

BUA breaks ground for major expansion

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Special guests
help break
ground on new
78-acre campus
expansion for
Baptist
University of the
Americas. They
are (left to right)
Tom Ruane,
Felipe Garza,
Councilman
Richard Perez,
Julie Ortiz & son,
Jackie Moore,
Babs Baugh,
Albert Reyes,
Katy Piper,
Congressman
Henry Bonilla,
Kevin Conner,
Debbie Ferrier
and Bill
Thornton. (Photo
by Ferrell
Foster/BGCT
Communications)

BUA breaks ground for major

expansion

SAN ANTONIO—[Baptist University of the Americas](#) broke ground Aug. 29 on a new 78-acre campus in southwest San Antonio that school President [Albert Reyes](#) called the institution's "field of dreams."

The new Baugh Family Campus will include a \$4 million student housing complex, the 60,000-square-foot Piper Student Village, opening for the fall 2007 semester.

BUA purchased the 78-acre tract in early 2006 with the assistance of the [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#). The new campus is directly across the Pan American Expressway from the current campus and is accessible by a walkover bridge.

Infrastructure development and the housing complex are Phase 1 of the project and represent a \$6 million investment, according to university sources. The university hopes to begin Phase 2 within the next three years, and it will include an additional \$5 million to \$10 million investment for a student services building that will include a learning resource center, dining facilities, a student center and student development offices.

Buckner brings hope to orphans in Guatemala

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Mission trip
participants
distribute new
shoes to
children at the
government-run
day care in
Guatemala City.
(Photos by
Jenny
Pope/Buckner)

Buckner brings hope to orphans in Guatemala

By Jenny Pope

Buckner Benevolences

Four-year-old Juan Pablo was severely burned as an infant when his mother poured scalding water over his face and body as punishment and then abandoned him. Two surgeries and two orphanages later, he finally has broken away from the once-distant little boy who shuddered at human touch.

See Related Articles:

- Buckner brings hope to orphans in Guatemala
- [Transitional home provides refuge for teenaged girls](#)

Now, with his arms tightly clasped around his caregiver as she swings him around the room, he closes his eyes and parts his lips into a beautiful, if twisted, grin and sways his head back and forth to the music.

BGCT budget proposal reflects reorganization, other changes

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BGCT budget proposal reflects reorganization, other changes

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

The 2007 [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) budget proposal the Executive Board will consider Sept. 25-26 not only reflects a comprehensive staff reorganization that occurred this year, but also includes incremental steps toward bringing into the budget items previously covered by discretionary funds and designated gifts.

The \$50.6 million recommended budget represents about a 2 percent increase over the \$49,437,000 budget for 2006. Of the total proposed budget, \$42,441,000 would come from Texas Cooperative Program receipts.

Cartoon

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"In 1955, my first year as a pastor, we had no powerpoint presentations, no Christian rock bands, no cordless microphones, no claymation and no conference calling with missionaries.

It was just me—live and unplugged."

2nd Opinion: A “giant” who cared for all children

September 15, 2006

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2nd Opinion: A ‘giant’ who cared for all children

By Jerry Haag

Editor’s Note: [Jess Lunsford](#), the founding administrator of [South Texas Children’s Home](#), died Aug. 28 at age 96. STCH is one of four childcare agencies affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Jess Lunsford was a giant. If you only knew Jess by his physical stature, you would wonder why anyone would characterize him as a giant. But if you knew Jess by his character, wisdom, relationship with Christ, heart or dreams, “giant” does not do him justice. Giant is too small for Jess Lunsford.

I have enjoyed reading his journals and want to share some of them with you. Some of the early struggles Jess faced occurred because people did not know the function of a children’s home. During Christmas of 1955, Jess wrote about the strange request he received one night at South Texas Children’s Home. He wrote: “Three oilfield workers at the door last night wanting to meet some of our girls—imagine; we never saw this before. They were shown the shortest route out of the grounds.”

Volunteers share gospel with children in Dominican Republic

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About 2,200 children in the Dominican Republic attended Vacation Bible Schools staffed by workers from South Texas Children's Home, in partnership with Quisqueyana Baptist Church and Time Ministries.

Volunteers share gospel with children in Dominican Republic

By Joanna Berry

South Texas Children's Home

VILLA MELLA, [Dominican Republic](#)—Eleven volunteers and staff from

[South Texas Children's Home](#) helped lead Vacation Bible School for children in the Dominican Republic.

The Texans worked in Villa Mella, a rapidly growing community north of the capital city of Santo Domingo.

