

Moment of silence case indicates importance of teacher training, CLC director says

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Moment of silence case indicates importance of teacher training, CLC director says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—A case challenging the moment of silence in schools illustrates the need for training teachers on how to handle issues dealing with religion in schools, according to the director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission.

David Wallace Croft is suing Gov. Rick Perry and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District in an effort to end the minute of silence. He argues it is unconstitutional because it amounts to the state endorsing prayer.

BaptistWay Bible Series for August 19: Weeping in the night

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BaptistWay Bible Series for August 19

Weeping in the night

- Lamentations 1:1-5, 12-22

[By Corey Cornutt](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for August 19: Handling discouragement

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Bible Studies for Life Series for August 19

When sickness strikes

- 2 Kings 5:1-5; 8-16

[By David Harp](#)

Explore the Bible Series for August 19: Living in covenant relationship

August 9, 2007

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[Explore the Bible Series for August 19](#)

Living in covenant relationship

- Malachi 2:1-16

[By Kathryn Aragon](#)

First Baptist Church, Duncanville

There is no greater bond than covenant relationship. Although we see many depictions of this relationship throughout the Old Testament, none is greater than the covenant of salvation.

Effective children's ministry more than numbers

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Effective children's ministry more than numbers

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

An effective children's ministry is more than an appendage to a congregation's programming: It's an integral part of a church's mission and vision, children's ministry leaders say.

Although it's tempting to evaluate the success of children's ministry by the numbers—attendance or professions of faith in Christ, for instance—other ways sometimes are more effective, the leaders report.

Storylist for 7/23/07 issue

August 9, 2007

Storylist for week of 7/23/07

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- [Baptists, other Christians push for reform in farm bill](#)



- [LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME: Children need worship role models](#)

Special Report: Children's Ministry

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- [Baptist bloggers start hanging out together in the same SBC 'outpost'](#)



- [Harry Potter, move aside. Christian fantasy has arrived](#)

- [Urban population crunch prompts crowds in church](#)

- [Want your kids to keep faith? Take a chance on college degree](#)

- [Faith Digest](#)



- [Books reviewed in this issue:](#) *Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World* by Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger, *The Divine Appointment* by Jerome Teel and *The Sermon on the Mount: A Theological Investigation* by Carl G. Vaught.



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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for July 22: All for nothing](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for July 22: Sharing Christ in All Places](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for July 22: Zechariah calls us to dependence](#)
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Previously Posted

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Young women challenged to live the ‘amazing life’ on mission with God

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Participants at Blume—formerly known as the National Acteens Convention—sing praises to God.

Young women challenged to live the ‘amazing life’ on mission with God

By Julie Walters

Woman’s Missionary Union

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—More than 3,000 teenaged and collegiate young women were challenged to live “the amazing life” during Blume, a missions event sponsored by national [Woman’s Missionary Union](#).

Texas had the largest representation of any state at the event—formerly known as the National Acteens Convention—with 349 participants.



National Acteens
Panelists—including
Tiffany Clark of
First Baptist
Church in Humble
(2nd from left)
share their personal
prayer and
challenge with
Blume participants
during the opening
session of the
missions meeting.
Other panelists
pictured are (left to
right) Juliana
Robbins of Calvary
Baptist Church in
Waynesboro, Tenn.;
Brittany Burdine of
University Hills
Baptist Church,
Charlotte, N.C.; and
Tara Hammett of
First Baptist
Church, Minden,
La.

Store offers help for needy and youth ministry

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Sherri Manning (left), manager of the Agape Thrift Store in Evant, visits with volunteer Carolyn Huncke.

Store offers help for needy and youth ministry

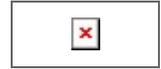
By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

EVANT—Coffee addicts might not mind paying \$4 for a frappe, but Agape Thrift Store in Evant sold a brand new espresso machine for a mere three

bucks.

Coffee drinkers may not be the only ones paying too much. Every item in Agape is sold for \$1, unless otherwise marked.



Around the State

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Community North Church in McKinney has broken ground on a multi-use building. It will be the first phase of a four-phase building plan. The two-story stone-exterior structure will include both worship and fellowship hall space and will feature stained glass. Offices and classrooms also are included.

