

Religious violence not exclusive to Abrahamic faiths

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Religious violence not exclusive to Abrahamic faiths

By Graham Walker & Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The three Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—are the most violent of the world's religions, scholars say. But all faiths can resort to violence on occasion.

A common characteristic of violence among the Abrahamic religions is radical end-times expectations. The apocalypticism of the Taiping Rebellion in China (1845-1963) was taken directly from the book of Revelation and led to more than 20 million deaths. But apocalypticism also surfaced in the syncretistic beliefs of the contemporary Aum Shinrikyo cult, which also borrowed from Revelation.

For UT students, spring break missions was Grand

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For UT students, spring break missions was Grand

By Erin Findley

University of Texas

TUSAYAN, Ariz.—As arid terrain and life-sized cacti gave way to snow-capped mountains, students from the University of Texas Baptist Student Ministries knew they were nearing their final destination.

Far from the sun and sand familiar to spring breakers, the team of five arrived in the small town of Tusayan, Ariz., outside Grand Canyon National Park.

TCU students focus on giving during spring break

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Texas
Christian
University
Baptist
Student
Ministries
students
Alex
Pierce,
Tracie
Chambers,
Valerie
Hannon
and
Richard
Thomas
prepare
hundreds
of pounds
of
vegetables
for the
Meals on
Wheels
program in
Houston.



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TCU students focus on giving during spring break

HOUSTON—While many college students went looking for what they can get during spring break, a group of Texas Christian University Baptist Student Ministries students looked to give.



TCU student Alex Pierce.

The team of four invested their time in ministry projects and in people throughout the Houston area.

They worked with several groups that helped to provide food to hungry residents. At the End Hunger Network, they prepared hundreds of pounds of vegetables used by Meals on Wheels and other food-assistance programs.

At the Gano Street Baptist Mission Center, they stocked the food pantry and bagged and distributed food to many needy families. They also spent afternoons working with the teen and pre-teen ministries at Gano Street.

Texas State students minister in Mexico

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Students work to repair the driveway at Matamoros Children's Home in Matamoros, Mexico.

Texas State students minister in Mexico

By Josh Morgan

Texas State University

MATAMOROS, Mexico—Each spring break, the border towns of Mexico are flooded with American students searching for a week of freedom.

This year, a group from Texas visited Matamoros to share a different type of freedom.



A Texas State University student hugs a child at the Matamoros Children's Home in Mexico.

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A 21-member team from Texas State University stayed at the Matamoros Children's Home, where they ministered to the 150 children and also took part in maintenance of the home, including extending the driveway.

The team also provided an afternoon children's outreach for a church and its surrounding neighborhood 45 minutes away from the home.

Aggie BSM students minister at â€”Mardis Gras of the Northâ€”

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A missions team from the BSM at Texas A&M University debarks from a plane in Alaska where they worked at the Iditarod.
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Aggie BSM students minister at 'Mardis Gras of the North'

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

NOME, Ala.—Each spring, racers pack their sleds and hook up teams of dogs to challenge the Alaskan landscape as they race more than 1,150 miles for the Iditarod championship.

This year, a little bit of Texas hospitality was waiting for them at the finish line.

Baylor students serve in Louisiana & New York, collect

gift cards for Union

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Baylor volunteers
(left to right)
Christina Jeffrey
(in green shirt), a
sophomore
psychology major
from Houston; Clif
Mouser, BSM
director at Baylor;
Melissa Merritt (in
Baylor
sweatshirt), a
junior early
childhood
education major
from Austin; and
Kassy Morishige
(in yellow shirt), a
sophomore
communication
sciences and
disorders major
from Lihue,
Hawaii, along
with two students
from Texas A&M,
helped build a
house for one of
the families
affected by
Hurricane Katrina
in Plaquemine's
Parish, south of
New Orleans.
(Photos by Clif
Mouser/Baylor
BSM)

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Baylor students serve in Louisiana & New York, collect gift cards for Union

By Rebekah Hardage

Baylor University

WACO—For most college students, spring break is a chance to head to the beach or the slopes for a little fun and relaxation away from the classroom. But hundreds of Baylor University students used their mid-March vacation as an opportunity to serve others through various mission trips around the United States.

Baylor's Baptist Student Ministries sponsored a trip to South Louisiana to help rebuild homes for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Thirty-one students and staff headed to Plaquemine's Parish, located just south of New Orleans, to share the love of Christ through both word and deed.



Shanna Ware of Round Rock brought in several hundred dollars worth of gift cards for Baylor's "United for Union" drive to help meet the immediate needs of Union University students affected by a Feb. 5 tornado.
(Baylor Photo)

Beach Reach volunteers make positive impact on South Padre

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Buddy
Young
(left),
Baptist
Student
Ministries
director at
West Texas
A&M
University,
baptizes a
new
Christian
in the Gulf
of Mexico
during
Beach
Reach.
(Photos by
John
Hall/BGCT)

Beach Reach volunteers make positive impact on South Padre

By Kaitlin Chapman

Texas Baptist Communications

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—During Spring Break, more than 50,000 college students from across the nation travel to South Padre Island to party, drink

incredible amounts of alcohol, have sex and indulge in worldly passions.

