

Baptist Briefs

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

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Adams unanimous choice for Illinois Baptist directorship. Illinois native and Southern Baptist missions leader Nate Adams was a search committee's unanimous choice to become the Illinois Baptist State Association's next executive director. The committee will present Adams to the Illinois Baptist executive board at a special called meeting this month. Adams has served the past eight years as vice president of mission mobilization for the North American Mission Board. Prior to joining the mission board, Adams served as corporate vice president of publishing for Christianity Today in Carol Stream, Ill. He has been a bivocational church planter and youth minister in Illinois and interim pastor in Georgia. He has an undergraduate degree in communication from Judson College in Elgin, Ill., and a master's degree in management and human resources from National-Louis University in Evanston. Adams and his wife, Beth, have three sons, Caleb, 17; Noah, 15; and Ethan, 12.

Baptist Health Foundation awards scholarships. Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio and the former Baptist Health Services Foundation awarded 338 scholarships in 2005 to students at the BHS School of Health Professions. The scholarships totaling \$378,744 benefited students enrolled in the school's nursing and allied health educational programs. They were financed through the foundation's unrestricted funds and various donor-restricted funds.

Cooperative Program giving down in 2005. Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program totaled \$45.4 million in 2005, down 1.8 percent from 2004 receipts, the SBC Executive Committee reported. The total is 95.7 percent of the 2005 budget. Designated gifts in 2005—including disaster relief gifts in the wake of the Gulf Coast hurricanes—totaled close to \$10.6 million, up 2 percent over 2004.

Right or Wrong? A mosque moving in

January 8, 2006

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Right or Wrong? A mosque moving in

Recently, a new structure went up in our neighborhood—a mosque. Should I fear this development?

Some would say the overall relationship between the world of Islam and the "Christian West" has been one of fear for more than 1,200 years. There have been good reasons for that—from both sides of the relationship. Neither Jihad nor Crusade makes for good neighbors.

‘Acts of God’ considered top national/global story

January 8, 2006

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TOP TEN:
Hurricanes
Katrina and
Rita-and
Baptist
response to
the
disasters-
comprised
the Baptist
Standard's
top
nation/global
story in
2005.

'Acts of God' considered top national/global story

By Marv Knox

Editor

A couple of “acts of God” trumped all other events to claim the Baptist Standard's No. 1 national/international Baptist story of 2005.

Mission Arlington building damaged by apparent arson

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Mission Arlington building damaged by apparent arson

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

ARLINGTON-Fires apparently set by an arsonist on Christmas Eve and in the pre-dawn hours on Christmas caused significant damage to a Mission Arlington building.

Underwood urges Baylor graduates to challenge authority

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Underwood urges graduates to think for themselves

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO-Bill Underwood ended his tenure as Baylor University's interim president by challenging graduates to think for themselves and respect the right of other people to disagree with them.

Church shows love to teenaged parents at Care Fair

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Young
mothers and
mothers-to-be
learn CPR at
a Care Fair
sponsored by
First Baptist
Church in
Farmers
Branch.

Church shows love to teenaged parents at Care Fair

By George Henson

Staff Writer

FARMERS BRANCH-More than 50 teenaged unwed mothers and mothers-to-be gathered at First Baptist Church in Farmers Branch for an aptly named Care Fair.

Mexican families enjoy new homes, thanks to Baptist efforts

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Texas
Baptist
River
Ministry
Director
Dexton
Shores
(left)
presents
the key to
a new
home to a
Mexican
family
victimized
by
Hurricane
Emily,
while
Associate
Director
Loren
Fast gives
them a
Bible.

Mexican families enjoy new homes, thanks to Baptist efforts

By John Hall

LA CAPILLA, Mexico-Baptist General Convention of Texas River Ministry leaders presented 11 families with keys to new homes that can help them begin their lives again after Hurricane Emily.

