

TOGETHER: Missions requires balanced approach

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TOGETHER: Missions requires balanced approach

Missions has changed. Churches no longer see missions as simply something a select few do while the churches provide the money and prayers. More and more church members are getting involved in missions themselves, and this is a powerful engine for kingdom advance, which I applaud.

I want our churches to do more direct missions, but I also want every church to remain committed to cooperative missions through the BGCT. There is a temptation for a church to lower its support for cooperative missions in order to fund efforts they know on a more personal basis. When churches do this, it can create a serious lack of support for cooperative missions.



Executive Director BGCT Executive Board

Ironically, the motivation and encouragement for the increased emphasis on local and global efforts by a congregation often has come about because of the efforts of our convention. For example, our efforts to develop key mission churches by helping them call ministers of missions and to expose our churches to Partnership Missions opportunities in countries around the globe has created an unbelievable explosion of local-church involvement in missions.

In Texas, we can see the power of cooperative effort. Through the BGCT Cooperative Program, you support missionaries around the world, theological training for our future pastors and leaders, and church starting in Texas and throughout the United States. Last year, we started 204 churches in Texas. And we now have 103 cowboy churches—80 of them started since October 2004.

Collaboration essential part of effective mentoring

August 17, 2007

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Collaboration essential part of effective mentoring

By **Mark Wingfield**

Special to the Baptist Standard

DALLAS—It's not coincidental that the pastoral residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church occurs in a group context.

Wilshire employs four pastoral residents with help from the Lilly Endowment and supports a music ministry resident out of the church budget. The five young ministers work out of a shared office space and collaborate on many of their weekly tasks.

The church has a new pastor. When will it start to feel normal?

August 17, 2007

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The church has a new pastor.

When will it start to feel normal?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—When a beloved pastor leaves a church, the replacement often faces an uphill battle in winning the trust and respect of the congregation. Sometimes, the newcomer faces a challenge simply in getting people to remember his name.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church in Amarillo for more than 30 years, said long after his arrival, members would mistakenly call him by the name of his predecessor—who had retired years earlier.

Pastoral residency offers mentoring for young ministers

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Young ministers who have been through the pastoral residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas include (left to right) Jay Hogewood, Sean Allen, Amy Grizzle, Brad Jernberg, Ann Bell Worley, David King, Jake Hall and Andrew Daugherty. Not pictured is second-year resident Anne Jernberg.

Pastoral residency offers mentoring for young ministers

By **Mark Wingfield**

Special to the Baptist Standard

ALLAS—When a Baptist minister graduates from seminary or divinity school, what factors predict whether that person will succeed or fail in local church ministry?

Educational training plays a part, as does the personality of the congregation the minister serves. But according to data gathered by the Lilly Endowment, other intangibles play perhaps an even greater role in predicting whether that minister will remain in ministry five, 10 or 15 years down the road.

Students want to serve God's kingdom not necessarily in the church

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Randall Maurer,
professor of
psychology and
family ministries
at Hardin-
Simmons
University, leads
a discussion
forum of
(clockwise from
left) Amanda
Cutbirth,
Ramundo Silva,
Meredith Stone
and Daniel
Dotson.
(Photos/courtesy
of Hardin-
Simmons
University)

Students want to serve God's kingdom - not necessarily in the church

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

College students who feel a calling into ministry passionately want to make a difference for God's kingdom. But a significant number don't believe the local-church setting is the place to do it, according to guidance directors

for ministerial students at some Baptist schools.

“I think that for both positive and negative reasons, a lot of young people don’t see themselves settling into local-church ministry positions,” said Omer Hancock, professor of church ministry and director of in-service guidance at Hardin-Simmons University’s Logsdon School of Theology. “An increasing number of our students are gravitating to other areas—other expressions of ministry.”



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PASSING THE TORCH: Does pastoral transition have to be

hard?

August 17, 2007

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PASSING THE TORCH:

Does pastoral transition have to be hard?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

When a longtime pastor leaves, succession can be sticky

When the only pastor an entire generation at a church has known leaves, there's no set model for ensuring a smooth transition, experts say. The right way to do it at one time in a church's history may be wrong at another time. And orchestrating a succession at a mega-church is much different than easing into one in a smaller community.

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Pentagon investigation faults generals for endorsing evangelical ministry

August 17, 2007

Posted: 8/17/07

Pentagon investigation faults generals for endorsing evangelical ministry

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A group of high-ranking Pentagon officials improperly endorsed and aided an evangelical Christian ministry, according to a Defense Department investigation recently made public.

The Department of Defense inspector general's report was dated July 20 and released to the public by the [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#). The watchdog group requested an investigation last year into a promotional video for Christian Embassy.

Buckner collects humanitarian aid for earthquake victims in Peru

August 17, 2007

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Buckner collects humanitarian aid for earthquake victims in Peru

With more than 440 people reported dead and thousands injured following the 7.9 magnitude earthquake in Peru, Buckner International has requested donations of humanitarian aid for shipment to the struggling South America country.

“We are not a disaster relief organization, but we have a responsibility to help our brothers and sisters in crisis,” said Rachel Garton, director of Shoes for Orphan Souls. “We already have a container scheduled to send shoes and humanitarian aid to Peru in a few weeks. This is the perfect opportunity for us to really provide the victims with their most pressing needs.”

Buckner is seeking the following donated items:

Shoes and socks.

Drake won't repeat as SBC 2nd VP; won't rule out higher office

August 17, 2007

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Drake won't repeat as SBC 2nd VP; won't rule out higher office

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

BUENA PARK, Calif. (ABP)—Wiley Drake, the Los Angeles-area pastor, radio crusader and Southern Baptist Convention gadfly, has announced he will not allow himself to be nominated for a second term as second vice president of the convention.

The convention will meet June 12-13 in San Antonio.

SBC Vice
President
Wiley
Drake
broadcasts
his daily
radio
show
from his
cell
phone in
Buena
Park,
Calif.
(ABP
photo by
Greg
Warner)

KidsHeart builds relationships, grows churches

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Pastor Ismael Garcia, second from right, pushes The Church at Canyon Creek's van out of the mud. The team from Canyon Creek was leaving to pick up children for Vacation Bible School at Iglesia Bautista Sublime Gracia in Progreso, part of KidsHeart missions week in the Rio Grande Valley. (Photos by Russ Dilday/Buckner)

KidsHeart builds relationships, grows churches

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

PROGRESO—Pastor Ismael Gaspar dug his heels in the mud as the church van's tires spun with no avail. The [KidsHeart](#) mission team from The Church at Canyon Creek, Austin, was stuck.

It took nearly an hour of pushing, spinning and sliding through Iglesia Bautista Sublime Gracia's muddy parking lot—caused by several days of unusual Valley thunderstorms—before the van was finally released.

BaptistWay Bible Series for August 26: God's steadfast love

August 17, 2007

Posted: 8/15/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for August 26

God's steadfast love

- Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-41

[By Corey Cornutt](#)