

Calvinism: Tiptoe through the TULIP

April 28, 2008

Can Calvinist and non-Calvinist Baptists work together?

It depends, some advocates of Reformed theology say, on whether Christians on both sides are willing to tiptoe through the TULIP—the acrostic for five doctrinal points that set apart Calvinists.

TULIP: The Doctrines held by Calvinists

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Theologians past and present have used a bouquet of initials and analogies to describe Calvinist doctrine.

Historically, the Reformed Synod of Dort in the Netherlands delineated the differences between Calvinism and the teachings of James Jacobus Arminius. For the sake of simplicity—and playing on an association with the best-known Dutch flower—those teachings have been summarized through the TULIP acrostic.

Baby Boomer Baptist theologians tilt toward Calvinism

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BROWNWOOD—Among Baptist Baby Boomer theologians, at least half of the major authors are committed to Calvinism, an influential Baptist theologian of an earlier generation has noted.

James Leo Garrett Jr., emeritus distinguished professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, examined 10 Baptist theologians of the Baby Boomer generation during a plenary address at Howard Payne University's Christian doctrines colloquy in Brownwood.

Baptist Briefs: ABP honors BGCT

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Directors of Associated Baptist Press honored the Baptist General Convention of Texas and announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from a Texas Baptist family during a meeting in San Antonio. The BGCT has long been one of the major financial supporters of the independent Baptist news service. Executive Editor Greg Warner announced a \$100,000 matching-funds challenge from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. The foundation has promised to match all individual donations to the news

service, up to \$100,000, until the end of 2008. John and Eula Mae Baugh's granddaughter, Jackie Moore of San Antonio, serves as an ABP director and on the Baugh Foundation board.

Youth ranch accepts 75 children from FLDS compound

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LULING—Seventy-five children removed from a polygamist sect's ranch have been placed with Baptist Children's Home Youth Ranch near Luling.

Autistic children enjoy art event hosted by UMHB

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Vivica Villa, age 7 of Kempner, works on a painting at the Autism in Action art day held at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

BELTON—For several hours on a recent Saturday, a University of Mary

Hardin-Baylor gymnasium was transformed into an artists' paradise. From pencils and paint to canvas and cardboard puzzle pieces, children with autism expressed themselves through original artwork during an Autism in Action event, sponsored by the Student Government Association of Texas State Technical College in Waco.

Visionâ€”not just geographyâ€”unite associations

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FORT WORTH—Want to know what an association looks like? Don't use a still camera, because the image and functions are constantly changing as associations try to be what the churches they serve need them to be, said Tarrant Baptist Association Director of Missions Tom Law. And to fit all the churches into the same window will take a wide-angle lens—a very wide-angle lens.

“I think the association we have been familiar with is going to change drastically over the next few years,” Law said. But change is nothing new for associations, he explained.

Around the State: Three Texas missionaries appointed

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- Five people with Texas ties were among the 92 missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board in an April 9 ceremony at First Church in Sunnyvale.

Amazon people groups remain unreachable

April 28, 2008

A metal boat carrying Southern Baptist missionaries cruises up river to a remote village in the Amazon Basin. (Photo/IMB)

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) —Weary travelers stand alongside a river somewhere in South America's Amazon Basin.

After three hours of trying to maneuver upstream by motorboat to a remote village, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries grudgingly accept the realization that the day's journey has ended.

Shallow waters, exposed rocks, tree limbs and a rough current that nearly

capsized the boat won't allow them to go any farther.

Score a victory for the Amazon.

Duo encounters bugs, mud, “mixed-up beliefs” in Amazon Basin

April 28, 2008

A boy peers around
the corner of his
house in the Amazon
Basin.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Pat Townsend admits she's living outside her comfort zone. Between the bugs, mud and freezing showers, Townsend, a missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Masters Program, admits it could take her awhile to adjust to life in and around the Amazon Basin of South America.

Younger leaving Broadway

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FORT WORTH (ABP)—Brett Younger, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, survived a vote to fire him last month but is leaving the church anyway—to become associate professor of preaching at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

âFuture Focus Committeeâ named

April 28, 2008

DALLAS—A committee has been formed to study the long-range future of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Stephen Hatfield, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lewisville, and Andy Pittman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, will jointly chair the committee.