

Brothers find home for Christmas

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Brothers find home for Christmas

By Bill Martin

Children at Heart Ministries

ROUND ROCK—For one of the few times in their young lives, Trey and Derek Atkins will have a real home for Christmas, thanks to Charlie and Cindy Goble, a Burnet couple who thought their childrearing days were behind them.

“To see God working and then be allowed to be right in the middle of it is an amazing and humbling experience,” Cindy Goble said.

Derek (left)
and Trey
Atkins had
been in and
out of
children's
homes most
of their
young lives,
and they
never
thought
they would
be adopted.
Charlie and
Cindy Goble
of Burnet
thought
their
childrearing
days were
over. But
they all
believe God
had other
ideas.
(Photo
courtesy of
Children at
Heart
Ministries)

South Texas Children's Home names president, CEO

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South Texas Children's Home names president, CEO

BEEVILLE—Todd Roberson has been named president and chief executive officer of [South Texas Children's Home](#), where he has served 15 years in a variety of administrative posts.

Roberson becomes the fifth president of the children's home, succeeding Jerry Haag, who resigned earlier this year to become president of Florida Baptist Children's Home.

Todd Roberson

Roberson has served as interim president of the children's home since July 1.

He joined the South Texas Children's Home staff in 1992 as assistant business administrator. He went on to hold two vice presidential posts—first for business administration and later for development—before becoming chief operating officer.

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 9: A Faith Worth Acting On

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BaptistWay Bible Series for December 9

A Faith Worth Acting On

- Mark 2:1-12

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Adams provides pastoral care to HIV/AIDS community in New York

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Adams provides pastoral care to HIV/AIDS community in New York

By Patricia Heys

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

NEW YORK—In the mid-1980s, as the growing prevalence of AIDS began to capture the attention of Americans, Ronnie Adams attended an educational session about the disease. The lesson he learned—not from the presenter but from the people seated next to him—changed the course of his ministry.

At the time, Adams served as the minister for singles adults at First Baptist Church of Plano, and he decided it would be important for a minister to learn more about the epidemic. But he wasn't prepared for the reaction he received when he introduced himself at the training session.

Ronnie Adams

Study links video violence to aggressive behavior

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Study links video violence to aggressive behavior

By **Ken Camp**

Managing Editor

Repeated exposure to video violence—particularly interactive games—influences aggressive behavior more than drug use, poverty or domestic abuse, a University of Michigan researcher has asserted.

In fact, the correlation between media violence and aggression is at least as strong as the link between exposure to second-hand smoke and lung cancer, said Brad Bushman, psychology professor and research associate in the university's [Institute for Social Research](#).

Family Place helps mother leave fear behind

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Family Place helps mother leave fear behind

By **Analiz González**

Buckner International

MIDLAND—Ambra Riley spent the night in her daughters' room holding her baby tightly in her arms. She put something over the doorknob so she'd know if her husband tried to enter.

Her husband may have stolen her self-esteem and robbed her family of happiness, but he would not take her son, she reasoned.

Ambra Riley
hugs her
children
outside her
home at
Buckner
Family Place,
a self-
sufficiency
program for
single moms
working
towards a
college
education in
Midland,
Texas.

Mission workers help bring clean water, love of Christ to Ethiopia

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Mission workers help bring clean water, love of Christ to Ethiopia

By Carla Wynn Davis

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

RIFT VALLEY, Ethiopia (ABP)— Nearly 75 percent of Ethiopians—about 55 million people—lack access to clean water. It's a crisis not discussed often enough, according to missionary workers there.

Many Ethiopians drink from rivers in areas known for famine, malnutrition and cholera outbreaks. That "silent tsunami" is responsible for the deaths of millions around the world each year, said David Harding, a field representative with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In Ethiopia, children often spend a lot of their time each day fetching water instead of going to school or helping on their family's farm.
(CBF Photo)

Stem-cell breakthrough may not end debateâ€”at least for

now

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Stem-cell breakthrough may not end debate—at least for now

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Although many religious conservatives cheered the recent announcement of a breakthrough in stem-cell research, the moral controversy over the practice may not end any time soon.

