

# Churches see themselves as missions-sending entities

July 6, 2007  
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## Churches see themselves as missions-sending entities

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

NOXVILLE, Tenn.—While Baptist missiologists and prognosticators are declaring church-based missions the future of global outreach, some pastors believe it's the present, as their congregations serve around the world.

Although the evidence is largely anecdotal, many Baptists believe churches doing mission work overseas without the help of missions boards, agencies or parachurch organizations is on the rise. The trend began with congregations taking short-term mission trips, but it has shifted toward churches that send members to the mission field for longer periods of time.

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Greg Adams  
from  
Cottonwood  
Baptist  
Church in  
Dublin  
ministers to  
a woman  
who lives in  
Asia. The  
church,  
which  
directly  
supports  
missionaries  
around the  
world, has  
long-term  
missions  
commitments  
to several  
people  
groups  
around the  
globe.

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# **Back to the future, as missionaries raise their own financial support**

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## **Back to the future, as missionaries raise their own financial support**

**By Jennifer Harris**

*Missouri Word & Way*

Career missionaries may be cutting the middleman from the flow of missions dollars, say experts in the study of mission trends. While denominational agencies and missions partners will not be out of the picture, their roles may change—and perhaps already are.

Larry and Sarah Ballew serve in Macau as affiliates in the [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) As You Go program. The Ballews raise their own financial support, relying on relationships with churches and individuals in the States to stay in Macau. The Ballews already had been in Macau several years before working with CBF.

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# Technology changes the way missionaries work

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## Technology changes the way missionaries work

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW YORK (ABP)—Most Baptist missions leaders agree technology has changed the face of missions. What they don't agree on is what it has changed the most.

Some claim centralized integration of information has radically reshaped the mission process. Others think easier and expedited communication has changed the very nature of field work. Still others credit visual and audio media with changing the fund-raising, recruiting and promotional landscape forever.

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## What is the future of missions?

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Southern  
Baptist  
Missionary  
Scott Bradford  
joins a friend  
for a traditional  
African tea  
ceremony  
known as  
“warga.” The  
two-hour  
ceremony takes  
places three  
times a day and  
consists of  
three rounds of  
tea, each  
progressively  
sweeter than  
the last. Short-  
term volunteer  
trips cannot  
take the place  
of this kind of  
“incarnational”  
presence by  
career  
missionaries,  
according to Ed  
Stetzer,  
director of  
LifeWay  
Research. (IMB  
Photo)

# What is the future of missions?

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

As churches and individual Christians demand more hands-on, practical connection to missions, some Baptists are questioning whether a missions-by-proxy approach—churches supporting professional career missionaries sent by large denominational agencies— has a future.

Count Ken Hall, president of [Buckner International](#), among them.

## **See Related Articles:**

- What is the future of missions?
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    - [Embracing the World: The Church and Global Mission in the 21st Century](#)

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# On the Move

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## On the Move

- **Lisa Bonnet** to First Church in Evant as youth minister.
- **Bob Elliott** to Dogwood Hills Church in Woodville as intentional interim pastor.
- **H.B. Graves** to Barre, Vt., as missionary and seminary teacher.
- **Martha Kate Hall** to Northside Church in Corsicana as minister of preschool and children.

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# No holiday for Texas Baptist disaster relief workers

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# No holiday for Texas Baptist disaster relief workers

By **Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

WICHITA FALLS—A half-dozen Texas Baptist Men disaster relief crews restored homes and hope during the July 4 holiday as heavy rain and flooding continued to ravage the state.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Disaster Response Team also began processing family aid requests as BGCT church strategists assessed family needs.

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## Texas Tidbits

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## Texas Tidbits

**Baylor School of Social Work named partner.** For the first time, the [Baylor University School of Social Work](#) has been named a partner school by the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The School of Social Work offers bachelor's and master's degrees in social work. It also participates in a program to offer a master of social work/master of divinity degree with

[Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary](#), which also is a CBF partner school.

**Guajardo leads CBF Texas.** Alcides Guajardo of Mineral, immediate past president of the [Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas](#), was elected moderator of the [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas](#) at the national CBF general assembly June 28. He takes the place of Ronald Edwards of Goliad, who died this spring. Other officers are Jorene Swift of Fort Worth, moderator-elect, and Ken Huggins of Huntsville, recording secretary. New members of the CBF Texas coordinating council are Burt Burleson, Waco; Robert Cepeda, Los Fresnos; Sandra Cisneros, Victoria; Joe Fields, Lewisville; Charles Higgs, Stephenville; Fred Hobbs, Victoria; Judy Joy, Covington; Ella Prichard, Corpus Christi; Jesse Rincones, Lubbock; Taylor Sandlin, San Angelo; Ross Shelton, Castroville; Carolyn Strickland, Dallas; Andrew Villarreal, San Antonio; and Jorge Zapata, Harlingen. Texans elected to national CBF positions include Rodney McGlothlin of College Station, Janie Sellers of Abilene and Philip Wise of Lubbock, coordinating council; Debbie Ferrier of Houston, nominating committee; Tommy Hiebert of San Angelo, Church Benefits Board; and Patricia Ayres of Austin and Os Chrisman of Dallas, CBF Foundation.

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**TOGETHER:            Immigration  
ministries merit support**

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# **TOGETHER:**

## **Immigration ministries merit support**

Texas has a long history of immigration. U.S. Anglos, led by Stephen F. Austin, entered the northern Mexican province of Texas in 1822. Many settlers came with Mexican authorization, but many more came on their own without legal papers.

Now, we are seeing many from Mexico and other nations come into Texas—both legally and illegally.



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There is no question the United States must secure its borders, and that is something for which the federal government has responsibility.

Baptist churches, on the other hand, have a responsibility to tell and to show people they are loved by God and he desires a personal relationship with them through his Son, Jesus Christ.

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# Trust level in religion at near-record low

July 6, 2007

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## Trust level in religion at near-record low

**By Michelle Rindels**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans trust the military and the police significantly more than the church and organized religion, a new [Gallup Poll](#) reveals.

Only 46 percent of respondents said they had either a “great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in the church, compared with 69 percent who said they trusted the military and 54 percent who trust police officers.

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for July 15: A life going absolutely nowhere**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for July 15**

## **A life going absolutely nowhere**

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

[By Toby Castleberry](#)

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## **Bible Studies for Life Series for July 15: Sharing Christ with all people**

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**Bible Studies for Life Series for July 15**

# Sharing Christ with all people

- Acts 6:1-7; 9:36-43; 11:29-30

[By David Harp](#)

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## Explore the Bible Series for July 15: Zechariah calls us to repentance

July 6, 2007

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[Explore the Bible Series for July 15](#)

### Zechariah calls us to repentance

- Zechariah 1:1-3:10

[By Kathryn Aragon](#)

*First Baptist Church, Duncanville*

“Return to me,” declares the Lord Almighty, “and I will return to you” (1:3). The harsh opening belies the gentleness of Zechariah’s message. Instead of condemning us for turning away from God, Zechariah reminds us that God remembers his people and his promises. It’s a fitting message

from a man whose name means "The Lord Remembers."