

Belton-to-Austin trek raises funds for missions

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By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—Mile after mile, Bear Garza's feet pounded the pavement to help bring the gospel to others.

Garza raised money for the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) campus missionary fund and the school's general missions fund Veteran's Day weekend by running and walking from Austin to Belton—70 miles in less than 24 hours.

Bear Garza
pauses in
front of the
chapel at the
University of
Mary Hardin-
Baylor just
before he
started out on
his trek to
raise money
for Baptist
Student
Ministries
missions.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[When a Congregation is Betrayed: Responding to Clergy Misconduct](#)

by Beth Ann Gaede, editor (The Alban Institute)

The difficult topic of this new book is this: Adult, heterosexual misconduct by ministers in a church setting. Clergy sexual misconduct devastates the

victim or victims, the minister's family and the congregation.

Gaede's collection of 30 chapters written by 12 experts (plus an extended bibliography), offers a thorough treatment of the dynamics that lead to such events. Then, with clear, step-by-step instructions, the reader learns how to respond.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

The authors consider different ways to care for victims, church leaders, the congregation, the perpetrator and his (the book points out it is overwhelmingly a male perpetrator) family, and even the "Afterpastor" interims and ministers.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Alabama Baptists pray for Wal-Mart. At the [Alabama Baptist State Convention's](#) annual meeting, messengers approved a resolution that calls on Baptists to pray for the store's leaders and asks local and national [Wal-Mart](#) officials to reconsider their recent decision to join the [National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce](#). A resolution dealing with the conflict in Western Sudan called for Baptists to pray for the suffering people of the [Darfur](#) region, as well as offer advocacy and humanitarian aid on their behalf. A resolution on ethics in government urged messengers to ask state governments to ensure that officials cannot use power for personal or private gain.

CBF needs volunteers in Louisiana. The [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) needs volunteers to build houses and build hope for Hurricane Katrina victims April 23-May 5 in Baton Rouge, La. More than 325 volunteers a day are needed for the two-week Habitat for Humanity build. Twelve families who lost their homes during Katrina will be chosen for the new homes. [Habitat for Humanity](#) subsidized the cost of the homes, with several Baptist organizations contributing the remainder. The Fellowship has given \$105,000 to the effort, which included an initial three-house build in October. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to work in a variety of areas, including construction, hospitality, landscaping and painting. Volunteers are invited to stay for the entire two-week build or for just a few days. Fellowship volunteers should register and receive additional information through CBF's volunteer office, which is coordinating the Fellowship's volunteer efforts on this project. A \$100 per week fee covers three meals a day and lodging. If other lodging facilities are used, the fee is \$50. For more information, contact Timothy Wood at

(800) 782-2451 or twood@thefellowship.info.

American Baptists to sell office building

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American Baptists to sell office building

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (ABP)—Leaders of the [American Baptist Churches USA](#) have approved selling the organization's Pennsylvania headquarters building and confirmed the appointment of a new head for the denomination's international missions organization.

The ABC's General Board voted nearly unanimously recently to sell the ABC-USA Mission Center in Valley Forge, near Philadelphia. Of those present, 72 voted in favor of a recommendation from the board's executive committee to begin the process. There was one abstention, according to the American Baptist News Service.

Cartoon

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Rookie Deacon Mistake #1: Praying out loud your willingness to be used of God in front of other deacons.

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.

2nd Opinion: Time to implement year-end tax tips

December 1, 2006

Posted: 12/01/06

2nd Opinion: Time to implement year-end tax tips

By Sherre Stephens

Think it's too early to start preparing for tax season? A recent flurry of tax legislation, as well as expiring tax credits and deductions that Congress may retroactively extend at year's end call for early preparation despite a later filing date in 2007—April 18.

Here are five basic things you need to know:

Get organized. Start now and use a checklist. Checklists facilitate organization and minimize frustration. Many checklists are available on the Internet. Just search for “checklists for tax preparation.”

Identify last-minute savings opportunities.

DOWN HOME: No place like âhomeâ

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DOWN HOME: No place like 'home'

We've got another home.

No, the Baptist Standard didn't hand me a big, fat bonus so I could go out and buy a second place out in the Hill Country or down by the beach. And I haven't signed a blockbuster movie deal based on "Down Home." (Who would play me in the movie? Some folks might pick George Clooney or Brad Pitt, but I'd go for Ray Romano or Matthew Perry. In my universe, funny trumps sexy.)

