

# Around the State

December 2, 2005

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Iglesia Nueva Vida in Zapata held a groundbreaking service for a 6,000-square-foot building. It will cost approximately \$300,000. A barbecue followed the groundbreaking ceremony. Participating in the groundbreaking were Robert Marshall, Joe Ramirez, Jane Cornelius, Pastor Mack Caffey of First Church in Zapata, Director of Missions Mike O'Neill of Coastal Bend Association and Pastor Raul Hernandez of Iglesia Nueva Vida.

# Around the State

- ◆ Four students from the East Texas Baptist University School of Fine Arts competed in a regional conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions. **Jennifer Howell** and **Taylor Johnson** both advanced to the semifinal round with Johnson finishing fifth. **Cortney Brinker** and **Rachel Farley** also competed.

- ◆ Baylor University won the top team award for the ninth consecutive year at the Model Organization of American States. The Baylor team also took six of the 14 awards presented. Students from 22 universities assumed the roles of diplomatic representatives to the Organization of American States. Representing various countries, participants researched and debated various issues of concern to the hemisphere, such as decentralization, terrorism, privacy issues, renewable fuels and telecommunications standardization. Baylor's team represented Venezuela and Uruguay.

- ◆ *The Collegian*, Houston Baptist University's student newspaper, was a finalist in the Associated Collegiate Press' 2005 Newspaper Pacemaker competition. Finalists were selected based on excellence in coverage and content; quality of writing and reporting; leadership on the opinion page; evidence of in-depth reporting; layout/design; and photography, art and graphics. Alice Rowlands, associate professor in mass media, is the publication's adviser.



First Church in Denton ran its annual Judgement House for 11 nights. A total of 3,245 people attended. More than 600 people made spiritual decisions during the performances, including 234 professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Pictured are members of the cast portraying Jesus and angels. Jeff Williams is pastor.

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## Baptist Briefs

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**Carson-Newman College names Elliott distinguished alum.** Ralph

Elliott, the Old Testament scholar whose book, *The Message of Genesis*, sparked heated controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be honored by Carson-Newman College in April as a distinguished alumnus. His 1961 book, published by the Broadman Press imprint of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, viewed the first 11 chapters of Genesis as symbolic rather than historic. Elliott lost his seminary post when he refused trustee demands that he not republish the work.

**Henry plans to hand off Orlando pastorate.** Jim Henry—a two-term Southern Baptist Convention president—will step down as co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando March 31. Henry, 67, who has been pastor of the Orlando congregation since 1977, announced his plans in a letter sent to church members. In May, the church called David Uth as co-pastor, grooming him to follow Henry.

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**LifeWay COO announces retirement.** Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer of LifeWay Christian Resources, will retire Feb. 1 after 12 years with the Southern Baptist publishing house. Warren, 58, joined LifeWay in 1994 as chief financial officer and vice president for the business services group, becoming executive vice president and COO in 1995. Before going to LifeWay, he worked 22 years in the oil and gas industry, serving in the early 1990s as president of Grace Drilling Co. and, prior to that, as executive vice president of Texas Oil & Gas Production Company.

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# **Russia trip marks 10 years of Buckner's international ministry**

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Robin Jones  
(left, holding  
child),  
national  
promotions  
and  
marketing  
director for  
Moody  
Broadcasting  
Network,  
and Buckner  
volunteer  
Jana  
Houston of  
Tennessee  
place shoes  
on the feet  
of a visually  
impaired  
child at a  
Russian  
orphanage.  
(Photo by  
Felicia  
Fuller)

## Russia trip marks 10 years

# of Buckner's international ministry

**By Felicia Fuller**

*Buckner Benevolences*

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia-As the noonday sun beamed across the music room at a Russian orphanage, a silver-haired woman took her seat before an arc of chattering children. Unmoved by the commotion, she smiled knowingly, folded her hands in her lap and waited. At her side, translator Vladimir hushed the youngsters with a wave of his finger.

