

TOGETHER: Churches need ‘Jesus kind’ of leaders

May 25, 2007

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TOGETHER: Churches need ‘Jesus kind’ of leaders

One of the recurring concerns in church life is moving effectively toward the future. Who will lead the way? What role does the pastor have? What is the role of deacons and church leaders? How does the staff fit into the process in churches with multiple ministers? These issues will always be with us.

In my book, *The Jesus Principle*, I address these matters . Here are some principles:



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

- **The only thing worse for a church than a dictatorial pastor is a**

pastor who won't lead.

When a church calls a pastor, they expect spiritual leadership. They want maturity and sensitivity in their pastor—not arrogance and a “my way or the highway” attitude. They feel they deserve someone who has spent enough time in prayer, Bible study and service that they can have confidence in his or her leadership. But no pastor can give effective leadership if church members squabble over every attempt to move forward. Both pastor and congregation need to give thanks to God for each other.

CYBERCOLUMN by John Duncan: Twenty years in one place

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/25/07

CYBER COLUMN: Twenty years in one place

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thumbing through an old Bible. It is a wide-margin brown calf-skin Cambridge Bible. Old, yellowed tape lines the Bible with notes, quotes and a date written in the front on a leafy

page—July, 1984. I bought it as a seminary student and paid \$70 for it when I worked at a Christian bookstore.

For years when I used that Bible to read, to study and to preach, I would write notes in the margin, tape quotes and pen notes in the front and back.

John Duncan

Storylist for the 5/28/07 issue

May 25, 2007

Storylist for week of 5/28/07

TAKE ME TO: [Top Story](#) | [Texas](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Baptists](#) | [Faith & Culture](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Departments](#) | [Bible Study](#)



- [Frontline Ministry: Baptist chaplain meets spiritual needs in combat](#)



- [Ministry provides Michigan-to-Moldova link](#)
- [Port Neches senior to represent Texas Baptists at national speakers' contest](#)

- [Granbury church believes in old-time religionâ€”first-century Christianity](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)
- [Texas Tidbits](#)

Chaplains serve as war continues

- [Frontline Ministry: Baptist chaplain meets spiritual needs in combat](#)
- [Chaplain ministers at world's busiest U.S. military trauma center](#)
- [As the war goes on, so does the work of military](#)
- [DEPLOYED: Baptist pastor ministers in Iraq](#)
- [Cadets learn Islam as part of â€”winning the peace'](#)
- [Chaplain strives to be the presence of Christ in war zone](#)
- [Southern Baptist tapped as Army chief of chaplains](#)
- [Family collects tributes to fallen soldier as â€”sacred relics'](#)
- [Chaplains prep West Point cadets for spiritual warfare](#)
- [San Antonio volunteers serve wounded warriors](#)
-  [Southern Baptists may consider another public school resolution](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)



- [Men's groups plan event to mark 10th anniversary of Washington Mall rally](#)
- [As Senate debates immigration bill, Christian leaders say it's worth a shot](#)
- [When it comes to counting church members, the devil's in the details](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



- [Book Reviews](#)



- [Around the State](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Cartoon](#)



- [EDITORIAL: The future of Texas depends on this](#)
- [DOWN HOME: Adjustment needed in half-empty nest](#)
- [TOGETHER: Churches need a 'Jesus kind' of leaders](#)
- [RIGHT or WRONG? Responding to tragedy](#)
- [2nd Opinion: Leave judgment in the parking lot](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Twenty years in one place](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for May 27: Ministering inside while reaching outside](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for May27: Being a peacemaker requires effort](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for May 27: Adopting an eternal mindset](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for June 3: When bad things happen to a good person](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for June 3: Finding God's mercy through repentance](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for June 3: Practicing obedience diligently](#)

Previously Posted

- [Board elects BGCT executive director search committee](#)
- [Randles named BGCT evangelism director](#)
- [No lawsuits planned; too costly & complex, lawyer suggests](#)
- [Vietnam vets to attend reunion of Saigon Baptist church](#)
- [Carter meets with SBC bloggers, who welcome gesture](#)
- [Prominent Republicans join Democrats on New Covenant roster](#)
- [Women caught in the crosshairs of global debate over families](#)
- [Successful churches provide meaning and belonging](#)
- [Trial date set in first of five Missouri Baptist lawsuits](#)

- [Falwell leaves complex legacy](#)
- [Board to consider search committee for new BGCT executive director](#)
- [IMB policies on baptism, 'prayer language' softened](#)
- [British Baptists take action on migrants, human trafficking](#)
- [Giuliani explains views on abortion, gays at HBU](#)
- [Missionaries return to Tanzania after surviving attack](#)
- [See a complete list of articles from our previous 5/14/ 2007 issue here.](#)

Hispanic youth challenged to see God-given potential & purpose

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May 25, 2007

Updated: 5/11/07



Victor
Rodriguez,
pastor of South
San Filadelfia
Baptist Church
in San Antonio,
speaks during
the Hispanic
Youth and
Singles
Congreso.
(Photos courtesy
of BGCT
Communications)

Hispanic youth challenged to see God-given potential & purpose

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BELTON—God designed each person exactly as he wanted and has plans for each individual, Victor Rodriguez, pastor of South San Filadelfia Baptist Church in San Antonio, told participants at the Baptist General Convention of Texas Hispanic Youth and Singles Congreso.

