

# Circles of Support help teens devise a plan for the future

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/07/08

## Circles of Support help teens devise a plan for the future

**By Haley Smith**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

SAN ANTONIO—When young people age out of the foster care system, they are required by law to sit down with a counselor or social worker to develop a plan for the future and learn about available benefits. But a program offered by [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) goes far beyond what the law requires.

Circles of Support, part of the agency's Preparation for Adult Living program, help teenagers make the transition to independent living.

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Circles of Support meetings offer foster youth along a support system and the opportunity to work together to plan and accomplish goals for the future. (Photo by Martin Olivares/BCFS)

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# **Baptists provide opportunities to oft-shunned Roma people**

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Wes  
Craig  
visits  
churches  
and  
ministry  
centers  
to learn  
how  
Project  
Ruth can  
help  
facilitate  
the  
needs of  
Roma  
church  
leaders.  
(CBF  
photos  
courtesy  
of Wes  
and  
Susan  
Craig)

## **Baptists provide opportunities to oft-shunned Roma people**

**By Carla Wynn Davis**

## *Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

BUCHAREST, Romania (ABP)—Susan and Wes Craig learned early during their three-year assignment to Romania that most locals are disgusted by the minority Roma people, often called “gypsies.” And that’s what made a particular church meeting so powerful.

While talking about his work at the Gypsy Smith School, which provides education and training to Roma church leaders and evangelists, Wes Craig noticed a Romanian man with his hand on the shoulder of a Roma boy. Their relationship seemed like that of a father and son—something that flies in the face of Romanian social norms. Craig said he saw, in that simple act, Christianity at work.

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# **Obama speech to denomination spurs IRS investigation of UCC**

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/07/08

## **Obama speech to denomination spurs IRS investigation of UCC**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A speech Sen. Barack Obama made last year to his fellow Congregationalists has spurred an Internal Revenue Service investigation that threatens the tax-exempt status of an entire denomination.

Leaders of the Illinois senator's United Church of Christ are fighting back, saying the IRS charges are baseless and "disturbing."

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# Volunteer missionaries needed for Eagle Pass

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/07/08

## Volunteer missionaries needed for Eagle Pass

**By Analiz González**

*Buckner International*

EAGLE PASS—It's been almost a year since the [tornados ravaged Eagle Pass](#), but huge needs continue.

Church leaders in the area are seeking to help, but they need the assistance of upstate volunteers, said Dexton Shores, Buckner International's director of ministry development in Mexico and along the

border,

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# **Relationship-building key to interfaith witnessing**

March 7, 2008

Posted: 10/14/05

## **Relationship-building key to interfaith witnessing**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

CEDAR HILL—Whether a Christian is witnessing to a Muslim, Hindu or postmodernist, the keys to evangelism are relationship-building and prayer, speakers told a group at Mount Lebanon Baptist Encampment.

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## **Texas Baptists held at gunpoint**

# in Mexico

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/05/08

## Texas Baptists held at gunpoint in Mexico

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ARANSAS PASS—The pastor and three members of First Baptist Church were held at gunpoint in northern Mexico during the first week of February.

The group was traveling with a two missionaries and a hitchhiker they picked up on a scouting trip Feb. 7 when a vehicle loaded with men began driving aggressively toward them.

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## Storylist for 3/03/08 issue

March 7, 2008

## Storylist for week of 3/03/08

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- [Follow the Money](#)
- [Cash receipts and disbursements present challenges for churches](#)
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- [Congress considers workplace freedom bill again](#)
- [Online site tackles self-destructive behaviors](#)



- [Americans fluid in their religious affiliation, Pew study reveals](#)
- [Grassley targets ministries' alleged abuse of tax laws](#)
- [Church of England short on Bibles](#)
- [Does God protect selected disaster victims but not others?](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



• [Book reviews in this issue:](#) *How to Talk to Your Doctor: Getting the Answers and Care You Need* by Patricia Agnew, *The Ten-Second Prayer Principle* by Mark Littleton and *The Fred Factor: How Passion in Your Work and Life Can Turn the Ordinary Into the Extraordinary* by Mark Sanborn.

