

City Reach meets needs

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City Reach meets needs

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Sharing an 18-wheeler of donated chicken and Christian love, the Baptist General Convention of Texas City Reach 2006 missions project connected with hundreds of families across the Dallas-Fort Worth area during a “Day of Sharing” partnership with [Lift Up America](#).

The BGCT City Reach collaboration with Lift Up America—a corporate partnership that included Tyson, Interstate Batteries, FC Dallas and Ty Beanie Babies—was the first initiative of its kind for the Texas Baptist convention.

Pastors from
23 North
Texas
churches
received
early Thanks-
giving gifts
from BGCT
City Reach to
aid the less
fortunate.

Fellowship of Cowboy Churches points to continued growth

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By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

WAXAHACHIE—Pastors and western-heritage church leaders who believe God must be a cowboy at heart voted to ramp up the growth of the cowboy church movement at the [Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches](#) 2006 Annual Cowboy Gathering, prior to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Fellowship members voted to increase their current budget of \$120,000 to \$290,500, hire two staff members, double church planting school funds from \$4,800 to \$10,000, double ranch house school funding to \$8,000 and quadruple event funding.

• [See
complete list
of convention
articles](#)

DaVinci Code DVD dialogue a starting place

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DaVinci Code DVD dialogue a starting place

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

DALLAS—With the upcoming release of the [DaVinci Code](#) on DVD, Dallas pastor [Jim Denison](#) believes the best-selling book remains relevant because “it’s an opportunity to have a conversation with culture.”

“*The DaVinci Code* is so popular because it reinforces what this culture already wants to believe,” said Denison, pastor of [Park Cities Baptist Church](#), noting more than 50 million people claim to have read the book and 10 million say it has influenced their faith.

Steps already taken to implement recommendations

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Steps already taken to implement recommendations

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—All of the recommendations made by an investigative team regarding misuse of church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley will be implemented—and some were initiated long before the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board mandated them, Executive Director Charles Wade said.

At a closed-door meeting Nov. 13, the board [voted to implement](#) the recommendations “expeditiously and in full.” The board also instructed Chairman Bob Fowler to name an ad hoc committee to monitor implementation and report to the Executive Board at its February meeting.

Executive
Board
Chairman
Bob
Fowler
speaks at
the BGCT
annual
meeting.
(Photo by
Jim
Jackson)

Church not immune from family violence

November 17, 2006

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Church not immune from family violence

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

DALLAS—Domestic violence is the “elephant in the room that nobody

wants to see,” Joanna Berry, director of counseling and family ministry at [South Texas Children’s Home](#) told a Texas Baptist workshop.

“I am positive that in my church, there are victims of family violence sitting in the pews on Sunday morning,” Berry said during a Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting workshop.

Preaching must change to communicate with culture

November 17, 2006

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Preaching must change to communicate with culture

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DALLAS—Culture is changing and, consequently, preaching must change as well, pulpiteer Joel Gregory told a Texas Baptist gathering.

Gregory, [professor of preaching](#) at Baylor University’s [Truett Seminary](#), reminded participants at his workshop during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting that they had a tool never available to preachers before this generation.

• [See complete list of convention articles](#)

Texas Baptists urged to launch world missions offering

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Texas Baptists urged to launch world missions offering

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas must take five significant steps, which include launching its own world missions offering, if it hopes to preserve Baptist identity and advance God’s kingdom, Ken Hall told participants at the [Texas Baptists Committed](#) breakfast during the BGCT annual meeting Nov. 14.

“We stand today in a decision time for what it means to be Baptist,” insisted Hall, president of [Buckner International](#) and a former BGCT president.

Internet ministry can help churches expand their reach

November 17, 2006

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Internet ministry can help churches expand their reach

By Blake Killingsworth

Dallas Baptist University

DALLAS—Many churches' publishing ministry gave way to tape ministry, which gave way to television ministry. Will it now give way to Internet ministry?

During the 2006 Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, the web broadcasting team from [South Main Baptist Church in Houston](#) gave a do-it-yourself workshop of how to build a "worship webcast."

Kids Hope USA mentors make a difference

November 17, 2006

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Kids Hope USA mentors make a difference

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

DALLAS—One child in five lives in poverty. One in three lacks a significant father figure, and children without a father figure are twice as likely to drop out of school, said Scott Waller, director of program development for [Buckner Children & Family Services](#) and [Kids Hope USA](#) liaison.

Poverty, poor education and lack of parental involvement clearly are linked to crime. In fact, two states currently look to third-grade reading-level scores to determine the future number of prison cells.

Missions workshop offers tips

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Missions workshop offers tips

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DALLAS—There is no shortage of mission trip opportunities for church groups; the difficulty is in determining where to go and why, a workshop leader told Texas Baptists.

Dearing Garner, executive director for [Africa for Children's Emergency Relief International](#), led a breakout session on "Give Your Congregation a Mission—Choose a Place in the World and Go" during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Restoration of trust is vital, BGCT leaders agree

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Restoration of trust is vital, BGCT leaders agree

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Baptist General Convention of Texas leaders agree: Restoring trust is a primary task in 2007.

“The wound is deep, and it’s still fresh,” said BGCT President Michael Bell, referring to misuse of BGCT church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

Nontraditional approaches may be needed

November 17, 2006

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Nontraditional approaches may be needed

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DALLAS—In a “Dr. Phil and Oprah age,” the church doesn’t have to be traditional to be faithful, Ray Brown, pastor of [Resurrection Baptist Church in Schertz](#), told a Texas Baptist group.

In fact, being traditional may result in being unfaithful to the command to “go and tell the world,” he asserted.