Storylist for 10/29/07 issue

November 16, 2007

Storylist for week of 10/29/07

TAKE ME TO: Top Story | Texas | Opinion | Baptists | Faith & Culture | Book Reviews | Classifieds | Departments | Bible Study

• Where your treasure is...

• Buckner's Lufkin program celebrates 10 years of ministry to single parents

• Buckner opens Child Development Center in Romania

• Howard Payne students join Cancer Walk-a-thon

• Seven young Baylor alumni to be honored at homecoming

• Baylor alumni overwhelmingly proud of alma mater, survey says

• ETBU senior enjoys roaring-good life as mascot, student-athlete

• TV news story helps make a family complete

• For Southeast Texas foster couple, 14 makes a family

• â□□I love to see people come together to worship'

- God-sized vision drives Corpus Christi church to plant churches
- Bexar County youthful offenders find a second chance with KAPS
- Students explore world of opportunities during Mary Hardin-Baylor missions week
- One blogging minister nominates another for first VP
- Texas Baptists launch young leaders network
- All-State Choir & Band trip to Germany still on
- BGCT launches distinctive online missions connector
- On the Move
- Around the State
- Texas Tidbits

- CBF council affirms UN anti-poverty goals
- New collaboration shows â□□reconstruction' of Baptist family, CBF leader maintains
- Baptist Briefs

- Conservative â□□values voters' insist on anti-abortion candidate
- Yale panelists ask: â□□Is there a theological foundation for political engagement?'
- Separation of church and state great but misunderstood by many,

panelists insist

- Senator backs off on funding earmarked for religious group
- Communities feel the squeeze of accelerated church growth
- Campaign for debt relief brings unlikely allies together
- Evangelicals look overseas to global concerns
- Evangelicals debate how faith influences politics
- Evangelicals are moving into power, but ends can be unclear, author says
- Faith Digest
- BOOKS: Faith in the Halls of Power
- Classified Ads
- Cartoon
- Texas Baptist Forum
- EDITORIAL: Good words for BGCT: â□□Oh, behave'
- DOWN HOME: Abundant blessings in a chicken joint
- 2nd Opinion: A lifelong friend & the Messiah
- TOGETHER: Details about the '08 budget process
- RIGHT or WRONG? Need for forgiveness

• Texas Baptist Forum

• Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: All my strength

• BaptistWay Bible Series for October 28: It's a victorious life

• Bible Studies for Life Series for October 28: RESPECTâ□□Find out what it means

• Explore the Bible Series for October 28: Centered on Christ

• BaptistWay Bible Series for November 4: Christ's love extends to all

• Bible Studies for Life Series for November 4: Seeking your Father's approval

• Explore the Bible Series for November 4: A caring community

Previously Posted:

• BGCT presidential nominees discuss challenges, relationships

• CBF council OKs UN anti-poverty goals, hears of year-end budget shortfall

• Midwestern Seminary board meeting ends without action against Roberts

• See articles from the previous 10/22/07 issue here.

Storylist for 11/05/07 issue

November 16, 2007

Storylist for week of 11/05/07

TAKE ME TO: Top Story | Texas | Opinion | Baptists | Faith & Culture | Book Reviews | Classifieds | Departments | Bible Study

- First woman BGCT president elected, budget approved

Coverage of the BGCT Annual Meeting in Amarillo

- First woman BGCT president elected, budget approved
- African-American Texas Baptists gather for worship, praise
- Texas Baptists have worldwide influence through BWA, Coffey says
- Hispanic leaders take on local and international projects
- Foundation honors three
- See a photo slideshow from the BGCT annual meeting here.
- Howard Payne honors alumni and supporters
- On the Move

- Around the State
- Texas Tidbits

- Women challenged to â□□live the joy of missions'
- Tennessee Baptists gear up for struggle over trustees
- Memphis church gives new meaning to â□□I Surrender All'
- Baptist Briefs

