

# **Georgia minister produces movie as tool for ministry**

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Alex  
Kendrick, a  
minister at  
an Albany,  
Ga.,  
church,  
plays  
Coach  
Grant  
Taylor in  
*Facing the  
Giants*, a  
movie he  
and his  
brother,  
Stephen,  
produced  
with a cast  
of  
volunteers  
in his  
community.  
(RNS photo  
courtesy of  
Sherwood  
Pictures)

## Georgia minister produces

# movie as tool for ministry

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

ALBANY, Ga. (RNS)—When Alex Kendrick thinks about sharing his faith, he thinks about movie screens, not evangelistic tracts.

Kendrick, associate pastor of media ministries at [Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.](#), has co-produced [Facing the Giants](#) with the help of hundreds of volunteers—on screen and behind the scenes—from his Southern Baptist congregation and local community.

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## Program offers training for Rio Grande Valley families

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Children  
paint a  
banner at  
their  
parents'  
graduation  
ceremony  
to mark  
completion  
of Families  
for a  
Future  
training.  
(Photos by  
Craig  
Bird)

## Program offers training for Rio Grande Valley families

**By Craig Bird**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

DEL RIO—Many parents say raising children is the toughest job you can get with zero experience, skills, know-how or good role models. But it's getting easier for parents along the Rio Grande, thanks to Families for a Future.

Convinced that the key to reducing drug/ alcohol use, teen suicide, juvenile delinquency, gang involvement, child abuse and domestic violence is strengthening families, [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) launched the pilot

program last March in five counties surrounding Del Rio.

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# Texas Baptist Forum

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## Texas Baptist Forum

### **Losing focus**

I am responding to the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board action to cut three positions from the missions, evangelism and ministry area ([Sept. 4](#)). It seems these positions would be the last to be cut, since they have an intentional focus on the community outside the church.

Letters are welcomed. Send them to <a href="mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com">marvknox@baptiststandard.com</a> ; or by mail to P.O. Box 660267, Dallas 75266-0267; 250 words maximum.
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## **Out((Loud))**

*“One of our biggest challenges as Christians living in the 21st century is to learn how to talk about the things that are important to us, like prayer and hearing from God, without scaring our neighbors. Not that we have to backpedal what we believe; we just have to learn how to communicate better.”*

### **Berry Simpson**

*Baptist Standard cybercolumnist  
“What struck me most is when one of them said to me: ‘You know we’re really no different than your society. We’re just honest about our affairs, and we take care of our babies and our girlfriends.’”*

### **Loraine Sundquist**

*Recalling a conversation with a wife of polygamist Warren Jeffs, the prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ (Washington Post / RNS)*

*“If you're not electing Christians, then in essence you are going to legislate sin.”*

### **Katherine Harris**

*Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, describing separation of church and state as “so wrong, because God is the one who chooses our rulers” (Florida Baptist Witness)*

It does not seem OK just to reassign their duties to other people, such as the congregational strategists, because their focus is not the community outside the established church. With only a small percentage of people in Texas attending church on any given Sunday, we ought to double the positions that focus outside the church. We as Texas Baptists have been very critical of others who have tended to run the same course.

I hope the BGCT in its [new reorganization](#) is not losing its focus on the people outside the church who need love and mercy from those who will intentionally seek them out.

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## Who's Who in Islam: major groups

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## Who's Who in Islam: major groups

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—For American Christians who don't know a Shiite from a Sunni or an Alawi from a Wahhabi, divisions within Islam can be daunting to decipher.

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Here's a simple Who's Who of a few major groups—either religious or political—that claim the Islamic label.

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# Christian presence in Holy Land small and getting smaller

September 15, 2006

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## Christian presence in Holy Land small and getting smaller

**By Steve Chambers**

*Religion News Service*

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Nakla Qaber, whose [Greek Orthodox](#) roots stretch back generations in a [West Bank](#) Christian enclave, runs a successful restaurant at a time when most Palestinians are struggling.

But when it came time for his son and three daughters to make their own way in the world, they went off to college in the United States and Canada and never came back.





Muslims  
Abu Iyad  
(left) and  
Abuzayed  
Odeh watch  
the news  
on Al-  
Jazeera at  
their  
Christian  
friends'  
auto body  
store in  
Bethlehem.  
"We share  
all our life,  
the good  
times and  
bad times,"  
Iyad said.  
(RNS photo  
by Andrew  
Mills/*The  
Star-Ledger*  
of Newark,  
N.J.)

