

TBM sends chainsaws to Oklahoma, blankets to Iraq

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07

TBM sends chainsaws to Oklahoma, blankets to Iraq

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Texas Baptist Men disaster relief is responding to emergencies and meeting needs from central Oklahoma to northern Iraq.

Four chainsaw crews were dispatched to Oklahoma City to clear away fallen limbs caused by an ice storm that paralyzed much of the Midwest. The crews, who are being housed and fed at Northwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, may work up to two weeks.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Group encourages women in Baptist pulpits. Baptist Women in Ministry is encouraging Baptist churches to invite a woman from their congregation, community or a seminary to preach Feb. 3 as part of the Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching. The day honors Marshall, an 18th century Baptist preacher, and is meant to further develop the skills of Baptist women who feel God's calling to preach. Last year, more than 50 congregations in the United States and one in Japan participated in the day. Baptist Women in Ministry hopes at least 100 churches will participate this year, said Julie O'Teter, a member of the group's leadership team. For more information, visit www.bwim.info or e-mail Julie.Oteter@bgct.org.

Texans on New Baptist Covenant program. Two Texas Baptist pastors—George Mason from Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas and Ellis Orosco from Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen—will be part of a miniature preaching festival within next year's Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant. The homiletics mini-conference is scheduled to take place during the breakout-session times at the conference, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Atlanta.

Church delays decision on gay couples. Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth postponed a scheduled Dec. 2 decision on whether to include homosexuals as couples in a church pictorial directory. The church referred the matter to its deacons, who are expected to bring a recommendation by Feb. 24. The issue surfaced when some gay church members asked to be photographed as couples and pictured as such in the church directory, scheduled for publication as part of the church's 125th anniversary celebration. Some members expressed concern that picturing gays as couples would be perceived as the church's endorsement of homosexual behavior. The Baptist General Convention of Texas—with which Broadway is affiliated—is on record affirming churches that minister to homosexuals but has characterized homosexual behavior as sinful. BGCT practice has

been to reject financial contributions from a church that endorses homosexual behavior, thereby essentially cutting ties between that church and the state convention.

Valley Baptist's cardiovascular care recognized nationally. Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen has been named one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation—and the only one south of Houston—for saving lives and reducing complications in heart patients. The results from the Thomson Top 100 Hospitals awards will be published in Modern Healthcare, and the award will be presented to Valley Baptist at the 100 Top Hospitals Summit in Colorado Springs, Co., next summer. Thomson Healthcare analyzed and scored Valley Baptist and more than 1,000 other hospitals around the country for patient survival rates, preventing infections, and other measures related to heart attack, congestive heart failure, bypass surgery, angioplasties and other coronary interventions.

TOGETHER: Tune your heart to the wait

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/14/07

TOGETHER: Tune your heart to the wait

Rosemary says I am a terrible “waiter.” She says everywhere I go, I have to

have a handful of stuff to read or a list of calls to make or a piece of paper to write another list on. I can't stand to be waiting with nothing to do.



When we served a church composed of military families in Germany, we learned they know a lot about waiting. Husbands and fathers often were gone for weeks at a time. They accepted the waiting as a necessary part of being in the Army. Soldiers told of being gone from their families during World War II for three, four, even five years without furlough.

Can you imagine that kind of waiting?

While living two years in a German village, we were introduced to Advent, which instantly made sense to me. Here was a way that Christians through the centuries had reminded themselves in a daily way that Christmas is about Christ. Each day in the homes, an Advent calendar with Scriptures and prayers would mark the days of waiting for Christmas.

Bible Studies for Life Series for

December 16: Being changed by the Savior

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/12/07

Bible Studies for Life Series for December 16

Being changed by the Savior

- Luke 1:26-56

[By Steve Dominy](#)

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 16: Live the unbound life

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/12/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 16

Live the unbound life

• Mark 2:13-17, 23—3:6

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Romney: ‘No candidate should become the spokesman for his faith’

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/06/07

Romney: ‘No candidate should become the spokesman for his faith’

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

COLLEGE STATION—People of faith who value religious liberty “have a friend and an ally in me,” but promoters of the “religion of secularism” who want to strip religion from the public square do not, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a Republican presidential contender and a Mormon, told religious and social conservatives in Texas.

Romney spoke to invited guests at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

Executive Board may vote on short-term interim executive director

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/10/07

Executive Board may vote on short-term interim executive director

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board may bring in an interim executive director—at least for a short time.

BGCT Executive Board leaders are examining options for short-term leadership of the board's staff in the likely event the next convention executive director will not be on the job before BGCT Executive Director [Charles Wade retires](#) at the end of January.

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Merry Christmas, Ross Wolfe

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/07/07

CYBER COLUMN: Merry Christmas, Ross Wolfe

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking about Christmas and wondering in the spirit of the season about Ross Wolfe. Where are you, dear brother? Ross Wolfe, I wish you a Merry Christmas.

You sent me a letter, and I lost it while moving to a new town. If you had seen the 6,000 pounds of stuff, file cabinets and hundreds of books and papers stacked high that the movers moved to my new office, you would understand. I dug deep for your letter, but to no avail. In fact, you have, through the years, sent me letters.

John Duncan

Brothers find home for Christmas

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/05/07

Brothers find home for Christmas

By Bill Martin

Children at Heart Ministries

ROUND ROCK—For one of the few times in their young lives, Trey and Derek Atkins will have a real home for Christmas, thanks to Charlie and Cindy Goble, a Burnet couple who thought their childrearing days were behind them.

“To see God working and then be allowed to be right in the middle of it is an amazing and humbling experience,” Cindy Goble said.

Derek (left)
and Trey
Atkins had
been in and
out of
children's
homes most
of their
young lives,
and they
never
thought
they would
be adopted.
Charlie and
Cindy Goble
of Burnet
thought
their
childrearing
days were
over. But
they all
believe God
had other
ideas.
(Photo
courtesy of
Children at
Heart
Ministries)

South Texas Children's Home names president, CEO

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/07/07

South Texas Children's Home names president, CEO

BEEVILLE—Todd Roberson has been named president and chief executive officer of [South Texas Children's Home](#), where he has served 15 years in a variety of administrative posts.

Roberson becomes the fifth president of the children's home, succeeding Jerry Haag, who resigned earlier this year to become president of Florida Baptist Children's Home.

Todd Roberson

Roberson has served as interim president of the children's home since July 1.

He joined the South Texas Children's Home staff in 1992 as assistant business administrator. He went on to hold two vice presidential posts—first for business administration and later for development—before becoming chief operating officer.

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 9: A Faith Worth Acting On

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/06/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 9

A Faith Worth Acting On

- Mark 2:1-12

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Adams provides pastoral care to HIV/AIDS community in New York

December 13, 2007

Posted: 12/03/07

Adams provides pastoral care to HIV/AIDS community in New York

By Patricia Heys

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

NEW YORK—In the mid-1980s, as the growing prevalence of AIDS began to capture the attention of Americans, Ronnie Adams attended an educational session about the disease. The lesson he learned—not from the presenter but from the people seated next to him—changed the course of his ministry.

At the time, Adams served as the minister for singles adults at First Baptist Church of Plano, and he decided it would be important for a minister to learn more about the epidemic. But he wasn't prepared for the reaction he received when he introduced himself at the training session.

Ronnie Adams
