

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.”

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.

Baptist chaplain in Kuwait seeks conversation-starters

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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.

Texas Baptist Forum

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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.

New Urbanism offers antidote for isolation, proponents say

January 20, 2006

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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.

On the Move

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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.

Sponsors needed for children in Russian foster care

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<p>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)</p>

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.

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.