Cartoon

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Rookie Deacon Mistake #1: Praying out loud your willingness to be used of God in front of other deacons.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

2nd Opinion: Time to

implement year-end tax tips

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

2nd Opinion:
Time to implement year-end tax tips

By Sherre Stephens

Think it's too early to start preparing for tax season? A recent flurry of tax legislation, as well as expiring tax credits and deductions that Congress may retroactively extend at year's end call for early preparation despite a later filing date in 2007—April 18.

Here are five basic things you need to know:

Get organized. Start now and use a checklist. Checklists facilitate organization and minimize frustration. Many checklists are available on the Internet. Just search for "checklists for tax preparation."

Identify last-minute savings opportunities.

DOWN HOME: No place like

â□□homeâ□□

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

DOWN HOME:
No place like ‘home’

We’ve got another home.

No, the Baptist Standard didn’t hand me a big, fat bonus so I could go out and buy a second place out in the Hill Country or down by the beach. And I haven’t signed a blockbuster movie deal based on “Down Home.” (Who would play me in the movie? Some folks might pick George Clooney or Brad Pitt, but I’d go for Ray Romano or Matthew Perry. In my universe, funny trumps sexy.)

If you’ve met me on this side of the page the past few months, you probably know Joanna and I bought another house late this summer. We sold the home in Lewisville where we raised our girls and bought another one in Coppell, way closer to work.

Our house seemed like home from the start. It feels like it was built for us, even though we didn’t find it for a long time. Now, except for hanging pictures in a hallway and trimming bushes, we’re pretty much settled. And since the “new” neighborhood is about twice as old as as the “old” one, we enjoy the trees and developed yards.

EDITORIAL: Wanted: More compelling Christians

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

EDITORIAL:
Wanted: More compelling Christians

How—and with whom—should Christians cooperate?

This issue surfaced again in the past few days, when some fundamentalist Christians demanded California pastor Rick Warren remove Sen. Barack Obama (D.-Ill.) from the program of his global AIDS summit because Obama does not oppose abortion.

Warren's ministry innovation spans almost three decades, since he started Saddleback Church in his California apartment in the late 1970s. The church engages about 20,000 worshippers each week. It has started scores of congregations, and his training conferences have helped thousands of pastors. Purpose Driven Ministries—based on his books *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*—has impacted millions of people. The AIDS summit is a key ingredient in Warren's latest initiative, the P.E.A.C.E. plan, which ministers to the people Jesus called "the least of these." P.E.A.C.E. plans to plant churches, equip servant leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick and educate the next generation.

The AIDS summit took aim at two of the P.E.A.C.E. initiatives, assisting the poor and caring for the sick. The P.E.A.C.E. website reports more than 40 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS. Compassion International notes more than 25 million people have died of AIDS, nine out of 10 children with AIDS live in Africa, and 25 million children will lose both parents to AIDS in the next four years. Warren's efforts embody the gospel. One can only wonder what might happen if all those pastors who looked to Warren to help build up their congregations would follow his lead in P.E.A.C.E. Our planet would be a vastly better place.

MK carries on legacy through gift to Nigeria hospital

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Mary Kay Posey points to the Texas-sized gift she plans to deliver this Christmas to Nigeria—thanks largely to Texas Baptists.

MK carries on legacy through gift to Nigeria hospital

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Many people renew family ties at Christmas. For Mary Kay Posey, the trip home takes 19 hours. But when she returns to Nigeria this month to deliver a Texas-sized gift, it gives her the chance to carry on the legacy of her medical missionary parents.

“We were expecting a miracle, but what we got was so much more,” she said.

Posey meets with residents and staff at a leper colony near Eku Baptist Hospital.

• Watch video from CBS11 News in Dallas on Posey's trip.

Church gives thanks by giving back

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Church gives thanks by giving back

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

EL PASO—Members of Lakeside Baptist Church in El Paso gave thousands of hungry people in Juarez something to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Church members were the primary preparers of Thanksgiving meals for more than 20,000 people Nov. 24-25. The effort is part of an outreach coordinated by Hands of Luke Medical Ministries, an organization led by Marco Samaniego, pastor of Lakeside Baptist.

Members of Lakeside Baptist Church in El Paso and other volunteers with Hands of Luke Medical Ministries prepare a thanksgiving feast for hungry families in Juarez.