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# **Poll shows some prejudice against Muslims**

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In the Muslim village of Jalah, Egypt, the local imam, Haliz Muhammed Fazar (center), and village leaders gather on a porch to meet visitors and discuss the Quran. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

### **9/11 Five Years Later**

- [For American Muslims, everything changed on 9/11](#)
- [Differentiate 'Muslim' from 'terrorist' scholars say](#)
- [No sweeping revival, but impact of 9/11 still felt in churches](#)
- [Negative perceptions of Muslims persist, panel says](#)
- [Who's Who in Islam: major groups](#)
- [Christian presence in Holy Land small and getting smaller](#)
- [Islam built on five pillars of worship & five pillars of faith](#)
- [Poll shows some prejudice against Muslims](#)
- [Children of Abraham: Muslims view God, church & state through different lenses](#)

# Poll shows some prejudice against Muslims

**By Adelle M. Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Four Americans out of 10 acknowledge having some prejudice against Muslims, but those with Muslim acquaintances are more likely to show favorable attitudes, a recent [USA Today/Gallup Poll](#) shows.

Thirty-nine percent of Americans asked to honestly assess themselves said they have at least some feelings of prejudice against Muslims while 59 percent said they did not.

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## Group critiques prosperity gospel

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## Group critiques prosperity gospel

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)— Media promotion of a so-called prosperity gospel is deluging modern-day churches—and driving them into error, [former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen](#) told the nation’s largest African-American Baptist group.

“Prosperity gospel is now a problem because we’ve learned to study the market, and now the marketplace is dictating the message,” said Allen, who led in the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

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# **National Baptist leader asserts nation, church abandoning ideals**

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## **National Baptist leader asserts nation, church abandoning ideals**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—Two esteemed institutions—the United States and the church—appear in danger of abandoning the high ideals of their founding documents, the president of the nation’s largest African-American Baptist

group said.

“A haunting shade hangs over both our country and the church,” said [William Shaw](#), president of the [National Baptist Convention USA](#), in his message to the group’s annual meeting in Dallas.

**See Related Articles:**

- [Group critiques prosperity gospel](#)
- National Baptist leader asserts nation, church abandoning ideals

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## On the Move

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## On the Move

- **Mark Barefield** has resigned as youth minister at First Church in Plains.
- **Bryan Brunson** to Calvary Church in Rosenberg as director of young adult ministries.
- **Travis Cardwell** has resigned as associate pastor of First Church in Liberty to become pastor of a new church in Sugar Land.
- **Fernando Charles II** to Central Church in San Antonio as pastor from Kingsbrough Ridge Church in San Antonio, where he was associate pastor.

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# Scrapbooking enables women to pass along their values

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Wendy Jones  
and her  
sister, Christi  
Denney,  
work on  
projects  
during the  
Scrapbook  
and Craft  
Extravaganza  
at Mobberly  
Baptist  
Church.

## Scrapbooking enables women to pass along their values

**By Rachel Stallard**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

LONGVIEW—Jodie Hilburn found a distinctive way to tell her husband she was expecting their third child—through a scrapbook project for his office. Carol Weiss is preparing for her family’s first holiday season without her father this year, after borrowing her mother’s Christmas album. Wendy Jones found a hobby on which she knew her family would not mind her spending time and money.

All three women are proud to call [scrapbooking](#)—or cropping—an art form. And many more women consider it a ministry of Christian encouragement and outreach.



Stacy Pentecost of Macedonia Baptist Church in Longview participates in an Open Crop held once a month at Scrapbooks & Such in Longview. She is finishing a book from her children’s band trip to Disney World.



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# Texas Tidbits

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## Texas Tidbits

**Accreditation extended for UMHB program.** The [Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs](#) has extended until 2012 accreditation of the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's community counseling program](#). The program is part of the graduate psychology and counseling department at UMHB, which offers master's degrees in professional counseling.

**BUA provides mentoring program.** [Baptist University of the Americas](#) has launched a higher-education mentoring program for Hispanic youth and their families living in San Antonio's South Side. The Sigueme program uses Hispanic university students and BUA staff as mentors and role models for public school students. Key partners in the mentoring initiative include [Buckner Baptist Benevolences](#) and [Communities in Schools](#), a national nonprofit group. The program also involves working with South Side churches to promote education through ongoing training for youth pastors, as well as providing seminars for families with prospective college students.

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# Problems can lead to divine opportunities

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## TOGETHER:

# Problems can lead to divine opportunities

Problems can lead to special, unexpected moments. Rosemary broke her arm the other day; and, as we were getting this taken care of, a woman eyed Rosemary's cast and said, "Oh, you broke your arm, too. I just got two casts off my arms. I broke them both this summer."

We had a conversation with this woman and her husband that genuinely blessed us, and in a few moments, we discovered they were members of one of our Texas Baptist churches.



Executive Director  
BGCT Executive  
Board

They told us how much they were enjoying their intentional interim minister and the blessing his preaching and wise counsel were bringing to their fractured fellowship.

The husband is on the transition team charged by the church with helping them process their way to a new future for their congregation.