

New DBU students become oriented to community service

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Dallas Baptist University students help pack boxes for Buckner Orphan Care International's Shoes for Orphan Souls program.

New DBU students become oriented to community service

By Tim Gingrich

Dallas Baptist University

DALLAS—About 500 Dallas Baptist University students served at 12 locations across the Dallas-Fort Worth area—building a home for a Hurricane Katrina evacuee family, packing shoes for overseas orphans and meeting other needs—during the school's orientation week.

It marked the 19th year DBU has included community service projects as

Staff Writer

HILLSBORO—Tapping feet and gently clapping hands accompanied the guitar pickers leading music on a blistering hot white-rock parking lot. About 30 hardy souls braved triple-digit temperatures to help launch a western heritage church in rural Hill County.

But they found relief from the scorching Texas sun, thanks to the awning on the Baptist Ge-neral Convention of Texas' cowboy church truck and trailer.

Worshippers at a new cowboy church in Hill County enjoy the shade provided by the awning of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' trailer.



Missions takes hit in proposed 2007 BGCT budget

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Missions takes hit in proposed 2007 BGCT budget

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—The proposed \$50.6 million budget the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board will consider at its Sept. 25-26 meeting cuts \$700,000 from the missions, evangelism and ministry area.

The recommended 2007 budget eliminates three positions. If the proposed budget is approved, staff whose positions will be cut effective Dec. 31 are Missional Church Director Milfred Minatrea, who has served with the BGCT since 1995; Community Missions Director Jim Young, who joined the BGCT staff in 1999; and Tommy Goode, a specialist with the BGCT City Core Initiative, an urban missions strategy launched in 2003.

Home Sweet Home Alabama, thanks to relief groups

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‘Home Sweet Home Alabama,’ thanks to relief groups

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

BAYOU LA BATRE, Ala. (ABP)—Hurricane Katrina was the first in an interconnected series of tragedies that left Amy Walker feeling helpless and lost.

But like the part of Alabama where she lives, her life is being rebuilt, thanks to coordination between relief organizations, Baptist and other church volunteers, and government agencies.

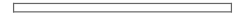
Around the State

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Around the State

- Southwest Winds, from the U.S. Air Force Band of the West, will present a concert Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Hughes Recital Hall on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus.
- Baylor University awarded degrees to more than 500 summer graduates last month. During the ceremony, Charles Kemp, senior lecturer at Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing and clinical director of the Agape Clinic in Dallas, was presented the Abner V. McCall Humanitarian Award, and Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was presented the George W. Truett Distinguished Church Service Award.



First Church in Perryton marked its centennial celebration with a return to its roots. The church met at the site near Ochiltree where the church originated in 1906. After the service there, each person walked 100 steps toward Perryton. Also, a group of six horses and seven riders carried a Bible that once belonged to a revered member from the Ochiltree site to the current church building in Perryton in a saddlebag. The Bible originally belonged to the husband of Anna Mae Wright, who attended the Ochiltree church as an infant with her mother. The riders brought the Scripture into the service at Perryton and returned it to Wright, who along with four generations of her family, brought the Bible to the pulpit. Pictured are Caleb Miller, Mike Jackson with Asher Miller behind him, and Pastor Richard Lavery.

- East Texas Baptist University nursing student Julie Parker has been named the recipient of the “Promise of Nursing” scholarship for the Dallas/Fort Worth regional area. The \$5,000 scholarship is to be used for

tuition, books and academic fees.

- Cameron Mason, a student at Wake Forest University Divinity School, Katherine Gilbert, a student at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and Kendal Smith, a student at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, have been named a Congregational Fellows by the Fund for Theological Education. The \$5,000 award each received will match support they will receive from Wilshire Church in Dallas.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

The Passion: The True Story of an Event That Changed Human History by Geza Vermes (Penguin Books)

Geza Vermes, professor emeritus of Jewish studies at Oxford University, was reared as a Roman Catholic who, as an adult, discovered and embraced his Jewish heritage and faith. He is a prolific researcher and writer about Jesus studies, and the publication of his monograph *Jesus the Jew* was a watershed event in the renewal of our understanding of the Jewishness of Jesus' environment.

