

DOWN HOME: Teenagers don't live here anymore

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DOWN HOME: Teenagers don't live here anymore

You never know when lightning will strike, thunder will clap and you'll realize nothing will ever be the same again.

This happened in church the other day.

(I know; novel idea: Life-changing revelation in a Sunday-morning worship service.)

Actually, it happened while our pastor made the announcements.



EDITORIAL: Go Away, Walk Away & the big picture

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Go Away, Walk Away & the big picture

Many Texas Baptists have responded to [the church starting scandal](#) in the Rio Grande Valley in either of two ways. Some just want it to go away. Others think they might just walk away.

The Go Away and the Walk Away positions are understandable. But they're too narrow and will not lead the Baptist General Convention of Texas where God wants us to go.



Most people can relate to the folks who want this problem to just Go Away. Many Christians instinctively turn away from scandal and shy away from conflict. They realize scandal and conflict divert unbelievers from Christ, dissipate the enthusiasm of immature Christians and even discourage mature Christians. So, they believe the best plan is to pretend these difficulties don't exist, or, failing that, to quit talking about them as quickly as possible. Several inherent weaknesses accompany this approach:

- **Just because you won't name it doesn't mean it's not there.** This is the "elephant in the room" syndrome. Relationships strain and integrity frays when people in a community—family, church or convention—ignore the obvious. As a family grows increasingly sick and dysfunctional because nobody will talk about Uncle John's alcoholism, a convention will decline if

it ignores a moral problem, such as deception and waste of missions money.

Young filmmaker issues casting call

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Young filmmaker issues casting call

By George Henson

Staff Writer

BROWNWOOD—Always wanted to see your face on the silver screen but probably won't make it to Hollywood?

If a casting call in Brownwood seems more within your travel budget, a Howard Payne University student has a project that might be worth consideration.

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| Brandon Powell |
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Evangelicals distance themselves from Haggard scandal

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Evangelicals distance themselves from Haggard scandal

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Ted Haggard expressed sorrow for being a “deceiver and a liar,” leaders of the [National Association of Evangelicals](#) distanced their organization from the man who led it three years.

“Most people—I’m not sure everyone—separate this tragedy from NAE. They consider it a tragedy of a man, a pastor and not an NAE scandal. That’s the good news,” said Richard Cizik, vice president for governmental relations of the Washington-based association.

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|----------------|
| Ted Haggard |
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Hispanic Convocation stresses leadership

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Hispanic Convocation stresses leadership

By Orville Scott

Special to the Baptist Standard

SPICEWOOD—More than 500 participants at the 2006 Convocation of Varones Bautistas at Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center were challenged to be “prayer warriors” for Christ and leaders for God in their families and churches

Convocation Coordinator Eli Rodriguez of Dallas noted five and 10 people were in the prayer room, praying for each speaker as he or she spoke, and he was convinced it had a clear impact on their messages.

Inner-city Houston churches

seek community transformation

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Pastor Elmo
Johnson of
Rose of
Sharon
Baptist
Church in
Houston
secured
partnerships
with Texas
Southern
University
and Rice
University
to provide
tutors for
these
students.

Inner-city Houston churches seek community transformation

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

HOUSTON—Some people view Elmo Johnson as a mover and a shaker—an entrepreneur for God who is leading his church to transform lives for God in the inner city.

Johnson, a former Houston Baptist University baseball player, is pastor of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. He sees himself as a faithful member of God's team, and he faces far more pressure on this playing field than on any baseball diamond where he competed, because now he's competing for lives.

**See a slideshow
of Johnson's
ministry [here](#).**

Islamic groups denounce Baptist's 'takeover' remark

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Islamic groups denounce Baptist's 'takeover' remark

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (ABP)—Leaders from a prominent American Muslim group have denounced reported comments by the [Missouri Baptist Convention](#)'s executive director claiming "Islam has a strategic plan" to take over the United States.

Ibrahim Hooper, communications director for the Washington-based [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#), said David Clippard's assertions "are too bizarre to even comment on."

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| David Clippard | Ibrahim Hooper |

Mentally challenged minister through Meals on Wheels

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Mentally challenged minister through Meals on Wheels

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

TYLER—Senior adults in the Tyler area recognize residents of [Breckenridge Village](#)—a [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) facility for mentally handicapped adults—as more than recipients of ministry. They know them as welcome visitors who deliver Meals on Wheels to their homes.

“Many people think of our residents as people who only receive care, but the concept behind Breckenridge Village is to provide the opportunity for them to live as full a life as possible,” Executive Director Charles Dodson said. “That includes having the opportunity to be servants, to do things to help others.”

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| A Breckenridge Village resident delivers a meal to a senior adult in Tyler. (Photo by Craig Bird) |
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Scholarships help missionary

kids

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Scholarships help missionary kids

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—When [Mercer University](#) recently announced it will provide undergraduate tuition scholarships for children of [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) global field personnel, it joined a significant number of Baptist schools that provide scholarships for “missionary kids.”

Available for full-time students at both the school’s Macon, Ga., and Atlanta campuses, the scholarships will last eight semesters.

Principles learned at Miracle Farm serve alumni in military

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Pete and
Pam
Tarbutton
visit with
son Will at
Fort Hood
the day
before his
deployment
to Iraq.

Principles learned at Miracle Farm serve alumni in military

By Courtney Cole

Miracle Farm

FORT RILEY, Kansas—U.S. Army Pvt. Josh Butler holds deep convictions about the importance of character and the value of hard work.

“It takes discipline and respect to make a good soldier. At Miracle Farm, I gained both, and I learned to respect others,” reflected Butler, who enlisted in the Army one year ago.

New Orleans churches' recovery a barometer of city's health

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New Orleans churches' recovery a barometer of city's health

By Bruce Nolan

Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—All over the New Orleans area, houses of worship, just like other institutions, are dragging themselves back to some sense of normalcy after [Hurricane Katrina](#).

Some are healed. Some still suffer trials. Some are indefinitely comatose, shuttered and perhaps dead—whether they be grand churches like the permanently closed 150-year-old St. Rose of Lima, or modest street-corner churches like the wrecked hulk of Mount Carmel Ministries in the Lower 9th Ward.

Pastor/policeman carries a Bible, wears a badge

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Pastor/policeman carries a Bible, wears a badge

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Police Officer Marvin Anthony Neal patrols the streets of Birmingham most mornings, but on Sundays, he patrols the pulpit at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala.

Neal became pastor in August but works as a patrol officer on the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift in Birmingham's south precinct.

Marvin
Anthony
Neal, pastor
of Galilee
Missionary
Baptist
Church in
Alabaster,
Ala., also is
a police
officer in
Birmingham,
Ala. (RNS
photo by
Frank
Couch/*The
Birmingham
News*)