If you've met me on this side of the page the past few months, you probably know Joanna and I bought another house late this summer. We sold the home in Lewisville where we raised our girls and bought another one in Coppell, way closer to work.

Our house seemed like home from the start. It feels like it was built for us, even though we didn't find it for a long time. Now, except for hanging pictures in a hallway and trimming bushes, we're pretty much settled. And since the "new" neighborhood is about twice as old as the "old" one, we enjoy the trees and developed yards.

EDITORIAL: Wanted: More compelling Christians

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EDITORIAL: Wanted: More compelling Christians

How—and with whom—should Christians cooperate?

This issue surfaced again in the past few days, when [some fundamentalist Christians demanded](#) California pastor Rick Warren remove [Sen. Barack Obama \(D.-Ill.\)](#) from the program of his global AIDS summit because Obama does not oppose abortion.

Warren's ministry innovation spans almost three decades, since he started Saddleback Church in his California apartment in the late 1970s. The church engages about 20,000 worshippers each week. It has started scores of congregations, and his training conferences have helped thousands of pastors. [Purpose Driven Ministries](#)—based on his books *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*—has impacted millions of people. The AIDS summit is a key ingredient in Warren's latest initiative, the P.E.A.C.E. plan, which ministers to the people Jesus called "the least of these." P.E.A.C.E. plans to plant churches, equip servant leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick and educate the next generation.



The AIDS summit took aim at two of the P.E.A.C.E. initiatives, assisting the poor and caring for the sick. The [P.E.A.C.E. website](#) reports more than 40 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS. [Compassion International](#) notes more than 25 million people have died of AIDS, nine out of 10 children with AIDS live in Africa, and 25 million children will lose both parents to AIDS in the next four years. Warren's efforts embody the gospel. One can only wonder what might happen if all those pastors who looked to Warren to help build up their congregations would follow his lead in P.E.A.C.E. Our planet would be a vastly better place.

MK carries on legacy through gift to Nigeria hospital

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Mary Kay Posey
points to the
Texas-sized gift
she plans to
deliver this
Christmas to
Nigeria—thanks
largely to Texas
Baptists.

MK carries on legacy through gift to Nigeria hospital

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Many people renew family ties at Christmas. For Mary Kay Posey, the trip home takes 19 hours. But when she returns to Nigeria this month to deliver a Texas-sized gift, it gives her the chance to carry on the legacy of her medical missionary parents.

“We were expecting a miracle, but what we got was so much more,” she said.



Posey meets with residents and staff at a leper colony near Eku Baptist Hospital.

- [Watch video from CBS11 News in Dallas on Posey's trip.](#)

Church gives thanks by giving back

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Church gives thanks by giving back

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

EL PASO—Members of Lakeside Baptist Church in El Paso gave thousands of hungry people in Juarez something to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Church members were the primary preparers of Thanksgiving meals for more than 20,000 people Nov. 24-25. The effort is part of an outreach coordinated by [Hands of Luke Medical Ministries](#), an organization led by Marco Samaniego, pastor of Lakeside Baptist.

Members of Lakeside Baptist Church in El Paso and other volunteers with Hands of Luke Medical Ministries prepare a thanksgiving feast for hungry families in Juarez.
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ETBU students serve in Sabine Pass

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East Texas
Baptist
University
Tiger
baseball
team
members,
(left to
right)
Trevor
Stagner of
White Oak,
Lane Ellzey
of Kountze,
Michael
Ross of
Tyler,
Hunter
Howard of
Lake
Dallas and
Joey Cross
of Celina,
tear down
a ceiling in
a home
damaged
by
Hurricane
Rita in
Sabine
Pass.
(Photo
courtesy of
ETBU)

ETBU students serve in Sabine Pass

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—Two student groups from [East Texas Baptist University](#) responded to a request by Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief to help meet ongoing needs in Southeast Texas [one year after Hurricane Rita](#).

“I received a phone call from a TBM representative asking if ETBU students would help with a tremendous need to gut houses and hang sheetrock,” said Allan Thompson, director of the university’s Great Commission Center.

Ethiopian church employs indigenous missionaries

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Ethiopian church employs indigenous missionaries

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GARLAND—Through an innovative plan employing indigenous missionaries, even Sunday school classes can afford to reach Muslims in Ethiopia.

Pastor Bedilu Yirga of [Ethiopian Evangelical Baptist Church](#) in Garland and his congregation have partnered with churches in Ethiopia to reach members of the [Berta tribe](#), who live along [the border of Ethiopia and Sudan](#).