- Israel claims artifacts found date to first Jewish temple
- Kinder, gentler Moses pictured in new Ten Commandments movie
- The Ten Commandments â□□1956 vs. 2007
- Falwell's church continues fast-paced growth
- Christian human rights lawyer reports persecution in China
- Americans don't want religious pitches from presidential candidates, poll says
- Court rules for teacher in private/public school dispute
- Church welcomes the â□□Scum of the Earth'
- Faith Digest

- Book Reviews
- Classified Ads
- Cartoon
- Texas Baptist Forum
- On the Move
- Around the State
- DOWN HOME: To logo, or not to logo
- EDITORIAL: Look past gender toward priorities
- TOGETHER: God answered prayers in Amarillo
- RIGHT or WRONG? Counseling liabilities
- 2nd Opinion: Knowing how the story ends
- Texas Baptist Forum
- Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: Jesus' church
- BaptistWay Bible Series for November 4: Christ's love extends to all

• Bible Studies for Life Series for November 4: Seeking your Father's approval

• Explore the Bible Series for November 4: A caring community

• BaptistWay Bible Series for November 11: Live in response to God's mercy

• Bible Studies for Life Series for November 11: The cure for anxious care

• Explore the Bible Series for November11: The call to be Jesus

Previously Posted:

• Convention Wrapup: First woman BGCT president elected, budget approved

• â□□See yourselves as children of God,' Amarillo pastor tells Texas Baptists

• BGCT president urges Texas Baptists to feed the flocks

• Wade recounts regrets, strides as BGCT executive director

• Warren challenges BGCT to promote PEACE globally

• Currie: If Texas Baptists â□□build it, they will come'

- Future of Texas Baptist missions lies in collaborations, communication
- WMU annual meeting features theme of â□□shapingâ□□ for God's purpose
- Tyler pastor elected first vice president
- First woman BGCT president elected
- â□□No confidence' in Executive Board motion introduced
- Missions take forefront among ministry awards recipients
- WMU board discusses transition, plans to select interim leader
- Early messenger count tops 1,500 in Amarillo
- More than 100 profess faith in Christ during CityReach
- BGCT presidential nominees discuss challenges, relationships

- See articles from the previous 10/29/07 issue here.

Around the State

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

Around the State

• **N.T. Wright**, the bishop of Durham Cathedral in the Church of England and a leading New Testament scholar, will be the featured speaker at a pastors and church leaders retreat at the Laity Lodge Retreat Center Nov. 25-27. Wright is the first speaker in a series made possible by a $500,000 grant from the M.D. Mathews Foundation of Houston. For more information, call (830) 792-1210.

• **East Texas Baptist University** will hold a "Shadow Day" for high school seniors and college transfer students Nov. 29-30. Visiting students will have the opportunity to spend the night in the dorm, socialize with current students, visit with professors and attend classes. There also will be an activity on Thursday evening. Pre-registration is required, and a $15 nonrefundable fee must be paid. For more information, call (800) 804-3828.

First Church in Sanger held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of its family life center. The 21,000-square-foot facility also will be used for education space as well as the headquarters of a sports ministry. A full-service kitchen also is one of the building's components, and it was used to feed 500 people at the building's dedication banquet. The church recently called Jeff Dooley as minister of education and activities to maximize the building's ministry capabilities. The facility cost $1.7 million. E.L. McNeal is pastor.

• **Howard Payne University** will hold a “Southern Gospel Christmas” concert Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Featured guests will be the Melody Boys Quartet from Little Rock, Ark. Tickets are $10 per person. Seating is limited, so advance tickets are strongly encouraged. For more information, call (325) 649-8006.

• **The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** recognized several people during homecoming activities. Kay Anderson, who taught at the university 30 years and continues to volunteer as the museum curator, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Siblings Rick, George, Cecilia and Lynda Solis received the Parker Award, given to a multimember alumni family.

Book Reviews

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

Book Reviews

A Dream That Came to Life: The History of the Laity Lodge Retreat Center **by Howard Hovde (Smyth & Helwys)**

Laity Lodge Director Emeritus Howard Hovde paints a wonderful picture of a place described as “like going to heaven without having to pass through the Pearly Gates.” Hovde shares background stories of the Holdsworth and Butt families that united through the marriage of Mary Holdsworth to Howard E. Butt Sr., founder of the HEB grocery company. Together, they

created a nonprofit foundation to “help meet needs of families, children and the community.” The foundation eventually purchased a 1,900-acre ranch near Leakey for children to enjoy. Their oldest son, Howard Jr., expanded the dream to include a retreat center where lay people could learn about “integrating faith and love into everyday living.”

