

Hispanic population transforming United States' religious landscape

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Hispanic population transforming United States' religious landscape

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—About half the nation's Hispanics—including many who still identify themselves as Roman Catholic—consider themselves charismatics or Pentecostals, creating a confluence of streams in American Christianity, a new study has revealed.

“Simply put, Latinos are transforming the nation's religious landscape,” said Roberto Suro, director of the [Pew Hispanic Center](#), one of two organizations that produced the study.

**Among Latino
Christians:**

- 75 percent believe in miracles
- 71 percent say religion is very important
- 70 percent pray every day
- 53 percent believe the Bible is the literal word of God
- 52 percent believe Jesus will return in their lifetime
- 47 percent attend church at least weekly
- 29 percent speak in tongues at least weekly

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

God, by any other name

The *Baptist Standard* is no longer taking a stance for Christ and is backing this left-wing anti-Christian terrorist, Charles Kimball ([March 5](#)). Why else would they give him and his rhetoric the attention they have? I am the Sunday school director for a Baptist church in Texas, but I will be moving towards independent. I will no longer support the Baptist General Convention of Texas or the Southern Baptist Convention. It is apparent the church is being attacked not only by Muslims and our alleged own government but from within also.

• Jump to online-only letters below
Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.



"If Christians could stop arguing about things Jesus didn't mention or value, and if we could turn down our institutional ambitions and pride, we would see that our singular contribution to these difficult times is community. Not just niceness and smiles, but radically open and transformative community. Jesus said, 'Be one,' not 'be right.' He said, 'Love one another,' not 'judge one another.' Our ... world is desperate for authentic community."

Tom Ehrich

Writer, church consultant and
Episcopal priest (RNS)

"When Jesus said we should love our neighbors as ourselves, he meant we should probably try every means available to stop those neighbors from being killed."

Bob Edgar

General secretary of the National
Council of Churches, addressing
Berkshire Hathaway stockholders on
"socially responsible investing"
(Ekklesia/RNS)

"Many evangelicals are boarding a new train. It runs along tracks defined by the broad demands of their faith, not by some party's political agenda."

E.J. Dionne

Washington Post columnist, on how
some American evangelicals are in the
midst of a "New Reformation" that
separates them from partisan politics
(RNS)

I will do my part to expose your efforts to fuel this intended means for a one-world religion, which is exactly what [Kimball's message](#) is. Read your Bible to find that there will be no peace between Muslim and Christian/Jews until the return of Christ. You are either for Christ or against him. Our God is a jealous god who shares his glory with no other. What an example you at the Baptist Standard set. But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Someone needs to see to it that Kimball is deported to the Middle East along with every so-called Baptist that supports his ideology. The Bible tells us people like him are coming. Look up!

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Cindy Addy** to First Church in Paris as director of children and preschool ministries, where she had been interim.
- **James Aldridge** to New Horizon Church in Lubbock as pastor from Northwestern Church in Midland.
- **Phil Barton** to First Church in Denison as minister of prayer and discipleship.
- **Jay Beerly** to First Church of Wake Village in Texarkana as youth

minister.

What people don't know about religion can hurt them

May 11, 2007

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What people don't know about religion can hurt them

By Nancy Haught

Religion News Service

BOSTON (RNS)—What Americans don't know about religion is sometimes funny. For instance, when Jay Leno interviewed people on the street recently, someone told him God made Eve out of an apple.

Americans' ignorance also makes for some astonishing statistics. Ten percent believe Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Seventy-five percent are certain the Bible says, "God helps those who help themselves." Even evangelical Christians have lapses: 20 percent say they believe in reincarnation.

Churches pressure travel industry on sex trafficking

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Churches pressure travel industry on sex trafficking

By Melissa Stee

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Faith groups are using their collective influence and financial wherewithal to press the travel and hospitality industry to take greater steps to protect children from sex trafficking.

Increasing numbers of church groups and other religious bodies say it's not only a moral imperative to guard against sex trafficking, but also makes good business sense for hotels, airlines and cruise companies.

