

Motion calls for committee with 2020 vision

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By Marv Knox

Editor

Messengers to the 2007 Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting will be asked to create a committee to define the BGCT's "shared vision" for the coming 12 years.

Ed Jackson, a member of the convention's Executive Board and a layman from First Baptist Church in Garland, has announced he will present the proposal during the annual meeting in Amarillo Oct. 29-30.

Whites participate quietly in African-American Baptist body

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Whites participate quietly in African-American Baptist body

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

AUSTIN (ABP)—Pastor Larry Bethune, an Anglo from Austin, recently became president of a mainly African-American Baptist group, and it didn't make news, because it was nothing new.

Perhaps what is news to many Baptists is that the American Baptist Churches of the South has, since its beginning, included both white and black Baptists in its leadership and gone quietly about its business. Bethune is only the latest of several white pastors of Southern Baptist heritage who have served the majority African-American group.

Around the State

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Dallas Baptist
University
professor of
missions Bob
Garrett led a
prayer for
safety, wisdom
and stamina for
Baptist World
Alliance
General
Secretary
Neville Callam
during his visit
to Dallas
Baptist
University as
Dallas-area
Baptist leaders
gathered in
prayer around
him. Callam
visited the
campus as part
of a multi-city
tour he is
undertaking to
meet various
BWA
supporters in
the United
States. Callam
addressed
students during
a chapel
service and
attended a
luncheon in his
honor.

Around the State

- **East Texas Baptist University** will hold homecoming activities Oct. 24-28. The theme for this year will be “Fiesta de la Familia—Celebrating the Family.” There will be a number of special events including Saturday’s homecoming parade at 10:30 a.m. and the 1 p.m. kickoff of the football game versus Mississippi College. For more information, call (903) 923-2041.
- **A children’s gala** will be held Oct. 27 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Cameron County Fairgrounds in San Benito to benefit Valley children through a pediatric emergency department at Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen and the renovation of the pediatric unit at Valley Baptist in Brownsville. The family event will include a mini-rodeo, pony rides, petting zoo, a mechanical bull, music by the Texas Drifters, a dinner, live auction and a raffle. For tickets or more information, call (956) 389-1614.



Counting the Texas World Hunger Offering for Adamsville Church in Lampasas are Janice Hartley, left, and Treasurer Wanda Lang. The congregation collected \$1,157 in plastic rice bowls, surpassing the \$800 goal set by the church's Women on Mission group. The amount was the most ever collected by the church for the hunger offering. Glynn Tyson is pastor.

- **Howard Payne University** will induct three alumni into its sports hall of fame during homecoming activities Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. They include L.J. Clayton, a football player who went on to play in the Canadian Football League; David Gilger, who played both offense and defense for the 1956-60 football teams; and Dale Fisher, who played on the 1957-61 football teams.
- **B.H. Carroll Theological Institute** will hold its fall colloquy Nov. 26-27 at First Church in Arlington. Richard Swinburne will be the guest lecturer with "Is There a God?" as his theme. For registration costs and other information, call (817) 274-4284.

Anniversaries

Revised version of book Baylor rejected explores issues of faith

and learning

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Revised version of book Baylor rejected explores issues of faith and learning

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

An interpretive history of Baylor University's recent years—originally slated for publication under the university's name but rejected by the school's administration last year—will be released next month by a conservative publisher in South Bend, Ind.

Some changes made at Baylor University in the last two decades—membership in the Big XII athletic conference, a new tuition structure, and expansive and expensive building projects—seem set in concrete for the immediate future.

BGCT offers seminar track for

certification

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BGCT offers seminar track for certification

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—For the first time, a series of seminars during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting can help ministers and laypeople gain foundational ministry principles on the way to earning a certificate of completion.

The first two of four Paraclete seminar tracks will be offered during the BGCT annual meeting Oct. 29-30 in Amarillo. Four seminars in leadership and four seminars in biblical/theological studies will be offered during the meeting. Seminars on Baptist distinctives and spiritual formation will be offered in future years.

BGCT annual meeting slated to

feature Rick Warren, historic presidential election

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting will feature Pastor [Rick Warren](#) and a historic presidential election as messengers elect either the first female BGCT president or the first second-generation BGCT president.

