDS asks one question: Are you human? That’s what Genie Hargrove told participants in a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship panel discussion on HIV/AIDS. Churches must see the humanity behind the crisis, she said.

Hargrove, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Devereux, Ga., said she gained that perspective when she saw the AIDS memorial quilt. The quilt,

an ongoing community art project, is a series of 12-foot “blocks” made of three-foot-by-eight-foot panels. Each panel memorializes the life of someone who died of AIDS.

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## **Baptist sex-traffic mission worker urges others to “show up” for ministry**

July 6, 2007

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### **Baptist sex-traffic mission worker urges others to ‘show up’ for ministry**

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The key to ministry in Jesus’ name—even in difficult and dangerous places—is to “show up,” Luran Bethell told participants in the William H. Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society annual meeting.

Bethell, an American Baptist missionary who has spent most of her adult life ministering to and rescuing women from prostitution and sexual trafficking, received the Whitsitt Society’s annual Courage Award. The group met during the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in



Washington, June 28.

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# **CBF considers UN campaign to fight poverty, hunger & disease**

July 6, 2007

Posted: 7/03/07

## **CBF considers UN campaign to fight poverty, hunger & disease**

**By Greg Warner & Matt Kennedy**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at its general assembly took the first step toward joining the United Nations' campaign against global poverty and disease, called the [Millennium Development goals](#).

In a break from business-as-usual during the Fellowship's national meeting, participants voted overwhelmingly to instruct their governing body to consider ways CBF can join other Christian groups to reach the United Nations' Millennium Development goals.

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# **CBF leaders endorse New Baptist Covenant**

July 6, 2007

Posted: 7/01/07

## **CBF leaders endorse New Baptist Covenant**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ABP)—Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship endorsed the New Baptist Covenant June 27, saying the mission of the diverse Covenant coalition is consistent with the Fellowship's core values.

The New Baptist Covenant, launched by former president and Baptist layman Jimmy Carter last April, is a broad-based initiative to improve the image of Baptists in North America and unite the majority of those Baptists across racial lines into a loose-knit network committed to the gospel message of Jesus and to addressing social ills.

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# **CBF moderator McCall says God's covenant gives Christians responsibility**

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## **CBF moderator McCall says God's covenant gives Christians responsibility**

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—God's covenant with Christians "places the responsibility for being the presence of Christ squarely on our shoulders," Emmanuel McCall told participants at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly June 28.

God is a covenant-keeping God, insisted McCall, the Fellowship's moderator and pastor of The Fellowship Baptist Group in suburban Atlanta. He cited several covenants recorded in the Old Testament but stressed God sealed the "new covenant"—God's most precious pact—with the life and atoning death of Jesus.

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# Rockwall prayer advocate feels drawn to West Africa

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Lebou students listen to the story of Noah during an after school Vacation Bible School type program.

## Rockwall prayer advocate feels drawn to West Africa

**By Jesse Lyautey**

*International Mission Board*

DAKAR, Senegal—Each summer for the past eight years, Lance Bedford has walked the beaches of Africa's westernmost point.

He watches his step to avoid sharp objects, trash or fish heads thrown from the boats lining the beach after the day's haul. But Bedford really watches the people, the Lebou fisherman of Senegal, and prays they will have an openness to hear the gospel. They are the reason he returns, year after year.



Cal MaCintire (left) and Lance Bedford (center) prepare a meal for Lebou believers during a worship gathering.