

Church with mission roots in Brazil helps missionaries

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Church with mission roots in Brazil helps missionaries

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

WorldconneX and Texas Baptists are helping Don and Angie Finley return to Brazil after a prolonged absence from their 11-year mission home. And in the process, the missions network located a Corsicana church rich in Brazil's missionary history to fund part of the couple's mission.

The Finleys originally were appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board but had to leave the mission field when they refused to sign the controversial 2000 Baptist Faith & Message statement.

Dawson led ETBU, BGCT

institutional board

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Dawson led ETBU, BGCT institutional board

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Former East Texas Baptist University President Jerry Dawson and Texas Baptist leader in Christian higher education died June 17 after a long battle with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

Dawson was ETBU president from 1976 to 1985. Current ETBU President Bob Riley praised Dawson's leadership in a time of change at the school. Dawson was school president when it changed its name from East Texas Baptist College to East Texas Baptist University. A library, residence halls and the home for the school's president all were constructed during Dawson's tenure.

DOWN

HOME:

Buying

toothpaste, counting blessings

June 23, 2006

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DOWN HOME:

Buying toothpaste, counting blessings

My wife rarely sends me to the grocery store alone. And she never sends me to the store before dinner.

Joanna realizes I'm just a man. Made of flesh and blood. But mostly, with a stomach. And if it's an empty stomach, I'm no match for the geniuses who arrange all the stuff in a grocery store.

If properly motivated—that means hungry—I can go to the store for a gallon of milk and eggs and return home with stuff my shopping-savvy wife never would buy.



A normal person wouldn't fall for the crackers and cookies and salsas and salad dressings that lure me like Safeway Sirens. They contain enough preservatives to keep King Tut looking like he's still 19 for another 4,000 years. But, heavens, they're tasty.



Church secretary retires after 47 years

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Ava Flanagan of Canton has retired after 47 years as a church secretary.
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Church secretary retires after 47 years

By Orville Scott

Special to the Baptist Standard

CANTON—Ava Flanagan is retiring after 47 years as a church secretary, but she quickly points out that she's not retiring to the rocking chair.

Flanagan, who has served as membership and records secretary at First Baptist Church of Canton 17 years, enthusiastically looks forward to ministering to the growing numbers of senior adults in her church.

Central Texas church knows how to read its community

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First Baptist Church in Laguna Park created a town library where it houses more than 8,000 donated books and a coffee house/Internet cafe. (Photos by Laura Frase)

Central Texas church knows how to read its community

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

LAGUNA PARK—When Pastor Doug Evans looked at a storage room at church, he saw the potential for a small town’s first community library.

Evans, pastor of First Baptist Church in Laguna Park, said he was tired of all the junk in the storage room, and in the process of cleaning it out, a 350-book library was born.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Southern Baptists & alcohol

According to a Southern Baptist Convention resolution, I’m just one step away from hell. I am now in a special status where I am not eligible to serve in an SBC position.

The convention resolution states: “Resolved, that we urge that no one be elected to serve as a trustee or a member of any entity or committee of the Southern Baptist Convention that is a user of alcoholic beverages.”

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; 250 words maximum.
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“Fort Worth’s greatest crime scene is also the site of one of her greatest miracles. The Darkness sought to shut us down, but the Light shines ever brighter and ever stronger and will not be extinguished.”

Al Meredith

Pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, noting hundreds of people have become Christians since the September 1999 shooting that killed seven people (*Star-Telegram/RNS*)

“For people in America who are a part of my political tradition, our great sin has often been ignoring religion or denying its power or refusing to engage it because it seemed hostile to us. For ... the so-called Christian right and its allies, their great sin has been believing they were in full possession of the truth.”

Bill Clinton

Former U.S. president, accepting an award from the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding (*The Associated Press/RNS*)

“Everything possible must be done to fight AIDS.”

Carlo Maria Martini

Roman Catholic cardinal, once considered a candidate for the papacy, announcing his support for use of condoms as a “lesser evil” to the spread of AIDS (*RNS*)

I have a couple of ounces of Jewish Passover wine in the evening to get rid of a tickle in my throat—it is better than cough medicine. And I might have an “adult” beverage twice a year if my wife and I are on a special date.