The meeting, themed "Together We Can Do More— Missions," will be held Oct. 29-30 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Baptist Joint Committee looks for new property. Directors of the [Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty](#) voted recently to engage a real-estate agent to identify property for the agency to purchase and renovate. The planned Center for Religious Liberty will provide offices, research space for visiting scholars, meeting space for legislative coalition partners and a training center. For decades, the Baptist Joint Committee has used a rented office suite on Capitol Hill in the Veterans of Foreign Wars building. Rent for the space has comprised more than 10 percent of the group's annual budget in recent years.

Missouri Baptists join BJC. Directors of the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty voted to accept the [Baptist General Convention of Missouri](#) as a member organization. The statewide body—formed in 2001 as an alternative to the fundamentalist-controlled Missouri Baptist Convention—joins 14 other national and regional Baptist groups that support the BJC, including the Baptist General Convention of Texas. BJC directors also approved a \$1.2 million budget for 2008, a slight increase over the 2007 budget of \$1.15 million.

Cartoon

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“What
do you
mean
you
want
me to
sing on
a hill
far
away?”

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

CBF council OKs UN anti-poverty goals, hears of year-end budget shortfall

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CBF council OKs UN anti-poverty

goals, hears of year-end budget shortfall

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—The [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's](#) governing board, at its mid-October meeting, endorsed the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, joining many governmental and religious bodies in the global fight against extreme poverty, hunger and disease.

Jack Glogosow, moderator-elect of the Fellowship and a pastor from Zebulon, N.C., said CBF will “demonstrate tremendous responsiveness” to the decision by its annual general assembly last June to pursue the UN goals.”

2nd Opinion: Prioritize equipping & edifying

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2nd Opinion:

Prioritize equipping & edifying

By Woody Hambrick

The “Great Deception” within the church is the prevailing belief that evangelism itself is the answer to the unchurched state of our nation and the cure for the anti-Christian social agenda. Christians have institutionally neglected equipping and edifying the saints.

This is not to say no churches value discipleship. But you cannot deny our primary initiatives center on evangelism. We have mission boards that are well worth funding, but what about a discipleship board? We have some very well-prepared discipleship tools—but no real discipleship initiatives. Christians have focused the lion’s share of our energies, time and finances on the wrong impetus—outreach. Not that outreach is wrong in itself, but it should not be our first priority.



Most churches need to refocus on inreach rather than outreach. Yes, I am painting with a broad brush. But I am looking honestly at a nation that is no longer “one nation under God.” America is one nation under “self.” This change in emphasis from biblical values to moral relativism has been made possible by the failure of the local church. We must admit we collectively have failed as a church at the local level. This has not been a failure to evangelize. We often hear of salvations in large numbers. It is a failure to develop pure faith through equipping and edifying the saints.



Struggling Corpus Christi church finds new lease on life, new purpose

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Families
fellowship
at the hot
dog
supper at
Windsor
Park
Baptist
Church's
Vacation
Bible
School.

Struggling Corpus Christi church finds new lease on life, new purpose

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CORPUS CHRISTI—Even though at one time the church appeared so dead that it needed to post a “not for sale” sign, the faith of a core group has

made a resurgence at Windsor Park Baptist Church possible.

Windsor Park was struggling when Pastor Grover Pinson and his wife, Jana, arrived last year. Only about 20 names remained on the membership rolls, and attendance averaged about a dozen. Even so, Pinson was excited about being the church's pastor.



Pastor Grover Pinson holds a fish cookie at Vacation Bible School at Windsor Park Baptist Church, Corpus Christi.

DBU team hits home run with Guatemalan children

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DBU Head
Baseball Coach
Dan Heefner
said the trip to
Guatemala was
a highlight not
only for his
players, but
also for himself.
(Photos/Chris
Hendricks/DBU)

DBU team hits home run with Guatemalan children

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS—The Dallas Baptist University baseball team and 40 other students recently returned from a four-day mission trip to Guatemala, and the picture etched in most of their minds is a child with a beaming smile.

The two groups embarked on several mission opportunities around Guatemala City, including visiting several orphanages, conducting baseball clinics for Guatemala's Little League teams, and wrapping up each day with a game versus the Guatemalan national team as part of the university's missions partnership with Buckner International.



Clay Kelly offers encouragement to a Guatemalan boy during a base-running drill.