

Acton School a hot commodity in business education

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Acton School a hot commodity in business education

By George Henson

Staff Writer

AUSTIN—The [Acton School of Business](#) may be little-known among Texas Baptists, but [Hardin-Simmons University's](#) Austin campus has become a hot commodity in the world of business education.

Diplomats need to know religion

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Diplomats need to know religion

By Kim Lawton

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

NEW YORK (RNS)—Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is breaking ranks with the conventional wisdom of her profession.

Diplomats traditionally were taught to keep far away from potentially controversial subjects like religion, she said. But now, Albright is making a high-profile plea that religion play a more prominent role both in the making of foreign policy and in the training diplomats receive.



Former
Secretary of
State
Madeleine
Albright,
seen here at
a recent
book-signing,
says religion
should play a
greater role
in foreign
affairs and
diplomacy.
(RNS photo
courtesy of
Religion &
Ethics
NewsWeekly)

Around the State

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Around the State

- Recording artist Randy Travis will bring an inspirational concert to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased in advance by calling (254) 295-5444.
- Reid Ryan, founder and CEO of the Round Rock Express and Corpus Christi Hooks minor league baseball clubs, will speak at the Oct. 9 11 a.m. chapel service at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson went offsite for its "Aloha, with Love" Vacation Bible School.

The church held its VBS from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each evening after the local water park closed for the day. The curriculum was centered on Bible stories with water themes. The church reported an increase in attendance of more than 100 children over last year, and was especially pleased to have reached more older children.

Pictured is Matthew McBrayer crossing a water obstacle course.

- Houston Baptist University's College of Nursing will offer an international spirituality and health conference Oct. 12. Religious traditions and the relationship of these traditions to providing culturally sensitive nursing

care to members of a diverse community will be identified. Practices in relation to caring for the ill, birthing and dying process in Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu faith traditions will be explained.

Associational changes take on a variety of forms

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Associational changes take on a variety of forms

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

“The world is changing. Churches are changing. So, why would [Baptist associations](#) be any different?” some observers of Baptist life have asked.

Rapid change likely ahead for Baptist associations

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Rapid change likely ahead for Baptist associations

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Associations have led a rollercoaster existence throughout their history, and their future should to prove just as exciting, according to Paul Stripling, executive director emeritus of [Waco Regional Baptist Network](#) and author of [Turning Points in the History of Baptist Associations in America](#).

Stripling wrote the book at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Associational Directors of Missions task force for the commemoration of the 300th anniversary next year of Baptist associations.

Paul Stripling

Christian teens likely to become apathetic 20-somethings

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Christian teens likely to become apathetic 20-somethings

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Six out of 10 teens involved in a church probably will not continue their spiritual commitment into early adulthood, according to research by the [Barna Group](#).

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Terrify No More by [Gary A. Haugen with Gregg Hunter](#) (W Publishing Group)

According to *National Geographic*, about 27 million slaves live in our modern-day world. These slaves range from girls as young as 5 years old, forced to sell their bodies in the sex-trafficking underworld, to whole families bound to toil away their lives making bricks or cigarettes in South Asia and other regions.

The four-fold purpose of [International Justice Mission](#) and its teams of investigators, undercover operatives and attorneys is to venture into the shady corners of the globe to rescue people helpless and oppressed by bondage, to bring the perpetrators of abuse to justice, to minister to the victims through compassionate aftercare and to change communities so the injustices no longer are acceptable.

The logo for "Off the Bookshelf" features the words "Off the" in a small, red, sans-serif font stacked vertically to the left of the word "Bookshelf" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below "Bookshelf" is the tagline "What's everyone reading anyway?" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

Off the **Bookshelf**
What's everyone reading anyway?

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

Join Gary Haugen, International Justice Mission's president and founder, as he takes readers through both heart-breaking and exciting real-life journeys into the darkness of evil to radiate the light of God's truth and grace by "defending the fatherless and the oppressed in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more" (Psalm 10:18).

