

Panhandle-Plains conference taps changing demographics

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Jesse Rincones, pastor of Alliance Baptist Church in Lubbock, addresses a point about reaching the Hispanic population in a panel discussion to kick off the Panhandle-Plains Pastors' and Laymen's Conference at Wayland Baptist University. With Rincones are (from left) Stacy Conner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, Mateo Rendon, a consultant for West Texas with the BGCT, and Charles Davenport, a retired Tulia pastor and a BGCT congregational strategist.

Panhandle-Plains conference taps changing demographics

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

PLAINVIEW—Reaching the changing West Texas populations with the gospel will require intentional efforts, a worker mentality and an attitude of acceptance, panelists told participants at the 85th annual Panhandle-Plains Pastors' and Laymen's Conference at Wayland Baptist University.

Panelists invited participants to examine changing demographic trends—particularly the explosive growth of the Hispanic population, as noted by Jesse Rincones, pastor of Alliance Baptist Church in Lubbock. He pointed out 1,300 of the 5,700 Baptist churches in Texas are Hispanic, and within the next decade, half of the Hispanic population in Texas will be age 25 or under.



Newly elected officers of the Panhandle-Plains Pastors' and Laymen's Conference are President David Lowrie (center), pastor of First Baptist Church in Canyon; President-elect Richard Lavery (right), pastor of First Baptist Church in Perryton; Secretary/Treasurer Charles Bassett (left) of Wayland Baptist University; (not pictured) First Vice President Ackey Martinez, youth director at First Baptist Church in Brownfield, and Second Vice President Carl Williams, layman at Colonial Hill Baptist Church in Snyder.

Rankin discusses private prayer

language

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Rankin discusses private prayer language

By Trennis Henderson

Kentucky Western Recorder

BANFF, Alberta (ABP)—Acknowledging he has practiced a private prayer language for more than 30 years, Jerry Rankin candidly shared his views about the Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees' recent action on the issue.

Rankin, president of the mission board since 1993, addressed the topic during a question-and-answer session with Baptist editors meeting in Banff, Alberta, Canada, for the 2006 Association of State Baptist Papers annual meeting.

Red River senior adult VBS sparks mission trip

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Red River senior adult VBS sparks mission trip

By George Henson

Staff Writer

PARIS—Senior adults in Red River Valley Baptist Association decided they weren't too old for Vacation Bible School, and that led them to realize they weren't too old to participate in missions, either.

Last August, Gloria Parker—whose husband, Don, was pastor of First Baptist Church in Roxton—was upset when her church elected not to have Vacation Bible School for its children.

Sri Lanka ministries continue despite political unrest

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A Texas
Baptist
Men
volunteer
assists as
Andrew
Bentley,
from
Baptist
Child &
Family
Services,
removes
a
wooden
splinter
from the
leg of a
tsunami
victim in
Sri
Lanka.

Sri Lanka ministries continue despite political unrest

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka—Texas Baptist ministries in Sri Lanka continue

despite ongoing political tensions.

Two Baptist General Convention of Texas-related groups—Baptist Child & Family Services and Texas Baptist Men—have worked in the Indian Ocean island-nation since January 2005. Both groups have based their ministries in the east coast town of Batticaloa, which straddles the uneasy ceasefire line between government troops and their adversaries for the past 23 years, the Tamil Tigers.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Pro alums help improve Baylor Ballpark. Baylor University alumni Jason Jennings and Kip Wells recently contributed \$50,000 each toward \$400,000 in Baylor Ballpark improvements, including a new scoreboard. Jennings, a pitcher for the Colorado Rockies, and Wells, a pitcher for Pittsburgh Pirates, recently participated in an exhibition game against the 2006 Baylor squad at the ballpark.

Hardin-Simmons tops \$100 million endowment. Hardin-Simmons University has exceeded \$100 million in endowment, 10 months ahead of the goal President Craig Turner announced in his 2001 inaugural address. At that time, Turner launched the Securing the Future fund-raising

campaign to increase the school's endowment from \$57.5 million to \$100 million by the end of 2006. The campaign has netted \$42.5 million.

