

African-American cowboy church defies stereotypes

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A Goliad congregation has started a Western Heritage church especially for African-American cowboys. (Photo by John Hall)

African-American cowboy church defies stereotypes

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

GOLIAD—As the summer sun sets each Friday in South Texas, bright lights come on and crowds gather to cheer every throw of a rope and buck of a bull at a local rodeo. And contrary to stereotype, many in the arena—participants and onlookers—are African-American.

Many have attended rodeos for years, honing their skills or learning the finer points of the sport. People bond through the events, building a

community.

BGCT treasurer: No “financial crisis”

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BGCT treasurer: No ‘financial crisis’

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Contrary to Internet-circulated rumors of across-the-board Baptist Building cutbacks and “financial crisis” in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, year-to-date Texas Baptist Cooperative Program giving is up over 2005 levels and appears on track to meet the 2006 budget, said Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer David Nabors.

Texas Cooperative Program gifts through the end of May totaled more than \$17.8 million—6 percent greater than the first five months of 2005 and 97.5 percent of the year-to-date budget, he reported. Final figures for June receipts were not available, but Nabors said early indicators looked encouraging.

VP Vernon to be nominated for BGCT president

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VP Vernon to be nominated for BGCT president

By Marv Knox

Editor

LEVELLAND—Veteran denominational leader Steve Vernon will be nominated for president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall. If elected, missions will be the theme of his tenure.

Vernon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Levelland, is the BGCT's first vice president and was second vice president in 2001-02.

Steve Vernon

Hispanic convention elects new officers

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Newly
elected
officers of
the
Hispanic
Baptist
Convention
of Texas
are (left to
right)
President
Baldemar
Borrego,
First Vice
President
Alex Ca-
macho,
Third Vice
President
Ruben
Chairez,
Second
Vice
President
Carlos
Alegria and
Secretary
Darlene
Gamiochipi.

Hispanic convention elects new officers

ARLINGTON—The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas elected a new slate of officers during its annual meeting.

Baldemar Borrego, pastor of Nueva Esperanza Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, was elected president of the convention after a run-off with Javier Elizondo, vice president of academic affairs for Baptist University of the Americas.

In nominating Borrego, Alex Camacho called him “a good pastor and a good friend” and a solid leader. Borrego has demonstrated courage in addressing controversial immigration issues, Camacho added.

Borrego, a former first vice president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, member of the Convención’s strategic planning committee and president of the Hispanic Ministers Conference, has been in ministry 30 years. He has been the host of a radio program, “Jesus is the Answer,” and is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Partners sign church-starting agreement

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Baptist
General
Convention
of Texas
Executive
Director
Charles
Wade signs
a
partnership
agreement
with the
Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship,
Baptist
University
of the
Americas
and the
Hispanic
Baptist
Convention
of Texas.

Partners sign church-starting agreement

ARLINGTON—Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist University of the Americas leaders signed a partnership agreement to start Hispanic

churches across the United States.

The partnership is a renewal of an original partnership formally signed during the 2003 CBF General Assembly, which included the Fellowship, BGCT and His-panic Baptist Convention of Texas. The renewal formally includes Baptist University of the Americas.

According to the partnership renewal—signed at the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas annual meeting—the BGCT provides church-starting training and Baptist University of the Americas trains ministers to work in Hispanic contexts.

CBF recruits congregations that want to start Hispanic churches. And the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas and Baptist University of the Americas help identify individuals who may make good church starters. All entities help promote the partnership.

President challenges Hispanic Baptists

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President challenges Hispanic Baptists

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON—God has given Hispanic Texas Baptists grace, and they need to share it with the rest of the world, President Alcides Guajardo told the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas.

By working together with a Christ-like spirit of service, Hispanic Texas Baptists can minister to the entire world, Guajardo said in his address to the convention at its annual meeting.

Frank Palos (left), interim director of Baptist General Convention of Texas Hispanic ministries, presents Alcides Guajardo with a plaque for his service as president of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas.

Around the State

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Twenty-eight participants, nearly all over the age of 60, traveled from First Church in Richardson to Riga, Latvia, to build friendships and encourage senior adults from six Baptist churches there. The Richardson church has sent many teams to Latvia since the partnership began in 1997, but this is the first project focused on senior adults on both sides of the ocean. This gazebo was built by the Richardson team to provide more outdoor ministry space. The Texans also conducted a three-day seniors conference covering topics such as health issues—physical, emotional and spiritual—Christian encouragement, and the need for senior adults to continue blessing one another . They also offered activities such as choir, learning to play chimes and games. The group performed several musical pieces at a prison in the area and visited a school. They left the chimes with the Latvians as a gift.

