

# Board fires Missouri Baptists' embattled executive director

April 16, 2007

Updated: 4/14/07

## Update: Embattled Missouri exec fired in closed meeting

**By Vicki Brown**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) - In a split 44-7 vote, the [Missouri Baptist Convention](#) Executive Board fired its top administrator, David Clippard, April 10.

Clippard, who assumed duties as executive director Sept. 9, 2002, was terminated in a four-hour, closed-door session — the culmination of a growing rift between two conservative factions within the state convention.

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## Southwestern Seminary files

# **motion against dismissed professor's suit**

April 16, 2007  
Posted: 4/16/07

## **Southwestern Seminary files motion against dismissed professor's suit**

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

FORT WORTH- [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) has filed a motion in federal court to dismiss the gender-discrimination lawsuit that former professor Sheri Klouda brought against the school.

The motion argues [the suit](#) should be dismissed because seminary officials' decision to dismiss Klouda is protected by the First Amendment.

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## **Mission Waco volunteers offer pure water, living water**

April 16, 2007  
Updated: 4/13/07

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Workers  
drill a new  
water well  
for  
Ferrier,  
Haiti. A  
new  
drilling rig  
should  
arrive  
within a  
few  
weeks,  
thanks  
primarily  
to  
Woman's  
Missionary  
Union and  
its Pure  
Water  
Pure Love  
initiative.  
(Photos  
courtesy  
of Mission  
Waco)

## **Mission Waco volunteers**

# offer pure water, living water

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

WACO—Sixteen Mission Waco volunteers recently provided food, medical care and a source of clean water for a village in Haiti and—just as important to the mission trip’s sponsors—gained a new perspective on ministry among some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

“Our mission is two-fold. We want to provide holistic, relationship-based programs that empower the poor and the marginalized. We also want to mobilize middle-class Americans to become more compassionately involved in ministry among the poor,” said Mission Waco Executive Director Jimmy Dorrell.



Waco physician Rafael Perez worked with local health-care providers and Mission Waco to provide a clinic in Ferrier, Haiti, where medical professionals treated more than 100 patients in three and a half days.

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# Evangelical leaders join broad coalition urging immigration reform

April 16, 2007

Updated: 4/13/07

## Evangelical leaders join broad coalition urging immigration reform

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A bipartisan array of Congress members and evangelical leaders exhorted their colleagues March 29 on the moral necessity of immigration reform.

Leaders from across the ideological spectrum—from Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., to Southern Baptist public policy agency executive Richard Land—held a Capitol Hill press conference to call on Congress and President Bush to institute immigration reform.

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# Friona church's furniture bears mark of 92-year-old carpenter

April 16, 2007

Updated: 4/13/07

## Woodworker labors long for Carpenter from Nazareth

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

FRIONA—A look at J.G. Baker's hands gives a glimpse into a man who has enjoyed working with wood his entire life, but a look at his heart gives insight into a man who has placed his eternal life in the hands of yet another carpenter.

While he is approaching age 92, even a casual observer can tell he was a powerfully built man and no stranger to hard work. He and his family ran harvesting combines from Arizona north to almost the Canadian border, and then back south, ending in the wheat and maize fields of the Texas Panhandle for many years. During the off-season, Baker worked in his woodshop.



J.G. Baker,  
age 92,  
acknowledges  
illness in  
recent  
months has  
left him  
weakened,  
but the  
sturdy,  
carefully  
crafted  
furniture he  
has built for  
churches  
throughout  
the state will  
last for many  
years. (Photo  
by George  
Henson)

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# **Buckner orphan writes her story**

April 16, 2007

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Frances Jones (top, left) remembers a happy childhood at Buckner Orphan's Home in Dallas before being adopted at age 18. She recounts her story in *Orphan Journey: Memoirs of Growing up in Buckner Orphans' Home*.

## **Buckner orphan writes her story**

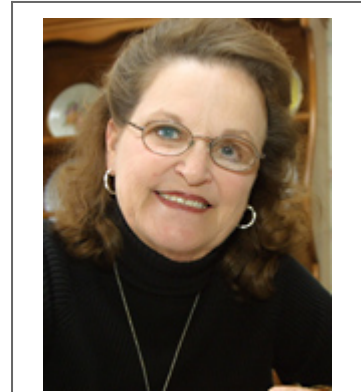
**By Analiz González**

*Buckner International*



GARLAND—Only a privileged few children grow up with perks like private piano lessons, swimming classes and rigorous academic programs.

Frances Jones counts herself among the privileged. Minus parents, her childhood was almost a fairy tale.



Frances Jones

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# **Frye has seen change over 50 years at the organ bench**

April 16, 2007

Updated: 4/13/07

## **Within Frye's heart, there still rings a melody**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

LEWISVILLE—Ruth Frye considers herself supremely blessed. For more than 50 years, she has had the opportunity to do what she loves—serve God from the organ bench of First Baptist Church in Lewisville.