Unfortunately, many people easily forget that notion when they look in the mirror, he said. They focus on what they see as their faults and weaknesses. They listen to the criticism of others and allow it to affect the way they view themselves.



Participants at the Texas Hispanic Youth and Singles Congreso join in worship.

Randles named BGCT evangelism director

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/24/07

Randles named BGCT evangelism director

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—Jon Randles—an evangelist, campus Bible study leader, motivational speaker and former Texas pastor—has been named

evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Randles assumes his new duties on the BGCT missions, evangelism and ministries staff effective June 1.

Jon Randles

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: About Alice

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/21/07

CYBER COLUMN: About Alice

By Brett Younger

I used to alternate between reading “Christian” books and “non-Christian” books, but I don’t do that anymore. The problem with the practice is that “Christian” books often suffer by comparison. Too many are passionless and dull—the opposite of what a book that has anything to do with Christ should be. *About Alice* will never be on the shelf of any Christian bookstore, but it’s passionate, funny and sacred. It’s also the saddest, loveliest story I’ve read in a long time.

About Alice is Calvin Trillin’s heartbreaking portrait of his wife Alice—who died in 2001 after a long struggle with lung cancer. I didn’t cry when I read

About Alice. At least not the second time through. Not much anyway.

Brett Younger

Carter meets with SBC bloggers, who welcome gesture

May 25, 2007

Updated: 5/20/07

Carter meets with SBC bloggers, who welcome gesture

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP) — Some of the Southern Baptist Convention's most prominent bloggers reacted positively to a summit they held with former President Jimmy Carter May 17 in Atlanta.

Carter and the leaders discussed building a broad range of Baptist support for an unprecedented gathering of Baptists in North America, set for next year in Georgia's capital city. The "[Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant](#)" is scheduled for next January.

Giuliani explains views on abortion, gays at HBU

May 25, 2007

Updated: 5/18/07

Giuliani explains views on abortion, gays at HBU

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

HOUSTON (ABP)—The front-runner among potential Republican presidential nominees used a speech at [Houston Baptist University](#) to explain his views on abortion rights and other controversial social issues.

But the moderately pro-choice, pro-gay-rights positions former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani staked out in his appearance at the Texas Baptist school still may prove problematic as he attempts to convince social conservatives that he's their best choice.

Rudy
Giuliani
speaking
at
Houston
Baptist
University.
Watch a
[video clip](#)
[of his](#)
[speech](#)
[here](#).

Successful churches provide meaning and belonging

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/18/07

Successful churches provide meaning and belonging

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—Successful congregations do two things well; they provide people

with meaning and with a sense of belonging, said religious researcher Kevin Dougherty.

“To succeed, a church must provide meaning. It must make a compelling case there is something worth believing—worth sacrificing for,” said Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology at Baylor University and a researcher in the school’s [Institute for the Studies of Religion](#).

Trial date set in first of five Missouri Baptist lawsuits

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/18/07

Trial date set in first of five Missouri Baptist lawsuits

By Vicki Brown

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—A Missouri judge has set a date for the first jury trial in the cases of five statewide Baptist institutions embroiled in an [ongoing legal battle](#) with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Jury selection in the convention’s lawsuit against Windermere Baptist Conference Center is set to begin on Oct. 23, with the trial scheduled to

run through Oct. 31.

Women caught in the crosshairs of global debate over families

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/18/07

Women caught in the crosshairs of global debate over families

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WARSAW (ABP)—Critics of the [World Congress on Families](#) called it homophobic and unrealistic. Supporters saluted the recent congress—the fourth such global gathering, which played to a sympathetic audience in conservative Poland—for proclaiming the family unit as the only hope for economic and spiritual growth in Europe.

In each case, women are caught in the crosshairs of the debate—portrayed either as saviors of civilization or victims of conservative dogma.

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 27: Ministering inside while reaching outside

May 25, 2007

Posted: 5/18/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 27

Ministering inside while reaching outside

- Acts 19:8-10; 20:18-35

[By Leroy Fenton](#)