DOWN HOME: Not just a house, this was a home

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DOWN HOME: Not just a house, this was a home

It's only a house.

Gray brick with black shingles. A terrific "open" kitchen/den, laid out so a family can spend an entire evening together in the same room. Three bedrooms; two up and one down. A shower in the master bath that takes eons to get hot. Formal living and dining rooms that serve primarily as the shortcut between a small office and the kitchen. A two-car garage that doubles as a leaf magnet in the fall. And a yard that, despite my best intentions, always could use weed-pulling or flower-planting.

It's only a house.

But for almost 11 years, it was our home.

EDITORIAL: Eternal lament: Why did God do this?

September 15, 2006

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EDITORIAL: Eternal lament: Why did God do this?

“Why did God do this to me?”

I don’t know how loudly James Polehinke asked that question, but his words reverberated around the globe.

Polehinke is the only survivor of [Comair Flight 5191](#), which crashed in a private farm just past the end of Blue Grass Airport’s Runway 26 at 6:07 a.m., Aug. 27. Forty-nine other people died.

Polehinke, the co-pilot of Flight 5191, remained in serious condition in the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital in Lexington. *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, which reported Polehinke’s question, said he did not specifically mention the crash. Still, contemplating his pain and loss, he asked the question that has sprung from the lips of suffering souls for millennia: “Why did God do this to me?”



Georgia minister produces movie as tool for ministry

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Alex
Kendrick, a
minister at
an Albany,
Ga.,
church,
plays
Coach
Grant
Taylor in
*Facing the
Giants*, a
movie he
and his
brother,
Stephen,
produced
with a cast
of
volunteers
in his
community.
(RNS photo
courtesy of
Sherwood
Pictures)

Georgia minister produces

movie as tool for ministry

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

ALBANY, Ga. (RNS)—When Alex Kendrick thinks about sharing his faith, he thinks about movie screens, not evangelistic tracts.

Kendrick, associate pastor of media ministries at [Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.](#), has co-produced [Facing the Giants](#) with the help of hundreds of volunteers—on screen and behind the scenes—from his Southern Baptist congregation and local community.

Program offers training for Rio Grande Valley families

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Children
paint a
banner at
their
parents'
graduation
ceremony
to mark
completion
of Families
for a
Future
training.
(Photos by
Craig
Bird)

Program offers training for Rio Grande Valley families

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DEL RIO—Many parents say raising children is the toughest job you can get with zero experience, skills, know-how or good role models. But it's getting easier for parents along the Rio Grande, thanks to Families for a Future.

Convinced that the key to reducing drug/ alcohol use, teen suicide, juvenile delinquency, gang involvement, child abuse and domestic violence is strengthening families, [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) launched the pilot

program last March in five counties surrounding Del Rio.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Losing focus

I am responding to the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board action to cut three positions from the missions, evangelism and ministry area ([Sept. 4](#)). It seems these positions would be the last to be cut, since they have an intentional focus on the community outside the church.

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com ; or by mail to P.O. Box 660267, Dallas 75266-0267; 250 words maximum.
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"One of our biggest challenges as Christians living in the 21st century is to learn how to talk about the things that are important to us, like prayer and hearing from God, without scaring our neighbors. Not that we have to backpedal what we believe; we just have to learn how to communicate better."

Berry Simpson

Baptist Standard cybercolumnist

"What struck me most is when one of them said to me: 'You know we're really no different than your society. We're just honest about our affairs, and we take care of our babies and our girlfriends.'"

Loraine Sundquist

Recalling a conversation with a wife of polygamist Warren Jeffs, the prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ (Washington Post / RNS)

"If you're not electing Christians, then in essence you are going to legislate sin."

Katherine Harris

Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, describing separation of church and state as "so wrong, because God is the one who chooses our rulers" (Florida Baptist Witness)

It does not seem OK just to reassign their duties to other people, such as the congregational strategists, because their focus is not the community outside the established church. With only a small percentage of people in Texas attending church on any given Sunday, we ought to double the positions that focus outside the church. We as Texas Baptists have been very critical of others who have tended to run the same course.

I hope the BGCT in its [new reorganization](#) is not losing its focus on the people outside the church who need love and mercy from those who will intentionally seek them out.

Who's Who in Islam: major groups

September 15, 2006

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Who's Who in Islam: major groups

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—For American Christians who don't know a Shiite from a Sunni or an Alawi from a Wahhabi, divisions within Islam can be daunting to decipher.

Here's a simple Who's Who of a few major groups—either religious or political—that claim the Islamic label.