

African American Fellowship honors past, looks to future

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Urging pastors to see the world's growing problems as "opportunities," Isadore Edwards, pastor of New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, delivers keynote at African American Fellowship James W. Culp Banquet in Austin.

African American Fellowship honors past, looks to future

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—As African American Fellowship of Texas members paid tribute to the legacy of the group’s late president and honored the leadership of a statesman, they also were challenged to act by another legendary Texas pastor during the James W. Culp Banquet.

Tears glistened on the faces of Sheila Edwards, sister of the late president Ronald Edwards, and many participants, including Michael Evans, fellowship secretary and pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mansfield, recalled the legacy of the former pastor of Minnehulla Baptist Church in Goliad.



Nearly 200 pastors and church leaders participated in the 15th annual African American Conference held in Austin.

African American Fellowship elects new officers, casts vision

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The African American Fellowship of Texas elected (left to right) John Ogletree, pastor of First Metropolitan Church in Houston, as president; Michael Bell, pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church in Fort Worth, as vice president; and re-elected Michael Evans, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mansfield, as secretary and Marvin Delaney, (not pictured) pastor of South Park Baptist Church in Houston, as treasurer. Steven Young, pastor of New Generation Baptist Church in Tyler was named assistant secretary and Elmo Johnson, pastor of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Houston, was named assistant treasurer.

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By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

AUSTIN—The African American Fellowship of Texas elected a slate of officers during the organization's 15th annual conference at First Baptist Church in Austin.

Fellowship Vice President John Ogletree, pastor of First Metropolitan Church in Houston, was elected president. Ogletree assumed the president's post after Ronald Edwards, who was president of the fellowship, died May 31.

Cybercolumn by Jinny Henson: Optimism's reward

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CYBER COLUMN: Optimism's reward

By Jinny Henson

The beginning of the journey to Disney—the place where dreams come true—was innocuous. Sunscreen, shorts, our own water bottles and snacks because the tickets cost as much as a compact car. We were set. I had the “unofficial” guide highlighted, which my uptight husband had some issue with since it came from the library. Such a wet blanket that man is. Sheesh.

We arrived at the airport in plenty of time, approached the metal detector and shucked our footwear. I was careful to reign in my sense of humor since a sign blatantly reminds passengers to refrain from making ANY jokes—a thrown-down gauntlet for a comic, I might add. I just want to sing, “gun, gun, gun, gun, gun, gun,” to a Mambo beat whenever I see that thing.

<p>Jinny Henson</p>

Gay-friendly Baptist groups excluded from New Baptist Covenant event

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Gay-friendly Baptist groups excluded

from New Baptist Covenant event

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—The organization sponsoring an upcoming historic pan-Baptist gathering has told two gay-friendly Baptist groups they cannot participate in an official capacity.

The [North American Baptist Fellowship](#), under whose auspices next year's "[Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant](#)" is being held, has informed the [Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists](#) and the [Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America](#) that they cannot become affiliates of the NABF. Therefore, they cannot be official participants in the event.

Around the State

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Templo De Alabanza in McKinney has broken ground on the property it bought almost two years ago.

The church had its beginnings five years ago at First Church in

McKinney, when Artemio Segovia, one of the church's custodians,

approached the staff about starting a Friday night Bible study. While the

congregation has steadily grown, it has continued to meet at

First Church on Sunday evenings.

Home Bible studies also are being

conducted in Allen, Anna, Princeton and McKinney. Segovia

continues to serve the church as pastor. The

first phase of the construction will be a 7,000-square-foot

facility that will seat about 160 in worship and include four

classrooms. An expected second

phase will expand worship capacity to

250.

Around the State

- Baylor University has announced a \$1.2 million gift from the estate of John Reagan Harris of Center that will establish an endowed scholarship, as well as the John Reagan Harris Endowed Music Ministry Excellence Fund with the Baylor School of Music's Center for Christian Music Studies. The scholarship was established with a preference to graduates of Harris' alma mater, Center High School, or other Shelby County high schools.
- San Marcos Baptist Academy marked the 100th anniversary of the approval of its charter July 10. On that date in 1907, President J.M. Carroll also supervised laying the cornerstone of the first building, and a spontaneous collection raised \$25,000. San Marcos Academy will commemorate its century of preparing young people for college during its Founder's Day and Homecoming celebrations Sept. 14 and 15.
- Two missionaries with Texas ties have been appointed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Christy Craddock, from Calvary Church in Waco, will serve with Touching Miami with Love in Miami, Fla., as a Global Service Corps volunteer. Janée Angel, from First Church in Burleson, will serve as an affiliate in Brussels, Belgium.



