

Alabama Baptists deny brouhaha over brewer's water

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CLEWISTON, Fla. (ABP)—Southern Baptist disaster-relief leaders have denied reports—spread widely across the Internet—that a group of their volunteers in Florida refused to give water to victims of Hurricane Wilma because it came from a beer-brewing company.

A Fort Myers, Fla., television news crew first reported the alleged incident Oct. 28. NBC-2 reported workers cooking meals near First Baptist Church of Clewiston, Fla., under the banner of Southern Baptist Convention disaster-relief services, declined to hand out canned water provided by Anheuser-Busch.

The story was quickly picked up by several Internet weblogs, prompting criticism of Southern Baptists. But the Alabama Baptist newspaper reported the television station's story wasn't entirely accurate.

Brantley Center houses volunteers

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Brantley Center houses volunteers

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)-What do you do when you run a homeless shelter and the city has evacuated all the homeless? That's the situation facing Tobey Pitman, director of the Brantley Mission Center in New Orleans.

As the city rebuilds from Hurricane Katrina, Pitman is among the many local residents who must adjust to a new sense of normal. "We're retooling our ministry," said Pitman, 50. "We've gotten out of the homeless business temporarily because there are no homeless."

Instead, the Brantley Center reopened as a 250-bed dorm for Baptist volunteers coming from throughout the country to rebuild churches and homes. "There's at least a year's work to be done," he said. "We just hope the interest is not lost in coming to New Orleans."

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Alabama Baptist conservatives declare mission accomplished.

Alabama Baptist Conservatives, a network of pastors organized in 1997, officially disbanded recently, saying they accomplished their goal of steering the state's Baptist convention in "a conservative direction." The group—originally known as Southern Baptist Conservatives of Alabama—formed out of concern about Cooperative Baptist Fellowship activity in the state, said former moderator John Killian, pastor of Maytown Baptist Church in Mulga, Ala. "We did not want to go the direction of Texas and Virginia, where there was a split in the state convention and the original convention aligned with the moderate forces," he said.

Hungarian Baptists discover no quake survivors. A Hungarian Baptist Aid search-and-rescue team, who arrived two days after an earthquake hit Pakistan, found no survivors beneath the ruins of schools in northern Pakistan. However, the team attended to almost 400 casualties during their first five days on the scene. As the rescue and recovery work continued, hundreds of victims who had been without food came down from mountain villages carrying the injured with them. The Hungarian rescue team—two medical doctors, two paramedics, two technical-rescue experts, two rescue dogs, a rescue commander and a coordinator—helped search three school buildings and remove several bodies from the ruins. All the team members participated in distributing aid and helped guide helicopters to places of need. The unique work of the Hungarian team is coordinated through Baptist World Aid, the relief arm of the Baptist World Alliance. BWA is supporting the earthquake relief effort with an initial \$40,000 grant to Hungarian Baptist Aid.

GuideStone offers dental plan choices. GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention will offer a choice of three dental plans through CIGNA Dental beginning Jan. 1. Southern Baptist ministers, denominational employees and seminary students are eligible to participate in the dental plans available through GuideStone. Dental plans for 2006 will include two plans available in all states and a dental HMO plan available in 35 states. A list of dentists participating in the CIGNA Dental network can be found at www.cigna.com or by calling CIGNA at (800) 244-6224. For rates and a summary of benefits, visit www.GuideStone.org or call (800) 262-0511.

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.

Transforming Community

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Eloise
Coffey
packs 150
sack
lunches at
the Baptist
Center
twice a
week for
delivery to
the
homeless
and day
laborers in
the
community.
"I pack
each lunch
like I'm
packing it
for my
children,"
she said.
(Photo by
Russ
Dilday)

Transforming Community:

Buckner helps Broadway Church minister to homeless

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Benevolences

FORT WORTH-"I'm an addict. I'm addicted to crack cocaine," Johnny admitted. It's a short, truthful declaration that establishes the reason for Johnny's motivation-and torment.