Around the State

- Paisano Baptist Encampment will hold its 86th consecutive general encampment beginning the evening of July 23 and running through noon July 28. Morning worship services will be held at 11 a.m., and evening worship will be at 8 p.m. Supper is served at 6 p.m. with choir rehearsal at 7 p.m. Childcare is provided during services. Camp pastors are Steve Wells and Milton Cunningham. Larry McGraw will be the Bible study leader. Between services, several activities are available. For more information, go to www.paisanoencampment.org.
- Four Howard Payne University students have been chosen to receive the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation scholarship in the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom honors program. Selected were Rachel Chapman of Grapevine, Jessie Goodwin of The Woodlands, Kelly Grewe of San Antonio and Johnnie Wiedman of Belton. The scholarship provides \$9,000 a year for two years.
- Dallas Baptist University has received two gifts totaling \$550,000 from the estate of Wynonia Pallmeyer. The gift will establish two scholarship funds for students facing financial hardship.
- Houston Baptist University has named its Student Foundation members for the upcoming academic year. The students serve as representatives in various activities and university promotional functions. New members include Ashley Hatchett, Alyssa Johns, Andrea Legare, Elsa Marquez, Sadiya Jamal, Edward Batinga, Diego Bello, Ashley Nunes, Derrick Owens, Cheri Wood, and Humair Khan. Returning members are Margaret Bowen, Edgar Gonzalez, Sidra Qasim, Karen Singh, Mon'Sher Spenser and Jessica Watson.



A \$26.1 million expansion of Tallowood Church in Houston's campus pushed forward the extraction of a lead box time capsule slated for removal in 2012. Pastor Duane Brooks read an inventory of the capsule that had been placed in the original chapel's cornerstone. The capsule contained the list of people present when the cornerstone was laid on Nov. 13, 1960, copies of that week's Baptist Standard, Training Union and Sunday school materials, and a Bible that included Pastor Russell Dilday's five-digit telephone number. Several charter members were present for the ceremony.

Baylor Choir sings in Australia

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The
Baylor
Religious
Hour
Choir
performed
in Sydney,
Australia,
and
worked
with local
churches
there.

Baylor choir sings in Australia

By Julie Carlson

Baylor University

The Baylor Religious Hour Choir recently spent nine days in Australia, performing and providing service throughout the Sydney area.

“We worked with a local church and some of its sister churches,” said Maxey Parrish, faculty sponsor for the choir. “It was a small, suburban church that has been in existence a couple of years, but is starting to grow and trying to expand its outreach.”

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia. Survival in a Civil War Regiment by
Scott Walker (University of Georgia Press)

This new book by Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waco, tells the story of the 57th Regiment of Georgia. Walker follows the regiment through the Civil War, beginning with its organization in Savannah in 1862, with more than a passing interest. He is the great-great grandson of one of the regiment's few members who survived the war.

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.

The book does not offer mere military history. Rather, it presents "family history" of the men who served in the 57th. Through personal letters and

journal entries, it vividly describes the human tragedy and personal devastation of war. This may be its chief value.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Blackaby resigns from Canadian seminary. Richard Blackaby has resigned as president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary to become president of Blackaby Ministries International, an organization founded by his father, Henry Blackaby. Blackaby will continue at the seminary as chancellor, and a presidential search committee named Bob Tucker interim president. Tucker, a professor at the seminary, was interim president before Blackaby's arrival 13 years ago.

Lotz challenges Baptists to leave Christendom behind. Western Baptists need to leave Christendom behind and become more like the early church, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz told a BWA dinner held in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly. Many Westerners still hold a "Christendom-based" model of thinking—characterized by the dominant cultural role played by the Christian church in Western history, particularly in Europe, where national

churches were granted privileged status, he said. But Christianity has moved to the southern hemisphere, he noted. “Baptists work best outside of a Christendom model,” Lotz said. As a result, Africa and Asia are on their way to becoming the center of Christianity, he said. And a day will come, he said, when America and Europe will need to be re-evangelized.

Handle theology with care, chaplain says

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Handle theology with care, chaplain says

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

ARLINGTON—“Theology, like nitroglycerine, is man-made, and both ought to be handled in the same way ... very carefully,” a Baptist military chaplain told participants at a conference exploring “life in the face of death.”

Chaplain Jerry Reynolds spoke at the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute’s summer colloquy at First Baptist Church in Arlington.

‘Passionate people change the world,’ pastor believes

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‘Passionate people change the world,’ pastor believes

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

ARLINGTON—Dennis Wiles believes passionate people change the world. For nine years, he and his family have felt a consuming passion for the people of West Africa—a region stricken by genocide, starvation, disease and tribal warfare.

Wiles, pastor at First Baptist Church in Arlington, described his experiences with missions work in West Africa during a keynote address at the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute’s summer colloquy.