

2nd Opinion: 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'

January 6, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

2nd Opinion: 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'

By John Lilley

The Baylor University board of regents, in electing me as the university's 13th president, has given me a great opportunity to come back and lead an institution that had a transforming effect on my life.

Arriving on campus in the late 1950s, fresh from Louisiana, Baylor opened a whole new world to me. I not only received outstanding instruction and mentoring from Baylor professors who cared deeply about me and my calling, I was taken in by the wonderful Baylor families who worshipped at First Baptist Church in Waco. First Baptist became my home away from home. Two days after my election as Baylor's president, my wife, Gerrie, and I united with this church. It was a true homecoming for me.

DOWN HOME Two memories to last a lifetime

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DOWN HOME: Two memories to last a lifetime

For a few minutes, I felt like the most handsome guy on the planet.

Call it good-looks-by-association. I was still the same me, just dressed up in a tuxedo. But I had the most beautiful bride-our oldest daughter, Lindsay-on my left arm.

We stood at the back of our church, waiting for her wedding to begin. Those were golden moments-the serene calm in the middle of an enormously hectic day.

EDITORIAL: Lessons from an exploded mineshaft

January 6, 2006

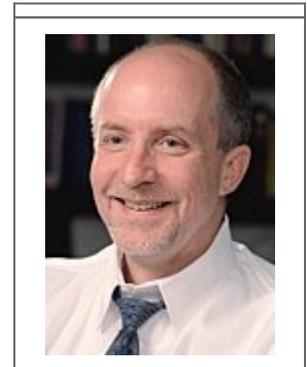
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EDITORIAL:

Lessons from an exploded mineshaft

Gladness and relief melted into sadness and grief last Wednesday morning. Like millions of Americans, I scoured the newspaper as I poured my first cup of coffee. The most important headline reported encouraging news: “12 of 13 trapped miners survive.” I prayed as I poured milk over my cereal, thanking God for the safety of a dozen West Virginia coal miners I never would know.

A short while later, my wife, Joanna, walked in from the bedroom, where she had been watching TV. “What an awful tragedy; 12 of those 13 miners died,” she said. I showed her the newspaper article, confident-or maybe simply hoping-the happier report was true.



She called me as I drove to work. Unfortunately, the TV report she heard had been based on the latest information: Miscommunication at the mine led to an incorrect early report. Instead of 12 survivors, the Sago Mine explosion claimed their lives, leaving only one survivor.

Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

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From the fanciful science fiction themes of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (above) and Star Wars (below) to the classic American Western Shane (right), Hollywood has presented its share of on-screen Christ figures. (Photos courtesy of Lucas Films, Universal Pictures, Paramount)



Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

By Joanna Connors

Religion News Service

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)—A mysterious visitor arrives from the heavens to walk among us. At first, hardly anyone believes in his existence. Gradually, though, more and more people come to know and follow him, as he teaches lessons of love to the meek and powerless.

Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry

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Kokomo Baptist Church near Gorman is pictured before and after the fire that destroyed its facility. For information on Baptist General Convention of Texas relief efforts for victims of the wildfires, call (888) 311-3900.

Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

GORMAN-Wildfires that swept across thousands of acres in North Texas burned down Kokomo Baptist Church, near Gorman.

Texas Baptist Forum

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Texas Baptist Forum

Frog in the kettle

Your editorial chiding Christians for “angry, militant proclamations of 'Merry Christmas'” (Dec. 19) reminded me of a recent experience I had at lunch with my wife and another couple.

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

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



"Lost: 29 trees. Gained: More light."

Calder Baptist Church

A sign on the Beaumont church's property during cleanup from Hurricane Rita. Jim Fuller is the pastor.

"Anti-Christian persecution and discrimination around the world ... is ugly, it's growing, and ... the mass media seem to generally ignore or downplay its gravity."

Charles Chaput

Catholic archbishop of Denver, speaking at a panel discussion on religious freedom on Capitol Hill. (The Washington Times/RNS)

"I want to give all of my body to my husband."

Katie McMunn

A 17-year old who promised abstinence until marriage when she slipped on a "chastity ring" at a pro-abstinence event in Pittsburgh. (The New York Times/RNS)

"Hip-hop has what all corporate America wants-18-35-year-old employed adults with growing families. That's why you see Russell Simmons producing clothes, Snoop Dogg hawking Chrysler. Everyone wants us. Why not the church?"

