

Louisiana Baptists pass measure taking full control of institutions

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Louisiana Baptists pass measure taking full control of institutions

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP)—Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting passed without discussion a measure that ensures the convention has complete control of its college and other affiliated institutions.

The measure amended the charter of convention-related entities to clarify that the convention owns the institutions, according to the Baptist Message, the Louisiana Baptist newspaper.

N.C. Baptists cut WMU funding, loosen ties with colleges

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GREENSBORO, N.C. (ABP)—Messengers changed the face of the [Baptist State Convention of North Carolina](#), loosening ties to its five colleges and retirement home and cutting funding to Woman's Missionary Union.

During their annual meeting in Greensboro, messengers adopted a 2008-09 budget that includes nothing for WMU, accepted the recommendations of a study committee whose chairman said "Baptist Retirement Homes will no longer be a ministry of the convention," and approved the first of two steps required to relinquish trustee selection of its five colleges.

Only 2,784 messengers, or delegates, attended the annual meeting, even though convention officials expected 4,500 to vote on several significant measures. It was the lowest attendance since 1985.

The final session on Wednesday morning seldom draws a crowd. In fact there were just 120 people in seats when opening music started, but by the time the budget debate began there were closer to 1,200—probably double last year's final-session attendance. Many observers concluded they were there for the two major issues—the budget and the committee report on the retirement homes.

Words of Hope ministry changes outlook for people with AIDS

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Words of
Hope
counselor
Enock
Kategaya
walks
from
Bible
study.
Along the
way, he
counsels
a man
about
living a
healthy
life with
HIV.
Around 1
million
Ugandans
live with
HIV.
(IMB
photos by
Sue
Sprenkle)

Words of Hope ministry changes

outlook for people with AIDS

By Sue Sprenkle

International Mission Board

MAKOPE STATION, Uganda (BP)—Saidat Makop is sick. To look at her, a casual observer would never know. She looks as healthy as the next person. Her cheeks are rosy. She works in the garden for hours. Her eyes might look a little tired at times, but all mothers suffer the same.

The truth is Makop carries HIV in her body.



Squeezed between her mother and another woman, this young Ugandan girl entertains herself during a Bible study at Saidat Makop's home. This girl's mother is HIV-positive. Her father left when the mother revealed her test results, leaving all the children behind and victims of HIV/AIDS.

Ugandan Baptist pastor counsels people with AIDS

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Nabath
Atusasire
visits with a
Words of
Hope client
outside his
home.

Atusasire
often must
hike up
steep
walking
paths to
isolated
areas to
reach the
homes of his
clients.

Once he's
there, he
talks about
living a
healthy
lifestyle,
offers
mosquito
nets and
shares
about God's
forgiveness.

(IMB photos
by Sue
Sprenkle)

Ugandan Baptist pastor counsels people with AIDS

By Sue Sprenkle

International Mission Board

MBARARA, Uganda (BP)—Dressed in a suit coat and tie, Nabath Atusasire looks a little out of place as he picks his way through an overgrown banana grove.

The humid heat of southern Uganda presses on him. Slick-soled dress shoes provide little traction as the Baptist pastor treks along a well-worn, rocky path to an isolated village. He yells a greeting to a young woman as she walks out of a crumbling, mud home.

Ecumenical group wants to mobilize Christians to abolish genocide

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Ecumenical group wants to mobilize

Christians to abolish genocide

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—Leaders from a number of Christian traditions met in New York recently in an attempt to mobilize Christians to “reflect on their responsibility in the face of genocide.”

Armenian, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian representatives met on the 69th anniversary of Krystalnacht, the 1938 attack on Jews and their property in Nazi Germany. The Nov. 9 panel was designed to be a “point of departure” on which other Christian groups could model similar meetings, organizers said.

Will neurotheology cause faith to wane? Not likely, experts say

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By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—If science asserts that prayer is more neurological than metaphysical, will it cause the believers to abandon their faith? It's highly unlikely, experts in the field of neurotheology agree.

Neurotheology is the study of the correlation between neurological and spiritual activity. Its aim is to find a neurological basis for belief-based experiences like trances, perceived oneness with the universe and altered states of consciousness. Proponents say it can also help explain the daily habits of religious life, namely prayer, meditation and senses of the presence of God.



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Cybercolumn by Brett Younger:

Impossible dreams

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CYBER COLUMN: Impossible dreams

By Brett Younger

My family recently went to see *Man of La Mancha* at Bass Hall in Fort Worth. The critics have not been kind. In "A not-so-dreamy *Man of La Mancha*," *The Dallas Morning News* said, "Maybe I might actually like *Man of La Mancha* if I could ever catch a really good production, but then, maybe not." In "Musical not all we dreamed of," *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* didn't hold back either: "Is it possible that a musical revival can look fantastic and sound even better, yet still be dull? Yes. It's hard to say where the fault lies."

Brett Younger

The critics missed the point. *Man of La Mancha* is not about lights, sound or sets. It's about idealism, hope and dreams.

No clear winners in contested Tennessee Baptist Convention

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No clear winners in contested Tennessee Baptist Convention

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (ABP)—Neither an organized fundamentalist group nor a coalition of moderates and unaligned conservatives were the clear-cut winners during the [Tennessee Baptist Convention](#) annual meeting, held in Kingsport, Tenn.

Messengers elected presidential and vice presidential candidates endorsed by [Concerned Tennessee Baptists](#), which has long accused the convention's leadership of over-representing "liberals" and congregations that partner with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Messengers also turned away two attempts to soften a Concerned Tennessee Baptist-supported policy regarding nominees to the convention's boards and committees.

Virginia Baptists change budget for educational entities

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Virginia Baptists change budget for educational entities

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Virginia Baptists increased their support for a variety of state, national and international ministries—and for the second year in a row persuaded their budget committee to modify its proposal because of concerns about funding for educational institutions.

The \$14.36 million 2008 budget is \$160,000 more than this year's. A new feature includes a reduction in direct allocations to affiliated academies and colleges but also new allocations to each of the institutions offering scholarships to students. In addition, a newly created student- and ministry-formation scholarship fund will assist students at any college or seminary.

Child killed following accident involving TBM volunteers in Mexico

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Child dies following accident involving TBM volunteers in Mexico

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—A Texas Baptist Men team on its way to feed victims of flooding in Southern Mexico was involved in a traffic accident Nov. 15 that resulted in a child's death.

A group of children surrounded a van carrying the TBM team while it travelled through a small village in Mexico. The children were darting around the slow-moving vehicle, attempting to sell items when one of them misjudged the van's speed and ran into the side of it.

Baptists offer relief to Bangladesh after killer cyclone hits

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Baptists offer relief to Bangladesh after killer cyclone hits

Baptists joined an international relief effort in Bangladesh after a Nov. 15 cyclone killed more than 3,400 people in the Ganges River delta along the Bay of Bengal.

[Baptist World Aid](#), the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, is working in partnership with the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha and the Bangladesh Baptist Church Fellowship.

Both conventions are providing food to storm survivors. The relief department for the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha also has made a commitment to help 150 families rebuild their homes.

“Once again, the poorest of the poor have been hit worst and need our full support,” said BWAid Director Paul Montacute. “We will be working with Baptists in Bangladesh, the [Asia Pacific Baptist Federation](#) and other Baptist groups in providing help and assistance.”

RIGHT or WRONG? Stuffing the temple

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RIGHT or WRONG? Stuffing the temple

Reading what the Apostle Paul said about our bodies being “the temple of God,” I became convicted about what I allow my children to eat—too many sweets, etc. But my husband resists my words of caution and models an unhealthy diet to the children. What can I do?