

Transitional living program keeps teen orphans from falling through the cracks

December 14, 2007

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Transitional living program keeps teen orphans from falling through the cracks

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CHISNAU, Moldova—Children’s Emergency Relief International wants to find adult sponsors not only for young children living in orphanages, but also for teenagers who have aged out of the institutions and have no place to go.

Children typically leave Moldova’s orphanages at age 16, at which point they are expected to find a place to live, secure a job and manage their own finances. When many find the challenge too difficult, then end up on the streets or in jail.

Volunteers share warmth of God's love with needy people in Moldova

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Volunteers with Children's Emergency Relief International, the global arm of Baptist Child & Family Services, fit children in Moldova's Transnistrian orphanages with warm socks and winter boots.

Volunteers share warmth of God's love with needy people in Moldova

By George Henson

Staff Writer

TIRASPOL, Moldova—Mission volunteers from Texas, West Virginia and Tennessee converged on Moldova's Transnistrian region to warm the hearts—not to mention heads and feet—of impoverished people.

Children's Emergency Relief International, the international arm of Baptist Child & Family Services, facilitated the trip. Volunteers delivered shoes, winter boots, socks and hats to 31 churches, three correctional facilities, three adult-care facilities for the elderly or disabled, three day-care centers and 12 orphanages.

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Children beam with joy as they receive new shoes and socks from volunteers with Children's Emergency Relief International.

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Storylist for week of 12/17/07

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We're sorry, but the Explore the Bible lessons will not be posted for at least the remainder of 2007.

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2nd Opinion: The two sides of advent

December 14, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07

2nd Opinion: The two sides of advent

By Jason Patrick

As a pastor, I've experienced a few difficult Advent seasons in recent years. The season of great expectations seemingly arrives when I've experienced significant personal losses.

As a 24-year-old pastor in west Texas during the Advent season of 1999, I was going through the initial stages of a divorce; yet I was fortunate to have the comforting church family of Champion Baptist Church hold me up.



Advent: Red Letter Days

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Two years later, while pastoring a church in Waco, Advent arrived soon after I received the news that my ex-wife and daughter were moving to Virginia. I knew the time I spent with my daughter would suffer significantly. They eventually moved back to Texas four years later, and I am thankful. But at the time of their departure, I leaned heavily upon Downsville Baptist Church. They held their pastor up.

Seven tips for the 2007 tax-filing season

December 14, 2007

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Seven tips for the 2007 tax-filing season

By Sherre Stephens

Get Organized.

Early preparation for the upcoming tax filing season is best. A survey for the 2006 tax season showed that 2 in 5 Americans procrastinate when it comes to filing their tax return. Whether you are an early or late preparer, here are tips to aid in preparing your 2007 tax return.

End of CBF/ABC partnership leaves future of medical/retirement benefits in doubt

December 14, 2007

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End of CBF/ABC partnership leaves future of medical/retirement benefits in doubt

By John Pierce

Baptists Today

ATLANTA (ABP)—A seven-year partnership between American Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which has allowed CBF-related churches to buy retirement and medical benefits, will end Dec. 31.

The end of the partnership is leaving some church leaders confused about the future of their benefits. The arrangement is between CBF's seven-year-old Church Benefits Board and the 96-year-old Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches.

Huckabee's surge in polls brings new media attention, scrutiny

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Huckabee's surge in polls brings new media attention, scrutiny

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Mike Huckabee has gone from long-shot candidate to serious GOP presidential contender in only a few weeks—and his media coverage has gone from curious bemusement to serious analysis of his past record.

The result is both good and bad for the former governor of Arkansas and pastor who served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Mike Huckabee

Former atheist shapes God-centered program in Moldova

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Tatiana Ceban is working with Children's Emergency Relief International to develop a transitional living program for young people who have graduated from the government-run orphanages in Moldova.

Former atheist shapes

God-centered program in Moldova

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO—Five weeks in North Carolina undid a lifetime of atheistic indoctrination for Tatiana Ceban. Nearly 14 years later, she is helping Baptist Child & Family Services craft a transitional living program for youth who have aged out of government-run orphanages in Moldova.

“The most important goal is to teach everything through God’s perspective,” she said.

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 23: More than meets the eye

December 14, 2007

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BaptistWay Bible Series for December 23

More than meets the eye

- Mark 4:21-34

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

RIGHT or WRONG? Meaning of persecution

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RIGHT or WRONG? Meaning of persecution

The other day, my Christian neighbor and I had an “across the fence” discussion that turned to theology. When I mildly disagreed with him, he responded, “You are persecuting me!” and walked away. Just what constitutes “persecution for righteousness sake”? I think my neighbor is acting self-righteously.

Around the State

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Around the State

- **The School of Christian Studies** at East Texas Baptist University will sponsor a trip to Greece next summer. The trip will focus on locations associated with the Apostle Paul and his ministry. The trip departs May 30 and returns June 10 after a final evening in Vienna, Austria. A \$500 deposit is due Feb. 1. For more information, call (903) 923-2182.
 - **William Brackney** was the keynote speaker for Dallas Baptist University's Gallup Lecture. He addressed issues of Baptist identity and tradition within the academic world.
 - **Howard Payne University** bestowed two honorary degrees during Dec. 15 commencement ceremonies. James Guenther and Cynthia Clawson each received honorary doctor of humanities degrees. Guenther has served as general counsel of the Southern Baptist Convention more than 40 years. An alumnus of HPU, Clawson has been a Christian recording artist more than four decades and is a member of the Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Seventy-two undergraduate degrees also were awarded.
 - **Nearly 800 Baylor University students** expected to participate in commencement exercises Dec. 15. During the ceremony, the Abner V. McCall Religious Liberty Award was to be presented to U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards.
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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

***Christianity's Family Tree* by Adam Hamilton (Abingdon Press)**

How did all the Christian denominations come to be? What do they believe? More importantly, what can they teach me about being a better disciple of Jesus Christ? These are the questions Adam Hamilton's *Christianity's Family Tree* sets out to answer.

As the name implies, Hamilton views the various denominations as part of the whole Christian family. Seen from his self-acknowledged United Methodist viewpoint, Hamilton's outlook on church history is charitable and lucid. He neither ignores nor dwells on the major theological differences. Instead, he finds the strengths all Christians can learn from the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal and Methodist traditions.



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

Christianity's Family Tree is first and foremost a book of discipleship, and it never strays from this main goal of making "more authentic and effective disciples of Jesus Christ." Through solid historical and theological detail, Hamilton delivers a read on the denominations that will inspire faith. It is ideal for any small group that desires to learn how the history of the various churches can deepen their journey with God.