On the move

June 23, 2006

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On the move

- **Bill Burch** to First Church in Morgan as minister of youth.
 - **David Carfrey** to Buel Church in Cleburne as pastor.
 - **Adolphus Cleveland** to The White Stone Church in Lubbock as pastor from New Beginnings at Ridgecrest Church in Lubbock.
 - **Tim Fox** to Centerpoint Church in Burleson as interim pastor.
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Texas Tidbits

June 23, 2006

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Texas Tidbits

BGCT hotel block opens. Discounted hotel rooms for messengers and visitors to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting now are available. The BGCT has negotiated discounted rates with a variety of hotels in Dallas, where the meeting will be held Nov. 13-14. To receive the reduction when making reservations, Texas Baptists must use the discount code "BGCT." For a complete list of discounted hotels as well as other information about the BGCT annual meeting, visit www.bgct.org/annualmeeting or call (888) 244-9400.

Memorial gift initiates endowment campaign. Christian Ethics Today received a \$100,000 gift from Harold Simmons in memory of his longtime friend, ethicist Foy Valentine, the journal's founder. In response, the publication's board of directors organized the Friends of Foy Valentine Committee and set a \$500,000 goal to partially endow the journal, which is sent free of charge to more than 4,300 subscribers. Two directors—Darold Morgan of Richardson and David Sapp, of Atlanta, Ga.—will oversee the campaign. For more information, visit www.ChristianEthicsToday.com.

**TOGETHER: CLC builds
Baptists' biblical convictions**

June 23, 2006

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TOGETHER: CLC builds Baptists' biblical convictions

Baptists are in danger of losing the fruit of one man's life. For decades, students of T.B. Maston came out of his Christian ethics classes to move across Texas and the world and give prophetic witness to the ethical demands of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were pastors, missionaries, and college and seminary professors and presidents. They led the Christian life commissions of national and state Baptist conventions. But the Maston tradition of Christian ethics will be silenced if the seminaries do not maintain a strong Christian ethics emphasis and denominational agencies that promote biblical ethics get sidetracked from their calling.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

It was my privilege to take the last class he taught in seminary, "Contemporary Issues in Christian Ethics." He emphasized: Every concern can be addressed from a biblical perspective. Nothing is more important than discovering and following the will of God in one's life. The goal in life is to be a Jesus kind of person. And you can get people to see difficult

truths best if you take the time to love them.

He illustrated how to bring about change in church with a rubber band: “You can use a rubber band to lift a 2-by-4 if you work with it. Increase the tension slowly, and the board can be lifted. Jerk the band, and it will snap, leaving the board where it was.” I learned applying that truth was not easy, but you have to keep the tension on, and you have to be more interested in long-term change than in short-term irritations.

This story may put it all in perspective. In *Texas Baptists: A Sesquicentennial History*, Leon McBeth tells how the BGCT Christian Life Commission came into being.

Court agrees to hear test of partial-birth abortion ban

June 23, 2006
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Court agrees to hear test of partial-birth abortion ban

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court will expand its review of a

controversial federal abortion law.

The justices agreed June 20 to hear a California case involving the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. They will consider, in *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, whether the ban is unconstitutionally vague and places too heavy a burden on women seeking abortions.

Storylist for 6/26/06 Issue

June 23, 2006

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SBC Annual Meeting Coverage

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- [Welch: SBC will baptize a million in a year](#)
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OTHERS

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RIGHT OR WRONG? Approach

to ethical decision making

June 23, 2006

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RIGHT OR WRONG?

Approach to ethical decision making

Christians should consider the Bible as a primary resource, but is there any basic approach—ethical theory—that can assist me in making ethical decisions?

Ethics can be approached from three basic, theoretical angles. The deontological approach considers our duty or obligation. It asks, “What must I do?” The teleological angle is pragmatic and considers the consequences of actions. It asks, “What will work?” And the relational approach factors the effects of actions upon others. Due to space limitations, let’s consider the first approach—duty or obligation