Donation enables church's enhanced community ministry

November 11, 2005

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Donation enables church's enhanced community ministry

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS-Buckner Children and Family Services and Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas are partnering together to better meet the needs of the people living near the church.

BGCT leaders discuss bylaws changes

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BGCT leaders discuss bylaws changes

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Baptist General Convention of Texas leaders recently wrapped up more than 30 sessions across the state, where Texas Baptists discussed proposed changes in the convention's constitution and bylaws.

Cartoon

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**"You can't
keep
running
from your
problems."**

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2nd Opinion: Laws can add 'cheerful' to giving

November 11, 2005

Posted: 11/11/05

2nd Opinion: Laws can add 'cheerful' to giving

By Sherre Stephens

It's that time of year-holidays followed by tax time. Did you know that nearly 94 percent of us wait until the 11th hour to prepare our tax return and ante up what we owe to Uncle Sam?

Perhaps the following tax tips will help you to be among the 6 percent who are not caught unprepared for tax season as 2005 draws to a close:

Federal official addresses Hispanic laity

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Daniel Garza,
deputy director of
external and
intergovernmental
affairs for the
Bush
administration,
meets
participants at the
Hispanic
Convocation of
the Laity.

Federal official addresses Hispanic laity

By Eric Guel

Texas Baptist Communications

SPICEWOOD-Christians have a unique voice that needs to be heard in

government, Daniel Garza, deputy director of external and intergovernmental affairs under President George Bush, told the Hispanic Baptist Convocation of the Laity.

DOWN HOME: Like father, like son

November 11, 2005

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DOWN HOME: Like father, like son

"You remind me of your daddy," Joanna said the other night.

Now, that's a comparison I like.

My daddy, Marvin Knox, is a straight-up guy, a devoted pastor and committed follower of Jesus Christ. He's also a teacher. He taught me much about how to be a father by the way he raised my sister, brother and me, and he showed me how to be a husband by the way he's always loved and doted on my mother. Plus, he lived at home the sermons he preached in the pulpit, so he has demonstrated a life of integrity and character.

EDITORIAL: 'Pour out your heart' & fight hunger

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EDITORIAL: 'Pour out your heart' & fight hunger

True confession: Before I recently traveled to China with Buckner Orphan Care International, I fretted about going hungry. I'd heard "you don't want to know" the source of meat in many Chinese dishes. I wondered if meals would be appetizing, much less adequate. So, although I could stand to lose a few pounds, I weighed down my suitcase with protein bars, trail mix and nuts. Turns out, we ate wonderfully. With only one exception, the food looked similar to the fare served in nice Chinese restaurants back home. And although I did lose about four pounds, that had more to do with my dexterity with chopsticks than with the quantity and quality of Chinese food.

How off-base and selfish: Leading up to a trip of a lifetime, I wasted energy thinking about and shopping for transportable food so I could last a little more than a week overseas without feeling a single hunger pang. Maybe I'm willing to tell you this little story because I don't think I'm all that different from most Texas Baptists. We're food-centric. Many of our best get-togethers feature fellowship-hall tables laden with fried chicken, casseroles, home-cooked vegetables, and pies and cakes. We plan trips and visits with friends around where we'll eat.



This time of year, as we look ahead to Thanksgiving and an annual feast with family, Texas Baptists also think about food for others. This is the season when we collect the Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger. "Pour Out Your Heart" is the theme for this year's offering, and we will do that as we seek to meet the \$800,000 goal.

Photo exhibit raises awareness about homeless

November 11, 2005

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Holy
Condiments,
from the
photography
exhibit at
Wilshire Baptist
Church. "Both
the spices and
Bible were
found just as
they were
captured in the
photo
underneath the
I-35 bridge,"
said
photographer
Hal Samples.
"Even though
many homeless
people go
without the
luxuries we
take for
granted, I
found it
interesting that
this person
made room in
his makeshift
home for the
two items in
this photograph
that add flavor
in our lives."
(Photo by Hal
Samples)

Photo exhibit raises awareness about homeless

By Mark Wingfield

Special to the Baptist Standard

DALLAS-Duane is the reason Hal Samples started photographing homelessness in Dallas.