

TOGETHER: Engage all Texans with Christ's gospel

October 12, 2007

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Jesus interrupted the parade and called the despised Zacchaeus out of the tree. He invited himself to go to his house. "Why would he go home with a cheating tax collector?" the crowds murmured?

Jesus gives his own answer when he explains to Zacchaeus, who clearly is touched and changed by the interest Jesus takes in him, "The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost" (Luke 19:10).



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

It's time for us to interrupt our own parade and see the people in the "trees" around us, the people who do not know Jesus but need him in their

lives.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas will help us do this by holding the new “Engage: Evangelizing Texas Conference” Jan. 13-15, 2008, at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, near Dallas. Evangelism Director Jon Randles and his staff are praying and preparing for this special gathering.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: A sea of change

October 12, 2007

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CYBER COLUMN: A sea of change

By John Duncan

I’m sitting here under the old oak tree, musing about change. To me, three things in life appear constant—death, taxes, and change. I look around Granbury and see change over the last 20 years, from Wal-Mart to Home Depot, to new schools and restaurants, to the roads once narrow now wide, to new people who bless my life.

I look at Lakeside Baptist Church and see a sea of change. The people have changed through the years, and so have I. We used to have pot-luck dinners, and now we have to have stuff catered. Change arrives in many

venues, but as good Baptists, we still eat the same thing—fried chicken and biscuits, of course. Some things change, but some do not. I love change. It challenges all of us!

John Duncan

Storylist for 10/15/07 issue

October 12, 2007

Storylist for week of 10/15/07

TAKE ME TO: [Top Story](#) | [Texas](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Baptists](#) | [Faith & Culture](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Departments](#) | [Bible Study](#)



- [The Spirit in Stone](#)



- [2008 BGCT Operating Budget Explanation](#)
- [BGCT budget proposal reflects change in reporting](#)
- [East Texas pastor to be nominated for BGCT 1st VP](#)
- [Rain couldn't put the brakes on church's car rally](#)

- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)
- [Texas Tidbits](#)

The Spirit in Stone: Church architecture renewed

- [The Spirit in Stone](#)
- [Spirituality in architecture gets boost from revival of arts](#)
- [Stained-glass windows tell stories of faith](#)
- [Timeless grace: After 52 years, chapel continues to bless](#)
- [Historic sanctuaries: To be or not to be?](#)



- [Among first missionaries in Burma, Baptists now helping refugees in U.S.](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)



- [Book by former student-body president aims to correct record on Little Rock](#)
- [Presidential hopefuls look to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr](#)
- [Southerners give more to religious organizations](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



- [The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House](#)



- [Cartoon](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)



- [EDITORIAL: Confession comeback? Let's hope so](#)
- [DOWN HOME: Procrastination or patience?](#)
- [TOGETHER: Engage all Texans with Christ's gospel](#)
- [RIGHT or WRONG? Strings attached](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [Cybercolumn by John Duncan: A sea of change](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for October 14: It's a new way of life](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for October 14: High-impact believers](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for October 14: Be patient with others](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for October 21: The heart of the matter](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for October 21: Practice genuine purity](#)

Previously Posted

- [California church leaders question IRS investigation into war sermon](#)
 - [Update: BGCT eliminates 29 staff positions by end of October](#)
 - [Maciel inaugurated as BUA president; pledges commitment to servant leadership](#)
 - [Wayland students demonstrate degree of difference](#)
 - [Expatriate Baptist minister runs for Kenyan Parliament](#)
 - [Howard Payne students serve communityâwith right motive](#)
 - [One verse memorized for the last 79 yearsâand counting](#)
 - [Retired ministers from 22 states gather at Glorieta](#)
 - [BGCT Executive Board OKs reduced budget, staff reduction](#)
 - [BGCT launches internal audit regarding more alleged improprieties in the Valley](#)

 - [See articles from the previous 10/01/07 issue here.](#)
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BaptistWay Bible Series for

October 21: It's God's life in you

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/12/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 21

It's God's life in you

- Romans 8:1-11

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

RIGHT or WRONG? Strings attached

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/12/07

RIGHT or WRONG? Strings attached

A well-to-do couple in our church has offered to buy our softball team's church-league equipment and uniforms if the church will

elect the husband as a deacon and name him chairman. If this request is as haywire as I think it is, how can we respond as a church?

BGCT Executive Board OKs reduced budget, staff reduction

October 12, 2007
Posted: 9/26/07

BGCT Executive Board OKs reduced budget, staff reduction

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—After extensive debate, the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board voted 52-28 to approve a \$50.1 million budget recommendation—a move that eliminates 25 to 30 Baptist Building staff positions.

The board will recommend to the BGCT annual meeting in Oct. 29-30 in Amarillo a \$50,126,356 total budget for 2008—a \$473,644 reduction from the 2007 budget. It includes \$43,326,356 from the Cooperative Program budget and an anticipated \$6.8 million from investment earnings and other

sources.

BGCT launches internal audit regarding more alleged improprieties in the Valley

October 12, 2007

Posted: 9/27/07

BGCT launches internal audit regarding more alleged improprieties in the Valley

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

For the second time in less than a year, the Baptist General Convention of Texas is looking into alleged misuse of church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade reported to the Executive Board Sept. 25 that an internal auditor will examine questions raised regarding \$26,550 in church-starting funds the BGCT provided to First Baptist

Church of Weslaco. The BGCT Missions Funding Committee had approved \$21,000 for the church in 2005 and 2006.

BGCT employees notified about layoffs

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/04/07

Update: BGCT eliminates 29 staff positions by end of October

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—Twenty-nine Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board employees—almost 10 percent of the workforce—received notice Oct. 1-2 that their positions are being eliminated effective Oct. 31.

Of the 29 affected employees, 12 are program staff and 17 are in support and clerical roles.

See Related Article:

- [BGCT Executive Board OKs reduced budget, staff reduction](#)

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 14: It's a new way of life

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/05/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 14

It's a new way of life

- Romans 6:1-19

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for October 14: High-impact believers

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/05/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for October 14

High-impact believers

- Matthew 5:13-20

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Explore the Bible Series for October 14: Be patient with others

October 12, 2007

Posted:10/05/07

Explore the Bible Series for October 14

Be patient with others

- Matthew 13:1-53

[By Travis Frampton](#)

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene

Our family recently moved into a new home out in the country. We have almost completely settled into our new address. Most of the moving boxes

have been unpacked, several of our favorite pictures are hung and window treatments are on the way.

California church leaders question IRS investigation into war sermon

October 12, 2007

Posted: 10/05/07

California church leaders question IRS investigation into war sermon

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

PASADENA, Calif. (ABP)—The Internal Revenue Service has informed a California church it will not be sanctioned for an anti-war sermon preached there in 2004, but church leaders are asking for an apology for an investigation they believe may have been politically motivated.

Edwin Bacon, rector of [All Saints Episcopal Church](#) in Pasadena, Calif., informed parishioners of the IRS decision during worship services Sept. 23. The church had [been under investigation](#) for potential fines or revocation of its tax-exempt status since 2005.