

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

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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€œhomeâ€œ

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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 the "old" one, we enjoy the trees and developed yards.

EDITORIAL: Wanted: More compelling Christians

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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?

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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

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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:

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 - [Glad Tidings: What's your mission?](#)
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-

Houston Baptist University inaugurates president

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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.