

# The Texas Baptist BIVOCATIONAL CONNECTION

Texas Baptist Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association Newsletter  
Supported and Distributed by the Bivocational/Smaller Church Development Department, BGCT

*Made possible by Cooperative Program giving by Texas Baptist Churches*

Vol. 6 No. 3

FALL/WINTER 2001

## 15TH ANNUAL BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS CONFERENCE DRAWS RECORD ATTENDANCE

**“I’m sure we will be back next year and bring others. It’s been a real blessing”**

An excited group of ministers, their families and church leaders gave the 15th Annual Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Statewide Conference a record attendance of 325. The 26 seminars offered to pastors, ministers of music, youth ministers and layleaders were well attended and enjoyed by all.

An enthusiastic group of ministers’ youth attended the “SpokenFor” Youth Evangelism Conference on Friday evening. Clay and Shana Wooton, who directed the Youth Track, did a wonderful job of organizing a weekend of fun and inspiration for the youth.

Lay leaders from 15 churches attended a special track offered for lay leadership development. Dr. Tommy Farmer and his Ministry Team led three sessions centered around the “Pavestones II” video series. Dennis Parrot, Director of the

President of the Corpus Christi School of theology presented outstanding messages throughout the weekend. The video, “Who Moved My Cheese” was a real hit Saturday morning.

Saturday evening started with a delicious banquet and special entertainment from the attendees. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of three Exemplary Bivocational ministers. Alline Slate, wife of the late Claud Slate, founder of the Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association, was also honored. She was given a “Lifetime Membership” to the organization. **(Stories and pictures on page 2)**

It was a wonderful weekend of educational training seminars and inspirational services. One attendee expressed the feelings of many, “I’m sure we will be back next year and bring others. It’s been a real blessing”. You can circle these



**Bivocational Ministers’ Children’s Choir**



**Dr. Tommy Farmer and Leadership Team**



**Ministers Attend Servant Leadership Seminar**

Bible Study/Discipleship Training Department, Billy Schwarz, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista, Santa Maria and Pete Castro,

dates for next year’s conference, July 12-14, 2002, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, Belton, Texas.

## 2001 BIVOCATIONAL EXEMPLARY MINISTERS RECOGNIZED

Three ministers were selected as 2001 Exemplary Bivocational Ministers of Texas during the Saturday evening program at the 15th Annual Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Annual Statewide Conference. Dwayne and Bonnie were honored as Exemplary Pastor and Wife. Dwayne is the pastor of Berea Baptist Church in Big Spring, Texas.



**Dwayne and Bonnie Wheat, Exemplary Bivocational  
Pastor and Wife and Bob Ray**

Having lost a daughter to a violent crime, Dwayne and Bonnie reach out to others going through traumatic situations. Bonnie shares their journey of grief recovery in her book, "God Gives A Song, Walking with God Through A Crisis". Dwayne serves as Moderator of Big Spring Association and works with the Hospitality House Ministry and Crisis Closet. Both have been active in the Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association for years supporting and encouraging those in bivocational ministry.



**Exemplary Minister of Music, Henry Goodson,  
his wife Ellen and Bob Ray**

Henry Goodson was selected the 2001 Exemplary Minister of Music. He is the Minister of Music at College Avenue

Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Henry and Ellen are enthusiastic about their ministry with their church and other bivocational ministers. They are on the Bivocational Music Committee and have led many music and drama conferences at the Statewide Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Conference. They love to sing about Jesus and are always ready to help any church that calls on them.

The 2001 Texas Exemplary Bivocational Youth Minister was Clay Wooton. God has blessed he and his wife, Shana with 5 beautiful children and the privilege of serving as Youth/Music Minister in 6 Baptist Churches in Texas. Clay's ministry also includes leading Youth/Camps, DiscipleNow Weekends and revivals.



**Exemplary Youth Minister, Clay Wooton,  
his wife Shana and Bob Ray**

Clay and Shana enjoy working with rural and smaller membership churches. Clay spent part of last summer in Minnesota working thru the Texas/Minnesota/Wisconsin Partnership to aid church planting and beginning youth and children's work in Rochester.

Clay and Shana are great supporters of the Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association. For the past 5 years they have led our Youth Track at our State Conference.

