

EDITORIAL: Parents must keep eternity in mind_30705

March 4, 2005

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EDITORIAL: Parents must keep eternity in mind

The woeful state of child protection saddens the soul and staggers the imagination. Multiplied thousands of Texas children suffer from abuse and neglect. A package of articles in this issue of the *Standard* describes that need and details how Baptist General Convention of Texas child care agencies are deployed to help children and strengthen their families.

But while the shortcomings of the state's Child Protective Services grab headlines, many well-meaning Christian parents benignly neglect the eternal spiritual needs of their children. We'll get to that point in a minute.

A new survey sheds light on America's parents. The Barna Group, the religion research organization headed by pollster/author George Barna, conducted the survey late last year.



Religion front and center at Grammy awards_30705

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Religion front and center at Grammy awards

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Religion played a prominent role at the Grammy Awards, with the late Ray Charles honored in the new gospel performance category and artist Kanye West winning in the top rap song category for “Jesus Walks.”

Hispanic convocations set to train 1,000 volunteers_30705

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Hispanic convocations set to train 1,000 volunteers

By Orville Scott

Special to the Baptist Standard

Hispanic Baptist Convocations of the Laity this year are expected to reach and train about 1,000 laymen to organize Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador chapters across the state, said Eli Rodriguez of Dallas, statewide coordinator for the program.

STCH joins Buckner for Russia/Latvia mission trip_30705

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STCH joins Buckner for Russia/Latvia mission trip

By Felicia Fuller

Buckner News Service

Buckner Orphan Care International and South Texas Children's Home will link arms and aims in Russia and Latvia July 31-Aug. 7.

On the Move_30705

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On the Move

John Allen to Living Proof Church in Cleburne as minister of youth.

♦ **Steve Allen** has resigned as associate pastor of North Shore Church in Lewisville.

♦ **Clif Anderson** to First Church in Longview as minister of evangelism/recreation from Johns Creek Church in Alpharetta, Ga., where he was recreation minister.

Pastors/laymen focus on

sharing the gospel with next generation_30705

March 4, 2005

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Pastors/laymen focus on sharing the gospel with next generation

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-Churches, ministers and Christians in general must change their thinking and their actions to reach the next generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ, speakers at the 84th annual Panhandle-Plains Pastors' and Laymen's Conference insisted.

‘No justice without fair taxation,’ Alabama professor insists_30705

March 4, 2005

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'No justice without fair taxation,' Alabama professor insists

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN-Alabama has the “sorriest tax structure in the country,” but Texas is “close to being right in the mud with us,” a law professor told the Texas Baptist Christian Life Conference.

Tech gap emerging between large, small churches_30705

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Tech gap emerging between large, small churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A significant gap in the use of the Internet and computers is emerging between large and small congregations, a recent study found.

Ellison Research, a full-service marketing research firm in Phoenix that conducted the research for Facts & Trends magazine, reported nine of 10

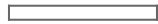
Protestant ministers have access to the Internet either at home or at work, but only about half of all churches maintain a website.

"As the American public becomes more and more reliant on technology in everyday life, they will logically expect churches to have things such as websites, streaming audio or video on the site, or study materials on video or computer software," said Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research.

Texas Tidbits_30705

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor receives Templeton grant. Baylor University's Center for Religious Inquiry Across the Disciplines has received a \$716,000 research grant from the John Templeton Foundation to conduct research on different aspects of religion's impact on society. The award from the John M. Templeton Foundation will make it possible for Baylor scholars to conduct a longitudinal survey of Americans' religious beliefs, practices and values. Baylor will partner with the Gallup Organization to conduct a comprehensive survey of religious beliefs that examines in much more detail than previous research how faith impacts such factors as civic engagement, volunteerism and consumption patterns.

Endowed scholarship established at DBU. An endowed scholarship fund

at Dallas Baptist University, named in honor of Alva and Doris Parks of Montgomery, Ala., has been established to benefit qualifying students in the School of Leadership and Christian Education. Parks was executive vice president at DBU from 1990 to 1996.

Higher education conference set at Baylor. "The Future of Baptist Higher Education" is the theme of a national conference scheduled April 18-19 at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary. Seminars will explore questions such as to whom are Baptist colleges and universities accountable; who will be the students and faculty at Baptist schools in a post-denominational, multicultural and materialistic age; and how can Baptist higher education carry out its purpose in a context of conflict. Featured speakers include Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University; William Hull, provost emeritus of Samford University; Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Martin Marty of the University of Chicago; and Albert Reyes, president of Baptist University of the Americas.

TOGETHER: Baptists remain free and cooperative_30705

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TOGETHER:

Baptists remain free and cooperative

What is it about Baptists that makes us so determined to exercise our faith freely and faithfully? Our history offers a clue. Baptists were born in a time when religious faith was controlled by either bishops or secular rulers, sometimes by both. When the Scriptures became available for all to read, our forebears discovered a new vision. It freed believers from the harsh power of those who would control the conscience.

Those early Baptists gladly submitted to God and the authority of the Scriptures, but they believed God wanted worship to be freely given and never required by law.

We were so independent of human authority in religion and so afraid of losing the autonomy of the local church that it took a long time for us to learn to cooperate. What taught us how to cooperate without losing our freedom? Well, the Scriptures helped. The Apostle Paul urged that unity in the church be protected.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
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Argyle children offer sweet relief_30705

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Peyton
Hutchinson
of First
Baptist
Church in
Argyle
presents a
check for
South Asia
disaster
relief to
Texas
Baptist
Men
Executive
Director
Leo Smith
while her
sister,
Madison,
looks on.
(Photo by
John Hall)

Argyle children offer sweet relief

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARGYLE-A little sugar and spice is helping improve the lives of young people in South Asia.

Website designer believes God had designs on his life_30705

March 4, 2005

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Website designer believes God had designs on his life

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

HURST-Aaron McClung always believed God had something ministry-related designed for him.