

Competing state conventions challenge associations

May 11, 2007

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Competing state conventions challenge associations

By Ken Camp & Robert Dilday

Baptist Standard & Religious Herald

Dual—and sometimes dueling—state conventions often present a challenge for associations of churches.

In keeping with Baptist polity, associations are autonomous, stand-alone organizations, just as Baptist churches and state and national conventions are. But in practice, associations have maintained close ties to state conventions—often sharing funding and even staff positions.

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NETWORKS: New label or a new way for churches to relate?

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NETWORKS:

New label or a new way for churches to relate?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Some associations of churches call themselves “networks” now. And their directors of missions insist it’s more than just a trendy change in terminology.

As missions director for a West Texas area that included both Midland and Odessa Baptist associations, Wayne Keller observed a steady decline in participation in associational life. About two years ago, he decided the associations faced a choice—change or die.



Woven

Together:

Associations' survival depends on willingness to change

May 11, 2007

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WOVEN TOGETHER: Associations' survival depends on willingness to change

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

The drive to weave ties among local churches is housed deep in the Baptist DNA, some observers of denominational life say. It's an instinct almost as visceral as another, often competing, Baptist characteristic—a fierce independence of thought and practice.

**Geography
is no
longer the
tie that
binds
Baptists....**

For many Baptists, the term “cooperation” carries almost as much theological resonance as “believer’s baptism by immersion” and

“priesthood of the believer.” And from their earliest years, Baptists in North America have experimented with congregational links, convinced that what their churches couldn’t do on their own, they could do together.

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May 11, 2007

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Leaders discuss missions opportunities & challenges

May 11, 2007

Updated: 5/11/07

Leaders discuss missions opportunities & challenges

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

WACO—In a meeting organizers hope will strengthen and encourage mission work, Baptist leaders described a need to create a culture where missions is integral to the Christian lifestyle.

About 100 missions leaders from agencies, institutions, conventions and churches gathered at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary at the invitation of Baptist General Convention of Texas President Steve Vernon and Executive Director Charles Wade.

Kimball responds to 'Allah' controversy

May 11, 2007

Updated: 5/11/07

Kimball responds to 'Allah' controversy

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

A religion professor's [statements at a Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission conference](#) that Christianity and Islam talk about "the same God" prompted two associations of churches to ask Baptist General Convention of Texas leaders to clarify the convention's doctrinal position.

At a February Christian Life Commission conference in Austin, Charles Kimball of Wake Forest University said regarding Islamic teaching about Allah: "It's the same God that Jews and Christians are talking about."

Charles Kimball, religion professor at Wake Forest University, says his address was not significantly different than “anything I’ve been saying for 30-something years.”

Evangelicals unite to push immigration reform

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/10/07

Evangelicals unite to push

immigration reform

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A broad variety of evangelicals and other Christian groups and leaders launched a new campaign May 7 to get Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

With a Washington press conference and ads in two major Capitol Hill publications, [Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#) launched a campaign that will include both a media strategy in states with large numbers of immigrants and a grassroots organizing campaign.

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 20: Sharing the gospel with skeptics

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/10/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 20

Sharing the gospel with skeptics

- Acts 17:10-11, 16-34

[By Leroy Fenton](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for May 20: We all need to be peacemakers

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/10/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for May 20

We all need to be peacemakers

- Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 5:13- 6:5

[By David Harp](#)

Explore the Bible Series for May 20: Seeking truth in an age of error

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/10/07

[Explore the Bible Series for May 20](#)

Seeking truth in an age of error

- 2 Peter 2:1-3, 12-14, 17-22

[By Kathryn Aragon](#)

First Baptist Church, Duncanville

Last week, we talked about the game of telephone—a great party game, but a poor Bible study method. This week, we're going to discuss why.

Ethiopian child finds a place to call home

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/04/07

Ethiopian child finds a place to call home

By **Miranda Bradley**

Children At Heart Foundation

Ask 8-year-old Israel about his family, he becomes quiet. Already shy, the boy looks down at his small hands, quietly refusing to respond. But ask him about [Texas Baptist Children's Home](#), and he has no trouble expressing his joy.

It's a far cry from two years ago, when Israel arrived from Ethiopia—unable to speak English and unable to find a place to call home.

Eight-year-old Israel from Ethiopia.

UMHB students learn as they serve through Habitat

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Students
from the
University of
Mary Hardin-
Baylor
learned
carpentry as
they helped
on a Habitat
for Humanity
project.

UMHB students learn as they serve through Habitat

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—When Sherman Wilkins participated in a [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) outreach program his first year, he “fell in love” with the idea of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Never mind he didn’t know much about using a hammer and saw.

“My first day on a habitat job site, I was clueless on what services the different tools functioned for,” said Wilkins, a senior from Hamlet, N.C., who is now president of the UMHB Habitat for Humanity chapter. “During every scheduled volunteer build, Habitat provides supervisors to oversee the construction in which they educate inexperienced individuals on the proper technique for the use the tools.”

