

Baptist Briefs

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Mohler faces surgery, bows out of SBC race. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and spokesman for conservative social causes, will bow out of the race for Southern Baptist Convention president. Mohler, 48, will undergo surgery for a pre-cancerous tumor in his colon, according to a release posted on the seminary website. Doctors discovered the tumor during a routine colonoscopy, and a subsequent biopsy revealed it was pre-cancerous. Three other candidates for the SBC presidency already have been announced—Georgia pastor Frank Cox and Californians Wiley Drake and Bill Wagner.



Tornado causes minimal damage to rare books. The Ryan Center for Biblical Studies at Union University lost about 10 percent of its holdings when a tornado swept through the Jackson, Tenn., campus last month. The center is located on the top floor of Jennings Hall, which had half its roof ripped off in the tornado. Most of the damage was caused by water, mildew or mold. A nearly 400-year-old Geneva Bible, the oldest book in the library's possession, was untouched since it is kept in a glass case along with three other rare books—an English Hexapla, a Basal New Testament and a copy of the Wycliffe New Testament.

Graham released from hospital. Billy Graham was released from the hospital Feb. 19 and is resting at his mountain home in Montreat, N.C., where he is expected to continue working on a book about the joys and challenges of growing old. The 89-year-old evangelist was hospitalized in Asheville Feb. 13 for an elective procedure to replace a valve in a shunt designed to drain excess fluid from his brain. The new valve was an update to a shunt installed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in 2000 to alleviate the condition hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid within the brain that can cause symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease. At a recent checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., doctors found the shunt no longer was draining the fluid properly, and they proposed an operation.

Baptist worker in Asia dies from bus mishap injuries. Linda Lipscomb, an International Mission Board worker, died Feb. 14 in Bangkok, Thailand, from complications following a bus accident. She was 63. Lipscomb, a former nurse, and her husband, J.P., were spending their retirement years serving overseas. Four weeks before her death, in another part of Asia, Lipscomb stood just inside the door of a bus, preparing to step off and walk to a coffee shop. Without warning, the brakes released and the bus rolled forward, throwing her to the ground. The fall broke her left femur and wrist. She was medically evacuated to Bangkok the day after the accident.

Huckabee & Warren headline preaching conference. Republican presidential candidate and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee and best-selling author Rick Warren, both ordained Southern Baptist pastors, will speak about how to use the pulpit to address political, social and cultural issues at a preaching conference April 7-9 in Washington, D.C. They will top the bill at the 19th annual national conference on preaching hosted by Preaching Magazine and preaching.com. Other speakers at the

event include Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship; William Willimon, bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church; and national columnist Cal Thomas.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Baptist churches, in Texas, the BGCT, the nation and around the world.