

# Pastors face stresses, challenges of corporate CEO's

November 17, 2006

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## Pastors face stresses, challenges of corporate CEO's

**By Greg Garrison**

*Religion News Service*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS) — [New Hope Baptist Church](#) Pastor Gregory Clarke sometimes feels like the CEO of a major corporation—or more than one.

“I’m president of three corporations, superintendent of the school and pastor of the church,” Clarke said. Make that two campuses, with a combined membership of 3,000 people.

### **The business side of religion:**

- Pastors face stresses, challenges of corporate CEOs
- [Congregations embrace the business side of religion](#)
  - [Endowments provide churches a financial safety net](#)

Gregory  
Clarke is  
pastor of  
New Hope  
Baptist  
Church in  
Birmingham,  
Ala., and has  
many of the  
same duties  
as a CEO.  
(RNS photo  
by Steve  
Barnette/*The  
Birmingham  
News*)

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# **Congregations embrace the business side of religion**

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## **Congregations embrace**

# the business side of religion

**By Greg Garrison**

*Religion News Service*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Generating as much as \$25 million a year through 105 ministries, [Briarwood Presbyterian Church](#) touches the world like a multinational corporation.

“Fifty cents of every dollar goes outside the church—whether it’s Campus Outreach or Bangladesh,” said Bruce Stallings, Briarwood’s executive pastor. “We are able to support missions all around the world.”

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Bryan Gunn,  
minister of  
administration  
at Shades  
Mountain  
Baptist Church  
in Birmingham,  
Ala., is a  
former  
accountant. He  
said, "There's a  
need to step up  
to a higher  
level of  
professionalism  
and  
accountability  
within  
churches."  
(RNS photo by  
Mark  
Almond/The  
Birmingham  
News)

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# Cartoon

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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.

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## **African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving**

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A choir sings during the worship service at a BGCT-sponsored rally for African-American Baptists. (Photo by Jenny Pope)

# African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving

By Jenny Pope

*Buckner International*

LEWISVILLE—Hundreds of African-American Texas Baptists gathered at Westside Baptist Church to worship God and give thanks for the growth of African-American churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

“We haven’t gotten to where we want to be, but we’re further than we used to be,” said Oscar Epps, founding pastor of Community Baptist Church in DeSoto.



- [See complete list of convention articles](#)

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## Battle of the Bands winner

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