

Cybercolumn By John Duncan: Thanksgiving list

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

CYBER COLUMN: Thanksgiving list

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, pondering life as I know it on this rainy day. Another Sunday has folded its page on the calendar, and Thanksgiving soon arrives. I love the Lord, Sundays, the church and have so much for which to give thanks.

Actually, I was thinking about that first Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has its roots in the harvest home celebrations that took place in England before the [Pilgrims](#) ever arrived on the sand and shores of America. Thirty-eight English settlers docked the shores of the James River at the Berkley plantation in what is today known as Charles City, Va. The settlers declared, a "[Day of thanksgiving to God](#)" after their torturous ride across the Atlantic. Later, another group of Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock on Dec. 11, 1620, and then further south at Cape Cod, Mass. I can only imagine that first, harsh winter in New England. The snow, the questions, the death as they lost about half their settlers, the grief, the misery, the agony, the anger, the longing for home, the joy, and even the adventure of the new land.

John
Duncan

Texas Baptist Forum

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

Texas Baptist Forum

Not all brothers

Why do people assume Christians, Jews and Muslims are all heirs of Abraham?

Abraham was not Noah; certainly not Adam or God. He wasn't in a vacuum, and humanity didn't begin with him. There were plenty of people alive already when God told him (Genesis 12:1) to get away from them, including his kinfolks. And what about those living in the land God sent him to, not to mention enemies along the way? Who are their descendants today?

Letters are welcomed. Send them to
marvknox@baptiststandard.com;
250 words maximum.



“Dear friends, until Moses comes down with two stone tablets from Brokeback Mountain saying we’ve changed the rules, let’s keep it like it is.”

Mike Huckabee

Arkansas governor and former Baptist pastor, speaking about same-sex marriage (RNS)

“Those of us on the right have been losing ground since the 1970s and ’80s. Can we ultimately win? I think you would need a reconversion of the country to a traditionalist, Christian point of view—and I don’t see that coming.”

Pat Buchanan

Conservative author of the new book *State of Emergency*, discussing his belief that conservatives will lose the culture wars (Time magazine/RNS)

“Abu Ghraib: I believe that really hurt us. It hurt us internationally. It kind of eased us off the moral high ground; we weren’t a country that was capable of, on the one hand, promoting democracy and then treating people decently.”

President Bush

Responding to a reporter’s question at a White House news conference about torture at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq (RNS)

I have to believe those who truly claim Abraham as their ancestral or spiritual patriarch cannot be enemies among themselves, and those of murderous intent surely descended from the “mixed multitudes” that were a threat then, as now. The fact is, none of us knows who we truly are genetically, only who we choose to be and how we choose to behave.

2nd Opinion: Who will seek Middle East peace?

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/10/06

2nd Opinion: Who will seek Middle East peace?

By Denton Lotz

Every day, the church is confronted with great ethical issues involving war and peace, corruption and justice, issues of both personal and social consequences. The waiting world, in the form of the secular media, wants answers from Christians: “Whose side are you on? Where do you stand?” Unfortunately, the church and world are so polarized that often we do not speak with one voice. This has always been the case with humanity, from Cain and Abel disagreeing until today.

During the days of the Vietnam War, there were great ethical controversies confronting the church. Paul Ramsey, professor of ethics at Princeton

Theological Seminary, wrote a book titled *Who Speaks for the Church?* He questioned whether the liberal voice was truly speaking for the church.

Today, there are those who ask whether the conservative voice is really speaking for the church. The war between Israel and Hezbollah has again forced Christians to give an answer. And many different answers have been given.

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 19: Wisdom for every area of life

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for November 19

Wisdom for every area of life

• Proverbs 22:17-25; 23:10-11, 19-28; 24:10-12, 15-20

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 19: Live in reality, not delusion

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

Bible Studies for Life Series for November 19

Live in reality, not delusion

- Isaiah 40:18-22; 41:5-7; 44:9,18-20; 45:20-22

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for November 19: Persevere in the midst of adversity

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/09/06

Explore the Bible Series for November 19

Persevere in the midst of adversity

- Hebrews 12:1-8, 12-16, 28-29

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Direct access to God through Jesus Christ is the goal of religion. The “cloud of witnesses” enables Christians to persevere in the midst of difficulty. The race of life will require endurance, discipline, consistency, listening and gratitude.

Baptist Connections

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1. **Texas Baptist Universities and Schools:**

- [San Marcos Baptist Academy](#)—San Marcos, Texas.
- [Baylor University](#)—Waco, Texas.
- [Dallas Baptist University](#)—Dallas, Texas.

- [East Texas Baptist University](#)-Marshall, Texas.
- [Hardin-Simmons University](#)-Abilene, Texas.
- [Houston Baptist University](#)-Houston, Texas.
- [Howard Payne University](#)-Brownwood, Texas.
- [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#)-Belton, Texas.
- [Wayland Baptist University](#)-Plainview & San Antonio, Texas.

