

Buckner explores needs in Mexico

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A girl at a
Zapoteco
village in a
Oaxaca
mountain
makes corn
tortillas by
hand. The
people in this
community live
in one-bedroom
aluminum
homes with dirt
floors. (Photos
by Russ
Dilday/Buckner)

Buckner explores needs in Mexico

By Analiz González

Buckner International

MEXICO CITY—Observers of Mexico say it's hard to speak of the country in absolute terms. Its needs are as varied as the multiple versions of "Mexican

food” people eat in the United States.

Mexico has hundreds of people-groups with dozens of languages, lifestyles and dialects. In the cities, adults often crowd into forsaken rooms in overpopulated barrios.



Dexton Shores, director of ministry development in Mexico and the Border, speaks with a child in Oaxaca. Shores is identifying needs in Mexico for future church missions and ministry opportunities.

On 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, both sides celebrate

decline of abortion

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On 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, both sides celebrate decline of abortion

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—As abortion-rights supporters and pro-life activists marked the 35th anniversary of the decision that legalized the procedure nationwide, new statistics show fewer women are choosing abortion.

A new study, released just days before the Jan. 22 anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, showed the United States' abortion rate is at its lowest in more than 30 years.

Christian voters broadening political agenda, evangelical

panelists say

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Richard Cizik, vice president of governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals.

Christian voters broadening political agenda, evangelical panelists say

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Washington auditorium that once hosted a news program famous for back-and-forth arguments between political opponents instead recently featured a very different dialogue—a group of evangelical Christians denouncing the religious and political polarization of the last two presidential campaign cycles.

Panel participants, who ranged from former supporters of President Bush to some of his most vehement Christian critics, addressed the question, “Choosing a president: What do evangelicals really want?”



Jim Wallis, founder of
Sojourners/Call to Renewal

Friends of Jesus share good news with their parents

January 25, 2008

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Children gather
outside the
Martínez home
to worship after
Bible class.
(Photos by Russ
Dilday/Buckner)

Friends of Jesus share good news with their parents

By **Analiz González**

Buckner International

OAXACA, Mexico — In southern Mexico, a group of recent Christian converts meets in a colonia in Oaxaca. And all the new believers are under age 15.

They study the Bible. They worship on the street Fridays and fearlessly invite others to learn about God. They know God changed their lives, and they share their faith with their parents.



Sergio, 9, sits and talks with Marco Antonio Martínez after an Amigos de Jesus meeting. Sergio is an orphan who has bonded with the Martínez family.

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January 25, 2008

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CERI launches child-sponsorship program in Sri Lanka

January 25, 2008

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CERI launches child-sponsorship program in Sri Lanka

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

Three years after a massive tsunami triggered an international outpouring of support for Sri Lanka and opened the door for a Texas Baptist agency to establish that nation's foster care program, relief funds that had been used to help orphaned children are nearly depleted.

2nd Opinion: What Is God Saying?

January 25, 2008

Posted: 1/23/08

2nd Opinion: What Is God Saying?

By Mike Midkiff

Pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Marshall

The last two months have been very interesting for me driving around Harrison County. My two sons, Andrew and Ashton, have given me a new nickname. They call me “Crash” because of the three wrecks I have had.

Huckabee’s role in SBC conflict presaged political balancing act

January 25, 2008

Posted: 1/21/08

Huckabee’s role in SBC conflict presaged political balancing act

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—Mike Huckabee’s role in the holy war that divided the Southern Baptist Convention was as delicate a balancing act as

the one he's attempting now in his presidential campaign, balancing grassroots populism and right-wing conservatism.

Moreover, Huckabee's nuanced role in denominational politics may have something to do with why the former Arkansas governor, despite earning a grassroots following among conservative evangelicals in early primaries, has failed to garner clear support from the Religious Right's powerbrokers.

Mike Huckabee, shown as a young pastor and as governor of Arkansas speaking to Baptist newspaper editors in 1998. (Right photo by Jim Veneman)

Obama again refutes Muslim rumors; Jewish leaders denounce e-mails

January 25, 2008

Posted: 1/21/08

Obama again refutes Muslim rumors; Jewish leaders denounce e-mails

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Churchgoing Congregationalist Barack Obama is being forced once again to explain that he is not secretly a Muslim bent on furthering an international Islamic conspiracy by winning the presidency.

