

Cartoon

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Casino proposal predicted to roll slack promises, not big jackpots

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—A plan to fund college scholarships with as many as 12 casinos throughout Texas is another in a series of promises that won't pan out, said Suzii Paynter, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, and Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, are sponsoring legislation that would put casinos in as many as 12 locations across the state. The senators' effort also would legalize video slot machines at horse and dog tracks.

DOWN HOME: Why a true Baptist loved folks so well

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DOWN HOME: Why a true Baptist loved folks so well

The kingdom of God on earth changed March 5, when one of Baptists' strongest hearts stopped beating. John Baugh died.

The business world knew him as the founder and longtime chairman of the Sysco Corporation. If you ever went out to eat, practically anywhere, Mr. Baugh provided all or most of your meal.

Universities and children's homes and churches and countless other ministries knew him as a generous benefactor.

Baptists far and wide—whether they agreed with him or not—knew him as a tenacious champion of soul freedom, the priesthood of the believer and

religious liberty.

EDITORIAL: Starter kit for a new kind of convention

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EDITORIAL: Starter kit for a new kind of convention

If the Baptist General Convention of Texas hopes to survive in a postdenominational world, it must conclude the process of reinventing itself. And sooner rather than later.

Down through the years, the BGCT—as with most other denominational organizations—has bought into a false notion that seduces precisely because it sounds so true: The convention exists for the churches.



Who can argue with logic like that? We are proud of saying the churches, not the convention, are king of the Baptist hill. So, it stands to reason, the BGCT should orient itself to meet all the churches' needs. The churches are the clients, and the convention is the full-service provider.

Theologians have a term for a notion like that: Baloney.

Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

Beliefnet recognizes movies Oscar neglected. The [Beliefnet Film Awards](#) are in, and the winners didn't necessarily coincide with the Oscar list. The Beliefnet awards select the best spiritual film, performance and documentary of 2006. Each category had two winners, one named by a panel of judges and the other chosen by visitors to [Beliefnet.com](#). The judges chose *Children of Men*—the story of a young woman in an infertile world—as the year's best spiritual film, although the movie didn't even get

an Academy Award nomination for best motion picture Beliefnet.com visitors chose *The Pursuit of Happyness*, the story of a homeless man and his son trying to get off the streets of San Francisco, as their favorite spiritual film and selected the film's star, Will Smith, as the year's best spiritual performance. But the judges sided with the Academy in the best-performance category, naming Jennifer Hudson, of *Dreamgirls*. Hudson won a supporting actress Oscar for her role as Effie White. The panel's choice for best spiritual documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, also coincided with the Academy's selection. The documentary featuring former Vice President Al Gore is a cautionary tale about the burgeoning problem of global warming. But the People's Award for documentary went to *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, about the unique gifts and talents of prisoners in a Kentucky correctional facility.

Biblical translator Metzger dies. Bruce Metzger, a revered biblical scholar who was both respected and sometimes criticized for championing the use of modern language in translating the Bible, died Feb. 13. Metzger, 93, was a long-time professor at Princeton Theological Seminary and a towering figure for students who used to joke that he had actually written the Bible himself. Metzger is likely to be best remembered as the editor of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, a work introduced in 1989 that eliminated many, though not all, of the Bible's masculine pronouns. It became the standard text used in many colleges, seminaries and divinity schools. That work was an extension of the Revised Standard Version, which was released in its full version almost 40 years earlier and eschewed much of the archaic language of the King James Bible. Metzger served on the translation team for the Revised Standard Version, which was the first to use material from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Faith and Values Awards' star shines brightest on Nativity, Commandments

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Faith and Values Awards' star shines brightest on Nativity, Commandments

By Melissa Stee

Religion News Service

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (RNS)—*The Nativity Story* was honored with two awards at the 15th annual [Movieguide Faith and Values Awards](#) gala.

The movie, which re-tells the accounts of Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus, won the John Templeton Foundation \$50,000 Epiphany Prize for Film, which goes to a movie that creates a "deeper spiritual awareness in mankind and increases man's understanding of God."

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

God & Allah

Allah may be the same as Charles Kimball's God ([March 5](#)), but not mine.

