

# Nehemiah Project Making an impact\_50304

April 30, 2004

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Worship leader  
Justin Cofield urges  
a response from  
youth during the  
closing night of the  
six-day, inter-  
denominational  
Impact evangelistic  
events in Mineral  
Wells. (David  
May/Mineral Wells  
Index Photo)

## Nehemiah Project: Making an impact

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

MINERAL WELLS—Many church leaders talk about the importance of breaking down walls or going beyond the walls of a church to minister. But the inspiration for Tommy Pophin's ministry vision came from an Old Testament passage about building a wall.

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# Texas, Mexico partnership produces base camp for ministry\_50304

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Volunteers help construct facilities at Camp Getsemani, the only church camp in Coahuila, Mexico.
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## Texas, Mexico partnership produces base camp for ministry

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

ACUNA, Mexico—A partnership between a Mexican church and three Texas congregations has produced a ministry base camp on the south side of the Rio Grande.

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## **CLC staff denied access to governor's office\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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## **CLC staff denied access to governor's office**

**By Ferrell Foster**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—Representatives of Texas Baptists' moral concerns agency have been trying since spring 2003 to talk with Texas Gov. Rick Perry about public school financing.

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# Evangelical Christians-powerful or persecuted?\_50304

April 30, 2004  
Posted: 5/03/04

## Evangelical Christians-powerful or persecuted?

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Although American evangelicals overwhelmingly view themselves as part of mainstream America and think they hold significant political influence, they nonetheless believe they are a besieged minority, a new study has found.

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**Interfaith coalition raises concerns about plight of 44 million uninsured**

# Americans\_50304

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## **Interfaith coalition raises concerns about plight of 44 million uninsured Americans**

Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe churches and other religious organizations should help raise awareness and concern about the 44 million people in the United States—including 8.5 million children—who lack health coverage, a broad-based group of religious leaders announced recently.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, has joined representatives of the National Council of Churches, the United Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Islamic Society of North America, the Salvation Army and other religious organizations on the Cover the Uninsured Week interfaith advisory board.

The religious leaders are encouraging faith organizations and congregations to learn more about the issue of the uninsured and to call for a solution to the problem during Cover the Uninsured Week, May 10-16.

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# **Religious supporters, opponents of abortion rights rally in Washington\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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## **Religious supporters, opponents of abortion rights rally in Washington**

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON—Standing at a worship service shortly before the official start of the March for Women's Lives, Theresa Helfrey held two signs stapled together. One declared the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s call for justice, and another supported NARAL, a prominent abortion rights organization.

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## **Latin American Baptist union elects Texas church starter as**

# president\_50304

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## Latin American Baptist union elects Texas church starter as president

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

The Union of Baptists in Latin America has elected as president a Texas Baptist church-starting strategist.

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# Around the State\_50304

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## Around the State

Maston Scholars were recognized at Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology during the T.B. Maston Christian Ethics Lectures. They are **Patrick Hill** and **Joshua Allen** of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, **Allison Backus** and **Angela Heape** of Baylor University, **Ana Laura Sura** and **Jose Luis Sura** of the Baptist University of the Americas,

**Justin Hyde** of Houston Baptist University, **Jeremy Shepherd** and **Chuck Pope** of Dallas Baptist University, **Jacob West** and **Ben Johnson** of Hardin-Simmons University, **Randy Curtis** of Wayland Baptist University, and **Jared Hollier** and **Laura Garlock** of East Texas Baptist University.



Maurine Ellison  
and Paulette  
Lawrence  
carried the  
banner that led  
Pastor Frank  
Slayton,  
deacons,  
members and  
guests to the  
plot of land that  
will be the new  
home of  
Swenson  
Church in  
Swenson. The  
dedication and  
groundbreaking  
service  
included  
prayer, pledges  
to the Bible and  
the Christian  
and American  
flags, singing  
and a  
dedication  
sermon.

✘ Three University of Mary Hardin-Baylor voice students won awards in a recent competition held at Southern Methodist University. **Rachel**

**Gibson**, soprano, was awarded first place and received a \$500 check. Second place and winner of \$400 was **Cody Fosdick**, baritone. Third place went to **Devon Owens**, soprano, and winner of \$300. UMHB voice students also competed in a contest held at Texas State University in San Marcos. Earning semi-finalist recognition were **Sarah Walker, Jacque Bush** and Gibson. Eight students were finalists including **Billy Chapman**, who won second place in graduate men; Fosdick, second place in senior men; **Vicki Boyd**, second place in senior women; Owens, third place in senior women; **Aimee Ates**, second place in junior women; **Austin Daniel**, third place in sophomore men, **Amy Eadson**, fourth place in sophomore women; and **Kelly Criswell**, sixth place in freshmen women.

✕ **Milton Higgins**, a 1959 Baylor University graduate, received an honorary doctorate of divinity and presented the commencement address at May 1 graduation ceremonies at California Baptist University. Higgins, president of California Baptist Foundation, served California and Washington churches 25 years as pastor before taking his current post.

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## Baptist Briefs\_50304

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### Baptist Briefs

**SBC, BWA leaders meet.** Officials of the Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Convention have agreed to meet annually, but a meeting in mid-April did not prompt any change in SBC plans to defund the global

group and withdraw membership from the worldwide fellowship. BWA President Billy Kim of Korea and SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman co-chaired the Nashville, Tenn., gathering of 19 leaders from the United States, Canada, Bulgaria and Brazil.

**Elder announces retirement.** Lloyd Elder will retire as director of the Moench Center for Church Leadership at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., effective June 1. Elder joined the Belmont School of Religion faculty in August 1991, filling the Paschall Chair for biblical studies and preaching. He helped establish the Moench Center in 1996 to teach leadership skills to ministers. Elder served as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board from 1983 to 1991. He was executive vice president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1978 to 1983, assistant to the executive director at the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1975 to 1978, and pastor of several Texas Baptist churches.

**Louisiana college affirms text policy.** Louisiana College trustees have re-affirmed a controversial textbook policy and named an interim president for the school. In a called meeting, trustees passed a resolution requiring professors to receive approval from their department chairs and the school's vice president for academic affairs for all textbooks and classroom materials. The resolution stipulates faculty must make curriculum choices in harmony with the college's identity and mission statement, as well as the school's faith statement and the pronouncements of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Trustees also elected retired pastor John Traylor as the school's interim president. Traylor, 76, was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church of Monroe, La., and is a former Louisiana Baptist Convention president.

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# **Preparation for ministry requires church/school partnership\_50304**

April 30, 2004

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## **Preparation for ministry requires church/school partnership**

**By Marv Knox**

*Editor*

ABILENE-Preparing men and women for ministry is a partnership, insists Tommy Brisco, dean of the Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University.

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## **Cartoon\_50304**

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World's  
greatest  
CEO- Able  
to keep his  
corporation  
together  
while  
wandering  
aimlessly  
in the  
desert for  
40 years.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.

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# **First BGCT-endorsed Army chaplains complete officers' school with honors\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **First BGCT-endorsed Army chaplains**

# **complete officers' school with honors**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

The first Baptist General Convention of Texas-endorsed Army chaplains recently completed officer training with honors.