

# Chaplains offer comfort to pet owners

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## Chaplains offer comfort to pet owners

**By Nicole Larosa**

*Religion News Service*

RALEIGH, N.C. (RNS)-When her cocker spaniel died last June, Pam Carpenter was devastated. Niki was the family clown. Abused as a puppy, he thrived after Carpenter adopted him, and he wielded control over her husband, Don, and their seven other dogs on their North Carolina farm.

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## Thowback jerseys blend sports, style & evangelism

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# Thowback jerseys blend sports, style & evangelism

**By Greg Garrison**

*Religion News Service*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Cornell Jackson switches out of his military uniform and pulls on what looks like a Michael Jordan Chicago Bulls basketball jersey bearing the number 23.

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**2nd Opinion:**  
**Religion/evolution: False dichotomy**

January 20, 2006  
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**2nd Opinion:**  
**Religion/evolution: False dichotomy**

**By Brent Walker**

The debate over whether and how to teach evolution in the public schools continues 80 years after the Scopes “monkey trial” in Tennessee. Now the dispute itself has evolved into a pitched battle in the larger culture wars.

President Bush has declared his support for the inclusion of intelligent design in the curriculum of public schools. Recently, eight members of the Dover County School Board in Pennsylvania were voted out of office after adopting a policy that mandated the introduction of intelligent design in biology class. The policy provoked a federal lawsuit and led a Bush-appointed judge to find it “abundantly clear” that the teaching of intelligent design in science class is unconstitutional.

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## **After-school program scores computers from Mavericks**

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As part of its annual giving campaign, the Dallas Mavericks Foundation funded a new reading and learning center at the Vickery Family Wellness Center, complete with 11 new computers, computer lab furnishings, artwork and learning materials. The gift also includes an original mural by artist Jennifer Kindert, whose illustrations are featured in several children's books.

# After-school program scores computers from Mavericks

By Felicia Fuller

*Buckner Benevolences*

DALLAS-At the Vickery Family Wellness Center in northeast Dallas, Buckner after-school participants began the new year with the staccato clicking of new computers-11 of them.

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# Cross Plains church helps wildfire victims through recovery

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A  
handwritten  
sign by fifth  
and sixth  
graders at  
First  
Baptist  
Church in  
Cross  
Plains is  
intended to  
lift the  
spirits of  
wildfire  
victims.

## **Cross Plains church helps wildfire victims through recovery**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

CROSS PLAINS-Everywhere Shayne Childers turns, he is reminded of the wildfires that devastated his community. Charred fields line the roads. They cry to him from across the street as he picks his son up from school.

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# **Disaster relief gifts enable ongoing recovery**

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## **Disaster relief gifts enable ongoing recovery**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS-Disaster recovery continues in South Asia and Louisiana, and Texas Baptists remain integrally involved in both locations.

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## **DOWN HOME Faithful companion & beloved friend**

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### **DOWN HOME:**

# Faithful companion & beloved friend

I miss Betsy most in the mornings.

She and I were the early risers in our family. Most of the time, especially on weekday mornings, when the alarm went off long before dawn, she'd get up to give me company. She'd hang out in the bathroom while I shaved, and she'd eat breakfast with me in the kitchen. I miss her quiet, faithful presence in the mornings.

Still, I miss her almost as much when I arrive home from work in the evening.

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## **EDITORIAL                      Stewardship encompasses all of life**

January 20, 2006  
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### **EDITORIAL: Stewardship encompasses all of life**

Soon and very soon, people from all over the globe will settle down in front of our TV sets for two solid weeks, mesmerized by the XX Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. We'll cheer for athletes we've never heard of competing in sports we only think about once every four years. And don't say you won't, because you know you will. "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat"



are the best drama on TV (with the slight exception of any episode of *Lost*).

One of the most attractive aspects of the Olympics always has been the uniquely individual nature of the competition. Of course, I love baseball and football, respect basketball and have developed a growing appreciation for hockey. Team sports are thrilling and larger than life. But individual sports, such as the majority featured in the Olympics, are so compelling because they highlight a solitary competitor striving against nature, time, gravity, human limitations and/or other individuals with the same dreams and aspirations. When you watch many of these solo competitions, you witness the world in microcosm.



Many factors determine which athletes climb up on the medal stand and which ones pack up and head for home. They include everything from climate to equipment to talent to genetics to funding to, sometimes, sheer good fortune. But the No. 1 factor inevitably is this: Stewardship of individual resources. Sure, raw ability plays a part. (Remember Eddie the Eagle, the British ski-jumper? Everyone knew his physical skills wouldn't fly him to a medal.) Every other factor, however, is impacted by stewardship of resources—how well the athletes use everything at their disposal. The medal stands are populated by athletes who commit themselves to gaining quality experience, training extremely hard and well, understanding the dynamics of both the sport and the specific competition, eliminating distractions, resting body and soul, and focusing intensely on the one thing that matters at the moment: The competition. We call them champions.

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# **Garcia announces retirement; Palos to lead Hispanic work**

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## **Garcia announces retirement; Palos to lead Hispanic work**

Jimmy Garcia retired Dec. 31 from his role leading Hispanic work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Frank Palos will serve in that role during the interim.

“Jimmy served us faithfully for 18 years,” said Ron Gunter, BGCT chief operating officer and associate executive director.

“We are thankful for his service with us and for his continued ministry as pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Dallas.”

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## **Transitional home for girls**

# **offers hope in Guatemala**

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Buckner Orphan  
Care

International  
celebrated the  
opening of its  
first transitional  
girl's home in  
Guatemala City  
Jan. 7. The home  
will hold 10 girls  
and provide a  
place for them to  
live as they  
continue their  
education and  
learn life skills.  
"Some of (these  
girls) had never  
had a home  
before, and they  
look beautiful  
now—like normal  
teenagers. And  
they all have  
opportunities that  
they otherwise  
wouldn't have  
had," said Leslie  
Chace, director of  
Latin American  
programs for  
Buckner Orphan  
Care  
International.  
(Photos by Randy  
Daniels/ Buckner  
Benevolences)

# Transitional home for girls offers hope in Guatemala

**By Jenny Pope**

*Buckner Benevolences*

GUATEMALA CITY-Buckner Orphan Care International celebrated the grand opening of its first transitional girls' home in Guatemala City this month. Unlike orphanages, the transitional home will provide a place for girls age 18 and older to live as they continue their education and learn life skills.

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# Baptist chaplain in Kuwait seeks conversation-starters

January 20, 2006

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# Baptist chaplain in Kuwait seeks conversation-starters

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

KUWAIT-A Texas Baptist chaplain in Kuwait is looking homeward for help

in his ministry to soldiers far from home.

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# Texas Baptist Forum

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## Texas Baptist Forum

### **Speak up for Christmas**

“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so” (Psalm 107:2).

This Christmas season has included many surprises. Some of us were surprised by the department stores that opted not to use the word “Christmas” in their ads this year.