

Female ex-offenders find ‘Grace’

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Female ex-offenders find ‘Grace’

By Lauren Kirk

Special to the Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO—Billy and Jacqueline Thornton may be retired, but their lives have been far from leisurely since they founded Grace House—a transitional residence for previously incarcerated women.

The Thorntons have taught Bible classes at Bexar County Adult Detention Center 15 years. Mrs. Thornton realized the women in her class needed help once they left the facility. Women made professions of faith in Christ and left thinking they had their lives together, but within six months, they would be back in the class because they lacked support, stability and

spiritual guidance.



Jacqueline Thornton (right) offers guidance to female ex-offenders at Grace House.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

College football on Sunday

Regarding Bruce Parsons' protest of the recent Sunday evening football contest between Baylor and TCU ([Sept. 18](#)): My alma mater, Baylor, and many other church-affiliated institutions nationwide have competed regularly on Sundays for decades in a variety of other intercollegiate sports, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, and tennis, among others.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

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



"I'm not the Christ. I'm just a donkey the Christ rides on."

T.D. Jakes

Pastor of The Potter's House in Dallas (Texas Monthly/RNS)

"This idea that God wants everybody to be wealthy. There is a word for that—baloney. It's creating a false idol. You don't measure your self-worth by your net worth. I can show you millions of faithful followers of Christ who live in poverty. Why isn't everyone in the church a millionaire?"

Rick Warren

Author and pastor of Saddleback Valley Church in California (Time magazine/RNS)

"When we present Jesus as a pro-war, anti-poor, anti-homosexual, anti-environment, pro-nuclear weapons authority figure draped in an American flag, I think we are making a travesty of the portrait of Jesus we find in the gospels."

Brian McLaren

Leader of the "emerging church" movement and pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Montgomery County, Md. (The Washington Post/RNS)

"Amid a culture inundated with bigness and cellular technology, iPods and TiVo, the technologized megachurch is no longer impressive. In fact, many young Christians come to church to get asylum from this worldliness. Infinitely more than the megachurch's 'stuff,' my generation wants religion. We want everything our parents didn't, and that seems increasingly to be summed up in the word 'meaning.'"

Clint Rainey

Student at the University of Texas at Austin
"It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

Winston Churchill

British orator, author and prime minister during World War II (Thinkexist.com)

The fact a football game on Sunday draws objection says, I think, more about the exalted position football enjoys in our state than it suggests a recent cultural abandonment of a religious tradition surrounding Sunday nights.

Moreover, Baylor football on Sunday is neither recent nor unprecedented. Baylor played Sunday football games seven times between 1900 and 1933, including two games won over our fellow Texas Baptists at Howard Payne University.

Pastor's wife finds her service niche in literacy missions

September 29, 2006

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Pastor's wife finds her service niche in literacy missions

By Carol Gene Graves

Baylor Center for Literacy

WACO—Despite growing up a pastor's daughter and becoming a preacher's wife, Judy Hughes of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Waco never found her

niche for Christian service until she discovered literacy ministries.

She found literacy missions 14 years ago, but her passion to share Christ with others while teaching them English continues to grow, she insists.

Judy Hughes
of Emmanuel
Baptist
Church in
Waco teaches
English to
Silvia
Hernandez
(left) and
Juana Loreda.
(Photo by
Carol Gene
Graves/Baylor
Center for
Literacy)

Ministers battle feelings of being alone in the crowd

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Ministers battle feelings of being alone in the crowd

By **John Hall**

Texas Baptist Communications

Worshippers come to hear them speak each Sunday. A steady stream of people visit them during the week. Families invite them to dinner and give them gifts. But for many pastors, ministry is a lonely life.

Even though their primary task is accomplished by relating to people, ministers commonly report difficulty in forming authentic relationships. Because of the nature of their position, many say they feel pressured to present an image of perfection and holiness—an ideal that no one can fulfill.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Justin Gandy** has resigned as youth minister at First Church in Breckenridge.
- **Kris Knippa** to First Church in Cranfills Gap as pastor.

- **Craig Lloyd** to Southlake Church in Waxahachie as pastor from North Mesquite Church in Mesquite, where he was youth pastor.
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Most political rhetoric keeps God-talk light & sunny

September 29, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Most political rhetoric keeps God-talk light & sunny

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Campaign 2006 heats up, politicians are leveraging the power of religious rhetoric while adhering to what's become the cardinal rule for public religious speech in the 21st century: Never say God gets angry.

Technology links ministers to church members

September 29, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Technology links ministers to church members

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

MARSHALL—Technological innovations leave ministers without excuse for keeping church members informed, said Brian Pearce, minister of youth and recreation at [First Baptist Church in Marshall](#).

Texas Tidbits

September 29, 2006

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Texas Tidbits

Committee seeks resolutions. Messengers to the [Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting](#) who wish to present resolutions for the consideration of the BGCT Committee on Resolutions are encouraged to submit resolutions in writing prior to the convention, according to Chairman Joseph Parker. The deadline for submitting resolutions at the convention is 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, but to allow adequate consideration by the committee and because of printing deadlines to include the resolutions in Tuesday's Annual Meeting Bulletin, Parker encourages early submission. Resolutions must be signed by an elected messenger, with church name included. Proposed resolutions may be submitted to Parker's attention at David Chapel Baptist Church, 2211 E. Martin Luther King Jr., Austin 78702.

