

DOWNHOME: Not-so-patiently learning to wait

January 4, 2008

Posted: 1/04/08

DOWNHOME: Not-so-patiently learning to wait

If you pray for patience, God might move you to a Texas neighborhood with plenty of trees.

(By the way, never pray for patience or wisdom unless you really mean it. Those are wonderful virtues, but their acquisition comes with a steep, steep price.)

Joanna and I moved to our home in Coppell, in far northwest Dallas County, not quite a year and a half ago. Our girls both had graduated from high school, and Jo and I realized we could trim our commute time without uprooting our progeny. So, we moved.

From a practical standpoint, we were thrilled with the shorter driving times each day. From an emotional standpoint, we reveled in the homey-ness of our house. And from an almost spiritual standpoint, we adored all the trees.

Storylist for 1/07/08 issue

January 4, 2008

Storylist for week of 1/07/08

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- [Kenya violence affects Wayland students](#)
- [Christians killed, churches burned in India](#)



- [Time to revamp discipleship methods?](#)



- [Families needed to adopt Ethiopian orphans](#)
- [Habitual Sin: Pastor's experience shows Christians can find freedom](#)
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Time to Revamp Discipleship Methods?

- [Study finds limits to Willow Creek's success model](#)

- [Raising the bar for membership](#)
- [Time to revamp discipleship methods?](#)



- [Volunteer teachers needed in China](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)



- [College students' spiritual interests increase; worship attendance drops](#)
- [Mayors' report says cities seeing more emergency food requests](#)
- [Religion writers name evangelicals in election as last year's top story](#)
- [2007 a quiet year, but signs of change in the air](#)
- [Prayer heals honest Brit's legs but cannot cure bureaucracy with no 'miracle' button](#)
- [High-tech audio Bibles bring Scriptures to life, users say](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



- [Book reviews](#)



- [Classified Ads](#)
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- [DOWNHOME: Not-so-patiently learning to wait](#)
- [TOGETHER: Gospel means evangelism & ministry](#)
- [RIGHT or WRONG? A spouse's etiquette](#)
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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for January 6: When cleanliness is not next to godliness](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for January 6: Breakthrough in focus](#)
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Previously posted

- [Christians killed, churches burned in India](#)
- [Kenya violence affects Wayland students](#)
- [Former Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center president arrested](#)
- [Buckner postpones Kenya trips due to political unrest](#)
- [New Baptist Covenant, Huckabee rank as top stories in 2007, journalists say](#)

- [Bird-eye view of Valley left indelible impression on long-tenured pastor](#)
- [ETBU dormitory furnishings find new home, meet multiple needs](#)
- [Hispanic social conservatives may leave GOP over immigration stance](#)
- [Florida sanctuary gutted by early-morning fire before Christmas](#)
- [Daehnert elected interim BGCT executive director](#)
- [Agency gives party for foster families who give year-round](#)
- [Foster youth create own Christmas traditions](#)
- [Novelist Grisham joins New Baptist Covenant speakers lineup](#)
- [Missouri leader who warned of Islamic takeover hired to aid world-mission effort](#)
- [CBF to lease building from Mercer](#)
- [Baptist outreach defuses Ebola fear in western Uganda](#)
- [Blogging pastor lauded for defending fired female seminary professor](#)
- [Board voting on Daehnert as interim executive director](#)
- [Board to vote on interim executive director](#)
- [TBM seeks coats for children in North Korea](#)
- [Board to vote on interim executive director](#)
- [Missouri Baptist rift widens when leaders restrict funding for church starts](#)

- [Huckabee's surge in polls brings new media attention, scrutiny](#)
 - [Seven tips for the 2007 tax-filing season](#)
 - [End of CBF/ABC partnership leaves future of medical/retirement benefits in doubt](#)
 - [Former atheist shapes God-centered program in Moldova](#)
 - [Executive Board may vote on short-term interim executive director](#)
 - [See articles from the previous 12/17/07 issue here.](#)
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RIGHT or WRONG? A spouse's etiquette

January 4, 2008

Posted: 1/04/08

RIGHT or WRONG? A spouse's etiquette

My husband and I said the traditional vows in our wedding a few months ago. The richer/poorer and sickness/health parts have been easy enough to deal with. However, my husband's table manners and social etiquette have deteriorated since we dated. I don't want these things to become a wedge. What can I do?

Valley Funds Scandal coverage

January 4, 2008

Posted 11/17/06

Valley Funds Scandal coverage

The full investigation report is [available here](#) as a pdf document.

Most recent articles:

- [Former Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center president arrested](#)
- [Former pastor returns money to congregation: church agrees to give funds to BGCT](#)
- [BGCT launches internal audit regarding more alleged improprieties in the Valley](#)
- [Official confirms church-starting fund probe in U.S. Attorney's Office](#)
- [No lawsuits planned; too costly & complex, lawyer suggests](#)
 - [BGCT implements responses to church-starting scandal](#)
- [Executive Board to BGCT messengers: You're in charge](#)
 - [Former BGCT church-starting leader asserts race a factor in Valley probe](#)
- [Bloggers to ask Executive Board to protect voting rights of messengers](#)
- [Federal authorities receive Valley report](#)
- [Pieces coming together for McAllen church](#)
 - [Wade to release Valley probe to law-enforcement officials](#)
 - [Wade still has support despite anger, sadness at scandal](#)

