

Texas Baptist museum to be remodeled

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This conceptual rendering illustrates a vision for the remodeled and expanded Texas Baptist Historical Museum.

Texas Baptist museum to be remodeled

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

INDEPENDENCE—The [Texas Baptist Historical Museum](#) is set to be remodeled and expanded.

Designs are being drawn for a reworked museum that leaders hope will open in 2008 and include more exhibit space, a theatre and a patio area. Alan Lefever, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection, said the improvements are meant to help visitors quickly understand Texas Baptist history.

Fidelity to God's calling motivates musician

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Fidelity to God's calling motivates musician

By George Henson

Staff Writer

CARROLLTON—[Blake Bolerjack](#) enjoys singing for congregations throughout Texas and Oklahoma. The concert and recording ministry he began two years ago is beginning to blossom—and he and his bride of less than two years, Jenna, are thrilled about that.

But the most invigorating thing is that they believe they are living and ministering squarely in the center of God's will.



Blake
and
Jenna
Bolerjack
perform
a
Christian
music
concert
at a
North
Texas
church.
(Photo
by
George
Henson)

Three-minute challenge exposes more than 4,600 bikers to gospel

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Rows and rows of motorcycles line the streets of Sturgis, S.D., during an annual motorcycle rally—an occasion Baptists used to share the gospel.

Three-minute challenge exposes more than 4,600 bikers to gospel

By George Henson

Staff Writer

STURGIS, S.D.—The field was black and blue, covered in leather and denim, but four men from [Immanuel Baptist Church](#) in Paris were among those who could tell that it was white and ready for harvest.

The event was the world’s largest motorcycle rally held each August in Sturgis, S.D. It has swelled to include a half-million people who crowd its streets—all in a town with a population of less than 7,000 people the other 51 weeks of the year.

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: Life is short

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CYBER COLUMN: Life is short

By Brett Younger

When our oldest son was born, friends came to the hospital, asked to hold the baby, and commented on how glad they were that he looked like his mother. As they were leaving, several said something like, "Don't blink, because that's how long it will be before he's off to college."

At the time, I thought it was a stupid comment. I knew any child of Carol's was going to be smart, but he wasn't ready for college.

Brett Younger

Bible Studies for Life Series for Sept. 16: Facing the fiery furnace

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Bible Studies for Life Series for September 16

Facing the fiery furnace

• Daniel 3:1-2,4-6,8,12-14,16-18,24-26a,28

[By Steve Dominy](#)

Campus minister shared story of Jesus, kept his own wartime story to himself

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Donnal Timmons served as Baptist Student Union director at the Texas College of Arts and Industries—now Texas A&M University-Kingsville—from 1949 to 1961.

Campus minister shared story of Jesus, kept his own wartime story to himself

Retired Baptist Student Union Director Donnal Timmons described his experiences as a World War II prisoner of war in vivid detail to his family and a few close friends.

Sixty captive soldiers were crammed into a single boxcar after marching days without food. Using a Gideon Bible, Timmons shared the New Testament plan of salvation with another frightened GI. His attempt at personal evangelism was interrupted by bullets that pierced the railway car and splinters that flew everywhere when fighter planes strafed the train.



At a reunion in Irving,
Donnal Timmons accepts a
crystal 'praying hands' award
from former students whose
lives he touched during his
service as a Baptist Student
Union director.

Timmons' select audience was mesmerized by his stories. But former college students who knew Timmons five decades earlier as their spiritual mentor were surprised to learn about his wartime trauma, which they learned about only in the last few years.

He served as Baptist Student Union director at the Texas College of Arts and Industries—now Texas A&M University-Kingsville—from 1949 to 1961.

James Kennedy, elder statesman of Religious Right, dead at 76

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James Kennedy, elder statesman

of Religious Right, dead at 76

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (ABP)—Presbyterian minister James Kennedy died Sept. 5, little more than a week after he retired from the pulpit that helped him launch both evangelistic and political ministries.

