

# Around the State

November 10, 2006

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## Around the State

- The South Texas School of Christian Studies in Corpus Christi dedicated the Vernon Elmore library collection Nov. 2. The collection houses 40 years of manuscript sermons for students and guests to review. Elmore was pastor of First Church in Corpus Christi 23 years. The church and school have established a pastoral endowment in his honor to continue training ministers in South Texas.

- Dallas Baptist University will tip off the first regular-season game of its NCAA Division II basketball program Nov. 15 at Cameron University. The first home game will be Nov. 18 versus Howard Payne University. Blake Flickner is head coach. For more information, call (214) 333-5324.

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Calvary Church in Brenham recently recognized Bill Worsham (left) for 50 years of service as a deacon. He was ordained Sept. 26, 1956, at Harbor Church in Houston. William Luedemann, deacon chairman, presented a plaque on behalf of the congregation. Dean Meade is pastor.

- Richard Hutsell has been promoted to vice president for administration and finance at East Texas Baptist University. Hutsell has been employed at the school 13 years and has served as chief financial officer since 2004.
- Amy Bawcom has been named registrar at the University of Mary Hardin-

Baylor. She will coordinate both the institutional records/ registrar's office and the office of institutional research. Bawcom joined the UMHB faculty in 1997 as an English instructor.

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# **Former Mexican Mafia general baptized in Texas prison**

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## **Former Mexican Mafia general baptized in Texas prison**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

HUNTSVILLE—A man who thought he was afraid of nothing took a major step in a journey he feared could have cost him his life.

A Texas Baptist evangelist recently baptized Mauricio Cardenas, former general in the [Mexican Mafia](#), who now is imprisoned in Huntsville.

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# Baptizing & Making Disciples

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## Baptizing & making disciples

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS – Baptists long have focused on bringing people down the aisles to make professions of faith in Christ. But how Christians live when they walk out the church doors may offer just as important a way to measure the effectiveness of a congregation's evangelism efforts, some pastors and theologians agreed.

Churches should encourage people to come to faith in Christ, but they also need to disciple members intentionally to have the largest impact they can, they said.

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Pastor  
Roland De  
Leon  
baptizes  
Lucas  
Trevino at  
Primera  
Iglesia  
Bautista in  
Corpus  
Christi.  
(Photo by  
Ruben  
Hernandez)

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# Poll: A good night's sleep beats church

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## Poll: A good night's sleep beats church

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans eagerly anticipate getting a good night's

sleep far more than attending church, a nationwide poll shows.

The [Barna Group](#) asked more than 1,000 adults to say how much they looked forward to any of 17 activities, ranging from sleeping to completing tax forms.

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# Bishop College may find new life

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## Bishop College may find new life

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—Georgetown College President [Bill Crouch](#) has announced plans to revive the spirit of [Bishop College](#), a historically black school that closed in Dallas in 1988.

Crouch's plans, centered in the proposed Bishop Center for African-American Ministry, aim to re-establish the once-thriving Bishop community while at the same time to diversify the predominantly white Georgetown, Ky., school. Both schools have a Baptist heritage.

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# Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

[The Three Hardest Words in the World to Get Right](#) by Leonard Sweet  
(WaterBrook Press)

Whether [Len Sweet](#) is writing about culture, the future, evangelism, the church, leadership or the inner life of the Christian, he makes me re-read paragraphs, wrestle with his original phrases, highlight passages and, most of all, think.

He touches on all these subjects in his latest offering while examining the simple words “I love you.” Do we truly know what we are saying when we use those words, and do we understand how those words point toward the story of God and the ministry of Jesus?

We often live by the definitions of culture rather than the Bible. If we’ll choose life as defined by Jesus, then our “deathstyles” can become lifestyles of abundance, wonder and purpose—the “God-life.”



What are you reading that other  
Texas Baptists would find  
helpful? Send suggestions and  
reviews to  
[marvknox@baptiststandard.com](mailto:marvknox@baptiststandard.com).

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# Baptist Briefs

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## Baptist Briefs

**Arkansas Baptist philanthropist dies.** John Heflin Jr., an Arkansas businessman and philanthropist, died Oct. 26. Heflin, who died from cancer at age 61, was a major donor to Baptist causes, including the [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas](#) and Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia, where he attended college. Heflin also represented the Religious Liberty Council on the [Baptist Joint Committee](#) board. In 2004, he was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Professional Fundraisers. He was a member of Second Baptist Church in Little Rock.

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**Nevada Baptist meeting includes commissioning.** The [Nevada Baptist Convention](#) included a commissioning service for 20 Southern Baptist International Mission Board short-term missionaries during its annual meeting in Reno. During the business meeting, Nevada Baptists approved a



\$2.57 million budget for 2007—a 3.5 percent increase over the current year.

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# **Military, hospital chaplains face similar challenges**

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## **Military, hospital chaplains face similar challenges**

**By Alison Wingfield & Bob Perkins Jr.**

*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

ATLANTA (ABP)—As a children's minister many years ago, [Julie Rowan](#) felt stuck in a rut. Now Rowan, a chaplain in the military, rarely stays in one place. And that's just how she likes it.

"I absolutely love it," she said. "There's excitement because you do something different every day. If I got out of this, I'd be bored."

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# Family care eases a little of single mothers' stress

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## Family care eases a little of single mothers' stress

**By Miranda Bradley**

*Children at Heart Ministries*

ROUND ROCK—More than volleyballs were served in the gym at [First Baptist Church of Round Rock](#) recently.

Single mothers involved in the [Texas Baptist Children's Home](#) family care program enjoyed baked potato soup, salad and homemade cookies prepared by a professional chef in the church's new First Life Center—a far cry from their typical Monday-night meal of ham-and-cheese sandwiches.

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Professional  
chef  
Theresa  
Twyeffort  
(foreground)  
is assisted  
by her  
friend Lea  
Wilder as  
they  
prepare a  
meal for  
moms in  
Texas  
Baptist  
Children's  
Home's  
family care  
program.

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# â□□Tis the season for the Yuletide battles

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# 'Tis the season for the Yuletide battles

**By Chansin Bird**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Midway through November, people already are fighting about Christmas.

Several Christian groups are banding together again to combat what they call the “War on Christmas.” Their targets—retailers who refuse to say “Merry Christmas,” schools that ban Christmas carols and Scrooge-like secularists who they say want to take Christ out of Christmas.

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## **CityReach/Lift Up America alliance feeds hungry families**

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FC Dallas  
soccer  
players  
help  
distribute  
corporate  
donations  
through  
BGCT City  
Reach  
partnership  
with Lift  
Up  
America to  
help  
provide  
food and  
resources  
for needy  
people.

## **CityReach/Lift Up America alliance feeds hungry families**

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

FRISCO—Waiting in a long line failed to faze Joe Patterson, pastor of Greater New Zion Baptist Church in Dallas. He knew he would soon receive more than 1,000 pounds of chicken as part of the Baptist General

Convention of Texas [City Reach 2006](#).

Visiting with other Baptist pastors and FC Dallas soccer team players fresh from the playoffs, Patterson was pleased to participate in the BGCT City Reach Lift Up America alliance to help others.

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# Moms fed up with sexpot dolls

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## Moms fed up with sexpot dolls

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—American mothers are fed up with overly sexy dolls, according to a recent report from [Synovate](#), a market-research firm.

The study, which surveyed 1,010 mothers with daughters 4 to 9 years old, found 85 percent of mothers are “tired of the sexpot dolls and characters” in stores. Nine out of 10 moms in the study said they wish young girls walking the toy-store aisles could find more positive role models on sale.