

Around the state

March 31, 2006

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- The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor social work program and advisory board will present its annual ethics conference April 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The conference is free. Sherry Carroll will present "Do the Right Things, For the Right Reason, In the Right Way." For more information, call (254) 295-4555.

- Howard Payne University will be the site of the "Best of the Best Books of 2005 for Children and Young Adults" exhibit and workshop April 21 and 22. The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, with participants eligible for 7.5 hours continuing professional education credit. A \$25 fee covers a meal and handouts. For more information, access the website at ww1.hputx.edu/hotlit/home.htm.

Trinity Church in Amarillo recently held a birthday celebration for two women in the congregation who both celebrated their 100th birthdays in the same week. Willie Roberts' (left) birthday coincided with the day of the celebration, March 12. Flora Hurd's (right) birthday was March 5. Both women were instrumental in the ministry of the church for many years. Roberts worked in the nursery with infants more than 25 years, and Hurd taught a women's Sunday school class until she no longer was able.

- A reunion for alumni, faculty and staff of Decatur Baptist College will be

held April 22 at the Wise County Heritage Museum in Decatur, site of the former administration building of the college. The college, the forerunner of Dallas Baptist University, moved to Dallas in 1965. For reservations or more information, call (214) 333-5601.

Two suspects jailed in Orange church arson

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Two suspects jailed in Orange church arson

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

ORANGE—West Orange authorities jailed two juvenile suspects in connection with the March 5 arson of McDonald Memorial Baptist Church in Orange.

BGCT designed to meet churches' wishes

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BGCT designed to meet churches' wishes

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—If a church needs help from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, should a church representative: (a) call the service center at the Baptist Building; (b) contact a regional congregational strategist; or (c) directly phone somebody he or she knows on the BGCT Executive Board staff?

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

No bond for accused church arsonists. The three men charged in the string of 10 church fires in rural Alabama will not seek release on bond from their federal charges, their lawyers said. Matthew Lee Cloyd, 20; Benjamin Moseley, 19; and Russell DeBusk Jr., 19, could have been released on a \$50,000 bond with strict conditions. Instead, Moseley's lawyer said his client's concern for the affected church members determined his decision to remain in jail. In addition to the federal charges, each man is charged with state arson and burglary charges. If convicted on all state counts, each suspect will face between 15 and 150 years in state prison. As for federal charges, each man faces between seven and 40 years in federal prison.

British Baptists set to select general secretary. The Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain has nominated Jonathan Edwards as its next general secretary. The nomination followed the retirement announcement of General Secretary David Coffey, president of the Baptist World Alliance, and the Baptist Assembly will vote on it April 28. Edwards, 50, has served as a South West Baptist Association regional minister since 1998 and became a team leader for the group in 2002. Prior to serving with the Church Missionary Society in India, he studied law at St. John's College, Oxford, and trained for Baptist ministry at Oxford's Regent's Park College. Upon approval by the Baptist Assembly of his nomination, Edwards will begin his new position next fall. The fifth-largest Christian denomination in the United Kingdom, the Baptist Union of Great Britain has more than 2,100 churches in England and Wales.

Fort Worth leader nominated for CBF post. Harriet Harral of Fort

Worth has been nominated to serve as the next moderator-elect of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Harral, who has served on the Fellowship's Coordinating Council since 2003 and is current chair of the Council's personnel committee, will be presented to the General Assembly for a vote as moderator-elect during its annual business session at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Ga., in June. Nominations for moderator-elect can be made from the floor of the Assembly. Harral operates The Harral Group, a consulting firm that specializes in organizational effectiveness. A member of CBF of Texas' coordinating council, she is a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where she serves as deacon.

Cartoon

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| <p>“Do you really believe in a higher power that has a hand in our lives?”</p> |
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Cuba travel rules protested

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Cuba travel rules protested

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Seventeen U.S. senators have joined more than 100 members of the House of Representatives to protest Treasury Department rules that have blocked some religious organizations from traveling to Cuba.

DOWN HOME: He wishes she wouldn't speculate

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DOWN HOME: He wishes she wouldn't speculate

The other day, Joanna started a conversation: “Babe, if you out-live me”

I just hate it when my wife talks like that.

When this happens, she's either telling me something I don't like to think about (like insurance or taxes), something she thinks I'll forget (like where she keeps the key to the safe-deposit box), or something she wants me to do (like remember to give such-and-such to so-and-so).

EDITORIAL: Rahman case offers lesson in liberty

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EDITORIAL: Rahman case offers lesson in liberty

Thank God, our Christian brother Abdul Rahman will not be executed for his faith. His close call with death illustrates a vital—and, unfortunately, often-misunderstood—distinction between democracy and religious liberty.

Rahman became a Christian 16 years ago. This winter, Afghanistan government officials arrested him. Prosecutors wanted to put him to death for forsaking Islam in favor of Christianity. They could bring such charges because the Afghan Constitution is based on Islamic Sharia law. Many Muslims believe the law demands death for apostates who leave the Islamic faith.

Rahman's case attracted worldwide attention. The Vatican, the United States and numerous nations put pressure on Afghan leaders, urging them to free Rahman.



From pulpit & pumper, pastor battles blazes

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Dan Reynolds serves Kress as pastor of First Baptist Church and as captain of the community's volunteer fire department.

From pulpit & pumper, pastor battles blazes

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

KRESS—When Dan Reynolds isn't saving souls, he's out saving lives.

Foster

named

BGCT

communications director

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Foster named BGCT communications director

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has named Ferrell Foster to lead its communications efforts.

Former Baptist Building may house homeless in Dallas

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Former Baptist Building

may house homeless in Dallas

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—As the heads of two Christian organizations, Jake Walters and Larry James both want to do good. But the ways they've decided to follow Jesus' command to love others are mutually exclusive—at least for now.

May men want to see 'house that faith built' completed

March 31, 2006

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May men want to see 'house that faith built' completed

By George Henson

Staff Writer

MAY—To the men of First Baptist Church in May, a certain house in Cross Plains always will be the house that faith built.