

# **Wade recounts struggles, strides in his tenure as BGCT executive director**

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Surrounded by family, Charles Wade prepares to deliver his final report to the Baptist General Convention of Texas as executive director. He will retire Jan. 31, 2008.

(PHOTO/Robert Rogers/Baylor University)

## **Wade recounts struggles, strides in his**

# tenure as BGCT executive director

**By Analiz Gonzalez**

*Buckner International*

MARILLO—In his final executive director's report to the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Charles Wade reviewed his time in that role, saying he would have handled some things a bit differently, but he insisted he essentially would have made the same decisions.

"We have been through a lot of change in our staff assignments. ... I really thought we could get through the change and to a new synergy within two years. It has been more like four years," he acknowledged.

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## **Future of Texas Baptist missions depends on education, collaborations & communication**

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# **Future of Texas Baptist missions depends on education, collaborations & communication**

**By Teresa Young**

*Wayland Baptist University*

MARILLO—Future mission work by Texas Baptists will require a concerted effort in missions education, collaboration and communication to be successful, said a panel of Baptist General Convention of Texas representatives during a workshop held as part of the BGCT annual meeting.

Don Sewell, executive liaison for missions relations with the BGCT, began the workshop with a video detailing the partnerships and mission work already going on around the state and introduced a new BGCT website designed to connect missions efforts.

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## **Warren challenges BGCT to promote PEACE globally**

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California  
megachurch  
pastor and  
best-selling  
author Rick  
Warren  
challenges  
Texas  
Baptists to  
join his  
PEACE plan  
to make an  
impact on  
global  
problems.

## **Warren challenges BGCT to promote PEACE globally**

**By Teresa Young**

*Wayland Baptist University*

MARILLO—Developing a heart for missions can be simple, best-selling author and California pastor Rick Warren told Texas Baptists.

“If you want the blessing of God in your life, the power of God in your life, the anointing of God in your life and ministry, you must care about what God cares about most and get on God’s agenda,” Warren said to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting. “God’s agenda is the kingdom of God. It was the most pre-eminent thing on Jesus’ mind.”

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# Currie: If Texas Baptists “build it, they will come”

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## Currie: If Texas Baptists ‘build it, they will come’

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

AMARILLO—If Texas Baptists move forward with a bold vision, other mainstream Baptists around the country will embrace the dream, Texas Baptists Committed Executive Director David Currie said.

Drawing from a line in Field of Dreams, Currie told a meeting of the moderate Baptist political organization, “If you build it, they will come.”

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## “See yourselves as sons and

# daughters of God,â Amarillo pastor urges Texas Baptists

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## ‘See yourselves as sons and daughters of God,’ Amarillo pastor urges Texas Baptists

**By Teresa Young**

*Wayland Baptist University*

AMARILLO—Texas Baptists have much to be proud of because their identity as adopted children of God, Howard Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Amarillo, said in the annual sermon at the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting.

“Texas Baptists, as the adopted sons and daughters of God, go forth to work for the kingdom, knowing not only who you are but also whose you are,” Batson said. “You are his sons and daughters.”

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Howard  
Batson,  
pastor of  
First  
Baptist  
Church in  
Amarillo,  
brings the  
annual  
convention  
sermon at  
the Baptist  
General  
Convention  
of Texas  
meeting in  
Amarillo.

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# **BGCT president urges Texas Baptists to seek the lost, feed the flocks**

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BGCT  
President Steve  
Vernon urges  
Texas Baptists  
to follow  
Christ's  
command to  
seek the lost  
and feed the  
sheep.  
(PHOTO/Robert  
Rogers/Baylor  
University)

## **BGCT president urges Texas Baptists to seek the lost, feed the flocks**

**By Analiz González**

*Buckner International*

AMARILLO—With references to Jesus' parables about a lost coin, a lost sheep and a lost boy in Luke 15, Steve Vernon urged participants at the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting to follow Christ's command to seek the lost and feed the sheep.

In his presidential message to the convention, Vernon recalled a time when his 4-year-old daughter walked off in a mall. She was only gone five minutes, but it gave him a glimpse into what God feels for those who don't follow him.



