

# **ETBU dormitory furnishings find new home, meet multiple needs**

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East Texas Baptist University, making preparation for the renovation of Fry Hall, donated all the furnishings from the residence hall to Ebenezer Ministries of Clayton. The furniture was loaded onto three semi-trailers, two 16-foot cargo trailers and two 16-foot flat bed trailers, which involved three different ministry organizations to get the donation to its destination in Quemado.

(Photo by Mike Midkiff/ETBU)

# ETBU dormitory furnishings find new home, meet multiple needs

**By Mike Midkiff**

*East Texas Baptist University*

MARSHALL—As a dormitory at East Texas Baptist University gets a major facelift, some of its furnishings are finding a new home in Mexican orphanages, and others will meet needs throughout the Southwest, thanks to a cooperative venture involving several ministries.

After students left campus at the end of the fall semester, ETBU physical facilities employees started to work moving furniture out of dorm rooms in preparation for an extensive renovation of Charles Fry Hall, a one-story men's residence hall built in 1977.



East Texas Baptist  
University Utility  
Technician Michael Welch  
loads the final piece of  
furniture onto a truck from  
the Rick Caywood  
Ministries of Crawford.  
ETBU donated all the  
furnishings from Fry Hall to  
help needy people in  
Mexico. (Photo by Mike  
Midkiff/ETBU)

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for January 6: Breakthrough in focus**

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**Bible Studies for Life Series for January 6**

## **Breakthrough in focus**

- Psalm 145

[By Steve Dominy](#)

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for January 6: When cleanliness is not next to godliness**

December 31, 2007

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for January 6**

## **When cleanliness is not next to godliness**

- Mark 7:1-23

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

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**New Baptist Covenant,**

# Huckabee rank as top stories in '07, journalists say

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/28/07

## New Baptist Covenant, Huckabee rank as top stories in '07, journalists say

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The biggest news story among Baptists in 2007 was about an event that has not even happened yet—the announcement of an unprecedented meeting of Baptists from across North America—according to an informal survey of journalists in the Baptist media world.

The Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, announced in January by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—and the ensuing controversy stirred by its critics—was the top vote-getter in 2007's Associated Baptist Press survey. The historic pan-Baptist meeting will be held in Atlanta Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

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Mike  
Huckabee  
speaks at  
Prestonwood  
Baptist  
Church in  
Dallas.

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# Hispanic social conservatives may leave GOP over immigration stance

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/27/07

## Hispanic social conservatives may leave GOP over immigration stance

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW YORK (ABP)—Republican presidential candidates who appeal to fears over immigration in the primary campaigns risk alienating an important constituency—conservative Hispanics—religious leaders in several early primary states said.

In a conference call with reporters, Hispanic evangelicals and other leaders urged candidates to “reject hateful speech” regarding immigration.

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for January 13: Breakthrough in Forgiveness**

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/27/07

**Bible Studies for Life Series for January 13**

## **Breakthrough in Forgiveness**

- Psalm 32

[By Steve Dominy](#)

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# **Church welcomes the â□□Scum**



# of the Earth

December 31, 2007

Posted: 11/02/07

## Church welcomes the ‘Scum of the Earth’

**By Susie Oh**

*Religion News Service*

DENVER (RNS)—The people who worship with Pastor Mike Sares are mostly young, many of them students, some clean-cut, some a little raggedy. More than a few of the 300 worshippers have grappled with depression, abortion, drugs and homelessness. Some still wrestle with their demons—and at this church, they talk openly about it. They call themselves Scum of the Earth.

Scum and similar churches around the country draw in young adults disenchanted with suburban megachurches and the denominational churches of their parents. But Sares, for seven years, has tapped into a group at the outermost edges. He fosters relationships with God and peers, makes church as accessible as possible and doesn't expect worshippers to change as soon as they come through the doors.

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A free meal precedes services at Scum of the Earth in Denver, which attracts an eclectic crowd of artists, musicians, homeless people and others.  
(RNS photos/Ernie Leyba)

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# **Florida sanctuary gutted by early-morning fire before Christmas**

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/26/07

# Florida sanctuary gutted by early-morning fire before Christmas

By **Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The 50-year-old sanctuary of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., was totally destroyed by fire two days before Christmas.

When the first of 70 firefighters arrived on the scene about 5 a.m. Sunday morning, flames were shooting out of the roof, an official said. Firefighters poured 300,000 gallons of water on the blaze before bringing it under control 90 minutes later.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., burned two days before Christmas.
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# Daehnert elected interim BGCT executive director

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/21/07

## Daehnert elected interim BGCT executive director

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Jan Daehnert, a retired Baptist Building employee who led the state convention's intentional interim pastor program several years, has been elected interim executive director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board.

Board directors elected Daehnert by e-mail ballots Dec. 20-21. He will start work in mid-January, meeting with Executive Board staff. He will begin service as interim executive director when Charles Wade retires Jan. 31 and will continue in that role until a new executive director assumes duties.

Jan Daehnert
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# Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: A gift

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/21/07

## CYBER COLUMN: A gift

**By Berry Simpson**

The story we were discussing was about Zechariah and Elizabeth, a Jewish couple who lived in the first century. Luke politely described them as “well along in years.” The Bible also says they were childless.

One day, Zechariah was selected from a list of 20,000 priests to offer incense in the holy of holies, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was such serious work they tied a rope around a priest’s ankle so his body could be pulled back out if God struck him dead. (So much for job security!)

Berry D. Simpson
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According to the story, Zechariah saw an angel beside the altar while he was worshipping, and he was paralyzed by fear. The sudden appearance of anyone in the holy of holies would have been a shock, even more so the appearance of an angel. Who knew if seeing an angel were the first step toward being drug out by that rope?

The angel, no less than Gabriel himself, told Zechariah his prayers had been answered—he and Elizabeth would have a son named John who would lead the way for the Messiah.

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# Agency gives party for foster families who give year-round

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/21/07

## Agency gives party for foster families who give year-round

**By Haley Smith**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

SAN ANTONIO—Baptist Child & Family Service threw a Christmas party to honor foster families who display the Christmas spirit of giving all year long.

After experiencing pregnancy complications, doctors advised Ernest and Margaret Casillas not to keep trying to have children, although they wanted a bigger family.



San Antonio-  
area foster  
children and  
parents  
celebrate at  
the Baptist  
Child &  
Family  
Services  
Christmas  
party with  
face  
painting,  
raffles and  
Mexican  
food. (BCFS  
photo by  
Martin  
Olivares)

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# **Foster youth create own Christmas traditions**

December 31, 2007

Posted: 12/21/07

# Foster youth create own Christmas traditions

**By Haley Smith**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

SAN ANTONIO—Foster children seldom inherit family traditions.

That helps explain the growing success of the annual Christmas party for San Antonio, Kerrville and surrounding area youth involved with the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program of Baptist Child & Family Services.