

BaptistWay Bible Series for May 4: Death of a nation

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BaptistWay Bible Series for May 4

Death of a nation

- 2 Kings 17:1-18, 21-23

[By Kenneth Jordan](#)

Fort Worth church mired in controversy over gays loses pastor

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Fort Worth church mired in

controversy over gays loses pastor

FORT WORTH (ABP)—Brett Younger, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, survived a vote to fire him last month but is leaving the church anyway—to become associate professor of preaching at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

Broadway Baptist Church has been embroiled for months in a public controversy over homosexuality and other issues. The congregation approved a compromise Feb. 24 intended to end controversy over whether gay couples in the church should be pictured alongside other families in a new church directory. Some members objected to having those photos included, saying that would move from simply welcoming homosexual individuals— which Broadway has done quietly for years—to affirming their lifestyle.

Although the membership approved the compromise, which eliminated family and individual photos, the controversy ballooned into a dispute over Younger's overall leadership. A group of disgruntled Broadway members later submitted a petition to force a vote declaring the church's pulpit vacant.

Younger asked church leaders to schedule the vote, and members voted 499-237 against firing their pastor of nearly seven years.

Hispanic gathering stresses

unity, equipping for service

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A mariachi group from South San Philadelphia Baptist Church in San Antonio lead in worship at a regional gathering of the Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity. (Photo by Carrie Joynton)

Hispanic gathering stresses unity, equipping for service

By Carrie Joynton

Special to the Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO—Unity and equipping Christians for evangelism and discipleship took the spotlight at a regional Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity gathering in San Antonio.

Baldemar Borrego, president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, stressed the importance of promoting unity among Hispanic Baptists.

Duo encounters bugs, mud, ‘mixed-up beliefs’ in Amazon Basin

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Duo encounters bugs, mud, ‘mixed-up beliefs’ in Amazon Basin

By Shawn Hendricks

International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Pat Townsend admits she’s living outside her comfort zone.

Between the bugs, mud and freezing showers, Townsend, a missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board’s Masters Program, admits it could take her awhile to adjust to life in and around the Amazon

Basin of South America.

Amazon people groups remain unreachable

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Amazon people groups remain unreachable

By Shawn Hendricks

International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) —Weary travelers stand alongside a river somewhere in South America's Amazon Basin.

After three hours of trying to maneuver upstream by motorboat to a remote village, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries grudgingly accept the realization that the day's journey has ended.

A metal boat
carrying
Southern
Baptist
missionaries
cruises up
river to a
remote
village in
the Amazon
Basin.
(Photo/IMB)

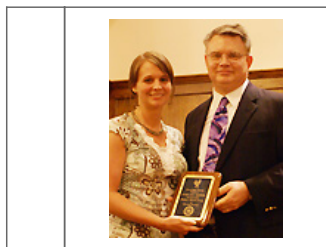
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Around the State

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Roark Scholars

presented overviews of academic papers as part of the Christian Doctrines Colloquy at Howard Payne University. Pictured are Kirk House of Gurden, Ark.; Rebekah Mullins of Wylie; Marisha Tyler of Farmington, N.M.; Jay Smith, assistant professor of Christian studies at Howard Payne; Wallace Roark, who taught Christian doctrine 23 years at Howard Payne; James Leo Garrett, emeritus distinguished professor of theology at Southwestern Seminary; Miranda Cole of Borger; Jami Lee Oliver of Buffalo; and Megan Donnelly of Saginaw. In photo at right, Oliver receives the Wallace Roark Prize in Christian doctrines for her paper on "The Doctrine of Salvation in the Works of Flannery O'Connor." Jay Smith, assistant professor of Christian studies at Howard Payne, presents the award. (Photos by Kalie Lowrie/Howard Payne University)

Around the State

- **Three people with Texas ties** were among the 92 missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board in an April 9 ceremony at First Church in Sunnyvale.

Appointees with Texas ties included David and Kimi Sams who will work in university ministry in South America. They previously served as missionaries in Puerto Rico. At the time of his appointment, Sams was administrative pastor at First Church in El Paso. They have two children—Jessika, 13, and Joshua, 6. Karla Turner will serve as a church planter in South America. A native of Freeport, she is a member of First Church in Houston.

- **East Texas Baptist University** will hold its annual writers' conference June 6-7. Twenty-six topics will be covered during the conference. The cost of attending the Saturday conference is \$70, with a \$20 discount for high school and college students. Attendance at the preconference sessions on Friday costs an additional \$25. Friday's events begin at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday begins at 8:30 a.m. The registration deadline is May 30. A writing contest also will be held, with cash prizes to be awarded for short stories and personal essays. Deadline for entries is May 16. For more information, call (903) 923-2083.

