

DOWN HOME: Saturday morning, with Grammar

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Grammar and I went for a ride.

Her friends know her as Helena Moore. But to me, she's always been Grammar, my mother's mother.

Grammar lives in Fort Sumner, a farming village on the high plains of eastern New Mexico. It's far from our home in Lewisville, and I don't see Grammar nearly as often as I'd like. When my friend Stacy invited me to preach in Muleshoe, and I realized I'd be within a short drive of Fort Sumner, I extended my stay to visit Grammar.

EDITORIAL: Americans AWOL in the worship wars

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Americans AWOL in the worship wars

First, the good news: A new survey conducted by the Barna Group reveals Americans have increased their behavior significantly in five of seven religious categories:

- Forty-seven percent of U.S. adults say they read their Bible at least once a week outside of church. That's the highest level since the 1980s, a 16-point climb in 11 years.
- Weekly church attendance has rebounded, from 37 percent in 1996 to 47 percent this year.



TBM volunteer bricklayers help build church in Ethiopia

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Texas
Baptist Men
bricklayers
build a wall
of an
Ethiopian
Baptist
church. The
team worked
with a Texas
Baptist
couple
serving as
volunteer
missionaries.

TBM volunteer bricklayers help build church in Ethiopia

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—Texas Baptists joined hands across the world to help construct a church building for Ethiopian Christians.

First-time parents receive help at Port Neches church

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First-time parents receive help at Port Neches church

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

PORT NECHES—At First Baptist Church in Port Neches, help for first-time parents begins before children arrive.

Foster parents heard God's call to service on the radio

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The Bamfords volunteered as foster parents, impressed by the STARRY program's emphasis on restoration and healing to the children and their caregivers.

Foster parents heard God's call to service on the radio

By Miranda Bradley

Children at Heart Ministries

AUSTIN—When Rabecca and Scott Bamford decided they wanted to make an impact on young lives by becoming foster parents, they believe God used a radio commercial to lead them to just the right place.

IMB trustees elect former staffer as chair

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IMB trustees elect former staffer as chair

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (ABP) —International Mission Board trustees elected John Floyd, a former top administrator of the Southern Baptist agency, as board chairman—raising questions about a possible conflict of interest.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Margins of society

The author of the “Faith & immigration” letter (May 15) misunderstands the theology of Jesus. The people Jesus most identified with were those who lived on the margins of society. The lepers, prostitutes, sinners, tax collectors, poor and women were all people who lived at these margins. In fact, many of these people were those who broke Roman and Jewish laws and traditions. They were the outcasts, the untouchables and the illegals.

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

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

Out ((Loud))

“Occasional drop-bys and clunky dropping of biblical references aren’t going to do the trick. These voters weren’t born again yesterday.”

Ruth Marcus

Columnist, explaining why Democratic efforts to court evangelical voters may not work (washingtonpost.com)

“If we would have followed that principle, the very men who turned this denomination back to biblical inerrancy would not have been qualified to have served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention or ... in any leadership position whatsoever at all.”

Ronnie Floyd

Southern Baptist Convention presidential nominee, regarding a blue-ribbon SBC committee’s recommendation that elected convention officers be chosen from churches that give at least 10 percent of undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program (BP)

“By all means, let us argue. But let us remember we are not enemies. ... I have not always heeded this injunction myself, and I regret it very much.”

John McCain

Arizona senator, at Liberty University, patching up his relationship with university Chancellor Jerry Falwell, whom he labeled among “agents of intolerance” during the 2000 presidential campaign (*The Washington Times/RNS*)

The keepers of the margins were the Pharisees and the Saducees. These were the ones who made the rules and kept the rules in relation to the marginalized. They were so concerned with these laws and rules that they lost touch with the importance of relationships.

Couples need preparation for wedding & marriage, pastors say

May 26, 2006

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Couples need preparation for wedding & marriage, pastors say

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

ATHENS—Like many pastors, Kyle Henderson finds great fulfillment in conducting weddings and preparing couples for marriage. And he treasures thank-you notes he receives from couples—particularly the ones he refused to marry.

Retirement community residents find love in golden years

May 26, 2006

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Jim and Ruby Finney walk hand-in-hand into their sunset years together after finding each other at Calder Woods, a Buckner Benevolences retirement community in Beaumont.

Retirement community

residents find love in golden years

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Baptist Benevolences

BEAUMONT—Jim Finney and his new bride, Ruby, are like any other newlywed couple—they take long walks holding hands, watch sunsets from their favorite park bench and go on frequent dates to the theater and local restaurants.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE: Long-married couples share the secret of success

May 26, 2006

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Long-married couples share the secret of success

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

HOUSTON—It not only takes a village to raise a child; it also takes a village to make marriage successful, some long-married Baptist couples agreed.

Bill and
Ruth
Osborne
are among
139
couples
Tallowood
Baptist
Church in
Houston
recently
recognized
as having
been
married
50 years
or longer.
(Photos by
Ken
Camp)

Texas Baptists provide oasis in

northern Mexico desert

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Texas Baptists provide oasis in northern Mexico desert

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Deported immigrants and needy Mexican nationals find an oasis—a place of rest and regrouping—in the middle of the desert, thanks to Texas Baptists.

**Friendâs death inspires
summer missionaryâs
commitment**

May 26, 2006

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Friend's death inspires summer missionary's commitment

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

CROCKETT—Ginny Moers found a mission in the wake of tragedy.