2. **Texas Baptist Theological Education:**

- [Baptist University of the Americas](#)-San Antonio, Texas.
- [Logsdon School of Theology](#)-Abilene, Texas.
- [George W. Truett Theological Seminary](#)-Waco, Texas.

3. **Child and Family Services**

- [Buckner Children & Family Services](#)
- [Children at Heart Ministries](#)
- [Baptist Child and Family Services](#)
- [South Texas Children's Home](#)

4. **Healthcare**

- [Baylor Health Care System](#)
- [Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio](#)
- [Hendrick Health System](#)
- [Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center](#)
- [Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital](#)
- [Valley Baptist Health System](#)

5. Indirectly Related Medical Centers

- [Baptist Health System](#)
- [Baptist St. Anthony's Health System](#)

6. [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#)

- **Texas Baptist Partners & Departments:**

- [Texas Baptist Men.](#)
- [Woman's Missionary Union.](#)
- [River Ministry.](#)
- [Christian Life Commission.](#)
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- [Baptist Church Loan Corporation.](#)
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- **Texas Baptist Missions and Ministry**

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- **Texas Baptist Church Resources**

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- **Southern Baptist Convention**

- [SBC.net](#)-The Southern Baptist Convention.
- [Guidestone Financial Resources](#).
- [ERLC](#)-Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- [SBC Executive Committee](#)
 - [Baptist2Baptist](#)
 - [Baptist Press](#)-SBC news service.
 - [Cooperative Program](#).
- [International Mission Board](#)
- [LifeWay Christian Resources](#)
- [North American Mission Board](#)

- **Seminaries:**

- [Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Mill Valley, California.
- [Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Kansas City, Missouri.
- [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-New Orleans, Louisiana.
- [Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Wake Forest, North Carolina.
- [Southern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Louisville, Kentucky.
- [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)-Fort Worth, Texas.
- [Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary](#)-Cochrane, Alberta

- **Organizations related to Southern Baptists**

- [Woman's Missionary Union.](#)
- [Baptist Center for Ethics.](#)
- [Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.](#)
- [Baptist World Alliance.](#)
- [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.](#)
- [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas.](#)
- [SBTC](#)-Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.
- [Criswell College](#)

- **Organizations concerned with current SBC issues**
 - [Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.](#)
 - [Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists.](#)
 - [Missouri Baptist Laymen's Association.](#)
 - [Texas Baptists Committed.](#)

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- **Baptist News Sources:**
 - [The Baptist Standard, Texas](#)
 - [Biblical Recorder, North Carolina](#)
 - [Florida Baptist Witness](#)
 - [Baptist Message, Louisiana](#)
 - [Word & Way, Missouri](#)
 - [Baptist New Mexican](#)
 - [Arkansas Baptist News](#)
 - [Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma](#)
 - [Tennessee Baptist & Reflector](#)
 - [California Southern Baptist](#)
 - [Associated Baptist Press](#)
 - [Cooperative Baptist Press News](#)
 - [Baptist Press](#)-Southern Baptist Convention

news service.

- [Baptists Today](#)—previously *SBC Today*.
- [SBC Life](#)—journal of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- [Southern Baptist Texan](#)

▪ **General sources of information on Baptists:**

- [BaptistDistinctives.org](#)
- [Baptist History and Heritage Society](#)
- [The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University](#)
- [Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives](#)
- [Virginia Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies](#)
- [BaptistLife.com](#)

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- [Alabama Baptist State Convention](#)
P.O. Box 11870 Montgomery, AL
36111-0870 334-288-2460
- [Alaska Baptist Convention](#) 1750
O'Malley Rd. Anchorage, AK
99516-1303 907-344-9627
- [Arizona Southern Baptist Convention](#) 3031 W. Northern
Ave., Suite 131 Phoenix, AZ
85051 602-864-0337
- [Arkansas Baptist State Convention](#)
P.O. Box 552 Little Rock, AR
72203-0552 501-376-4791

- [California Southern Baptist Convention](#) 678 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710-7704
209-229-9533
- [Colorado Baptist General Convention](#) 7393 S. Alton Way
Englewood, CO 80112-2372
303-771-2480
- [Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship](#) P.O. Box 7187
Bismarck, ND 58507-7187
701-255-3765
- [District of Columbia Baptist Convention](#) 1628 Sixteenth St.,
NW Washington, DC
20009-3099 202-265-1526
- [Florida Baptist Convention](#) 1230
Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, FL
32207-8696 904-396-2351
- [Georgia Baptist Convention](#) 2930
Flowers Rd., S Atlanta, GA
30341-5562 404-455-0404
- [Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention](#)
2042 Vancouver Dr. Honolulu, HI
96822-2491 808-946-9581
- [Illinois Baptist State Association](#)
P.O. Box 19247 Springfield, IL
62794-9247 217-786-2600
- [State Convention of Baptists in Indiana](#) P.O. Box 24189
Indianapolis, IN 46224-0189
317-241-9317