Jewish and other religious leaders have joined him in denouncing an e-mail campaign that has resurfaced in primary states in recent weeks. Various versions of the messages have spread since at least January of 2007, when the conservative online magazine Insight published an article that falsely asserted Obama attended a madrassa—an Islamic religious school—while he lived in Indonesia.

BaptistWay Bible Series for January 27: Me first

January 25, 2008

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BaptistWay Bible Series for January 27

Me first

- Mark 9:30-37

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Around the State

January 25, 2008

Posted: 1/18/08

Around the State

- **Buckner Adoption** will hold informational meetings for families interested in adopting internationally or domestically. Each meeting will detail the adoption process, fees and children available for adoption. All meetings will be held at the Buckner Children's Home campus, located at 5200 South Buckner Boulevard in Dallas. Prior to attending each workshop, families must complete a free pre-application and questionnaire, available

online at www.buckneradoption.org. There is a \$50 materials fee for each meeting. Meetings have been scheduled for Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international; March 7, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international; April 11, 1:30-5 p.m., domestic infant; April 22, 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m., international; May 9, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international; July 25, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., domestic infant; July 25, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international; Aug. 22, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international; Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., international; Oct. 10, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., domestic infant; and Nov. 21, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., international. To register, contact Sharon Hedrick at (866) 236-7823 or shedrick@buckner.org.

The Immortal Ten, a work by sculptor Bruce Green, has been erected on the Baylor University campus to memorialize the 10 Baylor students who died in a bus-train collision Jan. 22, 1927, in Round Rock.

One of America's first athletic tragedies happened on a rainy day as the men's basketball team headed to Austin for a Southwest Conference matchup with Texas. As a result of the tragedy, the remainder of the 1927 season was canceled, and the first highway overpass in Texas was constructed in Round Rock.

- **Five Baylor graduates** were honored by the Baylor Alumni Association as distinguished alumni at a black-tie banquet Jan. 11. Honorees were Steven Browning, the U.S. ambassador to Uganda; Virginia DuPuy, mayor of Waco and CEO of DuPuy Oxygen; Mark Hurd, CEO, president and chairman of the board of Hewlett-Packard; James Shelhamer, deputy chief of the clinical center's critical care medicine department at the National Institutes of Health; and Abelardo Valdez, a lawyer and former U.S. ambassador and chief of protocol for the White House.
 - **East Texas Baptist University's** department of nursing saw its first fall graduating class last semester. The four graduates were Peggy Gardner of Sherman, Caroline Caskey-Hardee of Liberty City, Helena Reed of Shreveport, La., and Jennifer Reznicek of Kaufman. All four already had been hired by hospitals upon graduation. One hundred eight students received degrees during fall commencement.
 - **Entrepreneur, author and philanthropist Paul Meyer** of Waco was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree during University of Mary Hardin-Baylor fall commencement ceremonies. Meyer provided the lead gift for the Paul and Jane Meyer Christian Studies Center, which will be completed this year. The facility will provide a new chapel, classrooms and office space for the College of Christian Studies. One hundred eighty-three students received degrees during the ceremony.
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Book Reviews

January 25, 2008

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Book Reviews

Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries by **Gerald L. Sittser (IVP Books)**

Gerald Sittser, professor of theology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., gives great amounts of information and insight into the lives of men and women of faith, from the time of the early church to the present.

Water from a Deep Well reveals myriad movements within the Christian community. From the early church fathers and the desert saints to present-day evangelicals, Sittser details the actions and commitments of those who lived their lives in devotion to God.

Chapters focus on early-church martyrs, the organizers of church orders, the significance of cathedral construction and icons, monasteries, Christian mysticism, the reformers, conversion, preaching and mission movements. Loaded with many topics that one would expect to study in a church history class, his book is richly documented. But because of its breadth, the book does not go into depth, providing only enough information to offer an overview of the movements and the lives of the people involved.

Off the Bookshelf
What's everyone reading anyway?

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