

# Conclave speakers urge youth ministers to remain faithful to divine calling

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David Platt, pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., told youth ministers as long as they have the word of God and the Holy Spirit of God, they have all the tools necessary to make a difference in the lives of students.

# Conclave speakers urge youth ministers to remain faithful to divine calling

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ARLINGTON—Following God’s leadership in youth ministry can be difficult, but it’s well worth it, keynote speakers told participants at the Baptist General Convention of Texas Youth Ministry Conclave.

The time constraints, pressures, and ups and downs of youth ministry can cause burnout and push leaders to question if they should continue serving, said Ralph West, pastor of the [Church Without Walls](#) in Houston. But that comes with the territory.



# Cybercolumn by Jinny Henson: Unpredictably God

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## CYBER COLUMN: Unpredictably God

**By Jinny Henson**

Laughter is one of God's finest gifts. Martin Luther, I recently learned, used a form of laughter therapy in his pastoral counseling to people with depression. From the Healthline.com website: "Martin Luther advised depressed people not to isolate themselves but to surround themselves with friends who could make them laugh."

Laughter is so important because it diffuses life's pressures, and while it may not change the circumstances, it can deeply change you and the seriousness with which you approach them. It is great to enjoy God and each other together. Church should be a joyous place!

Jinny Henson
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# BaptistWay Bible Series for October 28: It's a victorious life

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for October 28**

## It's a victorious life

- Romans 8:12-39

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

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October 19, 2007

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# **BGCT presidential nominees discuss challenges, relationships**

October 19, 2007


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## **BGCT presidential nominees discuss challenges, relationships**

The two announced nominees for president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas answered questions posed by the Baptist Standard.

Joy Fenner, executive director emeritus of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas, and David Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church in Canyon, responded by e-mail to a list of questions submitted by the Standard.



	
Joy Fenner	David Lowrie

Fenner, a former missionary to Japan, was elected first vice president of the BGCT last year. She has been endorsed by leaders of Texas Baptists Committed, a political group created to protect the BGCT from the fundamentalist movement that gained control of the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Steve Wells, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, will nominate Fenner, who led Texas WMU from 1981 to 2001.

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## **RIGHT or WRONG? Old or New Testament**

October 19, 2007

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## **RIGHT or WRONG?**

# Old or New Testament

**Christians call themselves New Testament people. I hear so many moral arguments based on the Old Testament, though. Is there any way a layperson can find some kind of consistency here? I want to be biblical in my thinking and doing.**

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## **DBU president hospitalized for leukemia**

October 19, 2007

Posted: 10/18/07

### **DBU president hospitalized with acute form of leukemia**

Dallas Baptist University President Gary Cook was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia during his annual physical Oct. 12 and immediately was hospitalized.

“AML is a form of leukemia which is very aggressive, and once someone is discovered with this disease, they are required to begin treatment immediately,” according to a statement posted on the DBU website.

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Gary  
Cook

“Unlike other forms of cancer, AML does not necessarily have stages associated with it, and it is still very early in the process to know what the overall diagnosis is. ... Early test results seem to indicate that the particular form of AML that he has will respond well with treatment. Also, since Dr. Cook has remained in such good shape over the years, we are very optimistic about his treatment and recovery.”

Cook, 57, received a platelet transfusion Oct. 13 and began his first round of chemo-therapy the next day. He had a second chemotherapy treatment Oct. 16, and he was placed on oxygen. A third round of chemo-therapy was scheduled Oct. 18.

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## **Gunter resigns as BGCT chief operating officer**

October 19, 2007

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## **Gunter resigns as BGCT chief operating officer**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Ron Gunter, chief operating officer for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the person most responsible for implementing the Executive Board staff reorganization over the last two years, has resigned, effective Nov. 30.

Gunter—a former foreign missionary—joined the BGCT Executive Board staff in 2002 as regional associate in the Houston area. In 2005, the associate executive director’s position was expanded to become chief operating officer, and Gunter was [tapped for the position](#).

Ron Gunter
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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for October 28: RESPECT—Find out what it means**

October 19, 2007  
Posted: 10/18/07

**Bible Studies for Life Series for October 28**

## **RESPECT-Find out what it means**

- Matthew Matthew 5:33-48

[By Steve Dominy](#)

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# Explore the Bible Series for October 28: Centered on Christ

October 19, 2007

Posted:10/18/07

**[Explore the Bible Series for October 28](#)**

## Centered on Christ

- Matthew 16:13-28

**[By Travis Frampton](#)**

*Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene*

In Matthew 16:13-28, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Their responses ranged from John the Baptist, to Elijah, to Jeremiah, to one of the prophets. But Jesus probed deeper: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter boldly answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” As we’ll see, Peter had the right answer, but the wrong understanding.

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# Carolyn Porterfield resigns as Texas WMU chief

October 19, 2007

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## Carolyn Porterfield resigns as Texas WMU chief

**By Ferrell Foster**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—Carolyn Porterfield announced her resignation as executive director-treasurer of the [Woman's Missionary Union of Texas](#) in an Oct. 16 letter to the organization's board of directors.

"I have come to realize that the skill sets required for the position that I now hold do not match well with my gifts and abilities," Porterfield said in the letter. "It is time for me to step aside in order for the next leader to come who can most effectively lead this wonderful organization into her future."

Carolyn Porterfield
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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for October 21: The heart of the matter**

October 19, 2007

Posted: 10/12/07

**Bible Studies for Life Series for October 21**

## **The heart of the matter**

- Matthew 5:21-48

**[By Steve Dominy](#)**