

# Movie views evangelicals as key environmental reformers

November 17, 2006

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[The Great Warming,](#)

a movie about climate change and the initiatives aimed at reversing its trend toward permanent ecologic damage.

## Movie views evangelicals as key environmental reformers

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—A Canadian film team has released in United States

theatres [\*The Great Warming\*](#), a movie about climate change and the initiatives aimed at reversing its trend toward permanent ecologic damage.

Unlike other recent environmental movies, like Al Gore's [\*An Inconvenient Truth\*](#), *The Great Warming* portrays evangelicals as a group with the potential to push governmental policies toward sustainable living.

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## **Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: Cultivating a grateful heart**

November 17, 2006

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### **CYBER COLUMN: Cultivating a grateful heart**

**By Jeanie Miley**

Frankly, I've always tripped and stumbled over that "giving thanks in all things" idea.

It took me a long time to get over the misunderstanding of the Apostle Paul's admonition by misguided people who tried to force me to give thanks for the hard and unpleasant things in my life. They tried to convince me that if I would give thanks for those things that I didn't want, my attitude toward those things would change. Some even implied that giving thanks was like a placebo or a panacea. Thankfully, something in me (was it God,

perhaps?) knew that a dishonest prayer was not the answer to my soul's deep needs.

Jeanie Miley
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# **2006      BGCT      Convention coverage articles**

November 17, 2006

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### **BGCT annual meeting coverage**

- [Moving On: Board pre-empted' BGCT by recommending reforms](#)
- [African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving](#)
- [Battle of the Bands winner](#)
- [Trust in God in turbulent times, president tells BGCT](#)
- [Texas Baptists challenged to share the light'](#)
- [Church starting policies designed to ensure accountability](#)
- [City Reach meets needs](#)
- [Fellowship of Cowboy Churches points to continued growth](#)
  - [DaVinci Code DVD dialogue a starting place](#)
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- [Church not immune from family violence](#)
- [Preaching must change to communicate with culture](#)
- [Texas Baptists urged to launch world missions offering](#)
- [Internet ministry can help churches expand their reach](#)
- [Kids Hope USA mentors make a difference](#)

- [Missions network participants rally in Arlington](#)
  - [Missions workshop offers tips](#)
- [Restoration of trust is vital, BGCT leaders agree](#)
- [Nontraditional approaches may be needed](#)
- [Warm affection, cool discipline key to parenting](#)
  - [Piper Institute board votes to dissolve at year's end](#)
- [Churches can help members deal with sexual addiction](#)
- [Mission testimonies highlight TBM rally](#)
  - [CWJC graduate gains national honors](#)
- **See a slideshow** of photos from the BGCT Monday session [here](#). (Quicktime movie format. Photos by David Clanton)
- **More photos** at the BGCT website [here](#)

### **BGCT convention articles previously posted**

- [Executive director committed to clean up the mess'](#)
- [Texas WMU reschedules annual meeting](#)
- [Unity emphasised at Texas Baptist Hispanic Fellowship rally](#)
- [Ministry awards presented to Texas Baptist innovators](#)

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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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# **Executive Board votes to explore criminal charges, recovery of Valley funds**

November 17, 2006

Posted: 11/13/06

## **Executive Board votes to explore criminal charges, recovery of Valley funds**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—At a called closed-door meeting prior to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, the BGCT Executive Board voted to implement all of the recommendations of an investigative team that discovered mismanagement and misuse of church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

The board also directed BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade to explore with legal counsel “the full range of methods for recovery of funds” and

determine whether to refer the reports' findings to law enforcement.

Newly  
elected  
BGCT  
officers  
are First  
Vice  
President,  
Joy  
Fenner;  
President,  
Steve  
Vernon;  
and  
Second  
Vice  
President,  
Roberto  
Rodriguez  
. (BGCT  
Photo by  
Robert  
Rogers)

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for November 26: Wise use of words can bolster relationships**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for November 26**

## **Wise use of words can bolster relationships**

- Proverbs 25:11-23; 26:18-28

**By David Wilkinson**

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## **Bible Studies for Life Series for November 26: Acknowledge God's call on your life today**

November 17, 2006

Posted: 11/16/06

**Bible Studies for Life Series for November 26**

# **Acknowledge God's call on your life today**

- Isaiah 55:1-13

**By Kenneth Lyle**

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## **Explore the Bible Series for November 26: “Love one another” is more than a suggestion**

November 17, 2006

Posted: 11/16/06

**Explore the Bible Series for November 26**

## **‘Love one another’ is more than a suggestion**

- Hebrews 13:1-25

**By Howard Anderson**



*Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio*

Chapter 13 of Hebrews focuses on some of the essential practical ethics of Christian living. These ethics help portray the true gospel to the world, encourage others to believe in Christ and bring glory to God. Jesus wants Christians to love one another (John 15:12).

