

Immersion Spanish class equips Texas Baptists for missions_71204

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Immersion Spanish class equips Texas Baptists for missions

By Craig Bird

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO-Norma Griffith probably will lose some of the Spanish-language proficiency she worked so hard to gain. But the image of a little girl sitting on the bare ground at an orphanage in Piedras Negras, Mexico, has taken up permanent residence in her memory.

Texas Baptist Forum_71204

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TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM:

Confessional questions

Lee R. Scarborough, the second president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was one of the most trusted and respected leaders among Texas and Southern Baptists during the first half of the 20th century.

E-mail the editor at

marvknox@baptiststandard.com

At a time of crisis in the Northern Baptist Convention, he wrote: "I join Paul, Spurgeon, Wayland, Mabie, Broadus, Carroll and the heavenly hosts of other departed leaders, Mullins, Truett, Gray, Love, DeMent, Cree, Groner, Porter, McDaniel, Strong, Laws, Masee, and the host of others like them in the South and in the North in a wholehearted subscription to a Baptist confession of faith and want my life, time, talent and money to count alone for the propagation of these truths."

His statement is further evidence that Baptists have normally held that it is proper for them to frame, publish and adhere to confessions of faith. That question should be settled.

Mission Waco offers Christian

hope to poor, marginalized_71204

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Mission Waco offers Christian hope to poor, marginalized

By Janelle Bagci

BGCT Summer Intern

WACO-Mission Waco-founded nine years ago in the abandoned remains of a pornography theater and four bars-has become a light in the darkness for the many underprivileged people living in Waco.

On the Move_71204

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On the Move

Jerry Bivins has resigned as pastor of Ardis Heights Church in Greenville.

✘ **Paul Blake** to Center City Church in Goldthwaite as pastor.

✘ **Travis Burleson** to First Church in Gonzales as pastor from Sunset Canyon Church in Dripping Springs, where he was associate pastor and student minister.

Presidential Prayer Team organization launches_71204

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Presidential Prayer Team organization launches its Pray the Vote initiative

By Sarah Farris

BGCT Summer Intern

In hopes of encouraging Christians to vote this fall, the Presidential Prayer Team launched its Pray the Vote and Prayer Party initiatives prior to Independence Day.

Churches find purpose beyond 40-day experience_71204

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Churches find purpose beyond 40-day experience

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Benefits from 40 Days of Purpose stretch beyond an initial 40-day shared congregational experience, say leaders of several Texas Baptist churches that have been through the program—including some who approached it with skepticism.

Texas Baptist Men build worship center for African Texas church_71204

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Texas Baptist Men build worship center for African Texas church

By Mary Crouch

BGCT Summer Intern

GRAND PRAIRIE-Texas Baptist Men formed a new bond this spring with African Evangelical Baptist Church of Grand Prairie as volunteers built a sanctuary for the congregation.

Texas WMU board approves staff reoganization, change in its focus_71204

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Woman's
Missionary
Union of
Texas
board
members
Kay Kolb
of Midland
(left) and
Donna
Hall of
Paris join
President
Kathy
Hillman of
Waco in
prayer,
asking
God's
guidance
and
direction
for the
future of
Texas
WMU.

Texas WMU board approves staff

reorganization, change in its focus

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-The Woman's Missionary Union of Texas board of directors has approved a reorganization of the state WMU staff.

Texas Tidbits_71204

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VBMC ER named 'tops'

The Valley Baptist Medical Center emergency department was named "top performer" nationally for overall quality of care and turn-around time in treating emergency room patients. The emergency department also received a "5-star customer service" award and a platinum achievement award. Valley Baptist Medical Center received the honors from Professional Research Consultants, an independent customer and marketing research firm for the healthcare industry.

Texas Tidbits

DBU hosts Japanese group. Dallas Baptist University recently celebrated the opening of its International Center by playing host to the National Collegiate Network, a recruiting company that helps Japanese students select universities in the United States. The network donated 10 cherry blossom trees to DBU in gratitude, and the recruiting company and DBU jointly sponsored a cultural festival for Japanese students at DBU. The International Center is a 11,000-square-foot building that houses four classrooms, two large multipurpose meeting rooms, a computer lab, a student lounge and a full-service kitchen. DBU's student body includes more than 300 internationals from at least 50 countries.

O'Brien to describe world. "Global Reality Check: A Status of the World," will be the theme of a presentation by Baptist missions strategist Bill O'Brien July 13 at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by Greater Good Global Support Services and will be held at the WorldconneX offices, located at Southside at Lamar streets, near downtown Dallas. O'Brien will discuss health pandemics like HIV/AIDS; world population growth and migrations; political, religious and cultural shifts; and life-changing technologies. For more information go to the website, www.g3s2.org/training.

Lubbock CWJC graduate receives WMU award. Amanda Perez of Lubbock received the national Woman's Missionary Union's 2004 Sybil Bentley Dove Award. Perez, a single mother rearing three children, graduated in May 2003 from Christian Women's Job Corps in Lubbock. She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized less than a month after entering the program. After graduating from Christian Women's Job Corps, Perez attended summer school to complete requirements for her high school diploma. She attends South Plains College and hopes to become a social worker. The Sybil Bentley Dove Endowment was established in 1998.

The WMU Foundation presents the award annually to a current or former CWJC participant whom the foundation recognizes as wanting to improve her life through skills training, academic development and faith in Christ.

TOGETHER: Life verse exerts powerful influence_71204

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TOGETHER: Life verse exerts powerful influence

Do you have a life verse? Many Christians look for a single verse in Scripture that seems to “wrap up” the truth for their life. Sometimes that verse is called a life purpose statement. Here are some I have heard people use.

From Paul's Philippian epistle: “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (1:21). “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (4:13). “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead” (3:10-11). “But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (3:13-14).

Or from Paul's letter to the Romans: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (8:28).

CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

True Love Waits on display at Olympics_71204

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True Love Waits on display at Olympics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)-True Love Waits will carry its message of sexual purity to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens this August.

True Love Waits, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, is an international campaign that challenges teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

An estimated 2.5 million to 3 million young people worldwide have signed

the True Love Waits sexual purity pledge, according to LifeWay Christian Resources, the Southern Baptist publishing house that created the True Love Waits initiative.

True Love Waits helps slow spread of AIDS/HIV in Uganda_71204

July 9, 2004

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True Love Waits helps slow spread of AIDS/HIV in Uganda

By Shawn Hendricks

LifeWay Christian Resources

WASHINGTON (BP)—Ten years ago, three out of 10 people in Uganda were infected with HIV or AIDS. Today, that number has dropped to six out of 100. And Uganda's First Lady Janet Museveni credits faith-based abstinence programs with slowing the spread of the fatal disease in her country.