

# **DOWN HOME: Have the sidewalks gone to the dogs?**

June 22, 2007

Posted: 6/22/07

## **DOWN HOME: Have the sidewalks gone to the dogs?**

Joanna and I got run off the sidewalk the other evening.

Not by thoughtless children on bicycles. And not by reckless teenagers on skateboards.

Worse: By their parents. Or, to be more specific, by their parents walking their dogs.

Jo and I love our “new” neighborhood. We moved here last fall. And one of the best things about living here is running in the morning and walking in the evening.

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## **EDITORIAL: We need to discuss faith & politics**

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# EDITORIAL:

## We need to discuss faith & politics

A reader recently submitted a thoughtful, articulate letter about a set of articles that appeared in this paper. Perhaps you read her letter in the June 11 issue. She wrote, in part:

*“I was dismayed to read stories and analysis of the better-known U.S. presidential candidates in a recent issue of the Baptist Standard, even though I didn’t fault the information provided. I’m interested in politics and am a political party member, but I believe in separation of church and state.*



*“I don’t argue politics at church, and I don’t argue religion at political party meetings. I wouldn’t read a government publication or a party flyer to help me decide whether to be a Christian or which denomination to join, and I don’t read the Standard to help me decide how to vote.”*

She and I enjoyed a lively, enlightening e-mail exchange, in which she expressed concern about the “slippery slope” of politics and the importance of “holding the line regarding nondiscussion of politics” in her church.

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# Faith Digest

June 22, 2007

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## Faith Digest

**Most Republicans doubt Darwin.** Republicans are far more likely to doubt the theory of evolution than Democrats, a new [Gallup Poll](#) revealed. Sixty-eight percent of Republicans say they doubt humans evolved from lower life forms over millions of years; only 40 percent of Democrats hold the view. The poll was conducted by telephone last June and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. In a separate Gallup poll this May, respondents were asked to choose between three hypotheses about human origin and development. Just 14 percent believed God had no part in the process, while 43 percent believed God created man in present form. A full 38 percent took a centrist view, affirming that man evolved but God guided the process. Beyond political parties, the poll also found a correlation between church attendance and belief in evolution. Those who seldom or never attend church are three times more likely to be evolutionists than those who attend church weekly.

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**Bishop urges three-minute Sabbath in transit.** An Anglican bishop has asked thousands of British rail commuters to spend a few minutes each day doing precisely nothing. To help them keep track of the three minutes of stress-beating silence he was urging upon them, Stephen Cottrell handed out miniature egg timers—which he called the “gift of time”—to travelers as they rushed by him at the train station. “By learning to sit still, slow down, by discerning when to shut up and when to speak out, you learn to

travel through life differently,” Cottrell said. The cleric took his cue from a recent study by Britain’s University of Hertfordshire that found the walking speeds in 32 cities around the world had increased by 10 percent over the past decade.

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## **Baptists throw a lifeline to flooded Gainesville**

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Texas  
Baptist  
Men  
volunteers  
Larry  
Toney of  
Wichita  
Falls and  
Jane Hayes  
of  
Whitesboro  
move  
boxes of  
food as the  
set up to  
serve  
meals in  
Gainesville.

## **Baptists throw a lifeline to flooded Gainesville**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

GAINESVILLE—Duke Dowling, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, admits he doesn't know much about home repair. He can't refurbish the more than 300 flooded homes in his community. He can't even fix the home of the one family in his congregation whose home was swamped. But he knows plenty of people who can.

“I can’t build,” he said. “But I can go out and find people who can.”

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# **Tyler physician’s care for Iraqi refugees opens doors for ministry**

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## **Tyler physician’s care for Iraqi refugees opens doors for ministry**

**By Jessica Dooley**

*Communications Intern*

TYLER—Dick Hurst, a medical doctor and layman at [First Baptist Church in Tyler](#), has journeyed to northern Iraq and the surrounding region at least a half-dozen times—including a trip earlier this year—to care for refugees and orphans.

And due in large part to the relationships he has built the last 16 years, multiple ministries are working together to meet needs in the region.

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# Texas Baptist Forum

June 22, 2007  
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## Texas Baptist Forum

### Recycle of abuse

Thank you for keeping clergy sexual abuse in the news ([June 11](#)).

I have been carrying the burden of this tragedy for over five years and still have tears running down my face. I don't know if I will ever be the person I was before it happened to me.

• [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to [marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com); 250 words maximum.



