

Central Texas church knows how to read its community

June 23, 2006

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First Baptist Church in Laguna Park created a town library where it houses more than 8,000 donated books and a coffee house/Internet cafe. (Photos by Laura Frase)

Central Texas church knows how to read its community

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

LAGUNA PARK—When Pastor Doug Evans looked at a storage room at church, he saw the potential for a small town's first community library.

Evans, pastor of First Baptist Church in Laguna Park, said he was tired of all the junk in the storage room, and in the process of cleaning it out, a 350-book library was born.

Texas Baptist Forum

June 23, 2006

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Texas Baptist Forum

Southern Baptists & alcohol

According to a Southern Baptist Convention resolution, I'm just one step away from hell. I am now in a special status where I am not eligible to serve in an SBC position.

The convention resolution states: "Resolved, that we urge that no one be elected to serve as a trustee or a member of any entity or committee of the Southern Baptist Convention that is a user of alcoholic beverages."

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.
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"Fort Worth's greatest crime scene is also the site of one of her greatest miracles. The Darkness sought to shut us down, but the Light shines ever brighter and ever stronger and will not be extinguished."

Al Meredith

Pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, noting hundreds of people have become Christians since the September 1999 shooting that killed seven people (Star-Telegram/RNS)

"For people in America who are a part of my political tradition, our great sin has often been ignoring religion or denying its power or refusing to engage it because it seemed hostile to us. For ... the so-called Christian right and its allies, their great sin has been believing they were in full possession of the truth."

Bill Clinton

Former U.S. president, accepting an award from the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding (The Associated Press/RNS)

"Everything possible must be done to fight AIDS."

Carlo Maria Martini

Roman Catholic cardinal, once considered a candidate for the papacy, announcing his support for use of condoms as a "lesser evil" to the spread of AIDS (RNS)

I have a couple of ounces of Jewish Passover wine in the evening to get rid of a tickle in my throat—it is better than cough medicine. And I might have an “adult” beverage twice a year if my wife and I are on a special date.

On the move

June 23, 2006

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On the move

- **Bill Burch** to First Church in Morgan as minister of youth.
 - **David Carfrey** to Buel Church in Cleburne as pastor.
 - **Adolphus Cleveland** to The White Stone Church in Lubbock as pastor from New Beginnings at Ridgecrest Church in Lubbock.
 - **Tim Fox** to Centerpoint Church in Burleson as interim pastor.
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Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

BGCT hotel block opens. Discounted hotel rooms for messengers and visitors to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting now are available. The BGCT has negotiated discounted rates with a variety of hotels in Dallas, where the meeting will be held Nov. 13-14. To receive the reduction when making reservations, Texas Baptists must use the discount code "BGCT." For a complete list of discounted hotels as well as other information about the BGCT annual meeting, visit www.bgct.org/annualmeeting or call (888) 244-9400.

Memorial gift initiates endowment campaign. Christian Ethics Today received a \$100,000 gift from Harold Simmons in memory of his longtime friend, ethicist Foy Valentine, the journal's founder. In response, the publication's board of directors organized the Friends of Foy Valentine Committee and set a \$500,000 goal to partially endow the journal, which is sent free of charge to more than 4,300 subscribers. Two directors—Darold Morgan of Richardson and David Sapp, of Atlanta, Ga.—will oversee the campaign. For more information, visit www.ChristianEthicsToday.com.

**TOGETHER: CLC builds
Baptists' biblical convictions**

June 23, 2006

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TOGETHER: CLC builds Baptists' biblical convictions

Baptists are in danger of losing the fruit of one man's life. For decades, students of T.B. Maston came out of his Christian ethics classes to move across Texas and the world and give prophetic witness to the ethical demands of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were pastors, missionaries, and college and seminary professors and presidents. They led the Christian life commissions of national and state Baptist conventions. But the Maston tradition of Christian ethics will be silenced if the seminaries do not maintain a strong Christian ethics emphasis and denominational agencies that promote biblical ethics get sidetracked from their calling.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

It was my privilege to take the last class he taught in seminary, "Contemporary Issues in Christian Ethics." He emphasized: Every concern can be addressed from a biblical perspective. Nothing is more important than discovering and following the will of God in one's life. The goal in life is to be a Jesus kind of person. And you can get people to see difficult

truths best if you take the time to love them.

He illustrated how to bring about change in church with a rubber band: “You can use a rubber band to lift a 2-by-4 if you work with it. Increase the tension slowly, and the board can be lifted. Jerk the band, and it will snap, leaving the board where it was.” I learned applying that truth was not easy, but you have to keep the tension on, and you have to be more interested in long-term change than in short-term irritations.

This story may put it all in perspective. In *Texas Baptists: A Sesquicentennial History*, Leon McBeth tells how the BGCT Christian Life Commission came into being.

Court agrees to hear test of partial-birth abortion ban

June 23, 2006
Posted: 6/23/06

Court agrees to hear test of partial-birth abortion ban

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court will expand its review of a

controversial federal abortion law.

The justices agreed June 20 to hear a California case involving the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. They will consider, in *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, whether the ban is unconstitutionally vague and places too heavy a burden on women seeking abortions.

Storylist for 6/26/06 Issue

June 23, 2006

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- [TROUBLED WATERS: Are Baptists watering down commitment to baptism?](#)
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- [Books reviewed in this issue: *Renewing the City: Reflections on Community Development and Urban Renewal* by Robert D. Lupton; *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering* by David Gregory; and *Second Calling: Finding Passion and Purpose for the Rest of Your Life* by Dale Hanson Bourke.](#)



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RIGHT OR WRONG? Approach

to ethical decision making

June 23, 2006

Posted: 6/23/06

RIGHT OR WRONG?

Approach to ethical decision making

Christians should consider the Bible as a primary resource, but is there any basic approach—ethical theory—that can assist me in making ethical decisions?

Ethics can be approached from three basic, theoretical angles. The deontological approach considers our duty or obligation. It asks, “What must I do?” The teleological angle is pragmatic and considers the consequences of actions. It asks, “What will work?” And the relational approach factors the effects of actions upon others. Due to space limitations, let’s consider the first approach—duty or obligation

CBF names Rob Nash global missions coordinator

June 23, 2006

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CBF names Rob Nash global missions coordinator

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—With a standing ovation, leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship unanimously approved Rob Nash as the group's new global missions coordinator June 21.

Nathan Porter says NAMB denying wife hospice care

June 23, 2006
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Nathan Porter says NAMB denying wife hospice care

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Veteran Southern Baptist home missionary Nathan Porter

wants his terminally ill wife of 54 years, Fran, to die in comfort, surrounded by those who love her. It might not happen if his former employer has its way, he insists.

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 2: Even the young can provide a good example

June 23, 2006

Posted: 6/21/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for July 2

Even the young can provide a good example

- 1 Timothy 4:1-16

By Joseph Matos

Family Bible Series for July 2: Proclaim your declaration of dependence

June 23, 2006

Posted: 6/21/06

Family Bible Series for July 2

Proclaim your declaration of dependence

- Exodus 1:5-14; 2:23-25

By Greg Ammons