

DOWN HOME: Adjustment needed in half-empty nest

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Joanna and I are negotiating a phase of parenthood I've never seen written up in any book.

That's amazing in and of itself. How could any aspect of parenthood go unexamined, unchronicled, unsold to desperate moms and dads frantic to figure out how to raise Junior and Bitsy to responsible adulthood?

Maybe this part got overlooked precisely because it's so close to adulthood. Nobody thought to, well, think about it.

I'm talking about summer during college.

EDITORIAL: The future of Texas

depends on this

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The future of Texas depends on this

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board made several far-reaching decisions during its spring meeting May 21-22. As significant as all of them were, the influence of one could extend well beyond the others.

First, the board [approved a 15-member search committee](#) to nominate the convention's next executive director. This leader will help shape and focus the convention during the coming years, and the influence could extend for decades.



Second, the board [accepted the suggestion](#) of Stephen Wakefield, the convention's attorney, not to file lawsuits to recover funds lost in the Rio Grande Valley church-starting scandal. "The likelihood of recovery of significant funds is speculative at best," Wakefield told the board. Although many Texas Baptists are disappointed, his logic is solid. And while criminal charges still may be filed, this brings one portion of this sad saga to a close.

Third, the board allocated proceeds from a recent gift to help retire the debt on Breckenridge Village at Tyler. The ministry to special-needs adults has been strapped since it opened about a decade ago. By ensuring financial viability, the board can secure care for many of God's children for generations.

Faith Digest

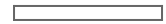
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Faith Digest

Many professors take dim view of evangelicals. About half of nonevangelical university faculty acknowledge they don't have warm feelings about evangelical Christians, a new survey shows. A survey released by the San Francisco-based [Institute for Jewish & Community Research](#) found 53 percent said they have "cool/unfavorable feelings" toward evangelical Christians. In comparison, 30 percent said they had favorable feelings toward them, 9 percent were neutral, 4 percent said they didn't know and 4 percent refused to answer. One-third of non-Mormon faculty reported unfavorable views of Mormons. Views about other religious groups were more positive, with Muslims getting a 22 percent unfavorable rating, followed by atheists (18 percent), Catholics (13 percent), persons not practicing any religion (10 percent), nonevangelical Christians (9 percent), Buddhists (4 percent) and Jews (3 percent). Faculty from any particular group were excluded from rating other members of their faith. Results of the online survey were based on a sample of 1,269

faculty members at 712 four-year colleges and universities. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.



Archaeologists uncover Herod's tomb. Israeli archaeologists believe they have discovered the tomb of King Herod. Professor Ehud Netzer from the [Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University](#) in Jerusalem said his team discovered the tomb during ongoing excavations at Herodium, a once-magnificent palace located nine miles south of Jerusalem, in what is now the West Bank. Pointing to intricately carved remains from the excavation, Netzer said his team discovered a grave, fragments from a sarcophagus and a mausoleum on Mount Herodium's northeastern slope. "The location and the unique nature of the findings, as well as the historical record leave no doubt that this was Herod's burial site," Netzer said. Herod, who was appointed by the Romans, ruled Judea from 37 to 4 B.C. The New Testament says Jesus was born during Herod's reign and Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt because the king planned to kill the infant Jesus.

Granbury church believes in old-time religion — first-century Christianity

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Granbury church believes in old-time religion—first-century Christianity

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GRANBURY—Pastor C.C. Risenhoover and worship leader David Humphrey of Gateway Community Church in Granbury have more than 100 years ministry experience between them, and they say they are tied to tradition. But the tradition they seek to follow is the first-century church, as illustrated in the second chapter of Acts.

Recently, the church ordained eight members to serve as pastors for the church's various ministries—Chad Carroll for evangelism, Randa Carroll for administration, Terry King for discipleship, Joanne King for fellowship, Jackie Solomon for media and youth, Margie Solomon for youth, Johnnie Couch for children and Lindsay Luedeker for children and outreach.

As Senate debates immigration bill, Christian leaders say it's worth a shot

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As Senate debates immigration bill, Christian leaders say it's worth a shot

By **Robert Marus**

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—It may face an uphill battle in Congress, but some Christian leaders are saying the Senate's [latest immigration-reform proposal](#) is better than doing nothing on the issue.

The legislation passed an initial test when the Senate voted May 21 to move forward with considering it. However, the bill's sponsors conceded that evening that it likely would be impossible to get to a final vote on it prior to the chamber's long Memorial Day vacation. That meant critics would have more time to organize opposition to the proposal.

Texas Tidbits

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How 'early'?

Francis Beckwith stated he returned to Roman Catholicism because he "became convinced that the Early Church is more Catholic than Protestant"

([May 14](#)).

This is according to how “early” he means. If he means the fourth century church of Constantine, then there may be room for debate.

Letters are welcomed. Send them
to
marvknox@baptiststandard.com;
250 words maximum.

