

Women in ministry report highlights progress & obstacles

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Women in ministry report highlights progress & obstacles

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Moderate and progressive Baptists continue to grow in their theoretical support for women as pastors, but their churches remain far behind in practice. That's one conclusion from the second annual "State of Women in Baptist Life" report, released by Baptist Women in Ministry.

Authors Pam Durso and Eileen Campbell-Reed released the report at the organization's annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Washington.

Historian urges âtrue

Baptistsâ to reclaim prophetic role

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Historian urges 'true Baptists' to reclaim prophetic role

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—One of the most prominent historians of American evangelicalism called on "true Baptists" to re-assert their prophetic role "as watchmen on the wall of separation between church and state."

Randall Ballmer, a history professor at Columbia University, told more than 550 supporters of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty that many of America's Baptists, in recent decades, have "lost their way."

CBF panelists urge Baptists to see âhumanityâ of AIDS

crisis

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CBF panelists urge Baptists to see 'humanity' of AIDS crisis

By Jennifer Harris

Missouri Word & Way

WASHINGTON (ABP)—AIDS asks one question: Are you human? That's what Genie Hargrove told participants in a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship panel discussion on HIV/AIDS. Churches must see the humanity behind the crisis, she said.

Hargrove, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Devereux, Ga., said she gained that perspective when she saw the AIDS memorial quilt. The quilt, an ongoing community art project, is a series of 12-foot "blocks" made of three-foot-by-eight-foot panels. Each panel memorializes the life of someone who died of AIDS.

Baptist sex-traffic mission

worker urges others to ‘show up’ for ministry

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Baptist sex-traffic mission worker urges others to ‘show up’ for ministry

By Marv Knox

Editor

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The key to ministry in Jesus’ name—even in difficult and dangerous places—is to “show up,” Luran Bethell told participants in the William H. Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society annual meeting.

Bethell, an American Baptist missionary who has spent most of her adult life ministering to and rescuing women from prostitution and sexual trafficking, received the Whitsitt Society’s annual Courage Award. The group met during the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Washington, June 28.

CBF considers UN campaign to

fight poverty, hunger & disease

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CBF considers UN campaign to fight poverty, hunger & disease

By Greg Warner & Matt Kennedy

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at its general assembly took the first step toward joining the United Nations' campaign against global poverty and disease, called the [Millennium Development goals](#).

In a break from business-as-usual during the Fellowship's national meeting, participants voted overwhelmingly to instruct their governing body to consider ways CBF can join other Christian groups to reach the United Nations' Millennium Development goals.

CBF leaders endorse New Baptist Covenant

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CBF leaders endorse New Baptist Covenant

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ABP)—Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship endorsed the New Baptist Covenant June 27, saying the mission of the diverse Covenant coalition is consistent with the Fellowship's core values.

The New Baptist Covenant, launched by former president and Baptist layman Jimmy Carter last April, is a broad-based initiative to improve the image of Baptists in North America and unite the majority of those Baptists across racial lines into a loose-knit network committed to the gospel message of Jesus and to addressing social ills.

CBF moderator McCall says God's covenant gives Christians responsibility

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CBF moderator McCall says God's covenant gives Christians responsibility

By Marv Knox

Editor

WASHINGTON (ABP)—God's covenant with Christians "places the responsibility for being the presence of Christ squarely on our shoulders," Emmanuel McCall told participants at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly June 28.

God is a covenant-keeping God, insisted McCall, the Fellowship's moderator and pastor of The Fellowship Baptist Group in suburban Atlanta. He cited several covenants recorded in the Old Testament but stressed God sealed the "new covenant"—God's most precious pact—with the life and atoning death of Jesus.

Rockwall prayer advocate feels drawn to West Africa

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Lebou
students
listen to
the story
of Noah
during
an after
school
Vacation
Bible
School
type
program.

Rockwall prayer advocate feels drawn to West Africa

By Jesse Lyautey

International Mission Board

DAKAR, Senegal—Each summer for the past eight years, Lance Bedford has walked the beaches of Africa’s westernmost point.

He watches his step to avoid sharp objects, trash or fish heads thrown from the boats lining the beach after the day’s haul. But Bedford really watches the people, the Lebou fisherman of Senegal, and prays they will have an openness to hear the gospel. They are the reason he returns, year after year.



Cal MaCintire (left) and Lance Bedford (center) prepare a meal for Lebou believers during a worship gathering.

After years of decline, West Africa missions picks up momentum

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The Lees are moving to West Africa this summer to help start churches among an unreached people group. They were one of three couples appointed by the IMB to the region in March. Jason and Dorothea have three children—Janet, Jacqueline and Jacob. (IMB/BP photos)

After years of decline, West Africa missions picks up momentum

By Shawn Hendricks

International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The image was as clear as a photograph.

Several years ago, Dorothea Lee was sitting on a tour bus with her college

choir group when she had a vision of an African boy. She blinked and turned her head, but she couldn't shake the image. She prayed, "Lord, what does this mean?"

Vernon church combines work and worship, putting faith in action

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Vernon
Baptists
led
backyard
Bible clubs
on "Faith
in Action"
Sunday,
ministering
to more
than 150
children in
their
community.

First
Baptist
Church in
Vernon
leaders say
they have
about 80
prospect
families
who
weren't
attending
church.

Vernon church combines work

and worship, putting faith in action

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

VERNON—As a former church organist, Gwendolyn Wolf has played her favorite hymn—"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"—hundreds of times, but it resonates in her heart more deeply now. She says she's been touched by the willingness of First Baptist Church in Vernon to put its faith into action.

A month ago, Wolf sat on her old front porch, worrying the rotten wood planks would collapse under the weight of her wheelchair. Those days are gone, and she's admiring the fresh coat of paint on the porch floor.

For 60 years: **Get in touch with God. Turn your radio on**

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The
radio
Bible
class
from
First
Baptist
Church
in
Sulphur
Springs
recently
marked
60 years
on the
air. The
photo
shows
class
members
in 1949.

For 60 years: ‘Get in touch with God. Turn your radio on’

By George Henson

Staff Writer

SULPHUR SPRINGS—The radio Bible class from First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs recently marked 60 years on the air, teaching a weekly

Sunday school lesson to listeners throughout Northeast Texas.

The church first broadcasted its worship service on KSST radio in 1947. A group of laymen in the congregation were so excited about the venture that one week later, the “Busy Men’s Class” decided to go on the air, as well.

Grown-up MK renews French connection

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Stephen
Marshall
grew up as
a child of
missionaries
to France,
and he
married a
French
woman.

He's
returning to
become a
church
planter in
the land of
his youth.

(Photos
courtesy of
Stephen
Marshall)

Grown-up MK renews French connection

By Rebekah Hardage

Communications Intern

CARROLLTON—Stephen Marshall's life has been filled with one French connection after another.

Marshall grew up as a child of missionaries to France, and he married a French woman.