

Texas Baptist schools recognized in national rankings

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U.S. News & World Report [recognized eight universities](#) affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas in its annual ranking of colleges across the country.

[Baylor University](#), [Dallas Baptist University](#), [East Texas Baptist University](#), [Hardin-Simmons University](#), [Houston Baptist University](#), [Howard Payne University](#), the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) and [Wayland Baptist University](#) recently were recognized by the publication.



East Texas
Baptist
University
English
Professor
Annemarie
Whaley
helps a
student with
a writing
assignment
in the
English
writing lab
at ETBU's
Scarborough
Hall.

ETBU was ranked 11th in the category "Best Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's" category in the western portion of the nation. It also was named second-best "Great School, Great Prices" in that category.

Board examines total expected BGCT 2007 expenditures

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Board examines total expected BGCT 2007 expenditures

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—The [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) Executive Board not only recommended a \$50.6 million 2007 [budget proposal](#), but also looked at total anticipated expenditures from all sources during a Sept. 25-26 meeting in Dallas.

For the first time, the Executive Board examined all expected expenditures for the coming year, including allocated funds from investments and interest income from designated wills and trusts—a responsibility performed by the Administrative Committee prior to changes in the convention's governance.

Veteran missions leader Fenner to be nominated for VP

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Veteran missions leader Fenner to be nominated for VP

By **Marv Knox**

Editor

DALLAS—Veteran missions leader Joy Fenner will be nominated for first vice president of the [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) when the BGCT holds its annual meeting in Dallas Nov. 13-14.

Fenner, a former missionary to Japan who later served 20 years as executive director-treasurer of [Woman's Missionary Union of Texas](#), will be nominated by [Ed Hogan](#), pastor of [Jersey Village Baptist Church in Houston](#).

Joy Fenner

Gardner Taylor still preaching with power at age 88

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Gardner Taylor still preaching with power at age 88

By Kim Lawton

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

RALEIGH, N.C. (RNS)—He's 88 years old and technically retired. But Gardner Taylor still shows the preaching skills that place him on virtually every list of America's greatest contemporary preachers.

Female ex-offenders find Grace

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Billy and Jacqueline Thornton provide a transitional home for previously incarcerated women.

Female ex-offenders find ‘Grace’

By Lauren Kirk

Special to the Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO—Billy and Jacqueline Thornton may be retired, but their lives have been far from leisurely since they founded Grace House—a transitional residence for previously incarcerated women.

The Thorntons have taught Bible classes at Bexar County Adult Detention Center 15 years. Mrs. Thornton realized the women in her class needed help once they left the facility. Women made professions of faith in Christ and left thinking they had their lives together, but within six months, they would be back in the class because they lacked support, stability and spiritual guidance.



Jacqueline Thornton (right) offers guidance to female ex-offenders at Grace House.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

College football on Sunday

Regarding Bruce Parsons' protest of the recent Sunday evening football contest between Baylor and TCU ([Sept. 18](#)): My alma mater, Baylor, and many other church-affiliated institutions nationwide have competed regularly on Sundays for decades in a variety of other intercollegiate sports, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, and tennis, among others.

• [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.

Out((Loud))

"I'm not the Christ. I'm just a donkey the Christ rides on."

T.D. Jakes

Pastor of The Potter's House in Dallas (Texas Monthly/RNS)

"This idea that God wants everybody to be wealthy. There is a word for that—baloney. It's creating a false idol. You don't measure your self-worth by your net worth. I can show you millions of faithful followers of Christ who live in poverty. Why isn't everyone in the church a millionaire?"

Rick Warren

Author and pastor of Saddleback Valley Church in California (Time magazine/RNS)

"When we present Jesus as a pro-war, anti-poor, anti-homosexual, anti-environment, pro-nuclear weapons authority figure draped in an American flag, I think we are making a travesty of the portrait of Jesus we find in the gospels."

Brian McLaren

Leader of the "emerging church" movement and pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Montgomery County, Md. (The Washington Post/RNS)

"Amid a culture inundated with bigness and cellular technology, iPods and TiVo, the technologized megachurch is no longer impressive. In fact, many young Christians come to church to get asylum from this worldliness. Infinitely more than the megachurch's 'stuff,' my generation wants religion. We want everything our parents didn't, and that seems increasingly to be summed up in the word 'meaning.'"

Clint Rainey

Student at the University of Texas at Austin
"It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

Winston Churchill

British orator, author and prime minister during World War II (Thinkexist.com)

The fact a football game on Sunday draws objection says, I think, more about the exalted position football enjoys in our state than it suggests a recent cultural abandonment of a religious tradition surrounding Sunday nights.

Moreover, Baylor football on Sunday is neither recent nor unprecedented. Baylor played Sunday football games seven times between 1900 and 1933, including two games won over our fellow Texas Baptists at Howard Payne University.