Foundation issues challenge grant. [The Mabee Foundation](#) of Tulsa, Okla., recently announced a \$1 million challenge grant toward construction of the \$16 million Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel on the [Dallas Baptist University](#) campus. The foundation will provide \$1 million if DBU raises the remaining \$15 million for chapel construction prior to July 12, 2007. So far, DBU has raised more than two-thirds of the amount needed.

HBU sets inauguration date. [Robert Sloan](#) formally will be inaugurated as president of Houston Baptist University at a 2 p.m. ceremony Nov. 28 on the Houston campus. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. HBU trustees elected Sloan Aug. 8 as the school's third president, succeeding [Doug Hodo](#). Sloan, former chancellor of Baylor University, [stepped down](#) as Baylor's president after 10 years.

Memorials committee seeks names. Each year the Baptist General Convention of Texas recognizes by name at its annual meeting Texas Baptists who have died during the preceding year. The BGCT Memorials

Committee asks Texas Baptists to submit the names of people who have died in the last year whose lives made a contribution to their churches and to Texas. Call (214) 828-5348 or e-mail debbie.moody@bgct.org.

Grant allows Baylor to explore economics of religion. Baylor University's [Institute for Studies of Religion](#) has received a \$378,862 grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The grant will provide funds for four scholars to investigate the connection between religion and economic growth and the effects of government intervention in religious markets on the practice of religion. The grant also will fund workshops held jointly between the Baylor faculty members and faculty at George Mason University, as well as a survey regarding the religious, educational and financial practices of Americans.

BGCT board chair re-elected. The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board re-elected attorney Bob Fowler of Houston as chair. Directors elected John Petty, pastor of [Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville](#), as vice chair.

Correction: An article about the pillars of Islam on p. 10 of the Sept. 18 Baptist Standard print edition says that the Ramadan saum (fasting) goes daily from dusk until dawn. In fact, the fasting is from dawn until dusk throughout daylight hours, followed promptly by a full night of feasting. The error was corrected in the article's [online version](#).

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.

TOGETHER: Real missions makes us more like Jesus

September 29, 2006

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TOGETHER: Real missions makes us more like Jesus

Can missions work ever be wrong? Does some kind of mission activity make God sick at heart? Apparently so.

Jesus spoke seven woes (Matthew 23) upon the [Pharisees](#) and other religious scholars and leaders of his day. They were more knowledgeable regarding the Bible than any other people. They were credentialed, admired, but haughty and self-righteous as well. And the second of the seven woes (in this word “woes” is the pathos of God’s heart including wrath and pain, anger and sorrow) is this surprising word: “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are” (Matthew 23:15).



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

The Judaism of Jesus' time was vigorous in its missionary efforts. This mission zeal abated after the destruction of the temple some 30 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. What is on Jesus' mind here? Could he mean that when converts are made by men, rather than by the power of God's Holy Spirit, they still are unconverted?

On one occasion, [Billy Graham](#) met a man on a downtown street who clearly was drunk and wasted by his sin. "Oh, Mr. Graham, I am so glad to see you. You converted me in one of your meetings."

UMHB students invest time in neighborhood children

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Students
from the
University of
Mary Hardin-
Baylor teach
neighborhood
children a
biblical story
about sowing
good seed.

UMHB students invest time in neighborhood children

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—Business management student Felicia Cano sees her Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as an investment.

“It really gives us the opportunity to invest in kids’ lives,” said Cano, a [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) junior from Bay City.

Waco church for homeless

inspires others

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About 20
Lexington,
Ky.,-area
churches,
including six
congregations
in the
Kentucky
Baptist
Convention,
have helped
conduct
services for
homeless
people
inspired by
Waco's
Church
Under The
Bridge.

Waco church for homeless inspires others

By Ken Walker

Special to the Baptist Standard

LEXINGTON, Ky.—The Church Under the Bridge in the Lexington, Ky., serves the same type of homeless and low-income people as a Waco congregation that inspired it—even though the Kentucky congregation never has met under a bridge.

Valley investigation could cost \$150,000

September 29, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Valley investigation could cost \$150,000

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board will learn Oct. 31 the results of an [investigation](#) into alleged mismanagement of church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley—a probe that could cost up to \$150,000.

At the board's Sept. 25-26 meeting, Chairman Bob Fowler of Houston announced a called board meeting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 31 at the

Baptist Building in Dallas. At that time, Brownsville Attorney Diane Dillard will present findings from the five-month investigation she has headed.

See Previous Articles:

- [Called board meeting focuses on Valley](#)
- [Executive Board endorses ongoing probe in Rio Grande Valley](#)
- [Attorney hired to guide church-starting fund investigation](#)
- [BGCT launches probe of church-planting funds in the Valley](#)