

# Unrealistic expectations cause stress for ministerial families

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## Unrealistic expectations cause stress for ministerial families

**By Ken Walker**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

TUCSON, Ariz.—As a Baptist pastor's spouse for more than 30 years, Julie Barrier has a firsthand perspective on the stress facing ministers' families. So when her daughter, Brianna, helped complete a survey of 4,000 pastor's families while a student at Baylor University, the findings were no surprise to her.

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Julie and  
Roger  
Barrier  
lead a  
seminar  
for other  
ministers  
and  
spouses.  
Photo  
courtesy  
of  
*Kentucky  
Western  
Recorder*

The survey identified four leading causes of stress for pastors and their families—unrealistic expectations, lack of time, finances and health issues.

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## **EDITORIAL: Baylor's atmosphere: Faith & learning?**

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# EDITORIAL: Baylor's atmosphere: Faith & learning?

This edition of the Baptist Standard includes a package of stories that deliver a message to everyone who thinks the dispute over the future of Baylor University ended with the resignation of former President Robert Sloan: Think again.

Sloan stepped down last summer after more than two years of controversy over his leadership. Interim President Bill Underwood exerted a mediating influence. Morale on campus improved dramatically. New President John Lilley received the regents' endorsement because of his solid reputation as a reconciler and consensus builder. Also, since he lived his entire adult life far from Waco, he didn't have a bear in this fight.

Still, the struggle continues. It focuses on "faith and learning": How does a Christian—in this case Baptist—university integrate the essence of its biblical and theological  foundation into its myriad academic disciplines? Baylor historically has adopted the "atmospheric" model, which affirms the Christian/ Baptist ethos of the university without expecting professors to discuss Christian ideas or principles in every class. Atmospheric advocates note the Christian character of Baylor is pervasive and compelling. They rest their case on more than 150 years of history. Detractors point to other universities founded on the atmospheric model, such as Harvard and Yale, which slid into secularism. They endorse the "integration of faith and learning" model, which mandates a more overt application of Christianity in the classroom. By infusing faith into every area of learning, they contend, Baylor can maintain its distinctive Christian character, even in the face of trends toward secularism. Atmospheric advocates warn the integration approach leads to legalism, thwarts academic freedom, and will destroy Baylor's Baptist identity and lead to the

university's fall from grace as a respected institution of learning. ([See Ken Camp's articles, which begin on page 12.](#))

The most recent flashpoint in this debate has been a set of papers prepared by a trio of Baylor professors and presented at the Vatican. The presentations by Michael Beaty, Douglas Henry and Scott Moore are, as you would expect, scholarly and complicated. Presupposing the importance of integrating faith and learning, they take an affirming stance toward the Roman Catholic system of higher education and call on Baptists to take a more ecumenical/accepting posture toward the Roman Catholic Church. This issue flared more recently when a pro-Sloan Baylor regent, Joe Armes, endorsed the professors' position, and a couple of well-known Texas Baptist educator/ministers, Russell Dilday and Raymond Bailey, wrote papers opposing them.

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## **DOWN HOME: Phil Strickland: Friend & guide**

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## **DOWN HOME: Phil Strickland: Friend & guide**

Many of us—God only knows the number, but it is huge—lost a friend who felt more like a brother last week.

Although his spirit remained strong and effervescent until the end, Phil Strickland finally lost his longtime battle with cancer.

As I write these words of love and grief, I realize countless others could write them, too. Phil made an intensely personal, unique and Christlike mark on our lives.

For the past decade, I looked to Phil as folks look to an older brother. We actually met about a quarter-century ago, but we became fast friends after I arrived back home in Texas just over 10 years ago.

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## **7 principles for churches to be multiracial**

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## **7 principles for churches to be multiracial**

WACO—Seven principles characterize successful multiracial congregations, according to studies conducted by sociologist and author George Yancey.

Yancey, who has written a book titled *One Body, One Spirit: Seven Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches*, described those principles during the “Becoming a Racially Reconciled Church & Community” conference sponsored by Mission Waco.

Those principles are:

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## **ON THE MOVE**

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## **ON THE MOVE**

- D.F. Barrett has resigned as pastor of First Church in Eddy to become associate pastor of First Church in Hewitt.
  - Brandon Blagg has resigned as pastor of Olin Church in Hico.
  - Michael Brinkley to First Church in Flower Mound as preschool/children's minister.
  - Jason Chism to First Church in Gladewater as minister of music and worship from First Church in Eddy.
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## **Cartoon**

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Before I  
conclude,  
let's check  
what  
participants  
in our  
online  
sermon poll  
voted my  
conclusion  
should be.

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.