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# Around the State

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## Around the State

- **The Baylor University School of Social Work** will host a summit Nov. 8-11 to explore collaborations between Texas and international entities providing services to orphanages, the homeless, street children and victims of human trafficking in the Republic of Moldova. For more information, call (254) 710-6230.
- **Shane & Shane and Bebo Norman** will perform in concert at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at 7 p.m. Nov. 9. Tickets are free for students and \$10 for others. For more information, call (254) 295-5150.
- **Valley Baptist Health System** will sponsor a seminar addressing child abuse prevention, intervention and investigation in the Rio Grande Valley—including children being victimized through Internet pornography—Nov. 9-10 at the Radisson Resort on South Padre Island. Continuing education credit will be available for nurses, social workers, law enforcement personnel and attorneys. For more information and registration fees, call (956) 389-4702.
- **The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** Church Relations department and Bell Association will hold a free seminar titled “Hitting Your Target or Missing Your Market” Nov. 10.

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# **African-American Texas Baptists gather for worship, praise**

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## **African-American Texas Baptists gather for worship, praise**

**By Dave Coffield**

*Hardin-Simmons University*

AMARILLO—Celebration and worship were at the forefront as hundreds of African-American Texas Baptists gathered at St. John Baptist Church of Amarillo on the eve of the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Pastor Grover Neal spoke of the purpose and accomplishments of the African American Fellowship of Texas.

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Michael Evans,  
pastor of  
Bethlehem  
Baptist Church  
in Mansfield,  
preaches at a  
rally for African-  
American Texas  
Baptists in  
Amarillo.  
(PHOTO/Robert  
Rogers/Baylor  
University)

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# **Texas Baptists have worldwide influence through BWA, Coffey says**

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## **Texas Baptists have worldwide influence through BWA, Coffey says**

**By Blake Killingsworth**

## *Dallas Baptist University*

AMARILLO—Baptist World Alliance President David Coffey encouraged Texas Baptists to stand with their brothers and sisters around the world in order to have a global impact.

Speaking during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, Coffey thanked Texas Baptists for their continuing support of the BWA and described the ways their support helps promote Baptist mission and witness around the globe.

Baptist World  
Alliance  
President  
David Coffey  
is joined by  
Emily  
Prevost of  
the Baptist  
General  
Convention  
of Texas  
during a  
“coffee with  
Coffey” event  
for young  
leaders held  
during the  
BGCT annual  
meeting in  
Amarillo.  
(Photo/BGCT)

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# Hispanic leaders take on local and international projects

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## Hispanic leaders take on local and international projects

**By Analiz Gonzalez**

*Buckner International*

AMARILLO—Hispanic Texas Baptists can make a difference in lives around the world, leaders of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas told a rally in Amarillo, prior to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Hispanic Texas Baptists are lobbying for immigration reform, planning international missions and ministry projects, building homes for retired ministers and crossing generational barriers, said President Baldemar Borrego.

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Participants,  
young and  
old, join in  
worship at a  
Hispanic  
rally held in  
conjunction  
with the  
Baptist  
General  
Convention  
of Texas  
annual  
meeting in  
Amarillo.

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## Foundation honors three

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Award recipients (left to right) Jeff Raines, Tim Holloway and Bob Stephenson are pictured with Texas Baptist Missions Foundation President Bill Arnold. (BGCT Photo/Rand Jenkins)

## Foundation honors three

The Texas Baptist Missions Foundation presented three missions awards at an event held in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in Amarillo.

Bob Stephenson, a layman from a BGCT-affiliated church in Norman, Okla., received the Adventurer Award. Stephenson has given generously of his time and about \$6 million to Baptist causes he believes in, including protecting Baptist distinctives and religious liberty.

Tim Holloway, president of Baptist Community Services in Amarillo, received the Innovator Award on behalf of the High Plains Christian Ministries Foundation. The foundation has provided more than \$9 million in grants and gifts to churches and organizations for worldwide missions.

Associate Pastor Jeff Raines accepted the Pioneer Award for Service in Missions on behalf of First Baptist Church in Amarillo.

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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

[Seeing in the Dark: Getting the Facts on Depression and Finding Hope Again](#) by Gary Kinnaman and Richard Jacobs (Bethany House Publishers)

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Addressing what many in the medical profession have labeled the No. 1 medical problem, Gary Kinnaman and Richard Jacobs have joined forces in putting the focus upon depression.

The book is written subjectively, due to the battles with depression experienced by Kinnaman, a pastor, and Jacobs' wife, Sue. Concise and easy to read, *Seeing in the Dark* provides insight from medical (physical),



psychological and spiritual points of view.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).