

Rich pastors not common, but not endangered species

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Rich pastors not common, but not endangered species

By Matt Kennedy

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Success in many professions is expected to bring riches. With pastors, however, luxurious lifestyles traditionally are frowned upon. Some people have a hard time listening to sermons against greed and false idols from a pastor wearing a Rolex and a new Armani suit.

Nonetheless, the wealthy pastor is not an endangered species. The growth of megachurches, big book deals and media stardom have increased their number in recent years.



Joel Osteen discontinued receiving his \$200,000 salary from Lakewood Church in Houston after his first book, *Your Best Life Now*, sold more than 4 million copies. Some sources have reported he could earn up to \$13 million on the contract for his second book. (RNS photo/courtesy of Lakewood Church)

Two years after Hurricane Rita, Southeast Texas still rebuilds

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Volunteers

(left to
right)

Crystal

Moody,

Morgan

McNew,

Natalie

Bagley and

Victoria

Waugh

help paint a

house as

part of

Nehemiah's

Vision.

Two years after Hurricane Rita, Southeast Texas still rebuilds

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

VIDOR—It sounds like a story from two years ago—victims of hurricane Rita receiving help from total strangers—but this is not an old newspaper.

For most Americans, the horrors of Rita have become a distant memory. But many Southeast Texas residents still live in the same nightmare as in the day the storm struck.

Austrian students have Super Summer of service in Texas

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Austrian students have Super Summer of service in Texas

By Jessica Dooley

Communications Intern

ABILENE—For the first time all day, students are quiet. They are clean and groomed, with only trace amounts of colored paint on their faces giving away an eventful afternoon. They stand and lift their hands as they sing praises to God.

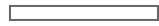
Hours earlier, the high school and junior high students were playing in bird seed, marshmallows, syrup and a variety of sticky, slimy stuff.

East Texas Baptist University was a host campus for Super Summer, a school of evangelism conducted by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Super Summer offers training opportunities for Christian young people interested in advancing their personal spiritual growth and learning more about how to share Christ with others.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Memorials committee seeks names. The Baptist General Convention of Texas at its annual meeting honors Texas Baptists who have died during the preceding year. The memorial committee invites Texas Baptists to identify individuals whose lives made a contribution to their churches and to the state. Call (214) 828-5348 or email debbie.moody@bgct.org before Oct. 1.

BGCT leadership leader takes seminary post. Reggie Thomas, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas congregational leadership team, is leaving the Texas convention to head the Southern California campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. BGCT Chief Operating Officer Ron Gunter will serve as interim director of the congregational leadership team until a new director is named. In other staff moves, Josue Valerio, director of the BGCT missions team, was named interim director of BGCT Border/Mexico Missions, filling the vacancy left when Dexton Shores moved to Buckner International.

TOGETHER: Missions requires balanced approach

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TOGETHER: Missions requires balanced approach

Missions has changed. Churches no longer see missions as simply something a select few do while the churches provide the money and prayers. More and more church members are getting involved in missions themselves, and this is a powerful engine for kingdom advance, which I applaud.

I want our churches to do more direct missions, but I also want every church to remain committed to cooperative missions through the BGCT. There is a temptation for a church to lower its support for cooperative missions in order to fund efforts they know on a more personal basis. When churches do this, it can create a serious lack of support for cooperative missions.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Ironically, the motivation and encouragement for the increased emphasis on local and global efforts by a congregation often has come about because of the efforts of our convention. For example, our efforts to develop key mission churches by helping them call ministers of missions and to expose our churches to Partnership Missions opportunities in countries around the globe has created an unbelievable explosion of local-church involvement in missions.

In Texas, we can see the power of cooperative effort. Through the BGCT Cooperative Program, you support missionaries around the world, theological training for our future pastors and leaders, and church starting in Texas and throughout the United States. Last year, we started 204 churches in Texas. And we now have 103 cowboy churches—80 of them started since October 2004.

Collaboration essential part of effective mentoring

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Collaboration essential part of effective mentoring

By Mark Wingfield

Special to the Baptist Standard

DALLAS—It's not coincidental that the pastoral residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church occurs in a group context.

Wilshire employs four pastoral residents with help from the Lilly Endowment and supports a music ministry resident out of the church budget. The five young ministers work out of a shared office space and collaborate on many of their weekly tasks.

**The church has a new pastor.
When will it start to feel**

normal?

August 17, 2007

Posted: 8/17/07

The church has a new pastor. When will it start to feel normal?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—When a beloved pastor leaves a church, the replacement often faces an uphill battle in winning the trust and respect of the congregation. Sometimes, the newcomer faces a challenge simply in getting people to remember his name.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church in Amarillo for more than 30 years, said long after his arrival, members would mistakenly call him by the name of his predecessor—who had retired years earlier.

Pastoral residency offers mentoring for young ministers

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Young ministers who have been through the pastoral residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas include (left to right) Jay Hogewood, Sean Allen, Amy Grizzle, Brad Jernberg, Ann Bell Worley, David King, Jake Hall and Andrew Daugherty. Not pictured is second-year resident Anne Jernberg.

Pastoral residency offers mentoring for young ministers

By **Mark Wingfield**

Special to the Baptist Standard

ALLAS—When a Baptist minister graduates from seminary or divinity school, what factors predict whether that person will succeed or fail in local church ministry?

Educational training plays a part, as does the personality of the congregation the minister serves. But according to data gathered by the Lilly Endowment, other intangibles play perhaps an even greater role in predicting whether that minister will remain in ministry five, 10 or 15 years down the road.

Students want to serve God's kingdom not necessarily in the church

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Randall Maurer,
professor of
psychology and
family ministries
at Hardin-
Simmons
University, leads
a discussion
forum of
(clockwise from
left) Amanda
Cutbirth,
Ramundo Silva,
Meredith Stone
and Daniel
Dotson.
(Photos/courtesy
of Hardin-
Simmons
University)

Students want to serve God's kingdom - not necessarily in the church

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

College students who feel a calling into ministry passionately want to make a difference for God's kingdom. But a significant number don't believe the local-church setting is the place to do it, according to guidance directors

for ministerial students at some Baptist schools.

“I think that for both positive and negative reasons, a lot of young people don’t see themselves settling into local-church ministry positions,” said Omer Hancock, professor of church ministry and director of in-service guidance at Hardin-Simmons University’s Logsdon School of Theology. “An increasing number of our students are gravitating to other areas—other expressions of ministry.”



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PASSING THE TORCH: Does pastoral transition have to be

hard?

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PASSING THE TORCH:

Does pastoral transition have to be hard?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

When a longtime pastor leaves, succession can be sticky

When the only pastor an entire generation at a church has known leaves, there's no set model for ensuring a smooth transition, experts say. The right way to do it at one time in a church's history may be wrong at another time. And orchestrating a succession at a mega-church is much different than easing into one in a smaller community.

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August 17, 2007

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Pentagon investigation faults generals for endorsing evangelical ministry

August 17, 2007

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Pentagon investigation faults generals for endorsing evangelical ministry

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A group of high-ranking Pentagon officials improperly endorsed and aided an evangelical Christian ministry, according to a Defense Department investigation recently made public.

The Department of Defense inspector general's report was dated July 20 and released to the public by the [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#). The watchdog group requested an investigation last year into a promotional video for Christian Embassy.