In *The Passion*, Vermes takes a more popular approach to analyzing the last days of Jesus' life. Starting with his understanding of the legendary aspects

of Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion*, Vermes proposes to tell "the true story of an event that changed human history."



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

To that end, Vermes compares and contrasts the gospel accounts with Jewish and secular documents that were written both at the same time and later than the gospels. Using study methods familiar to most seminary students, he concludes the gospels are not trustworthy historical documents because the gospel writers are primarily interested in telling the events from particular theological perspectives. These "biases" prevent us from getting at "the true story," he argues. Rather, "the true story" can only be told by paying close attention to the scant information about those days that are recorded in the Jewish and secular documents of the time and recently thereafter.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

GuideStone offers help to plan staff compensation packages.

GuideStone Financial Resources has launched an online presentation—along with a free workbook—to help church personnel and finance committees plan staff compensation packages. The presentation comes on the heels of the release of the 2006 SBC Compensation Study, which showed the average salary and housing allowance for full-time Southern Baptist pastors was \$49,952, an increase of 7.4 percent since 2004. Income statistics for other positions, including bivocational pastors, support staff members and other positions also are reported in the bi-annual compensation study. The study and the planning financial support presentation and workbook can be accessed at the GuideStone website, www.GuideStone.org, or by calling GuideStone at (888) 984-8433.

Cartoon

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The new pastor mistakenly dismissed the ushers to children's church and called children under 12 to collect the offering.

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: Letters impact immigration reform

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2nd Opinion:

Letters impact immigration reform

By Baldemar Borrego

Because the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas has called for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform, I appeal for your support.

This month, Congress returns to work following August recess. A major item of business is the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill. Write to your senators and representative to let them know you support a fair and due process to allow millions of people to come out of the shadows. This is a historic opportunity, and the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas fully supports this bill.

The resolution adopted by the Hispanic Baptist Convention this summer during our annual meeting celebrated in Arlington called for:

DOWN HOME: Just take a picture of living-room stuff

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DOWN HOME:

Just take a picture of living-room stuff

You probably realize husbands and wives speak a different language. Even when a couple's words are all English or all Spanish or all Mandarin, they speak a different language.

I've known this for decades. But a recent development reminded me it's a distinction that impacts a marriage significantly.

When Joanna said, "Let's sell our house and buy a new one closer to where you work," I thought my wife actually meant, "Let's sell our house and buy a new one closer to where you work."

What she really meant was, "Let's sell our house and replace a bunch of the old furniture I don't want and then buy a new one closer to where you work."

EDITORIAL: Offering touches lives across Texas

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EDITORIAL:

Offering touches lives across Texas

The next time you pass an offering plate or pick up your checkbook, remember your fellow Texans. Think about your brothers and sisters in Christ who are being released from state penitentiaries, struggling to remain faithful as they step back onto the mean streets of their past. Focus on the seemingly endless stream of undocumented workers in Texas who desperately need a Savior. Try to imagine African-American cowboys, living a generations-old heritage but also finding new life in Jesus. And don't forget young mothers seeking to break the bonds of abuse while pointing their children to a better, safer future.

These are but a few beneficiaries of the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions, which churches affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas gather in the fall. The goal this year is \$5.1 million, and every dollar represents a story, a very real need:



- Sie Davis took his first breath in prison, because his mother gave birth to him while she was locked up. Years later, a bruising battle with drugs put him back in the same prison where he was born.

Eventually, the power of Christ helped Davis, a four-time convict, overcome the addictions that kept landing him in prison. Then he launched Church of the Called-Out Ones for ex-offenders, and he began teaching other people to start ex-offender churches. He also partnered with the BGCT to write a

manual for operating ex-offender ministries.

Environment reveals evangelical rift

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Environment reveals evangelical rift

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Al Gore’s controversial documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, has revealed a diversity of opinion among Christians when it comes to the environment.

On one end of the spectrum are evangelicals who accept the scientific evidence for global warming and hold a thoroughgoing commitment to more regulation and “green living.” At the other end are conservative Christians skeptical of the science and willing to trust free-market solutions and incremental change to protect the environment.
