

BWA president offers global perspective on the church

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Baptist World Alliance President David Coffey recently spoke at several Texas Baptist churches, institutions and events as a part of his visit to the United States. Terri Jo Ryan, religion reporter for the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, interviewed him.

Q: What are some of the differences you've observed between Texas Baptist life and that in Great Britain?

A: I think the biggest difference is your Sunday school system. You have what is probably a core element of Baptist life in Texas—that is, the commitment to Sunday school. We don't have that. We've tried that, but it hasn't worked. I think there are lots more similarities, such as a commitment to local and global missions and your commitment to the fact that the world doesn't stop at the Texas border, that there is life beyond there.

Baptist
World
Alliance
President
David
Coffey

DOWN HOME: A tornado, rain and a prairie set on fire

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DOWN HOME: A tornado, rain and a prairie set on fire

The radio announcer mispronounced Darrouzett (dare-uh-ZET), but he got all the others right—Booker, Follett, Lipscomb and Higgins.

And before he finished the list, I knew why he was reciting the names of every village in Lipscomb County: Grassfires.

Sure enough, local officials were thinking about evacuating the entire northeast corner of the Texas Panhandle. An incendiary mix of undiminished drought, unrelenting wind and unending prairie engulfed the county. And the flames threatened everything.

Most of his listeners never knew the announcer botched the pronunciation of Darrouzett. “Lipscomb County, where’s that?” they might have mused. Much closer to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas than to Dallas.

Cultural changes call for fresh expressions

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Cultural changes call for fresh expressions

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—Cultural changes require God’s people to be open to fresh expressions of the gospel, Baptist World Alliance President David Coffey told a Texas Baptist conference.

“When there is a change in culture, that constitutes a fresh calling from the missionary God,” Coffey said at Epicenter, an event sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Baptist
World
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President
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Chat rooms provide open window into students' world

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Chat rooms provide open window into students' world

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—The three college students accused of setting fire to nine Alabama churches left a computer chat room trail that was a window into their personalities.

Graham preaches 'last evangelistic sermon' in New Orleans

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Graham preaches 'last evangelistic sermon' in New Orleans

By Bruce Nolan

Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Billy Graham seems to have closed out his 60-year career as the country's most famous evangelist after calling thousands to Christian faith in wounded New Orleans with the acknowledgment, "This is probably the last evangelistic sermon I'll ever preach."

Frail and tentative, the 87-year-old Graham shuffled behind a walker toward the pulpit set at one end of the New Orleans Arena as a crowd his organization estimated at 16,300 stood in a sustained roar of applause March 12.

Evangelist Billy
Graham
preaches to a
crowd at the
New Orleans
Arena during
the
“Celebration of
Hope” hosted
by the Billy
Graham
Evangelistic
Association
and
Samaritan's
Purse March
12. (Photo by
Jennifer
Zdon/The
Times-Picayune
in New
Orleans/RNS)

Churches broke tax laws, IRS

reports

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Churches broke tax laws, IRS reports

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—An Internal Revenue Service report determined nearly three-fourths of the churches and other charities it investigated violated federal tax laws during the 2004 election.

Kid's TV more violent than prime-time

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Kid's TV more violent than prime-time

By Enette Ngoei

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—With cartoons leading the way, children’s television programs may be more violent than prime-time programming, a study by the Washington-based Parents Television Council indicated.

Lotz announces retirement, Kazakhs pull out of BWA

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Lotz announces retirement, Kazakhs pull out of BWA

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—Leaders of the Baptist World Alliance learned at their March Executive Committee meeting that General Secretary Denton Lotz plans to retire and the Baptist Union of Kazakhstan has decided to leave the international federation.

Lotz, 67, said the process for selecting a new general secretary will begin immediately, and he hopes to announce a more specific time frame for his departure when the BWA General Council meets July 3-8 in Mexico City.

Nehemiah's Vision seeks to rebuild homes

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Nehemiah's Vision seeks to rebuild homes

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

VIDOR—Southeast Texas Baptists have formed a nonprofit ministry to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Rita, but they need skilled volunteers to help them in the months ahead, organizers insist.

Last October, representatives from churches in Golden Triangle Baptist Association and Sabine Neches Baptist Area created a home-repair and reconstruction ministry they call Nehemiah's Vision, drawing inspiration from the Old Testament story about rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

CLC director search committee named. Jim Nelson, vice chairman of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board and member of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, has been named chairman of the search committee appointed to seek a new director for the BGCT Christian Life Commission. Other search committee members are Ken Huggins, chairman of the CLC and pastor of Elkins Lake Baptist Church in Huntsville; George Mason, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas; Michael Bell, BGCT president and pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church in Fort Worth; Patsy Ayres, member of First Baptist Church in Austin and former member of the CLC; Janie Sellers, member of First Baptist Church in Abilene and a member of the CLC; and Ellis Orozco, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen and a former member of the CLC. Suzii Paynter, the CLC's director of citizenship and public policy, is interim director. She assumed leadership of the commission weeks after the death of Phil Strickland, longtime CLC director.

Brumley returns to Mercer from Baylor. Larry Brumley has resigned as interim vice president for marketing and communications at Baylor University, effective May 31, to join the administration at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. Mercer President-elect Bill Underwood—Baylor's former interim president—made Brumley his first administrative appointment, naming him to the position of senior vice president and chief of staff, effective June 1. Before joining the Baylor administration in May

1997 as associate vice president for communications, Brumley served six years as associate vice president for university relations at Mercer. A 1982 Baylor graduate, Brumley earned a master's degree in mass communication from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Emily, are the parents of two daughters: Laura, a Baylor freshman, and Amy, a high school sophomore. They are members of First Baptist Church in Waco.

Piper gifts fund BUA student village. Baptist University of the Americas received a \$1 million gift and \$2.5 million interest-free loan from the Christ Is Our Salvation Foundation established by the Paul and Katy Piper family. Groundbreak-ing on Piper Village, an apartment-styled student housing community, is slated for late spring this year, with completion of its first phase planned for the fall 2007 semester. Upon completion, Piper Village will provide two- and three-bedroom apartments and support facilities to accommodate up to 48 families and 64 single students. The five apartment buildings will be the first phase of development on a new 75-acre campus located across the interstate from the current campus on San Antonio's south side. The Piper gift will be paired with funds from a \$3 million matching gift fund launched last year by philanthropists John and Eula Mae Baugh of Houston.

DBU business college accreditation reaffirmed. Dallas Baptist University's College of Business was awarded reaffirmation of accreditation by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. DBU will receive a certificate of accreditation during the association's annual conference in Chicago this summer. Accredita-tion certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the university meet rigorous educational standards established by the association.

Recent Wayland grad brings ministry training to secular job

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Recent Wayland grad brings ministry training to secular job

By Jonathan Petty

Wayland Baptist University

SAN ANTONIO—Banking may be his business, but Russell Cruzan tells anyone who asks that ministry is his life.

ETBU grad shares faith through illusions

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ETBU grad shares faith through illusions

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

MARSHALL—When Christian illusionist Drew Worsham makes someone float in the air, performs card tricks or causes objects to disappear, his illusions generate a sense of anticipation. And after capturing the audience’s attention, Worsham shares a powerful message.

“Every performance is an opportunity to use the gifts God has given me, and I am passionate about using these gifts to further his kingdom,” Worsham said. “I am privileged each time I step on a stage—whether that is in a church, on a college campus, a coffee shop or a sidewalk in the middle of a busy downtown.

Drew Worsham