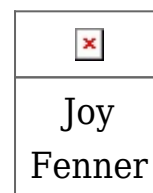


Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits



BGCT VP receives Truett Award. Joy Fenner, first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was slated to receive the George W. Truett Distinguished Church Service Award at [Baylor University's commencement](#), May 12. Fenner served as executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas for two decades. In the 1960s, she served as director of the Girls Auxiliary of Texas WMU. She later was appointed as a missionary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, serving 13 years in Fukuoka, Japan.

Fletcher named Elder Statesman. Jesse Fletcher, president-emeritus of Hardin-Simmons University, will receive the Texas Baptist Elder Statesman award during a June 3 service at Independence Baptist Church, near Brenham. Fletcher was president of Hardin-Simmons University from 1977 to 1991, and he served as chancellor from 1991 to 2001. The program begins with a 10 a.m. Bible study and 11:10 a.m. worship service, followed by a covered-dish picnic on the grounds of the historic church. The Elder Statesman Award recipient is selected by the officers of Independence Association to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to

Baptist education in Texas.

TOGETHER: Missions strategy that will 'get 'er done'

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/11/07

TOGETHER: Missions strategy that will 'get 'er done'

In a world that is increasingly difficult to understand, where terrors and threats fill every newscast, how do we become more effective bearers of good news in our mission endeavors? How do we become friends to the friendless? How do we become powerful and winsome witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus Christ?

These are critical questions facing Texas Baptists, and we are seeking answers.



Bill O'Brien, in his important monograph [*Challenges Confronting Baptist Missions*](#), says the lingering impact of the enlightenment, slavery, colonialism and racism reflected in the attitudes that still shape so much of western Christianity affects negatively our ability to think in new ways about how we are to do missions in this century. The truth continues to be that "the past is not over."

Recognizing what is behind, we move forward with grace and faith, insight and hope. We find ways to offer our enormous spiritual, human and financial resources to God in a humble and generous way. A missions strategy that will impact the future will be:

Dallas church teams with Buckner to help AIDS orphans in Kenya

May 11, 2007

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Nurse practitioner Nancy Stretch leads a group of Buckner orphans down a path from the child development center just opened in Busia, Kenya, as part of the multi-year partnership between Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas and Buckner International.

Dallas church teams with Buckner to help AIDS orphans in Kenya

By Mark Wingfield

Wilshire Baptist Church

USIA, Kenya—Sixty Kenyan 4- and 5-year-olds started school for the first time recently, thanks to the missions effort of [Wilshire Baptist Church](#) in Dallas and Buckner International.

Competing state conventions challenge associations

May 11, 2007

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Competing state conventions challenge associations

By Ken Camp & Robert Dilday

Baptist Standard & Religious Herald

Dual—and sometimes dueling—state conventions often present a challenge for associations of churches.

In keeping with Baptist polity, associations are autonomous, stand-alone organizations, just as Baptist churches and state and national conventions are. But in practice, associations have maintained close ties to state conventions—often sharing funding and even staff positions.

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NETWORKS: New label or a new way for churches to relate?

May 11, 2007

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NETWORKS:

New label or a new way for churches to relate?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Some associations of churches call themselves “networks” now. And their directors of missions insist it’s more than just a trendy change in terminology.

As missions director for a West Texas area that included both Midland and Odessa Baptist associations, Wayne Keller observed a steady decline in participation in associational life. About two years ago, he decided the associations faced a choice—change or die.



**Woven Together:
Associationsâ survival
depends on willingness to
change**

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/11/07

WOVEN TOGETHER: Associations' survival depends on willingness to change

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

The drive to weave ties among local churches is housed deep in the Baptist DNA, some observers of denominational life say. It's an instinct almost as visceral as another, often competing, Baptist characteristic—a fierce independence of thought and practice.

**Geography
is no
longer the
tie that
binds
Baptists....**

For many Baptists, the term “cooperation” carries almost as much theological resonance as “believer’s baptism by immersion” and “priesthood of the believer.” And from their earliest years, Baptists in North America have experimented with congregational links, convinced that what their churches couldn’t do on their own, they could do together.

Storylist for 5/14/07 issue

May 11, 2007

Storylist for week of 5/14/07

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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for May 13: Inviting all kinds of people to know Christ](#)
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- [Holy Spirit conference decries lack of Baptist unity](#)
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- [Leaders discuss missions opportunities & challenges](#)
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