

Bexar County youthful offenders find a second chance with KAPS

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Bexar County youthful offenders find a second chance with KAPS

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

AN ANTONIO—A growing number of South Texas juvenile offenders are hearing good news—jail is not their only option—thanks to an expanding relationship between the Juvenile Probation Department and Kids Adverted from Placement Services.

KAPS, a program of Baptist Child & Family Services that has provided intensive family preservation services for youthful offenders for nine years, recently received an additional \$325,000 from Juvenile Probation. This has allowed the program to increase from four to six the number of three-person teams—which translates into helping an additional 56 families a year.

“We think programs such as KAPS are ultimately going to take the place of (incarceration in Texas Youth Commission facilities) and other traditional methods.”

-Jeannine Von Stultz

One blogging minister nominates another for first VP

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One blogging minister nominates another for first VP

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

A Baptist blogger from Mineral Wells plans to nominate a Baptist blogger from Houston for first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

David Montoya, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, has announced he will nominate Lee Saunders, minister of church development at Garden Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, for office during the BGCT annual meeting in Amarillo.

Lee Saunders

Texas Baptists launch young leaders network

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Texas Baptists launch young leaders network

By John Hall

Texas Baptists Communications

AUSTIN—The Baptist General Convention of Texas recently started a young leaders network in an effort to encourage Baptists younger than 40 in their efforts to strengthen churches.

The Texas Baptist Young Professional Leaders Network has had 160 people connect with it in its first five months of existence. Many of the members are connected through Facebook, an online social networking site popular with college students and recent graduates.

The group is scheduling a series of dinners around the state where 20-something young adults gather to discuss Baptists beliefs and reasons they are Baptists. Then they brainstorm ways they can strengthen Baptist churches.

Evangelicals are moving into power, but ends can be unclear, author says

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Evangelicals are moving into power, but ends can be unclear, author says

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—There's no question that in the last few decades evangelical Christians have asserted their growing power in America's

public life.

But veteran reporter Hanna Rosin asks, “By what method and to what end?”

BOOKS: Faith in the Halls of Power

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BOOKS: Faith in the Halls of Power

Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite By Michael Lindsay (Oxford University Press)

A common-but-wrong as-sumption—the evangelical population has burgeoned in the United States since the 1970s—piqued Michael Lindsay’s curiosity and prompted this insightful new book.

“Most people assume that the number of evangelicals had grown dramatically since Jimmy Carter ran for president,” writes Lindsay, a former consultant at the Gallup Institute. He checked the statistics and found that’s not true. The percentage of U.S. adults who claim to be “born again” inched up only six points in 30 years, from 35 percent in 1976 to 41 percent last year.

So, why does it seem like the number of evangelicals has increased rapidly during the past three decades? Lindsay, a sociology professor at Rice University, spent three years criss-crossing the continent 28 times seeking an answer. He interviewed 360 prominent evangelical leaders—not only pastors and heads of denominational and parachurch groups, but also laypeople in the secular marketplace and two former presidents.



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

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Brister to retire at OBU. Oklahoma Baptist University trustees accepted the retirement of President Mark Brister during a mid-October special meeting on the university's campus in Shawnee. Brister, who will retire effective Nov. 10 at the conclusion of OBU's annual homecoming, has led the Christian liberal arts institution since Sept. 1, 1998.



Mark
Brister

His nine-year tenure as OBU's 14th president is the third-longest in the university's 97-year history. During the trustee meeting, John Parrish, executive vice president emeritus, was elected interim president, effective Nov. 11. Parrish retired from the university's administration in November 2002 after more than 38 years at OBU. He was executive vice president and chief financial officer from 1995 until his retirement.

CBF falls short of budget. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship reached only 86 percent of the amount budgeted for its recently completed fiscal year and ended the year with a shortfall, the CBF Coordinating Council learned at its mid-October meeting. CBF leaders reported the Fellowship received \$19.1 million in total revenue, including \$14.8 million in undesignated receipts (a category including the CBF Global Missions Offering), for the 2006-07 fiscal year. Expenses for the year totaled more than \$21.6 million. The \$8.2 million in undesignated contributions for 2006-07 was about \$700,000 less than the previous year, continuing a three-year downturn, according to financial data. The Fellowship's financial report indicated the organization finished the fiscal year 2006-2007 with a shortfall of \$649,974 in unrestricted funds and \$2.5 million total.



Buckner's Lufkin program celebrates 10 years of ministry to single parents

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Buckner's Lufkin program celebrates 10 years of ministry to single parents

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

LUFKIN—[Buckner Family Place](#), a self-sufficiency program for single parents, celebrated its 10th anniversary Oct. 23 with a dedication ceremony of a newly constructed community room named after local philanthropist and advocate Murphy George.

George, who has chaired the Family Place advisory committee since its inception 10 years ago, has been instrumental in leading the cause to support single parents seeking higher education and breaking the cycle of abuse and dependency, Executive Director Judy Morgan said.

Judy Morgan, executive director of Buckner Family Place, presents philanthropist Murphy George with a plaque in recognition of his service at the program's 10th anniversary celebration.
(Photo/Scott Collins/Buckner)

Buckner opens Child Development Center in Romania

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Buckner opens Child Development Center in Romania

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

TARNEVENI, Romania—At least 60 [Roma](#)—also known as “gypsy”—children will be given a head start in life through the opening of

the Buckner Child Development Center in Tarneveni, Romania, a struggling community of 30,000 people with an estimated 85 percent unemployment rate.

Randy Daniels, Buckner's director of global initiatives, recently joined Phil Brinkmeyer, director of Eastern European ministry, and the mayor of Tarneveni for the dedication ceremony of the new center. Twenty children are enrolled, with enrollment expected to grow to 60 by the end of the year.

Buckner's
new
facility in
Romania
will help
Roma
children
like
these.

Howard Payne students join Cancer Walk-a-thon

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Howard Payne students join Cancer Walk-a-thon

Members of the Delta
Chi Rho sorority were
among more than 120

Howard Payne

University students,
faculty and staff who
participated in the
second annual HPU

Breast Cancer

Awareness Walk-a-thon

recently. University

Nurse Sandy Smith

coordinated the event,
which raised more than

\$2,600 to benefit the

Alliance for Women &
Children, which serves

a 23-county area in

west central Texas.

Funds help provide
education, detection
services and treatment.

(Photo/Howard Payne
University)

Cartoon

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CBF council affirms UN anti-poverty goals

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CBF council affirms UN anti-poverty goals

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's governing board endorsed the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, joining many governmental and religious bodies in the global fight against extreme poverty, hunger and disease.

Colleen Burroughs, executive vice president of Passport Camps in

Birmingham, Ala., made a motion at the June general assembly urging CBF to adopt the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for addressing urgent global issues. Her motion asked the council to study the issue. The council's endorsement, approved without opposition, will be presented to the general assembly for approval in June.

New collaboration shows ‘reconstruction’ of Baptist family, CBF leader maintains

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New collaboration shows ‘reconstruction’ of Baptist family, CBF leader maintains

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—The Baptist family is undergoing “something of a reconstruction” these days, said Daniel Vestal, executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

After decades of infighting within and isolation between various Baptist groups, an unprecedented opportunity has emerged for Baptists to work together and learn from each other, said Vestal, a leader among moderate Baptists nationwide.

CBF
Coordinating
Council
members
participate in
a
brainstorming
activity as
part of a
process to
discern
priorities for
the
Fellowship's
work.
(CBF/Lance
Wallace
photo)