Kennedy, who was 76, had served for nearly half a century as pastor of [Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.](#) But he was also one of the pioneers of television ministry, a seminary founder and the head of an activist empire devoted to what he believed was the restoration of the United States as a “Christian nation.”

James Kennedy

Missionaries from Texas ride out Hurricane Felix

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Missionaries from Texas ride out Hurricane Felix

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua— Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Viola Palmer of Athens and a team of volunteers from a Florida church rode out the brunt of Hurricane Felix Tuesday morning in Puerto Cabezas, a port city of about 25,000 in Nicaragua.

“We got smacked pretty hard,” said Jim Palmer. But most of their house and the Baptist churches in Puerto Cabezas survived the storm.

Bivocational church leader Ray plans to retire this fall

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Bivocational church leader Ray plans to retire this fall

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Baptist General Convention of Texas bivocational/small church affinity group director Bob Ray will retire this fall.

Ray, who helped start the Bivocational/Smaller Membership Ministers and Spouses Association in 1993, will retire some time this fall and move to Fairy, where he has served Fairy Baptist Church more than 40 years as pastor. He will be the first congregation's first pastor to live in Fairy in the church's 125-year history.

TBM volunteers respond to Minnesota floods

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TBM volunteers respond to Minnesota floods

WINONA, Minn.—Texas Baptist Men volunteers are in Minnesota helping with clean-out efforts following severe flooding—and more are on the way, according to Ernie Rice of First Baptist Church in Stockdale.

Eight Texans were on the ground in Winona Sept. 4 by early afternoon, and six more were scheduled to arrive later in the day, said Rice, the coordinator for the TBM disaster relief effort. Thirty-five Texans were expected by the end of the week.

The Texans and volunteers from 10 other state Baptist convention were called out by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board Sept. 1. The Texans were led by Gambrell Association, and Second Baptist Church of LaGrange cleanout units responded.

Southeastern Minnesota was flooded Aug. 18-19, with 15 inches of rain following in four hours in Winona, Rice said. The area has been declared a federal disaster area.

Combined youth choirs â€œconvergeâ€œ on San Marcos

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Youth
choirs
from
Tallowood
Baptist
Church in
Houston,
South
Main
Baptist
Church in
Pasadena,
First
Baptist
Church in
Abilene,
Central
Baptist
Church in
Marshall,
First
Baptist
Church in
Valley
Mills and
First
Baptist
Church in
San
Marcos
gathered
for
Converge
'07.

Combined youth choirs 'converge' on San Marcos

By George Henson

Staff Writer

SAN MARCOS—Youth choirs from six churches around Texas met in San Marcos to sound a note for unity.

Converge '07 involved more than 150 teenagers from Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena, First Baptist Church in Abilene, Central Baptist Church in Marshall, First Baptist Church in Valley Mills and the host church, First Baptist Church in San Marcos.

EDITORIAL: We can bridge the chasm of race

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EDITORIAL: We can bridge the chasm of race

Every parent eventually encounters moments that send a clear signal: Your children are growing up in a world far removed from the little sphere of

your childhood.

One of those transcendental times occurred when Lindsay and Molly, our daughters, were young—kindergarten- or early elementary-school age. Joanna and I sat in the school cafeteria as the principal read off the names of students who earned special recognition. I tried not to doze so I wouldn't miss my own daughter's name as she droned through the list of typical names of kids their age: Caitlin, Katy, Sara, Courtney, Dustin, Justin, Michael, Mohammad.



Mohammad? Now, there's a name never mentioned when roll was called in the schoolrooms of my youth. Sure enough, a beautiful child with jet-black hair, olive skin and deep-brown eyes walked up to receive his certificate. He bore the look, and his parents spoke the soft accent, of a place far, far away.

That was the first of our family's innumerable experiences with our public school systems' amazing multi-culturalism. Through the years, our girls made friends with children whose families originated on six continents. They were called by a symphony of names, most of which I no longer can spell, that always sounded exotic and melodic, especially when pronounced by their parents.