Convention action on the funds scandal

- [Moving On: Board pre-empted' BGCT by recommending reforms](#)
- [Trust in God in turbulent times, president tells BGCT](#)
- [Church starting policies designed to ensure accountability](#)
 - [Steps already taken to implement recommendations](#)
 - [Restoration of trust is vital, BGCT leaders agree](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Churches next to 'vote' on BGCT future](#)
- [Executive Board votes to explore criminal charges, recovery of Valley funds](#)

Previous related articles:

- [Pattern of exaggeration repeated in Mexico, observers say](#)
- [Executive Board sets second called meeting to respond to investigation](#)
 - [Evidence found of misuse of Valley funds](#)
 - [Investigation team outlines preventative steps](#)
 - [Brief excerpts from the report](#)
- [Otto Arango's earnings claims disputed by directors of missions](#)
 - [BGCT faces challenges leaders say](#)
 - [EDITORIAL: Executive Board must rise to the occasion](#)
- [Charles Wade posted an early response to the report \[here\]\(#\).](#)
 - **Early progress of the Valley funds probe**
 - [Valley investigation could cost \\$150,000](#)
 - [Called board meeting focuses on Valley](#)
- [Executive Board endorses ongoing probe in Rio Grande Valley](#)
- [Attorney hired to guide church-starting fund investigation](#)
- [BGCT launches probe of church-planting funds in the Valley](#)

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Former Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center president arrested

January 4, 2008

Posted: 1/03/07

Former Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center president arrested

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

HARLINGEN - Former Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center president Pat Graham was arrested Dec. 21 on theft of property charges.

Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center discovered financial irregularities in its regular financial audit shortly before Graham resigned in June, said Othal Brand, chairman of the center's board of trustees.

Buckner postpones Kenya trips due to political unrest

January 4, 2008

Posted: 1/03/07

Buckner postpones Kenya trips due to political unrest

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Buckner International has postponed two mission trips to Kenya in light of political unrest, but the agency has no plans to “back out” of ministry there.

In the wake of a disputed presidential election, violence has broken out in parts of the country. Tens of thousands of people have fled their homes. About 300 people have been killed, including 35 people who were burned to death in an Eldoret church.

Bird-eye view of Valley left indelible impression on long-tenured pastor

January 4, 2008
Posted: 12/28/07

Bird-eye view of Valley left indelible impression on long-tenured pastor

RIO HONDO—Considering the median tenure for Southern Baptist pastors at any given church is 4.2 years, Gene Horton’s 40-years-and-counting at First Baptist Church in Rio Hondo places him among the ranks of less than one percent of his peers.

Horton, who has been in the ministry 55 years, credits his lengthy of service to “God’s keeping power.”

Gene Horton

Frances Knight, who has been a Sunday school teacher at the Rio Hondo church for 38 years, believes the secret of her pastor’s success is simple.

“God has kept him steady because he is a man of prayer, and he faithfully preaches the gospel of salvation,” she said.

Explore the Bible Series for January 13: God allows us to choose

January 4, 2008

Posted:1/02/07

Explore the Bible Series for January 13

God allows us to choose

- Genesis 12:1-9; 13:8-13

[By Donald Raney](#)

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

Choices. We all make hundreds of them every day. Many concern trivial issues and almost are made unconsciously. Others involve decisions that affect the course of our life as well as that of our family.

ETBU dormitory furnishings find new home, meet multiple needs

January 4, 2008
Posted: 12/28/07



East Texas Baptist University, making preparation for the renovation of Fry Hall, donated all the furnishings from the residence hall to Ebenezer Ministries of Clayton. The furniture was loaded onto three semi-trailers, two 16-foot cargo trailers and two 16-foot flat bed trailers, which involved three different ministry organizations to get the donation to its destination in Quemado.

(Photo by Mike Midkiff/ETBU)

ETBU dormitory furnishings find new home, meet multiple needs

By Mike Midkiff

East Texas Baptist University

MARSHALL—As a dormitory at East Texas Baptist University gets a major facelift, some of its furnishings are finding a new home in Mexican orphanages, and others will meet needs throughout the Southwest, thanks to a cooperative venture involving several ministries.

After students left campus at the end of the fall semester, ETBU physical facilities employees started to work moving furniture out of dorm rooms in preparation for an extensive renovation of Charles Fry Hall, a one-story men's residence hall built in 1977.



East Texas
Baptist
University
Utility
Technician
Michael
Welch loads
the final piece
of furniture
onto a truck
from the Rick
Caywood
Ministries of
Crawford.
ETBU
donated all
the
furnishings
from Fry Hall
to help needy
people in
Mexico.
(Photo by
Mike
Midkiff/ETBU)

Bible Studies for Life Series for January 6: Breakthrough in focus

January 4, 2008
Posted: 12/28/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for January 6

Breakthrough in focus

- Psalm 145

[By Steve Dominy](#)

BaptistWay Bible Series for January 6: When cleanliness is not next to godliness

January 4, 2008
Posted: 12/28/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for January 6

When cleanliness is not next to godliness

• Mark 7:1-23

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

New Baptist Covenant, Huckabee rank as top stories in '07, journalists say

January 4, 2008

Posted: 12/28/07

New Baptist Covenant, Huckabee rank as top stories in '07, journalists say

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The biggest news story among Baptists in 2007 was about an event that has not even happened yet—the announcement of an unprecedented meeting of Baptists from across North America—according to an informal survey of journalists in the Baptist media world.

The Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, announced in January by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—and the ensuing controversy stirred by its critics—was the top vote-getter in 2007’s Associated Baptist Press survey. The historic pan-Baptist meeting will be held in Atlanta Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Mike
Huckabee
speaks at
Prestonwood
Baptist
Church in
Dallas.