

From My Laptop to Yours.

The Baptist Association Live with Urgency: *Sowing Together* for Harvest

Austin, TX produces music and computer chips. It's as diverse as a community can get. In fact, the city motto is "Keep Austin Weird." So imagine the challenge the Austin Baptist Association faced when trying to offer standardized training in evangelism, missions, or discipleship. Last year, the 168 Baptist churches in the association used fourteen different curriculums for Vacation Bible School alone. In Austin, standardizing anything is impossible.

The association had to become more church-focused. Training agendas are no longer set by the association; instead, they are in response to church needs. Recently, Spanish-speaking ministries in Austin needed additional leadership training. Director of Missions David Smith provided a menu of options allowing the ministries to select those that best fit their needs. First Baptist Church of Pflugerville hosted the event, but the association coordinated all the resources, including inviting other churches to attend.

The process was recently repeated when Bannockburn Church, a leader in family-focused ministry, held citywide training classes. Staff members across denominations gathered at Bannockburn to see how their church could better reach out to families.

Church planters from all over the area learned how they could improve their best practices when the association hosted a two-day church planters' assessment. Now church planters meet monthly at the association office for education and on-going fellowship.

The Austin Baptist Association serves as an information clearinghouse, connecting churches in their city to other churches that have "been there and done that."

Austin may be weird, but the Austin Baptist Association currently has more than thirty church plants each targeting specific people groups in their city. "I don't know if the strategy is brilliant," says Smith, "but it's working."

A fruitful harvest is only possible when seeds have been sown. Live with Urgency. Contact your association to learn how you can sow seeds for the harvest.



- Mission Churches & Church Plants*
- Abundant LIFE Community Baptist Church
 - Austin City Life
 - Austin New Church
 - Capital City Fellowship
 - Christian Love Center
 - Christian Worship & Family Learning Center
 - Cowboy Church of Travis County
 - Cowboy Church of the Hill Country
 - Gateway Hill Country Church
 - Grace Fellowship Community Church
 - Gracepoint Community Church
 - Greater Parkway Baptist Church
 - Iglesia Bautista de la Gracia
 - Iglesia Bautista High Pointe
 - Iglesia Bautista Oak Hill
 - Iglesia Piedra Viva
 - Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva
 - Iranian Baptist Church
 - Manor Fellowship
 - Neighborhood Baptist Church
 - New Life Baptist Church
 - North Austin Korean Baptist Church
 - Northwest Chinese Church
 - Primera Iglesia Bautista Buda
 - Primera Iglesia Bautista Pflugerville
 - Restoration Bible Church
 - Romanian Baptist Church of Austin
 - South Austin Community Church
 - Vietnamese United Baptist Church
 - The Church at Bee Cave
 - The Well

Purpose Statement

The Austin Baptist Association is an alliance of participating churches fulfilling the Great Commission.

Vision Statement

The Austin Baptist Association will be a catalyst alongside Great Commission churches to reach all people groups with the Gospel transforming our community and world through the power of God.

Church News

First Baptist Church, Elgin

Is seeking a part-time youth director. Must be a member of a SBC church and exhibit strong Christian character. For applications contact church (512) 285-4161 or Cindy Roberts at rob78621@yahoo.com. www.fbcelgin.org

Great Hills Baptist Church

The music office is spring cleaning! GHBC is giving away octavos, full collections ad full orchestrations. If you are interested in perusing what is available, contact Patty Bailey at pbailey@ghbc.org.

Hays Hills Baptist Church

Is seeking a full-time Children's Minister. Send resumes to pastordavidsweet@gmail.com or call (512) 312-1433 ext. 23.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Needs a pianist for Sunday mornings & evenings, Sunday evening choir practice. If interested, please call Sandi Mercer at (512) 444-2139, (512) 499-3617, or email Sandi at sandi624@yahoo.com.

Rosedale Baptist Church

Is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. For information or referrals, please contact Jarred Parnell at the church office at (512) 453-1325.

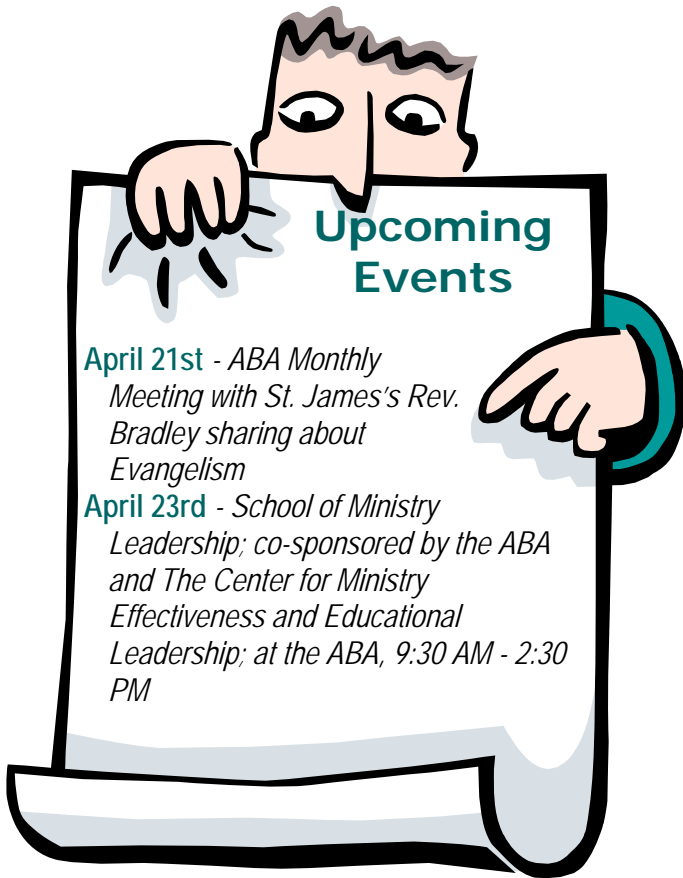


Bible Drill & Speakers' Tournament

Congratulations to the following children and youth who will be moving on to the State Bible Drill:

