

# Texas Tidbits

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## Texas Tidbits

**Search committee interviews candidates.** The committee searching for the next Baptist General Convention of Texas executive director is in the process of interviewing candidates. The committee plans to meet with about 10 candidates, and several interviews have been completed, said Chairman Ken Huggins. The committee has determined it will fulfill its appointed task of putting forth an executive director nomination and will not suggest the BGCT Executive Board seek an intentional interim executive director, he said. BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade has announced he will retire at the end of January.

**BGCT budget workshop planned.** David Nabors, chief financial officer and treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will lead a workshop about the proposed 2008 budget at 10 a.m., Oct. 29, during the BGCT annual meeting in Amarillo. The workshop is titled "How are We Doing More Together Through the Cooperative Program?" Nabors will talk about the ministries supported through the BGCT Cooperative Program and answer questions regarding the proposed budget. The workshop will be in Room 110 of the Amarillo Civic Center.

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# **TOGETHER: Details about the '08 budget process**

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## **TOGETHER: Details about the '08 budget process**

Baptists love to do our Lord's work. Generally, we would much rather focus on that work than on the detailed finances that lie behind the work of missions, evangelism and ministry.

This year, in Texas Baptist life, the reality of our financial situation has seized our attention. As messengers prepare to consider the proposed 2008 budget, it is good to share some details about this process.



Executive Director  
BGCT Executive  
Board

The past few years, we have had to deal with basically a flat rate of growth in Cooperative Program giving. In 2000-01, we lost about \$5 million in CP giving as more than 400 churches pulled away from the BGCT. That stabilized in 2002, and CP giving began to grow slightly over the next years.

As we have restructured our staff, there has been a time of transition in which we have moved people to new assignments, emphasized getting our staff into the field and closer to the churches and their concerns, and committed ourselves to be servants of the local churches.

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## **Communities feel the squeeze of accelerated church growth**

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## **Communities feel the squeeze of accelerated church growth**

**By Amy Green**

*Religion News Service*

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)—Some neighbors complain about too many Wal-Marts or too many strip joints in their midst. In southeast Orlando, it's too many churches.

About a dozen churches—Baptist, Nazarene, Pentecostal and independent—are located within a few miles of each other on the city’s outskirts, and more are under construction.

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## Where your treasure is...

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## Where your treasure is...

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Advocates of Christian education and human care institutions insist their ministries represent the best example of what Texas Baptists can accomplish when they work together. But they fear what budget decisions over the last decade mean for the future of cooperative giving.

Changes in accounting make direct comparisons somewhat difficult. Some institutions and ministries—such as Baptist University of the Americas and chaplaincy—have moved from one funding category to another in recent years.

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• [See chart of CP funding of education institutions below](#)

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# Students explore world of opportunities during Mary Hardin-Baylor missions week

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## Students explore world of opportunities during Mary Hardin-Baylor missions week

**By Carol Woodward**

*University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*

BELTON—Students who wanted to know how God could use an accountant or an athlete on the mission field found answers to their questions during

Mission Emphasis Week at the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#), Oct. 22-26.

Lori Brown, who serves with Sports Plus in Kenya, told students she asked the same questions when she was in college. She wanted to be involved in missions, but she wondered how or where God could use her.

UMHB student  
Amanda Foss  
listens as Twyla  
Bell describes how  
children in  
Tanzania make  
their own soccer  
balls out of pieces  
of material and  
twine.  
(Photo/Carol  
Woodward/UMHB)

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## **Conservative values voters insist on anti-abortion candidate**

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# Conservative ‘values voters’ insist on anti-abortion candidate

By **Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Voters in a recent straw poll seemed to confirm what many pundits have said all along: Conservative Christians simply will not support a presidential candidate who backs abortion rights.

In the second-largest straw poll of this campaign, 5,775 self-described “values voters” said they will vote for former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in the 2008 election. Longshot Mike Huckabee, the Southern Baptist minister and former Arkansas governor, came in a close second, only 30 votes behind Romney.

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## Yale panelists ask: ‘Is there a theological foundation for political engagement?’

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# Yale panelists ask: ‘Is there a theological foundation for political engagement?’

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (ABP)—Theologians, lawyers, pastors and ethicists shared their views on the theological foundations of political engagement during a recent exchange at Yale Divinity School.

The daylong event, called [“Voices & Votes II: Shaping a New Moral Agenda.”](#) was co-sponsored by *Sojourners*, *Christianity Today* and *The Christian Century*.

Greg Boyd
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## Separation of church and state great but misunderstood by many, panelists insist

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# **Separation of church and state great but misunderstood by many, panelists insist**

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (ABP)—The separation of church and state is part of what makes America great, and America is plagued by “total ignorance” about what it means, panelists at a Yale Divinity School event said.

However, not even all the expert panelists agree on how the pesky details of church-state separation work themselves out in real life.

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## **Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: All my strength**

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**CYBER COLUMN:**

# All my strength

**By Berry Simpson**

Since last spring, I've been walking every day for an hour, instead of running, hoping to let my left knee heal a bit more. My goal was to keep walking until I got my weight down to 190 pounds, and then start running again as a new, lighter, more nimble Berry. Through the hot summer months, I put in lots of miles walking in the neighborhoods around Cowden Park.

I did drop about 10 pounds during the summer, putting me consistently in the "1's" instead of the "2's," so that was good. But my knee felt the same all summer long: it never got better, and it never got worse.

Berry D. Simpson
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During a Labor Day backpacking trip into the Guadalupe, I was confronted with the flaw in my plan. Walking had kept my legs strong, and lifting weights kept my upper body strong enough to carry a 68-pound pack up to Pine Top, but walking didn't do anything for my lungs. On the hike up to Pine Top, I had to stop too often to catch my breath. I was surprised how short-winded I'd become.

So why was I walking so much was the question I couldn't answer. My knee felt the same, and I was losing fitness.

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for November 4: Christ's love extends to all**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for November 04**

## **Christ's love extends to all**

- Romans 9:1-7; 10:1-13; 11:1-2, 25-32

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for November 4: Seeking your Father's approval**

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**Bible Studies for Life Series for November 4**

# Seeking your Father's approval

- Matthew 6:1-18

[By Steve Dominy](#)

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## Explore the Bible Series for November 4: A caring community

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[Explore the Bible Series for November 4](#)

### A caring community

- Matthew 18:1-35

[By Travis Frampton](#)

*Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene*

Forgiveness is essential for any relationship. Without it, genuine reconciliation is impossible; and without mercy and grace, genuine forgiveness is impossible. Much of our lives are spent either granting forgiveness or asking for it. What is your response to others when they

wrong you?