Off the Bookshelf
What’s everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Hovde intersperses philosophy, organization and history with interesting stories of people who influenced the direction of Laity Lodge. For good measure, he adds heart stories of those influenced by the center, including author Madeleine L’Engle (A Wrinkle in Time) and The Message translator Eugene Peterson, who wrote while staying at Laity Lodge. A valuable appendix, including leadership tips, poems and a list of significant books, completes the work.

Inspiring stories turn what could be a dry history into a quick read.

Baptist Briefs

November 16, 2007
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Baptist Briefs

IMB stats show growth. The International Mission Board's annual statistical report covering calendar year 2006 includes a summary of church-growth indicators reported by Southern Baptist missionaries and their overseas Baptist partners. The report noted 25,497 new churches, 12,856 new outreach groups, 609,968 baptisms, about 9.86 million church membership, 4.6 million in Bible study, 567,413 new Christians in discipleship training and more than 1.26 million total church members in discipleship training. The statistics were released during the International Mission Board trustees' recent meeting in Springfield, Ill.

Virginia schools reach agreement. The John Leland Center for Theological Studies, a moderate Baptist seminary in Arlington, Va., and Hampton University, an African-American college in Hampton, Va., have reached a degree-granting agreement for undergraduate students. The agreement allows Leland students who have completed the seminary's diploma in theology program to count all of their 48 hours of credit toward a bachelor's degree in religion from Hampton.

N.C. Baptists expel gay-

affirming Charlotte church

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

N.C. Baptists expel gay-affirming Charlotte church

By Norman Jameson

N.C. Biblical Recorder

GREENSBORO, N.C. (ABP)—North Carolina Baptists expelled Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte from their statewide group because the church accepts gay members into leadership.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Executive Committee ruled Nov. 12 that the church was not in compliance with membership articles. While convention messengers voted overwhelmingly to hear an appeal by Myers Park the next day, they voted similarly to reject it.

Cartoon

November 16, 2007
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2nd Opinion: A young Baptistâ□□s reason to remain

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

2nd Opinion:
A young Baptist’s reason to remain

Five years ago, while studying at Texas A&M University, I took a job as the youth minister of a small Baptist church in the Conroe area north of Houston. Having been born and raised in a large Bible church, I entered the Baptist world relatively oblivious to the situation I was getting myself into. Needless to say, it was not long after I began to identify myself as a Baptist that I became aware of the stigma associated with that name; stigma, may I add, that was well-deserved.

I was a young Baptist minister living in a time when the leaders of my denomination were more concerned with the sexual orientation of Disney characters than the fact that roughly 7,000 children were dying of malnutrition each night. I was embarrassed that my denomination chose to use its resources to defend archaic scientific theories and remove women from leadership positions rather than to let justice roll on like a river, and I was enraged by the pettiness of it all.

It was a time when a small number of powerful leaders had so corrupted

the word “Baptist” that a large number of churches found it necessary to strike it from their name, keeping their denominational affiliation secret in order to maintain some level of credibility. And it was a time when I was willing to do the same.

But although I felt hurt by the actions of some contemporary Baptists, what compelled me to stay within the denomination was the legacy left by Baptists of the past. These were men and women who shared a conviction that the freedom to work out one’s faith was more important than the transmission of right doctrine, and they believed that social concern was an integral part of that faith. They organized themselves so that each body of believers was free to choose its own path, answering only to God. They had a high view of the Holy Spirit’s power to direct the church without their assistance, and they refused to be restricted by any creed or statement of faith.

DOWN HOME: Agnostic & editor agree on thanks

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

DOWN HOME:
Agnostic & editor agree on thanks

Sometimes, it’s downright weird how people with widely divergent

worldviews can come down in the same place.

But here I am, right beside A.J. Jacobs.

