

Key evangelical leaders endorse reconciliation

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By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Several prominent evangelical leaders have endorsed a “Reconciliation Referendum” that says Sen. Barack Obama’s recent address on race did not go far enough and pushes church leaders to speak up more about the need to address racism.

“Opinion leaders in the national media praised the speech as courageous, but the notion that simply more talk is needed will no longer suffice,” the statement said.

Most Americans believe sin

exists; they just can't agree which acts are sinful

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Most Americans believe sin exists; they just can't agree which acts are sinful

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The vast majority of Americans believe sin exists, but they differ on which behaviors are sinful, according to a new survey by Ellison Research.

The Phoenix-based marketing research company found 87 percent of Americans believe in the concept of sin. While most Americans think adultery is sinful (81 percent) and consider racism to be a sin (74 percent), far fewer Americans would put gambling (30 percent) or telling a “little white lie” (29 percent) in that category.

Texas WMU celebrates Jesus during annual meeting

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Newly elected
officers of
Woman's
Missionary
Union of
Texas are
(front row)
First Vice
President
Suzy Wall
(left) of Frio
Baptist
Church in
Hereford and
President
Paula Jeser of
First Baptist
Church in El
Paso, (back
row, left to
right)
Recording
Secretary
Anna Zimmer
of Kingwood
Baptist
Church in
Kingwood,
Second Vice
President Jo
Lee of First
Baptist
Church in San
Antonio and
Third Vice
President
Margery
Flowers of
Fellowship
Baptist
Church in
Marble Falls.

Texas WMU celebrates Jesus during annual meeting

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

WACO—Woman's Missionary Union of Texas gathered to "Celebrate Jesus" during its annual meeting April 18-19.

In a meeting that featured seminars encouraging people to share their faith and be involved in mission work, testimonies from missionaries and sessions on prayer, leaders encouraged Texas Baptist women to celebrate Christ's work around the globe.

BGCT â Future Focus Committeeâ named

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BGCT 'Future Focus Committee' named

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—A committee has been formed to study the long-range future of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Stephen Hatfield, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lewisville, and Andy Pittman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, will jointly chair the committee.

National champion HPU, opponents join in prayer at center court

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Players and coaches from Howard Payne University and Hope College (Mich.) join hands to pray the Lord's Prayer at center court in Brownwood Coliseum moments after the HPU Lady Jacket's 53-49 win in the NCAA Division III women's basketball tournament. Of more than 3,800 women's and men's basketball teams at all levels of NCAA, NAIA and other intercollegiate associations in the nation, the Lady Jackets remain the only undefeated team with a 33-0 record. They won the NCAA Division III national championship. (Photo by Jessica Melendrez)

National champion HPU, opponents join in prayer at center court

By Mike Lee

Howard Payne University

BROWNWOOD—The two teams each carried a 30-0 record. The stakes were high. The intensity was undeniable.

The No. 2-ranked Howard Payne Lady Jackets hosted the No. 1 Hope College (Mich.) Flying Dutch in a physically punishing game that left HPU forward Hope Hohertz with a concussion and center Stacey Blalock with a black eye.

A closer look at BGCT institutions

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A closer look at BGCT institutions

The Baptist Standard is cooperating with the Texas Development Officers Association in using the Standard's back page to inform, educate, and inspire Texas Baptists about the spectrum of ministry needs and philanthropic tools available to donors. Whenever a Texas Baptist institution publishes an ad on the back page of our print edition, we'll reproduce the full ad on our website and provide a link to resources that donors can take advantage of.

[Click to see full-sized ad from 4/14/08n print edition.](#)

Children at Heart Ministries

Based in Round Rock, Texas, this ministry provides a constellation of services for children.

www.childrenatheartministries.org,
and [Children at Heart Foundation](#).

Books for the Border brings

Bibles, books and smiles to Eagle Pass

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Posted: 4/18/08

Books for the Border brings Bibles, books and smiles to Eagle Pass

By Carol Gene Graves

Literacy ConneXus

EAGLE PASS—Lester Meriwether believes every child deserves to grow up in a home with books.

So, when he and 10 other volunteers from Western Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth traveled to Eagle Pass to work on homes still in need of repairs after a tornado last year, his group also helped build up the ability of those households to nurture learning.

Chris Cobb,
pastor of
Western
Hills
Baptist
Church in
Fort Worth,
chats with
Carol
Prevost of
the
Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship
during a
family
reading fair
in Eagle
Pass.

DBU students plug in for a word from God

April 24, 2008

Posted: 4/18/08

DBU students plug in for a word from God

By George Henson

Staff Writer

DALLAS—Dallas Baptist University is the first university to try a novel approach to connecting techno-savvy students with the word of God.

About 1,200 audio New Testaments were given to students at chapel on a compact disc recorded in an MP3 format. Students could then either listen to the CDs on their computers or download them to their personal MP3 players.

Worris Levine (left) and Kyle Worley of Dallas Baptist University enjoy listening to the New Testament on an MP3 player.

Plano church benefits from something old, something new

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Plano church benefits from something old, something new

By George Henson

Staff Writer

PLANO—Prairie Creek Baptist Church in Plano used a pairing of new and old technologies to meet the needs of people its pews and also those in its surrounding neighborhoods. Pastor Bobby Bressman likened the plan to respiration—Bible in, reach out.

Prairie Creek partnered with [Faith Comes By Hearing](#) to secure audio New Testaments for the congregation, recorded on CDs in an MP3 format. Church members were challenged to read or listen to the entire New Testament, memorize a promise of God and attend a small group Bible study once a week.

DBU president credits prayer with institutional, personal healing

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Dallas Baptist
University
President Gary
Cook (3rd
from left) and
his wife,
Sheila (4th
from left) pose
with children
Nicole Cook
(left), her
husband,
David (2nd
from left), and
son, Mark
(right) and
David Hasan
(2nd from
right), who
became a
Christian
during his
time as an
international
student at
DBU. In the
process, the
Cooks adopted
him into their
family,
spending
holidays with
him and
keeping in
touch with
him.

DBU president credits prayer with institutional, personal healing

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

DALLAS—When Gary Cook became president of Dallas Baptist University 20 years ago at age 37, most of his friends counseled him against taking the position. They told him it was a career-killer. Some said the financially troubled school didn't have a prayer.

So, Cook immediately fixed that. As one of his first official acts, he established an on-campus prayer ministry.

Tornado destroys Alvarado church's meeting place, but worshippers still gather

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Only the
doors were
left standing
after a
tornado
touched
down in
Alvarado,
destroying
the tent
where
Cowboy Way
Church had
been
meeting. The
congregation
met three
days after
the storm for
worship
under clear
blue skies.

Tornado destroys Alvarado church's meeting place, but worshippers still gather

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ALVARADO—One Sunday, the chairs at Cowboy Way Church were arranged as usual, under the tent where the western-heritage church normally meets.

The next Sunday, Pastor Dan Haby welcomed worshippers to take as seat in “one of the most beautiful sanctuaries God could create”—under clear blue skies.

Missouri convention to appeal ruling in suit against agency

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Missouri convention to appeal ruling in suit against agency

By Vicki Brown

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—The Missouri Baptist Convention has filed notice that it will appeal [a judge's ruling](#) in its case against a formerly affiliated institution.

In a related ruling, Cole County Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan on April 14 granted a stay in convention litigation against four other entities

until the appeal is complete.