

BSM helps establish sense of community among students

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BSM helps establish sense of community among students

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Baptist Student Ministries leaders at university campuses across the state see building community—a sense of belonging among students—as vital to their work.

Texas teens minister, from Waco to Windhoek

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Waco
students
Maggie
Blair (third
from left),
Aeriel
Butler
(front
center)
and
Kirsten
Verett
(back row,
second
from right)
make new
friends
after
performing
music,
skits and
testimonies
at a school
assembly
in
Windhoek,
Namibia.
(Photos by
Paul Carr)

Texas teens minister, from Waco to Windhoek

By Paul Carr

Special to the Baptist Standard

WINDHOEK, Namibia—Thirteen Waco teenagers paused as they entered a walled compound in Nambia, scanning the teeming chaos that turned a patch of dirt and concrete into a playground. Within just a moment or two, children spied the strangers and swarmed them, latching onto their legs and stretching out their arms to be picked up.

Some of the teens knelt in the dirt, hugging two or three at a time, while others scooped up love-starved children giving them rides on their shoulders.

BaptistWay Bible Series for August 5: How long, God?

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BaptistWay Bible Series for August 5

How long, God?

- Habakkuk 1:1-2:4, 15-16

[By Kade Curry](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for August 5: When overwhelmed by responsibilities

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Bible Studies for Life Series for August 5

When overwhelmed by responsibilities

- 1 Kings 3:1-15

[By David Harp](#)

Explore the Bible Series for August 5: Zechariah calls us to joy

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Explore the Bible Series for August 5

Zechariah calls us to joy

- Zechariah 9:1-14:21

[By Kathryn Aragon](#)

First Baptist Church, Duncanville

This week's lesson is a reminder of God's promises—those available through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, as well as those coming on the day we will meet him again. It is a message of hope and a call to live a life of joy.

Ministry sheds light on international sex trafficking

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Ministry sheds light on international sex trafficking

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

BANGKOK, Thailand—Lina stood drenched and bleeding in the middle of the street after a woman selling fruit threw a bucket of water on her and proceeded to beat her with a plastic ice cooler.

“She’s not a human being!” the street vendor screamed. “She sells her body!”

Using Bible as his guide, man searches for oil in Israel

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Using Bible as his guide, man searches for oil in Israel

By Matt Kennedy

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—As much of the world continues to wait for signs of peace in Israel, John Brown continues to wait for signs of oil beneath it.

Brown is the chairman and founder of [Zion Oil and Gas, Inc.](#), a company searching for significant petroleum deposits in northern Israel. Brown says he believes Scripture points to the discovery of oil in the region.

John Brown says scripture points to oil located in Israel.

Mission workers jittery over passport backlogs

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Mission workers jittery over passport backlogs

By Michelle Rindels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In the wake of tighter passport restrictions, thousands of jittery missionaries-to-be added something new to their prayer lists—passport delays.

Passport offices have experienced a deluge of applications since new rules went into effect in January that require passports for re-entry after flights from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda. For churches, delays that can exceed 12 weeks have added more headaches at the height of mission trip season.

Reformers blog wins endorsement from some SBC leaders

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Reformers blog wins endorsement from some SBC leaders

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—In a ringing show of support, several prominent Baptist leaders have publicly endorsed a groundbreaking blog operated by reform-minded pastors within the Southern Baptist Convention.

The endorsers include the presidents of three SBC entities and a college president—Morris Chapman, president of the SBC’s Executive Committee; Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC’s International Mission Board; and David Dockery, president of Union University.

New blogging site has support from SBC leaders.

Supporters defend seminary homemaking class

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Supporters defend seminary

homemaking class

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH (ABP)—Recent criticism of a homemaking degree at a Southern Baptist seminary has brought some conservatives out swinging, calling the critics “sanctimonious liberals.”

The tiff emerged after [a guest opinion piece](#) by Baptist ethicist Robert Parham appeared in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. In the essay, Parham criticized a new homemaking course program at [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) in Fort Worth. Parham is the executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics.

Church corruption, financial scandals live on long past Bakkers

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Church corruption, financial

scandals live on long past Bakkers

By Matt Kennedy

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—For some, Tammy Faye Messner's death July 20 stirred fond memories of a joyful Christian TV personality, and for others, painful memories of the sex-and-money scandal that destroyed her former husband's popular Christian television network. Her death also reminds Christians that financial scandals are still very much alive in the church.

In 1989, [Jim Bakker](#) was convicted of 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy and sentenced to 45 years in prison (he served five). Messner—known as Tammy Faye Bakker before her remarriage—was not included in the indictment, which accused Jim Bakker of conspiring to defraud partners of his PTL cable TV network out of \$158 million.

Baugh family challenge nets about \$1.2 million in two weeks for agency

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Baugh family challenge nets about \$1.2 million in two weeks for agency

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A Texas Baptist family's spontaneous challenge to jump-start a [Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#) capital campaign netted the organization nearly \$1.2 million dollars in just a couple of weeks.

Brent Walker, executive director of the Washington-based advocacy group, announced in a July 24 e-mail to supporters that a matching-funds challenge from the Baugh family of San Antonio has been wildly successful. In little more than two weeks, donors gave or pledged a total of \$688,372 in response. According to Walker, an unnamed benefactor who gave a \$200,000 gift requested it not be matched, meaning the challenge raised \$1,176,745.46.