

# Cross Plains church helps wildfire victims through recovery

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A handwritten sign by fifth and sixth graders at First Baptist Church in Cross Plains is intended to lift the spirits of wildfire victims.

## Cross Plains church helps wildfire victims through recovery

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

CROSS PLAINS-Everywhere Shayne Childers turns, he is reminded of the wildfires that devastated his community. Charred fields line the roads. They cry to him from across the street as he picks his son up from school.

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# **Disaster relief gifts enable ongoing recovery**

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## **Disaster relief gifts enable ongoing recovery**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS-Disaster recovery continues in South Asia and Louisiana, and Texas Baptists remain integrally involved in both locations.

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# **DOWN HOME Faithful companion & beloved friend**

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## **DOWN HOME: Faithful companion & beloved friend**

I miss Betsy most in the mornings.

She and I were the early risers in our family. Most of the time, especially on weekday mornings, when the alarm went off long before dawn, she'd get up to give me company. She'd hang out in the bathroom while I shaved, and she'd eat breakfast with me in the kitchen. I miss her quiet, faithful presence in the mornings.

Still, I miss her almost as much when I arrive home from work in the evening.

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## **EDITORIAL Stewardship encompasses all of life**

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## EDITORIAL:

# Stewardship encompasses all of life

Soon and very soon, people from all over the globe will settle down in front of our TV sets for two solid weeks, mesmerized by the XX Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. We'll cheer for athletes we've never heard of competing in sports we only think about once every four years. And don't say you won't, because you know you will. "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" are the best drama on TV (with the slight exception of any episode of *Lost*).

One of the most attractive aspects of the Olympics always has been the uniquely individual nature of the competition. Of course, I love baseball and football, respect basketball and have developed a growing appreciation for hockey. Team sports are thrilling and larger than life. But individual sports, such as the majority featured in the Olympics, are so compelling because they highlight a solitary competitor striving against nature, time, gravity, human limitations and/or other individuals with the same dreams and aspirations. When you watch many of these solo competitions, you witness the world in microcosm.



Many factors determine which athletes climb up on the medal stand and which ones pack up and head for home. They include everything from climate to equipment to talent to genetics to funding to, sometimes, sheer good fortune. But the No. 1 factor inevitably is this: Stewardship of individual resources. Sure, raw ability plays a part. (Remember Eddie the Eagle, the British ski-jumper? Everyone knew his physical skills wouldn't fly him to a medal.) Every other factor, however, is impacted by stewardship of resources—how well the athletes use everything at their disposal. The medal stands are populated by athletes who commit themselves to gaining quality

experience, training extremely hard and well, understanding the dynamics of both the sport and the specific competition, eliminating distractions, resting body and soul, and focusing intensely on the one thing that matters at the moment: The competition. We call them champions.

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## **Garcia announces retirement; Palos to lead Hispanic work**

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## **Garcia announces retirement; Palos to lead Hispanic work**

Jimmy Garcia retired Dec. 31 from his role leading Hispanic work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Frank Palos will serve in that role during the interim.

“Jimmy served us faithfully for 18 years,” said Ron Gunter, BGCT chief operating officer and associate executive director.

“We are thankful for his service with us and for his continued ministry as pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Dallas.”

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# **Transitional home for girls offers hope in Guatemala**

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Buckner Orphan  
Care

International  
celebrated the  
opening of its  
first transitional  
girl's home in  
Guatemala City  
Jan. 7. The home  
will hold 10 girls  
and provide a  
place for them to  
live as they  
continue their  
education and  
learn life skills.

"Some of (these  
girls) had never  
had a home  
before, and they  
look beautiful  
now—like normal  
teenagers. And  
they all have  
opportunities that  
they otherwise  
wouldn't have  
had," said Leslie

Chace, director of  
Latin American  
programs for  
Buckner Orphan  
Care

International.  
(Photos by Randy  
Daniels/ Buckner  
Benevolences)

# Transitional home for girls offers hope in Guatemala

**By Jenny Pope**

*Buckner Benevolences*

GUATEMALA CITY-Buckner Orphan Care International celebrated the grand opening of its first transitional girls' home in Guatemala City this month. Unlike orphanages, the transitional home will provide a place for girls age 18 and older to live as they continue their education and learn life skills.

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# Baptist chaplain in Kuwait seeks conversation-starters

January 20, 2006

Posted: 1/20/06

# Baptist chaplain in Kuwait seeks conversation-starters

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

KUWAIT-A Texas Baptist chaplain in Kuwait is looking homeward for help

in his ministry to soldiers far from home.

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## Texas Baptist Forum

January 20, 2006

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## Texas Baptist Forum

### **Speak up for Christmas**

“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so” (Psalm 107:2).

This Christmas season has included many surprises. Some of us were surprised by the department stores that opted not to use the word “Christmas” in their ads this year.

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## **New Urbanism offers antidote for isolation, proponents say**

January 20, 2006

Posted: 1/20/06

# New Urbanism offers antidote for isolation, proponents say

By **Marshall Allen**

*Religion News Service*

PASADENA, Calif. (RNS)—Eric Jacobsen speaks passionately about things like sidewalks and storefronts. But he's not an architect or developer. He's a pastor.

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## On the Move

January 20, 2006

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## On the Move

**Kevin Boyd** has resigned as minister to students at Longbranch Community Church in Midlothian to help start a church in Red Oak.

☒ **George Killam** to White Creek Church in George West as pastor.

☒ **Stacy Martin** to Shady Shores Church in Denton as youth minister.

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# **Sponsors needed for children in Russian foster care**

January 20, 2006

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Buckner  
employs two  
case managers  
and provides  
financial  
assistance and  
training to 24  
foster families  
in the St.  
Petersburg  
region of  
Russia.  
(Photos by  
Felicia  
Fuller/Buckner  
Benevolences)

## **Sponsors needed for children**

# in Russian foster care

**By Felicia Fuller**

*Buckner Benevolences*

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Having spent her first year of life in the cold institutional confines of a Russian orphanage, 2-year-old Anya still struggles with social phobias and speech delays.

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## **Buckner addresses HIV epidemic in Russian orpha**

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Above: Hospital  
15 in St.  
Petersburg,  
Russia, is  
improving its  
medical  
services to HIV-  
positive  
orphans thanks  
to Buckner  
supporters like  
Blair and  
Melissa Pogue  
of Park Cities  
Baptist Church  
in Dallas. At  
Right: Buckner  
and Russian  
government  
officials met  
recently on  
ways to stem  
the surge of  
infections in  
Russia's  
government-run  
orphanages.  
(Photos by  
Felicia  
Fuller/Buckner  
Benevolences)



# **Buckner addresses HIV epidemic in Russian orphanages**

**By Felicia Fuller**

*Buckner Benevolences*

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia-With children and young adults accounting for 80 percent of HIV cases in Russia, Buckner and Russian government officials met recently on ways to stem the surge of infections in Russia's government-run orphanages.