

Former Klansman reflects on how God's grace redeemed a life of hate

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By **Roy Hoffman**

Religion News Service

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (RNS)—Softspoken Tommy Tarrants leans back in his office chair, surrounded by books on religion and philosophy, and looks down at a newspaper headline from Nov. 28, 1968. It reads: “Tarrants Found Guilty, Sentenced to 30 Years.” The 60-year old sees a mugshot of himself at age 21 next to the story.

“A self-styled guerrilla waging a holy crusade’ against a ‘Communist-Jewish conspiracy’ was convicted Wednesday night of the attempted bombing of the home of a Jewish businessman,” the article said.

Former white supremacist and KKK member Tommy Tarrants now leads the C.S. Lewis Institute outside Washington, D. C., mentoring young scholars who want to delve deeper into the Christian faith. (RNS photos/John David Mercer & Louise Krafft/*The Press-Register* of Mobile, Ala.)

See related article:

[Redeemed Klansman reunites with long-ago victim](#)

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Ruane named Standard development director. Tom Ruane, who served 36 years with the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board staff, has been named director of development for the Baptist Standard. He will work alongside Leroy Fenton. Ruane served as a campus minister and Bible teacher at Tarleton State University, Howard Payne University and the University of Texas at Arlington. He worked in the student ministry division at the Baptist Building from 1979 to 2000. Since then, he has been associate coordinator of institutional ministries and director of church relations consultants. He has been interim pastor of 26 churches and the pastor of two cowboy churches, in Ennis and in Kaufman County, where he continues to serve.

Weslaco church returns funds to BGCT. First Baptist Church in Weslaco returned \$26,550 in Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting funds that were used in a questionable manner. The funds were allocated to First Baptist Church to start a congregation that would originate as a third worship service at First Baptist Church. Most of the membership of First Baptist Church reportedly never understood it was starting another congregation, and former Pastor Jonathan Becker claimed

the BGCT funds as a salary supplement for leading the new church. Last fall, Becker returned the funds to First Baptist Church in Weslaco, and the church agreed to return the funds to the BGCT. The BGCT has agreed not to seek any additional funds from the congregation. The total returned matches the amount BGCT records show went to First Baptist Church in Weslaco for the church-start in question. Additional funds were used to support First Baptist Church's work in starting two other churches that continue operation. BGCT funds appear to have been used according to the guidelines in those instances, administrators report.

TOGETHER: Texas Baptists âEngageâ evangelism

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TOGETHER: Texas Baptists 'Engage' evangelism

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved" (Romans 10:1).

The Apostle Paul loved people. He yearned for them to know God as he had come to know him. It is much too easy to get preoccupied with good things and neglect the main thing, the matters that have eternal consequences.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

The Engage evangelism conference stirred my heart for those who need to know Jesus and his power to change and save their lives. There is eternal value in listening to evangelists preach the gospel and share their stories. We all need times of reminding that people are all around us whom we are not seeing, and they are hungry for a relationship with God. A Christian loves to share with people that they do matter to God, and Jesus is the proof.

We heard challenging preaching and authentic testimonies. I am grateful that in my last month as your executive director, I had the privilege of being a part of the rebirth of the evangelism conference. I call on all Texas Baptists to pray for Jon Randles, our new evangelism director, and his wife, Kelly, as they offer themselves to God and to our churches for renewing in our hearts a passion for souls.

Satanists arrested on suspicion of arson in Ala. church burnings

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Satanists arrested on suspicion of arson in Ala. church burnings

By Grace Thornton

Alabama Baptist

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (ABP)—Two professed Satanists have been charged with a recent series of arsons at Baptist and Methodist churches in rural eastern Alabama.

The men—both age 21—allegedly set fires at Woodland Baptist Church in Phenix City, Greater Peace and Goodwill African Methodist Episcopal Church in Crawford and Greater Bethelmore Baptist Church in Smiths Station.

