

“I love to see people come together to worship”

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‘I love to see people come together to worship’

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

GRAPEVINE—When [Chris Clayton](#) leads worship services at student events, he wants young people to do more than enjoy the experience. He wants them to learn about the meaning of worship and embrace worship as a lifestyle.

“My prayer is that people will be reminded that we serve and worship a holy God who is more than we can ever fathom,” Clayton said. “Sometimes I feel that we often tip our hat to God and go about our week without ever encountering him and recognizing him for the holy and righteous God that he is.”

Chris Clayton

2nd Opinion: A lifelong friend & the Messiah

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2nd Opinion: A lifelong friend & the Messiah

By James Leo Garrett Jr.

He and I became friends in third grade in a public school more than 70 years ago. He was from a Jewish family of the Reform faith. I was from a Southern Baptist family. As a youth, I tried to live as a Christian before my friend but made no overt effort to lead my friend to Christ. Through elementary school, junior high and senior high, our friendship continued. In adulthood, despite living in separate locations, that friendship endured.

My friend turned from the career of his distinguished lawyer father to farming and ranching, becoming a major statewide leader in that field. He was not devoted to Reform Judaism and married a Gentile. He became more accurately a secular man with a high sense of integrity and honesty but believed that death brings the end of existence.

During my friend's later years, as Parkinson's disease began to inhibit his mobility, I visited him more frequently. I gave him selected Messianic passages from the Old Testament, but with little effect, for he was not familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures. But when I gave him Lee Strobel's *The Case for Easter*, he eagerly read it.

A Christian nurse was employed to assist in my friend's home. She later married a student in Baylor University's Truett Seminary. This devoted couple ministered to my friend and his wife, both physically and spiritually. They prayed for and with my friend and shared the gospel of grace and the promise of eternal life. A lady who has a Christian ministry to Jewish people prayed daily for my friend. The pastor of my friend's farm manager came regularly to pray and to give testimony.

God-sized vision drives Corpus Christi church to plant churches

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God-sized vision drives Corpus Christi church to plant churches

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CORPUS CHRISTI—Pastor Bil Cornelius and members of [Bay Area Fellowship](#) have a dream—commit \$ 1 million a year to plant 10 churches a year for 10 years.

“If I heard that from most people, I would think it was a nice plan, but with Bil Cornelius involved, it’s going to happen,” said Ed Jump, director of missions for Corpus Christi Baptist Association.



[Pastor Bil Cornelius,](#)
and his wife,
Jessica,
started
Bay Area Fellowship
in the living room of their apartment with five people.
Ten years later, the church attracts 4,600 people each weekend for worship, and the church has a dream of planting 10 churches a year for 10 years.

Campaign for debt relief brings unlikely allies together

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Campaign for debt relief brings unlikely allies together

By Mary Orndorff

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An Alabama congressman is promoting another round of international debt relief because previous loan forgiveness has improved health care, education and security in developing countries.

[Rep. Spencer Bachus](#) is the lead Republican sponsor on the latest attempt to cancel more longstanding international debt, this time for up to 67 countries where even interest payments can be crushing. His motivation is a mix of religious conviction and concern for human rights and national security, and it dates to 2000 when the first of two debt relief measures was approved.

DOWN HOME: Abundant blessings in a chicken joint

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DOWN HOME: Abundant blessings in a chicken joint

Every now and then, life blossoms with an unexpected-yet-perfect moment. You don't see it coming; you may not even notice when it arrives. But there it is, resplendent in beauty and simplicity and loveliness.

We experienced one of those moments the other night. It was so sacred and special, I'm still savoring it.



To tell you the truth, it was better than I had dreamed. Then again, I don't recall dreaming about eating dinner with my family in a home-cooked fried-chicken joint.

But there we were—Joanna and I, with our daughters, Lindsay and Molly, along with Jo's middle sister, Janis, her dad, Jim, and Molly's friend Katherine.



EDITORIAL: Good words for BGCT: ‘Oh, behave’

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EDITORIAL: Good words for BGCT: ‘Oh, behave’

Cinema’s silly superspy, Austin Powers, doesn’t have much to offer Texas Baptists. But one of his taglines suggests sound advice as we convene for our annual meeting this year: “Oh, behave!”

The behavior of Baptist General Convention of Texas messengers isn’t typically open to serious speculation. We tend to be a rather sober lot. Actions at our annual meetings lean toward the predictable and humdrum. We would do well to pray for humdrum this year.



Speculation regarding behavior revolves around rumored motions and possible responses to those motions as BGCT messengers gather in Amarillo Oct. 29-30.

