

Gypsy children receive more than education at Ruth School_120604

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Students at the Ruth School receive textbooks, school supplies, a daily meal and hygiene care free of charge.

Gypsy children receive more than education at Ruth School

By Carla Wynn & Peter Junker

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

BUCHAREST, Romania -On any given freezing winter day in southern

Bucharest, Romania, children gleefully bound around the Ruth School's playground. These Roma (Gypsy) children might come from difficult circumstances, but while they are at the Ruth School, they are happy.

HBU, BGCT reach understanding; convention will reduce funding_120604

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HBU, BGCT reach understanding; convention will reduce funding

HOUSTON-Houston Baptist University and the Baptist General Convention of Texas have agreed to a "memorandum of understanding" that maintains their long-standing relationship, but with reduced funding for the school.

The statement "clarifies the implications of the school's fraternal relationship with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention," said Keith Bruce, the BGCT's coordinator of institutional ministries.

Prior to 2000, the BGCT selected the trustees for the 44-year-old university. But in May of that year, HBU trustees voted to create a self-perpetuating majority on their board.

Plainview layman establishes ministry to take a bite out of world hunger_120604

December 3, 2004

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Plainview layman establishes ministry to take a bite out of world hunger

By Zach Crook

Wayland Baptist Trail Blazer

Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 25 about ministry to "the least of these," along with the heartfelt cry of a Mexican Indian woman, led J.B. Roberts of First Baptist Church in Plainview to create a hunger-fighting nonprofit organization.

Baptist volunteers spend

Thanksgiving holiday serving Irving_120604

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Baptist volunteers spend Thanksgiving holiday serving Irving

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

IRVING-For more than a decade, members of Oak View Baptist Church in Irving have spent Thanksgiving "Serving Irving."

Texas Baptist Forum_120604

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM

BGCT frustration

I walked away from the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in San Antonio very frustrated this year. We all know much has happened in our great state over the past few years, but the weight of these issues seemed to press heavily on me and many I spoke with during the convention. It seems as if the BGCT has become its own worst enemy.

E-mail the editor at *-Marv Knox*

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I was frustrated because in a time when it would seem there is a great need to draw our Texas Baptist churches together in unity, the BGCT has chosen to further fan the flames of separation.

I was frustrated that the desire to further study the constitution changes was not heard by the leadership, who simply offered up the promise of future actions to get what they wanted passed that day. The voice of the churches will grow even weaker while the voice of the BGCT “powers that be” will be even louder.

Yarnell declines Louisiana College presidency_120604

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Yarnell declines Louisiana College presidency

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP)-Almost two months to the day after Louisiana College trustees elected Texas educator Malcolm Yarnell as president of the school, he declined the position because of an ongoing controversy over governance and accreditation of the Baptist college.

“After accepting the presidency at Louisiana College, governance issues which would significantly impact my ability to lead the school were fully disclosed during the subsequent negotiations over the contract which the board of trustees desired,” Yarnell said in a Nov. 23 e-mail. Because of irreconcilable differences with trustees over those issues of governance, he said, he changed his mind about the presidency.

Yarnell will remain as an administrator and professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Malcolm Yarnell

Mission Arlington volunteers serve 10,000 families_120604

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Mission Arlington volunteers serve 10,000 families

(Top) Mission Arlington Director Tillie Burgin shows volunteers Bonnie Reilly and Jacob Fielder where to go for their assignment. Reiley and Fielder prepared and served food for one of Mission Arlington's four community dinner locations.

(Left) Mission Arlington volunteer Tasha Martinez delivers prepared meals to Emma Ramos and her family.

More than 2,000 volunteers provided 10,000 families with food this Thanksgiving.

(Bottom, left) Joseph Mitchell (left) and Shelton Markham (right) fill boxes with turkeys, stuffing, chicken broth and other Thanksgiving necessities. Each box carried a gospel message.

Volunteers prepared and delivered both turkey baskets and hot meals.

For more information, visit the Mission Arlington website at www.missionarlington.org

(Photos by Cassie Tatum Hart)

Mobile medical clinic will meet healthcare needs in southern San Antonio_120604

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Mobile medical clinic will meet healthcare needs in southern San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO-Baptist Child & Family Services, in partnership with Baptist Hospital System's Southeast Baptist Hospital, has moved to meet an urgent need on San Antonio's South Side.

A \$250,000 mobile medical clinic will take medical care to people in some of San Antonio's neediest communities early in January 2005. The 45-foot vehicle will make prenatal and postnatal care available to women and children in southeast Bexar County and parts of Wilson County.

“The mobile medical clinic will make a daily improvement to the health of women and children in neighborhoods where the greatest need for this charitable care exists for free prenatal care, well-baby checkups and other clinic services,” said Kevin Dinnin, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Child & Family Services. “We are very pleased that Southeast Baptist Hospital has agreed to provide the clinical support for the mobile

health unit.”

Seminary attorney clarifies trustee statement_120604

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Seminary attorney clarifies trustee statement

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary attorney Don Richard recently issued a letter to Southern Baptist Convention attorneys, providing documentation about sole membership language approved by seminary trustees during a closed executive session in mid-October.

Previously, the exact nature of the actions taken in the closed session was unclear, even though the trustees publicly released two motions they had approved.

The news is significant, observers noted, because it signals the seminary's compliance with the request by SBC messengers at the 2004 annual meeting that the seminary adopt sole membership at their October meeting by amending the seminary's charter.

On the Move_120604

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On the Move

Jim Anderson to First Church in Caddo Mills as pastor.

- ✘ **David Askins** has resigned as pastor of Fairview Church in Greenville.
- ✘ **Jack Bodenhamer** to Trinity Church in Sweetwater as youth minister from First Church in Comanche, where he was a youth ministry intern.

Central Texas Christians give record amount to Operation Christmas Child_120604

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

Central Texas Christians give record amount to Operation Christmas Child

By Terri Jo Ryan

Special to the Baptist Standard

WACO—A record number of shoeboxes filled with small gifts were collected recently at Highland Baptist Church, the final stop in Central Texas for presents intended for Operation Christmas Child.

Prayer partnership sparks revival, DOM says_120604

December 3, 2004

Posted: 12/03/04

Prayer partnership sparks revival, DOM says

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Prayer is connecting Texas Baptists with Christians from New England to the Rocky Mountains, and it is bringing revival with it, firsthand observers report.