

# Texas Tidbits

March 16, 2007

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## Texas Tidbits

**Board OKs changes to scholarship program.** The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board approved an increase in the amount of money given to each 2007 recipient of the Mary Hill Davis Ethnic/Minority Scholarship. Each full-time student will receive \$800 a semester, double what was offered in 2006. Members of ethnic and minority congregations affiliated with the BGCT who are planning to attend a BGCT-affiliated university can apply for the scholarship by April 15. More information about the scholarship and an online application can be found at [www.bgct.org](http://www.bgct.org). The application and information also can be obtained by calling Tom Ruane or Amber Young at (888) 244-9400. The scholarship is provided by funds through the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions.

**Numbers add up for ETBU math scholarship.** The Rutledge McClaran Mathematics Scholarship now honors the longtime mathematics professor and administrator at [East Texas Baptist University](http://East Texas Baptist University). McClaran retired from full-time responsibilities last August, but he still is a part-time consultant at the university. He is an ETBU graduate and served on the faculty more than 41 years. He has been professor of mathematics, chair of the department of mathematics and computer science, academic dean, dean of instruction and dean of liberal arts. In 1989, he became the director of institutional planning, assessment and research. Gifts can be made to the McClaran Mathematics Scholarship by calling the ETBU office of

institutional advancement at (903) 923-2070.

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# **Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Reading habits and expanded horizons**

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## **CYBER COLUMN: Reading habits and expanded horizons**

**By Berry D. Simpson**

I read books all the time. When I was a kid, we would go to the library once a week as a class, and I always checked out a book. I remember one year—I don't remember which grade, I think fourth or fifth, or which teacher, Morris or Henry, but I can picture the layout of the library in my mind—the librarian telling us boys to stick to *Boys Life* magazine and stop looking at the pictures in *Seventeen*. She also told me I should read something different. She thought I was reading too many books about war. She thought I should branch out a bit.

Berry D. Simpson
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I remember thinking at the time, in my smart-alecky boy logic, that I was reading more books and thicker books than anyone else in class, certainly more books than any other boy, and shouldn't my teacher have been satisfied with that? Why did she have to boss me around about which book I was reading, especially when this was leisure reading and not book-report reading?

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# **NAE rebuffs Bush administration in joining anti-torture statement**

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## **NAE rebuffs Bush administration in joining anti-torture statement**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (ABP)—The nation's umbrella group for evangelicals has endorsed a statement that takes aim at the Bush administration's alleged use of torture in the war on terrorism.

Directors of the [National Association of Evangelicals](#) have endorsed a

document called “An Evangelical Declaration Against Torture: Protecting Human Rights in an Age of Terror.” The endorsement came at the board’s March 8-9 meeting in Minnesota.

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# **Gingrich, potential GOP ‘08 candidate, admits affair while pursuing Clinton**

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## **Gingrich, potential GOP ‘08 candidate, admits affair while pursuing Clinton**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., chose one of the nation’s most popular evangelical radio programs to admit he had an extramarital affair while pursuing impeachment charges against former President Bill Clinton.

The admission came on James Dobson’s “Focus on the Family” broadcast. Some political observers surmised that Gingrich—by choosing Dobson’s show for his forum and making the admission early in the 2008 presidential

election cycle—is fishing for GOP nomination support from conservative evangelical Christians.

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# Franklin Graham's son injured in Iraq

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## Franklin Graham's son injured in Iraq

BOONE, N.C. (BP)—Capt. Edward Graham, the youngest son of evangelist Franklin Graham, has sustained shrapnel wounds to his arms, legs and back in Iraq.

Graham, a 27-year-old Army Ranger and West Point graduate, did not suffer life-threatening injuries and is recovering at an undisclosed hospital, according to news reports.

“We know that he is fine and has asked for prayers for his men,” Jeremy Blume, a spokesman for Franklin Graham, told the *Citizen-Times* newspaper in Asheville, N.C., adding he had no more details on the incident. “Rangers aren’t allowed to disclose much information—even where he is.”

Glenn Wilcox, a close friend of the Graham family, told the *Citizen-Times* Graham is serving his second tour in Iraq and that his father is extremely proud of him.