- * Ben Rosbury from Woodlawn Baptist
- * Reagan Lorfing from Woodlawn Baptist
- * Ruth Duran from Woodlawn Baptist
- * Whitney Walker from First Baptist Elgin
- * Clint Walker from First Baptist Elgin
- * Adryanna Coy from Primera Bautista Bastrop
- * Alana Benner of Northwest Baptist
- * Joel Teal of Hill Country Bible
- * Kiowa Campbell of First Lockhart Baptist
- * Kelly Woytkewicz of First Lockhart Baptist
- * Samantha Burklund of First Lockhart Baptist

Congratulations to Samantha Burklund for also advancing to the State Speakers' Tournament.



Upcoming Events

April 21st - ABA Monthly

Meeting with St. James's Rev. Bradley sharing about Evangelism

April 23rd - School of Ministry

Leadership; co-sponsored by the ABA and The Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership; at the ABA, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Pastorless Churches

Austin Baptist Church
Crestview Baptist Church
First Baptist Church,
Dripping Springs
Friendship Baptist Church
Great Hills Baptist Church
Northwest Baptist Church

Song Writing Workshop

Saturday, May 2, 2009 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Led by Brenton Brown and Jeremy Riddle
Great Hills Baptist Church
10500 Jollyville Road

There is a small cost, please register at www.ghbc.org

You are invited to send some members to...

CALL TO JOY **Saturday, June 6** **Hays Hills Baptist Church**

Dear Pastors and other church leaders,

I invite you to send a few leaders to the "Call to Joy" seminar with Billie Hanks at Hays Hills Baptist Church on Saturday, June 6. It will run from 8:30 AM until 4 PM. This will be his third seminar since last fall at our church. With his second (encore) seminar we tripled the numbers, and we hope to triple or quadruple the numbers on June 6. Each person attending the seminar will be highly motivated toward a more consistent quiet time, and toward praying each day for an opportunity to witness. The greatest result is that each person attending will be equipped to mentor new or immature believers for the rest of his or her life!

Billie wrote "Call to Joy" and "Call to Growth". This seminar prepares Christians to lead others through these vital books. But Billie emphasizes the relationship as more important than the excellent materials. A church can benefit by having more and more Christians growing and helping others grow. (There's a multiplication principle embedded.) It's a way of helping to shut that back door to church membership. There is a cost involved; please contact Hays Hills for the most up-to-date information.

Our church will provide lunch for free, and we will have limited child care by RSVP only.

Please contact me if you are interested. You are also invited to attend this informative and inspirational seminar. Billie has been eye witness to the highs and lows of evangelicalism for the past 40 years and has many stories to highlight the principles. By the way, the principles shared are not new at all--but as old as the Great Commission and Great Commandment! Also see ieaom.org

David Sweet
312-1433, ext 23
pastordavidsweet@gmail.com

Primera Iglesia Bautista in Chamal Tamaulipas, Mexico, needs 2 used vans. This church has several missions, but needs transportation. There are funds available for this project from the church. If you can help, please call Pastor Jesse Garcia at Baptist Temple - (512) 733-3441. Pastor Garcia was a missionary in that area and knows of the need.



The Great Debate:

Was Darwin Wrong?

A debate on the University of Texas Campus sponsored by:

UT Department of Biomedical Engineering
Hill House
Atheist Longhorns
Hill Country Institute for Contemporary Christianity

Tuesday, April 28th

7:00 PM

Gregory Gym

Dr. Juan Sanchez, Vice President of Research at the University of Texas, will moderate the debate that will include the below keynotes and panelist:

- ◆ **Dr. Hugh Ross**, Astronomy & Physics; Reason to Believe
- ◆ **Dr. Fazale Rana**, Bio-Chemistry; Reason to Believe
- ◆ **Dr. Michael Shermer**, History of Science; Executive Director, Skeptics Society
- ◆ **Dr. Sohatra Sarkar**, Integrative Biology & Philosophy; University of Texas
- ◆ **Dr. Ken Diller**, Chairman, Biomedical Engineering; University of Texas

Tickets are necessary for this event and can be purchased at

www.wasdarwinwrong.eventbrite.com

For more information, contact jweber14@austin.rr.com or call 512.680.7993



The Austin Baptist Association will be hosting LifeLine Screenings on **Monday, May 4, 2009.**

For more information about these screenings, visit www.lifelinescreening.com or visit with your physician.

Pre-registration is required; please call **(800) 324-1851** and give source code **HSC 6414**

About the cover story

Every year, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) sponsors an Associational Emphasis Week to highlight the work of the Association. Each year, NAMB selects two Associations in the nation to highlight in their bulletin insert available to churches for Associational Emphasis Week. The Austin Baptist Association was selected as one of the two Associations highlighted in 2009 and that bulletin insert appears on the front page of this month's newsletter. This insert is available digitally and for order on the NAMB website - www.namb.net. Call Charlotte if you have any questions about obtaining this insert.

Associational Emphasis Week
May 17 - 23, 2009



We hope that you had a blessed Resurrection Sunday and that what the Lord accomplished on the cross rests on you daily.

THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER MISSION

Serving The Needy of Austin
Sharing the Gospel With
East Austin

by Caring for People

www.bccmission.org

2000 E. 2nd Street
Austin, 78702

Help us be good Stewards!

If your address has changed, please notify the ABA office as soon as you can so that we may correct our database.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by email at charlotte@austinbaptist.org

THANKS!!!