

# Harry Potter, move aside. Christian fantasy has arrived

July 20, 2007  
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## Harry Potter, move aside: Christian fantasy has arrived.

**By Juli Cragg Hilliard**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Whether their books feature dragons, firefish or sword-wielding soccer moms, writers of Christian fantasy fiction are clamoring for a spot in the marketplace.

Fantasy fiction in general commands a large following and copious real estate in bookstores. But while websites and Christian writing conferences brim with writers working on Christian fantasy, most publishers are just starting to be open to these new books.

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## **RIGHT or WRONG? No-smoking**

# ordinances

July 20, 2007

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## RIGHT or WRONG? No-smoking ordinances

**Cities and towns across the country are debating no-smoking ordinances. This seems imbalanced—the wants of some citizens are overruling the rights of others. Where should a Christian come down?**

Balancing the rights of individuals against the health and welfare of the public has been hotly contested. Should a veteran who has risked life to defend freedom have the right to smoke in a public place? Increasingly, local governments are saying “No” and writing strict ordinances that prohibit or limit smoking in public spaces. Is this an infringement on freedom that Christians should resist?

[Previous Columns](#)

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## Special teachers minister to

# special friends at West Texas church

July 20, 2007

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Benny Thompson (center), along with his wife, Martha, leads a Sunday school class for the mentally challenged at Corinth Baptist Church near Cisco.

## Special teachers minister to special

# friends at West Texas church

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

CISCO—Corinth Baptist Church sits almost exactly halfway between Cisco and Eastland on an unpaved road. While it's quite a way from any town, distance has not stopped the church from reaching arms of love to developmentally challenged adults throughout the region.

Martha Thompson and her husband, Benny, had taught a class of young couples for several years before they started a special friends class for developmentally challenged people five years ago.

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## **BWA celebrates freedom, promotes reconciliation**

July 20, 2007

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## **BWA celebrates freedom, promotes reconciliation**

**By Tony Cartledge**

*N.C. Biblical Recorder*

ACCRA, Ghana (ABP)—The twin themes of freedom in Christ and reconciliation that leads to unity echoed throughout the July 2-7 annual gathering of the Baptist World Alliance.

With more than 110 million members, the Alliance is the world's largest Baptist umbrella organization. Meeting in West Africa, delegates elected Neville Callam—a Jamaican whose ancestors were slaves from West Africa—as the body's new general secretary. Denton Lotz, who has been general secretary since 1988, will retire later this year.

Neville Callam
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# **Jamaican pastor elected BWA general secretary in historic vote**

July 20, 2007  
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## **Jamaican pastor elected BWA general secretary in historic vote**

**By Trennis Henderson**

*Kentucky Western Recorder*

ACCRA, Ghana (ABP)—Neville Callam, a Jamaican pastor, theologian and author, was unanimously elected July 6 as the first non-white general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. He is also the 102-year-old alliance's first leader not from the United States or Europe.

Callam, senior pastor of two congregations in Jamaica, is a former BWA vice president and former president of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Active in BWA for more than 20 years, he currently serves on its implementation task force, which restructures the organization's work for the future.

New Baptist  
World  
Alliance  
General  
Secretary  
Neville  
Callam  
speaks at the  
BWA's  
service of  
memory and  
reconciliation  
at Ghana's  
Cape Coast  
Slave Castle.

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# Floods pour in; Baptist love pours out

July 20, 2007

Updated: 7/20/07

## Floods pour in; Baptist love pours out

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

WICHITA FALLS—As Texas Baptist Men volunteers cut out soaked sheetrock and carried out a ruined piano, organ and other debris from inside Primera Iglesia Bautista, members continued to worship—at a nearby funeral home.

The temporary church sanctuary has not stopped God from saving lives. Pastor Simon Flores believes holding worship services at the funeral home actually led two mothers to Christ.

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First  
Baptist  
Church of  
Eastland  
member  
Carol  
Brittain  
holds two  
of the  
precious  
memories  
she saved  
from  
recent  
floods.  
Water  
rose 10  
feet in her  
home, but  
Texas  
Baptist  
Men  
volunteers  
and the  
BGCT  
Disaster  
Response  
Team  
have  
moved  
quickly to  
help.

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# **BaptistWay Bible Series for July 29: Toward a more meaningful life**

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**BaptistWay Bible Series for July 29**

## **Toward a more meaningful life**

- Ecclesiastes 9:7-10; 12:1-8, 13-14

**[By Andy Rodgers](#)**

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# **Bible Studies for Life Series for July 29: Agreeing on the basics**

July 20, 2007  
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**Bible Studies for Life Series for July 29**

# Agreeing on the basics

- Acts 15:1-2, 4-5, 12-15, 23-29

[By David Harp](#)

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## Explore the Bible Series for July 29: Zechariah calls us to integrity

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/19/07

[Explore the Bible Series for July 29](#)

### Zechariah calls us to integrity

- Zechariah 7:1-14

[By Kathryn Aragon](#)

*First Baptist Church, Duncanville*

This week's lesson takes us out of the realm of God's grace, out of the scope of service and traditions, and reminds us that all these things mean nothing if they aren't inspired by pure love for God.

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# Storylist for 7/09/07 issue

July 20, 2007

## Storylist for week of 7/09/07

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### **Special Report: The Future of Missions**

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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for July 15: A life going absolutely nowhere](#)

- [Bible Studies for Life Series for July 15: Sharing Christ with all people](#)

- [Explore the Bible Series for July 15: Zechariah calls us to repentance](#)

### **Previously Posted**

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- [Baptist sex-traffic mission worker urges others to 'show up' for ministry](#)
- [CBF panelists urge Baptists to see 'humanity' of AIDS crisis](#)
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- [Baptist newspapers, ABP create new media venture](#)

- [California Southern Baptists create competing state convention](#)
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**Football trip focuses more on winning souls than on winning**

# games

July 20, 2007

Posted: 7/12/07

Howard  
Payne  
University's  
football  
team meets  
with a team  
from  
Finland  
during a trip  
to  
Scandinavia.

## Football trip focuses more on winning souls than on winning games

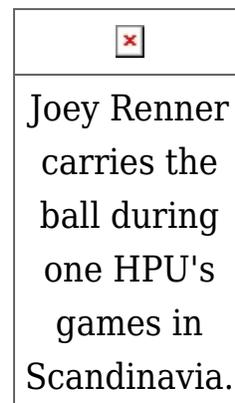
**By Abram Choate**

*Howard Payne University*

BROWNWOOD—Howard Payne University's football team scored big on a recent 10-day trip to Sweden and Finland, but the victories that meant the most didn't happen on the gridiron.

The Howard Payne Yellow Jackets defeated the Swedish team, Tyresö Royal Crowns, 41-7, and the Finland Junior National Team, 68-0. But what mattered more to the Howard Payne athletes was having opportunities to

share their lives and their Christian testimonies with European football players and fans.



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# Late-in-life parents count their blessings, beginning with their son

July 20, 2007  
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## Late-in-life parents count their blessings, beginning with their son

**By Rebekah Hardage**

*Communications Intern*

GARLAND—Greg and Lisa Ammons couldn't believe it. After being told 18

years earlier that they were infertile, they learned they finally were going to have a baby.

The couple grew up in Boswell, Okla., and the childhood sweethearts married in 1985. Ammons, now pastor of First Baptist Church in Garland, was in seminary at that time, and it seemed like a good idea to wait before expanding their family.

Greg and Lisa Ammons with son Camden.
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