Out ((Loud))

"I feel I'm being tested right now—my character, my faith, how I conduct myself. It's different. But I love it. If God allows this test to be on me, hey, I'm willing to carry it."

Mariano Rivera

Closer for the New York Yankees, on his poor start this season (New York Daily News/RNS)

"My party has to demonstrate that it's not afraid to deal with the faith issue and has a candidate who the public thinks knows there's something bigger than he or she is and is comfortable with that. We treat it like a third rail within our party."

Joe Biden

Democratic presidential candidate (Associated Press/RNS)

"Speaking as a private citizen and not on behalf of any organization or party, I cannot, and will not, vote for Rudy Giuliani in 2008. It is an irrevocable decision."

James Dobson

Radio talk-show host and fundamentalist leader (WorldNetDaily/RNS)

But if "early" refers to the New Testament church, then there is little

resemblance to Roman Catholicism.

Men's groups plan event to mark 10th anniversary of Washington Mall rally

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Men's groups plan event to mark 10th anniversary of Washington Mall rally

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Leaders of a network of Christian men's ministries have announced plans to hold a 10th anniversary gathering of men on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

Leaders of the Washington Area Coalition of Men's Ministries and the National Coalition of Men's Ministries are sponsoring the [Stand in the Gap 2007](#) event. It is set to take place Oct. 6, a decade after Promise Keepers, an evangelical Christian men's ministry, brought tens of thousands of men to the National Mall.

Ministry provides Michigan-to-Moldova link

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Ministry provides Michigan-to-Moldova link

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

AN ANTONIO—A World War II veteran in Michigan and orphans in Moldova could play six degrees of separation—the parlor game that challenges people to connect random people or places in six steps or fewer—thanks to Children’s Emergency Relief International.

Step one—Moldovan orphans capture the hearts of volunteers with Children’s Emergency Relief International, the overseas arm of Baptist Child & Family Services.

“I am persuaded supplying 12,495 pairs of shoes to these needy children can be as helpful—or maybe more so—than millions of dollars of government aid ... that sometimes winds up in the wrong pockets.”

On the Move

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On the Move

- **John Barnard** to First Church in Brenham as student minister.
 - **Jerry Benavidez** has resigned as pastor of Broadway Church in San Marcos.
 - **Brian Blackburn** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Pearsall to become camp director for the Georgia Baptist Convention.
 - **Josh Bolch** to Pandora Mission Church in Pandora as pastor.
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Southern Baptists may consider another public school resolution

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Southern Baptists may consider another public school resolution

By Greg Horton

Religion News Service

HOUSTON (RNS)—A resolution calling on Southern Baptist churches to

“create more Christian alternatives to the public schools” has been drafted and submitted for the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting June 12-13 in San Antonio.

Bruce Shortt, a Houston attorney, and Voddie Baucham, pastor of Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, drafted the resolution. They have introduced an education resolution every year since the 2004 convention.

Port Neches senior to represent Texas Baptists at national speakers’ contest

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Port Neches senior to represent Texas Baptists at national speakers’ contest

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Christopher Mahfouz was so determined to make it to his senior prom, he didn’t stick around to hear the announcement that he won the state championship at the 2007 Youth Speakers’ Tournament.

Mahfouz, a Port Neches senior, turned off his cell phone as he flew from

Dallas to Houston. When he was back on the ground, he checked his voicemail. Then pandemonium broke loose. Jumping for joy and getting strange looks, especially from airport security, Christopher realized he won the state tournament, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor regents change chairs. The [Baylor University](#) regents elected a new chairman and approved a \$345 million operating budget for the university at their May meeting. Regents elected Harold Cunningham of Crawford as chair, effective June 1. He succeeds Jim Turner, who served a one-year term as chair. Howard Batson of Amarillo was elected vice chair. Next year's budget, which takes effect June 1, reflects an increase of \$19 million or 5.9 percent over the adjusted 2006-2007 budget. The new budget includes an increase of \$12.8 million or 16.9 percent in merit and need-based scholarships, and graduate assistantships. Four regents were re-elected to three-year terms—Joe Armes of Dallas, Albert Black of Dallas, Tommy Bowman of Waco and Buddy Jones of Austin. Five regents completed their terms on the board—Bill Brian of Amarillo, Joe Coleman of Houston, Will Davis of Austin, Laree Estes Perez of Albuquerque, N.M., and John Wilkerson of Lubbock.

Baptist Church Loan Corporation names president. The [Baptist Church Loan Corporation's](#) board of directors elected Gerald James as the nonprofit corporation's president and chief executive officer. He assumed his new role May 11 upon the retirement of Charles Pruett. James, who began his career with the Baptist Church Loan Corporation in 2000 after 17 years in the banking industry, served as the corporation's executive vice president prior to his promotion. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baylor University and graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. James serves as a deacon at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas. He and his wife, Laura, have two children.