

Board to consider search committee for new BGCT executive director

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By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board will consider at its May 21-22 meeting a proposed 15-member executive director search committee chaired by Ken Huggins, pastor of Elkins Lake Baptist Church in Huntsville and chairman of the Christian Life Commission.

BGCT President Steve Vernon, First Vice President Joy Fenner, Second Vice President Roberto Rodriguez, Executive Board Chairman Bob Fowler and Vice Chair John Petty named the slate of the proposed committee. Fowler sent a May 16 e-mail to Executive Board directors to notify them of the nominees.

Baylor prof Beckwith becomes Catholic, resigns as head of evangelical society

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Baylor prof Beckwith becomes Catholic, resigns as head of evangelical society

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Evangelical philosopher [Francis Beckwith](#) has become a Roman Catholic and, as a result, has resigned as president—and as a member—of the Evangelical Theological Society.

Beckwith, associate professor of [church-state studies at Baylor University](#), said the decision he made to seek “full communion” with the Roman Catholic Church grew from his desire to find “historical and theological continuity” with the early Christian church.

Francis Beckwith

Missionaries return to Tanzania after surviving attack

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Missionaries return to Tanzania after surviving attack

By Charlie Warren

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

MOSHI, Tanzania (ABP)—Two Southern Baptist missionaries are returning to Tanzania, where they were attacked with machetes and shot during a vicious robbery in the East African country.

Carl and Kay Garvin, Southern Baptist missionaries who returned to Arkansas after the Feb. 23 attack in a remote village south of Moshi, Tanzania, have recovered remarkably well from the assault. They arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, April 24 for missionary meetings and a prayer retreat before a May 6 return to Tanzania.

RIGHT or WRONG? How to honor your parents

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RIGHT or WRONG? How to honor your parents

I'm worried about my elderly mother driving a car, but I hate to take away her independence by taking away her keys. The Bible says to honor your father and mother, and I don't want her to think I've lost respect for her. What should I do?

Texas Baptists minister to Cactus tornado victims

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Texas Baptists minister to Cactus

tornado victims

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DUMAS—Clutching his Bible to his chest, Saul Monreal lay on the floor of his trailer home as the April 21 tornado roared through Cactus. He prayed for his life.

Moving to Cactus a month ago for a job with a meat processing plant, Monreal had lived in his new trailer only a few days before the violent storm hit. He didn't know many people in the community of 2,500 people.

Texas Baptists
minister to
disaster
victims like
Saul Monreal
who was
injured in the
Cactus
tornado. He
lost his home
in the storm.
(Photos by
Barbara
Bedrick/BGCT)

Texas Baptists minister in Piedras Negras

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Texas Baptists minister in Piedras Negras

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico—Juan Molina can't remember the last tornado that hit Eagle Pass or Piedras Negras, Mexico, prior to the one that swept through the area last month.

So, when it started to rain April 24, he thought it was another spring shower. Hours later, he was huddled with his pregnant wife and their 1-year-old daughter on the floor of their mobile home watching a tornado peel off the roof of their house.

BGCT
Congregational
Strategist Noe
Trevino, who
helped
coordinate
Texas Baptist
disaster
response in the
area, delivers
supplies.

Holy Spirit conference decries lack of Baptist unity

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Holy Spirit conference decries lack of Baptist unity

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ARLINGTON (ABP)—Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit are largely overlooked in Baptist churches, Pastor Dwight McKissic said at his

Baptist Conference on the Holy Spirit.

That lack of awareness is Baptists' loss, said McKissic and many of the 200 others who gathered at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington. The event was scheduled eight months after McKissic triggered a tempest in the Southern Baptist Convention by acknowledging he has practiced a "private prayer language" since his days as a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

ABP board honors three, moves ahead with partnership

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ABP board honors three, moves ahead with partnership

By Hannah Elliott & Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—The board of the nation's only independent news service for Baptists honored two Baptist communicators and a Dallas congregation for their contributions to the cause of Christian journalism April 27.

Meeting in Dallas, directors of Associated Baptist Press also adopted a final

2007 budget and unanimously agreed to move ahead with a business plan for a strategic partnership between ABP, the *Baptist Standard* and other Baptist publications.

Tornado blessings astound Tulia couple as Baptists provide relief

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A bulldozer
prepares to
remove the
heavily
damaged Ellis
family trailer
home
following a
tornado that
hit Tulia.
(Photos by
Barbara
Bedrick/BGCT)

Tornado blessings astound Tulia couple as Baptists provide relief

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

TULIA—As Nancy and Kerbow Ellis return to teach at their West Texas classrooms, they do so with a newfound understanding of how their faith overcomes all adversity.



Nancy and Kerbow Ellis insist they've been blessed in the aftermath of a tornado that destroyed their home. They are one of four Tulia families to receive BGCT disaster response assistance.

The Tulia couple—both schoolteachers— lost their home to a tornado April 21, but they insist God has blessed them in allowing them to survive the storm and its wrath. They were in Amarillo at a concert instead of at home when the tornado hit.

Federal panel decries Iraq's religious-freedom record

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Federal panel decries Iraq's religious-freedom record

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—For the first time since the United States overthrew Saddam Hussein four years ago, a non-partisan federal panel said May 2 that religious freedom in Iraq is gravely endangered.

The [United States Commission on International Religious Freedom](#), in its annual report to Congress and President Bush's administration, said the conditions for religious freedom in Iraq are "alarming and deteriorating."

Baptist nurse retraces steps of pioneer missionary in Nigeria

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The 300 residents of Mission of Mercy Orphanage in Otutulu, Nigeria, enjoy new toothbrushes that were just part of the extensive health evaluation and treatment they received from a CERI volunteer team that included nurse Kerrie Snow. (CERI photo by Kerrie Snow)

Baptist nurse retraces steps of pioneer missionary in Nigeria

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

OTUTULU, Nigeria—Squinting against the glare of the tropical sun and the dust hanging in the air, Kerrie Snow couldn't help but imagine it was 125 years earlier. Instead of an Australian-born Baptist nurse from Houston, she was a "wee Scottish woman" known as "the White Ma of Africa."

"Many years ago, I had the joy of being the missionary story lady for several years during Vacation Bible School," she explained. "Two summers, I told about how Mary Slessor had to deal with some formidable Nigerian tribal leaders in the late 1880s. I never dreamed that someday I would find myself also going to meet an Eje—which means 'aggressive and powerful like the hyena'—representing a faith he didn't share."



In a face-to-face encounter with a Nigerian tribal chief, Kerrie Snow was thrilled to explain to the Muslim how Christians were assisting the orphans in his area.

(CERI Photo)

Abstinence program draws support in Del Rio

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Strong
gusty winds
at Right
Choices for
Life's first
Family Fun
Day in Del
Rio
complicated
but didn't
lower the
fun level as
these
basketball
players
quickly
learned.
(Photos by
Craig
Bird/BCFS)

Abstinence program draws support in Del Rio

By Melissa Gonzales

Baptist Child & Family Services

DEL RIO—In Del Rio, the Right Choices for Life program is redefining “everybody’s doing it”—turning peer pressure into positive influence.

More than 90 percent of the South Texas city’s eighth grade students—720

out of 795—signed up for Right Choices for Life, a [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) program geared toward helping teenagers abstain from premarital sex and illegal drugs.