

Texas Tidbits

January 4, 2007

Posted: 1/05/07



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CLC hires staff attorney. The Baptist General Convention of Texas has named Stephen Reeves staff attorney for the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. Reeves previously worked with the [Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#), where he served as counsel- in-residence and then staff attorney. He also served as a CLC legislative aide from October 2003 to August 2004. He also has served as youth minister at Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale, Va. Reeves earned his law degree at Texas Tech University after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

African-American ministries director named. Charles Singleton, founding pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, has been named director of African-American ministries for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He assumed his new post Jan. 1. During Singleton's 22-year tenure at First Missionary Baptist, the congregation started Southeast Hispanic Baptist Church, fostered an extensive youth outreach ministry and founded Miller Avenue Christian Academy, an academic and spiritual ministry to children 2 years old through second grade. Before he founded First Missionary Baptist, Singleton was pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Fort Worth from 1981 to 1984. Singleton is president of the Tarrant Baptist Association Pastor's Conference, and he has held numerous other offices with that organization, including moderator in 2004. He was a

founding member of the African American Fellowship, and he served on the BGCT Executive Board from 2002 to 2006, the BGCT mission funding committee since 2001 and as a BGCT field representative in Tarrant County for African-American ministries since 1998. Singleton is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

TOGETHER: 2007: The emphasis is on missions

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TOGETHER: 2007: The emphasis is on missions

As followers of Jesus Christ, we face an important question: How do we build a disciple in the 21st century?

One way you build a disciple today is by involving him or her in missions. There was a time not too long ago when missions meant sending out a person with an extraordinary call to serve across the seas in some isolated setting. Today, missions is for all of us.

Career missionaries still are important, but thanks to advances in technology and communications, more believers can be involved in missions at home and abroad.



Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

The Atlantic and Pacific oceans are no longer great barriers. We no longer are isolated. Everything is global. Every country touches every other country, and every culture rubs up against every other culture. Missions is at the door of every church, and members in every church are connected daily with points around the world.

CYBER COLUMN by John Duncan: Grandmother's simple faith

January 4, 2007

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CYBER COLUMN: Grandmother's simple faith

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, anticipating the year to come. I announced to my youngest daughter on the first of January: "No New Year's resolutions this year! I am not making any New Year's resolutions!" I am not sure why I spoke such words. Maybe because I am weary of resolutions. Maybe because I fear I might break a resolution. Maybe because I am bored with the same old resolutions that people make—the diet, debt and discipline resolutions people set as goals every year.

John Duncan

Did you know 41.3 million Americans belong to health clubs and that number increases with the resolve to diet and lose weight in a new year? Did you know the average American has credit card debt of approximately \$5,000 and a new year yields a pledge to dig out of debt? Did you know Americans aim for discipline with their new resolutions? They shoot for better education or to stop drinking alcohol or to stop smoking or overeating or consuming caffeine. All in all, I think all such resolutions are wise, often necessary, especially if the diet, digging out of debt and adding discipline contribute to a higher quality of life. However, one life coach, whatever that is, noted, "Most people abandon their goals in the first 30 days."

Seminary president urges

neighboring pastor to resign

January 4, 2007

Posted: 1/05/07

Seminary president urges neighboring pastor to resign

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

CORDOVA, Tenn. (ABP)—The president of [Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary](#) called for the senior pastor at one of the largest Southern Baptist congregations in the United States to resign.

Michael Spradlin, who leads the seminary situated across the street from [Bellevue Baptist Church](#) in suburban Memphis, said Steve Gaines should relinquish the church's pastorate because of his deliberate silence about sex-abuse allegations against a Bellevue minister.

Church's flexibility helps in encounter with Hispanic

seekers

January 4, 2007

Posted: 1/03/07

Church's flexibility helps in encounter with Hispanic seekers

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WAXAHACHIE—Encounter may not have had Spanish-speaking Hispanics as its target audience, but now that a couple of dozen attend, the congregation is excited at the opportunity God has given for ministry.

Encounter exists for three types of people. The church's website, encounterthis.com, says: "Those who have walked away from church because they have been 'burned' in some way. Their hurts have driven them from church, but not necessarily from God. Two, those who have grown bored with other expressions of church. They have stopped experiencing the reality of Christ in the music, message format and hunger for something more. And, three, those who are far from God."