Pastor's wife finds her service niche in literacy missions

September 29, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Pastor's wife finds her service niche in literacy missions

By Carol Gene Graves

Baylor Center for Literacy

WACO—Despite growing up a pastor's daughter and becoming a preacher's wife, Judy Hughes of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Waco never found her

niche for Christian service until she discovered literacy ministries.

She found literacy missions 14 years ago, but her passion to share Christ with others while teaching them English continues to grow, she insists.

Judy Hughes
of Emmanuel
Baptist
Church in
Waco teaches
English to
Silvia
Hernandez
(left) and
Juana Loreda.
(Photo by
Carol Gene
Graves/Baylor
Center for
Literacy)

Ministers battle feelings of being alone in the crowd

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Ministers battle feelings of being alone in the crowd

By **John Hall**

Texas Baptist Communications

Worshippers come to hear them speak each Sunday. A steady stream of people visit them during the week. Families invite them to dinner and give them gifts. But for many pastors, ministry is a lonely life.

Even though their primary task is accomplished by relating to people, ministers commonly report difficulty in forming authentic relationships. Because of the nature of their position, many say they feel pressured to present an image of perfection and holiness—an ideal that no one can fulfill.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Justin Gandy** has resigned as youth minister at First Church in Breckenridge.
- **Kris Knippa** to First Church in Cranfills Gap as pastor.

- **Craig Lloyd** to Southlake Church in Waxahachie as pastor from North Mesquite Church in Mesquite, where he was youth pastor.
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Most political rhetoric keeps God-talk light & sunny

September 29, 2006

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Most political rhetoric keeps God-talk light & sunny

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Campaign 2006 heats up, politicians are leveraging the power of religious rhetoric while adhering to what's become the cardinal rule for public religious speech in the 21st century: Never say God gets angry.

Technology links ministers to church members

September 29, 2006

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Technology links ministers to church members

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

MARSHALL—Technological innovations leave ministers without excuse for keeping church members informed, said Brian Pearce, minister of youth and recreation at [First Baptist Church in Marshall](#).

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Committee seeks resolutions. Messengers to the [Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting](#) who wish to present resolutions for the consideration of the BGCT Committee on Resolutions are encouraged to submit resolutions in writing prior to the convention, according to Chairman Joseph Parker. The deadline for submitting resolutions at the convention is 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, but to allow adequate consideration by the committee and because of printing deadlines to include the resolutions in Tuesday's Annual Meeting Bulletin, Parker encourages early submission. Resolutions must be signed by an elected messenger, with church name included. Proposed resolutions may be submitted to Parker's attention at David Chapel Baptist Church, 2211 E. Martin Luther King Jr., Austin 78702.

Foundation issues challenge grant. [The Mabee Foundation](#) of Tulsa, Okla., recently announced a \$1 million challenge grant toward construction of the \$16 million Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel on the [Dallas Baptist University](#) campus. The foundation will provide \$1 million if DBU raises the remaining \$15 million for chapel construction prior to July 12, 2007. So far, DBU has raised more than two-thirds of the amount needed.

HBU sets inauguration date. [Robert Sloan](#) formally will be inaugurated as president of Houston Baptist University at a 2 p.m. ceremony Nov. 28 on the Houston campus. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. HBU trustees elected Sloan Aug. 8 as the school's third president, succeeding [Doug Hodo](#). Sloan, former chancellor of Baylor University, [stepped down](#) as Baylor's president after 10 years.

Memorials committee seeks names. Each year the Baptist General Convention of Texas recognizes by name at its annual meeting Texas Baptists who have died during the preceding year. The BGCT Memorials

Committee asks Texas Baptists to submit the names of people who have died in the last year whose lives made a contribution to their churches and to Texas. Call (214) 828-5348 or e-mail debbie.moody@bgct.org.

Grant allows Baylor to explore economics of religion. Baylor University's [Institute for Studies of Religion](#) has received a \$378,862 grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The grant will provide funds for four scholars to investigate the connection between religion and economic growth and the effects of government intervention in religious markets on the practice of religion. The grant also will fund workshops held jointly between the Baylor faculty members and faculty at George Mason University, as well as a survey regarding the religious, educational and financial practices of Americans.

BGCT board chair re-elected. The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board re-elected attorney Bob Fowler of Houston as chair. Directors elected John Petty, pastor of [Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville](#), as vice chair.

Correction: An article about the pillars of Islam on p. 10 of the Sept. 18 Baptist Standard print edition says that the Ramadan saum (fasting) goes daily from dusk until dawn. In fact, the fasting is from dawn until dusk throughout daylight hours, followed promptly by a full night of feasting. The error was corrected in the article's [online version](#).

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.