

Church gives away 24,000 books in one day inside S.C. prisons

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Church gives away 24,000 books in one day inside S.C. prisons

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP)—Giving Rick Warren's best-selling *The Purpose Driven Life* to prisoners is nothing new for church volunteers.

But St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., is distributing the book on a much broader scale than most groups. Church members gave a copy to every prisoner in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, distributing 24,000 copies in one day.

Churches use podcasts as portable outreach tool

October 19, 2007

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Churches use podcasts as portable outreach tool

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

ONTGOMERY, Ala.—Little white headphones that began, about five years ago, revolutionizing the way Americans listen to music may also revolutionize the way they learn about God.

Hundreds of churches and other Christian institutions are using podcasts or other easily downloadable audio and video files to spread the good word around the globe—literally—with the simple click of a mouse.



Churches of all sizes can use technology

October 19, 2007

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Churches of all sizes can use technology

By Vicki Brown

Missouri Word & Way

A *Christianity Today* survey, published in the summer issue of its *Leadership* journal, points out communication has taken a decidedly visual turn, and churches must take steps in that direction.

Does a church have to have at least 1,000 members, media experts on staff and a multi-million-dollar budget to take advantage of today's technology?

Same story, new language

October 19, 2007

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New technology helps churches tell the gospel story.
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Same story, new language

By Jennfier Harris

Missouri Word & Way

Many scholars believe the church must bridge a divide before it can

minister effectively in today's world.

In a rapidly changing environment, they insist the church still speaks the language of pen and paper while the culture around it communicates using technological advances.

Texas Tidbits

October 19, 2007

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Texas Tidbits

Wade retirement reception set. A reception honoring Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade will be held Oct. 29 following the second general session of the BGCT annual meeting that day. BGCT-affiliated institutions are hosting the event. Wade is set to retire at the end of January.

Missions banquet planned. "Catching the Winds of Missions" is the theme of a missions celebration banquet at 5 p.m., Oct. 29 in the Regency B Ballroom of the Amarillo Civic Center. The event, scheduled in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, will honor Cecil Deadman and Nelda Gerbine for their leadership in LifeCall and Mission Service Corps. There is no cost, but a donation to the [Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions](#) is requested. To make a reservation, e-

mail stacey.rice@bgct.org.

TOGETHER: Staff reduction better sooner than later

October 19, 2007

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TOGETHER: Staff reduction better sooner than later

The question has been raised with me as to why I decided to reduce the size of our BGCT staff before messengers at the annual meeting have a chance to vote on the 2008 budget. They understand personnel decisions are the responsibility of the executive director, not the messengers, but the timing bothers them. Let me try to explain my reasons.

- If we had not dealt with the personnel positions until after the convention, then we would have had a month in which all of the staff would have been in limbo regarding their futures, and rumors would have been out of control, and morale would be worse, not better.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

- Messengers would have felt they were determining the fate of 25 to 30 employees without sufficient information to make a good decision. They would have felt emotionally undone to have to make a decision affecting the lives and families of so many.
- If we had waited, we simply would have been prolonging worry and frustration on the part of the staff and messengers.

UMHB student makes service part of daily life

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UMHB
student
Felicia
Cano
makes a
new
friend at
an
orphanage
in Haiti.

UMHB student makes service part of daily life

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor recognized senior Felicia Cano for her service both locally and internationally, presenting her the Gary and Diane Heavin Servant Leadership Award.

Cano began as a freshman working with children in low-income housing projects through the Belton nonprofit group [Hope for the Hungry](#). She later made trips to Haiti with that organization, and she has worked at orphanages in Russia with Go Now Missions and in South Africa with Do Missions.

During the school year, she has volunteered at the Belton food bank and has served as co-president of UMHB's Ministry Leadership Council.

Cano is a member of Hope Community Church, a Belton congregation affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Women in ministry describe journey together

October 19, 2007

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Hardin-Simmons
University
student Megan
Donohoue plays
the guitar
during the
conference on
women in
ministry.

Women in ministry describe journey together

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ABILENE—Dorisanne Cooper's story isn't simply her own. It's the story of a Sunday school teacher, a mentor, classmates and church members, as well.

And it's much like that for the more than 220 people—including students

from Baylor University, Hardin-Simmons University, Baptist University of the Americas, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Wayland Baptist University, Howard Payne University and Dallas Baptist University—who participated in the Baptist General Convention of Texas’ first conference specifically for women in ministry. The gathering was a cooperative effort with [Logsdon Seminary](#).

Participants said multiple people helped them identify and clarify God’s calling upon their respective lives. For Cooper, those people included a Sunday school teacher, seminary classmates, a pastor who served as a mentor and the church members she currently serves as pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church in Waco.

Conclave speakers urge youth ministers to remain faithful to divine calling

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David Platt,
pastor of the
Church at
Brook Hills
in
Birmingham,
Ala., told
youth
ministers as
long as they
have the
word of God
and the Holy
Spirit of
God, they
have all the
tools
necessary to
make a
difference in
the lives of
students.

Conclave speakers urge youth ministers to remain faithful to divine calling

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

ARLINGTON—Following God’s leadership in youth ministry can be difficult, but it’s well worth it, keynote speakers told participants at the Baptist General Convention of Texas Youth Ministry Conclave.

The time constraints, pressures, and ups and downs of youth ministry can cause burnout and push leaders to question if they should continue serving, said Ralph West, pastor of the [Church Without Walls](#) in Houston. But that comes with the territory.



Cybercolumn by Jinny Henson: Unpredictably God

October 19, 2007

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CYBER COLUMN:

Unpredictably God

By Jinny Henson

Laughter is one of God's finest gifts. Martin Luther, I recently learned, used a form of laughter therapy in his pastoral counseling to people with depression. From the Healthline.com website: "Martin Luther advised depressed people not to isolate themselves but to surround themselves with friends who could make them laugh."

Laughter is so important because it diffuses life's pressures, and while it may not change the circumstances, it can deeply change you and the seriousness with which you approach them. It is great to enjoy God and each other together. Church should be a joyous place!

Jinny Henson

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 28: It's a victorious life

October 19, 2007

Posted: 10/19/07

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 28

It's a victorious life

- Romans 8:12-39

[By Andrew Daugherty](#)

Storylist for 10/22/07 issue

October 19, 2007

Storylist for week of 10/22/07

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- [Carolyn Porterfield resigns as Texas WMU chief](#)
- [DBU president hospitalized for leukemia](#)
- [Book by former student-body president aims to correct record on Little Rock](#)
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