- **Sarah Moye and Betty Henry** will become the first two women to receive leadership certificates in women's ministry from the seminary extension department housed at Sabine Neches Baptist Area in a graduation ceremony May 6.
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Visionâ€”not just geographyâ€”unite associations of churches

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Vision-not just geography -unite associations of churches

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FORT WORTH—Want to know what an association looks like? Don't use a still camera, because the image and functions are constantly changing as associations try to be what the churches they serve need them to be, said Tarrant Baptist Association Director of Missions Tom Law. And to fit all the churches into the same window will take a wide-angle lens—a very wide-angle lens.

“I think the association we have been familiar with is going to change drastically over the next few years,” Law said. But change is nothing new for associations, he explained.

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

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Vivica Villa, age 7 of Kempner, works on a painting at the Autism in Action art day held at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. (Photos by Sarah-Jane Sanders/UMHB)

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

By Laura Frase

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

ELTON—For several hours on a recent Saturday, a University of Mary Hardin-Baylor gymnasium was transformed into an artists' paradise.

From pencils and paint to canvas and cardboard puzzle pieces, children

with autism expressed themselves through original artwork during an Autism in Action event, sponsored by the Student Government Association of Texas State Technical College in Waco.



University of Mary Hardin-Baylor student Annietra Oliver assists TJ Neyland, age 4 of Copperas Cove, with his painting at the Autism in Action art day held on the UMHB campus.

Books: The Problem with Evangelical Theology

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Books: The Problem with Evangelical Theology

The Problem with Evangelical Theology by Ben Witherington III
(Baylor University Press)

Ben Witherington, professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, contends that evangelicals are, in general, biblically illiterate and tend to embrace theology that would be unknown to the early church fathers prior to St. Augustine. Instead, they often cling to their respective denominational doctrines without thoroughly examining the scriptural texts, often unwilling to do the hard work of learning the original languages and deeply studying the contexts of the writings.

Witherington illustrates by critiquing the interpretive foundations of Calvinism, Dispensationalism and Wesleyanism (his own background). This Bible study commentary makes up the main body of the book and definitely should be read with one's own open copy of the Scriptures in hand.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Even though Christians approach God's word with their own experiences and points of view, "when one speaks about interpreting the biblical text according to a certain tradition, one has already made certain assumptions

about what should have priority in interpretation—namely, the tradition rather than the Scripture itself,” Witherington insists.

Baptist Briefs: ABP honors BGCT

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Baptist Briefs: ABP honors BGCT

Directors of [Associated Baptist Press](#) honored the Baptist General Convention of Texas and announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from a Texas Baptist family during a meeting in San Antonio. The BGCT has long been one of the major financial supporters of the independent Baptist news service. Executive Editor Greg Warner announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. The foundation has promised to match all individual donations to the news service, up to \$100,000, until the end of 2008. John and Eula Mae Baugh’s granddaughter, Jackie Moore of San Antonio, serves as an ABP director and on the Baugh Foundation board.

Scholarship application deadline soon. The [Baptist History & Heritage Society](#) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a university or seminary student

doing research in Baptist studies. Any student interested in applying for the scholarship must submit an application packet postmarked by May 1. It should include the student's name, address, phone number and e-mail address; the name of the school, course and professor in which the student is engaged in research in Baptist historical studies; and a 250-word description of the research project. The student also must commit to prepare and submit to the Baptist History & Heritage Society, within one year of completing the research, a 3,500-word article for consideration for publication in the society's journal, Baptist History and Heritage, and/or for placement on the society's website. The student's application also must include an endorsement letter from the student's professor supporting both the student and the research project being conducted by the student.

Baby Boomer Baptist theologians tilt toward Calvinism

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Baby Boomer Baptist theologians tilt toward Calvinism

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

BROWNWOOD—Among Baptist Baby Boomer theologians, at least half of the major authors are committed to Calvinism, an influential Baptist theologian of an earlier generation has noted.

James Leo Garrett Jr., emeritus distinguished professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, examined 10 Baptist theologians of the Baby Boomer generation during a plenary address at Howard Payne University's Christian doctrines colloquy in Brownwood.

Jonathan Edwards

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Floral theology delineates doctrines held by Calvinists

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Floral theology delineates doctrines held by Calvinists

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Theologians past and present have used a bouquet of initials and analogies to describe Calvinist doctrine.

Historically, the Reformed Synod of Dort in the Netherlands delineated the differences between Calvinism and the teachings of James Jacobus Arminius. For the sake of simplicity—and playing on an association with the best-known Dutch flower—those teachings have been summarized through the TULIP acrostic.