

On the Move

October 13, 2006

Posted: 10/13/06

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- **Kyle Clayton** to First Church in Farwell as pastor, where he was youth minister.
 - **Kenneth Flanagan** to Memorial Church in Marshall as pastor.
 - **Marc Gerona** to BridgeWater Church in Katy as minister of worship and students.
 - **Seth Hickman** to First Church in Muleshoe as youth minister.
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Rodriguez to be nominee for BGCT 2nd vice president

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Rodriguez to be nominee

for BGCT 2nd vice president

By Marv Knox

Editor

DALLAS—Robert Rodriguez, a veteran bivocational pastor from the Rio Grande Valley, will be nominated for second vice president of the [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) this fall.

Rodriguez, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista and chaplain with Heart of the Valley Hospice in Harlingen the past 15 years, will be nominated by [Ellis Orozco](#), pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen.

Robert Rodriguez

Sri Lanka ministry continues in spite of ethnic violence

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A yellow tarp fends off rain in the middle of the monsoon season at the dedication of the two houses by the Baptist Child & Family Services foster care program in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. At right, the ministry cares for 150 children orphaned by the tsunami.

Sri Lanka ministry continues in spite of ethnic violence

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

Continued ethnic clashes in Sri Lanka have complicated—but also expanded—[Baptist Child & Family Services](#)' work with children in that country.

The Texas Baptist agency's practice of putting Sri Lankans in charge of programs instead of imposing projects from the outside helps target

resources for maximum efficiency and effectiveness, said Baptist Child & Family Services President Kevin Dinnin.

TOGETHER: Attend Texas Baptists' family reunion

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TOGETHER: Attend Texas Baptists' 'family reunion'

Please accept this as a very special invitation to join other Texas Baptists for our "family reunion" Nov. 13-14 in Dallas. This event officially is called our [annual meeting](#), and some call it our convention. But it's more like a family reunion.

Evangelistic events called "City Reach Dallas" will be conducted the entire week before the reunion. Cowboy churches will meet in Ellis County on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10-11. And Saturday evening, young Christian bands from across Texas will play in the Battle of the Bands at the Dallas Convention Center.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

On Sunday morning, the family will gather in churches across the Metroplex, and later on Sunday, there will be gatherings that celebrate our unity in diversity as the Hispanic and African-American members of our family gather for worship and praise at Cockrell Hill Baptist Church in Dallas and Westside Baptist Church in Lewisville, respectively. Wow! I go every year to both and am thrilled and blessed each time.

Three missions celebrations will take place on Sunday, as well—Texas Baptist Men, Texas Woman’s Missionary Union (both at the Dallas Convention Center) and a missions rally at First Baptist Church in Arlington. There will even be a Family Fun Fest that afternoon at the convention center.

Christian sci-fi fans say: â□□The

truth is out thereâ€”

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Christian sci-fi fans say: ‘The truth is out there’

By Bob Smietana

Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—In the original [Star Trek series](#), Captain Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise explored strange new worlds, sought out new life and new civilizations and boldly went “where no man has gone before.”

And once in awhile, when advanced technology failed them, they even took a leap of faith.

Network TV serves strained â€”Veggiesâ€”

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Network TV serves strained ‘Veggies’

By Chansin Bird

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—NBC has given the religious [Veggie Tales](#) cartoon a prime slot in its Saturday morning lineup, but it is editing many references to God out of the show.

The [Parents Television Council](#) and longtime fans of the popular children’s home videos are not pleased.



Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

BGCT assists Mexican flood victims. The Baptist General Convention of Texas has sent \$7,500 to help 75 Mexican Baptist families whose homes recently were flooded. The designated disaster response funds will be channeled through the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association to purchase 75 mattresses, sheets and blankets. Mexican Baptist churches in Reynosa and Rio Bravo will distribute the supplies.

DBU preview event slated. [Dallas Baptist University's](http://www.dbu.edu/patriotday) Patriot Weekend event Nov. 11 offers high school students and their parents a preview of college life. Prospective students will eat breakfast with DBU professors, attend mock classes and have the opportunity to interview for scholarships. In addition, DBU will waive the application fee for students who apply for admission during Patriot Weekend. The event also includes seminars for parents on topics such as financial aid, student life and parent services. The weekend event also will include a performance by DBU's show choir, Legacy. Cost is \$25, which includes two meals for both students and parents. For more information about Patriot Weekend, contact the office of undergraduate admissions at (214) 333-5360 or register online at www.dbu.edu/patriotday.

Book alleges faith-based initiatives are bogus

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Book alleges faith-based initiatives are bogus

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A new book by a former White House faith official is causing shockwaves—even before its release—with reportedly explosive allegations that President Bush’s aides have been duping religious conservatives for political gain.

MSNBC’s [“Countdown with Keith Olbermann”](#) program first reported the allegations Oct. 11. They are found, according to the show, in [Tempting Faith: An Inside Story of Political Seduction](#), a new tell-all memoir by former White House official David Kuo, scheduled for release Oct. 16.

UMHB Student finds a calling in Ethiopia

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Jeff Sutton and some Muslim boys enjoy the countryside in the Horn of Africa.

UMHB Student finds a calling in Ethiopia

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—When the Baptist General Convention of Texas assigned Jeff Sutton to summer mission work in Ethiopia, he wasn't where he wanted to go. But after two trips, he's convinced he could spend a lifetime ministering there.

"Last year, I really got interested in unreached people groups," said Sutton, a senior at the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#), majoring in religious studies.

Arizona Baptist Foundation executives sentenced

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Arizona Baptist Foundation executives sentenced

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

PHOENIX (ABP)—Two former executives of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona were sentenced to jail and told to pay millions in restitution Sept. 29 in what may be the nation's largest case of faith-based financial fraud.

Maricopa County, Ariz., Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fields sentenced former foundation President William Crofts and Thomas Grabinski, the group's former top lawyer, to prison time and fines. Fields gave Crofts, 61, eight years in prison and Grabinski, 46, six years. Each was ordered to pay \$159 million in restitution to the victims of a fraudulent scheme that came to light seven years ago.

Defense bill compromise affects chaplain prayers, guidelines

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Bill rescinds chaplain guidelines

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

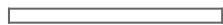
WASHINGTON (ABP)—Congressional negotiators nixed an effort to create a right for military chaplains to offer sectarian prayers in settings where soldiers of many faiths may be present.

However, the last-minute compromise Sept. 29 between House and Senate leaders on the provision, tucked into a military-spending bill, also rescinds chaplain guidelines created in the past year by two branches of the armed services. Air Force and Navy officials had released the guidelines in the wake of accusations that some evangelical Protestant chaplains and officers at military institutions engaged in proselytizing and religious harassment.

Poteet church's high school diploma program helping adults reach goals

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Students
(left to
right) Alice
Alvarado,
Patricia
Garcia,
Feliciana
Sanchez,
Michelle
Hernandez,
Melissa
Moreno
and
Marissa
Guzman
participate
in Hosanna
Baptist
Church's
adult high
school
program.

Diploma program has adult students shouting, 'Hosanna'

By George Henson

Staff Writer

POTEET—Vanessa stood before family and friends as class valedictorian.

“I have tried many things, but I have always failed,” she said, trying unsuccessfully to choke back tears. “I have always quit.”