He's the author of a best-selling book*, The Know-It-All*. I've been accused of knowing practically nothing.

He's an editor-at-large for a hoity-toity men's magazine, *Esquire*. I'm the editor of a Baptist newspaper 99.9999999 percent of the readers of *Esquire* never heard of.

EDITORIAL: Differences, defamation & grace

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

EDITORIAL: Differences, defamation & grace

A thoughtful reader recently sent me a letter lamenting the landslide of personal attacks and the torrent of abusive language that characterize Baptist life these days. He specifically cited the tone of several blogs. But he also could have pointed to many church business meetings, e-mail and telephone gossip about individuals and events in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, occasional pronouncements by outsiders about our

convention, and far too many Baptist dinnertables where “roast preacher” is served up as if it were a local delicacy.

The problem, friends, is a growing inability to disagree agreeably. People no longer seem to understand they can disagree with each other without being angry at each other. They stumble over the concept of honest disagreement expressed in a spirit of goodwill.

I understand this phenomenon all too well. Almost every week, I hear from people who have severe problems with disagreement. They generally fall into two categories. One group seems to love disagreeing, and hostility gets their juices flowing. They relish a good fight. The other group absolutely detests fighting and just wants everybody to get along. Problem is, they’re so conditioned by the other crowd that they now think disagreement equals fighting. So, they dysfunctionally avoid expressing honest differences for fear of fighting. Both groups can’t seem to comprehend that people, especially Christians, can disagree passionately and yet continue to love one another, care for each other, pray for the other.

Multiple factors account for this, but I blame talk radio. Call it the “Limbaughization” of America. Talk radio hosts practice “ritual defamation,” explains former Texas pastor Bruce Prescott. It’s a calculated political strategy—“defamation in retaliation for the real or imagined attitudes, opinions or beliefs of the victim, with the intention of silencing or neutralizing his or her influence, and/or making an example of them so as

to discourage similar independence." They also like it because it's good for ratings. Americans have become so coarse and desensitized they're titillated by the pain and humiliation of others. Call it talk radio for a generation who grew up on *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and Friday the 13th. Many bloggers unwittingly (or maybe not) have picked up on this. After all, outlandish rhetoric drives up the hits. Never mind if the tone is so extreme it casts doubt upon the truthfulness of the content.

No executive director nominee likely before yearâ□□s end

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

No executive director nominee likely before year's end

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—A nominee for the next executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board is unlikely to be named before Jan. 1, the chairman of the search committee announced.

Ken Hugghins, pastor of Elkins Lake Baptist Church in Huntsville who is leading the committee, said the first round of candidate interviews

continues. Once that is finished, the committee will begin narrowing the field further. To do that, committee members will analyze strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and compare those with the characteristics they value for the position.

Faith Digest

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

Faith Digest

Black Baptist prof told to choose college or church. Professor Denise Isom loves her work at Calvin College and her Grand Rapids church, Messiah Missionary Baptist. But her employer has told she must choose one or the other. The Calvin board has refused to exempt Isom from a rule that requires professors to attend a congregation with ties to the Christian Reformed Church. The issue sparked a student "prayer protest" and discussion about how the church-membership policies may hurt diversity on campus. Isom, an assistant professor of education since 2003, is black and her research focuses on race and education. She told the board she finally found what she was looking for at the predominantly black Messiah Missionary Baptist.

Religious activists lobby for changes in farm bill. Religious leaders led

by the Bread for the World advocacy group have refused to endorse subsidies for large farm operations and demanded that senators pass an agriculture bill that supports small farmers, as well as the nation's poor. The $288 billion farm bill, reauthorized every five years, has come under attack this year from an array of groups for its large commodity payments, subsidizing production of wheat, rice, corn, cotton and soybeans. According to the Washington-based Environmental Working Group, $164.7 billion in commodity payments were made between 1995 and 2005—and 10 percent of subsidy recipients received 73 percent of the money. The group voiced support for several proposed amendments—one seeking a $250,000 yearly cap on commodity payments to farmers; another cutting commodity payments and offering free revenue insurance for all farmers, with savings redirected to nutritional support programs.