## FOUNDER'S WIFE HONORED



**Alline Slate, receives Lifetime Membership from Assoc.**

## **“Thy Kingdom Come”**

By Glenn Dixon

In Matthew 24, Jesus begins His Olivet Discourse with the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple. Christ discourses upon His Second Coming and the end the present age. Christ tells His disciples that the time was at hand when Jerusalem with its magnificent temple would be utterly destroyed. Not one stone would be left in its place; the destruction of the temple would be utter and complete.

The temple of Jerusalem was the symbol of Jewish unity and power. It was the center of Jewish religious and social life. Josephus tells how the temple dominated the skyline of Jerusalem. Its polished brass columns shining in the eastern sun were the first sight to greet the ancient sailors as their merchant ships plowing the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Herod's Temple stood for all that was Jewish. Its sudden destruction, as foretold by Christ, was inconceivable. Almost two thousand years have passed since the destruction of Herod's temple. The wound inflicted on that day in 70 AD remains.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, terrorists struck America. Like the Romans, the terrorist's chose a religious target. Unlike 70 AD, the target was not a house of religious worship, but of commerce. The World Trade Center stood for the kingdom and the power and the glory of a now secular America, the kingdom of democracy, the power of capitalism, and the glory of technology. The wealth, power and influence of our nation flowed through the skyscrapers and the surrounding financial district of New York City. The twin towers dominated the skyline of New York. Shimmering in the sun, the glass towers were visible from three states. Their sudden destruction was just as inconceivable. How, or even if, our wounds may ever be healed is the topic of this article.

Modern pundits of eschatology all too often seize upon current events as a pretext for furthering their particular theory (or “guess”) concerning the coming of Christ and His kingdom. The spirit of the age favors easy exegesis of scripture, over-generalization, and enthusiastic application of the morning newspaper to the Word of God. Every Christian bookstore has a bargain table jam-packed with books predicting the coming of kingdom (some time last year). What is remarkable about the two events is not the fallen buildings but the similarly fallen spiritual condition of the two nations.

God, through this latest tragedy, has sobered the conscience of our nation. For the first time, since I can remember a major national event has not been pressed to support someone's “End Times” timetable. America must now take seriously the evil that is in the world. We can no longer go naively through life. We will now be forced to fight what could well turn into a long and costly bloody war. The destruction of the World Trade Center has forced us to reconsider who we are and what kind of world we live in. After Tuesday, even we can no longer believe all is right with the world.

But what about being right with God? Recent events have turned the nation to prayer. We turn on the television and see the offering of prayers for those who have lost love ones, and prayers for justice, and strength to fight. America is turning to God. Praise God, yes. To hear our public men offering public prayer again after so long should be music to our ears, I heartily agree. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this were the beginning of a great revival, a return to the faith of our Father? I fear it is not. I fear the lessons to be learned arise from the similarities found in the fallen spiritual condition of the two peoples, not the fallen buildings.

Many of you will be familiar with the spiritual condition of the first-century Hebrew nation. Israel certainly contained it's own righteous remnant of believers. The four gospels bear witness to the fact that not all Jews were apostate from the faith. But the leadership of the nation was absorbed with the

pursuit of power, wealth, and influence. The Herodians and the Zealots sought political power while the Priesthood prostituted the worship of Jehovah for love of money. The Pharisees dominated the consciences of the faithful by their so-called piety and law works. Each of the religious parties pushed their own agenda for salvation for the people of Israel. Israel claimed God's allegiance to their political causes. The Kingdom of God became a subsidiary of the Kingdom of Israel, and man set the agenda for God. Israel asserted its righteous cause, its *own* righteous cause, and rejected the righteousness offered in Christ reaping divine vengeance.

My friend, what was lacking in the first century is what is lacking now in the twenty-first century. It isn't money or cultural influence or political power, it's right-standing with God. In all the prayers offered for the preservation of our nation in these troubled times, have we heard the word repentance? Are we really turning to God or claiming God as an asset to our pursuit of national purpose? We have our own agenda, our military power, influence around the world, and money. We ask God's blessing; no, rather we assert God's blessing. The Christ-less worship of God is just as sinful in the twenty first century as it was in the first century.

