

Retired ministers from 22 states gather at Glorieta

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Bill Tolar
(center),
retired
biblical
backgrounds
professor
from
Southwestern
Seminary,
shows
archeological
items from
the Holy Land
to (left to
right) Mary
and Price
Mathieson of
Lawn Baptist
Church in
Abilene and
Davis and
Neta Harrell
from Mont
Clair, Calif.,
members of
White Avenue
Baptist
Church in
Pamona.
(Photo by
David
Clanton)

Retired ministers from 22 states gather at Glorieta

By David Clanton

Special to the Baptist Standard

GLORIETA, N.M.—Think of it as fellowship among old friends interrupted by food, Bible study and worship. That's the way one participant described the annual gathering of retired ministers, missionaries and church staff at [Glorieta Conference Center](#) in New Mexico.

About 400 participants converged on the mountain retreat from 22 states and one foreign country—Brazil—to hear preaching by Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Emeritus Bill Pinson, music led by Keith Ferguson of First Baptist Church of Carrollton and Bible study led by Bill Tolar, retired professor from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: When Jesus comes to Sunday school

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CYBER COLUMN:

When Jesus comes to Sunday school

By Brett Younger

Leon Lyles has been teaching Sunday school since Lyndon Johnson was president. He teaches a bit like Johnson would, but without the colorful language and Democratic politics. He knows the Bible like Johnson knew the Constitution. He knows Genesis to Revelation and the footnotes at the bottom of the page. In fact, more than anything else, he teaches the footnotes.

Leon begins: "The lesson today is from the ninth chapter of Luke. This passage requires scholars such as ourselves to dig deep into the first century world. Verses 57-58, and I am reading, as I always will, from the King James Version, 'A certain man said unto him, "Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." And Jesus said unto him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."'"

Brett Younger

One verse memorized for the

last 79 years—and counting

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One verse memorized for the last 79 years—and counting

By Toby Druin

Editor Emeritus

WAXAHACHIE—Lucile Manning considers Romans 12:1 her life verse: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (KJV).

The verse has guided her life since August 1929, when at age 18 she responded to her pastor’s plea to “give everything to Jesus.”

Lucile
Manning,
who turns
97 in
December,
has
memorized
a Bible
verse
each year
for the last
79 years.

Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: To the very edges

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CYBER COLUMN: To the very edges

A few months ago, I read a passage from Leviticus, and ever since that morning, I've been wondering about my life—wondering where the edges are; wondering when I should be generous; wondering what I should be giving away.

The verse I read was Leviticus 23:22, which says: “When you reap the harvest of your land do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your harvest a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and alien. I am the Lord your God.” This verse is located among a collection of rules about how to present offerings to God, so I’m assuming the command to leave some of the crop behind was more about worshiping God than about sharing with the poor. I wrote in the margin of my Daily Bible: “I wonder what the equivalent is for me? What are my crops, and where are my edges?”

Berry D. Simpson

God wasn’t encouraging the people to be sloppy farmers when he told them not to harvest to the very edges; he wanted them to live a generous lifestyle. He expected them to not be greedy, even with the fruit of their own labor, but rather to be generous and free. He also meant that they shouldn’t make needy people beg for help—don’t make them stand in line to ask for the leftovers, but leave them respect and honor along with the crops.

So my questions: What is the harvest of my land? What do I produce? What is it that I should leave behind, around the edges, for others to glean?

RIGHT or WRONG? Prayer in schools

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RIGHT or WRONG? Prayer in schools

In the spring, a mass e-mailing circulated at the school where I teach. It reports a teacher's presentation to a school board. She says all the things expected from the teacher on a relatively small salary, and closes with "... and why can't I pray in school?" I believe material like this actually demeans prayer rather than uplifts it. Am I right?

First, let's examine what the law actually says in this area. A helpful booklet titled *A Teacher's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools*, published by the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center, says: "As employees of the government, public school teachers are subject to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and thus required to be neutral concerning religion while carrying out their duties as teachers. That means, for example, that teachers do not have the right to pray with or in the presence of students during the school day."

[Previous Columns](#)

Move over She-Hulk. Make room for Samson.

October 5, 2007

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Move over She-Hulk. Make room for Samson.

By Mary Warner

Religion News Service

HARRISBURG, Pa. (RNS)—Jesus and Moses were sold out, but consumers still could line up at the checkout counter to pay for Mary, Noah, David and a ferocious-looking Samson, packaged with Delilah in hot pink.

Discount chain Wal-Mart is test-marketing biblical action figures. (RNS photos courtesy of one2believe)

The world of posable action figures has traditionally belonged to hulking heroes such as Spider-Man and He-Man. But this latest crop—heroes and heroines from the Bible, on local Wal-Mart shelves since mid-August—are a

testament to central Pennsylvania's proclivity for religion and Wal-Mart's marketing savvy.