*"I sometimes marvel when people running for office are asked about faith and their answer is: 'Oh, I don't get into that; I keep that completely separate. My faith is completely immaterial to how I think and how I govern.' And to me that's really tantamount to saying that my faith is so marginal, so insignificant, so inconsequential that it really doesn't impact the way I live. I would consider that an extraordinarily shallow faith."*

**Mike Huckabee**

Republican presidential candidate  
and former Baptist pastor,  
discussing faith and politics at the  
Pew Forum on Religion and Public  
Life (RNS)

*"He'd say, 'Just a moment, Lyndon,' put the phone on his chest, and then motion for me to come in. To me, that said I was more important than the president of the United States! I'd crawl up on his bed, content just to lie there with my head on his chest."*

**Ned Graham**

Recalling times during his  
childhood when his father,  
evangelist Billy Graham, was on  
the phone with then-President  
Lyndon Johnson (*Charisma*/RNS)

Since there is not much that can be done in my case, I am praying that changes can be done to keep others from suffering.

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## On the Move

June 22, 2007

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## On the Move

- **Jason Ames** to First Church in Three Rivers as youth director.
  - **Tom Bilderback** to First Church in Whitesboro as youth minister.
  - **John Carl** to Northlake Church in Garland as pastor from First Church in Whitney.
  - **Rick Carney** to Bones Chapel in Whitesboro as pastor.
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**Weary pastors stave off stress  
by scheduling âpersonal**

# Sabbathsâ□□

June 22, 2007

Posted: 6/22/07

## Weary pastors stave off stress by scheduling 'personal Sabbaths'

**By Matt Kennedy**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—Consummate counselor, powerful preacher, lasting leader—these are descriptions often used to characterize a respected pastor. Avid fisherman and beach bum are not.

But Bruce Prindle, pastor of First Baptist Church in Midlothian, values fishing and lying in a folding chair next to the waves just as much as his more traditional pastoral duties.

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## Following Scripture not easy recipe for political choices, ethicists insist

June 22, 2007

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# Following Scripture not easy recipe for political choices, ethicists insist

**By Robert Dilday**

*Virginia Religious Herald*

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Abortion is the most pressing moral issue of the day, said Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, a Republican candidate for president, at a recent GOP debate. So much so, the Catholic senator continued, that he doesn't think his party can nominate anyone who isn't pro-life because that's "at our core."

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**See related articles:**

- [RENDER TO CAESAR: Some Baptists feel 'caught in the middle'](#)
- Following Scripture not easy recipe for political choices, ethicists insist
  - [Pastors challenged to link faith, society in their sermons](#)
  - [Pulpit politics run risk for churches](#)
  - ['Red Letter Christians' a growing political force](#)
  - [Senator asserts global warming divides, distracts evangelicals from core issues](#)

Not so fast, said former senator John Edwards, the Democratic presidential candidate from North Carolina. The “great moral issue of our time” is

poverty in the United States, Edwards, a Methodist who was raised Southern Baptist, said in a Democratic candidate forum hosted by a Christian group. “As long as I am alive and breathing, I will be out there fighting with everything I have to help the poor in this country.”

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## **Pastors challenged to link faith, society in their sermons**

June 22, 2007

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## **Pastors challenged to link faith, society in their sermons**

**By Ted Parks**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—Prophecy is not about gazing into the future. It’s about passion for a better world right now, speakers at a celebration of preaching stressed.

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**See related articles:**

- [RENDER TO CAESAR: Some Baptists feel 'caught in the middle'](#)
- [Following Scripture not easy recipe for political choices, ethicists insist](#)
- [Pastors challenged to link faith, society in their sermons](#)
- [Pulpit politics run risk for churches](#)
- ['Red Letter Christians' a growing political force](#)
- [Senator asserts global warming divides, distracts evangelicals from core issues](#)

While many think of the prophets of the Bible primarily as predictors of the future, that prophetic proclamation is mostly a critique of social evil and a

call to justice, they said.

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# **Pulpit politics run risk for churches**

June 22, 2007

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## **Pulpit politics run risk for churches**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—Churches engaged in partisan politics risk losing not only their tax-exempt status, but also their credibility, several experts in church-state relations agree.

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## **‘Red Letter Christians’ a**

# growing political force

June 22, 2007

Posted: 6/22/07

## 'Red Letter Christians' a growing political force

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

NEW YORK (ABP)—In what is shaping up to be a faith-filled race for the presidency, Republican and Democratic candidates have pulled out all the stops—hiring religion gurus, conscientiously attending church, discussing the intimate details of their prayer lives on national TV and publicly admitting personal struggles with sin.



It's an effort to appeal to religious voters and—especially for Democratic candidates—dispel a perception that they don't take religion seriously. The latest manifestation of that effort came at a George Washington University forum sponsored by the progressive Christian group Sojourners.