

# Cooperative Program definition sparks messenger debate

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## Cooperative Program definition sparks messenger debate

**By Trennis Henderson**

*Kentucky Western Recorder*

SAN ANTONIO—A proposal to define what constitutes Cooperative Program giving sparked lengthy debate during the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, including a charge that the measure “goes against historical Baptist polity.”

The recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee defines the denomination’s 82-year-old giving plan as “Southern Baptists’ unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.”

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# Chapman urges SBC: Don't make every doctrinal issue a 'political football'

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## Chapman urges SBC: Don't make every doctrinal issue a 'political football'

**By Trennis Henderson**

*Kentucky Western Recorder*

SAN ANTONIO—Warning that Southern Baptists “must not make every doctrinal issue a crusade or political football,” SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman declared it is a waste of time to “harshly debate disputable doctrines that lead to destructive distractions.”

Chapman offered his assessment in the wake of widespread debate about recent actions by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board regarding believer's baptism and private prayer language.

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# **Bush thanks SBC for support**

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## **Bush thanks SBC for support**

**By Tony W. Cartledge**

*Biblical Recorder*

SAN ANTONIO—Judging by the reaction he received at their annual meeting, President George W. Bush's popularity remains strong among Southern Baptists, whom he thanked for their support June 13.

Bush was greeted with a standing ovation of sustained applause, punctuated by whistles and cheers, as he spoke via a live satellite feed to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Antonio.

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## **Messengers raise questions about IMB finances, trustees**

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# Messengers raise questions about IMB finances, trustees

By **Grace Thornton**

*The Alabama Baptist*

SAN ANTONIO—International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin presented an upbeat report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting about advancement of the gospel. But he still was unable to escape concerns addressed by messengers during the Tuesday night session.

A concern about embezzlement resurfaced when messenger Ron McGowin of Fairfield, Texas, questioned the outcome of a motion he introduced at last year's annual meeting. McGowin's motion had called for an external audit of the Central Asia Region's monetary dealings between 1999-2005.

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## Former SBC missions leader Tanner dead at 77

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## Former SBC missions leader Tanner

## **dead at 77**

BELTON (ABP)—William Tanner, former head of home missions for the Southern Baptist Convention, died June 10 in Belton at age 77.

Tanner was president of the SBC Home Mission Board from 1976 to 1986.

Under his leadership, the mission board began the Mission Service Corps volunteer missionary program , increased its emphasis on language missions, and strengthened partnerships between the agency and state Baptist convention partners.

Geoff Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board, expressed his gratitude for the legacy Tanner left for the home mission field.

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# **Calvinist churches targeted by Florida Baptist Convention**

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## **Calvinist churches targeted by Florida Baptist Convention**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Some Florida Baptists insist the Florida Baptist Convention is intimidating and demonizing churches that believe in Calvinism—and doing it with money contributed by the churches.

Convention executive director John Sullivan recently sent recordings of sermons by Sullivan's former pastor Jerry Vines to every church in the state, apparently at convention expense, that identify Calvinism as a threat to Baptist life.

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## **WMU joins directors of missions as associations celebrate 300 years**

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Russell Cook (left), director of missions for Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association in Oklahoma, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at that organization's annual meeting June 10-11 in San Antonio. Wesley Pitts, DOM of Long Run Baptist Association in Kentucky, will serve as first vice president.

Ron Davis (not pictured) of Greenville Baptist Association, Greenville, South Carolina, was elected second vice president.

Tampa Bay Baptist Association DOM Tom Biles (right) will serve on the SBCADOM executive committee for 2007-08 as immediate past president.

# **WMU joins directors of missions as associations celebrate 300 years**

**By Vicki Brown**

*Special Assignment*

SAN ANTONIO—Unless associational leaders pray for and work with their churches, they run the risk of becoming “as obsolete as a horse and buggy in a NASCAR world,” Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., admonished Southern Baptist directors of missions.

Henry, a former Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Orlando, was the featured speaker as the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions celebrated 300 years of associational work in the United States June 10.

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## **Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Drinking coffee**

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**CYBER COLUMN:**



# Drinking coffee

**By Berry D. Simpson**

Every morning when I get to my office, I go through the same routine: I turn on my computer and enter the password so it can run through the boot-up process. Then I walk down the hall to the breakroom coffee maker, move the half-filled pot of regular coffee up to the second warmer and start brewing a pot of decaf . While I wait for the pot to fill, I stand around and crack some jokes or talk about books or movies or theology and then fill my black coffee mug (black mugs don't have to be washed as often as other colors; in fact, maybe they never have to be washed) and go back to my office and enjoy my coffee and read my morning e-mails.