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# **Family Bible Series for Feb. 26: Have faith that God knows what he's doing**

February 17, 2006

Posted: 2/15/06

**Family Bible Series for Feb. 26**

## **Have faith that God knows what he's**

# doing

• *Jeremiah 32:6-9, 27-30, 37-41*

**By Donald Raney**

*Westlake Chapel, Graham*

Serving God involves participating in God's plans to draw the world back into a proper relationship with him. By nature, these plans are vast in scope.

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## **Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 26: Seek to commend, encourage one another**

February 17, 2006

Posted: 2/15/06

**Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 26**

## **Seek to commend, encourage one another**

• *Romans 16:1-7, 17-20, 25-27*

**By Trey Turner**

*Canyon Creek Baptist Church, Temple*

When I was in seminary, I dreamed of being in a church of 20-somethings. At the time, this was Generation X, the generation reacting to their “spoiled” boomer parents (just a description, not meant to offend anyone.)

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for Feb. 26: Every day of Jesus’ life focused on the cross**

February 17, 2006

Posted: 2/15/06

**BaptistWay Bible Series for Feb. 26**

## **Every day of Jesus’ life focused on the CROSS**

• *Luke 23:32-46*

**By Lex Robertson**

*Logsdon Seminary, Abilene*

We Americans are pretty pragmatic. What’s the “bottom line”? So what? Those are the questions we so often ask and hear. Let us ask those same questions about the life and work of Jesus.

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# Strickland, longtime head of CLC, dies at age 64

February 17, 2006

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## Strickland, longtime head of CLC, dies at age 64

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

Phil Strickland believed his mission was to provide a voice for the powerless in the halls of government and speak prophetically to Texas Baptists on moral and ethical issues.

After a long battle with cancer, resultant pneumonia silenced that prophetic voice Feb. 11 at age 64.

Strickland served 38 years with the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission, including nearly a quarter-century as director of the public policy and moral concerns agency.

"Phil Strickland helped Texas Baptists to remember and be faithful to their heritage, and he consistently declared the high ethical calling of the Christian life," said BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade.

But while Strickland possessed a well-earned public reputation as a

knowledgeable political insider, an outspoken advocate for children and a staunch defender of individual religious freedom and other historic mainstream Baptist principles, people with whom he came into contact individually learned he also was “a man of deep personal faith and prayer,” Wade noted.

“Everybody who ever spent any time around him grew in their Christian walk, their faith and their response to the gospel,” Wade said.

Strickland was a member of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, where he had served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and chairman of various committees. Pastor George Mason noted his church lost “a faithful servant,” Baptists lost a strong and prophetic voice, and “the kingdom of God has lost a skillful and passionate moral advocate for the weak and vulnerable of our world.”

Strickland possessed a rare combination of keen intellect and consistent activism, Mason observed.

“He was always eager to learn the next thing, to read the next book, to measure his position on matters against those who could teach him something new. That curiosity bred creativity. His work for justice in the church and in the world was formed by the gospel and informed by the living Christ within him,” he said.

Strickland’s “never-ending quest” to make life better for children and to improve the lives of the overlooked and under-served energized his life, Mason added.

“The gospel was Phil’s preoccupation, and he occupied his life making sure it penetrated not only human hearts but human systems as well,” he said. “The spiritual and the social were always for him interconnected spheres of life. Since Jesus is Lord of all, Phil believed that society could better reflect the Lordship of Christ if Christians would put the gospel into practice.”

Former Texas Speaker of the House Pete Laney called Strickland “an unwavering advocate” for Texans in need.

“His voice in the policy discussions at the State Capitol has made a significant impact on the lives of the state’s most vulnerable citizens—its children,” Laney said. “He has provided strong ethical leadership and is a reminder to us all that government exists to serve the people. His influence will never fully be recognized, and his presence will be deeply missed in Austin.”

Strickland often recalled that he took a leave of absence from a Fort Worth law firm in December 1967 to help Texas Baptists defeat gambling. And since gambling proved to be a perennial problem, he never returned to fulltime private legal practice.

Instead, he became the first—and for many years the only—registered lobbyist in Austin serving a religious denominational body.

Drawing on contacts made and lessons learned as a law school student when he worked as legislative assistant to Texas Lt. Gov. Preston Smith, Strickland lobbied lawmakers to oppose the spread of gambling, resist attempts to chip away at the wall of separation between church and state, and remember the needs of children—particularly the poor, abused or neglected.

To advance those causes, he built coalitions that spanned the political and religious spectrum.

Strickland became founding chairman of Texans Care for Children, the state’s first multi-issue child advocacy group, which brought together more than 50 organizations that address the needs of children.

Gov. Mark White appointed him first chairman of the Texas Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, a council created to oversee and

coordinate distribution of the Children's Trust Fund. He also served on a variety of other governmental advisory committees.

