

Southern Gospel hymn sings still draw the faithful

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

Allegra Thomas of Concord, Ohio, gets enthusiastic about Southern Gospel music at a recent hymn sing in Perry, Ohio. (RNS photo courtesy of Thomas Ondrey/*The Plain Dealer* of Cleveland)

Southern Gospel hymn sings still draw the faithful

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CANTON, Ohio (RNS)—Visions of heaven dance in their heads as hundreds of people clap their hands, slap their knees and tap their toes on the concrete floor of the Ronald Howard Gospel Music Center.

No Longer Suffering in Silence

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Posted: 11/03/06

Cawindy
Spead
escaped two
abusive
relationships
and found
refuge with
daughter
Alexis at
Buckner
Family
Pathways.
(Photos by
Jenny
Pope/Buckner)

No Longer Suffering in Silence

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Benevolences

One American woman in four is abused by a loved one—physically, sexually, verbally or emotionally.

It's an epidemic widely misunderstood to only affect the poor and uneducated, but abuse affects all communities, regardless of economic status, race, religion or educational background.

Texas Tidbits

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06



Texas Tidbits

BaptistWay publisher named. The Baptist General Convention of Texas has named Ross West publisher of [BaptistWay Press](#), effective Nov. 15. West has been involved in writing and publishing more than 30 years. He has been one of the leaders of BaptistWay Press since its inception, helping develop more than 80 books for the publisher and guiding the group's production and marketing efforts on a contract basis. He will continue this work as a full-time BGCT staff member. He served 12 years with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He also has worked as the director of creative services for the Boy Scouts of America. West earned a doctor of ministry degree in biblical studies from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His undergraduate degree is from Louisiana Tech University.

Baptist Health Foundation grants scholarships. [Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio](#) has awarded 335 scholarships in 2006 totaling \$573,788 in grants to students pursuing careers in health care at eight San Antonio-area schools. The foundation's scholarship committee granted \$466,288 to the Baptist Health System School of Health Professions; \$50,000 to Wayland Baptist University-San Antonio Campus; \$32,500 to the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio; \$7,500 each to Our Lady of the Lake University and University of the Incarnate Word; \$5,000

to St. Philip's College; and \$2,500 each to San Antonio College and University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio Public Health Program.

TOGETHER: âWe will touch the world from Texasâ

November 3, 2006
Posted: 11/03/06

TOGETHER: 'We will touch the world from Texas'

There are days in your life that are sad and painful. Tuesday, Oct. 31, was such a day for many of us as we heard the results of our [investigation of church starting efforts](#) in the Rio Grande Valley. But despite the sadness and pain, there is room for clear-eyed hope.

The investigators found that there had been mismanagement on the part of a few of our staff and misuse and misappropriation of church starting funds on the part of a few pastors.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

After the report was given to the board, I expressed my deep sorrow over what happened. I regret that I did not force this issue to resolution much earlier. I apologize to every person in the Valley whose cautions, questions and frustrations were neither fully heeded nor resolved.

Now that we understand clearly what happened in our recent past, what will be done?

**From the investigators's
report**

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

From the investigators' report ...

- Investigators Diane Dillard and Michael Rodriguez, said Otto Arango told them “he made a lot of money promoting his vision of planting churches and that this created jealousy among some of the Valley pastors.”

p. 5

- “It became clear during the investigation that some of the information provided by the BGCT was unreliable. Some documents, such as new-church monthly reports, were found to be fabricated.”

pp. 9-10

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

See related articles:

- [Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds \(updated\)](#)
- [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](#).

Stereotypes of religious voters don't fit

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

(RNS
photo
courtesy
of Texas
Attorney
General's
office)

Stereotypes of religious voters don't fit

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WACO (ABP)—Stereotypical images of “liberals” and “evangelicals” create a distorted picture of what issues are important to each group and how each will vote in the 2006 elections, new research shows.

Drake not content to be silent partner

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

Drake not content to be silent partner

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

BUENA PARK, Calif. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention expects very little from its vice presidents—nothing, in fact, unless the SBC president becomes incapacitated. Traditionally, those elected each year to the mostly honorary VP positions are seen but not heard.

Association rejects church with female associate pastor

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

Association rejects church with female associate pastor

By Kristen Campbell

Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—Growing up, Ellen Guice Sims recalled it never crossed her mind to think a woman could be a pastor.

WorldconneX helps Waco church members meet needs in Kenya

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

WorldconneX helps Waco church members meet needs in Kenya

By David Williams

WorldconneX

WACO—When a minister challenges a church to send missionaries overseas

and someone responds, what does he do next? That was the question on Ben Dudley's mind when his mission trip report produced unexpected results.

Dudley, community pastor of [University Baptist Church in Waco](#), told his church about a long-term partnership established with a Kenya orphanage discovered during a mission trip 18 church members took in May. He shared with the congregation his excitement that they now had a place on the other side of the world to send someone who felt called to international missions.

Stem cell research, abortion, gay marriage, among issues facing voters

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

Stem cell research, abortion, gay marriage, among issues facing voters

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—While many American voters are focused on which

political party will control Congress after the Nov. 7 elections, several other issues important to religious voters will appear on state ballots.

Storylist for 11/06/06 issue

November 3, 2006

Storylist for week of 11/06/06

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- [Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds](#)
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Full Coverage: Investigation of Valley church starting funds

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- [Kurt Carr, Take 6 inducted in Gospel Music Hall of Fame](#)
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- [What should be done with frozen embryos?](#)
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• [Books reviewed in this issue:](#) *Covenant & Commandment: A Study of the Ten Commandments in the Context of Grace* by C.W. Christian, *A Journey to Victorious Praying: Finding Discipline and Delight in Your Life* by Bill Thrasher, and *Finding Authentic Hope & Wholeness: 5 Questions That Will Change Your Life* by Kathy Koch.



- [Cartoon](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
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- [DOWN HOME: Are we saving time or losing time?](#)
- [TOGETHER: âWe will touch the world from Texas'](#)
- [RIGHT or WRONG? Take my child out of public school](#)
- [2nd Opinion: Allow moment to refine, not define](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for November 5: God is the only source of true wisdom](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for November 5: Live in relationship, not rebellion](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for November 5: Exercise confidence in your relationship with God](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for November 12: Christians are called to lives of integrity](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for November 12: Place your trust in God, not things of the world](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for November 12: Exhibitions of faith encourage others](#)

Previously Posted

[See complete list of articles from our 10/30/ 2006 issue here.](#)

CYBER COLUMN by Brett Younger: The music of God's heart

November 3, 2006

Posted: 11/03/06

CYBER COLUMN: The music of God's heart

By Brett Younger

I'm at Barnes & Noble in the music section, seeing if there's anything new by Frank Sinatra. I'm looking in classical, where Sinatra should be located but never is, when I see a section that inexplicably keeps growing larger. Behind country, across from new age, astonishingly, unaccountably, there are rows and rows of soundtracks.

It makes sense to have the soundtrack of a musical—*Lion King*, *Sound of Music*, *Chicago*. It makes sense to have the soundtrack of a movie in which the music is important—*Walk the Line*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Amadeus*. What's harder to understand is the availability of television soundtracks including *CSI*, *Days of our Lives*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, four different CDs of *X-Files*, and, some of you were wondering, and yes, it is now

available, *My Name is Earl*.

Brett Younger