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# Terror victims receive relief for soles, hope for souls

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Staff and volunteers with Russian Ministries, a partner of Buckner and Shoes for Orphan Souls, personally delivered shoes to children in Beslan and Chechnya which helped open doors for further Christian ministry in the mostly Muslim-populated region. (Photos courtesy of Russian Ministries)

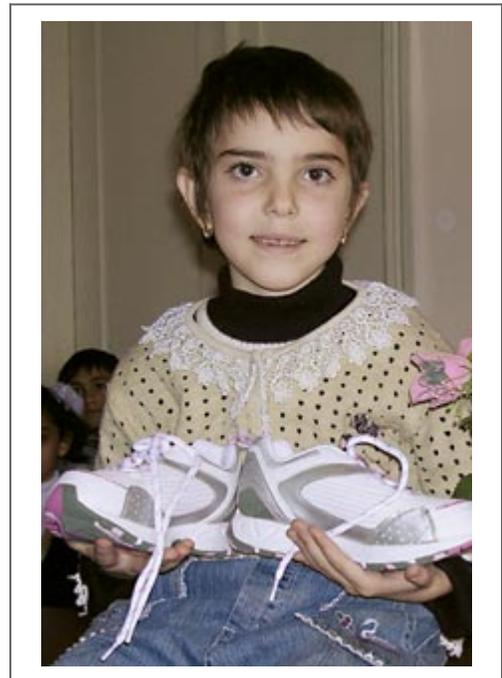
# Terror victims receive relief for soles, hope for souls

**By Russ Dilday**

*Buckner International*

Thousands of children in war-torn regions of Beslan, Russia, and Grozny, Chechnya, recently received thousands of pairs of shoes donated through the [Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls](#) drive.

Russian Ministries, a Christian group that collaborates with Buckner for ministry, distributed the shoes as part of a larger evangelistic effort to reach children and their families in the mostly Muslim-populated areas with the message of Christ.



Children orphaned by the terrorist attacks on Sept. 1, 2004 in Beslan received new shoes last December thanks to the Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls shoe drive.

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# Evangelical leaders turn up heat on Cizik for global-warming warning

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## Evangelical leaders turn up heat on Cizik for global-warming warning

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The National Association of Evangelicals has affirmed its stance on caring for the environment—indirectly rebuffing complaints that a staffer was too environmentally friendly—and endorsed a statement condemning torture.

Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson and two dozen other evangelical leaders had asked the board to consider ousting Richard Cizik, the NAE's vice president for governmental affairs, because of his "relentless campaign" against global warming.

Richard Cizik
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# **BWA committee nominates first non-white general secretary**

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## **BWA committee nominates first non-white general secretary**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—Neville Callam will make history for Baptists around the world if elected general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

If elected in July, the 55-year-old Jamaican pastor will be the first non-white chief executive of the group, which represents about 110 million Baptists in national and regional bodies across the planet. He would also be the first general secretary in the group's 101-year history to hail from somewhere

other than the United States or Europe.

Neville Callam
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# Baugh's witness, generosity recalled

March 16, 2007

Updated: 3/15/07

## Baugh's witness, generosity recalled

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

HOUSTON (ABP)—“There was a man sent from God whose name was John,” Daniel Vestal told about 800 people at a Houston memorial service for Baptist philanthropist John Baugh March 8.

Quoting the biblical description of John the Baptist from the Gospel of John, Vestal said the life of John Baugh had parallels to the New Testament prophet of the same name.

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John  
Baugh  
and his  
wife,  
Eula  
Mae

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for March 25: Ready to do ministry in a new way**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for March 25**

## **Ready to do ministry in a new way**

- Acts 6:1-7

**[By Leroy Fenton](#)**

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for March 25: Jesus restores our life**

March 16, 2007

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**[Bible Studies for Life Series for March 25](#)**

## **Jesus restores our life**

• John 11:1-44

**[By David Harp](#)**

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## **Explore the Bible Series for March 25: Submission: The sign of a well-ordered life**

March 16, 2007

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**[Explore the Bible Series for March 25](#)**

# Submission: The sign of a well-ordered life

- 1 Peter 2:13-25

**[By Kathryn Aragon](#)**

*First Baptist Church, Duncanville*

Life is a dangerous proposition. For even the boldest among us, it is frightening to think we only have one chance to get it right. Of course, that's where God comes into the picture. God, in his grace, has given us a guidebook telling us exactly how to get it right.