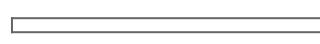
Frye began playing first for her Sunday school class as a child, and by age 9 or 10, she was the accompanist for the youth choir. Just a few years later, she began playing the organ after the church’s organist moved away.

Ruth Frye has been organist at First Baptist Church in Lewisville for 50 years.
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# **Wanted: Gospel preachers for South Africa**

April 16, 2007  
Updated: 4/13/07



Charlie  
Singleton,  
director of BGCT  
African-American  
ministries, helps  
Molehi Karneels  
Diutwileng,  
president of  
Baptist Union of  
Southern Africa,  
in his search for  
gospel preachers  
for his homeland.

(Photos by  
Barbara  
Bedrick/BGCT)

## **Wanted: Gospel preachers for South Africa**

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS - Molehi Karneels Diutwileng paints a picture of Baptist ministry in South Africa that is both disconcerting and hopeful.

He describes how nine pastors serve 30 churches in one region. Thirteen churches have no buildings. He and other Baptist pastors fear they may be driving away some of the very nonbelievers they need to reach—people with HIV/AIDS.

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# Study shows intact, religious family reduces achievement gap for minority children

April 16, 2007

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## Faith & family help minorities bridge academic achievement gap

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

WACO—The academic achievement gap between Anglo students and their African-American or Hispanic peers disappears when the students live in intact, religious families, a new study shows.

William Jeynes, a nonresident researcher with the [Baylor University Institute for Studies of Religion](#) and professor of education at California State University at Long Beach, discovered religious commitment and intact parental family structures bridge the achievement gap, both among students in public schools and in private religious schools.

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# Texas House bill would expand CHIP

April 16, 2007

Updated: 4/13/07

## Texas House bill would expand CHIP

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

AUSTIN - A bill overwhelmingly approved by the Texas House of Representatives would include more than 100,000 additional children in the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#) in the next two years.

The legislation, which passed 126-16, allows families to stay in the program for one year instead of having to reapply every six months, and it would wave the 90-day waiting period for uninsured children. It now goes before the Senate.

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## Spiritual "smorgasbord" reveals hunger for ultimate

# meaning

April 16, 2007

Posted: 4/13/07

## Spiritual 'smorgasbord' reveals hunger for ultimate meaning

**By Cecile Holmes**

*Religion News Service*

ASHINGTON (RNS)— A new book based on interviews from the PBS program [Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly](#) finds a spiritual hunger beneath the secular veneer of modern culture, with many searching for something beyond the material world.

*The Life of Meaning* was edited by the show's executive editor and host, Bob Abernethy, and longtime journalist William Bole. They drew essays in the book from interviews conducted by Abernethy, who founded the show 10 years ago after four decades as an NBC correspondent. Bole has written for many publications, including the *Washington Post* and *Commonweal* magazine.



Bob  
Abernethy,  
executive  
editor and  
host of the  
PBS program  
*Religion &  
Ethics  
NewsWeekly*,  
is co-author of  
*The Life of  
Meaning*.  
(RNS/courtesy  
Seven Stories  
Press)

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## **Around the State**

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Five hundred people from 40 churches attended the “Celebrating Senior Adults Conference” at Central Church in Jacksonville. In addition to 10 breakout topics, participants heard from Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade, Ken Hall of Buckner International and Paul Powell of Truett Theological Seminary.



# Around the State

- **The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** will host a Governor's Forum at 9:30 a.m. April 19, featuring former Texas governors Dolph Briscoe and Mark White. It is free and open to the public.



Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene has received a rare and valuable manuscript. The ancient Sefer Torah scroll contains more than 200 columns comprising the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, which appear as the first five books of the Christian Old Testament and the Jewish Bible. Scribed in Hebrew on highly finished white cow vellum panels, the scroll about 27 inches tall. It is the product of a South Arabian Jewish scriptorium, published in the late 17th or early 18th century. The scroll has been appraised at a market value at more than six-figures, but many experts believe the document to be priceless. Robert Ellis (left), associate dean of Logsdon Seminary, evaluated the scroll after unpacking it. Doyle and Inez Kelley, benefactors of the Kelley College of Business at HSU, gave the scroll to the university. (Photo by Tiffany Turk)

- **Dallas Baptist University** will hold the 19th annual Norvell Slater Senior Adult Hymn Sing at 2 p.m. April 20. Last year, almost 1,000 senior

adults attended the event. For more information, call (214) 333-6824.

- **The modern foreign languages department** of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will present an evening of bilingual storytelling, “Our Stories—Nuestros Cuentos,” at 7 p.m. April 21 in the Shelton Theater on campus. The event will consist of readings and comments by authors Araceli Ardon and Debbie Lufburrow. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call (254) 295-4631.

- **Tickets are on sale** for Howard Payne University’s fourth annual “Singin’ with the Saints” Southern gospel concert for senior adults. The concert will begin at 1:30 p.m. May 17 at Coggin Avenue Church in Brownwood. Featured performers will be The Florida Boys, Gold City, The Brazos Boys and HPU chancellor and humorist Don Newbury. Tickets are \$12 and can be ordered by credit card at (800) 950-8465.