

# After years of decline, West Africa missions picks up momentum

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The Lees are moving to West Africa this summer to help start churches among an unreached people group. They were one of three couples appointed by the IMB to the region in March. Jason and Dorothea have three children—Janet, Jacqueline and Jacob. (IMB/BP photos)

# After years of decline, West Africa missions picks up momentum

By **Shawn Hendricks**

*International Mission Board*

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The image was as clear as a photograph.

Several years ago, Dorothea Lee was sitting on a tour bus with her college choir group when she had a vision of an African boy. She blinked and turned her head, but she couldn't shake the image. She prayed, "Lord, what does this mean?"

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## Vernon church combines work and worship, putting faith in action

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Vernon  
Baptists  
led  
backyard  
Bible clubs  
on "Faith  
in Action"  
Sunday,  
ministering  
to more  
than 150  
children in  
their  
community.

First  
Baptist  
Church in  
Vernon  
leaders say  
they have  
about 80  
prospect  
families  
who  
weren't  
attending  
church.

## **Vernon church combines work**

# and worship, putting faith in action



**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

VERNON—As a former church organist, Gwendolyn Wolf has played her favorite hymn—“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”—hundreds of times, but it resonates in her heart more deeply now. She says she’s been touched by the willingness of First Baptist Church in Vernon to put its faith into action.

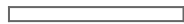
A month ago, Wolf sat on her old front porch, worrying the rotten wood planks would collapse under the weight of her wheelchair. Those days are gone, and she’s admiring the fresh coat of paint on the porch floor.

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**For 60 years:  Get in touch with God. Turn your radio on **

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The  
radio  
Bible  
class  
from  
First  
Baptist  
Church  
in  
Sulphur  
Springs  
recently  
marked  
60 years  
on the  
air. The  
photo  
shows  
class  
members  
in 1949.

## **For 60 years: ‘Get in touch with God. Turn your radio on’**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

SULPHUR SPRINGS—The radio Bible class from First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs recently marked 60 years on the air, teaching a weekly

Sunday school lesson to listeners throughout Northeast Texas.

The church first broadcasted its worship service on KSST radio in 1947. A group of laymen in the congregation were so excited about the venture that one week later, the “Busy Men’s Class” decided to go on the air, as well.

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## **Grown-up MK renews French connection**

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Stephen  
Marshall  
grew up as  
a child of  
missionaries  
to France,  
and he  
married a  
French  
woman.

He's  
returning to  
become a  
church  
planter in  
the land of  
his youth.

(Photos  
courtesy of  
Stephen  
Marshall)

## **Grown-up MK renews French connection**

**By Rebekah Hardage**

*Communications Intern*

CARROLLTON—Stephen Marshall's life has been filled with one French connection after another.

Marshall grew up as a child of missionaries to France, and he married a French woman.

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# **Marketing project benefits UMHB students, Central Texas churches**

June 29, 2007

Posted: 6/29/07

## **Marketing project benefits UMHB students, Central Texas churches**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

BELTON—A semester-long partnership between marketing students at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and five churches in Williamson Baptist Association received a passing grade from all involved.

Clint Anderson, director of missions for the association, initially conceived the project. The first semester of the year, the students helped the association with market research, with an eye toward putting a marketing plan together for the association the second semester.



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# **Kids Hope USA program starts at first Hispanic churches**

June 29, 2007

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## **Kids Hope USA program starts at first Hispanic churches**

**By Rebekah Hardage**

*Communications Intern*

DALLAS—The high school dropout rate among Hispanics in Texas is almost 50 percent, but two North Texas churches are doing their part to change that statistic.

Through Buckner Children and Family Services' Kids Hope USA program, Iglesia Bautista Getsemani in Fort Worth and Primera Iglesia Bautista in Arlington have committed to mentor children in elementary schools. They are the first Hispanic congregations to participate in the national initiative.

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# **CYBER COLUMN by Jinny Henson: You are my prize**

June 29, 2007  
Posted: 6/29/07

## **CYBER COLUMN: You are my prize**

**By Jinny Henson**

I want to clear up something,

I think you have mis-heard

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## **California Southern Baptists create competing state convention**

June 29, 2007  
Posted: 6/26/07

# California Southern Baptists create competing state convention

**By Hannah Elliott & Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (ABP)—Southern Baptists in California have started a new alternative state convention that will compete with the 67-year-old California Southern Baptist Convention for denominational loyalty.

California is the fourth state to witness such a move, joining Texas, Missouri and Virginia. In those states, alternative Baptist conventions have resulted in competition with the established conventions for contributions and membership.

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## **Baptist newspapers, ABP create new media venture**

June 29, 2007

Posted: 6/28/07

## **Baptist newspapers, ABP create new media venture**

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The *Baptist Standard* has joined with three other Baptist communication organizations to form a new media venture that will collaborate on expansive websites, print publications and other media options for Baptists.

The partnership, tentatively called NeoVox, currently includes Associated Baptist Press and the historic Baptist newspapers of three states—the *Baptist Standard* of Texas, the *Religious Herald* of Virginia, and *Word & Way* of Missouri.

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## **BaptistWay Bible Series for July 8: Faith and hope when we don't understand**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for July 8**

### **Faith and hope when we don't understand**

• Job 40:3-9; 42:1-12

**[By Paul Hamilton](#)**

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for July 8: Finding a place of service**

June 29, 2007

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**Bible Studies for Life Series for July 8**

## **Finding a place of service**

- Acts 6:1-7; 9:36-43; 11:29-30

**[By David Harp](#)**

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# **Explore the Bible Series for July 8: Abundant life begins with commitment**

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**Explore the Bible Series for July 8**

# **Abundant life begins with commitment**

- Haggai 1:1-2:23

**[By Kathryn Aragon](#)**

*First Baptist Church, Duncanville*

We live in a time of committal crisis, when loyalty to self far outweighs loyalty to any other person or institution. It was introduced decades ago by the Me Generation. But throughout the years, “me first” has become a way of life, and the results have been anything but good.