

Baylor's oldest new graduate receives long-awaited degree

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Baylor's oldest new graduate receives long-awaited degree

By Cynthia Jackson

Baylor University

SHREVEPORT, La.—The list of graduates at Baylor University's December commencement included M.L. "Hub" Northen, who enrolled at the school 81 years earlier and left Baylor in 1929 one credit short of a degree.

Northen, who is 100 years old, was unable to attend the ceremony due to health concerns. But Terry Maness, dean of Baylor's Hankamer School of Business, told the assembly Northen is the oldest person ever to obtain a degree from Baylor.

Glenn
Hilburn,
retired
chairman of
the Baylor
University
religion
department,
presented
M.L. "Hub"
Northen
with his
official
Baylor
degree
during a
worship
service at
Trinity
Heights
Baptist
Church in
Shreveport,
La.

BGCT African-American ministries director named

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BGCT African-American ministries director named

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Charles Singleton, pastor of [First Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth](#), is leaving the church he founded 22 years ago to become director of [African-American ministries](#) for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

“The African-American congregations of the BGCT are growing and are committed to reaching all the people they can for Christ and discipling them in his call and way,” said Charles Wade, BGCT executive director. “I am excited and proud that Rev. Charlie Singleton has agreed to answer God’s call and our invitation to serve in this strategic role. He will be a great leader among us.”

Singleton

Chrismukkah? Hybrid holiday shows tension in religiously blended families

December 21, 2006

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Chrismukkah? Hybrid holiday shows tension in religiously blended families

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—There's a new winter holiday on the rise, and it could be the perfect opportunity to enjoy Fa-La-La-La Latkes, Blitzen's Blintzes, and Christmas trees filled with "menorahments."

It's not Christmas. And it's not Hanukkah. It's both. And the humor and religious syncretism behind the hybrid holiday "Chrismukkah" cut to the heart of modern-day tensions in American society.

Warren confesses he was

Warren confesses he was 'blind' to AIDS epidemic

December 21, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Warren confesses he was 'blind' to AIDS epidemic

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (ABP)—For 20 years, Rick Warren was wrong about AIDS, he told listeners at the 2006 Global Summit on AIDS and the Church.

The megachurch pastor and best-selling author said he initially wasn't afraid of AIDS, nor did he judge those who had it.

Morality alone cannot stop AIDS

December 21, 2006

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Morality alone cannot stop AIDS

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (ABP)—The choice between preventing AIDS by teaching abstinence or by distributing condoms is a false choice, Sen. Barack Obama told a mostly evangelical audience on World AIDS Day.

Instead, both methods for dealing with HIV/AIDS should be used to their fullest extent, Obama (D-Ill.) told listeners at the Global Summit on AIDS and the Church at Saddleback Church in Southern California.

Barack Obama

AIDS workers debate what lessons Uganda teaches

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This 14-year-old arrived at the Nsambya Home Center in Kampala, Uganda, for a checkup required of all patients receiving HIV medication through the U.S. PEPFAR program. (RNS photo courtesy of David Snyder/Catholic Relief Service)

AIDS workers debate what lessons Uganda teaches

By Jason Kane

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Stalled in the gridlocked streets of Johannesburg on her way to an AIDS event, Rukia Cornelius fumed about the tendency of Americans to mix their religious and political beliefs. South Africans have suffered as a result, she said.

“I’m a little bit tired, but I’m also angry, because we need the money, but

treatment can't be done with such a provision on abstinence," said Cornelius, national campaign manager of the South African AIDS lobby group Treatment Action Campaign.

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- [Retired pastor discovers "Blessings" among African orphans](#)
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DBU students raise funds to help hungry

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DBU students raise funds to help hungry

Dallas Baptist University students recently completed a Christmas food drive for Bro Bill's Helping Hands Ministry in West Dallas, collecting more than 1,800 food items to benefit the West Dallas community ministry.

The DBU Ministry Student Fellowship sponsored, organized and administered the food drive.



Baskets
were
strategically
placed at 15
locations
around the
Dallas
Baptist
University
campus.
They were
emptied
periodically
and their
contents
boxed and
stored for
delivery to
Brother
Bill's
Helping
Hands
Ministry.

Brother Bill's Helping Hands Ministry grew out of West Dallas Baptist Church, where Bill Harrod served as pastor. Harrod led the church—now named Iglesia Bautista Harrod Memorial—to minister to physical needs in the community beginning in the 1950s.

The ministry's Christmas outreach to children is its best-known program in the area, but Helping Hands also provides services—including food—to families throughout the year.

Ex-gay says: Treat homosexuality as temptation, not orientation

December 21, 2006

Posted: 12/18/06

Ex-gay says: Treat homosexuality as temptation, not orientation

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (ABP)—For Christians to love homosexuals like Jesus would, they should stop thinking of homosexuality as an orientation and start thinking of it as a temptation, says Tim Wilkins, himself “formerly gay.”

Wilkins, who founded a group that helps people who have “unwanted same-sex attractions,” offered his controversial view during a breakout session at Saddleback Church’s Global Summit on AIDS and the Church. The summit brought Christians and AIDS workers together to address prevention and treatment of the disease, which originally was associated with homosexuals.

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Court to decide if taxpayers can sue over faith-based plan

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Court to decide if taxpayers can sue over faith-based plan

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court will, for the first time, hear a case directly related to President Bush’s faith-based initiatives, his attempt to expand the government’s ability to fund social services through churches and other religious charities.

However, the case does not deal directly with whether the program violates the First Amendment’s ban on government establishment of religion, as some of its critics contend. Rather, the court will consider a narrower issue—whether a group of taxpayers has “standing,” or the right to sue, over the use of general executive-branch funds to promote the faith-based plan.

Book Reviews

December 21, 2006

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Book Reviews

The Christmas Angel by Katherine Duhon, (Vantage Press)

In this children's book, Katherine Duhon relates the story of a typical brother and sister eagerly waiting for Santa. Except this year, Milly and Tommy must see the bearded gift-giver in person. They want Saint Nick to bring back their momma's smile after their daddy's death.

When the jolly fellow fails to appear, the young boy and girl don coats, caps, mittens and muffs, and slip out to search for Santa. The two lose their way as the snow slows their steps and the wind whistles through the trees. But God's Christmas angel helps the children learn a lesson in patience and the healing of time.



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to marvknox@baptiststandard.com.

Black-and-white pen-and-ink illustrations of the wide-eyed children add interest to *The Christmas Angel*, a story of love, hope and the magic of

Christmas.

Waco students light up lives, raise money

December 21, 2006

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Waco students light up lives, raise money

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WACO—Students at McLennan Community College are helping Waco-area residents hang Christmas lights this holiday season so that they can share the im-pact of Christ's birth with other students next spring.

"There are a lot of people who can't put up their own lights anymore, and their sons or daughters live too far away or don't have time to put lights up for them. We get to help with that and raise money so that we can participate in Beach Reach," Jacob Garcia ex-plained.

Students
from
McLennan
Community
College
hang
Christmas
lights for
Waco-area
residents to
raise money
for
BeachReach,
a spring
break
evangelistic
ministry.

Cartoon

December 21, 2006

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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.