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# **Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say**

November 17, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

## **Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Otto Arango exported church planting strategies he developed in South Texas to Latin America through the [Piper Institute for Church Planting](#), a 2-year-old nonprofit corporation that evolved from the Institute for Church Planting he founded in McAllen.

But some observers familiar with his church starting initiatives in Mexico

assert Arango—the central figure in an investigation that revealed misuse and mismanagement of Baptist General Convention of Texas church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley—also exported a pattern of exaggerated claims.

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## Missouri voters protect stem-cell research

November 17, 2006

Posted: 11/13/06

## Missouri voters protect stem-cell research

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (ABP)—Voters in Missouri Nov. 7 narrowly approved a [constitutional amendment](#) protecting stem-cell research in the state, causing opponents to cite deception and propaganda as the reason for their loss.

Preliminary results show the amendment passed with 51.1 percent of the votes—a winning margin of roughly 47,000 votes.

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# **Megachurches shift focus to community involvement**

November 17, 2006

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ABOVE:  
Heather  
Merchant  
(right)  
helps  
repaint the  
house of  
Gladys  
Serrano  
(left) with a  
team from  
Fellowship  
Bible  
Church  
North in  
Plano.  
Serrano, a  
widow, had  
trouble  
keeping up  
with her  
house  
repairs  
after her  
husband's  
death, so  
members  
the church  
offered  
their  
assistance.  
(RNS  
photos by  
Lawrence  
Jenkins)

# Megachurches shift focus to community involvement

By Adelle Banks

*Religion News Service*

PLANO (RNS)—Holding a paint roller in one hand and steadying a ladder for another volunteer with the other, Heather Merchant joined 15 fellow megachurch members in helping a widow turn her house back into more of a home.

Merchant and others in her “life group” at [Fellowship Bible Church North](#) spent a Saturday putting their faith in action, a call that’s being answered throughout Merchant’s church, which draws about 3,200 people each weekend.

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## RIGHT or WRONG? A materialistic lifestyle

November 17, 2006

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## RIGHT or WRONG?

# A materialistic lifestyle

**Our church increasingly reflects the materialistic culture around us. How can I address this issue and help people in our church recognize the incongruities between a Christian lifestyle and how they are living?**

How appropriate it is for this question to appear just before Thanksgiving. How ironic it was for me to receive it several months back, about the same time Christmas merchandise began appearing in local stores, in late September.

Many people deplore the commercialization of Christmas. Its trappings have changed drastically since a humble maiden, married to a simple carpenter, gave birth to a son in a Bethlehem stable. Yet I believe we can recapture that simplicity despite living in a materialistic culture. I have three suggestions.

[Previous Columns](#)

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## Executive Board sets second called meeting to respond to investigation

November 17, 2006

Updated: 11/10/06

# Executive Board sets second called meeting to respond to investigation

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

DALLAS—The [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) Executive Board will meet in executive session immediately prior to the convention's [annual meeting](#) to consider its response to an [investigative team's report](#) about mismanaged and misused church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

The called meeting, slated from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Nov. 13, at the Dallas Convention Center will be the second special meeting of the board within two weeks. On Oct. 31, the board heard attorneys Diane Dillard and Michael Rodriguez and forensic accountant Carlos Barrera present evidence from a five-month independent investigation into allegations of impropriety in the Valley.

**The full report** is [available here](#) as a pdf document.

**See related articles:**

- [Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say](#)
- Executive Board sets second called meeting to respond to investigation

**Previous articles:**

- [Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds](#)
- [Investigation team outlines preventative steps](#)
- [Brief excerpts from the report](#)
- [Otto Arango's earnings claims disputed by directors of missions](#)
- [BGCT faces challenges leaders say](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Executive Board must rise to the occasion](#)
- Charles Wade has posted a response to the report [here](#).