Baylor University names interim CIO and dean. Baylor University has named Becky King interim chief information officer and William B. Hair III as interim dean of libraries. King has been director of information services, and Hair was associate dean and director of university libraries. They assume responsibilities previously held by Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration.

TOGETHER: Mandate & mission push Texas Baptists

March 2, 2006

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TOGETHER: Mandate & mission push Texas Baptists

Texas Baptists are a special kind of people. We believe God has given us a great mandate and a great mission—to love him as we love nothing else, to love our neighbors as we love ourselves and in that love to go everywhere calling people to follow Jesus Christ. And we believe that if God is in something, then he will provide a way to get it done.

Quite simply, Texas Baptists like being on the cutting edge of God's purposes in the world. I was reminded of that this past week. It was an emotional and intense time.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

It may seem a bit mundane, but the reorganized Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas met for the first time Feb. 27-28. We had dreamed of an Executive Board that would be more actively involved in directing the activities of our convention, and at this first meeting, we began to see that dream come to life.

Churches need to welcome guests

March 2, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

Churches need to welcome guests

By Ken Walker

Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—When Thomas Hammond led a workshop eight years ago on how churches can become more visitor- friendly, he had no idea he would stimulate an ongoing series of sessions that continue today.

“I’m amazed at the ride because people have heard about it,” said Hammond, who estimates he has traveled to 20 states to present the workshop. “It’s meeting a need that we’ve neglected.”

WorldconneX adds three staff positions

March 2, 2006

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WorldconneX adds three staff positions

By David Williams

WorldconneX

WorldconneX, a missions network Texas Baptists launched two years ago, is adding three staff positions to help churches send their members on long-term missions assignments.

The three new positions are team leaders for mobilizing churches, front-line services and systems support.

EDITORIAL: Offer letters to reduce global poverty

March 2, 2006

Posted: 3/03/06

EDITORIAL: Offer letters to reduce global poverty

Can you afford to invest \$1.17 and a few minutes to reduce global poverty? That's the cost of three first-class stamps and the amount of time you'll need to write your senators and congressional representative, urging them to direct an additional 1 percent of the federal budget to defeating global poverty, hunger and AIDS.

This is a goal already claimed—but not yet funded—by our government. The United States has joined 188 other countries in agreeing to the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight objectives for overcoming poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental damage and discrimination

against women. The cornerstone of the project is a worthy target—cutting poverty in half by 2015. President Bush has signed on to this grand plan. Last year, he pledged to double all foreign assistance in order to ensure progress.



Two obstacles stand between the president's intention and reality. First is congressional approval; the House and Senate have to ratify a budget that includes such funding. Second is allocation of resources. Less than half of all U.S. foreign aid goes to poverty-focused development assistance, or programs that actually eliminate poverty. For example, last year, the United States spent \$19.5 billion on foreign aid, but only \$9.6 billion (49.2 percent) focused on poverty reduction and helping countries provide health care, schools, clean water, sanitation and roads—the kind of infrastructure necessary to help people climb up out of the pit of poverty.

Family Bible Series for March 12: A Christian's persistent

prayer strikes fear in Satan

March 2, 2006

Posted: 3/01/06

Family Bible Series for March 12

A Christian's persistent prayer strikes fear in Satan

• Luke 11:1-13

By Greg Ammons

Explore the Bible Series for March 12: Open up to an intense experience with God

March 2, 2006

Posted: 3/01/06

Explore the Bible Series for March 12

Open up to an intense experience with God

- Isaiah 5:1-6:13

By James Adair

Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio

This week's lesson from the prophet Isaiah includes two well-known passages, the parable of the vineyard and the call of Isaiah, as well as a section containing six woes against evildoers. These two chapters discuss the problem of greed and the justice a holy God demands, and they suggest the proper human response to the divine call.

Storylist for 2/6/06

March 2, 2006

Storylist for week of 2/6/06

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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for Feb. 12: Don't put anything else on God's throne](#)
- [Family Bible Series for Feb. 12: Serving God is not without its costs](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for Feb. 12: Is there room for Christian ambition?](#)

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