

Texas Tidbits

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Hispanic Mission Network to debut. Leaders of Hispanic Texas Baptist churches that are engaging members in missions—along with representatives from [Baptist University of the Americas](#), [WorldconneX](#) and [Buckner International](#)—will launch a Hispanic Mission Network at the [Hispanic Evangelism Conference](#), Feb. 2-3 in San Antonio. Participants plan to conduct a global/local mission project within the network's first year that could provide a model for Hispanic church involvement. About 30 Hispanic leaders and missions practitioners met at Baptist University of the Americas recently for a Plaza Global two-day event to discuss the network and explore emerging trends in global missions.

Hardin-Simmons, ETBU athletic trainers honored. The athletic training staffs at [Hardin-Simmons University](#) and [East Texas Baptist University](#) each were named by their peers as division winners of the American Southwest Conference athletic training staff of the year awards for 2005-06. Hardin-Simmons was presented the west division award, and ETBU took the east division honor. The [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) won the west division honor the previous academic year.

TOGETHER: If Baptists were â€œtoo much like Jesusâ€œ

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TOGETHER: If Baptists were ‘too much like Jesus’

Baptists across North America are saying with a clear voice that it is time for a “Jesus agenda.”

What does it mean to pursue a Jesus agenda?

Look at what Jesus did when the synagogue leaders gave the scroll of Isaiah to him and asked him to read. He could have chosen any passage, but he picked this one:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19 and Isaiah 61:1-2).



BGCT intercultural mission trip slated for Vancouver

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Up to
40,000
Japanese
call
Vancouver
home, and
Pastor
Yutaka
Takarada
wants Texas
Baptists to
partner with
Canadian
Baptist
counterparts
to reach
them.

BGCT intercultural mission trip slated for Vancouver

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—When Yutaka Takarada flew to Vancouver, British Columbia, last year, he found ample salmon, Japanese restaurants and views of the harbor.

But what he didn't see worried him. Even though Vancouver has a sizeable Japanese population, the president of the Japanese Southern Baptist Churches of America couldn't find many Japanese Baptist churches.

Childless young adults want ministry, not sympathy

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Childless young adults want ministry, not sympathy

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Tina Barta and many of her evangelical peers do not like the term “single.” In church and in society, single implies a person who is not whole, not complete, they say.

“That’s such an awful way to look at it,” said Barta, 27, who believes fulfilling her spiritual destiny is not dependent on meeting a man. “I am in a relationship with Christ. Yes, I’m single, but I’m pursuing Christ, and he’s pursuing me.”

Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Search for understanding

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CYBER COLUMN: Search for understanding

By Berry D. Simpson

I have a friend who has effectively separated himself and his family from the world, from their church and from their family.

They closely guard their children's exposure to the outside world, which includes their own cousins. They won't go to church, even the church he grew up in, but instead have home church. They won't send their children to school, but instead home school. They most recently opted out of their larger family's Christmas celebration; I'm not sure if it was to guard against commercialization and secularization of a holy day or simply to save money. Either way, they missed out on the joy that always surrounds this family at such an important time.

Berry D. Simpson

RIGHT or WRONG? Geneva conventions

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RIGHT or WRONG? Geneva conventions

Appeals have been made to the Geneva Conventions regarding prisoners of war. What is the basis for such assertions? And what reference material is available?

BaptistWay Bible Series for January 28: God prunes with a wise, loving hand

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BaptistWay Bible Series for January 28

God prunes with a wise, loving hand

• John 15:1-17

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for January 28: Faith can conquer chaos

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Bible Studies for Life Series for January 28

Faith can conquer chaos

• Genesis 11:1-9: Proverbs 28:2-5; 29:2-4

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for January 28: It is important to keep commitments

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Explore the Bible Series for January 28

It is important to keep commitments

- Nehemiah 13:1-18

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Nehemiah left Jerusalem in the 32nd year of Artaxerxes, circa 433 B.C., and returned to Persia as he promised. During his absence, the people returned to their former ways, led by the high priest Eliashib. Such a defection called for the needed reforms.

Belmont subpoenas church

records in Tennessee Baptist lawsuit

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Belmont subpoenas church records in Tennessee Baptist lawsuit

By Lonnie Wilkey

Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (ABP)—Belmont University has subpoenaed giving records from 100 Tennessee Baptist Convention churches in an ongoing legal dispute with the convention over control of the school's assets.

The subpoena asks for records on churches' giving to the Cooperative Program—the unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention and its affiliated state conventions—between 1951, when the school became affiliated with the convention, and 2005, when Belmont trustees removed the school from convention control.

In a Jan. 3 letter accompanying the subpoenas, Belmont trustee chairman Marty Dickens asked if, “in making those gifts, the churches knew about or relied upon the 1951 document that is the focus of the (Tennessee Baptist) Executive Board's lawsuit against Belmont.”

The reference was to a once-forgotten document convention officials are relying on in the suit, filed last year. The agreement says that, should the school ever remove itself from convention control, it would owe the

convention for all the Cooperative Program funds it has received.

Carter, Clinton use convocation to call Baptists to compassion

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Carter, Clinton use convocation to call Baptists to compassion

By Marv Knox & Greg Warner

ATLANTA—Baptists from across North America will convene in Atlanta early next year to emphasize compassion rather than the racial, theological and social conflict that has divided them for 160 years.

Headed by former U.S presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—two of the world’s most famous Baptist laymen—about 80 leaders of 40 Baptist organizations gathered at the [Carter Center](#) in Atlanta Jan. 9 to announce the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant. The event is tentatively set for Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2008.

The convocation will be “one of the most historic events, at least in the history of Baptists in this country, maybe Christianity,” Carter predicted.

**See Related
Articles:**

- Carter, Clinton use convocation to call Baptists to compassion
- [Planned 2008 convocation grows from desire for 'new Baptist voice'](#)
- [Texas Baptist leaders applaud call for inclusive convocation'](#)
- [Baptist leaders insist covenant offers chance to heal racial wounds'](#)

Explore the Bible Series for January 21: Every person is intimately known by God

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Explore the Bible Series for January 21

Every person is intimately known by God

- Psalm 139:1-24

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Psalm 139 is attributed to David and describes the attributes of the Lord not as abstract qualities, but as active qualities by which he relates himself to his people. God's omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence allow him to know everything about us.