My God is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.
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"One of the great doctrines of the Christian faith is unity. Therefore, I would pray with you and plead with you to work for the unity of Baptists. Jesus prayed that we might be one, and this was an evangelistic prayer. Why should we be one? That the world might believe! Our lack of unity means that the world cannot believe."

Denton Lotz

Baptist World Alliance general
secretary (ABP)

"To those in the church who still sit in judgment on the AIDS emergency, let me climb into the pulpit for just one moment, because whatever thoughts we have about God, who he is or even if God exists, most will agree that God has a special place for the poor."

Bono

U2 lead singer and AIDS activist
(RNS)

"This latest case is a real breakthrough. It's not Christian medical professionals refusing to provide treatment they don't approve of. It's Christian medical professionals refusing to provide treatment to people they don't approve of."

Stephen Colbert

Comedian host of of *The Colbert Report*, discussing a California doctor who refuses to treat patients who don't adhere to his Christian values
(RNS)

Only because of the redeeming grace of Jesus can I approach God the Father.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Keith Beck** to First Church in Blanco as youth pastor.
 - **Charlie Bruner** to First Church in Lake Dallas as youth minister.
 - **Allen Cearley** has completed an interim pastorate at Parkdale Church in Corpus Christi and is available for interim or supply work at (210) 256-9544.
 - **Ron Etheridge** to Ricardo Church in Kingsville as pastor.
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Retooling required for reaching

others

March 16, 2007

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Retooling required for reaching others

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

Urging ministers to retool their thinking about reaching others for Christ so they may retool the lives of church members and nonbelievers more effectively, Baptist pastor Charles Booth delivered the keynote speech at the African American Leadership Workshop March 9-10 at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Quoting scripture, poetry and a scientist, Booth urged ministers at the 3rd annual conference sponsored by Baptist General Convention of Texas, to propagate by changing themselves.

Charles Booth
Watch a video clip of Booth's address to the conference.

With nearly 600 ministers and church leaders listening, Booth urged the Baptist leaders to “dip the bucket into an old well and prayerfully bring up

fresh water,” to make Jesus the difference in their lives, the lives of church members and non-believers.

Texas rural poverty ministry helps residents in colonias

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Texas rural poverty ministry helps residents in colonias

By Carla Wynn

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

MCALLEN—In rural communities along the U.S.-Mexico border, many Hispanic families live in extreme poverty, in houses with dirt floors, no indoor plumbing and no electricity. But some are finding hope for a better life through a partnership between [Together for Hope](#), the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s rural poverty initiative, and [Buckner Border Ministries](#).

In the colonias—unincorporated communities along the border—many residents came to the United States from Mexico in pursuit of a better, more prosperous life.

Southwestern, McKissic back away from ‘tongue’-lashing

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Southwestern, McKissic back away from ‘tongue’-lashing

By Robert Marus & Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH (ABP)—Board leaders at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and an embattled trustee have agreed to meet and discuss their differences—with [a threat to remove](#) Texas pastor Dwight McKissic from the board taken off the table.

McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, and trustee officers issued a joint statement announcing a private meeting to be held immediately prior to Southwestern trustees’ spring meeting.

Dwight McKissic

TOGETHER: Two events need prayer & support

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TOGETHER: Two events need prayer & support

Two events just ahead need your prayers and support.

First, please pray for the Missions Exchange gathering at Truett Seminary in April. About 100 invitations have gone out to representatives of the churches, institutions, associations, mission organizations and staff who relate to the BGCT. We want to encourage greater collaboration on the part of all our partners in this convention as we engage our Texas resources—people and money, passion and experience, organizational strength and creative energy—to touch Texas and the world. The results of this conversation will be publicized and will be used to shape the program and activities of the annual meeting in Amarillo this fall so that all Texas Baptists can be involved in this mission synergy.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Please pray God will be present at this Missions Exchange and the participants will be truly attentive.

Second, a call has gone out to Baptists across North America to gather in Atlanta Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2008, for the celebration of the [New Baptist Covenant](#). Baptists will be challenged to hear and follow Jesus' agenda: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19).