

Explore the Bible Series for September 30: Take part in missions

September 21, 2007

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Explore the Bible Series for September 30

Take part in missions

- Matthew 9:35-38; 10:5-14, 26-31

[By Travis Frampton](#)

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene

Have you ever heard about a pastor who embezzled money? What about an affair between a youth minister and a music minister? Priests who molest children? Deacons who have secret sins? A megachurch spending most of its money on building campaigns? Evangelists who preach a “prosperity gospel”? A husband and wife who on their way to church have a knock-down, drag-out argument in front of their kids?

Rap tells story of foster child's forgiveness of mother

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Marla
Rushing,
director of
corporate
training for
Baptist
Child &
Family
Services,
talks with
Jacob
Favela, who
led a
workshop at
the National
Independent
Conference
in Denver
on using
music to
help in the
process of
forgiveness.
(BCFS
photo by
Martin
Olivares)

Rap tells story of foster

child's forgiveness of mother

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

KERRVILLE—Jacob Favela vividly remembers standing outside a bar in the middle of the night with two trash bags full of toys in hand, watching his mother drive away. He was five years old.

Neither will he ever forget, years later, an elderly woman beckoning him to her porch. "Jesus loves you, young man" was the sum of the conversation.

Baylor students take a First Step into community service

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The completed Habitat for Humanity house frame remained on the Baylor campus for one week to draw support for the project. It was moved to its permanent location and is scheduled for completion in November. (Baylor University photos)

Baylor students take 'First Step' into community service

By Katie Brooks

Baylor University

WACO—Together, Baylor University students removed graffiti scrawled on the walls of downtown Waco businesses, cleared debris from along the Brazos River, improved walking paths in a scenic part of the city, and framed a Habitat for Humanity house for a local family.

The students experienced a crash-course in the importance of service and vocation as they participated in the recent First Step community service project.

Missouri Baptist conference center wins latest round in legal battle

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Missouri Baptist conference center

wins latest round in legal battle

By Vicki Brown

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—Windermere Baptist Conference Center will not face a trial this year in its continuing legal battle with the [Missouri Baptist Convention](#), thanks to a judge's ruling.

The decision is a victory for the center, encouraging supporters but angering attorneys for the state convention, who called it a "delaying tactic."

RIGHT or WRONG? Doctrinal disagreements

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RIGHT or WRONG? Doctrinal disagreements

I've just come across the statement: "In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity." Where does that come from, and is it actually a valid principle for congregational relationships?

Richard Baxter, a 17th century English clergyman, is credited with a slight variation of this statement from his long and prolific career as pastor, writer and theologian. Baxter held deep theological and political convictions during a tumultuous period of English history. Eventually, he became alienated from the Church of England, but he spent his life seeking unity among numerous Protestant groups. Baxter once wrote: “In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity.”

[Previous Columns](#)

Cybercolumn by John Duncan: Thinking baseball

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CYBER COLUMN: Thinking baseball

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old tree, thinking baseball of all things. John Grisham, in his book about baseball, Bleachers, says: “Football was king and that would never change. It brought the glory and paid the bills.” I am under this old oak tree, thinking baseball in the start of football season and realizing that Friday night lights and football is king in Texas while thinking baseball and the game of life. Or in the words of the poet Langston Hughes,

“Jesus ain’t you tired yet?”

My life as pastor is a wonderful life. Never mind that preaching, as they say, is “between two worlds,” the temporal and the spiritual, and on some Sundays, since I preach three times on Sunday morning, I hit a single, a double, a triple or a home run. And, yes, while on some Sundays I strike out, at least I have the privilege of walking up to the preaching plate to take my swings again on the next Sunday.

John Duncan

Around the State

September 21, 2007

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Around the State

- **Tony Martin**, professor of Greek, New Testament and world religions at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, will speak at a ministers’ forum at noon Sept. 20. His topic will be “Biblical Ideas Relating to the Issue of Suffering in Human Experience.” The presentation will be held in Shelton Auditorium. For more information, call (254) 295-4606.

- **East Texas Baptist University** will hold a preview event for prospective students and their families Sept. 29. There is no cost to attend, and visitors will receive information about academic programs, financial aid, campus life, ministry opportunities, tours of the campus and tickets to the ETBU

football game. For more information, call (800) 804-ETBU.

Seven Howard Payne University students traveled to India in culmination of a class that taught them how to plan the logistics of a mission trip to a foreign country. They learned everything from securing insurance to visas. They also learned the importance of learning about the culture of the people there. While in India, the students participated in worship in both a house church and in a congregational setting, as well as witnessing Hindu worship of the Ganges River. Pictured in front of the Taj Mahal are, front row from left, Naphtali Renshaw, Allison White and Jamie Coston; back row from left, Travis Garcia, Jared Renshaw, Skyler Smith, Tim Heinze and Professor Rusty Wheelington.

- **Baylor University** will hold the Parchman Endowed Lectures Oct. 2-4. Ben Witherington, a professor of New Testament interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary, will deliver the lectures, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. each day. For more information, call (254) 710-7347.
 - **Kelvin Kelley** has been named to the faculty of Logsdon Theological Seminary, and also has been appointed assistant to Hardin-Simmons University President Craig Turner.
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Amarillo minister to be nominated for BGCT second vice president at hometown meeting

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Amarillo minister to be nominated for BGCT second vice president at hometown meeting

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AMARILLO—Citing his effectiveness in mobilizing laity for missions involvement, Bill Brian has announced his intention to nominate Jeff Raines, associate pastor of [First Baptist Church in Amarillo](#), for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Election of officers will top the business agenda at the BGCT annual meeting in Amarillo, Oct. 29-30.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[***This Immoral Trade: Slavery in the 21st Century***](#), by **Caroline Cox and John Marks (Monarch Books)**

Two hundred years after William Wilberforce succeeded in his long crusade to abolish the British slave trade and 144 years after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the United States, at least 27 million people are enslaved in the world today.

Caroline Cox, former deputy speaker of the House of Lords, and John Marks, a human rights campaigner and researcher, highlight the modern blight of slavery in its varied manifestations—sexual trafficking, forced

labor, child soldiers and debt bondage.



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

Cox and Marks conducted extensive interviews with former slaves in Sudan, Uganda and Burma. About two-thirds of the book is filled with those first-person accounts, allowing readers to hear directly from people whose stories otherwise would remain untold and whose voices otherwise would be left unheard.

Call clarification important at Baptist schools

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Call clarification important at Baptist

schools

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Sometimes a Christian young person may report receiving a crystal-clear call from God. But more often, he or she may feel like there's some static on the line.

That's the conclusion of guidance directors who work with ministry students at some Baptist schools.

David Garland

Candidates' religious commitment not a big voter draw, survey shows

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Candidates' religious commitment

not a big voter draw, survey shows

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A new survey of voters' attitudes toward presidential candidates shows that being perceived as highly religious may not help the 2008 hopefuls much.

[The study](#), released by two bipartisan public-interest groups, also suggests many issues most important to conservative religious voters aren't as important to the wider electorate.

Cartoon

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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Baptist churches, in Texas, the BGCT, the nation and around the world.