

Scam callers preying on churches' compassion

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Scam callers preying on churches' compassion

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—Scam artists are preying on churches' generosity to extort money from them by describing tense situations in which purported members of the congregations need funds.

Neil Bennett, pastor of Churchill Baptist Church in San Antonio, received a phone call just before a recent Sunday morning service from a man who identified himself as a deputy sheriff in rural West Virginia. The man indicated he was with an African-American family who needed money to repair their car.

CLC files ethics complaint

against gambling PAC

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CLC files ethics complaint against gambling PAC

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—Texas Baptists' public policy agency has filed a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission against a political action committee of horserace track owners and supporters of video slot machines.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission filed the complaint against Texans for Economic Development, alleging the group could be using corporate funds inappropriately to try to influence legislative races.

At Northeast Texas therapeutic ranch, âWe see a miracle just

about every day

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Runnin' WJ Ranch horses seem to imbue their riders with their strength. The special-needs children seem to find a reservoir of strength and confidence within themselves when they mount up.

At Northeast Texas therapeutic ranch, 'We see a miracle just about every day'

By George Henson

Staff Writer

TEXARKANA—It's easy to lift the spirits of a special-needs child, Sam Clem

insists. Just put the child on the back of a horse ready to do his bidding.

Clem directs the Runnin' WJ Ranch outside Texarkana, a therapeutic riding ranch that draws more than 90 special-needs children a week from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Six schools bring children to participate in the program, which draws support from churches throughout the area.

Rural poverty initiative takes Dallas church to five areas in five years

February 21, 2008

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Perry
County, Ala.,
families
picked up
backpacks
for their
children at a
family
festival
sponsored by
Royal Lane
Baptist
Church in
Dallas.
(Photos
courtesy
Jason
WalkerCraig)

Rural poverty initiative takes Dallas church to five areas in five years

By Carla Wynn Davis

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

DALLAS—The more than 1,200 backpacks stuffed with school supplies that Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas gave away last summer wasn't the only impressive statistic about its mission trip to Perry County, Ala.

The Alabama trip capped a five-year tour of all five regions focused on by Together for Hope, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's rural poverty

initiative.

BaptistWay Bible Series for March 2: Unveiling the weakness of a king

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/20/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for March 2

Unveiling the weakness of a king

• 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:1-15

[By Kenneth Jordan](#)

Explore the Bible Series for March 2: Responding to God in

faith

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/20/08

Explore the Bible Series for March 2

Responding to God in faith

- Genesis 28:1-5, 11-22

By Donald Raney

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

We see them everywhere and if we are honest, we would have to admit we have been one of them at times. They are individuals who claim to be believers but show little evidence outside the walls of the church.

Persistence pays off for ETBU graduate

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/18/08

Tyler television
reporter Clay
Falls interviews
East Texas
Baptist
University
graduate June
Jones after fall
commencement.
Jones, who has
been at ETBU
as an employee
11 years and as
a student nearly
10 years,
graduated with
a bachelor of
music degree.
(ETBU/Mike
Midkiff photos)

Persistence pays off for ETBU graduate

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—For June Jones, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” is more than an old adage. The saying has been a guiding light to her.

More than three decades after her high school graduation, Jones finally

reached her goal of earning a bachelor's degree. And she did it in style. After nearly 10 years attending classes, she graduated with honors in the top 20 percent of her class at East Texas Baptist University.

RIGHT or WRONG? Preventing scandal

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/15/08

RIGHT or WRONG? Preventing scandal

So many current and former pastors and other church staff people have been in the news lately involved in sexual and financial scandals. What kind of background checks can a search committee legitimately implement to attempt to keep these kinds of scandals at a minimum?

Everett hopes to unify BGCT around ‘mission passion’

February 21, 2008

Posted: 1/28/08

Everett hopes to unify BGCT around ‘mission passion’

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Missions, Christian education and advocacy are three primary “kingdom tasks” the nominee for executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas believes can unite Texas Baptists.

Randel Everett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Newport News, Va., hopes to unify the BGCT around “not just a mission statement, but a mission passion.”

Randel Everett

Storylist for 2/04/08 issue

February 21, 2008

Storylist for week of 2/04/08

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- [The security of the believer: Protecting churches from attack](#)



- [Youth speaker wants to point students to real catalyst for change](#)
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- [Evangelism requires commitmentâ€”even if it means holding church under a tree](#)
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Security of Believers: Is your congregation safe from attack?

