

ABP honors philanthropist Ayres

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ABP honors philanthropist Ayres

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AUSTIN-God's people embody Christ's character when they reclaim their prophetic voice and speak truth to power, a Christian lobbyist told participants at an awards banquet sponsored by Associated Baptist Press.

Pianist at church keyboard 50 years and going strong

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Lois Hitt
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Pianist at church keyboard 50 years and going strong

By George Henson

Staff Writer

LANCASTER—Lois Hitt Gilmer has been playing the piano at First Baptist Church in Lancaster more than 50 years, with no plans to retire. And Minister of Music Chett Haynes couldn't be happier to hear it.

Kids Hope USA pairs Christian mentors with at-risk children

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Kids Hope USA pairs Christian mentors with at-risk children

By Carla Wynn

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

ATLANTA—Some elementary school children in the United States have new Christian friends this fall as a part of the national Kids Hope USA program, which pairs church members and at-risk children in a one-year, one-hour-a-week mentoring relationship.

Student weds pastoral and global concerns

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Student weds pastoral and global concerns

By Haley Wright

Baylor University

International debates on human rights may seem as far removed from church concerns as Central Texas is from Germany, but Aaron Tyler wants to make the connections.

Foster mother finds prayers answered through adoption

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Wendy White considers her adopted daughter, Alexis Faith, an answer to prayer. (Photo by Buckner Benevolences)

Foster mother finds prayers answered through adoption

By Felicia Fuller

Buckner Benevolences

MINEOLA-Single and childless at 41, Wendi White was beginning to wonder if having a family was God's plan for her.

Seminary denied exhibit space at BGCT

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By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has turned down a request from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for exhibit space at the convention's annual meeting in November—the second consecutive year the BGCT denied the seminary booth space.

CBF preamble restores reference to Jesus

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CBF preamble restores reference to Jesus

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were expected to add a preamble to the organization's constitution, restoring explicit references to Jesus Christ and the Great Commission deleted in July.

Church leaders share supplies, resources with evacuees

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Church leaders share supplies, resources with evacuees

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

BROADDUS—One week before Hurricane Rita made landfall, Wayne and Diana Barth bought supplies in case they lost power. Barth, pastor of First Bap-tist Church in Broaddus, had a feeling it was coming for them.

Dallas evangelical church member nominated for Supreme Court

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Dallas evangelical church member nominated for Supreme Court

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—President Bush's conservative base seemed to divide

into several camps almost immediately after his selection of former Dallas attorney Harriet Miers to succeed retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court.

Diverse Baptists pledge to become watchdogs for social justice

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Diverse Baptists pledge to become watchdogs for social justice

BATON ROUGE, La. (ABP)-Leaders of four Baptist groups representing almost 5 million Baptists in the United States met with Louisiana elected officials in Baton Rouge to find ways to fight the poverty brought to light by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Baptist leaders said they will serve as watchdogs for justice and try to prevent further exploitation of the poor as relief efforts turn into recovery in the storm-ravaged Gulf area.

Representatives of four Baptist groups met with elected officials in Baton Rouge, La., to explore ways to combat poverty brought to light by recent hurricanes. (Photo by Associated Baptist Press)

“Katrina un-earthed a very ugly secret in our country,” said Roy Medley, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA, with 5,800 churches and a membership of 1.5 million. “How can we work toward an America that is more just and more fair?”

Around the State

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Dallas Baptist University students Leigha Caron and Amanda Solis were part of a group of 450 students who kicked off the semester with acts of service around the area of the university. While Caron and Solis planted flowers at Grace Temple Church in Dallas, other students worked at the North Texas Food Bank, Camp El Har, a recreation center in Garland, Beautiful Feet Ministries, the Dallas Life Foundation and Cliff Temple Church in Dallas.

Around the State

- ◆ **Eugene Peterson**, theologian and author of *The Message*, his paraphrase of the Bible in modern language, will present the annual Parchman Endowed Lectures Oct. 18-20 at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary. The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call (254) 710-7347.
- ◆ Howard Payne University will hold homecoming festivities Oct. 20-23. Thirty-seven events are planned for the weekend. For more information, visit the school's website at www.hputx.com.
- ◆ Master's Singers, a music and missions group of high school students, will hold auditions in January and February. Each youth who auditions must be certified by their pastor or music director as being a committed Christian who is active in the music ministry in their church. Hardin-Simmons University faculty oversee the group. For more information, call (325) 670-1504 or (325) 670-1415.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

a.k.a. "Lost": Discovering Ways to Connect with the People Jesus

Misses Most by Jim Henderson (WaterBrook Press)

If you like hard-nosed, in-your-face evangelism that assaults people with the good news, then this book is not for you.

Henderson writes about evangelism that takes conversation and listening seriously under such chapter titles as “Boldness is Overrated,” “Count Conversations, Not Conversions,” “Evangelize with Your Ears,” and “Out of Religion and Into Reality.”