My prayer is that our nation will turn to God in earnest. That we return to the God of the Bible, in humility, with faith and repentance. And we set ourselves to seek the furtherance of His kingdom, not the other way around. That America might call upon the God of Christ, the only Name given to men whereby we must be saved. Heaven and earth are passing away, and all the nations therein are passing away with them. Let us seek His eternal kingdom. ... ***"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."***  
*II Chronicles 7:14 (KJ)*

**Editor's Note: You may reach Glen Dixon at  
4305 Mossridge Court, Arlington, TX 76016**



## Educationally Speaking

When William Bennett was serving as Secretary of Education, he commissioned a study of public education in America. The article that was published was entitled, "America At Risk." He was not referring to the kind of attack that we have just experienced in New York and the Pentagon, but rather, to the risk in the area of public education. One of the conclusions published in the study was that "we are graduating individuals from High School and College that are neither prepared for work nor life." There is little evidence that things have changed since this report was published.

If this four-year study of public education is correct, then how do we evaluate the status of Christian education in our churches? How would you evaluate the results of our teaching in Sunday School classrooms across our Convention? What results should we expect? What method would you suggest that we use to evaluate our teaching?

It is readily admitted that those who teach week after week in our church educational programs face an incredible task. They hardly ever have the same students two weeks in a row. Students vary greatly in education, intellect and spiritual maturity. On any given Sunday a teacher will have those who have been Christian a long time along with those who are new believers. Some are well educated, even with College degrees, sitting beside those who did not finish grade school or high school. Cultural backgrounds can vary immensely in some instances. Add to this the fact that many of those who teach have had absolutely no training in teaching methodology or teaching theory and, sometimes, no educational training in Bible, let alone in the study of biblical doctrine. And the truth is that those who are students in our classes now will become church leaders in the years ahead. The haunting question confronts us – "How well prepared will they be?"

Dr. Howard Hendricks, in his book "The Seven Laws of the Teacher," stated that "It takes a college degree for someone to teach our children that two plus two equals four, but anything will do in our church educational programs."

Of course, we hear the same old argument from traditional church leaders, "We have to do things the way we do because we do not always have qualified teachers to fill our classes. And, we cannot have any teacher requirements because we would not have enough teachers if we did that." This seems to be a very valid argument, at least on the surface, but under close examination, it is an incredibly weak one. It can be different if we truly want it to be. Look in my next article, or E-Mail me for some suggestions on how this situation may be corrected.

**Dr. Tommy Farmer – Minister of Education, Willow Creek Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas. E-Mail: tdfarmer@flash.net**

## A Season to Mourn and a Season to Pray

By  
Bonnie Wheat



*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

As I sit down to write, America is mourning. The light-hearted article I had planned to write seems a bit out of season, and I am compelled to broach a heavier topic—one that is all too familiar to me. As one of God's wounded children, I know the sting of death and the unbelievable pain of violence. But I also know the power of prayer and the comfort of being carried by it.

As the shock of the attack on America wears off and numbness gives way to the stabbing pain of reality, we need to be on our knees for husbands and wives, parents and children, and brothers and sisters whose families will always have an empty chair around the table at holidays. We need to be offering petitions to God for the safety of rescue and recovery teams as they dig through mountains of debris, and we should be lifting up social workers as they search for homes for orphaned children. Our heads should be bowed for the airline employees whose jobs have been lost and the thousands of workers whose livelihoods have vanished with their workplaces. Our voices should be crying out for Godly wisdom for our President and other national leaders who are burdened with the responsibility of decision-making.

As the prophet Samuel pledged to pray for the nation of Israel, we are obligated to pray for America. *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:..." (I Samuel 12:23 KJV)* Yes, it is the season to mourn, but it is also the season to pray.

**Editor's Note:** Look for other articles written by Bonnie on the Texas Baptist Bivocational website: [www.bivocational.com](http://www.bivocational.com)  
You may contact her by E-mail: [pdwheat@crcom.net](mailto:pdwheat@crcom.net)

## "God Gives A Song" Walking with God Through a Crisis

by  
Bonnie R. Wheat  
Ordering Information: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)  
Publisher: Ragged Edge Press \$9.95  
Bonnie Wheat  
10810 Gail Hwy, Big Spring, TX 79720  
Please add \$2.00 for tax & shipping

### SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

The Texas Baptist Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association hope these newsletters will connect, promote and encourage churches and those in bivocational ministry across our state.

