

# Former governor, Baptist minister, runs for White House

February 8, 2007

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## Former governor, Baptist minister, runs for White House

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The latest long-shot presidential candidate is a Southern Baptist Baby Boomer from Hope, Ark., who served as governor of his home state. But this isn't Bill Clinton, and he isn't a Democrat. Instead, he's a Republican, an ex-pastor and former president of the [Arkansas Baptist State Convention](#).

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Mike  
Huckabee,  
former  
governor  
of  
Arkansas  
and a  
Baptist  
minister,  
is running  
for  
President.

[Mike Huckabee](#), in a Jan. 28 appearance on NBC's [Meet the Press](#), announced that he has formed a committee to explore the possibility of running for president on the GOP ticket. Forming an exploratory committee is the first formal step in any presidential bid and allows the candidate to hire campaign staff and raise funds.

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## **Bellevue report: Assistant pastor guilty of sex abuse against son**

February 8, 2007

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# Bellevue report: Assistant pastor guilty of sex abuse against son

By **Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

CORDOVA, Tenn. (ABP)—Paul Williams, minister of prayer and special projects at [Bellevue Baptist Church](#), sexually abused his son 17 years ago, according to a report from the church's investigative committee. The committee announced its findings to the congregation Jan. 28.

"Paul Williams engaged in egregious, perverse, sexual activity with his adolescent son over a period of 12 to 18 months," the report said. "Paul became convicted of his actions, and he stopped. He asked for forgiveness from his son and never touched him inappropriately again. At that time Paul told no one else."

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**LifeWay removes  
"questionable" online titles**

February 8, 2007

Posted: 2/05/07

# LifeWay removes ‘questionable’ online titles

**By Lonnie Wilkey**

*Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—LifeWay Christian Resources has removed a number of pro-gay titles from its online store, [LifeWaystores.com](http://LifeWaystores.com), after staffers became aware of the books’ availability.

[EthicsDaily.com](http://EthicsDaily.com) reported Jan. 29 that LifeWay had several authors listed on the site who promoted a “pro-homosexual” agenda. EthicsDaily is a news service of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

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## Global warming calls for a Baptist response

February 8, 2007

Posted: 2/07/07

## Global warming calls for a Baptist response

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

AUSTIN—In the wake of an international report indicating humans very likely have caused global warming, [Christian Life Commission](#) Director Suzii Paynter called for Texas Baptists to lobby elected officials to rethink 18 [proposed coal-fired power plants](#) that would dump tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually.

Scientists who subscribe to the concept of global warming believe industrial gases released into the atmosphere create hotter days, heat waves, droughts and stronger and more frequent hurricanes.

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## Texas Baptist Forum

February 8, 2007

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## Texas Baptist Forum

### **New Baptist Covenant**

I read with extreme interest regarding the convocation for the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, designed to unite North American Baptists next year ([Jan. 22](#)).

If the best “laymen” that could be found to accomplish this task are Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, then the convocation is doomed before it ever meets.

• <a href="#">Jump to online-only letters below</a>
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Letters are welcomed. Send them to  
[marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com); 250  
words maximum.



*"I believe in the culture war. And you know what? If I have to take a side in the culture war, I'll take their side. Because if you give me the choice of Paris Hilton or Jesus, I'll take Jesus."*

**Alexandra Pelosi**

Filmmaker, discussing her new film, Friends of God, about evangelical Christians (New York Times/RNS)

*"I think about God a lot more than ever, though I used to ask him, 'Help me make a good jump.'"*

**Evel Knievel**

Retired stuntman (USA Today/RNS)

*"I don't see how we can justify the death of one more American soldier in the cause of a 'democracy' such as the one on display at the execution of Saddam Hussein. Let's bring the troops home."*

**David Gushee**

Professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.  
(ABP)

*"Forgo anger, tobacco, intoxication and gluttony in favor of exercise, humility, charity, prayer and patience."*

**Nicholas Kao Se-tsean**

At 110 years old, one of the world's oldest priests, on his secrets for long life (Ecumenical News International/RNS)

If Clinton is a Baptist, then I am a former president. Carter may be a Baptist, but his extreme leftist politics make him an odd choice to lead this distinguished group of 80 leaders. It is noted that his Baptist church recently ordained his wife, Rosalynn, as a deacon, in direct violation of New Testament teachings on this subject.

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# **Prayerwalkers appeal to God to take back community**

February 8, 2007

Posted: 2/02/07

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Participants in a recent DiscipleNow weekend at Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church held the congregation's first prayerwalk through the neighborhood near the church. The group prayed for schools, medical facilities and other churches.

More prayerwalks and outreaches are planned to help "change the spiritual climate" of the neighborhood, said David Balyeat, interim minister for missions.

