

Theological university president moves to Buckner post

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Albert Reyes, president of Baptist University of the Americas since 1999, has been named president of Buckner Children & Family Services.

Theological university president moves to Buckner post

DALLAS—In a move with implications for three Baptist General Convention of Texas organizations, Albert Reyes has been named president of [Buckner](#)

[Children & Family Services](#), which is being revamped to expand its ministries throughout the United States and internationally.

Reyes, 47, has been president of [Baptist University of the Americas](#) in San Antonio since 1999. He assumes his duties at Buckner International, the parent organization of Buckner Children & Family Services, Jan. 1.

Both Buckner International and Baptist University of the Americas are affiliated with the BGCT. Reyes also had been mentioned prominently as a possible eventual successor to Charles Wade, head of the BGCT Executive Board.

Buckner International President Ken Hall appointed Reyes to the new position. Hall called the selection of Reyes “one of the most strategic and vital decisions” in the 127-year history of Buckner.

Tennessee Baptists move to the right

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Tennessee Baptists move to the right

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (ABP)—Tennessee Baptists voted overwhelmingly Nov. 14 to publicize whether nominees to leadership posts in the convention affirm the [2000 Baptist Faith & Message](#), a controversial confession of faith adopted by the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers to [Tennessee Baptist Convention](#)'s annual meeting, held at Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, also elected a conservative candidate as president and heard an update from a committee dealing with a dispute between the convention and one of its affiliated colleges.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

BGCT attendance lowest in decades. The Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in Dallas drew 1,990 messengers and 820 guests—the lowest attendance in more than 50 years. The last time the messenger count dipped below the 2,000 mark was the 1949 convention in El Paso, which attracted 1,667 messengers. The largest attendance was the 1991 convention in Waco, which drew 11,159 messengers and 310 visitors.

Campus competition draws blood. Students at [Dallas Baptist University](#) declared victory over the faculty and staff in a contest to donate the most

blood during the 2006 Carter BloodCare-DBU Blood Drive. In total, 99 DBU students, faculty and staff donated blood—with students forming a significant majority. Last year, DBU won Carter BloodCare’s Highest Amount of Donors award for colleges and universities in the region.

TOGETHER: “We will bring credibility & integrity”

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TOGETHER: ‘We will bring credibility & integrity’

Getsemani Baptist Church in McAllen has been in the news lately, and it has not been an enjoyable experience for this committed congregation. Financial dealings of the church’s former pastor, Otto Arango, have been called into question by an independent investigation commissioned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Arango, however, has not been pastor of the church for about three years.

Messengers from Getsemani Church, including Pastor Thomas Whitehouse, were at the BGCT annual meeting and spoke openly to a group gathered with me for a question-and-answer time. They shared about their situation, their hurt and their desire to make sure all Texas Baptists and others are aware that the church did not know of the matters identified in the

investigators' report.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

This church also gave more money through the BGCT Cooperative Program last year than any other Texas Hispanic church—\$31,220.

The Executive Board and I want to express our deep appreciation for the work of the churches and pastors in the Rio Grande Valley. Our Baptist work in the Valley related to the accusations of fraud has been in the media, and our brothers and sisters in the churches there have felt wounded and embarrassed. We are working with them to help deal with the media perceptions and to tell the wonderful stories of Baptist life in the Valley.

Movie views evangelicals as key

environmental reformers

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[The Great Warming,](#)

a movie about climate change and the initiatives aimed at reversing its trend toward permanent ecologic damage.

Movie views evangelicals as key environmental reformers

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—A Canadian film team has released in United States theatres [The Great Warming,](#) a movie about climate change and the initiatives aimed at reversing its trend toward permanent ecologic damage.

Unlike other recent environmental movies, like Al Gore's [*An Inconvenient Truth*](#), *The Great Warming* portrays evangelicals as a group with the potential to push governmental policies toward sustainable living.

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Cultivating a grateful heart

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CYBER COLUMN: Cultivating a grateful heart

By Jeanie Miley

Frankly, I've always tripped and stumbled over that "giving thanks in all things" idea.

