

Program offers stress relief for South Texas families

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Program offers stress relief for South Texas families

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

DEL RIO—Most parents agree—raising a family can be tough. Doing it as a single mother or as the parent of a child veering out of control is even tougher.

Fortunately help is available in several southwest Texas communities through Baptist Child & Family Services programs. STAR—Services To At Risk youth—offers family counseling while Families For a Future concentrates on parenting courses and support groups. Both exist to help families communicate and create a violence-free lifestyle.

Weekend
graduation
retreats at Alto
Frio encampment
include final
classes for
parents and fun
activities for
children and
youth who have
completed family-
enrichment
programs
sponsored by
Baptist Child &
Family Services.

BCFS gets first-time parents off to a Great Start

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Great Start
equips
families like
the
Cardonas
with a free
family
education
program to
support the
development
of positive
parenting
skills. (Photo
by Haley
Smith/BCFS)

BCFS gets first-time parents off to a Great Start

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

SAN ANTONIO—Baptist Child & Family Services seeks to equip first-time parents to get off to a “Great Start”—and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Great Start—a free family education program—uses home visitation to share parenting information.

Does the “evangelical center” include moderate Baptists?

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Does the ‘evangelical center’ include moderate Baptists?

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—If an “evangelical center” emerges from the current shake-up in American politics, will moderate Baptists be part of it? It depends on how comfortable moderate Baptists are with being considered “evangelicals” in the first place, some experts insist.

Moderate and progressive Baptists certainly share many beliefs and public-policy goals with the non-fundamentalist evangelicals making their presence felt on the public scene for the first time in three decades.



RIGHT or WRONG: Membership for couple 'living in sin'?

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RIGHT or WRONG: Membership for couple 'living in sin'?

Our pastor recently presented a couple for membership in our church. He introduced them as having made professions of faith in Christ and as husband and wife, although they have different last names. One friend told me they had been living together for several years. The congregation voted them into membership, but surely we shouldn't bring people into our congregation living in sin, should we?

Nabors resigns as BGCT chief financial officer

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Nabors resigns as BGCT chief financial officer

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

David Nabors

DALLAS—David Nabors has resigned as treasurer and chief financial officer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas effective April 15.

In a letter to BGCT Interim Executive Director Jan Daehnert, Nabors expressed gratitude for his time on the BGCT Executive Board staff.

Prof claims he has found lost Ark of the Covenant

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Prof claims he has found lost Ark of the Covenant

By Brittani Hamm

Religion News Service

LONDON (RNS)—Brushing back a thick layer of dust, Tudor Parfitt revealed a distinctive interwoven pattern carved around the outside of the “terribly, terribly damaged” wooden artifact tucked away on the bottom shelf of a Zimbabwe warehouse.

Tudor Parfitt discovered this wooden drum, called a ngoma lungundu, in a Zimbabwe warehouse.

Parfitt believes it is the Ark of the Covenant—or something like it—that was carried into Africa by the Lemba tribe.

(RNS photos/Courtesy of Tudor Parfitt)

“The moment I saw it, I felt there was something weird about it,” said Parfitt, a professor of modern Jewish studies at the University of London’s School of African and Oriental Studies. “I wasn’t simply in the presence of a neutral object.”

Around the State

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Around the State

- **Wayland Baptist University** will hold a preview weekend March 28-29 for prospective students. Participants will have an opportunity to attend classes and chapel and eat in the cafeteria. The afternoon features a variety of games, activities and campus tours. The evening feature is a concert by Hawk Nelson and Run Kid Run. Saturday also features a variety of activities. To register, call (800) 588-1928.
- **A senior adult camp** will be held April 21-24 at Alto Frio Encampment in Leakey. Paul Powell will be the preacher, D.L. Lowery the Bible study teacher, and Dale Durham and Ginger McKay will lead the music. For more information or to make reservations, call (830) 232-5271.