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## **Bush calls for religious freedom in China**

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## **Bush calls for religious freedom in China**

**By Jason Kane**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Human rights activists praised President Bush's call for religious freedom during his recent visit to China, but they called the

Communist government's apparent unwillingness to make concessions discouraging.

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## Cartoon

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**Ezekiel  
had a  
teenaged  
son.**

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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## Faithful called to shore up wall of separation

December 2, 2005

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# Faithful called to shore up wall of separation

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

Although some Americans want to knock down the “wall of separation” between church and state, people of faith who understand their heritage must resist those efforts, U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards told participants at the T.B. Maston Christian Ethics Awards banquet.

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## 2nd Opinion: ‘Tis the season of God’s extravagance

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## 2nd Opinion: 'Tis the season of God's extravagance

**By Lisa Price**

The Christmas holidays tend to make us reflect on past years, and the most memorable celebrations seem to be indelibly printed on our minds like album snapshots with captions. If I had to choose a caption for the

Christmas of 2004, I think it would be “extravagance.”

While the word “extravagance” often is associated with negatives such as materialism and waste, in this case it was not. The extravagance was not related to squandering resources or even to human generosity, but it was the extravagant love of God toward his children. Our family celebrated a Christmas where God's decorations and gifts far outshined anything we could do or even imagine.

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## **DOWN HOME: He made parenting a ‘bearable’ task**

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### **DOWN HOME: He made parenting a 'bearable' task**

As if our family weren't traveling through enough transition already, I just learned Stan Berenstain died at age 82.

Our youngest daughter, Molly, is finishing her first semester of college, so Joanna and I still are trying to figure out how to live productively in our “empty nest.” Our oldest daughter, Lindsay, is getting married in less than two weeks, and we're trying to learn how to be gracious and loving in-laws to Aaron. And our dog, Betsy, is declining by the week, and we're beginning to consider end-of-life issues for our beloved pet.

Up-side all that, the death of someone I never met might appear insignificant. Appearances would be deceiving.

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## **EDITORIAL: Women of Kireka set worthy example**

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### **EDITORIAL: Women of Kireka set worthy example**

Before long, *Time* magazine will unveil its Person of the Year for 2005. The editors probably have made their selection already, or at least they have narrowed the field to a group of finalists. If not, they would do well to consider the women of Kireka, Uganda.

Reporter Bruce Nolan of *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans told their story on Thanksgiving Day. The *Dallas Morning News* repeated it in an editorial last week.

Kireka is a slum overlooking Kampala, Uganda's capital city, in west-central Africa. It's a one-industry town: The men strip-mine boulders from quarries on the hillside. The women pound the boulders into stones the size of walnuts, which are used for construction. They work by hand, pulverizing stone by stone. They earn \$1.20 per day.

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# Falls Creek encampment cancels Texas Week after 2006

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## Falls Creek encampment cancels Texas Week after 2006

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

The 2006 Texas Week at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center marks the end of a tradition spanning more than four decades.

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# **International Mission Board seeks to tie tongues**

December 2, 2005

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## **International Mission Board seeks to tie tongues**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (ABP)-The International Mission Board no longer will appoint Southern Baptist missionaries who use a "private prayer language"-a controversial practice related to speaking in tongues and previously practiced by board President Jerry Rankin.

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## **Lower Jordan River is open sewage canal, environmentalists say**

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In an event called the "Big Jump," mayors and members of local governments from Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority join hands to call for the rehabilitation of the polluted Jordan River. Friends of the Earth Middle East-a partnership between Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians-has recently stepped up efforts to bring the Jordan River's pollution to world attention. (Photo by Itamar Grinberg, courtesy of Friends of the Earth Middle East/RNS)

# Lower Jordan River is open sewage canal, environmentalists say

**By Michele Chabin**

*Religion News Service*

DEGANYA, Israel—At the Alumot Dam on the edge of Kibbutz Deganya, a cooperative community located a couple of miles south of the Sea of Galilee, visitors can smell the Jordan River long before they see it.