

Prayer lays foundation for sharing the gospel, workshop leader says_12604

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Prayer lays foundation for sharing the gospel, workshop leader says

RICHARDSON Sharing the gospel begins long before meeting non-Christians, according to Debra Hochgraber, consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Center for Strategic Evangelism.

Prayer lays the groundwork for non-Christians to be receptive to the gospel, she said during a breakout session at the Texas Evangelism and Missions Conference.

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS CONFERENCE

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Petitioning God can help Christians know who are the unbelievers around

them, Hochgraber said.

Small churches build on their strength when they build relationships with lost, Ray says_12604

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Small churches build on their strength when they build relationships with lost, Ray says

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

RICHARDSON—Small churches become motivated for evangelism when leaders help members shift the focus from visiting prospects to building relationships, according to a Bob Ray, director of bivocational and small church development with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Speaker calls conference crowd to start churches, commit to evangelize lost_12604

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Speaker calls conference crowd to start churches, commit to evangelize lost

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

RICHARDSONTexas Baptists must revert to first century methods to reach 21st century people, said Ray Still, pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels.

Churches in transition face choice Embrace change or die_12604

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Churches in transition face choice: Embrace change or die

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

RICHARDSON Many churches in transitional communities become open to transformation only when the fear of death becomes greater than the fear of change, according to Jim Young, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Missions Equipping Center.

EDITORIAL Election year provides time to talk religion &

politics_12604

January 23, 2004

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EDITORIAL:

Election year provides time to talk religion & politics

“Conventional wisdom” suggests people aren't supposed to discuss religion and politics in polite company. Of course, Baptists regularly break the first half of that admonition. Talking about religion-or, more precisely, faith-comes as naturally as discussing the weather, the latest ball game or the price of cattle for most Texas Baptists. But when the topics of religion and politics come up at the same time, the task of talking turns touchy. Taken together, religion and politics comprise a combustible mix.

So, strap on your earmuffs of righteousness, sisters and brothers; 2004 looks like an explosive year.

To begin with, the incumbent president has not been shy about discussing his faith since Jesus saved and sobered him years ago. One of the Democratic candidates has been comfortable talking about his beliefs since he was a boy growing up in a Jewish home. And another recently renounced his Yankee reticence in pursuit of the Bubba vote, figuring God-talk could unleash the Dixie electorate.

**Voters whose
faith shapes
their decisions
should think
about the
religious and
moral
implications of
all the
candidates'
positions.**

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 1: The Bible outlines the qualities of a good friend_12604

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 1

The Bible outlines the qualities of a

good friend

Selected Proverbs

By John Duncan

Lakeside Baptist Church, Granbury

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 8: Alcohol steals the abundant life God proffers_12604

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 8

Alcohol steals the abundant life God proffers

Proverb 23

By John Duncan

Lakeside Baptist Church, Granbury

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Feb. 1: Genuine worship is crucial for spiritual growth_12604

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Feb. 1

Genuine worship is crucial for spiritual growth

Psalm 95:1-7; Hebrews 10:19-25

By David Jenkins

New Hope Baptist Church, Big Sandy

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Feb. 8: The difference in praying and saying prayers_12604

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for Feb. 8

The difference in praying and saying prayers

Ezra 8:21-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 5:13-18

By David Jenkins

New Hope Baptist Church, Big Sandy

Gaither discovers the longer he serves, the sweeter it

grows_12604

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Members of the Gaither Vocal Band are (from left) Bill Gaither, Guy Penrod, David Phelps and Russ Taff .

Gaither discovers the longer he serves, the sweeter it grows

By Stacy Hamby

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) Bill Gaither wasn't good enough for gospel music. At least, that's what he was told.

Committees to study HBU relationship, BUA financial needs_12604

January 23, 2004

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Committees to study HBU relationship, BUA financial needs

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLASThe Christian Education Coordinating Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas is setting up committees to deal with Baptist University of the Americas' financial needs and the convention's relationship with Houston Baptist University.

‘Miss Cul’ mothered Hardin-

Simmons co-eds for more than four decades_12604

January 23, 2004

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'Miss Cul' mothered Hardin-Simmons co-eds for more than four decades

By Loretta Fulton

Abilene Reporter-News

ABILENE-For 41 years, "Miss Cul" pampered, admonished and consoled thousands of young women under her care as a dorm mother at Hardin-Simmons University.