

Baptist Memorials names new bus for Welch_102003

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Baptist Memorials names new bus for Welch

SAN ANGELO-Baptist Memorials Center dedicated a new \$53,000 bus in honor of longtime employee Betty Welch.

Welch, who died in December, worked for Baptist Memorials Center 26 years, primarily as director of transportation.

She is remembered for service beyond the basic requirements of that job, driving residents wherever they needed to go. She did grocery shopping for residents who did not have the strength to do it themselves, sometimes working 20 grocery lists simultaneously.

CYBERCOLUMN: Good news by John Duncan_102003

October 17, 2003

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CYBERCOLUMN:

Good news

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, wondering about good news. The Romans spoke of good news as glad tidings. Jesus came preaching the good news. Everybody likes to hear good news.

The year was 1967. Good news was hard to find. The U.S. State Department announced that 5,008 Americans were killed in 1966 during the Vietnam War. Protesters marched the streets for peace. Lyndon Johnson served as president while trying to work through the upheaval of Vietnam on the American psyche. Families anguished as loved ones were missing in action. A fire broke out in Apollo 1, killing three men. Racial segregation and prejudice caused a whirlpool stir in society at large. The Cold War froze international politics. The poet Langston Hughes died in 1967, too, forever leaving an imprint of dreams for good news as a wishful thinking in his own thoughts: "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"



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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.

EDITORIAL: Mission boards' historic steps re-shape Baptist heritage_51903

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

EDITORIAL: Mission boards' historic steps re-shape Baptist heritage

Led by its mission boards, the Southern Baptist Convention took two significant strides toward creedalism this month.

“Creedalism” has been a painful word in Baptist history. Our Baptist forebears and their cousins from other dissenting Christian groups suffered and died in 17th century Europe for refusing to affirm creeds and declining to bow down to the civil and religious authorities who enforced creeds.

Early Baptists resisted creeds because of their heartfelt understanding of and commitment to the twin concepts of soul competency and the priesthood of the believer. For four centuries, Baptists have championed the concept of soul competency, the idea that God created each person with the innate ability to relate directly to God and to seek God's way and will for her or his life. Similarly, Baptists have believed that each Christian is a priest before God—a follower of Christ who does not need an intermediary, be it a priest or a creed, to stand between the individual and the Lord, and who also has a responsibility for living faithfully in relationship to God and within the community of the church.

DOWN HOME: Sky impression, faulty opinions_51903

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

DOWN HOME: Sky impression, faulty opinions

The skies over Texas have been looking like “a communist country” lately.

That's not a political statement. It's a flashback kid's-eye-view-of-social-studies statement.

When I was growing up-way yonder in the Texas Panhandle, where the wind scrubs the sky clean several times a day (except, of course, when it fills it with dirt from parched farmland)-I couldn't imagine smog.

MARV KNOX <i>Editor</i>

ANOTHER VIEW: Look below the surface for answers to global problems_towery_51903

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

ANOTHER VIEW: Look below the surface for answers to global problems

I met a man not long ago. He was a Persian. He was from Iran, between Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Persian looked me in the eye and told me something of which I was already aware: Americans know next to nothing about the history and culture of the Middle East.

Britt Towery

I agreed with him. Americans, as a whole, are not well versed on anything beyond Hawaii on one side and the Bahamas on the other.

CYBERCOLUMN: Amish Baptists_younger_51903

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/19/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Amish Baptists

By Brett Younger

My parents, my church and most of my friends called them selves Baptist, but in reality we were, in most of the ways that mattered to a teenager, Amish. We not only didn't drink or sleep around; we didn't personally know anyone who did. We saw those people. They went to the grocery store that sold beer. Everyone at our church went to the store that didn't sell beer. We knew where the pool hall was, where most of the drinking reportedly took place, but no one in my youth group had ever been there.

Brett Younger

Not only had alcohol never passed my lips I had never seen it pass anyone else's lips either. We knew that there were seventeen-year-olds who slept around, but we didn't know any of them-though I tended to imagine such girls. I imagined those women wore bright red dresses or tight-fitting blue jeans. They had long painted fingernails and were always looking for young Baptist/Amish victims to lure into depravity. (The Amish kids may have been less sheltered than I was.)

Before I went to Baylor a deacon who was concerned that I was going

some place more worldly than Bob Jones University pulled me aside and said, "When you get to college, you will face temptations that you have never imagined. There will be hard drinking, loose living women. You need to decide right now that you will have nothing to do with them, because if the devil gets hold of you she doesn't let go."

CYBERCOLUMN: Pastors & Mavericks_duncan_60203

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/23/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Pastors & Mavericks

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering the powerful playoff run of the Dallas Mavericks and the precipice upon which pastors stand.

Do basketball and pastors coincide? Like coaches in today's society, pastors live on the edge of a precipice, ready to step into the glorious promised land, or they gingerly step toward the not-so-ready dangerous fall into oblivion. Pastors possess the joy of a higher calling, but for many, pressures mount.

Panhandle church steers toward a witness with car show _60203

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

Panhandle church steers toward a witness with car show

By George Henson

Staff Writer

AMARILLO—Pastor Dana Moore's driving passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ recently steered his congregation to sponsor a car show in the church parking lot.

Campolo, Campbell to headline CBF meeting_60203

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

Campolo, Campbell to headline CBF meeting

ATLANTA-Tony Campolo, Kate Campbell and Marjorie Thompson will lead worship and prayer sessions at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's general assembly June 26-28 in Charlotte, N.C.

Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Pa., and a prolific author and speaker, will speak during the assembly's opening session.

Campbell, a Nashville recording artist and daughter of a Baptist pastor, will provide music for the sessions. Thompson, an author on Christian spiritual formation, will lead guided prayer times.

Team charts new missions territory in rural China_60203

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

Team charts new missions territory in rural China

Editor's note: *The names of the Baptist mission workers in this story have been changed for security reasons.*

RURAL CHINA (BP)-Wearing the same pair of socks for a week, dining on soupy Chinese noodles and veggies for breakfast, shampooing in a creek and snacking on energy bars are only a few of the many unique aspects of hiking through China's countryside.

Doug McTavish and Stephen Faulkner know this first-hand.

Ministers offered free counseling at Pastors' Conference_60203

October 17, 2003

Posted: 5/30/03

Ministers offered free counseling

DALLAS (BP)-Too often, Christian leaders have personal problems but feel they have no place to turn, Mac Brunson says.

But the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas has helped put together a ministry to some of those hurting leaders. This year's Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, headed by Brunson, will join with Focus on the Family and Hope for the Heart to offer free Christian counseling to pastors, staff members, missionaries and their families Sunday and Monday, June 15-16.

To ensure anonymity, the counseling will take place away from the Phoenix

Civic Plaza. Focus on the Family's H.B. London Jr. and Hope for the Heart's June Hunt will lead a team of counselors.