- [The security of the believer: Protecting churches from attack](#)
- [Church security demands all hands on deckâ€”but maybe not with arms](#)
- [What should worshippers do if their church is attacked?](#)



The New Baptist Covenant meeting in Atlanta, Ga.:

- [Love leaves no room for 'us and them,' Dallas pastor says](#)
- [Sexual exploitation alive in America; churches can end it](#)
- [New Baptist Covenant: Unity. Harmony. Now, what comes next?](#)
- [Covenant participants close gathering with determination but few specifics](#)
- [Biblical witness commands God's people to 'welcome the stranger'](#)
- [Program enables watershed experience for seminary students](#)
- [Time in God's presence primary requirement for spiritual discipline](#)
- [Medical professionals urge congregational health advocacy](#)
- [Panelists urge New Covenant Baptists to fight institutional racism](#)
- [Separation of church & state can be complex, but it's worth the effort, speakers insist](#)
- [Prophetic preaching breaks down barriers, builds up God's kingdom](#)
- [Relationships needed to break poverty cycle](#)
- [Baptists wrestle with ways to find common ground with other faiths](#)
- [Public servants & preachers challenge Baptists to welcome 'the](#)

stranger'

- Panelists offer practical suggestions for peacemaking
- Need for church response grows as HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to spread
- Baptists challenged to advocate for reform of a broken criminal justice system



- Pastors: World waits for authentic messengers
- Any church can participate in disaster relief, Baptists are told
- Sexual exploitation alive in America; churches can end it
- Rogers challenges churches to engage in justice issues
- Mainstream Baptists hear Shurden, honor Lolley
- College students unite to serve Atlanta following Baptist celebration
- Gregory admonishes Baptists to show concrete concern for 'the stranger'
- Silence, shame and stigma—the unholy trinity of AIDS
- Baptists called to combat ignorance about religious liberty
- North American Baptist plan to work together on disaster relief

- [Baptists urged to reach out to victims of sexual exploitation](#)
- [Gore Urges New Covenant Baptists to Take Up Mantle of Creation Care](#)



- [Churches can provide significant response to health care needs](#)
- [Seminary president suggests practices to nurture 'capacity for the sacred'](#)
- [Panelists, participants explore interfaith relationships](#)
- [Workshop challenges New Covenant Baptists to seek peace](#)
- [Prophetic preachers take varied approaches](#)
- [Ethnically diverse churches look like God's kingdom, speakers insist](#)
- [Christians called to 'welcome the stranger'](#)



- [Global ills take center stage at Baptist convocation](#)
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- [Give students a cause worthy of their devotion, panelists urge](#)
- ['Incarnation' is key for Baptists engaging policy, speakers stress](#)
- [Individual, church response crucial to alleviating poverty](#)

- [Christians called to tear down walls, not build them, South Texas pastor says](#)

- [Campolo asks Baptists, 'Which Jesus should we preach?'](#)

- [Baptist unity takes center stage as New Covenant meeting opens](#)

- [Unity the focus of New Baptist Covenant gathering, organizers insist](#)

- [Atlanta meeting may prompt real change, some Baptists insist](#)



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- [Islam not source of Middle Eastern conflicts, former CIA official insists](#)

- [Holy Land church leaders appeal for Gaza](#)

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BCFS given lead role in

emergency care for medical special needs

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/15/08

BCFS given lead role in emergency care for medical special needs

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

The Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management has given [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) the lead role in care for medical special needs disaster evacuees.

The San Antonio-based agency will provide medical special needs shelter training sessions for cities and counties statewide in the next year.

Around the State

February 21, 2008

Posted: 2/15/08

Around the State

- **“Awake 2008: A Call to Spiritual Awakening”** is being sponsored by Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association. The March 29 rally at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center in Conroe will feature T.W. Hunt. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Call (936) 856-2001 for more information.
- **The Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists** has named its officers for the year. Elected were Paul Cherry, president; Todd Keller, vice president; Gary Newman, secretary/treasurer; Sam Craig, music director; and Ricky Davis, assistant music director.
- **Former Baylor University First Lady Mary McCall** has been presented the Founders Medallion for 2008. The medallion is reserved for people whose service and contributions have been unusually significant to the life and future of the university. McCall served the school as a student, professor’s wife, parent, president’s wife and alumna. She has been a member of numerous Baylor organizations and in 1982 was awarded the W.R. White Meritorious Service Award. For many years, she was a Sunday school teacher and trustee at First Church in Waco. She now is a member of Park Cities Church in Dallas.

Mary Russell
McCall was
presented
the 2008
Founders
Medallion by
Dennis
Prescott,
vice
president for
development,
and Baylor
President
John M.
Lilley.

- **Gabriel Cortes** has been named director of church and alumni relations at Baptist University for the Americas. He and his wife, Maria, have two children, Esteban and Andres.