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

Arkansas paper could lose independence. Arkansas Baptist leaders will try to turn control of the [Arkansas Baptist News](#) over to the state convention staff, replacing the independent board that currently governs the newspaper. A task force, appointed last year by the president of the [Arkansas Baptist State Convention](#), will make recommendations to the annual convention meeting—including one asking the president of the Arkansas Executive Board and the president of the newspaper board to appoint a committee to discuss the possibility of merging the paper with another publication under the jurisdiction of the state convention's Executive Board. The constitution and bylaws of the Arkansas convention require the *Arkansas Baptist News* be governed by a 15-member board of directors. Any recommendation to merge the newspaper into the Executive Board would necessitate a constitutional amendment, which would require approval by a two-thirds majority of messengers at two consecutive state convention meetings. That likely would take until November 2008 to accomplish.

Missouri Baptist executive director survives ouster effort. David Clippard remains executive director of the [Missouri Baptist Convention](#), despite an apparent effort to oust him Sept. 22. Following a marathon, closed-door meeting at the convention building in Jefferson City, Executive Board members attempted to quell infighting between the convention's factions by affirming Clippard and his apparent protagonist, fundamentalist

leader Roger Moran. In a press release issued three days after the meeting, Executive Board members confirmed they investigated concerns that had been brought to the board and affirmed Clippard, Moran, the work of the nominating committee Moran chairs, and the convention's other committees.

President urges SBC to be relevant, seek revival. Southern Baptist Convention President [Frank Page](#) warned the [SBC Executive Committee](#) their denomination must retain its relevancy in a rapidly changing world. "In the eyes of many ... we have become an archaic, burdensome bureaucracy that has no relevancy for today or the days to come," he said. Page called for "a Holy Ghost revival" in the denomination. One obstacle to such revival, he said, is the divisions that exist in the SBC.

Ten percent of Southern Baptist pastors thoroughly Calvinist. One Southern Baptist pastor in 10 considers himself a five-point Calvinist, a survey by LifeWay Research revealed. LifeWay surveyed 413 pastors and discovered 10 percent identify themselves as subscribing to total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints, while 85 percent said they do not consider themselves [five-point Calvinists](#), 4 percent don't know and 1 percent refused to answer. The research revealed no significant statistical difference in the responses of pastors who are over age 40 and those who are under 40.

Trustee wants tongues addressed in BF&M. A seminary trustee, whose recent chapel sermon was barred from the school's website because of his comments about speaking in tongues, has asked that the Southern Baptist Convention address the issue in its official confession of faith. [Dwight McKissic](#), pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington and a trustee at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, sent a letter to SBC President Frank Page and members of the SBC Executive Committee asking them to "initiate a process of addressing and formally adopting a

position sanctioned by the SBC in 2007 or 2008 annual meeting, to be included in the Baptist Faith & Message, regarding our position(s) on spiritual gifts, private prayer language and speaking in tongues.”

CBF receives missional church grant. The Waco-based Christ Is Our Salvation foundation has given the [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) a \$1.5 million grant to transform CBF churches into missional congregations—churches where missions permeates every aspect of congregational life. The grant will be spent over the next three years. Half of the funds will go to congregations who complete the eight-week CBF program “It’s Time: A Journey Toward Missional Faithfulness” and meet other requirements. CBF expects to use the grant money to help churches conduct censuses, which will provide data for identifying and developing specific focus areas in congregations. The grant also will provide for four annual retreats focused on developing congregational ministers among laity. CBF leaders also will work with Baylor University’s [Center for Family and Community Ministries](#) to strengthen family life in the church context. The Fellowship also will work with the center to create church-based internships for undergraduate and graduate students.

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.