Bob Riley, president of East Texas Baptist University (left), was presented a gift by past board of trustees Chair D.M. Edwards of Tyler (center), for his 15 years of service to the university. The wrought-iron sculpture of a tiger's face peering through bamboo and jungle foliage was created by an Italian artist, framed on a raw silk backing. Also pictured is Clint Davis, current board chair and pastor of First Church in Mount Pleasant. Riley became the 11th president of the Marshall university July 16, 1992. A celebration of his anniversary is scheduled to coincide with ETBU's fall convocation, Sept. 7.

- Bettie Girling has been awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Howard Payne University. The award was presented at a special ceremony at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. She was one of the last graduates of Daniel Baker College in 1952 before it consolidated with Howard Payne University. In 2006, HPU established the Bettie and Robert Girling Center for Social Justice, an undergraduate multidisciplinary initiative involving the departments of social work, sociology, psychology, legal studies and criminal justice. The center was named for the Girlings in recognition of their leadership gift to restore the Coggin Academy building that houses the center.
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Baptist bloggers start hanging out together in the same SBC 'outpost'

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Baptist bloggers start hanging out together in the same SBC 'outpost'

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

ARLINGTON (ABP)—Reforming bloggers who have challenged the Southern Baptist Convention establishment for the past two years are consolidating their efforts to create a new Internet presence they say will be the “premier site for Southern Baptist news and commentary.”

[Ben Cole](#), Marty Duren and other SBC bloggers—whose call to open the closely held power structure of the SBC prompted anger from the denomination’s leaders—have said they would reduce the focus on convention issues in their individual blogs.

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

[*Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World*](#) by Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger (Fireside)

This book is written by two brothers who caught the vision of service to others. Life is very simple when you choose to live the “me to we” philosophy. From the founding of charitable organizations to the testimonies from the famous and the common, the authors present examples of how to find meaning in a material world.



Off the **Bookshelf**
What's everyone reading anyway?

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

Craig Kielberger started the Free the Children organization in his home to combat child slavery and persecution. Marc Kielberger's story begins with his immersion into the slums of Bangkok, Thailand. He co-founded the Leaders Today organization, which gives young people the opportunity for hands-on experience in schools and communities around the world.

This book is unique because the conclusion of each chapter lists action items for the reader. The authors' intent is that the reader takes action to implement the "me to we" lifestyle. This is a great book for anyone interested in or being called to serve in missions.

Pieces fall in place to restore passion

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Pieces fall in place to restore passion

By Whitney Farr

Communications intern

LA LUZ, Mexico—As Texans Saul Roldan and his son Emmanuel prepared for a mission trip to Mexico, Philemon, a pastor in La Luz, was losing his passion for Christ, dropped out of the ministry and began questioning his salvation altogether.

Philemon prayed for restored passion, but he felt God was not listening.

Border, upstate churches team up to press gospel deep into Mexico

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Emmanuel Roldan of Northwest Hispanic Baptist Church in San Antonio used magic tricks to bring smiles to children and create an avenue for God's love to be shared during a BGCT Border/Mexico Missions trip to central Mexico.
(Photo/Whitney Farr)

Border, upstate churches team up to press gospel deep into Mexico

By Whitney Farr

Communications Intern

A LUZ, Mexico—Sixty-two indigenous people groups call Mexico their home. And after 100 years of Baptist mission work, half of them still have not heard the Christian gospel.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas' Border/ Mexico Missions program is changing that by connecting Texas Baptist churches along the Mexico border with Baptist churches in other parts of the state for mission trips to unreached people groups. The partnerships allow border churches with cultural and linguistic expertise to cooperate with churches that have money to support extensive mission efforts.

Cartoon

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Want your kids to keep faith? Take a chance on college degree

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Want your kids to keep faith? Take a chance on college degree

By Michelle C. Rindels

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Apparently the ivory tower is not undermining the faith, after all.

A new study from the University of Texas indicates college graduates are far more likely to maintain their religious beliefs and practices than those who never attended college.

Ministry to children changes moms' & dads' lives, too

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Ministry to children changes moms' & dads' lives, too

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

Children's pastors across the country continue to reach families by first reaching children.

Parents—Christian and non-Christian alike—want what's best for their respective families, children's ministry leaders report. Parents want their children to be brought up correctly and loved in a physically, emotionally and spiritually safe environment.