But this spring break, 375 Christian students came from universities and colleges from Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Missouri to bring the light of the gospel into that darkness.



A Beach Reach volunteer from the Baptist Student Ministries at Texas Tech works the phones during the evangelistic outreach on South Padre Island.

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DBU students have fun in the sun, building homes in Louisiana and Georgia

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DBU
volunteers
(left to
right)
Esura
Jeong,
DBU Dean
of
Spiritual
Life Jay
Harley,
Ben King;
Jacob
Seif,
Associate
Director
of
Spiritual
Life Justin
Gandy
and Mike
Rivas put
up a fence
in New
Orleans.
(Photos by
Carole
Covey)

DBU students have fun in the sun, building homes in Louisiana and Georgia

While some college students got a head start on their summer tans by spending spring break at the beach, 33 DBU students got plenty of sun exposure of their own, building homes in southern Louisiana and in Georgia.

One DBU team traveled to Columbus, Ga., to take part in Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge Week. Others headed to New Orleans, where DBU students had helped in building and cleaning up two years before.



Dallas Baptist University freshman Jacob Seif prays over one of the condemned houses in the ninth ward of New Orleans.

- [See Complete Spring Break Ministry Coverage Here](#)

Although over two years have passed since Hurricane Katrina, many New Orleans residents still are picking up the pieces of their lives. Members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church have been busy working to rebuild both

their community and their house of worship.

In the spring of 2006, DBU students headed to New Orleans to help in the early stages of the clean-up effort. Led in part by Chip Luter—son of Franklin Avenue Pastor Fred Luter—DBU students cleared debris and tore down condemned houses to make way for new construction.

Harlingen church trains champs during spring break

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More than
400
children
attended
First
Baptist
Church in
Harlingen's
Champs
Camp,
which uses
sports to
share
Christ's
love.
(Photos by
John
Hall/BGCT)

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Harlingen church trains

champs during spring break

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

HARLINGEN—To become an athletic champion, a person must train hard every day in preparation for the day he or she can win a gold medal. To win an eternal gold medal, Craig Blakeslee of First Baptist Church in Harlingen believes people simply need to follow Jesus.



That's what the church has taught children the past 10 years during its annual spring break Champs Camp. This year, more than 430 children participated in the camp, which includes football, golf, softball, karate, soccer, basketball and gymnastics.

HBU students drill well for Nicaraguan villagers

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Houston Baptist University students (left to right) Cameron King and Andrew Miller, along with Danny Miller, director of student ministries, work in Nicaragua on a drilling team.

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HBU students drill well for Nicaraguan villagers

By Maria Cristina del Canto

Houston Baptist University

Children of San Pedro, Nicaragua, stood barefoot and in tattered clothes in front of a tin schoolhouse as the sweltering heat ferociously beat down upon them. The first things student missionaries from Houston Baptist University noticed were the children's brilliant smiles and the undeniable twinkle in their dark eyes as they rushed toward them, a whirlwind of emotions, before wrapping tiny arms around the students in an ecstatic embrace.

One young girl in particular stood out. Her curious, brooding eyes, overflowing with hope and her beaming face belied the fact that she did not have clean drinking water or even a pair of shoes.



Houston Baptist University students Brittany Larotta, freshman (woman with bandana on head), Valerie Jones, senior (woman in blue shirt distributing food), Leah Davis, senior (woman with yellow shirt on truck), Seth Miller, freshman (man with white shirt on truck, sitting above the orange cooler)

Rice students serve in San Antonio over spring break

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Members of
the Rice
University
San Antonio
mission
team were
(left to
right) Andy
Dennis,
James
Deyerle,
Saneliso
Masuku,
Charles
Reed,
Caitlin
Thomas,
Brian
Benjamin,
Laura
Rabalais,
John Elias,
Avery Cate,
Anne
Hierholzer,
Genny
Lozier,
Sean Wo
and Jon
Allison.
(Photos
courtesy of
Laura
Rabalais)

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Rice students serve in San Antonio over spring break



Brian Benjamin, a sophomore at Rice University, gives a boy a ride on his shoulders.

Thirteen students from the Baptist Student Ministries at Rice University spent spring break ministering in inner-city San Antonio.

Students built relationships with people who represented the fourth generation of their family living in public housing on San Antonio's west

side.

Working with the Urban Connection ministry, students distributed food from the food pantry, cleaned a neighborhood, organized space used for an after-school program and cleaned homes of elderly residents.

At an after-school program arranged by Urban Connection, Rice students helped children and young teens with homework and gave individual attention to students who needed tutoring. After tutoring, students were able to conduct a kids club where each student heard parables of Jesus and made crafts related to the stories.

UNT student missionaries show God's love to Mexican orphans

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Jillian
Daniels
from the
University
of North
Texas
plays with
a group in
children
in
Mexico.

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UNT student missionaries show God's love to Mexican orphans

By Jillian Daniels

University of North Texas

A college girl approached two young boys fighting over a soccer ball in the Mexico orphanage she was visiting, asking why they weren't sharing.

"I don't want to share because he doesn't ever give me anything," one answered.