Weston Ware, who worked alongside Strickland at the CLC during nine regular sessions of the Texas Legislature and numerous called special sessions, praised his abilities as a coalition-builder.

"Phil not only was a political strategist par excellence, but he also was able to win the hearts and minds of diverse groups, often bringing together the most conservative and most liberal advocates to resolve difficult issues, as he did with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act," Ware recalled, pointing to legislation aimed at preventing substantial burdens on the free exercise of religion.

"Few could say 'no' when representatives of the religious right and the American Civil Liberties Union or the Texas Freedom Network all came together on the same issues."

Strickland earned a reputation for integrity, trustworthiness and professionalism among legislators in Austin, and that established credibility for anyone representing the CLC, Ware noted.

"It meant when I went to talk to a legislator, or to give testimony before a legislative committee, that Phil's good reputation, gained over all the years since 1967, had gone before me," he said. "It meant that a legislator could trust me, could value what I had to say, could believe that I had done my homework on the issue at hand because I worked for Phil Strickland, and Phil had never let him or her down."

Nationally, Strickland served on the Inter-religious Task Force on U.S. Food Policy, the Bread for the World board of directors, the Americans United for Separation of Church and State board of trustees and the National Child Abuse Coalition.

He was a past president of the United Way of Texas.

Even though he held some prominent positions, Strickland worked mostly behind the scenes, said James Dunn, his immediate predecessor as director of the Christian Life Commission.

“Texas Baptists as a whole have no idea about the significant contributions Phil Strickland made to Texas Baptist life, to the state of Texas, to children and to a decent and just society,” he said. “His contributions remind me of an iceberg, in which perhaps only one percent of the massive movement is seen and 99 percent is hidden beneath the surface. That is the way Phil led the fight for truth and righteousness in Texas.”

Dunn, who left the Texas Christian Life Commission to become executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, also noted Strickland’s steadfast commitment to religious liberty and distinctive Baptist beliefs such as the soul competency of every individual.

“In a day when many Baptists seem to have amnesia about our heritage, Phil remained a rock-solid champion of religious freedom and the separation of church and state,” said Dunn, who teaches at Wake Forest Divinity School.

BGCT Executive Director Emeritus Bill Pinson praised Strickland for “his brilliance coupled with his dedication to Christ and his genuine concern for all persons (that) made him extraordinarily successful in Christian ministry.”

Strickland’s influence reached beyond Baptist circles and beyond Texas as he worked with various denominations for causes of social justice, Pinson noted.

“His application of the gospel of Christ to life includes practically every aspect of Christian ethics—family life, race relations, hunger, poverty,

neglected children, alcohol abuse, gambling, economics, social justice, religious freedom, separation of church and state," he said. "His positive impact across a wide spectrum of our world has been enormous. He surely will hear our Lord say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

An Abilene native, Strickland studied at Baylor University before transferring to the University of Texas in Austin where he earned both his undergraduate and law degrees.

He also pursued graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughter Delaine Mueller of Tucson, Ariz., her husband, Daniel, and their two children; daughter Shannon Holman of Lonoke, Ark., her husband, Merritt, and their two children; and his mother, Sybil Strickland of Abilene.

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.

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# **Wayland to offer degrees in Kenya**

February 17, 2006

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# Wayland to offer degrees in Kenya

**By Jonathan Petty**

*Wayland Baptist University*

PLAINVIEW—The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has granted Wayland Baptist University authority to offer an accredited bachelor's degree in religion through its partnership with Kenya Baptist Theological College.

Approval of the degree program comes nearly seven years after Wayland answered a call from the Kenya Baptist Convention to help train pastors. Pastors of most Baptist churches in Kenya lack formal training or higher education, convention officials noted.

Three Wayland representatives—Vaughn Ross, chairman of the mathematics and sciences division and a former missionary to Kenya; Fred Meeks, chairman of the religion division, and Phil Almes, emeritus mathematics professor—visited Kenya in 1998.

“We went as a result of a true Macedonian call by the Kenya Baptist Convention, saying they have a crisis in leadership training and they needed help,” Ross said.

As a result, Wayland began offering an associate's degree in 1999, and the first class graduated in 2003. Wayland also began building the resources necessary in Kenya to be accredited to offer a full degree.

Wayland contributed thousands of volumes to the existing library at the Kenya college and established an Internet link with the library on Wayland's Plainview campus, making thousands more publications available to students. Wayland has also set up a computer lab with 20 student computers.

First Baptist Church of Plainview helped build a dormitory to house visiting students and faculty. Kenya Baptists have also agreed to build an office building to house the Wayland program.

“In order for SACS to approve us, that campus had to meet all the criteria that any campus anywhere else has to meet,” Meeks said. “Be it faculty credentials, library resources, the whole nine yards ... they are not making any exceptions.”