Wayland Baptist University kicked off the spring semester with a preview of its upcoming centennial celebration as nearly 30 descendants attended a chapel service. One of those in attendance, Beulah McInnish, is founder James Wayland's granddaughter and at 99 his oldest living relative. Bob Wayland, a grandson of the school's founder, also presented the school with the double-barreled shotgun Wayland carried on his house calls as a doctor. The gun, which is more than 100 years old, will be on display at Wayland Museum of the Llano Estacado.

- **Faye Jarvis** received the Howard Payne University Woman's Club's Yellow Rose Award for more than 60 years of service to the university. Her family connection to the university spans four generations, stretching back to its origins as Daniel Baker College. After the death of her first husband, she served for three years as a Mission Service Corps volunteer working as dorm director for Veda Hodge Hall, and was commonly known as the "First Lady of Veda." While there, she met her second husband and later was the morning receptionist for the Mabee University Center. She continues as a volunteer in a variety of capacities. Danielle Parkinson, an elementary education major from Farmers Branch, received the Yellow Rose Scholarship.

- **The East Texas Baptist University School of Fine Arts** recently paid tribute to long-time choral director James Moore by premiering an anthem commissioned in his honor. The ETBU Concert Choir performed "Prayer for Grace," composed by Daniel Gawthrop, during its annual spring concert Feb. 21. Moore, who has served the school more than 14 years, received a framed copy of the score.

Anniversities

Muslim leader decries American "bigotry"

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Muslim leader decries American 'bigotry'

By **Bruce Nolan**

Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—American culture's view of American Muslims and Islam steadily is deteriorating under an onslaught of "bigotry" on cable news shows, newspaper op-ed pages and in the blogosphere, an Arab-American activist said.

Commentators and politicians have devoted hours of air time to misrepresenting Islam and fueling suspicion about American Muslims, said Hussein Ibish, founder of the [Foundation for Arab-American Leadership](#) in Washington, D.C.

Hussein Ibish

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[*The Begotten*](#) by **Lisa T. Bergren** (Berkley Publishing Group)

It's a classic clash between good and evil, an epic struggle between earthly power and the ultimate power, God's love.

Set in 1339 Italia, the story really begins some 600 years earlier, when the Gifted were foretold. And although they know their calling is real—their images are clearly illustrated in the old manuscript—they must trust God to guide them on a mission that is illuminated only one step at a time.

Their gifts? None other than the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their strength? Unity. But as they step into their gifts, the enemy is aroused, and the battle begins.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Baptist news journal to honor founding editor. *Baptists Today* will honor founding editor Walker Knight at an April 3 dinner in Atlanta as part of the news journal's 25th anniversary celebration. He will receive the Judson-Rice Award from the publication. Knight, a Baylor University graduate, became associate editor of the *Baptist Standard* in 1950, a position he continued to hold until he went to work for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in 1959. Knight left the editorship of the board's magazine, *Home Missions*, in early 1983 to launch the independent news journal first known as *SBC Today*.

Online registration for SBC opens. Online registration has opened for churches that will send messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 10-11 annual meeting in Indianapolis. For online registration, churches should go to www.sbc.net. The appropriate church-authorized representative—typically a church clerk or moderator—must complete all online registration, including the church's seven-digit ID number, found on the Annual Church Profile. When registering online, the SBC website gives the church a messenger-reference number form to be printed out and presented by each messenger at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a nametag and a set of ballots. The traditional registration method also will be available for churches without Internet access.

More than 4,800 declare faith in Christ during Caracas evangelistic effort

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More than 4,800 declare faith in Christ during Caracas evangelistic effort

By Kaitlin Chapman

Texas Baptist Communications

CARACAS, Venezuela —When 13 Texas Baptists boarded flights for Caracas, they wanted to see God work. They didn't know they would see 4,882 people declare their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Texas team joined more than 1,150 other Baptists from Caracas, other parts of Venezuela and from the United States with one desire—to see Venezuelans profess faith in Christ during a recent regional evangelism effort called Caracas Crusade 2008.

Cartoon

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