

Bittick marks 25 years with Denton Association_122203

December 19, 2003

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Bittick marks 25 years with Denton Association

DENTON-In the modern mobile society, long-term employees are rare. Long-term volunteers may be rarer still, but Janie Bittick has served Denton Baptist Association as its associational clerk 25 years.

"I really love it," she said. "Staying after it for 25 years, I've gotten to meet and know a lot of saints-a few sinners, but mostly saints-and they have inspired me greatly on my journey."

The experience also has given her a bit of historical perspective, as far as the work of the association goes.

Baptist Briefs_122203

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Baptist Briefs

✕ **Johnson leaving WMU.** Trudy Johnson, national director of Christian Women's Job Corps through Woman's Missionary Union, has resigned to take a new position at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, Ala. Debra Berry, adult ministry consultant with WMU, will give interim leadership to the program while a new director is sought.

✕ **Southwestern awards degrees.** Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary awarded 274 degrees Dec. 12 in winter commencement ceremonies at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

✕ **CBF offers kids' camps.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will partner with Passport to offer camps for children completing third through sixth grade under a new program called PASSPORTkids. The camps will be directed by veteran children's minister Mark McClintock, who recently left the staff of Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco. For 2004, camps will be held in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Missouri. The four-day camps run from mid-June through the end of July. For more information, visit www.passport-kids.org.

Richardson church touches world with internship_122203

December 19, 2003

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Richardson church touches world with internships

By Marv Knox

Editor

RICHARDSON-Someday, a parents' night out ministry in Texas may touch families in Britain. And a class for Spanish-speaking immigrants in Richardson may lead Pakistanis to Christ in Birmingham, England.

Canton children make a market for missions lesson_122203

December 19, 2003

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Canton children make a market for missions lesson

By Orville Scott

Texas Baptist Communications

CANTON-Fifth-grader Preston Hutcherson of First Baptist Church in Canton read about an idea for a prayerwalk in conjunction with the Lottie Moon Offering for international missions.



Members of
the fourth-
grade
Sunday
School class
shown with
teacher Jan
Longenecker
are Brittany
Arnold,
Caroline
Giles, Kelsey
Koym and
Dylan
Cleere.

Three schools claim part of B.H. Carroll's legacy_122203

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Three schools claim part of B.H.

Carroll's legacy

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

Three drastically different ministerial training schools in Texas now claim to be in the tradition of B.H. Carroll, a towering figure in Baptist life in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Cartoon_122203

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<p>“Grandma, here's your gift from Gramps. I just shook it, and it sounds like a box of rocks.”</p>

in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

‘Are you Santa?’ child asked missionary_122203

December 19, 2003

Posted: 12/19/03

'Are you Santa?' child asked missionary

By Melanie Kieve

CBF Communications

SKOPJE, Macedonia-“Are you Santa Claus?”

THIS CHRISTMAS: Receive the gift of hope this season_122203

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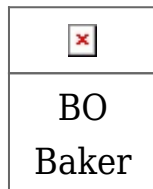
THIS CHRISTMAS:

Receive the gift of hope this season

By **BO Baker**

After another year of meeting life's complications, its barrage of hazards and hurts played out upon the grand world stage, I've concluded once more that our deepest and most urgent need is for hope—Christian hope.

This is the hope that does not come grandstanding, gift-wrapped or party-dressed. Not a kind of shallow masquerade of make-believe bequest to dreamers only, or even hope for the millions who would not know a Bible from the Far-mer's Almanac. But a hope deliberately resting upon the integrity, the absolute dependability of the God who spoke the galaxies into existence, who breathed life into the man he made and, and “God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).



I contend for a hope resident and resilient in the person of Jesus Christ, not a hope provided by practitioners of unkept promises, nor for the warden of some “life island” adrift in space, dark with questions seemingly unanswerable.

CHRISTMAS VIEW: Celebrate Christmas from now on_122203

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CHRISTMAS VIEW: Celebrate Christmas from now on

By Charles Walton

We put our Christmas trees up early this year. Our big tree in the living room and our smaller tree in the family room were in their places by Nov. 30.

This is a record for us. We usually do not have a tree up until the middle of December.

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Hunt family pledges \$5.5 million matching funds to DBU_122203

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DALLAS-Dallas Baptist University could receive up to \$5.5 million-its largest such grant ever-if funds donated by the family of Ruth Ray Hunt are matched by other donors.

Representatives of the Communities Foundation of Texas and the Hunt family announced the gift in late November. It will designate \$1 million in matching money to each of five priorities identified through a strategic planning process.

Previous money from the Hunt family enabled the university to develop a facilities master plan, which will serve as a blueprint for moving the university “from good to great” over the next 10 years, said DBU President Gary Cook.



At the news
conference
where the
\$5.5 million
matching
grant was
announced,
Ray Hunt
and June
Hunt (first
and third
from left)
visit with
Julie Turner,
chairwoman
of the DBU
board, and
Edgar
Fjordbak,
director of
the
Communities
Foundation
of Texas

DOWN HOME: Blessings erase wishes on list_122203

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DOWN HOME: Blessings erase wishes on list

My Christmas "wish list" probably drove my family nuts this year.

Around our house, we're big on drawing up lists of gift suggestions. You know-stuff we'd like to receive for Christmas or birthday.

Maybe we don't have enough imagination, but I like to think we do this because, if we're going to spend the money, we want to give something the recipient really wants.