

Winding path leads musician to Hardin-Simmons

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Winding path leads musician to Hardin-Simmons

By David Coffield

Hardin-Simmons University

ABILENE—When he was growing up as the musically talented son of a piano teacher and a police officer, people who knew George Crane never would have predicted the winding path he would follow—through drug abuse and prison before he found God's purpose for his life and a supportive community at Hardin-Simmons University.

Baylor students apply classroom skills during mission to Kenya

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Baylor students apply classroom skills during mission to Kenya

By Haley Wright

Baylor University

Baylor University students from a variety of academic disciplines put skills learned in the classroom to work on the African mission field during the largest mission trip in the university's history.

Rainer to lead LifeWay

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Rainer to lead LifeWay

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)-Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources will vote Sept. 12-13 on the nomination of Thom Rainer to head Southern Baptists' official publishing arm.

Rainer, 50, is founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

If elected by the 59-member board, Rainer will succeed Jimmy Draper, 70, who is retiring after 15 years at the helm of LifeWay, one of the largest

Christian publishing companies in the world.

Mane Mission seeks record to benefit ministry

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| <p>Breckenridge Village residents and staff are hoping for up to 20,000 people to attend a record- breaking horse parade that they hope will help raise money for the ministry.</p> |
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Mane Mission seeks record to benefit

ministry

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

TYLER-A Texas-sized challenge to support a Texas Baptist ministry is making a run at the Guinness Book of World Records Oct. 8-9 in Tyler.

Howard Payne student fulfills missions calling in Peru

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Howard Payne student fulfills missions calling in Peru

By Jocelyn Delgado

Communications Intern

BROWNWOOD-A Howard Payne University student used his new passion for film to fulfill his calling to a higher passion-Christian missions.

Student missionaries see God at work in Thailand

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The Go Now tsunami relief team serving in Thailand consisted of (front, left to right) Cole and Dawn Younger from Texas Tech University; Karen and Keith Garner from Texas Tech; Kyle Roach from Texas Tech; Chris Smith from the University of Texas; (top row, left to right) Buddy Downey of Dallas Baptist University; Jalissa King from Wayland Baptist University; Stephen Jansen from Dallas Baptist University; and Paul Parris from Texas Tech. (Photos courtesy of Texas Tech Baptist Student Ministries)

Student missionaries see God at work in Thailand

By Meghan Merchant

Communications Intern

KHAO LAK, Thailand-Pictures of missing people nailed to trees serve as a reminder, months later, that the devastation of the Dec. 26 tsunami remains in Thailand.

Wayland BSM launches worldwide missions strategy

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Wayland BSM launches worldwide missions strategy

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW-During the next few years, students at Wayland Baptist University will have the opportunity to visit several regions of the world doing missions work, based on a plan unveiled by the Baptist Student

Ministries program.

Around the State

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Orchard Hills Church in Garland sent a team of 21 students and adults to the Rio Grande Valley. The team's work included street evangelism in Matamoros, Mexico, a one-day Vacation Bible School in an apartment complex and a three-day VBS in a trailer park. Throughout the week, the group saw more than 110 people make professions of faith in Christ. Shane Pruitt is student minister.

Around the State

♦ San Jacinto Baptist Association will present its third annual single adult conference Oct. 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Northside Church in Baytown. **Don Piper**, author of the book *90 Minutes in Heaven*, will be the speaker. The cost of \$25 includes lunch and an autographed copy of the book. To register, call (281) 422-3604.

♦ The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship endorsed 32 chaplains and pastoral counselors at its endorsement council meeting held in Grapevine. Texans receiving endorsement include **Cherry Moore**, chaplain with Hospice Brazos Valley in Bryan; **Joseph Gross**, chaplain with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dallas; **Mary Lewis**, a CPE resident at Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Hospital in San Antonio; and **Cindy Goza**, board certified chaplain for the Association of Professional Chaplains in Houston.

♦ After 25 years as worship leader for Paisano Baptist Encampment, **Ed Wittner** has retired. Wittner's connection to the camp began in his youth. His parents, Robert and Lillie Wittner, lived on the grounds while his father was a pastor and director of missions for District 7, which included the Big Bend area. **Nathan McBride**, pastor of First Church in Lamesa, will begin his term as worship leader in 2006.

The Bible goes to school

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| Photo by David Clanton |
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Controversy surrounds National Council on Bible Curriculum

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

As students load their backpacks for school this fall, a growing number include the Bible among their textbooks.

Christian teachers walk the line between church & state

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Christian teachers walk the line between church & state

By **Ken Camp**

Managing Editor

Many Christian public school teachers see their vocation as more than a job; they view it as a divine calling. But some wrestle with how to follow Christ without stepping out of bounds.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

The Bible and Healing: A Medical and Theological Commentary by John Wilkinson, M.D. (Eerdmans)

The title is precise. It is not a history of Christian healing (touched on) or a systematic theology of Christian healing (regularly alluded to but never developed) but a survey of the Bible and healing.

There is one ambiguity. Wilkinson knows that “the Bible and medicine” is a much smaller topic than “the Bible and healing,” but the book leans as hard

on medicine as it can. That is, it scours the text for any scrap of anything we today might recognize as medical, and it uses medical terminology and categories wherever it can. (Don't be intimidated.)

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

African-American conventions partner with college. Officials from four leading African-American Baptist conventions gathered at a Kentucky Baptist college recently to launch a new partnership. Meeting at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., leaders of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, Progressive National Baptist Convention and National Baptist Convention of America agreed upon an arrangement that will include archiving important African-American resources and increasing the number of minority students at the predominately white school. Already, the college houses the Kentucky Underground Railroad Research Institute on campus in a building that once served as slave quarters.

Retiree Ministries Retreat registration tops 400. With more than 400 registered in advance, the Retiree Ministries Retreat at Glorieta Conference Center, Sept. 19-23, will be one of the largest meetings of the

year at the New Mexico retreat center. "Do It Now" is the theme of the retreat, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Glorieta Conference Center and LifeWay Christian Resources. BGCT Executive Director Emeritus Bill Pinson will lead the Bible study; D.L. Lowrie, retired pastor of First Baptist Church in Lubbock, is the featured preacher; and Dick Baker, music evangelist and retired minister of music at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, will lead music. To register, call toll-free (800) 797-4222.

Oklahoma pastor tapped as IMB vice president. Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees are expected to approve Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., as the mission board's senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations. Board trustees officially will ratify his selection during their Sept. 12-14 meeting in Pensacola, Fla. Elliff, 61, has been pastor of the Oklahoma church 20 years. He served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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.