

UPDATED: IMB president to retire next summer

September 16, 2009

UPDATED: Jerry Rankin, who has served 17 years as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, has announced plans to retire July 31, 2010.

Uzbek Baptist head, two other leaders face 3-year prison term

September 16, 2009

The head of Uzbekistan's Baptist union and two colleagues face up to three years in prison on charges of tax evasion and teaching children about religion without permission from their parents, a crime in the predominantly Muslim Central Asian country.

Baylor study focuses on clergy

sexual misconduct

September 16, 2009

In any given congregation with 400 adult members, seven women on average have been victims of clergy sexual misconduct since they turned 18, a new study reveals.

Love your enemies, civility advocates say

September 16, 2009

Mark DeMoss, veteran conservative Christian public relations executive, has joined forces with Democratic consultant Lanny Davis to launch The Civility Project, an online forum that aims to help people who disagree be less disagreeable.

Church lets students open

window on computers

September 16, 2009

Twice a week, people pack into Iglesia Bautista Dios Te Ama in Fort Worth for computer classes. For many in the class, it is the first time they have ever turned on a computer, clicked a mouse or used a program.

Missions has been foundation's focus for quarter-century

September 16, 2009

Twenty-five years ago, Texas Baptists sensed God calling them to a task like none other they'd undertaken. The state's population was exploding and diversifying. Evangelism efforts weren't keeping pace with growth. In fact, they were losing ground, leaving a growing non-Christian population.

Cecil Sherman receives

ABP's religious freedom award

September 16, 2009

Cecil Sherman, a pivotal figure in moderate Baptist life for the past half century, was recognized Sept. 10 for his fierce commitment to religious freedom as Associated Baptist Press presented him one of its top awards before a room filled with his family, friends and colleagues.

BGCT accesses \$1 million from reserve funds

September 16, 2009

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has accessed \$1 million of Executive Board-approved reserve funds to help support the organization's ministry as the economy slowly begins to pull out of the recession, officials announced.

Judge sets court date in

‘birther’ case filed by Wiley Drake

September 16, 2009

The so-called "birthers" claimed a small victory Sept. 8 when a federal judge set a tentative trial date of Jan. 26, 2010, for a lawsuit claiming that President Obama is constitutionally ineligible for his office.

McKissic questions school district's banning Obama speech

September 16, 2009

A prominent black Southern Baptist pastor says a Texas school district should explain why it did not allow President Obama's Sept. 8 speech on education to be shown live in classrooms, but is planning later in the month to send selected fifth graders to a similar message by former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura.

Baptist Briefs: National WMU event slated

September 16, 2009

“Fulfilled” is the name and the theme of a national Woman’s Missionary Union weekend event Oct. 8-10 at First Baptist Church in Kissimmee, Fla.

Every child has a place at church, author tells ministry summit

September 16, 2009

Every child deserves a place in a congregation’s education and discipleship efforts, the keynote speaker told the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Dallas Baptist University Children’s Ministry Summit.