

# Valley probe forthcoming

October 27, 2006

Posted: 10/27/06

## Valley probe forthcoming

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board will hold a special called meeting Oct. 31 to hear the [findings of an investigation](#) regarding alleged misappropriation of church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

Officers of the BGCT and its Executive Board had enlisted Brownsville attorney Diane Dillard to conduct an independent investigation of alleged mishandling of church-starting funds in the Valley.

The board endorsed the probe at its May meeting, approved \$50,000 from contingency funds for the investigation and granted the board's chair and the BGCT executive director the ability to authorize another \$50,000 if needed. Last month, the board authorized up to an additional \$50,000 for the investigation.

The probe centered on suspicions regarding the large number of cell-group missions reported as church starts in the lower Rio Grande Valley from 1996 to 2000. Critics alleged some church starts that received financial help from the BGCT never existed except on paper, and some individuals may have profited by claiming to start multiple, nonexistent "mystery missions."

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# **Empty bowls help fill ministry's empty shelves**

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Gary Glass, Plainview fire chief, signs his name to the bottom of a bowl he created for the Empty Bowls project during a pottery session. Glass and wife Melody joined the women's basketball squad in creating pots for the hunger relief effort.

# Empty bowls help fill ministry's empty shelves

**By Teresa Young**

*Wayland Baptist University*

PLAINVIEW—Normally, a lump of clay has nothing to do with the plight of world hunger. But for a project at [Wayland Baptist University](#), the two are tightly interwoven.

The university's fine arts division is participating in the Empty Bowls project, where people from all walks of life create unique pottery bowls with guidance from an instructor. The bowls are then sold to raise money for local hunger-relief organizations. But there's another purpose for the project, as well.



Stephanie Shaw, assistant coach to the Wayland Flying Queens, works on her bowl alongside Mark Hilliard, assistant professor of art, at a bowl-making session held recently. Shaw and the other Queens players created two bowls each during the evening.

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# Cybercolumn by Berry Simpson: Hope

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## CYBER COLUMN: Hope

**By Berry Simpson**

I was on a flight from Houston to Washington, D.C., sitting in an aisle seat "C," even though my boarding pass said "A," by the window, which would be my preference.

When I boarded the plane, a young professionally dressed woman was already sitting in my "A" seat. She didn't seem the sort who would intentionally sit in the wrong seat just to get a window view. In fact, most people prefer aisle seats, since they have a bit more leg room and easier access to walk around, so if someone sits in the wrong seat, they are more

likely to sit in an aisle seat than a window seat. Not me. I like the window seat so I can watch the passing 3-D map outside my window. But since this window looked out over the wing and my fellow passenger looked like she'd set up camp, I sat in the "C" seat, feeling generous and self-righteous.

Berry D. Simpson
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## **RIGHT or WRONG? Christian maturity**

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### **RIGHT or WRONG? Christian maturity**

*In 1 Corinthians 13:11, the Apostle Paul compares and contrasts his behavior as a child and an adult. But is it possible that people mature in some ways and not in others? Would this explain why some demonstrate great strength in their profession, but their sense of ethical judgment remains almost preadolescent?*

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# CBF names Truett as identity partner

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## CBF names Truett as identity partner

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

ATLANTA (ABP)—The [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) coordinating council has approved four schools—including Baylor University's [Truett Theological Seminary](#)—as identity partners eligible for significant financial support.

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## Coalition urges end to Darfur genocide

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# Coalition urges end to Darfur genocide

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—A politically diverse coalition of 24 evangelical leaders placed [full-page ads](#) in leading U.S. newspapers Oct. 18 calling for President Bush and the American public to stop [genocide in Darfur](#).

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## **Brazil mission trip seen as “anything but average”**

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Iroma  
Applewhite  
(left), Morris  
Applewhite  
(2nd from  
right) and Ron  
Hanby (right),  
all from First  
Baptist Church  
in Hale  
Center, and  
their Brazilian  
interpreter  
present a New  
Testament to a  
young mother  
during a home  
visit in Brazil.  
The team of 16  
members from  
churches in  
Caprock Plains  
and Lubbock  
Baptist  
associations  
held Bible  
studies in  
almost 100  
homes in  
Salvador,  
Brazil,  
resulting in  
about 300  
adults making  
professions of  
faith in Christ.

# Brazil mission trip seen as 'anything but average'

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

LUBBOCK—Troy Burke describes himself as “kind of average.” He’s a large man, but not overly large. He’s a pharmacist—an interesting-enough profession, but by his own admission it’s hardly one that stands out. But recently, he participated in a mission trip that he described as anything but average.

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## **From far North to Deep South, DBU volunteers serve**

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Twelve  
young  
men  
from  
DBU set  
out on a  
14-mile  
journey  
to test  
spirit,  
soul, and  
strength.

## **From far North to Deep South, DBU volunteers serve**

**By Tim Gingrich**

*Dallas Baptist University*

DALLAS—From the frozen north to the Deep South, [Dallas Baptist University](#) students devoted their fall break to missions.

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## **Bible Studies for Life Series for**

# **November 5: Live in relationship, not rebellion**

October 27, 2006

Posted: 10/26/06

**Bible Studies for Life Series for November 5**

## **Live in relationship, not rebellion**

- Isaiah 1:2-4,10-20

**By Kenneth Lyle**

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## **BaptistWay Bible Series for November 5: God is the only source of true wisdom**

October 27, 2006

Posted: 10/26/06

**BaptistWay Bible Series for November 5**

# God is the only source of true wisdom

• Proverbs 1:7; 3:1-20

**By David Wilkinson**

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## Explore the Bible Series for November 5: Exercise confidence in your relationship with God

October 27, 2006

Posted: 10/26/06

**Explore the Bible Series for November 5**

## Exercise confidence in your relationship with God

• Hebrews 10:10:19-39

**By Howard Anderson**

*Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio*

Christians must exercise confidence in their relationship with God as they

worship, study and witness.

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# BGCT reorganized but not downsized

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## BGCT reorganized but not downsized

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—Two years into a [major restructuring](#) of the Baptist Building, a focus on streamlined response to churches has not resulted in the significantly downsized organization some outside observers had anticipated.

Senior administrators point to a [Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board staff](#) who stay in closer contact with churches, respond more rapidly to congregations' needs, demonstrate greater ethnic diversity—and are slightly larger in number.