

Robbie Seay Band musically tells story of ‘God who created and pursues us’

March 15, 2008

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Robbie Seay Band musically tells story of ‘God who created and pursues us’

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

HOUSTON—On weekdays, [Ecclesia Church](#) in Houston serves as a community outreach center, farmer’s market, art gallery, coffeehouse and recording studio. On Sundays, its space becomes sanctuary to the homeless and drug-addicted, as well as to the high-profile attorneys and suburb-dwellers who fill its seats.

And it serves as home base for the [Robbie Seay Band](#)—worship leaders who shape the church’s identity and are shaped by it. Ecclesia’s services are a mix of liturgical elements such as weekly communion and communal prayer along with experiential worship, with artists painting during the service.

Study links subprime mortgage crisis to U.S. poverty & hunger

March 15, 2008

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Study links subprime mortgage crisis to U.S. poverty & hunger

By Matthew Streib

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The poorest counties in the United States are among the hardest hit by the subprime mortgage crisis, according to a study released by the Christian anti-hunger advocacy group [Bread for the World](#).

The report, titled "[Home Ownership, Subprime Loans and Poverty](#)," found a strong correlation between poverty rates and percentages of mortgages that are subprime.

UMHB Easter pageant draws

thousands

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UMHB Easter pageant draws thousands

Standing as the risen Lord on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus, Josh Hobratsch gives the Great Commission to all who will listen at the conclusion of the annual Easter pageant. Nearly 5,000 spectators gathered to watch three live Easter pageant performances March 12.

The pageant involved about 200 students in the production. Hobratsch said he was grateful to play Christ but did not feel worthy. "I believe that as Christians we all have the task of living lives just like Jesus, no matter how demanding or impossible it may be," he said.



Senior management major Josh Hobratsch of Walberg portrays Christ carrying his cross as one of the Roman soldiers, Ryan Ohendalski of Huntsville, takes him through the crowd of onlookers on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus. (UMHB Photos/Carol Woodward)



Hobratsch portrays Christ hanging on the cross during the 69th annual UMHB Easter pageant.

Texas Tidbits

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/14/08



Texas Tidbits

HBU sues NCAA; seeks Division I status earlier. Houston Baptist University is suing the NCAA in an effort to reduce by four years its probation period to become a Division I athletic program. If successful, the school would have to wait two more years before becoming a top-level athletic program. The school joined the NCAA last year after being part of NAIA 17 years. Shortly before HBU petitioned to become a provisional member, the NCAA told HBU the governing body changed its constitution in April to increase the probation period from three years to seven. In the lawsuit, HBU contends an amendment like this requires a two-thirds affirmation by member bodies, which didn't take place. HBU officials declined to comment on the case.

Hardin-Simmons takes steps to name search committee. Hardin-Simmons University trustees Chairman Hilton Hemphill will appoint a search committee and advisory committee to recommend a university

president to succeed Craig Turner, who has announced plans to step down from the post May 31. Trustees authorized Hemphill to name the committees with input from both the board of trustees and the administrative council. Trustees will comprise a majority of the search committee, which also will include staff and faculty representatives. The advisory committee will include representatives from various Hardin-Simmons constituencies, including the board of development, alumni board, faculty, staff and student groups. Hemphill hopes to have the committees in place for an initial meeting in late March, and the search committee will consider employing a national search firm to seek and screen applicants. Hemphill said he hopes the process will be completed in six to nine months.

Explore the Bible Series for March 23: Celebrating Easter's Significance

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/14/08

Explore the Bible Series for March 23

Celebrating Easter's Significance

• John 20:15-18, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22

[By Donald Raney](#)

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

What do you think about when you hear the word Easter? Is it brightly colored eggs, large Sunday lunches with all the family, elaborate dramatic presentations, or fancy new clothes? Apart from the special music and events with our church families, Easter should do something in our lives each year. Easter lies at the heart of the Christian message. The miracle that happened on Easter is the why we have hope. Jesus rose from the dead. He overcame humanity's greatest fear, the grave, and offers new abundant life to all who would believe. Many today may not believe that this happened, but the Bible clearly tells us He did. As believers we are called and encouraged to celebrate and proclaim the truth and significance of Jesus' resurrection. We are called to do this not only as we gather to celebrate through worship on Easter Sunday, but to celebrate the new life through our individual lives every day. The Good News of Easter is that Christians worship a Savior who is alive. Our response to this holiday should be to celebrate the significance of that message by allowing it to transform our lives.

[For a printer-friendly version, click on the printer icon at bottom of page.](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 23: Alive with power

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/14/08

Bible Studies for Life Series for March 23

Alive with power

- Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:4-9; 3:16-21

[By Gary Long](#)

Will evangelical center emerge to rival waning Christian Right?

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/14/08

Will evangelical center emerge to rival waning Christian Right?

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—If the Religious Right is losing its influence, as many pundits predict, will it be replaced by the “other” evangelicals—a center-and-left coalition with a broader social agenda and a kinder, gentler brand of cultural engagement?

Advocates say centrist evangelicals are a bona fide constituency that is re-emerging after three decades spent underground—or at least ignored by the media and society at large.

