

Book Reviews

February 2, 2007

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Book Reviews

[Beyond Racial Gridlock: Embracing Mutual Responsibility](#) by George Yancey

(IVP Books)

University of North Texas sociologist George Yancey is willing to ask the hard questions and talk about the tough issues that build barriers between races in this country. And he does it out of love of God and love for God's people. This is a book written mainly for the church—that it would take the lead in racial reconciliation.

Yancey critiques four major models the secular world uses to try to fix racial problems in America. These approaches don't work, he says, because they don't take into account that sin is a reality and that humanity is full of it—depraved.

Off the Bookshelf
What's everyone reading anyway?

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

Ethics conference scheduled. [Christian Ethics Today](#) will sponsor an ethics conference June 27 in Washington, D.C., to address “The minister and politics: How to be prophetic without being partisan.” The free conference is scheduled prior to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s general assembly, June 28-29. Featured presenters are prominent evangelical author Tony Campolo, [Sojourners](#) founder Jim Wallis, Minneapolis pastor Greg Boyd and Melissa Rogers, former general counsel for the [Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty](#).



Organizers deny politics behind Atlanta convocation. An ambitious plan to unite Baptists in North America around the compassionate message of the gospel is not secretly a plan to get Baptists to elect Hillary Clinton as president, one of the plan’s leaders said. [Bill Underwood](#), a co-organizer of the effort with former President Jimmy Carter, said former President Bill Clinton’s offer to lend his star power to the upcoming [Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant](#) is not a covert political move. On Jan. 9, leaders of 40 Baptist denominations and organizations in the United States and Canada—led by Carter and “cheered,” as he put it, by President Clinton—announced a commitment to put aside social and theological

differences to unite most Baptists behind an agenda of compassionate ministry. The effort will begin with the celebration, which is set for January 2008. But [Richard Land](#), head of the [SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission](#), and [Rick Scarborough](#), a Lufkin-based Baptist minister who heads the [Vision America](#) organization, questioned the timing. Scarborough noted the January 2008 celebration is “not coincidentally nine months away from the next presidential election.”

Carter defends Palestine book at Jewish university

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Carter defends Palestine book at Jewish university

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WALTHAM, Mass. (RNS)—Former President Jimmy Carter faced critics at predominantly Jewish Brandeis University, apologizing for failing to make clear in a new book that terrorism is never justified as a political tool.

But Carter defended his book’s controversial title—[Palestine Peace Not](#)

[Apartheid](#)—by telling a capacity crowd of about 1,700 that he aims to be “provocative” and draw attention to the fact “Palestinians are being terribly treated” in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Former
President
Jimmy Carter
addressed
critics at
Brandeis
University amid
complaints
about his book
Palestine Peace
Not Apartheid.
(RNS photo
courtesy Mike
Lovett/Brandeis
University)

Cartoon

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Duluth
Theological
Seminary
promises
its
graduates a
position in
a pulpit
somewhere.

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

DOWN HOME: How neat: Scholars defend messiness

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DOWN HOME: How neat: Scholars defend messiness

Joanna walked into the room, a look of triumph lighting her lovely face. She carried a new edition of *Time* magazine, opened to a book review, which

she laid in my lap.

“See?” she said.

What she meant was: “See, I’ve been telling you this for 30 years. I’m right; you’re wrong. Now, somebody has gone out and done a bunch of research that debunks your myth. It’s in a book, for everybody to read. So, I’m right and you’re wrong.”

That’s what she meant. But we’ve been together so long, all she had to say was, “See?”

EDITORIAL: Confusing, illogical, irresistible prayer

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EDITORIAL: Confusing, illogical, irresistible prayer

Sometimes, technology can be a burden. These days, it shadows most of us wherever we go. E-mail piles up faster and deeper than snow in a Panhandle blizzard. Take a trip, and you come home to a stream of voicemails long enough to make your ear fall off. And don’t even get me started about programming the video recorder.

But one area of modern technology is absolutely sweet, golden, wonderful. That would be speed dialing on my cell phone. At any moment, I can punch one of three numbers, and a moment later, I'm talking to one of the three most precious women in my life—my wife and our two daughters. They're scattered from Coppell to Waco to Orlando. But thanks to cellular technology, their voices are never more than seconds away.



Maybe my mind is quirky, but I thought about my love affair with four cell phones—mine, and Joanna's, Lindsay's and Molly's—as I contemplated our feature story in this edition of the paper. In a way (and I know this is a mundane analogy), prayer is very much like cellular technology. Hard as it is to imagine when I think about how much I love talking to my three girls, prayer is even better. Can you comprehend the significance of prayer? You can pause, redirect your thoughts and, in an instant, converse with the Creator of the universe, God Almighty.