According to Baptist polity—arguably among the most democratic forms of

governance anywhere—any registered messenger has the right to present motions on matters of concern to the convention. Since we affirm the twin doctrines of soul competency and the priesthood of all believers, we affirm the value of individual inspiration. Throughout our long history, Texas Baptists have benefitted from ideas individuals and small groups have placed before the full convention. And since we are composed of a collection of individuals who function together in community, we vote on those motions and let the group decide which ones merit adoption.

ETBU senior enjoys roaring-good life as mascot, student-athlete

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ETBU senior enjoys roaring-good life as mascot, student-athlete

By David Weaver

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—Spare time is a relative term for [East Texas Baptist University](#) senior Lia Frederick.

For the last two years, Frederick—a member of Calvary Baptist Church in West Orange who attends Central Baptist Church of Marshall during the school year—has participated in both the Lady Tiger cross-country and soccer teams. On the course, she has consistently been one of ETBU’s top two runners. And on the soccer field, she’s been a starter since about midway through the 2006 season.

Lia Frederick and her alter-ego Toby.

Evangelicals look overseas to global concerns

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Evangelicals look overseas to global concerns

By Adelle Banks & Beckie Supiano

Religion News Service

RLINGTON, Va. (RNS)— When United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-

Moon recently addressed U.S. evangelical leaders in a historic forum, there was nervousness on all sides.

Some religious conservatives clung to long-held skepticism about the world body. Meanwhile, some evangelicals were ready to make a bold step in demonstrating their commitment to engage social justice issues on the foreign policy scene.

Evangelicals debate how faith influences politics

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Evangelicals debate how faith influences politics


By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Jim Wallis and Richard Land agree faith should influence public policy. They just can't agree on how.

The two evangelical leaders— one progressive, one conservative—locked horns in a debate at the recent Values Voters Summit in Washington. The event, organized by the [Family Research Council](#), attracted conservative

Christian voters looking for encouragement, advice and leadership going into the 2008 presidential elections.

	
Jim Wallis	Richard Land
Watch excerpts from their discussion here.	

Faith Digest

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Faith Digest

NAE names president. [The National Association of Evangelicals](#) board unanimously elected Leith Anderson as the organization's president.

Leith Anderson

Anderson, pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn., was named interim president in November 2006 following the resignation of former Colorado megachurch pastor Ted Haggard, who was brought down in a sex and drug scandal. Anderson, 63, has been senior pastor of his church, affiliated with the Baptist General Conference, since 1977. The congregation has grown to 5,000 regular attenders during his tenure and is known for its outreach abroad, including to people suffering from HIV/AIDS in Africa.



Group warns Brits to leave clerical collars at home. A British church safety group is advising clergy—from the archbishop of Canterbury on down—to remove clerical collars when they are off duty to reduce the risk of being attacked. A new report issued by National Churchwatch says clergy are in danger from assailants who believe they have money or who bear some sort of “grudge against God.” National Churchwatch, an independent organization that provides clergy with personal safety advice, said priests are attacked more often than those of other professions because they are considered unlikely to fight back. In Britain, five vicars have been murdered in the past decade. In a survey of 90 ministers that Nick Tolson, who heads the safety group, said he conducted last year, nearly half reported they had been attacked in some form during the previous 12 months.

TV news story helps make a family complete

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Collin, Lisa,
Deidre and
Geno Hill
gather
outside of
their home
in
Winnsboro.
The family
first noticed
Deidre on a
local TV
program
highlighting
adoptable
foster
children,
and they
immediately
knew she
was the
one.

TV news story helps make a family complete

By Rebekah Hardage

Communications Intern

WINNSBORO—Few parents can say the first time they saw their daughter

was on TV, but the moment Geno and Lisa Hill saw Deidre's smiling face on a local television news program, they knew she would be a part of their family.

KLTV News in Tyler features a foster child available for adoption on its monthly "Gift of Love" feature. As a result of seeing a story on Deidre, the Hills were introduced to their daughter one year ago this month.

For Southeast Texas foster couple, 14 makes a family

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With 12
children
of all
ages
and
races
living in
their
home,
the
Formans
see it as
God's
calling
on their
lives to
foster.

For Southeast Texas foster couple, 14 makes a family

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

RANGE—At 7 a.m., the Forman residence looks like Grand Central Station. Teenagers of all ages and races—12 of them—race from room to room in search of backpacks, breakfast, clean laundry and medication. Kim Forman sits in a recliner in her living room and watches the chaos unfold.

“This is my chair,” she said while stroking the family’s two dogs on the back of their head. “I just stay out of the way until I’m needed.”