- [The Baptist Convention of Iowa](#)
2400 Eighty-Sixth St., Ste. 27 Des Moines, IA 50322-0875
515-278-1566
- [Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists](#) 5410 S.W. Seventh St. Topeka, KS 66606-2398 913-273-4880
- [Kentucky Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 43433 Louisville, KY 40253-0433 502-245-4101
- [Louisiana Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 311 Alexandria, LA 71309-0311 318-448-3402
- [Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware](#) 10255 Old Columbia Rd. Columbia, MD 21046-1716 410-290-5290
- [Baptist State Convention of Michigan](#) 15635 W. Twelve Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48076-3091 248-557-4200
- [Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention](#) 519 Sixteenth St., SE Rochester, MN 55904-5234 507-282-3636
- [Mississippi Baptist Convention Board](#) P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 601-968-3800
- [Missouri Baptist Convention](#) 400 E. High St. Jefferson City, MO 65101-3215 573-635-7931

- [Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship](#) P.O. Box 99 Billings, MT 59103-0099 406-252-7537
- [Nevada Baptist Convention](#) 406 California Ave. Reno, NV 89509-1520 702-786-0406
- [Baptist Convention of New England](#) 5 Oak Ave. Northborough, MA 01532 508-393-6013
- [Baptist Convention of New Mexico](#) P.O. Box 485 Albuquerque, NM 87103-0485 505-247-0586
- [Baptist Convention of New York](#) 6538 Collamer Rd. East Syracuse, NY 13057-1072 315-433-1001
- [Baptist State Convention of North Carolina](#) P.O. Box 1107 Cary, NC 27512-1107 919-467-5100
- [Northwest Baptist Convention](#) 3200 NE 109th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682-7749 360-882-2100
- [State Convention of Baptists in Ohio](#) 1680 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43203-2095 614-258-8491
- [Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma](#) 3800 N. May Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506 405-942-3800
- [Baptist Conv. of Pennsylvania/South Jersey](#) 4620 Fritchey St.

Harrisburg, PA 17109-2895
717-652-5856

- [South Carolina Baptist Convention](#)
190 Stoneridge Dr. Columbia, SC
29210-8239 803-765-0030
- [Tennessee Baptist Convention](#) P.O.
Box 728 Brentwood, TN
37024-0728 615-371-2073
- [The Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) 333 N. Washington Dallas,
TX 76246-1798 214-828-5100
- [Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 70538 West
Valley City, UT 84170-0538
801-966-9955
- [Baptist General Association of Virginia](#) P.O. Box 8568 Richmond,
VA 23226-0568 804-672-2100
- [Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention](#) P.O. Box 4779
Casper, WY 82604-0779
307-472-4087
- [Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists](#) Postal Bag 300
Cochrane, AB T0L 0W0 Canada
403-932-5688

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**RIGHT or
WRONG? Take my
child out of public
school**

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

**RIGHT or WRONG?
Take my child out of**

public school

I'm hearing a great deal of sentiment toward Christians taking their children out of public school and supporting different forms of private education. How should I respond to such a movement?

Because free public education has been a reality in the United States for more than 160 years, we sometimes forget it has not always been so. In the earliest days of this country, no state-sponsored public schools existed. The only schools were religious schools. Most of these soon gave way to private schools, which continued to dominate until the 1840s, when reformers began to demand that states offer free, nonsectarian, public education. The first state to implement a compulsory attendance law for children of elementary-school age was Massachusetts in 1852.

**Baseball manager
believes he's in
Japan for a**

reason_112403

November 10, 2006

Posted: 11/24/03

Baseball manager believes he's in Japan for a reason

By Toby Druin

Editor Emeritus

GEORGETOWN-If Trey Hillman were a less honorable man, he might be managing the Texas Rangers in the American League instead of the Hokkaido Ham Fighters in Japan's Pacific League. But it would have hurt his Christian witness, which he is able to share in unprecedented ways in his new home.

Storylist for week of 10/30/06

November 10, 2006

Storylist for week of

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- [Network reaffirms call for 'culture of life'](#)



- [Books reviewed in this issue:](#) *To Own a Dragon: Reflections on Growing Up Without a Father* by Donald Miller & John MacMurray, *Welcome to Fred* by Brad Whittington, *Driven by Eternity* by John Bevere and *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, From the Civil Rights Movement to Today* by Charles Marsh.



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Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds

November 10, 2006

Updated: 11/03/06

BGCT executive board member Al Flores during a question and answer session following the presentation of the investigation into alleged misappropriation of BGCT church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley. (Photos by Barbara Bedrick/BGCT)

Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—A five-month investigation uncovered evidence Baptist General Convention of Texas church starting funds were misused between 1999 and 2005 in the Rio Grande Valley.

At a called meeting of the BGCT Executive Board Oct. 31, investigators reported they discovered up to 98 percent of the 258

church starts reported by three pastors in the Valley—Otto Arango, Aaron de la Torre and Armando Vera—no longer exist. And some never existed, except on paper. The BGCT gave more than \$1.3 million in start-up funding and monthly financial support to those 258 churches.