Storylist for week of 12/19/05

January 8, 2006

Storylist for week of 12/19/05

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- [Church offers acceptance and help in seminar for unwed mothers](#)
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- [Katrina 'put a face on poverty,' but will long-term picture change?](#)

- [Underwood urges Baylor graduates to challenge authority](#)
- [Full text of Underwood's message to graduates](#)
- [Senate narrowly passes budget cuts opposed by anti-poverty leaders](#)
- Did you miss our Baptist Standard staff Christmas Greeting? See it [here](#).
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- [Advent Adventure: Churches capitalize on movie-sparked Narnia-mania](#)
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Previously Posted

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- [Gonzales ministry aids 'suffering church of Chiapas'](#)
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- [Vote tally dispute points to internal IMB disagreement](#)
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Previously Posted

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- [North Carolina moderates consider alternative giving approaches](#)
- [Ouachita president may lead Samford](#)
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- [Personal touch meaningful to Breckenridge residents](#)



- [Christmas music playlist ranges from sacred to secular](#)
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- [Unlikely allies defend 'Merry Christmas' greeting](#)
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Previously Posted

- [South Africa OK's same-sex marriage](#)



• [Reviewed in this issue: • *The 13 Apostles* by Preston Alford Taylor • *Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot* by Max Lucado • *Set Free by Forgiveness* by Randall O'Brien • *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The*](#)

Age of Spurgeon and Moody by David W. Bebbington.



- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [On the Move](#)



- [EDITORIAL: Have a Merry Christmas this year](#)
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- [Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: We are invited into the Jesus story](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 25: For the Christian, 'neighbor' is a broad term](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Dec. 25: Jesus is our conduit to the realm of heaven](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Dec. 25: Good news: Jesus Christ is born](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Christmas: The story of Christ's birth is a story of love](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 1: Jesus provides the model for talking with God](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Jan. 1: Work was a part of God's original plan](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 1: Christians are to lead lives of worship](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 8: God's standards are the only ones that count](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Jan. 8: Money has its place, but it's not first place](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 8: Demonstrate Christ's love to others with action](#)

[See articles from previous issue 12/05/05 here.](#)

Around the State

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

First Church in Orange elected to help the helpers by presenting a check to the Texas Baptist Men's Top of Texas Disaster Unit. The check was to be used toward purchase of a tilt skillet that would increase the food-serving capacity of the TBM feeding unit from 20,000 meals per day to 30,000 meals per day. First Baptist Treasurer Don Mohon and Deacon Chairman Don Ball presented the check to Tim Willis of the Top of Texas team. While serving in Orange, the TBM crew served more than 240,000 free meals to people whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Rita. While the TBM volunteers of business owners, farmers, secretaries and retirees come from all over West Texas, the feeding unit is based at First Church in Plains, a community of about 1,200 people.

Around the State

♦ Baylor Health Care System's pastoral care department and the Baptist General Convention of Texas' office of chaplaincy relations will begin a 14-week course titled "Hands On Ministry" Feb. 2. The course, taught by professional chaplains, is aimed at providing lay people with an opportunity for increasing the knowledge, skills and ability needed to provide effective, compassionate care to others. Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each Thursday, with the exception of Maundy Thursday, through May 11. The training fee is \$25. For more information, contact **Bob Duncan** at (214) 820-4893 or **Reba Gram** at (888) 311-3900.

♦ The third annual singles conference of San Jacinto Baptist Association will be held Feb. 25 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Northside Church in Baytown. **Don Piper**, author of *90 Minutes in Heaven*, will be the keynote speaker. Singles of all ages are welcome. The \$25 cost includes an autographed book and lunch. For more information, call (281) 422-3604 or go to www.sjbaptist.org.

♦ Baylor University has named two faculty members as master teachers. Honored with the designation were **Thomas Hanks Jr.**, professor of English, and **Gerald Powell**, the Abner V. McCall Professor of Evidence at Baylor Law School. Hanks began teaching at Baylor in 1976 and is a noted expert in medieval English literature. Powell has taught in the Baylor law school since 1986.

BGCT provides computers for Nigerian Baptists

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

BGCT provides computers for Nigerian Baptists

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has shipped more than seven dozen computers to the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

Bible literacy among Baptists in decline, some educators fear

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Bible literacy among Baptists

in decline, some educators fear

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Only one-third of American teenagers know what a “road to Damascus” experience means, and close to one-third don't understand the term “Good Samaritan,” a 2004 Gallup survey revealed.

Book Reviews

January 8, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Book Reviews

Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: Five Views by Gary L. McIntosh, general editor (Zondervan)

Evaluating the Church Growth Movement provides an opportunity to understand a variety of North American church-growth views. Five scholars express their perspectives as well as critique each other's writings. They delve into church growth, sharing their own historical understandings and interpretations.

Gary McIntosh, the general editor writes: