

On the Move

November 11, 2005

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On the Move

Kent Battenfield to Eastside Church in Ranger as pastor.

♦ **Matt Butler** to Littleville Church in Hamilton as pastor.

♦ **Eddie Castaneda** to Immanuel Church in Abilene as pastor, where he had been associate pastor.

Piper Institute names Brooks executive director

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Piper Institute names Brooks executive director

The Piper Institute for Church Planting has named E.B. Brooks, who retired recently after 26 years with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as the

organization's executive director.

Brooks, who led the BGCT church missions and evangelism efforts, has served on the Piper Institute for Church Planting board since its beginning.

"I know of no one in Baptist life who is more qualified to lead the Piper Institute," board Chairman Bill Nichols said. "Dr. Brooks is one of the nation's leading church-planting strategists, and the Piper Institute is assisting as churches are being started in record numbers throughout Latin America. What a great match."

E.B. Brooks

Girls of Grace promotes teen modesty, chastity

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Girls of Grace promotes teen modesty, chastity

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)-Teenage girls-and their mothers-tend to get

excited about Point of Grace, a fixture on America's Christian music scene for 15 years.

Most ministers dissatisfied with their prayer lives

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Most ministers dissatisfied with their prayer lives

PHOENIX (BP)—Few Protestant ministers are satisfied with their personal prayer lives, a study by Ellison Research of Phoenix revealed.

The study conducted for LifeWay Christian Resources, publishing house of the Southern Baptist Convention, surveyed a nationally representative sample of 860 Protestant church pastors. The study reveals just 16 percent are very satisfied with their personal prayer lives. Forty-seven percent are somewhat satisfied, 30 percent somewhat dissatisfied and 7 percent very dissatisfied.

There was a substantial difference by age group. Just 9 percent of pastors under age 45 are very satisfied, compared to 13 percent among ministers age 45 to 59 and 30 percent among pastors 60 or older. The youngest pastors actually are more likely to be very dissatisfied with their own prayer lives than to be very satisfied.

Marriage amendment decisively approved

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Marriage amendment decisively approved

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Eight nations cited for religious liberty violations

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Eight nations cited for religious liberty violations

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-The State Department's annual report on the state of religious freedom around the globe stars the usual villains but also contains some new bright spots.

Religious Right suffers setbacks at polls

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Religious Right suffers setbacks at polls

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-With a handful of exceptions, candidates and causes backed by religious conservatives went down to defeat in unusually prominent off-year elections Nov. 8.

Sex ed ruling reviled

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Sex ed ruling reviled

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Conservative groups expressed outrage at a ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals involving parents' rights and sex education.

The court dismissed a lawsuit by six parents who had sued the Palmdale, Calif., school district, near Los Angeles. The parents sued the district for submitting their elementary-aged children to a survey that included some questions about sex.

Judge Stephen Reinhardt, writing the ruling for a unanimous three-judge panel, upheld a lower federal court's determination that "there is no fundamental right of parents to be the exclusive provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children" and that "parents have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students."

South Texas School president elected

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South Texas School president elected

Trustees of the South Texas School of Christian Studies-formerly the Baptist Learning Center-in Corpus Christi elected Tony Celelli (right) as the institution's new president. Celelli follows Linn Self (left), who has been president since 1996. Self announced his retirement plans in April. He will serve the school until the end of December. Celelli's official tenure with the school begins Nov. 15. Celelli has served as minister of spiritual formation at Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi since 1998. He also has led an inner-city ministry called "The Station" since 1999, served as a trustee of the school five years, and taught as an adjunct for Howard Payne University in the South Texas program four years. Celelli is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Logsdon Seminary, and he currently is pursuing a doctorate in leadership studies at Dallas Baptist University.

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.

San Antonio church seeks to transform its community

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Annie and
Cecil
Suarez
(left) work
with
Esperanza
and
Eusebio
Reyna on
the
evangelism
team at
South San
Filadelfia
Baptist
Church's
food
pantry.
(Photos by
Ken Camp)

San Antonio church seeks to transform its community

By **Ken Camp**

Managing Editor

SAN ANTONIO-South San Filadelfia Baptist Church members understand the importance of meeting human needs in the low-income area surrounding their congregation, but they want to do more. They want to transform their community and impact its future.

Texas Tidbits

November 11, 2005

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Texas Tidbits

UMHB alum killed after homecoming. Bill and Becky Zerbe were killed in a car accident on their way back to Albuquerque, N.M., following homecoming activities at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. She graduated from UMHB in 1975. The accident occurred about 4:40 p.m. Nov. 5 outside Mexia. Both died at the scene, and her parents-William and Norma Bueie of Mexia-who were in the back seat were taken to Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, where they were listed in critical condition. "We are deeply saddened by the news of this accident," said UMHB President

Jerry Bawcom. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the Zerbe family and friends."

SBTC elects Swofford president. Messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention annual meeting approved a \$19.3 million budget for 2006 and elected as president Steve Swofford, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rockwall. The meeting in Amarillo drew 910 registered messengers and guests. Messengers approved resolutions affirming traditional marriage, the sanctity of human life and the teaching of intelligent design in public schools. The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention broke away from the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1998.

Baylor awarded energy research grant. The United States Department of Energy awarded Baylor University's physics department a three-year, \$360,000 grant for a project dedicated to research in high-energy physics.

**TOGETHER: Constitution,
bylaws reflect hard work**

November 11, 2005

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TOGETHER:

Constitution, bylaws reflect hard work

Occasionally, someone asks, “What is it about Texas Baptists that makes you so eager to tackle big challenges?” Texas Baptists believe they can do anything God wants them to do. They love their churches, and they love being part of a cooperative effort that allows them to make a difference in Texas and touch the world.

This week, we gather in Austin for our annual meeting. I wish all who read this could be present for the fellowship, inspiration and information. As President Albert Reyes leads us, remember to pray for him, and don't forget to thank God for raising Albert up to be such a remarkable leader. The Baptist University of the Americas, where he serves as president, has seen amazing achievements since he arrived. He has given himself to building the strongest multicultural ministry training center anywhere in the Americas. He has focused us on the changing needs of Texas and how our Hispanic brothers and sisters constitute one of our greatest resources to advance the gospel throughout the world.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Michael Bell and Stacy Connor are serving as BGCT vice presidents, and these two pastors have brought wonderful dedication and experience to

their roles. They have helped make the governance process work effectively, even though we were building a new airplane while we were flying it.