

TBM workers train in Israel; partnership enters next phase

October 21, 2022

Ten Texas Baptist Men volunteers took their expertise in mass feeding to Israel recently to learn how to provide those services in a culturally appropriate manner in Israel.

Long-tenured pastors in San Antonio area recognized

October 21, 2022

San Antonio Baptist Association recently recognized 19 pastors who have served 25 or more years at the church where they minister now, including six who have served 30 years or more.

Chaplaincy Relations Director Bobby Smith dies

October 21, 2022

Bobby Smith, founding director of Chaplaincy Relations with the Baptist

General Convention of Texas, died Oct. 18.

Bob Fu: Chinese religious persecution intensifies

October 21, 2022

Religious persecution in China today is worse than it has been in decades, former Chinese dissident and longtime international human rights advocate Bob Fu told a gathering at Dallas Baptist University.

East Texas pastor ministers to villagers along the Amazon

October 21, 2022

An August trip to the Amazon involving participants from the United States included Pastor Bruce Rudd of Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church in Tyler.

Food is an expression of love, Eugene Cho says

October 21, 2022

Jesus' feeding of the multitude offers a lesson in love, Bread for the World President Eugene Cho told participants at the Together at the Table Hunger and Poverty Summit at Baylor University.

Hunger fighters focus on lessons learned from pandemic

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Together at the Table Hunger and Poverty Summit speakers focused on lessons learned about food insecurity and nutrition from the COVID-19 pandemic.

TBM multiplies impact by involving Florida volunteers

October 21, 2022

By utilizing a large turnout of local volunteers, Texas Baptist Men is

multiplying the ministry's impact in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

Programs, research, congregations key to fighting hunger

October 21, 2022

Food insecurity is a widespread problem that demands evidence-based, on-the-ground solutions, panelists told a Christian community development conference.

Church responses to white flight have consequences

October 21, 2022

The ways churches respond to white flight can have “unfortunate, unintended consequences” both for congregations and the communities they serve, a Baylor University sociologist told a Christian community development conference.

Wayland otorgó casi \$3 millones para mejorar el apoyo a los estudiantes hispanos

October 21, 2022

Wayland Baptist University recibirá casi \$3 millones del Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos durante los próximos cinco años para garantizar el éxito académico de los estudiantes hispanos y de bajos ingresos, de primera generación.

Greed and profit at heart of racism, lynching expert says

October 21, 2022

WACO—Systemic racism has more to do with greed and profit than with race-based hatred, a Baylor University authority on lynching told a Christian community development conference.

“Racism is not fundamentally about identity but about political economy,” said Malcolm Foley, director of Black church studies at Baylor’s Truett Theological Seminary.

Foley, special adviser to the university president for equity and campus engagement, addressed the No Need Among You Conference at First Baptist Church in Waco.

“Christian anti-racism risks a descent into sentimentalism” when it focuses on changing hearts and attitudes toward individuals without looking at the economic and political systems that lie behind racism, Foley asserted.

The Christian confession of faith—Jesus is Lord—is “profoundly political” because it means mammon—“the god of profit”—is not Lord, he said.

For centuries, racism has provided the justification and rationale for economically exploitative practices, from chattel slavery to the extermination of indigenous people, Foley insisted.

“Racism is not historically about hate. It’s historically about greed,” he said.

‘Demonic feedback loop’

Foley described a “demonic feedback loop” of exploitation, enforcement through violence and justification. The justification—the idea of white supremacy and the inherent inferiority of people of color—arose to provide a rationale for exploitation of non-whites, he explained.

Foley, whose doctoral dissertation focused on African American Protestant responses to lynching in the late 19th century and early 20th century, said the proper question to ask when encountering racism is, “Who benefits?”

Between 1883 and 1941, 3,000 Black men were lynched in the United States, he said. Lynching lost its social acceptance not when America became more enlightened and benevolent but when lynching became “bad for business,” Foley observed.

Rather than focusing solely on individual racist attitudes and actions, he encouraged Christians to consider systems involving policies, practices and processes, as well as people.

Theologically, he referred to the Apostle Paul's writing in Ephesians 6 about wrestling "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

"We must be a repenting and a resisting people" who not only repent of complicity with sinful value systems, but also resist economic exploitation, Foley said.

Rather than simply accepting unfettered capitalism in an unquestioning fashion, he encouraged Christians to adopt a "counter-economy that sees need and exploitation as evil."

Even so, he warned, some will feel threatened by that message. He pointed to the example of Martin Luther King, whose public approval ratings plummeted when he began to focus not just on racial justice, but also on economic justice.

However, Christ's followers are called to "walk in the way of the cross" and stand for all manner of justice, he insisted,

"Seek to build communities with no need," he urged. "Make your churches agents of the just redistribution of resources."