- [Books probe God factor in U.S. politics](#)
- [Anne Rice explores Jesus' public ministry in new novel](#)



- [Classified Ads](#)
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- [EDITORIAL: Fresh beginning & the way forward](#)
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- [IN BETWEEN: Turning Texas Baptists toward hope](#)
- [2nd Opinion: Sermons, storytelling & novels](#)
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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for March 2: Unveiling the weakness of a king](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for March 2: Did You Take Your Smart Pill Today?](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for March 2: Responding to God in faith](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for March 9: Hey yous guysâ€”or, faith in the second person plural](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for March 9: Learning about God's faithfulness](#)

### **Previously Posted:**

- [Craig Turner to step down as Hardin-Simmons president](#)
- [San Antonio parenting education program seeks to break cycle of abuse](#)
- [Endorsement prompts IRS to investigate California pastor](#)
- [New Baptist Covenant criticism continues to come from both left & right](#)
- [Panhandle speakers encourage personal evangelism, trust in God's provision](#)



• [Gloer named to Garland Chair of Preaching at Truett Seminary](#)

• [Pastor-politician points to Muslims as source of Kenyan violence; experts disagree](#)

• [CLC files ethics complaint against gambling PAC](#)

• [Scam callers preying on churches' compassion](#)

• [Rural poverty initiative takes Dallas church to five areas in five years](#)

• [Persistence pays off for ETBU graduate](#)

• [CBF council approves budget, reports revenue shortfalls at February meeting](#)

• [BCFS given lead role in emergency care for medical special needs](#)

• [Human Rights Watch blasts U.S. on Kenya violence](#)

[\(Go here to see our complete coverage of the New Baptist Covenant meeting\).](#)

• [See articles from the previous 2/18/08 issue here.](#)

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# Kidnapped worker, Afghan driver apparently dead in Afghanistan

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/05/08

## Kidnapped worker, Afghan driver apparently dead in Afghanistan

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (ABP)—A kidnapped aid worker with a Texas Baptist background and her Afghan driver are believed dead, according to the agency that supported them.

Cydney Mizell, 50, and Muhammad Hadi, whose age is unknown, were taken at gunpoint Jan. 26 while working in Kandahar, Afghanistan. While their employer, the [Asian Rural Life Development Foundation](#), has not been able to confirm their deaths, a spokeswoman said the organization has received “credible reports” of the news.

Cydney Mizell
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# Academy president announces retirement plans

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/05/08

## Academy president announces retirement plans

**By Cindy Rollins**

*San Marcos Baptist Academy*

SAN MARCOS—[San Marcos Baptist Academy](#) President Vic Schmidt has announced to the school's trustees his plans to retire July 1.

"I would have preferred to serve the academy for several more years, but some health issues prompt me I leave at the end of this school year," Schmidt said.

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## BaptistWay Bible Series for

# March 9: What does our prayer say about us?

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/04/08

**BaptistWay Bible Series for March 9**

## What does our prayer say about us?

- 1 Kings 8:22-36, 41-51

[By Kenneth Jordan](#)

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## Bible Studies for Life Series for March 16: Looking for love in all the wrong places

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/04/08

**Bible Studies for Life Series for March 16**

# Looking for love in all the wrong places

• John 3:16; 1 John 3:16-20; 4:15-18; 5:2-5

[By Gary Long](#)

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## Explore the Bible Series for March 16: Growing spiritually through crisis

March 7, 2008

Posted: 3/04/08

**Explore the Bible Series for March 16**

### Growing spiritually through crisis

• Genesis 32:6-12, 24-31

[By Donald Raney](#)

*First Baptist Church, Petersburg*

Life is unpredictable. No matter how much we might plan, our best-paid plans often are thrown out by a crisis situation which arises unexpectedly.

While the severity of the crisis may vary, most often our initial response is fear and anxiety over our perceived ability to overcome the situation and return to “normal.”