Berry D. Simpson
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The first cup of coffee is the best cup of my day. I never stop for coffee on the way to the office, and if I go somewhere for breakfast, I usually drink a Diet Coke. I don't drink a lot of coffee—at most about three cups in a given morning. I seldom drink coffee in the afternoons unless it is very cold outside. I don't drink much coffee at home, since Cyndi doesn't drink it even though she often offers to make it for me.

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## Around the State

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The 2007 Young Maston Scholars were named as a part of the T.B. Maston Christian Ethics Lectures held at Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Theological Seminary.

Scholars and presenters pictured are (front row, left to right) Tommy Brisco, dean of Logsdon Seminary; Taryn Nash, Houston Baptist University; Leslie Strickland, Hardin-Simmons University; Bill Tillman, Maston Professor of Christian Ethics; and Allen Verhey, professor of Christian ethics at Duke University and guest lecturer. Second row, Josh Gibb, HBU; Ryan Saenz, HSU; Chris Talleri, East Texas Baptist University; Chris Bertolino, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; and Andrea Dale Huffman, Howard Payne University. Third row, Katherine Schnell, Baylor University; and Austin Fischer, UMHB. Fourth row, Gary Price, ETBU; Galan Hughes, Baylor; and Andy O'Quinn, HPU.

# Around the State

- **Rob Nash**, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship global missions coordinator, will be the featured speaker at the Truett Theological Seminary luncheon scheduled during the CBF general assembly in Washington, D.C. The luncheon will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Friday, June 29, at the Grand Hyatt, Constitution Ballroom C/D. Reservations are required, and the cost is \$50. For more information, call (318) 442-7773.
- **Four students received doctor of ministry degrees** at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary spring commencement ceremony. Receiving doctorates were Angela Bryant of Picayune, Miss., Charles Chu of Austin, Dean Meade of Victoria and James Palmer Jr. of Marshall. Three students also earned master of theological studies degrees, and there were 40 master of divinity graduates.
- **Four Howard Payne University students** have been selected to receive the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation scholarship in the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom Honors Program. The recipients, all juniors, are Emily Gore of Grand Prairie, Jennifer Middleton of Katy, Jordan Humphreys of Arlington and Tricia Rosetty of Houston. The scholarship provides \$9,000 a year for two years.



A team from First Church in Georgetown travelled to Brazil and ministered in a variety of ways, including bestowing bags of small gifts and toiletries to children involved in an after-school ministry called Projecto Vida in Novo Hamburgo. This young boy was so excited, he immediately took his bag to his mother to show off his treasures. The team also participated in house-church meetings and assisted three missionary couples in reaching out to the German Brazilian people living in the area.

- **Dallas Baptist University** honored Jeannette Sadler and the Methodist Health System with its Good Samaritan Award at its annual partnership dinner. Sadler has been a member of Cliff Temple Church in Dallas 80 years and recently began work with Buckner International and the church to fund a community outreach center that will bear her and her late husband's names. She also has served DBU as a member of the board of trustees and a financial donor. Methodist Health Systems was recognized for more than 80 years of meeting the health needs of North Texans.

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# **What to do if a minister is accused of sexual misconduct**

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## **What to do if a minister is accused of sexual misconduct**

**By Jim White**

*Virginia Religious Herald*

Most pastors and staff members are aware that ministry sometimes puts them in unique circumstances with all kinds of people. Most also are aware that a rumor of wrongdoing often is enough to end an otherwise fruitful ministry. For this reason, wisdom requires taking precautions to protect one's reputation and ministry.

Occasionally, however, the unthinkable will occur. Someone will accuse a minister of sexual misconduct. Because church members are trusting people, and because such allegations are rare, most never have considered what they would do if such charges were made against one of their ministers.

**See Related Articles:**

- [The recycle of clergy abuse](#)
  - What to do if a minister is accused of sexual misconduct
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    - [Stepping over the line: Should sexually straying clergy be restored to ministry?](#)
  - [Sexual predators often fly under the radar at church](#)
    - [Sex-abuse victims speak up to help others & find healing themselves](#)
  - [Ministers not immune from sexual addiction](#)
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# Breaking the cycle

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## Breaking the cycle

*How can churches escape the trap of recycling sex abusers?*

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.(ABP)—What can churches do to prevent clergy sex abuse and break the pattern of recycling abusers? Even among activists and experts, there is no consensus—and sometimes loud disagreement—about the steps to be taken.

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## **Stepping over the line: Should sexually straying clergy be restored to ministry?**

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# Stepping over the line: Should sexually straying clergy be restored to ministry?

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—Some Baptists consider sexual misconduct by clergy the unpardonable sin when it comes to hiring church staff, and many survivors of abuse agree. But others say it depends on which scarlet letter the minister wears—“W” for “wanderer” or a “P” for “predator.”

Ethicist Joe Trull accepts the distinction between wanderers and predators. He explained the difference between the two types of offenders in a book he and James Carter, former director of church-minister relations with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, wrote on ministerial ethics.