Participating in the groundbreaking from left were Blanca Garcia, Don Hild, Mabel Lois Rutledge, Will Alexander, Burton Douglas, Larry Vowell of Collin Association, Rick Ballard of Collin Association, Pastor Bruce Austin, Ed Bratton, Linda Young and Barbara Francis.

Around the State

- **Brian Carter** has been presented the Douglas MacArthur Freedom Medal by Howard Payne University. The medal is awarded to individuals for their role in preserving Judeo-Christian values, Western heritage and the free enterprise system. Carter, a graduate of HPU's Academy of Freedom program, was chosen to receive the award in honor of his service in the Marine Corps, including a recent tour of duty in Iraq, according to Justin Murphy, director of the Academy of Freedom.
 - **The Baylor Board of Regents** has approved formation of the Baylor Advanced Research Institute. It will provide faculty with industrially funded research opportunities, student internships and graduate faculty funding to meet the scientific challenges of the future. The institute's goal is to narrow the gap between discoveries in Baylor's research laboratories and their practical application in industry.
 - **Dallas Baptist University** has announced additions to its faculty. Included are Joe Cook, assistant professor of counseling; Scott Jeffries, assistant professor of library science and reference librarian; Caia McCullar, professor of music; Amie Sarker, assistant professor of education; and Stephen Stookey, professor of Christian history and leadership studies.
 - **Ted Barnes** has been named dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
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Book Reviews

August 9, 2007

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Book Reviews

[Sitting Strong: Wrestling with the Ornerly God](#) by Jeanie Miley (Smyth & Helwys)

Like Job, Jeanie Miley is acquainted with heart-wrenching grief. And like Job, her book offers the fortitude to “sit strong” in pain. That’s a far cry—and, frankly, a more realistic option—than “being strong.” This book is a guide for being able to “simply sit with your suffering, wrestling with it, arguing with God, and letting the old die so that the new can be born.”

With healing, renewing candor, Miley lauds an honest-with-God confrontation of life’s hardships. Rather than deny or denigrate them, she shows how to hold fast to God in the abyss of their pain. She teaches how to listen for the whisper of God’s grace even as the storms of life howl about.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Sitting Strong not only confronts the mind with its forthright acknowledgement of pain, evil and suffering, but it also soothes the heart.

The straightforward prose of each chapter presses onward in exploration, while the original poetry that concludes them reaches beyond thoughtful analysis to salve the soul.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Accrediting association reprimands Criswell College. A Bible college with close ties to the Southern Baptist fundamentalist movement is in danger of losing its accreditation due to financial problems. The [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#) announced it has placed [Criswell College](#) on a one-year probation period for failure to comply with standards regarding financial stability and control of finances. The Dallas-based school's finances have been under scrutiny by the accrediting agency for two years. While the association's statement indicates Criswell displayed enough progress on "noncompliance" with SACS financial standards to prevent a complete withdrawal of accreditation, those advances apparently were not enough to return it to good standing with the association. SACS rules require it either to regain good standing after the two-year study period, continue accreditation but in a probationary period, or have its accreditation revoked entirely. SACS officials said they would continue studying the school's finances and make another determination on Criswell's status in June 2008.

Gushee migrates to Mercer. Ethicist and author [David Gushee](#) has been appointed distinguished university professor of Christian ethics at [Mercer University](#). Gushee currently serves as a university fellow, Graves Professor of moral philosophy and senior fellow of the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. At Mercer, he will be based in the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta and is expected to teach interdisciplinary ethics courses throughout the university. Gushee is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College of William and Mary, where he earned an undergraduate degree. He received the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned a master of philosophy degree and a doctorate in Christian ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Gushee is a columnist for Christianity Today and Associated Baptist Press, and he has written or edited nine books. Gushee, an ordained Baptist minister, is married to Jeanie, a homemaker, poet and nurse. They have four children: Holly, David, Marie, and Madeleine.

BWA creates young leaders network

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BWA creates young leaders network

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The [Baptist World Alliance](#) has started a network of young people in an effort to develop its next generation of leaders.

More than 30 young leaders from around the world gathered before the BWA's General Council meeting held recently in Ghana. They met one another and discussed issues they are facing.