

Pins mark 55 years perfect attendance

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Pins mark 55 years perfect attendance

By Charles Richardson

Howard Payne University

BROWNWOOD—Bob Sartain has 55 consecutive years perfect attendance in Sunday school classes at the churches where he has been a member, and he's on his way toward 56.



With pins to
commemorate
their
achievement,
Jan and Bob
Sartain, who
work at
Howard
Payne
University,
have more
than 80 years
of combined
perfect
attendance in
Sunday
school class.
Their family
has more
than 146
years of
combined
perfect
attendance.

Teaching them

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TEACHING THEM: Educators seek to blend something old, something new

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Religious education in most Baptist churches used to be a closed shop—one preferred publishing house, one standard approach to age-graded Bible study and one time and place for classes.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

Baylor professors return from Iraq. Four Baylor University professors returned to Texas after helping their colleagues at Dohuk University in the

Kurdish region of northern Iraq establish and dedicate Dohuk's Center for Democracy and Diplomacy. William Mitchell, director of Baylor's Center for International Education; William Hair, associate dean and director of the University Libraries; Larry Lehr, senior lecturer in environmental studies; and Brad Owens, associate professor of journalism, visited Dohuk in early December on the eve of Iraq's national elections. They presented seminars and workshops for Dohuk faculty and other higher education leaders on curriculum development, the role of higher education in civil society, web-based and distance learning, teaching and research in comparative politics, and the role of the news media in civil society. It marked the third trip by Baylor representatives to the region since 2003.

Bellinger named Baylor religion department chair. William Bellinger has been appointed chair of the Baylor University religion department, effective June 1. Bellinger, an Old Testament professor and director of graduate studies in the religion department, has served as acting department chair since June, when he took over from Interim Provost Randall O'Brien. Religion professor Naymond Keathley will serve as acting chair during the spring 2006 semester while Bellinger is on a research sabbatical. Bellinger graduated magna cum laude from Furman University with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He earned his master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

Bequest will endow Hardin-Simmons honors program. Trustees from Hardin-Simmons University voted to use about \$7.2 million from the June Frost Leland bequest to endow the HSU honors program beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year. Through the honors program, students who meet the university's highest entrance requirements could qualify for up to \$13,000 per year in scholarships. Total value of the Leland gift is estimated at \$10 million. Of the remainder of the remaining bequest, \$500,000 will go

into the general scholarship fund over the next two years, and the balance will fund capitol improvements in the university's Securing the Future campaign.

TOGETHER: Texans react to tragedy, opportunity

January 6, 2006

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TOGETHER: Texans react to tragedy, opportunity

The beginning of 2006 has presented us with another painful start to a New Year. At the beginning of 2005, the world was fixed on the tsunami disaster in southern Asia. This year, our attention has been riveted on the fires in West Texas. People have died. Houses and barns have disappeared in the flames. Families are dealing with loss, grief and the emotional trauma that comes when we realize how little control we really have over some things in our lives.

Reports coming to my office make me so very proud of Texas Baptists. You are among the very first in every community to step forward and offer all the resources at your disposal to minister to and comfort everyone you can reach in your towns and neighborhoods. You, and the people you serve, are in my prayers.




Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

Representatives from the Baptist General Convention of Texas have been in most afflicted communities, seeking to provide encouragement and resources to assist the pastors, directors of missions, churches and associations in their ministries to the people.

Baylor leadership transition the top Texas story in 2005

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Sloan	Underwood	Lilley

Baylor leadership transition the top Texas story in 2005

By Marv Knox

Editor

Transition of leadership at Baylor University-the Baptist General Convention of Texas' oldest and most well-known institution-headed the Baptist Standard's list of top 10 Texas stories for 2005.

Half in U.S. report spiritual transformation

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Half in U.S. report spiritual transformation

By Nicole LaRosa

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—Half of Americans have had a spiritual transformation experience, and 35 percent of those are not born-again Christians, newly released research from the University of Chicago reveals.

Not easy being a Christian vegetarian

January 6, 2006

Posted: 1/06/06

Not easy being a Christian vegetarian

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—The Old Testament book of Leviticus records that God said to Moses, "You may eat any land animal that has divided hoofs and that also chews the cud." In the Gospel of Luke, the father celebrates the return of the prodigal son by ordering the slaughter of the fatted calf for a

feast.

Pastoral residency program receives grant

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Pastoral residency program receives grant

By Mark Wingfield

Special to the Baptist Standard

DALLAS—The Lilly Endowment has awarded Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas a second round of funding for its pastoral residency program.

Cybercolumn by Berry D.

Simpson: Goals 2006

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CYBER COLUMN: Goals 2006

By Berry D. Simpson

Well it's no secret: I'm a goal-setter, a box-checker and a list-maker. I love making to-do lists and checking them twice, and I make a list of goals every year.

It's not that I'm the Goal Nazi or anything like that. I'm not really that disciplined a guy. In fact, I am a gentle goal-setter. I tend to set goals I think I have a solid chance to achieve. If I stretch, it is in small moves only. I believe in lifelong incremental improvements. I want to do things that are sustainable and repeatable. Small changes over time add up to new habits and eventually to new ways of living.

Berry D. Simpson

Family Bible Series for Jan. 8:

Money has its place, but it's not first place

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Posted: 1/03/06

Family Bible Series for Jan. 8

Money has its place, but it's not first place

- Luke 12:16-28, 31-34

By Donald Raney

Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 8: Demonstrate Christ's love to others with action

January 6, 2006

Posted: 1/03/06

Explore the Bible Series for Jan. 8

Demonstrate Christ's love to others with action

- Romans 12:9-21

By Trey Turner

Canyon Creek Baptist Church, Temple

In this unit, we have been talking about being pleasing to God. The Apostle Paul reminds us a pleasing Christian is one who lives practically. She or he lives in real circumstances, has real challenges and still meets real needs. The Christian cannot completely be pleasing to God without getting outside the Sunday School classroom.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 15: Stay prepared for Christ's return; serve daily

January 6, 2006

Posted: 1/04/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 15

Stay prepared for Christ's return; serve daily

- Luke 12:35-48

By Fallon Curry