Courses are set up so a group of students may attend class on the campus at Brakenhurst, just outside of Nairobi, for three weeks, four or five times a year. Wayland faculty from the main campus in Plainview, as well as the school’s other campuses, travel to Kenya to teach the classes.

The program is designed so students may attend class for short periods several times a year, then return home to continue work in their churches and communities, Ross explained.

“The students who are taking these courses are already engaged in ministry,” he said. “Many of them have been engaged in ministry for a long time. This is a modified residential program so they can be back home, carrying out their pastoral duties and other ministries in their churches.”

Wayland will commit about six professors a year to teaching in Kenya.

This is more than an opportunity to educate the people of Kenya; it is an opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission, Meeks said.

“This is pure, indigenous missions,” he said. “This is not where we are sending some American to go over there and be a missionary. This is where we are training a native Kenyan to stay in his country and do ministry. These are students who are not just going to be members of their churches in Kenya, they are going to be the leaders and the pastors.”

With the help of Texas Baptists, Wayland Baptist University also is underwriting the program. The average family income in Kenya is around \$1,500 a year—not enough to afford a formal college education. By underwriting the program, those who are truly interested in obtaining a religion degree will be able to enroll without the additional financial burden on their families.

“The financial underwriting is being done by churches, foundations and the university at this point,” Ross said. “This is a true partnership between Texas Baptists through Wayland and the Kenya Baptist Convention.”

The Kenyan convention asked for this program in order to meet the demands of the growing church in Kenya, he added. While serving as a missionary to Kenya in 1975, Ross said there were about 400 Baptist churches in the whole country. Now there are more than 3,000 with about 100 churches being added each year. Some of the churches have nearly 5,000 members. Last year, 16 Baptist churches were added in Nairobi alone.

“And other denominations are experiencing that same kind of growth and responding in similar ways,” Ross said. “We are on the edge of what will be a different kind of church growth than what we have experienced in missions before. Before, we sent missionaries to do the primary witnessing, church planting and church beginning. This is an enabling ministry and it is going to produce even greater results.”

Individuals or groups interested in supporting the Kenya project are encouraged to contact Wayland’s Office of Advancement at (806) 291-3425.

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# **Mac Brunson of Dallas likely to follow Vines as pastor of Jacksonville church**

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Posted: 2/10/06

## **Mac Brunson of Dallas likely to follow Vines as pastor of Jacksonville church**

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Less than a week after bidding farewell to retiring pastor Jerry Vines, First Baptist Church of Jacksonville—one of the country's largest congregations—is expected to nominate Dallas pastor Mac Brunson as his successor.

The Jacksonville church posted a simple announcement on its website Feb. 9: "Please join us this Sunday, Feb. 12, for an announcement from the pulpit committee." Several well-placed Baptists in Jacksonville said Brunson will be announced as the candidate.

"That's what I've been told," state Sen. Stephen Wise, a prominent member of the church, told Associated Baptist Press Feb. 9. "It's pretty well known. I was told in an e-mail this morning."

Brunson already fills one of Christianity's most legendary pulpits—First Baptist Church of Dallas—where W.A. Criswell and George W. Truett rose to fame. But the Dallas church has lost some of its luster—and membership—in recent years. With about 10,000 total members, it is about a third the size of the Jacksonville church, which counts 28,000 members and occupies nine blocks of downtown.

Brunson has long been mentioned as a candidate for the Jacksonville pastorate. He asked the Dallas congregation Jan. 8 to pray for him concerning a major decision about his future. He declined to tell reporters any details at the time.

Brunson was one of the featured speakers at the Jacksonville church's pastors' school in early February. He could not be reached by phone or e-mail Feb. 9. No one was answering the phones at First Baptist of Jacksonville that evening either.

Brunson has been senior pastor of the Dallas congregation since 1999. He also serves as chancellor of Criswell College, the undergraduate school founded by members of the church.

Previously Brunson was pastor of Greenstreet Baptist Church in High Point, N.C. He holds degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Furman University in Greenville, S.C. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children.

First Baptist has been a fixture in downtown Dallas since 1868. Its facilities now occupy six city blocks. It has an average Sunday school attendance of 3,103 and total annual receipts of \$26 million.

Vines, 68, pastor of the Jacksonville church for 23 years, announced his retirement last May. It became official Feb. 7. Like Criswell, he was president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a pivotal figure in the conservative takeover of the SBC. He also was a trustee chairman at Jerry

Falwell's Liberty University.

Paige Patterson, one of the architects of the SBC conservative movement, told the *Florida Times-Union* of Jacksonville: "I wouldn't hesitate to say that Dr. Vines and (late Memphis pastor) Dr. Adrian Rogers were the two most important figures in the conservative movement.