Tommy Kyllonen

Senior pastor of hip-hip Crossover Community Church in Tampa, Fla. (USA Today/RNS)

As we prepared to partake, we held hands and said a blessing. A nearby diner rose and complained to the manager that our public display had offended him and his companion, who were atheists. The manager told him he would in the future seat the man in a prayer-free section.

On the Move

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Vernon Andrews to Choate Church in Kenedy as pastor.

- ◆ **Jeff Ashley** to Tolar Church in Tolar as music minister.
 - ◆ **Glynn Beaty** has resigned as pastor of Old Time Church in Riesel.
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Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

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Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

By Thomas Spencer

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—A planned lecture by a proponent of intelligent design has upset Samford University faculty who don't want the Baptist-affiliated school to be perceived as endorsing alternatives to evolution.

Pins mark 55 years perfect attendance

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Pins mark 55 years perfect attendance

By Charles Richardson

Howard Payne University

BROWNWOOD—Bob Sartain has 55 consecutive years perfect attendance in Sunday school classes at the churches where he has been a member, and he's on his way toward 56.

With pins to
commemorate
their
achievement,
Jan and Bob
Sartain, who
work at
Howard
Payne
University,
have more
than 80 years
of combined
perfect
attendance in
Sunday
school class.
Their family
has more
than 146
years of
combined
perfect
attendance.

Teaching them

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TEACHING THEM: Educators seek to blend something old, something new

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Religious education in most Baptist churches used to be a closed shop—one preferred publishing house, one standard approach to age-graded Bible study and one time and place for classes.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor professors return from Iraq. Four Baylor University professors returned to Texas after helping their colleagues at Dohuk University in the

Kurdish region of northern Iraq establish and dedicate Dohuk's Center for Democracy and Diplomacy. William Mitchell, director of Baylor's Center for International Education; William Hair, associate dean and director of the University Libraries; Larry Lehr, senior lecturer in environmental studies; and Brad Owens, associate professor of journalism, visited Dohuk in early December on the eve of Iraq's national elections. They presented seminars and workshops for Dohuk faculty and other higher education leaders on curriculum development, the role of higher education in civil society, web-based and distance learning, teaching and research in comparative politics, and the role of the news media in civil society. It marked the third trip by Baylor representatives to the region since 2003.

Bellinger named Baylor religion department chair. William Bellinger has been appointed chair of the Baylor University religion department, effective June 1. Bellinger, an Old Testament professor and director of graduate studies in the religion department, has served as acting department chair since June, when he took over from Interim Provost Randall O'Brien. Religion professor Naymond Keathley will serve as acting chair during the spring 2006 semester while Bellinger is on a research sabbatical. Bellinger graduated magna cum laude from Furman University with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He earned his master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

Bequest will endow Hardin-Simmons honors program. Trustees from Hardin-Simmons University voted to use about \$7.2 million from the June Frost Leland bequest to endow the HSU honors program beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year. Through the honors program, students who meet the university's highest entrance requirements could qualify for up to \$13,000 per year in scholarships. Total value of the Leland gift is estimated at \$10 million. Of the remainder of the remaining bequest, \$500,000 will go

into the general scholarship fund over the next two years, and the balance will fund capitol improvements in the university's Securing the Future campaign.

TOGETHER: Texans react to tragedy, opportunity

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TOGETHER: Texans react to tragedy, opportunity

The beginning of 2006 has presented us with another painful start to a New Year. At the beginning of 2005, the world was fixed on the tsunami disaster in southern Asia. This year, our attention has been riveted on the fires in West Texas. People have died. Houses and barns have disappeared in the flames. Families are dealing with loss, grief and the emotional trauma that comes when we realize how little control we really have over some things in our lives.

Reports coming to my office make me so very proud of Texas Baptists. You are among the very first in every community to step forward and offer all the resources at your disposal to minister to and comfort everyone you can reach in your towns and neighborhoods. You, and the people you serve, are in my prayers.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Representatives from the Baptist General Convention of Texas have been in most afflicted communities, seeking to provide encouragement and resources to assist the pastors, directors of missions, churches and associations in their ministries to the people.