Storylist for 3/17/08 issue

March 15, 2008

Storylist for week of 3/17/08

TAKE ME TO: [Top Story](#) | [Texas](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Baptists](#) | [Faith & Culture](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Departments](#) | [Bible Study](#)



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- [Should Christians use violent video games to lure teens to church?](#) •

[What has Hobbiton to do with Jerusalem?](#)

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[faith in Christ during Caracas evangelistic effort](#) • [UMHB Easter pageant draws thousands](#) • [On the Move](#) • [Around the State](#) • [Texas Tidbits](#) **Only Make Believe?**

• [Should Christians use violent video games to lure teens to church?](#) •

[What has Hobbiton to do with Jerusalem?](#) 

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• [Study links subprime mortgage crisis to U.S. poverty & hunger](#) • [Science has contributions, limitations in end-of-life issues](#) • [Oxford researchers get \\$4 million to study origins of belief in God](#) • [Some analysts say Huckabee may be new face of the Religious Right](#) • [Faith films still not flooding big screen](#) • [Movie argues for gentler church approach to divorce](#) • [Couple urges truce in war between faith and science](#) • [Catholics paid \\$615 million on abuse claims](#) • [Muslim leader decries American 'bigotry'](#) • [Prof claims he has found lost Ark of the Covenant](#) • [Some Southern Baptists decry timidity on environmental issues](#) • [Christian rocker Larry Norman launched genre](#) • [Faith Digest](#) 

• [Reviewed in this issue:](#) *The Begotten* by Lisa T. Bergren, *William Wilberforce: A Biography* by Stephen Tomkins and *The House That Love Built: The Story of Linda & Millard Fuller, Founders of Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing* by Bettie B. Youngs. 

• [Texas Baptist Forum](#) • [Classified Ads](#) • [Cartoon](#) • [On the Move](#) • [Around the State](#) 

• [EDITORIAL: U.S. faith swapping & relationships](#) • [DOWN HOME: A father's love plumbs divine depths](#) • [IN BETWEEN: Mentoring: Is someone coaching you?](#) • [2nd Opinion: A microcosm of the body of Christ](#) • [RIGHT or WRONG: Membership for couple 'living in sin'?](#) • [Texas Baptist Forum](#)



• [Explore the Bible Series for March 23: Celebrating Easter's Significance](#)
• [Bible Studies for Life Series for March 23: Alive with power](#)

Previously Posted:

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• [Ethicist describes recipe for global warming skepticism](#)

- [Volunteer missionaries needed for Eagle Pass](#)
 - [Obama speech to denomination spurs IRS investigation of UCC](#)
 - [Baptists provide opportunities to oft-shunned Roma people](#)
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Moyers describes recovery from

addiction, recovery of lost faith

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/06/08

Moyers describes recovery from addiction, recovery of lost faith

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

SAN ANTONIO—William Cope Moyers grew up believing the prayer his parents taught him: “God is great. God is good.” But when his childlike faith in a good and great God died in a flash, he sought to fill the void in his soul with drugs and alcohol.

Moyers described his long struggle of recovery from substance abuse—and recovery of his faith—at the Texas Baptist Christian Life Conference March 4 in San Antonio, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Ethicist describes recipe for global warming skepticism

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/10/08

Ethicist describes recipe for global warming skepticism

By **Ken Camp**

Managing Editor

SAN ANTONIO—Conservative Christians generally have turned a cold shoulder to concerns about global warming, but ethicist David Gushee believes he understands why.

“Climate change is among the most heavily reported stories—and in my view, one of the most significant human challenges—of the 21st century,” Gushee, a professor at Mercer University’s McAfee School of Theology, told the Texas Christian Life Conference.

David Gushee

Texas Baptist Forum

March 15, 2008

Posted: 2/29/08

Texas Baptist Forum

No ‘baggage’ carried

Although I was not a voting member of the Baptist General Convention of

Texas executive director search committee, I was part of the process to recommend Randel Everett to the Executive Board.

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them
to
marvknox@baptiststandard.com;
250 words maximum.

Out ((Loud))

"I don't give a rip about the IRS. I don't believe in the separation of church and state, and I believe the IRS should stay out of church business."

Wiley Drake

Former Southern Baptist Convention vice president, on possible IRS censure for his endorsement of presidential candidate Mike Huckabee (ABP)

"Trying to turn God into some sort of heavenly hit man is repugnant. There is more than a whiff of the Taliban in this action."

Barry Lynn

Executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church & State, responding to Drake, who told supporters to pray for God to curse Americans United staffers after they asked the IRS to investigate him for allegedly improper politicking (RNS)

"This problem can no longer be a back-burner issue for evangelicals. ... It is time to spend our energies helping create a better national health-care system."

Christianity Today

An editorial in the evangelical publication (RNS)

When I read the letter written to the Standard by Joe Worley about connections to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ([Feb. 18](#)), I had to respond to his assumptions about the committee members.

At no time did I hear any member of the search committee promote the CBF, oppose the Southern Baptist Convention, or any other group. They were deeply concerned about finding the person that God was leading to fit the profile that was developed with the input of all Texas Baptists who cared enough to attend listening sessions or submit opinions. In fact, I sensed a great caution in the effort to find someone without a lot of “denominational baggage” who would truly represent Texas Baptists and be a bridge to other groups.

Circumcision: Are parents cutting out the sign of the covenant?

March 15, 2008

Posted: 3/07/08

Circumcision: Are parents cutting out the sign of the covenant?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—The foundational symbol of God’s ancient covenant with his people is getting a lot less common in the United States, but medical and theological debates still rage about the propriety of circumcision.

Recent legal battles over whether parents can mandate circumcision for their children and new medical findings regarding the relative merits and risks of the practice have given parents reason to pause.

A family
circumcision
set and
trunk from
the
eighteenth
century
included a
wooden box
covered in
cow hide
with silver
implements:
silver trays,
clip,
pointer,
silver flask,
spice vessel.