Around the State

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Around the State

- **Fielder Road Church in Arlington and Dallas Baptist University** are partnering to bring the "Lead Like Jesus" conference to North Texas via satellite. The Oct. 19 conference will feature Ken Blanchard, Erwin McManus, John and Nancy Ortberg, and other Christian leaders from around the country. The simulcast will begin at the Arlington church at 10:15 a.m., but the doors will open at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$25, or \$10 for students with a current student identification card. Lunch is included in the ticket price. For more information, call (817) 460-2234 or (214) 333-5103.

- **JoAnne Ivy** has been appointed an apprentice missionary by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. She will serve in West Africa. Southcliff Church in Fort Worth is her home church, where she served as a preschool associate.

United Churches of
Marshall Food Pantry
volunteer Dave Rayner
helps East Texas
Baptist University
students Zack Francis
and Katy Little sort out
donated food.
Freshmen students
from both ETBU and
Wiley College walked
Marshall
neighborhoods
collecting donated
canned foods left in
bags by residents. The
food pantry has been
serving families more
than 20 years with 18
congregations
participating in the
ministry, according to
Rayner. Students
collected more than
5,000 plastic bags of
food donated by
Marshall residents.
The ministry is open
five days a week,
serving an average of
10 families per day. "I
really think the
students enjoyed what
they did today," ETBU
Director of Student
Activities Tye Easterly
said. "No one is
complaining, and they
are excited about
learning more about
the community and
want to learn more
about community
activities."

- **Eleven new board members** have been appointed by the Baylor Health Care System Foundation. They are Glenn Callison, Tom Dunning, Stan-ford

Finney, Gini Florer, Bill Miller, James Miller, Beverly Nichols, Wallace Reed, John Tolleson, Michelle Valdez and Terry Worrell.

- **Catherine Crawford** has been named vice president for institutional advancement at East Texas Baptist University.
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BSM director arrested, accused of wife's death

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BSM director arrested, accused of wife's death

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

KERRVILLE—The part-time Baptist Student Ministries director at Schreiner University was arrested Sept. 21 for allegedly killing his wife in 2006.

According to *The Daily Times* in Kerrville, McLennan County authorities obtained a warrant for Matt Baker, 36, that claims he drugged and smothered Kari Baker in their Hewitt home. Her April 7, 2006 death was initially ruled a suicide.

Book reviews

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Book reviews

[Premium Roast with Ruth](#) by Sandra Glahn (AMG Publishers)



In *Premium Roast with Ruth*, the newest addition to the Coffee Cup Bible Study Series, award-winning author and seminary professor Sandra Glahn brings the biblical character Ruth to her reader's front doorstep.

Glahn presents a panoramic picture of Ruth's world, the history of Israel and Moab—spiritual climate, Levitical laws, Israelite customs and past relationship between the two nations—while showing how it all correlates with the world of the “21st century woman with cell phones, washing machines and SUVs.”

Other Bible studies cover the book of Ruth, but the rich blend of warm anecdotes, engaging questions, in-depth extra-biblical research, aesthetics and sensitivity to the current reading audience, as well as the audience of biblical times, is where Premium Roast uniquely shines. At the author's website (www.aspire2.com), we even find recipes that use barley!



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

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

ABP Names Interim Development director. The [Associated Baptist Press](#) board hired an interim development director at a recent meeting. Todd Heifner, managing partner of Charles Heifner Associates of Birmingham, Ala., will work six-to-nine months as development director for ABP and the strategic alliance formed between ABP and three Baptist state newspapers—the *Baptist Standard*, the *Virginia Religious Herald* and the *Missouri Word & Way*. Heifner, who holds master's degrees in business administration and institutional advancement, previously worked in development for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and Samford University.

Candidate claims Baptist identity. Republican presidential candidate John McCain raised questions about his religious affiliation with a comment

at a recent campaign stop in heavily Baptist South Carolina. The Associated Press reported McCain answered a question about how his Episcopal faith affects his decision-making by saying: “It plays a role in my life. By the way, I’m not Episcopalian. I’m Baptist.” McCain previously had identified himself as Episcopalian and is listed that way in several congressional directories. But he also has acknowledged that for years he and his family have attended North Phoenix Baptist Church when at home in Arizona. He had said in the past his wife and family had been baptized at the church, but he had not. However, Associated Press reported McCain indicated in his South Carolina comments he was an “active member” of the North Phoenix church.

Cartoon

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

2nd Opinion: A better way to

find pastors

October 5, 2007

Posted: 9/29/07

2nd Opinion: A better way to find pastors

By Roger Olson

Recently, our church was invaded by a group of thieves. Well, not exactly, but that's how it felt to us. We only discovered the deed later when our beloved pastor announced her resignation. The group of thieves were a pastoral search committee from another state. They infiltrated our Sunday morning worship service and conspired to persuade our pastor to move to their church.

It's a little difficult to be very hard on them. That's how we got her to come to our church nine years ago! Our pastoral search committee flew hundreds of miles to the church she was then pastoring in another state and infiltrated its Sunday morning worship service and conspired to persuade her to come to our church.

You might think I'm being a little hard on pastoral search committees. And, of course, I am—for the purpose of provoking thought about a tradition that needs re-consideration.