Seems like I've been praying all my life. In fact, I can't remember a time when prayer was not central. Almost as soon as I could speak, my parents taught me to pray—simple prayers of thanksgiving to God. As a child and later as a parent, mealtime prayers spiced breakfast, lunch and dinner as much as the black pepper and Tabasco sauce I love to pour on food. Most workday mornings for the past 11 years, I've "redeemed" the almost-unbearable Dallas morning commute by communing with God. And my favorite moments of our worship service are when the lights dim, heads bow and we spend time in solitude with God.

Faith Digest

February 2, 2007

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Faith Digest

Christian literature distributors to merge. Two of the world's largest distributors of Christian literature—the Colorado-based [International Bible Society](#) and British-based [Send the Light](#)—have announced their intention to merge. The Bible society, founded in 1809, has been focused on distribution of Bibles, working with partners such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Crusade for Christ, as well as churches and individuals who use its Bibles for evangelism. Send the Light, founded in 1957, helps Christian companies in the United States distribute a range of products—including books, music, tracts and home schooling materials—to European and other international locations.



Church of the Nazarene reports growth. Worldwide membership in the [Church of the Nazarene](#) has increased by one-third during the past decade, according to its recently released annual report. The church has 1.6 million members, having gained nearly 700,000 members since 1999. The church's biggest increases have been outside the United States. Last year the church grew by 5.7 percent overseas, while domestic growth was less than 1 percent. The church has experienced a slight decline in service attendance in the United States and Canada, although Sunday school

participation has gone up 1 percent. There are nearly 19,000 Church of the Nazarene parishes across the world; about 700 new churches were added in the last year.

Employees of Justice, Homeland Security receive religion training

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Employees of Justice, Homeland Security receive religion training

By Katherine Boyle

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The departments of Justice and Homeland Security have begun training employees to better understand and protect the civil liberties of American Muslims, Sikhs and other minority ethnic and religious groups in the wake of Sept. 11.

They also are attempting to involve Muslims and Sikhs in the homeland security effort “in a positive way,” said Daniel Sutherland, who was appointed as the first officer for civil rights and civil liberties at the

[Department of Homeland Security](#) in 2003.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Jacob Benson** to First Church in Waxahachie as minister to students.
 - **Paul Brand** to Bulverde Church in Bulverde as youth minister.
 - **Mark Bryant** to First Church in Wimberley as pastor.
 - **Fernando Charles** has resigned as pastor of Primera Iglesia in San Marcos.
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**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING:
Intercession aside, do Baptists**

have a prayer?

February 2, 2007

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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING: Intercession aside, do Baptists have a prayer?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Baptists understand numbers. That's how churches measure success in baptisms, Bible study attendance, budget giving and building campaigns.

But for all their talk about the importance of prayer, Baptists seem less certain how to measure the effectiveness of prayer ministries.

A member of Iglesia Bautista Segunda in Corpus Christi bows for prayer.

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Articles:**

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Intercession
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Baptists have
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- [UMHB
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prayers in the
streets of
Tokyo](#)

After 10 years, church finally has a home of its own

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Texas
Baptist Men
Builders
constructed
a worship
facility for
Mill Creek
Baptist
Church in
Bellville, a
congregation
that has
existed 10
years
without a
permanent
place to call
home.
(Photos by
George
Henson)

After 10 years, church finally has a home of its own

By George Henson

Staff Writer

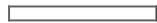
BELLVILLE—Harkening to the past promises growth for the future of a congregation looking to put down its roots.

Mill Creek Baptist Church never has had a place to call home.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

DBU offers Patriot Preview event. [Dallas Baptist University](#) is offering a look at campus life during a Patriot Preview event Feb. 10 for high school juniors and seniors, college transfer students and their parents. The Patriot Preview begins at 8:30 a.m. with a breakfast with DBU professors. Prospective students then will be given the opportunity to attend mock classes and interview for scholarships. For parents, Patriot Weekend will feature information seminars on topics such as financial aid, campus life, parent services, and the application process, plus the chance to meet DBU administrators. The weekend event also will include a student-life fair. DBU will waive the application fee for students who apply during Patriot Weekend. The cost for the event is \$25, which includes two meals for both students and parents. For more information about Patriot Weekend, students or parents may contact the office of undergraduate admissions at (214) 333-5360, or register online at www.dbu.edu/patriotday.

Baylor regents approve practice facility. At a called meeting, the [Baylor](#)

[University](#) board of regents unanimously adopted a proposal to construct an on-campus football training facility. The \$22 million facility, which is being funded with private resources, likely will be located adjacent to Baylor's other athletics facilities at the Turner Riverfront Complex. Games will continue to be played at Floyd Casey Stadium. Construction of the practice facility will take about 18 months. A final review of the project plans and specifications has been scheduled for the Feb. 8-9 regents meeting.