Encounter's Pastor Brian Treadaway

Students provide family with extreme home makeover

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Max Blood, 15, felt moved by family's condition and wanted to volunteer his time to help out. "I just hope that they like it and are able to enjoy it," he said.

Students provide family with extreme home makeover

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

DALLAS—When Onequa Washington, 31, was laid off from her job of 13 years in early September, the first thing she thought about was Christmas.

“I always try to teach my children that it’s just a blessing to be together at Christmas,” said Washington, a single mother of three boys. “But with the little ones, it’s so hard for them to understand.”

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM: Change the subject

Enough about Baylor! There were at least six pages worth of “information” on the Baylor controversies in the Sept. 22 edition.



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God is doing more in Texas than most people are aware. Please seek out and focus on successful ministries around the state instead of perpetuating the controversies by publicizing them, and publicizing them and publicizing them.

CYBER COLUMN by Brett Younger: Judgment Day

January 4, 2007

Posted: 1/02/06

CYBER COLUMN: Judgment Day

By Brett Younger

When I was 15 years old, my father was the pastor of the strictest church in the world. In Saltillo, Miss., pastor of the Baptist church was—next to coach of the high school football team—the most important job in town. My father preached loudly—a bit like John the Baptist. He is a kind and caring man, but when I was growing up, he frightened me.

That summer, I got a job in Tupelo eight miles away. At that time, you could get a driver's license at 15. Now that seems about 10 years too soon. My father taught me how to drive the right way—hands at 10 and 2 o'clock,

five miles below the speed limit, acting with utmost patience—“Don’t ever drive in a hurry.” As part of my teenage rebellion, I put my hands at 9 and 3 o’clock and went five miles above the speed limit.

Brett Younger

Movie’s themes experienced by church that produced it

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Posted: 12/29/06

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*Facing
the
Giants*, a
film made
by
Sherwood
Baptist
Church of
Albany,
Ga., has
played to
audiences
in more
than a
million
people in
650
theaters
and is
now
available
on DVD.

Movie's themes experienced by church that produced it

By George Henson

Staff Writer

ALBANY, Ga.—“Nothing is impossible with God” is a recurring theme

throughout *Facing the Giants*, a feature-length independent movie created by [Sherwood Baptist Church](#).

Now the same theme is evident in the life of the church, where leaders plan to use proceeds from the movie's upcoming release on DVD to fund a sports outreach facility.

Texas Baptist Men seek to provide pure Water of Life

January 4, 2007

Posted: 12/29/06

Texas Baptist Men seek to provide pure Water of Life

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

ZACATECAS, Mexico—Many children in villages throughout much of the Mexican state of Zacatecas cannot drink water without swallowing arsenic and heavy metals. But [Texas Baptist Men](#) volunteers are seeking to correct that problem, one community at a time through their Agua de Vida—Water of Life—project.

Texas Baptist
Men
volunteers
test and
purify water
in Zacatecas,
Mexico. The
men's work in
Mexico is
saving the
lives of
people whose
only source of
drinking
water was
contaminated.

Much of the water supply in central Mexico contains heavy levels of arsenic. Thousands of indigenous people live with this danger, but children are the most vulnerable because their immune systems are not fully developed. Toxins in the water can cause skin lesions, cancer, neurological damage and even death.

UMHB student adds German

flavor to Texas Christmas

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University of
Mary Hardin-
Baylor
international
student Kim
Jobke stands
between her
American
mother and
sister
decorating
their
Christmas
tree while her
host father
looks on.

UMHB student adds German flavor to Texas Christmas

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

TEMPLE—Kim Jobke knows about celebrating Christmas with her American host family. She should. The German native, an international

student at the [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#), has celebrated with them for five years.

In Berlin, where her parents live, they open presents on Christmas Eve.

Volunteer builders ramp up efforts to assist the disabled

January 4, 2007

Posted: 12/29/06

Volunteer builders ramp up efforts to assist the disabled

By George Henson

Staff Writer

PARIS—Mike Bradley and his band of volunteers enjoy building wheelchair ramps to help homebound people escape houses in which they feel imprisoned due to disability. And the builders hope the ramps become highways to heaven for some people.

[Immanuel Baptist Church's](#) ramp-building ministry first came to mind through a study of the New Testament story of a man lowered through the roof by his friends so he might meet Jesus, Bradley noted.

Volunteers
from
Immanuel
Baptist
Church in
Paris seek
to offer
homebound
local
residents
freedom by
building
wheelchair
ramps for
their
houses.