2nd Opinion: Associations to celebrate milestone

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2nd Opinion: Associations to celebrate milestone

By Stephen Parks & Lynn Parks

Next year marks the 300th anniversary of the first [Baptist association](#) in America, [Philadelphia Baptist Association](#), formed in 1707. Baptists created associations to establish doctrinal parameters and fellowship with like-minded believers. Associations provided advice on Baptist practices, helped churches find credentialed ministers and safeguarded doctrinal and ethical integrity. They enabled churches to cooperate geographically in mission, educational and benevolence ventures. For example, Philadelphia Association started Brown University. Philadelphia Association has been the prototype for Southern Baptist associations and conventions since 1707.

By the late 1700s, associations focused on mission work, and new churches sprung up all along the Atlantic seaboard and even west of the Alleghenies. In 1792, in England, [William Carey](#) proposed his association send Baptist missionaries to “heathen” populations, and the modern missionary movement was born.

Eventually, Baptists realized they needed larger networks to support expanding mission and benevolence projects. One avenue, missionary societies, received support primarily from individuals. The other avenue was larger associations of churches. So, three associations in South Carolina sent delegates to form the first state convention in 1821. In 1845, the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) was formed. Since that time, Southern Baptists have followed the model of cooperation established by associations rather than a societal model.

Counseling center a boon to Bluebonnet pastors, churches

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Counseling center a boon to Bluebonnet pastors, churches

By George Henson

Staff Writer

NEW BRAUNFELS—Director of Missions J.K. Minton believes pastors shouldn't be counselors. And unlike most places, pastors in [Bluebonnet Baptist Association](#) no longer have to serve in a role for which many feel neither prepared nor called.

“For many years, I have believed and preached that pastors had no business in the counseling business,” he said. “We are not qualified, and that is not our calling. Such pastoral counseling is ineffective and fraught with peril, since the great majority of counselees are women. Enough pastors have slipped into immorality by forming emotional relationships with women during pastoral counseling.”

Judy
Walter
directs the
Oakwood
Counseling
Center in
New
Braunfels,
handling
referrals
from
Bluebonnet
Baptist
Association
churches.
(Photo by
George
Henson)

DOWN HOME: Language faintly resembles English

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DOWN HOME: Language faintly resembles English

The people who made our garage-door opener probably are very smart. And, after five years and almost 115,000 miles of testing their product, I'd say the people who built my car are keenly intelligent.

Unfortunately, English is a language with which they are only vaguely familiar.

This revelation came to me the other night, as I sat in my car, diligently decoding the owner's manual, then climbing up a ladder to decipher the instructions written on the side of the garage-door opener.

My problem started shortly after Joanna and I bought our new (to us) home and realized we had only one remote control for the door opener. Fortunately—or so I thought—my car has three buttons on the driver's sun visor that can be “trained” to tell a garage door to open.

EDITORIAL: Take steps to reduce terrorist threat

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EDITORIAL:

Take steps to reduce terrorist threat

Did you ever think we would look back at the [Cold War](#) as something akin to the good ol' days?

As a young seminary student, I participated in a peacemaking group. In addition to efforts to ease racial tensions in our community, our primary focus was the nuclear-freeze movement. We wanted to stop [proliferation of nuclear warheads](#) by the United States and the Soviet Union. The sobering realization that both countries could annihilate the human race many times over motivated us to write letters to Congress, speak up for arms reduction, and urge Christians and other citizens to join our cause and advocate for peace. As a first-time father, I felt frightened to bring a child into a world where simple miscommunication, to say nothing of malice and aggression, could usher "[nuclear winter](#)" across the planet.



A generation later, the Soviet Union has fallen. My children are grown. The "peace movement" is quieter. And, although many of those warheads still exist, most Americans and Russians don't think much about the Kremlin-to-the-White-House nuclear hotline.

Frankly, I miss the Cold War. I don't want to go back. But I'd trade today's terrorism tinderbox for yesterday's superpower standoff—in the time it

takes a suicide bomber to blow himself and his victims to Kingdom Come.