Attempt at dialogue with

Muslims sparks criticism of NAE

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Attempt at dialogue with Muslims sparks criticism of NAE

By **Robert Marus**

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The [National Association of Evangelicals](#) is under attack from some prominent Christian conservatives for its involvement in an attempt at Muslim-Christian dialogue.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President [Al Mohler](#), former presidential candidate Gary Bauer and other right-wing evangelical leaders are among those who criticized the move in a recent article on [CitizenLink.com](#), part of evangelical broadcaster James Dobson's Focus on the Family empire.

RIGHT or WRONG? 'Baptist' in

name

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RIGHT or WRONG? 'Baptist' in name

Our church is talking seriously about sponsoring a new congregation in our area. But we seem headed for a meltdown. Several folks insist "Baptist" must be kept out of the name of the new church. Surely there are moral grounds for requiring a Baptist church to include "Baptist" in its name.

Buckner assumes Kenya childrenâs home ministry

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Buckner assumes Kenya children's home ministry

By Scott Collins

Buckner International

KITALE, Kenya—Buckner International assumed responsibility for the Seed of Hope Children's Home in Kitale, Kenya effective Jan. 1. The home, located in western Kenya, houses 69 orphan children, three house families, a school, a clinic, a church, and numerous community services.

The addition of Seed of Hope brings the number of children and families served by Buckner in Kenya to nearly 300, including foster care programs in the capital of Nairobi as well as Busia and Kitale. In addition, Buckner works closely with Kenya Baptists in the operation of the Baptist Children's Center in Nairobi. Other Buckner partnerships in Kenya include work with children in Nairobi slums.

Olumayowa Famakinwa, a Baylor University student who works in Waxahachie, cares for children in a Vacation Bible School in Busia, Kenya, as part of a mission trip sponsored by Buckner International. In addition to ongoing work in Busia and Nairobi, Buckner recently assumed responsibility for the Seed of Hope Children's Home in Kitale, Kenya. (PHOTO/Buckner)

Ministries continue in Kenya as violence subsides somewhat, but tension remains

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Ministries continue in Kenya as violence subsides somewhat, but tension remains

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Classes began as scheduled at Wayland Baptist University's Limuru campus, in spite of a wave of violence that swept through Kenya.

Meanwhile, Buckner International's staff confirmed the safety of children housed at Nairobi's Baptist Children's Center and in foster homes, and several Baptist groups provided emergency care for displaced people as Kenya continued to recover from widespread rioting and political turmoil.

A man wipes his face in front of a church where about 50 people were burned alive in Eldoret, Kenya. President Mwai Kibaki's government accused political rival Raila Odinga of responsibility for an explosion of tribal violence triggered by a disputed presidential election.

(Photo/Reuters)

GLIMPSES OF THE WORLD

Lottie Moon Offering_122203

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Posted: 12/19/03

GLIMPSES OF THE WORLD: Lottie Moon Offering

By Emily Crutcher & Manda Roten

SBC International Mission Board

As Southern Baptists engage the challenge of this year's Lottie Moon Offering for international missions, workers with the International Mission Board report numerous signs of God's work around the world.

Bible Studies for Life Series for January 27: Breakthrough in confidence

January 18, 2008

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Bible Studies for Life Series for January 27

Breakthrough in confidence

- Psalm 23:1-6

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Explore the Bible Series for January 27: Do you trust the Lordâs promises?

January 18, 2008

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[**Explore the Bible Series for January 27**](#)

Do you trust the Lord's promises?

- Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-3; 17:1-2, 17-19

[By Donald Raney](#)

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

The Bible is full of God's promises to those who honestly seek to live in line with his design for their lives. God promises never to leave or forsake his children. God promises to be an ever-present help and guide. God promises always to hear and answer whenever we call on him.

'Befriend Muslims,' missionary urges_41805

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Posted: 4/15/05

'Befriend Muslims,' missionary urges

By Sarah Farris

Special to the Baptist Standard

WACO-Line up every person in the world, and every fifth one would be Muslim, Sam Mansur told a group of Central Texas Christians.