It took me a long time to get over the misunderstanding of the Apostle Paul's admonition by misguided people who tried to force me to give thanks for the hard and unpleasant things in my life. They tried to convince me that if I would give thanks for those things that I didn't want, my attitude toward those things would change. Some even implied that giving thanks was like a placebo or a panacea. Thankfully, something in me (was it God, perhaps?) knew that a dishonest prayer was not the answer to my soul's deep needs.

Jeanie
Miley

2006 BGCT Convention coverage articles

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BGCT annual meeting coverage

- [Moving On: Board pre-empted' BGCT by recommending reforms](#)
- [African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving](#)
- [Battle of the Bands winner](#)
 - [Trust in God in turbulent times, president tells BGCT](#)
- [Texas Baptists challenged to share the light'](#)
- [Church starting policies designed to ensure accountability](#)
- [City Reach meets needs](#)
- [Fellowship of Cowboy Churches points to continued growth](#)
 - [DaVinci Code DVD dialogue a starting place](#)
 - [Steps already taken to implement recommendations](#)
- [Church not immune from family violence](#)
- [Preaching must change to communicate with culture](#)
 - [Texas Baptists urged to launch world missions offering](#)
- [Internet ministry can help churches expand their reach](#)
 - [Kids Hope USA mentors make a difference](#)

- [Missions network participants rally in Arlington](#)
 - [Missions workshop offers tips](#)
 - [Restoration of trust is vital, BGCT leaders agree](#)
 - [Nontraditional approaches may be needed](#)
 - [Warm affection, cool discipline key to parenting](#)
 - [Piper Institute board votes to dissolve at year's end](#)
 - [Churches can help members deal with sexual addiction](#)
 - [Mission testimonies highlight TBM rally](#)
 - [CWJC graduate gains national honors](#)
 - **See a slideshow** of photos from the BGCT Monday session [here](#). (Quicktime movie format. Photos by David Clanton)
 - **More photos** at the BGCT website [here](#)
- BGCT convention articles previously posted**
- [Executive director committed to clean up the mess'](#)
 - [Texas WMU reschedules annual meeting](#)
 - [Unity emphasized at Texas Baptist Hispanic Fellowship rally](#)
 - [Ministry awards presented to Texas Baptist innovators](#)

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.

Executive Board votes to explore criminal charges, recovery of Valley funds

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Executive Board votes to explore criminal charges, recovery of Valley funds

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—At a called closed-door meeting prior to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, the BGCT Executive Board voted to implement all of the recommendations of an investigative team that discovered mismanagement and misuse of church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

The board also directed BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade to explore with legal counsel “the full range of methods for recovery of funds” and

determine whether to refer the reports' findings to law enforcement.

Newly
elected
BGCT
officers
are First
Vice
President,
Joy
Fenner;
President,
Steve
Vernon;
and
Second
Vice
President,
Roberto
Rodriguez
. (BGCT
Photo by
Robert
Rogers)

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 26: Wise use of words can bolster relationships

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BaptistWay Bible Series for November 26

Wise use of words can bolster relationships

- Proverbs 25:11-23; 26:18-28

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 26: Acknowledge God's call on your life today

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Bible Studies for Life Series for November 26

Acknowledge God's call on your life today

• Isaiah 55:1-13

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for November 26: **“Love one another” is more than a suggestion**

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Explore the Bible Series for November 26

“Love one another” is more than a suggestion

• Hebrews 13:1-25

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Chapter 13 of Hebrews focuses on some of the essential practical ethics of Christian living. These ethics help portray the true gospel to the world, encourage others to believe in Christ and bring glory to God. Jesus wants Christians to love one another (John 15:12).

Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say

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Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Otto Arango exported church planting strategies he developed in South Texas to Latin America through the [Piper Institute for Church Planting](#), a 2-year-old nonprofit corporation that evolved from the Institute for Church Planting he founded in McAllen.

But some observers familiar with his church starting initiatives in Mexico

assert Arango—the central figure in an investigation that revealed misuse and mismanagement of Baptist General Convention of Texas church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley—also exported a pattern of exaggerated claims.