#### Mail News and Address Changes To:

The Texas Baptist  
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[www.bivocational.com](http://www.bivocational.com)

### "ADULT DISCIPLESHIP NOW"

January 11-13, 2002

Heart of Texas Encampment, Brownwood, TX

Worship Led by: Clay Wooton

Special Speaker: Dallas Houston  
(Voice of the Brownwood Lions and Howard  
Payne Yellow Jackets.)

Chalk Talk: Cory DeVivo

Recreation, Food, Bible Study.

Breakout Sessions for all Youth and Children's  
Leaders. Additional Sessions on

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Cost: \$50 per person

Register on Line: [www.pureheart@erath.net](mailto:www.pureheart@erath.net)  
or by Phone: 254-965-5853

Mail: Shanna Wooton 25261 Hwy 281N,  
Stephenville, TX 76401

# 2002 NATIONAL BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS CELEBRATION APRIL 25-27

INSPIRING MESSAGES

## Empowering the Laity

EXCITING MUSIC

SPECIAL EVENTS



**“Ministers Wives Tea”**  
Rosemary Wade, Speaker  
Wife of Dr. Charles Wade,  
Executive Director, BGCT  
Sharing the Joy and Humor of  
Ministry Along Side the Minister



**“Tour of Mission Arlington”**  
Tillie Burgin  
Executive Director  
Taking Church To the People

**Friday Evening Banquet**  
(All Compliments of the BGCT)



TRAINING SEMINARS



**“Empowering the Laity”**  
Lindsay Cofield, Director Lay  
Ministry Development, BGCT  
Assisting Churches In Equipping  
Laypersons for Ministry /Missions



**“Marketing the  
Bivocational Church”**  
Glenn Majors, Director, BGCT  
Cooperative Program Services,  
30 Years of Experience in  
Marketing Ideas and Promotion

**Skill Track - Leadership Training**  
**Music Sessions: Benson, LifeWay, Lillenas**  
**Youth Seminars**  
**P.A.L.S. (Ministers Wives)**

**“CELEBRATION” CONFERENCE  
WILL BE HOSTED BY**

**First Baptist Church, Arlington**  
301 S. Center St.  
Arlington, TX 76010

Registration Begins: Thursday 3:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy three days of affirmation, fellowship and encouragement with those in  
Bivocational Ministry. Need More Information Call: 888-444-0116 or 817-295-2160

**HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS**

**Holiday Inn, Arlington**  
1507 N. Watson Road  
Arlington, TX 76006

For Reservations: 817-640-7712

Room Rate: \$79 per night

-----Registration-----

Name/s:(Husband and Wife) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number Attending “Ministers Wives Tea” \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending “Friday Evening Banquet” \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER ON LINE: [www.bivocational.com](http://www.bivocational.com)

MAIL: Bob Ray, 412 Arborlawn Dr., Burleson, TX76028

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Bivocational Ministers and Spouses Association, the Cooperative Program, BGCT, and the North American Mission Board

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**December 28-30, 2001**

*“New Year’s Eve Youth DiscipleNow Weekend, Brownwood, TX*

For Information: 254-965-5853

**January 11-13, 2001,**

*Adult DiscipleNow Weekend, Brownwood, TX (254-965-5853)*

**January 28-29, 2002**

*Evangelism Conference*

Come By and Visit Us At Our Booth

**April 25-27, 2002**

*“National Bivocational Celebration”* FBC, Arlington

For Holiday Inn Reservations: 817-640-7712

Register on Line at: [www.bivocational.com](http://www.bivocational.com)

For More Information: 888-444-0116

**July 12-14, 2002**

*“16th Annual Bivocational Ministers & Spouses Conference”*

For Information Contact: Bob Ray, President

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**TEXAS BAPTIST CONNECTION**

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Non-Profit Org.

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Dallas, Texas