

EDITORIAL: Paradox strengthens evangelism_71204

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EDITORIAL: Paradox strengthens evangelism

Do you ever watch siblings and wonder, "How in the world did those people grow up in the same home, much less fall out of the same family tree?"

That's how I feel about Baptists. Much of the time, we're like mismatched sisters and brothers. We're born of the same stock, but we bear polar-opposite personalities. We carry the same name, but we sometimes sound like strangers.

We've been this way almost from the beginning-nearly four centuries, church historian Bill Leonard says. (See page 10.) More than any other faith group, Baptists have embraced paradoxical tendencies. We include in our ranks contradictory positions and perspectives on just about every item in the spiritual catalog except the notions that we're congregationalists and the church should be made up of Christian believers.

**Does
someone
who
preaches
the need
for
repentance
reflect the
gospel
more
accurately
than
someone
who feeds
the hungry
and houses
the
homeless?**

EDITORIAL: Texas earns a big, fat F_71204

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EDITORIAL:

Texas earns a big, fat F

The U.S. Census Bureau has released another embarrassing statistic: Texas ranks last in the percentage of adults who have received high school diplomas.

Only 77 percent of Texans age 25 and older have graduated from high school, according to an Associated Press report. That compares to a national average of 85 percent. This is the second year in a row Texas has trailed the rest of the states. A decade ago, Texas ranked 39th, when it also posted a 77 percent graduation rate. On the whole, U.S. graduation rates are improving.

The primary reason for Texas' decline is its failure to help Hispanics progress through the educational system. The Census Bureau report revealed only about half of Texas' 4.3 million Hispanics age 25 and up have earned high school diplomas. Meanwhile, Hispanics are the state's fastest-growing population. So, the overall rate will continue to slide if a greater percentage of Hispanics don't graduate.

We need to demand that the Legislature pass and the governor sign a school-finance bill that is fair to all Texans, raises the graduation rate and doesn't sleep with the devil by funding education through expansion of gambling.

ETBU enters partnership with Chinese university, plans 2005 conference_71204

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East
Texas
Baptist
University
Vice
President
for
Academic
Affairs
Paul
Sorrels
listens to
guide
Vivian
Fan
explain
the
history of
the Great
Wall.
(Jerry
Summers
Photo)

ETBU enters partnership with Chinese university, plans 2005 conference

MARSHALL-East Texas Baptist University and Lanzhou University of Technology in Lanzhou, China, created a partnership after a visit by ETBU officials to China.

The partnership will produce an academic conference in Lanzhou next summer involving faculty from ETBU and other Texas universities and Chinese scholars who will present papers in English, said Jerry Summers, history professor at ETBU.

Paul Sorrels, ETBU vice president for academic affairs, signed the agreement, which also allows the exchange of students and faculty between the two universities.



East Texas Baptist University Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Sorrels and Lanzhou University of Technology Vice President Wang Zhiping, sign an agreement of educational cooperation and scholarly exchange between ETBU and the Chinese university.

LifeWay Explore the Bible

Series for July 18: God requires unqualified obedience and service_71204

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for July 18

God requires unqualified obedience and service

2 Kings 13:1-25

By David Morgan

Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for July 25: Conforming to world's standards is

dangerous_71204

July 9, 2004

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LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for July 25

Conforming to world's standards is dangerous

2 Kings 14:115:38

By David Morgan

Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights

LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 18: Nehemiah was God's servant in Jerusalem_71204

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 18

Nehemiah was God's servant in Jerusalem

Nehemiah 1:2-7, 10-11; 2:4-8, 17-18

By Rodney McGlothlin

First Baptist Church, College Station

LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 25: Be faithful even when times are tough-God is_71204

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LifeWay Family Bible Series for July 25

Be faithful even when times are tough-God is

Habakkuk 1:2-6, 12-13; 2:2-4, 18-20; 3:17-19

By Rodney McGlothlin

First Baptist Church, College Station

Hispanic Texas Baptist president issues call for cooperation_71204

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Hispanic
Baptist
Convention
President
Alcides
Guajardo
introduces his
wife, Frances,
and officers
Silva Aké of
Primera
Iglesia
Bautista in
Edinburg,
third vice
president; Joel
Aké of Iglesia
Bautista El
Mesias in
Dallas,
secretary;
Robert
Rodriguez of
Primera
Iglesia
Bautista in
Harlingen,
second vice
president; and
Martin Ortega
of Iglesia
Bautista
Emanuel in
Midland, first
vice
president,
pictured with
his wife,
Francisca.

Hispanic Texas Baptist president issues call for cooperation

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas needs to cooperate with other Baptist groups and institutions to accomplish God's will in Texas and around the world, the group's president told its annual meeting.

Hispanic Baptist missions giving up 12 percent in first quarter of 2004_71204

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Hispanic Baptist missions giving increased 12 percent in first quarter of 2004

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND-Texas Hispanic Baptist gifts to Baptist mission work increased significantly during the first quarter of the year.

FAMILY REUNION: Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas_71204

July 9, 2004

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FAMILY REUNION: Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND-The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas annual meeting is called "convencion," but leaders and participants say it's more aptly called a family reunion.

Scholarship recipient moves beyond past, looks ahead to life of ministry_71204

July 9, 2004

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Scholarship recipient moves beyond past, looks ahead to life of ministry

By Janelle Bagci

BGCT Summer Intern

ABILENE-Tighe Marie Watkins left a haze of alcohol, drug addictions and abusive relationships for the hope she found in Jesus one summer day in Lubbock.

Hardin-Simmons volunteers show neighbors 'we care' about

the community_71204

July 9, 2004

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Hardin-Simmons volunteers show neighbors 'we care' about the community

ABILENE-Hardin-Simmons University faculty, staff and students recently put on their work clothes and walked across the street from the Abilene campus to paint a neighbor's house.

The "Good Samaritan" project developed from a relationship the university's Neighborhood Enhancement Program Coordinator Linda Carleton developed with Rebecca Deatherage, a retired social worker who owns the house.

In conjunction with Abilene's Connecting Caring Communities Program, Deatherage is the first Caring Partner to be identified in the HSU neighborhood.

Robert Hamner,
senior professor
of English and
humanities at
Hardin-Simmons
University,
prepares
window trim for
painting a
Hardin-Simmons
University
neighbor's
house as part of
the university's
Neighborhood
Enhancement
Program and as
a way of saying
"we care" to
neighborhood
residents.
(Brenda Harris
Photo)