The announcement—made by independent teams of scientists working in Japan and Wisconsin—holds the promise of cures for a host of debilitating and terminal diseases. Scientists have studied embryonic stem cells for more than a decade because of their potential to become any one of more than 200 types of tissues in the human body.

Veteran Baptist journalist Roy Jennings dies at age 83

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Veteran Baptist journalist Roy Jennings dies at age 83

By **Lonnie Wilkey**

Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. (ABP)—Veteran Southern Baptist journalist Roy Jennings died Nov. 22. He was 83.

Jennings is best known in Southern Baptist circles for his work as news editor in the newsrooms at the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was also instrumental in helping Southern Baptist journalists gain the respect of their secular counterparts.

Baptist pastor on hit list in Turkey

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Baptist pastor on hit list in Turkey

Washington, D.C. (BWA)—A Baptist pastor in Turkey has been placed on a death list.

Ertan Mesut Cevik, pastor of a Baptist church in Izmir, the modern name

for biblical Smyrna, and Turkey's third largest city by population, has received increased police protection after his name was found on a list carried by three suspected terrorists. The three, who are arrested, are suspected of planning wide scale attacks after a large cache of weapons was found in their possession.

Cevik has been under police protection since April 2007 after he hosted a funeral service for one of three Christians that was killed in Turkey on April 18. Two of the murder victims, Necati Aydin, 36, and Ugur Yuksel, 32, were Turks who converted from Islam to Christianity. The third man, Tillman Geske, 46, was a German citizen.

The Baptist pastor was also protected after he and the Baptist congregation were accused in a Turkish newspaper article, published after the three murders in April, of engaging in "coercive evangelism" by using money and drugs to attract young people. These charges were denied by the church.

Need help understanding the Old Testament? Ask an African Christian

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Need help understanding the Old Testament? Ask an African Christian

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

SAN DIEGO (ABP)—African Christians tend to understand and appreciate the Old Testament far better than their Western counterparts, author Philip Jenkins told a group of evangelical scholars.

Jenkins, a professor of religious studies and history at Pennsylvania State University, spoke in San Diego to fellow members of the Evangelical Theological Society. His speech was one of several addresses and papers presented during the body's 59th annual meeting.

Cultures that espouse tribal identities and are intimately acquainted with animal sacrifice, dietary restrictions, polygamy, sacred rocks and the like are well-equipped to read and identify with the Hebrew Bible's stories

Around the State

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Around the State

- **E-mails of support** for military personnel and their families are being collected for inclusion with Christmas cards and care packages to be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan during the holiday season. The e-mails can be sent to OperationEagle@comcast.net.

- **Andy and Joan Horner** have been named recipients of the 2007 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award by Dallas Baptist University. Gov. Rick Perry was the keynote speaker, and Bo Pilgrim, founder and CEO of Pilgrim's Pride, was the honorary chair of the dinner, which drew more than 1,200 in attendance. The Horners are the founders of the Premier Designs direct-sales jewelry company and are members of First Church in Dallas.



Judy Lyssy, a San Marcos Baptist Academy parent, made a \$25,000 donation to the school to fund new media and development tools and equip the golf team with new equipment and uniforms. She made the donation in support of the school's centennial celebration capital campaign. The campaign has a phase one goal of \$2.1 million, and a \$3.6 million goal for the second phase. Other projects slated for funding include dormitory renovations, improvements in the athletic fields, campus-wide technology upgrades, and building renovations and upgrades.

- **The East Texas Baptist University** Office of Alumni Relations presented its J. Wesley Smith Achievement Award to Lanny Loe, executive pastor of First Church in Jonesboro, Ga., in recognition of his mobilization of more than 20 percent of the church's members in foreign missions projects. The W.T. Tardy Service Award was presented to Jim and Janet Palmer. He taught at the school 26 years, and the couple has supported the school with their time and financial gifts. The Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Tequecie Meek and Randy Pegues in recognition of their contributions to society. Bob and Carol Braly received the Unsung Hero Award for his work as a pastor and chaplain to law enforcement agencies in Louisiana and her support of his ministry. Bonnie Kay, the university's oldest-living alumnus at 99 years of age, received the Sallie M. Duncan Life Enrichment Award.

- **Priscilla Heard**, a piano teacher and music educator, has been inducted into the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor music department's hall of fame as its 30th Distinguished Musician.