

Churches can provide significant response to health care needs

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Churches can provide significant response to health care needs

By Carla Wynn Davis

CBF Communications

ATLANTA—When Jimmy Lewis was pastor at First Baptist Church in Morrow, Ga., he and another local pastor had a dream—to meet the growing unmet health needs in the county.

Six months later, with the help of volunteers and donated resources, he helped open a free health clinic.

Seminary president suggests

practices to nurture â€œcapacity for the sacredâ€

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Seminary president suggests practices to nurture ‘capacity for the sacred’

By Jennifer Harris

Missouri Word & Way

ATLANTA—Seminary president Molly Marshall urged Baptists to recognize the Holy Spirit as “God’s nearness to us.”

“The Holy Spirit is God’s means of formally indwelling us. And the Holy Spirit is our means of communion with Christ and access to God. So when I speak about the Spirit of the Lord, obviously I’m going to talk in a Trinitarian context,” said Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, Kan.

• [See latest photos](#) and the latest [video clips](#) from the New Baptist Covenant Meeting. ([And go here to see our complete coverage of the event](#)).

Panelists, participants explore interfaith relationships

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Panelists, participants explore interfaith relationships

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

ATLANTA—Three Baptist leaders known for building ecumenical and interfaith relationships faced the issue of how to relate to persons of other faiths while holding to their own Christian convictions.

One panelist, pastor Gerald Durley of Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, referenced a “Peanuts” comic strip in which the character Sally brags about convincing a boy in her class to agree with her religious convictions—after she hit him with her lunchbox.

Workshop challenges New Covenant Baptists to seek peace

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Workshop challenges New Covenant Baptists to seek peace

By Bob Allen

Baptist Center for Ethics

ATLANTA—Humans are caught “in an inextricable network of mutuality” that requires nations to overcome differences to work together for peace, Baptist ethicist Paul Dekar said Thursday at a special-interest session on peacemaking at the New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta.

“There is no great technique that is going to bring peace,” said Dekar, evangelism and missions professor at Memphis Theological Seminary. “We bring peace when we begin living peaceably with our neighbors.”

Prophetic preachers take varied approaches

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Prophetic preachers take varied approaches

By Ken Camp & Jim White

Baptist Standard & Religious Herald

ATLANTA—One preacher offered an oblique endorsement of a presidential candidate, and another firmly defended the separation of church and state. One urged Christians to link prophetic imagination to concrete practices,

and another cited the specific example of tearing down walls that divide.

The four preachers—two African-American, one Anglo and one Hispanic—participated in a conference on prophetic preaching during the New Baptist Covenant celebration in Atlanta.

Ethnically diverse churches look like God's kingdom, speakers insist

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Ethnically diverse churches look like God's kingdom, speakers insist

By Sue H. Poss

CBF of South Carolina

ATLANTA—A Baptist church only resembles God's kingdom when it includes the diversity of people created in his image, according to participants in a special interest session at the New Baptist Covenant celebration.

"Whenever we are in a room where everybody looks like us, we are not in a room that looks like the kingdom of God," said Chuck Poole, pastor of

Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

Christians called to ‘welcome the stranger’

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Christians called to ‘welcome the stranger’

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

ATLANTA - Church members may disagree over political solutions to the immigration issue, but they can unite around ministry to immigrants who already live in the United States, a Texas Baptist immigration services advocate said Jan. 31.

“Immigration has become a political issue,” said Richard Muñoz, director of the Immigration Service and Aid Center (ISAAC) in Dallas.

Global ills take center stage at Baptist convocation

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Global ills take center stage at Baptist convocation

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Baptists focused attention on social and global ills—materialism, climate change, HIV/AIDS and apathy—during the second day of a unity meeting in Atlanta.

Tony Campolo, Al Gore and John Grisham provided the notable speeches of the day, speaking at the New Baptist Covenant meeting.

Novelist Grisham calls fellow Baptists to respect diversity

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Novelist Grisham calls fellow Baptists to respect diversity

By John Pierce and Tony W. Cartledge

Baptists Today

ATLANTA—Best-selling author John Grisham contrasted the Mississippi Baptist church of his childhood with the greater openness of his current congregation, University Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va., in a rare public address concluding the Jan. 31 evening session of the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant.

In a message titled “Respecting Diversity,” Grisham told of how his childhood church was not open to racial diversity or the inclusion of women in leadership roles. The biblical cases for exclusion were based on literal interpretations of selected scripture passages, he said.

Give students a cause worthy of their devotion, panelists urge

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Give students a cause worthy of their devotion, panelists urge

By **Brian Kaylor**

Baptist General Convention of Missouri

ATLANTA—Young people are bombarded with materialist and consumerist messages, but churches must respond to the challenge by giving them a cause worth following, panelists told a Baptist gathering in Atlanta.

Mitch Randall, pastor of North Haven Church in North Haven, Okla., moderated a session on “Youth at a Crossroad” during the celebration of a New Baptist Covenant.

Gregory admonishes Baptists to show concrete concern for “the stranger”

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Gregory admonishes Baptists to show

concrete concern for ‘the stranger’

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

ATLANTA—Obedience to God’s command means showing specific acts of hospitality to “the stranger before you right now,” not just abstract concern for the marginalized of society or for the oppressed of the world in general, Joel Gregory told a gathering of Baptists from throughout North America.

“We like to generalize. God likes to particularize,” said Gregory, professor of preaching at Baylor University’s Truett Theological Seminary. He addressed the morning session of the celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, Feb. 1 in Atlanta.

• [See latest photos](#) and the latest [video clips](#) from the New Baptist Covenant Meeting. ([And go here to see our complete coverage of the event](#)).

College students unite to serve Atlanta following Baptist celebration

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College students unite to serve Atlanta following Baptist celebration

By Patricia Heys

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

ATLANTA—More than 80 students from eight colleges and universities will participate in a day of service Feb. 2, the day after more than 15,000 Baptists gathered in Atlanta for the celebration of a New Baptist Covenant.

The students, who attended the interracial meeting that drew Baptists from throughout North America, are part of the Baptist Collegiate Fellowship.