

Michael Bell elected first African-American BGCT president

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Michael Bell elected first African-American BGCT president

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN — The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) announced today at its annual conference, that it has selected Michael A. Bell as its new president.

Baylor regents unanimously elect Lilley president

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Baylor
University
President-elect
John Lilley
responds to
reporters
questions at a
news
conference
following his
unanimous
election.
Looking on are
his wife,
Gerrie, and
Regents
Chairman Will
Davis. (Photo
by Robert
Rogers/Baylor
University)

Baylor regents unanimously elect Lilley president

By Marv Knox & Ken Camp

Baptist Standard

WACO—Baylor University regents unanimously elected John Lilley, president of the University of Nevada at Reno, as the Texas Baptist

university's 13th president on a first ballot following the unanimous recommendation of an 11-member regents presidential search committee.

Musical upbringing provided foundation for ministry

November 14, 2005

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Musical upbringing provided foundation for ministry

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

ABILENE-When future worship leader and Christian recording artist David Frush was a small child, his parents realized God had given him a unique gift to minister through music.

Ancient church ruins discovered near Megiddo, Israel

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Two prison inmates clean a mosaic on the floor of what is believed to be an ancient church in Megiddo, Israel.

Excavations unearthed the remains of a structure that included a mosaic with inscriptions in Greek and murals of fish, an ancient Christian symbol.

(Photo by Ronen Zvulun/REUTERS)

Ancient church ruins discovered near Megiddo, Israel

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

MEGIDDO, Israel (ABP)-The ruins of an ancient Christian church, found within the walls of an Israeli prison, may prove to be one of the earliest churches ever discovered and could change the historical understanding of the Christian church in the region.

Novelist trades vampire tales for early life of Christ

November 14, 2005

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Novelist trades vampire tales for early life of Christ

By Benedicta Cipolla

Religion News Service

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (RNS)-The queen of darkness has seen the light.

Baptists respond to new Baylor president

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Baptists respond to new Baylor president

By Marv Knox & Ken Camp

Baptist Standard

WACO—Baylor University Regents Chair Will Davis of Austin characterized the unanimity surrounding President-elect John Lilley's selection as “remarkable.” Given the deep divisions among Baylor's various constituencies in recent years, others called the vote “miraculous.”

Alabama Baptists deny brouhaha over brewer's water

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Alabama Baptists deny brouhaha over brewer's water

CLEWISTON, Fla. (ABP)-Southern Baptist disaster-relief leaders have denied reports-spread widely across the Internet-that a group of their volunteers in Florida refused to give water to victims of Hurricane Wilma because it came from a beer-brewing company.

A Fort Myers, Fla., television news crew first reported the alleged incident Oct. 28. NBC-2 reported workers cooking meals near First Baptist Church of Clewiston, Fla., under the banner of Southern Baptist Convention disaster-relief services, declined to hand out canned water provided by Anheuser-Busch.

The story was quickly picked up by several Internet weblogs, prompting criticism of Southern Baptists. But the Alabama Baptist newspaper reported the television station's story wasn't entirely accurate.

Brantley Center houses volunteers

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Brantley Center houses volunteers

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)-What do you do when you run a homeless shelter and the city has evacuated all the homeless? That's the situation facing Tobey Pitman, director of the Brantley Mission Center in New Orleans.

As the city rebuilds from Hurricane Katrina, Pitman is among the many local residents who must adjust to a new sense of normal. "We're retooling our ministry," said Pitman, 50. "We've gotten out of the homeless business temporarily because there are no homeless."

Instead, the Brantley Center reopened as a 250-bed dorm for Baptist volunteers coming from throughout the country to rebuild churches and homes. "There's at least a year's work to be done," he said. "We just hope the interest is not lost in coming to New Orleans."

Baptist Briefs

November 14, 2005

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Baptist Briefs

Alabama Baptist conservatives declare mission accomplished.

Alabama Baptist Conservatives, a network of pastors organized in 1997, officially disbanded recently, saying they accomplished their goal of steering the state's Baptist convention in "a conservative direction." The

group—originally known as Southern Baptist Conservatives of Alabama—formed out of concern about Cooperative Baptist Fellowship activity in the state, said former moderator John Killian, pastor of Maytown Baptist Church in Mulga, Ala. "We did not want to go the direction of Texas and Virginia, where there was a split in the state convention and the original convention aligned with the moderate forces," he said.

Hungarian Baptists discover no quake survivors. A Hungarian Baptist Aid search-and-rescue team, who arrived two days after an earthquake hit Pakistan, found no survivors beneath the ruins of schools in northern Pakistan. However, the team attended to almost 400 casualties during their first five days on the scene. As the rescue and recovery work continued, hundreds of victims who had been without food came down from mountain villages carrying the injured with them. The Hungarian rescue team—two medical doctors, two paramedics, two technical-rescue experts, two rescue dogs, a rescue commander and a coordinator—helped search three school buildings and remove several bodies from the ruins. All the team members participated in distributing aid and helped guide helicopters to places of need. The unique work of the Hungarian team is coordinated through Baptist World Aid, the relief arm of the Baptist World Alliance. BWA is supporting the earthquake relief effort with an initial \$40,000 grant to Hungarian Baptist Aid.

GuideStone offers dental plan choices. GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention will offer a choice of three dental plans through CIGNA Dental beginning Jan. 1. Southern Baptist ministers, denominational employees and seminary students are eligible to participate in the dental plans available through GuideStone. Dental plans for 2006 will include two plans available in all states and a dental HMO plan available in 35 states. A list of dentists participating in the CIGNA Dental

network can be found at www.cigna.com or by calling CIGNA at (800) 244-6224. For rates and a summary of benefits, visit www.Guide Stone.org or call (800) 262-0511.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Transforming Community

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Eloise
Coffey
packs 150
sack
lunches at
the Baptist
Center
twice a
week for
delivery to
the
homeless
and day
laborers in
the
community.
"I pack
each lunch
like I'm
packing it
for my
children,"
she said.
(Photo by
Russ
Dilday)

Transforming Community:

Buckner helps Broadway Church minister to homeless

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Benevolences

FORT WORTH-"I'm an addict. I'm addicted to crack cocaine," Johnny admitted. It's a short, truthful declaration that establishes the reason for Johnny's motivation-and torment.

Donation enables church's enhanced community ministry

November 14, 2005

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Donation enables church's enhanced community ministry

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS-Buckner Children and Family Services and Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas are partnering together to better meet the needs of the people living near the church.

BGCT leaders discuss bylaws changes

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BGCT leaders discuss bylaws changes

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Baptist General Convention of Texas leaders recently wrapped up more than 30 sessions across the state, where Texas Baptists discussed proposed changes in the convention's constitution and bylaws.