

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 9: Investigate your heart's desire

June 28, 2006

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BaptistWay Bible Series for July 9

Investigate your heart's desire

- 1 Timothy 6:2-16

By Joseph Matos

Family Bible Series for July 9: God can be trusted to help in times of struggle

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Family Bible Series for July 9

God can be trusted to help in times of struggle

- Exodus 3:4-8, 19-21; 4:10-12, 27-31

By Greg Ammons

Explore the Bible Series for July 9: Elihu seeks to set things straight concerning Job

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Explore the Bible Series for July 9

Elihu seeks to set things straight concerning Job

- Job 32:1-37:24

By James Adair

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

In the 1960s TV show Bewitched, nosy neighbor Gladys Kravitz regularly

snooped on the strange goings-on at the house of Darrin and Samantha Stephens. Although warned by her husband not to stick her nose where it didn't belong, she did so anyway, often with comic or even disastrous results.

Lotz: Be more like the early church

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Lotz: Be more like the early church

By Tony Cartledge

N.C. Biblical Recorder

ATLANTA (ABP)—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.

CBF broke tradition in commissioning service

June 28, 2006

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CBF broke tradition in commissioning service

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship broke tradition during its annual general assembly in Atlanta by commissioning only short-term and self-funded mission workers, rather than any fully funded career missionaries.

The group commissioned 19 new affiliated workers during the service, which has become a tradition on the last night of the Fellowship's annual meeting. Of those, six were funded for one-to-three-year posts under the aegis of the group's Global Service Corps.

CBF, emergent church good fit, Myers says

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CBF, emergent church good fit, Myers says

By Tony Cartledge

N.C. Biblical Recorder

ATLANTA (ABP)—Atlanta church planter Jake Myers used the images of beer, candles and theologian Soren Kierkegaard to describe the “emergent conversation” taking place within Christianity, which he said could be a good fit for members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Myers, who leads an emergent community in the Little Five Points area of Atlanta, led a breakout session during the CBF general assembly. He also serves on staff at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta as a church planter and mission leader.

Hudson: Step out of bubble and

hear God

June 28, 2006

Posted: 6/27/06

Hudson: Step out of bubble and hear God

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—A Methodist from South Africa told a group of Baptists in the American South that they need to wake up to reality and challenged them to “step outside your own little bubble” in order to hear God’s call.

When Trevor Hudson spoke at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s general assembly in Atlanta, his speech—which complemented the session theme, “For the healing of the nations, Jesus wept”—was received with thunderous applause.

**TROUBLED WATERS: Are
Baptists watering down**

commitment to baptism?

June 28, 2006

Posted: 6/23/06

TROUBLED WATERS:

Are Baptists watering down commitment to baptism?

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Darlene
Jerez, 15, of
Iglesia
Cristiana
Internacional
in
Greensboro,
N.C., is
baptized by
her pastor,
David
Duarte, in a
session of
the Southern
Baptist
Convention
annual
meeting June
13-14 in
Greensboro,
N.C. Each
session of
the meeting
featured a
baptism
service
performed
by a local
church. (BP
Photo by Bill
Bangham)

Disputes about baptism are troubling the waters in some Baptist circles. From Southern Baptist International Mission Board guidelines that narrow the parameters for acceptable baptism when it comes to missionary candidates, to churches that wrestle with the perennial question of how to handle new members from other denominations, questions swirl around an issue most Baptists considered settled more than 350 years ago—believer's baptism by immersion.

"Believer's baptism has long been a distinctive mark of Baptists," Baylor University religion Professor Bill Brackney wrote in a paper published by the Baptist History & Heritage Society and the Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society. "All Baptists, to one degree or another, recognize the importance of a believers' church and the signal rite or ordinance of baptism."

Cybercolumn By John Duncan: Parables

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CYBER COLUMN: Parables

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering the parables of Jesus. Jesus had a way of giving the good news in ways his hearers could

understand.

Parables might be found in everyday life.

WMU emphasizes God's call to missions

June 28, 2006

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WMU emphasizes God's call to missions

By Charlie Warren, Bill Webb & David Sanders

Arkansas Baptist & Missouri Word & Way

GREENSBORO, N.C.—Christians need to hear, understand, embrace and live God's call, program personalities reminded Baptist women during the 2006 Woman's Missionary Union celebration.

"How can you hear God's call when those around you want you to mimic the call of someone else?" asked Paige Chargois of Richmond, Va., who interpreted the missions celebration theme throughout the meeting, June 11-12 in Greensboro, N.C.

Patterson, Mohler discuss Calvinism

June 28, 2006

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Patterson, Mohler discuss Calvinism

By Tony W. Cartledge

N.C. Biblical Recorder

GREENSBORO, N.C.—Baptist seminary presidents Paige Patterson and Albert Mohler may have philosophical differences on the subject of divine election as interpreted by Calvinism but little that has practical effect, an hour-long dialogue revealed.

Patterson and Mohler discussed “Reaching Today’s World Through Differing Views of Election” in two breakout sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor’s Conference June 11. Both sessions, in a cavernous space occupying three hotel ballrooms, drew standing-room-only crowds.

CP standard, WMU invitation nixed

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CP standard, WMU 'invitation' nixed

By Robert Marus & Steve DeVane

Associated Baptist Press & N.C. Biblical Recorder

GREENSBORO, N.C.—Southern Baptist Convention messengers turned back a grassroots attempt to strengthen language encouraging the convention to elect leaders from churches that give generously to the denomination's budget, but they rebuffed an attempt by the convention's leadership to rein in the SBC women's auxiliary.

Mike Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga., attempted to amend a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee regarding an ad hoc committee's report on promotion of the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified giving plan.