

# **Bell decides not to seek 2nd BGCT term**

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## **Bell decides not to seek 2nd BGCT term**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

LUBBOCK—Michael Bell will not seek a second term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The convention's first African-American president told participants in the African American Fellowship of Texas annual meeting he would follow the example of Ken Hall and Albert Reyes in holding the presidency for only one year.

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## **African-American leader Evans elevates focus on church**

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**Edwards re-elected  
to Fellowship helm**

The African American Fellowship of Texas elected a slate of officers during its annual meeting in Lubbock.

Participants re-elected three of four officers (l-r):

Treasurer Marvin Delaney, pastor of South Park Baptist Church in Houston; Vice President John Ogletree, pastor of First Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston; and President Ronald Edwards, pastor of Minnehulla Baptist Church in Goliad.

Michael Edwards (r), pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mansfield, was elected secretary.

Evans will continue to serve as director of BGCT African-American ministries until October. All were elected by acclamation.

# African-American leader Evans elevates focus on church

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

LUBBOCK—Michael Evans, the Baptist General Convention of Texas' African-American ministries director, is resigning to focus on pastoring his Mansfield congregation and spend time with his sons.

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# Russian siblings to be separated if families don't adopt

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Elena	Rita	Dima	Kristina

# Russian siblings to be separated if families don't adopt

**By Russ Dilday**

*Buckner News Service*

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Two sets of Russian siblings will be separated—perhaps forever—if they are not adopted soon, reported Debbie Wynne, director of Buckner International Adoption.

In order to speed their adoption, donors have enabled Buckner to waive several key costs normally paid by adoptive parents.

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## **My Father's House offers a safe home for a fresh start**

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Erin  
Bridges  
and her  
son,  
Matthew,  
and Tanji  
Lamar  
with her  
son,  
Kristopher,  
enjoy the  
playground  
at My  
Father's  
House,  
Lubbock.  
(Photos by  
Ken Camp)

## **My Father's House offers a safe home for a fresh start**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

LUBBOCK—Monica Limon had no job and faced a no-win choice—live on the streets or depend on her abusive boyfriend.

Child Protective Services temporarily took custody of her two daughters, and agency officials told her if she didn't press charges against her boyfriend, she would lose the girls permanently.

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# Flip-flops provide perfect fit for foreign AIDS orphans

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Children at First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls were excited to have the opportunity to participate in missions by providing flip-flops for children on two continents.

# Flip-flops provide perfect fit for foreign AIDS orphans

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

WICHITA FALLS—Flip-flop sandals may be inexpensive, but First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls is using them to teach children a valuable lesson—you're never too young to take part in missions.

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# DeFoores long way from Abilene as 'Texas Envoys' to Afghanistan

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# Texas Envoys find purpose in Afghan hospital

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

KABUL, Afghanistan—God gave Rick DeFoore what he prayed for, even if he didn't fully understand what he was requesting.

DeFoore confesses he was “stuck” in a routine in Abilene and couldn't escape—the same thing week after week.

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# **Churches must be “irresistible influence” in community**

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## **Churches must be ‘irresistible influence’ in community**

**By Laura Frase**

*Communications Intern*

LUBBOCK—When Gerald Davis urges, “Just do it,” he isn't referring to star athletes. He's talking to pastors and ministers, telling them to get pumped up about uniting their church and their community.



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# **On your mark, get set: ‘Run & tell’**

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## **On your mark, get set: ‘Run & tell’**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

LUBBOCK—When Jesus changes people’s lives, they must “run and tell” their good news to everyone they meet, Denny Davis, pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, told participants in the African American Fellowship of Texas annual meeting.

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# **To see the face of AIDS in Africa, take a look at Susan**

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# To see the face of AIDS in Africa, take a look at Susan

**By Scott Collins**

*Buckner Benevolences*

NAIROBI, Kenya—A Swahili Bible rested gently on Susan’s legs, a pencil in the crevice of the open book. Her left hand thumbed through the pages until it came to rest on Isaiah 40, her favorite passage.



40-year-old  
Susan finds  
comfort  
reading her  
Bible. She  
accepted  
Christ as her  
Savior  
through the  
ministry of  
the Baptist  
Children's  
Center in  
Nairobi,  
Kenya, a  
ministry  
supported by  
Buckner  
Orphan Care  
International  
and  
Cooperative  
Baptist  
Fellowship.  
She is one of  
40 million  
people  
infected with  
the HIV/AIDS  
virus. (Photo  
by Scott  
Collins)

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength,” she softly read aloud. “They will soar on wings like eagles.”

Slowly, she lifted her head and through sad but hopeful eyes told why she likes those verses: “I know that when I am weak, I will be lifted up. I will mount up like eagles.”

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# **African leaders look to Buckner as ally in war on AIDS**

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<p>A Buckner delegation led by Ken Hall visits with Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgis in Addis Ababa. (Photos by Scott Collins)</p>
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# **African leaders look to Buckner as ally in war on AIDS**

**By Scott Collins**

*Buckner Benevolences*

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—Religious and government officials in four African nations welcomed staff and trustees from Buckner Benevolences and Buckner Orphan Care International.

The “vision tour” group led by Buckner President Ken Hall met with leading government officials during stops in Nigeria and Ethiopia. They asked the Dallas-based organization to help with the growing problems related to orphans throughout Sub-Saharan Africa brought on by the AIDS epidemic.

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# **Students’ All-State music echoes through 3 decades**

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# **Students’ All-State music echoes through 3 decades**

**By Laura Frase**

### *Communications Intern*

Past and present members of the Texas Baptist All-State Choir and Band recently united in one key—their everlasting love for music and God.

The choir and band represent the best of the best among Texas Baptist student musicians. Audition tapes arrived from more than 80 churches this year, with only 136 students chosen to represent the prestigious group.

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## **Around the State**

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Sarah Hazelwood, from the Fellowship of Huntsville Church in Huntsville, reacts to missing the mark in the "Gumby Marshmallow Shoot."

More than 800 Christian students from church youth groups across Texas visited the East Texas Baptist University campus for the week-long Super Summer Camp, sponsored by the youth evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The camp endeavors to use training, learning experiences and fun to help young people become more effective Christian leaders. Each session includes Bible teaching, worship services, small-group discussions, recreational activities and opportunities to form friendships with other Christian youth.

The ETBU campus was the site of two of the camps this summer. (Photo by Mike Midkiff/ETBU)

## Around the State

- Howard Payne University has inducted eight members into the Sigma

Beta Delta International Honor Society in Business Management and Administration. Inductees include Heather Fisher, Charis House, Michael Lindsay, Jill McLaughlin, Leah Perez, Joseph Renner, Diann Seamans and Rachel Welch.

- Houston Baptist University has announced its Piper Professor nominees for this year. Nominees are Eloise Hughes, professor in education and director of field experience and student teaching; Levon Hayrapetyan, professor in computer information systems management; Vanora Hundley, associate professor in nursing; Susan Cook, professor in biology and director of the health professions program; and Connie Michalos, professor in English. The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation presents 15 awards annually to professors across the state for their dedication to the teaching profession and their academic, scientific and scholarly achievement.

- Carol Holcomb, associate professor of religion at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, has been re-elected president of the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

- Dan MacMillan, president of Bluefield College in Virginia, will join the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership at Dallas Baptist University as director of the doctoral program in higher education leadership next month.