# Prayerwalkers appeal to God to take back community

**By Laura Lacey Johnson**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

A new government program is bringing positive change to a crime-laced neighborhood not far from [Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas](#). But church members determined to take back their community have appealed to a higher authority—by prayerwalking.

“The idea is to heighten the level of consciousness about the condition of the neighborhood and get the congregation more involved in praying for the spiritual climate to make the changes from the government program more viable,” said David Balyeat, interim minister for missions at Shiloh Terrace.

**Prayerwalking  
participants offer  
practical advice:**

*Read books about prayer  
so you have a framework  
from which to pray.*

— **David Lowrie, pastor  
of First Baptist Church  
of Canyon**

*Ask God to give you a  
vision of what he wants  
for the area.*

— **David Balyeat,  
interim minister of  
missions at Shiloh  
Terrace Baptist  
Church in Dallas**

*Be “confessed up and  
prayed up” to help  
combat spiritual warfare.*

— **Texas Baptist  
missionaries to North  
Africa**

*If planning a group  
prayerwalk, seek God’s  
choice of the team  
members and look for  
people with “a heart for  
prayer.”*

— **Steve Hawthorne and  
Graham Kendrick,  
authors**

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# **CYBER COLUMN by John Duncan: Pain and suffering**

February 8, 2007

Posted: 2/05/07

## **CYBER COLUMN: Pain and suffering**

**By John Duncan**

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking of life in its ups and downs, in its hopes and dreams, and in its disappointment and suffering. C.S. Lewis once hailed life as a series of events with the "life of souls in a world" try to eliminate suffering from life: "Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself." As much as I hate to admit it, souls alive suffer and survive.

John Duncan
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Suffering, I do not like it. Just the other day, my youngest daughter and I were working out. You know—exercise, Rocky Balboa motivation and shed pounds and dress for success. After all, prom is just around the corner for her, and I could stand to lose a few pounds. It is also the time of year to trim a few pounds and prepare for the swimsuit season soon to follow. I

asked her to hand me a free weight, one that I would lift with my legs and arms, and low and behold she accidentally dropped it on my left knee! The pain and suffering were enormous. I can tell you I was not thinking of Jesus my High Priest of suffering nor Saint Peter's admonition, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12). I thought of the pain in my knee, and it was as if a lightning bolt had zapped me. Good news, though: A bruise ensued and the pain subsided.

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# **RIGHT or WRONG? Human/civil rights**

February 8, 2007

Posted: 2/02/07

## **RIGHT or WRONG? Human/civil rights**

***"Human rights" and "civil rights" are terms constantly voiced by minority groups. Are these terms synonymous? What responsibilities should accompany these rights?***

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# **Wayland's centennial history a labor of love for professor**

February 8, 2007

Updated: 2/02/07



Estelle Owens peruses copies of the Hale County Historical Association journals in the Mabee Learning Resources Center on the Wayland Baptist University campus while gathering history on the university for the centennial book.

## **Wayland's centennial history a labor of**

# love for professor

**By Teresa Young**

*Wayland Baptist University*

PLAINVIEW—Estelle Owens figures she looks a bit more tired than usual these days. After all, long hours, long nights and long stretches of highway can wear on a person. But she's quick to admit every article she has read and every interview she has conducted for [Wayland Baptist University's](#) centennial history has been a labor of love.

When approached a few years back to research and compile Wayland's complete history for its centennial celebration, Owens jumped at the chance. She won't deny the work has been tedious at times and the majority of her free time has been swallowed up with the process, but she's also had the experience of a lifetime.

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## Storylist for week of 1/22/07

February 8, 2007

## Storylist for week of 1/22/07

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# Diverse coalition forces amendment to lobbying-reform bill

February 8, 2007

Updated: 2/02/07

## Diverse coalition forces amendment to lobbying-reform bill

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—After an uproar from an odd coalition of conservative religious, libertarian and business groups, the Senate voted late to scuttle part of its sweeping lobbying-reform bill.

The Senate amended the [Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007](#) on a near-party-line vote of 55-43.

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# Evangelicals join scientists in fight against global warming

February 8, 2007

Updated: 2/02/07

## Some evangelicals join scientists in battle against global warming

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A new alliance between prominent evangelical leaders and their secular scientific counterparts to fight global warming is drawing bipartisan support in Washington—but also has some evangelical detractors.

A coalition of 28 scientists, theologians, ethicists and pastors announced a new collaborative effort on human-caused climate change. The announcement marks an escalation in the budding evangelical environmental movement and signals a willingness for some scientists and conservative Christians to put aside their differences over how and when creation came about in order to prevent its premature end.