

# Texas Tidbits\_120604

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

## Texas Tidbits

**Wayland dedicates 11 scholarships.** Wayland Baptist University celebrated homecoming 2004 by dedicating a record 11 endowed scholarships. They are the Salla Stephens Bradshaw and John Ray Stephens Endowed Scholarship, the Earl and Ollie Greene Endowed Music Scholarship, the Claude Hutcherson Family Endowed Scholarship, the Vernon and Mary Wilson Jackson Endowed Scholarship, the Charles and Elizabeth Jinks Endowed Scholarship, the Jodie and Bessie Jopling Endowed Scholarship, the Lucile and Earl W. Miller Endowed Music Scholarship, the Lucian and Audrey Morehead Endowed Scholarship, the Ailese Parten/Charlene Clay Root Endowed Scholarship, the W. Neil Record Endowed Scholarship and the Guy Woods Endowed Music Scholarship.

**Scholarships endowed at HSU.** Music, science and math students at Hardin-Simmons University will benefit from two recently endowed scholarships established at the Abilene university. Henry and Koma Fields of Claude established the Robert and Barbara Dennis Endowed Music Scholarship. Scholarship recipients must be music majors who are full-time students and must maintain a 2.5 overall grade point average and a 3.0 grade point average in music. The Joe and Lynn Sharp Sciences and Mathematics Endowed Scholarship has been established to assist full-time Texas undergraduate students enrolled in the Holland School of Sciences and Mathematics at HSU. The scholarship may be awarded to one or more students with a 3.0 grade point average. Recipients must be active in a local Baptist congregation and be in good disciplinary standing.

**Baylor faculty member named ETS officer.** Francis Beckwith, associate professor of church-state studies and associate director of the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University, was elected vice president of the Evangelical Theological Society at its recent meeting in San Antonio. In November 2005, he will become president-elect of ETS and serve as program chair at the organization's 2006 annual meeting in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Fordham University and the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Beckwith is the author or editor of more than a dozen books.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.

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# **TOGETHER: Epicenter Ground zero for revival\_120604**

December 3, 2004

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## **TOGETHER: Epicenter: Ground zero for revival**

At the end of every year while I was a pastor, I gave thanks for the people who were saved and baptized that year in the church. I also prayed, "Lord, help us reach even more people for Christ next year." Years ago, someone said to me, "God is easily pleased but hard to satisfy." That's the way I felt about our evangelism efforts—pleased but not satisfied! Every pastor

understands the feeling.

Where can you get help so you and your church can be more effective in reaching people for Christ?

You have asked the Baptist General Convention of Texas for help that will relate to your church.

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|-----------|
| CHARLES   |
| WADE      |
| Executive |
| Director  |
| BGCT      |
| Executive |
| Board     |

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## **From Red River to Rio Grande, Paris couple blazes ministry trail for others\_120604**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

### **From Red River to Rio Grande, Paris**

# **couple blazes ministry trail for others**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

PARIS—Gerald and Ora Lee Tomes have blazed a trail from the Red River to the Rio Grande that many others are eager to follow.

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**Ugandan                      faith-based  
microcredit                organization  
focuses    on    investing    in  
people\_120604**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

Generous  
Katagira  
(right),  
manager of a  
Christian  
microcredit  
office in  
Uganda,  
speaks with  
a local  
government  
official. With  
the  
government's  
approval,  
Katagira's  
organization  
provides  
loans to help  
Ugandans  
start  
businesses.  
(Steve  
Nelson  
Photo)

**Ugandan faith-based microcredit  
organization focuses on investing in**

# people

**By Dale Hanson Bourke**

*Religion News Service*

NTUNGAMO, Uganda (RNS)- Generous Katagira, 26, says she should be thinking about getting married. Most Ugandan women her age have already settled down and started a family.

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## **Vermont judge grants child-custody rights to partner in same-sex civil union\_120604**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

## **Vermont judge grants child-custody rights to partner in same-sex civil union**

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)-A Vermont judge has ruled that gay couples united in

civil unions should be treated no differently than heterosexual married couples who have had children by artificial insemination when it comes to custody disputes.

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## **Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: '...born again in us'\_120604**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

### **CYBERCOLUMN: '... born again in us'**

**By Brett Younger**

We have been through so many Christmas seasons that it's become routine. We're used to the sounds of the approaching Yuletide—jingle bells, silver bells, Salvation Army bells, Christmas cards from Southern belles and the one-tolling-for-thee-shopping-bell.

Santa is around more than some family members. "The Miracle on 34th Street" doesn't seem particularly miraculous many more. We're no longer inspired (if we ever were) by the television specials where sad, lonely busy people tempted to skip the whole business are suddenly inspired to decorate, bake and wrap. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire sound no better than microwave tater tots.

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# **Cross-country connections revival\_112904**

**church  
bringin**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **Cross-country church connections bringing revival**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

Prayer is connecting Texas Baptists with Christians from New England to the Rocky Mountains, and it is bringing revival with it, firsthand observers report.

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## **Kentucky Baptists divided over**

# **a vote on officers, a constitutional amendment and the BWA\_112904**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **Kentucky Baptists divided over a vote on officers, a constitutional amendment and the BWA**

**By Trennis Henderson & David Winfrey**

*Kentucky Western Recorder*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)—"Kentucky Baptists Connect," an ambitious five-year ministry emphasis, was intended to be the primary focus of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Louisville.

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## **Storylist for 11/22 issue\_112204**

December 3, 2004

# Storylist for 11/22/04 issue

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# **Alabama Baptists vote against same-sex marriage, turn down funds for BWA\_112904**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **Alabama Baptists vote against same-sex marriage, turn down funds for BWA**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP)—Alabama Baptists at their annual meeting passed resolutions against same-sex marriage and in favor of education and military chaplains. But they turned down an attempt to divert \$30,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention to the Baptist World Alliance.

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## **Baptist University of the**

# **Americas applies for BWA membership\_112904**

December 3, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## **Baptist University of the Americas applies for BWA membership**

SAN ANTONIO—Baptist University of the Americas has applied for associate membership in the Baptist World Alliance.

At its July meeting in Seoul, South Korea, the Baptist World Alliance General Council amended the international organization's constitution to allow associate membership.

The new membership category was created "to involve Baptist churches and organized Baptist groups in the global ministry of the Baptist World Alliance through prayer, the sharing of resources and participation in the meetings, congresses and conferences of the Baptist World Alliance," the amendment stated. "The ministry of churches, organized Baptist groups and the Alliance are all strengthened through this intentional partnership."

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# California Baptists pass bylaw changes\_112904

December 3, 2004

Posted: 11/24/04

## California Baptists pass bylaw changes

**By Terry Barone**

*California Southern Baptist*

HIGHLAND, Calif. (ABP)—Except for several bylaw changes concerning the relationship of the California Southern Baptist Convention to its agencies, messengers to the convention's annual meeting approved a number of routine items with little debate.