ETBU students serve in Sabine Pass

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

East Texas Baptist University Tiger baseball team members, (left to right) Trevor Stagner of White Oak, Lane Ellzey of Kountze, Michael Ross of Tyler, Hunter Howard of Lake Dallas and Joey Cross of Celina, tear down a ceiling in a home damaged by Hurricane Rita in Sabine Pass. (Photo courtesy of ETBU)

ETBU students serve in Sabine Pass

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—Two student groups from East Texas Baptist University responded to a request by Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief to help meet ongoing needs in Southeast Texas one year after Hurricane Rita.

"I received a phone call from a TBM representative asking if ETBU students would help with a tremendous need to gut houses and hang sheetrock," said Allan Thompson, director of the university's Great Commission Center.

Ethiopian church employs indigenous missionaries

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Ethiopian church employs indigenous missionaries

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GARLAND—Through an innovative plan employing indigenous missionaries, even Sunday school classes can afford to reach Muslims in Ethiopia.

Pastor Bedilu Yirga of Ethiopian Evangelical Baptist Church in Garland and his congregation have partnered with churches in Ethiopia to reach members of the Berta tribe, who live along the border of Ethiopia and Sudan.

Glad Tidings...to all people

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Baptist missionary Shirley Smith (right) visits the family of a Futa Toro man in West Africa who has recently returned from a pilgrimage to Mecca, the center of Islamic life. (IMB photo)

Glad tidings… to all people

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Luke's Gospel account of Christ's birth describes how angels announced to shepherds good tidings of great joy for all people. But 2,000 years later, more than one-fourth—perhaps many more—of the world's people still haven't heard the good news or seen evidence of it.

Estimates vary widely regarding the number of least-evangelized people and unreached people groups.

See Related Articles:
• Glad Tidings…to all people
• Glad Tidings: What's your mission?
• Glad Tidings: BGCT offers multiple missions opportunities

Glad Tidings: What’s your mission?

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Glad Tidings: What's your mission?

More than 4,000 people traveled on a Buckner mission trip in 2006, helping to share the gospel and show love to hundreds of orphan children and broken families in the Rio Grande Valley, Seattle and seven countries around the world.

“Your faith gets stretched in a way that we don’t allow it to stretch when

we’re at home,” said Longview Baptist Church member Charles Risinger, a three-time Buckner mission trip participant to Latvia. “You see how God makes things happen when you realize that it’s just not humanly possible for you to have done it yourself.”

See Related Articles:
- Glad Tidings…to all people
- Glad Tidings: What's your mission?
- Glad Tidings: BGCT offers multiple missions opportunities

Thousands of people find their calling in missions each year when they seek to comfort God’s children through Buckner mission trips.

For more information on upcoming missions opportunities with Buckner, contact the Buckner missions office at 1-877-7ORPHAN or email missions@buckner.org.

Glad Tidings: BGCT offers multiple missions opportunities

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Glad Tidings:
BGCT offers multiple missions opportunities

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—As sparkling lights and Nativity scenes take center stage this season, a group of college students at First Baptist Church in Canyon hopes to bring light to nonbelievers a world away in Southeast Asia.

A youth musical mission team plans to travel to Japan where members will bear witness to their faith through caroling. Meanwhile, another group of college students will ring in the new year sharing the gospel in Russia.

See Related Articles:
• Glad Tidings…to all people
• Glad Tidings: What's your mission?
• Glad Tidings: BGCT offers multiple missions opportunities

Houston Baptist University inaugurates president

December 1, 2006
Posted: 12/01/06

Houston Baptist University inaugurates president

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

HOUSTON—Houston Baptist University installed Robert Sloan as the school's third president Nov. 29, and the newly inaugurated president used the occasion to underscore his commitment to the integration of faith and learning—a recurring theme during his tenure as president of Baylor University.

Sloan told the diverse assembly—including the executive directors of the rival Baptist General Convention of Texas and Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, as well as representatives from about 100 universities—his last two or three years at Baylor had been "difficult and challenging."

Houston Baptist University President Robert Sloan (center) receives the presidential medallion and words of congratulations from Jack Carlson (left), past chairman of the HBU board of trustees and interim president, and President Emeritus Doug Hodo.